

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JANUARY 06, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**LG extends greetings on Guru Gobind Singh Ji's jayanti**

**Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today extended greetings on occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's jayanti.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Greetings on the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Guru Ji is an embodiment of valor, sacrifice & justice. His ideals continue to guide humanity on the path of equality, righteousness & selfless service. Let's follow his noble teachings & strengthen unity in our society".

**15 injured in stray dog attack in Budgam, one referred to Srinagar hospital**

BUDGAM, Jan 6 (Agencies): At least 15 people were injured by stray dogs in Central Kashmir's old Budgam town on Monday morning, causing panic among locals. Jammu and Kashmir tourism eyewitnesses said that the dogs appeared suddenly and went on a rampage, attacking several individuals in the old town, news agency KNT reported.

According to locals, around 15 people were injured after being attacked by the stray dogs who were immediately rushed to Budgam District Hospital for medical treatment. One among the injured is said to be in critical condition and was referred to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar for advanced care.

A medico at the Budgam hospital confirmed that one person with severe injuries has been shifted to Srinagar hospital.

After the incident, locals called for immediate action to address the issue of stray dogs in the district.

Housing allowance revised for judicial officers in J&K and Ladakh

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has approved upgrading towns and cities in the Union Territories from the unclassified "Z" category to "Y" category for House Rent Allowance (HRA) benefits.

The decision complies with the Second National Judicial Pay Commission recommendations and a Supreme Court directive issued on January 4, 2024, in

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## PM Modi inaugurates Jammu railway division, calls it 'monumental step'



JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday virtually inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division, calling it a historic milestone in the development of Jammu and Kashmir's

connectivity and infrastructure.

Addressing the nation during the ceremony, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), congratulated the people of Jammu

and Kashmir, saying, "Integration of J&K into the national railway network is a monumental step towards transforming Indian Railways into a global leader in efficiency, speed, and passenger experience."

"The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project is a landmark achievement that demonstrates India's engineering excellence."

Highlighting the feats of modern engineering, he said, "India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge, and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab River—the world's highest railway bridge—are marvels that are making waves globally."

The Prime Minister emphasized that the new Jammu

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## LG, CM express grief over loss of lives in tragic Srinagar Incident

**Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 6 : The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives due to the tragic incident in Pandreth area of Srinagar.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Saddened by the loss of precious lives in a tragic incident in Srinagar. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of five family members in the

Pandreth area of Srinagar city.

The Chief Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved relatives, praying for strength and patience to help them cope with this irreparable loss.

While praying for the departed souls, the Chief Minister urged people to exercise utmost caution while using heating gadgets during the harsh winter months.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to government-issued advisories on the safe use of heating equipment to prevent such tragic incidents.

## Flight operations resume at Srinagar International Airport: Officials

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The flight operations at Srinagar International Airport resumed after snow clearance, with officials confirming the landing of four flights following earlier delays.

An airport official told the news agency JKNS that after flights were delayed due to snowfall, the runway was cleared, and flight operations have resumed as flights have starting landing.

## PM Modi led Govt making dreams come true: LG Sinha

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Kashmir getting connected with Kanyakumari through a railway network was a dream and it has come true.

Speaking at the inaugural cer-



emony of new Jammu Railway Division, here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "The government led by PM Modi is making dreams of people come true within the stipulated time and to Kanyakumari rail connectivity is yet

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## SSB jawan dies of cardiac arrest in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) jawan died of suspected cardiac arrest on Monday in central Kashmir's Srinagar district. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Quoting official sources, the news agency JKNS reported that HC Mahantesh Bairana suffered a massive cardiac arrest at SSB 10th BN camp in Tattoo Ground area of Batamloo this

morning. They said he was immediately rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

## Jammu will reap benefits from Kashmir rail link, Says CM Omar Abdullah



JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new rail division at Jammu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah promised that Jammu would not suffer economic losses due to the direct rail link to Kashmir. Instead, the new division is expected to create jobs, enhance

trade, and boost tourism.

"This is a historic moment for Jammu & Kashmir. The people of Jammu have long demanded their own railway division, and today, that dream has been fulfilled," Omar said.

He reassured citizens

that the new connectivity would strengthen Jammu's economy, noting, "We anticipate significant benefits, including a surge in trade and tourism, and we will ensure that Jammu reaps the rewards of this development."

The Chief Minister also highlighted the opportunities in recruitment that the new railway division would create. "With control and coordination now based in Jammu, local recruitment will be prioritized. This will bring employment opportunities to the region, benefiting our youth and boosting the local economy," he said.

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## Heavy snowfall in J&K higher reaches, Moderate snow, Rain in plains

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Heavy snowfall occurred in the higher reaches while moderate snow and rain lashed the plains of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

The Meteorological (MeT) department officials said heavy snowfall occurred in Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and other higher reaches of J&K during the last 24 hours.

A MeT office statement said, "On January 6, generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain (Plains of Jammu)/ snow at most places of J&K. Improvement from January 6 afternoon. On Janu-



ary 7 and 10, generally cloudy weather with dry weather. On January 11 and 12, generally cloudy weather with light snow at isolated to scattered places. On January 13 and 15, generally dry weather."

The weather department also issued an

advisory, saying that in view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperatures and icy conditions over roads (plains/higher reaches), tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to plan accordingly. It has also advised people to follow

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With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Usha Pandita...



Smt Usha Pandita

10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Rattan Lal Kaul...



Sh. Rattan Lal Kaul

RASAM PAGRI & KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved Balbir Singh Jamwal...



Balbir Singh Jamwal

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that sad demise of our beloved Deepak Badyal...



Deepak Badyal

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of Smt. Lalita Sharma...



Smt. Lalita Sharma

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

A symbol of Devotion, sacrifice, Love and Strength Sdn Ranjit Kaur...



SDN RANJIT KAUR

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved son Shivam...



Shivam

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Sona Davi Gurtoo...



Smt Sona Davi Gurtoo

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden and sad demise of our beloved S. Kulbir Singh (JKP)...



S. Kulbir Singh (JKP)

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. SHARDA BAKSHI...



SMT. SHARDA BAKSHI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Mohini Kakroo...



SMT. MOHINI KAKROO

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Reeta Bhat...



SMT. REETA BHAT

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved S. Jagjit Singh Marwah...



S. Jagjit Singh Marwah

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Tej Krishan Zadoo...



SH. TEJ KRISHAN ZADOO (BAIRAJ)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father Sh. Pyaray Krishan...



Sh. Pyaray Krishan

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt. Mohini Devi...



Smt. Mohini Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Naseeb Chand Bhagat...



Sh. Naseeb Chand Bhagat (Retr Ssr Manager J&K Bank Ltd)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved mother Smt Kushilya Raina (Pyari)...



Smt Kushilya Raina (Pyari)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT...



SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT

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# Historic Milestone: Dr Jitendra Singh hails new railway chapter in Kashmir

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Monday lauded the inauguration of a new chapter in Indian Railways at the Jammu division as a historic milestone, stating that it will prove significant for the rural heartlands of Kashmir and the broader development of the region.

Speaking at the event at Jammu, Dr. Singh reflected on the long journey leading to this achievement, recalling



that the railway station had witnessed its first train arrival in 1972, over five decades ago. He noted that the gap between that milestone

and today's achievement raises important questions. "Was it due to administrative inefficiency, a lack of political will, or certain elements

opposing the integration of Kashmir with the rest of India through rail connectivity?" he asked. Dr. Singh credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for transforming this vision into reality. "Perhaps it was destiny that we had to wait over 50 years, until the advent of PM Modi's leadership, to witness this moment. It was under his guidance that this dream, once considered impossible, has now been fulfilled," he said.

He recalled the initial steps taken during Modi's tenure, includ-

ing a significant public event at Katra Railway Station in 2014. Despite challenges and delays caused by technical issues, shifting priorities, and changes in government, progress resumed with renewed vigor under Modi's administration. Dr. Singh expressed optimism about the project's impact, emphasizing that it will open new horizons of development for the region. "This is a historic day, not just for Kashmir but for Indian Railways, as it symbolizes the fulfillment of a dream that seemed impossible long ago," he said.

# Prakash Parv celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The birth anniversary of the founder of the Khalsa Panth, Guru Gobind Singh, also known as Prakash Parv, was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety in the Kashmir Valley on Monday.

The largest gathering took place at the Gurdwara Chatti Patshahi in Rainawari, Srinagar, where a large number of members of the Sikh community, including men, women, and children, gathered despite the cold weather conditions to pay obeisance. Special prayers were offered for peace, stability, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and the whole of India

during the occasion. The day was celebrated with fervour in other parts of the Valley as well, including Tral, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Pulwama. A member of the community while throwing light on the occasion at the Gurudwara in Anantnag said that the day is being observed as the Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

He said the birth of Guru Gobind Singh has taken place only to eradicate cruelty and to protect the oppressed. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and all those celebrating the birth anniversary of

Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He highlighted the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who exemplified truth, honesty, and loyalty to his people. All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) on Sunday greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founder of Khalsa Panth, Guru Gobind Singh. APSCC also prayed for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Guru-purab.

All political and social activists of the Kashmir valley have also extended their greeting to the members of the Sikh community on the occasion.

# Shiv Sena demands tough stand against China's insolence

**Demand for a complete ban on imports and boycott of Chinese goods**



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The Dragon's insolence is increasing day by day, and mere objections and protests are insufficient to curb it. The Modi government will have to boldly impose a complete ban on relations and imports with China, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit. Under the leadership of party's state head Manish Sahni, a symbolic protest was carried out against China by holding placards "Ban imports from China", "Boycott Chinese goods". Manish Sahni said that how can the bloody clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers in June 2020 in Ladakh's Galwan Valley (in which 20 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives) be forgotten. Once again,

after about four and a half years, China has played a treacherous trick. China has announced two new districts (counties) in its Hotan province and has included some parts of the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh in the geographical area of these districts, he said. Not only this, the announcement of building the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra river in the China border is also a matter of deep concern for India, he added. In 2017, 2021, 2023, China had described some parts of Arunachal Pradesh as its territory, he said adding that however, the Government of India has lodged strong objections on the above issues. But the Modi government at the Center is fulfilling the formality by merely expressing its

displeasure and protest by taking a soft stand towards the insolence of China. All the BJP leaders including the Prime Minister are maintaining silence towards China. At the same time, there is a continuous increase in the import figures from China, today China has become India's top import source. Sahni has demanded a complete ban on imports from the Modi government at the Center to teach China a lesson. Along with this, an appeal has been made to the public to completely boycott Chinese goods. On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber, president women wing, Vikas Bakshi, Gen Secretary, Bharat Mahajan, Working President, Balwant Singh, Sr Vice president, Rajesh Jandial Vice president, Geeta Lakhotra, Dimple were present.

# Three-day World Hindu Conference 2025 concluded

## Top News Report

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Jan 6: The three-day World Hindu Conference 2025 concluded on January 6 in Delhi, with delegates strongly condemning the "conversion wars" targeting impoverished Hindus globally and expressing concern over the plight of Hindu minorities in various countries. Organized by the World Hindu Federation (WHF) from January 3 to 5 at Khatu Shyam Delhi Dham in North Delhi's Alipur area, the conference addressed issues such as violence against Hindus in Bangladesh, discriminatory policies in Malaysia, forced conversions in Pakistan, and rising Hinduphobia worldwide. A key resolution condemned the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded the unconditional release of ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, alongside compensation for damages to Hindu temples and businesses. The conference criticized Malaysia's Bhoomiputera policy for its bias against Indian-origin Hindus and called for either their inclusion in affirmative benefits or the policy's abrogation. Delegates also decried forced conversions of minor Hindu girls in Pakistan's Sindh province, highlighting complicity by local authorities.

The WHF proposed the creation of a self-governing Hindu homeland in Bangladesh to safeguard Hindu communities and preserve Bengali cultural heritage. It endorsed Nepal's return to a Hindu Rashtra to restore its Dharmic character and expressed concern over growing Hinduphobia in global academia, media, and policy circles. The event honored notable dignitaries, including Dr. Ajay Singh, WHF International President, and featured participants from over 20 countries. Twelve individuals were recognized as "Hindu Ratna" and six as "Hindu Gaurav" for their contributions to Hindu values. The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to Hindu unity and culture, announcing the next World Hindu Conference in Malaysia in September 2025.

# CCI Jammu expresses gratitude to PM for inaugurating Railway Division at Jammu

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for resolving the long pending demand of Chamber of Commerce & Industry by inaugurating the much needed Railway Division at Railway Station Jammu. Arun Gupta also thanked the Hon'ble Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav, Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS in Prime Minister's Office and Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member Parliament with whose efforts it has become

possible to establish a full-fledged Railway Division at Jammu Railway Station. Arun Gupta said that Jammu has become a major hub of Railway Operation for intrastate Transportation and creation of Railway Division at Jammu will streamline running of Trains besides opening new avenues of employment. Arun Gupta further said we expect that in the coming times Railways will explore rail connectivity in whole of Jammu division which will enable the pilgrims, tourists and local people to visit the famous religious as well as tourist places of Jammu division.

# Army leads skill development initiative with carpentry cadre for youth at Parat

## Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 6: The Indian Army's skill development program, focusing on carpentry, to empower the youth in the remote region south of Pir Panjal at Parat, Rajouri, is gaining great traction. This ongoing initiative aims to provide young individuals with practical skills, enhancing their employability and promoting self-reliance in underserved communities. Conducted at a training center in Parat, established by the Indian Army, the carpentry course has attracted a large number of enthusiastic participants. The program covers essential skills like furniture making, wood crafting, and tool handling, blending traditional techniques with modern innovations. Expert trainers are guiding participants



to ensure a comprehensive learning experience. The initiative is part of the Indian Army's broader efforts to promote socio-economic development in a region that often faces challenges like unemployment and limited access to resources. Along with skill training, the participants are

being provided with toolkits and certificates, boosting their chances of securing employment or starting their own ventures. The beneficiaries have expressed their gratitude for the program, highlighting its role in opening new avenues for income generation. The Indian Army plans

to expand such vocational training programs in the future, focusing on various trades to ensure holistic development and upliftment of youth in these areas. This initiative showcases the Indian Army's commitment not only to national security but also to fostering progress and resilience in local communities.

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## EDITORIAL

DEVELOPING  
RAILWAY

The development of railway infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has become a transformative initiative aimed at connecting the region to the rest of India. The project, which has gained significant momentum over the past few decades, holds immense importance for the region's economic growth, social integration, and strategic security. Historically, the idea of introducing railways in J&K dates back to the early 20th century. However, due to the region's challenging topography and security concerns, the full-scale development of the railway network was delayed. It was only in the 2000s that the government took serious steps to modernize and expand the region's railway system, especially with the goal of linking the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, initiated in 2002, is the backbone of railway development in J&K. This 272-kilometer stretch aims to connect Udhampur in Jammu to Baramulla in Kashmir. The project is one of the most ambitious and challenging railway projects in the world, primarily due to the region's rugged terrain and the need for advanced engineering techniques. Several key milestones have been achieved in this project, including the completion of the Udhampur-Katra section in 2014, which is a crucial link for pilgrims traveling to the Vaishno Devi shrine. The Banihal-Qazigund section, operational since 2013, includes the Pir Panjal Tunnel, the longest railway tunnel in India, which reduces travel time significantly by bypassing the mountainous region.

Another significant achievement in the USBRL project is the Qazigund-Baramulla section, which became fully operational in 2009. This stretch serves as a lifeline for the Kashmir Valley, connecting the region with Jammu and facilitating the transport of passengers and goods. The Katra-Banihal section, currently under construction, includes the iconic Chenab Bridge, which is set to be the highest railway bridge in the world at 359 meters above the riverbed. The completion of this section will provide seamless rail connectivity from Jammu to the Kashmir Valley, further enhancing travel efficiency.

The engineering feats involved in the railway development in J&K are nothing short of extraordinary. The region's challenging geological conditions, including frequent landslides, earthquakes, and heavy snowfall, have necessitated the use of cutting-edge technologies. The Chenab Bridge, for example, is designed to withstand extreme weather and seismic conditions. Similarly, the Pir Panjal Tunnel, which spans over 11 kilometers, is equipped with advanced safety and ventilation systems to ensure smooth operations even in harsh winter conditions.

The economic impact of the railway network in J&K has been profound. One of the most notable benefits has been the boost to tourism, as the improved connectivity has made it easier for tourists to visit popular destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. This has not only increased the flow of visitors but has also generated substantial revenue for local businesses. Additionally, the railway system facilitates the transportation of local goods such as apples, saffron, and handicrafts, opening up new markets and reducing transportation costs. Furthermore, the railway projects have created thousands of jobs, both during construction and in the operational phases, contributing to local employment.

Strategically, the railway network holds immense importance for India's defense and security. The improved mobility allows for faster deployment of defense forces and resources in the region, which is critical given J&K's proximity to international borders. This infrastructure also helps in ensuring better logistical support for the armed forces and contributes to national security.

The railway network also plays a crucial role in social integration. By connecting remote regions of J&K with the rest of India, the railway system fosters greater unity and strengthens the bonds between different regions and communities. It enables easier travel for people, facilitates the exchange of ideas, and promotes cultural exchange, which ultimately contributes to national cohesion.

Despite the significant progress made, challenges remain. The region's harsh terrain, frequent natural disasters, and the high costs of construction continue to pose hurdles. Additionally, the environmental impact of large-scale infrastructure projects must be carefully managed to preserve the region's fragile ecosystem. Nevertheless, the future of railway development in J&K remains promising. Once the Katra-Banihal section is completed, and with the potential extension of the railway line to Leh under the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail link, the railway network in J&K will further enhance connectivity, boost economic growth, and contribute to the region's overall development.

The railway development in J&K is a monumental achievement that represents India's commitment to the region's progress. The network not only provides essential infrastructure for the region but also promotes economic, social, and strategic benefits. As the project continues to expand and evolve, it will undoubtedly play a key role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir, making it more connected, prosperous, and integrated with the rest of the country.

By: Omkar Dattatray

The 358th Prakash Utsav of the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji is being celebrated on 6th January 2025 with great devotion, dedication, pomp and show and enthusiasm by the Sikh community in particular and others in general. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti marks the auspicious day where Sikhs celebrate the birthday of the 10th Guru—Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti also spelled as Govind Singh Jayanti is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh ji, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs. It is a religious celebration in which prayers for prosperity are offered. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. Guru Gobind Singh is the founder and creator of Khalsa. The day is celebrated on the month of January or December. Guru Gobind Singh's birthday is being observed on 17th January 2024, Wednesday. There is great significance of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti. Guru Gobind Singh is best known for rising against the Mughal rulers and safeguarding the interests of people from invaders. He was a benevolent man who preached justice, peace, and equality for all. He lived the life of a saint and inspired millions of Sikhs with his writings that depict the way he led his life. He had strict principles, which he and his followers followed and still follow religiously. The basic norms included not obliging to the prevalent caste system and superstitions, they believed in one God and they followed the 5K's—Kangha (comb), Kesh (uncut hair), Kacchera (undergarment), Kara (bracelet) and Karpan (sword). Before his passing, Guru

## Guru Gobind Singh's prakash Parav

asked Sikhs to consider Guru Granth as the primary text. His teachings and preaching's inspired many. His lifelong battle against the plundering Mughals ensured the survival of Sikhism. The day is celebrated all over India, predominantly within the Sikh community. On this auspicious occasion people pray for the prosperity and well being of fellow people. Reading and listening sessions of Guru Gobind's poetry is a common practice on this day. Discussions on Guru Gobind's life also take place in Sikh communities spread all over the world. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on saptamithi of shuklapaksha in Pausha month. It will be the 358th birth anniversary of the great guru. People celebrate this day and greet each other, spread his teachings and message to all. The devotees visit Gurudwaras and all Gurudwaras are decorated with illumination of lights, candles and diyas. As per Hindu calendar Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on SaptmTithi of Shukla Paksha 1723 Samvat in the month of Pausha. According to the Julian Calendar, he was born on December 22, 1666 in Bihar Patna. The Julian Calendar is obsolete and no one uses it at the present time. Guru Gobind Singh's father was Guru Tegh Bahadur who was killed by Aurangzeb. Guru Gobind Singh's mother's name was Mata Gujri. Aurangzeb beheaded his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur for not accepting Islam in the year 1675. In 1676, Guru Gobind Singh was declared the tenth Guru of Sikhs on the day of Baisakhi when he was only nine years old. The place where Guru Gobind Singh was born is now Takhat Shri Harmandir Ji Patna Sahib. In 1670, his family again moved to Punjab. In March 1672, his family moved to a place called Chak Nanaki, located in the Shivalik Hills of the Himalayas, Chak Nanki

is now called Anandpur Sahib where he took his education. He took Persian, Sanskrit lessons and learned military skills to become a warrior. Later, Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa Panth. Khalsa strictly followed a spiritual discipline under the supervision and guidance of Guru Gobind Singh. People fearlessly fought against Mughal rulers. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a great poet and writer who has written several literature. He announced the Guru Granth Sahib as the permanent Sikh Guru prior to his death in the year 1708 and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is a holy scripture of Sikhs. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is celebrated across the world where Sikh community people lives. Not only Sikhs but everyone celebrates this day by visiting Gurudwaras and spread his teachings to everyone. People extend their greetings to each other. Distribute Langars to all. All Gurudwaras are decorated with lights and candles. Guru Nanak Vani is also narrated at some places. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is an auspicious day among the Sikh community and is celebrated every year with great fanfare and enthusiasm. The auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is also known as the Prakash Parv of the tenth Guru. Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It is the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and falls every year in December or January. On this day, devotees from all over the world send best wishes to one another and vow to follow the teachings and path of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The day is observed in honor and remembrance of the great warrior, poet, philosopher, and above all a spiritual master. According to Drik Panchang, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on Paush Skukla Saptami. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, born as Gobind Rai, was the tenth Sikh Guru, a spiritual

leader, warrior, poet and a philosopher. He formally became the leader and protector of the Sikhs at the tender age of nine after his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was killed by Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam. Guru Gobind Singh ji was a great warrior. He was known for his inclination towards poetry and his philosophies and writings he stood by. He refused to answer the Mughal invaders and fought alongside the Khalsa to protect his people. Under his guidance, his followers adhered to a strict code. His philosophies, writings and poetry inspire people to this day. To celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Sikhs around the world visit Gurudwaras, where prayer meetings take place in honor of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. People participate in processions organized by the Gurudwaras, hold kirtans, and also do seva—a significant part of Sikh religion, for the community.

Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding a the Sikh warrior community called Khalsa in 1699 and introducing the five K's, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear all times. Guru Gobind Singh is credited with Dasam Granth whose hymns are a sacred part of Sikh prayers and Khalsa rituals. To conclude it can be said that millions of people across the world are inspired by the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his birth anniversary is celebrated with gaiety all over the world where Sikh community lives and also by others.

*(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist and freelancer)*

## Can China &amp; India restore Asian century momentum?

By: Sanjaya Baru

Last week, several US lawmakers had said that they were working to get CAATSA waivers for India. (Photo: File | PTI) Last week, several US lawmakers had said that they were working to get CAATSA waivers for India. (Photo: File | PTI) As we enter 2025, we also enter the last year of the first quarter of the 21st century. Twenty-five years ago, many forecast the arrival of an "Asian Century", witnessing the rapid rise of post-war Japan, followed by the so-called "Asian tigers" -- Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. They were then followed by the Southeast Asian economies of Indonesia and Malaysia and, finally, China. In the early 2000s, India too showed it could speed up. The 19th century was Europe's, the 20th century was America's and the 21st century would be Asia's, predicted economic soothsayers.

China's great moderniser, Deng Xiaoping, had already claimed that the rise of China and India would define the return of Asia to its historic place in the comity of nations. Singapore's founder Lee Kuan Yew borrowed an economic metaphor from Walt Rostow, whose "stages of growth theory" had defined the "take-off" of an economy as a precursor to economic maturity, and declared that China and India were the twin engines of an Asian jet plane soaring into the skies.

The trans-Atlantic financial crisis of 2008-09, wrongly dubbed as a "global financial crisis", was the next milestone and for a few years after that the world saw Europe in crisis,

America bogged down in wars but China and India rising. China's rise was spectacular, India's was more subdued but Asian optimism was the flavour of the decade. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic. A fellow Hyderabad and Osmani, Vasuki Shastry, now at London's Chatham House, published a book in 2021 titled Has Asia Lost it? Dynamic Past, Turbulent Future, raising doubts about whether indeed the 21st century would be Asian. China had already started slowing down, and so had India. Japan has been on a downward slope through the 2000s. While Europe had also lost its coveted place in the global ranking of economies, it remains home to advances in science and technology. The United States had regained momentum.

Since the publication of Shastry's book China, Japan and India have slowed down even more. Most other Asian economies are in a tizzy adjusting to the emerging "new Cold War" between the United States and China and President Donald Trump's stated strategy of pursuing the geo-economic containment of China. Most Asian economies are caught in a trap in which they are dependent on the US for security but on China for prosperity. Has Asia "lost it"? Is the Asian rise running out of gas?

Some facts stand out. In Asia, Japan has certainly fallen back. In 2010 China overtook Japan to become the world's second largest economy. In 2025, India could well overtake Japan and secure the third place. Though the gap between number two and number three will still be huge, with China now five times bigger than India. A second fact that stands out is

that Europe is slowing down too. Europe's biggest economy, Germany, is in crisis mode. There's still some life left in Europe but it remains to be seen how much energy is in there to recover lost space. If in 2000 the Group of Seven (G-7) economies accounted for more than 50 per cent of world income, by 2020 their share was well below 50 per cent and that of Asia was well above 50 per cent. But, by 2024, the balance was tilting in G-7's favour only because the US has bounced back and China has slowed down. Going forward, both the US and China may take steps to retain their existing share of world income, even if they find it difficult to increase their shares by much. It would be the performance of Europe, in the West, and of India, Japan and the Asean economies in the East, over the next decade that would set the stage for whether indeed the 21st century would be Asian or not. During the forthcoming Donald Trump presidency we can expect the United States to take steps aimed at retaining its global dominance. The US has declared that the 21st century would also be defined by Pax Americana. On the other hand, China too would take steps to ensure that its economy regains momentum so that it can remain a close second to the US. China knows that it will take a long time for it to in fact overtake the US. Hence, we will live through a period of intense competition. It is in China's interest to ensure that competition with the West does not escalate into conflict. Hence, a rational strategy would be one in which China does not undertake any kinetic action to integrate Taiwan. The US, on the other hand, may be tempted to draw China into a

conflict in the western Pacific to slow down China's economic rise. The dynamics of US-China relations will define to a great extent whether the 21st century would be Asian. Going forward, India has an important role in defining the centre of gravity of the world economy in the 21st century. That centre had decisively moved East from the Atlantic and towards Asia. It will be the performance of the Indian economy that will drive that centre of gravity closer to the Indian Ocean. India is at present cruising at an annual average rate of growth around 6.0 per cent. It has to accelerate to at least 7.5 per cent, a record that was set during Manmohan Singh's decade in office, for India to play a role in how the 21st century is viewed. India will not only have to deal with competition within Asia, especially with China, but also competition with the West that is fighting back to regain space. The United States and the European Union will work hard to retain their share of world income and trade. They may provoke conflicts that slow down the rise of emerging economies. It is in Asia's interest to seek a decade of peace for its economies to regain momentum. Asian nations, big and small, have a role to play in this game. How Japan, South Korea and the Asean economies, especially Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, perform will also play an important role in setting the stage for a resumption of Asia's rise. In 2021, Shastry was right to suggest that Covid had marked a shift from a dynamic past to a turbulent future for Asia. While Asia has recovered from that setback, America has recovered even faster. The race, once again, is on.

## Pawan Verma honoured with Gopalram Gahmari Abhinaye Samman-2024



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Pawan Verma, the young theatre artist of Jammu & Kashmir honoured with Gopalram Gahmari Abhinaye Samman-2024 in 10th Gopalram Gahmari Sahitya Kala Festival organised in the memory of the famous detective novelist Gopal Ram Gahmari, in a simple but an impressive function by Sahitya Saroj magazine and Gahmar Welfare Society at Gahmar (native village of Gopalram Gahmari) in Uttar Pradesh.

The function was graced by Usha Kiran Shrivatsav a well-known Hindi & Bajjika (languages of North Bihar) writer as the Chief Guest and Rama Shukla a well-known Hindi writer from Jhansi was the guest of honour.

This year the jury members selected well known theatre artist of Jammu Pawan Verma for the award in theatre field. The award carries a memento, a Certificate and a Shawl. With this Award this was the 4th in row, award in year 2024 to Pawan Verma. The rest prestigious awards are J&K State Award-2024, Padamshri Prof. Ramnath Shastri Awards-2024 and Kunwar Vijoyi Sahitya Puruskar-2024.

Gopal Ram Gahmari is considered the father of detective novels. He served Hindi selflessly. Non-Hindi speakers learned Hindi to read the author's works. Gahmari initially translated plays, then he started translating novels. Gopal Ram Gahmari wrote poems, plays, novels, stories, essays and in various genres of literature, but gained fame in the field of detective novels.

He ran a magazine called 'Jaasooos' for 38 years without any support. For this, he had to write almost one novel every month. He wrote more than 200 detective novels and translated hundreds of stories. 'Adbhut Laash', 'Bekasoor Ki Phansi', 'Sar-Kaati Laash', 'Double Jasooos', 'Bhayankar Chori', 'Khooni Ki Khoj' and 'Guptbhed' are his major novels. The first Hindi translation of Rabindranath Tagore's poem 'Chitranganda' was done by Gahmari. He was such a writer who could increase the number of Hindi readers. After Devkinandan Khatri, if non-Hindi speakers learned Hindi to read the works of any other writer, it was Gopal Ram Gahmari.

Pawan Verma is a young theatre artist, Dogri writer and Dogri News Reader in A.I.R & Doordarshan. Pawan belongs to Mubarak Mandi in the heart of city, Jammu. He has adopted this cultural race without any family background.

He started his theatre journey from the Natrang's theatre camp 2000 under the guidance of Balwant Thakur (Padma Shri). He is doing Theatre from last 24 years and acted in over 80 plays which were performed more than 700 times through-out the country and abroad too. He has participated in more than 40 National & International Theatre Festivals. Important among them are :

'Year of India in Russia' festival-Moscow-2009, Frankfurt international theatre festival-Frankfurt (Germany)-2009, Nandikar international theatre Festival, Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Jashn-e-Bachpan, Commonwealth Games, New Delhi-2010, International Cultural event at Indian International Centre, New Delhi-2011, 101th Indian science Congress- 2013, 8th international theatre Olympics-2018. International festival on Indian Dsance-2024 etc. which was organized by Indian council for cultural relations (ICCR), National school of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi.

For his outstanding Achievements & contribution in the Art, Culture & Literature, He has honoured with many awards: J&K State Award -2024 by J&K Govt., Padamshri Prof. Ramnath Shastri Memorial Award-2024, Kunwar Vijoyi Sahitya Puruskar-2024, Junior Fellowship by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, Mahatma Gandhi Seva Puruskar-2020, International Excellence Award-2022, Kabir Samman-2023 etc.

## Unidentified male body found in Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: An unidentified male body was discovered on January 4, 2025, at approximately 3:30 PM in train number 12413 Pooja Express (Coach No. NR-163414-C) at the washing line of Railway Station Jammu.

The deceased, estimated to be around 55-60 years old, was found unresponsive, and the body was subsequently shifted to the mortuary at GMC Jammu for postmortem and identification.

The deceased is described as approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall with a wheatish complexion. At the time of

discovery, he was wearing a red jacket, brown pants, and chapals. Authorities are making efforts to establish the identity of the individual and have requested the public's assistance in this matter.

Anyone with information regarding the identity or residential details of the deceased is urged to contact GRP Jammu at 0191-2474946 or 6005784806. The PCR GRP Jammu Helpline is also available at 1512.

The police are appealing to citizens to share any relevant information that could help locate the family or relatives of the deceased. Investigations are underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

## Kejriwal is cheating people of Delhi: Lal Singh Arya

### Top News Report

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Jan 6: Bharatiya Janata Party SC Morcha National President Lal Singh Arya took Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal to task and said that he has cheated the people of Delhi by misleading them with free words.

The Kejriwal government has done Yamuna cleaning scam, liquor scam and looted the poor of Delhi through water scam, broken roads, not giving permanent houses to slum dwellers, supply of dirty drinking water.

Nothing is available for free here in Delhi. The people of Delhi have to buy drinking water. The mohalla clinics built by them do not even have medicines. Doctors also do not sit there. Where doctors sit, they prescribe medicines and the patient has to buy medicines from medical stores. Electricity is also expensive in Delhi and the people of Delhi have to pay the expensive electricity bills. Aam Aadmi Party is in power in Punjab. They show big dreams to the people there but nobody is getting anything. Aam Aadmi Party came to power by showing dreams of freebies and cheated the people.

Lal Singh Arya said while speaking that Arvind Kejriwal's movement was done by putting a gun on Anna Hazare's shoulder. Kejriwal came to power with the support of honest Anna Hazare. He had said that he will not take a bunga



low. Will not take a car and will expose the corruption of Congress. Will send Congress leaders to jail." \*Kejriwal did not do anything like this. Rather, by joining hands with Congress, he contested elections in many states and himself got involved in corruption due to which Kejriwal and his fellow ministers had to go to jail, who are out on bail today.

Lal Singh Arya said that the people of the country should understand this. Corrupt people do not do good to the public and only fill their own pockets.

Now the people of the country including Delhi have understood the tricks of these corrupt people and Kejriwal government and Congress are going to be completely wiped out from Delhi and a strong Bharatiya Janata Party government will be formed in Delhi.

## Rising asphyxiation cases in Kashmir need solutions; Govt should provide carbon monoxide sensors: Tarigami

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 6: Expressing serious concern over the rising asphyxiation cases in Kashmir, which have become a recurring issue during winters,

CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami

on Monday urged the government to provide carbon monoxide sensors to households at subsidized rates.

Referring to the increasing asphyxiation cases which have so far claimed seven lives in Kashmir, with one victim still in critical condition, the CPI (M)



leader said that the government should formulate a policy to distribute carbon monoxide sensors at subsidized rates through local bodies.

He added that while the victims cannot be brought back, families should receive compensation as a humanitarian gesture, and those in critical condition due

to suffocation should be provided immediate and free of cost treatment.

Tarigami said that there is a need for awareness campaigns at the village level about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and called for concrete steps to prevent further cases of suffocation in J&K.

## Shaurya of DPS Jammu wins silver medal at 20th National Taekwondo Championship

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Shaurya Sharma, a student of Class IX-C at Delhi Public School Jammu has brought laurels to the school and his parents by securing the silver medal in the prestigious 20th National Taekwondo Championship. The championship was held in Surat, Gujarat, from 28-30 December 2024, organized by CAN Taekwon-Do and supported by the ITF Taekwon-Do Federation.

Shaurya competed in the under-17 age group category and showcased exceptional skill and determination, earning accolades in a competition that witnessed the participation of 38 talented players from Jammu & Kashmir.



The esteemed management of DPS Jammu under the leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director, S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Shaurya for his outstanding performance in the event. They also expressed

their appreciation to his parents for their unwavering support and encouragement.

The school community is immensely proud of Shaurya's achievement and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors. Shaurya's victory is a testament to his hard work, discipline, and passion for Taekwondo.

## Fourth day of National Integration Camp begins with Yoga session



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The fourth day of the National Integration Camp organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) began with a rejuvenating Yoga session promoting physical well-being and mental tranquility among participants. Under the guidance of Dr. Arun Gupta, Medical Officer, Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu, the attendance greeted the morning sun and performed various asanas, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

Participants gathered for a hearty breakfast after the Yoga session that provided the energy needed for the day's activities. As the morning progressed the excitement kicked into high gear with the finals of Badminton and Table Tennis tournaments.

In Badminton Sikkim Contingent and in Table Tennis Chandigarh Contingent emerged as winners. Participants showcased remarkable skills and sportsmanship. The event created

a spirited atmosphere, with participants cheering for their fellow campers and celebrating their achievements at GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu. Medals to the winners were presented by Principals of Host colleges.

Following the sports event, contestants participated in a spirited Declamation contest, where they delivered passionate speeches on the topic 'Breaking Chains - Building Dreams', and enthusiasm was displayed by all the participants. 27 Participants from 18 contingents participated in this event.

In the afternoon, attendees were engaged in academic sessions. The Resource Person for the first session was Ms. Preeti Choudhary from Mission Shakti. She sensitized the volunteers about the relevance of Self-defence in the present time.

The second session of the program was led by Dr. Niti Shekhar, Assistant Professor, IIM. Her topic of the lecture

was

'Entrepreneurship and Women'. She highlighted the Entrepreneurial Strategies for women that are pivotal in fostering a more inclusive business landscape. She discussed in her lecture about financial literacy, funding options, and microloans tailored for women-led businesses which empower women to make their own decisions. By adopting these strategies, Women entrepreneurs cannot only thrive individually but also contribute to a more diverse and resilient economy.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, the cultural evening started with a vibrant display of diverse talents, featu EarlyTimes@gmail.com ring traditional dances, and music performances that highlighted the rich culture of our Nation. Participants from Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, JK05, and JK03 took the stage with enthusiasm showcasing their creativity and fostering a sense of unity.

## Transformer in Qazigund village damaged 5 times in a month; people suffer

### Top News Report

QAZIGUND, Jan 5: Inhabitants of Levдора (Naibasti) Qazigund are without electricity for last 15 days, as damaged transformer yet to be repaired since then, alleged locals on Sunday.

Talking to Top News JK correspondent Gh Nabi khanday locals said the community electric transformer developed some technical snag and since then it is yet to be repaired, leaving us in high and dry amid harsh winter.

"The 100 KV transformer is meant to provide electricity to about

60 households and it frequently develops technical snags. So much so that it develops faults five times in a month. We have been spending thousands of rupees on it every month especially during winters," said a local, Aamir Hussain.

Meanwhile, a senior official from PDD Sub-division Qazigund told that he will look into the matter and will replace it as soon as possible for the convenience of general public, adding we appealed to the people to use electricity judiciously to prevent such occurrences.

## Bukhari expresses profound grief over tragic death of five members of family

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 5: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed his profound grief and shock over the tragic death of five members of a family — including parents and their three children — due to suffocation in a rented accommodation in the Pandrathan area of Srinagar.

In his statement Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "It is deeply shocking to hear

that five members of a family originally hailing from Gangyal area of Uri in Baramulla, have died from suffocation in their rented accommodation in the Pandrathan area of Srinagar."

"The deceased children comprise a one-month-old infant and two toddlers aged 18 months and 3 years. This tragedy is both heartbreaking and unbearable. Words cannot express the grief and sorrow I feel upon hearing about this tragic event," he added.

## DC Samba issues directive to curb illegal land conversions

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Deputy Commissioner of Samba has directed all revenue authorities and officers to refrain from registering any documents

related to the sale or purchase of real estate projects that fall under the purview of the JK Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, unless registered with JKREERA.

The directive also

mandates strict enforcement to prevent illegal colonies and prohibits the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes without proper authorization, ensuring compliance with the law.

## Akshay Kumar, Veer Pahariya lead the high-octane aerial action in film Sky Force

Jio Studios and Maddock Films have officially unveiled the much-awaited trailer for Sky Force, set to release on January 24, 2025, just in time for Republic Day week.

This patriotic thriller promises to deliver a compelling mix of high-octane air combat sequences, emotionally charged moments, and a gripping narrative centred around one of India's most daring military operations.

Starring Akshay Kumar and debutant Veer Pahariya in lead roles, Sky Force offers an exhilarating glimpse into India's first and one of its deadliest airstrikes on Pakistan. The trailer sets the stage for a thrilling journey filled with brave soldiers, heart-wrenching sacrifice, and stirring patriotism.

Directed by Sandeep Kewani and Abhishek Kapur, Sky Force follows the story of an Indian Air Force (IAF) officer, played by Akshay Kumar, who embarks on a mission of vengeance after several Indian soldiers are killed. As tensions escalate, Akshay's character challenges the conventional mindset, urging his superiors to take action and execute the country's first-ever airstrike in retaliation. In a powerful dialogue, he says, "Doosra gaal neta dikhathe hai, hum fauji nahi." (Another cheek is extended by political leaders,



not soldiers).

Veer Pahariya, making his film debut, plays another IAF officer who teams up with Akshay Kumar's character to lead the mission. However, as the operation intensifies, Veer's aircraft is shot down, and he is later reported "missing in action".

The emotional toll of the mission is further depicted through the character of Sara Ali Khan, who plays Veer's wife, anxiously awaiting news of her husband's fate.

In addition to the main cast, actress Nimrat Kaur also stars in a pivotal role.

Speaking about the film, Dinesh Vijan, founder and pro-

ducer of Maddock Films, in a press statement said, "The motto of our nation's soldiers is never to leave any of their comrades behind. This commitment exemplifies the profound bravery and selflessness that define their service. Sky Force is a salute to that commitment. It is the story from an untold chapter in our nation's history that demanded to be told."

Vijan further expressed his pride in bringing this story to life, adding, "With Akshay Kumar helming the film and Veer Pahariya making his debut, we believe Sky Force will elicit a lasting impression on the hearts of viewers everywhere. Some

missions end, while others last a lifetime. Sky Force promises to last a lifetime."

Jyoti Deshpande, President-Media and Content Business at Reliance Industries and a producer of the film, shared her thoughts on the film's significance. "Sky Force is not just a film; it's a tribute to the bravery, patriotism, and indomitable spirit of our armed forces. This poignant story shines light on a significant chapter of India's history, honouring the sacrifices of our unsung heroes," she said, adding, "At Jio Studios, we take immense pride in bringing to life stories with purpose, and Sky Force is sure to inspire and evoke a deep sense of pride in every Indian."

Akshay Kumar also shared the movie's trailer on his social media handle and wrote, "This Republic Day, witness the untold story of a heroic sacrifice - the tale of India's first and deadliest airstrike. Mission #SkyForce- In Cinemas 24th January 2025. #SkyForceTrailer is out now." The trailer of 'Sky Force' promises to be a visual treat with breathtaking aerial combat sequences, showcasing the courage and skill of the Indian Air Force officers.

Sky Force will hit theatres on January 24, 2025, just ahead of Republic Day.

## Glad our film will finally hit big screen: Kangana Ranaut on 'Emergency'



Actor-filmmaker Kangana Ranaut shared the trailer of her much awaited film "Emergency" on Monday, calling the journey to the release of the political drama a long one "filled with challenges".

Starring Ranaut as former prime minister Indira Gandhi, the film missed out on its September 6, 2024, release date as it was unable to obtain the clearance certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

"Emergency" was mired in controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, accused it of misrepresenting the community and getting facts wrong.

Ranaut, who also serves as director and producer on the film, said she is looking forward to its release on January 17.

"I'm glad that our film 'Emergency' will finally hit the big screen on 17th Janu-

ary. This story isn't just about a controversial leader; it delves into themes that remain profoundly relevant today, making the journey both difficult and significant," the actor-BJP MP said in a statement.

"Releasing just a week before Republic Day, it's the perfect time to reflect on the resilience of our Constitution and experience the film with your loved ones," she added.

Ranaut shared the trailer of the film on her X handle.

She captioned her post as: "1975, Emergency - A Defining chapter in Indian History. Indira: India's most powerful woman. Her ambition transformed the nation, but her #EMERGENCY plunged it into chaos."

"Emergency" delves into the emergency that was imposed by Indira Gandhi for 21 months from 1975 to 1977 and its aftermath.

"As we mark 50 years since the 1975 Emergency, this film isn't just a historical retelling—it's a reflection on the resilience of democracy and a tribute to those who fought to protect it. 'Emergency' is a cinematic milestone that challenges audiences to question, engage, and remember the cost of freedom," added producer Umesh KR Bansal.

"Emergency" also stars Anupam Kher as Jayaprakash Narayan, Shreyas Talpade in the role of a young Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Milind Soman as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Mahima Choudhary as Pooja Jayakar and the late Satish Kaushik in the role of Jagjivan Ram.

The film is produced by Zee Studios and Manikarnika Films.

## Shalini Passi gives tips on how to make 'boring' parties 'fabulous'

Shalini Passi, who took the Internet by storm after her appearance in the reality show "Bollywood Wives Vs Fabulous Lives," has given out tips on how to make boring parties fabulous in her own style.

Shalini took to her Instagram, where she shared a sparkly new video. In the clip she jotted down some important tips on how to make parties as grand as hers.

In the clip, the internet sensation is heard saying: "Hi, this is Shalini Passi and this is my guide for making your parties go from boring to fabulous."

Her first tip was: "Always remember to pay attention to detail." "Don't rely on others for entertainment. Be your own entertainment," Shalini revealed the second tip.

Describing it as "important", her third point included: "Most importantly, shine from all angles or sparkle."

"Don't forget small gestures matter. Finally, leave a lasting impression," she revealed the final two tips.

With just one stint on "Bollywood Wives Vs Fabulous Lives," Shalini



has managed to rule over the hearts of all. She was even seen as a guest on the controversial reality show "Big Boss 18" last month. Ahead of her stepping into the house, she shared her mantra to survive in "Big Boss". She spoke about the five important steps she would follow to "survive in the house."

"Step 1: Walk at your own pace," said Shalini. She added: "Step 2: Stay fabulous always, even during kitchen

Step 3: Drama, ignore it, even if it's religious. Step 4: Be like Taj Mahal, timeless, classy, impossible to replicate. Step 5: Speak less, slay more. Bye."

Talking about "Big Boss 18", the show is in its last two weeks with names such as Vivian Dsenca, Shilpa Shirodkar, Karanveer Mehra, Chum Darang, Chahat Panday, Rajat Dalal, Eisha Sharma, Avinash Mishra and Kashish Kapoor competing for the trophy.

## Divya Dutta challenging herself to get out of her comfort zone

Actor, author, travel junkie, and now a motivational speaker, Divya Dutta has led life on her own terms. The Punjabi girl dreamt of being an actress, and she is living her dream. Never mind that she had to learn and unlearn things on the way!

The year 2024 was special for Divya. Films like Sharmajee Ki Beti and Sikandar Ka Muqaddar won her love, and the web series Bandish Bandits brought her critical acclaim. "Last year was fantastic. I shot for about five different films, and travelled a lot," opens up the National Film Award winning actress.

"I welcome 2025 with lots of gratitude and hope," adds Divya, who ushered 2025 in Mumbai, with her family and friends. No New Year resolutions for her. Talking about her character Nandini in Bandish Bandits 2, she says, "I was an ardent admirer of Bandish Bandits Season 1, which was mesmerising. The story was beautifully told by Anand Tiwari."

When Tiwari asked Divya if she would be interested in playing the part of Nandini in



Season 2, she jumped at the opportunity. The part was initially written keeping a male actor in mind but Tiwari later

changed it to a female one. "It just worked out beautifully. The character of Nandini was so nuanced, whether it's

her look or the character arc; her backstory, the intrigue factor and her philosophy of music, everything made her an attractive character to play," she says.

Divya had to unlearn a few things and learn a lot on the sets. "An absolutely different world it was, and very challenging, exciting and amazing for me. I'm so proud and honoured that I could be a part of this one."

Divya is inundated with messages and calls for her portrayal of Nandini. "I'm delighted that everyone is watching Bandish Bandits 2 and loving it so much. I guess the music has resonated beautifully with the audience."

The songs have become a rage. My young niece and nephew are humming those songs. So, I'm sure it has reached all generations."

With a number of films to her credit, including Veer-Zaara, Delhi 6 and Welcome to Sajjanpur, Divya is loving her time on OTT. "OTT has paved a path for women, who are in their 30s 40s and above. Being an actress is no longer just romancing the hero or just get-

ting kidnapped by a villain. The characters are more layered now. People want to know what happens after happily ever after, people want to know the grey that lies between a black and a white, and see a woman in such shades. Our audience is ready for it and so are the storytellers, so there's a lot more happening for actresses now."

Thought it's been three decades in the profession, for Divya it's still a learning process. "I have been very lucky. I have worked with the best directors." Among them was Shyam Benegal, who gave her the memorable character Vindhya in Welcome to Sajjanpur. "He was an institution unto himself. With his unassuming persona, he could bring out the best in his actors. I learnt a lot from him!"

Divya will next be seen in Laxman Utekar's historical drama Chhaava. "I've also completed a biopic recently, and a film with Manoj Bajpayee. I have taken up many projects and that is pushing me out of my comfort zone. That's something I want to explore in 2025." We are watching!

## Karan Johar has a profound message for 'avid reel consumers'

Karan took to his Instagram stories, where he shared profound note, which also talked about "killing books" courtesy consumption of clips

Filmmaker Karan Johar has shared a message for "avid reel consumers" and talked about how they have bid adieu to the 'silently suffering attention span'.

Karan took to his Instagram stories, where he shared the profound note, which also talked about "killing books" courtesy the consumption of clips.

"Dear avid REEL consumer, You have officially bid goodbye to the silently suffering 'Attention Span'... and as far as I am concerned you killed me a decade ago. Regretfully yours, BOOK," he wrote as the caption.

An avid user of social media himself, Karan often posts thought-

provoking yet hilarious quotes on his social media.

Earlier this week, KJo reflected on his fond memories and reopened his "yaadon ka dabba".

He penned a nostalgic post about the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani", which released in 2013.

It read, "It's time to relive this yaadon ka mithai ka dabba! #YehJawaaniHaiDeewani in select cinemas near you - book your tickets now!"

KJo's latest Insta post also included a collage of some special moments from the film, capturing its essence of "Pyaar, Sapna, Deewanapan, Dosti".



Made under the direction of Ayan Mukerji, "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani" starred Ranbir Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Aditya Roy Kapur, and Kalki Koechlin in pivotal roles. Bankrolled by Hiroo Yash Johar and Karan Johar under the banner of Dharma Productions, Pritam provided the tunes for the movie.

"Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani" shares the tale of four classmates, who end up going on a trekking trip together, changing the dynamics of their friendship forever.

The drama is also credited with some memorable songs such as 'Badtameez Dil', 'Balam Pichkari', 'Subhanallah', 'Kabira', 'Ilaahi', and 'Dilliwala Girlfriend'.

Karan on January 2 had revealed what he considers to be his biggest passion.

He wrote, "Films..What we live and die for..." It should not come as any surprise, given that Karan Johar has dedicated all his life to making movies, and continues to do so even today.

As far as Karan Johar's next project is concerned, the director recently joined forces with Kartik Aryan for a romantic comedy titled "Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri".

Sameer Vidwans will be helming the movie scheduled to be out in the theatres in 2026.

## Prez Murmu greets citizens on 'Prakash Parv' of Guru Gobind Singh

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday greeted citizens on the occasion of 'Prakash Parv' of Guru Gobind Singh and hoped that his timeless teachings guide all towards a path of righteousness, peace and harmony.

The birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh guru is observed as 'Prakash Parv'.

Guru Gobind Singh, who established the Khalsa Panth, was born in Patna Sahib in



1666. "Greetings to all on the sacred occasion of Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh Ji! His selfless devotion to well-being of humanity continues to inspire us.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji always advocated for equality and justice.

"May his timeless teachings guide us towards a path of righteousness, peace, and harmony," Murmu said in a post on X.

## PM Modi pays tribute to Guru Gobind Singh on birth anniversary



NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to

10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh on his birth anniversary, observed as 'Prakash Utsav', on Monday.

He said in a post on X, "I bow to Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji on his Prakash Utsav. His thoughts inspire us to build a society that is progressive, prosperous and compassionate."

Guru Gobind Singh, who established the Khalsa Panth, was born in Patna Sahib in 1666.

## CJI Khanna recuses himself from hearing pleas related to IOA, AIFF constitutions

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing two separate pleas pertaining to finalisation of the constitutions of the Indian Olympic Association and the All India Football Federation, both framed by former apex court judge Justice L Nageswara Rao.

At the outset of the proceedings, the Chief Justice of India (CJI), who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, said he would not be part of the bench to hear these cases as he had earlier taken up one of the pleas in Delhi High



Court.

"Let the pleas come before another bench headed by Justice PS Narasimha on February 10. I remember hearing this in Delhi High Court," CJI Khanna said.

The pleas were last taken up on March 19, 2024, by a bench headed by the then CJI DY Chandrachud.

The bench had then permitted the All India Football Federation

(AIFF) to file its objections to the draft constitution proposed by Justice Rao.

"The amicus curiae will update the existing chart to reflect the objections of the AIFF," the bench had said.

It had also said that it would decide the issues raised about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the AIFF constitutions on the next date of hearing.

## Nithari killings: SC to hear on March 25 pleas against Surendra Koli's acquittal

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday said it would on March 25 hear a batch of pleas against the acquittal of Surendra Koli in the 2006 Nithari serial killings case.

A bench of Justices B R Gawai and Augustine George Masih was informed by solicitor general Tushar Mehta that the case was over the "very serious and gruesome" killings in Nithari, UP.

Koli's counsel said the evidence against his client was a confessional statement, recorded several days after his police custody in the case.

The bench directed its registry to summon the trial court records in other connected matters



expeditiously and supply its copies to the lawyers appearing in the matter.

The hearing was posted on March 25.

In 2024, the apex court agreed to examine separate pleas filed by the CBI and the UP government challenging the high court's acquittal verdict.

Koli was awarded death penalty on September 28, 2010 by the trial court.

Moninder Singh Pandher and his domestic help Koli were accused of rape and murder of persons, mostly children, in their neighbourhood in Nithari, UP.

The high court acquit-

ted them in the death penalty case and said the prosecution had failed to prove their guilt "beyond reasonable doubt" while calling it a "botched up" investigation.

Reversing the death sentence given to Koli in 12 cases and Pandher in two cases, the high court said the probe was "nothing short of a betrayal of public trust by responsible agencies".

The high court allowed multiple appeals filed by Koli and Pandher, who challenged the death sentence awarded by a CBI court in Ghaziabad.

A total of 19 cases were lodged against the duo in 2007, and the CBI filed closure reports in three cases due to lack of evidence.

Koli was acquitted in three of the 16 remaining cases, and his death sentence in one case was commuted to life.

The killings came to light with the discovery of the skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind Pandher's house at Nithari in Noida, bordering the national capital, on December 29, 2006.

Further digging and searches of drains in the area around the house led to more skeletal remains. Most of these remains were those of children and young women who went missing in the area.

The CBI took over the case within 10 days of the crime and its search resulted in the recovery of more human remains.

## Bengaluru shocker: Techie, wife kill their children, die by suicide

BENGALURU, Jan 6 (Agencies): A tragic incident of a software professional and his wife ending their lives after killing their two children was reported from Bengaluru on Monday.

The shocking incident took place in the limits of Sadashivanagar police station in Bengaluru.

The deceased have been identified as 38-year-old Anoop, a software professional from Uttar Pradesh, his wife 35-year-old Raakhi, their children five-year-old Anupriya and two-year-old Priyansh.

The domestic help told the police that since the couple's eldest kid Anupriya was a child with special needs, the young parents were distraught.

According to police,

Anoop worked as a software consultant with a private company.

The house help told the police that till Saturday night, things had seemed normal and the couple looked happy.

The murder-cum-suicide came to light when the house help came on Monday morning and did not get any response from the family.

Police suspect that depressed by Anupriya's condition, the couple had taken the decision to end their lives and kill their children before that.

They first killed both the children by poisoning their food and later hanged themselves at their residence.

The family had three maids and Anoop had asked them to come



early on Monday as they were planning to visit Pondicherry city.

The couple had got the packing done by the staff on Sunday itself, police said.

Two of the staff were hired for cooking and one was kept to take care of the children.

The helpers were each getting a salary of Rs 15,000 per month as the

family was financially sound.

However, the Sadashivanagar police are exploring all angles and investigating whether the family was debt-ridden or going through a rough financial patch.

On August 3, 2023, a shocking incident of a 31-year-old software professional ending his life after killing his wife

and two daughters was reported in Kadugodi police station limits of Bengaluru.

The deceased techie was identified as Veer-arjuna Vijay from Andhra Pradesh. He had killed his wife Hemavathi (29) and his two infant daughters aged 18 months and 8 months, respectively.

According to police, the incident had come to light when neighbours complained to the police that a foul smell was emanating from the apartment where the family lived.

In another incident, a 24-year-old techie working with a reputed IT company had committed suicide by inhaling helium gas in a hotel in Bengaluru on August 20, 2024.

## SpaDeX docking postponed to January 9: ISRO



BENGALURU, Jan 6 (Agencies): ISRO on Monday said the docking experiment of SpaDeX satellites scheduled for January 7 is now postponed to January 9.

The Bengaluru-based space agency said the docking process requires further validation through ground simulations based on an abort scenario identified on Monday.

"The SpaDeX Docking scheduled on (January) 7th is now postponed to 9th. The docking process requires further validation through ground simulations based on an abort scenario identified today," ISRO said in a post on 'X'.

ISRO had successfully launched the ambitious Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission on December 30.

The PSLV C60 rocket carrying two small satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), along with 24 payloads, had lifted off from the first launchpad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and about 15 minutes after liftoff, the two small spacecraft weighing about 220 kg each were launched into a 475-km circular orbit as intended.

According to ISRO, SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft that was launched by PSLV. This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

In-space docking technology is essential when multiple rocket launches are required to achieve common mission objectives. Through this mission, India is marching towards becoming the fourth country in the world to have space docking technology.

## Four killed, 32 injured as Kerala state bus falls into gorge in Idukki

IDUKKI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Four people lost their lives and 32 others sustained injuries when a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus fell into a gorge near Pullupara on the Kottarakara-Dindigul national highway early Monday morning.

The bus, part of the KSRTC budget tourism cell, was returning to Mavelikkara in Alappuzha district after a tour of Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The accident occurred around 6.15 am near the Kallivayal estate in Idukki district.

The deceased were identified as Arun Hari (55), Rama Mohan (40), Sangeeth (45), and Bindhu Unnithan (59), all residents of Mavelik-



kara.

According to preliminary reports, the vehicle's brakes failed while navigating a sharp curve, causing the bus to spiral into a 70-foot-deep gorge. The bus got lodged against a tree, potentially preventing further casualties.

Emergency responders, including local residents, police, and Fire and Rescue Services personnel, launched rescue operations. The

injured were rushed to Mundakayam Medical Trust Hospital and Mar Sleevea Medicity in Pala for treatment.

Efforts are underway to recover the bus using a crane to ensure no one remains trapped.

Officials stated that the bus had departed from Mavelikkara on Sunday morning and was due to return early Monday. Investigations into the exact cause of the accident are ongoing.

## 9 killed as Naxals blow up vehicle carrying security personnel in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Eight District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and a driver were killed after Naxals blew up their vehicle using an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. The blast occurred on the Bedre-Kutru Road in the district.

The security personnel were returning from an operation when the incident happened. The DRG is a unit of the state police.

"The security personnel were returning to the base camp from a joint operation of Dantewada, Narayanpur, and Bijapur

when, at around 2.15 pm on January 6, unidentified Maoists detonated an IED near Ambeli village in the Kutru police station area of Bijapur district," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bastar said.

"We will soon release a detailed statement on this," the official added.

This is the biggest strike on security personnel by Naxalites in the last two years, an official said.

On April 26, 2023, ten police personnel and a civilian driver were killed after Naxals blew up their vehicle, which was part of a convoy carrying security per-

sonnel in neighbouring Dantewada district.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed condolences over the death of the security personnel and called the incident "extremely painful".

"My condolences are with the families of the martyrs. I pray to God for peace to the souls of the martyred soldiers and to provide strength to the bereaved families," he said.

"The Naxalites are frustrated with the ongoing Naxal eradication campaign in Bastar and are perpetrating such cowardly acts out of frustration. The mar-

tyrdom of the soldiers will not go in vain, our fight to end Naxalism will continue strongly," he added.

Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh reacted to the incident and said, "Whenever big operations are conducted against them, these Naxalites resort to cowardly attacks. I express my condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives in this attack. The significant steps being taken by the Chhattisgarh government and the central government will continue to move forward."

In a latest update, an NIA team will soon visit Bijapur, according to sources. The team will be sent from the Raipur NIA branch. The NIA forensic team will also be present.

This comes a day after five Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bastar. The gunfight broke out on Saturday evening (January 4) at a forest in south Abujhmad along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation.

## Biden says Americans shouldn't forget Capitol attack—but that there won't be a repeat this time

*Biden spent much of 2024 warning voters that Trump was a serious threat to nation's democracy*

WASHINGTON, Jan 6 (Agencies): President Joe Biden is decrying what he calls an "unrelenting effort" to downplay a mob of Donald Trump supporters overrunning the US Capitol in an attempt to block certification of the 2020 election — seeking to contrast that day's chaos with what he promises will be an orderly transition returning Trump to power for a second term.

In an opinion piece published in the Washington Post, Biden recalled Jan. 6, 2021, writing that "violent insurrectionists attacked the Capitol." "We should be proud that our democracy withstood this assault," Biden wrote. "And we should be glad we will not see such a shameful attack again this year." Congress will convene amid snow in Washington on Monday to certify Trump's victory in November's election — in a session presided over by the candidate he defeated, Vice President Kamala Harris. No violence, or even procedural objections, are expected this time, marking a return to a US tradition that launches the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

That's despite Trump continuing to deny that he lost to



Biden in 2020, already musing publicly about staying beyond the Constitution's two-term White House limit, and promising to pardon some of the more than 1,250 people who have pleaded guilty or were convicted of crimes for the Capitol siege.

In his opinion piece, Biden says of the certification process, "After what we all witnessed on Jan. 6, 2021, we know we can never again take it for granted." He doesn't mention Trump directly but says "an unrelenting effort has been underway to rewrite — even erase — the history of that day." "To tell us

we didn't see what we all saw with our own eyes," Biden wrote. "We cannot allow the truth to be lost." He vowed that the "election will be certified peacefully. I have invited the incoming president to the White House on the morning of Jan. 20, and I will be present for his inauguration that afternoon," even though Trump skipped Biden's inauguration in 2021.

"But on this day, we cannot forget," Biden added. "We should commit to remembering Jan 6, 2021, every year. To remember it as a day when our democracy was put to the test and prevailed. To remember that

democracy — even in America — is never guaranteed."

The published piece followed Biden telling reporters at the White House that the history of what occurred on Jan. 6, 2021, "should not be rewritten" and adding, "I don't think it should be forgotten." Biden spent much of 2024 warning voters that Trump was a serious threat to the nation's democracy. And this past week, the president awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to Liz Cheney and Bennie Thompson, leaders of the congressional investigation into the Capitol riot.

As he did with his opinion piece, Biden used comments to reporters to stress that his administration is overseeing a peaceful handover of power — unlike the last one.

"I've reached out to make sure the smooth transition," Biden said of Trump's incoming administration. "We've got to get back to basic, normal transfer of power." When asked if he still viewed his soon-to-be successor in the White House as a threat to democracy, Biden responded, "I think what he did was a genuine threat to democracy. I'm hopeful we're beyond that now."

## South Korea's military says North Korea fired missile into eastern sea

SEOUL DC, Jan 6 (Agencies): North Korea on Monday fired a ballistic missile that flew 1,100 kilometers (685 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's military said, extending its heightened weapons testing activities into 2025 weeks before Donald Trump returns as US president.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was fired from an area near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and that the launch preparations were detected in advance by the US and South Korean militaries. It denounced the launch as a provocation that poses a serious threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The joint chiefs said the military was strengthening its surveillance and defense posture in preparation

for possible additional launches and sharing information on the missile with the United States and Japan.

The launch came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was visiting Seoul for talks with South Korean allies over the North Korean nuclear threat and other issues.

Blinken's visit comes amid political turmoil in South Korea following President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived martial law decree and subsequent impeachment by parliament last month, which experts say puts the country at a disadvantage in getting a steady footing with Trump ahead of his return to the White House.

In a year-end political conference, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to implement the "toughest" anti-U.S. policy and criticized the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen security cooperation

with Seoul and Tokyo, which he described as a "nuclear military bloc for aggression." North Korean state media did not specify Kim's policy plans or mention any specific comments about Trump. During his first term, Trump met Kim three times for talks on the North's nuclear program.

Many experts, however, say a quick resumption of Kim-Trump summits is unlikely as Trump would first focus on conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. North Korea's support for Russia's war against Ukraine also poses a challenge to efforts to revive diplomacy, experts say.

Before his presidency faltered over the ill-conceived power grab, Yoon worked closely with U.S. President Joe Biden to expand joint military exercises, update nuclear deterrence strategies and strengthen trilateral security cooperation with Tokyo.

## Death toll from the German Christmas market attack rises to 6

BERLIN, Jan 6 (Agencies): The death toll in the attack on a Christmas market in the German city of Magdeburg last month has risen to six as a woman succumbed to her injuries, prosecutors said Monday.

Prosecutors in Naumburg said the 52-year-old woman died in a hospital, German news agency dpa reported. Authorities have said that the others who died were four women aged 45, 52, 67 and 75, and a 9-year-old boy.

More than 200 people were injured in the Dec.



20 attack. Authorities have identified the suspect, who was arrested immediately after he drove a rented car through the crowded market early on a Friday evening, as a Saudi doctor who arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received

permanent residency. They have said he doesn't fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. The man described himself as an ex-Muslim who was highly critical of Islam, and on social media expressed support for the far-right.

## 'Detain President Yoon', South Korea anti-graft agency asks police to execute warrant

SEOUL, Jan 6 (Agencies): South Korea's anti-corruption agency said on Monday that it had asked police to take over the execution of an arrest warrant for impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol.

The request comes after a failed attempt to execute an arrest warrant on Friday following a tense stand-off with presidential guards who formed a human chain to block access by the investigators.

A joint team of investigators from the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) and police are probing allegations that Yoon masterminded insurrection with his



short-lived imposition of martial law.

The CIO sent a notice to police to request the takeover, the anti-corruption agency said in a statement to reporters.

The move comes amid frustration among Yoon's critics towards the CIO for failing to

now to execute the arrest warrant, which is due to expire at midnight on Monday (1500 GMT).

A police official told the Yonhap news agency that they were "reviewing the law internally" following the request from the CIO.

Yoon's lawyers have

argued that the anti-graft force leading his criminal investigation has no authority under South Korean law to investigate any case involving insurrection accusations.

The Seoul Western District Court on Sunday dismissed the injunction filed by Yoon's legal team seeking to invalidate the warrants to arrest the president and search his official residence, according to Yonhap.

Amid the ongoing political tensions, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is visiting South Korea this week where he is due to meet senior government officials to reaffirm the alliance with

Seoul, according to the US State Department.

His visit comes after Yoon's short-lived declaration of martial law last month sent South Korea into political chaos, drawing rare rebuke from officials in Washington.

The CIO is an independent agency launched in January 2021 to investigate high-ranking officials including the president and their family members, but it does not have authority to prosecute a president.

Instead it is by law required to refer the case to the prosecutors' office to take any action including indictment once the questioning is over.

## Bangladesh court issues second arrest warrant for ex-PM Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA, Jan 6 (Agencies): A court in Bangladesh has issued a second arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of enforced disappearances during her rule, the chief prosecutor said on Monday. Dhaka has already issued an arrest warrant for Ms Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity.

According to Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the domestic International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), a new warrant has been issued for Sheikh Hasina and 11 others, including her military adviser, military personnel, and other law enforcement officials.

He said that the court wanted to go ahead with the trial, and said, "We want to ensure the trial concludes as soon as possible, but that doesn't mean we will break the law or impose a verdict without due process."

Over 500 people were

allegedly abducted by Bangladeshi security personnel during her reign, with some detained in secret facilities for years.

Victims have begun coming forward since Hasina's ouster with harrowing accounts of their ordeals, according to a report by agency.

The 77-year-old Hasina fled to India on August 5 after her regime was toppled by a student-led revolution. In December, Bangladesh asked India to send her back to face trial, a demand to which Delhi declined to respond.

Dozens of her allies have been taken into custody since her government collapsed, accused of involvement in a police crackdown that killed more than 700 people during the unrest that led to her ouster after 15 years of iron-fisted rule.

First Arrest Warrant For Sheikh Hasina

In October 2024, a special court in Bangla-



desh issued arrest warrants for Ms Hasina and 45 others, on charges of crimes against humanity during a student-led uprising in July and August that forced her to flee the country.

Prosecutors said in the petitions that Ms Hasina, her close aides and security agencies were responsible for killing the protesters and others during violent demonstrations over government job quotas in which hundreds of people died.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Muhammad Tajul Islam, earlier said

they would seek help from Interpol, if necessary, to get Hasina back.

The Mohammad Yunus-led interim government has promised to try Ms Hasina and others in her administration for alleged crimes involving the uprising against her and has invited the United Nations to help investigate the killings.

Ms Hasina also called for an investigation as she questioned the killings, saying many deaths may have involved others beyond security agencies.

## Shooting attack on a bus carrying Israelis in the occupied West Bank kills 3

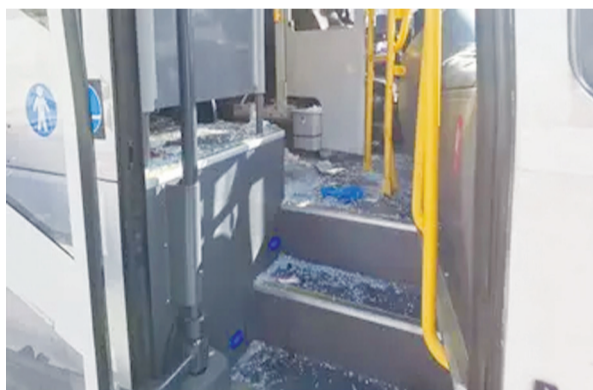
TEL AVIV, Jan 6 (Agencies): A shooting attack on a bus carrying Israelis in the occupied West Bank killed at least three people and wounded seven others on Monday, Israeli medics said.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said those killed included two women in their 60s and a man in his 40s.

Violence has surged in the West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack out of Gaza ignited the ongoing war there.

The attack occurred in the Palestinian village of Al-Funduq, on one of the main east-west roads crossing the territory. The identities of the attackers and those killed were not immediately known. The military said it was looking for the attackers, who fled.

Palestinians have carried out scores of shooting, stabbing and car-ramming attacks against Israelis in recent years. Israel has



launched near-nightly military raids across the territory that frequently trigger gunbattles with militants.

The Palestinian Health Ministry says at least 835 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, and the Palestinians want all three territories for their future state.

Some 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule, with the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority

administering population centers. Over 500,000 Israeli settlers live in scores of settlements, which most of the international community considers illegal.

Meanwhile, the war in Gaza is raging with no end in sight, though there has reportedly been recent progress in long-running talks aimed at a ceasefire and hostage release.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed across the border in a massive surprise attack nearly 15 months ago, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at

least a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's air and ground offensive has killed over 45,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to local health authorities, who say women and children make up more than half of those killed. They do not say how many of the dead were militants. The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced 90% of the territory's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are enduring a cold, rainy winter in tent camps along the windy coast. At least seven infants have died of hypothermia because of the harsh conditions, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Aid groups say Israeli restrictions, ongoing fighting and the breakdown of law and order in many areas make it difficult to provide desperately needed food and other assistance.



## Smile Foundation organizes marriage ceremony for 50 Orphan girls in Srinagar

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 : In a heartwarming event that underscored the spirit of generosity and community, Smile Foundation organized a mass marriage ceremony for 50 orphan girls at the Marriage Hall in Barbarshah, Srinagar. The Nikkah ceremony was conducted in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, family members, and well-wishers, creating a memorable day for the newlyweds.

The occasion was graced by MLA Habba Kadal, Shamima Fir



dous, who attended as the Chief Guest. Prominent social worker Syed Aijaz Kashani, noted public figure Umer Wani, youth leader Manzur Ahmad Bhat, and Regional Director

IGNOU Kashmir, Sajad Rezvi, were among the distinguished guests who lent their presence to the noble initiative.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Shamima Firdous lauded the

efforts of Smile Foundation in supporting underprivileged families and emphasized the importance of collective responsibility towards society. Social worker Syed Aijaz Kashani and Mr. Umer Wani delivered heartfelt speeches, praising the initiative for its impactful contribution to the community.

The ceremony was a celebration of compassion, with Smile Foundation's Chairman, Sajad Ahmad Sholla, expressing gratitude to all stakeholders for their support in making

the event a success. Masrat, President of Smile Foundation, extended her thanks to the entire Smile Foundation team and the contributors who played a role in turning this vision into reality. Hussain Zalpuri hosted the event, Fayaz Ahmad from Noor ul en trust, Mustaq Ahmed from Al madina trust Aslam Sheikh of Noor ul Falah Foundation, Waqar Ahmad from NGO We the Kashmir Foundation, Social worker Arif Qureshi from Rajasthan, and other media personalities graced the occasion.

## Jashn-e-Dhamaka cultural program participants honoured with Himalayan Superstar title award



### Top News Report

JAMMU /KANGRA, Jan 6: Like every year, this year also a cultural program was organized on Jashn-e-Dhamaka New Year under the banner of Aapna Kangra Entertainment, in which artists from Himachal Pradesh and outside showed their talent and mesmerized the audience.

On this occasion, the winners of Talent Ka Mahasangram 2024 were honored by Sumit Gupta, President of Aapna Kangra Entertainment Sanstha by giving Himalayan Superstar title award.

The program was organized at Yatri Sadan.

Chief guest Virendra Chaudhary, special guest Sanjeev Patial, Narendra Trehan inau

gured the program by lighting the lamp. Colorful presentations were given in the program, in which mainly Indian culture was presented by Aditi Aparajita and Uma Sharma through chanting mantras.

On this occasion, beautiful tableaux of Luv Kush and Ram Laxman were also taken out. On this occasion, the brand ambassador of the organization Prakriti Kaundal was present in the main event, while state brand promoter RB Soni, Vednshi Kaul, Preji Sharma, District Bilaspur's brand promoter Riya Sharma, Bhavarna Block's brand promoter Sania Thakur, Kolkata State's brand promoter Srijani Das were specially present.

On this occasion, Himachal Pradesh's number one tableau artist Tinku

Bihaan and Deshraj Rana were honored.

On this occasion, young poet Rajiv Dogra, Miss India Rashin Sharma, Republic India Rushal Big, Haryana Sahil Khan, producer director Eklavya Sen, famous Himachali folk singer Saurabh Sharma, singer Akanksha Mehra, Anjali Model and many other dignitaries were present.

Social worker Pankaj Kumar alias Panku also contributed significantly in making the program successful. All the guests who came also enjoyed Kangri Dham.

On this occasion, famous anchors of Himachal Pradesh, Vijay Kumar, Sudesh Sahotra, Chandra Bhardwaj, Aseem, Sandeep Chaudhary kept the program alive with their magical words.

## Army organizes Youth Development Program for girl student at Thanamang



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 6: The army has inaugurated a Youth Development Program in the village of Thanamang, Rajouri, which will offer classes on personality development, English speaking, and general knowledge to empower girl students and help them inculcate requisite soft skills. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's Operation Sadbhavana, in collaboration with Shri Shri Ravi Shankar Institute's Art of Living.

The training focuses on enhancing public speaking skills and further motivating the students to take up competitive exams. It aims to lay the foundation for nationalism and patriotism, encouraging them to enter the mainstream education system across the country and fulfill their dreams of becoming successful individuals in their desired careers.

The inauguration was attended by local sarpanches and teachers from the Darhal Block. The guest of honor was Capt. Abdul Kabir (Retd), President of the ESM

group, Darhal Block.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Sarpanch Zakir Malik, who appreciated the Indian Army's initiative in empowering the girls of Darhal and motivated them to excel in their desired fields.

Officials from the local civil administration were also invited. The event highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to supporting sustainable development and fostering self-reliance.

"This program will enable individuals to achieve financial independence and contribute positively to their families and the community."

The training program, which will run for a month, will equip participants with practical skills in tailoring and stitching, opening up new opportunities for income generation and employment. The Indian Army continues to prioritize community welfare and social upliftment through such initiatives.

## Surya Kiran 18th Edition underway in Nepal



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The 18th Indo-Nepal Joint Exercise, Surya Kiran, is underway in Nepal, showcasing the strong partnership between the Indian and Nepalese armies. It serves as a platform to exchange best practices and sharpen skills, with a focus on counterterrorism and challenging terrain operations.

Troops engage in rigorous combat drills, including jungle survival, combat first aid, ambush tactics, and helicopter operations, enhancing their ability to respond

swiftly to threats. Urban warfare training, with close-quarter combat and room-clearing techniques, prepares them for modern battlefields.

Fitness and resilience are prioritised through team sports and yoga sessions, fostering camaraderie and mental focus. Lane training simulates real-world scenarios to test tactical decision-making and endurance.

Surya Kiran 18th Edition symbolises military expertise and the enduring bond between the Indian and Nepalese forces, united in their mission for peace and cooperation.

## IGNOU launches Post Graduate Diploma programme in Waste Management



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: IGNOU has launched Post Graduate Diploma programme in Waste Management (PGDWAM) from the January 2025 admission cycle through ODL mode. The programme covers the important components of Waste Management with focus on Environmental management, Environmental issues, Social Systems, Health and

Waste Management, Entrepreneurship in Waste Management, and Environmental Health and Ecotoxicology. Candidates who have completed their graduation in any discipline from a recognized University can apply for the programme.

"The programme started with the objective of sensitizing the learners about the problem of waste generation and its impact on the environment and human health and it aims to familiarise the students with existing legislation, knowledge, and practices regarding waste management in India", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

## Dr Karnail Singh former Commandant BSF join NC in presence of Farooq Abdullah

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Former Commandant BSF Dr. Karnail Singh joined National Conference in presence of the party President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

Welcoming Dr. Karnail Singh into the party fold, Dr Farooq Abdullah described National Conference as a mass movement that has all along stood for the just cause of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and strived for development and progress of each region with a sense of commitment. Dr Abdullah hoped that with the joining of Dr. Karnail Singh the party will be further strengthened at the grass roots



level.

"A strong National Conference is a key to steer Jammu and Kashmir to peace, progress and development besides meeting the challenges confronted to the region", he added.

Dr. Karnail Singh pledged to carry forward the mission of National Conference in transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful

and progressive area with devotion and dedication.

Those who joined the party fold include: Madan Lal, Smt Kamlesh along with a number of supporters.

Among those who were present on this occasion: Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal Additional General Secretary, Israr Khan and others.

## FROM PAGE 3

## PM Modi inaugurates Jammu railway division, calls it 'monumental step'

Railway Division would not only benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also extend its advantages to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Ladakh.

PM Modi described the inauguration as a symbol of India's collective progress under the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," filling colors in the dream of 'Vikshit Bharat' (Developed India).

"To achieve Vikshit Bharat, it is essential to develop Indian Railways," he said, adding that the past decade has witnessed a transformational change in railway infrastructure modernization, enhanced connectivity, and improved facilities for passengers.

He stated that the government has laid more than 30,000 kilometers of new railway tracks in the last 10 years, nearing 100% electrification, compared to just 35% in 2014. Additionally, he noted that the country has eliminated all manual crossings on broad-gauge tracks.

"Today is a big day for new-age connectivity. It shows that the entire nation is moving forward together," PM Modi remarked.

The Prime Minister stressed that new railway divisions, terminals, and modernized stations are creating unprecedented opportunities for trade, business, and employment.

"The development of railways is creating lakhs of job opportunities. In the last 10 years, lakhs of youth have been employed in the railways, and initiatives like Gati Shakti University will further enhance the workforce's skillset," he said.

Referring to the strides in high-speed train services, PM Modi noted that more than 50 Vande Bharat trains are now operational, connecting long distances in shorter times and setting a benchmark for modern Indian trains.

"The time is not far when bullet trains will traverse across the country, making railway journeys memorable," he added.

The Prime Minister also lauded India's expanding metro network, which has grown from just 5 cities in 2005 to 21 cities today, with over 1,000 kilometers of operational tracks.

Stressing the importance of indigenous

development, PM Modi said, "Under the 'Made in India' initiative, railway stations are being modernized, and high-speed train corridors are being developed. This will ensure India leads from the front in connectivity and infrastructure."

He reiterated the government's commitment to making Indian Railways the backbone of a developed and self-reliant India, saying, "This is not just about connectivity but also about fulfilling aspirations and creating a better future for millions."

## PM Modi led Govt making dreams come true: LG Sinha

another landmark achievement." LG Sinha expressed gratitude to PM Modi and the Union Railway Minister for paying special attention to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Vande Bharat trains are guiding the journey of people and are all set to reach Kashmir. Jammu will become one of the best railway stations in the world and a lot more is in the offing," he added.

## Jammu will reap benefits from Kashmir rail

## link, Says CM Omar Abdullah

The inauguration also marked the connection of the Srinagar-Katra rail line, which is set to revolutionize travel in the region. Omar said that this connectivity would resolve long-standing challenges, such as disruptions in winter flights and exorbitant airfare.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh, Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma, and other dignitaries joined the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the division.

## Heavy snowfall in J&K higher reaches, Moderate snow, Rain in plains

the administrative and traffic advisory." Srinagar recorded minus 0.5, Gulmarg minus 4.5 and Pahalgam minus 1.4 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 9.3, Katra town 9.2, Batote 2.8, Banihal 2.3 and Baderwah 3.6 as the night's lowest temperature.

The 40-day-long period of extreme winter

cold started on December 21 and will end on January 30.

At present, all water bodies, including lakes, springs, ponds, streams and wells, are partially frozen.

Doctors have advised people to exercise caution and not to expose themselves to long periods of cold. People of high-risk age groups, including children and elderly people, have been, especially, advised to avoid long exposure to cold. Hypothermia combined with respiratory tract infection is the main cause of myocardial infarction leading to heart attack and heart failure globally.

Fresh snowfall has brought cheer to scores of tourists presently enjoying their holiday in Gulmarg and other hill stations. All hotels in Gulmarg, Pahalgam and most in Srinagar city are completely sold out these days.

## 15 injured in stray dog attack in Budgam, one referred to Srinagar hospital

the All India Judges Association case.

## Modi resumed J&K rail extension work after gap of 50 years: Dr Jitendra

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6 : A new chapter was etched in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and Indian Railways today as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Jammu Railway Division virtually.

At the landmark event, Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the first train had arrived at the Jammu Railway Station but for as long as 50 years after that, there was no further progress and we had to wait for over half a century for Narendra Modi to take over as the Prime Minister and resume the rail extension work in J&K after a gap of 50 years. He said, "some day the question would be posed why the successive governments during these long years did not give priority to this sector in J&K or were there certain elements not in support of Kashmir valley getting connected to the rest of India by railway and thus becoming a part of the national mainstream."

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative rail infrastructure projects underway in the region, underscoring their role in connecting Jammu and Kashmir with the national mainstream and catalyzing economic and social progress.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr.



Jitendra Singh remarked, "The establishment of this railway division is not merely a logistical milestone but a reaffirmation of our commitment to integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India's economic growth trajectory." He recalled the challenges and delays that had plagued the region's rail connectivity in the past but noted how recent years have witnessed unprecedented advancements.

A key highlight was the Minister's reference to the world's highest railway bridge, standing taller than the Eiffel Tower, which now symbolizes the technological and infrastructural might of Indian Railways. "What was once deemed impossible is now a reality. This bridge stands as a testament to India's engineering prowess and commit-

ment to progress," he stated.

The New Jammu Railway Division will serve as a critical junction, facilitating faster passenger and freight movement while boosting the local economy. In addition, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the broader expansion of rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, including the introduction of Vande Bharat trains and strategically located stoppages to cater to public demand. He also shared plans for upcoming initiatives, such as making smaller stations like Sangaldan vital junctions, thereby enabling seamless connectivity even in remote areas.

The Union Minister lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for rail and road infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, which has transformed the

region into one of North India's best-connected destinations. "Whether by road, rail, or air, Jammu is now a hub of connectivity, set to unlock immense opportunities in tourism, trade, and employment," Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

Reflecting on the project's significance, the Minister appealed to the public to embrace this new era of connectivity, urging everyone to envision a brighter future for the next generation. He concluded with optimism, stating that the new railway division is not just an infrastructural achievement but a step toward fostering unity and development across the region.

With these advancements, the rail network in Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become a game-changer, bridging distances, fostering inclusivity, and contributing to India's collective progress. As trains begin to traverse these newly developed tracks, the dreams of a more connected, prosperous Jammu and Kashmir edge closer to reality.

The inauguration marked a pivotal moment in the government's effort to integrate the region further into the nation's fold, setting the stage for unprecedented growth and prosperity.

## Veterans meet held at Kadiyal Village



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The Indian Army entered the New Year on an uplifting note by hosting a veterans meet today under the aegis of Tiger Division, wherein GOC, Tiger Division honored the brave soldiers and their families who have served the nation with valour and dedication. The event was graced by the presence of India's highest wartime gallantry award recipient, Subedar Major & Honorary Captain Bana Singh, Param Vir Chakra.

During this event, the General Officer Commanding, interacted with and felicitated the gallantry awardees for their exemplary service to the nation and also honored the Veer Nari's and Veer Mata's, paying tribute to their unwavering courage & sacrifices and recognising their immense strength and resilience.

The event witnessed a significant turnout of veterans, showcasing the enduring bond between the army and its veterans.

The General Officer Commanding engaged

in meaningful conversation with the veterans, listening to their experiences and addressing their concerns.

The event not only celebrated the indomitable spirit of the veterans but also reinforced the army's commitment towards supporting and standing by its veterans and their families.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge on the very first day of a year to honor the sacrifices of those who have served and to uphold the values of bravery and service to the Nation.

## Rakesh Koul visits GMC Jammu, wishes speedy recovery for Kanav Sharma

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Rakesh Kumar Koul, a prominent social activist, political analyst, and former Sarpanch, visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu today to inquire about the health and recovery of Advocate Kanav Sharma, a dedicated youth leader of the BJP Jammu. Kanav Sharma was recently injured in a tragic incident when he was shot by miscreants.

During his visit, Rakesh Koul expressed deep concern over the incident and conveyed his heartfelt wishes for Kanav Sharma's speedy recovery.

He condemned the attack and emphasized the need for such violent incidents to be curbed to ensure the safety and peace of Jammu, famously known as the "City of Temples."

Rakesh Koul also urged law enforcement authorities to take strict and prompt action



against those involved in this heinous act.

He called for enhanced measures to prevent such incidents in the future, ensuring that Jammu remains a safe and harmonious place for all its residents.

Accompanying Rakesh Koul was Gourav Raina, Booth President 74 R.S. Pura constituency Jammu south leader. Together,

they reiterated their support for Kanav Sharma and his family during this challenging time, expressing solidarity with the BJP leader's commitment to the welfare of society.

Rakesh Koul reaffirmed his dedication to upholding justice and urged the community to come together in condemning violence in all forms.

## VKMI organizes symposium on 'Toxin accumulation, effects, and detoxification'

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) held an insightful symposium on "Toxin Accumulation and Its Excretion," focusing on the sources, effects, and methods of detoxification. Dr. Suresh Gupta, a retired scientist from RRL and State Senior Vice President of Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, served as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Virender Gupta, a prominent social activist, presided over the event.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President of VKMI, delivered the keynote address, explaining that toxins are harmful substances that disrupt the body's normal functions. These toxins can originate from external sources such as polluted air, water, and food or internal metabolic processes. He highlighted the importance of regular detoxification to maintain health and prevent chronic diseases. Dr. Jain emphasized that toxins accumulate at four levels—physi-



cal, mental, emotional, and spiritual—adversely affecting overall well-being.

On the physical level, toxins can stem from processed foods, pollution, and metabolic waste, leading to issues like inflammation and fatigue when detoxifying organs are overwhelmed. Mentally, toxins arise from chronic stress and negative thoughts, causing hormonal imbalances and reduced cognitive function. Emotionally, unresolved feelings like anger and grief manifest as psychosomatic illnesses. Spiritually, a lack of purpose and mindfulness results in inner unrest and dissatisfaction.

Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI,

elaborated on the health impacts of toxins, including weakened immunity, digestive issues, hormonal imbalances, neurological disorders, and inflammation contributing to chronic diseases.

The symposium explored various detoxification methods. Mr. Parmod Jain, a retired SBI manager and naturopath, discussed physical detox techniques such as adopting a healthy diet, exercising, fasting, and using hydrotherapy. Dr. Suresh Gupta emphasized yogic detoxification practices, including Shatkarma techniques like Jai Neti and Kapalabhati, asanas, and pranayama. These methods cleanse internal organs, balance energy channels, and

promote holistic health.

C.M. Sharma, General Secretary of VKMI, highlighted the role of meditation and mindfulness in reducing mental toxins and enhancing spiritual clarity. He also introduced naturopathic approaches like colon cleansing, mud therapy, juice therapy, and hydrotherapy for detoxification. Dr. Jain shared practical home remedies, including lemon water for liver detox, Triphala for digestion, and tulsi tea for respiratory health.

Abhinandan Jain, Financial Advisor of VKMI, stressed the importance of creating a toxin-free life by maintaining a healthy environment, fostering positive relationships, and engaging in

spiritual practices like meditation. Mrs. Anju Bansal, senior VKMI member and State Head of Bhartiya Shiksha Board, linked the discussion to promoting Indian education values as envisioned by Swami Ramdev Ji.

In his presidential address, Prof. Virender Gupta underscored the need for a balanced lifestyle, selflessness, and regular introspection to reduce toxins at all levels. Social activist Narinder Wadhwa encouraged self-awareness and humility as tools for detoxification.

The symposium saw participation from several dignitaries, including Vinay Handoo, J.P.S. Jamwal, H.C. Vaid, Swaran Amla, Anju Gupta, Sunita Mahajan, Rajkumari Vats, and Veena Jain.

Dr. Jain concluded the event with a vote of thanks, reiterating the importance of a holistic approach to detoxification to enhance health, prevent diseases, and promote overall well-being.

## Training of Trainers Capacity Building of FPO's held in J&K

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu and Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu jointly organized five days "Training of Trainers (TOT) Capacity Building of FPO's in J&K" in collaboration with MANAGE-Hyderabad in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, Faculty of Agriculture, Chatha from 06-10, January 2025. The capacity building programme has been organized under HADP-20 project entitled "Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir".

A. S. Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu was chief guest during the inaugural function. In his inaugural address, A. S. Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu appreciated the efforts



of Division of Agricultural Extension Education, SKUAST-Jammu and Department of Agriculture, Jammu for organizing capacity building programme for the field functionaries of Agriculture Department on this important topic: Training of Trainers (TOT) Capacity Building of FPO's in J&K. so, that trainees can efficiently utilize the knowledge acquired during the training programme at ground level.

Prof. Vinod Gupta, Head Divi-

sion of Agricultural Extension Education/PI of the project entitled "Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in J&K" formally welcomed all the dignitaries and participants at the five days capacity building programme and advised the trainees to interact with the Faculty of MANAGE Hyderabad about formation of FPO's in their respective operational areas.

Raj Kumar, Technical Officer, Directorate of Agriculture,

Jammu briefed the house about programme schedule of the five days training programme.

Asif Mohi-Ud-Din, Resource Person MANAGE Hyderabad highlighted the importance of conducting such trainings for the formation of FPO's as he said that, it is the future of Group Farming in India for solving all problems, like marketing, post harvest management and farmers upbringing. While the vote of thanks was extended by Sahil Badgal, Young Professional, Project No. 20, Division of Agricultural Extension Education SKUAST-Jammu

More than 60 officers of Agriculture Department registered for the capacity building programme. The inaugural functions was graced by Prof. P. S. Slathia, Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Prof. L. K. Sharma, Sanka Phani Pavan Kumar and Nagamalla Sricharan, Resource Persons from MANAGE, Hyderabad.

## Army conducts electrician cadre for local youth at Kalal



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 6: As part of Operation Sabdhavana, the Indian Army has started an Electrician Cadre in the village of Deeing (Kalal), Rajouri district. This skill-development program is aimed at equipping local youth with essential vocational skills, enhancing their employability, and fostering self-reliance.

This training cadre is designed to provide participants with practical expertise and modern skill development techniques. The program will benefit over 25-30 individuals, empowering

them to contribute meaningfully to their communities or establish employment ventures.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's continued efforts to uplift underprivileged regions by addressing local developmental challenges and promoting socio-economic progress. By creating opportunities for skill development, the Indian Army aims to encourage self-reliance and a better future for the youth in these remote areas. The cadre has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the community.

Participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity, highlighting the value of the training in improving their skills and career prospects. Electrician toolkits were also given to the participants, and certificates will be awarded upon completion of the cadre.

The Indian Army remains committed to empowering the youth through such initiatives, ensuring sustainable growth and development for the nation's most underserved regions.

# Former players feel Rohit has 'lot of cricket' left in him

Test captain needs to go 'back to basics' to revive batting form

SYDNEY, Jan 6 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma's form in Tests may be a cause for serious worry for the national selectors and coaches but there is a strong view that there is still some cricket left in the Indian skipper subject to his sorting out his physical and technical issues.

Sharma had a horrid run in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy wherein he featured in three of the five Test matches. He scored 31 runs in total, with a highest score of 10, at an average of 6.20. The swords are out, especially with vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah leading India to their lone win in the series — in the Perth Test in which Sharma did not feature.

Both Sharma's captaincy and his batting have drawn criticism with the former lacking inspiration and latter being woefully out of sorts. As he sat himself out of the fifth and final Test match in Sydney, the buzz over his international cricketing future grew louder. Is it time for him to call it quits or should the selectors go for a new full-time captain in Bumrah has been the big debating point. Team India coach Gautam Gambhir is unwilling to take a call yet on the future of not just Sharma but also Virat Kohli, the other embattled biggie in the team.

Speaking to the media after the loss in the fifth Test, Gambhir said, "I can't talk about the



future of players, it is still up to them but yes they still have the hunger and passion and both Virat and Rohit are tough people. Hopefully, they can continue to take Indian cricket forward but also as we all know whatever they plan they will do so keeping in mind the best interest of Indian cricket."

He further added that "Test cricket is all about improving every day."

Former Mumbai and West Zone coach Balwinder Singh Sandhu said that given Sharma's talent, he should have scored more runs in Test cricket.

"I first saw Sharma in a Deodhar Trophy match. Ravindra Jadeja too was there in the West Zone side. Sharma played so coolly. I told Parthiv Patel, who was the West Zone skipper, that

Sharma should bat at No. 3. He came at that position and scored 150. He played amazing shots. So he had the potential to be a big player from the very beginning. He then got into India A," he said.

"He is so talented he should have scored more runs in Test cricket. He was more talented than Virat Kohli but Kohli worked hard on his game and fitness. Kohli was more disciplined," he added.

Speaking about Sharma's technical woes, Sandhu said, "He has been bowled out, has been given leg before too. Suryakumar Yadav had the same problem and I told him his trigger movement was an issue. The same issue is with Sharma. He has to work on his trigger movement. He has to also work

on his fitness. There is a lot of cricket left in Rohit."

Sandhu added that Sharma should go back to domestic cricket to sort out his batting woes.

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh, who has been Sharma's teammate in the past, said that Sharma alone cannot be blamed for the team's downfall.

"In my eyes this is not the Rohit Sharma we know. I think that the selectors, coaches and players should sit together and discuss how 2024 was for all. It is not about one particular player but the entire team. The yardstick should be same for all players and not Sharma alone," he said.

Singh further stressed that it is not the player's call to pick and choose which series to play, which Sharma and Kohli have done in the past. "I don't think players should say they are available for a particular series or not, it is the selectors' job to pick or not pick them," said Singh.

Finally, Singh said that Sharma needed to get back to the basics to solve his batting woes. "He needs to get back to basics. If he is not playing domestic cricket he can go and play county cricket. Cheteshwar Pujara, Ravichandran Ashwin and even I myself went and played county cricket to get back among the runs and wickets. As far as retirement is concerned it is entirely Sharma's call," he said.

# There should be no excuse for not being able to play Ranji Trophy: Gavaskar tells senior players



SYDNEY, Jan 6 (Agencies): Legendary Sunil Gavaskar urged Indian batters to play in the Ranji Trophy without offering any excuses to iron out technical deficiencies that led to their peril in two successive series against New Zealand and Australia.

Gavaskar said it was worrying to see the Indian batters churning out underwhelming efforts against New Zealand at home and in the just-concluded series against Australia Down Under.

India succumbed to the Kiwis 0-3 before surrendering to the Aussies 1-3.

"On January 23, there is the next round of the Ranji Trophy. Let's see how many players from this squad play. There

should be no excuse for not being able to play," Gavaskar said. "If you do not play those matches, Gautam Gambhir will have to take a few tough decisions against those who are not available for the Ranji Trophy," he added.

"Gambhir should be saying: 'You do not have that commitment. We need commitment. You are not playing. Whatever you want to do, do it, but for the Indian cricket, you cannot return to the Test squad.'" Gavaskar said flaws had crept into Indian batsmen's approach because of not playing domestic cricket on available opportunities.

"What I saw were technical deficiencies. If you have been making the same mistakes, and I am not just talking about

this series — I am talking about the New Zealand series as well — what did you do against New Zealand in India?" Gavaskar said domestic cricket assumed importance in view of the upcoming 2025-2027 WTC cycle.

"And that's why now, because the next cycle will start in June, we have not qualified for the World Test Championship. From now on, we should be ready for it. If we have to take tough decisions, then we will have to take them," he said.

With the next WTC cycle in focus, Gavaskar said India should now focus more on young cricketers such as Yashasvi Jaiswal and Nitish Kumar Reddy. "They are hungry to earn a name for India and themselves. Such players are needed. You need such players who will protect their wicket like their life," he said.

"That's why I'm interested that on January 23, in the Ranji Trophy matches, who will play? I want to see that. Because at that time, there will be T20 matches against England. But those who are not playing T20, will they play Ranji Trophy matches or not?" he said.

# Injured Bumrah likely to miss majority of home white-ball series against England

SYDNEY, Jan 6 (Agencies): Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who sustained back spasms, is likely to be rested for the majority of India's home white-ball series against England, keeping an eye on the ICC Champions Trophy, starting from February 19.

Bumrah, who was India's stand out player with 32 wickets in their 1-3 thrashing at the hands of Australia in the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, couldn't bowl in the final innings of the series here after suffering back spasms.

The 30-year-old Bumrah who bowled more than 150 overs in the series.

The injury has a direct link to his excessive workload in the series, and the BCCI medical team will try to ensure the new Test captain is ready for the ICC showpiece where his presence is mandatory to India's fortunes.

According to sources privy to the development, the grade of Bumrah's back spasm has not yet been ascertained.

India will open their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai.

If Bumrah's injury is in grade 1 category, then it will take a minimum two to three weeks of rehabilitation before Return to Play (RTP).

In case of Grade 2 injury, the recovery can go up to six weeks while Grade



3, the most severe in nature, requires a minimum three months of rest and rehabilitation programmes.

It was always known that Bumrah will not play T20I bilateral series as this is not the World Cup year, but with the Champions Trophy around the corner, he would have certainly played two if not three ODIs against England as its the 50-over format.

But now, the grade of his injury will decide whether Bumrah plays the England series at all or at least the last match at his home ground in Ahmedabad on February 12 to check on his fitness.

India will face England in five T20Is and three ODIs from January 22.

# New goals for 2025 after World Championship and Khel Ratna: Gukesh

BENGALURU, Jan 6 (Agencies): D Gukesh climbed dizzying heights in the past one month, a World Championship triumph getting garnished by the Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna award recently, but the chess prodigy now wants to reset his focus and goals to tackle a "challenging" 2025.

Gukesh will be seen in action in the Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee in Netherlands, beginning on January 17.

The event will see participation from frontline players such as Anish Giri, Arjun Erigaisi, Fabiano Caruana and R Praggnanandhaa among others.

"Yeah, 2025 will offer a very tough challenge. A lot of new and interesting tournaments are coming up. The world championship was in the past. I'm very happy about it and all the awards and receptions," Gukesh told



a select media gathering during the felicitation ceremony organised by WestBridge Capital.

"But now, I have started thinking about new goals, new tournaments and new ways to prepare. The goal, the approach will be the same, to give my best, to keep improving myself, and win as many tournaments as possible.

"So, I am looking forward to a fun year with a lot of learning, a lot of improvements and

hopefully a lot of good results," he added.

However, Gukesh will have to carry with him the tag of world champion and along with it loads of expectations and increased scrutiny. But the 19-year-old is prepared to stand in the limelight.

"Yeah, I have been used to being under the attention for a while. Obviously, after the world championship, it will be more. But the basic things I remember are to keep improv-

ing myself and accepting failures when they come.

"I think, in general, I have high expectations of myself. So, I think my aim is to meet my own expectations rather than that of others," he said.

But has he been able to handle all the adulation that has deservingly come his way

"I had thought that it (winning the World Championship) would be somewhat similar to the Candidates, but obviously it's much more. I'm grateful for all the attention and recognition.

"I guess one thing is to manage these things with the training. But after the (World Championship) match, I also need some recovery period. I've started training a bit. But it will be more serious soon," he explained.

Five-time world champion and Gukesh's mentor Viswanathan Anand said his ward's

victory has brought the attention firmly back to chess.

"I think it brings back the spotlight to chess. If you project this forward, it's possible that in every single tournament there is some Indian player that you can look forward to watching.

"So I hope a lot of the dots are connected. The audience numbers in India are very good. Now, we have regular broadcasts and everything. So, I think it will be a sport in the main line.

"Of course, Gukesh will spearhead that, especially as being the world champion. But now people are interested to see if there will be Indians playing in a tournament. So there's a lot of excitement at all stages.

"And the second effect, which is maybe even more profound, is that young players will be inspired to take up the game," Anand said.

# Former India all-rounder Rishi Dhawan retires from domestic limited-over tournaments

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Former India all-rounder Rishi Dhawan has announced his retirement from domestic limited-over tournaments after the conclusion of the group stage matches of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Dhawan, who played three ODIs and a T20I for India in 2016, took the decision after Himachal Pradesh failed to advance to the knockout stages of the tournament.

However, the 34-year-old will be available for selection for the remainder of the Ranji Trophy season, starting from January 23.

"It's with a heavy heart, even though I have no regrets, that I'd like to announce my retirement from Indian cricket (Limited over). It's a sport that has defined my life for the past 20 years," Dhawan

wrote in a social media post.

"This game has given me immeasurable joy and countless memories that will always stay very close to my heart," he added.

Dhawan, who had led Himachal to their only Hazare title in 2021-22, had a middling run this year, making 196 runs in seven matches at an average of 39.20 with a solitary fifty.

A brisk medium pacer, Dhawan took eight wickets from seven matches this season.

"I want to take a moment to show my gratitude towards the opportunities that were given to me by the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA), Punjab Kings, Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders.

"From humble beginnings to rep-

resenting my nation on the grandest stages, it has been a privilege beyond measure.

Cricket has been my passion, and my reason for waking up every morning," he wrote.

Overall, Dhawan played 134 List A matches and scored 2906 runs, besides taking 186 wickets.

From 135 T20s, Dhawan amassed 1740 runs and 118 wickets.

"I would like to thank all of my coaches, mentors, teammates, and support staff for the valuable contributions you have made to shaping me into the person I am today," he concluded his post.

In the IPL, Dhawan played for Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians between 2013 and 2024 with limited success.

# Harmanpreet Kaur rested as India announce squad for Ireland ODIs

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a 15-member India women's squad for the upcoming ODI series against Ireland on Monday, January 6. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been rested from the three-match series along with fast bowler Renuka Singh Thakur.

In Harmanpreet's absence, opening batter Smriti Mandhana will be seen taking up the leadership duties while all-

rounder Deepti Sharma will act as her deputy. The three-match series is set to begin from January 10 with all three matches set to be played at Niranjan Shah Stadium, Rajkot.

Young Opener Pratika Rawal has managed to retain her place after an impressive debut series against West Indies. The 24-year-old scored 134 runs from three innings at an average of 44.66. Middle order batter Tejal Hasabnis has also kept her place as the team management wants to

give a longer run to the players in the lead up to the World Cup later this year. All rounder Raghvi Bist, who's played just two T20Is in her career so far, has also been added to the team. Sayali Satghare has also earned her maiden call-up and will be eager to get a chance in the series. The Women in Blue are coming into the series fresh from a 3-0 whitewash against the West Indies and will look to continue their winning momentum in the upcoming series. The

Ireland series will bring an end to India's home season as they will next travel to England in June later this year.

India's squad for the three-match ODI series against Ireland: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.

## KSJ, MLA Kishtwar visit GMC hospital following viral video

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: After a video of a young girl from Kishtwar went viral on social media where she accused the local hospital authorities of forcing her to seek treatment for her mother at a private hospital, the Kishtwari Sangathan Jammu (KSJ) along with MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar visited the hospital and enquired about the matter.

The girl accused the doctors and other staff for neglecting the treatment of poor patients, including Ayushman card holders in Government Medical College (GMC) hospital.

After listening the patient, Honourable MLA Shagun Parihar asked the Medical Superintendent of GMC to investigate the matter and take strict action against the erring officials.

The Kishtwari Sangathan Jammu (KSJ),



a local social welfare organization, also strongly condemned the Government Medical College hospital authority for allegedly neglecting the treatment of poor patients.

The organization claims that the hospital is prioritizing affluent patients and denying

quality healthcare to those from economically weaker sections of society.

The Sangathan in a press release stated that they have received numerous complaints from poor patients and their families, regarding inadequate medical attention, long waiting

times, and exorbitant costs for basic treatments.

"It is unacceptable that a public healthcare facility is failing to fulfill its primary duty of providing affordable and accessible healthcare to all."

"The hospital administration seems more concerned with generating revenue than with

the needs of the community," the release said.

The Sangathan has demanded that the hospital authority take immediate steps to address the concerns raised.

The hospital authority should ensure equal treatment and timely medical attention for all patients, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The hospital authority should also increase transparency and accountability, implementing measures to enhance transparency in hospital operations and hold staff accountable for any negligence or discrimination, the release added.

The Kishtwari Sangathan has threatened to launch a public protest if the hospital authority fails to address their concerns within a specified timeframe.

## Dr. Uppal appointed as Honorary Advisory member of NextGen University International USA

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Dr. Uppal has been appointed as an Honorary Advisory member of NextGen University International, USA by NextGen University International (NGUI), USA.

In receiving this honorary position, Dr. Uppal demonstrates deep respect for his academic excellence, professional accomplishments, and commitment to continuing education.

With his position as an esteemed member, Dr. Uppal will be a distinguished patron of the university in conferences, webinars, Faculty Development Programs (FDPs), Short-Term Training Programs (STTPs), hackathons, and other academic activities. Through honorary doctorates

and other accolades aligned with your professional profile, the university will recognize your contributions. Your expertise will allow you to supervise Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Fellows whose research aligns with yours. Dr. Uppal will play a crucial role in admissions by promoting the university and its programs within your professional circle. You will be part of an institution that is an official UN partner, contributing to a global vision of education and development. Dr. Uppal will be a distinguished patron of the university in conferences, webinars, Faculty Development Programs (FDPs), Short-Term Training Programs (STTPs), hackathons, and other academic activities. Through honorary doctorates

tise extends further as a Visiting Professor at various institutions including Trinity Group of Institutions, KC Group of Institutions, Vishisht School of Management, and others across India. Dr. Uppal is recognized internationally for his profound contributions to Banking and Finance, evidenced by numerous national and international patents stemming from his research.

A prolific writer and mentor, he has authored numerous scholarly works and serves as a frequent reviewer, discussant, and session chair for professional organizations. His visionary leadership and scholarly endeavors continue to inspire and shape the academic landscape in the field of Finance.

## 21 Kundiya Shri Maha Vishnu Yajna, Bhagwat Katha to start from Jan 14

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The grand 21 Kundiya Shri Maha Vishnu Yajna and Bhagwat Katha will be organized from January 14 to 22 at Shri Rehal Dham city, as announced by Mahant Ram Narayan Das Shastri of Rehal Sant Samaj Nayas during a press conference. Prominent saints, including Mahant Rajesh Bittu and other heads of monasteries, will grace the event. The program will com-

mence with Ganesh Puja and Jalayatra on January 14, followed by Mandap Pravesha and Puja on January 15. From January 16 to 21, daily worship will take place from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and the Havan will be conducted from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM. The event will conclude on January 22 with Purnahuti.

Organized under the blessings of Mahant Durga Das Maharaj, the

Yajna will be held at Tirthvani Bhoomi Dhamnagari



Rehal Stadium (Bishnah), with Khem Raj Shastri as the motivational Kathavyas and Tarsem

Shastri as the Yajna Acharya. Mahant Rajesh Bittu highlighted the improved transportation facilities

to Rehal Bishnah and urged devotees to attend in large numbers. Adding to the event's cultural significance, youth associated with Sanatan Dharma will perform Ram Leela.

Other dignitaries, including Kuldeep Raj Khajuria, Dewan Chand Khajuria, Gopal Krishan, Asha Anand, TR Fugli, and Ashok Gupta, were present to support the event and invited devotees to join wholeheartedly in this spiritual celebration.

## Shiv Sena pays floral tribute to Meenatai Thackeray

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit today paid its emotional homage to Maa Saheb Meenatai Thackeray on her 94th birth anniversary.

In a program organized at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni and all the senior leaders remembered Maa Saheb Meenatai Thackeray and paid homage to her. Sahni said that Shiv Sainiks used to call



Meena Tai Thackeray, the wife of Shiv Sena chief venerable Bala Saheb Thackeray, 'Maa Saheb', her birth anniversary is celebrated as

'Mamta Diwas'. She spent her entire life serving the poor and helpless people along with showering her love on Shiv Sainiks.

## Rao appeals for completion of left over work on road projects of Sub-Division Thathri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: President Thathri Development Front, District Doda, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, has appealed to the Chief Minister, Umar Abdullah, concerned MP & MOS in Prime Minister office, Jatinder Singh Rana, Dy. Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, MLA Bhadarwah, Daleep Singh Parihar, MLA Doda -52 Mehraj Malik, to look deep into the left over work on the road-projects of the area and issue directions to the concerned to take immediate necessary steps to complete the below mentioned very small projects, on priority bases, so that a population of about 5 Tehsils, comprises of Tehsils, Kahara, Thathri, Phaqsoo, Bhella & Chirrala, is benefited giving an end to the age-old hardships to the people besides the area also comes on tourism maps, again benefiting the whole population of all these Tehsils.

They further said that for achieving full advantage of the Tourism development schemes in erstwhile Doda District and for ensuring greater opportunities of employment, the left-over work on some roads needs to be completed on priority. They said that Kahara-Jai road project, which is complete up to Joura Kalan (85% of the total length), needs to be completed from Joura to Jai (9 kms length).

It will not only provide employment to the poor people of the area but also boost tourism. It is one of the links in the circuit network. The 19 Kms sanctioned Thathri-Chirra road project is complete from its initial point Jangalwar Nallah to Chirra (length 14 Kms) & the remaining 5 Kms from Chirra to Gallu Top be kindly constructed immediately.

Further, if Gallu Top is linked to Joura (2kms only) on Kahara-Jai road, 90% link between tourist



places will be achieved. Still further, if Joura Khurd (road already complete) is linked to Chirrala-Panshaee road by only a 5 kms stretch, which is tree less Forest land & the circuit of roads will be complete. It will greatly boost tourism and also provide employment to thousands of unemployed people.

Rao has appealed to the Chief Minister, Sh. Umar Abdullah, concerned MP & MOS in Prime Minister office, Jitendra Singh Rana, Dy. CM, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, MLA Bhadarwah, Sh. Daleep Singh Parihar & MLA Doda -52, Mehraj Malik, that two of the above mentioned Joura to Jai and Chirra to Gallu Top (sanctioned projects) be kindly taken up immediately on priority. Kahara-Jai road is perhaps the longest pending project in erstwhile Doda District & this fact should be given due consideration, without any further delay. He has decried over step motherly treatment in all walks of life, with the poor public of Sub-Division Thathri at the hands of successive state & central governments.


He further said that the Sub-Division Thathri, has its own 5 Tehsils, More-over Drabshalla Tehsil, of District Kishtwar is only at a distance of 4 kms from the office of Sub-Division Thathri, where as it is not less than 26 kms from District Head Quarter Kishtwar & the Tehsil Head Quarter of Mohalla Tehsil of District Doda is at a distance of 14 kms from the office of Sub-Division Thathri, where as it is not less than 25 kms from District Head

Quarter Doda.

If these two Tehsils are also included in Sub-Division Thathri it will be easily accessible to the public of these two Tehsils than Kishtwar or Doda. Then it will be a sub-Division of 7 Tehsil & hence highly deserving for a District status. The Sub-Division Thathri also deserves separate Assembly Constituency & also a separate tourism Authority as all the existing Districts & Assembly Constituencies in the state have hardly 2 or 3 Tehsils. But the Sub-Division Thathri has been in-genuinely ignored by the successive state & central governments. Mr. Rao said & added that the Sub-Division Thathri was first divided in Bhadarwah & Inderwal Constituencies & now it is attached with Doda Constituency because of which the whole Sub-Division Thathri is lacking the basic facilities. Sub-Division Thathri is the most backward and undeveloped Sub-Division of Jammu & Kashmir UT, whose 90% population is situated in villages in the rural area.

The benefits of independence & democracy are yet to reach this area as it has all along been neglected in the past as well as present by the successive Central & state governments till date. Mr. Rao, has appealed to the Central Government & also to the State government to create two new Districts Bhadarwah & Thathri for Justice for population wise equality in J&K UT.

In Kashmir Division there are Districts with hardly two or three Tehsils while in Jammu Division there are Districts like District Doda having 17 Tehsils, is not only in genuine but also ridiculous. So it is appealed to make number of Tehsils equal or almost equal in every District after reorganization of Tehsils & the creation of New Districts is of paramount importance.



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