TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MARCH 01, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-60 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Rains, fresh snowfall prompt closure of educational institutions for two-days in Doda

BHADARWAH, Mar 1 (Agencies): Amid relentless and heavy rainfall in plains and fresh snowfall in higher reaches, district administration in J&K's Doda has taken a precautionary step by announcing the closure of all educational institutions across the hilly district for two days.

This decision has been prompted by the challenging weather conditions that have gripped the region and a warning of possible snow avalanches issued JKDMA (Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority), said an official.

"In an effort to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, DC Doda Harvinder Singh has directed the closure of all educational institutions for two days, both government and private, across the district. However the practical examinations will be conducted as per schedule," said Dr Head of Schools.

"After two and half month, classwork in all the schools of winter zone of Jammu Province was supposed to be resumed from today, but harsh weather conditions that will further intensify by tomorrow morning as per the Metrological department, administration was left with no other option but to suspend the class work for two days." Dr Nazir added saying that schools will reopen on Monday.

Meanwhile due to landslide at Pakki Hatti, the movement of traffic also got blocked on Batote-Kishtawar highwav NH 244.

Two drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested drug peddlers in North Kashmir's Baramulla district and recovered contraband substances & cash from

their possession. Spokesperson said that a police party headed by SHO PS Boniyar during naka checking established at Bernate link road Boniyar, Baramulla intercepted two persons who tried to flee away but were apprehended

■Turn to page 9

District administration Leh asks social media users to refrain from spreading fake news, instigating messages



LEH, Mar 1 (Agencies): The district administration Leh has advised people particularly social media users to refrain from the misuse of social media.

In a bid to maintain public order and security, the District Administration Leh has issued a stern warning against the dissemination of fake news and instigating

messages by citizens on social media platforms particularly WhatsApp.

An order in this regard has been issued by the District Magistrate, Leh Santosh Sukhdeve, under Section 144 of the CRPC due to concerns about fake news & instigating messages on social media, especially WhatsApp.

"Whereas, it has been

made to appear to me by inputs from District Police Leh and also otherwise that fake news and instigating messages are being shared on social media platforms, especially WhatsApp groups, which may lead to breach of peace and order in the district and may result in law-andorder situation, and Whereas, it is desirable that any such possible breach of peace and public tranquility should immediately be prevent-

"Now, therefore, I, Santosh Sukhadeve. IAS, District Magistrate, Leh, in exercise of powers vested in me under section 144 of CrPC, 1973, hereby prohibit the individuals in

Turn to page 9

Tejinder Singh posted as DIG, Rajouri-**Poonch** Range

JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agencies): Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Home Department, on Friday posted Tejinder Singh, IPS, as DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range.

Tejinder Singh would be relieving Sunil Gupta of the additional charge of the post.

"In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shri Tejinder Singh, IPS, upon repatriation to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is posted as DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range, against an available vacancy, relieving Shri Sunil Gupta, of the additional charge of the said post,".

44 killed in fire at 7-storey commercial building in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka

DHAKA, Mar 1 (Agencies): A massive fire that ripped through a sevenstorey commercial building in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka overnight has killed at least 44 people and injured 22 others. the health minister said on Friday.

The fire on Thursday night engulfed the Green Cozy Cottage building in the capital's Baily Road area that houses several restaurants and shops.

The fire broke out around 9.50 pm on Thursday at a popular restaurant named 'Kacchi Bhai' on the building's first floor and quickly spread to the upper floors that had more restaurants and a garment shop, according to fire service offi-



cials. Health

Minister Samanta Lal Sen said around 2 am that 33 bodies were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and 10 others to the Sheikh Hasina National

Tragic

accident

driver in

Ramban

claims life of

JAMMU, Mar 1 (Agen-

cies): Driver of a tanker

died after his vehicle

rolled down into a deep

gorge on Srinagar-Jam-

fuel tanker

■Turn to page 9

SC refuses to entertain Asaram's plea for suspension of sentence in rape case on health grounds

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea of self-styled godman Asaram, serving life term in a rane case, for suspension of the sentence because of his deteriorating health condition.

A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, to

NEW DELHI, Mar 1

(Agencies): After the

Reserve Bank of India's

BARAMULLA, Mar 1

(Agencies): Continuing

its action against drug

peddlers, Baramulla

police attached proper-

ties worth approx. Rs.

24.00 lakhs belonging to

notorious drug peddlers,

a resident of Basgran

Uri, District Baramulla,

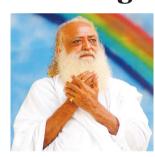
The drug peddler was

identified as Mohd Zahid

Shah (Geelani), son of

Peer Hussain Shah.

said police.



approach the Rajasthan High Court for relief after he said Asaram was willing to accept the public prosecutor's statement that he could avail treatment at Madhavbaug

97.6 pcs of Rs 2000 banknotes

announcement of the

withdrawal of Rs 2000

notes from circulation on

Police attach illegal properties worth Rs. 24

"The action was taken

under Sections 68-E and

68-F (1) of the NDPS Act

of 1985 and is linked with

case FIR No. 54/2022

u/s 8/21 Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Sub-

stances Act, 1985 of PS

Uri," further said police.

The property was

identified as illegally

acquired during an

investigation and inquiry

conducted by the police.

The property was prima

lakhs of notorious drug peddler in Baramulla

returned by Feb 29: RBI

Heart Hospital in Maharashtra's Khopoli in police custody.

The bench asked Asaram to submit an application before the Raiasthan High Court for his treatment at Madhavbaug Heart Hospital and it would be considered in accordance with the law.

Khanna Justice also flagged deliberate attempts made by Asaram to delay the **Turn to page 9**

May 19, 2023, as of now,

the total value of Rs

2000 banknotes in circu-

lation has been declined

to Rs 8470 crore at the

close of business on February 29, 2024, RBI

"The total value of Rs

2000 banknotes in cir-

culation, which was Rs

facie acquired from illicit

trafficking in narcotic

drugs and psychotropic

substances by the drug

peddler, the police fur-

This operation reaf-

firms the commitment

of the police to combat

the drug menace. Local

people of the area

hailed the initiative of

Earlier, the Baramulla

■Turn to page 9

ther added.

the police.

Turn to page 9

3.56 lakh crore at

said.

Panic after low-intensity blast on Jalandhar-Jammu rail track

HOSHIARPUR, Mar 1 (Agencies): A low-intensity blast on Jalandhar-Jammu railway track injured the gateman and triggered panic in the area on Thursday.

Reports said that a low-intensity blast took place near Gate No. 71 on the Jalandhar-Jammu railway track which injured the gateman and triggered panic in the area. Soon after the blast, the traffic on the Jalandhar-Jammu rail section was suspended. Prima facie it seems

the explosive was a country-made cracker Turn to page 9

Govt sanctions three day leave for Jammubased migrant, **PM Package** employees

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Government of Jammu & Kashmir Friday sanctioned three days Special Casual Leave on 7th, 9th and 11th March 2024 in favour of Jammu based Migrant and Prime Minister's Package employees working in Valley on eve of Mahashivratri.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of three days Special

■Turn to page 9

Moderate to heavy rains, snow forecast; night temp records rise in J&K

SRINAGAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Amid forecast for moderate to heavy rain and snowfall, night temperature recorded a rise and barring Gulmarg, the mercury settled above sub-zero at all meteorological stations in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 4.5°C against previous night's 2.1°C. It was below normal by 3.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, the MeT official said.

MeT has also issued an advisory cautioning about the disruption of surface and air transport in the valley. It said widespread moderate to heavy rain/snow is

expected in Jammu and Kashmir till the afternoon of March 3 with its peak activity on March 2. "The above system is most likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain/snow over Pirpanjal Range of Jammu division and middle & higher reaches of Kashmir Division (Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shupiyan-Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara-Sachna Pass)," read the advisory. The weather activity may lead to disruption of surface and air transport including Jammu-Srinagar highway and other major roads of middle and higher reaches of J&K.It urged the people in

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mu national highway near Money Morh area of Ramban district on Friday, officials said. An official told that the

oil tanker was traveling from Jammu towards Srinagar.

He said the driver, in a rash maneuver at Monkey Morh, lost control and the vehicle rolled down 1500 feet from the highway.

The body of the driver has been recovered, but his identification is not known yet and further Turn to page 9

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

OF SHRI HARI VISHNU ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2024



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

DEEPLY GRIEF STRICKEN: SMT. MOHINI DHAR (WIFE)

DAUGHTERS & SONS- IN-LAW

. RAJNI PANDITA, ASHOK PANDITA

2. JAYA KOUL, AVTAR KRISHAN KOUL

3. JEETA PANDITA, VEER JI PANDITA

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

Venue: Haridwar

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



Shri. Romi Ganju

COL SUKHJIT SINGH

Raina

LATE DR.DEEDAR

SINGH

LT SH. SURINDER

MAHAJAN

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

GRIEF STRICKEN:

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

ANTIM ARDAS

Gurmukh Janam Savaar Dargeh Chalya Sachee Dharageh Jaye Sachaa Pir Malya

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

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

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

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) at 10.00 AM. Kirtan & Antim Ardas on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) from

11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. Followed by Guru Ka Langar. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Paramjeet Kour - Wife Dr. Preeti & Lt. Col. Pujam Manhas (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Prachi **- Daughter**

Mrs. Gurdeep Kaur & Dr. Gurmeet Kaur - Sisters

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

(M): 9419140951

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA With grief agony & sorrow, we inform that Sh Jagdish Chander Raina S/o Late (Pt.) Shiv Ram Raina (Miran Sahib) departed for the heavenly abode on 21st Feb. 2024. Tenth Day shall be performed at 11 AM on 1st March, 2024 (Friday) at Home (415-F/17, Rajpura Mangotrian Jammu).

Kriya shall be performed on 2nd March (Saturday) at our residence H No. 415, St No. 17, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu.

Uthala shall be performed at 4.00 PM to 5 PM on 2nd March (Saturday) at Ravi Dass Sabha, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu





Smt Tripta (Neelam) Sharma Smt Swaran Kanta

Smt Uma & Kulbushan Raina

Grief Stricken:

Sh Charanjeet Sharma

Smt Manjeet Raina, Smt Bimla Raina & Smt Meera Raina Smt Sunayana & Sh Rajesh Raina

Smt Monika & Sh Munish

Smt Nisha & Sh Rohit

Lakshay, Rakshit & Vasu

Mobile: 9906045432,9419188526, 9149860155

AKHAND PATH In the loving memory of our beloved Late Dr.Deedar Singh who left for heavenly abode on 09-04-2023, Akhand Path will be held on 1st Mar at Gurudwara Pritam Bala Trikuta Nagar as per following program

ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH on 01-03-24 at Bhog Sri Akhand Path 03-03-24 at 10 AM

KIRTAN 10.30 AM to 12 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langer.

Ranjeet Kour - Wife Daughter In Law and Son 9419190497 Bhupinderjit Kour and Dr Inderpal Singh (BAWA)

Daughter and Son In Law Dr. Hardeep Kour and Mehnaz Singh **Brothers and Bhabhis**

BARSI/BARKHI It has been a year we all lost the hero of our family and society. We all are still learning to live without vou. With heavy heart, we will be performing Barkhi on 02nd March 2024 (Saturday)

In loving memory

Deeply Remembered By:

Smt. Nirmal Mahajan - Wife- 94191 83044

201 SECTOR - 45 Noida 201303

Smt. Pooja and Sh Rajnish Mahajan -Son and Daughter in law- 84370 00575 Smt Rajni Mahajan and Sh Mukesh Gupta -Daughter and Son in law

Shrey, Shresth, Varadha and Varadhan - Grand Children

at NRI RESIDENCY TOWER 2 FLAT

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and peaceful demise of our beloved Sudesh Sawhney S/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Sawhney R/o JK Colony near Sharma Sweet Shop, opposite BSF Campus Paloura Jammu.

Uthala will be performed on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) from 04:00 pm to 05:00 pm at Samriti Bhawan near Geeta Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN

Madhu Sawhney (Wife) (Daughter and Son-in-law) Shreya & Aditya Mehta

Shubham Sawhnev (Son) Ph: 9596647348, 7051122348



FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Jija Ji Shri Shyam Gupta husband of our beloved sister Smt. Poonam Gupta (Shallu).

5th Day will be performed on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) at Laxmi Narayan Mandir Surjan Daki (Link Road).

Timing - 11.30 to 12.30 pm

Shri Shyam Gupta Father- Mother Lt/o Shri Natha Ram Gupta W/o Smt. Sudershan Gupta

Grief Stricken

Brother & Bhabhi

Lt/o Shri Puneet Gupta W/o Smt. Dimple Gupta

Pankaj Gupta W/o Jyoti Gupta

Children: Shriya, Rudhar, Mridhual, Parteek, Suryansh Mob.: 9796623063, 8492010810, 9797563053

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform you that Sh. Rajesh Kumar Khajuria (Chief Manager, J&K Bank) S/o Late Sh. Nand Kishore Khajuria and Late Smt. Soma Devi R/o H.No. F-75, Street Number 16 Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu left for his heavenly abode on 21-02-2024.

10th Day will be performed at Kalimata Mandir new A.G. Office, Jammu at 11.00 am on 01-03-2024 (Friday).

Kriya will be performed on 02-03-2024 (Saturday) at our residence Raipura Mangotrian at 12 Noon.

Grief Stricken Khajuria Family



Khajuria (Chief Manager, J&K Bank)

Mob. 7006106069

TENTH DAY/SHANTI PATH

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Shri Piaray Lal Raina S/o Dwarka Nath Raina originally from Jawahar Nagar Srinagar presently H.No. 59-A, Sector-2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur.

Tenth Day will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 3-3-2024 (Sunday). Assembly and Shanti Path will be held at Shiv Shakti Mandir Pamposh Colony Sector-

Janipur from 3 PM to 4 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Jaya Raina - Wife Rakesh Raina - Son Reeta Raina - Daughter Sushant Upadhyay - Son-in-law Satva Upadhyay - Grand Son Raina & Chaloo

9867756789, 9810506575



SHRI PIARAY LAL RAINA

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the unfortunate and sad demise of our respected Shri. Parshotam Lal S/o Shri Late Krishan Lal & Smt. Kimbo Devi original resident of Sunjwan, Jammu on 22/2/2024.

10th Day Kriya will take place on 2nd March 2024 at their residence Sunjwan, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sons

Sunil Kumar, Anil Kumar, Munish Kumar Brothers

Reesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Sanjay Kumar Mobile: 8492937224, 6005438900, 9622385602, 7780976805, 8716065852



Shri. Parshotam Lal

Smt. Veena Misri

(Tathi)

10TH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to

inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Veena Misri W/o Sh. Ramesh Misri originally resident of Shopian Kashmir, At present House No. 15/3 A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu on 22/2/2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 2/3/2024 (Saturday) followed by Assembly at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education Office Muthi, Jammu at 10.30 am.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: Sh. Ramesh Misri (Husband)

Sh. Vikas Misri & Julie Misri (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Vineeta Misri Tickoo & Arvin Tickoo (Daughter & Son-in-law) Grand Children: Tanush & Aarvi

GRIEF STRICKEN: Misri, Cheroo, Raina & Tickoo Parivars. Contact Numbers: 9596984706, 9797669657

TENTH DAY/KRIYA KARAM With profound grief and sorrow, we regre to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Mahatam Singh Bandral who left for neavenly abode on 19 Feb 2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed o 28 Feb 2024 at 12:00 Noon at our resi dence Ward No. 16, Near BGR Palace Housing Colony Road, Kali Bari, Kathua. 13TH DAY KRIYA KARAM shall be per formed on 02 Mar 2024 at our residence

Mohinder Singh & Meena - Son & Daughter-in-law Protam Singh & Sunita - Son & Daughter-in-law

Champa & Balwan Singh- Daughter and Son-in-law Grand Children : Malkiyat and Anjali - Grand Son and Grand Daughter-in-law Shikha and Sunil- Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law heeraj, Shivani, Abhishek and Adarsh

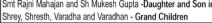
ntact No : 7400238308, 9469380524

BARSI/BARKHI

It has been a year we all lost the hero of our family and society. We all are still learning to live without you. With heavy heart, we will be performing

Barkhi on 02nd March 2024 (Saturday) at NRI RESIDENCY TOWER 2 FLAT 201 SECTOR - 45 Noida 201303 In loving memory

Deeply Remembered By: Smt. Nirmal Mahajan - Wife- 94191 83044 Smt. Pooja and Sh Rajnish Mahajan -Son and Daughter in law- 84370 00575 Smt Raini Mahaian and Sh Mukesh Gupta -Daughter and Son in law



UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow we would like to inform you that our beloved Mr Shyam Gupta S/o Lt Sh Romesh Chander Gupta & Smt Geeta Gupta R/o 17 Lakhdata Bazar Jammu has departed for heavenly abode on 28/02/2024

UTHALA shall be performed on 2nd March 2024 (Saturday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Jammu from Mr Shyam Gupta

4:00 to 5:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Poonam Gupta (Wife) Mr. Vasu Gupta & Sidharth Gupta (Son)
Mob. No.: 7006252502, 9419192529

10TH DAY/UTHALAWith profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved. Sh. Ravi Kumar Sharma (Retd B.S.N.L) S/o Lt SH. Ram Saran R/o 251

Sarwal Last Morh Jammu left for heaven abode on 22-02-2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed at 11. AM or 2nd March 2024 Saturday at our reside H. No 251 Sarwal Last Morh Jammu UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be pe formed from 4 PM to 5 PM on 4 March 2024 Monday at Shiv Mandir Last Morh Sarwal.

GRIEF STRICKEN GRIEF STRICKEN
BROTHERS AND BHABHIS
Sh. Hardutt Sharma & Smt. Brinla Devi
Sh. Lt Subash Sharma & Smt. Rajni sharma
SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW
Smt. Pushpa Devi & Late Sh. Gopal Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Roshy Sharma
Sh Sandeep Sharma
Smt Richa Sharma & Sh. Vipul Bali

(Retd B.S.N.L) Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma & Rajni Sharma Sh. Chander Mohan Sharma & Smt. Supriya Sharma Sh. Shiv Kumar & Shikha Sharma Sh. Mohit Sharma & Smt. Shobha Sharma

Sharma Family MOBILE NO: 9419177796, 9419290816

Sh. Ravi Kumar Sharma

PROF. SUKHDEV

SINGH SAMBYAL

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Prof. Sukhdev Singh Sambyal S/o Late Col. Bilas Dev Singh Sambyal R/o ndira Nagar, opposite SBI, Udhampur. TENTH DAY will be performed at 11:30 am or Saturday the 2nd of March 2024 at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir School, Indira Nagar, Opposite SBI Jdhampur (adjacent to their residence).

KRIYA will be performed on Tuesday the 5th March 2024 at Devika Ghat, Udhampur. Grief Stricken: Smt. Sudesh Sambyal (Wife) Smt. Santhosh Rathour (Sister) Sons and Daughter-in-law: Rajeev Rathour & Viveka Rathour Shashank Samhval & Shallu

Shishir Samyal & Kukilla Neetu Sain & Ashok Sain Grand Children: Sukanya, Akshita, Samairaa, Shreenika & Samar MOBILE NO: 8334056787 /9999386131

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With grief agony & sorrow, we inform that Smt. Roopkali Magotra W/o Lt. Sh. Rameshwar Magotra (Munnu Shah) departed for the heavenly abode on 22nd Feb. 2024. Tenth Day shall be performed at 11.30 AM on 2nd

March, 2024 (Saturday) at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony Udhampur. Kriva shall be performed on 3rd March 202

(Sunday) at Devika Ghat Udhampur. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Smt. Shakti Devi & Sh. Ashwani Magotra Smt. Roopkali Magotra

(Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Anu magotra & Sh. Rakesh Magotra (Daughter-in-law & Son) Smt. Pooja Sharma & Surinder Magotra (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt. Bhawana Sharma & Pramod Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law) Grand Children: Aditya, Akarshit, Rakshit, Divyansh, Kavish, Krushna, Swastika & Amolika Mobile: 7006389589, 9682525922

CHOUBARSI Smt Jyoti Baru

with us.

Choubarsi of our beloved Smt Jyoti Baru will be

performed on Saturday, 2nd March at our res 66/3 Upper Roop Nagar at 12 Noon. beeply Remembered By: 5h Rakesh Baru (Husband) Sisters-in-law & Brothers-in-law

ntact : 9419181230, 9419111778 **OBITUARY** NITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM YOU SAD

GANJOO S/O SH.NAND LAL GANJOO, RESIDENT OF MAITRI KRIPA, 315/1040 JAWAHAR NAGAR TALAB TILOO JAMMU

ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF FRISAL KULGAM KASHMII ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF FRISAL KULGAM KASHMI PRESENTLY ALAGGA'S ENCLAVE TRILOK PURA JAMMU LEF FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 27TH OF FEB. 2024 AT 6 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN MOHINI GANDO (WIFE) ANJALI GANDO (DAUGHTER) BHARAT JYOTI GANJOO (ULDEEP PANDITA

SH. MADHUSUDHAN



Smt Jyoti Baru

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Authority (JNPA), Inland

Waterways authority of

India, Cochin shipyard

corporation limited, Min-

istry of Jal Shakti Prad-

han mantra Krishi Sin-

chayee Yojana (PMKSY),

Ministry of Jal Shakti

Central Ground Water

Board (CGWB), Maha-

rashtra Bamboo Devel-

opment Board, Sakoli

Bamboo Cluster (MBDB),

National Atlas and the-

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tion (NATMO). National

Dairy Development

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van Forest research Insti-

tute (HFRI), Aryabhatta

Research Institute of

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(ARIES), Agriculture and

Processed Food Prod-

ucts Export Development

Authority (APEDA), Indian

Jugal inaugurates Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir exhibition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Gatisheel Jammu and Kashmir, a vibrant 3-day exhibition held at Country Inn in Bahu Plaza ,Gandhi Nagar, witnessed a remarkable inauguration by the Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament who graced the event as the chief guest along with Meetu Paul Director of Prayass Events and Exhibitions, Jyotika Khurana Project Head Prayass Events and Exhibitions.

His unwavering support for educational initiatives, technology advancement, and sustainable development shone through, reflecting his commitment to fostering an environment of innovation and prosperity.

His engaging presence left a lasting impression, as he generously shared insights and interacted with visitors at every stall.

The ceremonial lamp lighting, led by Jugal Kishore Sharma alongside Ashok Kumar Sharma, Director of Education, and Subha Mehta, Joint Director of



Education, added to the auspiciousness of the occasion

Addressing the gathering, Jugal highlighted the uniqueness of the event, emphasizing its importance in spreading awareness about government schemes and services benefiting the masses. He urged attendees to spread the word and encourage

During her address to the media, Meetu Paul expressed the organization's commitment to raising awareness among the people of Jammu about the various opportunities offered by government departments for societal improvement.

She highlighted the

organization's nationwide efforts to promote public awareness through exhibitions and expressed interest in organizing similar events in Jammu with the support of Jugal in the future.

The exhibitions will showcase different government department such as Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), New Space India Limited (NSIL), Indian council of agricultural research (ICAR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES). AMUL, Bharat Petroleum Corporation limited

Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MAPEDA), Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE), Aakash Institute and Development Commissioner for Handicrafts

The exhibition strives to create an interactive platform where the people of Jammu can connect with a wide array of government departments and institutions.

Its goal is to offer valuable insights into welfare schemes and policies, benefiting attendees, including students. Additionally, visitors will have the opportunity to explore potential career paths and educational prospects across different fields, thereby enhancing their knowledge and future prospects. We invite you to ioin us in broadening your understanding of various sectors and departmental operations, ultimately empowering the younger generation to grasp forthcoming opportunities.

J&K youth in utter frustration, youth festivals and conclaves will not fulfill their aspirations: NC

Only NC can get rid of people's woes: Rattan Lal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has accused the BJP Govt of landing the youth into utter frustration by following adopting anti youth policies.

He said that the said policies are also being followed by the present Union Territory Administration as a result of which the youth of this Union Territory can only see their future plunged into darkness and uncer-

He expressed this while interacting with JKNC Youth functionaries at Sher-e- Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

The senior NC leader stated that more than 7 lakh youth are unemployed in J&K today which is a very serious matter.

He said that the frustration of the J&K youth can be well gauged from the fact that even the Union Minister stated in the Parliament that there are nearly 13.5 lakh youth population ranging from the age of 17 from 10 years to 80 years old

drug addicts in J&K. Elaborating further he said that more than 25000 trained doctors and 30000 paramedicos in J&K are waiting for employment here while thousands of health institutions including medical colleges, hospitals, dispensaries and health centres are facing shortage of staff thus adversely affecting the health

prospects of the people in general. He said that it is really an irony of J&K that despite availability of professionally qualified army of youth they continue to crave for jobs due to UT Administration's callous attitude.

He said that nearly 50000 trained technocrats in search of jobs but there is no roadmap to accommodate these youth in govt jobs.

Rattan Lal Gupta reminded that even the Home Minister Amit Shah had committed to bring more industries in J&K to boost not only economy of J&K but also to create more jobs for the unemployed youth of J&K while addressing the parliament on 5-08-2019 but the ground situation reveals that nothing has been done in this regard so far. He said that the industrial sector is on the verge of closure today for which the Govt is wholly and solely responsible as it is pursuing anti-industries policy.

Gupta said that the tall claims of signing MoUs worth Rs. 80000 cr continue to remain confined to papers only and it is time for the Administration to issue a white paper revealing how many industries have been established in J&K. He asserted that the fact remains that due to wrong policies of the Govt nobody is ready to come forward for investing in J&K because this **Union Territory continues** to be marred by instability and uncertainly environment amid height of misgovernance.

He said that it was during the National Conference regime that Industrial units were established in Samba, Bari Brahamana, Digiana, Kathua, Udhampur and elsewhere.

He said that by establishing these industries thousands of jobs were created and youth adjusted under NC Rule while the job opportunities have got reduced to bare minimum during the incumbent Govt. The veteran NC leader said that only a popular Govt duly formed by holding Assembly elections can solve the problems of J&K youth as well as other issues confronted today due to misgovernance. He said that time has come for India Bloc to assume power at the Centre to relieve the people from the hollow policies of BJP government.

He also mentioned that the people in Jammu and Kashmir have also decided to strengthen and again give a chance to National Conference in J&K in the upcoming Assembly polls to form govt and bring the people out from the clutches of

the proxy govt of the BJP. Those who were present in the meeting included Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Secretary Jammu YNC, Zamir Quershi Adv Provincial Secretary Jammu YNC.9 Arunpal Singh Working President NCSU, Balbir Singh Advocate and others.

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar condemns anti-Hindu vandalism at GMC Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Mahanagar strongly condemned the reprehensible incident that took place at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu two days ago. A group of individuals, identified as Islamic Jihadis and purportedly students of GMC Jammu, defaced the walls of the hostel with derogatory slogans such as "Sanatan Murdabad" and "Hindu Kafir

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Secretary Arman khajuria said, " These bloody islamic Jihadi are the Rust of the Bharat and they are going to become doctor in future just think about the mentality of these bloody Islamic jihadis who are never in favour of Bharat and are always against the Hindus. This act of vandalism not only displays a blatant disrespect for diversity and religious harmony but also goes against the principles of coexistence that our educational institutions should uphold.'



ABVP Jammu Mahanagar firmly believed in fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding among students from various backgrounds.

In response to this incident, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar organized a peaceful protest to urge the administration of Government Medical College Jammu to take immediate and strict action against the culprits. We call upon the authorities to ensure a thorough investigation into the matter and to implement measures that prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

It is imperative that educational institutions serve as spaces for intellectual growth, cultural exchange, and harmony, rather than becoming

arenas for promoting divisive ideologies. ABVP Jammu Mahanagar stands united against any form of discrimination or hostility and advocates for a safe and inclusive environment for all stu-

Prominent ABVP Members who were present their at the moment were Chahat Anand (NEC Member ABVP), Sannak Shrivats (State Joint Secretary ABVP), Arman Khajuria (Joint tary ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Piyush Gupta (Joint Secretary ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Divyansh Janyal (office secretary ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Ganesh Bharadwaj (Social Media Incharge ABVP Jammu Mahanagar), Chaitanya Magotra and students of

Return Hydro Electric Power Projects to J&K: Ajeet urges Central Govt

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 1: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader, Ajeet Bhagat urged Government of India to return Hydro Electric Power Projects to Jammu and Kashmir, provide free electricity and drinking

The National Confrance leader also urged Government of India to return the electricity royalty of Jammu and Kashmir sold to other states to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bohri people demand footpaths on Anand Nagar road, Sulabh **Public Toilets on TT road**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Large number of people of Patta Bohri met under the chairmanship of R.L.Kaith here on Friday demanded footpaths on both sides of Anand Nagar road from Patta Cungi to Santra Morh for the convenience of pedestrians and also to avoid the accidents.

People also said that as J&K UT's Jammu Smart City is adding new feathers in its cap by taking up sanitation projects, priority be given to construction of Sulabh Public Toilets for the convenience of general public, on Talab Tillo Road especially at the the Nullah flowing near Ganga Ram Charitable Trust Hospital, Tirath Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu (Opposite to Luthra Higher Secondary School), which is much crowded place and where lot of space is also available for the purpose

Modi Govt's Era a 'Golden Period' for Gujjars & Bakerwals: Vibodh

GMC Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Describing Narendra ModiJi's era as a golden period for Guijars & Bakerwals, BJP J&K General Secretary & Former Member Legislative Council Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that justice was finally delivered to Gujjars & Bakerwals of J&K after over six decades of Independence. Addressing a workers'

meeting of BJP's ST Morcha at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that all political parties fooled Gujjars & Bakerwals for 67 years and blackmailed them for votes.

But after taking over as Prime Minister in 2014, Shri Narendra Modi made the welfare of Gujjars & Bakerwals a priority and worked on the ground to change the fate of deprived classes.

"Modi's Government gave political reservation to Gujjars & Bakerwals, provided them forest rights, opened Eklavya Model Residential Schools for their



educational upliftment, started the celebration of International Gurjar, and also organized Gurjar Mahautsav in India. Modi's Government nominated Gujjar leader Er Ghulam Ali Khatana for Rajya Sabha, which has strengthened them politically, and their voice is being raised in the parliament.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Janiativa Gauray Divas on 15th November to show respect to legend-

ary tribal freedom fighter, Bhagwan Birsa Munda," said Vibodh. Terming previous governments as anti-Gujjar and Bakerwal, Vibodh said that Gujjars and Bakerwals of Jammu & Kashmir are a pride of India and they have helped the Indian Army in guarding borders.

"We salute the Gujjar Tribe for helping the Indian Army in Operation Sarvanash in the Hill Kaka area of Poonch to eliminate terrorists," he said, adding that the

contribution of Gujjars & Bakerwals for the nation was never acknowledged by any government. He strongly asserted that "Modiji gave them respect and dignity, while the Gujjar-Bakerwal Tribe has always loved Modiji and has resolved to support the Modi government on the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary seat". Encouraging Gujjar &

Bakerwal leaders and workers to educate the people about how they were misled by previous Congress, NC, and PDP governments, and how the policies and schemes of the Modi government have transformed their lives, Vibodh urged them to reject attempts by selfcentered leaders to sow division along caste lines. Lashing out at some

leaders who are hellbent on dividing people on caste lines, Advocate Vibodh Gupta said that Gujjars, Bakerwals, & Pahari are together and they are now getting their separate shares, but confusion is deliberately being created by the opposition to further their

policy of divide and rule. "Gujjars & Bakerwals must defeat such nefarious designs of self-centered leaders, and they should come forward and support BJP," he added. Meanwhile, State President of BJP's ST Morcha, Roshan Chowdhary, has said that the recent successful public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jammu is an eyeopener for the opposition to see how people of the Gujjar & Bakerwal community support BJP. He said that Gujjars & Bakerwals are ready to support BJP in every seat of J&K and ensure Modiji's landslide victory in the upcoming elections.

On the occasion, General Secretary of BJP ST Morcha Rayaz Chowdhary thanked Advocate Vibodh Gupta for participating in ST Morcha meetings and assured him that ST Morcha workers will continue its massive outreach program. "Hum Ghar Ghar Jaingey," he said, adding that we must approach people and tell them who is good

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 322 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:-27-02-2024 2nd Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Divisio n	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for complete- on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	B/Path W.No. 6 Mohalla Ramzan to Said Akber Pyt. Ari Narian Block Mendhar Under PRI Grant Year 2023-24 2 nd Call	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	2.00	200	4000	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 05-03-2024 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Availab le/ Deman ded

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW

Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

	NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed	to take part in Tendering process			
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-02-2024.			
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-02-2024 to 04-03-2024, 1855 Hrs			
3	Bid submission Start Date	27-02-2024 from 1400 Hrs onwards			
4	Bid Submission End Date	04-03-2024 up to 1855 Hrs			
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in	05-03-2024 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the			
	case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	Executive Engineer REW, Poonch			
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is			
	only successful technical bidders)	completed			

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

The eamest money shall be forfeited, If:-Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and

conditions of the bid. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period

In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website https://www.jktenders.gov.in/ to acquaint bid submission process. No:-XEN/REW/P/4708-14

Dated:- 27-02-2024

DIP/J-15536/23

Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Poonch

EDITORIAL

CHECK CORRUPTION

ndia is a country with high values, morals and traditions, but one of the biggest problems it faces is corruption. Which is being seen at different levels. This is a problem which is harming the country internally. Which is having a negative impact on the progress of our country and it is being seen not in any one area but in all the areas. Be it politics, administration or any department. It is prevalent everywhere.

Various works are also being done by the Government of India to remove corruption but if we talk about it then the main cause of corruption is illiteracy. An uneducated person uses corrupt and illegal methods to satisfy his needs. We cannot tackle corruption through government efforts alone. For this, today's youth, politicians and all those people who are suffering from this should come forward

India is a democratic country. We see that whenever elections are held in our country, no educational qualification or criteria have been set for political parties and leaders. To remove corruption, it is very important for us to elect a capable leader who is educated. People should be made aware about what corruption is and how to deal with it. Today India is dealing with a serious problem like corruption. Where people will have to come together to deal with it and contribute to making India corruption free. For which we have to educate ourselves and the people around us.

At present, corruption is increasing rapidly across the country through social media. Day by day the citizens of the country are becoming victims of increasing corruption on this social media. People loot money from people by luring them with jobs through social media. These types of cases are seen every day across the country. The government is making a lot of efforts to stop the increasing corruption in the country.

In all the government works done in the country, corruption is seen somewhere or the other. People are often caught taking bribes in government offices. People who take bribe and give benefits of government schemes are increasing corruption in the country. The government is punishing people who give bribes and people who take bribes. But still people are continuously increasing this corruption.

We should give harshest punishment to both the person taking bribe and the person giving bribe. To stop the corruption spreading at various levels in the society, we must come together and face it. Those who are caught while taking bribe, they also get released after giving bribe. This corruption disease is spreading like termites all over our India. To overcome this, the bribe givers should be given the harshest punishment, so that they do not even try to defame India

People associated with corruption are defaming the name of our country India to fulfill their selfish interests. Therefore, it is very important that we crush this poisonous snake of corruption and at the same time the government will have to join hands with us and take effective steps to remove this corruption. Only then will we be able to fulfill India's dreams by freeing India from corruption. The central government is mainly making efforts to stop corruption.

Apart from this, we should also help the government in stopping corruption. Wherever corruption is taking place in the country, one should contact the helpline issued by the government and complain against the people spreading corruption.

Cong's slide in Himachal sign of a deeper malaise

By: Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

¬he defeat for the Congress in the election to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Himachal Pradesh has a bizarre turn to it. Congress' candidate Abishek "Manu" Singhvi did not lose to Harsh Mahajan, a former Congressman who had left the party in 2022, in terms of getting a lesser number of votes. There was a tie when six Congressmen cross-voted and three Independents went with Mr Mahajan, at 34 each. It was the lots that went against Mr Singhvi. Being a former Congressman of prominence, Mr Mahajan must have influenced the six rebels to vote for him. The mystery, of course, is that of the three Independents.

The fact that they voted together instead of in their individual capacity makes for a strange reading.

The BJP has not hesitated to poach members from the ruling party in a bid to form its own government anywhere in the country. The party has played political rugby without apology. That it fielded Mr Mahajan, a former Congressman, for the Rajya Sabha seat is a ploy in itself, and it must have calculated that it could steal votes from the Congress' side. But it seems to have overplayed its hand.

After gaining the Rajya Sabha seat, it made the claim that the Congress had lost its majority in the state, which is not the case. The two sides stand with 34 members on each side. And the BJP is now dependent on the support of six Congressmen and three Independents. And if the six Congress members have been disqualified under the anti-

defection law, then the BJP is left with its own 25 members and the three Independents, which takes the number to 28, still well behind the Congress' 34.

The aggressive approach is part of the BJP culture, but the fact remains that the BJP has no majority in the House. Of course, the expectation is that it will draw away more Congress members. It is futile to blame the BJP for violating the norms of democracy because the party is not for playing by the protocols of the game.

The blame for the crisis then falls squarely on the shoulders of the Congress Party. Quite clearly, the party, after having won the election a year ago, is not able to keep its flock together. There are innumerable reasons for the discontent in the party. The choice of the leader has always been a sore point. The Congress has always tried to break the dominance of the local cliques, and empower and enthrone someone from outside the circle. But in the day-to-day management of affairs, the chosen chief minister cannot hope to depend on the central leadership. In the case of Himachal Pradesh, the dominance of the Virabhadra Singh family remains unchallenged. And chief minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu is on a weak wicket. The resignation of public works department minister Vikramaditya Singh, son of Virabhadra Singh, is a case in point, despite the later withdrawal. The stated reason for his unhappiness is that his father's statue has not been set up at Mall Road in Shimla. This might be just a pretext, and the real reasons must be quite different. But it does show how power battles are fought inside the Congress.

Many of the sage advisers of the Congress -- from outside the party, and including many in the media - is that the legislature party should choose the chief minister, and that he/she should not be handpicked by the central leadership. At most times, the factional tussles at the legislature party level are so intense that they turn to the central leadership to pick the chief minister. And once someone is chosen, the dissident groups get into action. In a strange way, this is an example of a party that does not have organisational discipline. To have strong and vocal backbenchers is a positive thing. But the backbenchers don't seem to stop with keeping the government on its toes. They are looking for ways of overthrowing the leadership and the government.

The endemic rebellion shows that there is chaos, and there is no strong central leadership. Ironically, the critics of the Congress have always blamed the tyrannical rule of the family, the Nehru-Gandhis.

What seems to plague the Congress is that it has lost its ideological glue, which is rooted in the outdated concepts -- in today's context -- of secularism and socialism. Many Congress members are not wedded to these principles, and they are only too ready to throw them out. The Congress may have to rebuild the party on these principles, or find other principles which are more relevant. The Congress as a power machine is breaking down because it does not have a monopoly over power across the country which it had once. The country's political geography has changed radically, and

the party is now excluded from large tracts.

The BJP on the other hand is governed no doubt by disingenuous Hindutva with all its negative connotations, which are eating into the vitals of the social fabric and creating an atmosphere of aggression in place of trust. At the same time, the party is willing to grab and appropriate any politician to enlarge its numbers. So, it is a combination of political mercenaries and a toxic ideology that is carrying it forward.

The BJP has, however, realised that ideology has its limitations and that is why it is willing to bargain with anyone and everyone.

In many ways, this is politics as usual. It does not pay to bemoan the fact that there is horse-trading because when politics is reduced to power stakes, the trading is inevitable. The Congress with all its fissiparous characteristics remains the only party with the semblance of a national organisation, and which can fight the BJP. There was a time when political observers lamented the fact that there was no effective opposition to the Congress under Nehru and Indira Gandhi. The wheel of fortune has turned, and there is a lament, not yet loud, that there is need for a real opposition to Narendra Modi.

The wheel will, of course, turn once again, and in the course of time the BJP will lose its dominance in the country despite their frenzied claim of 1,000 years of Ram Rajya. The Himachal Pradesh episode should not be magnified beyond proportion because the Congress in Karnataka had aced the BJP in getting the fourth seat to the Rajya Sabha.

BJP's 370-seat target overly optimistic

By: JULIO RIBEIRO

am convinced that Narendra Modi is going to be the Prime Minister for another five-year term. What I seriously doubt is whether his prediction that the BJP will win 370 seats (and the NDA will get 400) in the Lok Sabha elections will come true.

It is incumbent on the party firmly backed by the majority community to suppress its tendency of misusing its powers to humble the Opposition.

In Maharashtra, which sends 48 MPs to the Lower House, it seems that the Congress, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction will each win a few seats in their respective spheres of influence. The BJP has made major inroads into rural constituencies. Along with its newfound friends, the Shinde faction of the Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, it will win a few more than the Opposition, but certainly not the figure it quotes.

The Hindi-speaking belt is firmly on its side, but here, too, the going is not going to be so smooth that it can afford to let its guard down. The farmers' renewed agitation is confined mainly to Punjab, a state where the BJP has little influence. Jat farmers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been weaned away by the bestowal of the Bharat Ratna on the tallest Jat leader, former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh. The award ahead of the Lok Sabha elections was one very clever move.

What was far from clever, though, was the attempt to

tamper with the result of the Chandigarh mayoral poll. It resulted in prosecution being ordered against the presiding officer by the Supreme Court, whose judgments in the electoral bond case and the Chandigarh episode have alerted the party in power to refrain from venturing into such escapades.

The fate of the presiding officer should serve as a warning to officials wanting to prove their loyalty to the powers that be. The apex court's decision on the electoral bond scheme has cast a shadow over the willingness of corporates to blindly help the party in power. They should revert to the system followed by the Tata Group and the Aditya Birla Group to donate to all political parties by crossed cheques, properly accounted for. That system was working seamlessly till the electoral bonds were invented. It is natural for the party in power, particularly one riding a wave as the BJP is at present, to get the bulk of the donations made by corporates. But it is not normal for a ruling party to ensure through government agencies controlled by it to choke the funding of Opposition parties. The 'freezing' of bank accounts of the Congress by the income tax (I-T) authorities in the run-up to the General Election was a very ham-handed and mean method of ruffling feathers and it was not appreciated by even BJP supporters. Mercifully, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal intervened and restored sanity.

Modi was on a roll after he took over the role of the high priest and inaugurated the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. Even normally tepid followers of religion, in this case of the religion of India's majority Hindus, were positively affected by the pomp and splendour associated with the January 22 function. Modi's popularity went up by a few notches.

This glorious moment was repeated a few days later when he persuaded Qatar to free eight former Navy personnel, who had initially been sentenced to death (later commuted to imprisonment) for suspected spying. Our Prime Minister succeeded in his mission, thus displaying the strength of the country's soft power in the Muslim world of West Asia.

Unfortunately, the comparatively petty-minded acts of trying to change the mandate in the Chandigarh mayoral poll and the I-T Department's action against the Congress have neutralised the gains that Modi had generated.

It is incumbent on the party, now firmly backed by the majority community in its stronghold of Hindi-speaking states, to suppress its tendency of misusing its powers to humble the Opposition. Educated voters have realised that their favoured party is needlessly needling its political opponents and making obvious attempts to lure Opposition bigwigs with threats of investigations by Central agencies like the ED, the CBI and the income tax authorities. Once they cross over, their sins are forgiven. Some of them are even made ministers or Rajya Sabha MPs!

One cannot be sure if the use of

such tactics will be halted once electioneering begins in earnest. The Congress and its allies in the INDIA bloc have woken up to the realisation of the likely fate of their leaders if the BJP gets the 370 seats that Modi has quoted. In Delhi, Haryana and Gujarat, AAP and the Congress have reached an understanding. Though late in the day, it may help them salvage a few seats.

The south, which includes Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, is not going to go the BJP way. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the BJP is likely to draw a blank. Karnataka will contribute the biggest number to the BJP's kitty, but even that will not make a difference.

In the east, West Bengal is still Mamata Banerjee territory. It has 42 seats to offer. The BJP has made sizeable gains in Bengal, but not enough to dislodge Mamata.

In the North-East, the regional players go along with the ruling party for their own survival. But after the Sangh Parivar's activities in Manipur, the Baptist Christians of Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and the hill districts of Manipur have been having second thoughts on this score. Only Odisha and Tripura can be counted upon to partner the BJP. In any case, the number of Lok Sabha seats in the North-East is extremely small.

The north, except Punjab and Himachal, is solidly with the BJP. But with the INDIA bloc coming to its senses, it is possible that the BJP will not reach the figure of even 303, its tally in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The figure of 370, quoted by Modi, is far too optimistic.

CEO Kupwara organizes Medical Assessment Camp for Visually impaired children

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Mar 1: Inclusive Education Wing of Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kupwara under the banner of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K (UT) organized Medical Assessment Camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) for Visually impaired & Hearing impaired Children in collaboration with DSSC (Doctor Shahs Sight Centre Kupwara) for Visually impaired CWSN were assessed by by Dr Faisal Qayoom Shah Consultant & Dr Bilal Ahmed Mir Consultant Opthamolagist assisted by medical technocrats with latest and modern equipments and Hearing impaired CWSN were assessed by CREASOUL Hearing and SPEECH



Clinic Budgam wherein 26 Visually impaired students and 33 students with Hearing impairment from Kupwara, Drugmulla & left out from Kralpora Education Zones were assessed and recommended for supportive devices so as enable them to continue their studies parallel to normal students for their happy and independent livelihood, strive and thrive for

the society as well. The initiative of Education department for proper care and such steps for these special section of people which are part and parcel of our society was highly appreciated by the locals of area especially parents

Appropriate seating and heating arrangements were put in place under guidance of ZEO Kupwara M M Lone for smooth & successfull Conduct of camp in extreme cold climate.

CEO Kupwara Abdul

Maieed Dar & District Coordinator Inclusive Education Javid Wani told media that it was 4th consecutive Medical Assessment Camp throughout the District under Inclusive Education Component of Samagra Shiksa for the benefit and betterment of special class of our student community and appealed parents / guardians of CWSN to care and guide their children for their bright and happy future.

The medical camp concluded in a pleasant atmosphere and all measures were taken for the safety of our special Children. This initiative will definitely encourage our children to continue their studies and is a major step to achieve the aim of Inclusive Education.

CEO Kupwara thanked Doctors team lead by Dr Shah Faisal Opthamolagist for their services with men and machinery and working for the full days in assessing the VI &HI students to the best of the satisfaction of CWSN and their Parents and in organizing these successfull Camps at different designated venues throughout the District.

CEO Kupwara further told that Education Department has special focus on these children for their upliftment and independent livelihood.

Lecturers' Forum extends congratulations to Ravikant Rathore

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 1: The District Kishtwar Unit of All J&K +2 Lecturers Forum bids farewell to Ravikant Rathore, Senior Lecturer Zoology who bid goodbye to the department after rendering decades of meritorious services in the School **Education Department** in various capacities.

He served a large part of his services in far-flung areas of the district and set an example of dedication, devotion and affection towards his duties and profession.

He also put in his services in prime institutions of the district including HSS Boys Kishtwar and HSS Girls Kishtwar. Mr Rathore belongs to

a noble family in Kotwal Mohallah in the heart of Kishtwar town.

He got appointed as



teacher and then rose to the status of Sr. Lecturer and finally left the department from HSS Girls Kishtwar

However, he was perturbed with the department for unjustified treatment to him. He should have been elevated to the rank of Principal.

The department didn't order his elevation despite clear directions of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Jammu Bench which is really an irony and a wrong precedence. Even despite contempt cases against the department, he could not get his right due to him.It is really an irony.

Today, Rathore retired from his active service after reaching the age of superannuation which is a milestone which everyone wishes to accomplish.He deserved much from the department.

All J&K +2 Lecturers Forum wished him a great life ahead with the hope that he would continue his duties in the society. He would continue to be one of the advisors of the district Unit of All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum.

In Kulgam, a village without water supply for 1 year, residents aghast



Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 1: A Banimullah (Herpora) village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district is without water supply for the past

With around 100 households, Banimullah village is just 8 km from the main town. But, according to locals, the village is without water supply for the 15 months.

"We are being deprived of the basic necessity at a time when people in other parts of the world enjoy all modern facili-

ties. But residents are made to suffer on daily basis," said a resident, Altaf Ahmad. Are not we humans? Don't we deserve to get the basic facility such as water,"

Another resident said women from the villagers are being forced to walk on foot for miles on daily basis to fetch water from nearby streams.

The villager said each time they approach the authorities from the Jal Shakti (PHE) with their problem, they assure to address the problem

"But except assurances we haven't got anything so far. In fact with each passing day our problems have compounded," said the villager. They have appealed to the administration to look into the matter and to provide them driking water facility so that we can have a sigh of relief.

When Contacted Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kulgam, Nawaz Ahmad acknowledged the issue and said he had already sent the team there, adding that within 2-3 days the area will get full water

Breaking Taboos, empowering lives to transform J&K by J&K Bank

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: Live for Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) is proud to announce a significant milestone in their joint initiative with J&K Bank, "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project by J&K Bank which is implemented by Live for Others Being Helpful Foundation aims to provide access to menstrual hygiene by distributing 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and conducting 100 awareness seminars, benefiting 50,000 people across all 20 dis-



tricts of Jammu & Kashmir and remove the taboo regarding menstruation from the society.

The 18th district to successfully complete this mission was Srinagar where more than 19,200

sanitary napkins were distributed, complemented by 6 impactful aware-

ness lectures targeted more than 1650 people. The resource persons

for these seminars were Ayesha Farhana, Ms.

These sessions were carried out in different schools including Standard Public School, Srinagar; Greenlight Public School, Srinagar, New Career Convent School, Srinagar; Muslim Public School, Srinagar as well as community sessions at Boatman Colony, Bemina & Barthana Qamarwari were also carried out.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health and hygiene in J&K" said Vivek Parihar, CEO & Founder of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF extended

their gratitude to the Director School Education Kashmir, C.E.O Srinagar, Principals of all the participating schools of Srinagar and gratitude also conveyed to J&K Bank for organising this activity with their CSR fund said Shah Aamir, Joint Secretary (National Body)

Members who were present in these activities were Afreen Barkat, Maroofa Shah, Urfee Yousuf, Gulnaz, Danish Nabi Kumar, Haadi Hameed, Seema Sheikh Shahid, Humaira Rashid, Saqib Rehman, Dr. Tahir, Rizwana Gulzar Suhaib, Vikas Ali, Ajaz, Ahmed Chopan.

SPPND GDC Samba organizes EVMS, **VVPAT Awareness**

Top News Report

SAMBA, Mar 1: The Pravaad Electoral Literacy Club of SPPND Govt. Degree College, Samba organized EVMS and VVPAT Awareness, as part of Two-Week Voters' Awareness Programme.

The event was conducted under under the aegis of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Vikas Anand and Ajay Charak, Nodal Officers, EVM Awareness Programme (Mobile Demonstration Van) District Samba were the Resource persons for today's event.

The demonstration aimed to educate and engage youth in the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of active participation in the democratic process. Through interactive sessions, the students were encouraged to understand the significance of their vote and its impact on shaping the future of the Nation. The demonstration received overwhelming participation from students showcasing the eagerness and enthusiasm of the vouth to contribute to the electoral process.

Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the SVEEP team of District Samba in creating awareness among the college students regarding importance of votes in democracy.

GDC Udhampur organizes Intra College Table Tennis Men Tournament

Top News Report

LIDHAMPLIR Mar 1 Department of Physical Education, GDC Udhampur organised an Intra college Table Tennis Tournament (Men) from 29th February, to 1st March, 2024 in the indoor Sports ground of GDC Udham-

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta graced the occasion as chief guest. NCC Cadets escorted the chief guest to the sports ground.

Shashi Sharma, Physical Training Instructor accorded hearty welcome to the chief guest. In his welcome address, he elaborated the significance of playing table tennis that enhances the player's brain activity faster than other sports. While addressing the



Romesh Kumar Gupta enumerated the importance of sports in imparting life skills such as discipline, perseverance, teamwork and coopera-

Further participation in Sports helps to build character and personality of individual.

He appreciated the efforts of Sports committee for organizing these events that promotes

competitive spirit among students

Around 36 students participated in the tournament from different semesters. The knock out matches was played on 29th February 2024, whereas the semi final and final matches were played on 1st march 2024. The first semi final

match was played between Sourav Sharma and Prince Gupta with set score of 3-1 in which

Sourav Sharma beat Prince Gupta with 3

The second semi final match was played between Ayush Gupta and Novam Raiput with 3 scores.

The final match was played between Sourav Sharma and Ayush Gupta, in which Sourav Sharma emerged as winner of the Table Tennis Tournament. The winners were honoured with medals and trophies during the felicitation ceremony. The event was organised under the supervision of Dr. Mohinder Pal, Convenor Sports Committee and Mr. Shashi Sharma, Physical Training Instructor. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Babu Lal Thakur, Dr. Sukh Chain and Dr. Jagjeet Singh.

Imtiyaz Khan expresses grief over devastation at Jama Lata Nawakadal Srinagar



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: Congress leader and District President Srinagar Imtiyaz Khan visited Jama Lata falling Nawakadal, Expressing grief and sorrow over the devastating fire incident at Jama Lata, which has claimed 4 houses, leavfamilies shelterless, Imtiyaz Khan has termed this incident as most unfortunate, heart rending and expressed his sympathies to the affected people.

Bashir Ah Banda charred to death, yesterday fire incident in Jama Lata Nawakadal Srinagar

Imtiyaz Khan expressed sympathy with the families who lost their a family member

Khan urged that affected family should be compensated fully, as they all are poor people with a very meagre source of income. District Administration must make assessment of losses and ensure that affected family do not suffer.

DPS Kathua students recognized at Silver Zone **International Olympiad in English Language**

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 1: The exemplary performance of DPS Kathua students in the Silver Zone International Olympiad of English Language has garnered widespread acclaim, showcasing their exceptional linguistic skills and academic prowess on the global stage

Notably, Nitika Khajuria of Class X secured the distinguished title of State Topper, earning the esteemed Gold Medal of Excellence, while Komal Bandhral of class XII achieved the remarkable feat of State Topper,



receiving the Bronze Medal of Excellence. In addition to the top honours, DPS Kathua students showcased their talent and dedication with 13 students earning the prestigious Gold Medal

of Excellence, 11 stu-

dents securing the Silver

Medal of Excellence, and an additional 13 students being awarded the Bronze Medal of Excellence, underscoring the institution's commitment to nurturing excellence in education.

Kanta Andotra, former MLA and Founder Chairperson, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the students, parents, and teachers for their collective effort and dedication in achieving these outstanding results.

Vivek Arora, Principal of DPS Kathua, expressed his appreciation for the victorious students, emphasizing the importance of participation in Olympiads in enhancing academic skills and fostering a spirit of competitiveness.

He also commended Ms. Ruchi Sharma, the Olympiad Incharge and Primary Wing Coordinator, for her invaluable guidance and support.

GDC Kathua organises lecturer on 'Remote sensing and Geomorphology'

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 1: Post Graduate Department of Geography, GDC Kathua under the guidance of Principal Dr. Seema Mir has organised a guest lecturer on Topic 'Remote sensing and Geomorphology

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Nater Singh, Retired Principal, who enlightened the PG Geography students and teachers about remote sensing techniques and it's applications.

HOD Geology Dr. Sanjay Karlopia, HOD Chemistry Prof. Jagdish Kumar, Prof. Pawan



Kumar, Prof. Jagdish Lal, Dr. Surender Singh,

Dr. Ruby Raina, Dr. Abid , Dr. Raj Kumar, Lecturer

Sartaaj and Jyoti Sharma were also present.

Looking back at Nazi Paris

A lesson in history and fashion, this one cuts deep with compelling dramatisation and sews it beautifully with its production and costume design

Wars don't differentiate between the rich and the poor, the powerful and the downtrodden. But there's the aftermath of it all, equally taxing! On similar lines is the series, The New Look, wherein creator Todd A Kessler delivers a story with the backdrop of World War II that weaves together fashion and politics.

Set in the world's fashion capital, Paris, occupied by Nazis for four years (1940-44), it begins by throwing names like Dior, Chanel and Balmain that we know today as luxury fashion brands. But it goes beyond their individual stories to how these fashion designers (Christian Dior, Coco Chanel and Pierre Balmain) survived and thrived during war. And they come out victorious, however hurt. Their ability to create and dream overpowers everything else. As much as this intertwined politics and fashion leaves you surprised, it also makes you repel the dreadful times wherein both choosing sides and staying neutral were difficult tasks to accomplish.

Although Coco Chanel is passed off as ambitious, diplomatic and business-minded woman, yet her portrayal by Juliette Binoche makes her no less than the lead of the series.



The creator's focus is of course on Christian Dior and how and why Dior became a revered name in the world of fashion just after the liberation of France from Nazi occupation. And yet Juliette's character Coco has more layers to shine through the series. And, oh boy, did she look phenomenal!

Actor Ben Mendelsohn as Christian Dior is a soft man who doesn't know how to argue, fight but only knows how to make dresses that own the women wearing it. In fact, the title The New Look is about couturier Dior's first ever collection by the same name launched in 1947. Dior's character commands respect even though he speaks less throughout the series. Another highlight of the series is Maisie Williams; yes, you heard it right! The Game of Thrones'

Arya Stark sure knows how to be a rebel. And she does it by portraying the role of Catharine Dior, Christian's beloved sister, who is part of the Resistance Army of France and gets caught by the Nazis to be transported to concentration camp. While Maisie's performance rings a bell for it is similar to her GOT character, but she sure has what it takes to share screen space with seasoned actors. Dior's collection, 'New Look', also deeply rooted in his love for his sister Catherine, thus stood for the ultra-femininity he witnessed in

women during wars.

John Malkovich as Lucien
Lelong leaves an impression.
He is far more than an employer and has his workers' back in
tough times. The series shows
two extreme personalities, Dior
and Chanel, the naïve and

the cunning (who went on to become each other's rivals). It's kind men like Lelong who were able to strike the middle path, put food on the table for his workers while he continued designing ball gowns for Nazi women.

The New Look beautifully and honestly explains that cruelty was served at both the sides. While Nazis were guilty of killing the innocent and torturing prisoners at concentration camps, FFI (French Forces of the Interior) did no less in rounding up collaborators without proofs and publically shaming people, especially women for 'horizontal collaboration' (sleeping with the enemy — Nazis). The parallel drawn between Catherine Dior as a prisoner at Nazi concentration camp and a French actress Arletty (Joséphine de La Baume), a victim of the wild purge after the liberation by FFI, is uncanny. Both the women were humiliated and their long brunette hair were cut.

Call it a period series or a biographical drama, it paints only Dior in positive light, but it's still a binge-worthy tale of the horrors that were unleashed in Paris. So far, five of the 10 episodes are out and as they release weekly on AppleTV.

Kate Winslet says to be mistaken for Cate Blanchett is a huge compliment



Actress Kate Winslet finds it a 'huge compliment' to be mistaken for Oscar winner Cate Blanchett.

The 48-year-old actress talked about

movie fans regularly mixing her up with Blanchett. Winslet told at the American Museum of Natural History about being falsely identified as the Tar actress.

She said, "That happens a lot, yeah."

Talking about if she ever goes along with the mix-up and pretends to fans she is Blanchett, Winslet said, "No, we do, yeah. I say, 'Oh, thank you so much.' And they say, 'Loved you in Elizabeth, and I say, 'Thank you. That's so kind.' And (Cate) gets the same thing, where people will say to her, 'Loved you in Sense and Sensibility', or, 'Loved you in Titanic'.

So, yeah, it happens."
She also shared about how the mix ups are flattering to her.

"To be mistaken for Cate Blanchett is a huge compliment. So, no, I will take it - I will take it."

will take it - I will take it."
The actresses appeared on the Graham Norton Show last week, where they talked about how they're frequently mistaken for each other.

Blanchett said, "I get it all the time. People will say, 'Is it you? Is it you?' and I say, 'Yes, I think so.' And then they say, 'I loved you in Titanic."

Shweta Tiwari's picture of elegance in pink Anarkali set

Actress Shweta Tiwari, who was most recently seen in the web series 'Indian Police Force' has shared a glimpse of her new ethnic look, melting the fans with her 'limitless' beauty.

The 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' fame actress is an avid social media user, and often keeps sharing updates of her personal and professional life on Instagram, where she enjoys 5.2 million followers.

In the new photoshoot, Shweta looked like a vision as she wore a pink Anarkali set.

The heavily golden embroidered suit was paired with a matching dunatta

She went all glam for the makeup — nude pink lips, pink eyeshadow, black eyeliner, kohl-rimmed eyes,



contoured face, and highlighted cheeks. For jewellery, she opted for only heavy jhumkas.

One fan commented: "Ur beauty has no limits", while another said: "Day by day getting younger".

A user wrote: "Embracing the traditions", while another commented: "Super gorgeous".

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Shweta was seen in a Punjabi film 'Mitran Da Naa Chalda'.

In the action thriller series 'Indian Police Force', which is directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash, she plays the role of Shruti Bakshi, Vikram's (Vivek Oberoi) wife.

This series stars Sidharth Malhotra, Shilpa Shetty Kundra and Vivek Oberoi in the lead.

Ryan Gosling may perform 'I'm Just Ken' at 96th Oscars, but he's not on official list



Barbie may have been outawarded by Oppenheimer, but

Ryan Gosling ended months of speculation to say he will officially

perform I'm Just Ken live at the Oscars.

The actor will sing the Academy Award-nominated song from Barbie during the 96th annual ceremony on March 10. The Academy declined to comment.

Whether he would agree to show off his singing chops on the Oscars stage has been a big question ever since both Gosling and the song picked up nominations in January.

In February, Gosling insisted the Academy hadn't yet asked him to perform. "It might be too much of a risk to have me do it," said Gosling, who is up for an acting Oscar for his work as Ken. "I don't know how that would work. But I'm open to it."

Netflix India announces 2024 slate; 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack', 'Heeramandi' part of line-up

The slate, which was announced here at a star-studded event called 'Next on Netflix', features a mix of movies, web series, unscripted shows and documentaries.

Streamer Netflix unveiled its upcoming slate for India that features over 22 projects, including a series on the 1999 Kandahar hijack, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut web show "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar", Imtiaz Ali's film on the slain Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila, and Oscarnominated documentary "To Kill A Tiger".

The slate, which was announced here at a star-studded event called 'Next on Netflix', features a mix of movies, web series, unscripted shows and documentaries.

Monika Shergill, vice-president, Content at Netflix India, said the streamer is looking forward to another great year after a successful 2023.

"We swept a multitude of awards, including the Oscar, the International Emmy, Busan award for 'Scoop'. On the back of a successful 2023, this year is going to be bigger and bolder. That's how we planned it.

"When you have to programme for that large an audience, it's important to programme to a wide taste... Our ambition is to super serve the audiences and to give them all kinds of entertainment," Sherqill told agency.

The event was attended by AR Rahman, Diljit Dosanjh, Farhan Akhtar, Sonakshi Sinha, Manisha

Koirala, Richa Chadha, Taapsee Pannu, Kriti Sanon, Vijay Varma, Anubhav Sinha, Aanand L Rai, Imtiaz Ali, Guneet Monga, Yo Yo Honey Singh, Kapil Sharma, and Sunil Grover, among others.

It all started with the introduction of the characters in Bhansali's "Heeramandi", featuring Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Chadha, Sharmin Segal, Aditi Rao Hydari, and Sanjeeda Shaikh.

Koirala, who is reuniting with Bhansali after his 1996 feature debut "Khamoshi: The Musical", said the team tried to put its best foot forward as they were working with the master filmmaker.

"To be working with Sanjay 25 years after his first film, 'Khamoshi', it can't get better than 'Heeramandi'. It's been a humongous journey, I've seen him grow as an artist, as a maestro, as a genius, he is India's best," the actor said at the event.

The streamer is bringing the true story of the December 24, 1999 hijack of the Indian Airlines flight to screen in the form of a series titled "IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack". The first glimpse of the show, directed and created by Anubhav Sinha, was revealed on Thursday.

Anubhav Sinha, known for films such as "Mulk", "Article 15" and "Bheed", said it was a responsibility to be as authentic as possible



while working on the series.

"Almost everyone remembers a few things about the hijack, and what all happened during the process, but when I started doing research I realised it is a very complex story and a lot of things happened in those seven days and not many people know about it.

"We have put it all in the show...
We had to make it factually correct
and yet dramatic and engaging,"
he said at the event.

"IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack" stars Vijay Varma, Patralekha, Pankaj Kapur, Naseeruddin Shah, Arvind Swamy, Dia Mirza, Kumud Mishra, Manoj Pahwa, Amrita Puri, and Anupam Tripathi.

Netflix unveiled the first glimpses

of three of its projects with production banner Yash Raj Films' digital arm YRF Entertainment. These titles are: the web series "Mandala Murders" and films "Maharaj" and "Vijay 69".

The streamer also unveiled the first looks of "Amar Singh Chamkila", Kajol and Kriti Sanon-starrer "Do Patti", Farhan Akhtar-produced "Dabba Cartel", Luv Ranjan's upcoming film "Wild Wild Punjab", a documentary on rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh backed by Monga, comedian Sharma's show "The Great Indian Kapil Show", and a docuseries on the cricketing rivalry between India and Pakistan called "The Greatest Rivalry – India vs Pakistan".

Dosanjh, who plays the title role in "Amar Singh Chamkila", said he was initially sceptical to be part of Imtiaz Ali's Hindi film as he felt the director wouldn't be able to do justice with the life story of the late Punjabi singer.

Dosanjh said before Ali approached him, he had already been part of a Punjabi film titled "Jodi", based on Chamkila and Amarjot. The movie couldn't be released due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, Dosanjh's perception changed after he heard the script of Ali's movie and was amazed by

the director's attention to detail.

"I thought I knew a lot about Chamkile before meeting him (Ali). When I heard his perspective, it was completely different. It was a big thing for us that his story was being said in such a big manner. When sir offered me the film, I sur-

rendered to his vision," he said.

Ali called Chamkila "the son of the soil" who rose to great heights from the grassroots.

Rahman, who has composed the soundtrack of the film along with lyricist Irshad Kamil, said it was his "dream" to compose music for a film that had a connection to Puniabi music.

"It was a long dream of mine to do a Punjabi music film... We had our take for the movie, and made it like a musical," he said, adding Ali had "completely reinvented" himself with the movie.

Sanon, who is set to make her production debut with "Do Patti", said backing the film was a "creatively satisfying" experience.

The actor said post her criticallyacclaimed film "Mimi", she was keen to explore films that would challenge her.

"There comes a time in the life of an actor when you think 'What next?' I always wanted to be part of films and tell stories in ways other than being an actor on set," said the National Film Award winner.

The event also saw film announcements, including Neeraj Pandey's "Sikandar Ka Muqaddar" and "Murder Mubarak", featuring Sara Ali Khan and Varma.

The streamer also shared a sneak peek into the next installment of the Taapsee Pannu-starrer movie "Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba". Netflix's returning series titles, such as the third seasons of "Fabulous Lives Vs Bollywood Wives", Jeetendra Kumar-fronted "Kota Factory", "Mismatched" starring Rohit Saraf and Prajakta Koli, and the second season of "Khakee:

Rohit Saraf and Prajakta Koli, and the second season of "Khakee: The Bengal Chapter", created by Pandey, and "Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein", were also officially featured in the showcase.

PM Modi Launches Development Projects Worth 35,700 Crore In Jharkhand

PM Modi launched rail, power and coal projects worth over 26,000 crore in Jharkhand.

SINDRI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth 35,700 crore in Jharkhand.

Among various projects, he dedicated to the nation the 8,900-crore fertiliser plant of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd in Sindri in Dhanbad district.

The plant will add about 12.7 LMT (lakh metric tonne) per annum of indigenous urea production, benefiting farmers of the country.

This is the third fertiliser plant to be revived in the country,



after such facilities at Gorakhpur and Ramagundam, which were

also dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in December 2021 and November 2022 respectively.

India's urea production reached 310 lakh tonne now from 225 lakh tonne in 2014, a significant step towards selfdependence in fertiliser, he said.

PM Modi also launched rail, power and coal projects worth over 26,000 crore in Jharkhand.

"Jharkhand got a gift of projects worth over 35,000 crore. It was Modi's guarantee to revive the Sindri fertiliser plant and it was fulfilled today. With the dedication of this plant to the nation, India will become self-dependent in urea," he added.

Double engine govt guarantees 'jungle raj' in UP: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): The truth of the double engine government in Uttar Pradesh is that it is a "guarantee of jungle raj", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Friday while announcing a statewide protest by party workers against the law and order situation.

"The law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh is the biggest example of how the BJP and Modi media together are indulging in the 'business of lies'," he alleged in a post in Hindi on X.

Highlighting several recent cases of crimes against women, he said the bodies of minor sisters are found hanging from trees at some places.

ing from trees at some places.
"Somewhere the audacity of gang rape by BJP members in IIT-BHU campus, and somewhere a woman judge was forced to commit suicide for

not getting justice.

"This is the condition of that state whose law and order system is being praised tirelessly." Gandhi said.

He also mentioned the recent murder of a Dalit student returning after appearing for her Class 10 exams in Rampur.

"It is time to come out of the false image created by Modi media and see the truth that the double engine government is the 'guarantee of jungle raj'," the former party president said.

"Uttar Pradesh Congress workers will raise their voice for justice by protesting in every district and every tehsil today against the BJP system and this alliance of criminals." he said.

ABVP, Left-backed groups clash at JNU; vice-chancellor warns of strict action

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Some students of Jawaharlal Nehru University were injured in a clash between two groups over the selection of election committee members, following which Vice-Chancellor Santishree D Pandit on Friday said strict action would be taken against those involved irrespective of their political affiliation.

The violence occurred in the university's School of Languages building late on Thursday night. Students from both Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Left-backed groups have filed police complaints against

The complaints were registered at Vasant Kunj North police station. A university official said some students had been admitted to Safdarjung Hospital. "We received information about the clashes on the campus at 1.15 am. At least four students were injured.

Multiple complaints have been received from both sides. Further inquiry is on," a police officer told agency.

Pandit said the administration would look into the matter and take strict action.

"The JNU (students' union) elections are conducted by students. It is their responsibility to ensure that it is a peaceful democratic process. The Inter-Hostel Administration (IHA) oversees the conduct of the polls. Any complaints by the students' body will be looked into by the IHA. Very strict action will be taken against those found guilty irrespective of their political affiliation," she told agency.

The vice-chancellor also said once the medico-legal cases of students severely injured in the violence are done, the authority concerned will prepare a report and take appropriate action.

Pandit warned the students that any act of violence on campus may lead to deferring the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) polls further. A video clip of the incident showed a man thrashing students with a stick while in another, a person is seen throwing a bicycle at students. Other videos also purportedly showed individuals being mobbed and beaten up by a group while security personnel of the university tried to rescue them. The ABVP told agency that two students seen in one of the videos beating others with a stick and throwing a bicycle were members of its JNU unit and claimed that they were trying to defend themselves.

that they were trying to defend themselves. On the other hand, Left-backed groups alleged that ABVP members, disgruntled by the selection of the election committee members, attacked JNUSU office-bearers and other students.

Veteran Congress leader and UP ex-governor Aziz Qureshi dies

BHOPAL, Mar 1 (Agencies): Former Uttar Pradesh governor and senior Congress leader Aziz Qureshi passed away at a hospital here on Friday after a prolonged illness, a family member said.

Qureshi was 83, his nephew Sufian Ali, who looked after him, said.

"He was not keeping well for some time and breathed his last at a private hospital in Bhopal around 11 am," he

Qureshi had served as the governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram. He was first elected as an MLA in 1972 from Sehore seat in



Madhya Pradesh and became a Lok Sabha member in 1984, Ali said.

Qureshi was single. His last rites will be performed later this evening, he added

5 injured in fire after suspected cylinder explosion at popular Bengaluru eatery

BENGALURU, Mar 1 (Agencies): Five people suffered injuries in a fire caused by a suspected cylinder explosion at a popular city eatery here on Friday, police said.

While there was no immediate word on the exact number of the injured, police said at least five people had been shifted to hospital.

The explosion at Rameshwaram Cafe at Kundanahalli led to a blaze. Police and Fire personnel have rushed to the



Mentally disturbed man kills 2 in Palghar, hides in mud pond, arrested

PALGHAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): A mentally unstable man was arrested from Maharashtra's Palghar area on charges of killing two people in the vicinity.

The accused, identified as Kishor Kumar Mandal, had hid in a nearby mud pond after committing the crime.

A video showed officials taking the accused out of the mud pond.

According to the Palghar Police, the man allegedly first killed a senior citizen by attack-



ing him with an axe, in the Koodan village of Boisar area, news agency reported.

He then targeted another individual's residence. When the



disturbance drew attention from the locals, the assailant fled the scene.

The report stated the locals suspected a person with erratic

behaviour had been wandering in the village for the past two days.

Soon after the accused attacked the two persons, the residents raised an alarm, prompting him to flee into the darkness and take cover in a marshy area outside the village.

Upon receiving information about the incident, local police arrived at the scene, and residents joined forces to track down the assailant.

AAP worker Gurpreet Singh Gopi shot dead in Punjab's Tarn Taran

Supreme Court to hear Gyanvapi committee's plea

justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj

The plea in the top court was filed

by the Anjuman Intezamia Masiid.

the committee which manages the

On December 19 last year, the

Allahabad High Court had dis-

missed pleas challenging the

maintainability of a 1991 suit seek-

ing the "restoration" of a temple

at the site where the Gyanvapi

affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque.

AMRITSAR, Mar 1 (Agencies): Aam Aadmi Party worker Gurpreet Singh Gopi was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Punjab's Tarn Taran on Friday. The incident happened at the Goindwal Sahib railway crossing.

Videos on social media showed Singh in a car surrounded by locals and police officials, following the incident.

According to news agency agency, Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi Chohla was going to

against Allahabad High Court order on

maintainability of temple restoration suits

Misra said

Kapurthala district for a court matter in his car, when he was shot dead.

As Singh reached

the railway crossing between Fatehbad and Goindwal Sahib, the assailants, who had been following him, opened indiscriminate

fire on him and fled from the spot, agency reported.

Police reached the spot as soon as they received information about the incident.

Multiple teams were formed to nab the assailants.

The high court had said that the

"religious character" of a disputed

place can only be decided by the

It had dismissed five related peti-

tions -- on maintainability and also

against a survey of the mosque

premises -- filed over the years

by the mosque committee and

the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central

mosque stands

court.

Waqf Board.

Ministry of Defence signs Rs 39,125 crore contracts for radars, extended range BrahMos and MiG-29 engines

Aero-engines to be produced by the Koraput Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): The Ministry of Defence on Friday announced signing of five contracts worth Rs 39,125 crore to procure a new set of high power radars, extended range BrahMos missiles for the Navy and engines for the MiG-29 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force.

The contracts were signed in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.

Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited (HAL) has been contracted for procurement of aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft at a cost of Rs 5,249.72 crore. These aero-engines will be produced by the Koraput Division of HAL to sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet. The aero-engines will be manufactured under Transfer of Technology licence from the Russian maker.

"The programme will focus on indigenisation of several highvalue critical compo-



nents, which would help increase the indigenous content of future repair and overhaul tasks of RD-33 aero-engines," the Ministry of Defence

India has been facing the issue of spares since the Russia-Ukraine war.

Two separate contracts have been inked with Larsen & Toubro Limited – one for the procurement of Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) and other for the procurement of High-Power Radar (HPR).

The contract for procurement of HPR has also been signed at a cost of Rs 5,700.13 crore. It will replace the existing long-range radars of IAF with modern active aperture-phased array-based radars with advanced surveillance features. It will significantly enhance the air defence capabilities of IAF with integration of sophisticated sensors capable of detection of small flying targets. It will boost the indigenous radar manufacturing technology as it would be a first-of-its-

The contract for procurement of CIWS has been signed with Larsen & Toubro Limited at a cost of Rs 7,668.82 crore. CIWS will provide terminal air defence to select locations of the

kind radar built by the

private sector in India.

country. One of the usage of the CIWS is shooting down low-flying

drones.
Two other contracts have been signed with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited – one for the procurement of BrahMos missiles and second for the procurement of ship-borne BrahMos system capable of extended firing ranges.

The 'ship-borne Brah-Mos system' will come at a cost of Rs 988.07 crore. This system is the Indian Navy's primary weapon for maritime strike operationsfitted onboard various frontline warships. "The system is capable of hitting land or sea targets from extended ranges with pinpoint accuracy at supersonic speeds,' The Ministry of Defence said.

The contract for Brah-Mos missiles comes at a cost of Rs 19,518.65 crore. These missiles would be utilised to meet combat needs and training requirements of the Indian Navy.

Army chopper makes emergency landing in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): A Chetak helicopter of the Indian Army made a precautionary landing in Rajasthan's Didwana village on Friday after reporting a technical fault.

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies):

The Supreme Court on Friday

agreed to hear an appeal of the

Gyanvapi management committee

against an Allahabad High Court

order which held that lawsuits for

"restoration" of a temple where the

mosque stands in Varanasi are

"We will tag this with the main

case," a bench comprising Chief

Justice DY Chandrachud and

maintainable.

The Chetak helicopter en route to Jaipur made a precautionary landing in fields at 10:35 am in village

Didwana (100 kms short of Jaipur) due to Engine Chip Warning light, army officials were quoted as saying by news agency.

No VIP was present on board, they added.

The issue was later rectified, and the chopper was moved towards its destination.



South Korea's Yoon calls for unification, on holiday marking 1919 uprising against colonial Japan

Yoon and Kim's conflicting comments on unification come after Korean animosities have run high for more than two years, with North Korea ramping up missile tests and South Korea expanding military drills with the US in a tit-for-tat cycle.

SEOUL, Mar 1 (Agencies): South Korea's president lambasted North Korea on Friday over what he called its repressive rule and vowed to achieve a free, unified Korean Peninsula, weeks after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rejected the idea of peaceful unification and threatened to occupy the South in the event of war.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol spoke on March 1 Independence Movement Day, a holiday marking a 1919 Korean uprising against Japanese colonial rule.

"Now, we must move toward a free, unified Korean Peninsula," Yoon said in a televised speech. "The North Korean regime relies solely on nuclear weapons and missiles while trapping its 26 million citizens in a quagmire of misery and despair."

"Unification is precisely what is needed to expand the universal values of freedom and human rights," Yoon said. "Our unification efforts must become a source of hope and a beacon of light for the people of North Korea."

Yoon and Kim's conflicting comments on unification come after Korean animosities have run high for more than two years, with North Korea ramping up missile tests and South



vowed to rewrite the constitu-

tion to remove the long-running

state goal of a peaceful Korean

unification and cement South

Korea as an "invariable principal

enemy." He said the new consti-

tution must specify North Korea

would annex and subjugate the

South if another war breaks

out. The sudden abandonment

of unification took observers by

Many experts say Kim likely

aimed to take the initiative in

dealings with the South while

trying to diminish South Korean

cultural influence and bolster his

During Friday's speech, Yoon

called Kim's vow of enmity

"truly deplorable." He earlier

said Kim's speech showed the

"anti-national and anti-historical"

family's rule at home.

Korea expanding military drills with the US in a tit-for-tat cycle. For most of the 70 years since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, unification was a prized goal of leaders in both Koreas, which are divided by the world's most heavily fortified border. But the prospects for unifying the the rich, democratic South and the nominally socialist, authoritarian and poor North any time soon are extremely dim, observers say.

Despite extensive U.S.-led sanctions and its own economic mismanagement, North Korea has appeared politically stable. Exchange programs between the Koreas have been dormant since Kim's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019.

nature of the North Korean government.

Yoon's speech didn't touch on the abuses of the Japanese colonial rulers in Korea, which left painful memories and have long been a source of tension between the two countries.

"On a holiday commemorating Korea's resistance against Japanese colonialism a century ago, Yoon touted his administration's improved relations with Tokyo," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha University in Seoul. "He emphasized that the independence movement will only be complete once the northern and southern halves of the Korean Peninsula are finally unified and free."

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon has worked to beef up South Korea's military alliance with the U.S. and resolve historical disputes with Japan, aiming to forge a stronger Seoul-Washington-Tokyo partnership against North Korea's nuclear threats.

"Now, Korea and Japan are working together to overcome the painful past," Yoon said. "Sharing the values of freedom, human rights and the rule of law, our two countries have become partners in the pursuit of common interests for global peace and prosperity."

Facebook parent Meta to stop deals funding Australian journalism



SYDNEY, Mar 1 (Agencies): Facebook parent Meta announced Friday it would no longer pay Australian media companies for news, prompting a government warning that the firm was in "dereliction" of past promises.

Extending a global retreat from news content, Meta said it would scrap the Facebook News tab in Australia and would not renew deals with news publishers worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

"People don't come to Facebook for news and political content," the firm said, explaining the move.

The decision had been on the cards but will come as a hammer blow for Australian news outlets already struggling to stay afloat.

Meta had previously

announced it would not renew content deals with news publishers in the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

The social media giant had been pushed into paying for news by governments hoping to level the media playing field and support struggling news firms.

Media companies around the world have seen a decline in revenues for years, with advertisers flocking to popular digital platforms like Google and Facebook to reach consumers.

Three years ago, Meta's promise to pay news outlets prompted the Australian government to water down legislation governing online platforms and their relationships with the news media.

On Friday, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland expressed anger at Meta's announcement and suggested the government may take retaliatory measures.

"Meta's decision to no longer pay for news content in a number of jurisdictions represents a dereliction of its commitment to the sustainability of Australian news media," Rowland said.

"The decision removes a significant source of revenue for Australian news media businesses. Australian news publishers deserve fair compensation for the content they provide."

Rowland said the government would "work through all available options" to address the issue, in consultation with the country's communications regulator.

The government was "committed to promoting a strong, sustainable and diverse media sector given its vital importance to our democracy and social cohesion", she said.

New Zealand Volcano Disaster Victims Awarded \$6 Million Damages

WELLINGTON, Mar 1 (Agencies): The victims and families affected by the 2019 New Zealand volcano disaster, which claimed 22 lives, were awarded total damages of NZ\$10 million (US\$6 million) on Friday.

The sum must be paid by five companies that transported 47 tourists to the volcanic island in December 2019, the day it erupted. Many of the 25 survivors suffered terrible burns.

In addition to paying out reparations, the islands' owners, Whakaari Management Limited, along with White Island Tours and helicopter firm Volcanic Air Safaris, who ran tourist trips to the volcane were also fined.

cano, were also fined.
At Auckland District
Court, Judge Evange-



los Thomas said the total damages were "no more than a token recognition" of the victims' suffering.

The group had been "physically, mentally and emotionally" traumatised by the disaster, he said, with many still bearing the physical scars.

"Your stories have been heartbreaking and inspiring, it has been a humbling privilege to hear them," Thomas told the victims in court.

He said the exact reparation amounts would be adjusted in some cases, especially in instances where victims had lost parents.

He said each of the five companies sentenced had failed in their duties to assess and mitigate risk. "That failure exposed others to risk of serious injury and death," he added.

Iran begins voting in first parliament election since 2022 Mahsa Amini protests as questions over turnout loom

DUBAI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Iran began voting Friday in its first parliamentary elections since the mass 2022 protests over its mandatory hijab laws after the death of Mahsa Amini, with questions looming over just how many people will turn out for the poll.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 84, will cast one of the first votes in an election that also will see new members elected to the country's Assembly of Experts. The panel of clerics, who serve an eight-year term, is mandated to select a new supreme leader if Khamenei steps down or dies, giving their role increased importance with Khamenei's age.

Some 15,000 candidates are vying for a seat in the 290-member parliament, formally known as the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Terms run for four years, and five seats are reserved for Iran's religious minorities.

Under the law, the parliament has oversight over the executive branch, votes on treaties



and handles other issues. In practice, absolute power in Iran rests with its supreme leader.

Hard-liners have controlled the parliament for the past two decades — with chants of "Death to America" often heard from the floor.

Under Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, a former Revolutionary Guard general who supported a violent crackdown on Iranian university students in 1999, the legislature pushed forward a bill in 2020 that greatly curtailed Tehran's cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy

Agency.

That followed then-President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal of America from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018 — an act that sparked years of tensions in the Middle East and saw Iran enrich enough uranium at recordbreaking purity to have enough fuel for "several" nuclear weapons if it chose.

More recently, the parliament has focused on issues surrounding Iran's mandatory head covering, or hijab, for women after the 2022 death of 22-year-old Amini in police cus-

tody, which sparked nationwide protests.

The protests quickly escalated into calls to overthrow Iran's clerical rulers. A subsequent security crackdown killed over 500 people, with more than 22,000 detained.

Calls for an election boycott have spread in recent weeks, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi, a women's rights activist, who called them a "sham."

The boycott calls have put the government under renewed pressure — since its 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's theocracy has based its legitimacy in part on turnout in elections.

The state-owned polling center ISPA hadn't put out election data prior to the vote until Thursday, something highly unusual as their figures typically get released much earlier. Its polling, based on a survey of 5,121 voting-age people, predicted a turnout of 23.5% in the capital, Tehran, and 38.5% nationally. It said the margin of error in the poll was 2%.

Left-wing firebrand wins UK by-election dominated by Israel-Hamas war

Galloway, long accused by critics of stoking community tensions, put the Gaza conflict front and centre of his campaign in Rochdale, which has a 30 percent Muslim population.

ROCHDALE (UNITED KINGDOM), Mar 1 (Agencies): Controversial left-wing firebrand George Galloway was elected to the UK parliament on Friday after tapping into anger over the Israel-Hamas war in a chaotic by-election marred by anti-Semitism allegations.

Galloway, 69, first became an MP in 1987 and will return to the House of Commons for the first time since 2015 after winning the seat of Rochdale, in the north of England, by nearly 6,000 votes.

The turbulent vote saw the main opposition

its candidate, Azhar Ali, after he touted a conspiracy theory that Israel had allowed Hamas to carry out its deadly attack on October 7.

Galloway, long

Labour party withdraw

accused by critics of stoking community tensions, put the Gaza conflict front and centre of his campaign in Rochdale, which has a 30 percent Muslim population.

"Keir Starmer, this is for Gaza," Galloway, leader of the fringe Workers Party of Great Britain, said in his victory speech, referring to the Labour party's leader.

"You have paid, and you will pay, a high price for the role that you have played in enabling, encouraging and covering for the catastrophe presently going on in occupied Palestine in the Gaza Strip," he added.

The Scottish-born Galloway, nicknamed "Gorgeous George", has had a long and chequered political career, in which he has represented several parties, including Labour.

He sparked controversy in the 1990s when he visited then-Iraq leader



Saddam Hussein, telling him: "Sir, I salute your courage, your strength, your indefatigability.

Galloway gained international notoriety in 2005 when he was called to testify over Iraq in the US Senate.

He had earlier been expelled from Labour over his stance on the

His majority of 5,697 votes in Rochdale amounted to 18.3 percent of the total, on a turnout of 39.7 percent.

was David Tully, a local businessman and independent candidate. It is very rare for none of the main parties to finish in first and second place.

The surprise runner-up

The by-election was triggered by the death of veteran Labour MP Tony Lloyd.

'Inflammatory' A Labour spo

A Labour spokesperson said: "We deeply regret that the Labour party was unable to field a candidate in this by-election and apologise to the people of Rochdale. George Galloway only won because Labour did not stand.

abour did not stand. A s_i "Rochdale deserved the c

the chance to vote for an MP that would bring communities together and deliver for working people. George Galloway is only interested in stoking fear and division.

"As an MP he will be a damaging force in our communities and public life," the spokesperson added.

Galloway last represented a seat in Bradford in the north of England from 2012 to 2015. Between 2005 and 2010 he was a Respect Party MP for a constituency in east London.

A spokesperson for the charity Campaign

Against Antisemitism said Galloway has "an atrocious record of baiting the Jewish community".

"Civon his historia

"Given his historic inflammatory rhetoric and the current situation faced by the Jewish community in this country, we are extremely concerned by how he may use the platform of the House of Commons in the remaining months of this parliament."

Labour are well ahead of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's ruling Conservatives in opinion polls ahead of a general election due later this year.

Army conducts certification drive for students at Kupwara

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Mar 1: In its continued efforts to engage the youth of remote areas of Kupwara in constructive and educational activities Indian Army Kupwara Terriers conducted a certification drive for 2nd Batch of students consisting of 20 girls and boys from remote area of Awoora on 01 March 24.

These students from remote village of Awoora Kupwara have received their diploma certificates in computer application at Pathahirri Garrison Kupwara.

The students have completed this course at

Peer Computer Institute
Awoora Kupwara which is
Co

run by Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers and Digital Empowerment Foundation (NGO).

All these successful students have been awarded

with the certificates in Computer Application.

This computer center was established by Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation which is a Mumbai

based NGO with an aim to provide computer education to the students living in remote areas of Kupwara J&K.

Completion of this course will open opportunities for the success-

ful students in the field of higher education as well as jobs.

The certification drive

The certification drive saw a participation of 20 students including boys and girls. CO Kupwara Terriers has distributed these certificates among the successful students. The Officer appreciated these students for the completion of the said course and assured them for every possible support in future also.

All the students and their parents have highly appreciated Indian Army for providing such quality computer education to the students living in remote village of Awoora Kupwara.

BLSKS presents 406th Musical play 'Meri Maati Mera Desh'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: To promote the Traditional Duggar Folk Culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) in coordination Sangam Tru Art Production presented its 406th Friday Series Dogri Musical Play 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' at Rehearsal Hall, Durga Bhawan Janipur, Jammu on today.

The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest V.K.Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India, Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra, Health Department J&K Government, Dr. Tara Singh Charak, Former Deputy Director, Health Department J&K Government, Mukesh Singh, Media Person J&K were the Guest of Honor.

The day commemorated as well with sole aim of rejuvenating the traditional, Primitive Folk, Art, Culture of J&K Region.

The Chief Guest said many campaigns have been launched by Modi on the occasion of Independence Day in the country, all of which have been successful,

and some are still in progress.

The campaign was made successful by the participation of the entire Indians in every house-to-house disturbance. Along with this, now Modi has started 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign in the memory of Amrit Mahotsav & also said Although some people have higher chances of getting addicted than others. It depends on multiple factors.

If you have a family history of addictions you are more likely to get one Environmental. lack of parental involvement or abuse/neglect increase chances of addictions, Peer pressure can lead a person to try hazardous and more addictive substances, and availability of alcohol or drugs in your social circle also increase chances of addiction Psychological.

A person who is mentally ill is more prone to addictions and a person who is addicted are more likely to develop a mental illness or experience worsening of already existing symptoms.

The efforts of the organizers in making such awareness programmes colorful and effective. Earlier Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan felicitated artiste Miss Zulekha Bano & Rahul Kumar by certificate for their outstanding contribution in the field of performing art in presentation of excellent Performance in Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2024.

The artists of BLSks presented theme based songs which were written by Dr.M.L.Dogra & the music was the composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, Blsks. The program was also recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the peoples.

Welcome speech was given by Dr. M.L.Dogra, Chairman, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan said the 'Meri Mati Mere Desh' campaign has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The singers, musician and actors who performed were Zulekha Bano, Raju Bajgal, Chahat Chadha, ,Rahul Kumar ,Sudesh Kumari Pummy, Sanjeev Kumar, Naiya Meenia, Renu Bala. Deepak Kumar Dogra, Programe Incharge, presented vote of thanks for successful conduction of the pro-

NABARD launches Livelihood Enterprise Programme on papier mâché in Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Mar 1: NABARD has launched 15 days Livelihood Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) for 90 females from various SHGs in Pahloo area of Kulgam district.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy General Manager NABARD Surinder Singh in presence of DDM NABARD Rouf Zargar and Lead District Manager Parvez Rashid. The project will focus on skill development training on papier machie craft and its value addition enabling the members to set up their own enterprise

Inaugurating the programme, Surinder Singh, DGM NABARD said that LEDP is a focused training programme which provides end to end support to SHG members thus enabling them to take up income generating activity for livelihood. The programme involves intensive training and handholding on various aspects, including understanding market, potential mapping and ultimately fine-tuning skills and entrepreneurship to

mately fine-tuning skills and entrepreneurship to manage the enterprise. The programme is supported by NABARD and implemented through the NGO VOESEP by engaging master trainers and subject craft experts from the field. The training will cover all the aspects of papier machie production, design, prototypes and sessions on marketing informed District Development Manager NABARD Rouf Zargar.

He informed that the

programme shall be held

in 03 batches and all the

equipment and training

material shall be pro-

vided free of cost under

the project. The trainees would also be deputed to exposure visits to successful units in Srinagar for learning experience.

Pertinently, NABARD has been supporting artisans and weavers through its grant-based programmes such as mEDP, LEDP, OFPO and cluster-based programmes. These programmes are ultimately aimed at bringing the craftsmen and artisans together for merging them into Off Farm producer Companies.

NABARD also supports successful SHGs and Artisan groups in marketing of products by sponsoring them to exhibitions and mela within and outside the state.

Besides, NABARD has been providing local marketing avenues to SHGs by providing them Rural Marts to sell their products in local markets.

Ajaz Kazmi demands amnesty for commercial electricity users in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Apni Party's Trade Union J&K President Ajaz Kazmi has demanded amnesty for the commercial establishment and industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Govt should consider the long pending demand of the businessmen and industrial sector for granting them amnesty regarding electricity usage in Jammu and Kashmir," said Kazmi in a statement issued here today.

The Govt's decision of providing relief to the domestic electricity user is a welcome step, but in similar manner the commercial users should also be considered, and their demand should be accepted for granting them amnesty from the electricity charges.

He said that the commercial consumers of electricity have suffered losses in the last several years, and the Govt should have a humanitarian view while considering the demand.

He said that the decision of granting amnesty is important because it would provide them a

sigh of relief and promote economic activities.

Meanwhile, he criticized the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for overcharging power consumers in Jammu despite unscheduled

especially metered areas. He said that the Jammu's metered areas are witnessing continuous power cuts whereas the power consumers are compelled to pay huge electricity usage charges.

power cuts in the region

"Despite depositing the charged electricity usage bill, the consumers have complaints that the JPDCL and KPDCL officials disconnect their connections. Thus, harassing the consumers one way or the other," he said, while calling to end the harassment of the consumers.

FROM PAGE 1

court in Jodhpur for various offences of sexual assault, including rape, and sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life. He has been in custody since September 2, 2013, after being arrested in Indore and brought to Jodhpur for raping a teenage girl in his ashram that year.

The teenager had alleged in her complaint that Asaram had called her to his ashram in Manai near Jodhpur and raped her on the night of August 15, 2013.

Panic after low-intensity blast on Jalandhar-Jammu rail track

used to target wild animals, especially wild boars, in farmlands to save crops, a top police official said while dispelling any cause for panic.

In the incident, the gateman identified as Sonu Kumar from UP, presently residing at the Railway quarters in village Khudda, sustained minor injuries and was hospitalized.

A police official of GRP Jalandhar told media that the blast took place at Gate No. 71 near village Pallachak around 11:30 am.

He said the gateman on duty inadvertently stepped on the cracker used for protecting crops from wild animals, causing the blast.

"The condition of the injured is stable," the police official told.

The services of forensic team and bomb disposal squad have been requisitioned to investigate the type of blast. The whole areas is being thoroughly checked.

Moderate to heavy rains, snow forecast; night temp records rise in J&K

snow bound areas to avoid venturing into sloppy and Avalanche prone areas. "Chances of landslides, mudslides & shooting stones most likely over the vulnerable areas," it said, adding, "Farmers are advised to withhold all farm operations during 1st week of March."

Tragic accident claims life of fuel tanker driver in Ramban

proceedings are underway, the official said

97.6 pcs of Rs 2000 banknotes returned by Feb 29: RBI

the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 8470 crore at the close of business on February 29, 2024. 97.6 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have since been returned, the RBI added."

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023. The status of withdrawals of Rs 2000 banknotes is periodically published by the RBI. The last press release in this regard was published on February 1, 2024.

"The facility for exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes is available at the 19 Issue Offices of the Reserve Bank (RBI Issue Offices) since May 19, 2023. From October 09, 2023, RBI Issue Offices are also accepting Rs 2000 banknotes from individuals / entities for deposit into their bank accounts. Further, members of the public are sending Rs 2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country, to any of the RBI Issue Offices for credit to their bank accounts", the RBI release added.

The Rs. 2000 banknotes continue to be legal tender, the RBI added.

Police attach illegal properties worth Rs. 24 lakhs of notorious drug

police attached properties worth around Rs 15 lakh belonging to a drug peddler in Baramulla, Jammu and

Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

peddler in Baramulla

gram.

The drug peddler whose properties were seized was identified as Afroza Begum resident of the Trumgund Hygam Sopore area in Baramulla district.

"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," Baramulla police stated.

Govt sanctions three day leave for Jammubased migrant, PM Package employees

Casual Leave on 7th, 9th & 11th March, 2024 in favour of Jammu based, Migrant and Hon'ble Prime Minister's Package employees working in Kashmir Valley, who desire to celebrate 'Mahashivratri' with their families at Jammu," an order issued by J&K's General Administration Department

Two drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

tactfully, who were later identified as Mohd Rafiq Sheikh son of Mohd Subhan & Bashir Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Rasool both residents of Bernate Boniyar. During their search, officer was able to recover 48 grams of contraband Charas like substances & cash 4600/-. They have been arrested and shifted to police station Boniyar where they remains in custody.

"Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Boniyar and investigation have been initiated", he said.

District administration Leh asks social media users to refrain from spreading fake news, instigating messages

Leh District from posting/sharing any such post/message that has the potential to disturb the communal harmony/peace/tranquillity which may lead to law-and-order situation in the district the order reads. Further, it shall be the responsibility of Admins of WhatsApp Groups/Social Media Platforms to monitor and filter such content immediately.

Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code 1860" it further said.

44 killed in fire at 7-storey commercial building in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka

Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. Another victim died at the Police Hospital. The condition of those injured is "critical", he told reporters at a briefing.

Fire officials said 75 people, including 42 in unconscious state, were taken out of the seven-storey building. Thirteen fire service units were mobilised, the officials said

The minister, a burn wound specialist, said 22 people are being treated at both health facilities and their condition is "critical".

"The respiratory system of those who have survived so far has been seriously damaged," Sen told reporters at the

Doctors said some of the bodies were burned beyond recognition and feared that the death toll could rise. Witnesses and officials said to escape

the fire, people rushed to the upper floors.

Many were rescued by firefighters using ladders, they added.

IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun in a press briefing said that 44 people died and 75 had been rescued. Some of the rescued individuals received first aid treatment before returning home safely.

the daughter of a police officer.
Fire Service DG Moin said the 42

He also said the dead victims included

unconscious included 21 women and four children.
"It was a dangerous building with gas

cylinders on every floor, even on the staircases," he said. He believes the fire originated from a gas leak or stove. The building has only

one exit - the staircases, according to

him.

Most of the people died as they jumped off the building or from burns or suffocation, said firefighters who brought the fire under control around 12.30 am. Smoke was still brewing from the building at that

The first death was reported around 1 am when the firefighters took the bodies one by one to a freezing truck waiting outside the building, local media reported.

SC refuses to entertain Asaram's plea for suspension of sentence in rape case on health grounds

hearing of his appeal before the high court against his conviction and sentence in the case.

The top court directed for expeditious hearing of his appeal by the high court after Rohatgi said Asaram had multiple heart attacks and suffers from anaemia with gastrointestinal bleeding, besides

other age-related ailments.
In his plea filed through advocate
Rajesh Gulab Inamdar, Asaram said
he has undergone more than 11 years
and 7 months of custody in the case.

In 2018, the self-styled godman was convicted by the special POCSO

Lt Governor chair high-level meeting on Budgetary Expenditure

LG calls upon the officials for 100% utilization of funds available under CSS and Capex

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a review meeting on Budgetary Expenditure in the UT of Jammu Kashmir, at Civil Secretariat today.

The meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Forests; Sh Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Administrative Secretaries and senior officials.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the department-wise progress achieved in the Financial Year 2023-24 and called upon the officials for 100% utilization of funds



available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Capex.

It is heartening to see that capital expenditure has achieved 102 percent growth in 2023-24 as compared to 2018-19. We have also registered an impressive increase in Excise and other Tax

& non-tax Revenue. These are the indicators of a streamlined financial prudence system in place in the Union Terri-

tory, he said trative Secretaries and "J&K is touching greatsenior officials to ensure er heights today as the the timely submission of focus on massive infra-Utilization Certificates. structure development The Lt Governor directis towards meeting the ed the departments to explore all possibilities to further improve revenue realization and follow the instructions of the administration to adhere to the austerity measures to cut the expenditure.

An integrated system should also be developed by all the departments for procurement of products from Self Help Groups and MSMEs, he said.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lt Governor directed the Administrative Secretaries and senior officials of the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department and PWD (R&B) to closely monitor the progress on Transit accommodations for PM Package employees.

Manjit Singh demands restoration of statehood, holding of assembly elections in J&K



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Mar 1: Apni Party on Friday took out a massive protest demonstration in Vijaypur town, demanding restoration of statehood and holding of Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hundreds of people, businessmen, ex-PRIs, and prominent people and the Party leaders, who participated in the protest rally, were led by the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh in the town.

The peaceful demonstration was taken out from the market area amid slogans for the restoration of democratic system while the protesters were carrying banners in support of their demands.

As the anger among the people has grown, and the Election Commission of India has yet to take call on the holding of polls in J&K, the Apni Party held the protest to highlight the popular demands of the people who were deprived of their democratic rights and left to the mercy of inefficient and adamant

bureaucracy.

"The nationalist people of Jammu and Kashmir have constantly been demanding holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir that has been snatched from the historic erstwhile state by downgrading it into two Union Territories," said the Former Minister, while addressing a huge protest rally that was taken in the Vijaypur town of Samba

Accompanied by the public representatives of different walks of life, he said that the people have decided to come on the roads so that the Govt and the Election Commission of India

District today.

could wake up from the deep slumber which has delayed the elections without citing reasons and played with the emotions of the people. "The people in both

the regions of J&K have similar demands to hold elections and restore democracy because the bureaucracy has almost paralyzed the functioning in Govt Departments public interest as the gap between the present regime and the public has widened in an unprecedented manner." he stated while urging the Govt of India for the

restoration of statehood. He further referred to the issues of the Displaced Persons/Refugees who have yet to be granted land rights on the Custodian land even as they have lived there for the last seven

decades While addressing the protesters, he stated that the pending demands of the DPs/Refugees should be accepted by granting them proprietary rights on the Custodian land.

He also demanded release of the pending package amount i.e., Rs 25 lakhs for each DP/Refugee family in Jammu and Kashmir that was sanctioned by

the then Govt of India. "Out of total Rs 25 lakhs, the Govt of India has only released Rs 5.5 lakhs for the DPs/ Refugees whereas the pending amount has not been released," he said, while asking the Govt to consider the pending demands of the DPs/ Refugees who were forced to abandon their houses and resettle in the allotted lands in border areas of Jammu region.

He also demanded an employment package and special recruitment for the border residents of the International

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance maintains industry-leading

Border as well as the Line of Control.

"The youth of border areas should be recruited in the Indian Army, paramilitary and J&K Police in a special on the spot recruitment by the authorities so that they do not get indulged in anti-social activities or drug addiction that has destroyed families in the border belt," he added.

He said that the farmers issues like waiving off the KCC loan, canal water up to the tail-end villages along International Border, round the close electricity should be supplied to the farmers so that they can operate their water pumps to irrigate their fields.

The prominent people in the protest also addressed the hundreds of people who had gathered to express their resentment against the Election Commission of India for delaying the polls, and not declaring the assembly elections.

District President, Raman Thappa, SC State President, Bodh Raj Bhagat, OBC State President Bhagat Ram, Apni Trade Union J&K President, Ajaz Kazmi, SC State General Secretary, Capt. Joginder Lal, J&K Vice President Youth Wing, Vishal Nariana, Provincial President, Jammu, SC Wing, Lovely Mangol, District President, Samba, Legal Cell, Sahil Bharti, J&K Apni Party's Transport Provincial President, Tirath Singh, Senior Vice President Jammu Urban, Vaibhav Mattoo, Vice President of Women Wing, Neelam, Provincial Secretaries of Women Wing, Sheetal Sharma and Shikha Bhardwaj, District President Youth Wing, Samba, Mangat Ram, District President Youth Urban, Jammu, Shubam Choudhary and others were part of the

protest demonstration.

settled in one day after

MIER College holds students' visit to Botanical Gardens



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: A group of 36 students from MIER College of Education visited the Botanical Garden at the University of Jammu, Jammu.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance students understanding of plant diversity, conservation, and sustainable practices

The visit commenced with a guided tour by Dr. Sajan Thakur, In-Charge Botanical Garden, and botanical garden staff, who provided insights into the various sections of the garden.

Students were able to observe a wide range of plant species, including rare and endangered ones. The staff also explained the importance species and the role of botanical gardens in research and education.

Dr. Thakur enthusiastically shared insights about a variety of medicinal and ornamental

plants, captivating the students with fascinating facts and stories.

He also showcased plants that have existed on Earth since the Jurassic period and even earlier, adding an intriguing dimension to the botani-Throughout the tour,

students engaged in lively discussions concerning environmental conservation and the ramifications of human actions on plant biodiversity. Their visit to the Botanical Garden offered a tactile learning opportunity, enriching their comprehension of plant diversity, preservation, and sustainable practices. It granted them valuable insights into the significance of safeguarding indigenous plant varieties and the pivotal role botanical gardens play in advanc-

tional initiatives. Furthermore, the visit spurred students to engage proactively in

ing research and educa-

environmental conservation endeavours and advocate for sustainable practices in their daily

They expressed interest in organizing similar visits in the future, demonstrating a commitment to fostering plant biodiversity conservation efforts. The visit to the Jammu University Botanical Garden proved instrumental in shaping the learning journey of MIER College students, instilling in them a deeper appreciation for ecological protection and management.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Principal, MIER College appreciated the efforts of the unit in conducting this informative visit and said that such visits play a crucial role in educating students about the importance of preserving plant biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices for a greener future. Suman Gupta, incharge Environment Unit, successfully orga-

One Week Long FDP on "Machine Learning for Business Intelligence" commences at SMVDU

Top News Report

aspirations of people and

building Aatm-Nirbhar

J&K," the Lt Governor

He asked the Adminis-

further added.

JAMMU, Mar 1: The School of Computer Science and Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has initiated a comprehensive Faculty Development Program (FDP) on "Machine Learning for Business Intelligence" in collaboration with the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), SMVDU.

The program aims to equip faculty members with advanced skills and knowledge in leveraging machine learning techniques for enhancing business intelligence practices

The event has garnered enthusiastic participation not only from vari-

for faculty members to stay abreast of emerging trends in the field of business intelligence. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Suparn K. Sharma, Director UGC-MMTTC, SMVDU, expressed his appreciation for the collaboration between SMVDU and MMTTC in organizing such crucial events.

Dr. Sharma emphasized the pivotal role of faculty development programs in enhancing the quality of education and research outcomes

Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, reiterated the significance of organizing events like this FDP, emphasizing their role in bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Prof. Jha emphasized



ous states across India but also from international delegates keen on exploring the intersection of machine learning and business intelligence.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by esteemed dignitaries, commenced with the Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, delivering the opening address. Prof. Kumar emphasized the significance of integrating cutting-edge technologies like machine learning into academia to foster innovation and meet the demands of the rapidly evolving business landscape.

Dr. Sakshi Arora, the coordinator of the event. provided an overview of the FDP's objectives and curriculum, highlighting its emphasis on practical applications and handson learning experiences. She underscored the importance of continuous professional development

the need for faculty members to acquire expertise in emerging technologies like machine learning to better prepare students for real-world challenges

The organizing team, comprising of Dr. Sakshi Arora, Dr. Sonika Gupta Dr. Sunanda and Mr. Sudesh Kumar worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the program. Their dedication and meticulous planning contributed significantly to the program's success. The ceremony conclud-

ed with Dr. Sonika Gupta extending a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants. organizers, media cell. network centre and website management team for their contributions towards making the FDP a success. The FDP promises to be an enriching experience for faculty members, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and skill enhancement in the realm of machine learning for business intelligence.

claim settlement ratio for third quarter of fiscal 2024 **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Mar 1: Life insurance is an essential component of financial planning, providing financial security to the family and/or dependents. It is a promise made by the company to ensure the financial well-being of the family in case of untimely demise of the policyholder. It is a tool to alleviate the financial

of truth for the industry and therefore one must purchase a policy from a brand they trust.

Evaluating the claims settlement ratio and the average time taken to settle a claim can be a good indicator of a customer-friendly life insurer. The turnaround time too is critical as it ensures that the beneficiaries receive the claim proceeds quickly. However, the onus does not squarely lie with the insurance company.

der the responsibility of truthfully disclosing all material information at the time of purchase, this ensures a quick and hassle-free claims experience for the nominees.

As mandated by regulations, life insurers declare their claim settlement ratios on a quarterly basis. After all individuals buy life insurance to ensure their dependents are financially secure in case of any eventuality. Notably, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has a consistent claim settlement ratio track record, featuring a noteworthy 98.6% claims settlement ratio for the initial nine months of FY 2024.

Consistency in the claim settlement ratio is important as it provides peace of mind to the policyholder that his/her family will not be financially vulnerable when they are not around. The claim settlement ratio of ICICI Prudential Life in Q1-FY2024 was 98.10%, Q2-FY2024 was 98.14% and Q3-FY2024 the ratio stood at 98.52%

Notably, the average claim settlement turnaround time for noninvestigated claims was only 1.3 days for nine months ended December 2023 after submission of all relevant documents.

ICICI Prudential Life also has a 'Claim For Sure' service initiative which ensures all eligible death claims are receiving all documents. Should any delay occur in processing a claim under this initiative, ICICI Prudential Life compensates the beneficiary with interest accrued on the claim amount. Furthermore the Company offers home pick-up of claim related documents, apart from enabling its digital touch points such as WhatsApp, Mobile App and Website to lodge and track claims to significantly improve customer experience. For the first nine months of this fiscal year ICICI Prudential Life settled 3,070 claims under 'Claim For Sure' amounting to Rs 214.70 crore. Also, a significant majority of claims are electronically settled ensuring the beneficiaries have virtually immediate access to the claim proceeds By examining these and

other metrics, prospective customers can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the life insurance company's financial strength, operational excellence, and commitment to serving its policyholders - all essential factors to consider while buying life insurance.

Regime of Mamata will be brought down on its knees by daughters of West Bengal: Rekha

Sharma, Bharat Bhushan,

Ranjeet Singh, Narind-

er Gupta Koki, Shalu

Gupta, Karuna Chetri,

Pumi Choudhary, Neeraj

Dewan, Abhinav Anand,

Amit Sharma, Pardeep

and other party cadres

Rekha Mahajan hitted

out at the Trinamool Con-

gress over the Sandesh-

khali issue and alleged

that Hindu women were

being "hunted down" and

sexually assaulted by

While addressing the

media correspondents,

Rekha Mahaian demand-

ed the removal of West

Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Baneriee for

questioning the allega-

tions of sexual assault

raised by women in Sand-

eshkhali. It is pertinent to

mention that Sandeshkh-

ali in North 24 Parganas

district saw violent pro-

tests earlier, over alleged

"goons".

were present on the occa-

Sharma, Er TK Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: It is time to throw out Mamata Baneriee's government. this was stated by BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan.

The massive protest was held against the Mamta Banerjee-led government in Gadi Garh, RS Pura Jammu South Constituency falls under District Jammu South under the presidentship of District President Rekha Maha-

During the protest, Rekha Mahajan was flanked by senior BJP leaders namely Former Minister Sham Choudhary, Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta, DDC Prof Garu Ram Bhagat, former Dy Mayor Baldev Billawaria, former MLC Vikram Randhawa, District General Secretaries Akash Chopra and Pushpinder Charak, Mandal Presidents Vijay

local Trinamool Congress leaders Rekha said the protests

nized the visit.

by women were spontaneous and there was no politics in it, with the BJP only trying to "protect them and help them raise their voice." She also claimed that what happened to women in Sandeshkhali was similar to the atrocities against women in countries such as Iraq and Pakistan.

Rekha demanded the culprit should be hanged and deserves nothing less than capital punishment. She alleged that Hindu women in the area were targeted and the accused sheltered by the administration as the Trinamool cares for only one community.

Rekha's blistering attack on the Mamta government added that women are most unsafe in a State ruled by the country's only woman Chief Minister. Rekha Mahajan asserted that the sad thing is that the West Bengal government is not doing anything. If women were not safe under the rule of a woman chief minister, then questions start to arise on the lawand-order situation in the

GKET organises awareness session for EDP beneficiaries the benefit of this training **Top News Report**

KATHUA, Mar 1: **GK Educational Trust** (GKET), training partner NSDC, Ministry of Skill development organised Awareness Session for beneficiaries of Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) for SC Candidates at GKITR PMKK Kathua

GKET is training EDP beneficiaries (SC Candidates) for Skill Development Program under Directorate of Social Welfare Scheme, J&K. Amar Nehvi (Director G K Educational Trust) talked about the upliftment of their existing skills, and briefly explained about

after its completion and monetary benefit they will be getting 50,000 or 50% of their loan amount from Social Welfare Department, J&K under EDP.

Guest Lecture from Praveen Kumar, Branch Sales Officer HDFC Bank interacted with the EDP beneficiaries and given them brief knowledge about Banking

He briefed them about E-banking, Cibil Score, SIP,ITR, FD, etc. and how they can uplift their business with micro and macro savings. The beneficiaries were happy as they got the chance to learn under Social Welfare Scheme

distress caused by the loss of a loved one.

Claims are the moment

Customers also shoul-

BCCI to conduct women's red-ball tournament in **Pune from March 28**

Women's red-ball cricket will return to India's domestic calendar after four years when the BCCI conducts a Senior Inter Zonal Multi-Day Trophy in Pune from March 28.

NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Women's red-ball cricket will return to India's domestic calendar after four years when the BCCI conducts a Senior Inter Zonal Multi-Day Trophy in Pune from March 28, the board announced on Friday.

The move comes after the Indian women's team's return to Test cricket. The side has played Tests against Australia and England in the recent years. Domestic red ball cricket for women was last held in

"It is a welcome step taken by BCCI. The national team has started playing Test cricket again and we need the next generation of cricketers to play



red ball cricket at the domestic level," former India pacer Amita Sharma told agency.

"I would also want red ball to be played at the state level and not just zonal level. Back in the day we had both those events," she added.

The Maharashtra Cricket Association will be hosting the tournament which will feature six teams, representing East,

West, North, South, Central, and North-East zones.

They will be competing in a series of five matches to be played across three days each, which is a day more than the two-day games played in the 2018 season.

The tournament will begin right after the ongoing Women's Premier League, which ends on March 17.

It will start with the quarterfinals between East Zone and North East Zone and West Zone and Central Zone on March 28 with the semifinals slated on April 3.

The final is scheduled for April

NZ vs AUS: Lyon, Green put Australia in commanding position on Day 2

WELLINGTON, Mar 1 (Agencies): Australia ended Day 2 with a 217-run lead over New Zealand following outstanding displays from all-rounder Cameron Green and veteran spinner Nathan Lyon.

The Aussies ended the day at 13 for 2, leading New Zealand by 217 runs. The visitors started Day 2 at 279 for 9 and went on to add another 104 runs on the board. Green, who had completed his century on Day 1, formed a recordbreaking partnership with Josh Hazlewood.

The two players formed a 116-run partnership, making it Australia's highest for the 10th wicket, overcoming the previous record set by Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath in 2004.

Their brilliant stand helped Australia post 387 runs in their first innings, with Green

remaining unbeaten on 174 runs off 275 balls, while Hazlewood chipped in with a neat 62-ball 22.

The day turned from

bad to worse for the Kiwis as Australian bowlers piled the pressure in Wellington. The Australian bowlers, led by the experienced Lyon, capitalized on the momentum built by their batters. Lyon bamboozled the New Zealand batting lineup, claiming four wickets while giving away 43 runs in 8.1 overs. His control over line and length, combined with the turn he extracted from the pitch, proved too much for the Kiwi batters.

Lyon's performance helped him go past the legendary Courtney Walsh to become 7thhighest wicket-taker in Test cricket. The rightarm spinner has now claimed 521 wickets



in 128 Test matches. With this performance, Lyon has now become the fifth all-time leading wicket-taker in Tests, only behind legends like Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, James Anderson, Glenn McGrath, Stuart Broad and Anil Kumble.

A significant moment of the day came when New Zealand's captain, Kane Williamson, found

himself run out following a mix-up with teammate Will Young. Glenn Phillips helped the Kiwis recover with a 70-ball 71, having come in to bat when they were reeling at 29 for 5.

His knock, aided by a quick 42 from Matt Henry took New Zealand's first innings score to 179. Tim Southee then claimed quick wickets of Steve Smith and

Usman Khawaja as the Aussies ended Day 2 at 13 for 2. As the day concluded, the match was finely poised, with Australia having established a strong position thanks to Green's batting heroics and Lyon's bowling mastery. The run-out of Williamson added an extra layer of intrigue to the contest, setting the stage for an enthralling

Shreyas Iyer in spotlight as Mumbai take on Tamil Nadu in Ranji Trophy semifinal

MUMBAI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Out-of-favour India batter Shreyas Iyer will be motivated to prove a point and serve a timely reminder of his skillset as he gets back to domestic action when the record 41-time champions Mumbai take on Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Saturday.

Dropped from the Indian Test side and discarded from BCCI's list of contracted players after he did not make himself available for the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal due to groin and back trouble, lyer has recovered completely to join Mumbai for the kev clash.

lyer would be key in Mumbai's scheme of things specially against Tamil Nadu's quality spin bowling, which has been one of their key weapons this season.

Skipper R Sai Kishore (47 wickets) and fellow left-arm spinner S Ajith Ram (41) are perched atop the list of highest wicket-takers, against whom lyer and Co. will have a great opportunity to make a strong statement.

The semifinal promises to be an enthralling battle between Tamil Nadu's persistent and disciplined bowlers and their batters who have piled up big runs this season versus Mumbai's all-round strength.

Mumbai have made it to the semifinals riding on timely performances from different players barring skipper Ajinkya



Rahane, who has just one fifty to show from six matches.

None of the Mumbai bowlers has even made it to the top 10 in the list of wicket-takers - Mohit Avasthi (32) is at 13th - vet thev find themselves in the final four with their bowlers sharing the workload quite well.

Both Mumbai and Tamil Nadu are coming off impressive wins at the quarterfinal stage.

Young Musheer Khan's unbeaten 203 allowed Mumbai a slender lead which swelled to an insurmountable 605 courtesy a historic show from tailenders Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande against Baroda.

Tamil Nadu stopped defending champions Saurashtra.

A standout feature in Tamil Nadu's impressive run this year has been the fact that they have bowled out each of their opponents twice in all Ranji matches this season irrespective of the outcome

Both Mumbai and Tamil Nadu have lost only one match each. While Tamil Nadu only rose to find their best form after an away defeat to Gujarat in their season-opener, Mumbai's narrow loss to Uttar Pradesh only proved to be a minor blip.

It remains to be seen if N Jagadeesan (821 runs) rediscovers his form which helped him register consecutive scores of 245 not out and 321 earlier in the tournament. The right-hander has not crossed fifty in his last seven innings.

However, Baba Indrajith's (686 runs) enviable consistency has done wonders for Tamil Nadu, with the 29-year-old being on a run-making spree with scores of 80, 187, 98 and 48 in last three matches.

Tamil Nadu have also been strengthened by the inclusion of

all-rounder Washington Sundar, who has been released from the Indian Test side.

Day 3.

On what is expected to be a batting-friendly surface, Mumbai's deep batting line-up with Prithvi Shaw and Bhupen Lalwani at the top and all-rounder Shardul Thakur and even Shams Mulani in the lowerorder, the hosts will fancy putting up a big score.

For Tamil Nadu, it would be imperative to keep working with their strengths -- if Jagadeesan, Indrajith and Pradosh Ranjan Paul form the fulcrum of their batting, seamer Sandeep Warrier has provided adequate support to the spin duo of Sai Kishore and Ajith.

Squads: Mumbai: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Bhupen Lalwani, Amogh Bhatkal, Musheer Khan, Prasad Pawar (wk), Hardik Tamore (wk), Shardul Thakur, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Aditya Dhumal, Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Avasthi, Royston Dias, Dhawal Kulkarni.

Tamil Nadu: R Sai Kishore (c), Pradosh Ranjan Paul (vc), Baba Indrajith, Narayan Jagadeesan (wk), Suresh Lokeshwar (wk), Sai Sudharsan, Vijay Shankar, Vimal Khumar, Balasubramaniam Sachin, Washington Sundar, Sandeep Warrier, Trilok Nag, T Natarajan, Mohammed Mohammed, S Ajith Ram.

Match starts 9:30am IST.

OTD in 2003: Sachin Tendulkar 98 sets up India's win over **Pakistan in World Cup**



NEW DELHI, Mar 1 (Agencies): Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, on this day 21 years ago, played a classic 98-run knock to lead India to a remarkable victory over archrivals Pakistan, marking their fourth consecutive World Cup win against the rival team.

Pakistan opted to bat first and set India a target of 274 runs, thanks to contributions from their lineup, including a notable 101 from Saeed Anwar. Pakistan got off to a good start with opener Anwar, who went on to score a brilliant century (101) and Younis Khan, who added a valuable 32, as they posted a competitive 273/7 in a highpressure match.

Despite the pressure of a World Cup clash against their archrivals, the Indian team responded with remarkable poise. Tendulkar, opening the batting for India, unleashed an array of shots that not only countered the Pakistani bowlers but also set the tone for the chase. His innings included twelve boundaries and a six, showcasing his class and aggression.

Tendulkar's knock was pivotal as it came against a formidable bowling attack comprising Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, and Shoaib Akhtar, amongst others. His duel with Akhtar, in particular, was a highlight of the match, with Tendulkar dominating the fast bowler in a manner that shifted the momentum firmly in India's favor. Despite falling short of a century, his 98 runs laid the foundation for India's successful chase, which they completed with six wickets in hand and 26 balls to spare.

India had never chased more than 222 in a World Cup before, but Sachin Tendulkar's knock against Pakistan was simply incredible, allowing India to win by six wickets with 26 balls remaining. The Master Blaster was named Player of the Match. Tendulkar dominated Pakistan's pace trio of Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, and Waqar Younis, guiding India to a stunning victory over Pakistan for the fourth time in five World Cup matches. Sachin Tendulkar's 98 off 75 balls will be remembered as one of the best World Cup innings of all time.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave 2023, Sachin recalled having a "sleepless night" before the match against Pakistan due to outside noise. "I had a sleepless night before the match because you know India and Pakistan is always a big game. When people got to know they had started talking about it, saying 'this game India have to win no matter what happens in other matches'. So, I said what do you mean? There was that pressure, expectations were there," Tendulkar said.

Lionel Messi And Inter Miami Face Florida Major **League Soccer Derby Test**

Lionel Messi and Inter Miami face an early season derby test when they host Florida rivals Orlando City in Major League Soccer on Saturday.

LONDON, Mar 1 (Agencies): Lionel Messi and Inter Miami face an early season derby test when they host Florida rivals Orlando City in Major League Soccer on Saturday. Messi's stoppage time equalizer in Sunday's 1-1 draw at the Los Angeles Galaxy ensured that Miami remain unbeaten after opening their campaign with a 2-0 win at home to Real Salt Lake. Despite the results, Miami failed to impress with their veteran-laden squad struggling for large stretches of the game in LA. Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez looks well short of match fitness while Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, who has been dealing with an ankle injury, has also been less than his best.

"We started well, with the result we wanted. On Sunday we wanted to win, but the tie was just. It was not our best game," Busquets said.

"At the start of a season, it's always difficult. We still have to get adjusted, await injured players to recuperate, hopefully we can play well this Saturday at home in the Clasico."

Busquets said that Suarez, the 37-year-old Uruguayan and former Barcelona and Liverpool striker, needs to be given some time to get up to speed after joining the club from Brazilian team Gremio, for whom he scored 17 goals last season.

"It's a new league. We all need a period of adaptation," the Spaniard said. "Not just him, but all of us as a team. We are changing, fixing



things, some things left to improve.'

Orlando represent the toughest opponent of the campaign so far for Gerardo 'Tata' Martino's men and not just because they will be fired up for a local

derby.

Orlando finished second in the Eastern Conference last season and while they went out to eventual MLS Cup winners Columbus in the conference semifinals, they are among the favorites for the title this season.

Colombian coach Oscar Pareia has added some experience and quality to his team in the off-season, an indication that he is going for a 'win now' approach to the campaign.

Luis Muriel, a 32-yearold Colombian winger, has joined the Lions from Serie A club Atalanta, ending his 14-year spell in European football.

Uruguayan midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro, a standout with Seattle Sounders, has also joined Orlando along with Slovenian defender David Brekalo.

beat Orlando when the two teams met in the Leagues Cup in August, shortly after Messi joined the club along with Busquets and Spanish fullback Jordi Alba.

Pareja attacked the referees in that game for not handing a second yellow card to Messi, describing the game, amid peak 'Messi mania' as a "circus".

Another in-state derby on Saturday sees the improved Galaxy head to northern California to take on the San Jose Earthquakes.

The Galaxy, bolstered by the offseason addition of Ghanaian winger Joseph Paintsil and Brazilian wide-man Gabriel Pec, and with Spanish midfielder Riqui Puig and Serbian striker Dejan Joveljic, look a much more threatening opponent than in their disappointing 2023 campaign, where they failed to make the play-

Defending champions Columbus Crew visit Minnesota United, who announced on Monday that they had appointed Eric Ramsay as their new coach.

The 32-year-old Welshman was part of Erik ten Hag's staff at Manchester United and will look to improve on Minnesota's 11th place finish in the West under Adrian Heath last term.

Bodybuilding Sports Association hosts Mr. Galaxy Bodybuilder Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Miss and Mr. World Galaxy Bodybuilding Championship was organized by the Bodybuilding Sports Association.

Athletes from 500 participated in the competition, showcasing fierce competition across weight categories ranging from 50 kilograms to 95 kilograms.

The winners have a promising future, as they may join the military to serve the nation, potentially strengthening our forces and providing a robust response to hos-



tile nations like China and Pakistan

Attending the event were guests including Veer Bohit, the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Poonam Chauhan, BJP District President, Chandrapal Chandel, BJP SC Morcha

Vice President, Mohini Chandel, Pradeep Vohit, Ashwani Thakur, Pushpendra Motilal Dr RS Tomar IMRC Law Ccollege Wahida, Pradesh Vice President, Women's Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, Shamim Bano, Sec-

retary, Kisan Morcha,

Jammu & Kashmir, along with other dignitaries.

Poonam Chauhan expressed gratitude to all participants and guests, highlighting the association's commitment to promoting better health and keeping youth away from substance abuse.

Issuing a stern warning to Pakistan, Chandel emphasized the role of today's youth in shaping the nation's future, urging more bodybuilders to join the military to counter threats from hostile neighbors. He emphasized India's strength in responding to provocations and hinted at potential surgical strikes if necessary. Chandrapal Chandel, noted the positive impact of bodybuilding competitions on youth morale and the nation's fitness culture, contributing to a stronger and more resilient India.

Sculptor Ganesh honoured as "Peacemakers in the World" by UNESCO, UNICEF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Ganesh Kumar Sharma well known eminent senior contemporary Internationally acclaimed sculptor, son of the soil, has been honoured / recognized as "Peacemakers in the World" by the administration of the "Global Peace Coalition", the administration of the "UNESCO" and the management of the "Croatian University of Zagreb " for World Peace makers.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma honoured / recognized as World Peacemakers in the field of art and culture, under the supervision of



the, Doctor, Chairman, of the Board of Directors, " Union of Ravdin Lions" , Ben Mariam Perfume.

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and participated in thousands of international art exhibitions / art events organized by international art organizations as well as International art groups, / galleries, online as well as physically in India and abroad.

Ganesh Sharma has been awarded / honoured from so many art organizations, at State, National and International levels. He has organized about 30 solo shows of his art works, online and offline in India and abroad. His art works are in permanent collections in so many art galleries in India and abroad.

Presently residing at Hiranagar and participating regularly in major international art exhibition / events.

CUJ Organizes Mind Meet Program



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Department of HRM & OB, School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organised Mind Meet at the Satish Dhawan Space Research Centre, at university campus.

Gaurav Gupta, Former Secretary, CCI, Jammu, was the keynote speaker for the session, "Business Scenario- Viksit Bharat@2047. The Panellist of the session were Riya Gandotra and Rashmi Shrivastave, research Scholar, Tushar and Abhishek Patahania, students from the depart-

Under the leadership of Prof Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, the University regularly organises events for Industry immersion activities and motivates the students for participation in such events

The event convener Prof Vandana Sharma, Dean, School of languages organises the Mind Meet as a regular activity.

The event was hosted by Prof Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies and coordinated by Dr. Susmita Ekka, Assistant Professor, Department of HRM and OB

Gaurav Gupta delivered a mind provoking speech and urged the students and the participants to pledge for moving in the

direction of Viksit Bharat.

Dr. Gowhar Rasool initiated the panel discussion and laid the ground for discussion by throwing light on the development process in India.

The concluding remarks were presented by Anjali

Earlier, Prof Bhasin welcomed the august gathering and emphasised on the Indian ethos and principles for moving towards Viksit Bharat. Dr Ekka presented a formal vote of thanks.

AAP appeals people not get mislead by imaginary election Jumlas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: The Senior AAP leaders, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Nirmal Mahana, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Amrik Singh, Shadi Lal & Robin Singh, in a joint statement issued here, said that the time when general elections in the country are round the corner, the populist assertion made by PM Modi are nothing but the bundle of lies, which is known across the country.

They said that none of the promises made by our PM has been fulfilled, the debt over India has risen to three times high than it was before 2014, the rupee has fallen down tremendously as compared to US Dollar, India is lagging behind in various parameters than its neighbors' like poverty, hunger, malnutrition & promising Rs 15 lakh into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones,

making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency every year etc, Referring to grant of warding Bharat Rattan to revered Chaudhary Charan Singh & Dr. Swami Nathan, the AAP leaders termed it as a attempt to lure farmer community in view of ongoing agitation of farmers over demanding grant of MSP etc

While referring to the height of hypocrisy in the part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular, where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, in MP, he thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against the corrupt persons but to the astonishment of one & all, he inducted 9 cabinet Ministers in Maharashtra government by breaking NCP including Ajit Pawar against whom ED & CBI have registered cases in 70,000 crores most infamous Irrigation scam, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay, Hassan Mushrif and recently ahead of Lok Sabha polls 2024, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok



Chavan resigned from the Congress Party and joined BJP, to whom BJP openly accused of the Adarsh Scam, which was specifically mentioned by the PM, two days back etc, against whom several cases are underway but the PM, Modi crossing all limits of shamelessness gives guarantee of taking action, what a height of hypocrisy, they claimed.

They added that BJP has now openly declared that all the corrupt should come to its fold & get cleaned off their sin in BJP's washing powder.

The AAP leaders said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake corruption charges while they themselves are on an

MLA & councilors purchasing spree. Hardearned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the release alleged.

They further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED & CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" & BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds. The AAP leaders further said that in order to avoid character assassination of the leaders of opposition political parties at the time of elections, ED or CBI intervention need be stopped to ensure free, fair and fearless election, at least 6 months before election in the biggest democracy of the world & have urged upon the Chief Justice of India to take Suo-moto action in public interest to ensure cleanliness, transparency & fearless election in Indian polity to set an example before the democratic world. Citing an example of worst ever character assassination by BJP government of opposition leaders be it Hemant Soren acting Chief Minister of Jhurkhand, Manish Sisodia. Dy CM Satyinder Jain, Health Minister AAP Sanjay Singh MP, AAP & so many other opposition leaders, the AAP leaders vehemently assailed the present government saying that Indian democracy, has earned a bad name of acute black mailing of opposition leaders at the time of election to secure political gains throwing dust in the eyes of general masses there by diverting the attention of masses from real issues like price rise, unemployment, de-valuation of Indian rupees as compared to US dollar, paper leakage. Diesel & petrol prices etc.

Maharaja Harisingh Classic is organising various competitions on March 10

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Maharaja Harisingh Classic is organising a competition that includes junior body building, senior body building, men's physique, classic body building & women's bikini model.

This was informed by the Gourav Gupta, Abhishek Mehra and Shramik Mahajan, organisers of the compitition, in a press conference, here on Fridav.

They said that the compitition with the theme For the athletes - By the athletes' will bring fitness awareness to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and other adjoining states.



They added that the main attraction of the compitition is the cash prize & gifts worth Rs 5 lakh and the winners will also be awarded by health supplements and other supports.

The committee also requested all the budding athletes to be a part of the event.

Many top business houses of the city have extended their full support by being sponsors of the event, they said adding that the event will be held on 10th March at police auditorium.

JKSTIC conducts GDCW Udhampur students' study visit to SKUAST-J

Top News Report

JAMMU. Mar 1: Students of Govt. College for Women, Udhampur during their study visit to SKUAST-Jammu got exposed to the latest scientific advancements in mushroom Biology.

The visit was organized by JKSTIC, Udhampur in collaboration with IIC, GCW Udhampur and held under the guidance of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Dr. Anil Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.

The event was coordinated by Shruti Khanna, District Coordinator from JKSTIC, Udhampur and Dr. Sachin Gupta from SKUAST-Jammu.

In his address to the students, Dr. Ravinder Singh, Coordinator, Campus visit committee, Faculty of Agriculture briefed the students about various activities and academic programmes of the University and motivated them to become future agri-

preneurs. The students visited

tivation and nutritional importance. Dr. Moni Gupta gave a detailed presentation about the benefits of mushroom consumption and the biochemical compounds present in them. During their visit to Apiculture Unit, the students got exposure about the benefits of beekeeping as a source of income generation and about the various products besides honey that are produced

by honey bee. It was a first time eye opener exposure of the students to the latest advancements in entrepreneurship opportunities in Agriculture and allied fields.

The scientists who interacted with students included Dr. Devinder Sharma, Dr. Moni Gupta and Dr. S.K. Mishra.

The students were accompanied by . Neha Gupta, Pradeep Kumar and . Manpreet Kour of Govt. College for women Udhampur. The students showed

great enthusiasm during their interactions with the faculty of the University. Meeting was also held among the authorities of SKUAST-Jammu and JKSTIC to explore the possibilities of arranging more such visits and collaborations in the near

SMVDU hosts workshop on 3D **Printing for Entrepreneurs**



Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 1: A one-

The workshop was attended by over 50 parstressed the need to hold such workshops on new technological developments regularly in line with the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047 and NEP2020.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, in his message, lauded the efforts put in by the organizing team of the workshop in organizing the event and welcomed all the guests to SMVDU.

The invited speakers, Dr. Prateek Saxena (IIT Mandi) and Dr. V. Rajkumar (IIT Jammu) spoke about various aspects and applications of 3D printing. The speakers highlighted the role 3D Printing technology can play in empowering

ty. Dr. V. V. Tyagi (Dean

R&D, SMVDU), Prof. R. K. Mishra (Dean of Students), and senior faculty members of the university were also present during the function.

Dr. Ankush Raina (Cocoordinator) carried out the proceedings of the day, Dr. Mir Irfan UI Haq (Co-Coordinator) presented the report of the workshop and Dr. Sanjay Mohan (Co-coordinator) delivered the vote of thanks

The other co-coordinators of the project were for the opportunity.

J&K team leaves for Mr. North India **Bodybuilding Championship**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 1: Forthcoming Mr. North India Bodybuilding Championship 2024 scheduled to be held at Ludhiana Punjab on 3rd April 2024 (Sunday).

Team members of Jammu & Kashmir State Amateur Bodybuilding Association Men of J&K UT including Jatinder Singh, Rhubhal Shamra, Angrez Singh & Akshat Chawla will be competing in Mr. North



India Bodybuilding Championship event at Ludhiana Punjab. The team was flagged off from Jammu by Chief Patron Sahil Aggarwal, President Ajay Pargal Gupta and Chairman Om Parkash (Retd. ADC) of the JKSABBA. They wished good luck to all the participants. Rohit Verma, General Secretary JKSABBA shall be accompanying the team.

Mushroom and Apiculture units of the University In the mushroom unit, the students learnt about various types of mushrooms including the medicinal mushrooms, their round the year cul-

day workshop was hosted by the Technology Innovation Hub, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. funded by the J&K Higher **Education Department to** disseminate knowledge of 3D printing and its role in entrepreneurship.

ticipants from various colleges of J&K. The workshop was coordinated jointly by Prof. R. K. Jha (Dean, FoE), Dr. Ankush Raina (Asst. Prof., School of Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Asst. Prof., School of Mechanical Engineering) and Dr, Sanjay Mohan (Asst. Prof., School of Mechanical Engineering). Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU presided over the inaugural function. Prof. Kumar

entrepreneurs. The valedictory session was chaired by Registrar SMVDU, Ajay Kumar Sharma of the universialso present during the function. During the valedictory, the participants also shared their feedback on the event with all the officials expressed their willingness to join such beneficial programs in the future, and thanked the organizers and funding agency (Govt. of JK, UT)

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

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