

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Nayanthara in Saudi Arabia with family for Formula 1 weekend; dismisses separation rumours

Arun Goel's resignation: 'Obviously something serious,' says Kapil Sibal

Led by Elon Musk, Silicon Valley inches to the right

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BRIEFLY

Police arrests drug peddler in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police has arrested drug peddler in North Kashmir's Baramulla district and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party of Police Station Pattan headed by SHO PS Pattan at a checkpoint established at Chinar Crossing Pattan near Pandav Park, intercepted one person. During his search, 4 grams of contraband Heroin like substances was recovered from his possession. He was later identified as Amjad Wahan Wani son of Ab Wahab resident of Wani Mohalla Machil Kupwara. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Pattan where he remained in custody.

"Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station Pattan and investigations have been initiated", he said.

FCS&CA office gutted in overnight fire mishap in Uri

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): A Food Civil Services & Consumer Affairs department office was gutted in a fire mishap in the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Official sources told GNS that an FCS&CA office building situated at Main town caught fire last night, razing the structure to ashes.

"The structure comprised the office of Tehsil Supply Office and one another room," they said.

"The fire was controlled after hours of hectic efforts by fire-fighters and locals," said the sources adding, "Fortunately the office records were saved in the incident."

Traffic restored partially on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): In a significant development for commuters traveling along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), authorities have partially restored

Farmers stop trains at various places in Punjab and Haryana as part of Rail Roko protest

CHANDIGARH, Mar 10 (Agencies): Farmers on Sunday squatted on railway tracks at many places in Punjab as part of a 'rail roko' protest called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP).

Farmers raised slogans against the Centre for not accepting their demands.

Because of the disruption of train services, passengers will experience inconvenience. The protest will be held from 12 noon till 4 pm.

In Punjab, farmers had announced that they would sit on railway tracks at 52 locations in 22 districts, including Amritsar, Ludhiana, Tarn Taran, Hoshiarpur, Firozpur, Fazilka, Sangrur, Mansa, Moga and Bathinda.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh



Pandher asked people to join the protest in large numbers. Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), BKU (Dakaunda-Dhaner) and Krantikari Kisan Union, farmer bodies which are part of the Samyukta Kisan

Morcha, are also participating in the 'rail roko' agitation. The SKM, which had spearheaded the farmers' 2020-21 agitation, is not part of the 'Delhi Chalo' protest but has extended its support to the

ongoing farmers' agitation at Shambhu and Khanauri points on the Punjab-Haryana border. The SKM (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mukti Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march to press the govern-

ment to accept their demands. Besides a legal guarantee of MSP, the farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

The protesting farmers from Punjab have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points since February 13, when security forces stopped them from marching towards Delhi.

The farmer leaders have rejected the Centre's proposal for procurement of pulses, maize and cotton at the MSP by government agencies for five years, saying it was not in farmers' favour.

Rain, Snow during next 5 days in J&K: MeT

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): Two back-to-back Western Disturbances (WD's) in quick succession are likely to trigger rain and snow over the next five days in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasts that generally the weather will remain cloudy today with isolated very light rain and snow over the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at widespread places during March 13, while light rain or snow at a few places on March 14.

The weather is expected to remain generally

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Lieutenant Governor greets CISF personnel, their families on Raising Day

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday extended greetings to all CISF personnel and their families on Raising

Day of the force.

LG Sinha commended their work, saying the force tirelessly works for safety and security of vital establishments of the country.

Taking to micro-blog-

ging site X Office of LG J&K said, "Greetings to all CISF personnel and their families on @CISF-HQs Raising Day. The CISF work tirelessly for safety and security of

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J-K: Security forces recover 7 IEDs and wireless set in Poonch

JAMMU, Mar 10 (Agencies): Security forces on Sunday busted a terror hideout in a forest in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and seized seven rusted improvised explosive devices and a wireless set, officials said.

They said the hideout located inside a cave was uncovered during a joint search operation by police and the Army at Dara Sangla in the Surankote area.

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Defeating BJP top priority, alliance partners must work together: JKPC Chief

SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): Congress's Jammu and Kashmir Chief, Vikar Rasool Wani on Saturday distanced himself from National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah's statement in which he refused to accord Anantnag seat with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, said that India alliance is yet to take final call over seat sharing in Jammu and Kashmir. "Whatever Omar has stated, it is his proposal or opinion, but not INDI Alliance's deci-



sion," he said.

Wani said that the leader Mukul Wasnik, who is helming the INDIA bloc is in constant touch with both Omar Abdullah and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti and that it is expected that the final decision will come before very soon.

He added that Congress intends that all the alliance partners of JK must fight together and defeat the BJP, which according to him is plunging the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in deep crisis.

It is ironic that JK in terms of unemployment is standing second after Haryana and that the jobless amongst the youth is touching new heights, he added.

"PDP should not fall prey to BJP manoeuvre and should not imitate Ghulam Nabi Azad or Altaf Bukhari, who are out to create a vote division and benefit the BJP," he added.

Committed to best possible healthcare: SMHS hospital after Srinagar youth dies



SRINAGAR, Mar 10 (Agencies): The

authorities on Sunday said that a 20-year-old

youth was admitted to a private hospital and was referred in a critical condition to SMHS hospital last night, however, arrival he was diagnosed with acute abdomen with sepsis and septic shock.

In a statement issued here, a hospital spokesperson said that he was resuscitated and his condition explained to

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"North India's first Govt Homoeopathic College coming up in Kathua, J&K": Dr Jitendra Singh

Top News Report

KATHUA, Mar 10 : "North India's first Government Homoeopathic College, centrally funded at a cost of nearly Rs. 80 Crore will come up in Jasrota area of district Kathua in J&K", said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

While continuing his consistent spree of development even after the declaration of his mandate for Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh today visited the proposed site



of the college in Jasrota village, where work for the boundary wall has already started.

The Minister was briefed by the engineers and senior experts from the Department of Ayush about the institution.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that the agenda of the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, which was taken at hand soon

after he was elected as Member of Parliament in 2014, will continue uninterrupted till the date of the declaration of election Code of Conduct and will resume immediately after the Code of Conduct is lifted.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi before whom this requisition was put, and said it was

a matter of pride for the people of Kathua that North India's first government Homoeopathic College at a cost of 70-80 crore rupees will come up here. He said the institution will be spread over an area of more than 8 acres, adding that the adjoining three acres may also be added to the existing premises in due course of time.

"The proposed structure will include a hospital complex, a college, an administrative block and one hostel each for male and female students", Dr Jitendra Singh informed. He further informed that the open space will be utilised later on for construction of an

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Subash Chander Jandial (Lambi Gali Wale)** S/o Des Raj Jandial R/o Near KDN Palace Udhampur, who had left us for heavenly abode on 29-02-24.



Sh Subash Chander Jandial

Tenth Day will be performed on 09-03-24 (Saturday) at Jagriti Old Age Home, Udhampur at 12 Noon.
Kriya will be performed on 12-03-24 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat at 12:00 Noon and **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence near KDN Palace Udhampur on 15-03-24 (Friday) at 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raj Kumari Jandial (Wife)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Dr. Suhail Jandial and Dr. Kshama Gupta
Dr. Suchait Jandial and Dr. Sonia Gupta
Brothers and Sisters-in-law
Late Sh. Romesh Chander Jandial and Smt. Gita Devi
Sh. Jagdish Chander Jandial and Late Smt. Pushpa Devi
Sh. Ashok Jandial and Smt. Anita Gupta
Sh. Shiv Jandial and Smt. Sadhana Jandial
Sisters and Brothers-in-law
Smt. Chandar Kanta and Sh. Vidya Rattan Gupta
Late Smt. Chandar Lata and Late Sh. Ram Rattan Mehta
Smt. Chandar Prabha and Sh. Des Raj Gupta
Smt. Chandar Bala and Sh. Jugal Kishore Gupta
Grand Children
Reetisha and Ivisha
JANDIAL FAMILY (7889632273, 9463178535, 7006783225)

10TH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Maya Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Des Raj Abrol R/o 102/12 Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur on 29th February 2024.



SMT. MAYA DEVI

Tenth Day will be performed on 9th March 2024 (Saturday) at 11:30 AM at Mahajan Hall (Sheela Mandir Gali) Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur.
Kriya will be performed on 12th of March 2024 (Tuesday) at 11:00 am onwards at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Smt. Sudershana & Sh. Vijay Abrol (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Ashok Abrol (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Neelam & Lt. Sh. Ashok Ana nd (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Nisha & Sh. Pawan Puri (Daughter & Son-in-law)
(Grand Daughter-in-law & Grand Son)
Mrs. Radhika & Mr. Sahil Abrol
Miss Anshika, Miss Mitali (Grand Daughters)
Mr. Suhail Abrol, Mr. Sushant Abrol (Grand Sons)
Baby Shrinika (Great Grand Daughter)
9419378867 | 9697166661 | 9906097077

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Bantoth)** S/o Late Sh. Damodhar Raina originally resident of Ikumoo (Kokernag), Anantnag presently at H.No. 4-C, Sector-2, Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 3rd March 2024.



Sh. Bansil Lal Raina (Bantoth)

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor on 12th March 2024 followed by **ASSEMBLY** at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu, at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. & Sh. Raju Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Satish Mattoo - Daughter & Son-in-law
Brother & Sister-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Avtar Krishan Raina
Smt. & Sh. Ravi Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Surinder Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Anil Raina - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Suneel Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Rohit Bhat - Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children : Sahil, Sawan, Gunu, Guppi, Shivan, Nivik, Vidhi
Contact : 700678804, 7006909650, 7889439335, 7006325203

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Ashok Parihar (Advocate)**, R/o 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, on 28th February, 2024.



SHRI ASHOK PARIHAR (ADVOCATE)

Tenth Day shall be performed on Friday, 8th March at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar at 8:30 AM.
Kriya shall be performed on Monday, 11th March at our residence 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 1:00 PM.

GRIEF-STRICKEN:
Suman Parihar (Wife)
Akanksha Parihar (Daughter) (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Asha Parihar & Lt. Col. Utsav Anirudh Parihar (Son)
Siddhaangana & Agastya (Grandchildren)
Jagdish & Kanta Parihar
Koushal & Asha Parihar
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Sushma & Ravinder Kotwal (Retd. IGP)
Sushila & Dr. Vinod Bhatnagar
Dr. Sharda Parihar
Mobile Nos.: 9899296036, 7006125123

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Asha Rani** W/o Pt. Hari Dutt R/o 321/ Gali Dai Wali Kanak Mandi Jammu on 01/03/2024.



SMT. ASHA RANI

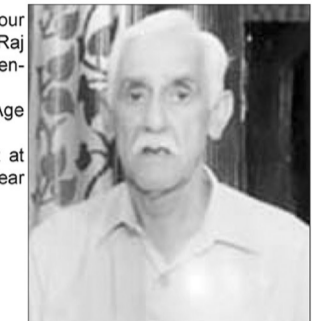
TENTH DAY will be performed on 10/03/2024 Sunday at Rani Talab Moti Bazar Jammu at 11am.
KIRYA will be performed on 11/03/2024 Monday at 11 am & **UTHALA** will be performed on 13/03/2024 Wednesday from 12:30 pm to 1:30pm at Central Mahajan Hall Shalamar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Pt. Hari Dutt (Husband)
Daughter-in-laws & Sons
Smt. Radhika Kaur & Sh. Sanjeev Kaur
Smt. Mamta Kaur & Sh. Hanish Kaur
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt. Sarita Sharma & Sh. Sanjay Sharma
Smt. Nalini Sharma & Sh. Rajesh Sharma
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-laws
Smt. Asha & Sh. Rakesh Kaur
Smt. Sarthak Kaur, Krish Kaur, Anirudh Kaur, Anihata Kaur, Narsimha, Geetanshu, Harshit.
Smt. Vijay Sharma & Lt. Sh. V.D. Sharma
Mb No : +919419262961, +917006138715

Smt. Tripta Sharma & Lt. Sh. Ram Parsad
Smt. Neelam & Lt. Sh. Girish Prabhakar
Rakshit Kaur - Nephew
Rakima Kaur - Niece
Grand Children
Sarthak Kaur, Krish Kaur, Anirudh Kaur, Anihata Kaur, Narsimha, Geetanshu, Harshit.
Mb No : +919419262961, +917006138715

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Subash Chander Jandial (Lambi Gali Wale)** S/o Des Raj Jandial R/o Near KDN Palace Udhampur, who had left us for heavenly abode on 29-02-24.



Sh Subash Chander Jandial

Tenth Day will be performed on 09-03-24 (Saturday) at Jagriti Old Age Home, Udhampur at 12 Noon.
Kriya will be performed on 12-03-24 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat at 12:00 Noon and **Rasam Pagri** will be performed at our residence near KDN Palace Udhampur on 15-03-24 (Friday) at 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raj Kumari Jandial (Wife)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Dr. Suhail Jandial and Dr. Kshama Gupta
Dr. Suchait Jandial and Dr. Sonia Gupta
Brothers and Sisters-in-law
Late Sh. Romesh Chander Jandial and Smt. Gita Devi
Sh. Jagdish Chander Jandial and Late Smt. Pushpa Devi
Sh. Ashok Jandial and Smt. Anita Gupta
Sh. Shiv Jandial and Smt. Sadhana Jandial
Sisters and Brothers-in-law
Smt. Chandar Kanta and Sh. Vidya Rattan Gupta
Late Smt. Chandar Lata and Late Sh. Ram Rattan Mehta
Smt. Chandar Prabha and Sh. Des Raj Gupta
Smt. Chandar Bala and Sh. Jugal Kishore Gupta
Grand Children
Reetisha and Ivisha
JANDIAL FAMILY (7889632273, 9463178535, 7006783225)

TENTH DAY/KIRYA/ RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Devi** on 29.02.2024 and **Sh. Kuldeep Raj Sangra** on 02.03.2024 R/o 712, Sec. 7 Model Town Gangyal Jammu.



SMT. KRISHNA DEVI SH. KULDEEP RAJ SANGRA

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 09.03.2024 Saturday at 11:00 AM at our residence 712, Sec. 7 Model Town Gangyal Jammu.

KIRYA shall be performed on 10.03.2024 Sunday at 11:00 AM.
Rasam Pagri shall be performed on 13.03.2024 Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at Shiv Temple Model Town Gangyal Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Harnam Dass Sangra (Brother)
(Sisters-in-law & Brothers)
Saroj Sharma & Ved Parkash Sharma
Raj Dulari & Sham Lal Sangra
Kamla Devi (Sister)
Daughter-in-laws & Sons
Sunita Sharma & Sanjeev Sangra
Meenakshi Bawa & Ranjeev Sangra

Daughter & Son-in-law
Ritu & Navneet Vats
Gautam, Chaitanya, Siddharth & Vinayak (Grand children)
Contact: +917889312225, +919419104916

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Pankaj Sharma (Appu)** S/o Pawan Kumar R/o Resham Ghar Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 02-03-2024 (Saturday).



PANKAJ SHARMA (APPU)

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 11-03-2024 (Monday) at 11:00 AM at Shiv Durga Mandir, Resham Ghar Jammu and **KRIYA** shall be performed on 12-03-2024 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence H. No 758 Resham Ghar Jammu.

UTHALA will be performed on 13-03-2024 (Wednesday) from 4 PM to 5 Pm at Shiv Durga Mandir, Resham Ghar.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Priya - Wife
Smt. Veena Sharma & Sh. Pawan Kumar (Parents)
Jyoti Sharma & Vivek Khajuria (Sister & Brother in Law)
Deeply Missed by:
Radnya, Ridaan, Ankit, Atin, Aryan, Piyush, Rajat
CONTACT NO: 9797381212, 9796446955

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Jeeto Devi** W/o Sh. Rattan Lal R/o H.No. 123, Sec. 1C, East Ext. Trikuta Nagar. (Monday) at BHARAT MATA HALL, KAMESHWAR MANDIR, Sector 1-A, South Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



SMT. JEETO DEVI

The SATSANG will be started at 11:30 AM and Guru ka Langer will be served after Satsang.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Rattan Lal (Husband)
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Rajneesh Kumar Anand & Smt. Seema Devi
Sh. Keshav Anand & Smt. Geetu Anand
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Smt. Jyoti Devi and Late Sh. Sushil Attri
Smt. Anju Bala & Dr. Surishi Singh
Grand Children : Saraswati, Malithily, Pavitra, Apurva, Shivanshi, Devyansh
JANGRAL FAMILY
M/S RATTAN RICE & GEN MILLS
ALL EVENTS CATERING SERVICES
(9797315914, 9086688819 9419356251,)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Laxmi Koul** W/o Lt. Jagar Nath Koul R/o Nowbugh Veeri, Anantnag, Kashmir at present, H.No 15, Sector 1, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu on 3rd March 2024.



Smt. Raj Laxmi Koul

Tenth Day will be performed on 12 March 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate School Education Jammu at 11A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Sheela Koul W/o Late P.N. Koul (Sister-in-law)
Shri Radha Krishan Raina (Brother-in-law)
Smt. Shashi Koul & Shri Chand Ji Koul (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Reeta Koul and King Jee Koul (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Smt. Komal and Shri Kewal Koul (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Smt. Rajni and Shri Shubhan Je Koul (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Shri B.L. Koul (Son-in-law)
Smt. Sakshi and Shri Nikhil Bhat
Smt. Manisha and Rakesh Ji
Smt. Priyanka and Rashneek Koul
Grandchildren -Simran, Ashim, Anirudh, Gunjan, Karunaya
CONTACT NO. 9858236305, 9906103391

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we informed the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Champa Devi** W/o Sh. Girdhari Lal Balgotra R/o H.No. 55, Street No. 30 Rajpura Mangotrain Jammu.



SMT CHAMPA DEVI

TENTH DAY will be performed on 11-03-2024 (Monday) at 10:00 AM at our residence Satsang at 12:00 PM to 1 PM followed by Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Balgotra Family
Sh. Girdhari Lal Balgotra - Husband
Daughter-in-laws & Sons
Smt. Pooja Balgotra & Raman Balgotra
Smt. Sunaina Balgotra & Rahul Balgotra
Grand Children: Akshit Balgotra, Akshara Balgotra, Rahina Balgotra, Krishav Balgotra
Mob: 9419195720, 9797319690, 7006480567

OBITUARY/10TH DAY

We sadly inform the demise of our beloved father **Karamyogi Sh. Amar Nath Pandita** R/o Sopore, Baramulla and A/P Jagti Colony Block 68/10 Lane. 12/13.



Karamyogi Sh. Amar Nath Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Tawi Banks, behind Sainik School Nagrota on 14th March 2024, Thursday at 8 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Brothers
Sh. Jager Nath Pandita
Sh. Parye Lal Pandita
Smt. Kamlawati -Sister
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Pinkey & Sh. Bushan Lal Koul
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Rajinder & Bable
Sh. Ravi & Asha
Sh. Sunil & Anu
Sh. Rocky & Girja
Grand Children
Karishma, Rishab, Udhay, Mannat, Umang, Bhavika, Deepika, Trisha, Viraj, Vanessa.
Mob: 7780829513, 7889721559, 9149497652, 7889714101

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our revered mother **Smt. Shanta Koul** W/o Late Shri Lassa Koul R/o H.No. 32 Mohinder Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 3rd March, 2024.



Smt. Shanta Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 12th of March 2024 (Tuesday) at Shri Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan, Thalwal (Niki Tawi), Jammu followed by **10th Day Assembly** held at H.No. 32, Mohinder Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu at 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughter & Son-in-law
Kalpana Koul & Raman Koul Babu (9419204254, 9419133561)
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sanjay Koul & Vijay Lakshmi Raina (9419204254, 9419204527)
Dileep Koul & Purnima Raina (6006821590, 9419103799)
Grand Children: Kashyap, Vasu & Vasudha
Samast Parivars of Babu's, Dhar's, Sharabi's, Bhat's & Raina's

OBITUARY

WITH DEEPEST SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. KRISHNA KOUL** WIFE OF SH. POSHKAR NATH KOUL, ORIGINALLY FROM RAWALPORA SAMATNA GAR SRINAGAR KMR PRESENTLY AT EXPRESS APARTMENT SECTOR IV VAISHALI GHAZIABAD WHO WAS UNTIMELY SNACHED AWAY FROM US AND ATTAINED NIRVANA THE CREMATION WAS HELD AT GAZIPUR DELHI CREMATORIUM ON 7TH MARCH 2024. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 15TH MARCH 2024 AT MURADNAGAR GHAZIABAD AT 10 AM.



SMT. KRISHNA KOUL

GRIEF STRICKEN
KOUL FAMILY
KAW FAMILY
PANTEJA FAMILY

BARKHI

One year has passed since your noble soul departed to rest in peace in heavenly abode but your memories are still fresh in our hearts which shall remain forever.



SMT. KESRO DEVI

Barkhi of our beloved **SMT. KESRO DEVI** W/o Late SH. SHIV LAL GUPTA shall be performed on 11th March, 2024 (Monday) at our residence H. No. 7 Extension Mohinder Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu at 12:00 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Devrani & Devar)
Smt. Kanta Gupta & Late Sh. Banke Bihar Gupta
Smt. Santosh Gupta & Late Sh. Surinder Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Vijay Gupta & Sh. Arun Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Sushma Gupta & Sh. Anil Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Asha Gupta & Sh. Kamal Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Sangeeta Gupta & Sh. Rakesh Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Janta Medical Hall, Shalamar Road, Jammu
Hari Distributor, Shalamar Road, Jammu
A.K. Enterprises, Narwal, Jammu -J.M.S. Marketing, Narwal, Jammu
#9596978787, 9419187407, 9419140221

BARKHI

"NOBLE SOUL OF A KARAMYOGI NEVER DIES BUT ALWAYS REMAINS IN THE HEART OF THEIR LOVED ONES"



LATE SH. BANARSI DASS GUPTA

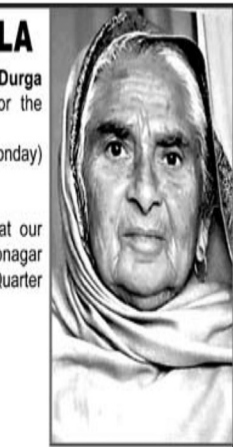
One year has passed since your noble soul departed to rest in peace in heavenly abode but your memories are still fresh in our hearts which shall remain forever.

THE BARKHI of our beloved **LATE SH. BANARSI DASS GUPTA** will be performed on 11th MARCH 2024 (Monday) at DEVAN JANU GHAR, SARWAL COLONY, JAMMU at 12:00 NOON.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Son & Daughter in Law:
Sh. Romi Gupta & Smt. Minakshi Gupta
Daughters & Sons in Law:
Miss Jyoti Gupta & Sh. Jugal Gupta
Miss Pooja Gupta
Smt. Anju Gupta & Sh. Raman Gupta
Smt. Ritu Gupta & Sh. Jashod Bhandari
Devrani & Devar:
Smt. Piyari Gupta W/o Late Tara Chand
Smt. Chinta Gupta & Sh. Sham Lal Gupta
Smt. Rajni Gupta & Sh. Gulshan Roy Gupta
Grand Daughter & Son in Law:
Mrs. Pranvi Gupta & Mr. Arjuman Gupta
Grand Sons:
Raghav Mahajan, Vaibhav Gupta, Aryan Gupta, Shivansh Bhandari & Rounick
Devrani & Devar:
M/S BANARSI DASS ROMI KUMAR
FRUIT COMPLEX, SHOP NO. 68
NARWAL MANDI, JAMMU
(Mob) 9419187855, 7006426076, 9622293777

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With grief agony & sorrow, we inform that **Smt. Durga Devi** W/O Late Sh. Om Prakash departed for the heavenly abode on 02/03/2024.



Smt. Durga Devi

10TH DAY - shall be performed on 11th March (Monday) at 11AM.

KRIYA - on 12th March (Tuesday) and **UTHALA** - on 15th March (Friday) at 3 PM at our Residence H. No. 06 Palm lane Lower Roopnagar sector - 08 Extension near Buta Nagar migrants Quarter Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Pt. Priya Darshan Dubey / Smt. Tripta Devi
Sh. Vishwa Bandhu Dubey / Smt. Nisha Devi
Dr. Kamal Kishore Dubey / Smt. Rubby Sharma
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Shashi Prabha / Sh. Om Parkash
Smt. Sunita Devi / Sh. Narendar Sharma
Grand Sons : Deeraj Dubey, Vishal Dubey & Hritvik Dubey.

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Bhat** on 7 March 2024 W/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Bhat, resident of Gund Dolipora, Handwara, Kashmir left us heavenly abode on 07/03/2024 Flat No-18 Block No-123 Lane No: 21 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu.



Smt Santosh Bhat

MOURNING PLACE Lane No: 21, Block No-123, Flat: 18 Jagti Colony).

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held performed at mata badrikali temple, thalwal jammu on Saturday 16 March 2024 at 7:30 am.
MOURNING ASSEMBLY will be held in Jagti Township Nagrota at community Hall Lane No:- 24/25 (back side) at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. SWEETY PANDITA & SH. SATISH JI PANDITA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) MOB:-7889429521
SMT. PINKY BHAT & SH. INDER JI BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) MOB:-700692830
SH. KRISHAN KUMAR BHAT & SMT. SUDHA BHAT (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) MOB: 962204005
SH. RAVI JI BHAT & SMT. POOJA BHAT (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) MOB:-7006938250
SMT. RUPAWATI PANDITA W/O LT. RESH RAM PANDITA (SISTER IN LAW)
SMT. VEENA JI W/O LT. MAHARAJ LAL DHAR (SISTER IN LAW)
SMT. MOHINI KOUL W/O LT. RAM JI KOUL (SISTER)
GRAND CHILDREN: MEHA PANDITA, BHUVAN PANDITA, RESHKA BHAT, MIVAN BHAT & MANIKA BHAT
SMASHT BHAT & DHAR PARIVAAR

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BJP SC Morcha organizes Basti Sampark Abhiyan at Pargwal

Top News Report

PARGWAL (Akhnoor), Mar 10: BJP SC Morcha undertook door-to-door campaign in SC Bastis under the Basti Sampark Abhiyan at Upper Pargwal in Akhnoor.

Adarsh Jathiar, General Secretary, BJP SC Morcha accompanied by Vijay Anand Gill, SC Morcha Vice-President, Rishu Langeh, Media Secretary, Dev Raj District President SC Morcha, Ganesh Das, Mandal President Morcha, Koushal Kumar, Panch, Joginder Kumar, Panch, Tarsem Lal and



others led the campaign. He was accompanied by, and District General Secretary, BJP SC Morcha.

Adarsh Kumar, while sharing details about the Abhiyan, said that the local residents of Upper Pargwal were

informed about the welfare policies and unprecedented development under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that PM Modi is committed to strengthen the nation and uplift the socio-economic status of the neglected and the oppressed. He said that the Prime Minister is leader of the common masses, who is concerned for their welfare on the ground level.

Vijay Anand Gill enumerated the various public welfare schemes especially tailored for the SC community. He said that Modi government truly recognized the issues and the grievances of the community and took substantial steps to empower the community.

IIMC students get hands on experience of Photography

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu participated in a photography workshop on Sunday in its campus. Pawan Kumar, a Senior Photo Journalist from the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, provided hands-on photography practice.

Pawan Kumar talked about fundamental aspects of photography like image identification, light, camera, lens, visuals, shutter speed, aperture speed, and focus. He also shared his experiences on the current trends of photography and the intricacies involved in capturing styles. He also said that food photography has become important these days. Photography may be manipulated and



several award winning photographs were criticised due to unethical practices.

A photographer must practice with a camera and know about the camera equipment, camera limitations and types of lenses. The session was moderated by Prachi, a student of English Journalism.

Earlier, Prof. (Dr.) Anil Saumitra extended a warm welcome to the

guest and highlighted the workshop's significance. Throughout the event, Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Course Coordinator of Digital Media, Dr. Anshula Gurg, Assistant Professor of English Journalism, Mr. Yasir Arfat, Assistant Professor of Hindi Journalism, and all the students of three courses actively participated in the photography workshop with enthusiasm.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh sparks entrepreneurship boom in Doda with inauguration of three startups



Top News Report

DODA, Mar 10: In a groundbreaking move aimed at revitalizing the tourism sector in Doda, District Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh has spearheaded the inauguration of three innovative startups within the past 24 hours. This strategic initiative marks a pivotal moment for Doda, a region previously overlooked on the tourism map.

With a visionary focus on empowering the youth and fostering entrepreneurial spirit, DC Harvinder Singh has been instrumental in igniting a wave of enthusiasm among local residents. By championing new

startups and promoting tourism development, Singh has swiftly garnered widespread acclaim, earning recognition as the most impactful DC in Doda's recent history.

The inauguration ceremonies witnessed an outpouring of support from the public, who expressed their gratitude towards DC Harvinder Singh for his transformative efforts. Residents hailed his proactive approach in harnessing the untapped potential of Doda's tourism sector, which promises to generate employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth in the region.

Harvinder Singh emphasized the impor-

ance of fostering a conducive environment for entrepreneurship and innovation. He underscored the significance of collaborative efforts in harnessing Doda's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty to attract tourists and investors alike.

The newly inaugurated startups span diverse sectors, including hospitality, Restaurants, and other initiatives, reflecting the diverse opportunities available in Doda's burgeoning tourism landscape. With DC Harvinder Singh's visionary leadership at the helm, Doda is poised to emerge as a vibrant hub for entrepreneurial activity, offering endless possibilities for growth and prosperity.

As the momentum continues to build, residents eagerly anticipate the positive transformation set to unfold under the dynamic leadership of DC Harvinder Singh. With renewed optimism and determination, Doda embarks on a journey towards a brighter, more prosperous future, fueled by innovation, entrepreneurship, and community collaboration.

DHE, Punjab Govt requested Centre Govt to extend cutoff date to apply BBA BCA under AICTE till 31st March, 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Department of Higher Education, Govt of Punjab has requested the Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt of India that the Colleges affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh; Punjabi University, Patiala; Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar running BBA/BCA & other professional courses must be given one year time to apply to All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi & last date to apply & adhere to norms of AICTE should be extended to 31st March, 2025.

As per notification number D.No. 815/ College Education/DHE dated 7th March, 24, the representations have been received by the Punjab Govt from colleges affiliated respective universities. These colleges are running BBA BCA courses after

due approval and under the norms prescribed by respective universities from the last 20-25 years & were not covered under AICTE domain.

Earlier also Dr Anshu Kataria, President, Federation of Self Financing Technical Institutions (FSFTI), All India & Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) has requested AICTE that since 1987 since the AICTE act was passed; BBA, BCA, BMS were never it's part. After almost 4 decades, suddenly bringing BBA BCA Colleges under its ambit is shocking.

The affiliated colleges under Panjab, Panjabi & Guru Nanak Dev University have expressed the concern that BBA BCA courses are being run successfully & any move to de recognize will jeopardize the efforts of State Govt & will also affect the implementation of NEP 2020 to ensure multidisciplinary aspect in education system.

JKNPP convenes meeting to discuss Foundation Day celebrations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) convened a crucial meeting today at party office to deliberate upon the arrangements and preparations for the upcoming celebration of its Foundation Day, which falls annually on the 23rd of March. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vilakshan Singh President J&K National Panthers Party.

The meeting brought together key members, office bearers, and volunteers from across the region to strategize and plan for the momentous occasion. The Foundation Day holds immense significance for the JKNPP, symbolizing the values, vision, and journey of the party in serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, various aspects pertaining to the grand celebration were discussed compre-



hensively. This included the formulation of event programs, logistical arrangements, mobilization of resources, and outreach initiatives aimed at ensuring maximum participation from party members and supporters. Additionally, the meeting also emphasized the importance of upholding the party's core principles and commitment to the welfare and development of the region.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, President Vilakshan Singh reiterated the party's unwavering dedication to the cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the significance of the Foundation Day as an opportunity to reflect on the party's journey, rekindle the spirit of unity, and reaffirm its pledge towards the betterment of the region and its residents.

Furthermore, Singh expressed gratitude towards the members

and supporters for their continued dedication and support, highlighting their pivotal role in the success of the party's endeavors. He urged everyone to actively participate and contribute towards making the upcoming celebration a memorable and impactful event. In the meeting a committee was also constituted for ensuring proper arrangements for the foundation day celebrations. Naresh Chib General Secretary of

the party was appointed as the chairman of the committee and other members of the Committee included Rajesh Gondhi (State General Secretary), Ravinder Jamwal (State Secretary), Sham Gorkha (Provincial President, Jammu), Rakesh Gupta (District President, Jammu) and Navin Bali.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment amongst the attendees, as they pledged to work tirelessly towards ensuring the success of the Foundation Day celebrations and furthering the objectives of the J&K National Panthers Party.

The other leaders who addressed the meeting included Hakikat Singh Jamwal (State General Secretary), Farooq Ahmed Dar (Provincial President, Kashmir), Adv. Kesar Parveen Women Wing State President, Peerzada Mudaassar Ahmed Shah (District President, Kupwara).

Absence of democratic system, delay in assembly elections causing hardship to people: Rajesh Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) JK UT general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Sunday accused the Centre of snatching the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to a media channel. He demanded immediate Assembly elections and statehood status back.

"Gupta expressed serious concern over the difficulties confronting the people in the absence of a democratic system in J-K while slamming the government for snatching the rights of people," he said in

a statement.

The BSP leader, accused the Centre of failing the people on all counts. Gupta said J-K was divided into two Union Territories against the wishes of the people and they were now being denied their democratic rights by "the BJP aiming to hide its wrong policies and utter failure".

The BSP shall continue to fight for the democratic rights of the people and ensure justice, he said. People, especially the youth, are joining the Bahujan Samaj Party due to its pro-people policies, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
xenpwdelctdiv.jammu@gmail.com
e-NIT No.EDJ/368 of 2023-2024 Dated 05-03-2024

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Supplying, Installation, testing and commissioning of Professional Digital Studio in Directorate of school Education Jammu (CCTV).	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	14.97	Rs. 600/- in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury Voucher No. & Date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal or The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-challan through Account no. 0149010200000163	Rs. 29940/- in the shape of CDR/FD R/TDR valid for 12 Months pledged to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	7 Days	15-03-2024 At or after (12:00 A.N)	OEM Or their Authorized - Distributor/Dealers/System Integrators/Firms Fulfilling Eligibility Criteria

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-03-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-03-2024 to 14-03-2024, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	06-03-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	14-03-2024 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-03-2024 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. **uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt.** The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of **LI** be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.**
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu.** The date for same shall be intimated separately. No.:- EDJ/19534-41

Dated :-05-03-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

DIP/J-15854/23

GDC Kilhotran Celebrates Women's Day

Top News Report

KILHOTRAN, Mar 10: To mark the International women's Day Government Degree College Kilhotran organized a series of events on the theme Women Fit toh India Hit Movement and the Bleed Red Campaign on Saturday. The events were patronized by Dr Javid Iqbal, Principal GDC Kilhotran, who addressed the

students and encouraged them to participate in various activities for their physical and mental well-being.

The main attraction of the day was the Women Fit toh India hit programme, which was conducted under the National Service Scheme (NSS) in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK). The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance

of fitness and health among women and girls.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Mohd Aslam Rather, Head Department of Chemistry and PO NSS Unit GDC Kilhotran, who welcomed the guests and participants and gave brief introduction of the day. The event was hosted by the students Azhar Khan and Arpana Devi, the boys and girls campus ambassadors

respectively. Saima and Shahida, students of the 6th and 2nd semester respectively, shared their views on the Women fit toh India hit programme and its benefits.

The programme also included a running competition, in which Romika Mahas secured the first position, followed by two other girls. All the participants were given refreshments.

EDITORIAL

FUEL
ECONOMY

Oil is one of the main factors affecting the economy of any country. The rising oil price is enough to affect the economy of any country badly, the rising oil prices have troubled people a lot, because the rising oil price is breaking its own records every day. Even after the reduction in the prices of crude oil in the international market, there is no reduction in their prices in the country.

Petrol and diesel prices are revised daily by Oil Marketing Companies in India and this revised price (whether increased or decreased) is updated daily by the retailers. If we look at the last few years, we come to know that the prices of oil are continuously increasing. The effects of rising oil prices on the Indian economy can be seen in both direct and indirect ways.

Among oil importing countries, India is the third largest country in the world after China and America, most of the oil imports in India are from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The more oil is imported in a country, the more the economy of that country depends on it.

This statement is corroborated by an RBI report, in which the RBI stated that a \$10 per barrel increase in crude oil prices results in a loss of about \$12.5 billion to the Indian government. Rising oil prices directly and indirectly affect the Indian economy.

Wildly rising oil prices can have a very serious and negative impact on the Indian economy, because these rising oil prices can cause inflation in the Indian markets, as a result of which people's earnings as well as their expenses can decline.

There has already been a significant cut in people's earnings during the Corona period, on top of that the rising oil prices have doubled its effect. There has been an unexpected increase in the financial deficit due to the economic activities not running smoothly during the Corona period.

You must be aware that the government has kept petroleum products out of GST, if the government brings petroleum products under GST and applies the highest rate of GST (28 percent) on it, even then the prices of petroleum products will be very high. There may be a shortage.

By promoting the development of non-petroleum vehicles, as it has become imperative to look for new energy alternatives.

Work on renewable energy sources like hydrogen energy and solar energy can reduce our dependence on petroleum products and so on.

The expenditure of all the schemes issued by the government is borne by the money received from the revenue. Due to Covid-19, the economic activities of the country have been greatly affected, due to which the revenue received by the government has also decreased significantly.

The increase in the prices of petroleum products increases the prices of fuels used in daily life, which directly affects people's pockets which affects other needs of the people.

Time to reimagine, build up India as an Asian hub

By: Manish Tewari

The Indian subcontinent has been so named for a reason. India's large, diamond-shaped landmass sits squarely between West Asia and East Asia. Its southern peninsula extends significantly into the Indian Ocean, and to the north lie the resource-rich but landlocked countries of Central Asia. This geographic location at the literal crossroads of Asia makes India a potential linchpin in the building of an Asian Century. A century in which the energy suppliers of West Asia feed the energy consumers of East Asia and the resource-rich but landlocked countries of Central Asia find export markets through the dozen ports that India has on the Indian Ocean. Moreover, India sits astride some of the most critical Sea Lanes of Commerce (SLOC's) that run from West to East and visa-versa. Also India's extremity in the Andaman Nicobar Islands, Indira Point, lies mere 675 kilometres from the Straits of Malacca, dominating the six-degree channel.

The Indian Ocean region (IOR) also contains China's most important SLOCs. As much as 75 per cent of China's oil imports come from the Middle East and Africa. China imports more than 11.28 million barrels daily. The interplay between India, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea constitutes the economic fulcrum of the Asian power dynamic. There are, of course, other rising powers in Asia that have carved out vital niches for themselves. Asia's has been the fastest growing economy in the world this century, and will continue to be so for the foreseeable decades. Trade between

Asian countries has boomed and grown faster than world trade in every year in the past quarter century, driven in part by the aggressive growth of China and in part by an East Asia linking its markets and supply chains.

But there is a giant piece missing in the story: To realize its full potential, an Asian century requires India as a connector, as a processor of goods that Asia requires, as a provider of services such as transport and logistics, efficient trading markets and bourses, and financial services that underpin trade, such as credit and insurance, and as a continent-sized consumer market for the products of Asian countries. This connection has been the missing piece that can exponentially power India's growth provided it is able to shed the baggage of history qua Pakistan and find a modus vivendi with China on the unsettled border question that in its latest manifestation has been bedevilling the relationship between these two countries over the past four years now.

What does the realisation of India's Asian potential require? It would require a mind shift by India to start viewing its neighbours as opportunities rather than threats. A leap of faith that to make is easier said than done. It would require cooperation rather than competition among Asian and Indian Ocean countries; it requires a strategic approach to building the Asian economy of tomorrow, including infrastructure that will connect Asia through India, regulatory frameworks, and the international alliances and border settlements that will allow the economic potential to be realised peacefully. This

would be a major shift from India's present thrust. Currently, the United States and Europe are India's largest and second largest markets for its exports. Asian countries' share of India's trade has grown in recent years with the economic growth of those countries, but there is both much more potential, and the need for a systematic effort to fully realise India's potential at the centre of Asia.

After India opted out of the RCEP, many leading voices in East Asia expressed disappointment, but also argued that an Asian century will go ahead in some form, with or without India. But an Asia without India is fragmented into an East Asia and a West Asia, a Central Asia and an Indian Ocean Asia. India brings all of these together and therein lies the genius of India. There are 28 countries have a coastline on the Indian Ocean. Together, they have a GDP of almost \$11 trillion, and a population of almost 2.8 billion. Add to these the six landlocked countries of Central Asia which cover a vast resource-rich territory and are sparsely populated, and Mongolia, Russia's Siberia, as well as China would benefit from having energy and resource routes through to the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. The Himalayas are an inhospitable environment in which to build infrastructure, but the technology to do so, including the boring of tunnels, is now fairly well-developed.

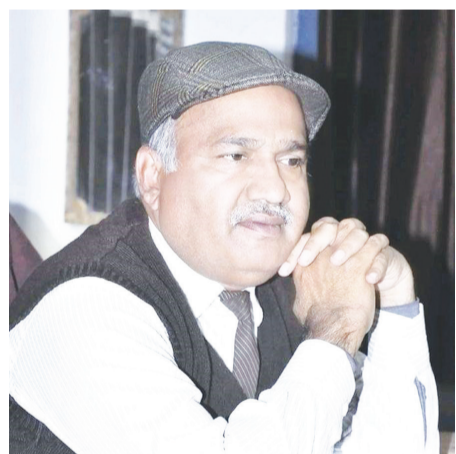
But first, to build the connecting infrastructure, Asia must ensure peace. In the current geopolitical environment of great power rivalry, that is becoming increasingly challenging. But there are concrete steps that

India can take. The first is to settle its disputed borders so that infrastructure to connect it to its north can be built and maintained. The second is to ensure that the maritime security of the Indian Ocean is the responsibility of participant Asian countries rather than that of outsiders. The third is to design India's infrastructure with Asia in mind rather than just India. This will require India to think in terms of Asian supply chains and markets, rather than just India, and may require India to integrate its projects with those of other countries that are also looking to synergise in the region.

The capital to build such an ambitious vision is available in both West and East Asia, and the benefits would accrue over decades to the entire continent. However, what this alternative vision requires is re-imagination of the entire geo-political architecture of Asia. India obviously cannot do it alone when faced with belligerence and China's desire to dominate Asia. This was the original conception of a peaceful Asia going back to the end of the Second World War when large parts of Asia, Africa, Latin and South America liberated themselves from the vestiges of imperialism, colonialism, exploitation

and sheer pillage by the European powers that had enslaved them for two centuries plus. Somewhere along the way, that vision got blurred and Asia again got caught up in the grist of great power rivalry. The principal Asian powers need to step back and reassess their respective trajectories to build a more secure and prosperous future for their coming generations.

Memory tricks and Mnemonics for Exam Success



By: Vijay GarG

The pressure to excel in exams is constant among students. Success in academics relies not only on intelligence but also on effective knowledge acquisition and retention. One intriguing aspect of memory enhancement is the development of photographic memory.

It involves converting information into mental images, aiding recall by enabling individuals to visualise and organise complex concepts.

Here are a few mnemonics and memory techniques to enhance your study experience and develop photographic memory, shifting from rote memorisation to active learning for confident exam performance:

1. PRIORITISE SLEEP

Often overlooked yet fundamental element for effective

learning is prioritising quality sleep. Consistent, restorative sleep strengthens memory consolidation.

A well-rested brain is significantly better equipped to encode and retain information for successful recall during exams.

2. STORYTELLING TECHNIQUE

Break down complex information into smaller, digestible chunks, and weave them into a narrative.

Associating information with a story enhances comprehension and recall - students not only grasp the material more readily but also improve their ability to retrieve it later.

3. PRACTICAL APPLICATION ENHANCES UNDERSTANDING

Understanding real-life applications of concepts reinforces comprehension.

For example, grasping why planes are white due to metal conductivity or comprehending the electromagnetism behind bullet trains running without wheels can significantly improve retention.

Memory tricks, memory tricks for exam, memorisation tricks for exam, mnemonics for exam

4. MIND MAPS

Mind maps are valuable

tools for comprehending and revisiting concepts, transforming extensive information into flowcharts.

Tracking subheadings ensures thoroughness, while consistency in the number of subheadings across chapters aids recall and comprehension.

5. MUSICAL MEMORY

For those seeking a more creative approach, musical memory offers a unique solution. Converting information into catchy melodies, songs, or raps significantly improves recall.

The rhythm and rhyme act as potent retrieval cues, aiding information access during exams.

6. MNEMONIC DEVICES

Mnemonics are memory tools that greatly aid exam preparation. Techniques like acronyms, formed from the initial letters of a sequence of words, provide a concise and memorable way to retain information.

For example, "My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nachos" helps recall the order of planets in the solar system.

7. CHUNKING FOR EFFICIENT LEARNING

Dividing information into manageable groups enhances

memorisation and retrieval.

This method, used for phone numbers or credit card details, is effective in exam preparation, enabling students to compartmentalise material for easier recall.

Memory tricks, memory tricks for exam, memorisation tricks for exam, mnemonics for exam

8. UTILISE MNEMONIC STRATEGIES

Beyond acronyms and chunking, the "journey method," also known as the "memory palace," involves visualising a familiar location, like your house, and mentally placing information at specific landmarks within that location.

When you need to recall it, retrace your mental steps through the palace, retrieving the information from each designated spot.

9. PEG METHOD FOR SEQUENCED INFORMATION

For remembering sequences specifically, the peg method reigns supreme. This mnemonic assigns specific, easily visualized images or concepts to a sequence of numbers.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

NMOPS demands restoration of Old Pension Scheme

Top News Report

JAMMU Mar 10: Reiterating its demand for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) over the New Pension Scheme (NPS), National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) J&K Unit held meeting at Jammu Under the leaderships of UT President Mohammad Ashraf.

Addressing in a meeting NMOPS J&K UT President, Mohammad Ashraf Said that the NMOPS is a federation of central and state government employees and Amalgamation of More than hundreds of Employees Associations demands only one Point ie Scraps New Pension Scheme(NPS) which was implemented by it through its Parliament Act-2003 'Contributory Pension Scheme' which was later termed 'National Pension Scheme'

replacing the 'Old Pension Scheme' on government employees who joined the service after January 2004. Accordingly, the state government J&K implemented the same with effect from January 2010

Therefore, the Union territory unit of NMOPS along with the rest of the states demanding the government conversion of NPS to the older 'General Provident Fund (GPF)' scheme which is the OPS, he added.

He said that NPS does not guarantee social and economic security to its employees during or after retirement while highlighting demerits of the new NPS such as; lesser benefits (for the government employees) than the earlier pension scheme, withdrawal limits, taxation at the time of withdrawal, investment restrictions, and no guaranteed returns.

The scheme is completely a 'share market investment' of the employees' contribution to the job, and the fate of employees and their family depends on the growth of the market, he added.

"Employees under the NPS receive very limited benefits compared to the older GPF scheme", he said, adding, that pension is the one and only social security provided by the central government to its employees, after one 30 years of service as a government servant or after one attends 60 years of its age.

Meanwhile, UT Sr.vice President NMOPS Vishal Manhas Said that the federation had submitted several memorandums and reminder letters to the government respectively. but it had not received any response from the latter

to date, he added. He said that some states like Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and a few others have scrapped the NPS and restored OPS. Therefore, we demand the government of Jammu and Kashmir do the same for the greater interest of the state government employees.

"We will continue our fight with a series of democratic movements till our demand is fulfilled," he added.

Others who are present in meeting UT Sr Vice President Dr Vishal Manhas, UT Add. Gen Secretary Mohan Singh, UT Advisor Neetan kalyan, UT Chief Convenor Rajeev Sharma, UT Treasurer Raman Sharma, UT Chief organizer Amar Mooman, Provincial President Jammu Tarun Gupta, Provincial Sec-

retary Deepak Sharma, Provincial Coordinator Rail Singh, District President Jammu Sanjay Sharma, District President Reasi Sushil Sharma, District President Kathua Dr Sanjay Sharma, District President Samba Jai Krishan Vishasta, District President Ramban Vijay Singh Shafiq Miza Vice President Rajouri and leaderships from Kashmir Province also join meeting through video Conference are Syed Muneer Husaain UT Vice President, Dr Karamjeet Singh UT Chief Coordinator, Irfan Nazir chief Spokesperson, Muntazir Khalid Provincial secretary, Sofi Tahir Provincial Sr vice President, DP Ganderbal Peerzada Irshad, DP Kulgam Tanveer Khanday, DP Baramullah Sartaj Ahmed, DP Bandipura Saleem Kawa and many others.

Enhancing the Productivity of Quality Research: A Need of the Hour- Prof. R.K. Uppal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Central University of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, organized a UGC-sponsored online refresher course focusing on "Relevance of Economic Issues in current Politics". Dr. Uppal highlighted spoke on "Preparation of Research Proposals and Process of Financial Approval From Different Funding Agencies, Research Opportunities and Collaborations". During the presentation, Prof. R.K. Uppal, Principal of Baba Farid College of Management Technology, Bathinda, Punjab, shared his insights. Dr Uppal said the productivity of quality research with AI



tools can be enhanced. Dr. Uppal pointed out that research papers and research proposals are often rejected due to undue pressure to publish in high-profile journals, insufficient research methodology, inadequate statistical knowledge, and grammatical and language errors. Various funding

agencies exist in India that distribute grants to projects of major significance, seminars, conferences, workshops, or Non-Governmental entities backing scientific research in sectors like Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Agriculture, and Management Sciences, among others.

These agencies conduct research under various schemes to promote research in India in the Science and Medical stream, Management, and other areas, and provide a research grant. The selection process for these grants is highly competitive, with priority being given to research projects deemed most worthy of funding.

SMVDU, Dr. Deepak Jain received a patent "Automated Medical Environment Management Device with a Health Detection"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Dr. Deepak Jain, School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University received a design patent titled "Automated Medical Environment Management Device with a Health Detection" under Design Application Number: 6347703 in Class: "24 - Medical and Laboratory Equipment" and Sub Class "02 - Medical Instruments, Instruments and Tools for Laboratory Use". He is one of the ten inventors. This design patent pertains to an innovative Automated Medical Environment Management Device equipped with integrated health detection capabilities.



The design focuses on seamlessly integrating advanced technologies to create an efficient and user-friendly solution for medical environments. The device encompasses a sleek and ergonomic form factor, optimizing both aesthetics and functionality. The design incorporates a comprehensive health detection system, utilizing cutting-edge sensors and tech-

nologies to monitor vital health parameters. The device's intuitive interface allows for easy interaction, ensuring accessibility for both healthcare professionals and patients. With an emphasis on functionality, the Automated Medical Environment Management Device integrates seamlessly into healthcare settings, offering real-time health monitoring and precise environmental control. This design patent represents a significant leap forward in the convergence of medical technology and environmental management, catering to the evolving needs of modern healthcare facilities.

Vibodh Inaugurates BASE GYM in Kheora

Top News Report

JAMMU, MAR 10: BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta inaugurated the newly opened 'BASE GYM' at Kheora in Rajouri District by cutting its ribbon. The inaugural ceremony was attended by a large number of people from various walks of life. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, Vibodh Gupta lauded the initiative taken by the owner, Akash Kumar, recognizing the significance of such establishments in fostering a healthier community.

He emphasized the pivotal role of fitness in combating the menace of drug abuse, urging the youth to embrace constructive activities that promote overall well-being. He



also stressed cultivating the habit of body management, which is the need of the hour in today's

mechanical life to keep ourselves fit and healthy. While interacting with the youth, Vibodh also high-

lighted various initiatives taken by the Modi government to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports activities among the youth. He stressed that a nation can only thrive when its youth is healthy and active, and urged them to embrace physical fitness as a means to contribute to the nation's progress. From promoting physical education in schools to launching nationwide fitness campaigns like Fit India Movement, Khelo India the government's efforts were geared towards instilling healthy habits early on. He strongly asserted that only fit youth can shape a Superhit India and therefore the government aimed to provide necessary infrastructure and support to empower youth physically, mentally and

socially. "BASE GYM has introduced the latest kind of modern technology and top-notch machines as well as apparatus to cover the entire body fitness training to be imparted by a renowned certified trainer," said the owner of the GYM, Akash Kumar. Prominent leaders and citizens present on the occasion were Ranjeet Tara, Koushal Gupta, Puspinder Gupta, Chander Kumar, Vicky Sharma, Azag Khan, Yogesh Sharma, Radhish Sharma, Kewal Sharma, Nitish Chib, Ashwani Kochar, Amar Singh, Kulbir Kumar, Babli Kumar, Amrish Gupta, Adv. Shaida Masood, Gulshan Saraf, Ajoy Sharma, Aryan Bakshi, Ashok Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Anil Gupta and others.

Sat Sharma, Baru hold workers meeting in Sunderbani



Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Mar 10: Sat Sharma, former minister & senior leader of BJP and Sanjay Kumar Baru, senior BJP leader & Prabhari Nowshera District, stressed upon the BJP workers from Kalakot-Sunderbani assembly constituency to speed up election campaign for the 2024 Parliamentary polls.

Sat Sharma and Sanjay Baru were addressing an organizational meeting at Assembly office Sunderbani in Nowshera

district. District President Neena Sharma, BJP senior leader Th. Randhir Singh, former Dy Mayor Dharamvir Jamwal, former Councillor, District General Secretary Pritam Sharma, District General Secretary former District President Captain Ramesh, DDC Rajinder Sharma, BDC Bal Krishan, Sardari Lal, district office bearers and Mandal presidents participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the party

workers stressed that BJP cadre works consistently for the nation and the society. He said that BJP worker remains active every day of the year and never take rest in the service to the fellow citizens. He said that it is a routine work for the BJP activists to visit every home to know the issues of the people and extend help to get them resolved at the earliest, however, now every party worker must leave no stone unturned to ensure that the Narendra Modi government at the

Centre receives highest support from Jammu & Kashmir.

Sanjay Baru said exhorted upon the party leaders to reach every section of the society and ensure that the public welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government have reached the targeted population. He said that the real motive of these schemes will only be achieved if all needy fellows, who are a part of the targeted population successfully get the benefit from these schemes to uplift their socio-economic status.

Neena Sharma, speaking on the occasion, asked the party leaders to contribute more hours and initiate regular Pravas in their respective areas. She said that the people are fully prepared to support the Narendra Modi government in the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

BJP Mandal Presidents Naseeb Singh Chib, Madan Pal Sharma and others were present in the meeting.

BJP cadre intensifies its activities ahead of LS polls

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Continuing with its different programmes of "Vidhan Sabha Pravas" by senior leaders, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu Kashmir held various Shakti Kendra and Booth Sammelans in various Assembly Constituencies.

In this series, these programmes were held in 11 different Assembly segments at 8 places, where the senior leaders of the party had reached their assigned destinations. They held threadbare discussions with the local leadership as well as the party activists holding the important responsibilities as Shakti Kendra Pramukh and organizers of Booth Sammelans, reviewed the progress of such programmes and suggested more measures to further polish the grass root level activists to reach the people and mobilize their support for the BJP by educating them about numerous mega projects



of development and welfare schemes of Modi government.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), BJP chaired 2 Shakti Kendra and Booth Sammelans at Jammu North, Marh, Nagrota and Jammu West Assembly Constituencies.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the party leaders, said that as the schedule of the Lok

Sabha polls is expected to be announced soon, the J&K BJP has intensified its activities in the entire length and breadth of the UT. The party has already taken the lead in opening of election offices at assembly constituency levels and announced its candidates, the morale of the party activists is high and each one is devoting more time to ensure the successful conduct of various programmes being undertaken as per the directions of the party high command.

Similarly, Sham Lal Sharma, BJP Vice-President accompanied by Swarn Lata chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Jammu South-RS Pura Assembly Constituency.

Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Vice-President chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Bahu Constituency.

Chander Prakash Ganga, former Minister

senior leader chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Samba Constituency.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Munish Sharma, senior leader chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Jammu East Constituency.

Sham Chowdhary, BJP Vice-President chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Bishnah Constituency.

Ashwani Sharma, former MLA chaired Shakti Kendra/Booth Sammelan of Vijaypur Constituency.

Shamsher Singh Manhas, former MP, Devinder Singh Rana, senior leader, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairperson DDC, former Minister Priya Sethi, Inderjit Sharma, Shiv Dev Singh Manhas all District Presidents, senior leader and other senior leaders also participated in these programmes.

55th Maharudra Yagya held at Kol-Kandoli Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Today 55th Maharudra Yagya at the Prachin Aap Shambu Temple, located within the serene premises of Maa Kol Kandoli Ji Mandir.

The program commenced with traditional rituals including:

Havan: A sacred fire ceremony symbolizing purification and offerings to the divine.



Kanya Pujan: Worship of young girls, symbolizing the embodiment of divine energy. Bhandara: A communal feast where attendees take the blessings of the Yagya.

Rajesh Raina, the President of Sangram Sena mentioned that like every year, we have organized this program at Kol Kandoli Temple from past 40 years.

Distinguished guests including Chief Guests, Special

Guests, and Guests of Honor, as well as prominent social personalities from Jammu & Kashmir, gracing the occasion with their esteemed presence.

This event, organized by the All India Sangram Sena Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu, promises to be spiritually enriching and culturally significant.

As the Havan concludes, may peace and harmony prevail in Jammu and Kashmir and across the nation.

Samantha says taking break from work due to myositis was the 'hardest' but best decision of her life

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been quite open about her battle with myositis. In a new interview, she opened up on the break she took from her work because of her condition and whether that fared well for her.

Samantha revealed in the interview that taking a break from work to recover from myositis was the "hardest decision" of her life. But in hindsight, she feels it was also the best one. "I've had my fair share of self-loathing and really low confidence, but I've always strived to grow as a person. With that growth came a deeper understanding of my insecurities and self-loathing. I was able to heal by addressing them – not by trying to fix them from the outside, but by fixing the inner trauma that needed more healing than any external quick fix,"



the actor said.

She also added that setbacks like these have made her a stronger person. "People might think that success defines you, but it is failure and loss that truly define you, and introduce you to the best version of your-

self. These lows and these losses have made me a person I am truly proud of," she said. Samantha's condition of myositis entails the immune system of her body attacking her muscles.

On the work front, she was recently seen sharing screen

space with Vijay Deverakonda in Kushi. Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Kushi was released in theatres on September 1, 2023, in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

Samantha will be seen in the Indian adaptation of the action series Citadel opposite Varun Dhawan. Recently, she finished the shoot of the series. After wrapping up the shoot, Samantha penned a lengthy note by sharing the pictures from the sets. She wrote, "And it's a wrap on #CitadelIndia. A break doesn't seem like a bad thing at all when you know what's coming @rajandk @mensit... The family I didn't know I needed. Thank you for helping me fight every single battle and never ever giving up on me."

Nayanthara in Saudi Arabia with family for Formula 1 weekend; dismisses separation rumours



South superstar Nayanthara, who shared the screen with Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan in 'Jawan', reached Saudi Arabia with her family. She arrived in Saudi Arabia with her husband Vignesh Shivan and their children Uyir and Ulag for the Formula 1

racing event.

Nayanthara and Vignesh spent some quality time together before the event. Earlier, Nayanthara took to her Instagram stories and shared a picture of herself expressing gratitude towards her hubby. Tagging Vignesh in the picture, she wrote, "Thank you for making me the woman I'm today".

She dismissed rumours of their separation with the Instagram story, telling her fans that everything is fine between the couple.

Earlier, the actress had shared a cryptic message on her social media which read, "She's gonna forever say 'I got this' even with tears in her eyes".

The cryptic message on her Instagram came after it was alleged that she has unfollowed her husband Vignesh. A Reddit user had shared the screenshot of Vignesh allegedly being absent from the list of people whom Nayanthara follows on Instagram.

However, currently the two follow each other on Instagram.

Ahan Shetty, Pooja Hegde to star in 'Sanki'

Actors Ahan Shetty and Pooja Hegde are coming together for Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment's upcoming production 'Sanki', the makers said.

The film will be directed by Adnan A Shaikh and Yasir Jah, and written by Rajat Arora. It will be released in theatres on February 14, 2025.

The production house made the announcement on its official X page.

'The Sanki's are on their way to take over the cinemas on Valentine's Day. #SajidNadiadwala's #Sanki starring #AhanShetty & @hegdepooja releasing on 14th February 2025 in cinemas near you.



Directed by #AdnanAShaikh & #YasirJah Written by @rajatsaroraa @WardaNadiadwala, the banner said in the post. While Shetty was

last seen in his 2021 debut 'Tadap', Hegde's most recent big-screen appearance was 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' (2023).

Diljit Dosanjh chills with residents of Kinnaur, practices 'pahadi jhumar' dance steps

"I did a different dance form today.. pahadi jhumar. I don't know the lyrics.. but I did the dance," Diljit said.

Singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh, who is all geared up for the release of two of his Hindi films 'Crew' and 'Amar Singh Chamkila', recently visited Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh and danced with the locals on a folk song.

He took to his Instagram account and shared a string of pictures and videos with the locals, who were wearing traditional Kinnauri topi.

Diljit is donning a black sweater and matching joggers.

The look was rounded off with an orange 'pagri'



and black boots. The photos show him joining hands in gratitude in

front of the people. A video features him dancing with the locals

on a mountainous road, and he is seen wishing 'Happy Maha Shivratri'

to everyone.

"I did a different dance form today.. pahadi jhumar. I don't know the lyrics.. but I did the dance," Diljit said. The post is captioned: "LOVE", followed by a red heart emoji.

The fans took to the comment section and wrote: "Hope you loved the hospitality of Kinnaur".

One user said: "So you're enjoying one of the best cultures in India". Another commented: "Bro its Kinnauri dance love you". A fan said: "Kinnouri vibes".

Shilpa Shetty opens up about being an early investor in MamaEarth: 'Now it's valued at 11,000 crore'



Shilpa Shetty, in her three-decade-plus career as a Bollywood actor, has also branched out as an entrepreneur. The actor-turned-businessperson recently opened up about how she changed the mentality around brand endorsements in the film industry, as she started investing in companies that she connected with. She told agency an interview that even though she isn't very 'astute' about

money matters, she has inherited the business gene.

Shilpa, 48, also opened up about how she studied commerce before she became an actor at the age of 17, because she had to "look after" her father's business.

Opening up about how she doesn't merely endorse brands but also invests in them, she spoke about MamaEarth. She said that when she decided

to invest in the brand, the company was valued at around Rs 35 crore, and it has now grown into a Rs 11,000 crore unicorn. She said, "I have made several investments now. Earlier, actors would take money and endorse a brand, and not want a stake in the company. I decided that I'd rather be fully invested and have a stake in the pie and then see how it does."

Shilpa discussed business like a 'shark' on Shark Tank, and said that she is totally aware of her risk appetite. She also opened up on how she puts her money into brands that give "solutions to a problem." She said that she is conscious about her investments, and endorses only those brands that align with her own ideas about health and wellness.

According to agency, Shilpa rakes in an annual income of approximately Rs 80-90 crore through lucrative brand endorsements, charging Rs 6-7 crore for a single day's commitment. Her net worth is also estimated at Rs 150 crore. She is one of the most successful actors of her generation and also runs Bastian, a posh restaurant, along with her husband Raj Kundra.

"It is not the most unified industry": Emraan Hashmi on Bollywood



Actor Emraan Hashmi has been quite vocal on issues in and out of Bollywood. In a statement provided by the web series 'Showtime' team, he shared his take on the boycott trend that the Bollywood industry faced lately.

"I don't know if it is criticism but it is not the most unified industry at all points of time, because there are times where we have worked synergistically and in a better way, for example, the whole boycott trend of Bollywood, if we would have come together early on, we could have squashed it. Every industry has a few bad apples, so it is not like really tainting the industry, it is just that a few people are undisciplined," he said.

Meanwhile, Emraan is being lauded for his performance in 'Showtime', which has been created by Sumit Roy and directed by Mihir Desai.

Angela Bassett says her Oscar loss last year was 'a supreme disappointment': I thought I handled it very well

Angela Bassett is reflecting on her Oscar loss in the Best Supporting Actress category at the Academy Awards last year.

The actor reflected on the evening in a new interview with Oprah Winfrey in OWN, where she agreed that the loss was 'a supreme disappointment.'

Recalling the awards night, Oprah said, "We're all in our pajamas, watching you on Oscar night ... 30 years after you were nominated for What's Love Got to Do with It, but didn't win. So I just knew your name was going to be called and then when they didn't, I was beside myself." She then added that Angela's look of disappointment showed on screen.

To this, Angela agreed and said in return, "I thought I handled it very well, also. And that was my intention, to handle it very well. It was, of course, a supreme disappointment, and disappointment is human. So I thought, yes, I was disappointed, and I handled it like a human being.

There are going to be these moments of disappointment that they're going to experience, but how do you handle yourself in the midst of them? So, we're going to smile, we're going to



be gracious, we're going to be kind, we're going to party anyway."

Angela was nominated for her role as Queen Ramonda in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. She ultimately lost to Jamie Lee Curtis who won for her role as IRS agent Deirdre Beaubien in Everything Everywhere All at Once.

The other nominees were Hong Chau for The Whale, Kerry Condon for The Banshees of Inisherin, and Stephanie Hsu for Everything Everywhere All at Once. Angela Bassett was

presented with an honorary award at the 14th Annual Governors Awards in January. "Thank you, thank you to the Academy and the Board of Governors for this award. I have considered acting my calling and not just my career. I do this work because I find it meaningful and I hope in some way that it makes a difference and has an impact.

To be recognized in this way for what I love doing is truly wonderful and I am beyond grateful," she said in her acceptance speech.

PM Narendra Modi Launches Projects Worth Over 34,000 Crore In UP

PM Modi in UP: PM Modi inaugurated Azamgarh, Shravasti, Chitrakoot, and Aligarh airports and a new terminal of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow.

AZAMGARH (UP), Mar 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several development projects worth more than 34,700 crore across the state. He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders as he visited the Manduri area of the district.

PM Modi inaugurated Azamgarh, Shravasti, Chitrakoot, and Aligarh airports and a new terminal of Chaudhary Charan Singh Interna-



tional Airport, Lucknow. He also inaugurated Maharaja Suhel Dev State University, Azamgarh, constructed at

a cost of 108 crore. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of five major National Highway proj-

ects worth 11,500 crore. More than 5,342 km of roads built in 59 UP districts under the PM Gram Sadak Yojna

worth 3,700 crore were also inaugurated by him.

PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 12 railway projects across UP worth 8,200 crore.

He also inaugurated three sewage projects built under Namami Ganga Yojna worth 1,114 crore in Prayagraj, Etawah, and Jaunpur districts of the state.

The prime minister is also slated to inaugurate the Light House Project (LHP) in Lucknow under which more than 1,040 affordable flats have been built with modern infrastructure.

6 of family from Bihar killed in road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur

The car was headed for Prayagraj



JAUNPUR, Mar 10 (Agencies): Six members of a family from Bihar died when their car was hit by a speeding truck here in the

early hours of Sunday, police said.

Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma said the car was headed for Prayagraj when the

accident occurred on the Karjag-Kerakat road in the Gaura Badshahpur police station area around 2.30 am.

Three other members of the family are undergoing treatment in Varanasi, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Gajdhar Sharma (60) and his son Anish Sharma (35); Jawahar Sharma (57) and his 17-year-old son; Sonam (34) and Rinku (32), all residents of Bihar's Sitamarhi district.

Police have launched an investigation, the SP said.

Child falls into 40-ft-deep borewell in Delhi, rescue operation under way

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): A child fell into a 40-foot-deep borewell at a Delhi Jal Board water treatment plant here in the early hours of Sunday and a rescue operation is under way, officials said.

The rescue efforts are being led by teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Delhi Fire Services (DFS).

Around 1 am, information was received that a person fell into a borewell at the DJB plant in west Delhi's Keshopur Mandi area.

"Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot. We later received a message from our officials that a child had fallen into a 40-foot-deep borewell," DFS chief Atul Garg said.



A rescue operation was launched immediately and an NDRF team is also at the spot, he said.

The NDRF team will soon start digging another borewell parallel to the one in which the child has fallen, Garg said.

Police officials said a team was rushed to the spot soon after information about the incident was received.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said, "A PCR call

was received at Vikaspuri police station at night informing that a person had fallen into the borewell at the Keshopur (Delhi) Jal Board office.

The local police as well as fire brigade teams reached the spot. An NDRF team has also been called to the spot. Efforts are being made to take the person out safely."

The identity of the person who has fallen inside the borewell is yet to be ascertained,

Arun Goel's resignation: 'Obviously something serious,' says Kapil Sibal

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Rajya Sabha MP and Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Sunday expressed his 'surprise' over the sudden resignation of election commissioner Arun Goel ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, raising questions over the reason behind the resignation of the poll body's official.

Sibal, while speaking to agency said that there is something "serious on the basis of which Arun Goel resigned at the cusp of an election" when he had three years remaining in his tenure.

"It surely is (surprising). If at the cusp of an election, which is just a couple of months away, you resign - obviously there is some-



thing serious on the basis of which he must have resigned. I can't possibly speculate that reason but obviously there is some element of difference of opinion, especially when his term was still not over," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Sibal further alleged that the poll panel will be tailor-made to the interest of the ruling party as the BJP will "pack the

"real expectations" with the election commission.

"We have seen in the past when speeches which are violative of the Code of Conduct made by the people of BJP are not proceeded against and at the slightest deviation from the Model Code of Conduct by an Opposition member, they will be immediately given a notice. So, we know the completely partisan nature of this Commission. So, we don't have any real expectations from the Commission," he added.

Speaking to the reporters, Sibal accused the election commission of emerging as "an extended arm" of the government.

"The Constitution,

which has three pillars - Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary, is the base of the democracy. The election commission's role is to ensure that the elections are conducted in a free and fair way. However, in the last 10 years, it looks like the election commission has become an extended arm of the government," Sibal said.

Goel resigned just ahead of the anticipated announcement of the schedule for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The resignation of Goel leaves the three-member Election Commission with only one member, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, after the earlier retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey.

BJP Hisar MP ex-IAS officer Brijendra Singh quits party, joins Congress

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, BJP MP from Hisar Brijendra Singh on Sunday resigned from the party's primary membership due to "compelling political reasons" and joined the Congress.

Soon after announcing his resignation on X, Brijendra Singh, the son of BJP leader Birender Singh, reached Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi and joined the opposition party.

"I have resigned from the primary membership of BJP due to compelling political



reasons. I extend gratitude to the party, National President Sh. J P Nadda, Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, & Sh Amit Shah for giving me the opportu-

nity to serve as the Member of Parliament for Hisar," Brijendra Singh said in his post.

Senior Congress leaders Ajay Maken, Mukul Wasnik

and Deepak Babaria were also present at Kharge's residence when Brijendra Singh joined the party.

Congress sources said the bureaucrat-turned-politician is set to be the party candidate from Hisar.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Brijendra Singh had defeated JJP's Dushyant Chautala and Bhavya Bishnoi, who was then with the Congress, to win the Hisar Lok Sabha seat.

Bijendra Singh is the great grandson of prominent Jat leader Sir Chhotu Ram.

Madhya Pradesh Man Kills Brother With Axe For Turning Off Music At Family Function

SATNA, Mar 10 (Agencies): A man allegedly hacked his brother to death with an axe after the latter turned off the music and stopped him from dancing at a family function in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district, police said on Sunday.

The police have arrested the accused, Rajkumar Kol (30), for the murder that occurred at Mauhar village under Kothi police station limits on Friday night, an official said.

Rajkumar's brother Rakesh (35) had organised a function at his house, during which music was being played on a sound system, said Rupendra

Rajput, in-charge of Kothi police station. The victim later turned off the music, and the accused wanted to continue dancing, he said.

An argument ensued between the brothers, and in a fit of anger, Rajkumar allegedly attacked Rakesh with an axe and killed him on the spot, the official said.

The accused fled the scene and was later apprehended near a culvert where he was hiding, he said.

The accused was placed under arrest, and the weapon used in the crime was seized, the official said.

Yusuf Pathan to contest Lok Sabha elections from Berhampore as TMC announces 42 candidates for Lok Sabha election

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer Yusuf Pathan will contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as the Trinamool Congress candidate (TMC) from Berhampore opposite Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of the Congress.

The TMC announced names of 42 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 on Sunday.

Mahua Moitra will be contesting from Krishnanagar again.

Actor Shatrughan Sinha will contest from the Asansol constitu-



ency. Sitting TMC MP and actor Nusrat Jahan has been dropped from the list. Haji Nurul Islam will contest from Basirhat. Sandeshkhali falls

under this constituency. Former cricketer Kirti Azad will contest from Bardhaman-Durgapur. The seat is represented in Lok Sabha by S S Ahluwalia of the BJP.

Bengaluru Man Says Rajput Auto Drivers Abused, Stopped Him From Using Rapido Bike

BENGALURU, Mar 10 (Agencies): A Bengaluru man recently shared a shocking experience he had with auto drivers in the city. He said that the auto drivers forcefully stopped him from using Rapido bike taxis and labelled it as "goon behaviour". A user who goes by the handle of Karnataka Weather on X mentioned that the drivers abused the Rapido drivers and he had to cancel three bike rides due to the same.

"Goon behaviour of auto drivers at Jalahalli metro station, Bengaluru this evening. As I came out of the metro station, I had booked a

bike taxi via @rapido-bikeapp. The first ride I got was of an electric bike & when the rider had come to pick me up, the auto drivers started to abuse him & chased him away. Realising that the electric bike taxi was banned in the city, I booked another ride via Rapido & this time I got a Honda bike which is not electric. When he came to pick me up, the auto drivers again forcefully asked him to cancel the ride & didn't allow me to take the ride," he wrote on the microblogging platform.

The user said that he read news articles about the ban on elec-

tric bike taxis and then booked another ride. "This time I was ready with my mobile to take pics & videos of the auto goons. But when the rider came & we were about to leave, they had come back, forcefully made me get off the bike & started abusing. I told them only electric bike taxis are banned but not the normal ones. They said don't talk rules to us & we know better than you. They didn't allow me to capture the videos & pics," he added.

He urged the Bengaluru Police to look into the matter. "If all kinds of bike taxis are

banned, then please let the operators take down the option of bike bookings in their apps & if it isn't, please make sure we are not harmed by these auto goons," the user concluded his post.

Bengaluru Police took note of the same and asked the user to share his contact details.

Meanwhile, several other internet users also shared similar instances.

"This is very much regular in Bangalore. Recently, my friends and I also experienced this at first auto guy asked us to cancel cab and said he'll ride us at same

cost so we after reaching upon our destination he charged double amount of ola cab (600) and he abused all of us," commented a person.

A second added, "This is regular scene at all metro stations! Neither the auto drivers are ready to ride on meter nor they allow ppl to book! Its a very difficult situation but no action is being taken!!"

"Always walk for 500 meters from any station and then book taxi," suggested a person.

Another person wrote, "It's not just in Jalahalli. This is happening in the entire city."

2 killed, 1 Injured In Massive Explosion In Pakistan's Peshawar

The incident occurred in Board Bazar, Nasir Bagh Road Peshawar. The dead bodies and those injured have been admitted to the Khyber Teaching Hospital.

ISLAMABAD, Mar 10 (Agencies): At least two persons were killed and one injured in a blast while they were transferring explosives on a motorbike in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Sunday, said officials. The incident occurred in Board Bazar, Nasir Bagh Road Peshawar. The dead bodies and those injured have been admitted to the Khyber Teaching Hospital.

Earlier the police officials said that the incident was a suicide blast, however, later Superintendent of Police Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi confirmed that the explosion took place when the three were transferring explosives on a bike from one place to another.

Abbasi said that the bomb disposal unit's (BDU) report



revealed that it was not a suicide blast.

"An explosion took place during the transfer of explosives. Three people were transporting the explosives of which two of them were killed in the blast and

one of them sustained injuries," he said.

The injured person, who is in a very critical condition, is being treated at Khyber Teaching Hospital, said spokesperson Sajjad Khan.

The bodies of the deceased have also been moved to the hospital.

Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur sought a report from the police into the incident.

Board Bazar is a busy road in Peshawar where usually there is heavy traffic. However, at the time of the blast, the traffic was slow.

Many parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province often witness blasts and terror-related activities.

According to Pakistani authorities, the documents of the Home and Tribal areas revealed that a total of 1,050 incidents of terrorism took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last year while 419 incidents of terrorism took place in the arranged districts, 631 incidents in the merged districts.

Death Count Rises To 21 In Indonesia Floods, Landslides, 6 Missing

JAKARTA, Mar 10 (Agencies): The death toll from flash flooding and landslides on the Indonesian island of Sumatra has risen to 21, an official said Sunday, with six people still missing.

Torrential rains on Thursday triggered the disaster in Pesisir Selatan regency in the West Sumatra province, with more than 75,000 people forced to evacuate.

"As of Sunday, 21 people were found dead and six people remained missing," Fajar Sukma, an official from West Sumatra disaster mitigation agency, told agency by phone on Sunday.

A village located on a hillside in the Suter subdistrict was struck hard, with around 200 families in the area left isolated after a landslide followed by flash flooding, Fajar said.

A local official earlier put the death toll at 18 with five missing.

Rescuers were searching for the missing on Sunday as authorities focused their operation on three areas affected by the disasters, local search and

rescue official Abdul Malik said.

"Today's search involves around 150 people from disaster organisations in West Sumatra," Abdul said in a statement.

Doni Gusrizal, a senior official from the Pesisir Selatan disaster mitigation agency, said waters had started to recede after the flooding, but added that access to areas affected by the landslide remained difficult because of hilly terrain.

In the Padang Pariaman regency, also in West Sumatra, heavy downpours earlier this week caused rivers to overflow and triggered floods and a landslide, killing at least three people, according to a statement from the local disaster agency.

Indonesia is prone to landslides during the rainy season and the problem has been aggravated in some places by deforestation, with prolonged torrential rain causing flooding in some areas of the archipelago nation.

A landslide and floods swept away dozens of houses and destroyed a hotel near Lake Toba on Sumatra in Decem-

Hezbollah fires rockets into Israel after deadly strikes

BEIRUT, Mar 10 (Agencies): Lebanon's Hezbollah on Sunday said it had fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel after Israeli strikes the day before left five dead in southern Lebanon, including three of the group's members.

Hamas ally Hezbollah and its arch-foe Israel have been exchanging near-daily fire across the border since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

Hezbollah said it had launched "dozens of katyusha-type rockets" in the morning on the Israeli village of Meron, eight kilometres (five miles) from the border.

Meron is home to a major air control base that the Iran-backed group has targeted several times since the start of the year.

Hezbollah said it had acted "in response to Israeli attacks against villages in the south and the homes of civilians", particularly the targeting of the home of a fighter in Kherbet Selm the day before.

A woman and another person were also killed in the same strike, according to Lebanon's official National News Agency.

"Following the sirens that sounded in northern Israel, approximately 35 launches from Lebanon toward Israeli territory were identified, a number of which were intercepted," the Israeli army said on Sunday.

The statement added that the Israeli air force struck Hezbollah infrastructure



during the night, including a "military structure in which Hezbollah terrorists were identified in the area of Khirbet Selm".

At least 312 people have been killed in Lebanon since the start of cross-border violence on October 8, most of them Hezbollah fighters but also including 53 civilians, according to an agency tally.

On the Israeli side, 10 soldiers and seven civilians have been killed, according to the latest official figures.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced by the fighting on both sides of the border.

Strikes have largely remained confined to border regions for the moment, but several have hit Hezbollah positions further north in recent weeks, raising fears of a full-blown conflict.

The group has repeatedly said that it will only stop its attacks on Israel with a ceasefire in Gaza.

But Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said recently that any truce in Gaza would not change Israel's goal of pushing Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon, by force or diplomacy.

Our Ties "Choice Of History": China's Xi Congratulates New Pak President

BEIJING, Mar 10 (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election as the Pakistan President, saying that the "iron-clad friendship" between the two countries is a "choice of history" and the "strategic significance" of the ties has become more "prominent" in the light of current changes in the world.

Zardari, the husband of late Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto was overwhelmingly elected as the 14th President of Pakistan on Saturday, becoming the only civilian president of the coup-prone country for a second time.

Zardari, the co-chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party, was the joint candidate of the ruling alliance of the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

In his message to Zardari on Sunday, Xi said "China and Pakistan are good neighbours, good friends, good partners and good brothers, adding that the two countries' iron-clad friendship is a choice of history and a precious treasure of the two peoples."

Xi said that "the two countries



have in recent years maintained close high-level exchanges, supported each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, achieved fruitful results in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and maintained a high level of development of bilateral relations," state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

India has objected to China over the USD 60 billion CPEC connecting China's Xinjiang with Gwadar port in Balochistan as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Xi in his message said, that

as the world is confronted with accelerated changes unseen in a century, the strategic significance of China-Pakistan relations has become more prominent.

Xi said he highly regards the development of China-Pakistan relations, and is ready to work with President Zardari to carry forward the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, advance practical cooperation in various fields, push for greater development of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a

shared future in the new era, so as to better benefit the two peoples.

Earlier, Xi greeted Shehbaz Sharif on being elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister.

The return of Shehbaz and his brother Nawaz Sharif as well as Zardari at the helm of Pakistan's politics and government in the midst of chaos and severe economic crisis in Pakistan is viewed with a sense of relief here as all three of them over their years in power in the past few decades maintained close ties with Chinese leaders and furthered the strategic ties with Beijing viewed widely as a strategic alliance against India.

China had an uneasy relationship with former prime minister Imran Khan's government which was blamed for the slow pace of USD 60 billion CPEC.

China has been providing forex loans and rollover of its debt periodically to bail out Pakistan which is facing a severe economic crisis.

Recent reports from Islamabad said China has agreed to roll over a USD two billion loan due to be paid in March.

Led by Elon Musk, Silicon Valley inches to the right

WASHINGTON, Mar 10 (Agencies): Since his tumultuous takeover of Twitter, Elon Musk has made an unabashed turn to the right politically, defying the orthodoxy that Silicon Valley is a citadel of well-heeled liberals beholden to Democrats.

Long considered non-identifiable ideologically, Musk's politics are now headline right wing as he uses his platform (now called X) to stoke the themes cherished by Fox News, conservative talk radio and far right movements across the West.

In just the latest example, repeating a conspiracy theory of far right chat rooms, Musk last week posted that US President Joe Biden was importing migrants for votes, laying the groundwork for "something far worse than 9/11." But beyond the posts, the question on everyone's mind is whether the world's second richest person will put his weight, and wealth, behind the bid of former US president Donald Trump to retake the White House.

The rumor mill went into overdrive when The New York Times reported that the two men met, along with other Republican donors, in Florida last week.

Trump is seriously trailing Biden in raising campaign funds, even if he sailed toward the Republican nomination to be US president, and Musk could single handedly make up the shortfall.

Musk turned to X to insist that "to be super clear, I am not donating money to either candidate for US President."

But the funding of US elections is opaque and complicated, and Biden backers worry that Musk could change his mind or fund political committees that themselves finance Trump, or find other ways to help the Republican cause.

- "Techno-optimist" -

Musk is not alone: other Silicon Valley mavens are also defending conservative causes, making noise in what elector-



ally remains a liberal stronghold; in 2020, Trump's vote share in Silicon Valley was less than 25 percent.

Some tycoons are seeking to build a political movement that, even if not directly supporting Trump, embraces conservative causes, cryptocurrencies, and goes against the California grain.

One of the loudest voices in this shift is Marc Andreessen, the early internet tycoon who founded Netscape and now co-runs Andreessen Horowitz, a venerable venture capital company.

Once a typically left-of-center tech magnate, who had close ties to former vice president Al Gore, Andreessen now fights vehemently against left-wing priorities, especially so-called "woke" considerations about equality or workplace inclusiveness.

Last year, in a 5,200-word "techno-optimist manifesto," Andreessen laid out a technoutopian vision for the future that listed co-opted government, regulation and worries about discrimination or equality as enemies.

Like many of his fellow right-wing investors, Andreessen's company is heavily invested in cryptocurrencies and last year launched a political war chest to make trouble for lawmakers, Democratic or Republican, who want the nascent industry more heavily controlled.

For tech analyst Carolina Milanese, the newly emerging outspokenness could be less about aping Musk than worry from an old guard that the status quo is vanishing.

"As people are talking about wokeness,

when you're talking about either diversity, equality and inclusion, or you're talking about sustainability, all of those things, basically are a threat to the status quo," she said.

This exasperation with what Musk calls the "woke mind virus" is what drives a hit podcast called "All-In," where four tech bigwigs, some friends with Musk, opine about the world and the latest tech developments.

The hosts include David Sacks, one of the members of the PayPal mafia, a group of men that includes Musk, who worked at that late 1990s startup and since became the representatives of Silicon Valley's small but growing right-leaning faction. Another PayPal veteran is investor Peter Thiel, a German-born arch conservative who associated himself with Trump when he entered the White House. After the assault of the US Capitol in 2021, Thiel said he would stay out of politics and has since become a sort of philosopher king of Silicon Valley's right-wing who remains above the fray.

- "Far left" AI -

The power of this new guard is beginning to be felt with the diversity minded tech companies on the back foot over criticisms that San Francisco is ridden with drugs and crime or that generative AI has become too "woke."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai last month found himself under fire, and his company's share price bruised, after it emerged that its just launched Gemini AI app had generated images of ethnically diverse World War II Nazi troops and other ahistorical gaffes.

"The people running Google AI are smuggling in their preferences and their biases, and those biases are extremely liberal," said Sacks in an All-In podcast segment titled "Google's woke AI disaster."

In a sign of rising conservative influence, Google's Pichai called the AI snafu "completely unacceptable" and founder Sergey Brin said "we definitely messed up" in generating such "far left" imagery.

US sends aid ship to Gaza after Joe Biden vows to build temporary port



CAIRO, Mar 10

(Agencies): The US

Army has dispatched a ship to send humanitarian aid to Gaza, Central Command (CENTCOM) said on Sunday, days after US President Joe Biden vowed to build a temporary pier to supply the besieged enclave.

The General Frank S Besson left Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia "less than 36 hours after President Biden announced the US would provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza by sea," CENTCOM said in a

statement.

The logistics support vessel is "carrying the first equipment to establish a temporary pier to deliver vital humanitarian supplies," it said.

Biden's announcement in his State of the Union address on Thursday followed UN warnings of widespread famine among Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians five months after Israel launched its offensive in the narrow strip in response to an attack by Hamas militants.

Gaza has no port infrastructure. The US

initially plans to use Cyprus, which is offering a process for screening cargoes that will include Israel officials, removing the need for security checks in Gaza.

Most of Gaza's people are now internally displaced, with severe bottlenecks in aid deliveries at land border checkpoints.

Gaza has been under an Israeli navy blockade since 2007, when Hamas took control of the enclave. There have been few direct sea arrivals since then.

300 take part in a walkathon on kidney disease awareness



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: 2.2 lakh new patients develop chronic kidney failure in India every Year: Dr Avinash Srivastava. High BP, Diabetes, BPH, kidney stones, UTI main reasons of kidney failure: Dr Raka Kaushal Chandigarh, March 10: As many as 300 people including doctors participated in an Ivy Hospital's walkathon on kidney disease awareness to mark World Kidney Day at Sukhna Lake on Sunday. The walkathon was flagged-off by Chan-

digarh Mayor Kuldeep Kumar. Dr Avinash Srivastava, director urology & renal transplant and Dr Raka Kaushal director nephrology at Ivy were also present. During the occasion, Kuldeep Kumar stressed upon the need to keep kidneys fit and healthy. He said that regular exercise, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, keeping bp and diabetes in control can help avoid kidney diseases. Dr Avinash Srivastava said, "2.2 lakh new patients develop chronic kidney failure in India

every year and it is also the 6th fastest growing cause of death. High bp, diabetes, BPH, untreated kidney stones and UTI are the main reasons for kidney failure in India." Dr Raka Kaushal said that because of the growing population of diabetes and hypertension, each year about 2.20 lakh new patients develop chronic renal failure in the country. Ironically, transplant takes place in only about 6000 cases, because of lack of awareness of people and unavailability of donors, she maintained. Dr Avinash shared that

The prevalence of this disease has almost doubled over the past decade and is expected to increase further due to rise in risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, stress, and unhealthy eating habits, she informed. Dr Raka also said that Ivy has a state of the art 20 bedded dialysis centre which offers 24 x 7 dialysis services including intervention nephrology services like permacath, AV fistula, renal biopsies and centres. Dr Avinash shared that

at Ivy Hospital we are doing all types of Living Donor Transplants, which include High Risk Transplants, Paediatric Transplants Swap cases, ABO incompatible Transplants (Non Blood group specific) & Redo Transplants. Patients from far off places like Dehradun, Jammu, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bihar, Jharkhand, Canada, UK, Australia have also undergone Kidney Transplant at Ivy Hospital.

10 tips to prevent kidney diseases:

1. Manage diabetes, high blood pressure.
2. Reduce the intake of salt.
3. Drink 8- 10 glass of water every day
4. Don't resist the urge to urinate
5. Eat a balanced Diet including lots of fruits.
6. Drink healthy beverages
7. Avoid alcohol and smoking
8. Exercise daily
9. Avoid self-medication, especially painkillers.
10. Think before you take Protein supplements and herbal medicine without discussing with your doctor

One-day "Sammelan" conference organized by Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: One-day "Sammelan" conference organized by Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha Jammu and Kashmir.

Held at Geeta Bhawan Parade Jammu on March 10, 2024.

Presided over by Shri Parshotam Dadhichi, President of Sri Sanatan Dharm Sabha J&K.

Office Bearers of Sanatan Dharm Sabha from various locations in Jammu and Kashmir attended.

Local units of Sanatan Dharm Sabha, including Shankar Colony, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash & Shastri Nagar, were present.

The conference was conducted under the guidance of Param Pujya Swami Divyanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj and Aadarniya Prant Pracharak RSS Shri Rupesh Kumar Ji.

Three resolutions were unanimously adopted: Request to free all Sanatan Religious Places, including Temples, Shrines, and Devthan, from state control and



hand them over to the Sanatan board.

Request for the enactment of strong laws to protect cows and their progeny from smuggling and slaughtering.

Appeal to voters during the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections to support candidates who respect and do not insult Sanatan Dharm.

Prominent attendees included Sh. Prabhat Singh Jamwal (Working President of SDS), Sh. Arun Gupta (President Chamber of Commerce), Sh. Shakti Dutt (Vice President of VHP), Sh. Rajan Sharma (Treasurer SDS), Dr. Sanjay

Kaushal, Sh. Sanjay Kaul, Shri Subhash Kumar, Sh. Anil Magotra, Shri Dalip Gupta, Shri Anil Masoom (Corporator), Smt. Anita Sharma (Corporator), Sh. Vijay Kumar, and Sh. Ashok Mahajan.

Conduct of Sammelan: The proceedings of the "Sammelan" were conducted by Shri Sanjay Gupta, the General Secretary of SDS.

The conference covered various issues related to Sanatan Dharm and resulted in resolutions addressing religious places, cow protection, and political targeting of Sanatan Dharm during elections.

Health & Nutrition programme held at JRC Home for Handicapped



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Some social Organisations - Social Reform & Charitable Organization (Aashiana Orphanage Kistwar), Confederation of Voluntary, Social & Charitable Organisation & Vichar Kranti Manch International, visited JRC Home of Handicapped, Udaiwala. Mr Sanjeev Parihar Founder Chairman arranges some Nutrition items from Dabar India, which were distributed to

the inmates Children of the Home by Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, Chairman CVS&CO & President VKMI. Mr Jain recited a poem with Children inmates of Home, he gave some advisory on the service to be rendered, there are staggering no of orphan children worldwide. In fact more than 100 million children are considered orphans by one definition or another. Sadly, there are

orphan children, who are even abandoned by the statistics! Who count those who live in the streets, in landfills and sewer systems. We read and hear about in the news all the time. War, disease, poverty, Natural disasters, abundance nt, and accidents are among some of the leading causes. These can be directly associated with orphans by the definition of a child, who has lost one or both parents.

They are lucky enough, who have an opportunities to serve the orphans in such homes.

Jammu Province is fortunate to have an unique orphanage: JRC Home for Handicapped, working since 1975 nicely, at present having 75 children, out of them 80% are deaf and dumb, are being sheltered here in Home, under the able guidance of Sh PC Kapoor, worthy President, working for last 28 years, Sh Satish Sharma Secretary, 1st inmate of the home, President Awardee as 'Sanchaar Shree' & Madam Archana warden of the home. School is being run upto 8th standard having 70 students.

Mr Abhinandan Jain FA VKMI, Ashok Bhat, Adventure Sahil Parihar also associated in organizing this event.

Vibe and Glow family salon opens in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, 10 March : Vibe and Glow, a luxury family salon was opened in Jammu at Talab Tillo .

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta who was accompanied by Sohail Kazmi (Eminent Journalist) was the Chief guest on the occasion.

Owner Nishant Agarwal and Amit Jamwal of the Vibe and Glow told media, "We are excited to share the news that finally Vibe and Glow has opened here Talab Tillo Jammu, opposite Knit School near Kamla Place."

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta said, Jammu has been witnessing the huge establishment of business and services centre in Jammu and it becomes possible only under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Sohail Kazmi Said, "Nusrat Malik (Managing



Business establish like Vibe and Glow is the prime demand of time as youth wants to grow. I would like wish a very good luck to the owner of Vibe and Glow."

Meenu Mahajan said, "Today's world everyone wants to look good either its men or women and I fully ensured that Vibe and Glow will do full justice to the demand of people."

Nusrat Malik (Managing

Director at NIST Institute Jammu) highlights the quality of salon, she said the outlet is laced with lavish facilities and an outstanding interior. The outlet is also offering a discount on all the services under its inaugural offer.

The most important aspect of the development is that the entire staff of the outlet is from Punjab and Jammu and are prominent experts

in their respective fields. They are equipped to adapt to the latest trends in the industry and use the most favourable products for customers' benefits and quality services.

Services included Hair-styling, Hair cutting, hair spa , Hair keratin , Botox , Nails Extensions , all types of makeup services (hd makeup, airbrush makeup) are just a few of the services offered by Vibe & Glow salon.

FROM PAGE 1

Rain, Snow during next 5 days in J&K: MeT

dry during March 15 to 18. An independent weather forecaster, Kashmir Weather, predicted that two Western Disturbances in quick succession are going to affect Jammu and Kashmir over the next 5 days.

He said during March 13 and 14, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow in most areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Heavy snowfall can also occur in a few higher reaches during the period.

He said there is a possibility of a significant drop in daytime temperatures during the period.

Barring Gulmarg, the night temperature was recorded below normal in all stations of the Kashmir Valley on Sunday.

Srinagar had a low of 2.2C against 2.1C recorded during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday. It was 1.1C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway in south Kashmir recorded a low of 1.4C, while Kokernag settled at 1.8C on Sunday.

The night temperature at Pahalgam slipped down to a low of -2.5C against the -0.4C recorded a day ago. It was 1.1C below normal for south Kashmir's famous tourist hot spot.

The temperature at the ski resort of Gulmarg improved and was recorded at -3.4C against -4.2C the previous night. It was 0.1C above normal for the valley of meadows in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday.

Kupwara recorded a drop in night temperature and recorded a low of -0.5C against the 2.5C the previous night. It was 2.3C below normal for the frontier Kashmir district on Sunday, the MeT office said.

Lieutenant Governor greets CISF personnel, their families on Raising Day

our vital establishments. Salute to their indomitable courage, bravery, and dedicated service to the nation".

It is worthwhile to mention that CISF is a federal police organisation in India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is one among the Central Armed Police Forces, which provides security to over 356 industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India.

Committed to best possible healthcare: SMHS hospital after Srinagar youth dies

the family attendants and high risk consent for urgent surgery was obtained.

"He was operated upon at 3:30 am. He was having Faecal Peritonitis secondary to ileal perforation. Post operation he was on ventilator and was extubated during the day. His condition suddenly worsened around 6:00 pm. An ICU consultation was sought and while intubation was being attempted the patient succumbed," the statement reads.

It reads that Faecal Peritonitis with Septic shock carries a high mortality (50-90%) around the world.

"In view of the patient reporting late to the hospital due to prolonged shock, faecal peritonitis, septicaemia and septic shock evident from his clinical picture and despite

immediate resuscitation and timely surgery patient could not come out of irreversible shock," it reads.

It added that SMHS and other associated hospitals remain deeply committed to patient care and providing the best possible healthcare services to patients.

J-K: Security forces recover 7 IEDs and wireless set in Poonch

Blankets and some other materials were also found in the hideout, the officials said. A case has been registered and further investigation is on, they said, adding that no arrests have been made so far.

The officials said preliminary investigation suggests the hideout was used by terrorists active in the area two decades ago.

"North India's first Govt Homoeopathic College coming up in Kathua, J&K": Dr Jitendra Singh

auditorium, playground, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, it will not only be a great boon for aspirants of Homoeopathy degree in North India, which was not available earlier, but this will also provide cost effective treatment to needy patients. "It will also be in keeping with Modi government's healthcare approach which involves synergizing allopathic with Ayush streams of medicine, including Homoeopathy, Ayurveda and naturopathy", the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh stated that the experience after Covid has further consolidated this view that traditional Indian methods of medicine and cure have a panacea value. Highlighting the medical infrastructure of Kathua built in the last ten years, Dr

Jitendra Singh said the district now has a government medical college and a cancer treatment facility being provided by Tata Memorial Centre, Bombay. "The addition of a government Homoeopathic College will make Kathua an integrated and cost effective healthcare centre of North India in times to come", he underlined.

The Minister added that with this, Kathua is all set to emerge as North India's cost-effective and state-of-the-art centre of medical facilities.

Talking to media later on, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is ironically hilarious and laughable that some of the critics who from time to time deny any development having taken place in the constituency over the last 10 years are the ones who are themselves also availing of the facility of projects brought in the last 10 years. For example, the critics and the cynics who say that no development has happened are actually admitting their children in the Medical colleges and other degree colleges established in the last 10 years, he said. He said, this is a rare Lok Sabha Constituency which got three centrally funded medical colleges in the last few years.

Sarcastically, Dr Jitendra Singh said, some of the critics say that nothing has happened but when they have to travel to Delhi they avail the facility of Vande Bharat Train introduced in the last five years. He said, this is a rare constituency which got two Vande Bharat trains with stoppage at both Udhampur and Kathua and this was also mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to the public rally in Srinagar recently.

The Express Road Corridor from Katra to Delhi, said Dr Jitendra Singh, will also become functional in next few months and six lanes of National Highway will reduce the road travel time from Kathua to Delhi to around four and half hours.

His first five-year term, said Dr Jitendra

Singh, was devoted to making up for the lapses of the past governments including the Shahpur Kandi project which had been held up for the last 30 years causing hardship for the people of Kathua. The second five-term, he said, was devoted to setting up new institutions like centrally funded Government Medical Colleges, first ever Seeding Processing Plant, the present Homoeopathic College etc. The next five-year term, he said, will be devoted to consolidating these gains and developing the region as North India's most attractive destination from the point of view of education, trade, tourism and revenue.

Earlier, Dr Jitendra Singh visited a congregation of Jasrota community being held in the vicinity of the under-construction college. He was accompanied by officers and DDC, Vice Chairman, Shri Raghunandan Singh, other DDC members, PRIs, BJP President Gopal Mahajan, Gen Secy Rajesh Mehta, senior leader Prem Nath Dogra, Manjeet Jasrota and others.

Traffic restored partially on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway

the route, facilitating the clearance of stranded vehicles between Nashree and Banihal.

This comes as a relief for travelers who had been stuck on the highway due to a 14-hour half undertaken to repair the road.

The restoration efforts are underway with dedicated teams working tirelessly to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

However, commuters are urged to exercise caution and adhere to lane discipline while traversing the route.

Authorities have issued a warning regarding the potential threat of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal, emphasizing the need for drivers to remain vigilant and drive with utmost care.

Upcoming IPOs: Popular Vehicles & Services and Krystal Integrated Services

The upcoming week will see the IPOs of Popular Vehicles & Services Limited and Krystal Integrated Services Limited.

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): The week starting from March 11, 2024 will see the initial public offerings (IPO) of two companies, Popular Vehicles & Services Limited and Krystal Integrated Services Limited.

The two companies will debut on Dalal Street looking to raise money through their respective IPOs.

Popular Vehicles & Services Limited IPO

Popular Vehicles & Services Limited, a key player in the automotive industry, is set to open its IPO for subscription on March 12, 2024.

The company aims to raise Rs 601.55 crore through this offering, with a combination of fresh issue and offer for sale of shares.

Investors can subscribe to the issue until March 14, 2024, with allotment expected to conclude on March 15, 2024.

The company plans to list its shares on both the Bombay



Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) tentatively by March 19, 2024.

With a price band set between Rs 280 to Rs 295 per share, the minimum lot size stands at 50 shares, making it accessible for retail investors with an entry point of Rs 14,750.

The IPO management duties rest with ICICI Securities Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited, and Centrum Capital Limited, while

Link Intime India Private Ltd is entrusted with the registrar responsibilities.

Proceeds from the IPO will primarily go towards the repayment and/or pre-payment of certain borrowings, along with allocation for general corporate purposes.

Krystal Integrated Services IPO

Krystal Integrated Services Limited, a provider of facilities management services, will also

open its IPO for subscription on March 14, 2024.

The company aims to raise funds through a combination of fresh issue and offer for sale of shares, although the price bands are yet to be announced.

The subscription window for Krystal Integrated Services IPO closes on March 18, 2024, with allotment expected to be finalised on March 19, 2024. The company plans to list its shares on both BSE and NSE by March 21, 2024.

Inga Ventures Pvt Ltd is leading the book building process for the Krystal Integrated Services IPO, with Link Intime India Private Ltd acting as the registrar.

The funds raised from this IPO will be utilised for various purposes, including repayment of borrowings, funding working capital requirements, capital expenditure for new machinery, and general corporate purposes.

Dinar ban sparks cash crunch for Kosovo Serbs

GRACANICA, Mar 10 (Agencies): Serb communities in parts of Kosovo are struggling to get their hands on dinars, jeopardising the salaries, pensions and social security payments that thousands there get from Belgrade.

Frustrations are spiking more than a month after a controversial new rule made the euro the only legal currency in Kosovo, effectively outlawing the use of the Serbian dinar.

The move sparked anger in Belgrade, which does not recognise Kosovo's independence and continues to finance a parallel health, education and social security system for Serbs there. But the Kosovo government has repeatedly blocked currency shipments at the border, hoping to choke off the supply of cash that authorities claim is the lifeblood for organised crime groups across the north where most Serbs live.

Kosovo's roughly 100,000 Serbs have clung tight to the dinar since a brutal late-1990s war between Serbia and ethnic Albanian insurgents saw Serbian troops and government personnel withdraw from the breakaway province that declared independence in 2008. Those living near the northern border with Serbia have greater connections to Serbian government institutions and still have access to a trickle of dinars. But it is much harder for enclaves further from the frontier already more integrated into the Kosovo system. Cash had run out for Serb communities south of the northern

city of Mitrovica according to Serbian state broadcaster RTS.

Already difficult

In Gracanica -- home to a 14th-century Orthodox church seen as a spiritual and political stronghold for generations of Serbs -- the dinar regulation has been hitting the surrounding community hard.

Long lines have been forming at Serbia's Postal Savings Bank -- the only place where Serbs could receive pension payments and salaries for work in Serbian institutions in the area. With its cash reserves dwindling, the bank has imposed a 10,000-dinar (85-euro) withdrawal limit.

"The pension is late, but the bills are not. I don't know how we will make it," said Snezana Vujovic, a 43-year-old nurse.

"The economic situation is already difficult, and without the money from Serbia it is even more harsh," Momir Jeticic, a 68-year-old pensioner told agency as he stood next to an empty cash machine. "Now whoever wants money must go to Serbia," Jeticic added, saying he would likely have to dip into emergency food supplies saved for a rainy day.

The spiralling financial crisis has forced many Kosovo Serbs to spend hours on the road travelling back and forth to the nearby border towns of Kursumlija, Vranje and Bujanovac in Serbia for money.

The cash crunch has provided a rare boon for taxi drivers, according to local media reports, with drivers charging passengers

up to 10 euros per person.

"All this is aimed at harming citizens. Such decisions are freakish," Dragan Colic, 68, told agency.

"The greater the inflow of money, the richer Kosovo is."

Shutting down parallel state

Despite criticism of the ban by several Western governments, including the US, Kosovo authorities have doubled down on the measure.

Officials have introduced a three-month transitional period to help the Serb community adapt.

Branimir Stojanovic, a Kosovo Serb civil society leader based in Gracanica, said the measure would likely bridle the parallel state that allowed Serbs to bypass Kosovo institutions.

"The financial aid from Serbia is literally fuel for the one engine that works here," said Stojanovic.

"When you cut off what supplies that mechanism, you have actually made a move to shut down that entire system."

Ferdi Ahmeti, a Roma grocer in Gracanica, is caught in the middle of the tug of war.

His takings fell by half from the first day of the crisis. "I cannot buy goods wholesale from Albanians in Pristina for euros and sell to Serbs in Gracanica for dinars like before," he said.

"I hope that a solution will be found soon. For me, it's the same -- dinar or euro."

Tunisian economic crisis mutes build-up to Ramadan



TUNIS, Mar 10 (Agencies): Tunisians are bracing themselves for more subdued celebrations during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan as an economic crisis grips the North African country.

In past years "you wouldn't have been able to set foot in the market because it was so crowded", vegetable merchant Mohamed Dorji told agency.

"That's not the case today," said the 69-year-old, who no longer displays his prices to avoid scaring away potential customers.

Tunisians usually prepare for Ramadan --

when daytime fasting is followed by festive but often costly meals with family and friends -- by stocking up on large amounts of food.

But this year things are different, with purchasing power greatly diminished because of soaring prices, a recession and rising unemployment.

"I'm not poor, but I can't do it anymore. My pension doesn't cover my needs," said Fayka, a 65-year-old at Tunis's working-class Bab El Fella market.

"This is the first time I've bought fruits and vegetables by the piece" instead of in bulk, the

retiree added, asking that only her first name be used.

Tunisia has also been beset by political tensions since President Kais Saied granted himself full powers in July 2021.

A third of its 12 million people currently live below the poverty line after two years of high inflation -- running at 10 percent on average per year -- and the price of many foods has tripled.

GDP growth came in at 0.4 percent last year after severe drought damaged agriculture, and the country entered a recession at the end of 2023.

Unemployment also rose to 16.4 percent at the end of last year, compared with 15.2 percent at the end of 2022. 'Stagflation'

Economist Ridha Chkoundali says Tunisia is "experiencing a period of stagflation, which means a decline in growth and a rise in inflation".

This has been caused by "the deliberate choice of public authorities to prefer to repay debt, especially external debt", he argued.

This came at "the detriment of supplying the market with basic foodstuffs and agricultural inputs" such as fertilis-

ers and fodder.

A shortage of money in the public coffers -- burdened by the salaries of more than 650,000 civil servants -- has meant regular shortages of basic subsidised items including flour, rice, sugar and semolina as the state has difficulties paying for them.

Tunisian banks are being asked by the state to finance the country's debt amounting to 80 percent of GDP, undermining their ability to lend to the private sector and reducing growth even more.

Chkoundali argues that a lack of resources is a result of "the choice to break with the IMF".

In October 2022, the International Monetary Fund agreed in principle to lend Tunisia around \$2 billion, but Saied later rejected it on the grounds that the reforms it required in return were not sustainable.

In a Tunis butcher's shop, a 50-year-old woman cautiously ordered 150 grams of veal ahead of Ramadan.

Red meat, which now costs more than 40 dinars (around \$13) a kilo, is a luxury in a country where the average salary is 1,000 dinars per month (about \$325).

"My husband recently passed away and I can't afford to buy more," she whispered to the butcher.

Mustapha Ben Salmane, 52, told agency that more and more customers ask for just a handful of minced meat or spicy merguez sausage.

"I can't say no to them. People are exhausted," he said.

Smartphones' effect on kids under 10 goes beyond eyes, say doctors

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Smartphone addiction among children under the age of 10 is known to be detrimental for the eyes.

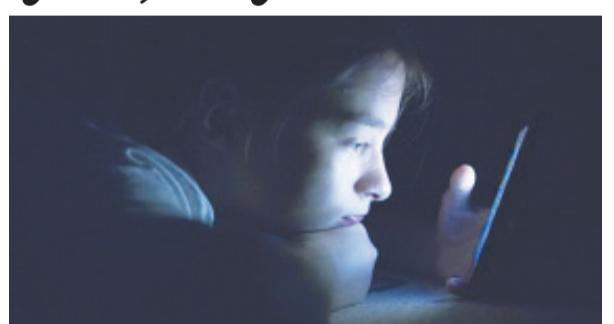
However, doctors on Saturday warned that spending excessive time on the device may worsen physical health and cause a host of behavioural issues.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, children under five must spend less time watching screens. While the UN health body does not recommend screen time for infants and 1-year-olds, those aged 2 years should not be exposed for more than an hour.

However, even toddlers as young as one and a half years old are being handed smartphones by their parents, said Dr Rajiv Uttam, Director, Paediatric Pulmonology, Critical Care Paediatrics (PICU), Paediatric Care, Medanta The Medicity, Gurugram, told agency.

The doctor noted that illnesses such as "diarrhoea, fever, and other health issues are observed in children who spend excessive time on their devices".

Several studies have shown the negative impact of smartphone use on the eye. Prolonged use of smart-



phones in children has been linked with vision impairment, and dry eyes among others.

Dr Vikas Taneja, Consultant Paediatrics, Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, explained that this is majorly due to radiation, as the children use their mobile phones at a very close distance.

"Children can present with excessive eye strain, which can lead to redness of the eyes and excessive itching. This can lead to frequent rubbing and watering. The strain in the eyes can lead to headaches, and their sleep might get disturbed. Excessive mobile phone use can also affect the muscles of the eye," he told agency.

This sleep loss can, further, lead to a lot of anxiety and depression. Usually, such children tend to be alone, have low self-esteem, become excessively irritable, have a lot of aggression and behavioural changes, and may throw tantrums.

Rajiv said the over-

use often leads to a detachment from the real world, and the children are likely to display symptoms akin to virtual autism.

"Habitual smartphone use during meals also contributes to poor eating habits, obesity, and related health issues such as high blood pressure and sugar levels ultimately leading small kids to pre-diabetic stage."

Importantly, the visual impairments and attention deficits further compound these concerns, often remaining unnoticed until academic performance suffers, the doctor said.

To mitigate these risks, the health experts advised parents to prioritise quality time with their children, encourage healthy eating habits, and limit screen time per day. Furthermore, balancing technology with outdoor activities and nutritious meals is crucial in fostering holistic child development.

Many owners allow their dogs to lick their faces, but it could be unhealthy, even fatal

NOTTINGHAM, Mar 10 (Agencies): Any dog owners reading this will know the joy of getting home and being greeted with utter delight by their pet -- tail wagging wildly before enthusiastic but face-drenching licks. While some owners will push their pooches away playfully to discourage face licking, others positively revel in their dog's affection and may even offer up pursed lips for a canine kiss. It's a heartwarming scene. But think of what that doggy companion has been licking throughout the day. Their food and water, their paws, their toys and chews -- and maybe their bottom and genitals. Do those cute kisses seem a little less appealing now?

Not matter what pets have licked, many owners are so taken with their dogs that they're willing to overlook the potential hygiene issues. And licking is important for dogs. It's an instinctive canine behaviour. When dogs repeatedly lick their mouths, it can be a subtle sign of stress or fear, especially when combined with ears back and a tense expression. In fact, observing lip licking frequency is a way to gauge dogs' welfare during training sessions and when kept in kennels. Dogs also use lip licking as a behavioural response to humans' emotional states. Evidence suggests that dogs are empathetic. They can recognise emotions in both humans and other dogs using visual and audio cues. A study showed that dogs lick their lips more frequently when looking at angry human faces.

For dogs, then, lip licking is a natural instinct -- and that applies to relationships with their humans, too. For anyone living with a dog, being licked is a common event, and many dogs will try to lick the faces and mouths of their humans. Almost half of canine owners report being licked on their face by their dog. But, given the penchant that many dogs have for consuming items owners might not find appetising (quick poo snack, anyone?) is it hygienic, or even safe, to let your dog lick your face?

What hides within

Owners usually love their dogs, and dogs' companionship and affection can do wonders for their owners' wellbeing and mental health. But there's no doubt that, for some humans, canine saliva might do more harm than good.

For people who are immunocompromised, have open wounds, or a dog who likes to supplement their meals with a spot of coprophagia (poop eating), then it's best to avoid those face licks.

Dogs' mouths can harbour a range of microorganisms that are usually low risk for humans. However, in rare cases, zoonoses (infectious diseases passed on between species) can be transmitted from dogs to humans by bites, licks and scratches.

Most of the time, humans who come into contact with dog saliva do not become ill. In fact, many people manage to live alongside their pets, licks and all, without encountering any health issues. However, there are rare cases where people have become seriously ill following contact with dog saliva. For example, Capnocytophaga canimorsus, a bacteria found in the mouths of up to three quarters of otherwise healthy dogs and cats, has caused life-threatening sepsis.

Other microbes such as Pasteurella multocida can be spread by contact with dog saliva, potentially resulting in serious outcomes including meningitis.

People considered to be at high risk from zoonotic infections are the immunocompromised, very young children, older adults and pregnant women. If you fall into one of these groups, then it's in your interest to dodge dog licks. Additional measures should also be implemented for at risk dog owners. Keep surfaces clean, minimise contamination of household items and maintain scrupulous household hygiene at all times, especially after contact with animals.

Antibiotic resistance is recognised as a major global health challenge. Canine saliva can be a potential source of bacteria carrying antibiotic resistant genes. These bacteria are

capable of colonising humans after exposure to dog saliva.

However, in 2023 a German study of 2,800 hospital patients and their companion animals verified "that the sharing of multidrug-resistant organisms between companion animals and their owners is possible", but the study only identified a handful of cases. The researches therefore concluded that "cat or dog ownership isn't an important risk factor for multidrug-resistant organism colonisation in hospital patients." It is possible, then, that being licked by your dog could contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance -- but it isn't likely.

Doctor dog

Despite potential threats to health, can dog licks be beneficial?

Records suggest that in the past, animal saliva has been used for wound healing, with some dogs specially trained to lick open wounds. However, there is no research to suggest that allowing animal companions to lick wounds will help them to heal. Allowing animals to lick open wounds, in fact, could put an owner at increased risk of infection.

The relationship between humans and their dogs can confer other potentially healing benefits. Animal-assisted therapy helps people with a range of issues, such as anxiety, eating disorders and trauma. Cuddling and stroking dogs, for example, can help patients to feel calmer and lower blood pressure and heart rate.

Dog owners tend to benefit from their pets through increased physical activity and social connections, as well as companionship and improved mental health. Licking, however, is not essential to the close bond between human and canine.

Within reason, for most people, letting your dog lick you is probably safe. With good management, healthcare (for you and your dog) and excellent hygiene, the risks of an occasional lick are likely to be minimal. But it's a good idea to enforce the "not on the mouth" rule, for everyone's safety.

India jump to No. 1 in Test rankings, now reign supreme in all 3 formats

India, who already head the World Test Championship standings, are now at the summit of the ICC rankings in all three formats of the game

DUBAI, Mar 10 (Agencies): A day after India crushed England in Dharamsala to win the five-match Test series 4-1, Rohit Sharma's side claimed the top spot in the ICC Test rankings, overtaking Australia in the latest pecking order released by the world governing body for cricket on Sunday.

India, who already head the World Test Championship (WTC) standings, are now at the summit of the ICC rankings in all three formats of the game.

Rohit's side will remain at the top of the chart irrespective of the result



of the second Test between New Zealand and Australia currently under way in Christchurch.

Australia, the reigning World Test Championship winners, are leading the two-Test series 1-0 following their 172-

run victory in Wellington. India, with 122 rating points, are five points ahead of Australia in the Test ranking, while England are third with 111 rating points.

In ODIs, India have 121 rating points, with Australia a close second

with 118 points.

In the T20Is, India have 266 rating points, with England (256) at the second spot.

India were the world No. 1 Test side from September 2023 to January 2024, before they slipped to second

spot after a drawn away series against South Africa.

Australia overtook India at the top of the Test rankings, after sweeping the three-Test series against Pakistan at home.

India's five-Test series against England saw them lose the first Test in Hyderabad by 28 runs. But the home team bounced back in style to win the remaining four Tests.

Victories in Visakhapatnam, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala helped them reclaim the top position in the Test rankings.

Ranji Trophy Final: Shreyas Iyer's 'short ball problems' exposed once again



MUMBAI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer, failed in the first innings of the Ranji Trophy Final on Sunday, 10 March. Playing against Vidarbha at Wankhede, Shreyas got dismissed for just 7 runs by veteran pacer Umesh Yadav.

Iyer is currently out of the Indian team due to back issues and poor form and has been asked to go back to the domestic circuit by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Iyer also lost his central contract in the 2024 season.

Looking to make some ground in the Ranji Trophy, Iyer failed in his first outing in the final of the tournament. Coming

into bat after Mumbai were three wickets down in the 25th over, Iyer failed to stabilise the Mumbai innings.

The batter poked at a harmless delivery from Umesh Yadav outside the off stump. The veteran pacer bowled the delivery short of good length. Iyer looked stuck in his backfoot, waiting for the short ball, and ended up edging the ball away from his body into the hands of Karun Nair, standing at first slip.

Iyer's worry about short delivery is nothing new. The batter has been troubled by short deliveries in the red ball format of the game. Since his return to Indian domestic cricket, Iyer has failed to do well with Mumbai. In the semi-final against Tamil Nadu, the batter scored 3 runs in the only innings that he batted in and now in the first innings of the final has been dismissed for 7 runs.

Iyer would be hoping to revive his form to stay in contention for the T20 World Cup team which will visit the Caribbean islands and USA in June. The Indian Premier League will be very important for Shreyas Iyer, who missed the previous edition of the tournament due to a lower back surgery.

NZ vs AUS: Rachin Ravindra, pacers put New Zealand in command in Wellington Test

WELLINGTON, Mar 10 (Agencies): New Zealand would be fancying their chances of winning their 2nd Test against Australia after an incredible turnaround at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

At Stumps on Day 3, the visitors needed 202 more runs to win with 6 wickets in hand. Chasing 279, Australia lost the quick wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne early.

Even as Matt Henry trapped Steve Smith in front, Ben Sears produced a simple caught and bowled to get rid of the in-form Marnus Labuschagne. Soon after, debutant Sears castled Usman Khawaja, while Henry castled Cameron Green.

From once bagging a lead of 96 in their first innings, Australia found themselves in all sorts of trouble after being reduced to 34 for 14.2 overs in their run-chase.

Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh put on 43 runs for the fifth wicket, but they have a huge task in hand going into Day 4. Marsh played his



strokes and stayed not out on a run-a-ball 27.

Ravindra, Mitchell shine for Kiwis

The Black Caps started the day with a lead of 40 runs and kept putting pressure on their opponents. Latham, who was unbeaten on 65 at the close of play on the second day, scored 73 runs before Pat Cummins accounted for his wicket.

From there on, Daryl Mitchell and Rachin Ravindra put on a partnership of 123 runs for the fourth wicket. Ravindra, who already has a Test double hundred to his name, scored 82 runs off 153 balls with 10 fours.

Josh Hazlewood broke

the stand after he dismissed Mitchell, who made 58 off 98. The Kiwis found themselves slightly on the backfoot after they lost Ravindra 3 overs later.

However, Scott Kugelejin made sure that the Kiwis recovered from the slump. The right-handed batter played a fluent knock of 44 runs off 49 balls. Henry also threw his bat around to score 16 off 11.

Cummins was the pick of the Australian bowlers with 4 wickets while off-spinner Nathan Lyon accounted for 3 scalps.

Although Australia are still in the game, New Zealand would be the happier of the teams going into Day 4.

Not Yashasvi Jaiswal's Double Ton, Rahul Dravid Names 'Standout Moment' Of England Series

India head coach Rahul Dravid was delighted to see the players identify themselves with Rohit Sharma's leadership principles

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma's captaincy was rather understated vis-a-vis Ben Stokes' on-the-edge methods, but India head coach Rahul Dravid was delighted to see the players identify themselves with the Mumbai's leadership principles. Under Rohit, India never made tall claims even once but silently and categorically nullified the visitors' much-talked-about 'Bazball' and grabbed the five-match series 4-1. "I'm privileged to work with a lovely team. I'm learning from them all the time. Rohit has been fantastic to work with. I think he's a terrific leader, and the guys gravitate towards him phenomenally, which is fantastic to see," said Dravid told broadcasters after the match.

Dravid said India's series win was dotted by several shining moments but acknowledged that the return of Ravichandran Ashwin from a personal emergency underlined the character of this outfit.

"I'd just say Ashwin coming back to the team after what he went through (as the standout moment). Ash wanting to come back and contribute to



the team... I think, for me, it signified what this team is about and what the character of this team is.

"I think that was just for me, probably the standout moment of the series. It really gladdens your heart as a coach to the kind of environment that that had been created," said Dravid.

Ashwin had to leave for Chennai because of a family emergency on the second day of the Rajkot Test, but the veteran off-spinner rejoined the action on

Kuldeep Yadav twinkled radiantly with his left-arm wrist spin besides chipping in with some handy runs lower down the order.

Dravid was chuffed to see the wholesome improvement in Kuldeep.

"It's been tough on Kuldeep Yadav. He's been bowling at a time when two legends (Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja) are playing for the team. He brings the X-Factor to the team. He has also worked hard on his batting which has been a bonus," said the former Indian captain.

India all-rounder Shardul Thakur recently urged the bigwigs to look into the hectic Ranji Trophy schedule, which he said has been putting a lot of pressure on the players.

Taking a serious note of the call, Dravid the players' views should be considered sooner than later.

"We need to hear the players. They are the ones putting bodies on the line. If they are saying (about a busy schedule), we need to see how to manage the domestic schedule better," he added.

Motivation key for Mohammed Shami in his return from ankle surgery: McGrath

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): India fast bowler Mohammed Shami underwent Achilles Tendon surgery on February 26. Shami, who has not played cricket since India's ODI World Cup Final 2023 loss is set to begin his recovery at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

The right-arm pacer played the tournament with pain-killing injections during the course of the World Cup and has not stepped on the cricket field for India since.

At 33 years of age, it might take a little more effort from Shami to require match fitness to play long for India and his current Indian Premier League franchise Gujarat Titans. Former Australia pacer Glenn McGrath has spoken about Shami's road to recovery and said that motivation will play a huge role for Shami at this age.

"It's tough, but the one thing that bowlers like him (Shami) possess is experience. He's been around for a long time and is an exceptional bowler," McGrath told agency in an interview.

"But, as you get older, you still need motivation to train hard, prepare and get out there and perform. Look at someone like James



Anderson, who is 41, taking 700 Test wickets and still bowling well," the legendary pacer added.

"So, you can still be at the top of your game. But as you get older, being a fast bowler it is tough on the body, and it can certainly have an impact in the longer run," McGrath concluded.

Shami confirmed a successful heel surgery on February 27 by posting on social media platform 'X'.

"Just had a successful heel operation on my Achilles tendon! Recovery is going to take some time, but looking forward to getting back on my feet," Shami posted.

Shami has already been ruled out of the 2024 season of the Indian Premier League and is unlikely to be in the running for the T20 World Cup 2024. India would hope to have the services of Mohammed Shami in the tour of Australia, which begins in November 2024.

IPL 2024: Gambhir prefers impact on team over personal milestone, says Iyer

NEW DELHI, Mar 10 (Agencies): Kolkata Knight Riders are set to play under the mentorship of Gautam Gambhir in the 2024 season. The former KKR captain has returned to the franchise after leaving his position at the Lucknow Super Giants, which is set to be coached by Justin Langer.

Gambhir's presence is expected to bring the energy back in the KKR side which has not done well in the past few seasons. Speaking ahead of the 2024 season, KKR all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer has said that he is excited to play under the mentorship of Gambhir. In an interview given to the KKR website, Iyer has said having Gambhir in the side will be a huge plus for the team.

"Gautam sir coming back is going to be a huge plus for KKR. I'm really looking forward to working with him.



Whatever conversations I've had with him in the past, he has always talked about creating an impact for the team's goals rather than personal milestones. He is an amazing leader and I'm also excited to see the combination of him and Chandu sir (Chandrakant Pandit). Both are amazing tacticians and have the experience of winning trophies," Venkatesh Iyer said in an interaction.

The all-rounder had a century for KKR in the last edition of the IPL but did not have a good time in the tournament overall. Iyer is coming off a full domestic season and said that he is looking forward to a more

prominent role with the ball.

"The domestic tournaments help build confidence in executing your best balls under pressure situations. I have got a lot of confidence in my skills and once you're confident about your skills, then the execution part becomes easy. Whenever the captain would want me to bowl an over or two, I'll always be there. Shreyas has always had that confidence in me and he trusts that I can get the job done for the team in pressure situations," Venkatesh Iyer said.

In the recently concluded Ranji Trophy, Iyer scored one cen-

tury and four fifties. The batter hit his century against Puducherry and his fifties against Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Iyer also picked 8 wickets in the tournament.

IPL 2024 Auction: KKR's Buys

KKR bought a total of 10 players in the IPL auction. The team shelled out the most amount of money in the history of the tournament for Mitchell Starc. (Rs 24.75 crore).

KS Bharat (Rs. 50 lakh), Chetan Sakariya (Rs. 50 lakh), Mitchell Starc (Rs. 24.75 crore), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (Rs. 20 lakh), Raman-deep Singh (Rs. 20 lakh), Sherfane Rutherford (Rs. 1.5 crore), Manish Pandey (Rs. 50 lakh), Mujeeb Ur Rahman (Rs. 2 crore), Gus Atkinson (Rs. 1 crore), Sakib Hussain (Rs. 20 lakh).

BJP flags off video vans to 7 Assembly constituencies

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, along with Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha) and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former MLC & Convenor "Viksit Bharat Video Vans" flagged off the Video Vans from BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The vans displaying audio-visual representations were flagged off for their further journey to Bahu, Marh, Nagrota, Jammu North, Jammu East, Jammu West assembly constituencies and will culminate in Jammu South in the evening, thereby covering 7 assembly segments.

Ashok Koul, while flagging off the video vans, said that the wave carrying message of "Viksit Bharat-Modi ki guarantee" has



swept the nation. He said that specialized video vans have been deployed to further take the message of unprecedented development in the nation as well as the welfare of the needy and the poor to the public. Koul added that, BJP has advanced a step further in the good governance

streak by asking the public about the political manifesto, in which these vans will carry "Sankalp Patra-Suggestion Boxes", in all the Assembly segments. The general public would be asked to put their suggestions into these suggestion boxes, which would then be taken collectively

to the party's "Sankalp Patra" committee at the state level for drafting the manifesto. Jugal Kishore Sharma, said that the video vans would include what all the works that the Modi government has done for public welfare and development under various

schemes of the government.

Having its public centric purpose, it will further link the party with the ground level activist and masses, he added.

Vikram Randhawa said that as per the party high command's guidelines, 2 video vans will be provided in every Lok Sabha to reach every nook and corner of the constituency. The entire exercise is aimed at having public opinion about the policies and programmes that the Modi government needs to do more in the next course.

BJP leaders including Tilak Raj Gupta, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Rekha Mahajan, Hari Om Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Surinder Bhagat, Ricky Gupta, Baharat Bhushan, Narinder Gupta and others were present on the occasion.

"Voting for BJP is Voting for Dictatorship": Anirudh Sawhney

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: In a recent statement, Anirudh Sawhney, General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in India has increasingly shown dictatorial and anti-democracy tendencies; voting for the BJP in the upcoming elections would imply voting for Dictatorship. "The ruling party has been moving in the direction of centralizing power, stifling dissent, and undermining democratic principles at each step of governance and decision making. The line between democracy and dictatorship is blurring out, and if this continues, it will eventually fade to give rise to an extremely fascist regime in India", Sawhney said.

The Youth Congress leader boldly stated that the government's handling of protests and dissent are clear examples of how this government acts as a force against freedom of speech and expression, freedom to protest peacefully, and basic rights entitled to citizens by the constitution or law. BJP has shown no tolerance for dissenting voices, using tactics such as arrests, intimidation, and the use of state power to suppress opposition. Use of state bodies and statutory bodies for personal -cum- political gains, siding with the Corporate mafias, attempting to erase opposition using undemocratic tactics has all been part of their governance from the start. This was also evident in the government's response to farmers' protests, where protesters have been met with heavy-handed tactics and restrictions on their right to assemble. The most disturbing is the erosion of institutional independence and the



concentration of power in the hands of the executive branch. The system of checks and balance which has been enabled by the Indian Constitution has been thrown out by the BJP and it's ministers. The government's influence over regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary has raised questions about the separation of powers and the ability of these institutions to act independently. Furthermore, the BJP government has curbed press freedom. Several journalists, activists, and academics have been targeted for their criticism of the government. All of these and more are clear signs of a rising dictatorship. In addition, the government's use of executive orders and ordinances to bypass parliamentary scrutiny raises concerns about accountability and transparency. Their measures allow the government to push through controversial policies without proper debate or oversight in Parliament, undermining the democratic process. The BJP's strong majority in the parliament and its dominance in many state governments have also contributed to growing authoritarianism. With limited checks and balances, the government could further consolidate power and erode democratic norms.

Anirudh Sawhney further stated that one of the most dangerous things here is the BJP government's ability to white wash its failures. Huge

tax burdens, unbelievably growing unemployment rates, suppression of opposition in the Parliament, undemocratic acts, suffering middle class, are all crises masked by the BJP government behind propaganda in one form or the other. They point to initiatives such as economic reforms, infrastructure development, and national security measures as evidence of effective governance, which are completely falsified to appeal to the masses and mislead them into believing that they are offering growth and prosperity, when the reality is that they are promoting division, communal differences, growth of the already ultra-rich class while sidelining actual needs of the masses.

Sawhney also highlighted the situation of Jammu & Kashmir, pointing out that not only was it demoted to being a Union Territory, elections are still pending, and people are left on their own in miserable conditions. The Youth of J&K continues to suffer at the behest of employment scams, surmounting economic stress, lack of opportunities and several other factors. Jammu city has shown no development and infact has outdated infrastructure, despite the Government singing songs of Smart City Program. There are so many issues in J&K which have been neglected from toll taxes, students' issues, issues of govt employees to women's issues beyond just the political discrimination. Overall, the situation continues to worsen in almost every aspect.

In the upcoming elections, people will realise that it is essential to safeguard the institutions and values that underpin our democracy and will remember our responsibility to protect it, said Anirudh Sawhney.

GDC Udhampur organised day long program on International Women's Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Mar 10: As part of its ongoing initiatives during Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, aimed at fostering a Sashakt and Viksat Bharat (Empowered and Developed India), the Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) of the college in collaboration with Literary and Cultural Committee, Viksit Bharat Cell, and Debate and Symposium Committee organized a day-long program on the theme of "Investing in women: Accelerate progress" on the eve of celebration of International Women's Day in the conference hall of the college. The entire program was conducted under the guidance of patron and Principal, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, who was also the Chief Guest in the program, whereas Prof Babu Lal Thakur was the guest of honor. The event included an inaugural and a technical session, which were ably conducted by senior NSS Volunteers Ms. Rishika Khajuria.

In the inaugural the lighting of lamp was done by Worthy Principal Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta along with Convenor Women Empowerment Cell, Prof Shivi Mehra and other staff members of the college viz. Prof Rajni Kumari, Dr Suresh Kumar Dogra, Prof Sweety Verma, Dr Ashok Sharma, Dr Gur



preet Kour (NSS PO), Dr Neena Sharma, and Dr Jagjeet Singh.

The event started with a formal welcome address presented by Prof Shivi Mehra, Convenor Women Empowerment Cell. In her address she apprised all about the need to talk about the women issues at every forum and highlight the role they play in shaping a prosperous society. After this the Colledge Musical Band Devika Strings, comprising of Bhoomi Sharma, Ambica Thakur, Monica, Tanvi, Rohit, Ashish, Anmol under the guidance of Prof Samosh Kumar, presented a motivating and soulful mash-up invoking the spirits for rising high. Professor Tania Akhter and Dr. Shweta Sharma were the coordinators and the Organizing Secretary for the event. Sharing his ideas

about the event, the chief patron, Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, congratulated the Women Empowerment Cell, Literary and Cultural Committee and Viksit Bharat Cell for organising the much-needed program during the deliberations on Viksit Bharat @2047 as envisaged by the Department of Higher Education, JKUT. He appreciated the presenters, the participants and the faculty about their deep understanding of the importance of the gender sensitization and place for women in the society and the world today. He highlighted the fact that International Women's Day holds immense significance as a point for gender equality and women's rights, it serves as a platform to raise awareness about the social, economic, cultural, and political

achievements of women worldwide. Dr Gupta further said that the day provides an opportunity to highlight the persistent challenges and barriers that women face, including gender-based discrimination, violence, and unequal access to education and employment opportunities. He invoked all the members to be proactive against any kind of hate, atrocities, discrimination or violence against women in the society.

The guest of honour Prof Babu Lal Thakur was of the view that he is noticing the change in the young males of the nation today, who are honestly coming forward for the cause of the women and the empowerment of the women is possible when both the genders get a sense of equality in a natural manner.

During the day long program, the students presented a colourful program including short play, songs, slogan writing, poster making, poem recitation and talks on women empowerment. An awe-inspiring Short Play "Choonai Hai Asmaan" presented by the NSS volunteers including Mohit Singh, Rishika, Utakarsh, Ayush, Mansimar, Baijeet, Bhoomi and Tania. The play made all the people in the audience spell bound. The story was based on the struggle of a girl to achieve her goals

against the odds of the society.

Laksh and Vishal enthralled the audience by singing solo songs. Arnav, Nitish Kaloitra and Rupali Sharma and Rupali Sharma were adjudged as first, second and third respectively in slogan writing competition. While Tanvi Jamwal, and Ambica Thakur claimed first position, Uttkarsh Khajuria claimed 2nd position and Nitish Kaloitra claimed third position in poster making competition. Over 150 students from various disciplines took part in the different activities.

At the end Dr. Revika Arora Convenor, Literary and Cultural Committee tendered the formal vote of thanks. The program was attended by a number of faculty members viz. Prof Rajni Kumari, Dr Suresh Kumar Dogra, Prof Sweety Verma, Dr Ashok Kumar, Dr Gurpreet Kour (NSS PO), Dr. Neena Sharma, Dr. Piyali Arora, Prof Samosh Kumar, Dr. Jagjeet Singh (Staff Secretary), Prof Tania Akhter, Dr Meena Gupta, Prof Sanjeet Singh (NSS PO), Prof Vijay Kumar, Prof Anoksha Sharma along with a number of other members of the staff and the NSS Volunteers. The proceedings of the day long program were ably conducted by Ms. Mehroz Chandaal, a student of PG-1 Semester, Department of English.

Balwant Thakur stages Hindi play 'AAG'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Balwant Thakur's Hindi play 'AAG' staged here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at Rani Park, Jammu under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The play showcases how the Drug-menace is ruining the generations and thus crippling the developing nations. The youth of the country, the most energetic human resource of the country, sometimes unknowingly slip into the world of drug-addicts.

The play was not based on one story-line but as an experiment multiple stories were woven by the playwright in one theme focusing the spread of drug menace like a fire, taking the toll of the important work force of the country. In a sequence a young boy is shown struggling for a good company after his passing of the school and entry in the college. He is isolated for not being the consumer of intoxications. All around him treat him like a child which really frustrates him and to prove that he has grown-up as a young man now, he finds the easiest way and demonstrates his coming of age by consuming a variety of intoxications. In another sequence a rural



inhabitation particularly the men-folk is shown drowned in the menace of alcohol. All the miseries of the village like poverty, domestic violence, and ailments are attributed to the growing consumption of alcohol in the village. In a sequence the daily routine of a villager is shown who consumes the whole of his daily earnings for alcohol. Having drunk he has lost his way home. By the time a local escorts him to his place where in the middle of the night the drunken man starts beating his sleeping wife and kids for not receiving him on his arrival. When the escort intervenes to save the poor lady and children, he is blamed for having bad intentions towards his wife. This fight further messes up when a drunken man

after losing senses damages his household property as well. The play unfolds a series of incidents where people influenced by drugs, alcohol and other intoxications create hell for themselves as well as for others. Many precious lives are being charred in this fire of drug menace which is to be fought unitedly. Through this play Balwant Thakur has tried to make an appeal to save mankind from this dragon. Actors who outshined in their respective performances and left an impact of their acting included Neeraj Kant, Kananpreet Kaur, Amit Rana, Arun Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Vishal Sharma, Adesh Dhar, Vansh Pandotra and Kushal Bhat. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

SMVDU, Anshikka Jain published a kindle book as co-editor "Data Wars between Nations: A Threat for Mankind"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 10: Ms. Anshikka Jain, a student of B. Arch. (4th Semester) published a Kindle book as Co-Editor titled Data Wars between Nations: A Threat for Mankind? on Amazon available at <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0CPZQQM37>. The ISBN No.: 978-93-6076-488-3 (13 Digit ISBN) are issued by Raja Rammohun Roy National Agency for ISBN, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The book records the scenario of rapid growth in e-commerce, cloud computing, and other parts of the digital economy are driving important shifts in the global economy.

As the firms in all sectors are incorporating digital tools into their business models, the desire to put rules in place on digital trade is gaining momentum. This has grown as a number of countries, such as China, Indonesia and Nigeria, which have introduced policies that legislate against foreign data flows and e-commerce, affecting the business models of leading global digital corporations. The success of developing and emerging countries in resisting the push for digital trade rules at the WTO was also down to the lack of strong consensus in leading economies. The EU, in particular, was hesitant. Key voices expressed concerns

about the impact of new rules on the European digital economy, limiting the ability to establish strong online data protections in the continent. Nonetheless, emboldened by their previous successes, some developing country alliances are now looking to roll back other digital trade commitments in the WTO which they see as damaging. They see these rules as problematic, limiting their ability to collect tariffs as more goods are sold digitally. These diverging positions are likely to increasingly cause conflict in the coming years. The stakes are high and outcomes are likely to shape the direction of the global economy in the future.

