

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Soldier injured in accidental fire along LoC in Poonch

POONCH, Feb 29 (Agencies): A 27-year-old 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

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.

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 statement said.

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, 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

Six Congress MLAs who cross-voted 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 themselves...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

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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 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

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 official 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.

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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 Baramulla.

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

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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 Mulaqaat"-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 physical



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-

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-

missioner Baramulla informed the chair that the remaining construction work will be completed soon and the hostel will be operationalized within one month.

A complainant namely Sh Sohail Khan from Jammu drew the attention of the administration on the issue of the functioning of Ticket counter and other facilities at Bus Stand Jammu. The Lt Governor directed the Divisional Commissioner, JMC Commissioner, JDA, Traffic police, Transport department and other stakeholder departments to take concrete measures to ensure the facilities at the Bus

Stand Jammu and Multi-tier Parking are working properly and are available to the people.

Addressing a grievance filed by Sh Jashan Sanyal, 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 officials were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.



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 officers.

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

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.

Transporters delegation meets MP Khatana, highlights issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 29: The delegation of transporters from Jammu on Thursday met Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha and apprised him about the

such Gazetted notification/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 guidelines/minutes of meeting. The delegation



hassles being faced by the Transport owners of passenger commercial vehicles.

The delegation comprising of veteran and prominent transporters apprised the MP mainly about the Issue of Permits' Replacement with vehicles of age below 10 years only.

A memorandum was submitted about this critical issue.

They apprised him that the J&K Transport Department in their meeting held on January 2, 2023, at the office of Transport Secretary, J&K has taken a decision that no commercial passenger vehicle above 10 years of

age shall be allowed to ply through replacement, with the existing permits. Whereas, till date, no

informed him that such irrational decision is against the interest of the transporters, as it is causing huge loss to the transport owners, forcing them to abandon and halt their vehicles.

The MP gave a patient hearing and a threadbare 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 Secretary Transport, J&K.

The meeting was led under chairmanship of Amreek Reen along with the veteran transporters Nanak Singh and Pankaj Vaid. Others who attended the meeting were Iqbal Singh, Pankul Vaid, Jasbir Singh and Hardit Singh.



Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav flags off the Electric Bus from Kala Kender to Suchetgarh in Jammu. Pic by AMAN SHARMA

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

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 Ayaz acknowledged the delay, adding that I have joined recently and all the pending certificates would be issued within two days.

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.



Shivani Malhotra, Dr. Saroj and Dr. Nazish Hussain, Medical Officer conducted free medical check-up of around 425 civilians and provided

free medicines. Gulam Ali Khatana, M.P. Jammu inaugurated the Civic Action Programme.

On this Occasion,

Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range, TH Khan, Commandant-76 Bn appealed to all people of the area to remain fit by doing physical exer-

cises regularly and sensitized them to maintain a healthy lifestyle & hygiene. Besides, he also elaborated the role of the CRPF in maintaining cordial relationship between locals & force.

Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range, TH Khan, Commandant-76 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.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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 Contract	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Boundary wall and interlock tile at Facilitation Cum Sale Centre of Horticulture Department Udhampur.	2.75	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	UT Capex Budget 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 (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 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.

- 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.**
- 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 re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- 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.

No:- 27126-31
Dated:- 26-02-2024

DIP/J-15516/23
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

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, 2076, 2080, 2084, 2088, 2092, 2096.

Some interesting facts related to leap year:

- 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

Everyone 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 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.

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

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 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 minutes.

Mix grated cucumber with 1 tablespoon of milk and 1 tablespoon coconut oil. Apply the mixture to your skin. Rinse off after 15 minutes.

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.

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 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 experi-

ence 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 inaugurated by Commandant 162 Battalion CRPF Vinod Kumar, Second in command Rajiv Kumar, Lambardar Waskura Handwara Shahzad Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commandant R K Malik, Assistant Commandant Abishek Yaudiv, 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 Kumar.

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 services in Kishtwar.

SWD Bhandarwah organises training cum awareness program on Juvenile Justice

Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, 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 Bhandarwah here.

District Development Council Chairman Dhant 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 Bhandarwah Sanjeev Kumar and Advocate Mohd Majid Malik



Panel lawyer DLSA were special guests and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bhandarwah Subash Kotwal presided over the 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 Vatsalya Guidelines, ensuring a com-

prehensive understanding and implementation of child protection and welfare measures.

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

Advocate Malik informed that the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Commit-

tee, 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 exploitation.

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

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, Chairman, 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 university. 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 way.

On the occasion, Prof. B S Ghuman, 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. Gaurav 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 vigor-

ous 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.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh

Kumar Gupta felicitated 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.

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 Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Bob Marley are doing it for us with their recent releases.

As they enthral us with their singing talents, we try to find out what makes these musicals popular, the hot picks available for bingeing 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



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 artist'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 Beys 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 singer-actress Jennifer Lopez (JLo) is one such project. The Prime Video

docu-film is set between her painful breakup with Ben Affleck just before 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 intimate documentary, titled Halftime, where she reflected on her multifaceted career and the pressure of life in the spotlight.

Tribute-worthy
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 Reinhold Marcus Green, helps part the reggae artiste from the legend-

ary singer who stirred up a revolution and a political change. It's also one good opportunity to listen to those reggae anthems.

Fiction, but musical
Yet to release in India, Mean Girls (2024) is the latest teen musical comedy. A perfect amalgamation of 2004 film and its adapted stage musical, it is based on the original screenplay by Tina Fey. With Samantha Jayne and Arturo Perez Jr helming the project as their feature directorial debuts, the film is currently the highest grosser in the US. The film is a refreshing tale mixed with contemporary musical adaptations, cinematography and choreography.

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

how all the celebrities joined hands to come out 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.

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 conference.

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 Has-eena 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 Zana 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," she added.

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 Deepika is in her second trimester.

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

The actors got married in 2018 in Lake Como, Italy.

'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 McCray.

Alanna took to Instagram and announced her pregnancy with a video from her nature-themed 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 of traditions of Sikhism and Christianity.

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

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 suit.

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 summons 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 jetty.

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 non-traditional 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 sides.

"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 Agalega.

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 years, 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 one-time 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 Ukey 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 rat-hole miners 41 workers trapped in Uttarakashi's Silkyara 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 Uttarakashi 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 Uttarakashi 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 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.

20-year-old BBA student in Greater 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 said.

"On February 27, the 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 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 said.

All three accused have been arrested, he said.

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

girls due to which they took the extreme step on Wednesday, Chandra said.

The victims went missing 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 resi-

dents 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.

Mr Jain said that police received information on Wednesday that accused Kuldeep was beating a dog after locking him in a room. The injured dog has

been admitted to the hospital. The accused has been booked under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the officer said.

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 become a Net Carbon Zero company by 2035.

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

Within its programmes, Vantara also focuses on integrating advanced research and collaboration with reputed international universities and

organisations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

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

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

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

internationally.

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

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Feb 29: Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. today announced its roadmap to commercialize its in-house-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.

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 recognize 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 women to earn their living He assures that it will continue in coming months Sunny Kumar, Rushani Gupta and others were present in the Conference.

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 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 importance of integrity and 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.

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 Chajotra, 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 UI Haq, campaigners of 4 states, Gulshan Kumar, Shahnawaz Ahangero, Convener Kishtwar, Convener of Jammu and Kashmir Cell Shri Mohammad Aslam Malik, Chanderbaga Convener 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 session 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 sci-

ence 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. 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 a short 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 Sadhi 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 Iyer 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 rampant 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 wicketkeeper-batter will have to play domestic cricket to get back into the national team.

Iyer, 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 matches 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 contracts list.

After dropping Kishan and Iyer 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 suggested.

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.

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 foundation 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 Australian batting lineup. Despite the setbacks, Mitchell Marsh alongside 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 arch-rivals 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 became 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 thriller 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. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu, was also present.

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

talent in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The MoU encompasses various areas of collaboration, including academic partnerships, research endeavors, executive education and training programs, joint seminars, conferences, and workshops, initiatives for entrepreneurship and incubation, as well as the sharing of research and campus facilities.

The signing of the MoU represents a significant milestone for both institutions, signaling the beginning of a new era of collaboration and excellence.

Through joint efforts, IIM Jammu and NIFT Srinagar are primed to make substantial contributions to academia, research, and entrepreneurship, thereby shaping not only the future of the region but also extending their impact beyond local boundaries and thereby contributing to nation-building.

The Bharat Mandapam, Bharat Tex served as the ideal platform for the MoU Exchange and networking, where esteemed academicians and reputed institutes from India and globally came together for collaborative endeavors and partnership formation.

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 Branch head Aftab Choudhary.

Branch 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.



Ankush kohli spoke 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

safety and saving 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 Viqar Ali, Jehangir Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Pervaiz Akhter.

Patent on “Multi-tasking MOP Handle” granted to School of Mechanical Engineering SMVDU



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

graduate of the School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU are the inventors of this patent. The patent is related to design of an innovative joint to be placed along the length of the mop handle.

This handle is equipped with a unique joint comprising two shafts connected by the innovative joint, allowing for the inclination of the shaft at various angles.

The invention shall provide flexibility to the mop handle (upper half) at different angles to facilitate the user.

With this invention, the inventors aim to 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 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, Prageeth 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 Bhiher, 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 interaction with Principal Roshan Lal and senior

faculty members, gaining valuable insights into the teacher training process and the crucial role of DIETs in shaping the future of education.

Next, the students embarked on a fascinating journey to Mini Goa Purthu and Atal Setu Basohli. At Mini Goa Purthu, they marveled at the 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 Vishawsthal Painting Centre, Basohli, renowned for its tradi-

tional miniature paintings.

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

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

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-dis-

covery and self-development,

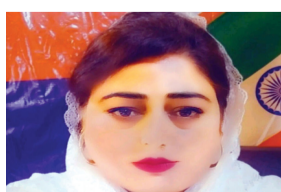
time management, presentation skills, emotional intelligence and empathy. Swati Basotra will speak on effective communication skills, aspects of personality- relation with career development and conflict and stress management.

About 110 students have registered for the workshop. Dr. Arti Gupta, coordinator career counselling cell of the college provides all support for the workshop.

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.