

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Nithya Menen talks about the 'clear cut' hierarchy in the film industry



Govt committed to welfare of armed forces, their families: PM Modi



Elon Musk sued by US Securities regulator over late Twitter stake disclosure

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BRIEFLY

Six miscreants booked for derogatory remarks in Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 15 (Agencies) : Coming down heavily on miscreants, police have booked six people over derogatory remarks in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

The police said that 06 miscreants have been charged under sections 126 & 170 of the BNSS and have been detained at Central Jail, Srinagar, for inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory remarks.

The public is hereby warned that any individual found engaging in similar unlawful activities, including posting or sharing sectarian content with the intent to create division or disturb public harmony, will meet the same fate, reads the statement.

It's pertinent to mention that a video went viral on social media in which some people were seen using derogatory religious remarks.

Inquiry panel formed for suspended mining official

JAMMU, Jan 15 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has appointed a three-member inquiry committee to probe allegations against Naveen Kumar, former District Mineral Officer of Kathua, who was suspended in December 2024.

As per an order, the panel includes Dr. Nargis Suraiya, Special Secretary to the Government, Rayaz Hussain, Director Finance, and Dr. Raj Kumar, Deputy Director, Geology and Mining.

The committee has been tasked with submitting its findings and recommendations within 30 days. The move follows instructions from the Deputy Chief Minister's office.

Bandipora police crack online financial frauds of Rs 5.50 lakh, recover lost mobile phones worth Rs 3 lakh

BANDIPORA, Jan 15 (Agencies): Bandipora police today said it have cracked financial frauds of rupees 5.50 lakh, and

Dulloo sets deadline for Municipalities to prepare waste management action plans



JAMMU, Jan 15 (Agencies): Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take stock of measures being taken up to build the capacity of Municipal Corporations including different ULBs of J&K in processing of solid and liquid waste on scientific lines.

Present in the meeting included Principal Secretary, Finance, Chairman, Pollution Control Committee (PCC), Com

missioner Secretary, H&UDD, Commissioner, SMC/JMC, Director ULBs Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned to come up with comprehensive and component wise waste management plans for both the Municipal Corporations and other municipalities of J&K.

He directed the Municipal Commissioners of SMC and JMC to formu

late scientific plans for both the cities for treating the solid and liquid waste generated daily by the households. He enjoined upon them to keep the future projections in view in terms of both population and waste generation.

Dulloo further advised them to make simultaneous plans for treatment of legacy waste in order to clear the sites of this untreated garbage. He asked them to identify the feasible locations for

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Chain-Linked LMVs allowed on Sinthan-Kishtwar road post snowfall

JAMMU, Jan 15 (Agencies) : Authorities have allowed the movement of light motor vehicles equipped with anti-skid chains on the Sinthan-Kishtwar road following its closure due to recent snowfall.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Koker-nag, in an order stated that the road is open exclusively for "chain-linked tare light motor vehicles," as reported by the General Engineer of NHIDCL.

According to the advisory, vehicles will be permitted to travel between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, provided the weather remains clear. Traffic Police and the SHO of Larnoo have been directed to ensure strict adherence to the timings and to seize any vehicle violating the directive.

J&K witnessed "Downfall" in violence, peaceful completion of recent polls certifies it, Says Army Chief on Army Day



NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Indian Army Chief Gen Upen德拉 Dwivedi addressing the 77th Army Day said that violence has witnessed a downfall in Jammu and Kashmir and peaceful completion of Assembly polls, Lok Sabha Polls and Amarnath Yatra shows the same.

"On Northern borders, the situation is normal but sensitive as well. Our Army is fully ready to tackle any kind of situ

ation. Special attention is been paid to developing modern and critical infrastructure on Norton Borders. On the LoC of Western borders, the ceasefire is maintained but attempts of infiltration are being made."

"In the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir, as a result of the continued stringent efforts of the security forces, violence has reduced considerably and the completion of Assembly polls, Lok Sabha Polls

and Amarnath Yatra in a peaceful environment shows betterment in the situation," said the Army Chief.

Talking about advancements as part of army's ongoing commitment to operational excellence and self-reliance, the chief said, "...Today, our country is standing on the threshold of a new era and is progressing smoothly towards the goal of a developed India. For our country to move ahead on the path of progress and development, a stable and secure environment is necessary, in which the Indian Army plays an important role... I am confident that we will continue on the path of progress to make the Indian Army a Modern, Agile, Adaptable, Technology and future-ready Force..."

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Railway safety commissioner authorises opening of newly constructed 17 km Katra-Reasi Track

JAMMU, JAN 15 (Agencies): The dream of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway is becoming a reality as Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has authorised the opening of the newly constructed 17 km long Katra-Reasi rail track for public carriage of goods and passenger traffic, railway officials said.

A seven-page authorisation letter by CRS



Dinesh Chand Deshwal, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) give green

signal for the opening of the newly constructed broad-gauge line between Katra and

Turn to page 9

Mysterious deaths in Badhaal Rajouri: Certain neurotoxins found in samples of dead persons

JAMMU, Jan 15 (Agencies): Amid growing concern over the mysterious death of 14 people in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir over the past one month, the administration has directed officials to analyse reports from institutions to identify the cause of the deaths.

Initial reports indicate

the presence of certain neurotoxins in the samples of the deceased, which are being further investigated to determine the reasons behind these fatalities, officials said.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting with officials from divisional and district administrations

and health experts from several national institutions to review the measures taken so far to identify the cause of the mysterious deaths in Badhaal village, Rajouri district.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the need for the Health and Police departments to work in

Turn to page 9

Intense cold continues in J&K, Srinagar records minus 4.8 Degrees

SRINAGAR, Jan 15 (Agencies): Mercury continued its free fall in the valley on Wednesday as the Meteorological (MeT) office forecast cloudy weather with snowfall at isolated higher reaches in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

The MeT office statement said, "On January 15 and 16, generally cloudy sky with light

snow at isolated higher reaches during 16th early morning. From January 17 to 19, generally a cloudy sky, but no significant change is expected till January 19. On 20 and 21st of January, a generally cloudy sky with light snow at isolated to scattered places is likely to occur."

The department issued an advisory: "Tourists/travellers/Transporters

are advised to follow Admin/Traffic advisory." Srinagar city recorded minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg minus 7.4 degrees and Pahalgam minus 8.4 as the minimum temperature. There was, however, an overall improvement in the weather in the plains of the Jammu division.

Jammu City had 6 degrees as the minimum

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TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With deep grief and sorrow we inform that Tenth Day of our beloved **Sh. Raman Chander Antahal** will be performed on 15/01/2025 and Kriya on 18/01/2025 at our residence W. No. 3, Chenani.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Nirmal (Wife)
Father & Mother
Purshotam Chand & Krishana Rani
Brother and Sister in law
Dinesh Antahal & Geeta Rani
Sister & Brother in law
Sudha Rani & Pardeep Singh Jamwal
Sister & Brother in Law
Rama Rani & Dr Ram Singh Sambhal (Daughters)
Shreya & Shivika (Nephews & Niece)
Sameerdev Antahal, Parnav Antahal, Chaterangda Antahal



Sh. Raman Chander Antahal

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief this is to inform that My Brother **Sh. Ajit Raina** S/o Late Sh. J.N.Raina original resident of Village Sirmoo, Pulwama and Sarat Nagar, Rawalpura Srinagar, has left for his heavenly abode on 10th of January-2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Saturday the 18th of January-2025 at Pune.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raj Dulari Raina (Mother)
Smt. & Sh. Nancy & Ashok Raina (Aunt & Uncle)
Anjee Raina (Wife)
Anjali & Anil Raina (Brother & Sister in law)
Lya & Ajay Raina (Brother & Sister in law)
Kishika Raina-Bhan & Avinash Bhan (Daughter & Son in Law)
Kailash, Kanisha, Mariyam, Agastya (Children)
Pune Address: 8, LIVSTONIA III PALM GROVES, B.T.KAWDE ROAD, GHORPADI, PUNE 411 036.
CONTACT : ANJILEE : +91 89834 67069; ANIL : +91 98603 15559



SH. AJIT RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kanta Ji Chopra** W/o Sh Moti Lal Chopra originally from Kunzer Katjan, Baramulla at present residing H.No. 250, Lane 2/C, Suryavanshi Nagar, Roop Nagar, Muthi, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 18/01/2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at our residence at 11:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh Moti Lal Chopra (Husband)
Son & Daughter in Law
Anil Chopra & Alka Chopra
Lt Sunil Ji Chopra & Anju Chopra
Sanjay Chopra & Sushma Chopra
Grand Children
Akash Chopra, Vishali Chopra, Tanuj Chopra, Simran Chopra, Susheel Chopra
Mobile No.: 8493856537, 9419383385



Smt Kanta Ji Chopra

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jai Inder Raina** S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Raina , originally a resident of Pinglish, Tral, currently residing at H.No. 10 , Sec. 1, Durga Nagar (Enclave) on 09-01-2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall take place at Badarkali Mandir (Thalwal) on 18th January , 2025 and assembly will be held at 11:30 AM at Muthi Ghat, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Lalita Raina (Wife)
Akshay Raina (Son) - 9149880649
Daughter & Son-in-Law
Nirshat & Ashwani Tickoo (9018124476)
Brothers & Babies
Smt. & Sh. Shibani Krishan Raina (7889730265)
Smt & Sh. Roop Krishan Raina (9419260749)
Smt Sh. Dr. Ravi Raina (7889771477)
Sh. Chaman Lal Koul (Brother-in-law) - (9599189182)
Vivaan - Grandson



Sh. Jai Inder Raina

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH DEEP GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THAT TENTH DAY OF OUR BELOVED **SH RAMESH CHANDER SHARMA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 15/01/2025 11.AM AND KRIYA ON 16/01/2025 AT OUR RESIDENCE UPPER KANHAL BISHNAH ROAD.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SURESTHA SHARMA (WIFE)
ABHIT SHARMA (SONY) SON
MOB: 6006170327



SH RAMESH CHANDER SHARMA

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tilak Raj** (Asstt. Director, Airworthiness, DGCAAmritsar) S/o Sh. Ram Lal R/o Langar, Kaluchak, who left for his heavenly abode on 08.01.2025.

Tenth Day shall be performed on 17.01.2025, Friday at Sasan Palace, opposite Pari Mahal Banquet Hall Kunjwani

Satsang Timing: 12 Noon
Grief Stricken:
Father and Mother
Wife and Kids
Brothers and Sisters In-law
Sisters and Brothers In-law
Uncles and Aunties
Contact us: 9988328810, 8491098093, 8493878533 9419138787, 7006655078, 9419126007



Sh. Tilak Raj

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Smt Asha Kundan Raina** W/o Late Sh. K.N Raina Originally resident of Nowgam, Shangus Anantnag Kashmir at present Ward No 59 Khajuria Mohalla Near Jesus Care Convent School Paloura Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 21-01-2025 and Assembly will be performed at our residence 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughter in law & Son
Smt Princy & Sh. Inder Raina, 9906101428
Daughter & Son in Law
Smt Kiran & Sh. Bharat Ji Bhat, 7889522409
Devrani & Devar
Smt Sarla & Sh. M.L.Raina, 9906077338
Smt Babil & Sh. H.L. Raina, 7006635726
Smt Rozy and Sh. C.L. Raina, 9622191360
Smt Jyoti and Sh. N.K. Raina 7006439065
Sister in Law
Smt Jaya Kishori and Late Sh. S.N. Pandita
Late Smt. Santosh and Sh. H.L. Bhat
Smt Sarla & Sh. A.K. Pandita



SMT ASHA KUNDAN RAINA

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **S. Gourav Singh** S/o Jagbir Singh R/o House No. 64, Sector 12, Narak Nagar Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 11-01-2025.

In loving memory of departed soul
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 14-01-2025 at 10 AM at our residence

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 16-01-2025 at 10 AM at our residence.

Kirtan & Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Sant Bhai Rocha Singh Sahab, Sector 14 Nana k Nagar, Jammu from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
S. Jagbir Singh (Father)
Sdr. Trilochan Kour (Mother)
S. Gagandeep Singh (Brother)
Sdr. Kavaljeet Kour (Sister in law)
Sdr. Guneet Kour (Sister)



S. Gourav Singh

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Pawan Ji Mantoo** S/o Sh. Sohan Lal Mantoo originally from Sangrampora Sopore, Kashmir at present R/o H.No. 372, Lane No-3, Lakkar Mandi, Janipur, Jammu.

TENTH DAY shall take place on 17th January 2025 (Friday) at Akhnoor Ghat.

ASSEMBLY will take place at 12 Noon at Muthi Ghat.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sheetal Mantoo -Wife
Parents
Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Sohan Lal Mantoo
Aunts & Uncles
Smt. Phoola Ji & Bushan Lal Mantoo
Smt. Raj Shree & Sh. Kumar Ji Mantoo
Smt. Sumen Ji W/o Lt. Shubal Lal Mantoo - Aunt
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Meerakshi Suri & Sh. Deepak Suri
Smt. Kanchen & Deepak Mantoo - Bhabi & Brother
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Manisha & Rocky Shan
Nihar Mantoo, Vivaan Mantoo - Sons
Mobile : 9419124265, 7889553379, 9652596720, 7006201191



Sh. Pawan Ji Mantoo

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Bhat originally from Delina, Baramulla, A/p Q.No. 330 Block-P, Tophshekhania, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 8th Jan 2025.

10th DAY KRIYA will be performed on 17th Jan 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education at 11:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Bushan Lal Bhat & Bitta Ji Bhat - Brother & Sister-in-law
Roshan Lal Bhat & Dolly Ji - Brother & Sister-in-law
Vijay Mohan Bhat & Ruby Bhat - Son & Daughter-in-law
Anita Pandita & Sunil Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law
Raj Mohan Bhat -Son
Contact Nos: 9797375166, 9419122337, 9906175273



SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

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, Braroo's, Kuloo's, Bhat's, Zadoo's



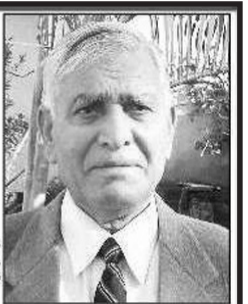
Smt. Shama Kakroo

TENTH DAY

पिता धर्मः पिता स्वर्गः पिता हि परमं तपः।
पितरि प्रीतिमापन्ने सर्वः प्रीयन्ति देवता॥

A father is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail... FATHERS DON'T EVER DIE!
Our beloved father, **Kanyojyogi** as well as **Gyanjyoti Sh. Omkar Nath Bhat (Kuthari)** originally R/o Litesoo, Anantnag, Kashmir attained sadgati on 12th January, 2025 at Delhi after brief illness.

MOURNING FROM OUR SIDE AND MALUN SIDE is at our place in Flat No. B-6, Tower B-2, Central Govt. Residential Complex, Minto Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 21st Jan (Tuesday) at 9:30 am near canal in Sector 18, Rohini, Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Kamla Bhat (Wife)
Vinodir Bhat & Anu (Son and Daughter in law) (Mob. 9717497311)
Sunta Bhat W/o Late Ravi Shankar Bhat (Daughter in law) (Mob. No. 9419212337)
Kusum Lata & Ravinder Dhar (Daughter and Son in law) (Mob. No. 974901072)
Rahul, Urushi, Rash, Sahil, Shubham, Shivansh, Shashid, Shriya (Grand children), Zar Parivaar (MOB. NO. 9816110771), Dhar Parivaar, Tickoo Parivaar.



GYANOJY SH. OMKAR NATH BHAT (KUTHARI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Words would be too feeble to embody the pain of informing, that **Sh. Ram Krishen Koul (Saraf)** S/o Late Sh. Damodar Koul (Saraf), original resident of Aghamam, Habbokadal, Srinagar, presently at 311-A, Master Lane, Bohri, Talab Tilloo, Jammu, left his mortal frame for attainment of eternal peace at **VAIKUNTHA**.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on Thursday, January 16, 2025, followed by the **ASSEMBLY** which shall be held at Muthi Ghat at 11:00 AM.

Grief Stricken
Usha Koul (Wife)
Sameksha Koul (Daughter)
Shiveta and Sameer Koul (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Saharshinie Koul (Grand Daughter)
All Koul(s), Saraf(s), Bhat(s), Raina(s) and Khaptoo(s)
9796012233, 9796007422.

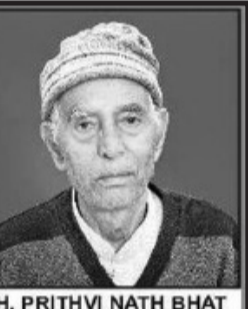


Sh. Ram Krishen Koul (Saraf)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT** S/O LATE SH. NATHJI BHAT ORIGINALY RESIDENT OF SIRMOO TEHSIL & DISTRICT PULWAMA, CURRENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 76 SEC A2 LAXMIPURAM CHINORE BEHND SHIV MANDIR JAMMU ON 08TH JANUARY, 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL TAKE PLACE ON 17TH JANUARY, 2025, (FRIDAY) AT AKHNOOR GHAT, JAMMU AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11:00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
SH. BRIJ LAL RAINA-SHABAJI (BROTHER IN LAW)
10TH DAY KRIYA SHALL TAKE PLACE ON 17TH JANUARY, 2025, (FRIDAY) AT AKHNOOR GHAT, JAMMU AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11:00 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
DAUGHTERS & SONS IN-LAW
SMT. GURJA MUNSHI & LATE SHASHOK MUNSHI (8871869311)
SMT. SUNITA BHAT & SH VINOD KR. BHAT (7006653330, 9798962230)
SONS & DAUGHTERS IN-LAW
SH. SUNIL BHAT & SMT. LOVELY (9419228880, 9149583260)
SH. SATISH BHAT & SMT. KHUSHBOO (9419146830, 7006663224)
SH. PIYARAY LAL BHAT & SMT. PRINCY BHAT (9419631490)
SH. RAMESH KR. BHAT & SMT. CHAMPA BHAT (7839707874)
GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS
NISHA & PRABHAT JI, RUCHIKA & PAVAN JI, PRIYAKA VINNET JI, SAHIL & PREETI, RAHUL & REETA, SUMIT, ROHIT, AKASH, KOMAL, NAATIK, TIARA, MISHA AND RIVAN



SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Shanta Sumbli**, wife of Sh. M.L. Sumbli, estblsh. resident of Chhabal/ Chaapora, Srinagar presently residing at 11/10 Mohl. Naga & Dehadun. She passed away peacefully on 11th January 2025 at 5:40 PM.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Monday, 20th January 2025 at 10 Pleshar Temple, Dehadun. Smt. Shanta Sumbli was a beacon of love, strength, and wisdom for her family and everyone who knew her. Her kindness and generosity will always be remembered and cherished. May her noble soul attain eternal peace.

In Grief:
Sh. M.L. Sumbli (Husband)
Sh. N.N. Sumbli (Brother in law)
Smt. Sheeb Faridi (Sister in law)
Smt. Rita and Ravinder Koul (Daughter and Son in law)
Smt. Sunta and Ravi Sumbli (Daughter in law and Son)
Smt. Anjali and Anmol Sumbli (Grand Daughter in law and Grandson)
Chruv Sumbli (Grandson)
And, samastya Sumbli, Bhan, Panitta and Koul Parivar.
Contact number: 9892032141

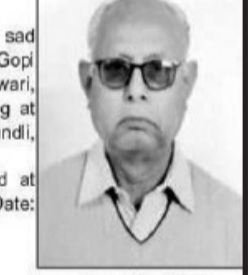


Smt. Shanta Sumbli

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 Motiyar 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

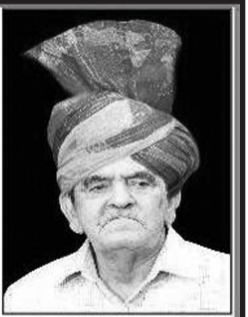


Sh. P.K. Dhar

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise about beloved **Sh. Shankar Dass (Rtd. ZEO)** R/o Trintha Reasi who left for heavenly abode on 08.01.2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Thursday, 16-01-2025 at Guru Ravidas Mandir Near SSP Office Mari Reasi.
ANTIM ARDAS from 12 Noon to 1 P.M. followed by **Guru Ka Langar**.
DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:
Smt. Tara Devi - Wife
Smt. Vdya & Sh. Bansi Lal Kotwal - Brother & Bhabhi
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Smt. Meenakshi & Sh. Jewel Kotwal
Smt. Ravinder & Sh. Rahul Kotwal
Sh. Ashish Kotwal
Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Smt. Pushpa Devi
Smt. Prem Lata & Sh. Ram Saan
Smt. Santosh & Sh. Ashok Kumar



SH. SHANKAR DASS (RTD. ZEO)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our respected centennarian **Smt Leela Devi** W/o Late Sh. Vas Dev Prashar R/o Katra.

TENTH DAY will be performed at Shiv Mandir, Tea Garden on 16-01-2025 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.
KRIYA will be performed on 17-01-2025 at 12:00 Noon at our residence near Banda Bahadur Dhararamshalla Gopal Nagar Katra.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughter in Laws
Sh. Ravinder Prashar & Smt. Shashi Devi
Smt. Aruna Prashar W/o Lt Sh. Anil Prashar
Daughters & Sons in Law
Smt. Vaishno Devi W/o Lt Sh. Ved Prakash Magotra
Smt. Tripta Devi W/o Sh. Ravinder Karni
Smt. Nirmal Devi W/o Prof Rattan Lal Sharma
Smt. Anjali Devi W/o Sh. Subash Sharma
Prashar Family Katra
MOBILE NO: 7006011904, 7006993883, 7006659690



SMT LEELA DEVI

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VC SKUAST calls on Dy CM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Vice Chancellor, Sher-i-Kashmir University for Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu, Dr B.N.Tripathi, on Wednesday called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Mother.

The VC discussed several issues related to welfare and development of the University and also sought intervention of the government in redressing the same.



The Deputy Chief Minister assured the VC that the present government is committed to ensure academic and scientific excellence in the higher institutions of science and research. He said that the all possible assistance would be extended for redressing the issues projected.

Delegation of Dogri Kashmiri Students Scholar Forum meets Sports Minister Satish Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: A delegation of Dogri Kashmiri languages Students Scholar Forum headed by Anzer Ali met with the cabinet Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government Satish Sharma. Dogri Kashmiri Language Union requested to them to implement Dogri and Kashmiri languages in the curriculum of 1st to 10th class.

Dr. Ashu Sharma said that it should be implemented in Jammu as well under the New Education Policy 2020 and since it is not only



the native language of Jammu region but also the mother tongue of the Dogra people and the honor of the people is associated with this language.

Although after being included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in the year 2003, it was also recognized as the official language by the

Government of Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2020, but till now this language has not got the status it should have got. Therefore, the injustice being done to it should be stopped and work should be done for its betterment.

This delegation included Dr. Ashu Sharma, Neha Sharma, Santosh Kumari, Atul Sharma, Saguftha Choudhary.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

Tender Notice No : 17-Elect-C-DMU-BDGM-2025
Name of Work : Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 2x3150 KVA, 33KV/415 V Transformers alongwith HT/LT panels, cables, APFC capacitor panel, Installation of DSL Bus Bar, Bus trunking, laying of cables, Electrification of internal & external electrical assets for Extension of DMU shed from 12 coaches to 16 coaches at Budgam in connection with USBRL project).
Approximate Cost of the Work : Rs. 5, 14,36,268.54 (Including GST and all other taxes)
Completion Period : 12 (Twelve Months)
Bid Security to be deposited : Rs. 4,07,200.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website : Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 27.01.2025.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders : 10.02.2025 upto 15.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website
Date/Time of Opening of Tender : 10.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender)
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender document : Tender Notice is available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in and the tender document will be available for uploading of offers on IREPS website from 27.01.2025 to 10.02.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the above office.
No.: 17-Elect-C-DMU-BDGM-2025 Dated: 13.01.2025 157/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MLA Dr Rajeev Bhagat takes stock of RDD works, inaugurates development works in Bishnah

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jan 15: To review the Rural Development Department ongoing works, a meeting has been held under the chairmanship of Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MLA Bishnah in which BDO Miran Sahib along with the staff attend the meeting and apprised the MLA of the CAPEX works is on progress and in case of PMAY

program the needy person to be enlisted for PMAY.

The MLA directed the concerned department that the works to be executed on high quality and there is no compromise of the Standard Quality Measures. The BDO Miran Sahib assured the MLA every direction will be implemented with letter and spirit.

Later on, Dr Rajeev visited Panchayat Kahiri and Panchayat Majua Uttami and kick start the number of development works i.e. lane drain, boundary wall of Shamsam ghat, solar Lights amounting to Rs.46 lakh. The inhabitants of the area thanked the MLA Dr Rajeev for mitigating their long pending demands.

While addressing the

gathering Dr Rajeev MLA assured people of Bishnah constituency he continue his efforts to make Bishnah a Model Constituency your fabulous love and affection seems in election and I to be a representative from Bishnah constituency and it is my prime duty to look after every immunities of life and improve the standard of living.

Arvind vows to work tirelessly to fulfill promises made with people

Inaugurates Key Development Projects in Vijay Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Reaffirming BJP's vision of holistic development, Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, today inaugurated crucial development works in Vijay Nagar, Ward No. 40. The projects, which include the covering of a 650-meter-long drain and the blacktopping of a 650-meter stretch of road, were completed at an estimated cost of ₹25 lakh.

The inauguration was

attended by Mandal President Anil Angral, AEE JMC Raman Kapahi, AE JMC, and several BJP karyakartas. Former Corporators Shri Chaman Lal Bhagat and Smt. Neelam Nargotra, along with senior BJP leaders Shri Keshav Chopra, Shri Atul Bakshi, Shri Arun Dubey, Smt. Paramjeet Kour, and Shri Vikas Kumar, were also present, reflecting the party's united approach to addressing public concerns.

Addressing the gath-

ering, Arvind Gupta emphasized BJP's unwavering commitment to serving the people. "Our party stands for development that directly impacts lives. Today's projects in Vijay Nagar are a step toward resolving issues that residents have faced for years. Improving sanitation and connectivity is not just about infrastructure; it's about ensuring dignity and ease of life for our people. We will continue to work tirelessly to fulfill our promises and take

Jammu West to new heights of progress." During the event, Arvind Gupta also interacted with residents of the area to understand their concerns and gather feedback on future developmental needs. He assured them that their suggestions would be considered, and all efforts would be made to address their grievances promptly.

He highlighted BJP's resolve to deliver grassroots development and its dedication to improving the lives of citizens in every corner of Jammu West.

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RE-ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF KRISHI UDYAMI (KUs) (Agriculture Entrepreneur) (Left Out Panchyats)

Applications on prescribed format were invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Krishi Udyamis (KUs) on contractual basis for a period of two years (extensible) vide this offices various Advertisement notices No: CAOR/KKG/2023-24/5394-96 dated 29/02/2024; CAOR/KKG/2024-25/1301-03 dated 27/06/2024 and CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 1849-51 dated 19/07/2024; CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 3479-81 dated 09/10/2024; CAOR/KKG/ 2024-25/ 4319-21 dated 22-11-2024; CAOR/KKG/ 2024-25/ 4601-03 dated 06/12/2024; CAOR/KKG/ 2024-25/ 4780-82 dated 21/12/2024 . Wherein only 69 selected Krishi Udyamis have shown willingness for running KKGs against advertised locations.

Keeping in view the poor response from the applicants in the uncovered Panchyats, the re-advertisement for leftover 06 proposed locations, is hereby annexed at annexure 'C'.

KEY DETAILS:

S. no	Details	Description
1.	Position	Krishi Udyami (KU) (Agricultural Entrepreneur)
2.	Number of positions	06 Nos. (As per Leftover Panchayat Level Kisan Khidmat Ghar of District Reasi as Annexure "C")
3.	Engagement Duration	Initially for a period of 2 years, with the possibility of annual extensions subject to the satisfactory performance of the PLE.
4.	Qualification	Diploma* in Agriculture & Allied Fields or Graduation in Science (BSc), Graduation** in Agriculture and Allied Fields. (BSc/ BVSc) Additional preference will be given to candidates possessing post-graduation (science/agri & allied) & computer*** diplomas/certifications. * Diploma courses: Diploma in Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture, Agri. Engineering, BHT, BAT from government recognised institution **Agri Allied courses: BSc in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Fisheries, Sericulture; B. Tech in Agriculture Engineering, BVSc & AH from a Government recognised institution *** Diploma/Certification course in computers of 3 or more months duration from a government recognised institution Please see selection criteria (D) for full details
5.	Job profile	Operate Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Jammu & Kashmir as per details mentioned at (E)
6.	Remunerations	The engagement is based on a self-earning/entrepreneur basis. Full details of KKG operations can be viewed at (F)
7.	Last date for receipt of complete applications	24 th January 2025

* Those who have already applied for the KUs need not to apply again.

* for more details visit district administration web site : www.reasi.nic.in/document/re-advertisement-notice-for-enaagement-of-krishi-udvami/

A. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- I. Detailed information including application form can be obtained from office of Chief Agriculture Officer, Reasi or downloaded from official websites of district administration official website: www.reasi.nic.in & Agriculture Production Department (<https://jkpd.nic.in> and <https://hadp.jk.gov.in>)
- II. Candidate must have the requisite qualification for the post applied.
- III. Age should be between 21 and 45 years as of the last date of submission.
- IV. Self-attested photocopies of the following documents must be attached with the application form:
 - a. Date of birth certificate (Matriculation certificate).
 - b. Marks certificate of all qualifying examinations.
 - c. Domicile Certificate.
 - d. Character certificate issued by competent authority
- V. Completed application forms should be submitted to the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer (Member Secretary), Reasi Room No. 202 DC complex District Reasi Pin 182311 in person or through registered post.
- VI. Any postal delay shall not be the responsibility of the advertising authority.
- VII. Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected without further notice.
- VIII. Original documents shall have to be presented during the verification process.

It is essential to note that the earning potential of KUs is directly linked to the efficient and effective operation of KKGs, the volume of services provided, and the successful facilitation of various agricultural processes. The program aims to create a sustainable and rewarding income structure for KUs, aligning their success with the overall progress of agricultural development in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

DIP/J-9162/24

CAOR/KKG/2024-25/ 5341-43
Dated: 11-01-2025

Sd/-
Chief Agriculture Officer
Reasi

Annexure- "C"

Proposed Leftout Panchyats for Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) in Respect of District Reasi.

S.no	District	Tehsil	Block	Panchayats Covered	Proposed Location
1	Reasi	Bomag	Bomag	Dangakote/Sarhi	Pyt H.Q Dangakote
2	Reasi	Chassana	Chassana	Banna A+B	Pyt H.Q Thandi Sui
3	Reasi	Bhomag	Bhomag	Sersundwan/Lamsora	Pyt. HQ. Bakkal
4	Reasi	Pouni	Pouni	Pouni, Kundkhanryi, Saloon, Mari	AEO Office Pouni
5	Reasi	Thakrakote	JijBagli	Narkote, Dhakikote	Pyt H.Q Narkote
6.	Reasi	Mahore	Mahore	Dubri & Shikari	Pyt H.Q Dubri

Sd/-
(Harbans Singh)
Chief Agriculture Officer
Reasi

EDITORIAL

MARITIME TRANSPORT

Safe sea routes are fundamental to global maritime operations, which underpin international trade, transportation, and communication. With over 80% of the world's trade carried by sea, the safety and efficiency of these routes are vital for economic stability, environmental protection, and geopolitical harmony. The concept of a safe sea route involves not only the physical safety of ships and crew but also the seamless navigation of vessels through international waters, free from threats such as piracy, natural hazards, and political conflicts.

Sea routes serve as the lifelines of global commerce, facilitating the transportation of essential goods, from crude oil to consumer products. A disruption in these routes can have severe economic consequences, affecting supply chains and increasing the cost of goods worldwide. Furthermore, safe sea routes play a critical role in environmental protection by minimizing risks of accidents, such as oil spills, that could devastate marine ecosystems. For the thousands of seafarers who navigate these waters daily, safe routes ensure the protection of human lives and livelihoods.

From a geopolitical perspective, sea routes often pass through contested waters or regions of strategic importance. Ensuring their security is essential for maintaining international peace and preventing conflicts. Additionally, safe navigation supports the sustainable development of coastal communities that depend on maritime trade and tourism.

Several challenges threaten the safety and efficiency of maritime navigation. Piracy remains a significant concern in regions like the Gulf of Aden, the Strait of Malacca, and the Gulf of Guinea, where criminal activities jeopardize crew safety and cargo security. Geopolitical tensions, such as disputes over maritime territories in the South China Sea, can lead to restricted access, blockades, or heightened military presence, disrupting trade.

Natural hazards, including storms, tsunamis, and climate change-induced extreme weather events, pose additional risks to maritime operations. Navigational challenges, such as shallow waters, reefs, and narrow passages like the Suez and Panama Canals, require precise maneuvering to avoid accidents. Moreover, the increasing digitization of maritime systems has introduced new threats, such as cyberattacks targeting navigation systems and communication networks.

To address these challenges, international regulations and collaborative initiatives play a pivotal role. Organizations like the International Maritime Organization (IMO) establish standards for ship safety, design, and operation through conventions like the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). These frameworks ensure a consistent approach to maritime safety across nations.

Maritime surveillance and patrolling by naval forces and coast guards deter piracy and ensure compliance with international laws. Collaborative efforts, such as joint naval exercises, strengthen security in high-risk areas. Technological advancements, including Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS), and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), have revolutionized navigation, enhancing accuracy and safety.

The implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code has bolstered security measures at ports and aboard ships, ensuring thorough inspections, access control, and risk assessments. Real-time weather monitoring and forecasting enable ships to avoid hazardous conditions, while initiatives like Best Management Practices (BMP) guide shipowners on preventing piracy.

Sustainability also plays a crucial role in maintaining safe sea routes. Eco-friendly practices, such as adopting low-emission fuels and minimizing ballast water discharge, protect marine ecosystems and ensure the long-term viability of maritime transport.

Maintaining safe sea routes requires global cooperation. Multinational initiatives like the Djibouti Code of Conduct address piracy in East Africa, while ASEAN agreements focus on securing the Strait of Malacca. These collaborative frameworks facilitate the sharing of intelligence, resources, and expertise to effectively tackle challenges and ensure safe navigation.

The future of maritime safety lies in technological innovation and stricter enforcement of international regulations. Autonomous ships equipped with advanced navigation systems could significantly reduce human error, enhancing the safety and efficiency of sea routes. Investments in maritime infrastructure and the development of green technologies will further bolster the sustainability and security of maritime operations.

Maha Kumbh is the confluence of spirituality, cultural diversity and unity

By: Omkar Dattatray

Kumbh Mela or Maha Kumbh besides being the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna & Saraswati is the admixture and confluence of spirituality, divinity, cultural diversity and above all unity. Maha Kumbh has great spiritual significance and Maha Kumbh comes after every twelve years but the Maha Kumbh 2025 is very unique and special as it has much religious and spiritual significance and it has occurred after a long period of 144 years and so devote Hindus should not miss this great opportunity to visit Prayagraj and take a dip in the holy waters at the sangam of Ganga, Yamuna and mystical as well as mythological Saraswati and purify one self and absolve one of all sins and attain moksha-salvation at the end. Maha Kumbh is the largest human gathering on the earth. It is one of the most spiritual gathering and event having profound and divine meaning and attracts cores of people, devotees and pilgrim tourists from India and the world. It also attracts millions of saints, seers, devotees and seekers from the globe. Kumbh Mela in fact is mini-world and an occasion to build peace and unity, besides seeking divine happiness and fulfillment. The Kumbh Mela 2025 which is being held in Prayagraj—Allahabad is a unique opportunity for people connect with their spiritual essence, cleanse their soul, and embark on a spiritual sojourn that has a very long history. Mahakumbh is occurring at Prayagraj and this word Prayag has deeper meaning and it is in the fitness to know its meaning. The word Prayag is the admixture of three rivers. Pra means earth and it connotes that river Saraswati is going on beneath land, Ya means Yamuna and J implies Ganga and thus name Prayag. Maha Kumbh or kumbh marks the gathering of millions of devotees for the ritualistic bath, which is believed to cleanse the sins of the people and lead to their salvation. Hindus believe that during certain astrological alignments, the waters of the holy rivers get charged with positive and divine energy and a dip in the sacred waters is believed

to purify people from sins and also leads to their spiritual enlightenment. The final aim and ambition or end purpose of a Sanatani is moksha or liberation from the cycle of birth and death and the Participation in Kumbh Mela that means a dip in the sacred waters at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mystical Saraswati is believed to lead to salvation from the recurring birth and death. So Kumbh Mela has immense importance and value for all Sanatani's, thus devote Hindu's should once in their life visit Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela and perform bath in the holy waters of the three rivers and cleanse themselves and attain moksha at the end such great is the significance of Kumbh Mela. Kumbh Mela, one of the most awe-inspiring and captivating religious events on the planet, is a grand celebration of faith, devotion and spirituality that draws millions of pilgrims from all corners of the world. Held at four sacred river bank locations in India—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain—the Kumbh Mela is the largest religious gathering in the world. Rooted in ancient Hindu traditions, this extraordinary event unfolds in a mesmerizing amalgamation of rituals, spiritual practices and cultural exuberance. The origins of the Kumbh Mela are deeply embedded in Hindu mythology and ancient sacred scriptures. The term "Kumbh" means pot or pitcher, while mela means fair or gathering. The origin of Kumbh Mela can be traced back to the very ancient time when the celestial beings, called as Devas, and the demons known as Asuras, churned cosmic ocean to obtain the divine nectar of immortality known as Amrit. This celestial Endeavour lasted for 12 days divine days, equivalent to 12 human years, which is why the Kumbh Mela occurs every twelve years. During the cosmic struggle, a kumbh-pitcher of Amrit emerged and was carried away by the divine bird—Guruda. As Guruda flew across the sky, four drops of nectar fell at four sacred river bank locations in India—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. So these locations were sanctified at these sites in a cyclical manner. The

Kumbh Mela is not merely a massive religious gathering, it is a sacred journey of inner transformation and spiritual awakening and enlightenment. Mahakumbh Mela began on 13TH January 2025 and will last up to 26th February 2025. On Posh Purnima one crore, five lakh devotees took a holy dip in sacred confluence of rivers & on the most auspicious occasion of Makarsankranti 1 crore 60 lakh devotees took dip in the holy rivers at Triveni Sangam at other Ghats in Prayagraj. It is expected that more than 45 crore people will take part in Mahakumbh Mela. The significance of the Kumbh or Mahakumbh Mela can be outlined as under—1-Pilgrimage of purification. It is believed that taking a dip in the holy rivers cleanses the soul of impurities and sins, providing a fresh start on the spiritual path. 2—Seekers of Spiritual Enlightenment. The Kumbh Mela/Mahakumbh Mela attracts saints, seers, sadhus and spiritual seekers from various sects and traditions. It is a unique opportunity for devotees to interact with these revered spiritual beings and gain insights into the intricacies of spiritual wisdom. 3- Paves way for Moksha as it is the gateway for attaining salvation and hence the Kumbh Mela or Mahakumbh Mela is very significant spiritually as the dip in the sacred rivers is believed to purge devotees of all sins and impurities. 4-This mela has also got much significance as it is the confluence of cultural diversity and people from various sects and parts of the country and abroad participate in Mahakumbh or Kumbh Mela and it results in cultural diversification and furthers cultural diversity which is the beauty of Indian culture. 5-Cultural and national unity is also a very important significance of Mahakumbh Mela as participation of people in a very large scale leads to the much need cultural and national unity. 6-Awareness about religious tenets, teachings and principles of Sanatan Dharma by coming into contact with the religious gurus, saints, seers and those having knowledge about the Hindu dharma. So participation and thus interaction with the learned men and saints as well as reli-

gious scholars leads to the dissemination and acquisition of the religious knowledge and hence Kumbh Mela has got much significance. 6-Unity and cosmopolitanism also follows as a necessary outcome of the Kumbh Mela as Prayagraj turns in a mini-world and people coming from all over India and globe interact and exchange their thoughts, views and experiences and thus Vasudakutumbkam doctrine of Sanatan Dharma is strengthened which is badly required in the greed torn and conflict torn world of today. People learn the lessons of one world family and those who participate in Mahakumbh Mela or Kumbh Mela become the ambassadors of the Indian principle that whole world is but one family. Prayagraj formerly Allahabad holds immense spiritual significance due to its mythological roots and geography. It is home to the Triveni Sangam—the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati rivers—revered as one of Hinduism's holiest sites. The Kumbh Mela follows a 12-year cycle based on the celestial positions of the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter. The 2025 Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj is especially rare, occurring once every 144 years. This unique alignment is believed to make it an exceptionally auspicious time for prayers and rituals. Pilgrims take a holy dip in the rivers, seeking purification and moksha-liberation. Beyond its religious and spiritual significance, the Kumbh Mela reflects India's rich cultural heritage, uniting millions in a grand celebration of faith, devotion and harmony. Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 key rituals are—Shahi Snan-royal bath, Sankirtan and Bhajans & Yoga and meditation. To conclude, we can say that Mahakumbh Mela at Prayagraj is not only the confluence of three holy rivers—Ganga, Yamuna and mystical Saraswati but is also the confluence of faith, cultural diversity and unity. It can be said that this important event is Sanatan Ka Garv aur Mahakumbh Ka Parv. We should resolve on this important occasion to strengthen our culture and transmit it to the coming generations and in this lies the good of all.

Why organic food matters

By: Vijay Garg

It supports soil regeneration, reduces carbon emissions, preserves biodiversity, and helps both farmers and consumers thrive.

It was 19 years ago, in early 2006, that I bought a couple of acres of land in a village in Tamil Nadu that was shielded from urban influence, yet not so remote that it was off the grid. My decision was led by the books I had read—from Gandhi to Masanobu Fukuoka—and I was excited by the prospect of setting up an organic farm and learning from the experience.

In the years that followed, the idea of serious farming receded to the background, but the experience—of living for a fair part of every month in a village, yet having the economic freedom to understand agriculture without being entirely dependent on it—has been an exceptional teacher. I journeyed through rural India: the villages of Binsar and Ranikhet in Uttarakhand, the rice fields of the Bodoland Territorial Region in Assam and those in Palakkad and Wayanad in Kerala, the coffee estates of Coorg, and the cashew plantations of Sindhudurg and the wheat and soya fields of central Madhya Pradesh.

After nearly two decades, the most significant lesson—one that I strive to apply to my life every day—has been this: if we choose our food with care, its impact could possibly be the biggest contribution each of us makes to protect the planet and, equally crucially, our health. This is a rather lofty claim, and one that requires explanation.

There is considerable evidence that the nutritional quality of produce today is in general lower than it used to be: a carrot harvested from a typical commercial farm, for instance, is nutritionally poorer than one harvested 30 years ago. This decline has been researched and documented in a number of research laboratories across the world. In India, the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) conducted a study, published in 2017, which analysed 151 nutritional elements present in 528 foods and

compared them with the same elements documented in a study conducted in 1989. The nutritional levels in common fruits, vegetables, and grains—including potatoes, tomatoes, apples, and millets—had substantially declined.

The reason is simple: plants do not themselves produce all the nutrition that a vegetable needs but rely instead on the soil. Extraordinary scientific work done in the last three decades has shown the mutualism that exists between plant roots, fungi, and bacteria. Plants receive nutrients such as magnesium, a micronutrient that is essential for the human body, from soil. Yet, in most agricultural landscapes, the soil is depleted from excessive use, repeated cropping, little time for natural regeneration, excessive chemicals and irrigation, and the use of machinery. In the NIN study, for instance, the levels of zinc, boron, iron, magnesium, and copper in foods, all micronutrients vital for soil health, were found to be substantially lower than the levels recorded in the baseline study of 1989.

Negative impact
This isn't just impacting our health. One unintended consequence of such intensive agricultural practices in India has been the rapid decline in the percentage of soil organic carbon, a key component for soil fertility and water retention in soils. It is now known that released carbon has significantly contributed to global warming. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that "the first metre of soil across the globe holds an estimated 1,417 gigatonnes of carbon—almost double the amount in our atmosphere and dozens of times the levels of man-made emissions each year." The degradation of one-third of the world's soils has released up to 78 gigatonnes of carbon into the atmosphere.

A farm worker sprays natural pesticide at a multi-crop farm in Aremanda village, Andhra Pradesh on February, 2024. Farmers, caught in a vortex of debt and declining productivity, would benefit from alternative practices that focus on soil and plant health. | Photo

Credit: AP

We have, through organic agriculture, the potential to reverse this trend.

I met a coffee planter recently in Coorg who has, in just six years, increased the organic carbon across the 50 acres of his estate from 0.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent with sensible management; even as the quality of his coffee beans improved, the estate now sequesters hundreds of tons of carbon, far more than it did before he began his experiment. If we buy his coffee—which he hopes to brand in a couple of years—and support other organic farmers who work on soil health by increasing its carbon and micronutrient content through inter-cropping, manuring, mulching, and humus build-up, it ensures a win-win-win partnership for the farmers, consumers, and the planet.

Climate change is one of the two big environmental challenges confronting the planet; the other being the rapid loss of biodiversity. While attention in India has been focused on the decline in megafauna such as rhinos and elephants, the deleterious impact of pesticide-intensive agriculture in India on smaller lifeforms like insects, crustaceans, and amphibians has been given less priority. This biota has an important role to play in the ecosystem, and chemical sprays destroy life with little discrimination. In a TED talk, regenerative farming expert Gabe Brown said that for every insect that is considered a pest, there are 1,700 beneficial or neutral ones, an astounding testament to both evolutionary design and human folly.

The good news is that, in farms that have bucked the trend and opted for alternative approaches to farming, even where there is a minimum use of chemical fertilizers to address soil deficiencies, the results have been promising. Insects and amphibians in such farms, for instance, have bounced back and have engendered a restoration process.

Research has now taught us that the residues of agrochemicals in our food are over safe limits, and the impact on human health and the costs of treatment have been huge. The impact has been

felt both by consumers and the growers. The best-known example of the latter being the train from Bhatinda (Punjab) to Bikaner (Rajasthan) that was named the "cancer express" because it transported large numbers of people afflicted by cancer caused by agrochemicals in groundwater, the result of the Green Revolution.

There is little data in India on the loss of human life, debilitation, and decline in economic productivity as a consequence of long-term exposure to agrochemicals in our diet; yet all evidence points to significant and worrying consequences. Safe food is not the default on the dining table anymore, and, as consumers, we must be as discerning in our grocery buying as we would be with other investments.

There is one more reason we must consider a switch to organic food: farmers and their families. Farmers are caught in a vortex of debt and declining productivity. They grapple with low financial returns even in crops such as rice and wheat, where the minimum support price was introduced to provide a meaningful profit. If they switch to alternative agriculture and give more attention to soil and plant health, as opposed to a single-minded focus on plant productivity, there may be an immediate drop in output, but then this gradually builds back over years. The initial reduced output then needs a better price and, equally importantly, a predictable price. Across India, a few farmer producer organisations have been created with precisely these objectives, and they need our support as discerning consumers to help the transition to organic agriculture from a niche that caters to the perceived elite to one that is mainstream.

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

IWDC bats for major infra upgrade on National Waterways, to invest Rs 50,000 Cr in five years

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: The Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC), the apex meet for policy deliberation on the promotion & propagation of inland waterways in India, witnessed major announcements to boost infrastructure along national waterways. The second meeting of IWDC, organised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA), the nodal agency for development of waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), announced investments of more than Rs 50,000 crores in next FIVE years.

In this regard, a series of new initiatives across 21 Inland Waterway States were announced worth more than Rs 1400 crores here today.

The meeting was presided by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.

The IWDC began with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony by the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma along with the Sarbananda Sonowal at Kohora in Kaziranga today.

The meet also witnessed ministerial participation from the Union Minister of State for MoPSW,



Shantanu Thakur, the Ports Minister of Goa, Aleixo Sequeira, the Transport Minister of Assam, Jogen Mohan; the Transport Minister of Manipur, Khashim Vashum; the Transport Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Satish Sharma; the Transport Minister of Mizoram, Pu Vanlalhlana and the Transport Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Ojing Tasing among others.

A major policy initiative in the form of Riverine Community Development Scheme was mooted at the IWDC to improve the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities by developing infrastructure, promotion of trade and tourism along with riverine ecosystem, providing skill enrichment trainings and upgrading traditional knowledge of river of the communities in an attempt to upgrade the quality of lives of the people living by the banks of the National Waterways.

Speaking on the occasion, the Sarbananda

Sonowal said, "IWDC has anchored a new vista for cooperative federalism as both the governments at Union and the states discussed, deliberated, debated and dwelled on multiple aspects for strengthening of inland waterways. Historically, the role of inland waterways has been paramount for civilisations. However, this basic tenet of development remained ignored until 2014. At IWDC, we levelled up solutions to tide over challenges in an attempt to unlock the opportunities for economic development. In this regard, we have aimed at launching 1000 Green vessels."

At the IWDC, the Sonowal unveiled initiatives with an investment of more than Rs 1400 crores to boost inland waterways transport network in 21 states of the country.

Highlighting the focus of IWDC on employment generation and skill training, Sonowal said, "Major projects of upgrade in Inland Water

ways Transport (IWT) has been conceived today at the meeting. To build a robust IWT in the country, the government is planning to develop shipbuilding and ship repair facilities across all the NWs. This will reduce logistics costs, boosting the ancillary industries, and encouraging inclusion of riparian communities through employment opportunities. Further to the NINE Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoE) to skill up manpower and encourage innovation & research in the marine and IWT sector being developed by the Ministry, more RCoEs will be created all across the nation."

Building on the success of QPOM on river Ganga (NW1), the facility is now being extended to all the National Waterways, as discussed at the IWDC today.

Sonowal also launched 2 Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanism (QPOM) designed by IIT - Kharagpur which will be deployed in the states

of UP and Bihar. Four locations in Bihar and another four locations in Uttar Pradesh have been identified for installation of QPOM.

On the growth of inland waterways in the country, Sonowal said, "In the current financial year from April to November 2024, National Waterways have recording a growth of almost 7% as compared to last year. Apart from the Northeast, comprehensive development of National Waterways across India including NW-3, NW-4, NW-5 and 13 New National Waterways is also being undertaken at Rs 267 crores. A significant growth has been made in last one decade in river cruise tourism. The river cruise vessels have increased from 3 in 2013 to 25 in 2023-24. Group 48We have also recently launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' to boost cruise tourism in India over next five years, aiming to establish 10 sea cruise terminals, 100 river cruise terminals, and five marinas. Through strategic regional projects and agreements with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and others, we are facilitating regional trade and seamless transport connectivity in South Asia."

All states should destroy clandestine narcotics labs with ruthless approach: Shah



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah while chairing a regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' stated that to tackle this challenge, all states should destroy clandestine laboratories with rigour and take legal action against them with a ruthless approach.

The problem of illegal clandestine labs is rapidly increasing across the country. These labs are involved in the production of narcotic substances, counterfeit drugs, and dangerous chemicals. They are often operated by organized crime networks, which not only harm society but also pose a threat to the country's internal security and economy.

In various states, these labs produce narcotic substances like cocaine and synthetic drugs, which promote addiction among the youth, leading to increased tension in families and a rise in crime within society. Meanwhile, counterfeit drugs not only pose a threat to the lives of patients but also raise questions about the quality of healthcare services. Moreover, many of these illegal labs are linked to terrorist organizations, which use them to raise financial resources and create instability in society.

Since 2019, the Modi Govt has changed its approach towards tackling the drugs menace. The Govt is moving forward with a ruthless approach against the drug supply chain, a strategic approach for demand reduction, and

a human approach for the victims. There is a need to increase the use of PIT-NDPS (Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act). In this regard, all states need to take proactive steps to enhance the capacity of forensic labs instead of relying solely on the Centre for support.

For drug-related investigations, there is a need to adopt both 'top-to-bottom' and 'bottom-to-top' approaches. No narcotics case should be treated as an isolated incident, and investigations must continue until the entire network behind it is uncovered. Only then can this problem be eradicated. To eliminate a vast network from its roots, it is crucial to thoroughly investigate each case and completely dismantle it.

Adopting a ruthless approach against illegal clandestine labs is the need of the hour. All states must develop a solid strategy while strengthening their legal and intelligence mechanisms. Eradicating these labs is not only essential for maintaining law and order but also crucial for the safety of society and the progress of the nation.

BED candidate Leela Bee calls on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 15: Leela Bee, a BED candidate, called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), to apprise him of discrepancies in her BED examination results and the issues faced by her due to errors in the registration process.

Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, and Secretary, Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha, were present in the meeting.

Leela informed the LG that she had successfully cleared all subjects in the first semester from University of Kashmir. However, during the second-semester examinations held in July 2023, an internal backlog was created for the subject "Teaching of Social Science" (BEDSPL15202A). Despite appearing for the theory paper and having internal marks sent by the college, her registration with the University was erroneously done under "Teaching of Science" (BEDSPL15202C), a subject not voluntarily chosen by her. This

error has led to multiple issues with her examination results, she alleged.

Leela informed LG that she has made numerous visits and complaints to Composite Regional Centre regarding this issue, but no resolution has been provided to her to date. The college has addressed this matter through a letter to the Controller of Examination, University of Kashmir, she also informed. Additionally, she informed HLG that she had taken the issue to the Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, UT Ladakh. The office of the Commissioner/Secretary has also written to the Controller of Examination, University of Kashmir, but the matter remains unresolved, Leela alleged.

In response, the LG asked Leela to meet Secretary, Higher Education, Banu Prabha, so that the latter could take up the matter with the Controller of Examination, Kashmir University to resolve the issue. He also asked Secretary, Higher Education, Bhanu Prabha, to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Central Veterinary Hospital launches Ground-breaking compendium

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 15: In a significant milestone for veterinary medicine in Kashmir the Central Veterinary Hospital (CVH) has released its first comprehensive compendium, aimed at enhancing the understanding and treatment of various animal health issues.

This groundbreaking document was officially unveiled by the Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir Dr.Parvinder Singh Sudan during an impressive function. The compendium serves as an essential resource for veterinarians, veterinary students, and animal health professionals.

It consolidates valuable research findings, clinical practices, and case studies that reflect the latest advancements in veterinary medicine. The Director emphasized that this publication is intended to bridge gaps in knowledge and provide practitioners with evidence-based guidelines to improve patient care.

The compendium includes sections on common zoonotic diseases, surgical techniques, emergency care protocols, and preventive health measures. Each section is meticulously curated to ensure that it reflects current best practices and scientific research.

Additionally, the compendium features contributions from various specialists within the hospital, showcasing a collaborative effort to enhance veterinary education

Expressed a vision for continuous improve-

ment in veterinary practices through education and collaboration. "This compendium is not just a book; it's a commitment to our mission of advancing animal health and welfare," said Dr.Sudan. The hospital plans to update the compendium regularly to incorporate new findings and innovations in veterinary science.

Speaking on the occasion Superintendent CVH Dr.Syed Altaf Gilani said, "The release of this compendium is expected to have a profound impact on local communities by equipping veterinarians with better tools for diagnosis and treatment. By improving veterinary practices, the Central Veterinary Hospital aims to enhance overall animal health outcomes in the region."

The publication of this first compendium marks an important step forward for Central Veterinary Hospital as it strives to lead in veterinary education and practice. With ongoing updates planned for future editions, this initiative underscores the hospital's dedication to excellence in animal healthcare and their welfare.

The Meeting was attended by Joint Director Dr.D.K Gupta, Deputy Director Central Dr Riyaz Nazir Deputy Director planning Dr Shabir Ahmad, Chief Animal Husbandry officers of different districts and officers from research, Poultry, and Livestock development board and Media wing of the Animal Husbandry Department and Technical officer.

Delegation comprising anaesthesia technician/assistant aspirants call on LG Brig Mishra

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 15: A delegation comprising anaesthesia technician/assistant aspirants led by Lotus Lamo called on the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. Principal Secretary, Sanjeev Khirwar, and Director Health Services, Dr Tashi Thinles were present in the meeting.

Lotus Lamo informed the LG about the delay in notification for fill-

ing up vacant posts of anaesthesia technician/assistant in the Health and Medical Education Department, with the last recruitment for the same post haven taken place more than a decade back. She and other delegates requested the HLG's intervention in advertising the vacant posts so that aspirants like them could appear in the exam.

Secretary, GAD, Michael D'Souza, informed the HLG over the phone that Health

and Medical Education Department need to send a requisition to Ladakh Subordinate Services Selection Board (LSSSB) to advertise the UT-level posts after getting the nod from the Empowered Committee following which the said posts would be advertised in the next phase of the recruitment exam.

The LG asked Director Health Services to do the needful and send the requisition and asked the delegates to start preparation for the exam.

Karnah Treasury faces fund shortage GP Fund, gratuity bills pending, employees in distress

Top News Report

KARNAH, Jan 15: A severe shortage of funds in the Karnah Treasury has left hundreds of current and retired employees, along with contractors, unable to access their savings. This financial crisis has caused significant distress, with bills worth crores of rupees pending clearance.

According to sources, GP Fund bills amounting to ₹10 crores have been stuck since September 26, 2024. Additionally, gratuity and other GP Fund and CP Fund bills worth ₹4.25 crores, ₹9 lakhs in arrears, ₹4.90 crores for contractors, ₹30 lakhs for SLI, ₹6 lakhs in land compensation, and ₹3 lakhs in R&B deposits are yet to be processed.

The shortage of funds is disrupting government payments and other financial operations. Local employees have expressed their



frustration, stating that GP Fund withdrawals are often essential during emergencies, such as for children's weddings, house construction or repairs, or medical treatments. However, they are unable to access their own money due to the treasury's empty coffers.

A female employee shared her struggle, saying, "I am exhausted from repeated visits to the treasury. Despite completing all required paperwork and submitting my file three months ago, there is no clarity on when I'll receive my funds. We are being

told the treasury has no money."

Several employees reported starting construction projects with the assumption that their funds would be released promptly. However, their files have been left unattended for months, forcing creditors to visit their homes and demand repayment.

Employees and contractors have called on the government to take immediate action to resolve the treasury's financial crisis. They urge authorities to ensure sufficient funds are available to clear pending bills and alleviate the hardships faced by the public.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of District Good Governance Index

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 15: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, on Wednesday reviewed the monthly progress of the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) of the District Kishtwar.

The meeting aimed to assess the impact of various governance interventions across sectors based on the predefined parameters of the DGGI.

The DC conducted a comprehensive review, covering sector-specific performance in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Employment, Education, Health, Rural Development, Public Infrastructure, Jal Shakti, Banks, and others.

The focus was on evaluating governance measures under the DGGI framework and analyzing indicators to gain insights into the current status and progress over time.



The DC emphasized the need for departments to focus on improving the performance of DGGI indicators in the health sector, such as immunization, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), and institutional deliveries. In this regard, he directed the concerned authorities to organize awareness camps by Anganwadi Workers and ASHA Workers.

He also urged officers to analyze past indices to identify gaps and devise strategies to bridge them to achieve desired outcomes. DC Kishtwar encour

aged departmental officers to work with heightened enthusiasm and dedication to enhance developmental outcomes within the DGGI framework, with a focus on adopting good governance practices.

The line departments were given timelines to achieve the targets.

The meeting was attended by DSEO Kishtwar Akhil Thakur, ALC Kishtwar Mamta Sudershan, EO Municipality Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, CEO Kishtwar Javed Ahmed Kitchloo, DSHO Kishtwar, ExEn PMGSH, ExEn Jal Shakti, and other sectoral heads.

Salman Khan invites specially-abled kid to host 'Bigg Boss 17'

Last seen as a cameo in 'Singham Again', the Bollywood actor welcomed the kid with a bright smile and fulfilled his dream of hosting the show

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who was last seen in a cameo role in 'Singham Again', showcased his generosity on the sets of the reality television show 'Bigg Boss 17', as he fulfilled the dream of a specially-abled kid by allowing him to host the show.

The actor welcomed the specially-abled child on the sets of the show, greeting him with a bright smile. As the boy expressed his desire to host the show, Salman graciously invited him on stage and gave him the opportunity to live his dream.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Salman will be next seen in the upcoming movie 'Sikandar'. The film marks his return to the big screen after more than a year. The superstar was last seen in 'Tiger 3'. The teaser is further elevated by an electrifying background score composed by the acclaimed Santosh Narayanan, whose music perfectly complements the intensity and grandeur of the visuals.



The film is directed by A.R. Murugadoss, who is known for 'Ghajini', and also stars Rashmika Mandanna opposite Salman Khan.

'Sikandar' marks the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after their 2014 blockbuster, 'Kick', which also marked the directorial debut for the latter.

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, 'Sikandar' promises to be a cinematic spectacle that blends action, drama, and emotion.

'Sikandar' is being developed with a strong focus on engaging storytelling and dynamic performances, setting the stage for yet another memorable Salman Khan performance.

Meanwhile, Rashmika, also has 'Chhaava' in the pipeline opposite Vicky Kaushal. In 'Chhaava', the actress will be seen in the role of Yeshubai Bhosle, wife of Sambhaji Maharaj along with Akshaye Khanna, Ashutosh Rana and Divya Dutta in supporting roles.

Nargis Fakhri says Bollywood dancing is 'tough'



Nargis Fakhri rose to prominence in Bollywood with her performance in Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Rockstar. In an interview with agency, the actor opened up about feeling exhausted by certain aspects of the industry and discussed how she finds Bollywood dancing 'as alien as Hindi'.

After Torbaaz in 2020, Nargis took a break from Bollywood before returning with the Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta-starrer Shiv Shastri Balboa. Without giving details, she revealed that she had to go through an

'unfortunate situation' that stopped her from returning to Bollywood. She further added that the need to cater to male egos in the industry did not cause her to recoil or leave Bollywood.

Nargis Fakhri was never comfortable with Bollywood dance routines

Nargis, who has been a part of item songs like Dhating Naach from Phata Poster Nikhla Hero, talked about the 'tough' conventional Bollywood dance routines and shared, "The heaving thrusting buttocks is tough. When they give you the move-

ments forty minutes before they are shot and then you have to learn the steps and lip-sync, you have to be a seasoned dancer to get a hang of it, which I am not. It's very difficult for my mind and body to be in sync because I have learned western dancing. Bollywood dancing is very different."

She further added, "Bollywood dancing is as alien to me as Hindi. I am just enjoying learning it. There is a lot of heaving and boob-thrusting, which I found difficult at first. But I was okay after a while. There are so many people indulging in so many activities on the sets. Come to think of it, everything here in Mumbai is culturally very different from everywhere else."

Nargis Fakhri's upcoming movie

Nargis Fakhri is currently busy shooting for her film Housefull 5. Helmed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film also stars Sonam Bajwa, Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Nana Patekar, Chunky Pandey, Jackie Shroff, and Dino Morea. The film is scheduled to release in theatres this year.

Hina Khan filmed Griha Laxmi while she had cancer, and she didn't even know it

Hina Khan is returning to the screen for the first time since her cancer diagnosis and treatment. Her new show, Griha Laxmi, will begin streaming on Epic On this week. Ahead of the release, the actor speaks to agency about her journey, return to work, and new kickass avatar in the show.

Hina Khan on Griha Laxmi

Griha Laxmi stars Hina as the titular character, Laxmi, who transforms from an everyday woman to a gangster. Ask her about the obvious comparisons with Breaking Bad, and Hina responds, "Breaking Bad is very different. He (Walter White, the show's protagonist) was not embarrassed. This is a very different situation. This is somebody who doesn't want to do it, is reluctant. But that majboori becomes her aadat (habit)."

Talking about her character in the show, Hina explains, "It's not that she wants harm for anyone or she wants to kill people. In fact, something like this happens, and she's the one who gets devastated because she's not that person. She just wants

to enjoy power."

Hina says she borrowed a lot from her own struggles, particularly how she fought adversity, to flesh out Laxmi's character. She says, "I took a lot of, I wouldn't say, inspiration, but little tiny bits from my own journey, like, how when things don't go as planned, and when, when you go through tough times in life, adversity, like, how do you deal with it? What gives you that strength and courage? What keeps you going? And what is that one point where you take that different call."

Hina Khan on cancer and recovery

Griha Laxmi was shot on location in Uttarakhand last year when Hina was not even aware of her cancer. "I was diagnosed as soon as I landed in Mumbai (after finishing the shoot). I had it, but I didn't know it." The actor says that it was probably a blessing in disguise as it allowed her to finish filming without the psychological or physical burden of the illness. "The treatment is exhausting," she says.

Ever since she was diagnosed last year, Hina has been verbal

about her journey, sharing updates on social media. She explains why: "What gives me peace and happiness is when I have some peace to share, which can help the other person in their journey."

worked in television for years, Hina has ventured into the streaming world and admits that this new medium's approach is '1,000% different'. She explains, "We all know television is OTT; with all due respect, it is over the top. By over the top, I don't mean that the television actors are over the top performances or that they don't know how to perform. What I mean is that the television medium demands over-the-top performance. If we go subtle, people may not watch."

In the new year, Hina says she wants to leave the struggles of 2024 behind. "I am happy with the way 2025 has begun with Griha Laxmi, and I am really looking forward," she says, adding, "I have had a very tough and very hard 2024. In 2025, I only pray for good health, healing and a lot of work."

Griha Laxmi, created



by Prahlad Kakkar, stars Chunky Pandey, Rahul Dev, and Diby-

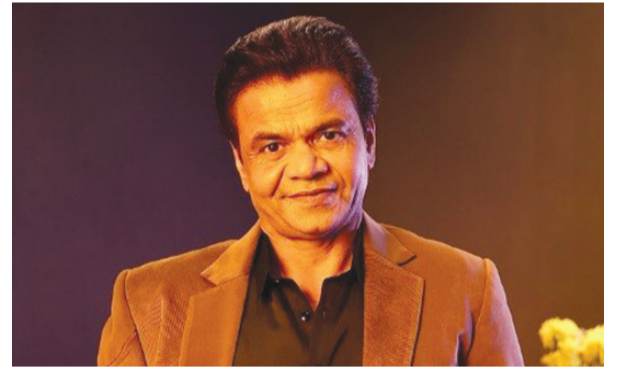
endu Bhattacharya. It premieres on Epic On on January 16.

Rajpal Yadav on Baby John's failure: Would've worked if it wasn't a remake

Actor Rajpal Yadav, who co-starred with Varun Dhawan in Baby John, shared his take on why the film tanked at the box office. The actor played Constable Ram Sevak in the film and received praises for attempting action for the first time in his career.

Rajpal Yadav addressed Baby John's failure. He told Bollywood Bubble, "If this wasn't a remake, then this would have been the most well-made film of my 25-year career. But since Vijay had done it, the audience had already seen it and because it was a remake, it affected the box office of the film."

Rajpal was asked whether Varun was upset by Baby John's failure. Denying it, the actor added, "Varun is



such a sweet boy, very hardworking. He has always tried to do something different, and his attempts must be appreciated because it's a big deal to take risks."

Made on a budget of over Rs 180 crore, Baby John opened to Rs 11.25 crore in cinemas. The film's numbers drastically fell on the second day, earning Rs 4.75 crore. As per a Sacilk report, the film's daily earnings have

dipped below a crore now.

The film is struggling to touch the Rs 40 crore-mark in India.

Baby John is the Hindi remake of Thalapathy Vijay's Tamil film, Theri. It also stars Keerthy Suresh and Wamiqa Gabbi in important roles. The primary antagonist role in the film is played by Jackie Shroff with cameo appearances by Salman Khan and Sanya Malhotra.

Sara Ali Khan gave up her phone to prep for Sky Force role

As the historical war drama Sky Force is gearing up for its release, Sara Ali Khan has been getting a lot of attention and appreciation for her role ever since the film's trailer dropped. Portraying the role of the wife of an army official, here's how Sara prepared for her character.

"Sara Ali Khan used to sit quietly on the set and focus on her script and delivery. She consciously avoided distractions on set to remain emotionally grounded for key scenes," sources close to the project revealed.

"Her approach allowed her to fully inhabit the role of a soldier's wife to be able to portray the dealing of hope and uncertainty perfectly together. She would nei-



ther use her phone nor anything else that could divert her attention," the sources added further. Debutante Veer Pahariya will be seen in the role of an army officer,

who is Sara's husband, in the movie. Besides Veer and Sara, the movie also features Akshay Kumar as Wing Commander K.O. Ahuja, Nimrat Kaur as

his wife, Sharad Kelkar, Mohit Chauhan, and Manish Chaudhari.

Produced by Jio Studios in collaboration with Maddock Films and Leo Films UK Production, Sky Force was initially slated to release on October 2, 2024, but now, it will release on January 24, 2025, ahead of Republic Day.

For Sara Ali Khan, on the work front, she will be next seen in Anurag Basu's upcoming movie Metro In Dino, along with Aditya Roy Kapur, Anupam Kher, Ali Fazal, Kay Kay Menon, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Rahul Bose, and Neena Gupta. Reportedly, she is also starring with Ayushmann Khurrana for an untitled drama.

Nithya Menen talks about the 'clear cut' hierarchy in the film industry

Nithya Menen is promoting her upcoming film Kadhalikka Neramillai and spoke about how her name was placed first on the poster instead of Jayam Ravi's. Talking to agency, she spoke about the 'clear cut' hierarchy that exists in the film industry.

Nithya Menen on hierarchy in the film industry

Nithya was asked about how Ravi recently mentioned in an interview that Kadhalikka Neramillai is the first time he was working with a female director, Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi, and that Nithya's name was placed first in the poster because she had an equally important role in the film.

The actor replied, "When I saw Nithya's name first, that means, it's healing something in people's consciousness. Maybe the injustice they had to go through or times they felt inferior, it gets healed a little bit. I consider things like this path breaking, and not just Kiru or me, but Ravi is also a part of that. Because he said, go ahead, do it."

Nithya explained further that



in the film industry, the hero and director always come before the female lead. She said, "There's a clear cut hierarchy, right? Hero, director, heroine - hierarchy. That's how it is. That's how your caravans are placed, that's how you're called on stage. If an aarti is taken that's the order they'll give it to you. It's not even the order the people are standing. It bothers me, all of this is

like...really? You want to live a life like this? This is so small minded, just be normal. Be natural. Give people credit where they deserve, whether they're a woman or man."

The actor also mentioned that she has been on sets where there was 'pin drop silence' after she performed a scene people have liked but after the male lead gives a 'mediocre performance' the whole set has clapped and cheered for him.

Upcoming work
Apart from Kadhalikka Neramillai, Nithya will star in Dhanush's directorial Idli Kadai, which will also feature him in the lead role. She also has Dear Exes lined up and is co-starring with Vijay Sethupathi in his next.

While talking to Behindwoods, Nithya recently revealed that she wanted to silently quit the film industry before winning her National Award for Thiruchitrabalam. She said, "This is a profession that I don't like. If I get an option, I'd leave."

Govt committed to welfare of armed forces, their families: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the Indian Army for its determination, professionalism and dedication, and underlined his government's commitment to the welfare of armed forces and their families.

In posts on X on Army Day, he said, "Today, on Army Day, we salute the unwavering courage of the Indian Army, which stands as the sentinel of our nation's security. We also remember the sacrifices made by the bravehearts who ensure the safety of crores of Indians every day." The Indian Army, he said,



epitomises determination, professionalism and dedication.

In addition to safeguarding our borders, it has made a mark

in providing humanitarian help during natural disasters, he added.

He said, "Our government is committed to the welfare of the armed forces and their families. Over the years, we have introduced several reforms and focused on modernisation. This will continue in the times to come."

Army Day is observed to commemorate the milestone of General K M Cariappa, who later became Field Marshal, taking over as the Army chief from General F R R Bucher in 1949, becoming the first Indian in that position.

Sonia Gandhi inaugurates Congress' new Kotla Road headquarters



NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi during the inauguration ceremony of party's new headquarters at Kotla Road, in New Delhi, on Wednesday.

Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the party's new headquarters located at 9A, Kotla Road here on Wednesday, marking a key moment in the history of the grand old party which has operated from the 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal, among other senior party leaders, were present on the occasion.

The event saw party leaders hoist the party flag at the new headquarters and the singing of Vande Matram and the national anthem.

Sonia Gandhi then inaugurated the building, asking Kharge to join her in cutting the ribbon at the entry of the building.

The new state-of-the-

art AICC headquarters -- Indira Gandhi Bhawan - symbolises the Congress party's continuing mission to uphold the vision of its stalwarts, the party had earlier said.

"It is time for us to move ahead with the times and embrace the new," AICC general secretary, organisation, Venugopal had said.

The construction of Indira Gandhi Bhawan was started during Sonia Gandhi's tenure as Congress chief.

"Situated at 9A, Kotla Road, New Delhi, the Indira Gandhi Bhawan is designed to meet the evolving needs of the party and its leaders, featuring modern facilities to support administrative, organisational, and strategic activities.

"This iconic building reflects the Congress party's forward-looking vision while paying homage to its extraordinary past, which has shaped the political and social fabric of India," he had said.

Sources have said the party will not vacate its present 24, Akbar Road office, which has been its headquarters since 1978 after the Congress (I) was formed, and it will continue to house

some of its cells.

The construction of the new AICC headquarters was delayed by several years owing to "paucity of funds" ever since the Congress lost its government at the Centre. The BJP has also not vacated its old party headquarters at 11, Ashoka Road, even after shifting to its new headquarters at Deendayal Upadhyay Marg.

Congress old-timers and romantics agree that modern amenities and a larger area are the need of the hour but the emotional connect and unfolding of history associated with the 24, Akbar Road address will always stay strong.

The Akbar Road bungalow once housed Sir Reginald Maxwell, who was a member of Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's executive council. It was also home to a teen Aung San Suu Kyi in 1961 when her mother was appointed ambassador to India.

The Congress has been its mainstay though. More than just an office for the party, the premises set in expansive lawns was witness to the tenure of seven Congress presidents.

ED gets Centre's nod to prosecute Kejriwal, Sisodia in excise policy case

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): The Union Home Ministry has granted sanction to the Enforcement Directorate to prosecute former Delhi chief minister and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy linked money laundering case, officials said.

The Centre has also given its nod to prosecute former Delhi deputy chief minister and senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia in the case.

Last month, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended the ED's request to the Centre to prosecute Kejriwal, which enraged AAP. The party had termed Kejriwal's arrest by CBI and ED completely "unauthorised and illegal".

The federal agency has filed a chargesheet against Kejriwal before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here last year after arresting him in March.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently granted the required sanction to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for prosecuting the 56-year-old politician under the anti-money laundering law in the Delhi excise policy case, officials said.

The development comes ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls on February 5.

Kejriwal has been made an accused in his personal capacity



as well as in the capacity of being the national convenor of his political party AAP.

The former chief minister was called the "kingpin and key conspirator" of the Delhi excise "scam" by the ED.

It was alleged that he acted in collusion with Delhi government minister, the AAP leaders and others.

The ED had earlier claimed that AAP, being a political party, is defined as an association or a body of individual citizens of India under the Representation of the People Act and hence it can be categorised as a "company" as contemplated under Section 70 of the PMLA.

As Kejriwal was "in-charge of and responsible" for the said company i.e. AAP during the time of offence, he and his party "shall be deemed guilty" of offences mentioned under the anti-money laundering law and liable to be prosecuted and punished, it had said.

The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena had recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities. Subsequently, the ED registered a case under the PMLA.

Taking cognisance of a CBI FIR lodged on August 17, 2022, the ED filed its money laundering case on August 22, 2022 to probe the alleged irregularities.

Why did the probe agency not apply for sanction earlier?

On November 20, Kejriwal had approached the Delhi High Court seeking to quash a local court's July 9 order, taking cognisance of the 200-page charge sheet filed by the ED. Kejriwal challenged the trial court's order on grounds of lack of sanction to prosecute him and subsequently sought a pause on the trial court proceedings in the money laundering case. The AAP leader's plea came in the wake of November 6 apex court's ruling that requirement for prior government sanction to prosecute public servants, as mandated under the CrPC, also applies to complaints involving money laundering cases. The SC order came on ED's petition challenging the HC decision quashing an order of the trial court that had taken cognisance of the ED's prosecution complaint on money laundering charges against

Andhra Pradesh's senior bureaucrats -- Bibhu Prasad Acharya and Adityanath Das.

The ED had contended that considering the object of the PMLA, the requirement of obtaining a sanction under Section 197(1) of CrPC will be inconsistent with Section 71 of the PMLA.

According to ED sources, before SC's ruling it was not mandatory for them to take sanction for prosecution.

In the latest prosecution sanction document, accessed by The Tribune, the ED mentions that Supreme Court had, in the case of ED vs Bibhu Prasad Acharya & others clarified, that the Provision of CrPC applied to Section 65 of the PMLA and Section 71(1) "cannot override the provision of CrPC which applies to the PMLA" vide its judgment dated November 6.

"In view of the above fact and circumstances, Sanction may be required for prosecution to Arvind Kejriwal, former CM, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, for offence of Money Laundering under Section 4 of PMLA..." the sanction added.

On the official document, the vigilance department had also made observations, stating that they found the matter "grave in nature" and directed a proposal be submitted to L-G for his recommendations before referring it to MHA.

New Congress office should be named Sardar Manmohan Singh Bhavan: BJP

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): The ruling BJP on Wednesday said the Congress should name its new headquarters -- 9A, Kotla Road -- after late prime minister Manmohan Singh as a mark of tribute to him.

BJP social media chief Amit Malviya, referring to posters that appeared on the walls of AICC office ahead of its formal inauguration on Wednesday, said: "Posters outside the new Congress headquarters call for it to be named Sardar Manmohan Singh Bhavan, as

a tribute to the former Prime Minister."

Malviya said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi once referred to Dr Singh as a mentor.

"Yet he chose to travel to Vietnam for the New Year while the nation mourned his passing. Furthermore, no Congress representative came forward to collect his ashes. Naming the building after him would be a meaningful gesture to honor his legacy and address the disrespect he endured during his lifetime, particularly from the Gandhi family.

It is now up to them to make the right decision," Malviya said. The new Congress office was formally inaugurated by Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi in the presence of party top brass.

Around 286 rare photos of Congress leaders and historical moments the party witnessed as the principal driver of the freedom movement dot the walls of the AICC office.

At the entrance are two pictures -- of current president Mallikarjun Kharge and first president WB Banerjee.

Over 100 flights delayed at Delhi airport as dense fog reduces visibility

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Dense fog blanketed parts of the national capital on Wednesday morning, reducing visibility and disrupting over 100 flights and 26 trains.

The minimum temperature dropped to 6 degrees Celsius, 1.4 notches below normal, as the city experienced another chilly morning.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported minimum visibility of 200 metres in moderate fog with calm winds at Safdarjung and 150 metres in dense fog with calm winds at Palam around 5:30 am.

All runways at IGI Airport are operating under CAT-III conditions, with the Runway Visual Range (RVR) ranging between 75 and 300 metres.

Delhi airport operator DIAL said while landings and takeoffs continue at the airport, flights that are not CAT III-compliant may get affected.

CAT III facility allows flight operations in low visibility conditions.



As per information available on Flightradar24.com, over 100 flights were delayed on Wednesday.

"Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a post on X at 7.35 am.

The IMD has issued an orange alert for Delhi, with dense to very dense fog reported in several areas. An orange alert is issued for bad weather that can disrupt rail and road services.

It has asked people to exercise caution while driving or travelling during foggy conditions, ensure the use of fog lights for better visibility, and stay updated on schedules by coordinating with

airlines, railway authorities, and state transport services to avoid disruptions.

Cloudy skies are expected throughout the day, with light rain or drizzle likely in some areas, the IMD said.

The humidity level at 8.30 am was recorded at 97 per cent while the maximum temperature is expected to settle around 19 degrees Celsius.

3.5 cr devotees take holy dip in Sangam on 1st 'Amrit Snan'

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): More than 3.5 crore devotees took part in the first 'Amrit Snan' at the Sangam -- the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers -- in Prayagraj on the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti' on Tuesday.

Laurene Powell Jobs, widow of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, developed an allergic reaction at the fair. Laurene is on a spiritual visit to India. Spiritual leader Swami Kailashanand Giri said, "Laurene is resting at my 'shivir'. She has some allergies. She has never been to such a crowded place.

She stayed with us during the puja."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Today, on the first Amrit Snan festival, more than 3.5 crore revered saints and devotees took the holy dip... Greetings to all revered saints, Kalpvasis and devotees who took a holy dip of faith in the holy confluence of 'Makar Sankranti' at the grand confluence of faith, equality and unity Maha Kumbh."

The 'Amrit Snan' began at 3 am. With their bodies smeared in ash and carrying spears and trishuls, Naga sadhus moved in a procession

with some riding horses as they made their way to the Sangam. Rose petals were showered from helicopters on the devotees during their 'Amrit Snan'.

Previously known as 'Shahi Snan,' the 'Amrit Snan' is a holy dip performed by saints and devotees at the Sangam during the Maha Kumbh. It is believed to cleanse sins hence attracting millions of Hindu pilgrims to partake in this ritual.

Over 600 people were reunited at the lost and found centre during the fair in Prayagraj, as millions of devotees thronged the mela area on Tuesday.

Dire fire warning for Los Angeles area pushed back as winds ease

LOS ANGELES, Jan 15 (Agencies): Easing winds delivered a brief but much-needed reprieve to firefighters Tuesday as they battled two massive blazes burning in the Los Angeles area, and the National Weather Service pushed back its unusually dire warning of critical fire weather until early the following day.

Forecasters said the winds were below danger levels in the evening, but they were expected to strengthen overnight with potentially fire-fuelling gusts. Red flag warnings remained in effect from Central California to the Mexican border until late afternoon Wednesday.

Winds increased Tuesday but not to the near-hurricane-force levels that were predicted to happen earlier in the day. Still the danger was not over, officials said.

"Key message: We are not out of the woods yet," the National Weather Service in Los Angeles said in a post on social media. "The winds underperformed today, but one more enhancement could happen tonight-tomorrow."

This round of Santa Ana winds was not expected to be as mighty as last week, but they could carry fire-sparking embers for miles and stoke new outbreaks in a region where at least 25 people have already been killed.

Firefighters made more progress on the Palisades Fire, the largest and most stubborn blaze. CalFire Operations Section Chief Christian Litz said he took a helicopter ride around the perimeter and saw no active flames, though it was far from over.

Nearly 90,000 households lost electricity as utilities shut off power to prevent their lines from sparking new blazes.

A state of alert Weary and anxious residents were told to be ready to flee at a moment's notice. They remained vigilant, keeping an eye on the skies and on each other: Police announced roughly 50 arrests, for looting, flying drones in fire zones, violating curfew and other crimes.

Of those, three people were arrested on suspicion of arson after being seen setting small fires that were immediately extinguished, LA Police Chief Jim McDonnell said. One was using a barbecue lighter, another ignited brush and a third tried to light up a trash can, he said. All were far outside the disaster zones. Authorities have not determined a cause for any of the major fires.

Among nine people charged with looting was a group that stole an Emmy from an evacuated house, Los Angeles County District



Attorney Nathan Hochman said.

The biggest worry remained the threat from intense winds. Now backed by firefighters from other states, Canada and Mexico, crews were deployed to attack flare-ups or new blazes. The firefighting force was much bigger than a week ago, when the first wave of fires began destroying thousands of homes in what could become the nation's costliest fire disaster.

Kaylin Johnson and her family planned to spend the night at their home, one of the few left standing in her neighbourhood in Altadena, near Pasadena. They intend-

ed to keep watch to ward off looting and to hose down the house and her neighbours' properties to prevent flare-ups.

"Our lives have been put on hold indefinitely," Johnson said via text message, adding that they cannot freely come and go because of restrictions on entering the burn areas. "But I would rather be here and not leave than to not be allowed back at all."

An unusual and ominous warning

Tuesday's forecast included a rare warning: The winds, combined with severely dry conditions, have created a "Particularly Dangerous Situa-

tion," the National Weather service said, meaning that any new fire could explode in size.

The forecast was later adjusted to say gusts were expected to pick up strength early Wednesday.

Residents said they were ready to make a hasty escape.

Javier Vega, who said he feels like he has been "sleeping with one eye open," and his girlfriend have planned out how they can quickly pack up their two cats, eight fish and leopard gecko if they get orders to evacuate.

"Typically on any other night, hearing helicopters flying overhead from mid-

night to 4:00 in the morning, that would drive anyone crazy," Vega said. But figuring they were helping firefighters to keep the flames from threatening their neighbourhood, he explained, "it was actually soothing for me to go to sleep."

Preparing for another outbreak

Planes doused homes and hillsides with bright pink fire-retardant chemicals, while crews and fire engines deployed to particularly vulnerable spots with dry brush.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and other officials who were criticised over their initial response expressed confidence that the region is ready to face the new threat. The mayor said she was able to fly over the disaster areas, which she described as resembling the aftermath of a "dry hurricane."

Winds this time were not expected to reach the same fierce speeds seen last week but could ground firefighting aircraft, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said.

He urged homeless people to avoid starting fires for warmth and to seek shelter.

Wildfires on the rise across LA

With almost no rain in more than eight months, the brush-filled region has had more than a dozen wildfires this year, mostly in the greater Los Angeles area.

Firefighters have been

jumping on small blazes that pop up. One, in a dry riverbed near Oxnard Monday night, was quickly smothered. "We've got helicopters ready to go, to drop water on any new fires," said Andrew Dowd, a spokesperson for the Ventura County Fire Department.

The four largest fires around the nation's second-biggest city have scorched more than 63 square miles (163 square kilometers), roughly three times the size of Manhattan. Of these, the Eaton Fire near Pasadena was roughly one-third contained, while the largest blaze, in Pacific Palisades on the coast, was far less contained.

Searching for victims

The death toll is likely to rise, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna. Nearly 30 people were still missing, he said Tuesday. Some people reported as missing earlier have been found.

Just under 90,000 people in the county remained under evacuation orders, half the number from last week.

Hollywood's awards season has been put on hiatus because of the crisis. The Oscar nominations have been delayed twice, and some organisations postponed their awards shows and announcements without rescheduling.

Elon Musk sued by US Securities regulator over late Twitter stake disclosure

NEW YORK, Jan 15 (Agencies): The US Securities and Exchange Commission has sued billionaire Elon Musk, saying he failed to disclose his ownership of Twitter stock in a timely manner in early 2022, before buying the social media site.

As a result, the SEC alleges, Musk was able to underpay "by at least USD 150 million" for shares he bought after he should have disclosed his ownership of more than 5 per cent of Twitter's shares. Musk bought Twitter in October 2022 and later renamed it X.

Musk started amassing Twitter shares in early 2022, and by March of that year, he owned more than 5 per cent. At this point, the complaint says, he was required by law to disclose his ownership but he failed to do so until



April 4, 11 days after the report was due.

Representatives for X and Musk did not immediately return a message for comment.

After Musk signed a deal to acquire Twitter in April 2022, he tried to back out of it, leading the company to sue him to force him to go through with the acquisition.

The SEC has said that starting in April 2022, it authorised an investigation into whether any securities laws were

broken in connection with Musk's purchases of Twitter stock and his statements and SEC filings related to the company.

Before it filed the lawsuit, the SEC went to court in an attempt to compel Musk to testify as part of an investigation into his purchase of Twitter.

The SEC's current chair, Gary Gensler, plans to step down from his post on January 20 and it is not clear if the new administration will continue the lawsuit.

South Korea's impeached President Yoon arrested over martial law fiasco

SEOUL, Jan 15 (Agencies): South Korean authorities arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday over insurrection allegations, with the embattled leader saying he agreed to comply with investigations to avoid "bloodshed", ending weeks of tense political standoff.

Since lawmakers voted to stand him down after his stunning, short-lived declaration of martial law on December 3, Yoon has been holed up at his hillside residence, guarded by a small army of personal security that blocked a previous arrest attempt.

His arrest, the first ever for an incumbent president, is the latest head-spinning development for one of Asia's most vibrant democracies even though the country has a history of prosecuting and imprisoning



former leaders.

A defiant Yoon said he submitted himself for questioning to avoid any violence after more than 3,000 police officers marched on his residence to arrest him from the early hours on Wednesday.

"When I saw them

break into the security area using firefighting equipment today, I decided to respond to the CIO's investigation - despite it being an illegal investigation - to prevent unsavoury bloodshed," Yoon said in a statement.

Yoon was seen arriving

in his motorcade at the offices of the anti-corruption agency heading the probe on Wednesday morning.

Authorities now have 48 hours to question Yoon, after which they must seek a warrant to detain him for up to 20 days or release him.

Yoon's lawyers have argued attempts to detain Yoon are illegal and are designed to publicly humiliate him.

As local news broadcasters reported that Yoon's detention may come soon, some minor scuffles broke out between tearful pro-Yoon protesters and police near the residence, according to a Reuters witness at the scene.

Yoon's declaration of martial law stunned South Koreans, rattled Asia's fourth largest economy and ushered in an unprecedented period of political turmoil. Lawmakers voted to impeach him and remove him from duties on December 14.

Separately, the Constitutional Court is deliberating whether to uphold that impeachment and permanently remove him from office or restore his presidential powers.

FIA books Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Gill, YouTuber Pirzada for propagating anti-state activities

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan), Jan 15 (Agencies): The Cyber Crime Wing of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Islamabad has booked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill and YouTuber Moeed Pirzada in separate cases for allegedly promoting anti-state activities and disseminating propaganda against the state and its institutions on social media. The Express Tribune reported.

The two suspects who reside abroad have been found involved in anti-state activities and propaganda. The probe will determine the involvement of other accomplices.

The FIA has been carrying out inquiries into their activities on social media. After confirming the allegations, two



separate cases were lodged under sections 9, 10, and 11 of the PECA-2016 Cyber Crime Act on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Muneeb Zafar. The charges include carrying out a propaganda campaign against the government through TikTok accounts, the report said.

According to the FIR, Shahbaz Gill and Moeed Pirzada posted highly threatening content on TikTok, deliberately disseminating misleading information to cause hostility against government officials and insti-

tutions, The Express Tribune reported. The actions of two suspects could potentially incite others to commit crimes against the state, its institutions, or public peace.

The FIRs stated that suspects were found to have shared anti-state content to create false and pre-determined impression regarding institutions. These actions are regarded equivalent to trying to damage the state of Pakistan and create rebellion, The Express Tribune reported.

The threatening videos posted by the suspects aimed to create discord among the pillars of the state. The FIR sources said that the probe will determine the role of other individuals involved and all legal proceedings will be conducted against them.

INS Sarvekshak completes first phase of joint hydrographic survey in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS (Mauritius), Jan 15 (Agencies): Strengthening maritime cooperation between India and Mauritius, Indian Navy Ship INS Sarvekshak completed first phase of joint hydrographic survey in Port Louis, Indian Navy said on Wednesday.

R Soorojebally, Commissioner of Police, Mauritius Police Force, visited the ship and was briefed on progress of survey operations. CO INS Sarvekshak met India's High Commissioner to Mauritius, Anurag Srivastava.

In a post on X, Indian Navy spokesperson stated, "Strengthening maritime cooperation b/n India, Malaysia, #INSsarvekshak completed first phase of Joint hydrographic survey. Mr R Soorojebally, Commissioner of Police, Mauritius Police Force, visited the ship & was briefed on progress of survey ops. On this occasion, CO

INS Sarvekshak called on Shri Anurag Srivastava @ HCI_PortLouis."

INS Sarvekshak's crew participated in various outreach activities, including community service initiative and medical camp. The ship was kept open to visitors, where they got the opportunity to explore advanced scientific research and hydrography capabilities of Indian Navy.

"Ship's crew participated in several outreach activities, incl community service initiative and medical camp. The ship was kept open to visitors, who had the unique opportunity of exploring advanced scientific research and hydrography capabilities of #IndianNavy. This deployment underscores India's dedication to fostering regional partnerships and supporting the maritime aspirations of littoral nations of #IOR in line with the vision of #SAGAR," Indian Navy spokesperson posted on



X. On December 29, a joint coordination meeting involving key stakeholders including from Ministry of Housing and Lands, Mauritius Hydrographic Service and the Oceanographic Institute was held onboard INS Sarvekshak. The meeting marked commencement of the Joint Hydrographic Survey aimed at enhancing navigation safety in Mauritian waters.

In a post on X, Indian Navy spokesperson stated, "Joint coordination meeting involving key stakeholders including reps from Ministry

of Housing & Lands, #Mauritius Hydrographic Service & the Oceanographic Institute, was held onboard #INS-Sarvekshak. The meeting marked commencement of the Joint Hydrographic Survey aimed at enhancing navigation safety in Mauritian waters. #IndianNavy conducted harbour Trg for NCG personnel in NBCE & small arms handling & participated in a friendly volleyball match fostering camaraderie & goodwill."

Joint coordination meeting involving key stakeholders including reps

from Ministry of Housing & Lands, #Mauritius Hydrographic Service & the Oceanographic Institute, was held onboard #INSsarvekshak.

On December 26, INS Sarvekshak arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, to undertake a joint hydrographic survey, an official press release by the Ministry of National Defence stated.

Upon its arrival, the ship was welcomed by Anurag Srivastava, the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Captain C G Binoop, Commandant of the Mauritius National Coastguard, and other military and civil dignitaries.

In an earlier press release, Ministry of Defence stated, "The extant visit highlights strong maritime partnership between India and Mauritius, reflecting shared commitment to regional development and deeper bilateral cooperation in line with the Gol's vision of SAGAR."

Div Com, ADGP Jammu visit MA Stadium to review arrangements for Republic Day-2025 celebrations



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain on Wednesday took stock of the arrangements for UT level Republic Day 2025 celebrations here at the main venue- M A Stadium.

Accompanied by senior officials of Police and Civil administration, HoDs of line departments, the visit was focused on putting in place all the requisite arrangements for smooth and successful conduct of the national festival.

The Divisional Commissioner was apprised on the preparations made by different departments as per their role and responsibilities.

Taking a detailed look at the arrangements being made by the concerned departments, the Div Com stressed on maintaining close syn-

ergy among the concerned departments while executing the plans. The concerned departments were directed to ensure all arrangements on the ground well in advance.

The Div Com and ADGP took a detailed stock of security arrangements, traffic management, seating arrangements, decoration, Power & water supply, sanitation, Medicare, convenient parking spaces, shuttle service for citizens, barricading, frisking points, fire emergency. The concerned officers were instructed to follow the SOPs while executing their assigned tasks.

The Div Com was further apprised that the rehearsals are commencing at the main venue from tomorrow with the participation of contingents of the Armed forces, School children, bands, besides troupes participating in the cultural programmes. While inspecting the

ongoing works at the main Pavilion, the Div Com directed the Hospitality and Protocol department to make available water proof tentage and heating arrangements.

The Traffic department was directed to formulate a traffic management plan, finalise parking spaces and notify the diversions on time for the convenience of the general public.

The JMC was directed to ensure cleanliness in and around the venue and functioning of street lights, while PWD was asked to expedite the renovation works at the venue and complete the same at the earliest.

The JPDCL was instructed to ensure installation of lights at specific points besides making arrangements of Genset at the venue for backup.

The Div Com also directed the concerned departments to complete their Tableaux by January 20.

DIPR District centre briefs media on arrangements made for coverage of National Event at Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 15: The Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajouri District Centre convened a meeting with media persons of the district to discuss the coverage of the Republic Day celebrations.

The media representatives actively participated in the meeting, sharing their inputs

and concerns. The DIO thanked them for their consistent efforts in bringing important matters to public attention and their commitment to responsible journalism.

The meeting concluded with the DIO expressing confidence in the collaborative efforts of the media and administration for the successful coverage of Republic Day celebrations in the District.

Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students awaiting Aadhaar Seeding cleared: SW Directorate Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: The Directorate of Social Welfare Jammu successfully disbursed pending scholarships to 960 SC Category students under the Centrally Sponsored Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2023-24. Under the remarkable step, the scholarship amount to the tune of Rs. 13.44 lakh already sanctioned but not disbursed due to non-seeding of Aadhaar was credited to the accounts of eligible students, after the Director Social Welfare Jammu intervened and held series of meetings with Bank authorities and District Administrations to solve the issue expeditiously.

The students expressed satisfaction and stressed that timely disbursement would help them pursue their education further without any financial constraints.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Social Welfare Department Rupesh Kumar Jammu stated that the department is committed to ensuring that no eligible student is deprived of their rightful benefit. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Deptt, J&K for his unwavering support and guidance throughout the process.

To streamline timely future scholarship disbursements, the directorate has now ensured that Aadhaar seeding is mandatorily done at the time of registration itself on the National Scholarship Portal for both Pre- and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes. This initiative aims to prevent delays and facilitate timely payments to all eligible students.

The directorate is also actively working to resolve remaining Aadhaar seeding issues on the same lines, and pending applications shall be processed promptly.

Congress to hold Samvidhan Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra from on Jan 18



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Congress has decided to hold Samvidhan Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra from Gandhi Chowk Satwari to Ambedkar Chowk Gandhinagar Jammu on January 18th 2025.

This was announced here today by JKPC Working Presidents Shri Tara Chand and Shri Ramon Bhalla in an impressive meeting of the senior leaders of PCC, DCC and front wings of the party, held at party HQ Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion they said that Indian National Congress (INC) remains unwavering in its demand for the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah and congress strongly condemns the attempts to erode social justice and equality, which are the fundamental pillars of

Ambedkar's vision for India. He said congress party had launched the Dr. Ambedkar Samman Saptah to honour Baba Saheb Ambedkar's contribution and to highlight the present threats to his legacy and constitutional principles. To take forward this movement Congress has decided to launch the "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhivan". This campaign is aimed at honouring and protecting the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the values enshrined in our constitution.

Given the urgency to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and DR. B.R. Ambedkar as well as the Constitution, they announced that the congress party in J&K shall launch a massive outreach campaign called the Samvid-

han Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra.

They appealed to the party workers at all levels to reach at Gandhi Chowk, Satwari On Jan. 18th at 11.00 A.M. in strength to participate in the Yatra.

Prominent among those attended the meeting include Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Th. Balbir Singh, Naresh K. Gupta, Yash Pal Kundal, Iftikhar Ahmed (MLA), Ashok Dogra, Shashi Sharma, T.S. Tony, Naresh Sharma, Amrit Bali, Narinder Sharma, Rajesh Sadootra, Subash Bhagat, Praveesh Wani, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Shameema Raina, Ajay Lakhotra, Bhushan Dogra, Dwarka Choudhary, Gurdarshan Singh, Kapil Singh Sanjeev Sharma, Sahil Sharma, Rajveer Singh, Michael Wazir, Vijay Tagotra, Vijay Shastri, Ricky Dalotra, Ch. Hus-sain Bafa, Bhavishya Sudan, Nirmal Singh Mehta, Dr. R.K. Khajuria, contested candidate Shri K.D. Singh. Dr. Pradeep Bhagat and Ashok Bhagat, Bodh Raj, Anuradh Sharma, Suman Wazir, Chander Prabha, Parveen Akhtar, Adv. Tehseena Bukhari, Shoba Sharma, Parvin-der Hangloo and others.

FromPage No:1

Dulloo sets deadline for Municipalities to prepare waste management action plans

establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for solid waste, Compost Unit/Bio-CNG plants for liquid waste and dumping sites for inert waste.

He observed that management of waste is of utmost priority for both health and environmental concerns associated with it. He said that this task requires all seriousness and dedication on part of the Department to fully rid our cities and towns of the untreated waste and garbage.

He enjoined upon the J&K PCC to be proactive in enforcement of environmental protection laws in J&K. He sensitised them about their mandate and asked them to use their writ to act against the violators as per laws in force.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the works being carried out by JMC, SMC and Directors of ULBs in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, presented an overview of different projects proposed and approved by GoI under SBM 2.0 for districts of the UT. She revealed that the facilities for both solid and liquid waste treatment are being created all over J&K in addition to inviting tenders for treatment of legacy waste on scientific lines.

Commissioner JMC, Devansh Yadav, threw light on the detailed works undertaken by the JMC, SMC and other local bodies in different parts of J&K. He elaborated that the waste is segregated for its treatment and the solid waste is being taken to MRF facility where as the liquid one to compost units for making good soil or Bio-CNG plants for fuel making.

It was further explained that different components of the waste are treated differently with some producing Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) being used by cement factories. It was added that only the inert waste without any use is sent to landfill sites for its final disposal.

Regarding the facilities created in various districts, it was divulged that MRF of the capacity of 40 TPD by JMC and 100 TPD by SMC is presently in operation for treating

its waste. In addition, the ULBs of Jammu had installed the capacity of 79 TPD 17 locations and ULBs of Kashmir 18 TPD at 9 locations across Kashmir.

Moreover, for treating the liquid waste STPs of the capacity of 25.29 MLD had been established by SMC, 36.7 MLD by LCMA, 71 MLD by JMC, 13.6 MLD by the ULBs of Jammu and 6 MLD collectively by the ULBs of Kashmir division.

Regarding the upcoming facilities of waste management, it was informed that an MRF facility of the capacity of 150 TPD would come into operation at Kotbalwal in September this year and one of 55 TPD at Bandurakh for JM. For SMC, an MRF of the capacity of 459 TPD is soon going to be approved by MoHUA under the revised action plan.

As far as upcoming STPs are concerned, it was added that STPs of the capacity of 66.9 MLD are under construction in Srinagar, Sonamarg, Baramulla and Charar-i-Sharif in Kashmir Valley. In Jammu, the STPs of the overall capacity of 109.2 MLD are going to be established at Jammu, Akhnoor, Samba, Kathua and Katra towns.

Regarding the remediation of legacy waste, it was revealed that a total of 6.16 lakh MT has been tendered out by JMC and 11 lakh MT by SMC for its treatment. Similarly, ULBs of Jammu has tendered 1.87 lakh MT and 2.98 lakh MT of legacy waste by ULBs of Kashmir for its treatment through NAFED.

The meeting was further apprised that legacy waste of the magnitude of about 1.56 lakh MT by JMC, 1.72 lakh MT by 36 ULBs of Jammu and 0.78 lakh MT by 40 ULBs of Kashmir stands remediated till date. Besides, the PDMC consisting of engineers and design analysts for taking up works of waste management in smaller ULBs of J&K is going to be finalised soon.

The meeting was also apprised that on an average 450gm/person/day of waste is generated in big cities and 300 gm is generated in smaller towns. The municipal bodies have been tasked to segregate the dry and wet waste and process it on scientific lines to reduce the environmental pollution as per the NGT guidelines.

J&K witnessed "Downfall" in violence, peace-

ful completion of recent polls certifies it, Says Army Chief on Army Day

On the Army Day parade taking place in Pune for the first time as part of its rotation to different cities starting with Bengaluru, followed by Lucknow in 2024 Army Chief said, "The 77th Army Day parade being organised in Pune holds special importance as this region has been a symbol of military courage and resilience since the time of the Marathas."

The Army Chief also mentioned the special band from Nepali Army and said that the band will be mesmerising us with their soulful performance.

Further talking about efforts to empower women in the Indian Army, the chief said, "Women are being selected not only for officer posts but also as private women and you have also seen the display of their enthusiasm and courage in this grand parade."

Railway safety commissioner authorises opening of newly constructed 17 km Katra-Reasi Track

Reasi stations for public carriage of goods and passenger traffic This marks the completion of the entire Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new broad-gauge rail link project in the Ferozpur division of Northern railways.

The CRS had inspected the newly constructed track in January this year by motor trolley, and on foot that was followed by a speed trial on the entire section from Katra to Banihal.

The speed trial was conducted in both up and down directions, from Katra to Banihal and vice-versa, using an inspection special fitted with OMS equipment and hauled by electric locomotive.

The speed during the trial was generally 110 km/h, with no peaks above 0.15g observed. "Based on completion documents and safety certificates, certifying satisfactory completion of works, and based on sample checks conducted during my inspection, I am of the opinion

that the provisions for the opening of public carriage of goods and passenger traffic have been met."

The CRS has authorised the regular opening of the section for public carriage of passengers and freight traffic at a maximum permissible speed of 85 km/h on the main line and 15 km/h on turnouts, with the authorisation subject to compliance with various conditions, guidelines, and stipulations.

The railway will commence train operations shortly after the issuance of this authorisation, and the date of the introduction of passenger services shall be advised to the commission, the letter states.

The work on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project started in 2005-06. The 118-km-long Qazigund-Baramulla rail section in Kashmir was inaugurated in October 2009. The 18 km Banihal-Qazigund and 25 km Udhampur-Katra sections were commissioned in June 2013 and July 2014. The Sangaldan-Banihal section was completed last year and is now operational.

The railway line to Kashmir has 38 tunnels with T-49 - measuring 12.75 km - being the country's longest rail tunnel. The line has 927 bridges. It includes the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab river in the Reasi district, which sits at an elevation of 359 metres.

Mysterious deaths in Badhaal Rajouri: Certain neurotoxins found in samples of dead persons

close coordination and thoroughly analyse the reports received from various reputed institutions to ascertain the real cause of these deaths, an official spokesperson said.

He directed the police department to utilise all available resources, including scientific methods, to advance the investigation to its logical conclusion. Similarly, the health department was instructed to study these reports to identify reasonable leads contributing to the deaths.

"The reports furnished by different institutions are now available, and more are expected soon. These should suffice to conclude the investigations and pinpoint

the possible reasons behind the deaths in this particular village," Dulloo said.

During the meeting, Dulloo heard from experts who had analysed numerous samples collected from the affected individuals and the area. He also sought their suggestions regarding the future course of action.

Experts informed the meeting that extensive microbiological studies ruled out viral, bacterial, or microbial infections as causes of the deaths. Instead, the deaths appeared to be localised and possibly linked epidemiologically, the spokesperson said.

It was also disclosed that certain neurotoxins were identified in the samples of the deceased, which are being further investigated, the spokesperson added.

From December 7, 2024, a total of 14 deaths out of 38 affected individuals were reported in three separate incidents in Badhaal village. The exact causes remain unknown, officials said.

The government has implemented several measures, including deploying Rapid Response Teams, analysing samples from humans and animals, and testing water sources. Assistance from reputed health institutions across the country has also been sought to determine the actual cause of these deaths.

Intense cold continues in J&K, Srinagar records minus 4.8 Degrees

temperature with clear sunshine right from the morning.

Mata Vaishno Devi base camp town of Katra had 6.8 degrees, Batote 2.1, Banihal minus 1.5 and Baderwah minus 0.7 as the night's lowest temperature. A

The valley is reeling under the 40-day-long period of intense winter cold called the 'Chillai Kalan', which started on December 21 and will end on January 30. Kashmir Valley has been experiencing intense cold waves during the past 25 days as water pipes, water tanks and other sources of potable water freeze during the night and have to be defrozed in the morning.

Lakes, streams, wells, springs and ponds have partially frozen. The boatmen and fishermen face difficulties in rowing their boats

through partially frozen water bodies.

Locals heavily depend on the loose tweed overgarment called the 'Pheran' and an eastern firepot woven in a willow wicker basket called the 'Kangri' for keeping themselves warm during the winter months. Doctors have cautioned people, especially children and elders, not to expose themselves to long periods of extreme cold as this causes constriction of blood vessels leading to myocardial infarction. Those suffering from myocardial infarction are prone to heart attacks and heart failures.

Bandipora police crack online financial frauds of Rs 5.50 lakh, recover lost mobile phones worth Rs 3 lakh

recovered 19 stolen smart phones worth rupees 3 lakh.

The officials said that acting on the complaints, Bandipora police achieved significant breakthrough by recovering and amount of Rs 5.50 Lakhs from the fraudsters' accounts and the same was refunded to victims Bank Accounts after completion of all legal formalities.

Moreover 19 missing/ stolen smart phones worth 03 lakhs were also recovered and handed over to their owners after completion of necessary legal formalities, the officials said.

They said that recipients expressed their gratitude & appreciation to Bandipora police relentless efforts in recovering their hard earned money and mobile phones.

They advised general public to use their mobile phones and other electronic media gadgets with precaution in order to safeguard themselves from cyber related frauds and crimes.

If anyone becomes the victim of any Cyber related crime /Fraud he should immediately register complaint on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in or Call Toll Free No. 1930 or nearest police unit /Cyber Crime cell DPO Bandipora, the official said.

They also said that citizens should report missing/stolen mobile phones on CEIR Portal online on www.ceir.gov.in dedicated online Portal on lost/stolen mobile phones by (Dept. of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications GOI).

Budget 2025: How government can prioritise job creation and skill development

The upcoming Budget 2025 is expected to focus on economic growth while addressing key challenges and leveraging opportunities.

NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): As India moves closer to its vision of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, all eyes are on the upcoming Budget 2025, which will play a pivotal role in shaping the country's growth trajectory.

With a focus on addressing key economic challenges while leveraging opportunities, the Budget is expected to prioritise long-term solutions aimed at economic growth, employment generation, and poverty alleviation.

FOCUS ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

India's demographic advantage, particularly its youthful population, holds immense potential. To harness this, the government is expected to continue its emphasis on skill development and job creation.

The Budget may announce measures to further bolster vocational training, encourage entrepreneurship, and incentivise businesses to employ the youth. This is likely to create a ripple effect, driving economic growth and enhancing consumption through higher incomes.

Bharat Dhawan, Managing



Partner, Forvis Mazars in India, has stated, "India's strength lies in its people and the country has opportunities for the youth. We expect that the government will continue to prioritise skill development and job creation to tap into India's demographic advantage, which will drive economic growth and increase consumption through higher incomes."

TACKLING INFLATION AND STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE

Inflation, especially food inflation, remains a concern for many households. The government is likely to introduce supply-side measures to alleviate the pres-

sure, possibly through more efficient agricultural practices, improved storage facilities, and incentives for production.

In the short term, direct benefit transfers (DBTs) could help support rural consumption, mitigating the impact of rising prices. Infrastructure development is also set to remain a key focus, with continued investments in roads, logistics parks, and multi-modal transport, strengthening the overall logistics sector.

"We expect to see a focus on long-term solutions to strengthen the agricultural value chain and incentivise production. In the short term, direct ben-

efit transfers (DBTs) may help support rural consumption. Infrastructure development will also remain a key priority, with continued investment in roads, multi-modal logistics parks, and overall logistics," mentioned Dhawan.

PRIORITISING HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND INNOVATION

The Budget may also focus on strengthening key sectors such as healthcare, education, and skills development. Investments in these areas are essential for building a more inclusive and equitable society.

Additionally, the government is likely to prioritise the integration of innovative technologies to foster inclusivity, formalisation, and transparent governance. Advancing digital infrastructure is also expected to be a key focus in policymaking.

As India aims to build a sustainable and prosperous future, the 2025 Budget will be a key instrument in realising this vision. By focusing on inclusive growth and long-term solutions, it has the potential to unlock new avenues for development and economic transformation.

India reduces coal imports by 3.1% amid strong growth in domestic production



NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Coal imports decreased by 3.1%, totaling 149.39 million tonnes (MT) compared to 154.17 MT during the same period last year. The non-regulated Sector (excluding the power sector) experienced a more significant decline, with imports falling by 8.8% year-on-year.

Despite a 3.87% growth in coal-based power generation from April 2024 to October 2024 compared to the

same period in the previous year, coal imports for blending by thermal power plants saw a sharp decline of 19.5%. This reduction underscores India's ongoing efforts to achieve greater self-sufficiency in coal production and reduce reliance on imports.

However, there was a notable increase in coal imports for the power sector, particularly from imported coal-based power plants (designed exclusively for imported

coal), which rose by 38.4%, reaching 30.04 MT, up from 21.71 MT the previous year.

On the production front, coal output grew by 6.04%, rising to 537.57 MT during the April-October 2024 period, compared to 506.93 MT in the same period of FY 2023-24. This increase highlights the government's targeted efforts to enhance coal production and optimise its utilisation within the country.

The Ministry of Coal continues to implement a range of strategic measures to boost domestic production and ensure a stable coal supply. These initiatives aim not only to reduce India's dependence on coal imports but also to strengthen the nation's energy security. By focusing on expanding domestic output, the government is working toward a more self-sufficient and sustainable energy future for India.

Average salary hike projected to be 9.4 pc in 2025: Report

MUMBAI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Indian employees may expect an average salary increment of 9.4 per cent this year across industries, indicating strong economic growth and rising demand for skilled talent, a report said.

Over the last five years, salary increments have steadily increased, rising from 8 per cent in 2020, to a projected 9.4 per cent in 2025, according to Total Remuneration Survey (TRS) by HR consulting firm Mercer.

The automotive sector leads with anticipated increments of 10 per cent from 8.8 per cent, driven by the surge in electric vehicles and the government-led 'Make in India' initiative.

Manufacturing and engineering follow closely with an increase from 8 per cent to 9.7 per cent, reflecting a resurgence in the manufacturing ecosystem.

More than 1,550 companies in India participated in the survey, spanning diverse industries, such as technology, life sciences, consumer goods, financial services, manufacturing, automotive, and engineering.

Further, the report revealed that in 2025, 37 per cent of organisations plan to increase their headcount reflecting

India's vibrant talent demand across diverse sectors.

Voluntary attrition is expected to stabilise at 11.9 per cent, with Agriculture and Chemical (13.6 per cent) and Shared Services Organisations (13 per cent) experiencing the highest rates, indicating a competitive talent market.

It is also expected that this year some organisations will focus on strategic recruitment, competitive compensation, upskilling, and employee engagement to attract talent, reduce turnover, and sustain growth to address workforce demands.

"India's talent landscape is experiencing a remarkable transformation. Pay premiums are also reshaping the workforce, additionally, the increased adoption of performance-linked pay plans by more than 75 per cent of organisations, signifies a holistic shift towards performance orientation, both in the short term and long term.

"Companies that prioritise these trends will be better positioned to attract and retain talent in a competitive market," Mercer's India Careers Leader Mansee Singhal said.

Chinese electronics brand TCL eyes to double TV market share this year at 10 per cent

MUMBAI, Jan 15 (Agencies): Chinese consumer electronics player TCL is bullish on India and is expecting to nearly double its market share in the high-end television market here to around 10 percent of the over 5 million units market.

The domestic smart TV market was valued at UCL 11.5 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow at an annual rate of 16.6 per cent from 2024 to 2030, reaching nearly USD 33.72 billion by 2030.

In 2022 it was valued at nearly USD 10 billion clipping at 8 per cent over the previous year. In 2023, in volume terms the domestic market was around 4.5 million.

"We've close to 6 per cent market share in



the TV space and we are sure to close this year with around 10 per cent of the market pie," Philip Xia, the head of TCL India, told TNIE here after launching a high-end model priced at Rs 30 lakh apiece which it has claimed is the world's largest LED screen with 8.5 feet width and 4.9 feet height or 115 inches.

Xia claims his company is among the top

six players which is led by the Korean majors Samsung (16 per cent market share in 2024 first quarter) and LG Electronics with 15 per cent of the pie), and the Japanese brands like Sony, Panasonic, Toshiba, and the Chinese Xiaomi and Haer. There is no notable domestic name in this space.

Xia said the parent has cumulatively invested over USD 3 billion in

their two Tirupati (Sri City) plants which manufacture all its TV units. Refusing the share revenue or profit, he said the company is profitable.

When asked why they remain only TV players and not bring their other consumer electronics items, Xia said they have already test-launched washing machines, air-conditioners and home theatres, which are not currently manufactured by them outsourced from other players like the German major IFB.

"We are not averse to manufacture these items. We are testing the markets and in due course we will have them manufactured at our own plants," Xia added.

On the pricing, Lakshmana Kumar, director

of marketing said, there is no dearth of consumers for such high-priced products. Even before the launch we have booking and if we get to sell 25-30 units a year, we are perfectly fine. That during Diwali, our 98 inch model priced close to Rs 6 lakh ran out of stock clearly shows the depth of the market.

Xia said the company can roll out 25-430 units a month of the newly launched model from the Sri City plant. Capacity is not a problem.

Kumar said after the initial months, they will only be making the QD mini LED TV to order. The model was first showcased at the last CES in Las Vegas, and India is the first commercial market.

Bioengineers found breakthrough in building smart cells, potential to detect autoimmune disease: Study

WASHINGTON, Jan 15 (Agencies): Bioengineers have developed a new construction kit for building custom sense-and-respond circuits in human cells. The research could revolutionize therapies for complex conditions like autoimmune disease and cancer.

Rice University bioengineers have developed a new construction kit for building custom sense-and-respond circuits in human cells. The research, published in the journal Science, denotes a major breakthrough in the field of synthetic biology that could revolutionize therapies for complex conditions like autoimmune disease and cancer.

"Imagine tiny processors inside cells made of proteins that can 'decide' how to respond to specific signals like inflammation, tumour



growth markers or blood sugar levels," said Xiaoyu Yang, a graduate student in the Systems, Synthetic and Physical Biology PhD program at Rice who is the lead author on the study.

"This work brings us a whole lot closer to being able to build 'smart cells' that can detect signs of disease and immediately release customizable treatments in response."

The new approach to artificial cellular circuit design relies on phosphorylation. It is a natural process cells use to respond to their environment that features the addition of a phosphate group to a protein.

Phosphorylation is involved in a wide range of cellular functions, including the conversion of extracellular signals into intracel-

lular responses -- e.g., moving, secreting a substance, reacting to a pathogen or expressing a gene.

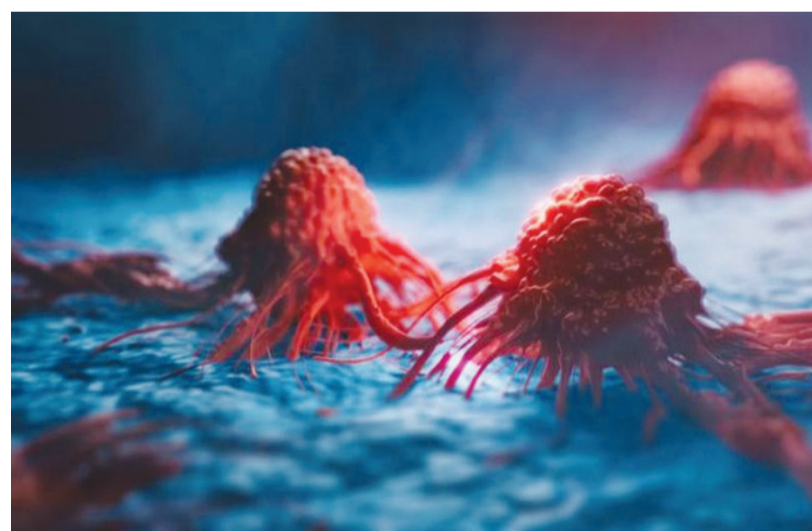
In multicellular organisms, phosphorylation-based signalling often involves a multistage, cascading effect like falling dominoes.

Previous attempts at harnessing this mechanism for therapeutic purposes in human cells have focused on re-engineering native, existing signalling pathways.

However, the complexity of the pathways makes them difficult to work with, so applications have remained fairly limited.

Thanks to Rice researchers' new findings, however, phosphorylation-based innovations in "smart cell" engineering could see a significant uptick in the coming years.

DNA repair may determine how cancer cells die following radiotherapy



SYDNEY, Jan 15 (Agencies): Australian researchers have found that DNA repair may determine how cancer cells die following radiotherapy in a new study that may help improve cancer treatment and cure rates.

To understand how cancerous tumour cells die after being subjected to radiotherapy, scientists from Sydney's Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) followed irradiated cells for one week after radiation therapy by using live cell microscope technology, said an announcement by CMRI, Xinhua News agency reported.

"The surprising result of our

research is that DNA repair, which normally protects healthy cells, determines how cancer cells die following radiotherapy," said Tony Cesare, head of the CMRI Genome Integrity Unit.

He said that the study found that DNA repair processes can recognise when overwhelming damage has occurred, such as from radiotherapy, and instruct a cancer cell how to die.

When DNA damaged by radiation was repaired by a method called homologous recombination, they found that cancer cells died during reproduction, a process called cell division or mitosis.

Cesare said that death during cell division goes unnoticed by the immune system so does not activate the desired immune response.

However, he said that cells that dealt with radiation-damaged DNA through other repair methods survived cell division but released DNA repair byproducts into the cell.

"To the cell, these repair byproducts look like a viral or bacterial infection. This causes the cancer cell to die in a manner that alerts the immune system, which is what we do want," Cesare said.

The team showed that blocking homologous recombination changed the way cancer cells died to evoke a strong immune response.

The researchers said that the discovery will make it possible to use drugs that block homologous recombination to force cancer cells treated with radiotherapy to die in a manner that alerts the immune system to the existence of a cancer that needs to be destroyed.

The findings, which were published in the journal Nature Cell Biology, may open up new opportunities to improve treatment and increase cure rates, said the announcement.

Australian Open: Sabalenka barely survives, Olympic gold medalist Zheng crashes out

MELBOURNE (Australia), Jan 15 (Agencies): In a stunning day of action at the ongoing Australian Open, the defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and Paris Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen, with the latter being knocked out of the competition while Sabalenka managed to survive and keep her campaign alive.

Sabalenka defeated the 54th-ranked Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-3, 7-5 on Rod Laver Arena. In the second set, Sabalenka was down 5-2 but fought well to secure the win in one hour and 34 minutes.

On the other hand, German veteran Laura Siegemund stunned the fifth-seed Zheng by 7-6(3), 6-3 on John Cain Arena, eliminating chances of a Sabalenka-Zheng rematch, after Sabalenka got better of her in five matches, including the Australian Open 2024 final.

Zheng came into the tournament as a massive title contender at the ranking of five, but she fell to world number 97 Laura within two hours and 16 minutes



of play. Laura clinched the 11th career Top 10 win.

Sabalenka in her match, secured five games in a row to reach the second set and make it to round three. She is the first woman to secure 16 successive Australian Open matches since Victoria Azarenka in 2014.

"She played incredible tennis, especially in the second set," Sabalenka said as quoted by the WTA website.

"I am really happy I was able to turn around that set. There is so many players who are playing really well in these conditions ... Today's match proved that. Girls can go there and just play without any fear, without anything to lose. They can put you in really uncomfortable position. You have to go out there and fight and compete and show your best," she added.

She also attempted to become

the first woman to secure three successive Australian Open titles since Martina Hingis (1997-1999).

On the other hand, Siegemund had headed into the match with four of her top five wins in her career. She fired return winners and passing winners effortlessly. Though the first set was pushed to a tiebreak, the German managed to hold her nerves and secure a win.

In the next set, Siegemund demolished Zheng and moved to the third round of the Australian Open for the second time ever.

"I am very happy and very proud of my performance. I expected a very, very tough game against this kind of top player. I think she is one of the best in the world."

"It is never going to be easy, and there will be continuous through the match, like, tough situations to solve. But I wanted to come out, you know, courageous. I wanted to show the variety of my game, be very aggressive, and that's what I did," said Siegemund.

Gujarat Titans kicks off second season of 'Junior Titans'



AHMEDABAD (Gujarat) Jan 15 (Agencies): Following the resounding success of its inaugural season, Gujarat Titans is thrilled to announce the second season of 'Junior Titans', its unique initiative dedicated to nurturing a passion for outdoor sports among children under-14. 'Junior Titans,' embodying the ethos of 'Let's Sport Out' will rekindle the excitement of outdoor activities for young children, giving them exposure in various sports and making it a delightful experience for them. Junior Titans events will be held in five key cities of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, Junagadh, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, and Palanpur.

LALIGA, the top tier of the Spanish football league, continues their association for the second season of the program, undertaking the football workshops at these events. This season will see LALIGA's expert technical coaches offering young talents a chance to learn from the best in the field. This collaboration will provide the participating children with invaluable insights and expand their sporting horizons.

The second season also sees one of Japan's most loved brands Pokemon, collaborating with Junior Titans, giving children a chance to meet their beloved Pokemon characters and participate in exciting activities at the venues and take home amazing merchandise.

This edition will also see Bisleri supply children with drinking water, while SG will provide the necessary sports equipment.

Kicking off on January 18th in Junagadh, each city will host a one-day community sports event designed to celebrate the joy of outdoor play and sportsmanship. The events will feature a variety of engaging activities, including cricket and football challenges, quizzes and a walk through the history of Gujarat Titans.

Participants can also look forward to exciting giveaways and delicious food, all aimed at fostering community engagement and camaraderie.

This edition, 'Junior Titans' will include participation from around 25 schools in each city, including 10 private schools and 5 government schools. In addition to the schools, 5 NGOs will participate, ensuring a diverse and inclusive environment for all young athletes.

With an expected turnout of around 900 participants in each city, the program promises to be

a grand celebration of sports and community spirit.

The successful first edition had seen successful events across five cities in Gujarat from Vadodara to Bhuj and Surat to Rajkot with the enthusiastic participation of over 5000 children from 117 schools.

Colonel Arvinder Singh, COO - Gujarat Titans, said, "With the second edition of Junior Titans, we are excited to continue our mission of inspiring young children across Gujarat. This initiative not only promotes a love for sports but also emphasizes the importance of teamwork and personal growth. Our continuing partnership with LALIGA enhances this experience, providing children with unique opportunities to learn from world-class coaches and gain exposure to international sports standards. With Pokemon joining forces with the Junior Titans, the excitement for participating kids reaches new heights. These beloved characters will inspire and motivate children. We are grateful to the schools and NGOs participating in this season, and we look forward to creating unforgettable experiences for the children in each city," as quoted from a release by Gujarat Titans.

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Australian Open: Alcaraz advances to R3, continues march towards Career Grand Slam

MELBOURNE (Australia), Jan 15 (Agencies): Spanish tennis sensation Carlos Alcaraz continued his pursuit of a Career Grand Slam as he reached the third round of the ongoing Australian Open on Wednesday with a win over Yoshihito Nishioka.

In a stunning display of tennis, Alcaraz mixed power and touch to perfection as he overwhelmed Nishioka by 6-0, 6-1, 6-4. During the opening set, he dropped

Grand Slams to 8-0 and hit 14 aces without facing a break point, as compared to four break points faced during the first-round win against Alexander Shevchenko. He was extremely happy with his serve, having worked on it since pre-season.

"I am really happy with the service today. This is something that I worked on in the pre-season. In the first round I struggled a little bit, so I was not too happy with the serve. Yesterday I was



just four points and also secured the win in his first nine games before dropping one finally. The match lasted an hour and 22 minutes.

Speaking about the match as quoted by the official ATP website, Alcaraz said, "I think the less time you spend on the court at the Grand Slams, especially at the beginning of the other tournament, I think it is going to be better, especially physically. I am feeling great. I just tried to be focused on spending as little time as I can."

Alcaraz extended his record against left-handed players at

more focused on practising the serve. I spent more time just serving with Juan Carlos Ferrero (his coach), with my team, and it is something that I really want to be better at. So I am just glad that today it worked pretty well. Hopefully, in the next round, it is going to be better," he said.

After securing a 2-0 lead in ATP Head-to-Head record against Nishioka, Alcaraz's next challenge will be Nuno Borges in the third round as he pursues the record of becoming the youngest player to secure every Grand Slam title at the age of 21.

"We try to keep the ball and have a...": NEUFC coach after draw against FC Goa

GUWAHATI (Assam), Jan 15 (Agencies): NorthEast United FC assistant coach, Nausad Moosa, praised his side's determination after they secured a hard-fought 1-1 draw against FC Goa in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash, saying that his team plays better when they have a free mind, the leagues website reported.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Moosa credited the Highlanders' collective effort and tacti-

cal discipline as they earned a vital point in front of their home crowd.

The game came to life in the second half, with Mohammed Yasir putting the Gaurs ahead in the 65th minute. However, the Highlanders responded swiftly through Jithin MS, whose clinical strike in the 76th minute salvaged the draw for NorthEast United FC. Both teams pushed for a second but were unable to find the winning goal.

ILT20: Curran, Rutherford star as Desert Vipers cruise to six-wicket victory Over Gulf Giants



DUBAI (UAE), Jan 15 (Agencies): The Desert Vipers defeated the Gulf Giants by six wickets in a low-scoring affair in the ongoing International League T20 (ILT20) to complete their second consecutive victory, at the Dubai International Stadium on Tuesday evening, a release from the league said.

An unbeaten knock of 42 runs from all-rounder Sam Curran orchestrated a comfortable run chase for the Desert Vipers. He was assisted by Sherfane Rutherford who finished with 40 runs in 18 balls to bring the Vipers home in 17.4 overs.

The Vipers' pacers ruled the first innings as skipper Lockie Ferguson and Mohammad Amir ran through the Giants top and middle order with three and two wickets respectively. Leading from the front, James Vince waged a lone battle, putting on an unbeaten 76 runs in 62 balls (five fours and two sixes to steer the Giants to 119/9 in 20 overs.

The Desert Vipers' were rattled in the second over of their run chase as Mark Adair accounted for Fakhar Zaman and the in-form Dan Lawrence. The English duo of Alex Hales and Sam Curran saw the Vipers through the powerplay, delicately placed at 22/2.

While Hales was the more reserved of the two, Curran broke the shackles in the seventh over with a six over extra cover and a four off Daniel Worrall. Curran and Hales steadied the ship, combining for 49 runs before Blessing Muzarabani got the all-important breakthrough of Alex Hales. Hales scored 20 runs in 30 balls, with two fours.

Azam Khan miscued Tymal Mills' shorter one to depart for seven runs and leave the score at 66/4 in 12.2 overs. Every time the pressure built, Curran found a boundary to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Sherfane Rutherford joined the run chase as the Vipers cruised towards the target. The pair put on 55 runs in 32 balls as Rutherford struck two sixes and a four in the 18th over to chase down the target of 120 in 17.4 overs. Sam Curran remained unbeaten on 42 runs in 43 balls including four fours and a six.

Earlier in the evening, the Gulf Giants lost early wickets with Mohammad Amir tapping Adam Lyth, LBW, as early as the first over. Soon after, Lockie Ferson

scalped Rehan Khan, while Jordan Cox was dismissed by Sam Curran to leave the Giants in hot water at 32/3 in six overs.

Opener James Vince played a measured innings, taking few chances and frequently rotating the strike. However, he struggled to find support with wickets tumbling around him.

Wanindu Hasaranga cleaned up Ollie Robinson for a duck in the sixth over while Lockie Ferguson returned to the attack to pick up the dangerous Shiron Hetmyer and Mark Adair for single figures.

At 50/6, Vince found brief support in UAE's Aayan Afzal Khan, who scored 15 off 18 and launched Hasaranga for the first six of the game during a 36-run stand. However, Khan's dismissal in the 15th over by Luke Wood further dented the Giants' efforts. Amir then picked off Saghir Khan with a clever slower delivery, leaving Vince to fight a lone battle.

In the 18th over, James Vince took down Luke Wood for 15 runs, bringing up a 47-ball half century in the process. Vince retained strike for the final two overs squeezing a couple more boundaries to place the Giants at 119/9 in 20 overs.

Player of the Match, Sam Curran said as per the ILT20 press release, "It is nice to be here for the start of the tournament and it is nice to win on a tricky pitch. It was almost a bit of a Test match out there, trying to trust your defence. I knew they were going to go for their best seam bowlers at the top, so had to adjust accordingly."

Looking back at the defeat, Gulf Giant skipper James Vince said, "It was a tough gig batting first, there seemed to be a bit more moisture in the wicket than the last game. 120 is always going to be tough to defend. We needed a bit of luck going our way on a wicket like that, if we had held onto our chances, it could have been a bit tricky for them."

Brief Scores: Desert Vipers beat Gulf Giants by six wickets

Gulf Giants 119/9 in 20 overs (James Vince 76, Aayan Afzal Khan 15, Lockie Ferguson 3 for 22, Mohammad Amir 2 for 23)

Desert Vipers 121/4 in 20 overs (Sam Curran 42 not out, Sherfane Rutherford 40 not out, Mark Adair 2 for 12, Tymal Mills 1 for 23.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Nair amazed by his rich run of form, taking things "one game at a time"



NEW DELHI, Jan 15 (Agencies): India and Vidarbha batter Karun Nair opened up on his dream run in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, saying that he is himself amazed by his run of form and is taking things one match at a time, as far as his Team India return is concerned, ESPNcricinfo reported.

Nair, now playing for Vidarbha since 2023, had a steep fall from being India's second triple century in Tests back in 2016 to not even being considered for selection by his state, Karnataka. However, a chat with former Indian cricketer Abey Kuruvilla during the DY Patil tournament in early 2023 helped him find his new home in Vidarbha during the 2023-24 season. Since then, he has been piling runs every-

where, irrespective of the format.

He has been the top run-getter in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, with 664 runs in six innings, averaging 664 because of being dismissed only once. He has made five centuries and struck at 120.07. In 2024, Nair was the ninth-highest run-getter in first-class cricket, having made 1,466 runs at an average of 44.42, with four centuries and seven fifties in 34 innings with the best score of 202*.

He represented not only Vidarbha, but also scored heavily for Northamptonshire in England's county scene, scoring 487 runs in seven matches at an average of 48.70 with a century and three fifties in 11 innings.

Nair's T20 game went

on an upward trajectory as well. He topped the run-charts in the Maharashtra T20 Trophy by Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), scoring 560 runs in 12 matches at an average of 56.00, a strike rate of over 181, with a century and five fifties in 12 innings with the best score of 124. He also did well in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, scoring 255 runs in six innings at an average of 42.50, with three half-centuries and a strike rate of over 177.

Things did not look so bright for him when he returned from a county stint with Northamptonshire back in 2024, scoring 487 runs. In a podcast, former Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa had asked what the batter needed to do in order to get noticed after he was not considered for the season-opening Duleep Trophy competition. His omission had come after making 690 runs in 10 matches at an average of 40.58 during the 2023-24 Ranji Trophy, in which his performances helped Vidarbha earn a runners-up finish to Mumbai, who won a record-extending 42nd title.

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DC Kishtwar visits remote areas of Kuchhal, Mughal Maidan

Appeals people to avail maximum benefits of Govt. Schemes

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 15: To assess developmental progress, address local concerns, and ensure the effective implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, reviewed progress in the far-flung areas of Kuchhal and Mughal Maidan under Sub-Division Chattro.



submit a plan for transforming Brij Bagh (Bhandarkoot) and Sattar Vaghi (Palmar) into agriculture and horticulture belts with proper irrigation facilities. He emphasized the importance of this initiative in enhancing agricultural productivity and improving the livelihoods of local farmers.

The DC also visited the FPO walnut processing unit at Mughal Maidan and interacted with members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), discussing ways to improve their operational efficiency and market linkages. Special focus was placed on the ongoing survey under the

Mission Yuva initiative, aimed at empowering youth through skill development and employment opportunities. The DC stressed the need for accurate data collection to ensure the benefits of the mission reach deserving individuals.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the KK km 2nd to Loidhar Road and directed the concerned agencies to expedite its construction. Additionally, he inspected the ongoing NHIDCL projects along the Kuchhal and Kuriya alignment, carefully assessing various related issues to ensure smooth execution.

The DC highlighted the importance of timely completion of these critical infrastructure projects, which aim to enhance connectivity and benefit the local population. He urged officials to address any bottlenecks and maintain coordination for efficient implementation, reaffirming the administration's commitment to accelerating developmental initiatives in the region.

CAO Kishtwar Amjad Hussain Malik, Ex-En PMGSY Kishtwar Rajesh Sharma, GM NHIDCL Kishtwar, and other officers and staff of the concerned departments were present during the visit.

JKSA writes to Health Minister Nadda, seeks high-level inquiry into tragic deaths in Rajouri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association on Wednesday has written to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, urging immediate intervention in the health crisis and tragic deaths in the Rajouri area of Jammu and Kashmir. In its letter, the association stated that a severe health crisis has gripped the Badhaal village of the Kotranka sub-division in Rajouri, as a mysterious disease continues to claim lives. Tragically, this outbreak has already resulted in the deaths of over 16 people, including 11 children and three adults from three families, posing a significant threat to public health.

The National Convener of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, said that the first cluster of deaths, primarily affecting children, was reported in early December, when nine individuals from two related families succumbed to an unknown illness. In recent days, six more children have been hospitalized, with four dying at a Jammu hospital and three currently in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit. Alarming, these fresh cases are also linked to the previously affected families, raising concerns about the disease's transmission pattern.

He said that patients exhibit symptoms such as fever, vomiting, sweating, dehydration, and episodic loss of consciousness. Despite the deployment of expert teams to conduct field studies and collect food, water, and blood

samples for analysis, the exact cause of the disease remains unidentified.

He emphasized, "Despite these efforts, the situation continues to escalate. Panic and fear have gripped Badhaal village as the outbreak spreads. Villagers live in constant anxiety, and the lack of clarity regarding the disease's origin and mode of transmission is exacerbating the crisis. The absence of conclusive findings or a public statement from the administration has deeply disappointed the community, further increasing their distress. We demand the immediate deployment of medical experts, epidemiologists, and resources to contain the outbreak and provide relief to affected families."

Khuehami urged the Union Health Minister to intervene immediately and ensure a thorough investigation into the cause of the outbreak. He also requested the deployment of medical experts, epidemiologists, and additional resources to assist with disease containment and patient care. "The affected families deserve transparency, relief, and adequate compensation for the tragic losses they have suffered," he said.

In addition to deploying more medical teams and resources, Khuehami urged fast-tracking the laboratory analysis of samples to identify the pathogen causing the disease. Enhanced communication between healthcare authorities and the affected population is also crucial to dispel misinformation and encourage timely reporting of

symptoms.

"Villagers are reportedly living in a state of panic, with the absence of conclusive findings from the administration further deepening their anxiety," he asserted.

The association has urged the government to constitute a high-level inquiry and deploy a team of experts to investigate the tragedy. "A time-bound report is essential to ensure accountability and justice," he said.

"This health emergency requires immediate attention to prevent further loss of life."

He added that the Health Ministry must ensure the rapid analysis and sharing of test results to identify the pathogen responsible for the outbreak. Measures to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and provide logistical and financial support must also be implemented urgently. "The tragedy in Rajouri is a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by remote and underserved regions in terms of healthcare security," Khuehami said.

"The lack of adequate healthcare infrastructure in such regions makes them vulnerable to crises of this nature. Immediate and transparent action is crucial to prevent further loss of life and restore confidence among the affected communities."

The association expressed hope that the Union Health Minister would take swift and decisive action to safeguard the health and well-being of the residents of Rajouri, prevent further loss of life, and alleviate the suffering of the affected population.

KP leaders demand 20,000 permanent jobs for educated KP youths

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: Kashmir Pandits who faced the axe of forceful migration in 1990 at hands of terrorists and anti social elements active in Valley bore the big brunt of losing more than 25000 permanent government jobs on which they were actively discharging their duties before their forceful in Kashmir Valley, thus gave a big setback to this displaced community in exile besides other irreparable losses suffered due to the volatile situation.

These posts were cleverly and mindfully grabbed and filled under a well thought out plan and trick by the then officers in command at

the helm of affairs thus grabbed their source of livelihood completely which needs a high level probe and people involved this brought to justice.

In a joint Statement issued today by the prominent KP leaders M.K Yogi and Vinod Pandita have appealed to Prime Minister of India, Home Minister of India and Lt. Governor J&K for creation and advertisement of twenty thousand permanent posts for educated youth of Kashmiri Pandits living in exile in order to tackle the grave rising unemployment among them in order to remove more than three decades old discrimination.

Yogi a senior leader



of the community also added that despite passing more than fourteen years, no permanent job package has been granted in favour of this displaced community where unemployment is on rise and there is brewing big resentment and frustration among the educated Youth

Yogi also said that this community faces strong hardships and hurdles

in eking out their livelihood at the present time in exile due rise in an employment among educated youth and non enhancement in monthly relief assistance which needs humanitarian consideration forthwith.

Pandita, another prominent leader and social activist of the community, has expressed grave concern for non seriousness of previous Governments shown

towards the formation of a tangible and concrete rehabilitation policy for displaced Kashmiri Pandits for their re-settlement in Valley who are living a life of exile for last more than thirty four years and impressed upon Government of India for formulating concrete policy in this direction at the earliest as this community has pinned great hopes in the NDA Government and are eagerly waiting for it.

Pandita also appealed for initiating special steps for making the jobs of PM package employees permanent with all the provisions of usual benefits like normal employees of Jammu and Kashmir in order to end the tag of super numery posts.

GCOE Jammu granted recognition for M.Ed, B.Ed courses by NRC-NCTE New Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 15: The Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, a constituent college of Cluster University of Jammu, has achieved a significant milestone by receiving recognition for its M.Ed. (Master of Education) course of two years' duration with an annual intake of 50 students (one unit) and the B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education) course of two years' duration with an annual intake of two units (100 students).

This recognition has been granted under clause 7(16) of the NCTE Regulations 2014 by the NRC-NCTE, New Delhi, during its 431st meeting (Volume-1). The recognition will be effective from the academic session 2025-26.

Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Higher Education Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for their unwavering support in making this achievement possible.

She highlighted the importance of this recognition, stating, "This milestone marks a new era for the College, allowing us to expand our academic offerings and contribute meaningfully to the field of teacher education. It strengthens our resolve to provide quality education and prepare future educators who can shape the next generation."

Dr. Parihar extended her profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekhar, for his visionary leadership and constant encourage-

ment. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence has been instrumental in achieving this recognition.

Special appreciation was also conveyed to Ankur Mahajan, Registrar of Cluster University of Jammu, for her administrative support and meticulous coordination, which ensured a smooth process for securing recognition.

Dr. Parihar acknowledged the contributions of Prof. Mohd Zuber, Dean, School of Education, and Prof. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu, for their invaluable guidance and academic inputs.

Their expertise and dedication have greatly enriched the College's efforts in enhancing its academic portfolio. Additionally, Dr. Parihar appreciated the efforts of the Convener NCTE Committee Dr. Rakesh Bharti and its members for putting their best efforts to secure this much needed recognition.

She also applauded the members of the College staff, whose collective hard work and determination played a pivotal role in achieving this recognition. Their tireless efforts reflect the commitment of the institution to academic growth and excellence.

This recognition for M.Ed and B.Ed courses reinforces the status of Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, as a premier institution for teacher education in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir further enabling it to contribute to the educational landscape of the region and beyond.

GDC RS Pura organizes cleanliness drive



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 15: The NSS Volunteers today conducted Cleanliness drive under the theme "Keep Your College Campus Clean".

The participants started picking up pebbles, wrappers, broken glasses, bottles, dispos

als and waste material lying scattered here and there.

After collecting them they threw them in the garbage bags. During the drive due care, caution and safety measures were taken.

The NSS Unit took the initiative to clean the surroundings of the

college. The cleanliness drive was conducted under the mentorship of (Prof.) Dr. Preetpal Kour, Principal of the college.

The Principal lauded the efforts of all the volunteers for the successful conduct of the event and said that students are the real ambassadors of cleanliness and should motivate others to keep their homes, educational institutes and surroundings clean.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Shivani Manchanda and Dr. Savleen Kour.



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