

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

NATIONAL | 7

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Payal Kapadia bags best international film award by the New York Film Critics Circle



Need to intensify ruthless war against drug trafficking: HM Amit Shah

US a nation of immigrants, there is broad support for expanding legal immigration says Neera Tanden

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BRIEFLY

Nazia Bibi: first player from J&K to represent India at Kho Kho World Cup

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): 21-year-old Nazia Bibi from Nagrota area of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first athlete from the erstwhile state to be selected for the Indian Women's Kho Kho team competing in the World Cup.

The tournament, featuring over 20 nations, kicks off on January 13, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

Daughter of shop-keeper Sabar Ali and Zulekha Bibi, Nazia belongs to a tribal community and began her Kho Kho journey during her school years.

Over the past seven years, she transitioned to professional-level play while pursuing her BA at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt College for Women in Jammu.

Nazia credits her Army-serving cousins for inspiring her to take up sports. "Watching my cousins excel in athletics fueled my passion to pursue a career in sports," she said. Her relentless dedication led her to become the sole female athlete from J&K selected for the Indian team after participating in a national camp alongside three other athletes from the region.

Her family expressed immense pride in her achievement. "They are proud and praying for the team's success in the World Cup," Nazia shared.

Dr. Baljinder Kour, President of the J&K State Kho Kho Association, and General Secretary Amrinder Pal Singh lauded Nazia's achievement, calling it a milestone for sports in the region and a beacon of inspiration for future athletes.

Army conducts search operation following suspicious movement near LoC in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 11 (Agencies): The Army on Saturday conducted a search operation after getting a tip-off about suspicious movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector here, security officials said.

Some villagers observed the movement of some suspected persons,

Turn to page 9

Dozen Illegally Built Houses Demolished in Anti-Encroachment Drive in Jammu



JAMMU, Jan 11 (Agencies): A dozen illegally built houses and four plinths were demolished in a major encroachment drive here on Saturday, leading to retrieval of 10 kanals of the land belonging to the Jammu Development Authority (JDA), a senior government official said.

The successful drive was conducted by the JDA in close coordination with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Jammu district administration and police at Sidhra, Majeen

and Rangoora areas, the official said.

He said the areas with large-scale recent encroachments, including Dingyali, Gulshan Nagar, and Asrarabad in revenue villages Majeen and Rangoora, Sidhra, were identified for the drive. Despite issuing notices or warning in such areas, the land mafia along with a team of contractors with labourers continued their activities.

During the drive, 12 illegal houses and four plinths were demol-

ished, retrieving 10 kanals of the JDA land on the spot, the official said, adding besides giving a strong message to all encroachers and other builders in the area that no one will get away with impunity.

The drive was a success, not only in removing illegal encroachments but also in raising awareness among residents about the importance of knowing the procedure for carrying out construction on the land with clear title under ownership as the government or the JDA land shall be retrieved, he said.

Vice Chairman, JDA, Pankaj Sharma said his department is committed to ensuring that public land is safeguarded against unauthorised encroachments and will continue such efforts in the future.

"The drive is a clear message to the public

Turn to page 9

Restoration of snatched rights a challenge for Omar Abdullah-led govt: Shamima Firdous



SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) senior leader and MLA Habba Kadal, Shamima Firdous Saturday stated that restoring the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir remains a significant challenge for the Omar Abdullah-led government.

Speaking to reporters, she called for urgent action to address the

pressing issues faced by the people, particularly the youth of the region.

"We have been deprived of our rights, and getting them back is a significant challenge for us and the Chief Minister," she said, according to news agency KINS. "The youth of Kashmir deserve justice, opportunities, and dignity."

She highlighted the long-standing grievances of the people, pointing to issues such as poor infrastructure and the lack of basic amenities. "For the past 10-12 years, our people have faced countless problems — from broken drains and streets to the lack of essential facilities," she said.

She also stressed the urgent need for a stadium in the Habba Kadal constituency, noting that the youth have repeatedly requested such a facility.

"There is land available, and we are committed to ensuring that a stadium is built here. We have already initiated the process and

Turn to page 9

BSF launches beautician programme for women near international border in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 11 (Agencies): The Border Security Force has launched a special drive to train women living near the international border here as beauticians, its spokesperson said on Saturday.

The programme is part of the BSF's efforts to empower border residents, promote skill development and foster self-reliance while ensuring holistic growth and prosperity in the area, the official said.

He said the four-week beautician training pro-



gramme would provide necessary skills to 30 women in the R S Pura sector.

The first phase of the programme was conducted for 15 women

from September 16 to October 25, last year, while the second phase involving another group of 15 participants began on December 23, last

Turn to page 9

Cyber cell of Kulgam Police recover Rs 13,69,377 from online financial frauds

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): The Cyber Cell of Jammu & Kashmir Police in Kulgam district on Saturday said that it successfully resolved multiple cases of online financial frauds, recovering an amount of Rs 13,69,377.

Police said they received complaints involving fraudulent schemes.

"These scams involved fake investment opportunities where victims were promised high returns for additional deposits," the police said.

Acting swiftly, the Cyber Police Kulgam collected evidence and necessary information from the victims.

Turn to page 9

Train to Kashmir will start very soon: Ashwini Vaishnaw



NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that a long-cherished train service between Jammu and Kashmir valley will start very soon.

"The outstanding project to build a new railway route is a testament to engineering excellence and determination, overcoming significant geographical and climatic challenges," he added.

Talking to the media about the project during the inspection of new

coaches of Amrit Bharat train and other projects at Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, the minister said that this was a significant dream of the nation, a new railway line connecting Jammu and Kashmir, which involves immense complexity. Out of the 111-kilometre railway line, 97 kilometres consist of tunnels and 6 kilometres were bridges.

Vaishnaw further said that this is a highly complex project and the dream has now been

fulfilled. The work has been completed and the CRS inspection has been done. Once the report is received, "we will start the train services."

The minister informed that a new Vande Bharat train has also been designed specifically for this purpose.

"Since temperatures can drop to minus 10 or minus 20 degrees, factors like electrical lines, electronics, and the train's connection with the wheels are affected. Keeping these challenges in mind, the new Vande Bharat has been designed. All preparations have been completed and this dream of India will soon become a reality," he said.

Notably, a satisfactory speed trial was conducted on the Katra-Banihal railway section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) during the Commissioning of

Turn to page 9

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Tenth Day (Dahim Doh)

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pyari Saraf** W/o Late Sh. Piarey Lal Saraf originally from Goja Mohalla, Anantnag currently residing at House No 32, Sector 2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur on 03rd January 2025.

Tenth Day shall take place on 12th January 2025 (Sunday) at Bhadrakali Temple, Thalwal Mandal, Jammu. Assembly will take place at 10:30 am at Muthi Ghat.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters & Sons-in-Law

Smt. Babita & Sh. Anil Saraf

Smt. Sunita & Sh. Raj Kumar Bhat

Smt. Anu & Sh. Sunil Raina

Smt. Reeta Saraf & Sh. Hari Krishan Saraf -**Sister In Law & Brother In Law**

Smt. Aparna Saraf -**Sister In Law**

Smast Saraf Family of Anantnag

Contact Numbers : +91 6005-138429, +91 78274 75687, +91 93248 51237



Smt. Pyari Saraf

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform you the sad and untimely demise of **Abhineet Revoo** S/o Late Sh. Pran Nath Revoo (originally from Alikadal Batar Srinagar at present Kameshwar Colony Akhnor), who expired on 3rd January 2025 in a fatal road accident.

The **10TH DAY** shall be performed on 12th January 2025 at Ja Pola Ghat Akhnor at 9 AM (Sunday) followed by prayers at our residence, House no 101 ward no 9, Kameshwar Colony Akhnor.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mother -Dura Revoo

Wife- Rinku Revoo

Kavya Revoo and Vanshika Revoo- **Daughters**

Sister and Brother in law

Meena kshi Revoo and Sarabjeet Singh

Sister and Brother in Law

Dr Sonia Verma (Director/CEO SGWF) and Dr Rakesh Verma (JKFS)

Sister in law and Brother

Kanika Revoo and Rakesh Revoo

MOBILE NO: 9818871717, 9596993297



ABHINEET REVOO

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Thaker Singh Bhou** (Founder of Nand Public Hr. Sec School) R/o Dogra Nagar, Muthi, Jammu on 2nd January, 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at our residence H.No. 422, Sec-2, Dogra Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu on 11th January 2025 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM.

13TH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at our residence on 15th January (Wednesday) 2025 at 12:00 Noon.

GRIEVING LOVED ONES

Smt. Rattna Bhou - **Wife**

Sons

Paramjeet Singh Bhou

Shubam Singh Bhou

Daughters and Son-in-laws

Reena Bhou and Kuljeet Singh Raju

Ruchi Bhou and Sandeep Singh Chib

Sujata Bhou and Randhir Singh Katoch



Sh. Thaker Singh Bhou

Grandchildren : Nitya rsh, Ranbir, Kyra, Preyashi, Devanya

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ajay Sharma** (Govt Contractor J&K Sports Council) S/o Late Pt Raja Ram Sharma and Smt Dharmo Devi (Rehal Waale) who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday 4th January.

10th Day shall be performed on 12th January 2025, at our residence H No. 419 Lane No. 1 Colonel's Colony Talab Tillo Bohri Jammu. From 10 AM onwards.

UTHALA would be performed on 13th January at GETTA MANDIR BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU from 4 PM to 5 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Rupa Sharma (**Wife**)

Awany Sharma (**Daughter**)

Ananya Sharma (**Daughter**)

Arihant Ajay Sharma (**Son**)

Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh Ashwani Sharma & Smt Santosh Sharma

Sh Shiv Kumar Sharma & Smt Sarita Sharma

Sisters & Brother in laws

Smt Santosh Khajuria & Sh Shiv Pal Khajuria

Smt Madhu Sharma & Sh Brahm Dutt Sharma

Mobile No.

9796630067, 6005354123, 7006429929

Nephew : Mohit, Rohit, Rachit



Sh Ajay Sharma

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Sham Rani Ganjoo** (**Bhabhi, Bengashi**) W/o Late Sh. Prithvi Nath Ganjoo original resident of Malapora, Habba Kadal, Srinagar presently residing at H No. 2, Lane No. 14 Rajpura near Shakti Nagar, Jammu on 9th Jan 25.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh Ramesh Kumar Ganjoo

Smt Veena Ganjoo (Gadrod)

Smt Nancy Dulloo

Smt Rajni Jalali

Sh Vijay Khushoo

ALL GANJOO'S, MOZAS, ZUTSHI'S, BHAN'S, KOUL'S

PH NO. - 9419120150, 6005927394



Smt Sham Rani Ganjoo

(**Bhabhi, Bengashi**)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Shama Kakroo** W/o Lt. Kashi Nath Kakroo erstwhile R/o Ganpatyar Srinagar, Kashmir presently residing at Lane 25, Block 159/1, Jagti Colony.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota on 16th Jan., 2025 (Thursday) thereafter **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Lane No. 25 at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Raj Kumar Kakroo and Smt. Simmi Kakroo (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)

Kakroo's, Baroo's, Kuloo's, Bhat's, Zadoo's



Smt. Shama Kakroo

OBITUARY

With profound grief and heavy heart, we inform that our dearest **Sh. Ram Krishen Koul** (**Saraf**) (**Kaka Ji**) S/o Late Smt. Shobawati and Late Sh. Damodar Koul (**Saraf**) R/o Habbakadal, Srinagar attained Sadgati on January 7, 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Usha Koul (**Wife**)

Sameksha Koul (**Daughter**)

(**Daughter-in-law and Son**)

Shiveta and Sameer Koul

Saharshinie Koul (**Grand Daughter**)

All Koul(s), Saraf(s), Bhat(s), Raina(s)

and Khaptoo(s)

311 A, Master Lane, Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

9796012233, 9796007422

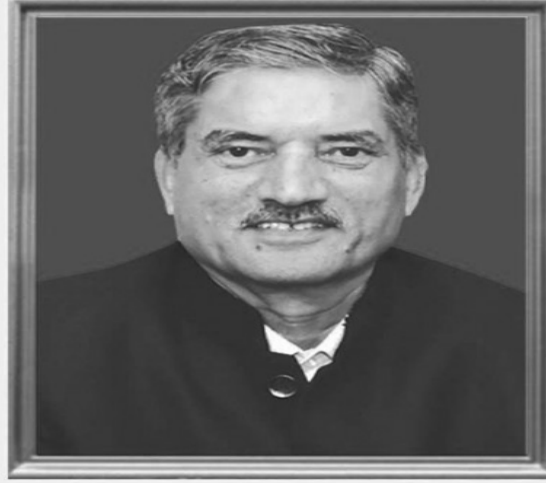


Sh. Ram Krishen Koul

(**Saraf**) (**Kaka Ji**)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Your cornerstone, beacon of light for family,
Your physical presence we miss each day,
Your pure soul blesses, guides our way.



LATE. SHRI DARSHAN LAL CHOUDHARY

(RETD. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER)

S/o Late **Shri Shiv Ram Choudhary**

Vill. Heer-e-Chak, Samba.

Res. H. No 1122/8 Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

Remembered for his compassion, warmth, and enduring love on his **Chavari** (**Chaubarsi**) observed at his cherished residence, House No 1122, Sector 8, Lane No 8, Nanak Nagar, Jammu, on 12 Jan 2025 at 1 pm.

Forever in the hearts of:

Smt. Kamla Choudhary (Wife)
Vijay & Jyoti Chowdhary (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Ashwani & Mamta Choudhary (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Niya, Shriya, Amayra (Grand Daughters)
and held dear by his well-wishers.

Phone: 9419125454 / 9878449393 / 9888551621

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you the passing of our dearest **Jiji, Mrs. Rajnee Dhar**, She passed away peacefully on **January 1st, 2025**, in Gurugram, India.



Mrs Rajnee Dhar (Jiji)

Wife of late Mr. Makhan Lal Dhar (Karan Nagar, Srinagar), and daughter of late Wazir-e-Wazarat, Mr. Amar Nath Bakshi, and late Mrs. Kamlavati Bakshi.

Her presence graced our lives with happiness, joy, and wisdom.

In her honour, we are organizing a **Prayer Meet** at **The Belaire, Golf Course Rd, DLF Phase 5, Sector 54, Gurugram, Haryana, 122002**

Date January 12th | **Time** 2pm - 4pm

Your presence will provide us with strength and solace as we come together to remember and celebrate the beautiful life she lived.

Dr Madhu Dhar Bhat (**Daughter**)

Ravinder Nath Bhat (**Son-in-law**)

(**Nieces and Nephews**)

Opendra, Atul, Bharat, Ashish, Bharti, Kusum, Kiran, Madhu,

Heemal, Anjali, Anuradha, Poornima and Narendar

Dhars, Bakshis and Bhats

Email: madhuharhat@gmail.com

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Surender Nath Kallo** S/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Kallo, originally resident of Sana't Nagar, Srinagar, at present H.No. 42, Sec-1, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 03-01-2025.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 12-01-2025 (Sunday) at Badarkali Mandir, Thalwal and Assembly will be held at our residence at 11:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sarita Kalo-Wife

Son and Daughter-in-law

Sa Rajay and Shaveta Kallo (9697047719)

Daughter and Son-in-law

Meenu and Sa Rajay Gupta (419145768)

Sister and Brother-in-law

Smt. Phool and Sh. Bal Krishan Trikura (9810078779)

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law

Smt. Rekha and Sh. Ramesh Koul (6005174775)

Grand Children : Yasmine and He nishika Kallo, Parthive Gupta

SAMAST KALLO FAMILY



Sh. Surender Nath Kallo

Ex- D.E, BSNL Jammu

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Anil Dhar** (**Munnu ji**) S/o Lt. Sh. H.N Dhar of Khan-khai Solkha Safakadal Srinagar at present H no 321, Suryavanshi lane, Dogra Nagar near Mahesh Bharti Ashram Muthi Jammu 180013 has left for his heavenly abode on 04/01/2025.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 13th Jan 2025 (Monday) and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 10:00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Indu Bala Dhar (Bhat) - **Wife**

Smt. and Sh. Dileep Kumar Dhar - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Smt. Lalita Dhar - **Bhabhi**

Sheen Dhar - **Daughter**

Smt. Promila and Sh. DK Thulsoo - **Sister & Brother in law**

Smt & Sh. Sagar Raina (Muzico)



SH ANIL DHAR

(**MUNNU JI**)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We are deeply saddened to inform the sad demise of **Sh. P.K. Dhar** son of Late Dr. Gopi Nath Dhar, originally from Mottayar Rainawari, Srinagar (Kashmir), and currently residing at S-1, Flat-602, Kings Bury, TDI City, Kundli, Sonapat (Haryana).

The 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Kheradi Village, Yamuna Ghat, Kundli Date: 16th January 2025 Time: 8:30 AM.

GRIEF-STRICKEN

Nalini Dhar (**Wife**)

Sh. Rattan Lal Dhar (**Brother**) 9619028006.

Sh. Ashish Dhar (**Son**) - 9619028006

Sh. Aseem Dhar (**Son**)

Samasth Dhar Parivar & Samasth Moza Parivar



Sh. P.K. Dhar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Shiv Charan Gupta** (Retd. Principal) S/o Lt. Sh. Sant Ram R/o 105 MIG Phase-1, Housing Colony, Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 03-01-2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 11-01-25 (Saturday) at 11:30 am at Shiv Mandir, Housing Colony, Udhampur.

KRIYA (THIRTEEN DAY) will be performed on 14-01-25 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur.

Grief Stricken:

Smt. Padma Devi (**Wife**)

Smt. Saro Devi & Lt. Sh. Jagan Nath (**Bhabhi & Brother**)

Smt. Mohini Gupta & Dr. T. R Gupta (**Bhabhi & Brother**)

Smt. Anita & Sh. Sat Pal Gupta (**Daughter & son-in Law**)

Sh. Pankaj Kumar & Smt Rajni Gupta (**Son & Daughter-in Law**)

Sh. Ajay Kumar & Smt. Kanishka (**Son & Daughter-in Law**)

Grand Children

Mob: 9469007445, 9419159638



Shri Shiv Charan Gupta

(Retd. Principal)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Tajinder Pal Singh**, son of Late Master Harbajan Singh resident of Ichahama, Budgam, currently residing at Dashmesh Nagar, Digiana Jammu.

The **BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS** will be held as per the following schedule:

ARAMBH OF SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: 10th January 2025: Friday at 9:30 AM.

BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: 12th January 2025: Sunday at 9:30 AM at the residence.

ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at Gurudwara Sant Gurb Deva Singh, Dashmesh Nagar from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Followed by Guru ka Langer from 12:30 PM onwards.

GRIEF-STRICKEN

Satbeer Kaur (**Wife**)

Sanjog Pal Kaur (**Daughter**)

Harman Pal Kaur (**Daughter**)

Jatraj Pal Singh (**Son**)

Jaspal Singh & Davinder Kaur (**Sister & Brother-in-law**)

Salinder Singh & Sanjeet Kaur (**Sister & Brother-in-law**)

WE HUMBLY REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS AND PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED SOUL.

CONTACT: 9419081235



TAJINDER PAL SINGH

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

A cherished grandmother, selfless mother and a loving wife to Lt. SUB. Talab Singh Lalotra (2nd BN. The Dogra Regiment), **Smt. Satya Devi** passed away peacefully on 2nd January 2025. The following rituals will be performed at our residence, Ward No. 4, Hiranagar, Kathua: **Tenth Day** on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.

Kriya on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.

Several delegations call on Lt Governor Brig Mishra



also recruited under SRO 202.

In response, the HLG assured the delegation that the UT Administration would look into the matter and asked Director Finance, Dr Safdar Ali to collect data from the concerned Accounts Section of all the government departments where employees have been appointed under SRO 202 and look at financial implications on the UT Administration.

In a separate meeting, Handloom Engineering Diploma holders called on the Lieutenant Governor to seek his intervention in notifying vacant posts in the Handloom Department. The Lieutenant Governor assured them that the concerned vacant posts would be notified at the earliest.

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 11: A delegation of employees affected by SRO-202 called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. The delegation sought the HLG's intervention in releasing arrears of the affected employees.

The meeting was

attended by Chief Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, IAS; Secretary GAD, Shri Michael D'Souza, IAS and Director Finance, Dr. Safdar Ali, IRS.

The delegates informed the HLG that despite being appointed between the years 2015 to 2020, they are receiving lower salary than those appointed post-2019 after the formation

of UT Ladakh due to their appointment under SRO-202 by the erstwhile government of Jammu and Kashmir state. They requested the HLG's intervention in releasing their arrears citing the recent ruling of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) branch in favour of Panchayat Accounts Assistant (2019) who were also

Hold Panchayat elections within 90 days with delimitation of Halqas: AJKPC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a registered organization working for strengthening grass the root level democratic institutions in J&K has asked the J&K government and State Elections Commission to hold Panchayat elections within 90 days or get ready to face agitation.

Anil Sharma, President of AJKPC, criticized the Lieutenant Governor-led government and the State Election Commission for delaying the elections. He informed that the term of the Panchayat Halqas in J&K expired on January 9, 2024, and the J&K government, through SO No. 16 dated January 10, 2024, appointed Block Development Officers as adminis-



trators of the Panchayats. For over a year now, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been defunct, and there seems to be no sincere effort by the government to hold these elections. Even the State Election Commission appears to be silent on the matter," Sharma said.

He further highlighted that several Panchayats have raised demands for the delimitation of Halqas and the mobilization of voters

from one Panchayat to another. However, neither the poll panel nor the government has initiated this process.

Cautioning the J&K government and Poll body, Sharma said "AJKPC setting 90 days deadline to hold Panchayat Elections with delimitation, after that a mass agitation would be launched for formation of new PRIs".

To push forward its agenda, AJKPC has also

decided to escalate the matter through dialogue with key stakeholders. Sharma revealed that delegations of AJKPC functionaries would soon be meeting Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the State Election Commissioner to press for immediate action.

AJKPC's press note also states that the issue is urgent because Panchayats play a vital role in local governance.

Their prolonged inactivity has hindered development and left rural residents without proper representation or an avenue to voice their concerns. The note emphasizes that holding elections on time and redefining boundaries is essential to reviving democracy and improving governance in the region.

BLSKS celebrates National Youth Day with musical play Nasha Cha Bachoo

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: In celebration of National Youth Day and as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) organized its 475th Friday Series Musical Play, "Nasha Cha Bachoo", at Indira Public Higher Secondary School, Shant Nagar, Janipur, Jammu. The event was conducted in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art Production, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Government of India), and the Social Welfare Department, J&K Government.

The program aimed to promote the traditional culture of Jammu and Kashmir while raising awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse. The musical play, written and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, a renowned writer and director, featured captivating songs like "Nasha Na Karna - Man Lo Kehna" and "Hogi Badi Kharabi". The music was composed by Raju Bajgal, a prominent music teacher.

The event was inaugu-



rated by the Chief Guest, Ajay Kumar, Assistant Principal of Indira Public Hr. Sec School. Guests of honor included Joney Kumari, Coordinator of the Senior Wing, and Rakesh Kumar, Senior Teacher. Over 250 students and teachers participated in the event, which began with a pledge against substance abuse, administered by Chahat Chadha. A certificate from the Ministry of Social Justice was presented to the school's Principal.

In his speech, Ajay Kumar highlighted the significance of National Youth Day 2025, which focuses on "Youth Empowerment for Nation Building." He emphasized the role of young people in shaping India's future and

applauded BLSKS for its impactful awareness programs. He also discussed the importance of the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan, which targets educational institutions, schools, and other sectors to create awareness about the dangers of substance abuse.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, spoke about the ill effects of drug abuse and highlighted the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, which inspires the observance of National Youth Day. He mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming participation in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 on January 12 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, aimed at empowering young leaders.

General Secretary of BLSKS, Mahesh Chan-

der Kotwal, elaborated on the organization's efforts to promote Dogra culture through over 200 cultural programs annually. He also discussed the focus on cleanliness drives in public places as part of the initiative.

The program concluded with an enthralling performance by musicians, singers, and actors, including K.K. Joshi, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Kuldeep Raj, and Sanjeev Kumar Sodhi. The event ended with a vote of thanks presented by Master Deepak Kumar.

The celebration of National Youth Day serves as a reminder of the youth's critical role in shaping a constructive, progressive society and promoting cultural and social values.

Shiv Sena UBT demands development of Jammu tourist spots and restoration of statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has called for focused development of tourist destinations in Jammu division while welcoming infrastructure advancements in Kashmir, such as the Z-Morh tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway and the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail service. The party also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood during his upcoming visit to the region.

Addressing a press conference at the party's state central office, Shiv Sena state chief Manish Sahni lauded the recent development projects in Kashmir, acknowledging their potential to boost tourism and the economy. However, he emphasized the need for equitable attention to Jammu's tourist destinations, stating, "The step-motherly treatment of the Jammu division cannot be



tolerated anymore." Sahni criticized the BJP-led central government for allegedly neglecting Jammu, despite winning the trust of the region's people in multiple elections by raising the issue of discrimination against Jammu. "The BJP, like previous governments, continues to focus on Kashmir while ignoring Jammu's development," he remarked.

He highlighted several untapped and underdeveloped tourist destinations in Jammu, including Suchetgarh, Jhajjar Kotli, Bani, Basohli, and religious sites like Mata Bala Sundari, Shiv Khori, Paramandal, and Jhiri. Sahni demanded that these locations be equipped with modern facilities to attract tourists and stimulate the local

economy. Sahni also called upon the Prime Minister to "gift" the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood on the auspicious occasions of Lohri and Makar Sankranti, a move he believes will resonate

deeply with the people of the region.

General Secretary Vikas Bakshi and Senior Vice President Sanjeev Kohli were also present during the press conference, lending their support to Sahni's demands.

The Shiv Sena leader warned the BJP not to take the people of Jammu "for granted" and reiterated the party's commitment to fighting for the equitable development and rights of the region.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location : S&T works in c/w Elimination of Nine LC gates (1). LC no. 14 (in delhi area) at Km 21/19-21, (2). LC no. 23 (in delhi area) at Km 37/27-29, (3). LC No. 54 at Km 90/29-31, (4). LC no. 66 at Km 112/3-5, (5). LC No. 101(M) at Km. 189/1-3, (6). LC No. 10 at Km 14/29-31, (7). LC No.15 (in delhi area) at Km 23/25-27, (8). LC No. 46 at Km 77/14-16, (9) LC no. 68 at Km 119/23-25. all nine LC gates in Delhi-Ambala section of Delhi division.

App. Cost of the work : Rs. 1,14,23,094/-

Bid Security : Rs. 2,07,100/-

Address of the office : Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for uploading the tender/closing of the tender : Tender uploading 10.01.2025/ closing date & time -03.02.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. : See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1440 Dated: 10.01.2025 128/2025

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI HYDRAULIC DIVISION KISHTWAR
TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. EE/HYD/K/81 of 2024-25 Dated:09/01/2025

e-Tenders are invited on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of J&K from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt. for the following works of Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Kishtwar.

S.No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advt. Cost Rs. In lacs	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Account Head for Treasury Challan	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion	Date & Time of opening of Tender	Class of Contractor
01	PROVIDING LAYING AND FITTING OF G.I PIPES FOR DRINKING WATER FACILITIES TO THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CI and D DIVISION JK P.D.C AT KULEED KISHTWAR.	Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Kishtwar.	2.00	600/-	0215	4000--	30 Days	As Per detail given below	A,B,C,D

- Date of Publishing **09-01-2025.**
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 05:00P.M on **09-01-2025 to 16-01-2025 (1400Hrs).**
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 05:00P.M on **09-01-2025 to 16-01-2025 upto 1400Hrs.** The bids received will be opened at **16:00 Hrs on 16-01-2025 on line.**
- As per the instruction of the Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department J&K Srinagar vide his No.- O.M No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated:- 07-06-2018 regarding furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual Call Deposit Receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Kishtwar should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the CDR should be obtained and kept on record.

No: -HYD/K/e-NIT/2024-25/7190-7209
Date: -09-01-2025

DIP/J-9089/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division,
Kishtwar.

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EDITORIAL

National Youth Day

National Youth Day is celebrated annually on January 12 in India to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a revered philosopher, spiritual leader, and youth icon. This day is observed to inspire young people to embrace Vivekananda's teachings, which emphasize the power of youth in nation-building, self-discipline, and moral values. The government of India declared January 12 as National Youth Day in 1984, recognizing Swami Vivekananda's significant contributions to society and his timeless influence on the younger generation.

National Youth Day holds immense importance as it aligns with Swami Vivekananda's belief that the youth are the backbone of any nation. He saw young individuals as the driving force for progress and change, urging them to cultivate inner strength, self-confidence, and a sense of purpose. His famous words, "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached," resonate with the aspirations and potential of young people.

This day is not just about commemorating Vivekananda's legacy but also about motivating youth to channel their energy into constructive endeavors. It is an occasion to focus on youth empowerment, address their challenges, and create opportunities for their holistic development.

Born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda was a spiritual leader and reformer who played a pivotal role in introducing Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. His iconic speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893, where he addressed the audience as "Sisters and Brothers of America," showcased his vision of universal brotherhood and interfaith harmony.

Vivekananda emphasized education as the foundation for character-building and societal progress. He believed in the harmonious development of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, advocating for a balanced approach to life. His teachings on self-reliance, perseverance, and service to humanity continue to inspire millions worldwide.

Each year, National Youth Day is celebrated with a specific theme that reflects the aspirations and challenges of the youth. Themes such as "Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building" and "Youth for Digital India" have focused on contemporary issues and the role of young people in addressing them.

The celebrations include a variety of programs and activities organized by schools, colleges, universities, and government institutions. These events aim to engage young minds and foster a sense of responsibility and leadership. Some common activities include:

Discussions on topics like leadership, innovation, and personal growth.

Competitions to promote teamwork, creativity, and physical fitness.

Processions and campaigns highlighting social issues and youth empowerment.

Showcasing Swami Vivekananda's teachings and their relevance in modern times. Encouraging young people to participate in community service and contribute to societal welfare.

The youth population, constituting a significant percentage of India's demographics, plays a critical role in shaping the country's future. Swami Vivekananda believed that young people have the potential to transform society through their energy, ideas, and determination. On National Youth Day, emphasis is placed on empowering the youth to overcome challenges like unemployment, mental health issues, and social inequality.

Government initiatives like the National Youth Policy, Skill India, and Start-Up India aim to provide young individuals with the tools and opportunities to succeed. Educational reforms, skill development programs, and entrepreneurship schemes are designed to nurture their talents and ensure their active participation in the nation's growth.

Swami Vivekananda's teachings offer timeless guidance to young people. Some of his key messages include:

Self-Confidence and Belief in Potential: He encouraged youth to believe in themselves and their ability to achieve great things.

Service to Humanity: He emphasized the importance of selflessness and working for the betterment of society.

Spiritual and Moral Values: Vivekananda advocated for the cultivation of inner strength, character, and integrity.

Education for Empowerment: He saw education as a means to empower individuals and promote social progress.

In today's fast-paced world, the values and principles of Swami Vivekananda are more relevant than ever. Amid challenges like climate change, digital disruption, and social inequality, young people are uniquely positioned to drive meaningful change. National Youth Day serves as a reminder of their responsibilities and the impact they can create by embodying Vivekananda's ideals.

National Youth Day is a celebration of the indomitable spirit and potential of young people, inspired by the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. It is an occasion to reflect on his vision of a progressive, inclusive, and empowered society. By embracing his message of self-belief, service, and resilience, the youth can contribute significantly to building a better world. This day is not just a tribute to a great leader but also a call to action for the younger generation to rise and fulfill their role as torchbearers of the nation's future.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Let me begin the write up about Vishwa Hindi Diwas with a couplet which reads as—Kab yovan Se Jag Uthage yah Hindi Ke Bala, Kab Sara Jag Isse Ho Jaye Ga Matwala . Every year 10 January is celebrated as the world Hindi Diwas .On this occasion people worldwide arrange programmes such as symposiums ,debates, workshops ,talks ,essay writing competitions etc to popularize Hindi and to throw light on the importance of Hindi language and resolve to make people aware about the use of Hindi in day to day life .This year this important day was celebrated on 10 January 2025 Friday with great enthusiasm and with the resolve to make people especially the young generation aware and familiarize them with the use of Hindi language so that they make use of this sweet and fine language and communicate in Hindi .Hindi ranks as the third most spoken language ,having over 600 million speakers worldwide .Vishwa Hindi Divas ,or World Hindi Day ,is an annual observance aimed at expanding Hindi's presence in international forums and encouraging its use as a tool for global communication .This annual observance highlights the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people across the globe .As the world celebrated the day on 10th January let us resolve to communicate in Hindi language .While this day aims to promote Hindi on global scale ,it is distinct from Hindi Diwas celebrated annually on September 14 in India to honor the recognition of Hindi within the country .World Hindi Day commemorates the historic moment in 1949 when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations General Assembly-UNGA ,followed by the first World Hindi Conference inaugurated in 1975 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi .Since then ,various conferences have been held worldwide to further Hindi's reach, culminating in the official designation of January 10,2006 ,as World Hindi Day by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh .World Hindi Day is observed across the world to raise awareness about the Hindi language and promote its status as a global means of communication .Along similar lines ,World Hindi Diwas 2025 was marked under the theme , "A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride ,"which aimed

Celebrating World Hindi Day

to encourage linguistic and global interchange by using the Hindi language .It sheds light on the challenges surrounding the use and promotion of Hindi, aiming to foster a greater understanding of the language worldwide .Since its official recognition in 2006,the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has organized various events and celebrated this day ,while Indian Postal Department has issued special stamps to honor the occasion ,further enhancing the significance of Hindi on a global stage .The date marks the occasion when Hindi was recognized as one of the official languages of India on January 10,1950,by the Indian constitution .The idea of celebrating Hindi day internationally came into being in 2006 when the Indian decided to commemorate the languages global importance .However ,it was on January 10,2006 ,when World Hindi Day was celebrated for the first time .This decision was announced by the then Prime Minister of India ,Dr Manmohan Singh .On this occasion storytelling sessions are organized and students are encouraged to participate in fascinating Hindi storytelling sessions .Language games and puzzles are also held in order to make the experience of learning Hindi enjoyable with language -focused games and puzzles .On this day art and craft is encourage to familiarize Hindi among children .The other activities organized on this day to holding of Cultural workshops .Besides, language competitions among students are encourage to the children to use Hindi and communicate in Hindi.By observing Hindi Diwas, we are made aware of the various linguistic communities present around us.This also brings out the diversity of languages that India has to offer ,as well as the rich culture that the Hindi language has carried through the centuries .Though Hindi is not the official national language of India, it is recognized as one of the 22 languages of India .Vishwa Hindi Diwas holds immense importance as it honors the Hindi language, is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world .The day emphasizes the cultural and linguistic richness and cultural beauty of Hindi and its role in uniting people across India and beyond .While World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10TH January ,the National Hindi Day is celebrated annually on 14th September .While the former focuses on promoting Hindi inter-

nationally, the latter commemorates its adoption as an official language of India .The theme for World Hindi Day 2025 is , "The Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride ."This theme highlights the importance of Hindi as a tool for global communication and cultural exchange .It aims to encourage the use of Hindi in international forums and celebrated its potential to foster unity across diverse cultures .World Hindi Day was first celebrated on January 10,2006 ,following an initiative by the government of India .The date marks the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975,which brought Hindi to global stage .Hindi Diwas serves as a reminder of the linguistic and cultural heritage of India .It emphasizes the role of Hindi in preserving and promoting India's rich traditions and also in fostering the cultural exchange and unity in the world .On World Hindi Day ,efforts are made to promote Hindi as an international language .Events and conferences are organized worldwide to showcase the beauty ,richness and versatility of Hindi .Schools, colleges and universities across India and the world organize competitions ,debates ,and cultural events to encourage students to embrace and appreciate the Hindi language .World Hindi Day fosters cultural unity not within the country but fosters it in the world as well and so there is great need to familiarize the students and others with the Hindi language .The annual observance highlights the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people across the world .World Hindi Day commemorates the historic moment in 1949 when Hindi was first spoken in UNGA ,followed by the first World Hindi Conference inaugurated in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi .Since then, various conferences have been held globally to further Hindi's reach, culminating in the official designation of January 10,2006 ,as World Hindi Day by the former PM Manmohan Singh .This day aims to encourage linguistic and global interchange by using the Hindi language .It sheds light on the challenges surrounding the use and promotion of Hindi ,aiming to foster a greater understanding of the language worldwide .World Hindi Day promotes Hindi as a global language .It is one of the most spoken languages in the world and the tongue of many in India .It is not just a language

but an emotion .Hindi, which has incorporated words from many languages ,has become refined and a very simple and understandable language .From the media to today's writers, everyone is writing in the same language .The MEA celebrates this day globally by organizing various events and activities through Indian embassies and cultural centre's in different countries .These events typically include cultural programs , language workshops ,seminars ,and discussions .This year's theme of World Hindi Diwas, mentioned above aims to highlight the usage of the Hindi language for linguistic and international exchanges .Among the other languages of India, Hindi is one of the most widely spoken languages of the world ,so the reason behind this is that it is more flexible than other languages in adopting the words of other languages .And most impact able on the other language ,because these words are in use among the Sanskrit languages .There are many such words of Urdu and English which have been adopted by Hindi .Hindi changes with the time .Perhaps today's teenagers and youth are getting the benefit of digital media and it is true ,the social media also gives a forceful and destructive bond .There is increased influence of Hindi language on the internet so this language is globally accepted, recognized and spoken .Hindi is an Indo-European language .It is said to be a descendent of the Sanskrit language which is the mother of all languages .Even English has borrowed a great number of words from Hindi .The term "Hindi" is actually derived from the Persian language .Around 4.46 percent people of total world population speak Hindi .In short Hindi has the distinction of being called as the global language and its importance in the cultural exchange and cultural unity of the world cannot be overlooked .The observance of this year's World Hindi Day should lead to the expansion and usage of the Hindi language worldwide and for promotion and familiarization of Hindi language this year's Hindi day was celebrated with gaiety .

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelance writer)

Tips to Increase Memory Power in Students

By: Vijay Garg

Consistency is crucial in memory improvement. A well-planned study timetable helps the brain organise and process information more effectively. Here's how to implement it:

Divide and Conquer: Break your subjects into smaller chunks and tackle them over multiple sessions.

Use the Pomodoro Technique: Study for 25 minutes and then take a 5-minute break. This technique improves focus and prevents burnout.

Revise Frequently: Spaced repetition is a proven approach for long-term retention. Revisit topics periodically rather than cramming.

Creating a habit of scheduled learning helps the brain store and retrieve information more efficiently, much like indexing in a library.

Tip 2: Prioritise Quality Sleep Sleep is the brain's way of recharging. Lack of sleep doesn't just make students feel tired - it also hampers memory and concentration. Here's why quality sleep matters:

Memory Consolidation: During deep sleep, the brain organises and stores information from the day.

Better Focus: A rested mind is more alert and capable of absorbing new knowledge.

Sleep Hygiene Tips:

Stick to a consistent sleep schedule.

Avoid screen time an hour before bed.

Create a relaxing bedtime routine.

A student who consistently sleeps 7-9 hours a night will notice significant improvements in recall and cognitive function.

Tip 3: Use Memory Techniques like Mnemonics

Mnemonics are like cheat codes for your brain. They simplify complex information and make it short and crisp to remember. Here's how to use them:

Acronyms and Acrostics: Use the first letters of words to create memorable phrases. For example, "ROYGBIV" can be remembered as a mnemonic for the colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

Visualisation: Associate information with vivid mental images like graphs, charts, and diagrams.

Chunking: Break down information into smaller, more digestible pieces (e.g., phone numbers).

By using these techniques, students can transform static data into something engaging and easy to recall.

Tip 4: Stay Physically Active Exercise isn't just for the body - it is also essential for brain health. Physical activity promotes the release of hormones

that enhance brain function, especially memory.

Why Exercise Helps:

Increases oxygen flow to the brain.

Promotes the growth of new brain cells (neurogenesis).

Reduces stress levels, which can otherwise impair memory.

Simple Exercises for Students: 30 minutes of brisk walking.

Yoga or stretching routines.

Team sports like cricket or volleyball.

Nutritious Diet: Eat foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants, and vitamins to support brain health.

Tip 5: Practice Mindfulness and Meditation

Mindfulness and meditation enhance concentration and memory. These habits help students focus on the present moment, reduce stress, and improve cognitive abilities.

5 minutes of deep breathing before studying.

Guided meditation apps like Calm or Headspace.

Journaling to process thoughts and emotions.

Incorporating mindfulness into daily routines helps students approach learning with a calm and focused mind, leading to better retention and understanding.

Common Mistakes to Avoid Relying Solely on Cramming: Cramming might work temporarily, but it hinders long-term retention. Instead, divide your

study material into smaller chunks over time.

Skipping Breaks and Overloading: Studying without breaks can exhaust your brain, reducing its ability to retain information.

Long-Term Benefits of Improved Memory

Better Academic Results: Consistently applying these tips leads to improved focus, faster recall, and better grades.

Enhanced Confidence: When you remember key concepts effortlessly, you feel more confident tackling exams and challenges.

Summing up!

Improving memory power in students necessitates a comprehensive approach that includes a well-balanced diet, regular exercise, enough sleep, effective study techniques, mindfulness practices, mental exercises, and a consistent routine.

It is not a one-day task; it's a journey of consistent efforts. By following these five actionable tips, students can enhance their memory and achieve academic success. Start small - implement one tip at a time and gradually build up to a full routine.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

Sonamarg Tunnel to unlock new opportunities for connectivity, economic growth, tourism in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Sonamarg Tunnel (earlier known as Z-Morh Tunnel), a progressive infrastructure project in Jammu and Kashmir with a total cost of Rs 2,717 crore, is redefining regional connectivity and economic advancement. Stretching up to 12 km (Tunnel length: 6.4 km + Approach Road: 5.6 km), this two-lane bi-

directional tunnel creates a vital connection between Ganganir and Sonamarg, ensuring all-weather and safe connectivity.

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will formally dedicate the tunnel to the nation on Monday, 13th January 2025, in a ceremony attended by Union and state ministers, as well as senior government officials. Avalanches in Jammu and

Kashmir have long disrupted daily life, blocking roads, isolating communities, and hindering the movement of residents, army personnel, and tourists. For instance, in February 2005, a series of avalanches led to widespread devastation, severely impacting local economies and security operations.

Developed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Lim-

ited (NHIDCL), this remarkable engineering feat ensures year-round connectivity by bypassing routes historically prone to avalanches and heavy snowfall.

The Sonamarg Tunnel is not just an engineering marvel; it marks a transformative leap in Jammu and Kashmir's development narrative.

By strengthening trade, tourism, and local livelihoods while ensuring uninterrupted access and strategic security, the tunnel stands as a testament to India's infrastructural excellence under NHIDCL's conceptualized development. This milestone project sets a new standard for future infrastructure endeavors in the region and across the country. Furthermore, the route between Srinagar and Leh is challenging due to unpredictable weather conditions, often causing road closures that disrupt connectivity.

The infrastructure development of the Sonamarg Tunnel (6.4 km) and the upcoming Zojila Tunnel (13.1 Km) aims to provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh bypassing snow and avalanche-prone areas, enhancing safety, and reducing travel disruptions.

Shabnum Jan, Mahila Congress District President Shopian honours Alka Lamba



Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 11: In a heartwarming display of solidarity, Shabnum Jan, the Mahila Congress District President Shopian, recently presented a memento to Alka Lamba, the All India Mahila Congress President, during a meet in Delhi.

This meaningful gesture wasn't just about the gift; it symbolized the unwavering support and hopes of women leaders across the country as they gear up for the upcoming Delhi elections.

As Shabnum handed

over the memento, she expressed her heartfelt wishes, saying, "Lamba, your leadership inspires us all. We are praying for your victory in the upcoming elections. Your success is our success, and together, we can empower women and uplift our communities."

The event was filled with warmth and camaraderie, showcasing the strong bonds within the Mahila Congress. Shabnum's words resonated with many in attendance, reminding everyone of the collective strength women hold when they stand together.

Lamba, visibly moved by the gesture, responded with gratitude, stating, "Thank you, Shabnum. This memento is not just a gift; it carries the hopes and dreams of women everywhere. I promise to fight for our rights and work tirelessly for our communities."

As the elections approach, the spirit of unity and empowerment continues to shine brightly within the Mahila Congress.

With leaders like Shabnum Jan rallying support and spreading positivity, there's no doubt that the future looks promising. Together, they are determined to create a better tomorrow for all.

Yudhvir Sethi reiterates BJP's unwavering focus on bringing development to grassroots level



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, today inaugurated the laying of water pipelines in the area. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 8 lakhs, aims to enhance the water supply infrastructure at Mohalla Jatkatarian and Mohalla Lower Dalpation and Khatka Talab in the constituency under the Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme.

Speaking at the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the commitment of the Modi Government to ensuring "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" under the prestigious Jal Jeevan Mission. "Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership has transformed the lives of millions across the nation. This initiative is yet another step toward fulfilling his promise of a self-reliant and developed India," he stated.

The senior BJP leader highlighted that providing basic amenities to the residents of Jammu East is his top priority. "Development begins with ensuring access to necessities like clean drinking water, electricity, and sanitation. Today's project is a testament to our dedication to improving the quality of life for every citizen," he said.

Lauding the Modi Gov-

ernment, Sethi credited the central government for launching transformative schemes that have brought immense benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that projects like the Jal Jeevan Mission reflect the government's vision of equitable development, especially for urban and semi-urban areas.

Yudhvir Sethi also thanked the local administration and residents for their support in implementing such initiatives. He urged citizens to actively participate in monitoring and maintaining the newly installed infrastructure to ensure its longevity and sustainability.

He further reiterated the BJP's unwavering focus on bringing development to the grassroots level. "We are committed to ensuring that the promises made to the people of Jammu East are fulfilled with transparency and efficiency. Under the leadership of PM Modi, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented era of growth and progress," he added.

Director Agriculture Jammu conducts extensive tour of Sub Division Dansal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, today embarked on an extensive tour of Sub Division Dansal to review the progress of various agricultural initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He was accompanied by SDAO Dansal Chander Shekhar, SMS Opinder Koul, AEO Tirath Singh, and other staff from the Sub Division Office Dansal.

The Director Agriculture Jammu conducted a review meeting at Zone Sidhra to assess the progress of HADP projects. During the meeting, he interacted with the field staff and emphasized the importance of effectively implementing the schemes at the ground level. He directed the Sub Divisional Officer to ensure that the benefits of the initiatives reach the farmers and contribute to their overall agricultural development.

Following the review meeting, the Director visited a Hi-Tech Polyhouse under HADP at Agri Entrepreneur Anshuman Singh's farm in village Malori Jagir, Sub Division Dansal, where he

observed the successful cultivation of the high-value crop Rock Melon. Director Agriculture praised the initiative, stating that the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department of Jammu has played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the Hi-Tech Polyhouse initiative under HADP Project No. 03 (Promotion of Vegetables/Exotic Vegetables under Open and Hi-Tech Protected Cultivation). He emphasized that high-value crops cultivated in polyhouses not only fetch higher prices compared to traditionally grown produce but also provide farmers with the opportunity to grow crops year-round, ensuring a steady income stream. Furthermore, the ability to produce premium quality crops opens doors to lucrative markets, both locally and beyond, thereby increasing the farmers profit margins.

In the latter part of the tour, the Director Agriculture visited the Kissan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) established under HADP in Sub Division Dansal. During the visit, he interacted with Krishi Udhams and inspected the infrastructure of the KKG, gaining insights into its functioning.

Amid forecast of light snowfall, cold weather persist in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 11 (Agencies): Amid the forecast of light snowfall, the cold weather persisted across Kashmir.

Almost all the weather stations across Kashmir recorded below-freezing levels temperatures during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The Meteorological Department's Srinagar office said there is a possibility of light rain in plains of Jammu and snow at isolated higher reaches of Jammu Kashmir on Saturday.

The weather would remain generally dry from January 12-14 while generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches on January 15 and 16, MeT said.

In the Kashmir Division, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of -3.6°C, which is 1.7°C below normal.

The Zojila Pass, connecting Kashmir Valley with Ladakh Union Territory, witnessed a bone-chilling low of -32.0°C, marking it as one of the coldest spots in the region.

The ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded night temperatures of -6.5°C. Qazigund and Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded lows of -6.5°C and -7.6°C, respectively, both significantly below normal levels.

The Automated Weather Stations (AWS) in other areas freezing temperature. Budgam experienced -3.6°C, Baramulla dipped to -2.6°C, and Pulwama recorded -5.1°C. Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir were also among the coldest spots, recording -8.0°C and -6.6°C, respectively.

In the Jammu Division, comparatively higher minimum temperatures were observed, but the chill was still evident. Jammu recorded 7.1°C, which is normal for this time of year, while Banihal experienced 0.2°C, and Bhadrawah dipped to -0.6°C. Katra recorded a low of 6.1°C.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan,' the harshest phase of winter, that began on December 21. Spanning 40 days, this period is characterized by a significant drop in temperatures and heightened chances of snowfall, making it the coldest and most challenging time of the season. The 'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30.

GDC Khour celebrates National Youth Day



Top News Report

KHOUR, Jan 11: To commemorate Swami Vivekanand Ji's birth anniversary as National Youth Day, the NSS Unit of the Govt. Degree College Khour organized various events like speech, poem recitation and painting competition.

It is pertinent to mention that every year the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports celebrate National Youth Festival (#NYF2025) to encourage youth of the

Country to channelize their energy in shaping the bright future of the Country. This year the festival has been celebrated under the theme "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue".

NSS Volunteers namely Simran, Mansi, Sakshi and Bindu recited poems on this occasion while Bhavana Sharma gave speech on the life and multi aspects of philosophy of Swami Vivekanand whereas Vaishali, Tania and Chetna made paintings on the topic.

The whole proceeding of the event was carried out by Diljit Singh, NSS Volunteer of 6th Semester.

Prof. Dr. T.K. Sharma, Principal of the College in his brief address emphasize on the importance and the need of celebrating National Youth Day in present perspective to imbibe the youth with the teachings of Swami Vivekanand so that they can keep the national interest at paramount.

The whole event was organized by Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS PO.

Prof. Jozafeen Afzal, Dr. Seema Sudan, Dr. Anjana Sharma, Dr. Chetan Sharma, Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, Prof. Shivani Sharma and Prof. Sunil Kumar witnessed the whole proceedings of the event.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates National Youth Day with fervour

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Jan 11: The Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with NSS and NCC Units, Sports Department and the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated National Youth Day with fervor and enthusiasm as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Abhiyan here today.

On this occasion a symposium cum quiz and sports activities organized under the patronage of College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed. Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Nodal Officer Red Ribbon Club

in the college co-ordinated the event wherein Dr. Ashaq Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC, was the Resource person.

Prof. Farooq Ahmed, the main inspiration behind the Youth Day celebration, emphasized upon the development of qualities displayed by Swami Vivekananda within youth for a stronger and healthier nation and the world. He appreciated the entire organizing team for paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda by organizing varieties of activities and spreading message of inspiration, unity and confidence building among the youth.

In his comprehensive

lecture, Dr. Ashaq Malik deliberated upon the life history, works and contribution of Swami Vivekananda in promoting universal brotherhood and tolerance among all sections of society. The 1893 historic speech of Swami ji at World Parliament of Religions at Chicago that started with "sisters and brothers of America" and other stories of confidence, self-realization, tolerance, spiritualism, unity and patriotism, and his contribution to take Vedanta and Yoga to western world were part of presentation.

In the symposium, Zia Ul Rehman stood

first whereas Muskan Mir and Zara Fatima bagged 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Prof. Altaf Hussain and Dr. Gulshan Bhat were judges in the symposium which was followed by an instant feedback quiz. Prof. Supriya Gupta NSS Programme Officer and Anuj Bali, Vice President IIC coordinated the quiz competition.

In the sports activities, tug-of-war and arm wrestling were organized in which students and faculty members participated. Rakesh Puri, Physical Director in the College along with

Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Altaf Hussain and Dr. Junaid Ahmed co-ordinated the sports event.

Earlier, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed introduced the audience about the programme. Laiba Fatima of BA Semester 2nd conducted the proceedings of the programme whereas Dr. Asif Ajaz Lone presented formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among other present on the occasion were Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Prof. Romy Dar, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Mohd Arshad, Dr. Mohd Zabair, Dr. Sajad Ali, Dr. Atiq Ul Rehman and Dr. Aftab Ul Haq.

From Zeenat Aman to Meenakshi Seshadri, here are some veteran actresses who are likely to make a comeback in 2025

Aside from a good story and music, what made movies of yore special were their charismatic female leads. Their screen presence and grace remain unmatched even today. Now, fans will get a chance to see some of these former actresses, including Zeenat Aman and Meenakshi Seshadri, on the silver screen once again. Here's a quick check!

True diva: Zeenat Aman

Zeenat Aman charmed the audiences with her acting in films such as Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Satyam Shivam Sundaram and Don. After staying away from the limelight for a long time, the diva recently became active on social media. Zeenat will be returning to films with Bun Tikki. The project, which will be produced by well-known fashion designer Manish Malhotra, will also see Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol in significant roles. Bun Tikki gains significance as the movie marks Zeenat Aman and Shabana Azmi's reunion after a long gap of 21 years. For the unversed, their last collaboration was the 1982 film Ashanti.

Return mode: Meenakshi Seshadri



Meenakshi Seshadri left her fans heartbroken when she decided to step away from the movies around three decades ago. She took a break from work following her marriage to investment banker Harish Mysore in 1995. She was last seen in the 1994 drama Duet. Now, the diva has returned to the country from the US and wishes to come back into the entertainment industry. While Meenakshi has been making a few appearances on TV recently, she is yet to officially announce her come-

back film.

Thinking cap: Mamta Kulkarni
Another actress who left the film industry without a notice was Mamta Kulkarni. Known for her roles in Krantiveer, Karan Arjun, Sabse Bada Khiladi, Andolan, Baazi and China Gate, the actress has now come to Mumbai after 25 years. However, when asked about her B-town return, Mamta revealed that she had received offers for a few web series.

Heart's call: Mumtaz
One of the highest-paid

actresses of her time, Mumtaz left a mark on Indian cinema back in the late 1960s and mid-1970s. Ever since the yesteryear diva started attending reality shows, movie buffs have been wondering about her B-town comeback. Reacting to the same, Mumtaz revealed, "I am not sure if I will get the kind of role that really touches my heart..."

On way: Sonam Khan
Actress Sonam Khan last graced the silver screen back in 1992 with Vishwatma. The actress has openly expressed her desire to come back in the industry. She has a special interest in OTT.

OTT route: Sangeeta Bijlani
Who among us does not know the Tridev actress Sangeeta Bijlani? Even at the age of 64, she can give the young actresses a run for their money. Last seen in the 1996 drama Jagannath, Sangeeta has given a shout-out to female directors Gauri Shinde, Tanuja Chandra, Meghna Gulzar and Zoya Akhtar for the fabulous job they have been doing. She wants to make a comeback through OTT.

Payal Kapadia bags best international film award by the New York Film Critics Circle



Hollywood star Jodie Foster has seen All We Imagine As Light twice, says filmmaker Payal Kapadia about her critically acclaimed movie that continues to garner recognition in award circles. Kapadia received the best international film award by the New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC).

In her acceptance speech, she thanked

the film's distributor in the US for helping her connect with many people in Hollywood. "All We Imagine As Light has been on a winning streak at international platforms since it scripted history by becoming the first film from India to win the Grand Prix trophy at the Cannes Film Festival last year. Starring Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha

and Chhaya Kadam, the film explores love, longing and loneliness in the bustling city of Mumbai through three women, two Malayali nurses—Prabha and Anu—and their friend Parvati, a cook.

Though the film failed to convert its two nods at the Golden Globes into wins, it continues to amass nominations across various awards. The movie won the Best International Film at the Gotham Awards recently. It claimed the top spot at the Sight and Sound magazine's annual list of 50 best movies of the year. It is also expected to earn nominations at the BAFTAs where it features in the longlist. Kapadia's film released in Indian theatres on November 22 to positive reviews. Though it was not picked up to represent the country in the Oscars category, many in India are pinning their hope for the movie to garner recognition at the 2025 Academy Awards.

Prabhneet Singh talks about the series Swipe Crime

Prabhneet Singh, known for his nuanced performances, takes on a truly intriguing role in the latest thriller series Swipe Crime on Amazon MX Player. Playing CCD, a character from a large joint family, Prabhneet offers a refreshing portrayal of innocence mixed with under-confidence. He describes his character as someone who is always the favourite at home, yet remains hesitant and low-key in real life.

Prabhneet shared his thoughts on the name of the series, "Initially, I thought the title hinted at a crime thriller but as the series developed, I realised there was much more to it. The show delves deep into the world of social media and dating apps, exploring their darker sides. With the rise of online fraud and fake profiles, Swipe Crime is a timely and relevant story, resonating with today's generation."

The show was produced by Harsh Mainra, Prabhneet Singh and Jyoti Chauhan, under the banner Versatile Motion Pictures

Meanwhile, the Diksha Singh, who is also a part of the show, said the series is a cautionary tale about the unforeseen dangers lurking in virtual spaces.

Diksha revealed, "Thankfully, I've never been personally involved in a dating app trap, but I did have a few



unsettling experiences. Once, someone made a random WhatsApp video call and tried to display inappropriate content. It was likely an attempt to record my reaction for blackmail purposes. I never thought a random call could be so very dangerous."

Shocking: Deepika Padukone on L&T head suggesting 90-hour work week for employees

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone has joined the social media discourse around L&T chairman S N Subrahmanyan's remarks about wishing to make employees work on Sundays, saying it was shocking to see such statements coming from people in top positions at companies.

In an undated video circulating on social media, Subrahmanyan is heard saying, "How long can you stare at your wife?" "I regret I am not able to make you work on Sundays. If I can make you work on Sundays, I will be more happy, because I work on Sundays," he further said in the video.

Sharing a post about the L&T head's statement on her Instagram Stories, Padukone said, "Shocking to see people



in such senior positions make such statements #mentalhealthmatter." Subrahmanyan's comments drew criticism on social media with some questioning why highly paid CEOs with different job pressures expect the same level of commitment from less-paid employees.

Soon after, L&T issued a clarification saying the chairman's remarks were in the context of extraordinary efforts required for achieving extraordinary outcomes for the nation.

"We believe this is India's decade, a time demanding collective dedication and effort to drive progress and realise our shared vision of becoming a developed nation.

"The chairman's remarks reflect this larger ambition, empha-

sising that extraordinary effort," L&T spokesperson said in a brief statement.

Padukone, who has been advocating about mental well being and is also the founder of not-for-profit organisation The Live Love Laugh Foundation, posted the company's statement on Instagram and wrote, "And they just made it worse..." The remarks by Subrahmanyan have reignited the work-life balance debate, first triggered by Infosys Co-Founder Narayana Murthy's suggestion of a 70-hour work week.

Last year, Murthy had said, "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world... my request is that our youngsters must say, 'this is my country, I want to work 70 hours a week'."

I don't like attention, says Hrithik Roshan

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan has said although he doesn't like attention, the upcoming Netflix documentary The Roshans is not about him but his family. "When I saw this documentary, I was absolutely amazed. It's been directed so beautifully," Hrithik, who turned 51 on Friday, said during a press conference in Mumbai. He revealed that he had never met his grandfather. "I wonder if I magically get a chance to have a conversation with him... After seeing the documentary, I would actually like to ask him about his childhood, about what he went through. I wonder what he would ask me! I think he may ask 'if I am happy,'" he added.

"When my father said he wanted to make this documentary, I felt embarrassed. I don't like attention and then I realised this was not about me. It is the history about my ancestors, my parents, my grand-

father..." he shared. The upcoming series chronicles the trials and triumphs of Bollywood's iconic Roshan family — musician Roshan Lal Nagrath, Rajesh, Rakesh and Hrithik.

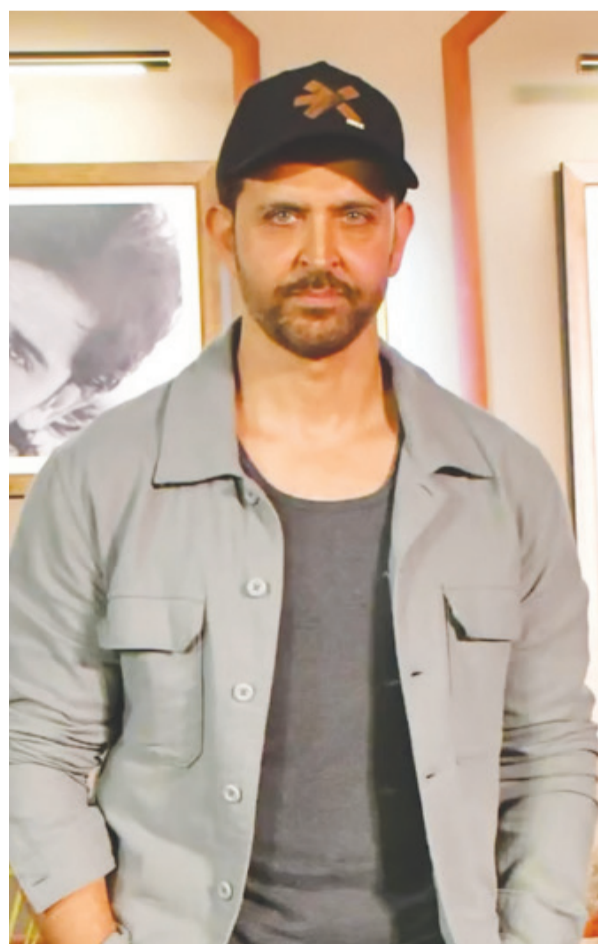
Tuned in
Hrithik revealed that when he was 12-years-old, he would at times choose tunes for his music composer chacha Rajesh Roshan and that sometimes he would see them on the screens.

25 years of Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai

Hrithik recalls that he was stunned when his father said he would be making Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai with him, as he believed it was being written for top stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan.

The 2000 blockbuster marked Hrithik's sensational debut 25 years ago. Now, in celebration of his silver jubilee in the film industry, the film is being re-released in theatres.

51st b'day



Hrithik turned 51 on Friday. His former brother-in-law Zayed Khan shared a picture from the celebrations,

which included his ex-wife Sussanne Khan, and his ladylove Saba Azaad, among many others.

'Punjabi aa gaye oye': Diljit Dosanjh has a mention at Chris Martin's Coldplay's Abu Dhabi concert

At Coldplay's recent concert in Abu Dhabi, the band's frontman, Chris Martin, made an unexpected yet delightful gesture that has sparked excitement among fans.

As the band rocked the stage, Martin spotted a fan in the crowd holding a sign with the words, "Punjabi aa gaye oye" - a popular phrase coined by the music sensation Diljit Dosanjh.

In a heartwarming moment, shared on Instagram by Diljit's team, Chris Martin read aloud, "Punjabi aa gaye oye," bringing the audience to cheers and applause.

He followed it up by saying, "We love you too," acknowledging the fan's message and adding to the excitement.

Diljit's team shared the moment on Instagram Stories accompanied by the caption, "Chris Martin says PUNJABI AA GAYE OYE.....!!!! Chris Martin reading Coldplay fan posters and flags is so wholesome."

The phrase "Punjabi aa gaye



oye," meaning, "Punjabis have arrived," was popularized by Diljit, especially after his historic performance at Coachella in 2023.

Meanwhile, Diljit Dosanjh concluded his much anticipated Dil-Luminati tour across India in 2024, performing in multiple cities including Mumbai, Bengaluru, and his hometown Ludhiana.

Coldplay, on the other hand, is

preparing for their return to India as part of their 'Music of the Spheres' tour.

After the Abu Dhabi performance, the band is set to perform in Mumbai followed by shows in Ahmedabad. This marks Coldplay's return to India after almost a decade, having last performed at the Global Citizen Festival in Mumbai in 2016.

PM recalls 'centuries of sacrifice' on 1st anniversary of Ram Mandir consecration

A grand three-day celebration, organised by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, began in Ayodhya to commemorate the occasion. The festivities, running from January 11 to 13, include cultural programs featuring music and art luminaries.

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his greetings to the nation on Saturday, marking the first anniversary of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ayodhya temple. Recalling the "centuries of sacrifice, penance, and struggle" that culminated in the construction of the temple, PM Modi emphasised its significance as a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

In a post on X, he wrote, "Best wishes to all the countrymen on the first anniversary of the consecration of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya. This temple, built after centuries of sacrifice, penance, and struggle, is a great heritage of our culture and spirituality. I am confident that this divine and magnificent Ram temple will become a great inspira-



tion in the accomplishment of the resolution of a developed India."

The Prime Minister also shared a video along with the post on X. A grand three-day celebration, organised by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, began in Ayodhya to commemorate the occasion. The festi-

ties, running from January 11 to 13, include cultural programs featuring music and art luminaries.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate the event with the ceremonial 'abhishek' (ritual bath) of the Ram Lalla idol. Following the ceremony, he will address a public gathering at

Angad Teela. Large crowds of devotees, including saints and spiritual leaders, have gathered for the event.

The entire Ayodhya Dham has been transformed into a spectacle of devotion and festivity, adorned with lights and decorations. District administration and trust officials have ensured meticulous preparations to accommodate the influx of pilgrims and visitors.

Both Deputy Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh are also expected to attend the celebrations, while Chief Minister Yogi's visit is scheduled to last approximately five hours.

The trust has encouraged devotees from across the country to participate in the historic celebration, reflecting the unifying and timeless appeal of Lord Ram.

Need to intensify ruthless war against drug trafficking: HM Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that there is an urgent need for an uncompromising fight against narcotics to safeguard the future generations of India.

Addressing a regional conference on "Drug Trafficking and National Security" organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Shah, emphasized the critical importance of a "whole-of-government" approach and coordination between the Centre and States to combat the growing threat of drug addiction and trafficking.

"Seven percent of India's population are drug addicts. If we don't act now, in ten years, it will be too late," Shah cautioned.

He warned that drug addiction has the potential to destroy entire generations, as seen in several countries across the world. "No country can remain secure if its youth are entangled in drug addiction," he added.

Reiterating the government's zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, Shah announced that during a drug disposal fortnight starting from January 11 to 25, over 44,792 kilograms of seized narcotics worth Rs 2,411 crore in the international market will be incinerated.

Highlighting the strides made over the past decade, he said that 24 lakh kilograms of drugs, valued at

over Rs 56,000 crore, have been seized since 2014.

Shah said, "Critics are claiming that there has been an increase in drug consumption but the fact is that these figures reflect the success of enforcement agencies in cracking down on drug networks rather than an actual rise in use."

He also emphasized the necessity of thorough investigations, financial probes into drug syndicates, and the complete dismantling of narco-terrorism networks.

Shah urged states to utilize technology like geo-tagging, videography, and real-time data-sharing through platforms such as the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS' portal to enhance coordination and effectiveness in anti-drug operations.

He also called for increased use of the NIDAAN database to track and tackle trafficking activities.

The Union Home Minister pointed out significant gaps in enforcement infrastructure, such as the lack of special NDPS courts in several states, and urged states to make rules more flexible, train Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials, and ensure prosecution results in the punishment of accused individuals.

While advocating a tough stance against drug traffickers, Shah stressed the importance of a humane approach to reha-

bilite drug addicts. "Drug addicts need to be treated as victims of a larger problem. We need detailed investigations that bust syndicates while also helping addicts return to society," he said.

The Home Minister urged State Governments to act "ruthlessly" against drug peddlers, seize their properties under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, and ensure swift trials through special courts.

He also called on state police chiefs to make districts drug-free and suggested regular evaluations of anti-drug efforts at the district level.

Shah further emphasized the need for Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, and Directors General of Police (DGPs) to ensure that anti-drug strategy meetings yield actionable results, adding that the establishment of strong State Forensic Science Laboratories (SFLs) is crucial to bolster the fight against drugs.

Underlining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to a drug-free India by 2047, Shah said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is pursuing a three-pronged strategy: strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and launching massive public awareness campaigns under the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' initiative.

"India is committed to preventing even a single kilogram of drugs from entering or leaving its borders. This requires top-to-bottom investigations, the destruction of trafficking networks, and a unified approach from all enforcement agencies," Shah said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) to go it alone in local bodies polls, says Raut

NAGPUR, Jan 11 (Agencies): Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said his party will contest the upcoming elections to the various local bodies alone.

Talking to reporters, the Rajya Sabha MP said the INDIA bloc and Maha Vikas Aghadi alliances were for the Lok Sabha and assembly polls.

"In an alliance, workers of individual parties don't get opportunities, and it hampers organisational growth. We will contest polls to the Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur and other municipal corporations, zilla parishads and panchayats on our strength," he said.

He said party chief Uddhav Thackeray gave the party indications that it should go alone.

Hitting out at Congress leader Vijay Wadetiwar for indulging in a blame game over the MVA's defeat in the state assembly, Raut said those who don't believe in consensus and compromise have no right to be in an alliance.

He further claimed that the INDIA bloc did not hold a single meeting after the Lok Sabha elections.

"We were not able to appoint even a convener for INDIA bloc. It isn't good. As the largest party of the alliance, it was the Congress's responsibility to convene a meeting," the Sena (UBT) leader said.

Reacting to Deputy Chief Minister



Ajit Pawar's remark that he has never mentioned farm loan waivers in his speeches, Raut said, "Even if he hasn't spoken about it. Farm loan waiver and Rs 2,100 for Laadki Bahin beneficiaries are mentioned in the BJP's poll manifesto. These two promises have to be implemented. He is the finance minister in the BJP government, and he will have to do it."

To a query on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks during his first podcast that he is human and can make mistakes, Raut said, "He (Modi) is god. I don't consider him a human. God is god. If someone declares him an incarnation of god, how can he be a human? He is the 13th avatar of Vishnu. If someone who has been considered god says he is human, something is wrong. There is chemical 'locha'."

Roof collapses at Kannauj railway station, several workers feared trapped

Police and rescue personnel are present at the site of the incident in Kannauj Railway Station and 12 workers have been rescued so far.

KANNAUJ, Jan 11 (Agencies): At least 12 workers have been rescued, while many others are feared trapped after an under-construction roof slab collapsed at Kannauj railway station in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, officials said.

Police and rescue personnel, including a team from the State Disaster Response Force, are present at the spot and opera-

tions are on to rescue the trapped workers. Those rescued have been rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took note of the accident and directed officials to immediately reach the site and expedite relief efforts. He also directed the officials to ensure proper treatment for the persons injured in the incident.



Chhattisgarh silo crash: Bodies of three workers received; toll rises to 4



MUNGELI, Jan 11 (Agencies): The bodies of three workers were recovered on Saturday from the debris of a collapsed iron silo at a smelting plant in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district after a 42-hour operation, taking the death toll to four, officials said.

On Thursday, a labourer was killed and another injured after the fly ash storage structure weighing over 350 tonnes crashed at Kusum Smelters Private Limited, located near Rambod village in Sargaon police station area of Mungeli district.

Rescue teams of multiple agencies, involving over 400 personnel, launched an operation after receiving informa-

tion that some workers were trapped under the rubble, officials said.

"The search and rescue operation involving machines, cranes and gas cutters began on Thursday afternoon," Mungeli Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel told PTI.

He said moving the massive structure containing fly ash was an arduous task.

"During the 42-hour-long rescue operation, the iron structure was shifted and fly ash removed, leading to the recovery of three bodies on Saturday morning," Patel said.

The three deceased workers were identified as Jayant Sahu (35), a resident of Bilaspur dis-

trict, Prakash Yadav (20) of Balodabazar district, and Awdhesh Kashyap (32) of Janjgir-Champa district, he said.

The labourer who was killed on Thursday was identified as Manoj Kumar Dhritlahre (35).

The rescue teams involved personnel belonging to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, district administration, industrial safety, health and other agencies.

An FIR was lodged on Friday against the plant incharge Amit Kedia, manager Anil Prasad, and the plant management on charges of causing death by negligence, Patel said.

They were booked under sections 106 (A) (causing death by negligence), 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) and 3(5) (common intention) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), he said.

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident was underway, the police officer said.

Dalit teen athlete alleges rape by coaches over 5 years, 15 arrested

PATHANAMTHITTA, Jan 11 (Agencies): Nine more persons were taken into custody for allegedly raping a Dalit girl, who is an athlete, at various locations when she was a minor, police on Saturday said.

According to the police, 15 persons have been held in connection with the case so far.

Six persons were arrested on Friday after registering five FIRs in two police stations in the Pathanamthitta district, they added.

The arrests were made based on the statement of an 18-year-old girl, who alleged she had been subjected to rape multiple times since the age of 16, the police said.

The police added that they received evidence indicating that the girl was exploited by individuals including her coaches, fellow athletes, and classmates.

As per the statement of the girl, she had used her father's mobile phone to communicate with the suspects and 40 persons have been

identified by verifying the phone details and the information from the diary in her possession, police sources said.

Over 60 people are suspected to be involved in the case and FIRs have been filed in various police stations in Pathanamthitta, they added. The arrest of those in custody will be recorded by Saturday evening, they added.

As the incidents occurred when she was a minor, sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, also would be invoked against the accused, a top police official said.

Meanwhile, the Pathanamthitta Child Welfare Committee (CWC) stated that individuals outside the Pathanamthitta district might also be involved in the case.

According to the CWC chairman, the girl had been a victim of sexual exploitation since the

age of 13. As it was an unusual case, she was referred to a psychologist for more in-depth counseling, he told a news channel. The CWC also revealed that several phone numbers of potential suspects were found saved on her father's phone.

A total of five FIRs have been registered in connection with the rape incident allegedly involving several people and more FIRs will be filed and more arrests will take place, police said.

The issue came to light during counselling conducted by the Child Welfare Committee, after the victim's teachers at an educational institution informed the panel about noticeable changes in her behaviour. The committee subsequently notified the police, who initiated an investigation.

A special investigation team headed by Pathanamthitta DySP has been constituted to carry out the inquiry. A detailed investigation is underway, a top police officer said.

Man dies by suicide in Ghaziabad, wife kills herself in Delhi upon learning



NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): A man in Ghaziabad died by suicide. His wife, in Delhi following a fight with him, heard the news of her husband's death, and killed herself, police said today. The couple were parents to a one-year-old girl.

The incidents involve Vijay Pratap Chauhan, 32, and his wife Shivani, 28, who resided in the Loni Border area of Ghaziabad. According to the police, the couple had a history of marital discord.

Vijay and Shivani, who lived in Jawahar Nagar's G Block in Ghaziabad, had a heated argument Friday evening. Following the dispute, Shivani left her home and travelled to northeast Delhi. Vijay reportedly made a call to Shivani after she left, during which he allegedly told her that she would never see him again.

Shortly after, Vijay's aunt, Meera, visited his home and discovered his body. He had hanged himself inside the house. She immediately informed Shivani of the incident. Upon hearing the news, Shivani took her own life by hanging herself from an electric pole near the Loni roundabout in northeast Delhi, approximately 8 kilometres from their residence.

Ghaziabad Police and Delhi Police are conducting parallel investigations into the incident. Both the bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. No suicide notes were recovered at either scene. A forensic team examined both locations. Police confirmed that there were no external injuries on Shivani's body apart from the marks consistent with hanging.

Los Angeles wildfires: 11 dead, thousands displaced; families in shock begin to visit their charred homes

Since the fires first began popping up around the north of downtown LA, they have burned more than 12,000 structures, a term that includes homes, apartment buildings, businesses, outbuildings and vehicles.

LOS ANGELES, Jan 11 (Agencies): The death toll from the Los Angeles wildfires has risen to 11, according to the LA county medical examiner's Office. Five of those deaths were due to the Palisades fire, and the other six resulted from the Eaton fire.

Officials said today they expected that number to rise as cadaver dogs go through levelled neighbourhoods to assess the devastation to an area larger than San Francisco. Five of those killed in the Eaton fire have been identified by relatives so far.

Many watched their homes burn on television in a state of shock.

Since the flames erupted in and around Los Angeles, scores of residents have returned to their still smouldering neighbourhoods even as the threat of new fires persisted and the nation's second-largest city remained unsettled. For some, it was a first look at the staggering reality of what was lost as the region of 13 million people grapples with the gargantuan challenge of overcoming the disaster and rebuilding.

Calmer winds enabled firefighters to start gaining some control of the biggest blazes in metropolitan LA on Friday before gusty weather returns over the weekend to an area that hasn't seen rain in more than eight months. But by Friday evening, new evacuations were issued in an area that includes The Getty Museum as the eastern side of the Palisades Fire spread, nearing Interstate 405.

Bridget Berg, who was at work when she saw on TV her house in Altadena erupt in flames, came back for the first time with her family two days later "just to make it real."

Their feet crunched across the broken bits of what had been their home for 16 years.

Her kids sifted through debris on the sidewalk, finding a clay pot and a few keepsakes as they searched for Japanese wood prints they hoped to recover. Her husband pulled his hand out of rubble near the still-standing fireplace, holding up a piece of petrified wood handed down by his grandmother.

"It's OK. It's OK," Berg said as much to herself as others as she took stock of the destruction, remembering the deck and pool from which her family watched fireworks. "It's not like we just lost our house — everybody lost their house."

Since the fires first began popping up around a densely populated, 25-mile (40-kilometer) expanse north of downtown LA, they have burned more than 12,000 structures, a term that includes homes, apartment buildings, businesses, outbuildings and vehicles. No cause has been identified yet for the largest fires.

Allegations of leadership failures and political blame have begun and so have investigations. Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday ordered state officials to determine why a 117 million-gallon (440 million-litre) reservoir was out of service and some hydrants ran dry, calling it "deeply troubling." Meanwhile, Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley said city leadership failed her department by not providing enough money for firefighting. She also criticized the lack of water.

"When a firefighter comes up to a hydrant, we expect there's going to be water," she said.

At least 11 people have been killed, with five from the Palisades Fire and six from the Eaton Fire, according to the LA County medical examiner's office. Officials said they expected that number to rise as cadaver dogs go through levelled neighbourhoods to assess



the devastation to an area larger than San Francisco.

Officials on Friday set up a center where people could report those missing. Tens of thousands of people remained under evacuation orders, and the fires have consumed about 56 square miles (145 square kilometres).

The disaster took homes from everyone — from waiters to movie stars. The government has not yet released figures on the cost of the damage, but private firms have estimated it will climb into the tens of billions. The Walt Disney Co. announced Friday it will donate \$15 million to respond to the fires and help rebuild.

The flames hit schools, churches, a synagogue, libraries, boutiques, bars, restaurants, banks and local landmarks like the Will Rogers' Western Ranch House and a Queen Anne-style mansion in Altadena that dated back to 1887 and was commissioned by wealthy mapmaker Andrew McNally.

Neighbours wandered around ruins Friday as they described now-vanished bedrooms, recently remodelled kitchens and outdoor living spaces. Some talked about the gorgeous views that drew them to their prop-

erties, their words contrasting sharply with the scene of soot and ash.

In the coastal community of Pacific Palisades, Greg Benton surveyed where he lived for 31 years, hoping to find his great-grandmother's wedding ring in the wreckage.

"We just had just had Christmas morning right over here, right in front of that chimney. And this is what's left," he said, pointing to the blackened rubble that was once his living room. "It's those small family heirlooms that are the ones that really hurt the most."

Elsewhere in the city, people at collection sites picked through cardboard boxes of donated items to restart their lives.

Firefighters made progress for the first time since Tuesday containing the Eaton Fire north of Pasadena, which has burned more than 7,000 structures. Officials said Friday most evacuation orders for the area were lifted.

LA Mayor Karen Bass, who faces a critical test of her leadership as her city endures its greatest crisis in decades, said several smaller fires also were stopped.

Crews were also gaining ground on the Palisades Fire, which burned 5,300 structures and is the most

destructive in LA's history.

California National Guard troops arrived on the streets of Altadena before dawn to help protect property in the fire evacuation zone, and evening curfews were in effect to prevent looting after several earlier arrests.

The level of devastation is jarring even in a state that regularly confronts massive wildfires.

Anna Yeager said she and her husband agonized over going back to their beloved Altadena neighbourhood near Pasadena after fleeing with their six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son, their two dogs and some clothes. A neighbour told them their house was gone.

Now she regrets not grabbing her children's artwork, her husband's treasured cookbooks, family photos, and jewelry from her mom, who died in 2012, and her husband's grandmother, who survived Auschwitz.

When the couple returned, they saw blocks of only "chimney after chimney".

"Power lines everywhere. Fires still going everywhere" she said, adding that when they walked up to their home "it was just dust".

Charred grapefruits littered their yard around a blackened tree, a few still hanging from its branches.

Yeager's neighborhood of

Tudor homes was planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary in May.

"You build a world for yourself and your family, and you feel safe in that world and things like this happen that you cannot control," she said. "It's devastating."

There were remnants of the front porch where Yeager had photographed her children nearly daily since 2020 and had planned to keep doing that until they reached high school. That gave her hope.

"The porch is still there and it's to me, it's a sign to rebuild and not leave," she said. "You know, it's like saying, 'Hey, I'm still here. You can still do this.'"

Dogs, cats, horses, and even pigs evacuated

Arianna Buturovic kept a wary eye on distant smoke from the rescue shelter she runs outside Los Angeles for dogs at risk of being euthanized. Within hours, nearby mountains were ablaze and fire began encircling her.

"I stuffed 15 dogs in a black Prius and two cats," Buturovic said.

But she still had nine more dogs and a pig to evacuate, so flagged down some 18-year-olds with a truck who agreed to take them to a shelter. She couldn't bring two ponies with her, but she left the corral open so they could escape if needed.

"That's how we evacuated almost 30 animals," she said. "It was crazy."

Buturovic is one of many animal owners in Los Angeles who scrambled to get themselves and their beloved companions out of the way of fast-moving wildfires. It overwhelmed shelters, whose leaders have implored people, if they're able, to find friends or family to foster their pets.

Some people took their pets to shelters because they couldn't evacuate with them.

The Pasadena Humane Society took in 250 pets in the first day after the fires started. Los Angeles County

Animal Care was looking after 97 pets — mostly cats and dogs but also pigs, a turtle, a bird, and a snake, said Christopher Valles, a department spokesperson.

Veterinarian Dr. Annie Harvilicz had been moving out of an old Animal Wellness Centers office in Marina del Rey, but inspired by her brother's need to find a place for his pets, she turned the exam, X-ray and surgery rooms into an impromptu shelter. She quickly took in 41 dogs, cats and a bunny and soon found foster homes for all but two.

She told people on Facebook to contact her if they needed a place for their animals. She expected an onslaught of pets needing refuge but instead has been inundated with people wanting to volunteer.

"I'm very proud of the people of Los Angeles and how I really feel like they've stepped up to the plate when it comes to helping out each other," she said.

Julia Bagan, who is part of a Facebook group called Southern California Equine Emergency Evacuation, found five horses locked in their stalls in Altadena one day after the fire. The horses huddled in a small exterior pen attached to the stalls but couldn't entirely escape the flames.

Buturovic, who runs the dog rescue shelter, took some of her canines to Harvilicz's old hospital and others to a friend's home in Venice.

By the time she returned to the Topanga ranch Wednesday morning, it had burned. The cement building that withstood two or three other fires since the 1950's was covered in soot, its roof gone and windows blown out. Her ponies disappeared, along with two semi-feral dogs she fed. She's hoping to raise money to support Philozaia, her non-profit organization that rescues animals from high-kill shelters.

"I don't know where we're going to go from here," she said.

US a nation of immigrants, there is broad support for expanding legal immigration says Neera Tanden

WASHINGTON, Jan 11 (Agencies): America is a nation of immigrants, and there's broad support for expanding legal immigration in the country, a top domestic policy advisor to US President Joe Biden has said amidst a raging debate on the most sought-after H-1B visa.

The H-1B visa programme allows US companies to temporarily employ foreign workers in speciality occupations. Indian companies have been significant beneficiaries of this programme, particularly in the technology sector.

"I think even in the raging immigration debate, it's really important for all of us to remember that we are a nation of immigrants, and there's broad support for expanding legal immigration in the country." We'll see how that goes in the future, but that's been the case," Indian-American Neera Tanden told agency in an interview.

Indians are the main beneficiaries of the H-1B visas, which bring in the best of the talent and brains from across the world. Highly skilled

professionals from India walk away with the overwhelming number of H-1B visas — which is Congressional mandated 65,000 every year and another 20,000 for those who received higher education from the US.

Tanden has been serving as director of the United States Domestic Policy Council since 2023.

A close confidant of outgoing US President Biden, Tanden has been a key part of the White House during the last four years.

She was responding to a question on the ongoing debate on H-1B and the continued backlash against Indian-Americans after the appointment of Sriram Krishnan as the White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence by incoming President Donald Trump.

"I think it's really tragic, honestly. That debate underscores actually that there's broad support in the country for legal immigration done well and done right. What I really reacted to in that debate was just the vitriolic hatred

unleashed against Indian-Americans. People were posting a picture of the person, the Indian-American who Trump is appointing, and just said, why would we pick this person? Or is this what you think of as an American?" Tanden said.

Ahead of Trump's inauguration here on January 20, the debate on foreign guest workers visas for highly skilled professionals, the H-1B, has intensified which has literally created divisions in both the Democratic and the Republican parties.

Such a backlash initially came from the supporters of Trump who argued that this is eating away at the jobs of Americans. Both Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy immediately weighed in and supported the H-1B visas.

However, influential Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders asserted that the two close confidants of Trump are wrong.

"The reason why I reacted was that President Biden has talked about... one of the fundamental fights in this



country is whether the country is for all of us or for some of us. Even before the next term begins, we saw this raging debate on social media that was fundamentally saying that Indian-Americans aren't American," she said.

"...When I tweeted that, I got so many tweets, hate tweets from people saying, go back to India, go back to your, like, you know, they were swearing about India. They were calling Indians names that were backward. It was really a wake-up call and a reminder that presidents can unleash forces, they can build up forces in the country," she said.

While the attack was

going on, the Trump team kept relatively quiet, she noted.

"I think if you see that kind of thing happen, the most important thing is to say it's wrong. You can't have it both ways. You can't woo the Indian-American community and then when... extremists are attacking Indian-Americans as not American, stay silent or, have your allies feed those flames.

"It's really up to Indian-Americans and Americans writ large to call that out it's not it's not right. And I've seen in political debates over the last 20 years that sometimes something can happen to Indian-Americans and people don't treat it like it's

the same as, attacking any other group. That's wrong and it's really important that Indian-Americans speak up," she said.

"We now have members of Congress. I was very proud of how they stood up. Raja Krishnamoorthy was on TV defending Indian-Americans. Ro Khanna was on TV. It is really important that we have all of our leaders. I would say to those, Indian-American Republicans, it's really important for you to use your voice as well," she said.

Tanden started off as a senior advisor to the president and was promoted to be the domestic policy advisor to the president.

"I managed all the decisions for the president as staff secretary. I was engaged in a lot of the strategy questions as a senior advisor, and now as a domestic policy advisor to the president and chair of the domestic policy council, I've really had the great privilege to work on so many issues, education, healthcare, domestic immigration, crime, public safety,

criminal justice, civil rights," she said.

"First and foremost, I feel incredibly privileged to have the experiences I've had," she said, adding that she worked on expanding opportunity for Americans, addressing costs that people have, and health care and ensuring that they are protecting freedoms and rights.

Responding to a question on the India-US relationship, Tanden said the way the world is moving, this relationship will be really important.

"I also really want to underscore that it's the people-to-people relationships, the diaspora has been crucial. Just the sort of intangible dynamism in India. There is a very deep connection between the kind of values of our country where you have an entrepreneurial class in India who is innovating across multiple dimensions," she said.

"In my work, I've seen how in biotech and the biopharma areas, but across multiple dimensions, there's a kind of deep innovation happening in India, which I think really does speak

to the shared values. The fact some so many Indian-American CEOs and leaders come from the IIT system in India, I just think that that's a fascinating and deep kind of connection that goes beyond government, but really is people to people," she said.

"I've worked in a lot of different administrations, and I'm really proud of the work we've done here to advance civil rights and protections for people, as well as address the kind of cost families face, from health care to education, etc."

"I also think that it's important that over the course of my career, I have also seen a kind of growth in the Indian-American community about engaging in public service or more people running for office than ever before. But a central component is also holding our leaders accountable for ensuring that all of us have a voice in the administration and policies and also that every administration sees us as equal Americans," Tanden said.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews arrangements ahead of PM Modi's inauguration of Sonamarg Tunnel in Sonamarg

Top News Report

SONAMARG, Jan 11: Ahead of the formal inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today conducted an extensive review of arrangements at the project site in Sonamarg, Ganderbal district.

Accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, the Chief Minister was briefed by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bihuri on the comprehensive preparations for



the inauguration of the strategic 6.4 km tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh Highway.

The Chief Minister inspected the tunnel tubes and interacted with the engineers and workers involved in the construction of the project, expressing his appreciation for their efforts in

completing this vital infrastructure.

He also visited the venue where Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to address a public gathering and formally dedicate the project to the nation. Reflecting on the region's tourism potential, CM Abdullah reit-

erated his vision of positioning Ganderbal as a premier winter sports destination. He emphasized that the Sonamarg Tunnel would not only ensure all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg but also supplement Gulmarg as another skiing and winter sports destination, unlocking new avenues for tourism and economic growth.

The Sonamarg Tunnel is a significant milestone in improving connectivity between Srinagar and Leh, ensuring all-weather access to Sonamarg and enhancing the region's economic and tourism prospects.

Kavinder holds Public Darbar, listens to grievances of general public



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, today organized a public Darbar at the BJP Party Headquarters in Jammu, where he attentively listened to the grievances of the general public and assured swift resolution of their issues. The event witnessed a significant turnout, with people from various walks of life bringing forward concerns ranging from basic civic amenities to development-related issues.

During the interaction, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the BJP is unwavering in its commitment to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and ensuring

inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir. "The BJP has always prioritized the welfare of the common man and will continue to do so with utmost sincerity. The public Darbars provide an effective platform for direct communication, allowing us to resolve issues promptly," he said.

Several issues, including road connectivity, water supply, electricity, and youth unemployment, were raised by the attendees. Responding to these concerns, Kavinder assured that these matters would be brought to the notice of the concerned departments for immediate redressal. He further highlighted that the BJP-led Central Government, under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has launched numerous welfare schemes aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens in the region.

The senior BJP leader also urged the public to actively participate in Central government initiatives and avail the benefits of schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and the recently announced Skill India programs. "The BJP's vision is to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a model region of development, peace, and prosperity," he added.

He also encouraged party workers to stay connected with the grassroots and work tirelessly to serve the public.

GMC Srinagar rebuts news item suggesting increase in the Neonatal mortality rate at LD Hospital

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has strongly refuted the news item circulated by some media outlets suggesting an increase in the mortality rate at Lal Ded Hospital (LD Hospital) for the year 2024.

In an official statement issued here, it has been clarified that the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) at Government Lal Ded Hospital (LD Hospital) for the year 2024 stands at 9.9 per 1000, which is significantly lower than the national average, though neonatal mortality rate at LD cannot be used as an index of neonatal mortality in the society.

The GMC authorities further explained that the neonatal mortality rate has not risen but, in fact, has been effectively contained through advanced treatment methods. These improvements have ensured that the rate remains well below the national average, demonstrating the hospital's success in providing high-quality care.

In 2024, LD Hospital attended to a total of 221,163 outpatients (OPD), with 37,908 inpatient (IPD) admissions with 29,939 live births. Further 3,107 neonatal IPD admissions were recorded. Out of these neonatal admissions, 297 deaths occurred, resulting in a neonatal mortality rate of 9.9 per 1000 which is below than the national neonatal mortality which at present is 17-21 per 1000 live births.

The millennium development goal is to reduce neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1000 live births. This figure reflects a remarkable achievement in the face of challenges and is attributed to the advanced healthcare

systems in place at the valley's only tertiary maternity care hospital. The state-of-the-art medical infrastructure and skilled medical professionals at the hospital have played a crucial role in maintaining these positive outcomes.

It is pertinent to mention here that the patients who need termination of pregnancies earlier in maternal interest or for different fetal reasons like decreased blood flow to fetus are also referred to LD hospital which also increases the neonatal admissions and mortality. But given all the facts and advanced health care system the neonatal mortality rate is below the national average.

Different measures have been implemented to reduce the neonatal mortality rate in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). These include the round-the-clock availability of doctors and paramedics, the provision of high-end equipment such as ventilators, CPAP machines, and warmers, as well as the free availability of life-saving medications like surfactants. Additionally, the hospital ensures that there is consistent support for oxygen supply, including an oxygen plant that provides adequate pressure for ventilators and CPAP machines.

LD Hospital, with its 710 beds, is the primary maternity and neonatal care center for the region, serving not only the valley but also districts such as Ramban, Doda, Rajouri and Kishtwar, as well as the Union Territory of Ladakh. The hospital's comprehensive approach to healthcare has made it a vital resource for improving neonatal health in the region.

Srinagar district takes lead in implementation of SMILE scheme across J&K

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: With an aim to rehabilitate and facilitate beggars to join mainstream to live a dignified life under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme in District, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Saturday visited newly established Rehabilitation Home for persons engaged in the act of Begging here at Hawal.

Notably, Srinagar has become the first District in Jammu and Kashmir to implement the SMILE scheme launched by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2022, to rehabilitate and reintegrate beggars into society.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied

by Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Eidgah, NGO members and other concerned.

On the occasion, the DC took a detailed round of the Rehabilitation Home and inspected the facilities and rehabilitation measures for the persons engaged in the act of Begging.

While interacting with the Officers and staff of the Rehabilitation Centre, the DC said that the initiative has been taken to address the issue of begging in the District under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme.

The DC added that the SMILE scheme will provide beggars with vocational training and livelihood opportunities, aiming to empower them to become self-suffi-

cient. He emphasized a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the well-being of marginalized individuals.

Dr Bilal further said that special provisions will be made for children found begging. He said they will be enrolled in schools to ensure their education and development. He said that the District Administration is committed not only to eliminate begging but also to ensure that those affected receive the support they need to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

Meanwhile, the DC has stressed the staff of the Rehabilitation home to work in a compassionate manner towards the affected section of the society and enable them to lead a life of value and dignity.

Forest Deptt organizes training session for employees on Social Media Management

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: In order to equip employees with the necessary SOPs to effectively manage social media platforms while adhering to government guidelines, a training session on social media handling was organized for the employees of the Forest Department at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex, Srinagar today.

The training session focused on enhancing the online presence of the Forest Department, promoting awareness about environmental conservation, and fostering engagement with the public. Employees learned about best practices

for creating engaging content, responding to online queries, and addressing grievances.

During the session, employees were briefed on the Government's Social Media Policy and guidelines for handling official communications. Tips and techniques for creating informative and engaging content were shared, including visual storytelling through short documentaries and addressing public grievances were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion Irfan Rasool Wani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir said the Social media is a powerful tool that can bridge the gap

between government agencies and the community. The platform improves communication with the public and increases awareness about environmental conservation. By leveraging social media platforms effectively, employees can promote the department's initiatives and share success stories.

DFO Planning and Publicity Division said the Forest Department plans to continue hosting training sessions to further develop the employees' skills in handling social media platforms. By investing in these training opportunities, the department aims to strengthen its online presence effectively.

Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas unveils SKODA KYLAQ at Bahu Plaza



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: Wheelocity Skoda marked the grand unveiling of the highly anticipated Skoda Kylaq with a dazzling event that captivated the audience. The launch, held at Bahu Plaza, was graced by the esteemed presence of chief Guest Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas. With Ram K. Sharma, Deputy Excise Commissioner Distilleries, and D.K. Pandoh, CS, served as Guests of Honor for the evening.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas commended Skoda's commitment to innovation and excellence in the automotive industry, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in enriching the market

for premium vehicles in the region.

The Managing Directors of Wheelocity Skoda — Mudassir Nabi Sheikh, Ranjiv Khajuria, and Munish Khajuria — extended heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, making the event a memorable milestone in the automotive calendar.

The evening's vibrant energy was further amplified by Radio Mirchi 98.3 RJs, RJ Chaitanya, RJ Tani and RJ Rohit, who hosted the event with their signature charm and kept the audience engaged. Adding to the glamour, prominent influencers graced the occasion, showcasing their talents and leaving the audience entertained with their performances.

One of the highlights of

the event was an awe-inspiring calisthenics performance by Gymkhana's expert team, which left the audience in sheer amazement with their remarkable feats of strength and agility.

The new Skoda Kylaq is a testament to Skoda's legacy of delivering world-class vehicles. Designed to offer a seamless blend of cutting-edge technology, superior comfort, and unmatched performance, the Kylaq is set to redefine driving experiences. The Kylaq has over 25 standard safety features, including six airbags, multi-collision brake, roll over protection, and electronic stability control.

Chaitanya Gupta station head of Radio Mirchi 98.3, expressed their gratitude to the audience, media, and partners who made the event a grand success. The launch marks an exciting chapter for Skoda in the region, promising a journey filled with excellence and innovation.

FROM PAGE 3

Dozen Illegally Built Houses Demolished in Anti-Encroachment Drive in Jammu

that they should ensure construction of housing after verifying the title of land and following the due procedure for construction of buildings," he said, advising public not to construct buildings on the acquired JDA land in Ragoora, Majeen, and Sidhra areas for larger public interest as the JDA has earmarked the land for development of township in the area.

Cyber cell of Kulgam Police recover Rs 13,69,377 from online financial frauds

Police said using advanced cyber means, they managed to freeze the fraudulent transactions.

An amount of Rs 13,69,377 was held and

recovered and thereof it was successfully credited back to the victims.

Kulgam Police urged citizens to remain vigilant against online scams, including fraudulent trading platforms.

They also advised people to avoid clicking on suspicious links, responding to fake SMS claiming credits, or installing unauthorized applications.

The police also advised residents to exercise caution when receiving video calls from unknown numbers and refrain from sharing personal or sensitive information online.

"If you encounter any suspicious activities, report immediately to the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or visit www.cybercrime.gov.in," police said.

Train to Kashmir will start very soon: Ashwini Vaishnav

Railway Safety (CRS) inspection on January 8 and 9.

The Katra-Banihal section is a vital link in the USBRL project, bridging the gap

between the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley. Known for its complex topography and engineering marvels, the section features the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, along with several state-of-the-art tunnels and cutting-edge safety features.

Restoration of snatched rights a challenge for Omar Abdullah-led govt: Shamima Firdous

expect to succeed in delivering on this promise," she assured.

On the issue of unemployment, she expressed deep concern over the struggles of highly educated youth who remain jobless.

"It's heartbreaking to see M.Tech, B.Tech, and Ph.D. scholars coming to me, saying they are unemployed. Recently, a Ph.D. holder told me he was working as a driver. This is the harsh reality of Kashmir," she lamented.

She criticized the preference for workers

from other states over local talent. "For the past 14 years, our youth have been sidelined, while people from Bihar, Jharkhand, and other states are given jobs. Our own people deserve to be prioritized," she asserted.

Calling on the Chief Minister to take immediate steps, she urged for a focused effort to address the challenges faced by the region. "The Chief Minister must work tirelessly to ensure justice and opportunities for the youth and address the helplessness of our people," she said.

She assured the public that the National Conference remains committed to meeting their expectations and resolving their grievances. "If God wills, we will work for the happiness and welfare of our people," she concluded.

BSF launches beautician programme for women near international border in Jammu

year and will end on January 18.

As part of the course, participants are being trained in skills needed to become a beautician. They will be given certificates recognising their gained expertise after completion of the second phase, the spokesperson said.

Army conducts search operation following suspicious movement near LoC in Jammu

believed to be terrorists, at Jogiwan in the early hours of the day and reported the matter to the nearby Army camp, the officials said. They said the Army troops immediately cordoned off the village and the adjoining forest area and conducted a thorough search operation.

However, there has been no trace of the suspected persons so far, the officials said, adding the search and cordon operation was continuing when the last reports were received. Three heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit were eliminated in the area in a two-day-long operation in the Akhnoor sector on October 28 and 29, last year.

Director Horticulture Jammu conducts extensive tour of Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 11: Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma along with Joint Director Horticulture Vikas Anand conducted an extensive two days tour of district Doda to oversee operations and other developmental activities being carried out in the Horticulture sector of Chenab region in respect of all the schemes viz: Capex as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes, especially Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

During the visit, Director Horticulture C. L. Sharma and District Development Council Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal inaugurated Hi- Tech poly house structure and Mother block of Apple established at MoCN Kotli, Bhaderwah in presence of Vice chairperson Smt. Sangeeta



Rani Bhagat, Joint Director Horticulture Vikas Anand, Chief Horticulture Officer Doda Raghunath upadhaya, more than 150 farmers including women of different zones of district Doda and other officers & officials of the department.

While addressing a large gathering of farmers, the Director explained to the farmers about the various centrally sponsored schemes especially HADP and Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme of

the department.

He said that the district is having a great potential for horticulture crops which must be tapped and appealed to the PRI and field functionaries to work in tandem for doubling the farmers income with special focus on area expansion, establishment of solar dryers, protected cultivation structures and processing units.

While speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman appreciated the role of the department in creating the awareness among the farm-

ing community about the various schemes of the department and appealed to the farming community to come forward and take maximum benefit of the farmer friendly schemes of the department.

Further, the Director convened a meeting of the District Officers, Horticulture Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of district Doda. He impressed upon staff to make maximum efforts to reach to every farmer so that various interventions being

taken up under HADP and Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme are implemented and the objective of the Govt. is well achieved. Earlier, Chief Horticulture Officer, Doda appraised the chair about the ongoing works and achievements made so far under different schemes being implemented in the district.

Meanwhile, the Director inaugurated the Food Processing Unit established by the beneficiary under the scheme CAPEX at Akrambad, Doda and Farm Machinery Bank established under the scheme SMAM at Sarsingal, Bhaderwah.

Later, he inspected the mother block of Cherry established in an area of 10 kanals at Govt. Fruit Plant nursery, Khelani under the scheme HADP.

All J&K Panchayat Secretary Association District Doda elects Baber Mehta as its new President



Top News Report

DODA, Jan 11: Panchayat Secretary Association District Doda conducted the election for the President in the meeting hall of ACD Office Doda under the Chairmanship of Provincial President Jaffer Choudhary and caretaker District President Shehraz Iqbal. The Association announced the result of its Presi-

dential election in which Baber Mehta emerged as the new President for the term of three years winning with the margin of ten votes against the opponent Dr. Shami Kumar. The election witnessed a historic voter turnout of 97.75%. Baber Waseem secured 48 votes out of 87 votes polled.

The election concluded after a transparent

and competitive voting process reflecting the strong engagement of the association's members.

In his acceptance speech, Baber Mehta expressed gratitude and outlined his vision for the association.

He said that he is honoured to lead the Association at District level and will be committed to serve his members and work collaboratively for shared goals of Association.

He also thanked the outgoing President Dr. Shami Kumar for his dedication and achievements made during his tenure. He thanked the Provincial President Mr. Jaffer Choudhary and his team for gracing the occasion of District Presidential election.

GDC Khour celebrates National Youth Day



Top News Report

KHOUR, Jan 11: To commemorate Swami Vivekanand Ji's birth anniversary as National Youth Day, the NSS Unit of the Govt. Degree College Khour organized various events like speech, poem recitation and painting competition.

It is pertinent to mention that every year the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports celebrate National Youth Festival (#NYF2025) to encourage youth of the Country to channelize their energy in shaping the bright future of the Country. This year the festival has been celebrated under the theme "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue".

NSS Volunteers namely Simran, Mansi, Sakshi and Bindu recited poems on this occasion while Bhavana Sharma gave speech on the life and

multi aspects of philosophy of Swami Vivekanand whereas Vaishali, Tania and Chetna made paintings on the topic. The whole proceeding of the event was carried out by Diljit Singh, NSS Volunteer of 6th Semester.

Prof. Dr. T.K. Sharma, Principal of the College in his brief address emphasize on the importance and the need of celebrating National Youth Day in present perspective to imbibe the youth with the teachings of Swami Vivekanand so that they can keep the national interest at paramount.

The whole event was organized by Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS PO.

Prof. Jozafeen Afzal, Dr. Seema Sudan, Dr. Anjana Sharma, Dr. Chetan Sharma, Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, Prof. Shivani Sharma and Prof. Sunil Kumar witnessed the whole proceedings of the event.

GDC Darhal celebrates National Youth Day with interaction on Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Top News Report

DARHAL, Jan 11: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal observed National Youth Day by organizing an impactful interaction session focused on the "Nasha Mukht Abhiyan" (Drug-Free Campaign). The event was coordinated by the National Service Scheme (NSS) wing along with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in combating substance abuse.

The event was presided over by Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza, Principal of GDC Darhal, who emphasized the critical role of students in advocating for a drug-free society. In his keynote address, Prof.



Mirza underlined the need for awareness and education among youth to combat the rising menace of substance abuse. Dr. M. Saleem Wani and Dr. Atta Ul Rehman Malik also addressed the students, bringing their expertise and insights on the psychological and social impacts of drug use. Their presentations helped in shedding light on the various

dimensions of addiction and the importance of prevention and support for affected individuals. The program featured an extensive lecture by Principal Prof. Mirza, who shared compelling anecdotes and recommendations on how students can contribute positively to this vital campaign. His closing remarks inspired students to initiate peer support groups and

other proactive measures within their communities. Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Coordinator, effectively managed the proceedings of the function, ensuring a smooth and engaging experience for all participants. The event was further enriched by the participation of faculty members including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Anzaar Ahmed, and Dr.

Sugir Ahmed, who provided valuable insights and fostered an environment of open discussion.

The interaction served not only as an educational platform but also as a call to action, encouraging students to reflect on their responsibilities as members of society. GDC Darhal remains committed to promoting awareness and proactive measures against drug use, aligning with the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The college expresses gratitude to all participants and faculty for their contributions towards making this event a resounding success. Together, we can work towards a brighter, drug-free future for our youth.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates National Youth Day with fervor

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Jan 11: The Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with NSS and NCC Units, Sports Department and the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated National Youth Day with fervor and enthusiasm as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Abhiyan here today.

On this occasion a symposium cum quiz and sports activities organized under the patronage of College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed. Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Nodal Officer, Red Ribbon, co-ordinated the event wherein Dr. Ashaq Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC was the resource person.

Prof. Farooq Ahmed, the main inspiration behind the Youth Day celebration, emphasized upon the development of qualities displayed by Swami Vivekananda within youth for a stronger and healthier nation and the world. He appreciated



the entire organizing team for paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda by organizing varieties of activities and spreading messages of inspiration, unity and confidence building among the youth.

In his comprehensive lecture, Dr. Ashaq Malik deliberated upon the life history, works and contribution of Swami Vivekananda in promoting universal brotherhood and tolerance among all sections of society. The 1893 historic speech of Swami ji at World Parliament of Religions at Chicago that started with "sisters and brothers of America" and other stories of confidence, self-realization, tolerance, spiritualism, unity and patriotism,

and his contribution to take Vedanta and Yoga to western world were part of presentation.

In the symposium, Zia Ul Rehman stood first whereas Muskan Mir and Zara Fatima bagged 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Dr. Nazir Ul Islam, Prof. Altaf Hussain and Dr. Gulshan Bhat were judges in the symposium which was followed by an instant feedback quiz. Prof. Supriya Gupta NSS Programme Officer and Anuj Bali, Vice President IIC coordinated the quiz competition.

In the sports activities, tug-of-war and arm wrestling were organized in which students and faculty members participated.

Rakesh Puri, Physical Director in the College along with Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Altaf Hussain and Dr. Junaid Ahmed co-ordinated the sports event.

Earlier, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed introduced the audience to the programme. Laiba Fatima of BA Semester 2nd conducted the proceedings of the programme whereas Dr. Asif Ajaz Lone presented a formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among other present on the occasion were Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Prof. Rummy Dar, Prof. Rizwana Kouser, Dr. Mohd Arshad, Dr. Mohd Zabair, Dr. Sajad Ali, Dr. Atiq Ul Rehman and Dr. Aftab Ul Haq.

J&K RTI foundation raises concerns over new portal, demands inclusion of J&K Bank

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 11: The Jammu and Kashmir RTI Foundation has issued a press statement outlining several concerns regarding the newly launched J&K Right to Information (RTI) Online Portal <https://rtionline.jk.gov.in/>. While the Foundation acknowledges the portal's potential to improve government transparency, it has raised issues that could affect the user experience and the portal's effectiveness in serving the public.

The J&K RTI Online Portal, inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on January 10, 2025, aims to simplify the RTI filing process and provide citizens with easier access to government information. The Foundation, however, has pointed out several operational flaws that could hinder the portal's usability and limit its success.

A primary concern raised by the Foundation is the warning message that greets users when they visit the portal. The message, which warns applicants not to file RTI requests for Central Government or other State Government departments, appears prominently on the homepage. The Foundation argues that its placement could confuse first-time users and discourage them from using the system altogether. The Foundation has recommended adding a welcoming message to reassure users that the portal is intended

for J&K government departments.

Another issue highlighted by the RTI Foundation is the mandatory requirement to upload a PDF document when submitting an RTI request. While applicants are already required to enter the RTI request text in the designated field, they must also upload a document, which the Foundation deems redundant. Unlike the Central RTI Online Portal <https://rtionline.gov.in/>, where document uploads are optional, the J&K portal forces applicants to upload a document. If the document is not uploaded, applicants are redirected to an error page and forced to restart the process from scratch. The Foundation has called for the document upload to be made optional and for the system to validate applications on the same page, prompting users to correct missing fields rather than closing the entire form.

The Foundation also raised concerns about a message displayed after submitting an application, which states that the application fee will not be refunded if the relevant public authority is not integrated into the portal. This message also warns that the application will not be transferred if the authority is not onboard.

The Foundation has urged the authorities to either onboard all public authorities onto the portal or use Section 6(3) of the RTI Act to forward applications to the relevant authority, even if it is not yet

included in the system.

A particularly pressing issue for the Foundation is the exclusion of Jammu and Kashmir Bank from the portal. The Bank, which is a public authority under the RTI Act, has its own RTI section on its website <https://www.jkbank.com/others/common/rtiBank.php> but is not yet integrated into the portal. The Foundation has received numerous complaints from citizens who are seeking to file RTI requests with the Bank but are unable to do so through the online system. The Foundation has called for the Bank to be included on the portal as soon as possible to facilitate easier access for RTI applicants.

Lastly, the Foundation pointed out that while users receive an SMS confirming their RTI application submission, no email confirmation is sent. The Foundation has recommended that email confirmations be introduced, similar to the process followed by the Central RTI Online Portal, to ensure applicants have an official record of their submissions.

While the J&K RTI Foundation commends the government's initiative to introduce an online RTI filing system, it urges the authorities to address these issues promptly. By resolving these concerns, the portal can better serve the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and fulfill its intended purpose of enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

PV Sindhu and Kiren Rijiju serve fitness goals together

Badminton ace Sindhu and Parliamentary affairs minister Rijiju met to promote the Fit India Movement with some doubles action in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): Arunachal MP and Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju shared the net with Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu for some doubles action on Saturday morning. The two convened as a part of the Fit India Movement at the Constitution Club in New Delhi.

Rijiju took to his X (formerly Twitter) account to post about his day with Sindhu captioning, "Super Saturday Morning for Fit India movement with Double Olympic Medalist, our pride World Champion @Pvsindhu1" The two were also joined by Sindhu's now husband Venkata Datta Sai.

Launched by PM Modi in 2019, the movement aims to make fitness an integral part of Indian



lifestyle by urging behavioural changes to move towards a more physically charged routine.

This isn't the first time however, the two have met. Rijiju has been a serial supporter of

Sindhu's craft with one of his meetings with Sindhu coming after the star donned her bronze at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Sindhu gifted badminton racquets to, then Union Law Minister, Rijiju with their meeting

(this time around) bringing an engaging interaction.

Interactions aside, Sindhu has struggled to find her footing at the top order. While a glimpse of her, once fluent, form was on display at the Malaysia Masters, she falters at managing a consistent drive.

Despite her problems, Sindhu continues to be regarded as one of India's greatest stars. Her standing made evident with her five world championship medals, including a gold in 2019 accompanied by a silver and bronze at the Olympic Games.

Sindhu will be back in action at the Super 750 tour scheduled between 14-19 January. With an ability to put on stellar performances, all eyes will be set on the World no.14 as she looks to

"Epitome of discipline and commitment": BCCI, Harbhajan extend birthday wishes to Rahul Dravid



NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and former spin bowling legend Harbhajan Singh extended wishes to former captain and head coach Rahul Dravid on his 52nd birthday.

BCCI took to X and extended their wishes to the batting legend, who made a name for himself with an impenetrable defence and rock-solid technique that earned him consistent runs.

Former teammate Harbhajan also had a special message for "The Wall", calling him an "epitome of discipline and commitment". "Heartiest birthday greetings to "The Wall" of Indian cricket, Rahul Dravid. As a cricketer, he was the epitome of discipline and commitment, a player who could be relied upon to

anchor the innings under any circumstance and perform when the team needed him most. May he always be blessed with good health, happiness, and success in everything he does. Wishing him a phenomenal and remarkable birthday which he greatly deserves," posted Harbhajan on X.

This batting legend represented India in 164 matches and scored 13,288 runs at an average of 52.31. He has 36 centuries and 63 fifties in the longer format, with the best score of 270. He is India's second-highest run-getter in Tests and overall at fourth place.

In 344 ODIs, Dravid scored 10,889 runs at an average of 39.16. He has 12 centuries and 83 fifties in the format, with the best score of 153. He is the fifth-highest run-getter for India in

ODIs and overall at number ten.

He scored 31 runs in the only T20I he played for India.

He has also represented RCB (2008-2010) and Rajasthan Royals (2011-13) in IPL. In 89 IPL matches, he scored 2,174 runs at an average of 28.23. He has 11 fifties under his belt in IPL and has scored his runs at a strike rate of 115.52.

Later on in his career, Dravid accomplished plenty of success as a coach, such as the ICC U19 World Cup 2018 and the 2024 T20 World Cup. He also reached the finals of the ICC World Test Championship 2023 and ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, with the latter resulting in a heartbreaking loss to Australia after a dominating 10-match streak. However, the T20 WC months later in Barbados served as a perfect send-off gift to the legend.

The development of prominent Indian stars such as Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Sarfaraz Khan, Shubman Gill, Arshdeep Singh, Abhishek Sharma, Washington Sundar etc under his tenure as U19 coach won him a lot of acclaim.

"Preparations are going on in full swing": Uttarakhand Police on security arrangements for National Games

DEHRADUN, Jan 11 (Agencies): Ahead of the 38th National Games being held in Uttarakhand this month, Uttarakhand Police Headquarters spokesperson IG Nilesh Anand Bhanu said that regarding security arrangements, police are in coordination with the sports secretary and police teams have also visited all the venues of the event.

The 38th National Games is scheduled to take place from January 28 to February 14. The event will feature over 10,000 athletes, officials, and coaches competing in 38 sports across multiple cities in the state.

Speaking to agency, Nilesh also said that paramilitary

forces have been demanded from the central government as well. "The police department is in constant coordination with the sports secretary. The teams that have been appointed have visited all the event venues in the state... 8 Control room operations have started at the main event venues... We are constantly coordinating with each other... More than 10,000 players will come here... We have also demanded paramilitary forces from the Centre... Preparations are going on in full swing," he said.

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami earlier had also confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate

the 38th edition of the National Games.

"I would like to thank PM Modi. We had urged him to inaugurate the National Games. PM has agreed to inaugurate the National Games. We also informed him about the winter yatra and urged him to stay here for a day during this yatra," said CM Dhami.

The National Games of India is a multi-sport event that brings together athletes from states and Union Territories to compete for medals. The upcoming edition will feature 32 sporting disciplines and four demonstration events.

The last edition of the National Games took place in Goa in

2023, spanning five cities—Mangalore, Margao, Panjim, Ponda, and Vasco. Maharashtra topped the medal tally with 228 medals, including 80 gold.

The 2022 edition, hosted by Gujarat, marked the revival of the National Games after a seven-year hiatus since the 2015 event. During that edition, Services emerged as the top team, winning 128 medals, including 61 gold.

Hosting the National Games is expected to boost Uttarakhand's reputation as a hub for sports and tourism. The inclusion of traditional sports alongside Olympic disciplines highlights the diversity and cultural richness of the event.

Asitha leads inspired bowling effort to hammer New Zealand, hand SL consolation win

AUCKLAND, Jan 11 (Agencies): Sri Lanka ended a nearly decade-long drought on New Zealand soil by securing a commanding 140-run victory in the third ODI at Eden Park, Auckland. This was Sri Lanka's first ODI win in New Zealand since January 2015 and brought the series to a close on a high note for the visitors, even as they conceded the series to the Black Caps.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Sri Lanka posted a competitive total of 290/8 in their 50 overs. Pathum Nissanka's brisk 66 off 42 balls set the tone, followed by solid contributions from Kusal Mendis (54 off 48 balls) and Janith Liyanage (53 off 52 balls). New Zealand's Matt Henry was the standout bowler, claiming 4 wickets for 55 runs in his 10-over spell, while Mitchell Santner chipped in with 2/55. Despite some late wickets, Sri Lanka made full use of the small boundaries at Eden Park to finish strongly.

New Zealand's chase began disastrously, with Maheesh Theekshana striking in just the second over to remove Will Young. From there, it was a masterclass in swing and precision by Asitha Fernando, who dismantled the top order, taking three wickets in quick succession. New Zealand found themselves in deep trouble at 21/5 within the powerplay. Asitha ended with figures of 3/26 from his 7 overs, delivering a spell that shattered the hosts' confidence.

Theekshana claimed 3/35 from 7.4 overs, while Eshan Malinga matched those figures, showing exceptional control and variation. Janith Liyanage also chipped in with a crucial wicket, removing Michael Bracewell. The Kiwis were eventually bowled out for 150, with only Mark Chapman standing tall amidst the wreckage. Chapman's 81 off 81 balls was a valiant effort, but it was insufficient to mount any significant resistance. His innings, marked by composure and clean hitting, was the sole highlight for New Zealand in an otherwise forgettable outing.

Four of their top six batters combined for a mere three runs, an alarming statistic that would be of concern ahead of their upcoming tri-series against Pakistan and South Africa. While the match held no bearing on the series outcome, it served as a wake-up call for the hosts as they prepare for sterner tests leading up to the Champions Trophy.

Despite the one-sided nature of the contest, New Zealand found some solace in their bowling efforts, particularly from Henry, whose late strikes prevented Sri Lanka from amassing an even larger total. Michael Bracewell also warmed up for future assignments with an economical spell, while Mitchell Santner's effective use of spin hinted at the strategies New Zealand might employ on subcontinental pitches.

"In Kwena, South Africa has found a gem...": Dinesh Karthik praises teen Proteas pacer

PAARL, Jan 11 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer and Paarl Royals (PR) star Dinesh Karthik heaped praises on young South African pacer Kwena Maphaka the Proteas' latest all-format debutant, saying that his team has found a gem in him and he needs to be protected.

Maphaka, who rose to fame with a 21-wicket campaign in the ICC U19 World Cup last year, made his debut across all formats for Proteas in the home series against Pakistan held from December last year to January. He has played a Test, two ODIs and five T20Is in his career so far. The 18-year-old has three Test wickets at an average of 30 with best figures of 3/90, five ODI wickets at an average of 24.40 with best figures of 4/72 and three T20I



wickets at an average of 56.00 and best figures of 2/39.

From U19 WC last year, Maphaka made a lot of progress and played two Indian Premier League (IPL) matches for five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) after being signed as a replacement to Sri Lankan pacer Dilshan Madushanka. In the IPL 2024 auction, he was brought by Rajasthan Royals (RR) for Rs 1.50 crores.

Speaking ahead of Paarl Royals' SA20 season three campaign opener against defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC), Karthik said about Maphaka that when he saw him for the first time during the U19 WC, he gave him a rare feeling that one will have to survive his initial spell and handle him properly. "I watched him bowl in the U19 World Cup and it almost felt like when you play against South

Africa, you need to get past that first spell. That is a feeling not many bowlers can give. He has handled pressure, he has come with expectations, and it is great to see him grow into not only a good domestic cricketer, but today he is playing for South Africa in all three formats," he said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"If I was him, SA20 would be a great opportunity to show my skills at the T20 level but also be the person who can win matches for the team. He is a special player. He has the skill sets to be the superstar that I expect him to be. In Kwena, South Africa has found a gem, and they need to protect him," he added.

Karthik also said that Maphaka needs to care for his body well. "The one thing that

will happen as he grows is he could drop pace, and he does not want to do that. So how he takes care of his body and mentally, every time he gets on the park, it should be about winning the game for that team," he signed off.

Karthik is the first-ever Indian player signed by the league and called time on his international career last year. He scored 3,463 runs in 180 matches at an average of 27.70, with a century and 17 fifties. His best score was 129.

He also had a successful IPL career, representing franchises like Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Lions, Kolkata Knight Riders, Punjab Kings, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru. In 257 matches, he made 4,842 runs at an average of 26.31, with 22 half-centuries to his

ICC Champions Trophy tour Australia leg concludes, fans excited for eight-team tournament

NEW DELHI, Jan 11 (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Champions Trophy 2025 Trophy Tour recently wrapped up its exciting Australian leg. This leg inspired cricket fans and generated enthusiasm for the upcoming ninth edition of the tournament, scheduled to be held in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates from February 19 to March 9.

During this vibrant tour, the trophy visited iconic locations across Melbourne and Sydney, engaging fans with a

variety of activities and appearances by cricket legends, as per a press release.

The Australian leg also offered fans and media the opportunity to interact with the former Australian all-rounder and two-time ICC Champions Trophy winner Shane Watson, who delved into the unique nature of the event and his predictions for the upcoming edition.

The trophy was also showcased during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, making appearances at the fourth and

fifth Tests held in Melbourne and Sydney, respectively as former cricket stars including Irfan Pathan, Adam Gilchrist, Michael Vaughan and Justin Langer posed with the trophy.

In Melbourne, the trophy made appearances at several key locations, such as the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Flinders Street, Yarra River, and Hosier Lane.

Following its time in Melbourne, the tour continued to Sydney, where fans could view the trophy at Bondi

Beach, Sydney Harbour, Sydney Opera House and the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 Trophy Tour continues its journey through all eight participating nations. Following its visits to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and South Africa, the Australian leg has further ignited excitement for the tournament.

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 50-over matches and will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai.

The biggest match of the tournament between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23 in Dubai.

Group A of the tournament features current Champions Trophy holders and hosts Pakistan, along with India, New Zealand and Bangladesh, while Group B features Cricket World Cup 2023 champions Australia, alongside Afghanistan, England and South Africa.

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 50-over matches and

will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai. The biggest match of the tournament between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23 in Dubai.

Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi will be the three venues in Pakistan which will host the tournament. Each Pakistan venue will feature three group games with Lahore hosting the second semi-final.

Lahore will also host the final on March 9, unless India qualifies, in which case it will be

played in Dubai. Both the semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

The three group matches involving India, as well as the first semi-final, will be played in Dubai.

Pakistan take on New Zealand in the Group A tournament opener in Karachi on February 19. The Dubai leg begins the following day with India taking on Bangladesh.

Group B begins on February 21, with Afghanistan squaring

up against the Proteas in Karachi.

A big weekend then kicks off with rivals England and Australia set to clash in Lahore on Saturday (February 22), with the much-anticipated Pakistan-India clash set for the day later.

The eight sides in the Champions Trophy competing for the famous white winners' trophy and jackets are the teams that finished in the top eight positions on the points table of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

PM fulfils devotees' sacred wish, special trains for Mahakumbh launched

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: BJP Executive Member Raman Suri has lauded the Indian Railways' decision to operate special trains from Jammu and Kashmir to Prayagraj for the upcoming Mahakumbh, terming it a monumental step in connecting devotees with their spiritual heritage. The Mahakumbh, scheduled from January 13 to February 26 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, is one of the largest spiritual gatherings in the world, celebrated every 12 years at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. Raman Suri credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, and Union Railway Minister Ashwini

Vaishnav for making this sacred pilgrimage accessible to devotees from Jammu and Kashmir. He specifically acknowledged Dr. Jitendra Singh's efforts in addressing the representation from the Sanatan Dharam community, which led to the introduction of these special trains. Highlighting the significance of the Mahakumbh, Suri described it as a deeply revered occasion for Hindus worldwide, where taking a holy dip in the sacred waters is believed to cleanse the soul and grant spiritual liberation. He emphasized that the Mahakumbh represents India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, uniting millions in devotion.

Raman Suri also recalled the grandeur of the 2019 Kumbh Mela, which witnessed the largest recorded public gathering of Hindus in history. He elaborated on the cyclical nature of the Kumbh Mela, held at four sacred riverside sites—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain—and mentioned the revival of the ancient Kumbh Mela at Bansberia Tribeni Sangam in West Bengal.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Suri stated, "We owe it to PM Narendra Modi for ensuring that citizens across the nation, including Jammu and Kashmir, can practice their faith freely and with dignity. The special trains reflect the government's commitment to preserving the spiritual fabric of our nation and addressing the religious aspirations of the people."

He also expressed hope that the demand for a stoppage of

the special trains at Kathua Railway Station, raised by devotees from Kathua, would be positively considered to ensure greater accessibility. Raman Suri urged devotees from Jammu and Kashmir to avail themselves of this facility and participate in the Mahakumbh, describing it as an unparalleled opportunity to connect with faith, heritage, and spirituality. "This initiative is not just about transportation; it is about fulfilling the sacred wishes of devotees and preserving India's spiritual legacy," he concluded.

This significant move by the government reinforces its dedication to cultural and religious inclusivity while facilitating a seamless pilgrimage experience for the faithful.

together.

We are delighted to host this event in Rajinder Bazaar and look forward to seeing everyone join in the festivities." President Deepak Sharma added "This festival is a wonderful opportunity for residents and visitors to experience the rich cultural heritage of Jammu. We have planned a range of activities that will appeal to all age groups, ensuring that everyone has a memorable time." Vice-President Sameer Bhasin highlighted the community's involvement, "Our residents have worked tirelessly to organize this

Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society announces three-day Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society, Jammu is thrilled to announce a three-day Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival to be held in the Bazaar premises from January 12th to January 14th, 2025. The event promises to be a grand celebration filled with cultural activities, traditional music, dance performances, and a variety of local delicacies. Spokesperson Raj Kumar expressed his excitement: "Lohri and Makar Sankranti are cherished festivals that bring our community

together. We are delighted to host this event in Rajinder Bazaar and look forward to seeing everyone join in the festivities." President Deepak Sharma added "This festival is a wonderful opportunity for residents and visitors to experience the rich cultural heritage of Jammu. We have planned a range of activities that will appeal to all age groups, ensuring that everyone has a memorable time." Vice-President Sameer Bhasin highlighted the community's involvement, "Our residents have worked tirelessly to organize this

event. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental in bringing this festival to life. We invite everyone to come and be a part of this joyous occasion." The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society extends a warm invitation to all residents and visitors to join in the three-day festivities and make this event a grand success. So in this regard the society members having elders fraternity, kids, women power, youth and others are ready to participate with full zeal and enthusiasm as was done in the previous year. The programme of celebration will start from Jan 12, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. with a meeting and invitation to society members & all others. On the Lohri day there will be Rangoli programme, Lohri Yatra from Ghass Mandi Chowk and Lohri Arag programme as usual. The Lohri day programme will start from 03:00 p.m. Thereafter Makar Sankranti will be celebrated in the society on the next day as Nav Varsh Divas.

Paush Purnima fast to be observed during day and night on Jan 13

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: Paush Purnima holds great significance in Sanatan Dharma. Regarding Paush Purnima, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic sansthan Trust, stated that the full moon day of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Paush is referred to as Paush

Purnima. This year, Paush Purnima falls on Monday, January 13, 2025. The fast for Paush Purnima will also be observed during the day and night on the same date. On this day, reading or listening to the story of Lord Satyanarayan, performing or organizing the worship of the deity is considered highly auspicious. On the day of the full moon, the

worship of Lord Ganesha, Goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva, Lord Satyanarayan, and the Moon is of special importance. After moonrise at night, perform the worship with incense and lamps and offer water (Arghya) to the Moon. Bathing in holy rivers and lakes holds special importance on Paush Purnima. If one cannot bathe in holy

rivers or lakes due to any reason, they can bathe at home by adding Gangajal to the water. It is highly advised to provide food to the needy and Brahmins and give donations as per one's capability. Doing so is believed to bring blessings from Lord Vishnu. As per the English calendar, Paush Purnima will be the first full moon of

the year 2025. According to scriptures, one should refrain from consuming any tamasic (impure) items on this day and should observe celibacy. Intoxicating substances such as alcohol must also be avoided as they not only harm the body but can adversely impact the future. Consumption of sattvic (pure) food is recommended on this day.

Rich Harvest School celebrates Lohri and Makar Sankranti with great fervor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: RHS celebrated the festive occasions of Lohri and Makar Sankranti with great enthusiasm and zeal. The school's campus was abuzz with excitement as students, teachers, and staff came together to mark these significant events. The celebrations began with a special assembly, where students showcased their cultural heritage through traditional songs, speeches and dances. The students were dressed in vibrant attire, adding to the festive atmosphere.



To commemorate Lohri, the school organized a bonfire ceremony, where students gathered around the fire, sang traditional Lohri songs, and made wishes for the future. The occasion also highlighted the importance of girl child education and empowerment. Makar Sankranti, which marks the beginning of the sun's journey towards the northern

hemisphere, was celebrated with traditional sweets, and decorations. Students learned about the cultural significance of the festival and its importance in Indian tradition. The Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia informed Students that these events not only promote cultural awareness but also foster a sense of community and togetherness among the School fraternity.

Reffa Boules India Federation hosts exciting RAFFA sports camp at RMPS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The Reffa Boules India Federation organized an engaging raffa boules sports camp at R.M Public School Jammu bringing excitement and joy to students and staff alike. The camp aimed to promote the unique

sport of boules, a ball game that combines strategy and precision. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the school management, teachers, and students, who embraced the opportunity to try their hand at this lesser-known yet thrilling sport. A highlight of the event was Director of School

Rakshan Mangi, who actively participated in the game, showcasing remarkable interest and skill. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Harvinder Kaur, Vice Principal thanked Sunny Nanda, the General Secretary of the Reffa Boules Ind. Federation, for organizing the camp. She expressed her enthu-

siasm for the sport and stated, "We are inspired by this initiative and will soon start incorporating this wonderful sport into our school's activities." The management of RMPS expressed gratitude for the initiative, highlighting how such events contribute to students' overall development. "Sports like

boules not only foster physical fitness but also teach teamwork and focus," said a school official. The Reffa Boules India Federation plans to organize more such events in schools across the country to popularize the sport and encourage youth participation.


KDP Wing of DPAP urges Kashmiri Displaced Community to reject exploitation for personal interests

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 11: The KDP Wing of DPAP in a joint statement through its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and others have appealed the self interested Kashmiri Displaced Lobbies not to use the residents of Camps at Jammu for video graphing large gatherings when the need arises to such self styled Leaders for showing their public support for going ahead to achieve their own decorated platforms. The Leaders have expressed grave concern against the connections from Camps to such selfish lobbies platforms, who enable entries in Camps as and when they require to show their strength as for the years of exilement we have experienced the experimental behaviour of our so-called platforms with making joint efforts to think over the Welfare of exiled people having each so called platform expressing publishing their own views when required and have never bothered to reach the conclusion of resettlement of the exiled people and it may not be out of place to mention here that the so called well wishers of this Community live a luxurious life in posh Colonies who never felt

the sufferings of people languishing in Camps. The Leaders have warned the connections of Camps connected to these lobbies to refrain entry of such platforms in Camps who for their own interest pave entries in Camps to enable them to video graph gatherings with no benefits to the people languishing in Camps. The Leaders have further expressed grave concern regarding the defamation of the Community in Social media by our Social Media Mengers having their personal grudges against each other which does not suit the Intellectuality of the Community and they are requested to take their personal revenge through Postal letters, letting the Community off the record defamation. The Leaders have appealed that for any problems of suffering when created by Camp people, not even a single lobby jumped to come to the rescue for mitigation of such problems, except Camp people fought always to get such problems mitigated jointly at each stage. The Leaders also appeal the Camp people to be united and come forward to draw a united Camp forum for fighting to get rights, with grave

problems resolved and to work jointly for getting our 35 years sufferings redressed with pressuring govts to workout our resettlement back policy with all compensatory packages especially employment, as our decorated platform Holders have never created a joint ideology for our return and Rehabilitation except publishing of ferverous statements to please the connected lobbies. The Leaders have appealed the Camp/Non Camps people to unitedly join under one united platform to demoralize the adopted nefarious acts and designs of our so called self decorated platform self styled Leaders and have appealed the connections connected from Camps to these lobbies, to stop their past practice of entries to such Agencies in Camps when they require videography of mass gatherings. The Leaders have appreciated the role of general Camp people to gather on call, when called for unity and Camp people possess the guts to fight any eventual-ity, which must be kept in mind by the Lobbies. Moreover the Leaders have appealed that any agency found collecting donations on the plea, to help the people in Camps, may be publicly apprised to verify their honest motive.



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