

# HEADLINES TODAY

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## Money Collected from Property Tax to be used for Development, Overall Welfare of Common Masses : LG Manoj Sinha

“Hue & Cry Over Nominal Property Tax is beyond Understanding as people in J&K Use Internet Data, Buy Hefty I-Phones”

SKAUST-K, J, to be upgraded to international standards

HT NEWS NETWORK

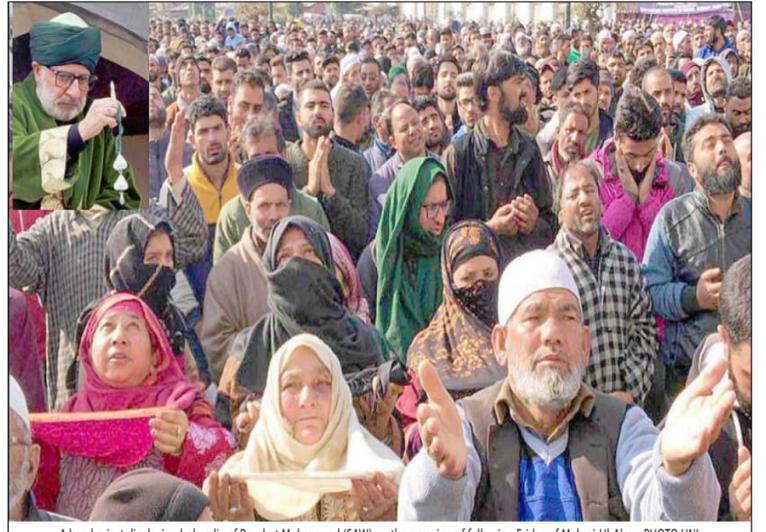
Jammu, Feb 24: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that in the UT, people use internet data, buy I-phones and pay to play videos he wonders why there was a hue and cry over imposition of nominal property tax. He was quick to add that the money collected from property tax will be used to development and welfare of the people.



mu where LG extended Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana ( PM-FBY) to the farmers of all 20 districts of J&K, the LG as per said

that the administration hardly gets the power tariff and water bills paid by the people. “In J&K, people pay to use internet data, buy I-phones and play videos, I wonder why there is hue and cry over imposition of property tax,” the LG said, adding that there will be a push to the GDP in J&K once property tax will be collected. The LG said that SAKUST-Kashmir and Jammu will be made of international standards while food security will comprise proteins as well. On February 22, Jammu and Kashmir administration ordered the imposition of property tax from April 1. In exercise of

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A head priest displaying holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on the occasion of following Friday of Mehraj-ul-Alam. PHOTO UNI

## Juvenile's death: Police arrest 8 accused in Budhshah Nagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 24 Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have arrested eight accused persons in a case related to the death of a juvenile in Budhshah Nagar area of Srinagar on February 15, 2023. “On 15/02/2023 Police Station Chanapora received an information that some shopkeepers of Budhshah Nagar had apprehended some suspects from Sky Park, an under construction building,” a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Upon this a police party rushed to the spot and found the shopkeepers had apprehended one juvenile (Name withheld). While questioning the locals and shopkeepers disclosed that four persons were found on the rooftop of the said building and the other three had fled away from the spot, police said. “The building premises were searched by Police along

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## Make all arrangements for Amarnathji yatra before mid June: CS

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: In its 12th High Level Committee (HLC) meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) attended by the senior officers in Civil and Security establishment Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today impressed upon all the line departments including the Shrine Board to prepare well



ahead of commencement of yatra for its successful conduct this year. Dr Mehta urged all the departments including PDD, Jal Shakti, RDD, H&UDD, BRO, Telecommunication and others to complete the necessary tender-

ing and other contract related processes in the month of April itself. He directed the BRO to clear the snow from roads on both the axis of Chandanwadi and Baltal before end of April so that other departments are able to carryout their activities smoothly. The Chief Secretary stressed on marking the disaster prone areas on both

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## India's bioeconomy poised to touch 300 billion dollars by 2030: Jitendra Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that India's bioeconomy is poised to touch 300 billion dollars by 2030 as it is set to join the global wave of a new industrial revolution. Speaking at the “National Consultation Meeting on Bio-manufacturing to build a Draft Policy Framework on Bio-manufacturing, the Minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to enabling Circular-Bio-econ-



omy by advancing ‘High-Performance Bio-manufacturing’ in the country. “The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) envisages to bring together scientific and technological advancement to wards achieving a major goal of the

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Man Allegedly Hangs Self to Death in Sopore

Baramulla, 24-Feb: A man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself to death in Noorbagh area of Sopore town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday. Officials said that a 56-year-old man (name withheld) hanged himself to death at his residence in Noorbagh. They said that he was rushed to SDH Sopore where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The reason behind his action could not be ascertained immediately, a police officer said adding, that proceedings have been launched in this regard.

#### Minor killed in Kulgam accident

Kulgam, 24-Feb: A 5-year-old girl was killed after hit by a unknown vehicle in DK Marg area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday. As per reports, minor identified as Zaira Hussain daughter of Mohd Hussain Shah resident of DK Marg, was hit by unknown vehicle at lagawpora while crossing the road resulting into critical injuries to her. She was immediately rushed to nearby medical facility where doctors on duty declared her brought dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Police has registered a case in this regard at D H pora police station and further investigations set into motion. While speaking to CNS SHO DH pora Said that the driver identified as Shakir Malik presented himself before the police.

#### JKDMA issues avalanche warning in Ganderbal district

Srinagar, Feb 24 (UNI) Authorities have issued a low danger avalanche warning in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authorities (DMA) have issued a “low danger” level avalanche warning for the people living 2700 metres above sea level in Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours.

People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing in the avalanche prone areas till further orders, a statement of the JKDMA said.

#### Police arrests 2 smugglers with narcotics in Kupwara

Srinagar, Feb 24 (UNI) Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two hardcore smugglers and recovered narcotics from them, believed to be smuggled from across the border, in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. Police said during the intervening night of February 23 and 24, based on specific input developed by

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#### Properties of 3 persons involved in grenade blast case attached in Ramban

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 24: Properties of three persons who were allegedly involved in the militant activities have been attached by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Gool area of Ramban district. According to a notice, the properties include a single-storey house of Abdul Majid Lone at Sesal, a house of Mohammed Farooq, and a chemist shop of Shahdin Padyar. The properties have been attached under the Explosive Substance Act, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 and PDPP Act. “The owners of these persons have been restrained to transfer, lease out, dispose off, change its nature or deal with the said property in any manner without the permission of police or the designated authority,” reads a notice.

The accused, as per police, were involved in a grenade hurling incident at Gool police post on August 2 last year.

#### Teacher suspended for criticising government on social media in Ramban

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 24: A teacher has been suspended for allegedly criticising policies of the government on social media platforms in Ramban district. According to an order, Joginder Singh, teacher GPS Chanderkote was suspended for criticising policies of the government on social media platforms. The teacher, as per the order, has been attached to the office of chief education officer Ramban. An inquiry committee has also been constituted, which will be headed by additional district development commissioner Ramban to probe the matter. “The inquiry committee will initiate an in-depth enquiry and submit a comprehensive report in the matter, along with specific recommendations, by

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## Friday following Mehraj-ul-Nabi (SAW) observed with religious fervor

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, 24-Feb: The Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was today observed across Kashmir with religious fervor while the biggest congregational prayer on the day was held at Dargah Hazratbal. On the occasion, thousands of people including women and children assembled at Dargah Hazratbal where they offered the Friday congregational prayers and also had a glimpse of the Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The Holy Relic was displayed to the people after the culmination of the prayers throughout the day starting from Fajr (morning) prayers which also witnessed a considerable presence of people. For the day, the authorities had put in place the necessary arrangements which included a continuous sup-

ply of electricity as well as drinking water while the medical camps were also set up for the people visiting Hazratbal. The traffic department had, for the day, issued a detailed road plan to avoid the traffic jams and direct the vehicles reaching Srinagar suitably towards Hazratbal. On the occasion, special transport services were kept available for people at various spots. The officials said that several RTC buses were kept available at various spots in Srinagar to facilitate the people reaching Hazratbal on the occasion of the Friday Following. To further prevent the traffic jams, authorities had notified designated parking spaces within the Kashmir University and NIT, Srinagar Campus. Similar congregational prayers were also held in various other shrines and major mosques across Kashmir

especially Asar-e-Sharif, Janab Sahib Soura; Asar-e-Sharif, Shehri Kalashpora; Ziarat-e-Makhdoom Sahib, Khanqah-e-Moula. The management of Dargah Hazratbal said that all the necessary arrangements for the day were put in place and everything was carried out smoothly. “We thank the administration for playing their part and making sure everything was carried out effectively,” the management said. It said that nearly one lakh people who reached here from various parts of Kashmir participated in the Friday congregational prayers while thousands assembled at Hazratbal for other prayers of the day. People on the occasion said Prophet (SAW) embarked on a special journey to meet Allah Almighty, crossing seven skies riding the heavenly ‘al-Buraq’ was a blessing for the world and that they prayed

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#### Civilian shot at in Anantnag, hospitalised

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Feb 24: Militants fired upon and injured a civilian in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday evening.

Kashmir Zone police in a Tweet informed that militants fired upon and injured Asif Ganai son of deceased head constable outside Masjid in Hasanpora Tavela village of Bijbehara.

Police said he was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment, while area has been cordoned off. “Terrorists fired upon & injured one Asif Ganai S/O Martyr Head Constable Ali Mohd Ganai outside mosque in Hasanpora Tavela area of Bijbehara #Anantnag. He was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment.

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## LG has no Authority to Decide Tax Imposition, Only Elected Government can Decide So : Gh Nabi Azad

HT NEWS NETWORK | (UNI)

Srinagar, Feb 23 (UNI) Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) President Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday said that a Governor cannot impose the property tax on the people, and only an elected government can decide it. Talking to media persons in Srinagar here on Friday the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Azad said that only the elected government is eligible to decide

any tax on the people and it is not the job of a governor. “Governor whether it is in Congress rule, Bharatiya Janata Party or any other rule is a temporary arrangement and just to look after the affairs of the state that too not permanently”, Azad said. He said even it is impossible for the elected government too to decide to impose such taxes on the public. “If my government will come to power today will think ten times



about imposing of tax on the peo-

ple who will bear it”, he said He said Jammu and Kashmir is struggling for the past 33 years due to militancy and more than one lakh children have been killed and hundreds of daughters here have become widows. He said that no tax should be imposed on the people of Jammu and Kashmir by now.

The DPAP President said that for the past nine years, no elections have been conducted in Jammu

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## India Today Tourism Survey and Awards announced After a pat at SATTE, J&K Tourism wins best adventure tourism destination award

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24: The India Today Tourism Survey has chosen J&K Tourism for best adventure tourism destination award. The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal yesterday at a glittering function after the results of the survey were announced. The award has been given to the Tourism Department in recognition of its sustained efforts in promoting Gulmarg as an adventure destination of international order.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Meghwal highlighted the value of tourism in contributing to the GDP of the country. He said Tourism can increase all the three components of the GDP—



consumption through domestic travel, investment through the booming private sector and exports through the sale of locally made handicrafts and products to foreign tourists. In his address, Union Tourism Secretary, Arvind Singh gave an overview of the steps being taken by the Union Government to fur-

ther improve the tourism sector. Editor, India Today Group, Raj Chengappa welcomed the participant States and UTs and gave a broad outline of the survey. The award was received by Deputy Director, Tourism, Alyas Ahmad on behalf of the Department. Ministers from Uttarakhand

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## PMFBY extended to farmers of all 20 J&K districts ‘Saffron, Paddy, Maize among major crops covered under this insurance scheme’

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, Feb 24: In a significant move towards welfare of the farmers, the government has extended Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to the farmers of all 20 districts of UT of J&K. Speaking at the launching event of the extension of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana at SKAUST Jammu, the Lt Governor said that the scheme will provide comprehensive coverage against crop losses arising out of natural calamities and unseasonal rains. “The initiative will stabi-

lize the income of farmers, encourage them to adopt innovative practices with sufficient insurance protection from climatic catastrophe. I urge all the farmers to avail the benefits of PM Fasal Bima Yojana,” said the Lt Governor. It is pertinent to mention that PMFBY launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to secure hardworking farmers from the vagaries of nature was earlier available to only four districts of farmers. The Lt Governor noted that the implementation of PMFBY across the UT will have a positive impact on the agricultural scenario

in Jammu Kashmir and also complement the efforts of UT Administration in creating a progressive environment. Proper dissemination of relevant information and transparency in the implementation of PMFBY will be ensured. Crop insurance mobile app, Toll free number of the insurance company will facilitate the farmers to report about the losses, the Lt Governor added. The Lt Governor also highlighted the agriculture reforms introduced in the J&K UT in the past 30 months.

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## Labour Department Ramban provides Rs 13.50 lakh injury compensation to construction worker

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 24: The Labour Department Ramban today awarded an injury compensation of Rs 13.50 lakh to Satish Chand Sharma, who was working with the Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.

Satish Chand Sharma, a resident of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh suffered an injury on his leg during the course of employment which exacerbated to permanent disability in 2018. The injured was working in J&K since 1997 for a span of over 20 years till 2017.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ramban Dr Sushant Mahajan, handed over the cheque of compensation amount to the worker under the building and other construction workers welfare scheme which aims to provide financial assistance to workers in the construction sector.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner also interacted with the family of the injured person, expressed his grief over the incident and motivated the injured to pursue a positive approach for the future. He also emphasized the importance of providing adequate support to workers in the construction sector.

Dr Sushant Mahajan also highlighted the various initiatives taken by the government to ensure the welfare of workers in the construction sector, including the provision of health and safety measures at worksites and the establishment of a database of registered workers to ensure that they receive timely and adequate support. Dr Sushant Mahajan also highlighted the various initiatives taken by the government to ensure the welfare of workers.

# Saurabh Bhagat inaugurates week long mega solar expo in Jammu

## Says event will immensely help towards promoting benefits of rooftop solar power plants

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, today inaugurated a week long mega Solar Expo at Rail Head, Bahu Plaza here. The expo being held from February 24 to March 2, 2023, is being organized by J&K Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) in collaboration with multiple vendors of RE industry and other line departments of Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary inspected the stalls established by various vendors and also interacted with them regarding their solar equipments and services.

He advised JAKEDA to procure such devices for display in the Science Centers being established by S&T department.

Saurabh Bhagat appreciated JAKEDA for organizing the expo saying that the initiative will immensely help in raising awareness among the people about the benefits of rooftop solar plants.

He reaffirmed that the UT government is committed to provide all support to vendors and the people while asking people to get maximum benefit from the scheme.

He asked JAKEDA to organize more such awareness camps and expos across other areas of Jammu city so that people



would know about rooftop solar plant and its financing pattern and scheme. Commissioner Secretary also apprised of various benefits being extended by the Union Ministry of

New and Renewable Energy and Government of Jammu and Kashmir under Grid Connected Rooftop Solar (GCRT-SPV) and PM-KUSUM schemes. He informed that under

GCRT-SPV, which entails a collective subsidy of 65 per cent, the Domestic Consumers of DISCOM's can offset their monthly electricity bills under Net-Metering mechanism

and under PM-KUSUM scheme which is primarily meant for upliftment of farmers. The farmers can install subsidized Solar Powered Pumps upto 10 HP capacity, for irrigation of their farmlands with a choice of AC/DC surface and submersible pumps. He added that the project is also expected to provide employment opportunities to around ten thousand youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural event was attended by Pankaj Mangotra, Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA), Dr. P. R. Dhar, CEO JAKEDA, officers from Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department, Engineers.

## 10 goats, bull charred alive in mysterious fire in Poonch

M S Nazki

Poonch, Feb 24 Ten goats and a bull were charred to death in a mysterious fire in cattle shed overnight in Mendhar area of Poonch district, reports and officials said on Friday.

They said the fire erupted in the cattle shed of one Naseem Begum wife of late Karamat Hussain Khan in Ward No. 05 in Panchayat Takia Kalabara area of the district around midnight. By the time the blaze was controlled, ten goats and a bull were charred alive.

Confirming it, a police official told HT that the investigation into the cause of the fire is being investigated. The fire has meant that the "poor" widow has lost all her wealth and sources of income, the locals said and urged authorities to provide immediate compensation to her.

## 57 officials of IRP Zone Jammu granted Insitu Promotion

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: In terms of SRO 14 of 1996 dated: 15-01-2016, Deputy Inspector General, (DIG) IRP Jammu has granted Insitu promotion to 57 Police Personnel, including Head Constables and Selection Grade Constables of various Battalions of IR Jammu Zone with nine year service and a clean record.

The promotion has been granted on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee constituted for the purpose. The Committee cleared the promotion of (9) Head Constables and (48) SG Constables who will get the next higher scale of pay in their respective rank.

The DIG congratulated the promotees and their families on these well deserved promotions and asked the personnel to work with more dedication and commitment to achieve the organizational goals. She insisted upon the personnel to perform duties with added zeal to win laurels for the force, particularly in view of varied challenges that the society as well as in J&K, U.T comes across.

## DC Kishtwar approves 12 Rent Assessment Cases

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 24: The District Rent Assessment Committee, which met here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav approved 12 rent cases.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, Army, Higher Education, Youth services and Sports, FCS&CA, Education, ICDS, Social welfare, ISM, ITI Paddar, RDD besides Health department were approved by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of various structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kishtwar Khalil Ahmed Poswal (KPS), ACR Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACP Zakir Wani, District Social Welfare officer, Zubair Ahmed; AD FSC&CA ; CDPO/DIO Dr. Kuldeep Kumar besides the concerned district officers, BDOs and representatives from Army.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure safety of the Government/rented property.

In the meeting, 9 cases were deferred after verification and concerned officers were directed to re-verify the pending cases and submit the same in the next meeting.

## No Chemicals, Hazardous Material found in Chatroo River: Water Quality Parameter Report

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 24: The Water Quality Parameter Report of the State Water Testing Laboratory Narwal Jammu for the Chatroo River - a Chenab Tributary has stated that its waters do not contain any chemicals or hazardous material.

The water samples of the river were lifted for testing a few days back after the colour of the ravine water changed suddenly, sending a wave of apprehension among the locals.

"The water samples collected from incidence sites by the Jal Shakti department Kishtwar to verify for presence of any impurity or chemicals have been found normal and having no added chemicals or hazardous impurities," the report stated.

It is pertinent to mention here that in winter the landslides and the avalanches occur frequently alongside the river and at the source points which is also the cause for discoloration and foaming of water in the rivers and Nallahs. "The high flow in the river at the Mughalmaidan and other parts of the Chatroo may be the cause of the discoloration of water", said the Jal Shakti department. The department has advised the General public not to fall prey to any fake news in this matter. No aquatic bodies (fish) were affected in the river water during the said incidence and the water is normal. The department has advised the General public not to fall prey to any fake news in this matter. No aquatic bodies (fish) were affected in the river water during the said incidence and the water is normal.

## Implementation of District Environmental Plan reviewed at Doda

DODA, FEBRUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan today reviewed Implementation of District Environment Plan (DEP) at a meeting of District Environment Committee (DEC) held here in his office chamber at DC Office complex.

At the outset, the DC asked the DEC members to regularly attend the Committee meeting on last Thursday of every month and submit the action taken report on the decisions taken in the past meetings as per the guidelines of NGT.

On the issue of disposal of Bio medical waste (SO-710), the CMO was asked to ensure functioning of STP at Bhaderwah hospital and communicate in writing to the higher authorities for setting up STPs/ETPs at Gandoh and Thathri hospital. The DMO informed the committee that the department seized 8 vehicles involved in illegal mining last month. DC ordered for joint checking of construction and demolition waste by MVD, Geology and Mining, Traffic Police and Pollution Control Committee and asked them to submit the action taken report weekly to the ADC Doda.

The Forest Division apprised that the department has planted more than 2 lakh plants, for which the DC directed to submit the geotagged photographs of the enclosures.

He instructed Div Officer PCC & EO



MCs to ensure total ban on use of single use plastic below 120 microns in the district. He asked to establish Joint Naka at Km 9 near Assar to plug the entry of single use plastic below 120 microns into the district.

ACP, ACD and BDOs were asked to monitor collection and disposal of single use plastic and other kinds of Wastes in their respective jurisdictions.

On the information of seizure of 116 Kgs of plastic by Divisional Officer PCC, DC expressed that the seizure must have been more to send a message across the society that use of the banned plastic is not allowed in the district.

## Kathua: Vice Chairman DDC distributes Prosthetic Aid, appliances under ADIP scheme

KATHUA, FEBRUARY

24: Social Welfare Department Kathua, in Collaboration with Artificial Limbs Corporation of India (ALIMCO), today organized a prosthetic aid Distribution camp under Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme here at Day Care Centre district headquarters Kathua. Vice Chairman, DDC Kathua Raghunandan Singh presided over the proceedings of the camp. DDC Member Keerian Gandyal, Dr Shave-ta, DSWO Kathua Abdul Rahim, TSWO Kathua Vishav Bandhu Sharma, Field Officer ElderLine Shaish Pal Singh, Dr Amit and Dr. Avneesh from ALIMCO were also present in the camp.

During the camp, identified beneficiaries of Kathua, Keerian Gandyal and Nagri blocks were given prosthetic aid material, artificial limbs, smartphones for blind and other appliances including



Wheelchairs, Tricycles, Hearing aids, clippers; walking sticks etc.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice Chairman said efforts are being made to facilitate specially abled persons by promoting their physical, social, psychological rehabilitation. He said the enhancement of the monthly pension to Divyang Jan is under consideration by the government.

DDC Member Keerian Gandyal said the prosthetic aids given to Divyang Jan will help in easing out their lives.

Earlier awareness on the registration process for issuance of Age Certificate, Elder line and other welfare schemes run by the Social Welfare Department was also imparted among the participants by the representatives of Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO.

Pertinently, the Social Welfare Department, Kathua and ALIMCO is holding camps on 25th February 2023 at PWD Guest House, Basohli for beneficiaries of Basohli, Dhar-Mahanpur, Mahanpur and Sheetal Nagar blocks. Likewise,

## Famed Askini Bhaderkashi Utsav starts at high note in Bhaderwah Maj General GOC-CIF (D) Ajay Kumar inaugurates 2 day festival

Virgin Valley being promoted as perennial tourist destination: DC Doda

BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 24: The famed Winter Carnival 'Askini Bhaderkashi Utsav' started today here in Jai Valley amid snow-clad mountains and enchanting scenery under the sparkling skies.

The 2-day Utsav was thrown open by Major General Ajay Kumar GOC, CIF (D) along with Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan and other dignitaries.

Enthralling cultural and musical performances by popular artists and singers from within and outside Jammu and Kashmir mesmerised the tourists.

Renowned Singer, Kabul Bukhari performed live and enthralled the audience with his melodious voice. Local artists also performed and hypnotised the visitors. Diku Dance, Kan Chouth, Local fashion show, Lath Show, local Wrestling, Snow Cricket and other fun activities kept the people engaged. A talent hunt compe-



dition for local artists was also held during the day-long activities.

The Annual Winter Festival is being organised in Bhaderwah

for the last many years and is one of the biggest annual events of the District's tourism calendar.

The two day Utsav is being

organised by Tourism department, in collaboration with BDA, District Administration, and Indian Army 4RR under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to

expose the tourists to a confluence of Bhaderwahi and Doda's ethnic arts, crafts, cuisines, and engage them in fun activities besides entertaining them with performances by various Celebrity Artists. Large number of tourists from all over India thronged the meadows of Bhaderwah.

The DC Doda said that Bhaderwah is being developed as a round the year tourist destination. UT administration and District administration is taking care of establishing world class infrastructure to attract the tourists and give them never before experience for hospitality and natural beauty.

Major General Ajay Kumar expressed immense pleasure seeing the charm of Jai Valley and arrangements made by the administration and Indian Army. He said that peace along with better infrastructure, connectivity and quality hotels are prerequisite for tourists attraction and the Administration is working on all these parameters to make Bhaderwah one of the world class tourist places in near future.

## Property Tax a progressive reform, lowest in the country, will improve infrastructure, services: DC Jammu

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner Jammu chaired a meeting with all stakeholders including the Presidents, Vice Presidents & Executive Officers of all seven Municipal Committees and their market associations to create awareness and answer queries regarding implementation of Property Tax in JK UT. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner General besides other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

The meeting was convened to curb the misinformation being spread regarding property tax in which the Deputy Commissioner gave them a detailed power-point presentation about the truth and facts about the property tax.

The Deputy Commissioner said that J&K is the last UT to implement the reform with minimum financial implications on the common masses. She informed that residential houses/apartments with built up area upto 1000 sqft, religious institutions and agricultural



land have been exempted from paying any property tax. She added that this tax is to be levied on annual basis and not monthly & shall be deposited in the bank accounts of respective ULBs which shall further be utilised by the elected body of ULBs to carry out developmental works & improve infrastructure and service delivery. She emphasized that the tax is progressive in nature with minimum implications to small households and business establishments and that it will also help generate local employment through innovative means within the urban region.

## Kathua: Youth invited to join NYK as volunteers under National Youth Corps scheme

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 24: Jammu and Kashmir Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Sangathan has invited young persons, between the 18 to 29 year age as on 1st April 2023, for engagement as national youth volunteers on honorarium basis in Kathua district under National Youth Corps scheme.

These young people will be deployed to channelize their energies and capabilities towards nation building by organizing them into volunteer groups. They will be entrusted with the task of organizing campaigns/awareness programmes about health, literacy, sanitation and other social issues and may also be called upon to assist the administration during emergency or implementation of various programmes.

Under the scheme, candidates possessing a 10th pass certificate will be eligible to apply. However no regular student can apply for NYC volunteerism. The

deployed volunteers will be paid an honorarium of Rs. 5000 per month. "This is neither a paid employment nor confers any legal right to claim employment with the government" NYK said.

Interested youth can visit the department's website: nyks.nic.in for further details of the scheme, application proforma.

The Hard copy of the submitted application along with Document proof should be submitted in the office of District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra Kathua, Near RMC Hr Sec School, Patel Nagar, Kathua.

For any queries, Youth may also contact District Youth Officer Udhampur at 9906249020 to take queries of Jammu division applicants. The Hard copy of the submitted application along with Document proof should be submitted in the office of District Youth Officer, Nehru Yuva Kendra Kathua.

## DC Kupwara chairs coordination committee meeting, press conference clears misinformation regarding property tax

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray today assured the people of Kupwara district that the confusion created regarding Property tax is totally baseless and being propagated to mislead the public. He said that about 70 percent people in Kupwara, Handwara and Langate towns do not fall in the property tax category and added that those who fall in the tax category, shall have to pay a small amount, starting from Rs150, that too annually.

The Deputy Commissioner was addressing a presser at Kupwara, after holding a joint coordination committee meeting at Administrative Complex, here.

The Deputy Commissioner convened a joint meeting of Officers and all stakeholders of Kupwara, Handwara and Langate towns including Presidents of MCs, Ward Members, Bar Association, Civil Society Members and media to clear the confusion created by some social media platforms with regard to implementation of Property Tax.

The SSP Kupwara Yougal Manhas, SP Handwara Sheema Nabi, ADC Kupwara Gulam Nabi Bhat and other concerned were present in the meeting.

The participants were briefed by the the Deputy Commissioner and other con-



cerned through PowerPoint Presentation and the clear picture regarding Property

tax was given out in the meeting.

During the discourse of meeting, it was stated that there would no tax on any small house upto 1000 square feet. There would be meager tax for those people who have houses beyond 1500 square meters. Likewise there would also be a meager calculation of tax on small business establishment.

It was also cleared that the tax amount would be used entirely for local area development in the same ward or area where from it is collected.

All the stakeholders present in the meeting also spoke on the occasion and assured the administration that they have understood the facts regarding the property tax. They have also assured Deputy Commissioner of full support from the people of all the 3 Municipalities.

The Deputy Commissioner also had a press conference in this regard and assured people that the confusion created regarding Property tax is baseless and being propagated to mislead the people. Deputy Commissioner cleared that the about 70 percent people in Kupwara, Handwara and Langate towns do not fall in the property tax category. He added those who fall in the tax, shall have to pay a small amount, starting from 150, that too per annum.

## Shri Ajaz Ahmad Zargar-JKPS assumes charge as SSP Awantipora

Awantipora February 24: Shri Ajaz Ahmad Zargar-JKPS assumed the charge as Senior Superintendent of Police Awantipora. On his arrival at District Police Lines Awantipora, the new SSP Awantipora was received by SDPO Awantipora, SDPO TRAL, SDPO Pamore, DySP DAR Awantipora among other officers.

The new SSP was presented guard of honor by the contingent of Jammu & Kashmir Police of Police District Awantipora.

After assuming the charge, SSP Awantipora convened an introductory meeting with Police Officers of Police District Awantipora and impressed upon the officers to work with dedication and zeal to full-fill the aspirations of the people.

## Police seizes illicit timber in Baramulla, 3 arrested

Baramulla February 24: Police in Baramulla have seized illicit timber and arrested 3 accused persons involved in the commission of crime.

A police party of Police Station Uri under the supervision of SDPO Uri Shri Showkat Ali-JKPS arrested three persons identified as Mohd Rafiq Poswal son of Umer Din, Ishityaq Ahmad Thakria son of Mohd Sageer & Ab Hamid Paswal son of Mohi-u-Din, all residents of Gowhallan and recovered illicit forest timber measuring about 45 CFt from their possession at Gowhallan Uri.

Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri and investigation has been initiated.

Our consistent actions against anti-social elements should re-assure the community members that we are making every effort to keep our society free of crime. Police has resolved to act as per law against those who indulge in criminal activities.

## ARTO Ganderbal blacklist 20 vehicles in Ganderbal.

SULIMAN SAITH

Ganderbal Feb 24th: A team of the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) headed by ARTO Ganderbal Wajahat Qayoum today blacklisted 20 vehicles for violating Traffic rules including Overloading, Overcharging of fares, playing without SLD, and other violations.

The action against the erring was taken during checking carried out by the team. Vehicles plying on various routes in Ganderbal were checked. ARTO Ganderbal said that MVD shall act sternly against rules violations concerning speed-limiting devices, extra fittings, unauthorized modifications.

He added that the inspections by the Motor Vehicles department would continue and shall be intensified in near future across the district.

ARTO also said that the Motor Vehicles Department Ganderbal had already suspended multiple route permits and driving licenses.

## Chadora family seeks probe into the mysterious death of young man

Budgam, Feb 24, KNT: A family from Chadora town of Central Kashmir's Budgam district Friday appealed to the police to solve the case of the mysterious death of their loved one and arrest the guilty without any delay.

Pertinently, Sameer Ahmed Bhat son of Manzoor Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Dharambagh Kralpora area of Chodura died at Sub District Hospital Chodura in mysterious circumstances.

Parents of Sameer in a letter have claimed that Sameer was carrying Rs 2500 which he was intending to give a man for business purpose when he left the house to offer late afternoon prayers at a local mosque.

"We were surprised when being informed that the dead body of Sameer is lying at SDH Chadora. The cash he was carrying was missing. He was brought to the hospital by his two friends. We appeal to the police to investigate the matter so that reality comes to the fore," the letter addressed to SHO reads.

The family said that they don't know how Sameer died but want the police to investigate the matter. "Sameer was the father of two kids including a baby 40 days old. He left home hale and hearty only to return dead," they said adding that if his two friends took him to the hospital why they didn't inform the family and left the hospital without talking to anyone? [KNT]

## Chairperson DDC Ramban kick starts work on Rs 6.33 crore PMGSY road project, Rs. 3 crore JIM tube well project in Subdivision Gool

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 24: Chairperson District Development Council, Ramban, Dr. Shamshad Shan today conducted an extensive tour of sub Division Gool to listen to the issues of the general public besides reviewing the development scenario of the area.

The Chairperson kick started the up-gradation work on 6.1 km Faridabad to Hara via Moila road under PMGSY phase- III estimated to cost Rs 6.33 crore. AEE, PMGSY, Naveed Aslam and PRIs were also present on the occasion.

Launching the construction work on the Rs 3 crore Jal Jeevan Mission Tube Well project at Dharam, the Chairperson said that about 7000 souls will be benefited with the completion of this major project.

Dr. Shan informed that a successful trial run of Bus has been conducted between Dharam to Gool to restore vehicular connectivity to Gool with district headquarters. She also communicated the OC 52 RCC (GREF) to start work on a 500 metre stretch damaged at Duskar for immediate restoration and pave way for seamless traffic on Ramban-Gool Road.

## DC Kishtwar briefs press about rollout of Property Tax within municipal limits

KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 24: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav today gave a detailed account of the property tax rolled out by the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in the areas falling in Municipal areas on the lines of the rest of the country.

Addressing a press conference, he stated that people need not to be worried about newly introduced property tax as it is for the benefit of the residents of Municipal areas because the same will make the Municipal Council (Committees) self-reliant to create better infrastructure, construct new parks and playgrounds and maintain existing facilities.

He informed the media persons that the best part is that the collected funds shall be at the disposal of local bodies/councilors.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir is one of the last States or UTs in India to levy a property tax and the rates are reported to be lower than in its neighboring states.

Furthermore, he disclosed that the amount of taxes payable by residents



as calculated by Municipal Council authorities in the Kishtwar town is very nominal which will not be a burden for the common people rather will enhance the scope of infrastructure development in the municipality in addition to the funds available.

While briefing the media persons, the Deputy Commissioner further said that as per the new tax formula, residential properties with an area of up to 1,000 sq ft will be exempted from property tax. Residential properties with a built-up area of up to 1,500 sq ft will be given concessions and relief for different categories of houses.

Responding to queries of media persons, he in-

formed that the property tax can be paid in two equal installments and that it would not be levied on religious places within municipal limits or for residential buildings in rural areas. Addressing a press conference, he stated that people need not to be worried about newly introduced property tax as it is for the benefit of the residents of Municipal areas because the same will make the Municipal Council (Committees) self-reliant to create better infrastructure, construct new parks and playgrounds and maintain existing facilities. He informed the media persons that the best part is that the collected fund.

## J&K Bank wins top award at MSME Banking Excellence Awards 2022

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24: J&K Bank has emerged winner as Best MSME Bank, MSME Friendly Bank, Govt Schemes Implementing Bank, Best Branding Bank and Best Bank for Implementing COVID Schemes at a function of MSME Banking Excellence Awards - 2022 that was organized by Delhi-based Chamber of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CIMSME).

Accompanied by General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen and Zonal Head (Delhi) Rakesh Magotra, Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash received the prestigious award at the hands of Chief Guest and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat under 'Private Bank' category at a high profile event held on Thursday evening in New Delhi. Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner Union Ministry of MSME, Dr Rajneesh and President (CIMSME) Mukesh Mohan Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, MD Baldev Prakash said, "It is really a momentous occasion for us to have been conferred with all



these prestigious awards under different categories of excellence at the august hands of honourable union minister in presence of bankers and industry notables from across the country. And I feel proud to attribute this achievement to the entire J&K Bank Family, whose everyday efforts on ground continue to be recognized and rewarded at prestigious platforms in the country."

Earlier, MD & CEO asserted that as a responsible financial institution J&K Bank understands that MSME sector plays a critical role in fostering entrepreneurship, generating huge employment opportunities by complementing the larger industry and is vital to the entire eco-system.

Amid a round of applause

on the occasion, he also shared the recent success story of J&K Government's flagship programs, where in effective financial intervention by the banks operating across the UT with overwhelming participation of J&K Bank generated employments benefiting 75000 people.

Highlighting the Bank's role further in promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of economy through its effective financial intermediation with special emphasis on MSME sector, he said, "Such an assertion is evidenced by the fact that not only did we surpass the mandated Priority Sector Lending target of 40% by recording 45.19% achievement during the Financial Year 21-22, but we also recorded an achievement of 13.58%.

## DDC reviews status of Jal Shakti schemes in Rajouri district

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 24: The District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today convened a meeting with the Jal Shakti Department to address the issues related to the supply of drinking water to households in the district.

The meeting was held to ensure that all households receive clean and uninterrupted water supply as per the existing water schemes.

During the meeting, the Jal Shakti Department provided scheme-wise details and discussed the issues that were impeding the daily water supply. The department shared information about the existing water supply schemes and their current status, as well as the challenges or bottlenecks that need to be addressed to ensure uninterrupted water supply to all households in the district. The department also informed

that Jal Jeevan Mission schemes have been proposed to provide water to all households.

In light of the discussions, the District Development Commissioner directed the concerned officials to take necessary steps to address the issues and ensure that all households receive clean drinking water from existing water schemes. The officials were instructed to expedite the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes to provide water to households.

"The district administration is committed to make available clean and uninterrupted water supply to all households in the district. The concerned officials have been directed to work in close collaboration with the Jal Shakti Department to ensure the timely completion of water supply schemes and projects" the DC said.

## Secretary Culture inaugurates 4 day Dogri Literary, Cultural Festival at Jammu

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: Secretary Culture, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, today inaugurated a 4 day Dogri Literary and Cultural Festival at KL Saigal Hall, Abhinav Theatre.

"Literature has the power to move all age groups and sections of society. It is a constructive force to ensure that our culture and diversity thrives", maintained the Secretary while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the event.

The festival was inaugurated in presence of Padma Shri, Dr Jitendra Udhamपुरi, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, Professor Lalit Magotra and Professor Veena Gupta.

Secretary JKAACL, Bharat Singh was also present at the occasion.

In his address, Dr Shah shared his views on power of literature in shaping the society towards a bright world. He emphasized that literary works of all kinds



have great influence and can move all age groups and sections of society.

Dr Shah urged upon the people particularly youth to take pride in their respective mother tongues and use them frequently. He also highlighted the significance of literature in bringing attention to social issues and initiating public discourse.

He reaffirmed government's commitment towards revival and promo-

tion of Dogri and Dogra culture besides other traditions of different regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He assured to provide necessary funds and infrastructure to achieve this goal. He also highlighted the pivotal role of Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Arts, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) in keeping the cultures of the region alive.

Secretary encouraged use of digital media and online

platforms to attract youth towards their respective cultures. He stressed the importance of instilling discipline in the youth to study literature.

Professor Veena Gupta, in her keynote address, appreciated the Academy for stimulating cultural activities in Jammu. She highlighted the need to assert one's culture and identity to ensure that it passes onto future generations.

Professor Lalit Magotra said that languages have a vital role in keeping culture alive and that their death leads to demise of a culture. He also advocated increased use of Dogri and other official languages of J&K.

Padma Shri Jitendra Udhamपुरi called for creating modern content in Dogri to attract youngsters and children towards the language. He suggested instating magazines and cartoon series etc.

## Bandipora admin holds interaction with traders, civil society members Officers explained ease of Taxation, importance for vibrant ULBs

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 24: The Bandipora district administration on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad on Friday held special interaction programmes with locals including traders and civil society members in Sumbal and Bandipora town with an aim to clarify the misconceptions with regard to the property tax.

In Bandipora the meeting was attended by Executive Officer Municipality Bandipora, District Industries Officer Mehraj Wani while at Sumbal SDM Sumbal and other senior officers of the sub division were present.

On the occasion, the traders and civil society members apprised officer's about their issues. The officers also explained the property tax provisions in detail to the audiences. Speaking on the occasion, officers said there is a lot of factually incorrect and misleading information circulating in the media with regard to property tax notification, with a po-

tential of misguiding the people, so it became important that the common public is made aware of the correct information & facts of the matter.

They said the property tax is being levied across the country by Municipalities to augment their resources as they have a very limited sources of income to run day to day affairs.

Mehraj Wani said with an intend to strengthen out ULBs and ramp up the urban development for the betterment of common masses, the Government has decided to impose property tax in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the new Property tax policy will help municipal bodies to generate revenue for better municipal services with minimum Tax implications to residents. "Better municipal services are expected to attract more investment and encourage more people to set up businesses in the J&K," he



added. Officers said revenue generated from property taxes will be used to improve infra-

structure, and significantly enhancing the quality and levels of being services provided by Municipal bodies. While clearing some misconceptions, the officers said the revenue will be collected by the ULBs, retained by them and then used for their development needs. Wani cleared that the tax is not as high as is being tried to portray. He said the Property Tax is proposed to be levied at 5% of Taxable Annual Value (TAV) of the Property in case of a Residential Property and at 6% of Taxable Annual Value (TAV), in case of Non-Residential Property. In fact, Tax rates, even in the Corporations are one of the lowest in the country, almost half that of Himachal, and one fourth to one sixth, overall, of other progressive States like Gujarat Maharashtra and Karnataka and Delhi. Again, tax rates are 25% lower in the Municipal Councils, and 50% in Municipalities, the officer stated. Giving example, Officers said an owner of a residential bungalow over a kanal of land in a

posh colony with the value of their assets being more than five crores, is required to pay Rs 500/- per month which very meager

He said like wise if tax is such a meagre amount in Srinagar, the tax will be further lesser in districts like Bandipora

The officers said all places of worship, including Temples, Masjids, Gurudwaras, Churches, Ziarats, etc are exempt from payment of property tax.

They said Property Tax is to be levied annually and can be paid in two equal instalment and hence will not be burdening common citizen.

On the occasion traders posed several questions to the officers to clear their confusion about the taxes and thanked the administration for holding the awareness programme to clear their confusions. They said the administration will continue such programmes in coming days so that misconceptions are removed from the minds of people.

## HEADLINES TODAY

## HT FRIDAY FOCUS

Month of SHABAAN  
Gateway to Ramadan

Shaaban has always been a 'neglected month', Since it is overshadowed by the Significant months of Rajab and Ramadan. However, Sha'ban is packed with opportunities to maximise our good deeds and draw closer to the Prophet (saw) by sending Salawat (blessings) upon him. Historically, momentous events also took place during Sha'ban which deserve to be commemorated. Let's not be one of those who neglects this special month. Here are some of its incredible benefits:

The month in which deeds are raised to Allah (swt) Our deeds are constantly being written down by our angels and Allah is already aware of all we do and say. However, the Prophet (saw) singled out specific times when our deeds would be raised to Allah to remind us to account ourselves for our actions and focus on our worship:

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, 'Angels take turns among you by night and by day, and they all assemble at the dawn and afternoon prayers. Those (of the angels) who spend the night among you, then, ascend, and their Lord asks them, though He is the best informed about them, "How did you leave My servants?". They say, "We left them while they were praying and we came to them while they were praying"'. [Muslim] For example, our deeds are displayed to Allah on a daily basis after Fajr and 'Asr, on a weekly basis on Mondays and Thursdays, and on a yearly basis during Sha'ban. The Prophet (saw) used to fast more during this month to gain extra reward. This is a reminder to us to pay extra attention to our deeds in Sha'ban and maximise our worship, rather than neglecting this month in favour of Ramadan. By simply reading more Qur'an, praying voluntary prayers, and following the Sunnah of the Prophet (saw) by fasting more, you can strengthen your Taqwa (consciousness of Allah) and establish good habits in time for Ramadan.

The month of preparing for Ramadan As well as fasting, there are multiple ways you can prepare for Ramadan during Sha'ban. Set yourself targets for what you want to achieve in your worship for Sha'ban and Ramadan - remember, making the intention to do something good is rewardable too! Here are a few ideas to get you started. Draw up and commit to a simple Qur'an reading schedule (or a memorisation schedule, if you feel you can commit). Feed someone who is homeless / in need (The Open Kitchen targets needy families in London, while our Food4Kids programme provides food to orphans and needy children worldwide).

Spend time with family members you haven't seen in a while, especially the elderly. Commit to giving up a bad habit and seek Allah's forgiveness. Sign up for one of our volunteering opportunities. Commit to a schedule for praying Tahajjud - this will make it easier for you to pray at night in Ramadan. Start saving money for Sadaqah and plan where you will spend it. Remember, during Ramadan

## The budding artist of the Valley



RESHI FALAK

Kashmir - well known for its culture, tradition, custom, norms and heritage, our culture is our identity that makes us different and unique from other nations. Our culture was at peak but unfortunately by the influence of westernization, we are trying to eradicate the root valve of tradition, culture and norms of the valley, same is the case with musical heritage, we had left our tradition and living in the era that doesn't belong to us. Our Youths has lost their interest towards the culture and are trapped wholly and solely by westernization. But in the era of modernization its our good fortune that there are still some youths who are seeing the eternal beauty of our culture and are trying to rebuild the endangered culture. One among such youths is MR TANZEEB AHMAD MIR, an Engineering student, hailing from Lal Bazar, a very young youth only of 23 years old, is trying very hard to rebuild and regain the identity of the endangered culture. He promotes the Kashmiri Folk music and has recently released few albums namely, "Madano", "Begarari" and "Adnuk yaar" in kashmiri as he wants to promote and uplift



the kashmiri language. He has also performed on the platforms of SONZAL -2022, The House boat festive 2022 ( joined by the bureaucrats of the valley for promotion of cultural values and art and craft). He started

his journey from the very young age, when he recognized that Almighty Allah(SWT) has blessed him with such a great voice, and fell for the eternal beauty of kashmiri sufism and folk music and indulged himself

for promoting forward the sparkle of the extinguished culture. With his tremendous efforts and immense hard work he reached to the honoured stages and released Albums which gave boost to his journey. He is an Engineering student and is doing B-Tech from the prestigious University of Kashmir.

Still he endeavours to enlighten the tradition and renovate the departed musical heritage. Tanzeeb not only give boost to the culture by his voice, but he is the writer too and use to express his eternal love for kashmiri culture in his writings as well. Adding the thing that, The Chinar Music productions, us one of the productions that uplift the budding artists of the valley and provide them the platform for showing their skills and talents.

Its our pride that in the era of extreme influence of westernization, we got such a flourishing artists from our valley. Our society should honour the talent without judging and pessimistic ideology. We can't deny the fact that our culture has lost its charm that it used to possess and for regaining that spark and charm, we should welcome such skilled artists and raise them to the highest so that we are able to regain our identity, sometimes smaller steps are necessary for gaining something big, and every change starts from "I".

The Opinion / Views expressed by the Author are his own and daily Headlines Today doesn't Own, Acknowledge or Support the same.



Jaswinder Pal Sharma

In today's fast-paced world, people are constantly on the go, trying to complete their work and meet deadlines. With so many responsibilities and pressures, it's no wonder that many people find themselves running out of patience. Whether it's waiting in traffic, standing in line at the grocery store, or dealing with difficult people, patience can be difficult to maintain.

**What is Patience?**

Patience is the ability to remain calm and composed while waiting for something or dealing with a difficult situation. It is a virtue that helps people to stay focused on their goals and objectives, despite the obstacles they may face.

**Why do people run out of patience?**

There are several reasons why people may run out of patience. One of the most common reasons is stress. When people are under stress, they tend to become impatient, irritable, and easily frustrated. Stress can be caused by a variety of factors, including work, relationships, finances, and health issues.

Another reason why people may run out of patience is fatigue. When people are tired, they have less energy and are more likely to become agitated and irritable. Lack of sleep, overworking, and physical exhaustion can all contribute to fatigue.

Finally, some people may simply have a low tolerance for frustration. These individuals may become easily annoyed or upset when things don't go their way, and

## Running Out of Patience?

may find it difficult to remain patient in difficult situations.

**What are the consequences of running out of patience?**

When people run out of patience, they may engage in negative behaviors that can have consequences for themselves and others. For example, they may become angry and lash out at others, which can damage relationships and lead to conflict. They may also engage in impulsive behaviors, such as making hasty decisions or taking unnecessary risks.

In addition, running out of patience can have negative physical and mental health effects. When people become stressed and anxious, their bodies release hormones that can cause a range of physical symptoms, including headaches, muscle tension, and digestive problems. Over time, chronic stress can also increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other serious health conditions.

**What can people do to maintain patience?**

Maintaining patience can be a challenge, but there are several strategies that people can use to help themselves stay calm and composed in difficult situations. Here are a few tips:

**Take deep breaths:** When people feel themselves becoming agitated or impatient, taking deep breaths can help them to relax and stay calm.

**Practice mindfulness:** Mindfulness involves focusing on the present moment and letting go of distracting thoughts and emotions. This can help people to remain centered and focused, even in stressful situations.

**Set realistic expectations:** When people



have unrealistic expectations for themselves or others, they are more likely to become frustrated and impatient. Setting realistic expectations can help to reduce stress and improve patience.

**Take breaks:** When people are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, taking breaks can help them to recharge and reduce feelings of impatience.

**Seek support:** Talking to friends, family members, or a mental health professional can help people to manage stress and improve their ability to remain patient.

**Conclusion**

Running out of patience is a common experience, but it can have negative consequences for people's physical and mental

health, as well as their relationships and overall well-being. By using strategies such as deep breathing, mindfulness, setting realistic expectations, taking breaks, and seeking support, people can improve their ability to remain patient in difficult situations.

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## The Value of Peace



Penned by Yasmeen Ahad

What a bright and sunny morning it was!  
walked down a calm street with a good cause.

So early in my long walk,  
All alone without any talk.

Deep in my consciousness, I was just thinking,  
About the people who are always complaining

All of a sudden, a vehicle stopped,  
A pretty little girl nearby paused.

staring and smiling at me,  
With a pure innocence, you see.

Without any relation, without any greed,  
Showered her love and nothing she need.

With all my love, I took her in my lap,  
Enjoying every moment, she yells "hap hap."

Her innocent face left a mark in my mind.  
She was pretty sweet, pious, and kind.

A child's heart is exempt from caste, color, and creed.  
Neither shrewd nor manipulative but free

Their consciousness is pious and pure.  
Their smiles and affection heal and cure.



By Vijay Garg

The importance of education cannot be neglected. Be it a profession or a journey in life, education helps everywhere.

There is no age to learn. A person keeps learning something or the other throughout his life, but the knowledge gained in time is more useful. Due to the commercialization of education, education is facing the cost of inflation. Suffering from financial hardship, students are forced to drop out of studies midway. Students leave their studies on their own. They are leaving their studies in the middle to feed their families and are moving away from the world of their dreams and knowledge. Such students who cannot go to college daily due to any compulsion, can reach the destination by fulfilling their dream of studying through distance education. Organizations Distance education courses in Punjab include Punjab University,



Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab University Patiala, Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Ji University of Open Learning and Indira Gandhi National University of Open Learning and many other such universities, which is providing distance education to the students. Advantages of Distance Education Distance education is such an education system, in which students do not have to go to college every day. Universities provide textbooks

at cheap rates. PCP i.e. Personal Contract Program is organized to solve the problems faced by the students during their studies and the questions arising in their minds. It can be both online and offline. In this session, on topics between students and teachers Discussion takes place. You can study while working Through distance education, students and working people can continue their studies while on the job. In the time of present technol-

ogy it is emerging in qualitative and standard form. Dr. According to APJ Abdul Kalam dreams are not what we see while sleeping but dreams are what do not let us sleep.

**Acquiring education is essential to turn your dreams into reality and remove the darkness of life. Teaching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on increasing India's literacy rate Distance education system can play a key role to achieve 'read all, grow all'.**

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

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## No Visa, Pak Teen Did This To Enter India To Marry Lover

Karachi, Pakistan: The intriguing story of how a "shy" teenage Pakistani girl travelled on her own to Bengaluru to meet and marry an Indian man was revealed by her uncle who said she sold her jewellery and borrowed money from friends to buy air tickets to Dubai and onwards to Kathmandu from where she crossed into India.

The girl, identified as Iqra Jeevani, was recovered last month from Bengaluru where she was living with a Hindu man, Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is now in jail. She was handed over to the Pakistani authorities on Sunday at the Wagah border.

They met online and fell in love and later decided to get married. Following this, she reached Nepal a few months ago and they got married.

Family sources in Pakistan's Sindh province, who didn't want to be named, claimed Iqra had returned home after her father, uncle and mother went to Lahore to receive her after Indian authorities handed her over to their Pakistani counterparts.

The intriguing story started in September last when Iqra went missing after going to college.

Requests to speak to Iqra were not successful but her father, Sohail Jeevani, said the matter was now closed forever.

"We still don't know how she could muster up the courage to go to India by herself. She has always been a shy girl. We are as mystified as everyone else," he said. One family source said the family was still to recover from the shock of what took place in the last four months.

Questions still remain over how the 16-year-old Iqra managed to travel from Karachi to Dubai then to Kathmandu and from there to India.

"And she undertook this long and dangerous journey because she had fallen in love with an Indian man who she thought was a Muslim software engineer Sameer Ansari," the family source said.

Ansari in reality was 26-year-old Mulayam Singh Yadav, a security guard in Bengaluru whom Iqra met while playing online Ludo games.

## US transfers two Guantanamo Bay detainees to Pakistan

The United States has transferred two brothers from the Guantanamo Bay US detention facility in Cuba to Pakistan, bringing the total number of people held at Guantanamo down to 32, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

The Guantanamo camp was established by Republican President George W. Bush in 2002 to house foreign terrorism suspects following the 2001 hijacked plane attacks on New York and the Pentagon that killed about 3,000 people.

It came to symbolise the excesses of the US "war on terror" because of harsh interrogation methods that critics have said amounted to torture.

There were 40 detainees when President Joe Biden, a Democrat, took office in 2021. Biden has said he hopes to close the facility. The federal government is barred by law from transferring Guantanamo detainees to US mainland prisons.

On Thursday, the Pentagon announced the repatriation of Abdul Rabbani and Mohammed Rabbani to Pakistan.

Both were arrested in 2002. Abdul Rabbani was an al-Qaeda facilitator while Mohammed Rabbani was a financial and travel facilitator for prominent al-Qaeda leaders, according to the Pentagon's website.

"The United States appreciates the willingness of the Government of Pakistan and other partners to support ongoing US efforts focused on responsibly reducing the detainee population and ultimately closing the Guantanamo Bay facility," the Pentagon said in a statement.

A total of 32 detainees remain, of whom 18 are eligible for transfer, the Pentagon said in its statement.

## Weinstein gets 16 years in jail

LOS ANGELES: Harvey Weinstein, the onetime Hollywood titan who came to epitomise a culture of pervasive sexual misconduct by powerful men that ignited the #MeToo movement, was sentenced on Thursday to 16 years in prison for the 2013 rape of an actress in Los Angeles.

Weinstein was sentenced in a Los Angeles courtroom, where a jury in December found him guilty of rape.

The charges stemmed from an assault on a former model and actress, identified in court as Jane Doe 1, at a Los Angeles hotel in Feb 2013.

Weinstein, the powerful co-founder of Miramax Films, a US movie production and distribution house, will serve the sentence after completing his 23-year sentence for a sexual misconduct conviction in New York.

Allegations against Weinstein helped fuel the #MeToo movement, which has encouraged women to speak out about sexual harassment and abuse by powerful men in media, politics and other endeavours. The movement, which went viral on social media in 2017, seeks to break a culture of silence that has long allowed such conduct to go unchallenged.

Weinstein, who produced Pulp Fiction, Shakespeare in Love and other successful independent films, has said all of his sexual encounters had been consensual, and he pleaded not guilty in the Los Angeles case.

Prosecutors called for a "high-term" penalty of 24 years because of the prior conviction, rather than a "mid-term" sentence of 18 years that California law would otherwise prescribe, absent additional "aggravating" factors.

Weinstein's team opposed the district attorney's recommendation for a high-term, consecutive sentence, given Weinstein's "advanced age and deteriorating health", defence lawyer Mark Werksman said in an email.

## Russia launches Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft into orbit

Vladivostok, Feb 24 (UNI) Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos announced that its Soyuz MS-23 spacecraft was successfully launched into the planned orbit on Friday. A Soyuz-2.1a rocket, carrying the MS-23 spacecraft, lifted off from the Baikonur launch site in Kazakhstan at 0324 Moscow time (0024 GMT). The spacecraft is flying in unmanned mode and will dock with the International Space Station (ISS) in two days, ROSCOSMOS said on its official website. MS-23 spacecraft will deliver to ISS 430 kg of cargo, including equipment for medical research, space station cleaning, air quality monitoring, scientific experiments, as well as food and other supplies. MS-23 is expected to bring back to Earth three astronauts, who were sent to ISS by MS-22 in September 2022. However, MS-22 spacecraft was hit by a micrometeoroid in December, which caused a problem with its external radiator. MS-23 spacecraft will deliver to ISS 430 kg of cargo, including equipment for medical research, space station cleaning, air quality monitoring, scientific experiments, as well as food and other supplies. MS-23 is expected to bring back to Earth three astronauts, who were sent to ISS by MS-22 in September 2022. However, MS-22 spacecraft was hit by a micrometeoroid in December, which caused a problem with its external radiator.

# Turkiye issues earthquake rebuilding rules after millions left homeless

Turkiye issued rebuilding regulations on Friday for a region devastated by earthquakes this month to enable companies or charities to help in the urgent task of building new homes for the millions who need rehousing after the devastating tremors.

More than 160,000 buildings, containing 520,000 apartments, collapsed or were severely damaged in Turkiye in the earthquakes.

The Turkish death toll from the tremors now stands at more than 43,500 people, while the toll in neighbouring Syria, a nation already shattered by war, is close to 6,000.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has pledged to rebuild homes within a year, although experts have said the authorities should put safety before speed. Some buildings that were meant to withstand tremors crumbled in the latest earthquakes.

Many survivors have left the region of southern Turkiye that was hit or have been settled in



tents, container homes and other government-sponsored accommodation.

Members of Turkish security stand near a fire as they warm themselves in the streets near the rubble of a collapsed building in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Antakya. — Reuters

Under the new regulations, individuals, institutions and organisations will be able to build residences and workplaces that they can donate to the urbanisation ministry and those properties will then be handed to those in need, according to a presidential decree published in the Official Gazette.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag told CNNTurk that 171 people had been arrested and 77 more faced detention as part of an investigation into collapsed buildings in the earthquake area, related to violations of building codes. "Everyone involved will be held accountable in front of courts. Everyone will be pun-

ished according to their responsibility," Bozdag said.

He said legal changes could be needed for crimes regarding construction permits and said the authorities should discuss tougher punishments and deterrents for violating zoning rules, which dictate where and how buildings can be more safely built.

In Antakya, Saeed Sleiman Ertoglu, 56, loaded up what remained of his stock from his waterpipe shop that was not damaged in the two massive earthquakes on Feb 6 followed by another strong quake two weeks later.

"The glassware was very beautiful, more than usual, but then we had this (earthquake), and it all got ruined," he said, after his home and shop survived the first tremors but not the later one. He estimated that 5 per cent of his merchandise survived.

"What can we do? This is an act of God," he said. Banks and line departments.

## Amid Economic Crisis, Sri Lanka Postpones March 9 Elections

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Election Commission on Friday formally announced that the local body elections will not be held on March 9 as planned and a fresh date will be notified on March 3.

The formal announcement was made after deliberations among the Election Commission officials on Friday, a day after the cash-strapped-hit country's top court postponed hearing a petition against the holding of the polls until May. The Commission will now seek the Speaker of Parliament, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena's intervention to secure requisite funds from the Treasury to conduct the polls.

Earlier this month, the Election Commission informed the Supreme Court that it was difficult to conduct local body polls on March 9 due to a plethora of reasons linked to the country's current economic crisis. President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday stressed that his job as the president was, at this stage, to revive the crisis-struck economy, hinting that conducting the local election with already lean state finances would only bring additional pressure. But opposition parties like the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) pin the blame on Wickremesinghe, who is also the country's finance minister, for trying to sabotage the local body election, fearing a loss, by blocking the funds from the Treasury. They are also accusing him of influencing the state officials



and the Election Commission against the holding of the polls. The SJB party's lawmakers filed a fundamental rights petition in the Supreme Court calling for a writ against state officials who they alleged were denying funds necessary to conduct the elections. The election to appoint new administrations to 340 local councils for a four-year term has been postponed since March last year due to the ongoing economic crisis. The government has indicated repeatedly that the time was unsuitable to hold the election, given the economic crisis, due to a shortage of foreign reserves.

It said the scarcity of money to hold the election costing 10 billion would bring additional pressure on the already lean state finances. The ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna won the majority of councils in the last election held in 2018. It has suffered major splits since the economic crisis.

## NZ announces new sanctions against 87 Russians: FM

Wellington, Feb 24 (UNI) New Zealand's government has announced a new round of sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine conflict, which are set to target 87 Russian individuals, including military personnel and those in proximity to President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said on Friday.

"Today we have announced one of the largest rounds of sanctions against Russia to date, a further demonstration of Aotearoa New Zealand's strong condemnation of Russia's illegal action," Mahuta said in a statement. The new sanctions against 87 Russian individuals target political actors "who have strategic relevance to Russia,

and proximity to Putin," the statement said, but did not provide the list of those sanctioned.

"The military personnel we have chosen to sanction have had active roles in the conflict," it added.

The restrictions automatically extend to relatives and other related individuals of those sanctioned, according to the document.

## Japan to send \$16m of grant assistance to Turkey, Syria - Cabinet

Tokyo, Feb 24 (UNI) Japan will deliver \$16 million of grant assistance to earthquake-damaged Turkey and Syria, with the amount of aid totaling \$27 million, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said on Friday. "Given the earthquake in Turkey and Syria: Japan, which has experienced major natural disasters, including the Great East Japan



Earthquake, has been sending aid since immediately after the earthquake, considering it necessary

to provide maximum assistance. We decided to send \$16 million of grant assistance to the victims in both countries. Today, [at a government meeting] a decision was made on its specific content," Matsuno said at a press conference in Tokyo. The official also said that an additional \$4 million aid package would be sent to Turkey and Syria.

## Ex-Mastercard CEO picked by Biden to lead World Bank

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that Washington is nominating former Mastercard Chief Executive Ajay Banga to lead the World Bank, after its current chief David Malpass announced plans to step down early.

The development lender has just started accepting candidate nominations in a process set to run until March 29, with the bank saying that women candidates would be "strongly" encouraged.

The president of the World Bank is typically American, while the leader of the International Monetary Fund is customarily European. Banga, 63, is Indian-American and currently serving as vice chairman at equity firm General Atlantic. He was previously chief executive at Mastercard. Banga has "critical ex-



perience mobilising public-private resources to tackle the most urgent challenges of our time, including climate change," said Biden in a statement. Last week current World Bank President Malpass — who was nominated to the post by Biden's predecessor Donald Trump in 2019 — said he would step down nearly a year early, ending a tenure

that was clouded by questions over his climate stance. His term would originally have ended in 2024. Banga's nomination comes amid a push for development lenders to revamp and address global problems like environmental issues more effectively. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen earlier said that lenders' core models, where countries borrow to make specific investments addressing developmental constraints, are "insufficient to meet the moment." The United States is the World Bank's largest shareholder. Speaking to reporters, a senior US administration official said: "At Mastercard and General Atlantic, Ajay has made combating climate change and mobilising private capital to help power the green transition a priority."

## Pakistan, Uzbekistan sign \$1 billion trade deal

Pakistan and Uzbekistan signed on Friday a \$1 billion deal to increase bilateral trade, a statement from Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs said.

The deal was sealed at the 8th meeting of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Inter-governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation (IGC) held in Tashkent.

Both countries signed the agreement to encourage the exchange of goods and services, the ministry said in its statement.

The meeting mainly focused on bilateral economic cooperation in various sectors, including commerce and trade, banking, industries and production, investment, textile industry, energy, oil and natural resources, transportation and communication, agriculture and tourism and culture development.

Any investment opportunities would come as a boost to Pakistan which is facing a balance of payment crisis, with foreign reserves falling so low as to cover just three weeks of imports.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was leading the delegation to thrash out the trade agreements, which cover cooperation in fields, including trade, banking, industries, energy and agriculture, the ministry added.

# 'A woman dies every two minutes during pregnancy, childbirth' UN

ISLAMABAD: Every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth, according to the latest estimates released in a report by United Nations agencies, which emphasised that the world must significantly accelerate progress to meet global targets for reducing maternal deaths, or else risk the lives of over one million more women by 2030.

The report, "Trends in Maternal Mortality", released on Thursday by WHO, Unicef, UNFPA, the World Bank and UN Population Division, reveals alarming setbacks

for women's health over recent years, as maternal deaths either increased or stagnated in nearly all regions of the world.

"It is unacceptable that so many women continue to die needlessly in pregnancy and childbirth. Over 280,000 fatalities in a single year are unconscious," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem.

"We can and must do better by urgently investing in family planning and filling the global shortage of 900,000 midwives so that every woman can get the lifesaving care she needs.



We have the tools, knowledge and resources to end preventable maternal deaths; what we need now is the political will."

In two of the eight UN regions — Europe and Northern America, and Latin America and the Caribbean — the ma-

ternal mortality rate increased from 2016 to 2020, by 17 per cent and 15pc, respectively. Elsewhere, the rate stagnated. The report notes, however, that progress is possible. Two regions — Australia and New Zealand, and Central and Southern Asia — experienced significant declines (by 35pc and 16pc, respectively) in their maternal mortality rates during the same period, as did 31 countries across the world. "While pregnancy should be a time of immense hope and a positive experience for all women, it is tragically still a shock-

ingly dangerous experience for millions around the world who lack access to high quality, respectful health care," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The report, which tracks maternal deaths nationally, regionally and globally from 2000 to 2020, shows there were an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2020. This marks only a slight decrease from 309,000 in 2016 when the Sustainable Development Goals came into effect. While the report presents some significant progress,

# Defence Research Official Arrested For Sharing Info With Pakistani Spy

Balasure: A senior official of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was arrested on Friday for allegedly sharing secret information related to India's defence sector with a Pakistani spy, the Odisha Police said.

The 57-year-old official was posted at the DRDO's Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasure district, it said.

Chandipur has two DRDO test ranges - PXE (Proof and Experimental Establishment) and ITR. India evaluates the performances of its missiles,

rockets and air-borne weapons systems at these two ranges.

"A senior employee of ITR-Chandipur has been arrested. He managed to transmit some sensitive information regarding missile tests to a foreign agent," said Himansu Kumar Lal, the Inspector-General of Police (Eastern Range).

The official was arrested on the basis of a complaint filed at the Chandipur police station, he said.

The details of the information he shared could be ascertained after a thorough interrogation,

said Balasure's Superintendent of Police (SP) Sagarika Nath.

A case has been filed against him under IPC sections 120A and 120B (criminal conspiracy), besides the Official Secrets Act, police said.

He was allegedly sharing sensitive defence-related information with a Pakistani agent for "sexual as well as monetary gratification", they said.

WhatsApp chats and sexually explicit photos and videos were found in his phone, which was seized, they added.

In September 2021, five contractual employees

of ITR-Chandipur were arrested in another espionage case.

A contractual employee of ITR-Chandipur was arrested in a similar case in 2015. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2021 for sharing information with Pakistan's ISI.PTI CORR AAM SOM SOM

WhatsApp chats and sexually explicit photos and videos were found in his phone, which was seized, they added.

In September 2021, five contractual employees of ITR-Chandipur were arrested in another espionage case.

# Robust digital infrastructure transforms governance and ease of living in India: PM

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Friday said that India has created a highly secure, trusted, and efficient public digital infrastructure in its digital payments ecosystem over the past few years.

Addressing the first meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India's G20 Presidency is taking place in Bengaluru, he said it has radically transformed governance, financial inclusion, and ease of living in the country.

"Our digital payments ecosystem has been developed as a free public good", he said.

Modi said that, since the meeting is taking place



in Bengaluru, the technology capital of India the participants can get first-hand experience of how Indian consumers have embraced digital payments.

Taking note of the challenges faced by the world in the present day, the Prime Minister said that the participants of today's meeting are representing

the leadership of global finance and economy at a time when the world is facing serious economic difficulties.

Highlighting the growing dominance of technology in the world of finance, the Prime Minister recalled how digital payments enabled contactless and seamless transactions during the

pandemic.

He urged the member participants to explore and harness the power of technology while developing standards to regulate its possible risk of destabilization and misuse in digital finance.

Recalling the covid pandemic and its after-effects on the global economy he said that the Covid pandemic had delivered a once-a-century blow to the global economy and many countries especially developing economies are still coping with its after-effects.

He added that due to this the world has witnessed a rise in geo-political tensions, disruptions in global supply chains, rise in the prices of food and energy security.

# SC rejects plea to gag media on Adani-Hindenburg issue

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Friday said it won't issue any directive to stop the media from reporting on Adani-Hindenburg issue and that it will soon pass an order on the matter as it had already reserved its verdict on the constitution of a committee to look into the episode.

"We won't injunct the media. We are not going to issue any injunction against the media. We will pronounce our order soon," a bench



of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr

Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chadrachud said, after hearing a mentioning by one of the petitioners-cum-lawyer, in the case, Manohar Lal Sharma, who sought a gag order on media in reporting the Adani-Hindenburg case stories. Sharma pleaded the Supreme Court to consider gagging media from carrying reports on Adani Hindenburg Report, until the Top court delivers its order on constitution of a committee to look into the episode.

# Assets Worth RS 305 Crore Of Jewellery Chain Joyallukas Seized

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has seized assets worth 305.84 crore of the popular jewellery chain Joyallukas on Friday, days after five of the company's premises were raided by the probe agency. The ED has accused the jewellery chain of violating provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

The case relates to a huge amount of cash transferred to Dubai from India through Hawala channels and subsequently invested in Joyallukas Jewellery LLC, Dubai which is 100 per cent owned by Joy Alukkas Verghese. On Tuesday, the company had withdrawn its 2,300 crore initial public offering or IPO saying it needed more time to incorporate substantial changes to its financial results.

The attached assets include 33 immovable properties valued at 81.54 crore consisting of land and a residential building in Shobha City, Thrissur. Three bank accounts valued at 91.22 lakh, three fixed deposits amounting to 5.58 crore and Joyallukas shares worth 217.81 crores have also been seized by the Enforcement Directorate.

# Rajnath Singh calls upon students to Innovate, develop latest technologies



Santiniketan, Feb 24 (UNI) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday called upon the students and youth to innovate, develop new technologies and set up new enterprises, research establishments and start-ups to help the Government accelerate efforts towards making India a more powerful and self-reliant nation.

Addressing the students of Rabindranath Tagore founded Visva Bharati University convocation, Singh urged the students to take inspiration from Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and move forward with vision and knowledge in one hand and centuries-old Indian traditions and values on the other, while striving to achieve the overall objective of taking the nation up the development ladder.

The Defence Minister told the students to give their best shot, work as a team and not get swayed away by the successes and failures of life. The ability to move forward in a balanced way without getting distracted was the key to success, he maintained, urging them to not let ego or arrogance come in their way.

"Character building, knowledge and wealth should be given equal weightage. The path of India's progress goes through the youth. The stronger you are, the stronger our country will be," Singh said.

He also exhorted the students to spread the fragrance of the Visva Bharati wherever they went, describing it as their ethical duty.

He termed Visva Bharati University as a physical manifestation of the philosophical legacy of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and an embodiment of his knowledge & wisdom.

"Visva Bharati is a unique blend of Indian as well as world knowledge. It assimilates the flow of knowledge from across the globe into Indian thought and enlightens the whole world," he said.

Elaborating on Rabindranath Tagore's idea of nationalism and universal humanism, Singh told the students how the great philosopher deeply influenced Indian society and politics with his thoughts, philosophy and values.

He emphasised that for centuries, Indian Nationalism has been based on the feeling of cooperation and human welfare.

"Indian Nationalism is cultural, not territorial. Consciousness comes before territory. Human welfare is the focus. Indian Nationalism is all-inclusive rather than exclusivist and is inspired by universal welfare. Visva-Bharati is an indicator of this sentiment," he said. The Defence Minister also made special mention of poet Rabindranath Tagore's vision to promote Industrial Development and modern Science & Technology for the development of the nation, pointing out that his futuristic views at the time are relevant to the day.

He asserted that it is the result of that very vision that today India is moving forward on the path of development by setting new standards in the field of Science and Technology and is 'Making in India,

# Modi asks G20 to focus on most vulnerable citizens

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged G20 members to focus their discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world and stressed that global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda. "The theme of our G20 Presidency promotes this inclusive vision - One Earth, One Family, One Future," he said addressing the first meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India's G20 Presidency via video message.

PM Modi cast the spotlight on the vibrancy of the Indian economy and highlighted the optimism of the Indian consumers and producers about the future of India's economy and hoped that the member participants would draw inspiration while transmitting the same positive spirit to the global level.

He observed that progress on Sustainable Development Goals seems to be slowing down even though the world population has crossed 8 billion. He emphasized the need to strengthen Multilateral Development Banks for meeting global challenges like climate change and high debt levels. Highlighting the growing dominance of technology in the world of finance, PM Modi recalled how digital payments enabled contactless and seamless transactions during the pandemic.

He urged the member participants to explore and harness the power of technology while developing standards to regulate its possible risk of destabilization and misuse in digital finance. PM Modi noted that India has created a highly secure, highly trusted, and highly efficient public digital infrastructure in its digital payments ecosystem over the past few years.

# India Saved Over 3.4 Million Lives Due To Covid Vaccines: Stanford Report

New Delhi: India was able to save more than 3.4 million lives by undertaking a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign at an unprecedented scale, a report by Stanford University said.

The Covid vaccination campaign also yielded a positive economic impact by preventing a loss of USD 18.3 billion, the working paper by Stanford University and Institute for Competitiveness titled 'Healing the Economy: Estimating the Economic Impact on India's Vaccination and Related Issues' released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday said.

Mr Mandaviya said much before COVID-19 was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2020, processes and structures to focus dedicatedly on various facets of the pandemic management were put in place.

He virtually addressed the 'The India Dialog' session on the Economic Impact of Vaccination and Related Matters.

"India under the leadership of honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji adopted a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach in a proactive, preemptive and graded manner, thus adopting a holistic response strategy for effective management of COVID-19," the minister said.

The dialogue was organised by Institute for Competitiveness and



US-Asia Technology Management Center, Stanford University.

The paper also highlighted the impact of the lockdown and referred to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's statistical analysis that the COVID-19 tally could have reached about two lakh (0.2 million) without lockdown by April 11, 2020.

Due to lockdown measures, the actual cases only went up to about 7,500 by April 11, 2020, making a case for the lockdown stronger. The imposition of the lockdown also avoided two million deaths.

It further mentions that 100,000 lives were saved due to the lockdown (March-April), according to the Economic Survey (2020-21), and a COVID-19 tally of 200,000 if there was no lockdown and containment by April 11, 2020 "India was able to save more than 100,000 (0.1 million) lives through the lockdown in March-April 2020. Moreover, the country took around 175 days

to reach the peak from its first 100 cases while most countries reached their first peak in less than 50 days (Russia, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, etc.)," the report said.

The paper discusses the role of containment as a measure to prevent the spread of the virus. It highlights that, as against the top-down approach, a bottom-up approach was critical in containing the virus.

Moreover, the report remarkably notes that robust measures at the ground level, like contact tracing, mass testing, home quarantine, distribution of essential medical equipment, revamping healthcare infrastructure and constant coordination among stakeholders at the centre, state and district levels not only helped contain the spread of the virus but also in augmenting the health infrastructure.

It elaborates the three cornerstones of India's strategy - containment, relief package and vaccine administration.

It observes that these three measures were critical in saving lives and ensuring economic activity by containing the spread of COVID-19, sustaining livelihoods and developing immunity against the virus.

The working paper further notes that India was able to save more than 3.4 million lives by undertaking the nationwide vaccination campaign at an unprecedented scale.

# After Rahul Gandhi's Attack On Trinamool, Congress Says 'Want Alliance'

Raipur: The Congress's yo-yo on how it hopes to deal with opposition parties ahead of the 2024 elections swayed on the side of conciliation on Friday with a senior leader claiming that it wants to make up with regional heavyweights like Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar and K Chandrashekar Rao.

Just two days after the top leader Rahul Gandhi picked a new fight with the Ms Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, Veerappa Moily, chairperson of the Congress's Political Affairs Committee which deals with alliances, told NDTV that the party wants a partnership with her. "We will sort out is-

sues and work with Mamata, Nitish Kumar and K Chandrashekar Rao. We need to lead the alliance, and we will work together and ensure all come together. Congress needs to be strengthened and only when we are strong, can we lead," he said. The statement, which was made on the sidelines of the Congress's three-day mega brainstorming meet in Chhattisgarh's capital city Raipur, flew in the face of one from Rahul Gandhi at an election rally in Meghalaya on Wednesday. "You know the history of the TMC (Trinamool Congress) - the violence and scams that take place in West Bengal. You are aware

of their tradition. They spent a huge amount of money in Goa (polls) and the idea was to help the BJP. That is exactly the idea in Meghalaya. The TMC's idea in Meghalaya is to ensure that the BJP is strengthened and come to power," Mr Gandhi claimed. And that statement itself appeared entirely contradictory to one from just hours ago by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge who had foreshadowed Mr Moily's remark by claiming his outfit was in talks with "every" other party to challenge the BJP together in 2024. "Rahul Gandhi is an asset. I have been in the Congress for 60 years. We know the strengths

and weaknesses. We will work together," Mr Moily said, when asked about Mr Gandhi's stance.

Mr Gandhi's comment had more than irked the Trinamool Congress, with Mamata Banerjee's nephew and party's second-in-command, Abhishek Banerjee, posting a retort on social media. "Congress has failed to resist the BJP. Their irrelevance, incompetence and insecurity have put them in a state of delirium. I urge Rahul Gandhi to revisit their politics of vanity instead of attacking us. Our growth isn't driven by money, it's people's love that propels us," Mr Banerjee tweeted.

# India abstains in UNGA on Ukraine vote, questions effectiveness of UNSC

New Delhi, Feb 24 (UNI) India on Thursday abstained on a vote in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that demanded Russia leave Ukraine, even as India's ambassador pointedly asked the global audience whether the world is anywhere near a solution acceptable to both sides, and whether the UN body, especially the Security Council, has not been rendered ineffective to address challenges to global peace and security.

India was among 32 member states that abstained on the non-binding resolution that was adopted with 141 votes, while seven members voted against it. Among those who voted against the resolution were Russia, Belarus, Eritrea, Syria, Mali and Nicaragua,



while Pakistan, South Africa, Sudan, China, Sri Lanka, Lao, Vietnam, Iran, Mongolia and India were among the countries that abstained on the resolution put forward by Ukraine and its supporters. Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, in her address said that India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine

and the loss of lives and the misery inflicted on the people, particularly the women, children and elderly. "Reports of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are deeply concerning. We have consistently advocated that no solution can ever be arrived at, at the cost of human lives," she stressed. She reiterated PM Modi's call that "this cannot be an era of

war" and that a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward. She said that India's approach to the Ukrainian conflict will continue to be people centric, adding that India is providing humanitarian aid to Kyiv, as well as providing economic support to some of India's neighbours in the global south that are in distress amid the escalating costs of food, fuel and fertiliser, which has been a consequential fallout of the ongoing conflict. "The overall objective of today's resolution seeking a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in line with the UN charter is understandable. We also note the emphasis on increasing support by member states for diplomatic efforts to achieve.

## Public Notice

### Name Correction in Passport ...

It is to make public that my name has gone incorrect in my Valid Passport bearing Passport No. L1933063, as Ruksana Baigum, instead of RUKHSANA JAVID which is my actual name in all other relevant documents.

To put the records correct it has become imperative to make the required corrections in my Passport by changing the name from Ruksana Baigum to RUKHSANA JAVID. Anybody having any objection may kindly contact the concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the said time duration.

**RUKHSANA JAVID**  
D/O-JAVID IQBAL  
W/O-Bilal Qayoom Shah  
R/O-NH701 - Masjid Bilale Habshi Bomhama  
Kupwara -193222

## Public Notice

I have applied for Seeds/Pesticides Licence the Name and Style Raies Pesticides (Watergam Wagoora) if anybody having any objection in this regard He / She may file in Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar and Chief Agricultural Office Baramulla within seven days after that no objection will be entertained

**Proprietor**  
**RAIES AHMAD SHAH**  
S/o **ABDUL RASHID SHASH**  
R/o. **WATERGAM WAGOORA**  
Tehsil .....WAGOORA

## Public Notice

I Have lost my Fathers Death certificate woh died on January 1994 Now I am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody has any objection in this regard He/She my contact with concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

**Name.... RAFEEQA BANO**  
D/O LATE **ABDUL SAMAD LONE**  
R/o. **HARNOW KAWACHACK**  
Tehsil .....TANGMARG  
Dist.....BARAMULLA

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## LG

administration ordered the imposition of property tax from April 1. In exercise of the power conferred by section 71A of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, the government hereby notifies the rules for levy, assessment and collection of property tax in the municipalities and municipal councils of the UT, housing and urban development department principal secretary H Rajesh Prasad had said in a notification. The tax rates will be 5% of taxable annual value (TAV) for residential properties and 6% for commercial properties, it stated. In another announcement, the government said that small houses were exempted from the tax and the amount fixed for commercial buildings was nominal. The government announcement, however, evoked sharp criticism from almost all the political parties who termed the move as unjustified—(KNO)

We are moving ahead with a strong resolve to bring prosperity in the lives of our farming community and other stakeholders associated with the agriculture and allied sector, the Lt Governor added.

The administration is also promoting entrepreneurship in the sheep and goat sector and encouraging the farmers to adopt millet crops, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Agriculture production and allied departments for providing training to a large number of farmers.

## FRIDAY FOLLOWING

Sahib Soura; Asar-e-Sharif, Shehri Kalashpora; Ziarat-e-Makhdoom Sahib, Khanqah-e-Moula.

The management of Dargah Hazratbal said that all the necessary arrangements for the day were put in place and everything was carried out smoothly. "We thank the administration for playing their part and making sure everything was carried out effectively," the management said.

It said that nearly one lakh people who reached here from various parts of Kashmir participated in the Friday congregational prayers while thousands assembled at Hazratbal for other prayers of the day.

People on the occasion said Prophet (SAW) embarked on a special journey to meet Allah Almighty, crossing seven skies riding the heavenly 'al-Buraq' was a blessing for the world and that they prayed for the peace and prosperity of the entire humanity as well as J&K.

Speakers also shed light on the life of the Prophet (SAW) and urged the people to follow his footsteps for the success in this life and the hereafter.

They also termed the life of the Prophet (SAW) as the best and the only available road map for the entire humanity to succeed and achieve a grand stature in life. They impressed the people to learn more about the Prophet (SAW) and emulate him in every sphere of life.(CNS)

## CS

He directed that necessary assistance may be taken from NDRF in this regard so that they could certify that no utility has been erected in such zones.

He asked the concerned Deputy Commissioners to facilitate all the service providers so that the facilities created at each location are appropriate and sufficient for both the devotees and facilitators. He advised them to work in coordination with each other and use the work window very efficiently so that every facility is ready by mid June in any case.

He asked the civil administration about the arrangements made last year by them at each of the camp location and enroute up to the holy cave. He told them to repeat the same exercise with necessary improvements, wherever required. He asked them to implement the Supreme Court directions passed in this regard in letter and spirit and give more focus on stabilization of slopes in vulnerable stretches, construction of foot bridges along the yatra track, repairing of safety railings and removal of slips and installation of signages for the safety and ease of pilgrims.

Dr Mehta stated that the DPRs of the works to be taken in hand for successful conduct of the yatra should be given timely Administrative Approval. Besides, their technical vetting should also be carried on priority to identify the works that are more significant in terms of safety and security of yatri. He directed for completing the building at Ramban before start of yatra this year.

He enjoined upon all the Departments like Health, FCS&CA, RDD, H&UDD, DMRRR, Information, IT and others to carryout their routine works as per the past practice enhancing the capacity wherever required. He termed their contribution very crucial for conduct of the yatra and beckoned them to work with a sense of purpose and urgency.

The Chief Secretary further directed them to ensure that the installation of lights, water tanks, toilets, generators, PSPs, Public Address System, communication towers are fully functional at each camp location before the commencement of yatra.

He stressed on creating health facilities with appropriate bed capacity at each location with the allied facilities like Oxygen supply, X-ray, ECG and others as per the actual requirement. He laid emphasis on taking proper sanitation measures at all camp and langar sites without any fail with putting good number of volunteers and personnel at work.

## DR JATINDRA

Department's vision of BioE3" he said. Jitendra Singh said India envisions "Green Growth" in the 'AmritKaal' and this calls for a systematic framework plan for implementation of robust innovative bio-based eco-friendly solutions to further boost the ongoing economic growth.

He also added that this program will strengthen 'Make in India' by supporting domestic manufacturing (Industry 4.0), as it will support building green infrastructure for bio-manufacturing across the country.

"Moreover, it will also lead to development of a skilled workforce in the domain of Bio-manufacturing, a surge in job creation and entrepreneurship especially in 2- and 3-tier cities and streamline policies and regulations for Biogenic products to expand market opportunities" he added.

Talking about the Mission LIFE" (Lifestyle for the Environment), he said the Initiative launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi urges the people to put forward green and friendly environmental solutions.

In his address, Secretary, DBT, Dr Rajesh Gokhale said, India is the world's 3rd largest importer of crude oil and the 4th largest importer of liquefied natural gas, a large part of which is used in the chemical industrial manufacturing.

"Burning of hydrocarbons, the major constituent of fossil fuels, releases CO2 as a major by-product, contributing substantially to global warming" he said.

## INJURED

Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow," police tweeted. (KNS)

## TEACHER

or before March 25," reads the order. (KNS)

## AZAD

have become widows. He said that no tax should be imposed on the people of Jammu and Kashmir by now. The DPAP President said that for the past nine years, no elections have been conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and for the past several years they are awaiting the announcement of the elections so that the elected government could decide about the laws which need to be applied.

Regarding the land encroachment drive, he said his party protested almost at 60 places on roads against the bulldozer drive and thanks to the almighty that has now been stopped

He said the Roshni Act was made during his tenure and it was not decided sitting at home. The Roshni Act was made collectively by the law department and discussed in the assembly where all including the opposition parties passed that law collectively, he added.

He said once a law is passed in the assembly or Parliament a governor cannot remove that. Now they removed the existing law and the repercussions are in front of us, Azad said.

"I am not saying that the Roshni Act was 100 percent implemented. There is no scheme in India or any part of the world by which all people are getting favour", he said and added misappropriation is happening everywhere, but there are separate commissions including vigilance and court of law who are there to look at such issues..

He said people who had migrated from the borders area of Kathua and Samba during 1947 had settled in rural areas R S Pora and other places and had developed that barren land which took them 20 years to establish for farming. They alleged that the government came and erected a board there stating that this is government land after 70 years.

He said that ten percent people are grabbing government land everywhere and those should be hanged but why 90 percent people will suffer because of them?

He said about 70 percent of the people of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of religion, caste and creed were affected by the bulldozer drive of the government.

## TOURISM

and Himachal Pradesh, representatives of Tourism Boards of several states and UTs, representatives of national travel trade and business bodies were present on the occasion.

On the sidelines of the event, discussions on best practices and sustainable tourism were held.

It may be recalled that the India Today award comes just within a month of the South Asian Travel Trade Expo(SATTE), one of the best trade expos in the country in which the J&K Tourism Department was awarded for its efforts in post COVID-19 recovery of the tourism sector.

It is in place to mention here that last year J&K received a record number of tourists and the Department for the last two years has been consistently diversifying its tourism products which has gone well among the tourists.

The Department during the last two years has taken several new initiatives for the quick revival of tourism in the UT. This winter, besides Gulmarg, resorts of Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri and other resorts were kept open and these destinations received a considerable footfall.

Besides, new trekking routes, rafting and adventure activities were added to the recreation portfolio for sustaining the interest of coming tourists. This is besides the opening of new areas like Gurez and other border areas for tourism which have enhanced the attraction and urge for visiting J&K. Last year Gurez was adjudged as the best offbeat destination in the country.

## 2 SUMAGLERS

local police, a total of 5 packets of heroin like narcotics weighing 4.588 Kilograms was recovered from Karnah area of Kupwara in two separate incidents.

Based on specific input about narcotics smuggling in Taad area one suspect identified as Farooq Ahmad Shah, a resident of Panjatara Karnah was picked up for questioning. On his confession and disclosure, Kupwara Police along with Army unit 6 JAK Rifles recovered 3 packets of heroine-like narcotics weighing 2.674 Kgs (with packing) from a hiding place near his house in presence of an Executive Magistrate.

The accused was arrested and further investigation in the case is going on and more arrests are expected, police said. In another similar case, Police in Karnah picked up a suspect identified as Raja Aftab Alias Babu a resident of Teethwal was detained for questioning.

On his confession and disclosure, two packets of heroine-like narcotics weighing about 1.914 kgs (with packing) were recovered by Kupwara Police along with Army unit 6 JAK Rifles in presence of an Executive Magistrate near his house at Teetwal. He has been arrested and further investigation is ongoing.

## BUDSHAH NAGAR

with the locals /Shopkeepers and one juvenile was found lying near the corner of the building in a critical condition, he was evacuated to hospital for treatment where doctors declared him brought dead. He was identified as Farhan Bashir Wani S/O Bashir Ahmad Wani R/O Iram Lane Budshahnagar. Consequently, a case under FIR number 08/2023 under section 304 IPC was registered and investigation taken up. During the course of investigation, the apprehended juvenile (name withheld) disclosed the names of other two juveniles (Name withheld) who were also apprehended."

The apprehended persons disclosed that they had gone inside the building in order to consume some contraband substance. They also disclosed that the shopkeepers along with the building owner had arrived inside the building, which made all of them flee in panic, resulting in the fall of one among them, police said.

Accordingly the building owner along with other shopkeepers namely Sahil Ahmad S/O Mohd Subhan R/O Nowgam, Abdul Rashid Bhat S/O.Habib Ullah Bhat R/O Allochibagh, Ab Majeed Fufoo S/O Habib Ullah Fufoo R/O Mehboob Colony, Ajaz Ahmad S/O Gh Ahmad Farash R/o Mehboob Colony and Mohd Yaseen S/O Ab Gani Khan R/o Pulwama were arrested for this rash and negligent act causing death of a juvenile.

## KISAN

The welfare of the farmers is our top-most priority. The UT Administration has taken major decisions in the agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors to shape the vision of inclusive development, said the Lt Governor.

I am confident that the Agriculture and allied sectors will guide the prosperous future of Jammu Kashmir. The groundbreaking 29 projects worth Rs 5013 crore for the holistic development of agriculture & allied sectors will provide an integrated solution to all issues related to agriculture & allied sectors with a mechanism to reduce wastage and increasing the production, he added.

With meticulous implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, we can achieve 12% growth in the agriculture sector, the Lt Governor observed.

## SSB Organised Bahrat Darshan Tour for Students

Baramulla., 24-Feb: 02 BN SSB, Pattan, Baramulla (J&K) organized 07 Days Bharat Darshan Tour programme for youths of Kashmir valley

SSB Sources told CNS that on the direction of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and Force Head Quarter Sasrastra Seema Bal, New Delhi, 02 BN SSB, Pattan, Baramulla (J&K) organized 07 Days Bharat Darshan Tour programme w.e.f. 16.02.2023 to 23.02.2023 for Delhi-Jaipur & Back for 30 youths of Kashmir valley with the motto "Service, Security and Brotherhood".

Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Commandant, 02 Bn SSB, graced the occasion of closing ceremony of the said tour. In the closing ceremony, Sh. Hari Charan Prasad, Deputy Commandant, Sh. Ranjeet Singh, Deputy Commandant, Sh. Santosh Kumar, Dy. Commandant, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malla, DC(MO), Sh. Deepak Tomer, Dy. Commandant, of 02 Bn SSB Pattan and Media persons were present.

Prior to this, Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Commandant, 02 BN SSB addressed the participants and asked them about their feedback on the said tour. He further added that the main motto of the tour was to give the participants an exposure about the social and cultural diversity of India, so that they feel socially, culturally and emotionally integrated with rest of the country and also to show them cultural and socio-economic development taking place in other parts of the country. During seven days of tour, the participants visited various historical places in New Delhi and Jaipur. (i.e. Red Fort, India Gate, Shaheed Smarak, Qutab Minar, Lotus Temple at New Delhi and Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Jaigarh Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Amer Palace/Fort, Anokhi Museum, Albert Hall at Jaipur). They also met with the worthy Director General, SSB at New Delhi on 22/02/2023. Sh. Hari Charan Prasad, Deputy Commandant, 02 BN SSB, Pattan extended gratitude towards the parents of the participants for believing in the force and allowing their wards for participating in the said event and also said that SSB will organize such more programmes in near future. (CNS)

## 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav begins in Srinagar



Srinagar, February, 24, 2023 :The final leg of Asia's largest theatre fest - 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav - began at Tagore Hall here on Thursday. The festival is being organized by the National School of Drama (NSD) in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) with Cluster University, Srinagar as a facilitator.

Inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah, the festival will feature three plays in as many days highlighting various facets of Indian culture. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest, Prof. Shah said that NSDs endeavour to culminate 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav in the Kashmir valley is laudable.

"The valley has a rich tradition of theatre with several classic dramas having been written and produced in Kashmir over the centuries," he said adding the endeavour of the NSD to hold the final leg of the festival in Kashmir was laudable.

In his speech, Director NSD, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur said that on account of interest of people of the valley in theatre, Srinagar was chosen as the final destination for culmination of the 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

"In Kashmir we have a Theatre-in-Education Centre, built asset of which we have formally taken over today," Prof. Gaur disclosed adding, the NSD would soon activate the Centre and speed up TIE and repertory activities in the Kashmir valley.

Giving details Prof. Gaur said that the NSD would be holding theatre workshop in Srinagar in March and summer theatre festival in May or June this year.

"This would then be followed by other similar activities for which a separate schedule is being devised and notified shortly," he disclosed.

Earlier in his welcome speech, NSD's Theatre-in-Education (TIE), Srinagar Centre incharge, Santanu Bose said that the purpose of holding the drama festival in Srinagar was to introduce the newer generation to the cultural richness of the country.

Coinciding with the inauguration of 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav in Srinagar, the NSD also took over possession of built asset from the JKAACL for formal commencement of theatre activities in the Kashmir valley.

Among others, Officer I/c, JKAACL, Dr. Farooq Anwar Mirza also spoke on the occasion. The festival, commencement of which was witnessed by a large gathering representing various segments of society, will conclude on 25th February.

## Rich tributes paid to Sheikh Nazir on his 8th death anniversary



JAMMU FEBRUARY 24- Rich tributes were paid to former National Conference General Secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmed on his 8th death anniversary with senior leaders leading the remembrances.

Leading the party leaders and prominent workers in paying homage to the late leader at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here this morning, Provincial President Mr Rattan Lal Gupta said that Sheikh Nazir will always inspire the National Conference cadre for his simplicity, honesty, selfless service, organizational capabilities and political acumen, adding that he stood by his cherished principles till last without opting any position of power. Mr Gupta said that Sheikh Nazir was one of the rare and front-ranking leaders across the country, who lived a very simple life and served the people most.

In his homage, former minister and Additional General Secretary Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization, who remained connected with the cadre at grass roots level all his life.

Dwelling upon various facets of his illustrious political odyssey, Dr. Kamaal said: "Nazir Sahib has left an indelible mark of selfless service which will continue to guide and inspire the younger generations and influence their political journey."

Former minister and Central Secretary Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra described Sheikh Nazir as a pioneering leader who stood for high values in politics and public life. He said the former General Secretary worked tirelessly for the betterment of the people, especially the poor, and strengthened the party at grass roots level.

## Prabhari Officer visits Panchayat Buffliaz B ; conducts gram Sabha

M S Nazki



Surankote .Mr.Saleem Ahmed (JKAS) Prabhari officer Panchyat Halqa Buffliaz B visited Panchyat Buffliaz B in which Sarpanch Panchyat Buffliaz B.Miss .Tahira Tabassum along with other PRIs member along with large number of people participated.Branch Head J& K Bank Buffliaz,branch Head Gramteen Bank Buffliaz were asked to ensure 100 percent saturation of demand for self employment .

Later in the afternoon a validatoratory function of winter camp of Buffliaz zone was organised at HR.Sec.School By ZEO& Principal along with zone Teachers & Students of Zone Buffliaz in which Sarpanch Tahira Tabassum Parbhari officer also participated.

## Villagers appeal to police to nab extortionists who looted cash from 5 men in South Kashmir's Pulwama

Pulwama, Feb 24, KNT: Locals from a South Kashmir village Friday appealed to the police to expose and held those extortionists who looted cash and cell-phone from 5 persons while they were approaching the mosque to offer fajar (morning) prayers at the mosque.

The incident as per villagers occurred in Trichal village on Thursday. The village is barely 3 kilometers away from the Pulwama district headquarters.

Locals told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that five villagers who were intending to enter the mosque to offer fajar prayers were stopped by three extortionists who were probably carrying toy pistols. "They asked the men to show their identity cards, and during frisking, they took the cash and fled away," they said.

The victims have been identified as Tawseef Ahmed Bhat son of Ali Muhammad Bhat, Muzafar Ahmed Dar son of Ghulam Hasan Dar, Javaid Ahmed Mohand son of Ghulam Hasan Mohand, Haji Ali Muhammad Dar and Muhammad Shaban Bhat son of Ali Muhammad Bhat.

Extortionists looted Rs 3,000 each from Tawseef Ahmed and Muzafar Ahmed, Rs 6,000 from Javaid Ahmed, Rs 30,000 and an ATM and pan cards from the wallet of Haji Ali Muhammad and a cell phone from Muhammad Shaban Bhat.

Besides a cell phone, extortionists overall looted Rs 42,000 from the five victims.

This is the first such incident in the village that has left the villagers shell-shocked. They have appealed to the police to nab the extortionists and expose them before society. [KNT]

## 2- day Multi Media Exhibition of CBC on 'AKAM' at Mendhar commences

M S Nazki



MENDHAR:As a part of ongoing Nationwide celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'(AKAM) to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, a 2-day Multi-Media Exhibition was inaugurated by Sh. Jahangir Ahmed Khan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar being organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Poonch (J&K), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India at Govt. at Degree College, Mendhar today on 24th February 2023 in coordination with District Administration Poonch. In the inaugural function Dr. Mohd. Azam, Principal Govt. Degree College Mendhar, Prof. Ayaz Ahmad Chaudhry, conviner cultural activities GDC, Dr. Mohd. Shafiq, Co-ordinator IQAC, Prof. Murtaza Ahmed, Dr. Tabark Ameen Khan, Prof. Shokit Hussain, Sh.Mohd. Latif Choudhary, Dy. CEO Mendhar, Teachers of GBHSS, GGHSS, GGMS and Govt. ITI Mender were present.

Sh. Jahangir Ahmed Khan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar appreciated the efforts of Central Bureau of Communication, J&K for organizing the event at Mendhar and urged the audience to grasp the knowledge being disseminated by the department. He appreciated focused awareness regarding AKAM, Azadi Quest, various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and initiatives of district administrative about which resource persons of various departments are giving information through resource persons. He urged the youth to use web portals of various departments to avail the benefits of various schemes under Digital India

Sh. Vijay Mattoo, I/c CBC, Poonch (J&K) in his welcome address said that Governments of India has various schemes for and individual which one can avail right from pre-natal stage to death. He expressed gratitude towards district Administration and College Authorities for their cooperation and support. He urged the audience to spread the message of the event among common masses to visit the venue as the Exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily (Free of Cost)

Prof Mohd. Akram, HoD Department of Education spoke about evolution of education system of India and NEP, Sh. Jarnail Singh, Resource person from bank told about PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY and various other schemes related to bank. Sh. Rajan Singh from Rural Development Department informed the audience about PMAY, SBM, etc and Sh. Sudhir Bakshi from agriculture Department gave a detailed description of various schemes like Soil Health Card, Kissan Credit Card, Fasal Bima Yojna, Kissan Pension Yojna, PM Kissan etc. related to agriculture Department. He also encouraged the audience to adopt mashroom cultivation, poultry, organic farming etc.

The Exhibition showcases India's struggle for freedom through display panels. Major events of freedom struggle include, Revolt of 1857, Non- Cooperation Movement, Establishment of Home rule, Champaran Satyagraha, Kheda Satyagraha, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Khilafat Movement, Chauri-Chaura Incident, Dandi March or Namak Satyagraha, Azad Hind fauj, Quit India Movement, partition of India.

Selfie corner, Seminar (Expert Lectures on Centrally Sponsored Schemes), open quiz, cultural programmes by empannelled troupe of CBC Jammu and 'New India Samachar' magazine (Free Distribution) of Govt. of India were the main attraction for the youth. Winners of open quiz were awarded on the spot. Students from GBHSS, GGHSS, GGMS and Govt. ITI, Mendhar visited the Exhibition.

# Australia edge India in nail biter to reach Women's T20 World Cup final

CAPE TOWN: Australia reached their seventh successive Women's T20 World Cup final when a thrilling Indian run chase fell agonisingly short here at Newlands on Thursday.

Australia won by five runs when India finished on 167 for eight in reply to Australia's 172 for four.

Australia will face either England or South Africa in Sunday's final.

"One of the best wins I've been involved in. India came hard at us. We knew this score would've been hard to defend. We pulled through in the clutch moments," said Australia captain Meg Lanning.

India batted with aggressive intent from the first ball and for much of the innings were ahead of Australia's total at the equivalent stage despite losing three wickets in the six-over power play.

The match turned dramatically when India captain Harmanpreet Kaur was run out with just 40 runs needed off 32 balls.

Kaur batted superbly to make 52 off 34 balls. She hit a ball to deep midwicket and seemed set to complete a comfortable two runs only for her bat to jab into the turf just short of the crease. Kaur threw her



bat angrily as she walked off. "The way I got run out, can't be unluckier than that," said Kaur. Big-hitting Richa Ghosh was caught on the boundary off Darcie Brown in the next over and India's hopes were effectively over, although Deepti Sharma kept swinging until the end, making 20 not out.

Brown earlier broke a rapid 69-run partnership between Kaur and Jemima Rodrigues when Rodrigues was caught behind attempting a ramp shot off a short delivery. Brown took two for 18 in four overs, comfortably the best bowling performance of the day.

Beth Mooney made 54 for Australia and captain Meg Lanning scored 49 not out, including two sixes off Renuka Thakur in the last over.

There were other useful contributions from Alyssa Healy, who made 25 in an opening partnership of 52 with Mooney, and Ash Gardner, who hammered 31 off 18 balls.

Mooney was dropped by Shafali Verma at long-on when she had 34 and Lanning survived a stumping chance off late replacement Sneha Rana when she had made nine.

India were hit by the withdrawal from the tournament of seam bowler Pooja Vastrakar because of illness.

India obtained permission to bring off-spinning all-rounder Rana, a travelling reserve, into the squad and she was drafted straight into the starting team.

Summarised scores: AUSTRALIA 172-4 in 20 overs (B. Mooney 54, M. Lanning 49 not out, A. Gardner 31; S. Pandey 2-32); INDIA 167-8 in 20 overs (H. Kaur 52, J. Rodrigues 43; D. Brown 2-18, A. Gardner 2-37).

## Gurbaz fireworks, fiery Hasan see Islamabad United outclass Peshawar Zalmi



Rahmanullah Gurbaz was on song. It seemed as if the Afghanistan opener was celebrating being back at the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) after fulfilling national duty.

The explosive right-hander plundered the Peshawar Zalmi bowlers for 62 runs off just 31 balls to help Islamabad United bounce back from their defeat against Multan Sultans to beat Peshawar Zalmi by six wickets at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday.

United chased down the 157-run target in less than 15 overs after Hasan Ali's fiery pace spoiled Zalmi's solid start.

Gurbaz started off with two boundaries off pacer Arshad Khan before belting Wahab Riaz for as many sixes over the leg-side boundary.

His partner Colin Munro also got going with a six over midwicket off Arshad but was cleaned up by a straight and fast delivery by the right-arm.

Gurbaz was unfazed by his partner's dismissal and welcomed Jimmy Neesham with another towering six, this time cleaning the long-on boundary before pulling the New Zealander for another.

Rassie van der Dussen joined the party with a reverse sweep and a slog for two fours off leg-spinner Usman Qadir before punishing a half-tracker for another.

Gurbaz dispatched Wahab with disdain through the covers for another boundary as United posted 80-1 by the end of the powerplay.

Van der Dussen swept Usman for another four in the next over before Gurbaz took on chinaman bowler Sufyan Muqem for two more boundaries before finding Tom Kohler-Cadmore in the deep off Usman.

Gurbaz's dismissal was followed by that of Islamabad captain Shadab Khan, who had his stumps destroyed by Arshad. United sent in Asif Ali ahead of Azam Khan, clearly indicating they wanted the game to be finished early by the former.

Asif dispatched Usman for sixes over cover and long off to start with before hooking Wahab for another boundary in the 13th over.

Van der Dussen was run out in the same over after scoring 42 off 29 but that did not affect Islamabad's approach as Asif hit Arshad for a flat six over the square leg before Azam finished the match with another six with 31 balls to spare.

Yorkshire admit documents deleted in cricket race case

LONDON: Yorkshire have confirmed documents relating to allegations of racism against the county cricket club were deleted under the previous regime.

A Cricket Discipline Commission hearing will start in London next week but no Yorkshire representatives will be present after they admitted to four amended charges brought by the England and Wales Cricket Board over the club's handling of former player Azeem Rafiq's allegations.

It has now been confirmed that one of the charges relates to the deletion or destruction of both electronic and paper documents but while this occurred before current chairman Kamlesh Patel took over, the county would not say who was responsible.

Next week's disciplinary hearing will start on Wednesday but the only charged individual still set to appear is ex-England captain Michael Vaughan. Andrew Gale, Matthew Hoggard, Tim Bresnan, Richard Pyrah and John Blain have refused to engage with the process.

## Maxwell, Marsh back from injury for India one-dayers

SYDNEY: Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh will make their international returns from lengthy injury layoffs after being named on Thursday in Australia's One-day International squad for the series in India. All-rounder Maxwell broke his leg and underwent surgery in November after slipping and falling during a friend's 50th birthday party. Marsh went under the knife soon after for a long-standing left ankle problem, with loose bone fragments removed and cartilage repaired.

They both return for ODIs in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Chennai between March 17 and 22, giving Australia an early look at conditions ahead of the World Cup in India later this year.

Opener David Warner was also in the squad, despite leaving their Test tour of India this week with concussion and a hairline fracture in his elbow.

But pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood was



left out after he too returned home early with an Achilles' injury.

Fellow fast bowler Jhye Richardson was called up having recovered from a hamstring strain.

"With the World Cup just over seven months away, these matches in India are an important step in our preparation," said chairman of selectors George Bailey.

## Ukraine joins world boxing championship boycott

KYIV: Ukraine's boxing federation (FBU) has joined a growing boycott of the amateur world championships over the inclusion of Russian and Belarusian boxers, who have been allowed to compete with national flags and anthems.

FBU vice president Oleg Ilchenko told public broadcaster Suspilne on Wednesday that their boxers would not compete in this year's men's and women's championships, which will be held in New Delhi and Tashkent, respectively.

Both competitions are organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA), led by Russian Umar Kremlev. The United States, Ireland and Britain are among nine other federations that have boycotted the women's event, while several have also pulled out of the men's tournament.

The IBA lifted a ban on Russian and Belarusian boxers competing under their flags last October, against the International Olympic Committee's guidance following Russia's invasion



of Ukraine a year ago, for which Belarus was a key staging area. "Our answer is clear — our athletes and representatives of the Boxing Federation of Ukraine do not compete where representatives of the aggressor countries, namely Russia and Belarus, will compete," Ilchenko said. Ukraine's boxers would also boycott next year's Olympic Games in Paris if Russian and Belarusian boxers are present, Ilchenko said.

## PCB calls emergent meeting to decide PSL fate

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has called an emergent meeting with the owners of all the six franchises of HBL Pakistan Super League on Friday to apprise them about the demand of the Punjab government asking for an amount of Rs450 million for providing security to the matches that will be held in Lahore and Rawalpindi from Feb 26 and March 1 respectively. Dawn has learnt through reliable sources that the provincial government has submitted the bill of Rs450 million in addition to the already-paid amount of Rs50 million for the same purpose as per past practice of the PCB. But this time, the caretaker government setup in Punjab under Mohsin Naqvi is asking for more. A report last week stated that the Punjab government had demanded a total amount of Rs800 million for matches that were being held in the province. Matches in Multan have already been completed with the last match in this edition of the glitzy T20 extravaganza in Karachi to be played on Sunday. Lahore is the designated venue for the final, one qualifier and two eliminators with fans in the Punjab capital as well as Rawalpindi having already bought tickets for the games.

## ICICI Lombard's ITF Women's 25K tennis tournament from Feb 26

Bengaluru, Feb 24 (UNI) The ICICI Lombard sponsored ITF Women's 25K which is co-sponsored by REVA University and Renault is set to take place between 26 February to 5 March here at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence. The tournament is expected to draw in top ranked women's tennis players from across the world who will battle it out for the crown in both the singles and doubles category. The qualifying rounds will be played on Sunday the 26 and 27 February with the main draw set to begin from 28 February.

The tournament promises to be an exhilarating experience for both players and spectators, as Anika Raina, a World No.245, and World No.265



Karman Kaur Thandi being the top-ranked Indian women's players who will participate in the tournament. Playing alongside them will be two younger players who train at the PBI - CSE tennis academy, Sahaja Yamalappalli and Soha Sadiq. Audiences are welcome to visit the premises as

entry to watch the tournament is free. Padukone-Dravid Centre of Sports Excellence Founder Vivek Kumar said: "Through this international tennis tournament, the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence aims to promote and develop women's tennis in the country."

A tournament of this calibre helps women tennis players of our country gain the much-needed ITF points to climb up in the world tennis rankings, he said.

Not only do they gain crucial points, but it also benefits them financially as they save on the travel costs which they would have spent to commute to foreign countries to play in ITF tournaments, Vivek said.

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