

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Pankaj Tripathi credits 'good luck' for 'good films' that keep coming his way



NATIONAL | 7

Development work for us is a mission to build nation, not to win elections: PM Modi

INTERNATIONAL | 8

US pledges an additional US\$ 100M for multinational force awaiting deployment to violence-hit Haiti



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-71 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Dr. Abid Rashid assigned additional charge of Director SKIMS Soura

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday assigned the charge of Director SKIMS Soura to Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah in addition to his own duties.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with the Greater Kashmir the appointment has been made in view of the retirement of Dr. Parvez Koul on March 08.

"Consequent upon the retirement on superannuation of Prof. (Dr.) Parvez Koul, Director, SKIMS and ex-officio Secretary to the Government, on 08.03.2024 (A.N.) and pending appointment of a suitable candidate against the said post, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department is hereby assigned the charge of the post of Director, SKIMS, in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads the order.

Police arrests drug peddler in Budgam

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): In continuation of its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police on Tuesday arrested one drug Peddler and recovered Contraband/Psychotropic substance from his Possession in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A Police spokesperson said that at Sadipora, the police party of PS Beerwah were conducting a naka checking wherein they intercepted one vehicle (Piazio Auto) bearing Registration No JK013-6836 coming from Sanpah towards Kandoora.

The driver disclosed his identity as Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh s/o Habibullah Sheikh R/O Samboora Pulwama.

"During search of the said vehicle, charas like substance in grinded form weighing about 534 grms and 06 Charas Sticks wrapped in Corn husk weighing about 115 grms were recovered from his possession. He was arrested on the spot and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized", he said.

Accordingly, a Case FIR No 20/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered at PS Beerwah and further investigation has been taken up.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred with honorary doctorate by University of Mauritius

PORT LOUIS [Mauritius], Mar 12 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius on Tuesday.

The prestigious honour was bestowed upon the President in recognition of the profound depth of the bilateral relationship between the two nations.

The official ceremony, held at the University of Mauritius, saw President Murmu addressing the gathering with a compelling message for the Mauritian youth.

She emphasised the importance of maintaining strong ties with India, encouraging the youth to embrace and cherish their shared cultural heritage.

President Murmu



urged the Mauritian youth to stay connected with India, underscoring the need to nurture their rich history while simultaneously investing in a promising and bright future.

"A special honour emblematic of the depth of India-Mauritius relations! President Droupadi Murmu @rashtrapatibhvn conferred with the Honorary Degree

of Doctor of Civil Law by @UniOfMauritius. In her address, President Murmu exhorted Mauritian youth to stay connected with India to nourish their proud past and invest in their bright future," said Official Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal in a post on X.

President Murmu, who is on a three-day State

visit to Mauritius, said on Monday that India has approved a special provision to grant an Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card to the 7th generation of Indian origin people in Mauritius.

The decision would allow the younger Mauritians of Indian origin to become overseas citizens of India and to reconnect with the land of their ancestors.

"In the context of the 'Khoon ka Rishta' that I mentioned earlier, I have great pleasure in informing you all that my government has just approved a special provision under which 7th generation Mauritians of Indian origin will also be eligible for the Overseas Citizens of India card, the OCI card. This will

■ Turn to page 9

MHA launches dedicated portal for refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh seeking Indian citizenship

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (Agencies): The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday provided a web portal on which eligible non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan fleeing religious persecution can now seek Indian citizenship.

A mobile app 'CAA-2019' will also be launched very soon to facilitate applications through mobile app.

Now, the persons persecuted from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh on religious grounds of six minority communities – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians—can apply for grant of Indian citizenship on portal <https://indiacityshiponline.nic.in>.

The portal was made available on Monday night soon after the MHA notified the rules under the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA-2019), now called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. The rules grant Indian citizenship to these refugees who had sought shelter in India before December 31, 2014.

This is a specific portal on which the people persecuted from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh on religious grounds can apply for Indian

■ Turn to page 9

Manohar Lal Khattar resigns as Haryana Chief Minister amid rift with JJP

CHANDIGARH, Mar 12 (Agencies): In a political development, Manohar Lal Khattar resigned as Haryana Chief Minister amidst growing cracks in the ruling BJP-JJP alliance. Reports indicate that

a new Haryana CM is expected to be sworn in today, and Nayab Saini or Sanjay Bhatia are potential replacements. The rifts within the BJP-JJP coalition became evident ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, leading

to Khattar's resignation. According to sources, Khattar has submitted his resignation letter and his cabinet to the Haryana Governor. Simultaneously, tensions heightened between the BJP and Dushyant

■ Turn to page 9

ECI team holds meetings with J&K political parties

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): The Election Commission of India (ECI) team headed by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar held discussions with representatives of various political parties ahead of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday in J&K's Srinagar city.

The political parties whose members met the ECI team include the Congress, the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), BJP, CPI M and the J&K Apni Party.

The NC delegation was

led by Nasir Aslam Wani while Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura led the PDP delegation during the meeting with the ECI.

Both Wani and Lone told reporters after the meeting that they had asked the ECI to hold the assembly elections simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls in J&K.

After meeting the representatives of the political parties, the ECI team will hold a detailed review of the ground situation with the district development commissioners and the SSPs.

The team will also hold

a detailed meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer of the UT P.K. Pole.

J&K Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and DGP, R.R.Swain are also scheduled to meet the 9-member ECI team headed by the CEC, Rajiv Kumar.

The team will hold similar meetings and reviews in Jammu on Wednesday before leaving back to Delhi. The ECI will announce the Lok Sabha polls in J&K once back in Delhi and after that, the model code of conduct will automatically come into force.

Vehicular movement restored at Dalwas on Jammu-Srinagar highway

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): Traffic authorities on Tuesday restored vehicular movement at Dalwas on Jammu-Srinagar highway.

Earlier the vehicular movement was stopped due to poor surface at Dalwas, which led thousands of passengers stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar highway for

■ Turn to page 9

Three bike-borne persons killed as truck hits motorcycle in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, Mar 12 (Agencies): Three persons were killed in a motorcycle accident after their bike was hit by a truck near Garnai on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district.

The deceased have been identified as Shahzad Hussain, son of Abdul Aziz from Chaniyas, Doda; Mubashir Hussain, son of Ghulam Mohammad from Gundna, Doda;

and Vimal Kumar, son of Ram Nath from Mulla tehsil Thatri, Doda.

SHO PS Rehambal Nishad Ahmad said that after getting the information he along with Police Party rushed to the spot and the three injured persons were taken to the Associated Hospital Government Medical College Udhampur, where doctors declared two of them dead on arrival.

He also said that one of

■ Turn to page 9

Man Injured in Shell Explosion

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): A man was injured after an old mortar shell exploded in the Samba district of Jammu division on Tuesday officials said.

Sources said that a man was seriously injured after an old mortar shell exploded in chandli village of Samba district on Tuesday.

They said that the injured has been identified as Chinar Singh, son of Puran Singh, a resident of Chandli in Samba district.

After initial treatment, the injured has been

■ Turn to page 9

Azad Vows Legislative Safeguards for Land, Employment in JK

SRINAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): Chairman DPAP and former JK Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed his commitment to introducing a law aimed at protecting land and job opportunities in the region if elected to power.

Speaking at a public gathering in South Kashmir's Devsar, Kulgam, Azad highlighted the urgency of addressing the people's suffering and detailed a procedural approach for enacting this legislation. He underscored that if given the opportunity to serve again, this endeavour would be his topmost



priority. Azad reiterated his slogan, "Kaam bolta hai, Kaam bolega" (Work Speaks, Work will speak), underscoring that his actions and achievements will speak for themselves, reflecting his commitment to delivering tangible results for the people.

He highlighted his party's efforts against land eviction orders and emphasised the importance of restoring statehood, noting the Government's assurance in Parliament regarding its reinstatement after elections. Azad emphasised the disparity in electricity billings and pledged that

under his government, low-income individuals would receive free electricity.

Azad promised to accelerate development in the JK UT, including new infrastructure such as roads, colleges, and schools. He pledged to establish additional districts, hospitals, and expand road networks for better accessibility. He expressed his aspiration to bring more development to Kulgam, stating that his dream is to establish more districts.

Azad, assured the gathering of his unwavering commitment to their trust and votes,

■ Turn to page 9

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

Ports	4Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

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/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 Dal Wali Kanak Mandi Jammu on 01/03/2024.



SMT. ASHA RANI

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 Sangra on 02.03.2024 R/o 712, Sec. 7 Model Town Gangyal Jammu.



SMT. KRISHNA DEVI SH. KULDEEP RAJ SANGRA

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

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT KRISHNA DEVI W/O SH BISHAN DASS R/O HOUSE NO 128WARD NO 5 NEAR NARAYANI BHAWAN KATRA



SMT KRISHNA DEVI

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Sudeesh Gupta H/o Renu Gupta R/o Bhagwati Nagar on 10-03-2024.



SH. SUDEESH GUPTA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Vinay Kumar Dutta S/o Late Sh. B.N.Dutta on 1st March 2024.



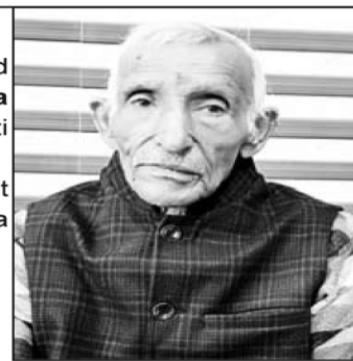
SH. VINAY KUMAR DUTTA

10TH DAY will be held at Baba Puran Mandir Bhagwati Nagar Chowk at 10 AM on 10th March Sunday.

Grandchildren: Yuvaan, Yashika, Vrishank and Tanishka.
CONTACT NO: 6006440296, 9975987984, 7006779630

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

10TH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother Rajesh Dogra R/o 797 Prem Nagar, Tali Morth New Plot, Jammu.



Rajesh Dogra

10TH DAY will be performed on 18.03.2024 (Saturday) at Sharma Janj Ghar Tali Morth New Plot Jammu from 4 to 5 pm.
Deeply Remembered By: Dogra Family
Mob: 9419208739, 9797823904, 9018115252, 7889884255

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Kamla Abrol W/o Sh. Kartar Nath Abrol R/o H.No. 328, Janipur Colony, Jammu.



Smt. Kamla Abrol

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Veera Wali W/o Late Ram Saroop R/o H.No 483-F Sainik Colony, Jammu on 27-02-2024



Veera Wali

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Jija Ji Shri Yudhishter Sharma R/o Kathua who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 9th March 2024.



Shri Yudhishter Sharma

OBITUARY

WITH DEEPEST SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. KRISHNA KOUL WIFE OF SH. POSHAKAR NATH KOUL ORIGINALLY FROM RAWALPORA SAMATAH GAR SRINAGAR KMR PRESENTLY AT EXPRESS APARTMENT SECTOR IV VAISHALI GHAZIABAD WHO WAS UNTIMELY SNAPPED AWAY FROM US AND ATTAINED NIRVANA THE CREMATION WAS HELD AT GAZIPUR DELHI CREMATORIUM ON 7TH MARCH 2024.



SMT. KRISHNA KOUL

GRIEF STRICKEN
KOUL FAMILY
KAW FAMILY
PANTEJA FAMILY

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 Dolpora, Handwara, Kashmir left us heavenly abode on 07/03/2024



Smt Santosh Bhat

MASWAR/VAHARVAR

(1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY- FALGUN SHAKUL PAKH CHATURTHI LUNAR CALENDER) MASSWAR AND VAHARVAR OF OUR DEAR CHANDRA JI, (CHANDERLEKHA RAINA-LANGAR) W/O SUBASH CHANDER RAINA (ORIGINALLY SHALAYAR HABBAKADAL SRINAGAR) WILL BE PERFORMED ON 12TH AND 13TH OF MARCH 2024



CHANDRA JI, (CHANDERLEKHA RAINA- LANGAR)

BARKHI

One year has passed since your noble soul departed to rest in peace in heavenly abode but your memories are still etched in our hearts which shall remain forever.
Barkhi of our beloved Smt Subhash Suri W/o Som Raj Suri shall be performed on 13th of March 2024 (Wednesday) at our residence H No 11/1 Tara Vihar behind Soap Factory Paloura, Jammu at 12:00 PM



Smt Subhash Suri

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Ram Pyari Sharma W/o Shri Kapil Dev Sharma Residents of House No 303, Prem Nagar, New Plots, Jammu.



SMT. RAM PYARI SHARMA

REMEMBRANCE

On 12th March 2002 of our beloved Late Shri Hari Ram Sharma (IAS) H/o Late Smt. Mahalakshmi Sharma has left us for heavenly abode.
We all miss you.
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Late Shri Yogeshwar Sharma (Retd. XEN) & Smt. Medhvi Sharma
Late Shri Ashok Sharma
Late Shri Sudhir Sharma
Brothers & Sister-in-laws
Late Shri Indar Dev Sharma (IAS) & Smt Raj Sharma
Late Shri Baldev Sharma (Ex IAS) & Smt. Santosh Sharma
Shri Sunder Sharma (Retd. C.E) & Smt. Veena Sharma
Daughters and Son-in-laws
Smt. Savita Sharma Khajuria & Late Rajiv Khajuria (Retd. S.E)
Late Smt. Anita Dogra & Col. N.N. Dogra
Smt. Jyoti Sharma Khajuria & Dr. Vijay Khajuria
Grand Sons & Grand Daughter-in-laws
Col Maheshwar Sharma & Smt. Shweta Sharma
Sh. Naval Sharma & Smt. Deepika Sharma
Grand Daughter: Mrs. Chandni Sharma
Muskan Sharma & Manjit Sharma - Great Grand Children
MOB NO: 9797986886, 7350008174, 7006686889
AND ALL FAMILY MEMBERS



Pt. Hari Ram Sharma, IAS (Retd Secy Food & Tpt J&K)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

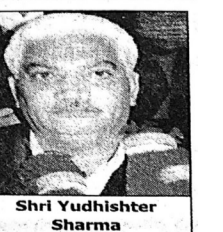
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Shri Yash Pal Khajuria (Retd. Under Secretary J&K Govt) (Former President NGO Sawera) R/o H.No 285 Sector-3 Channi Himmat Housing Colony Jammu.



Sh Yash Pal Khajuria (Retd. Under Secretary J&K Govt) (Former President NGO Sawera)

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Jija Ji Shri Yudhishter Sharma R/o Kathua who left for heavenly abode on Saturday 9th March 2024.



Shri Yudhishter Sharma

DISCLAIMER

“Top News of J&K” does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.”

PM inaugurates PMBJ Kendra at Srinagar railway station, Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revolutionising rail infrastructure and connectivity in J&K and dedicating number of railway projects to the people of the Union Territory today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid foundation stone and dedicated Railway projects worth over Rs 85,000 crores.

He inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Srinagar railway station and Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba.

He also dedicated 'One



Station One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Kathua, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Kathua, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbe-

hara, Kathua will provide additional income opportunities to artisans from marginal sections. OSOP will promote rich heritage of these areas and it will also strengthen 'Vocal for Local' and 'One District One Product Campaign'. These stalls will provide passengers the opportunity to experience and purchase authentic local goods.

PM has also gifted a Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba & Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station. Gati Shakti terminal will play a pivotal role in bolstering transportation networks and streamlining movement of goods across the region".

over Rs 85,000 crores that will shape the economic trajectory of various states and UTs.

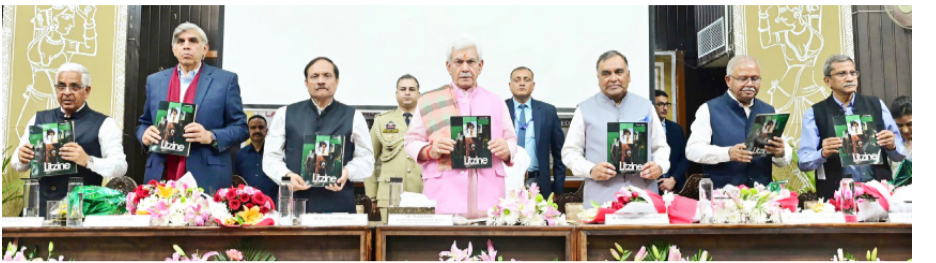
Grateful to Hon'ble PM for revolutionising rail infra & connectivity in J&K. The opening of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Srinagar railway station will ensure quality medicines at affordable prices to passengers & livelihood opportunities to many.

'One Station One Product' (OSOP) stalls at Anantnag, Pampore, Pattan, Kakapora, Panzgam, Sadoor, Mazhom, Awantipora, Banihal, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Qazigund, Katra, Srinagar, Bijbe-

hara, Kathua will provide additional income opportunities to artisans from marginal sections. OSOP will promote rich heritage of these areas and it will also strengthen 'Vocal for Local' and 'One District One Product Campaign'. These stalls will provide passengers the opportunity to experience and purchase authentic local goods.

PM has also gifted a Gati Shakti Terminal at Samba & Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station. Gati Shakti terminal will play a pivotal role in bolstering transportation networks and streamlining movement of goods across the region".

LG inaugurates 3-day capacity building programme on 'Leadership Development of Academic Administrators and Principals of Colleges of J&K'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the three-day capacity building programme on 'Leadership Development of Academic Administrators and Principals of Colleges of J&K'.

In his keynote address, the Lt Governor lauded the collective effort of the University of Jammu and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) for organizing the workshop which focuses on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 and internationalisation of higher education.

He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is leading the reforms in nation's educational ecosystem.

"J&K UT is committed to reform and revamp higher education with the objective of giving our students the best curriculum and provide them knowledge and skills to compete with the best in the world," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon educational institutions to transform their campuses into the hub of skill development and innovation, and make their important contribu-

tion in realising the limitless potential of the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Ideas are new wealth and Universities should focus on creating intellectual property. Educational institutions should focus on developing students' capacities to be creative, innovative and focus on programme to bring positive social change," the Lt Governor said.

Addressing the eminent educationists and heads of institutions, the Lt Governor highlighted five aims and vision to create a strong foundation for future-oriented education.

Classrooms should be enabler of imagination. Mentoring and not teaching should be the main focus of educational institutions to thrive in 21st century, he observed.

"Education should be driven by creativity than by curriculum. It should be about developing the capacities of young people to be creative. It should be the main lever for a more competitive economy and educational institutions as well as other social institutions must follow this model," the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor called upon the teaching community, students and all the stakeholders to work with the resolve to establish

Jammu Kashmir as a knowledge economy and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

He further emphasized on creating a conducive environment for foreign students in educational institutions of the Union Territory.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor and Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council highlighted the reforms to transform the Universities into the centre of knowledge and excellence.

Yashvardhan Sinha, Sh Ashok Kumar Kanth – former Ambassadors; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, University of Ahmedabad and Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu also spoke on the occasion.

The Lt Governor released several publications including a magazine titled 'Litzine', Translation Samvad and Academic Journal 'Paripreksha'.

Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Manisha Priyam from NIEPA, Vice Chancellors, HoDs and faculty members of various Universities and educational institutions, educationists, experts and scholars were present.

Satish Chandra presides over maiden meet of JK RERA-Realtors at Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: In a landmark initiative to bolster the real estate sector's transparency and accountability, the maiden JK RERA-Realtors meet was held today at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The event, held under the Chairmanship of Chairman, JK RERA, Satish Chandra, was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur. The meet marks a pivotal step towards aligning the real estate operations within the region with the regulatory framework established by JK RERA.

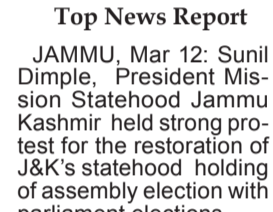
The meeting witnessed an enthusiastic participation from local realty promoters and real estate agents, indicating the sector's eagerness to align with the regulatory mandates. The focus of the meet was to enlighten the attendees about the provisions and requirements of JK RERA and the department has made a detailed presentation on provisions of RERA Act 2016 and J&K RERA Rules 2020.

The Chairman, JK RERA, emphasized the importance of compliance with the RERA Act, which is designed to protect the interests of home buyers and enhance the real estate sector's integrity. He highlighted the critical aspects of the Act, including registration of real estate projects, timely project completion and transparent transaction processes.

The session facilitated a comprehensive dialogue between the stakeholders, the regulatory body and the government allowing for an exchange of ideas and concerns regarding implementation of JK RERA mandates. The meet also served as a platform for realty promoters and agents to understand their roles and responsibilities in fostering a more organized and accountable real estate market.

The convening of this meet signifies a significant stride towards ensuring a robust regulatory framework for the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, promising a future marked by transparency, accountability and growth.

Dimple advocates for restoration of J&K's statehood, holding assembly, parliament elections simultaneously



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir held strong protest for the restoration of J&K's statehood holding of assembly election with parliament elections.

He also demanded the CEC chief election commission to upload the electoral bonds, donations, funds on its website of all the political parties, as per the orders of the CJ of SC.

Dimple said the CAA citizen amendment act has been notified at wrong time when there



are parliament elections and this is polarising the voters of the India.

He also demanded the implementation of the instrument of accession conditions. He also emphasized the importance of preserving the

region's identity and history.

The other leaders present on the occasion included Vinay Agarwal, Suresh Janwal, Rahil Sharma, Sanmukh Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Vishal Kapoor, and others.

Vision 2024: Pioneering Real Estate Growth in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: In a significant development aimed at bolstering the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir, a high-profile meeting was convened at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, and Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries.

The participation included a delegation from the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), signifying a collaborative effort towards the region's real estate growth.

The primary focus of the meeting was to revisit the key outcomes of the Real Estate Summit 1.0, evaluating the current status of its initiatives and strategizing on how to effectively mobilize these for moving forward. This approach underscores the government's commitment not only towards enhancing the real estate infrastructure in the region but also ensuring sustainable urban development.

The discussions emphasized the need for leveraging the unique potential of Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market, making it more accessible and attractive to investors both nationally and internationally.

The meeting explored various avenues to stimulate growth in the sector, including easing regulatory processes, enhancing transparency and implementing investor-friendly policies.

Mandeep Kaur and Vikramjit Singh highlighted the government's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a real estate and industrial hub, capable of contributing significantly towards region's economy. They reiterated the commitment towards working closely with stakeholders such as NAREDCO to facilitate realization of this vision.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OFFICER, KISHTWAR
Advertisement Notice: No.07 of 2024
Dated: 07.03.2024

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Kishtwar.

Reference: 1. Government order No.222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: SMD/ICDS/Requirement/2022-23/7645-52. Dated: 06/03/2024 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Kishtwar, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Kishtwar	A/W/W(Sanginis)	2 Nos.
Total No. of Posts.			02

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

a) Date of commencement for submission of application 11.03.2024.
b) Last date for submission of applications is 20.03.2024.
c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

Format of Application for Post of _____ Date _____
Advertisement Notice No. _____

- Name of POSHAN Project _____
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence _____
- Ward No. _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2024 _____
- Academic Qualification:

Sr.No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Out of Max. Marks	Percentage

14. Do the candidate belong to: Retiring A/W/AWH (YES/NO)
15. Document Attached: _____

Signature of the candidate _____
Date _____

AFFIDAVIT

I _____ District/Ward _____ do hereby solemnly affirm as under :-

- That I belong to the electoral Ward No. _____ Panchayat _____ for which application of Sangini / Sahayika is invited.
- That all the documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or falsification in nature. If found incorrect in any of the above stated situation, my candidature may be cancel and liable to action under law.
- That if any later stage it is found that I am in possession of qualification higher than the prescribed qualification, my engagement shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- That I have gone through the new HR Policy No.222- JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated 30/11/2022 and I well versed with all its salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to me in case of selection as Sangini (A/W/W) /Sahayika (AWH).
- That the contents of the application given below are correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed.
- In case above statements found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject the application form without any notice.

Signature of Applicant _____

No.:CDPO/Poshan/0/2023-24/ 1155-1168
Date: 07/03/2024

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Kishtwar.

Documents Required:-

- Academic Qualification certificate with marks Sheet.
- Date of Birth Certificate
- Domicile Certificate
- Ward certificate from concerned Executive Officer (EO) Municipality (for Urban Centres) and Block Development Officer (For Rural Centres)
- Copy of Ration Card duly attested by concerned TSO
- Un-married Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar (in case of unmarried)
- Relieving order copy of Sanginis (A/W/W) or Sahayikas (AWH) in case of candidate is from the family of retiring A/W/AWH.
- Affidavit in the prescribed format duly attested by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate.
- Aadhaar Card and Voter ID.
- 2 passport size photographs.

Note: No application form shall be accepted after the expiry of the Last date i.e. 20-03-2024.

DIPIU-15904 Date: 11/3/2024

EDITORIAL

RAMADAN-
HOLY MONTH
OF MUSLIMS

In India, people of many religions live together. Here, as much respect is given to the people of Hindu religion, the same respect is given to the people of Islam religion. Just as Muslim people celebrate Holi and Diwali with Hindu brothers and sisters with love, similarly Hindu people also participate in the happiness of their Muslim brothers and sisters during the month of Ramadan and on the day of Eid. Eid is the biggest festival for the people of Muslim religion but before that they have to fast for a month, this fast is completely different from the fasting of the people of Hindu religion. Among the twelve months of Muslims, one month is called Ramadan in which Ramadan fasting is observed. Ramadan is considered a holy month for the religion of Islam. In this holy month, people who believe in Islam observe fast regularly. During this period, eating or drinking anything is prohibited throughout the day. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the moon is given the most importance in this religion. Worship, fasting, providing food and maintaining mutual harmony are the main features of this festival. Maulvi says that the doors of heaven open in the month of Ramadan. Allah accepts the prayers of those who fast and worship and in this holy month one gets freedom from all the sins committed in life. Muslim people have to follow many rules during Ramadan. During fasting, one cannot eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. In Arabic, Roza is called 'Saum' which means abstinence not only from food and drink but also from bad deeds, bad thoughts and bad words. Therefore, fasting is not just physical abstinence but a responsibility of a person's body and soul towards the spirit of fasting. Fasting is a duty for everyone, observing which purifies the soul, gives full attention to Allah and practice of sacrifice, which enables a person to keep himself away from inner greed.

According to Maulvi, those people of Muslim religion who are unwell, old, pregnant or have any other problem due to which they are unable to fast during Ramadan, then they are not forced to fast. If a healthy person is unable to fast during the month of Ramzan due to illness, travel or any other reason, then the count can be completed by fasting even after Ramzan. Those who cannot fast, they feed poor and hungry people and donate dakshina instead. The history of the month of Ramadan shows that this trend has been going on for centuries. According to the beliefs of Islamic religion, it is said that the holy book "Quran Sharif" came down to earth through Prophet Muhammad in 610 AD. Since then, the Muslim community around the world keeps fast for the entire month to commemorate the revelation of the Quran for the first time. Therefore, Ramadan is also considered an occasion to celebrate the Quran. In Islam, Roza is considered a festival of thanking Allah.

The month of Ramadan is very important for every Muslim, in which fasting is observed for one month i.e. 30 days. According to Islam, the entire Ramadan is divided into three parts, the first, second and third which is called "Ashar". Ashar is Arabic number 10. In this way, each Ashar is of 10-10 (ten-ten) days. The first Ashar is of mercy, that is, the first ten days of the month of Ramadan are of mercy in which Allah's mercy is on those who fast and pray. Those who keep fast during this period should help the poor by donating. From the 11th fast of Ramadan to the 20th fast, the second Ashar continues in which people worship Allah and ask for forgiveness of their sins. According to Islamic belief, if a person asks for forgiveness for his sins during Ramadan, then Allah accepts his forgiveness and grants him heaven. The third and last Ashar of Ramadan lasts from the 21st to the 29th or 30th. The reason for this is that the month of Ramadan is sometimes of 29 days and sometimes of 30 days. This Ashar is considered the most important because the purpose of this Ashar is to protect oneself from the fire of Jahannam. During this time, every Muslim prays to Allah to save himself from

hell. Fasting is observed in the month of Ramadan. The belief behind celebrating Ramadan is that those who fast and offer namaz are blessed by Allah. By fasting this month, people worship Allah and ask for forgiveness of their sins. According to Islamic belief, if a person asks for forgiveness for his sins during Ramadan, then Allah accepts his forgiveness and grants him heaven. That is why every year the Muslim community celebrates the month of Ramadan with great enthusiasm and seeks blessings from Allah. The belief behind celebrating Ramadan is that those who fast and offer namaz are blessed by Allah. By fasting in this month, people worship Allah and ask for forgiveness of their sins. According to Islamic belief, if a person asks for forgiveness for his sins during Ramadan, then Allah accepts his forgiveness and grants him heaven. That is why every year the Muslim community celebrates the month of Ramadan with great enthusiasm and to seek blessings from Allah. The month of Ramadan is very important for every Muslim. Fasting is observed in the month of Ramadan. People who fast during this month of Ramadan help the poor by donating. People worship Allah on this day and ask for forgiveness of their sins. During this period, nothing is eaten or drunk from sunrise to sunset. Ramadan is the month of mercy and blessings. Muslims fasting do not eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. Sehri is done before sunrise, which means one can eat before Fajr Azaan in the morning. The fasting person neither eats nor drinks anything after Sehri till sunset i.e. the whole day. During this time we worship Allah or do our work. Iftar is taken after the sun sets. The month of Ramadan is a very important month for all Muslim brothers and sisters. Human beings also get to learn a lot from this. People forget to worship Allah or are unable to find time while doing their daily tasks. The month of Ramadan reminds the people of Allah that this life is a blessing from God, take out some time to worship Him so that God's mercy remains on all of us humans. Under Islam, during the time of Ramadan, all Muslims try to understand the purpose of their life again. Even if someone has done wrong to us, we should forgive them. One should avoid bad habits and donate money, clothes, food etc. to poor and unhappy people which is called Zakat. The Islamic community believes that whoever does good deeds in this month of Ramadan and keeps his heart pure during fasting, Allah bestows happiness and blessings upon him. In Ramadan, every day for about a month, food is eaten before sunrise, which is called Sehri, then fasting is observed throughout the day, and the food eaten by the fasting person in the evening to open or break the fast is called Iftar. At the time of Iftar, whatever prayer is offered with a true heart is accepted. According to an Islamic literature, it has been written that a messenger of Allah broke his fast with dates, on the basis of this, all the fasting people break their fast by eating dates. Apart from this, dates cure other diseases like stomach problems and weakness. People remain hungry and thirsty during Ramadan one gets the courage to stay away from any kind of greed and follow the right path.

The shape of water woes to come

By: Harish Bijoor

Your big city and mine are facing big problems. Maybe the problem of Bengaluru is a whole lot bigger than that of Indore and Rajkot today, but the problems do potentially exist for every big city if you look beneath the earth we live upon. Of all the problems we face, the one that is about potable water is the most difficult one.

Bengaluru is suddenly in the limelight for the wrong reasons. There is an acute shortage of potable water during the summer months, starting yesterday. All of a sudden, our bore-wells are drying up without enough rains to feed them. Ground water is showing a nasty and elusive trend of being more difficult to reach. While in the early days of bore-well craze, water was struck at 80-100 feet depth, today's water table is getting more and more elusive even at 1,600 feet.

The primary source of riverine water, feeding the city through a network of canals and reservoirs, is under stress. The newer areas of the city do not have access to Cauvery or Arkavathy water, and a whole new city has been built upon the seasonally hollow foundation of a bore-well network that is acting difficult to tame and fill. And this is a tall city—a city full of flats and apartments that define the new image of Bengaluru as a city of tall stature. The city is, however, running dry. For a few months, at least.

This nagging water problem of Bengaluru belongs to the city for

now. It can belong to any other big city with a big population as well. If I am to start tracing how cities typically manage their water needs, the best of them have a source of drinking water that comes from the rivers and streams. Where the stream ends begins the planned up-stream water supply system of the city that establishes a channel of supply into storage tanks that re-channel the water as per need to the end home. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) manages this system for the city. Do not ask me why "water supply" and "sewerage" go together.

Where direct supply of Cauvery water is not possible for the city, builders of the new city have tapped groundwater reserves that get perennially replenished by a good monsoon. Apartment complexes built in newer areas have tapped into the bore-well as a way of getting to 'easy water' beneath the areas where these apartments exist. And then comes the next category of dwellings in a typically unplanned city. This category is the most impoverished one on water. It has no direct Cauvery water, and neither is it blessed to be sitting on a bore-well possibility zone. This category depends wholly on water tankers that bring in water on a daily or alternate-day basis, as the demand may be.

So what's your problem, Bengaluru?

The city today is host to 142,00,000 people and their daily need for water. Water to drink, water to cook, water to bathe with, water to wash our

cars, and to water our potted plants in balconies and the private gardens of the privileged few. I am not even stepping on to the terrain of the corporate need for water, and the need for water that pertains to the hospitality and entertainment sector, the sprawling golf courses of Bengaluru included.

We need water. We need water right through the year. The current water shortage that is affecting the city is a temporary one. One that has bitten us this summer. One that promises to keep biting us every summer for 2-3 months, I am told. Did we not see this coming? Apparently not. Even if we did see it coming, there is a lag in the planning cycle that has led to this pass. The Cauvery Phase 5 project's progress has been slower than it should have been. This project promises to take care of the city's needs for a while to come, beginning May 2024. We are told it might take care of our water woes for the next several years. After that, what?

In a completely haywire weather environment that is affecting our summers, winters and monsoon patterns, our big cities are going to be overtly dependant on rain. Rain that will fill up our bore-wells to do all that we happily do without a care for water. We are going to be a progressively rain-dependant people in the big city.

As Bengaluru grapples with its shortage, do I want to be a part of the problem or the solution? Let me attempt to be a part of the latter. If there is one solution that I can think of, it is as simple or complex as the words agree-

gation and disaggregation are.

Big cities need to redefine their spaces and their needs. One big city cannot bear the weight of all its population endlessly. Bengaluru, for instance, is a magnet city today. People from all over the country and from all across the world want to come to the city. Some come as tourists, some to work here, some to settle and some to invest. The city is growing by night. This magnet city is actually increasing its weight and woes by night. As the population burden increases, both hard and soft infrastructure are not able to keep pace. The city is growing vertically now, which indeed has endless possibilities. As the height of our buildings grows, under the ground, the depth at which water can be found grows in the opposite direction.

The city's need of water, as calculated to date, is going awry. Are we over-drawing already? Bengaluru cannot aggregate into a bigger-and-bigger city anymore. It needs to disaggregate. Let us remember, water will not come where the people are. People will instead need to go where the water is. Big cities need to de-cluster. Big cities need to re-assemble where the water is. The old dictum says it all: if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

A question: is it time to de-magnetise Bengaluru? Consciously, with a yen to stay competitive, alive and kicking?

**(Brand Guru &
Founder, Harish Bijoor
Consults)**

Threat to Bird Species

(The challenge of saving birds is greater than that of animals)

By: Vijay Garg

At present more than one million wildlife species are on the verge of extinction. At present, there are about ten thousand living species of birds, out of which one thousand four hundred eighty are about to become extinct and two hundred and twenty three are in critical condition. According to 'State of India's Birds', the number of some 'Raptors' and ducks has decreased the most. Has been seen. Similarly, the Indian sparrow and woodpecker are said to be on the verge of extinction. so wild The threat of animal extinction has been looming for a long time, but with the development of science in the last century, the threat to wildlife has increased rapidly. In today's changing circumstances, conservation of birds is becoming extremely difficult due to increasing challenges from global warming and green house gases. Various types of diseases are increasing. Wildlife protection laws were made in India in 1873 to protect wildlife from extinction or hunting, but even they did not help in saving wildlife, especially birds, from hunting. Was able to meet. When the country became independent, the Wildlife Board was established in 1952. Then it was reorganized in 1991. After the formation of the Board, efforts to conserve wildlife intensified, yet animal trafficking and hunting could not be completely stopped. In the last century, due to smuggling, hunting and imbalance of the ecosystem, many rare birds have also disappeared from

the earth forever. This includes the dodo, carolina parrot, passenger pigeon, laughing owl, Labrador duck and many other rare birds. most birds Man is responsible for its demise. For example, the world's only frog, 'Rabb's Freeze-Libbed Tree Frog-Tuffy', died in 2016. It was housed in the Atlanta Botanical Garden. But there was no frog of his species to breed with. Now his generation is no longer on earth. There was a subspecies of zebra in Africa, named quagga. By the end of the nineteenth century, hunters hunted them so much that they became extinct forever. The Pinta Island tortoise, discovered in Ecuador in 1971, has also become extinct. the world Australia's last thylacine, named Benjamin, also known as the Tasmanian Tyder, also died out in 1936. Extinct animals include special species of birds. Most species have become extinct in the countries of Africa and South Asia. There was a time in India when twelve hundred species of birds were found, but now more than fifty of these species have become extinct. According to a study, hundreds of bird species have disappeared from the earth in the last fifty years and many are on the verge of extinction. vulture And bird species like woodpeckers became extinct. Are or are on the verge of extinction. Temporary development related policies and increasing insensitivity towards nature are being said to be the reason for this. Even today, many bird habitats of India are in danger. Due to this the risk of extinction of birds has increased. The latest study by 'Bombay Natural History Society' states that at least ten biodiversity areas of India are in danger of disappearing forever. Important bird habitats are

called 'IBAs' around the world. Their conservation has also become challenging. The existence of many birds found in areas like the foothills of the Himalayas, the higher regions of the Western Himalayas, the Eastern Himalayan region, South India and the Ganga Basin region, the Indian Desert, the Thar Desert, and the Indomalayan subdivision is under threat. There is a threat to the existence of Golden Eagle, Gaur, Godavan, Stork, Tilor, Hawk, Nicobarese Pigeon. Himachal Pradesh is a lush green state of India, where biodiversity is present. Many birds here The species resides. Their conservation is becoming increasingly challenging. Fifty-four bird species from Central Asia and Europe visit the Pong Dam every year. Due to being in the Himalayan region, the environment here always remains cold. But due to changing weather, people's inclination towards artificiality, insensitivity towards nature and secret hunting, the number of rare birds in the park is continuously decreasing. The state government is certainly aware of this, but the problem is people's decreasing love for birds., which is causing trouble for them. Therefore, it is very important to make the common man aware of values like non-violence instead of violence and compassion instead of cruelty. Similarly, for the conservation of birds, the Central Zoo Authority was established at the central level in 1992 under the Wildlife Act 1972. Its purpose is to see the functioning of zoos. It is an organization with twelve members. Almost similar conservation boards are in place at the state level too, but questions are raised from time to time about their effectiveness. Are. For the conservation of rare species, a global body

for international trade in rare species of wildlife has also been created, whose task is to stop the illegal international trade of endangered species. India is also its member. India has taken major steps in this regard to stop the trafficking of many animals, but they have been inadequate, because the declining numbers of birds and other wildlife and the conservation of endangered bird species have not been completed. In such a situation the question arises that How can the declining number of birds be stopped? Do conservation projects need to be further improved or should other measures be taken? This includes increasing the designated area of national level wild sanctuaries and parks and provision of more expenditure in the budget for the conservation of birds, illegal hunting, further improving the security area, paying more attention to the conservation of rare birds, making the environment safe for birds. Adaptation, removal of residential settlements around bird parks in the blind race of development Or steps can be taken to increase people's love for birds, from relocating parks to other places, making bird habitat suitable by eliminating water, food and other environmental problems, and making appropriate laws to give harsh punishment to poachers. Needed The challenge of saving birds is greater than that of animals. The reason for this is that they do not have a place to stay.

**(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist MALOUT
Punjab)**

AIIMS Jammu attains a milestone- Thirty-Seven Million safe Manhours achieved

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: The 53rd National Safety Week was celebrated from 4th March 2024 to 10th March 2024 at AIIMS Jammu. Ahluwalia Contracts India Limited (ACIL), the construction company for AIIMS Jammu, organized various activities aimed at reinforcing the importance of safety practices and fostering a culture of safety awareness amongst the workers. Very recently ACIL achieved a recording of 37 million working safe hours. ACIL, its Vice President, Charanjeet Singh Walia and their team have prioritized the safety of workers as an important variable in the construction activities at AIIMS Jammu and achieved the milestone Throughout the cel-

bration of the safety week, various initiatives were organized, including safety demonstrations, workshops, and interactive sessions aimed at empowering employees and stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to ensure on-site safety. As part of the commemoration, Ahluwalia Contracts India Limited (ACIL), had the distinct honour of hosting Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu as Chief Guest for the closing ceremony. The ED & CEO of AIIMS Jammu emphasized the critical role of the safety of workers in the workplace. He commended Ahluwalia Contracts India Limited (ACIL), for its unwavering commitment

to safety standards and highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring the well-being of all individuals on-site Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta also appreciated the efforts of all the workers and acknowledged the sincerity and contributions of Ahluwalia Contracts India Limited (ACIL) towards maintaining a safe work environment and providing the workers a safe workplace at AIIMS Jammu site. He congratulated ACIL, VP, Mr. Charanjeet Singh Walia and their team for achieving the significant milestone of achieving 37 million safe working hours. Charanjeet Singh Walia conveyed the gratitude of the ACIL to the construction workers for their commitment to safety

and their contribution in reaching the milestone. He exhorted them to continue practicing safety protocols. He said that the presence of Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta reaffirms our shared commitment to prioritizing safety and underscores the significance of collaborative efforts in achieving safety excellence. He extended his gratitude to Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, his team, and all the participants for their invaluable contributions to the success of the event. It has to be ensured that construction workers, who are the backbone of building Institutions, are themselves prevented from sustaining workplace accidents, occupational illness, and injuries. ACIL has

provided the workers at AIIMS Jammu Site with safe working conditions and also a free-of-cost hygiene living place along with creche facilities. A medical examination by an onsite specialist doctor is conducted for all the construction workers when they join the project of AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu. Pre-existing conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, and vertigo, are also ascertained and evaluated. Medical examinations for the workers are repeated every three months. This was done even during the COVID-19 epidemic. Vaccination and COVID-19 testing of the workers at the site were organized by the Director of AIIMS, Jammu Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta.

Lecture on dental implants organized in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: A lecture on Dental Implants under the Expert Lecture Series 2024 was held in Jammu. The topic of the lecture was "Basic Implantology – Simplified Oral Hygiene Care" and the resource person was Dr. Periodontist and Implantologist, Ludhiana. Vikram was Bali. Dr. Bally simplified the concept of placing , maintaining , restoring dental implants and dealing with the complications associated with them. He said it is better to replace a lost tooth with an implant than to place a bridge in that area. He also gave a detailed list of precautions to be taken while placing dental implants. President of Indian



Dental Association (IDA), Jammu, Dr. Gautam Sharma presented the resource person certificate to the speaker. Dr. Gautam said that most dentists are now performing dental implants in their practice, but the consideration of soft tis-

sues will always be kept in mind. Make the restorative part complicated. On this occasion, Senior Manager Rakesh Srivastava, Oral Care Consultant Sumeet , Oral Care Executive Vineet Dogra from Colgate were present.

One day workshop on Personality Development at GDC Sidhra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Career Counselling Cell of GDC Sidhra today organized one day workshop on Personality Development Programme under the aegis of Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning, FUniversity of Jammu, Jammu. The workshop commenced with formal welcome by Dr. Harpreet Kour, Head Department of Political Science followed by introductory session on the theme by Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor Department of Lifelong Learning.

The first two sessions were conducted by Neetu Dhar, Chairperson, Jammu Pariyatan Vikas Co. Ltd. And Chief Coordinator JKDCUL, on the topic 'Time Management' and 'Body Language'. She expressed her views and made our students to understand these concepts in a very lucid manner. After a little break, the next two sessions were proceeded by Swati Basotra, an entrepreneur, a motivational speaker and presently working as a freelancer. She clearly focussed on four things in anyone's life to become a personality you want

to be, namely Purity of heart, Clarity of thoughts, Sincerity in actions and Spirituality in conscious. The whole event was conducted under the able guidance of Dr. G S Rakwal, Principal GDC Sidhra. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mussarat Chowdhary, Head Department of Economics. The whole event was attended by Dr. Purvaiya Hans, Conventor Career Counselling Cell, Dr. Deepa Kak, Dr. Shonima Malhotra, Dr. Anu Sharma, Dr. Mehmood Ahmad, Dr. Rudrika Khajuria and all other faculty members.

Panthers condemns ECI for discriminating with JKNPP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Vilakshan Singh, President, J&K National Panthers Party (JKNPP) has strongly condemned Election Commission of India for discriminating with J&K National Panthers Party during its visit to J&K. Singh said that Chief Electoral Officer, J&K invited the names of the representatives of J&K National Panthers Party who would meet the Election Commission of India during its visit to J&K. JKNPP submitted the names of its representatives for the said purpose. To the utter surprise of the party, after several inquiries it was informed to the party yesterday that the Election Commission of India has not approved the names of the representatives of J&K National Panthers Party for meeting the Election Commission of India during its visit to UT of J&K. Singh, in a letter written to the Chief Election Commissioner, expressed anguish and stated that it was very unfortunate that a recognised party was not allowed to meet the Election Commission of India. The decision of Election Commission of India not to allow representatives of a recognised party to meet it is a major deviation from the well established norms followed by ECI and is also indicative of the bias towards the regional parties. The ECI was known for making available a level playing field to all the parties. But the decision of ECI not to allow the representatives of J&K National Panthers Party to meet it during its J&K visit is arbitrary and raises a question mark on the impartial approach of ECI. Singh said that JKNPP is being made to pay for its fight for preserving the Dogra identity. He said that it seems that ECI is following the dictates of BJP. He said that BJP knows that people in J&K are fed up with BJP and are looking for a better alternative. Singh said that BJP cannot bring down the morale of JKNPP by abusing power. JKNPP shall continue its fight for the welfare of poor and downtrodden irrespective of the hardships it is being made to face.

ACD/AD Handicraft Kishtwar conducts Comprehensive Inspection of Handicrafts Training Centers

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Mar 12: Assistant Commissioner Development Kishtwar Phulail Singh who is also holding Charge of A.D Handicrafts on Tuesday conducted an official inspection and meticulously examined the advanced training centers for crewel in Poochie and Cherhar Kishtwar. Additionally, he directed his attention towards scrutinizing the ongoing development initiatives under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) at Panchayat Lachdayaram B. In a proactive move towards promoting skill development and preserving traditional crafts, Phulail Singh dedicated time to assess the training centers specializing in crewel work. These centers play a pivotal role in imparting advanced skills and knowledge to artisans, ensuring the pres-



ervation and evolution of traditional handicrafts. During his visit to Poochie and Cherhar Kishtwar, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh engaged with artisans, trainers, and stakeholders to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and opportunities in the handicrafts sector. This interaction not only highlighted the commitment of A.C.D to skill enhancement but also provided valuable feedback for further improve-

ments. Moreover, ACD took a keen interest in the developmental endeavors initiated under MGNREGA at Panchayat Lachdayaram B. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been instrumental in enhancing livelihood opportunities in rural areas, and Phulail Singh's visit underscored the significance of monitoring and evaluating such projects for their effectiveness.

DFSS welcomes implementation of CAA



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of presi-

dent Ashok Gupta took out a celebration rally in Jammu city in favour of the CAA being notified for implementation. The party president dis-

tributed sweets among the locals for the grand humanitarian cause. CAA rules being will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted

non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries, he said. The 2019 CAA amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 allowing Indian citizenship for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian religious minorities who fled from the neighbouring Muslim majority countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before December 2014 due to "religious persecution or fear of religious persecution", he added. "Those who could not come to India at the time of partition and were persecuted on the basis of religion in these different countries. People

who came to India before 2014 had no rights here, so PM Modi has done a good job by giving them citizenship so that they can also live their lives with dignity and raise their children" he said. He welcomed the legislation and said this should have been done much earlier but better late than never. He claimed that this law has nothing to do with Muslims while stating that there are a lot of misunderstandings among the Muslims regarding this law. The party workers present on the occasion were Nanku, Ashish, Prem, Akshay, Kalu, Naresh, Abhishek, Geeta, Raj Kumari and others.

Department of Commerce, JU hosts Chess Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: The event management and sports club of the Department of Commerce at the University of Jammu proudly hosted an exhilarating chess competition today, showcasing the intellectual prowess and strategic acumen of its M.Com students. The competition, which drew participation from a pool of talented individuals, featured four stand-out contestants: Mansha Mahajan, Shiwani Sharma, Mytri Angral, and Keshav Sharma. In a display of exceptional skill and determination, Mansha Mahajan and Shiwani Sharma emerged as the victors, demonstrating their mastery over the intricacies of

the game. Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, the esteemed Head of the Department of Commerce, extended warm congratulations to all participants and especially commended the outstanding performance of Mansha Mahajan and Shiwani Sharma. Their dedication and proficiency exemplify the spirit of excellence that the department continuously fosters among its students. The event, meticulously coordinated by Dr. Tarsem Lal, Associate Professor in the Department of Commerce, showcased the department's commitment to providing a holistic educational experience that encompasses both aca-

demical rigor and extracurricular engagement. The enthusiasm and support of the department's faculty members, research scholars, and students added to the vibrant atmosphere of the event. Their presence underscored the sense of community and solidarity that permeates the Department of Commerce at the University of Jammu. As the competition drew to a close, it left an indelible impression, serving as a testament to the department's dedication to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of excellence. The organisers express their gratitude to all participants and attendees for their contributions in making the event a resounding success.

Darshan Rana tours Jammu East Assembly segment, holds workers meet

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: A delegation of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leaders which was led by J&K UT president Darshan Rana comprising of Hari Chand, Tarsem Lal, Ram Dass, Subash Sumbria and others took a tour of the Jammu East constituency today. The leaders held meetings with people at various places of Jammu East constituency and apprised the people about

the policies and programmes of the party. Darshan Rana while speaking at various meetings, said that BSP is the only party which fights for the cause of the poor and down trodden people and the time has come where people should realize the importance of their vote and bring the party in the power so that they may be able to fight their cause vigorously in the Parliament. The people of this constituency are still struggling



for the basic amenities. BSP Chief appealed the people to support BSP and vote in favour of their candidates so that party may

become a major factor in the balance of power or able to form the next Government and redress the real problems of the

people. Other.s Party workers Krishan Lal, Brij Mohan, Bishan Dass, Sewa Ram also present on this occasion.

First international film festival in Chandigarh from March 27-31 to open with 'The Taste of Things'

It will come to a close with South Korea's highest grossing film of 2024, horror drama 'Exhuma' ('Pamyu')

Cinevestre International Film Festival (CIFF), the first international film festival to be held in Chandigarh from March 27 to 31, announced its line-up of 67 titles, including world cinema, Indian feature films, classics as well as shorts films.

The festival will open with Juliette Binoche-starrer French culinary drama 'The Taste of Things', which won director Tran Anh Hung the best director prize at Cannes. It will come to a close with South Korea's highest grossing film of 2024, horror drama 'Exhuma' ('Pamyu').

CIFF will showcase 24 award-winning international features in the World Cinema section, 17 indie gems in the India Unveiled, 27 shorts in Brief Encounters, a curated section of children's films and timeless classics from Satyajit Ray to Guru Dutt.

The festival will screen acclaimed films like Holocaust drama, 'The Zone of Interest', which won the international feature film Oscar on Sunday, Palme d'Or winner and Hirokazu Kore-eda's 'Monster', last-year's best actor Oscar winner 'The Whale' and acclaimed documentary 'Seven Winters in Tehran' among others.

Award-winning Indian features and documentaries such as Marathi film 'Sthal', 'Stolen', Rima Das' Assamese film 'Tora's Husband', Gurvinder Singh's Punjabi feature 'Adh Chanani Raat', Harjit Singh's documentary on the late Punjabi painter and writer Imroz, Lijo Jose Pellissery's Malayalam film 'Malaikottai Vaaliban', Sreemoyee Singh's documentary 'And, Towards Happy Alleys', an ode to Iranian cinema and



poetry featuring Jafar Panahi, Varun Grover's short 'Kiss', Riz Ahmed-starrer short 'Dammi' are also part of the line-up.

The festival will host stars like Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal, Roshan Mathew, Gulshan Devaiah, Varun Grover, Rasika Duggal, Rashmeet Kaur (singer), Hansal Mehta, Shekhar Kapur, Sudhir Mishra and Tahira Kashyap Khurrana.

The opening and closing films will be open air screenings in the Government Museum & Arts Gallery, Sector 10, the main venue of CIFF 2024. Three more open air screenings are scheduled of classics such as 'Jalsaghar', 'Kaagaz Ke Phool', 'The Godfather Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone', a recut of the original 'Godfather 3' by Francis Ford Coppola to mark the 30th anniversary of the film.

An experiential cinema exhibition to celebrate the centenary of Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand is also set up in the Rose Garden

Underpass in collaboration with National Film Archives (NFDC) and students of Chandigarh College of Architecture. Children's films are open to all children from the ages of 10-17 years at 9 am each day from March 27-31 at Cinepolis Jagat.

The inaugural edition of the festival, organised by Cinevestre Pvt Ltd founder and CEO Nina Lath, will also feature CIFF/market to facilitate the business and craft of filmmaking. More than 15 curated projects by creators with a strong presence in the Indian film industry are being presented at market. CIFF will also feature workshops, master classes and panel discussions.

"Cinevestre International Film Festival is envisaged as a platform for the two key stakeholders, namely audiences and producers. Its various verticals have been designed keeping the same in mind. We trust that in time, CIFF will serve as a reliable festival offering high-quality content for audiences and

enhanced business opportunities for the film industry," Nina Lath said.

The festival is supported by the Government Museum & Art Gallery, Chandigarh, Department of Tourism Chandigarh, and Chandigarh Administration.

VS Kundu, a retired IAS officer and the former head of the National Films Division of India, has come aboard as the director of the film festival and industry veteran Bina Paul serves as the artistic director.

"CIFF is the first global-scale cinema event to ever happen in Chandigarh with the support of Chandigarh Tourism, the Department of Culture and Chandigarh Administration. It is a truly international film festival designed to match the best international film festivals," Kundu said.

"Our endeavour is to build a strong foundation for an annual event that the global film industry will look forward to, and which will foster effective business relationships between producers and distributors and the filmmakers of the region," he added.

Paul said the festival aims to bring "a potpourri of cinema" to the people of Chandigarh.

"There will be something for everyone. Festival favourite International & Indian films for film buffs and for students, and the latest trends in Korean, Japanese and French cinema will be on show. Children will get a chance to see films from many parts of the world, hearing stories they may otherwise not," she said.

Dilip Kumar's ancestral home in Pakistan damaged in recent rains



Legendary late actor Dilip Kumar's ancestral home in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, a national heritage, is almost on the verge of collapse after being severely damaged in the recent rains, an official has said.

The torrential rains fully exposed tall claims of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archive Department about the rehabilitation and renovation of the house.

Kumar was born in 1922 in the house, located in Mohallah Khudadad at the rear side of historic Qissa Khwani Bazar in Peshawar, and spent his initial 12 years here before leaving for India in 1932.

The house was declared Pakistan's

national heritage monument on July 13, 2014, by then-Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Kumar had visited his house once and sentimentally kissed the soil.

Secretary Shakeel Waheedullah Khan of Heritage Council KPK province, said the recent rains in Peshawar badly damaged the house of Kumar.

Despite pledging so many grants by the previous KPK government, not a single penny has been spent on this national heritage to protect and preserve it, he said on the property that was built in 1880.

The property being so old, its reservation is the responsibility of the government, he said.

The local socio-political circles have

expressed grave concern over the attitude of the archive department to prevent the national asset from collapsing.

The claims of the Department of Archive remained limited to press statements as on the ground no steps were taken to prevent the national heritage from natural calamity, they say.

Tourists visiting the house from across the world became disappointed after seeing the dilapidated condition of the historic asset.

Muhammad Ali Mir, who was looking after the house before it was taken over by the Archive Department, said he was properly looking after it with great care.

Here is how Triptii Dimri looks without make-up, the 'Animal' actress nailed the natural look

Bollywood sensation Triptii Dimri, known for her effortless charm, continues to captivate fans with her stunning no-makeup looks.

The actress recently graced the public eye once again, showcasing her radiant complexion and understated glamour.

Triptii opted for a clean, minimalist aesthetic, effortlessly flaunting her flawless skin devoid of heavy makeup.

Sporting impeccably arched brows and a subtle touch of blush, her fresh-faced beauty served as an inspiration for fans looking to embrace their own natu-



ral allure.

Pairing an oversized round-neck T-shirt with cargo pants, Triptii exuded effortless chic while accessorising with a cap and shoulder bag. This was not the first

time she embraced the no-makeup look. Whether celebrating her birthday or dazzling on a photoshoot, Triptii consistently radiates confidence with her bare-faced beauty.

Pankaj Tripathi credits 'good luck' for 'good films' that keep coming his way

Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi never disappoints when he comes on screen. He said that he tries his best for that and credited his "good luck" for getting to work in "good films."

How does it feel to hear that a 'Pankaj Tripathi' film never disappoints? The actor said, "I try not to disappoint. I have good luck that I get good films."

Pankaj's next is 'Murder Mubarak', which also stars Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Karisma Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Suhail Nayyar and Tara Alisha Berry.



Talking about working with an array of stars with different working styles and sensibilities, Pankaj said: "It was great working with these people. Homi Adajania is a fabulous captain. He takes care of everything. For me, knowing the cast or not did not make any difference as my character knows less of other people even in the film."

The shooting of the film was great fun, he said, adding: "All of them are great human beings and actors."

'Murder Mubarak' revolves around a murder investigation, a non-traditional police officer and several sus-

pects. He steps into their world as an outsider, only to find there is so much more than what meets the eye.

Pankaj shared some anecdotes from the shooting of the film, which took place during winters in New Delhi. The shooting helped make a suitcase full of memories.

"The weather was good. We all stayed together and made a lot of memories. Every day we would sit down with Homi.

He would share Parsi stories and of his childhood, and I would share stories from my childhood in north Bihar," he said.

'Kung Fu Panda' director says he wanted to emphasise timeless quality of film

Filmmaker Mike Mitchell saw 'Kung Fu Panda 4' as an opportunity to direct a story that deviates from its predecessors.

"I've been part of Po's adventure every time and have watched him grow," Mitchell said.

Mitchell added, "I was an executive producer on the third film, and I've always wanted to direct one, but I wanted to wait for the perfect story to tell. This story was a departure from the previous three, which made it a really exciting opportunity to direct."

Mitchell's vision was to reconnect with and rediscover the charm that first endeared audiences to Po in 2008, while also elevating



the thrill and spectacle of the franchise to new heights.

"My goal in any franchise, especially my favourites, is to remind everyone of what made

the first film great," Mitchell said.

"Kung Fu Panda has a timeless quality, and we wanted to emphasise that. We wanted to infuse even more action,

pushing boundaries with new camera techniques not explored in animation before.

Think of cool GoPro-style action, typically seen in live-action

films," he added.

"We aimed to bring that dynamic energy into the animated world, and what better canvas than a 'Kung Fu Panda' film? Our aim was to create the biggest and best installment of this franchise, with a grander scale, more humour and the best action yet."

The film features the voice talent of returning stars Academy Award winner Dustin Hoffman, James Hong and Bryan Cranston.

Oscar winner Ke Huy Quan joined the ensemble as a new character, Han, the leader of the Den of Thieves.

The film will be released in India on March 15 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Julia Roberts is impressed by Ryan Gosling's 'dimension' as Ken



Actress Julia Roberts is all praise for actor Ryan Gosling and said

that his performance as Ken was "remarkable". The actress

spoke about her favourite Oscar-nominated films, while attending an intimate dinner hosted by Chopard. Ryan has been nominated in the Best Supporting Actor category for Barbie and is scheduled to perform I'm Just Ken at the awards. "I met Ryan recently, a few times, and when you bring such a dimension to a performance, it's remarkable," she said. Roberts won an Oscar for Best Actress in 2001 for Erin Brokovich. She understands how much the nominees are going through.

"The craziness, the getting ready. You just have to embrace it all, almost like a sporting event."

Development work for us is a mission to build nation, not to win elections: PM Modi

AHMEDABAD, Mar 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government undertakes developmental works as a part of its mission to build the nation and not to win elections as perceived by some people.

The PM launched Rs 1,06,000 crore development projects for the country at an event in Sabarmati area of Gujarat's Ahmedabad city after visiting the Dedicated Freight Corridor's (DFC) Operation Control Centre near the venue, ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

These comprise Rs 85,000 crore railway projects, including the launch of 10 new Vande Bharat trains, and a petrochemicals complex coming up at Dahej in Gujarat's Bharuch district with an investment of Rs 20,600 crore.

"Some people try to look at our efforts through the electoral lens. Let me tell you that we undertake developmental works as part of a mission to build the nation, not to form a government (by winning elections). We want to ensure that our youth do not suffer what their past generations had suffered. This is Modi's guarantee," the PM said.

Modi said that in the last 10 years, his government spent around six times more amount for the development of Railways than was done earlier.

In just two months of 2024, his government inaugurated and laid the foundation of Rs 11 lakh crore projects, he added.

The PM said the railway sector in the country suffered heavily after the country's independence because the past governments prioritised "political motives" rather than development.

"Earlier, lawmakers used to clap in Parliament over the railway minister's announcement



of giving stoppage to a train or increasing the number of coaches. This was the thinking back then. What would have happened if such an attitude persisted in the 21st century too? That is why the first thing I did was to merge the railway budget with the main Union budget so that the Centre's fund is made available for the development of Railways," he said.

Earlier, it was very common for trains to get late. Everything was left on the fate of the passengers, he said.

Till 2014, only 35 per cent of the railway lines were electrified. The common people were suffering due to long queues, agents demanding commission and hours of waiting to get train reservation, the PM said.

"I know this very well because I started my life on railway tracks," he said.

Modi said his government has shown a strong willpower to pull the Railways out of a "hell-like situation" and this sector's development is among their top-most priorities.

The previous governments did not give priority to the doubling of railway tracks, he said.

Referring to the DFC, Modi said that for decades, there was a demand of separate tracks for goods trains.

It would have increased the speed of both passenger and

goods trains and was also necessary to boost agriculture, trade and export activities, he said.

"But under the Congress regime, this project was either delayed or hit roadblocks. Today, we are inaugurating the freight corridor having a length of 650 km," said the PM.

At the venue, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of railway workshops, loco sheds, electric traction system upgradation work and dedicated to the nation two new sections of the Dedicated Freight Corridor and Western DFC's Operation Control Centre in Ahmedabad.

He flagged off 10 new Vande Bharat trains between Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central, Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam, Mysuru-Dr MGR Central (Chennai), Patna-Lucknow, New Jalpaiguri-Patna, Puri-Visakhapatnam, Lucknow-Dehradun, Kalaburagi-Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru, Ranchi-Varanasi and Khajuraho-Delhi (Nizamuddin).

The PM also flagged off the extension of four Vande Bharat trains.

The Ahmedabad-Jamnagar Vande Bharat is being extended till Dwarka, Ajmer-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Vande Bharat till Chandigarh, Gorakhpur-Lucknow Vande Bharat till Prayagraj and Thiruvananthapuram-Kasargod

Vande Bharat till Mangaluru.

He also flagged off and two new passenger trains between Asansol and Hatia & Tirupati and Kollam stations.

The PM dedicated 51 Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals to the nation. These terminals will promote seamless movement of goods between different modes of transportation, said a PIB release.

Other projects which were launched by the PM included digital controlling of railway stations at 2,646 stations, 35 rail coach restaurants, 1,500 'One Station One Product' stalls to promote local products and generate income for local artisans and businesses and solar-powered stations and buildings at 975 locations.

Modi also laid the foundation stone of the petrochemicals complex of Petronet LNG, including ethane and propane handling facilities of more than Rs 20,600 crore, at Dahej in Gujarat.

The setting up of the petrochemicals complex in proximity to the existing LNG regasification terminal would result in significant savings in the capex (capital expenditure) and opex (operating expenses) cost of the project, said the release.

The project implementation is likely to create direct and indirect employment opportunities for 50,000 persons during the execution phase and job opportunities for more than 20,000 persons during its operational phase, ushering in huge socio-economic benefits in the region, it said.

On the occasion, the PM also laid the foundation stone of Rs 400 crore Ekta Malls in Gujarat and Maharashtra, aiming to support the rich and diverse heritage of Indian handlooms, handicrafts and traditional products.

'China protesting PM's Arunachal visit doesn't stand to reason': Centre

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (Agencies): India on Tuesday rejected China's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh. In a firm statement, Spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, Randhir Jaiswal, said that China objecting to the Prime Minister's visit to the north-eastern state "does not stand to reason".

The government also reiterated that Arunachal Pradesh "was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India".

"We reject the comments made by the Chinese side regarding the visit of the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh. Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other states of India. Objecting to such visits or India's developmental projects does not stand to reason. Further, it will not change the reality that the State of

Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. (The) Chinese side has been made aware of this consistent position on several occasions," the statement read.

PM Modi visited Arunachal Pradesh on March 9 to inaugurate the strategically important Sela Tunnel, the world's longest twin-lane tunnel. China said that its government has "never recognised the so-called Arunachal Pradesh illegally set up by India and firmly opposes it".

Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, made the statement on Monday, while responding to a question about PM Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

"The area of Zangnan is Chinese territory," Wang said.

Wang's remarks reflect China's longstanding claim over Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as 'South Tibet.'

The Chinese Foreign Minister said, "India's relevant moves will only complicate the boundary question and disrupt the situation in the border areas between the two countries."

While India continues to assert its sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh, reinforcing it with developmental projects such as the Sela Tunnel, China has been opposing India's position, viewing such actions as provocations. The Sela Tunnel, highlighted by the Defence Ministry for its strategic significance in ensuring all-weather connectivity and bolstering defence preparedness, is seen by China as an unwelcome assertion of Indian influence.

The latest exchange between the two neighbours underscores the ongoing complexities and sensitivities in their bilateral relations, especially against the backdrop of historical and current territorial disputes.

3 students, standing on bus footboard, crushed by truck in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI, Mar 12 (Agencies): Three students, travelling on a bus by standing on the vehicle's footboard, died on Tuesday after they were crushed by a truck in Tamil Nadu's Chengalpattu district.

The incident happened when the students were standing on the footboard of the private bus, which was plying on the Trichy-Chennai Highway. When the bus reached Sirukanallur, a container truck came very close to the vehicle.

At this time, the three students got crushed between the bus and the truck, killing them on the spot.

Another student has been admitted to a hospital with severe injuries.

Melmaruvathur Police reached the spot upon learning of the accident. They retrieved the bodies lying scattered on the road, and sent them to a government hospital for autopsy.

The police have initiated an investigation.

Centre Approves 6,621 Crore For Strategic Frontier Highway In Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR, Mar 12 (Agencies): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari today said the Centre has sanctioned an allocation of 6,621.62 crore for construction of the ambitious and strategic Frontier Highway in Arunachal Pradesh.

The allocation has been made for the construction of eight packages on National Highway 913 (Frontier Highway), transitioning to an intermediate lane configuration using the EPC mode, the minister said.

The project spans a total length of 265.49 kilometres.

"Encompassed within this initiative are packages 1, 3 and 5 covering the Huri-Taliha section, two packages addressing the Bile-Migging section, packages 2 and 4



managing the Kharsang-Miao-Gandhigram-Vijaynagar section, and package 1 focusing on the Bomdila-Nafra-Lada section," the transport minister said.

The development of these highway stretches holds promise for enhanced connectivity to border areas, fostering socio-economic growth in the state, he said.

The construction of the frontier highway is anticipated to curb migration and facilitate reverse

migration towards the border areas of the state, the minister said.

"Additionally, these stretches play a vital role in establishing essential road infrastructure connecting significant river basins, thereby enabling the development of numerous hydropower projects within the state," Mr Gadkari pointed out.

The greenfield road is designed to link uninhabited and sparsely populated areas of Upper Arunachal, making it conducive to

tourism.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu welcomed the development project, saying that the state is witnessing a new era of connectivity in border areas.

"Gratitude to Hon Union Minister Shri @nitin_gadkari Ji for fresh allocation of 6,621.62 crore for construction of eight packages of NH-913, designated as Frontier Highway, spanning length of 265.49 km. This marks a monumental step towards enhanced connectivity," Khandu said in a social media post.

The greenfield road will usher in socio-economic development, fulfil aspirations of people by creating job opportunities, check migration and increase tourists' footfall, he added.

Call for protests in Assam after CAA notification, Opposition warned of action



GUWAHATI, Mar 12 (Agencies): Guwahati Police has served legal notice to political parties under the United Opposition Forum in Assam and other organisations for their unified call to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act during the state-wide 'Sarbhatmak Hartal' (strike) on Tuesday.

In the notice, the police asked the parties to withdraw the strike or else legal action would be taken should there be any damage to public or private properties, or any injury to a citizen, due to the agitation.

"Any damage to public/private property, including Railway and National Highway properties or injury to any citizen caused due to 'Sarbhatmak Hartal', legal action under appropriate provisions of law including Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984 will be initiated against you and the total cost of damage to public and private properties will be recovered from you and your Organisation," the notice added.

served to Assam Congress President, Bhupen Bora, President of Assam Trinamool Congress, Ripun Bora, Aam Aadmi Party President, Bhaben Choudhury, and President of Rajjor Dal, Akhil Gogoi.

It was also given to the heads of other political parties and organisations, such as the Samajwadi Party, Purbanchalio Lok Parisad, Rashtriya Janata Dal, All India Forward Block, CPI, CPI(M), and Assam Jatiya Parisad.

The legal notice termed such protests "illegal and unconstitutional", and referenced the Supreme Court, Kerala High Court and Gauhati High Court for the same.

Referring to a specific order passed by the Gauhati High Court in 2019, the legal notice stated, "If any organisation calls for an Assam bandh or state-wide road blockade/rail blockade, and enforces the same, first information shall be lodged by the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati city or by any of his subordinate officer whom he may authorise

before the Panbazar Police Station within 24 hours of such bandh/blockade, whereafter written information shall be furnished by the Commissioner of Police, Guwahati city to the Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home and Political Department within 3 to 7 days of lodging of first information with case details."

Meanwhile, in anticipation of potential law and order disturbances in Assam, security has been tightened in the state with additional deployment of police forces. Section 144, which bans large gatherings in a place, has been imposed in Sonitpur district.

All police stations have been put on alert and barricades have been installed in major thoroughfares in almost all towns, including Guwahati, officials said. Patrolling has also been intensified in sensitive regions.

Earlier, Assam Police cancelled the long leaves of its personnel until the election process was over and also

in anticipation of the CAA notification.

In 2019, Assam saw violent protests across the state after the CAA was passed in Parliament. Five people died in police firing and Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) leader Akhil Gogoi along with four others were arrested. It subsequently led to the formation of two new political parties in the northeastern state - the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) led by then AASU leader Lurinjyoti Gogoi and the Rajjor Dal, headed by Akhil Gogoi.

The protests in Assam and across India fizzled out due to the emergence of Covid-19 in India and the subsequent lockdown in the country.

The Centre on Monday implemented the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), five years after it was passed in Parliament. The notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, which is expected to be held between April and May.

The CAA amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to pave the way for fast tracking the granting of Indian citizenship to migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who belong to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Buddhist, and Christian communities and who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, due to facing religious persecution in their home nations.

Three workers dead, one critical as part of under-construction building's scaffolding collapses in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Mar 12 (Agencies): Three workers were killed and one was critically injured after some portion of a scaffolding of an under-construction building collapsed in Mumbai's Borivali suburb on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred at Kalpana Chawla chowk in Soni Wadi area around 1 pm, they said.

"Scaffolding from the 16th floor of a 24-storey under-construction building collapsed, which resulted in four workers getting injured.

They were rushed to Kandivali-based Shatabdi Hospital, where three of them were declared dead, while the condition of the fourth



victim is critical," a civic official said.

After being alerted about the incident, two fire engines were

rushed to the spot along with the personnel of the city fire brigade, police and the civic body, the official said.

US pledges an additional US\$ 100M for multinational force awaiting deployment to violence-hit Haiti

KINGSTON, Mar 12 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced an additional US\$ 100 million to finance the deployment of a multinational force mission to Haiti following a meeting with Caribbean leaders in Jamaica to halt the country's violent crisis.

Blinken also announced another US\$ 33 million in humanitarian aid and the creation of a joint proposal agreed on by Caribbean leaders and Haitian stakeholders that would expedite the creation of a "presidential college."

He said the college would take "concrete steps" he did not identify to meet the needs of Haitian people and enable the pending deployment of the multinational force to be led by Kenya.

The joint proposal has the backing of members of Caricom, a regional trade bloc that held urgent meeting.

"I think we can all agree: Haiti is on the brink of disaster," said Guyanese President Irfaan Ali. "We must take quick and decisive action." He said that he is "very confident that we have found commonality" to support what he described as a Haitian-led and -owned solution.

Meanwhile, Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said the meeting was a work in progress.

"It is clear that Haiti is now at a tipping point," he said. "We are deeply distressed that it is already too late for too many who have lost far too much at the hands of criminal gangs."

Blinken met with Caribbean



leaders in Jamaica in an urgent push to solve the spiraling crisis in Haiti, while pressure grows on Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign or agree to a transitional council.

The closed-door meeting did not include Henry, who has been locked out of his own country while traveling abroad, due to surging unrest and violence by criminal gangs who have overrun much of Haiti's capital and closed down its main international airports.

Henry remained in Puerto Rico and was taking steps to return to Haiti once feasible, according to a brief statement from the US territory's Department of State.

While leaders met behind closed doors, Jimmy Chérizier, considered Haiti's most powerful gang leader, told reporters that if the international community continues down the current road, "it will plunge Haiti into further chaos." "We Haitians have to decide who is going to be the head of the country and what model of government we want," said Chérizier, a former

elite police officer leader of a gang federation known as G9 Family and Allies. "We are also going to figure out how to get Haiti out of the misery it's in now."

The meeting in Jamaica was organised by members of a regional trade bloc known as Caricom, which for months has pressed for a transitional government in Haiti while protests in the country have demanded Henry's resignation.

"The international community must work together with Haitians towards a peaceful political transition," US Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols wrote on X, formerly Twitter. Nichols will attend the meeting.

Concerns remain that a long-sought solution will remain elusive. Caricom said in a statement on Friday announcing the urgent meeting in Jamaica that while "we are making considerable progress, the stakeholders are not yet where they need to be." Mia Mottley, Barbados' prime minister, said that up to 90 per cent of proposals that

Haitian stakeholders have "put on the table" are similar. These include an "urgent need" to create a presidential council to help identify a new prime minister to establish a government.

Her comments were briefly streamed by Caricom, in what appeared to have been a mistake, and then were abruptly cut off.

The meeting was held as powerful gangs continued to attack key government targets across Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince. Since February 29, gunmen have burned police stations, closed the main international airports and raided the country's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

Scores of people have been killed, and more than 15,000 are homeless after fleeing neighbourhoods raided by gangs. Food and water are dwindling as stands and stores selling to impoverished Haitians run out of goods. The main port in Port-au-Prince remains closed, stranding dozens of containers with critical supplies.

Henry landed in Puerto Rico last week after being denied entry into the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

When the attacks began, Henry was in Kenya pushing for the UN-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country that has been delayed by a court ruling.

A growing number of people are demanding Henry's resignation. He has not made any public comment since the attacks began.

Two Russian fuel depots on fire after separate drone attacks



MOSCOW, Mar 12 (Agencies): Two Russian fuel depots were targeted in separate drone attacks Tuesday, regional governors said, as Ukraine launched a barrage of strikes against its neighbour.

Both attacks caused fires at the facilities, located hundreds of kilometres apart in the towns of Kstovo and Oryol.

In Kstovo, about 450 kilometres (280 miles) east of Moscow, a fuel and energy complex was attacked by drones, according to the regional governor.

"Now the special services are working on the spot, using all the necessary forces and means to localise the fire at one of the oil refining installations," Gleb Nikitin said on messaging app Telegram.

"According to preliminary data, no victims." Earlier in Oryol,

about 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the Ukrainian frontier, a drone crashed into a fuel depot and ignited a fire, according to the region's governor.

"A fuel and energy complex facility was attacked. Special services are working on the spot to contain the fire. There were no casualties," Andrey Klychkov wrote on the messaging app Telegram.

Local media reported the attack occurred at around 3:00 am local time (0000 GMT).

According to an emergency services official quoted by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti, a tank containing petroleum products caught fire.

Ukrainian drones also attacked the Russian region of Belgorod, near the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, on Monday night, causing no injuries, according to that region's governor.

"Belgorod region was attacked by the Ukrainian Armed Forces using UAVs, which dropped 4 explosive devices. There were no casualties as a result of the explosions, but there was damage to the power line," Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram.

According to Gladkov, seven communities were without electricity as a result of the attack.

In addition, a drone was destroyed over the Tula region, south of Moscow, according to a regional security ministry quoted by the official news agency.

The governor of the Kursk region, also close to the Ukrainian border, announced that two Ukrainian drones had been shot down by Russian defence forces.

Since the start of the conflict in February 2022, the Ukrainian army has succeeded in carrying out drone attacks further and further inside Russian territory.

On Saturday, Russia claimed to have destroyed 47 Ukrainian drones overnight, mainly in the region of Rostov-on-Don, bordering Ukraine, an attack that may have targeted an aircraft factory among other targets.

Building collapses in Pakistan, 9 dead

MULTAN, Mar 12 (Agencies): A three-storey residential building collapsed in central Pakistan early Tuesday, leaving nine people dead, authorities said.

Rubble from the collapsed building also fell on nearby homes, wounding several people in Multan, a city in the eastern Punjab province, senior government official Rizwan Qadeer said.

He said the dead included four members from a family.



Building collapses are common in Pakistan, where many are poorly constructed with cheap building materials and safety guidelines are

ignored to cut costs. In June 2020, 22 people died when an apartment building collapsed in Karachi, the country's largest city.

Israeli military says about 100 projectiles fired into the country from Lebanon

JERUSALEM, Mar 12 (Agencies): The Israeli military said about 100 projectiles were launched from Lebanon into Israel on Tuesday, a day after Palestinians in Gaza began fasting for the holy month of Ramadan.

The launches were some of the heaviest fire emanating from Israel's northern neighbor since the start of the war in Gaza. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage following the strikes, which appeared to be



in response to Israeli airstrikes deep inside Lebanon on Monday.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt had hoped to broker a cease-fire ahead of the normally joyous month

of dawn-to-dusk fasting that would include the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of much more humanitarian aid. But the cease-fire talks stalled

last week. Hunger is worsening across Gaza and pressure is rising on Israel over the growing humanitarian crisis.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Monday the bodies of 67 people killed by Israeli strikes were brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours, bringing the Palestinian death toll to more than 31,112 since the war began. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says that women and children make up

two-thirds of the dead.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostages. Hamas is still believed to still be holding around 100 captives and the remains of others.

Five months of war have forced around 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people from their homes and pushed hundreds of thousands to the brink of famine.

India Begins Withdrawing Troops From Maldives Amid Strained Ties

Following talks, India and Maldives had agreed to complete a withdrawal of 89 Indian troops and their support staff from the nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands by May 10.

MALE, Mar 12 (Agencies): India has begun withdrawing military personnel operating surveillance aircraft in the Maldives after the new pro-China president ordered them to leave, local media reported Tuesday.

The Mihaaru newspaper reported that 25 Indian troops deployed in the southernmost atoll of Addu had left the archipelago ahead of March 10, the official start of the withdrawal agreed by both sides.

President Mohamed Muizzu came to power in September on a pledge to kick out Indian security personnel deployed in the Maldives to patrol its vast maritime border.

Following talks with New Delhi, the two sides had agreed to complete a withdrawal of 89 Indian troops and their support staff from the nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands by May 10.

Mihaaru said the three Indian aircraft -- two helicopters and one fixed-wing plane -- will be operated by Indian civilian staff,



who have already arrived.

There was no official confirmation from either the Maldivian or Indian authorities, but Mihaaru said the Maldivian National Defence Force confirmed the Indian withdrawal had begun.

Last week, the Maldives signed a "military assistance" deal with China as the Indians prepared to leave.

The Maldivian defence ministry said the deal was to foster "stronger bilateral ties" and that China would train its staff under the pact.

India is suspicious of China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean and its influence in the Maldives as well as in neighbouring Sri Lanka.

Both South Asian island

nations are strategically placed halfway along key east-west international shipping routes.

Relations between Male and New Delhi have chilled since Muizzu won elections in September.

New Delhi considers the Indian Ocean archipelago to be within its sphere of influence, but the Maldives has shifted into the orbit of China -- its largest external creditor.

Muizzu, who visited Beijing in January where he signed a raft of infrastructure, energy, marine and agricultural deals, has previously denied seeking to redraw the regional balance by bringing in Chinese forces to replace Indian troops.

India last month said it was bolstering its naval forces on its "strategically important" Lakshadweep islands, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) north of the Maldives.

The Indian naval unit based on the island of Minicoy will boost "operational surveillance" of the area, the navy said.

Andrew Tate Detained In Romania Over UK Sex Offence Charges

Controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother are awaiting trial in Romania on separate charges of human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal group to sexually exploit women.



BUCHAREST, Mar 12 (Agencies): Controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan have been arrested in Romania over UK sex offence charges, police said on Tuesday.

Romanian authorities said in a statement they executed "two European arrest warrants issued by the UK judicial authorities for the committing of sexual offences, of exploitation of persons on the territory of the UK."

A Bucharest court ordered they be held for 24 hours, police said. Tate -- a self-described misogynist with a large online presence -- is awaiting trial in Romania along with his brother on separate charges of human

trafficking, rape and forming a criminal group to sexually exploit women.

Tate's spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday that the pair was "under arrest", adding that the warrants were "issued by (the) Westminster Magistrates Court".

In June 2023, lawyers for four women threatened Tate with a lawsuit in the English courts over allegations of sexual assault, serving the former kickboxer with legal papers by British law firm McCue Jury and Partners.

The women, now in their late twenties and early thirties, say the offences took place between 2013-2016, when Tate was based in the UK.

A statement from the UK law firm representing them said allegations "including violent rapes, serious physical assault, and controlling and coercive behaviour."

Tate's spokesperson said that Andrew and Tristan Tate "unequivocally deny all allegations and deny what they perceive as an exploitative use of the legal system".

'Govt fails to fulfill promises with J&K UT's OBCs'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Various O.B.C organizations in Jammu & Kashmir express serious concern regarding the implementation of constitutional rights, particularly the promised 27% reservation for socially and educationally backward classes.

"There's dissatisfaction over the failure to fulfill the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speeches in Jammu & Kashmir regarding the allocation of 27% reservation for O.B.Cs, similar to other states in the country," they said.

They highlighted the inclusion of castes such as Gadda Brahmins, Dubdabay Brahmins, Koli, Sunar, and others in the O.B.C lists of Jammu



& Kashmir.

These inclusions are seen as politically motivated and detrimental to genuinely backward communities identified by the Mandal Commission, they added.

They raised concerns about the influence of political agendas on constitutional bodies responsible for identifying socially and educationally backward classes. This

includes allegations that the SEBC commission chairman is not adhering to the parameters set by the Supreme Court in the Mandal Commission Report of 1978.

Despite significant O.B.C voting support, elected representatives from Jammu & Kashmir have allegedly failed to raise the concerns of O.B.C masses in parliament regarding the imple-

mentation of reservation policies and representation in various government bodies, they said.

The demand for the resignation of SEBC commission members is made in light of perceived irregularities and deviations from established norms in the identification and inclusion of backward castes.

They drew attention to the historical processes of caste identification in Jammu & Kashmir, including the establishment of various backward classes committees/commissions and their recommendations over the years.

Kasturi Lal Basotra, Chairman O.B.C Mahasabha, Faquir Chand Satia, President All India Backward Classes Federation, Mohan Lal Pawar, Gen. Sect. OBC Mahas-

abha, Jagdish Kumar Verma, Senior Leader Of OBC Samaj, Manohar Lal Tidyai, Chief Advisor OBC Mahasabha, Darshan Kumar Mehra President Kashyap Samaj, Bushan Lal Verma. Vice-Chairman OBC Mahasabha, Bansilal Choudhary, Convener OBC Adhikar Tiranga Yatra, Kewal Fotra, General Secretary All J&K Sain Samaj, Madan Lal Balotra, Senior Vice-president ALL J&K Prajapati Sabha, Shashi Verma, President Pardesh Vishwkarma Sabha, Raj Kumar Chalotra, Vice-President, Rajinder Kumar Sikka, President All J&K Sain Samaj, Ashok Kumar Kalotra, Balwant Katria, General Secretary All India Backward Classes Federation were present in the press conference.

Congress is only hope for Jammu Kashmir: Kundal

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Mar 12: Former minister and state vice president Congress Yashpal Kundal said that the ultimate goal of PM Modi and BJP is to destroy Baba Saheb's Constitution. We will not let these conspiracies succeed with the dreams of our freedom heroes.

During a meeting organized in Dabuj Shahzada under Ramgarh assembly, Kundal made a harsh statement about the intentions of BJP.

Kundal said that BJP has always been anti-constitutional and now there is talk of abolishing the constitution outright. Kundal explained to the people that the Constitu-



tion of the country gives the citizens the right to live with equality, BJP wants to abolish it and run a dictatorial regime.

Kundal said that Lok Sabha elections are about to come, if BJP is not uprooted from power this time then even their right to life will be snatched away from the people.

Kundal said that people are troubled by inflation and unemployment, farmers are being forced to leave farming due to inflation, but the government is busy in garnering false praise by putting up big boards. Kundal appealed to support Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

"NC stoops low to mislead people"

Omar dragging Ramadan, Ram Temple in CAA unfortunate: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Coming down heavily on National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah for his remarks that "BJP Has Given Ramadan Gift to the Muslims of the Country by Notifying the CAA. We regret it," Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said that the National Conference (NC), as usual, is trying to polarise the society by spreading lies which have no basis and are concocted, misleading, and aimed at gaining back some lost foothold in the political arena.

Raman Suri said that without explaining 'how CAA will affect Muslims,' to the people of the country or to the audience,

whom Omar Abdullah was trying to address, he chose to simply drag the Holy Month of Ramadan and Shri Ram Temple at Ayodhya into the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) subject. This is nothing but National Conference's frustration after collapsed INDI Alliance and People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) besides a failed attempt to gain the lost ground in Kashmir.

The BJP leader said, CAA has been implemented to provide citizenship to six communities including Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who came to India on or before December 31, 2014 from three countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. How and where do the Mus-

lims living in India come into picture with respect to CAA, this Omar Abdullah must explain to the people whom he is trying to exploit or mislead by his vague, manipulative, concocted, and twisted statements.

Raman Suri said, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had time and again said that well-before the general elections, CAA will be implemented, and that is what he did. Unable to find anything wrong with the law, Omar Abdullah is now questioning the timing of its implementation. The NC leader should come clean on the subject whether he is opposed to the law or its timing. Omar Abdullah must also explain how Shri Ram Temple is linked to the CAA and

its timing, or must apologise to the people who are sure to teach him a lesson in the upcoming elections.

National Conference Vice President must understand that whatever BJP promises, it fulfils. CAA, law on Triple Talaq, Abrogation of Article 370 or One Nation, One Law are some of the examples of BJP's commitments, which it fulfilled in letter and spirit. Now that the BJP has said that its going to get 400 plus seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, NC must reconcile to the fact that it is going to happen with the active support of people and on the basis of work that BJP government at the Centre has done under able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Omar Abdullah, Raman Suri added, is living in an illusion and must understand that it is not BJP but NC, which is using religion in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls by using Ramadan and Ram Temple just to debate on CAA, even though these both have nothing to do with the said law. Muslims across the country, especially in Kashmir are appreciating the work done by Narendra Modi, and it is only the National Conference which is trying to instigate them for gaining votes. Saying that by implementing CAA, Muslims have been made a target, Omar is trying to polarise the society as well as mislead and misguide the common people, which is highly condemnable, said Raman Suri.

One-Week Residential Program on "Skill Development in Electronics" starts at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Mar 12: A one-week residential program on "Skill Development in Electronics (Hardware, Software, and Devices)" is started at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, which is scheduled from 11th to 15th March 2024, and organized by the School of Electronics & Communication Engineering. Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Ashish Suri, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Neeraj Tripathi are the organizing coordinators of this program, under the project RP-128, which is funded by the Government of J&K. The aim of the program is to cater to the needs of real-world projects, primarily in the start-up environment. This meticulously designed program stands as an initiative aimed at cultivating technical expertise and elevating the

competencies of professionals within the domain of Electronics. One of the distinguishing features of this program is the opportunity for direct engagement with distinguished professors, industry professionals, and representatives from government agencies. This curated interaction is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive perspective, integrating theoretical knowledge with real-world insights garnered from leaders in academia, industry, and public service. This program has diversity in participation from different parts of J&K and Rajasthan. The inauguration ceremony of the program has witnessed the presence of the chief guest Prof. Pragati Kumar Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha Dean of Engineering, and Prof. Neeraj Sharma expert speaker from IIT (BHU)

Varanasi. Prof. Pragati Kumar Vice Chancellor, focused on the need to think potentially to develop different and unique opportunities for start-ups. Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha stressed the need to enhance skills to cater to the needs of society. Ashish Suri briefed the audience on the importance of the program. The program has expert speakers from premium institutions like IIT (BHU) Varanasi, IGDTUW Delhi, JKEDI, NIT Allahabad, GKV Haridwar, CU Jammu, BBAU Lucknow, DIAT Pune, and industry. The program is designed to assemble theoretical knowledge into industry-oriented projects by doing the hands-on. The program coordinators are thankful to the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University for their Kind Permission to organize this skill development program.

Various Biradaries express concern over encroachment on Children's Graveyard

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: The joint press conference took place at the Press Club in Jammu, attended by representatives from multiple biradaries including Sarayara, Ravidass, Bazigar, Bhagat, and Mahasha Biradari.

The primary concern addressed was the alleged encroachment on a designated children's grave-

yard by erecting a readymade fiber structure. Prior to the press conference, several meetings involving all stakeholders had occurred, where mutual consent was reached regarding the use of the land for the children's graveyard.

However, on March 6, 2024, at midnight, the fiber structure was unlawfully installed in the central area of the children's graveyard.

This act prompted the Biradaries to come together and voice their opposition to the encroachment, emphasizing that their stance was not against any religion or individual, but solely against the actions of land grabbers.

Among the attendees at the press conference were notable figures such as Parshottam Lal (President, Sarayara Sabha,

Bahu Fort), Sham Lal Basson (Ex. Corporator Ward No: 48), Vikas Punia (Gen. Secretary, Sarayara Sabha, Bahu Fort), and others including Bahadur Lal, Diwan Chand, Sham Lal Kalsi, Krishan Lal, Mewa Ram, Rattan Lal, Pritam Chand, Jagdev Raj, Suresh Kumar, Kamaljeet, Vicky Fingotra, Ramesh Lal, Sher Singh, Hans Raj, and Joginder Pal.

FROM PAGE 1

President Droupadi Murmu conferred with honorary doctorate by University of Mauritius

enable many younger Mauritians of Indian origin to become overseas citizens of India and reconnect with the land of their ancestors." President Murmu said at the National Day celebrations of Mauritius in the country's capital, Port Louis, on Monday.

The President also highlighted India-assisted development projects in Mauritius and said that these projects are a testament to India's support for Mauritius.

She underscored the major projects recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mauritius.

On Monday, President Droupadi Murmu also held a "tete-a-tete" meeting with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth to discuss ways to further strengthen India-Mauritius bilateral relations.

President Murmu also presented a RuPay card to Mauritius PM as a special gesture.

RuPay card services were launched in Mauritius on February 12 this year.

As part of a three-day state visit, President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Mauritius on Monday. PM Pravind Jugnauth welcomed President Murmu at the airport with full honours.

MHA launches dedicated portal for refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan,

Bangladesh seeking Indian citizenship

citizenship. All the six minority communities—Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians—persecuted from the three countries, who had sought shelter in India before December 31, 2014, can submit applications in a completely online mode on the web portal named "Indian Citizenship Online Portal".

An application will be submitted to an Empowered Committee through the District Level Committee headed by a designated officer. All documents along with photographs are to be uploaded online and the applications will be processed after a background check by security agencies.

As the CAA is for undocumented people from the six communities, clutch of documents including those issued by Government authority in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh to be uploaded by CAA applicants to get citizenship.

As per rules, the applicant will have to appear in person to subscribe the application and take oath of allegiance, failing which the district-level committee may recommend refusal.

The applicants will have to produce an "eligibility certificate" issued by a "locally reputed community institution" confirming that he or she belongs to "Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian community and continue to be a member of the above mentioned community.

The online application process provides multiple categories under which an applicant can seek Indian citizenship. These include: (i) a person of Indian origin (ii) a person married to a citizen of India (iii)

a minor child of an Indian citizen (iv) a person whose parents are Indian citizens (v) a person who or either of parents was a citizen of Independent India (vi) a person registered as Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder (vii) a person seeking citizenship by naturalisation – an adult registered as overseas citizen of India for five years, and who has been living in India for a year.

The applicant can submit any of the following documents while applying for Indian citizenship under CAA: (i) Copy of passport issued by Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan government (ii) birth certificate issued by a government authority in these countries (iii) educational certificate from a school/college/board or university in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan (iv) identity document of any kind issued by government authorities in these countries (v) residential permit issued by Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or Foreigners Registration Officer in India (vi) any licence issued by government authorities in these three countries (vii) land or tenancy records in these countries (viii) Any document that shows that either of the parents or grandparents or great-grandparents of the applicant is or had been a citizen of these countries. In effect, any document issued by a government authority in Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan to establish that the applicant is from either of these countries is valid for the citizenship process. This applies even if the document is past its validity period.

The applicant will also need to prove that he or she entered India before the cut-off date of December 31, 2014.

The MHA on Monday notified CAA Rules, 2024 removing legal barriers to rehabilitation and citizenship to such persons, and

will give a dignified life to refugees who have suffered for decades.

Manohar Lal Khattar resigns as Haryana Chief Minister amid rift with JJP

Chautala-led JJP as they failed to reach a seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. In the 2019 elections, the BJP had secured all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, and the term of the Haryana Legislative Assembly is set to conclude on November 3.

Vehicular movement restored at Dalwas on Jammu-Srinagar highway

several hours. The officials said due to single lane and poor surface condition the movement of vehicles are going slowly, and advised commuters to follow lane discipline to avoid traffic congestion on the stretch.

Taking to micro-blogging site X the J&K Traffic Police said, "Traffic restored at Dalwas on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. Slow movement due to single lane and poor surface condition of road at Dalwas. Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, overtaking will lead to congestion".

"Moreover, people are advised/requested not ply against advisory/traffic plan in view of possible traffic congestion because of narrow carriage way between Nashree and Banihal on Jammu-Srinagar NHW,"

Three bike-borne persons killed as truck hits motorcycle in Udhampur

the injured, who was in critical condition, was referred to the Government Medical College and Hospital Jammu for further treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries on way to GMC Jammu.

He further said that police have registered a case in this regard and further investigations taken up.

Man Injured in Shell Explosion

referred to Medical College Jammu, they said. Further investigation has been taken up.

Azad Vows Legislative Safeguards for Land, Employment in JK

vowing never to compromise for power like other parties. He reiterated his dedication to fulfilling promises and underscored the pressing need for change.

Azad condemned divisive propaganda and urged the public to unite behind a party with a proven track record of effective governance. He stressed the paramount importance of prioritising development, job creation, and peace, urging a shift away from past experiences of violence and bloodshed.

Celebrating political rights and reminding fundamental duties-this International Women's day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Celebrating women's political rights and reminding fundamental duties was the main focus on the year long International Women's day celebration which began a few days ago here.

In a unique way, women from Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana participated in an awareness programme about fundamental duties and also their rights given to them by the Indian Parliament in the shape of women reservation in democratic institutions like Parliament and State assemblies.

The events were simultaneously held in Akhnoor sub-division of Jammu division and in Faridabad, Haryana on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The year long series of events is an initiative by Center for Social Development and Research Foundation (CSDRF) under its "Empowering Women programme" launched few years ago.



This years women centric awareness programmes started on March 8 will continue till International Women Day, next year.

In this connection girl students from economically weaker sections of society from Bhadkal area in Faridabad were made aware about reservation of women in State assemblies and the Parliament and also their duties towards the

nation and the society as defined in our Constitution.

"This was a unique programme which focused how women can take advantage of this reservation policy and prepare themselves for their role in politics in future", said MK Bhan from Center for Social Development and Research Foundation (CSDRF).

Similar programme was organised in rural areas of Akhnoor sub division, Jammu where the women were distributed material related

to their reservation in Parliament and State assemblies and also their duties towards the nation and the society.

"We have set up 14 centers in Akhnoor sub division where girls are trained in stitching apart from food bank which cater to needs of the needy but this women's day we have introduced a novel concept to generate awareness about benefits of women reservation and reminding fundamental duties", said Sanjay Bhat, Chairman of CSDRF.

It may be mentioned

that this year's global theme on International Women Day was 'Inspire Inclusion' which highlights importance of women's participation in society. Though every day should be focused on women development, but Women's Day serves as a reminder of the importance of gender equality and the need to uplift women across all facets of society.

"It was nice feeling to have joined this initiative which aims at preparing ourselves for playing our role in electoral politics and also reminding ourselves of the Fundamental Duties enshrined in our Constitution", said Lattu Devi of Doh Khalsa village in Akhnoor.

"We, pledge to perform our duties towards the society, nature and the country to make our country super power in every respect", said a participant Sangeeta in Faridabad.

Mass Voters Awareness Campaign held at GHSS Dalhori under SVEEP

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Mar 12: Marking a powerful stride in democratic participation, Government Higher Secondary School Dalhori, Zone Baljarran, hosted an impactful awareness campaign under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

Guided by the adept coordination of District Election Officer Om Parkash Bhagat and the leadership of Prof. Mohd Iqbal Raina, DNO from the District SVEEP Cell Rajouri, the event aimed to illuminate the community about the pivotal role of voting in the electoral process.

Mohammad Ayaz Raina, a dedicated member of the District SVEEP Cell, fervently outlined the objectives of SVEEP and underscored the critical importance of each vote. The resonating theme, "No voter to be left out and mission 75%,"



reverberated through the engaging session.

Comprising Class 12th students, institution staff, supervisors from the surrounding polling stations and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from nearby panchayats, the participants actively absorbed the insights shared during the awareness session.

Ayaz Raina's comprehensive presentation ignited a collective commitment among attendees to propagate the

campaign's message to their respective Panchayats.

The success of this awareness campaign stands as a significant stride toward achieving the mission of a 75% voter turnout, ensuring that no eligible voter is overlooked. The dedication displayed by the participants at HSS Dalhori exemplifies the grassroots strength needed to construct a resilient democratic society.

Army organises medical and veterinary camp at Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Mar 12: Indian Army has taken an initiative to conduct a Medical and Veterinary Camp at Bhalla, Baderwah (As a part of ongoing outreach and helping resident population). The camp was inaugurated by Company Commander, who assured the resident & inhabitants of unconditional and everlasting support of Indian Army to them. A medical team comprising of one Medical Officer, two Nursing Assistants and one Battle Field Nursing Assistant and one Veterinary Doctor from Civil Administration provided the much needed medical cover to the ladies, children, elderly people and domestic animals during the camp. A large number of patients turned up for the medical check-up from the nearby villages. The medical camp was organised by making necessary arrangements



including various types of medicines, medical equipment and facilities for examination of patients. Wide publicity was given to ensure that maximum people avail this opportunity to attend the camp. A total of 278 patients were treated which included 166 gents, 89 ladies and 23 children during the camp. A total of 32 domestic animals

were also treated during the veterinary camp. The resident population were grateful Indian Army for their concerted efforts and assistance in providing medical aid at their door step. Information about Health, Nutrition and Child Care to the parents were also passed in order to spread medical awareness amongst the attendees.

Delhi Toofans stun Bengaluru Torpedoes to open Super 5s campaign

Top News Report

CHANNAI, Mar 12: Delhi Toofans picked up a comprehensive 15-13, 18-16, 17-15 win over the Bengaluru Torpedoes in their first Super 5s game in the third season of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League powered by A23 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, on Monday. Santhosh was named the Player of the Match.

Anand's acrobatics were on display straightaway as the Delhi libero made tremendous saves. But setter Paulo's clever passes to his attackers kept the Torpedoes on level terms. Mujeeb justified his selection in the starting line-up with consecutive blocks on Lazar Dodic, but Santhosh's super serve kept the game wide open. Danial Aponza's impressive showing from the middle edged Delhi ahead in the game of small margins. The game turned into

a battle of middles with Mujeeb and Aayush contributing in attacks for their respective sides. Heptinstall found ways to trouble Delhi's defence finding gaps through Aponza, from Zone 4, as the Torpedoes fought back. A couple of block errors from the Torpedoes kept Delhi's spirits up. A crucial error from Heptinstall in attack cost Bengaluru and Delhi took control.

Anand showcased his setting skills on the night, while Santhosh continued to make solid spikes. Ibin's presence provided the Torpedoes a new option in attack, despite Aponza-led three-man block posing a challenge. Saqlain Tariq's clever passing allowed Delhi to attack from all corners of the court, bemusing the Torpedoes defence. Despite Ibin's fight back, Santhosh closed the game with thunderous spikes, helping Delhi get the win.

ABVP CUJ holds protest against SFI for murder of Siddharth, demands justice



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Central University of Jammu unit today hold a strong protest against SFI for torturing Siddharth, a veterinary student at Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Wayanad, Kerala. Siddharth was found hanging at the university hostel bathroom on February 18.

ABVP State Secretary Akshi Billowria also remains present in this protest and said that this protest is against the communist student organization's brutality against other students.

She said that Siddharth was subjected to a mob trail, where he was stripped naked and beaten with iron rods, belt and wires. She also added that Kerala government is trying to protect SFI goons who mercilessly assaulted and tortured J.S Siddharth and the left liberals are keeping mum in the suspicious and tragic death of the student, this shows how much hypocritical they are.

ABVP CU Jammu unit President Manoj said that the SFI leaders were not happy with Siddharth for dancing with female senior students during a Valentine's Day celebra-

tion. He also said that ABVP had led the protests in the state to force the government to handover the investigation to the CBI and to arrest the SFI leaders and those behind the death of the student. Fortunately, the state government had to concede to the demands put forward by ABVP.

ABVP CU Jammu unit Secretary Abhishek Choudhary condemns the violence perpetrated by the SFI led goons. He said that SFI goons not only murdered Siddharth but also shattered the dreams of his innocent parents and such acts of aggression have no place in our society.

Elevating J&K Youth Talent: JK SDM Contest in Full Swing across 18 Skill Trades with 250 Participants

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Jammu and Kashmir, J&K is known for its amazing artistic and cooking skills, now these skills are getting recognized in the Union Territory (UT) through India-Skills competitions. J&K youth is also actively par-

people to show off their skills, in beauty therapy, Cooking, Graphic designing Fashion Technology, and technical skills like CNC Turning, Cyber Security. The platform provides youth to showcase their expertise and excellence in diversified skill sets nationally and

opment Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

The competitions encompass a wide array of job roles, with the State Level Competition for Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Beauty Therapy Skill Sets recently taking place on March 12, 2024, at CIIT, Government Polytechnic Jammu - academic partners to the J&K Skill Development Mission. Participants from across the UT of J&K engaged in the State Level Competition, a stepping stone to pre-National competitions, National level competitions, and ultimately the World Skills Competitions set to be held in Lyon, France later this year.

Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha said, "JKSDM remains committed to organizing such initiatives, providing opportunities for the youth of J&K. State Level Competitions in 18 skill sets are being conducted at various venues across the UT, where more than 250 candidates will compete to represent J&K in Pre-National and National Level Competitions."

SMVDU Bhangra Team bags 1st Runner up Position at ANHAD '24 hosted by IIT Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Bhangra Hood, the bhangra team of BCA (Board of Cultural Activities) represented Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra in Groove Troops, a competitive dance event held as part of the Annual Techno Cultural Fest, ANHAD '24, organized by IIT Jammu. The team bagged 1st Runner-up position in the event. The team was accompanied by the cultural coordinator BCA, Dr. Ankush Raina and Hostel supervisor, Suneha Sharma. The team comprising of Achint Raj, Manpreet Singh, Manmohan Singh, Shararver Singh, Antriksha Rathore, Stuti, Samriti Bharadwaj, and Hargun Kour showcased their dedication and exceptional talent

on the stage. Bhangra Hood's success at Groove Troops marks a significant milestone in their journey. The team is motivated to continue their pursuit of excellence, aiming to showcase their talent on even grander platforms in the future.

Under the leadership of Dr. Rakesh Kumar (President, BCA), Dr. Kamni Pathania (Vice-President, BCA), Dr. Ankush Raina (Coordinator, BCA) and Dr. Rahul (Coordinator, BCA) the team has excelled in their endeavours. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU extended the heartfelt congratulations to the team for representing SMVDU at a National Platform and stressed upon these types of participations by the students in the near future.

CAA claims to divert attention from electoral bonds: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni, while expressing his reaction on the Citizenship Amendment Act, said that the Citizenship Amendment Act has been implemented hastily to divert attention from the revelations about electoral bonds. Sahni

said that he strongly welcomes the decision of the country's top court regarding electoral bonds and raises questions on the timing of implementing CAA. The implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act just a few days before the Lok Sabha elections indicates an attempt to polarize the elections. Sahni said that the BJP,

which claims to have brought black money from a Swiss bank, has to take the help of the Civil Amendment Act to divert attention from the revelations of electoral bonds.

Sahni said that it will be very interesting to see how BJP leaders in Muslim-dominated Jammu and Kashmir react to CAA "behind the camera".

Army organises lecture on 'Padhega India to Badhega India' Upgradation of Schools at Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, Mar 12: Education is one of the most important instrument for social, economic and political transformation in any society. Indian Army strived to provide quality education to the students of remote under developed area of Marha, Buzliaz and Maniyal of Poonch district conducted various events for upgradation of Schools. The event was organised to spread awareness amongst students about importance and significance of literacy and various initiatives by Government for education. As



part of welfare measure, furniture for students was provided for its overall upgradation. During the events, motivational lectures were also delivered on these matters - To join Armed Forces and importance of Education in Life.' Modalities on guidance, coaching

and assistance for the students and awareness to join armed forces was also discussed. The celebration was overflowing with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. Indian Army once again extended a gesture towards consolidation of military-civil bond.



ticipating in web design, graphic design, software solutions for business, and mobile robotics.

This competition, called India Skills 2023-2024, is happening to make India famous for its skills all around the world. The Jammu and Kashmir Skill Development Mission is leading this effort. In simple terms, the competition is a way for talented

internationally.

The ongoing state-level competitions 2023-24, a collaborative effort between JKSDM, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Government of India, and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), are being conducted with the active support of the Skill Development

After Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar watches Ranji Trophy Final from Wankhede

MUMBAI, Mar 12 (Agencies): Batting great Sachin Tendulkar was at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday morning to watch the Ranji Trophy 2023-24 final between Mumbai and Vidarbha. Tendulkar was joined by former captain Dilip Vengsarkar and Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Chandrakant Pandit at the stands in the iconic stadium as the legendary former players enjoyed the premier domestic tournament final action.

Notably, Sachin Tendulkar's attendance at the Wankhede Stadium comes a day after former captain Sunil Gavaskar cheered for Mumbai from the stands on Monday evening. Gavaskar gave standing ovation to Ajinkya Rahane and Musheer Khan after the two batters hit gritty, unbeaten fifties on Day 2 to steer the home team out of trouble.



Sachin Tendulkar was seen enjoying a cup of Tea even as Musheer Khan and Shreyas Iyer were stretching Mumbai's second innings lead after the 41-time champions lost captain Ajinkya Rahane for 73 in the 60th over.

Only on Monday, Sachin Tendulkar shared a social media post to join in on the celebra-

tions of the 50th anniversary of the Wankhede Stadium, which was hosting the big final.

Mumbai are on course to end their 7-year-long wait for a Ranji Trophy title as they took a 119-run first-innings lead. Despite getting bowled out for 224 in the first innings, Mumbai bowlers, led by veteran fast bowler Dhawal Kulkarni and spinner

Shams Mulani, ran through Vidarbha's batting line-up and bowled out the visiting team for just 105.

It was Shardul Thakur who shone with the bat, playing the rescue act to perfection in the first innings for Mumbai. The home team was reeling at 111 for 6 before the India all-rounder launched a counter-attack. Shardul hit 3 sixes and 8 boundaries for his 75 off just 69 balls as Mumbai posted a respectable total.

In the second innings, Mumbai lost openers Prithvi Shaw and Bhupen Lalwani early, but captain Rahane and young Musheer Khan steered the team out of trouble with a 130-run partnership. Shreyas Iyer looked fluent in the second innings as he was closing in on a quick-fire fifty in the first session on Tuesday.

Nishant one win from securing Paris quota



BUSTO ARSIZIO (ITALY), Mar 12 (Agencies): World Championships medalist Nishant Dev moved within touching distance of a Paris Olympics quota after he registered a dominant victory over Christos Karaitis of Greece to enter the 71kg quarterfinals of the first world Olympics boxing qualifier.

The 23-year-old, who won the featherweight bronze at the World Championships last year, continued his rich vein of form as he beat Karaitis by a 5-0 decision.

With the qualifying tournament offering four quota places in the men's 71kg weight class, Dev needs to win his quarterfinal to seal his passage for the Paris Games and earn

the fifth Olympics quota, and first in the men's category, for India.

However, Dev will have his task cut out as he faces a tough opponent in 2021 World Championships silver medallist Omari Jones of the USA in the last-eight.

The Haryana boxer is the only Indian boxer out of the nine-member contingent who is still in the fray for a quota. The remaining boxers will get a final chance to seal their passage to Paris during the second qualifier, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 23 to June 3.

Four Indians — Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) — have so far secured Paris quotas.

Pant on track for IPL comeback, Shami's return likely for NZ Tests

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (Agencies): Almost 15 months after the horrific car accident, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is well on track to make his cricketing comeback in the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League as BCCI secretary Jay Shah said that the board will declare him fit soon. Meanwhile, Mohammed Shami, who underwent surgery on Achilles tendon in London recently, is back in India and is expected to make a comeback for the home Test series against New Zealand and Bangladesh.

While nothing is certain yet, Shah said that Pant is in the scheme of things for the T20 World Cup if he can get fit and keep wickets in time for the marquee event. However, the final call will be taken by the National Cricket Academy chief VVS Laxman and BCCI medical team head Nitin Patel.

"Pant is doing well and he is batting and is also keeping. In the near future we (BCCI) will declare him fit,"



Shah said. "The door is open for him. Right now he has begun to keep so we are waiting. Our team is accessing his fitness," he added.

This season of IPL will be Pant's first competitive cricket tournament since he suffered a car accident in December 2022. While there have been reports that the Delhi Capitals franchise might field him as a specialist batter or impact player, the decision on how he is eased into action is expected to be made by the BCCI.

Meanwhile, Shami — who has not played any international cricket since the 2023 ODI World Cup — missed the five-Test series against England and is not expected to be

fit in time for the T20 World Cup. "Shami's surgery is done, he is back in India. His return is targeted for the home series against Bangladesh," said Shah.

Middle-order batter KL Rahul, who had a quadriceps injury after the Hyderabad Test and missed the rest of the series against England, is back at the NCA for rehabilitation after a visit with a specialist in London. The Lucknow Super Giants captain is expected to get clearance to take part in the IPL which begins in Chennai on March 22. "KL Rahul needed an injection, he has started rehab and is now recovering at the NCA," said Shah.

Vinesh puts foot down

Wrestler delays women's trials to compete in two categories | Wins in 50kg

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (Agencies): There was drama and despair in Patiala. Vinesh Phogat won the final of the 50kg category trials to win a right to represent India at the Asia Olympics Qualifiers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, next month. She beat Shivani 11-6 in the final. However, more than her skills that were evident, Vinesh's insistence on competing in two weight categories — 50kg and 53kg — left her opponents feeling cheated.

There was drama and despair in Patiala. Vinesh Phogat won the final of the 50kg category trials to win a right to represent India at the Asia Olympics Qualifiers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, next month. She beat Shivani 11-6 in the final. However, more than her skills that were evident, Vinesh's insistence on competing in two weight categories — 50kg and 53kg — left her opponents feeling cheated.

The ad hoc panel comprising Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, MM Somaya and Manjusha Panwar delayed the trials in the 50kg division to try and make her understand. However, she did not budge and the bouts could only begin around 1:30pm when her competitors started to complain about the delay and ensuring confusion.

"This is not the way to con-



duct trials. It was very apparent that the officials were hell-bent on favouring her. We gave our weights at 7am and were made to wait as Vinesh wanted to fight in two categories," said a wrestler who competed in the 50kg class.

"We complained but nothing happened. She got a bye in the first round — how did they arrive at that decision? They fixed my bout against Ankush so that there is one less competitor. They tried to fix Shivani's bout in the semifinal too. This is cheating," she added.

Shivani's coach Vikram Kumar, who runs the Guru Premchand Academy in Delhi, pointed fingers at the ad hoc panel and the referees for making a mockery of the trials. "Bajwa and the referees are acting on the behest

of Vinesh and Bajrang (Punia). They have played with the future of many girls today. I am still trying to find out as to how she was allowed to take part in two weight classes. My girls were told that the ad hoc panel has the discretion to allow it. It looks as if the referees work only for Haryana and the rest of India is nothing," Kumar told agency.

"They tried to make Shivani lose her semifinal bout against Ankush. Shivani had her pinned on the mat but the judge did not permit the referee to end the contest. She won but she was exhausted while Vinesh was given ample time to recover. Vinesh was allowed to throw in challenges to allow her to recover in the bouts as well. I cannot believe they allowed this farce to happen in plain view," he added.

Interestingly, the ad hoc panel in their circular had specifically mentioned that the trials will be held as per the United World Wrestling (UWW) rules. While allowing Vinesh to take part in two weight categories they have kept the rules at bay. Article 7 clearly states that "each contestant deemed to be taking part of his/her own free will, and responsible for himself/herself, shall be allowed to compete in only one weight category: the one corresponding to his weight at the time of the official weigh-in. For categories in the senior age group, competitors may opt for the next higher category than their body weight, except for the heavy weight category..."

'Help' in 53kg While Vinesh was head and shoulders above everyone else in the 50kg category, she was helped by her fellow competitors to stay in contention in the 53kg class. After forfeiting her bout against Nancy, Vinesh then took it easy against Anju to lose 0-10. In the third-place bout, it was Nancy who forfeited in Vinesh's favour.

"All this was done to ensure that she stays in contention for a future trial ahead of the Olympics should the body hold a trial in the 53kg weight class," a coach said on the condition of anonymity.

"I've Been Very Critical About His Batting": Rohit Sharma's Clear Message To India Star

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (Agencies): The India vs England Test series brought several positives for the Rohit Sharma-led hosts. Despite top stars like Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami missing from action, the Indian cricket team was boosted by the presence of debutants like Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel. They gave a good account of themselves along with the seniors as India notched a 4-1 series win in the five-match series. Kuldeep Yadav was one of the standout performers for India. The left-arm wrist spinner was the joint third-highest wicket-taker with 19 scalps. But more than that, it was his batting which impressed everybody.

He has three 25-plus scores, which may not look big, but in terms of its impact left a lasting impression. He struck

crucial stands with India in tricky spots and helped his team.

"We know Kuldeep's got something about him when he bowls. In the last couple of years, he's just come along a long way after he was injured and the way he's come back in white-ball cricket and now you got to see in red ball as well what he can do. He's understood what he needs to do," Rohit said on Jio Cinema.

"He's gone back, worked with his coaches, worked here as well. I see him bowling every time, putting one stump there and just getting that accuracy right. And then, obviously, I've been very critical about his batting. I've been the one who's been pushing him to bat well. Go and work out whatever he can because it definitely adds up when you bat at No. 8 or 9. We know



how crucial it is when you add those runs at the back end.

And he's got the ability to bat and play some shots as well," he added. Rohit was happy with the way Kuldeep Yadav and Shubman Gill batted in Rajkot.

"I'm very happy with his batting. He's played a crucial role with the bat as well. In Rajkot, we wanted that partnership. It was the fourth day, morning, I think with Gill and him batting there.

Although Gill was not quite pleased with that runout.

"But what makes this team quite happy is also enjoying each other's success. Gill was quite happy about how Kuldeep batted when he came out rather than going and criticising him about that run. It definitely adds up to us when he bats like that and he puts runs on the board for us. It gives us another addition to our batting lineup," he concluded.

Damning report accuses Cricket Scotland of prejudice against women

EDINBURGH, Mar 12 (Agencies): Cricket Scotland has plunged into fresh crisis after a damning independent report revealed serious concerns around the sports body's treatment of women and girls who "face a toxic environment and high degree of prejudice".

The British media reported that 'The McKinney Report', an independent neutral assessment carried out by a leading Scottish HR firm, found a "high degree of prejudice towards female staff and players" within Cricket Scotland, adding that "antiquated attitudes and behaviour towards women in the game are still prevalent, particularly at club level".

These findings come barely two years after an independent review 'Changing The Boundaries' found the organisation to be "institutionally racist", on the eve of which the whole Cricket Scotland board

resigned.

The 35-page latest report came out on Monday, prompting Cricket Scotland chief executive Trudy Lindblade to offer an apology and call the findings "completely unacceptable".

The McKinney report analysed behaviours, cultures and practices within Cricket Scotland, both prior to the publication of the 2022 report, and in the two years since.

The new report concluded that women have been "treated differently from their male counterparts" and that "specific needs of women are often dismissed or not considered".

It also found that sexism was "very much in evidence" within the sport in Scotland, while coming up with nine recommendations to address the "deeply concerning" issue facing the sport in the country.

Issuing a public apology after the disclosure, Lindblade said, "This report is a damning indictment of the treatment of female players and staff within our organisation."

She added, "It is evident that Cricket Scotland allowed behaviours to take place that were disrespectful, demeaning and deeply concerning, and that these were allowed to continue for a significant period.

"This is completely unacceptable, and I wholeheartedly apologise to every single person who was affected and let down by the governing body.

"This report also highlights the huge amount of work that we need to do throughout cricket in Scotland to improve the standing of women and girls within our sport."

The McKinney report's nine recommendations, which Cricket Scotland posted on its website, are: 1) A long-term strat-

egy for the women and girls' game that is widely communicated.

2) Modernisation and makeup of cricket club committees.

3) Increased investment in the women's game, including parity on contracts and equal treatment.

4) Rebuilding trust between staff, players, and the Board, with a focus on communication and engagement.

5) Education to address inherent sexism.

6) Establishing a process to call out sexism and discrimination in cricket.

7) Developing a well-being policy and support mechanism for all staff and players.

8) A clear and transparent process to raise formal concerns or complaints.

9) Continue the ongoing engagement and consultation process with staff and the wider cricketing community.

Shiv Sena expresses apprehension over organizing free and fair elections in J&K

Accuses of not providing adequate security to leaders

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12:- Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit expressing doubt over the claims of ensuring free and fair elections with large-scale public participation, without providing adequate security to all the opposition leaders including Shiv Sena and creating no hindrance in the programs organized by them.

Sahni said that facilities like adequate security and accommodation are immediately issued to those in power and the leaders of their "favourite parties formed overnight". But the leaders of



opposition parties, especially Shiv Sena (UBT), are being given step-motherly treatment.

Sahni said that he has been the head of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit for last five years and has made a written appeal to provide security to all the officials from Jammu and Kash-

mir Lieutenant Governor, Chief Secretary, DGP, but he is not being provided security. Sahni alleged that as part of a well-planned strategy, efforts are being made to keep him away from party promotion in Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently they were not allowed to talk to

journalists and hold Jan Samvad Yatra in Srinagar, Kashmir.

Along with this, Imran Shaikh, who recently left BJP and joined their party, is not allowed to go out and promote the party under the cover of security.

Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir being a sensitive area, the shadow of terrorism has been looming here for the last 35 years. It cannot be predicted when and whom terrorists will target in order to maintain their dominance and make their presence felt.

Sahni said that the

dates of elections for the 18th Lok Sabha can be announced at any time, in such a situation, for the expansion and promotion of the party, he has to visit remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir division, but due to lack of security, there is always a fear of some untoward incident. Sahni said that a memorandum will also be submitted to the Election Commission officials regarding his above demands. On this occasion president women's wing Meenakshi Chhibber, President Kamgar Raj Singh, Organizer Imran Shekh were present.

Sculptors Camp by JKAACL commences at Kala Kendra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: An eight days' Sculptors Camp was inaugurated by Sh. Bharat Singh Manhas JKAS, Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) at Kala Kendra, Bikram Chowk, Jammu, today.

While welcoming the sculptors and interacting with the participating sculpture artists, he said that the Cultural Academy aims at providing platform to young artists to come forward in the field of art, culture and languages.

He elaborated that Academy plans to hold such camps from time to time in the regions of Jammu and Srinagar. Senior and young artists participating in the said



camp include Bodh Raj Balgotra, Brijpal Anand, Jasleen Singh, Vikas Dogra, Vikas Khajuria, Arjinder Kumar, Sukhjit Singh Kukkal, Swantantar Bharat, Darshan Singh, Pankaj Kumar, Jagdish Singh Bhabli, and Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

Senior artist and renowned painter Jang Verma, O P Sharma, Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Pun-

jabi & Senior Officer, JKAACL and Irshad Tantray Exhibition Officer, JKAACL also attended the inaugural ceremony of the camp.

The sculptors will create one work each on various themes of their choice during the 8 days sculptors camp of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

Popinder Singh Paras extended vote of thanks.

IIMC Students know the basics of Defence Reporting



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: The students of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Jammu know the basics of defence reporting.

Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor from Times Now talked with students about the challenges of Defence Reporting and elaborate experience and invaluable insights in the field of journalism. He provided precious knowledge and guidance to the eager minds of the students.

The lecture commenced with introductory remarks by Lai Kadyan, establishing an atmosphere of anticipation.

Prof. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director, IIMC,

Jammu and Dr. Dilip Kumar, Associate Professor extended a warm welcome to Pradeep Dutta.

During the lecture Dutta shed light on various aspects of defence reporting and national security, such as the importance of journalistic ethics, character building, and consistency, highlighting their importance in better nation-building and the responsibility of journalists in it. While interacting with the students, he emphasised on the need for passion, curiosity, and a persistent pursuit of truth in their journalistic aspirations.

The lecture involved diverse topics ranging from the role of journal-

ists in shattering myths to the utilization of modern technologies in warfare reporting.

Dutta also insisted upon the usage of KISS (Keep It Short and Simple) way of reporting to achieve objectivity and integrity, especially in the era of deepfakes misinformation and disinformation.

The special lecture also included engaging discussions between the students and the esteemed guest speaker.

Dutta encouraged the budding journalists to seize opportunities, uphold journalistic standards, and strive for excellence in their life. The session concluded with a fresh sense of motivation and determination among the students to excel in the field of defence reporting.

This special lecture is organised by Dr. Vinit Kumar Jha Utpal, Coordinator, Digital Media and Special Officer of Student Welfare, IIMC, Jammu. In this occasion, Dr. Anshula Gurg, Yasir Arfat along with all students of Digital Media, English Journalism and Hindi Journalism were present.

Anti Crime Bureau honours Additional SSP Samba



Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: Anti Crime Bureau, NGO, Chairman Sham Lal Gupta met Tuesday met Additional SSP Samba, Surinder Choudhary.

Gupta told Surinder Choudhary being SDPO R S Pura and SP Samba performed very well his job and worked continuously against the drug peddlers, Choudhary being a big member of the family, he settled many mutual disputes and issues related to the people.

Gupta congratulated Choudhary on becoming as Add. SSP Samba and

welcomed Choudhary with Bouquet of flowers and Presented Shawl of Respect along with Picture of Shree Mata Vaishno Devi to him.

Surinder Choudhary is serving as Additional SSP Samba.

Chairman Sham Lal Gupta said this Honour is for his Hardwork and dedication towards his work.

Gupta was accompanied by Corporator Sahil Gupta (MC Bishnah) and Members Rakesh Chander, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Anchal Devi, Sheetal Devi, Tushar Digra, Rohit Kumar and others.

CII J&K delegation calls on MD JPDCL

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: A three member CII J&K Council delegation paid a courtesy call to welcome Vikas Kundal (IAS) upon joining as the Managing Director of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL). The delegation led by Dr. MA Alim, Vice Chairman of CII J&K Council, also included Sunil Gupta, Managing Director of Mehar Cements, and Khurshid Dar, Head CII Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various issues concerning the industry and extend an invitation to Kundal for a detailed discussion with CII J&K Council members in the coming days to address and resolve these concerns.

During the meeting, the delegation engaged in constructive discussions on a range of issues currently impacting the industry in the region. These issues encompass regulatory challenges, infrastructure requirements, policy matters, and other obstacles hindering the growth and



development of businesses. By engaging with Kundal, the delegation aimed to gain insights into the government's perspective and explore potential avenues for collaboration to overcome these challenges collectively.

Furthermore, recognizing the significance of addressing industry concerns promptly, the CII J&K Council delegation extended an invitation to Vikas Kundal for a comprehensive and detailed discussion with CII J&K Council members. This discussion aims to facilitate the formulation of collaborative strategies and promote a conducive business environment.

Dr. MA Alim, Vice Chairman of CII J&K Council, expressed his optimism about the outcome of the meeting, stating, "The collaborative efforts between industry and government are crucial for driving sustainable growth and development in Jammu & Kashmir and energy and power distribution are critical enablers for business environment of any region".

The CII J&K Council remains committed to facilitating dialogue and collaboration between industry stakeholders and the government to address challenges and unlock opportunities for growth and development in Jammu & Kashmir.

Aryans organizes 17th Annual Athletic Meet

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12: 17th annual Athletic Meet was organized by Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura at its Campus. Students of Engineering, Law, Management, Nursing, Pharmacy, Paramedical, Physiotherapy, B.Ed etc participated in various indoor and outdoor games organized on the occasion.

The whole event was divided into three parts- Indoor Games, Outdoor Games and Fun Games. The Outdoor Games included 100 m and 200 m Races, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin Throw, Discus throw etc. The Indoor Games included Chess Carrom Board and Badminton. The Fun Games included 3 Legged Race, Tug of War, Sack Race, Eating Noodles, Finding Balls in Mud, Potato Race and Fun Cricket.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group motivated the students to work on sports activities for their physical and mental wellbeing. He stressed on the need to maintain a balance between academic and sports activities.

Kataria added that



sports contribute an important role in the development of overall personality of a student. Citing the example of various eminent sports personalities, he encouraged the students to adopt sports as a profession too.

Results of Various Categories: Carrom Board, :Priyanshu; Chess: Yash; Race (Boys, 100m.): Imran Hussain, 1st, Shahid Furqan 2nd & Ghulam Mustafa 3rd; Race (Girls, 100m.): Rukhsana Kausar, 1st, Summaya 2nd, Jyoti 3rd; Race (Boys, 200m.): Abdul Majid, 1st, Zahid Abdulah, 2nd, Parveen Kumar/B. Tech, 3rd; Race (Girls,

200m.): Bandana Yadav, 1st, Rukhsana Kouser, 2nd; Long Jump (boy/girl): Bandana Yadav, Mohd. Imran 1st, Jyoti / Shahid Furqan/2nd Rukhsana Kouser / Alakh Kumar, 3rd; High jump(boy/girl): Bandana Yadav, Shahzan, 1st, Nisha Yadav, Abdul Majid, 2nd, Chitta Kumari, Mohd. Imran, 3rd; Discuss Throw: Dhananjay Kumar, 1st, Utkarsh Verma, 2nd, Alakh Kumar 3rd; Tug of War: Abrar, Aisha, Mobin, Rupali, Prachi, Sammaya; Blow of Balls: Shazan Ahmed Mir, 1st, Deepak Singh, 2nd, Vikas Kumar Sharma, 3rd; 3 Legged Race (girl): Chitta & Nisha, 1st, Neha & Priya,

2nd, Minakshi & Gunjan, 3rd; 3 3 Legged Race (boys): Yash & Raj, 1st; Satish Patel & Deepak Singh, 2nd, Ghulam Mustafa & Zahid, 3rd; Potato Race (boys & girls): Vikas Kumar / Pooja, 1st, Sameer / Amanpreet Kaur, 2nd Mahroof Ahmed / Simran Chopra, 3rd; Sack Race (boys & girls); Bandana Yadav / Dhananjay, 1st, Gunjan / Zubair Gulzar, (2nd, Priya / Ghulam Mustafa(3rd): Eating Noodles: Mohit Sharma, 1st, Deepak Singh, 2nd, Bhuran Hussain, 3rd; Kabaddi: Deepu Kumar Sharma, Imran Hussain, Sanjeev, Dhananjay, Javahar Abhimanyu, Javed.

Hegde's remarks vindicates Congress stand that constitution in danger under BJP rule : Karan Bhagat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Mar 12 : JKPC SC Deptt Chairman Karan Bhagat on Tuesday attacked the BJP over Anant Kumar Hegde's remarks about amending the Constitution, saying such a move would cause "upheaval" in the country and BJP should clarify the matter.

Addressing a press conference in Party headquarter in Jammu, Bhagat accused the BJP of being against social justice and secularism as enshrined in the Constitution and said though many of its leaders and MPs have made such statements in the past, the Prime Minister has remained silent so far.

Bhagat said that BJP was against social justice and secularism enshrined in the Constitution. "This is not a good mindset, this will create upheaval in the country if you want to change the Constitution," he said, hitting out at the BJP. He said, "If social justice is denied to the poor and the oppressed, they will not remain silent." "If the BJP continues to speak with such mindset, the people are watching them, their



remarks, views and sentiments and will decide accordingly in 2024 elections," he said. He said the BJP aims to get a massive mandate only for amending the Constitution according to their needs as their leaders are against social justice to the poor and oppressed classes, and secularism.

Bhagat further said that, "Narendra Modi's silence on BJP MP's statement of 'changing the Constitution' is dangerous. The electoral contest now is between two ideologies!" "Constitution or unconstitutional, social justice or exploitation, secularism or communalism, civil rights or helpless people, freedom of speech or fearful silence, love or hate, diversity or monopoly, just order or dictato-

rial injustice." "Changing the Constitution, India's most precious heritage obtained from the struggle for independence, means pushing the country towards slavery. The decision on the future of the coming generations is now in your hands," Bhagat said. Their attack came after Hegde, at a gathering in Karwar in Karnataka on Saturday, had said the BJP needed a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament to amend the Constitution and "set right the distortions and unnecessary additions made to it by the Congress".

Bhagat claimed that on one hand Prime Minister Modi states that the Constitution will not be changed and on the other hand, he makes his people say that they need two-thirds majority

to amend it. This statement has been made not by any fringe element but a BJP MP, he said. That is why PM Modi says 400-plus seats for the NDA as they want to amend the Constitution, he claimed.

Bhagat also alleged that the BJP has a "forked tongue" with which it conveys two messages -- one for public decorum and the other its "Mann Ki Baat". The BJP believes in imposing duties on citizens, while snatching away their fundamental rights, he said. He said, adding that democracy however is in the veins of Indian society and it will reject these anti-Constitutional forces who look to destroy Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. "If the Constitution is amended according to the RSS/BJP agenda, that will be the end of Parliamentary democracy, Federalism, rights of the Minorities, and the English language being one of the two official languages," Bhagat claimed.

District Chairman Shamsher Chand Bhagat, Dewan Chand, Surinder Kumar, Pardeep Kumar and Sunil Thappa also spoke in the press conference.