

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-16 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Sharing hateful content is punishable offence: Cyber Police Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 16 (Agencies): Cyber Police Kashmir today warned social media users to stop sharing hateful content immediately on social media platforms which aims to fuel sectarian unrest in valley. The police maintained that sharing such content is punishable offence under law, and whosoever would be found involved will be roped under legal action. "We have observed that certain hateful sectarian content, originally posted and later removed, has been downloaded/ saved by malicious individuals who are now circulating it widely on social media. This behavior is under close watch," Cyber Police Kashmir in its official X-handle said.

They said that several offenders in this connection have already been summoned and strict legal action is being taken against them.

"Several offenders have already been summoned to the @cyberpolicekashmir, and strict legal action is being taken. We urge everyone who has downloaded or shared this harmful content to stop immediately," the post on X added.

"We caution all users: Sharing hateful content is a punishable offence. Legal action will be enforced against violators. WE ARE WATCHING," Cyber Police Kashmir said on X.

The police on Wednesday said it have arrested six miscreants for inciting sectarian unrest through derogatory remarks, who have been lodged at Central Jail Srinagar.

Several roads closed amid rain, snow forecast in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 16 (Agencies): The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have closed several roads, including Gurez-Bandipora, Mughal, and Sinthan Top roads as a precautionary measure in view of weather forecast, officials said.

An official said that the Srinagar-Jammu national highway is open for traffic, while commuters have been advised to follow lane discipline, as overtaking may cause congestion.

"Passengers are advised to travel on Jammu-Srinagar road during the day and avoid unnecessary stops between Ramban and

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35th UTLCC

CS advocates tough action against online scammers to safeguard public



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the 35th Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) meeting convened by Reserve Bank of India, Jammu branch here.

The meeting was aimed to discuss issues related to unauthorised deposits, fraudulent activities of unregulated entities and sharing

of market intelligence among the stakeholders.

Regional Director, RBI, Jammu, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Principal Secretary, Finance, ADGP(CID), Secretary, Revenue, Secretary, Law, Director Industrialise and Commerce and Joint Director, Information, Jammu were present in the meeting. Besides, top officials of regulatory bodies in J&K including GM, RBI, Registrar

Cooperatives, RoC, Market Intelligence Unit, RBI and representatives from SEBI and ICAI also attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary took notice of the instances of defraud committed against the people of the UT. He stressed on taking strict action against these online scammers under the relevant provisions of BUDS Act.

Dulloo reiterated that commission of crime

in itself is cognizable offence so the law enforcement agencies have primary responsibility to take impromptu action against such entities to safeguard people from falling prey to their traps. He enjoined upon the regulatory bodies to notify the rules so as to facilitate the law enforcement agencies in taking action. He also advised them including the RBI, SEBI and others to generate awareness among the people and circulate this knowledge through social media, WhatsApp and bulk messaging to people through banks operating in J&K.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the RBI authorities to empower the police officers in carrying out effective investigations in the cases of digital arrest or online scams. He asked

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SC dismisses J&K Govt's plea against HC Direction to create 334 judicial posts within 60 days



NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): The Supreme Court dismissed Jammu and

Kashmir government's challenge to a High Court order which directed the UT authorities to

create 334 judicial posts within 60 days.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti passed the order, noting that the main matter is pending before the High Court and the observations contained in the impugned order – an interim order – were tentative.

The order was dictated thus: "We see no reason to entertain the present SLP and the same is accordingly dismissed."

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Govt announces 8th Pay Commission for central govt employees

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): In a major decision, the government on Thursday decided to set up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of central government employees and allowances of pen-



sioners. The decision to set up the 8th Pay Commission was taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The 7th Pay Commission was set up in 2016,

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Court acquits three in attempted murder case

Rajiv

JAMMU, Jan 16: In a pivotal ruling, the Additional Sessions Judge of Jammu, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, acquitted three individuals charged under FIR No. 14/2013 registered at Gharota Police Station. The accused were facing trial for serious offenses under Sections 307 (attempt to murder), 341 (wrongful restraint), 324 (voluntarily causing

hurt by dangerous weapons), and 447 (criminal trespass) of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

The verdict brings to a close a protracted legal battle spanning over a decade. It underscores the fundamental principle of criminal jurisprudence—that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case

Turn to page 9

Saif Ali Khan stabbed 6 times, 1 close to spine, says Lilavati Hospital

MUMBAI, Jan 16 (Agencies): There was an attempted burglary at Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan's residence in Mumbai late on Wednesday night.

Saif Ali Khan was stabbed by an unidentified person during the burglary and has "six stabs" out of which "two are deep", said a doctor from Lilavati Hospital. Dr Niraj Uttamani,



COO of Lilavati Hospital, said that Saif was stabbed by an unidentified person at his Bandra

home and was brought in at 3: 30 am.

Uttamani said that Saif has six stabs and two are deep.

"This one is close to the spine. He is being operated upon by a team of doctors led by Neurosurgeon Dr Nitin Dange, cosmetic surgeon Dr Leena Jain anaesthesiologist Dr Nisha Gandhi," said Uttamani.

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Budhal deaths not linked to communicable bacterial disease: J&K Govt

Rajiv

JAMMU, Jan 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has been closely monitoring the situation in village Budhal, Rajouri, where an unexplained illness has claimed 14 lives. One child admitted in SMGS hospital is critical. Investigations, and

samples empirically indicate that the incidents are not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin and that there is no public health angle. Pertinently all samples have tested negative for any viral or bacteriological etiology. The tests were conducted on different samples in some of the most reputed labs of the

country. These include National Institute of Virology Pune, National Centre for disease control New Delhi, National Institute of Toxicology and Research Lucknow, Defence Research Development Establishment Gwalior, the Microbiology Department of PGIMER Chandigarh besides the ICMR-Virus

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Agriculture Department Jammu organizes Buyer-Seller meet for flower growers



nurseries raised within polyhouses as a commercial business opportunity.

By growing high-quality seedlings, farmers can sell them year-round, creating a sustainable and profitable enterprise in the floriculture industry.

Dr. Punit Chowdhary, Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Jammu, highlighted the importance of scientific advancements and innovation in floriculture and shared his perspectives on the future of the sector. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern techniques for better yield and quality.

The Buyer Seller Meet also featured an interactive session where buyers, sellers, and flower growers engaged in fruitful discussions. This session allowed for the exchange of ideas, feedback, and concerns, and facilitated the establishment of vital connections between stakeholders in the floriculture supply chain.

A technical session was conducted by resource persons and experts, who responded to farmers' queries and offered detailed guidance on improving production techniques, marketing strategies, and the sustainable growth of the floriculture sector.

Among the distinguished guests/resource persons/experts present were Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director Trainings, Department of Agriculture Jammu, Bhavishya Devgan, CEO, Saluam Ride Gear Apparels Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Dr. Anil Bhat, Professor, SKUAST Jammu, Tajinder Singh, Progressive Farmer and Kisan Board Member, Dr. Sourab Sangral, Area Marketing Officer, Jammu and others.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu today successfully organized the Buyer-Seller Meet 2024-25 for flower growers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Baba Jitto, Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo Jammu.

The event aimed to foster a robust marketplace for floriculture, connecting buyers, sellers, and flower growers, while promoting commercial floriculture as part of the broader agricultural development initiative.

Mission Director HADP/JKCIP Rahul Yadav, the chief guest for the event, inaugurated the Buyer-Seller Meet and officially commenced the program with the lighting of the lamp. The program was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Vinod Kumar Kundal, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the key objectives of the event and the importance of fostering connections within the floriculture industry.

During the address, Mission Director Rahul

Yadav highlighted several key projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aimed at boosting floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir. These included Project No. 4: Strengthening Agri-Marketing System in UT J&K, Project No. 5: Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants on a Commercial Basis, and Project No. 14: Promotion of Commercial Floriculture. Shri Yadav emphasized the crucial role of marketing and branding in the success of commercial floriculture, noting that effective marketing strategies and strong branding would enhance the value of floriculture products, open new markets for farmers and increase farmers' income. He further stressed that these initiatives are designed to improve agricultural productivity.

Rahul Yadav also took the opportunity to engage with the gathering, reiterating the commitment to strengthening the floriculture sector under HADP, and providing vital insights on its role in Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural transformation. Mission Director noted the presence of buyers from other states, highlighting the growing interest

in Jammu's floriculture products. He stressed the need for proper handholding for flower growers and emphasized the importance of developing a reliable buyer chain for flower growers, ensuring that they have a consistent and profitable market for their produce.

Director Agriculture Jammu A.S Reen, shared his thoughts on the importance of floriculture for the agricultural development of the region. Director Agriculture further discussed the motive for area expansion of commercial floriculture under HADP in the Jammu region.

He highlighted the key provisions in the Holistic Agriculture Development programme, including polyhouses, polycarbonate structures, cold storage units, pack houses, and refrigerated vans—all essential infrastructure that will support the growth of the floriculture sector.

These facilities are designed to help flower growers extend the shelf life of their products, improve quality, and enhance their marketability.

In addition, Director Agriculture A.S Reen emphasized the potential for flower seedling

PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti unveils 2025 Annual Calendar highlighting the struggles of displaced families

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: The PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti launched its 2025 annual calendar at a press conference held at the Press Club Jammu. This year's calendar sheds light on the historical and ongoing struggles of Hindus and Sikhs displaced from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) during the invasions of 1947, 1965, and 1971.

Dr. Deepak Kapoor, President of the Samiti, introduced the calendar as a tribute to the displaced families who have endured unimaginable hardships. Featuring rare and evocative photographs, the calendar documents the mass exodus, loss of lives, destruction of property, and the long-term effects of displacement. "This calendar is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and suffering endured by these families, and a call to continue the fight for justice," Dr. Kapoor remarked.

Er. Arun Chowdhary, General Secretary of the Samiti, highlighted that this is the third calendar released by the organization since 2023. He emphasized the importance of distributing the calendar to PoJK displaced persons and the wider public to ensure the stories of these communities are preserved for future generations.

"This initiative is not just about remembrance; it's about education and awareness. We want the world to understand the resilience of PoJK displaced families and the injustices they have faced for



decades," Chowdhary said.

The PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti has been at the forefront of advocating for the welfare of displaced families, pushing for their rehabilitation, and striving to reclaim territories illegally occupied by Pakistan and China. These include PoJK, Pakistan-occupied Territory of Ladakh (PoTL), and China-occupied Territory of Ladakh (CoTL).

The organization's ultimate goal remains the complete reclamation of these territories, which they view as an integral part of India's sovereignty.

Ashok Khajuria, a prominent leader and adviser to the Samiti, was present at the event. He reiterated the importance of sustaining the struggle for justice and ensuring the rights of PoJK displaced families are upheld. "The sacrifices of these families must not go in vain. We stand united in our mission to reclaim our territories and

restore dignity to those displaced," Khajuria stated.

The PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti is a non-political, social organization dedicated to supporting displaced families from PoJK. Since its inception, the Samiti has provided resources, advocacy, and a platform for displaced persons to voice their concerns. It continues to work toward the reclamation of PoJK, PoTL, and CoTL from illegal occupation while ensuring the welfare of affected communities.

The launch of the 2025 calendar serves as a rallying point for awareness and advocacy. By highlighting the ongoing struggles of displaced families, the PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti hopes to inspire collective efforts to address their plight and push for meaningful action.

As the calendar reaches homes across the region, it stands as a poignant reminder of the resilience of displaced families and the urgent need for justice.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Sub: Pre bid meeting regarding PCET tender ex. SML to BXG and back.
No. 179-C/PCET/ISNL-BXG/24 Date: 15.01.2025
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites E-tender through IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train having composition of 15 parcel Vans having CC 24 tonnes each (LVPHs) and one brake Van for a period of six years ex. Sanahwal to Bhangra and back to Sanahwal. (PCET shall be 15 parcel vans + 1 Brakevan, for first six months of contract, and after six months, the composition shall be 20 parcel van + 1 brakevan). Tender will be opened on 05.02.2025.
All interested bidders/leaseholder are requested to go through the terms and conditions of the tender and submit the queries/suggestions through email at IDr.dcmfszn@gmail.com upto 18.01.2025 at 16:00 hrs.
A pre bid meeting for above tender is scheduled on 20.01.2025 at 11:30 hrs through Video conference (Google meet). Link: - <https://meet.google.com/zro-xktm-fjg>.
Interested bidders may kindly join the VC through the link given on 20.01.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.
For any queries please contact: Sh. Siddhesh Kumar, CM/1.000. Mob.-9779233934
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur
16/01/2025
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NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-JAT-1-24-25 Closing Date/Time: 06.02.2025, 15:00
Date: 14.01.2025
Sr. DIST/IAJ acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-JAT-1-24-25 Closing Date/Time 06.02.2025, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed.
NIT HEADER
Contract Type: Works
Name of Work: (S) S&T work in connection with Provision of IBS between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Chakanwatal (single line) of Jammu Division
Tender Closing Date/Time: 06.02.2025, 15:00 Date/Time of Uploading Tender: 14.01.2025, 20:17
Advertised Value (Rs.): (1) 1,00,00,436.86 Bidding Start Date as per IREPS: 23.01.2025
Earnest Money (Rs.): (1) 2,00,400.00 Period of Completion: (1) 6 Months
16/01/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD(R&B) NORTH CIRCLE JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No.SENJ/20 of 2024-25 dated 09-01-2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K/CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government for the work mentioned below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Community Hall at Mini Township Jagti, Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Nagrota	495.00	6000/-	990000/- (2% of the Advertised Cost)	24 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 31-01-2025	"A" Class (Civil)

Position of AAA = Accord of Administrative Approval by Department of Disaster, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Civil Secretariat, vide Govt. Order No. 76-JK-(DMRRR) of 2024, dated: 14.10.2024 for an amount of Rs. 644.00 Lacs under Regular Capex Budget.

Position of Tech/Exp. Sanction = Expenditure Sanctioned by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Jammu vide No. CEJZ/DB/12279-80, dated:- 31.12.2024 for an amount of Rs. 563.47 Lacs.

Project Authority = Department of Disaster, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction J&K. The Bidding documents consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09.01.2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10.01.2025 to 30.01.2025, 1800 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	16.01.2025 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B)NORTH Circle, Jammu
4.	Bid submission Start Date	10.01.2025 From 0900 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	30.01.2025 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	31.01.2025 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B)NORTH Circle, Jammu
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No:-SENJ/DB/ 7847-55
Dated:- 09/01/2025
DIP/J-9184/24
----- sd -----
(Er. Jugal Kishore)
Superintending Engineer
PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu

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EDITORIAL

Unifying India's Linguistic Diversity

India, a land of unparalleled diversity, is home to 22 constitutionally recognized languages and over 19,500 dialects. This linguistic richness reflects the country's cultural, historical, and social tapestry, binding its people in a unique yet intricate unity. Celebrating this remarkable diversity, the Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh, an initiative under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, has emerged as a symbol of linguistic harmony, bringing together languages from across the nation in a vibrant confluence.

From the Dravidian languages of the south to the Indo-Aryan tongues of the north, and from the Tibeto-Burman dialects in the northeast to the Austroasiatic languages in central India, each linguistic family represents a distinct cultural identity. However, India's linguistic diversity has often been viewed as a challenge in fostering national unity.

In response to this challenge, the Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh seeks to celebrate and embrace these differences as strengths, demonstrating how India's myriad languages can coexist harmoniously while contributing to the nation's collective identity.

Held as part of India's 75th year of independence celebrations, the Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh brings together scholars, linguists, writers, and artists to explore the role of languages in shaping India's past, present, and future. This festival showcases linguistic diversity through cultural performances, literary discussions, and interactive workshops.

Folk songs, dances, and theater in various Indian languages that highlight regional traditions and their contributions to India's cultural heritage.

Discussions on the art of translation, bridging linguistic gaps, and the role of literature in fostering understanding among diverse communities.

Interactive sessions where attendees can learn basic phrases and scripts from different Indian languages, fostering curiosity and respect for linguistic diversity.

Visual displays and storytelling sessions that celebrate the evolution of Indian languages and their role in shaping the country's historical narrative.

One of the significant challenges India faces is the erosion of regional languages and dialects due to globalization and the dominance of a few major languages. The Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh addresses this issue by encouraging the documentation and promotion of endangered dialects, providing a platform for lesser-known languages to shine.

Initiatives like the digitization of ancient texts, the creation of multilingual digital archives, and workshops on indigenous scripts aim to preserve India's linguistic heritage for future generations.

Language often serves as a marker of identity, but it can also become a source of division. Recognizing this, the festival promotes linguistic harmony by emphasizing mutual respect and understanding. The idea is to foster a sense of belonging among speakers of different languages, encouraging them to appreciate each other's linguistic and cultural contributions.

For instance, participants are encouraged to celebrate similarities between languages, such as shared words, grammatical structures, and cultural references. By highlighting these commonalities, the Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh reinforces the idea that India's linguistic diversity is a unifying force rather than a dividing one.

Technology plays a pivotal role in bridging linguistic gaps. The festival showcases advancements in language technology, including real-time translation tools, language-learning apps, and digital platforms for regional literature. These innovations enable communication across linguistic boundaries, making India's diverse languages more accessible to all.

The integration of regional languages into digital spaces, such as websites, apps, and e-governance platforms, ensures inclusivity while preserving linguistic identity. The Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh highlights these technological advancements as crucial steps toward a more linguistically inclusive India.

The Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh is not merely a celebration; it is a vision for India's future. By fostering linguistic unity, the event contributes to the broader goal of creating a harmonious society where diversity is celebrated, not feared.

This vision aligns with India's constitutional ideals, particularly Article 351, which calls for the promotion of Hindi while preserving the richness of other Indian languages. The festival's inclusive approach ensures that all linguistic communities feel valued and represented.

India's linguistic diversity is a testament to its resilience and adaptability. The Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh serves as a reminder that unity in diversity is not just a slogan but a lived reality for millions of Indians.

As the festival concludes, it leaves behind a legacy of mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration among India's linguistic communities. By celebrating the nation's languages, the Amrit Mahotsav Kumbh reinforces the idea that India's strength lies in its diversity, paving the way for a future where every language, dialect, and voice finds its rightful place in the nation's narrative.

Lt. Shri R.K. Bharti - Unsung Hero of Journalism in J&K



By: Omkar Dattatray

The death anniversary of Lt. Shri R.K. Bharti was observed on 12th January 2025 by RK Bharati Foundation as usual and tributes were paid to the literary genius and journalist of repute. Shri R.K. Bharti was born on 19th January 1937 to a traditional and typical Kashmiri Pandit couple - Nath Ram Pandit and Rajrani Pandit in a small village, Kakran, in the south of Kashmir, then Tehsil Kulgam, then district Anantnag, Kashmir. His father had a shop in the same village and had some land as well. Bharti had his early schooling at High School Kulgam, where from he passed the matriculation examination. His father wanted him to take up the family business but the inquisitive, very sensitive son who was fond of reading, totally reluctant to do family business and much against the wishes of the family got appointed in the school education department as a teacher. His love and intense interest in education grew further and further. He passed BA, BT as a school teacher privately and did not see the light of college. Then he passed MA in Hindi subject also through privately. Not satisfied with MA Hindi, he studied English literature and passed MA in English subject that too privately. After passing MA English, he pursued Med in 1972 as a regular student from the Government College of Education, Moulana Azad Road, Srinagar, where he came in contact with the principal of that college Shri Syed Aaga Ashraf, who was a towering educationist of the time. Aaga Ashraf was his teacher, but later close friendship grew between the two. In the education department, much afterwards, Shri Bharti was promoted as Headmaster, Master, then after some years as senior headmaster, high school. From his school days and early age he had an interest in writing letters and other writing ups in local newspapers, and with the passing of days, he wrote very interesting articles in the newspapers in Urdu, Hindi, English, and even Gogri. He worked for many years as the headmaster of the Teachers Training School Shopian. He played a pivotal role in protecting the landed property rights of the petty landowners. Shri Bharti canvassed against the most draconian, dis-

crimatory and unjust land reform act passed by Congress government headed by Syed Mir Qasim. He vehemently opposed and criticized the Congress government and Mir Qasim for snatching the landed properties of petty landowners who mostly were Kashmiri Pandits and conferring it to the Muslim tenants without any compensation. He filed two writ petitions against the Land Reform Act of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in the Supreme Court of India, where he hired the services of Nani Palkiwala, an advocate of repute and expert in revenue matters. A stay was imposed on the operation of the Land Reform Act. But later on the stay was vacated. Bharti was a fearless man, and it is said of him that while leading a delegation of landlords, he had a heated verbal exchange with the Chief Minister Syed Mir Qasim in the secretariat and Shri Abdul Gani Lone, who then was a Congress Minister prevailed on the chief minister, and so there were talks between the delegation of aggrieved landowners and the chief minister. Shri Bharti also called on the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi and apprised her of the discriminatory land reform act of the Jammu and Kashmir government. He also called on almost all the big opposition leaders of the then Jansung, such as Shri A.B. Vajpayee and L.K. Advani and other leaders, and put his views about the discriminatory land reform act before them. He also called on communists' leader Sardar Surjit Singh Sukrala, and he inquired from this leader if in the Soviet Union the land reform laws on the same pattern were made, which denied land rights to some and conferred the land to some others that too without compensation. In his write-ups he wrote extensively against the draconian Land Reform Act not once but a number of times in different newspapers and in radio talks he also put forth his views about the Land Reform law. Shri R.K. Bharti wrote much on the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and Dogri-speaking Kashmiri Rajputs, who also were made paupers overnight by one stroke of his pen by Chief Minister Mir Qasim. He was a farsighted person and had forecast the adverse days for Kashmiri Pandits. Bharti had drawn a cartoon in some newspaper showing KP's in the cartoon wherein he showed them as being Na Ghar Ke Na Ghat Ke and had also written in the same cartoon, an Urdu Capulet, which reads - Na Khuda He Mila Na Vasale Sanam Na Idhar Ke Rahe Na Udhar Ke Rahe. He, along with his family, left Kashmir and settled in Jammu. In Jammu he worked as a district project officer Adult Education for some years and also worked as District Planning Officer (DPO) Rajouri for some time, and then he was again posted as Sr. Head Master in Pragal and retired from the school education department after rendering 34 years of service. It is often said of him that he was transferred almost the same number of years as

his service. The reason was that he was honest, straightforward, called a spade a spade, and was bold and fearless, so was an eyesore of the administration. In Jammu, Bharti, besides writing articles, stairs, etc. also worked with several newspaper organizations. He worked with Excelsior for a few years, where he also started a column, 'All Your Answers in Sunday Magazine & had good relations with S.D.Rohmetra the founder editor of this newspaper He also worked with the English daily State Times for some years. Bharti also worked in the English newspapers Northlines and Dehat Sandesh for a few years. He also worked in the Gujjar Desh Charitable Trust for a few months, then left this job after some months. Mr. Bharti also worked with Hind Samachar, a national Urdu Daily in Jalandar for some time. He also worked in the Urdu department for a few years after his retirement from state government, and there he taught Professional Urdu Journalism to graduate and postgraduate students. He possessed profound knowledge of Urdu and had great command of the Urdu language though the fact is that he studied Urdu only up to 10th class. His Teaching graduate and post-graduate students was not less than a miracle. He never became a professor but his dream to teach higher classes came true while teaching professional Urdu journalism in Jammu University, where he came in contact with the VC Amitabh Mattoo and the Friendship grew between the two. Bharti also taught for some time in the institute of Journalism & Mass Communication of veteran journalist Balraj Puri. There was intimate friendship between Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Bharti. Dr. Farooq used to pay visit to his Talab Tillo residence. Farooq used to come to the Kakran residence of Bharti. In Jammu, friendship grew between KT Editor Shri Ved Basian and Bharat and, between Editor of State Times Raj Daluja and Bharti, between Editor of Northlines Rattan Gill and Bharti. There was friendship between Founder editor of Jammu Jottings Subash Mehra and Bharti and there were good relations between the founder editor of Shadow Dr Roop Lal Sharma and Bharti Here in Jammu, Bharti often took part in the literary and cultural functions in the Cultural Academy, Abnav Theatre, and Press Club Jammu, Jammu University, etc. Throughout his life he was a busy man, reading, writing articles, and doing all the chores at home. He was very punctual during his service career and after his retirement while serving in newspaper organizations and while working in the Urdu Department of Jammu university. He attended many conferences in Delhi, Patiala, and other places. In Jammu university friendship grew between Bharti and Prof. Zahoor Ahamed, Bharti and Jagan Nath Azad, Bharti, and Dr. Prof. Shoib Inayat Mallik. In literary circles there was friendship between Bharti and many

literary figures, such as Mr. Aseer Kishtwari, who was the DGAT J&K and Mr. Shyam Talib, the founder of Adbi Kunj Jammu, who passed away recently in Jammu. He was also held in high esteem by one Amin Banjara, a teacher and a literary figure.

Shri R.K. Bharti was a multifaceted personality, and it is no exaggeration to say that he was all in one man. He was an academician, educationist, doyen of journalism, picture designer, cartoonist, palmist, future teller, always ahead of his time and still a simple and honest man. Bharti Sahib was a teacher by profession and was a teacher of repute, and he has impressed many students with his teaching and more by his behavior, and he was a role model for many. He was a leading light of journalistic field, and he had to his credit thousands of articles and write-ups published in national, regional, and local papers. Bharti was a versatile writer and wrote with ease and precision on socio-economic, cultural, and Kashmiri Pandit issues boldly. His write-ups were published in RSS mouthpiece - Organizer and national Urdu newspaper. He many a time wrote satirically on the current social and political issues and problems and was a critic and a good translator and had translated many books of great authors, including Pro. Jagamath Azad's book 'Alien in a Native Land' and Dr. Karan Singh's book 'My Hair appeared, to mention a few. This great person, who was also a down-to-earth man, passed away after a brief illness at his Talab Tillo residence on 12th January 2008. His death was mourned by the then chief minister Gh Nabi Azad, cultural academy officials, and its secretary. People from different walks of life condoled his death and participated in his cremation, and still many visited his residence, and among them were Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Amitabh Mattoo, VC of Jammu University, DGP Kuldeep Khoda, Mr. M.Y. Teng, Prof. Zahoor Ahamed, and many other prominent personalities and members of the journalistic fraternity. By his passing away, a great void was created in literary and journalistic circles. The best tribute to the multifaceted personality is to imbibe his qualities of simplicity, honesty, hard work, and punctuality.

(The author is a columnist, social activist, and freelance writer)

Winter skin care tips for oily skin



By: Shahnaz Hussain

The colder months raise concerns about dry skin and flaky skin, but what about oily skin?

While the focus often leans towards combating dry skin issues in winter, oily skin comes with its own set of challenges.

The chilly air and reduced humidity combined with heated indoor environments can strip the skin of its moisture, leading to excess oil production, clogged pores, breakouts, and an overall uneven complexion.

This leads to the frustrating cycle of having both dryness and oiliness at the same time. Managing oily skin in winter requires a careful balance of hydration without making

your skin feel greasy.

A few adjustments in your skincare routine will leave you with better skin during the colder months.

1--Wash your face twice ----- Wash your face twice daily in the morning and evening with a mild and gentle face wash to remove dirt and oil without over-stripping your skin.

Always use cool water, as hot water strips off natural skin oils and reduces oil density and viscosity. Gently scrubbing the face also reduces skin oiliness. Face washes rich in ingredients like hyaluronic acid will help retain moisture in your skin while keeping it feeling hydrated without adding any extra oil. Look for cleansers that are sulphate-free and contain soothing ingredients like aloe vera or glycerin to maintain the skin's hydration levels.

Cleansers for oily skin as a part of their winter skin care must be non-comedogenic to prevent clogging of pores.

2---Avoid Hot Showers ----- Hot showers might be soothing in the winter, but it dries your skin out over the top and leaves it looking dull potentially leading to increased oil production as your skin tries to compensate for the dryness, resulting in a worsening of your oily complexion.

Hot showers and the effects of indoor heating and cooling can deplete your skin with natural oils, which can cause dryness and other problems. Never rub your skin dry; pat it with a towel. Scouring your face can disturb your touchy pores and lead to an abundance of oil discharge. Stick to lukewarm water which will help wash off the dirt without leaving your skin dry and stretchy. Limit the length of your shower to ten to fifteen minutes. Follow with a moisturizer containing ingredients such as hyaluronic acid to replenish and lock in moisture. And don't forget about proteins like keratin—they help your skin stay strong and keep the hydration locked in.

3----Stay hydrated.----- What can be the best way to increase skin hydration during winter than drinking water? Water is essential to keep your body hydrated from within and it helps skin maintain moisture and keep fine lines at bay. Drink at least 2 liters of water a day to keep your body hydrated. No moisturizer, serum, or face oil has the power to replace water. Proper hydration is essential for overall skin health and can help alleviate dryness. Keep hydrated with green tea, coconut water, seasonal vegetables and natu-

ral product juices. Include vitamin C in your diet which would help you to elevate the hydration level in the skin and combat issues of dry skin.

4---Balance the diet ----- Though topical applications play their part, true skin hydration begins with your diet and daily habits. Drinking plenty of water is vital, but your diet really makes a difference as well. Incorporate fiber-rich vegetables like leafy greens, carrots, broccoli, cucumber, and bell peppers, alongside lean protein sources like fish, chicken breast, lentils, and whole grains like brown rice and quinoa in your diet that can help regulate your skin's oil production. Foods rich in omega-3s, like sardines and flaxseeds can help enhance the skin's moisture retention and elasticity. Our vitamin D levels are often lower in the winter due to short days and long nights. Take a cup of hot Milk before going to bed at night. Milk is a good source of Vitamin D.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

Sidhant Gupta calls his role of Charles Sobhraj in *The Black Warrant* demanding

Netflix recently treated the fans with another nail-biting thriller, *Black Warrant*. With the show becoming a rage among movie buffs, Sidhant Gupta in particular has been receiving a lot of praise for his portrayal of the serial killer, Charles Sobhraj.

Sidhant Gupta gets the body language spot-on. Dressed in swashbuckling fashion, the smooth-talking 'bikini killer' is winning hearts. The cinephiles can't get over Sidhant's uncanny resemblance with the real-life criminal. With his slicked-back hair, sharp suits and refined presence, the actor was able to bring the character to life on screen. Sidhant's remarkable portrayal has turned out to be one of the highlights of the web series.

Talking about his experience of playing Sobhraj, Sidhant was quoted saying, "Playing Charles Sobhraj was demanding. He's a complex individual, capable of



both charm and intimidation. It was intense to get into his skin, to reveal the person beneath the notorious reputation. In chasing the mystery, I became one myself. The task was challenging, but I prepared well and gave my best. Rest, it is up to the audience to decide."

Before this, Sidhant gave

some memorable performances in the web series *Jubilee* and *Freedom at Midnight*. *Black Warrant* marks the actor's second professional association with filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane. These two previously collaborated for *Jubilee*, co-starring Prosenjit Chatterjee, Aparshakti Khurana, Aditi Rao

Hydari, Wamiqa Gabbi and Ram Kapoor, among others.

Black Warrant, a crime thriller, is an adaptation of the 2019 non-fiction book *Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer* by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury. The book journal's Sunil's time as a rookie jailer at Tihar Prisons. The title *Black Warrant*, meaning death warrant, suggests there is a stronger focus on convicts on death row. But the Netflix series is not just about capital punishment.

It features Zahan Kapoor as Sunil Gupta, Rahul Bhat as DSP Rajesh Tomar, Paramvir Singh Cheema as Shivraj Singh Mangat and Anurag Thakur as Vipin Dahiya. Tanya Chhabria has performed the editing for the drama, whereas Saumyananda Sahi is on board the crew as the head of cinematography. *Black Warrant* premiered on the streaming giant Netflix on January 10.

'All We Imagine As Light', 'Santosh' in running for BAFTAs



Payal Kapadia-directed Golden Globe Awards contender 'All We Imagine As Light' on Wednesday bagged another nomination, this time in the 'Film Not the English Language' category for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2025.

The Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix 2024 winning profound tale of urban migration and dislocation will compete against Mexican thriller

'Emilia Perez', Portuguese drama 'Ainda Estou Aqui' (I'm Still Here), Irish comedy-drama 'Kneecap' and Iranian crime-drama 'The Seed of the Sacred Fig'.

Meanwhile, London-based filmmaker Sandhya Suri has been nominated for a BAFTA in the 'Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer' for her Uttar Pradesh police thriller 'Santosh' - which is also in

the running for an Oscar nomination as the UK's entry to the Academy Awards.

Suri goes head-to-head with fellow British Indian filmmaker, Dev Patel, for his directorial debut 'Monkey Man' in the same category.

Another London-based Indian-origin filmmaker Karan Kandhari is competing in the same category for his dark comedy 'Sister Midnight', starring Radhika Apte.

British actor David Tennant is due to host the annual awards ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall on February 16. Pulp thriller 'Conclave' leads this year's race, in the running for 12 awards - including best film, best director, best actor for Ralph Fiennes, and best supporting actress for Isabella Rossellini.

Priyanka Chopra expresses sorrow over devastation caused by LA wildfires

The Los Angeles wildfires have caused immense destruction, forcing people to evacuate and leaving many homeless. Priyanka Chopra, who has a house in the city, has expressed her heartbreak over the devastation, taking to social media to share her sorrow and solidarity with those affected.

Priyanka Chopra took to Instagram and shared several pictures of what Los Angeles looked like before and after the wildfires and penned a heartbreaking note. She wrote, "I (heart emoji) you LA. My heart is so heavy. While I'm deeply grateful for my family's safety, so many of our friends, colleagues, and fellow Angelenos have lost so much. These fires have displaced countless families and devastated entire communities, leaving an overwhelming need for rebuilding and support."

The wildfires have wreaked havoc across vast areas, claiming lives of as many as 25 people. Priyanka highlighted the efforts of firefighters, first responders, and volunteers working tirelessly to combat the fires and provide relief. Calling them "true heroes," she praised their bravery and commitment during these trying times.

In addition to expressing her grief, Priyanka urged her followers to contribute to relief efforts. She shared resources and organizations working on the ground to support those affected, including the California Fire Foundation (@cafirefound), Baby2Baby (@baby2baby), and the American Red Cross (@americanredcross).

She wrote, "Over the past week, I've



come across countless GoFundMe pages and organizations working tirelessly to provide relief. If you're able, please consider donating to those who have lost everything or supporting organizations... Every contribution, no matter the size, truly helps."

Los Angeles wildfire has consumed more than 4000 structures, and forced more than 130,000 people to flee their homes. Many Hollywood A-listers like Paris Hilton, Mandy Moore, Billy Crystal, James Wood and Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag among others lost their homes to wildfires. Stars like Ben Affleck, Tom Hanks and Adam Sandler were forced to evacuate their houses.

Drake sues Universal Music for defamation related to Kendrick Lamar diss track 'Not Like Us'

A hip-hop superstar beef was cranked up another notch on Wednesday when Drake sued Universal Music Group for defamation over rival Kendrick Lamar's diss track "Not Like Us".

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in New York City, alleges UMG - the parent record label for Drake and Lamar - published and promoted the track even though it included false pedophilia allegations against Drake and suggested listeners should resort to vigilante justice. Lamar is not named in the suit.

The result, the suit says, was intruders shooting a security guard and two attempted break-ins at Drake's Toronto home, online hate and harassment, a hit to his reputation and a decrease in his brand's value before his contract renegotiation with UMG this year.

"The lawsuit is not about the artist who created 'Not Like Us,'" the lawsuit says, referring to Lamar. "It is, instead, entirely about UMG, the music company that decided to publish,



promote, exploit, and monetise allegations that it understood were not only false, but dangerous." The suit later alleges, "UMG did so because it understood that the Recording's inflammatory and shocking allegations were a gold mine." And, the suit claims, the music company has made large investments and used its connections to arrange for "Not Like Us" to be performed at next month's Super Bowl, where Lamar will be the halftime entertainment.

The lawsuit, which is seeking a trial and an undisclosed amount of money for damages, also repeated allegations in other legal fil-

ings that UMG falsely pumped up the popularity of "Not Like Us" on streaming services.

The track is nominated for five Grammys, including record of the year and song of the year.

UMG disputed the lawsuit's allegations in a statement.

"Not only are these claims untrue, but the notion that we would seek to harm the reputation of any artist - let alone Drake - is illogical," the company said. "We have invested massively in his music and our employees around the world have worked tirelessly for many years to help him achieve historic commercial and

personal financial success." The company added: "Throughout his career, Drake has intentionally and successfully used UMG to distribute his music and poetry to engage in conventionally outrageous back-and-forth rap battles' to express his feelings about other artists. He now seeks to weaponise the legal process to silence an artist's creative expression and to seek damages from UMG for distributing that artist's music." Representatives for Lamar did not respond to emails seeking comment.

The feud between Drake, a 38-year-old Canadian rapper and singer and five-time Grammy winner whose full name is Aubrey Drake Graham, and Lamar, a 37-year-old Pulitzer Prize winner, is among the biggest in hip-hop in recent years, with two of the genre's biggest stars at its centre.

The two were occasional collaborators more than a decade ago, but Lamar began taking public jabs at Drake starting in 2013. The fight escalated

steeply last year.

Drake's lawyers, from New York-based Willkie Farr & Gallagher, said the lawsuit seeks to hold UMG accountable for knowingly promoting false and defamatory allegations against him. They said the shooting and break-in attempts at Drake's home, and the online vitriol prompted him to move his family out of the house, and that he fears for his and their safety.

"Beginning on May 4, 2024 and every day since, UMG has used its massive resources as the world's most powerful music company to elevate a dangerous and inflammatory message that was designed to assassinate Drake's character, and led to actual violence at Drake's doorstep," the law firm said in a statement.

"This lawsuit reveals the human and business consequences to UMG's elevation of profits over the safety and well-being of its artists, and shines a light on the manipulation of artists and the public for corporate gain," it said.

Bigg Boss 18 finale: Will history repeat itself? Rajat Dalal's fan power could push Vivian, Karan Veer to back seat

The much-anticipated finale of Bigg Boss 18 is just around the corner, and fans are on the edge, speculating about who will take home the trophy this season. While the internet suggests Vivian Dsena and Karan Veer Mehra as the top two contestants of the season, Rajat Dalal's fan power might just turn the tables.

The MC Stan parallel Rajat Dalal, the fitness influencer currently competing for the trophy in Salman Khan's reality show, enjoys a massive fan following of 3 million on Instagram. Comparatively, Karan Veer Mehra has 654K followers, Vivian Dsena has 1.6 million, Avinash Mishra has 1.5 million, Chum Darang has 478K, and Eisha Singh also has 1.5 million followers. This makes Rajat the most-followed Bigg Boss 18 contestant on social media. With Bigg Boss being an "audience's show," it's possible that



the contestant with the largest fan base could take the trophy home, irrespective of their contribution to the show. Does this ring a bell?

In Bigg Boss 16, we witnessed MC Stan (then the most-followed contestant) emerge as the winner, despite his relatively low contribution to the drama and tasks on the show. His victory was largely due to his massive fan following and surprised many. While the current situation has a striking resemblance, Rajat has been a more active player this season,

unlike MC Stan, who survived mainly due to his friends and fans.

Initially perceived as aggressive and short-tempered, Rajat Dalal later entertained the audience with his wit and mind games. He avoided forming strong relationships in the house and still managed to survive through his gameplay, which he describes as 'samikaran'. While Rajat might not be the least deserving player to win, he isn't entirely deserving either, as he has been involved in several physical fights and hasn't entirely

shown his true personality.

Fan Power vs. Gameplay

Vivian Dsena was announced as one of the top two contestants on day one of the show. However, he struggled to maintain that position, taking a backseat after the first three weeks. Despite this, his fan following has ensured his survival in the game, securing him a spot in the Top 5. Karan Veer Mehra, on the other hand, has emerged as a strong contender, thanks to his confrontations, strong relation-

ships, and entertaining personality. Another deserving contestant is Avinash Mishra, who has consistently given his all since day one, showcasing his multiple personalities (even if some of it might be an act).

Fan power has dominated the show in previous seasons. Whether it was Munawar Faruqi winning last season or MC Stan's Bigg Boss 17 victory, these outcomes shook the audience's trust to some extent, making many believe that the show is now more about fan bases than reality.

With just days to go for the finale, it will be interesting to see if fan power takes over gameplay once again or if Bigg Boss introduces a major twist to change the dynamics. One thing is certain: the Bigg Boss 18 finale is set to be an unforgettable show-down.

Organisers asked not to involve children on stage at Coldplay concert in Navi Mumbai



The Thane district authorities have issued a notice to the organisers of British band Coldplay's upcoming concert in Navi Mumbai, asking them not to allow participation of children "in any form on stage" at the event.

Also, no child should be allowed to attend the concert without earplugs or hearing pro-

tection, the district child protection officer said in a notice to the event organisers.

As part of their 'Music of the Spheres World Tour', the British band has three shows scheduled at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai area of Maharashtra's Thane district on January 18, 19 and 21.

Following a complaint

lodged by a Chandigarh resident, raising concerns about children's safety during the event, the Thane district authorities on January 14 issued the notice to the concert organisers, Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, and the event ticketing partner, BookMyShow.

The notice warned the organisers and Martin to "not use children on stage in any form", citing concerns about high sound levels exceeding 120 decibels and flashing lights at such shows, which could pose health risks to children.

"Do not allow any child to enter into the concert without earplug, hearing protection," it added.

The district child protection officer said strict action will be taken if the event organisers fail to comply with the notice.

Startup India propelled country to become one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): Lauding 'Startup India' as a transformative programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on its ninth anniversary on Thursday that the initiative has propelled India to become one of the largest and most vibrant startup ecosystems globally.

It is a landmark initiative that has redefined innovation, entrepreneurship and growth, he said, describing the programme as "very close to my heart," as it has emerged as a powerful way of furthering youth empowerment.

He said on X, "Over the past nine years, this transformative program has empowered countless youngsters, turning their innovative ideas into successful Startups."

People would doubt India's ability to thrive in this system



just a decade ago, he added.

The prime minister said this "transformative" programme has empowered countless youngsters, turning their innovative ideas into successful startups.

From tech-driven solutions to rural innovations, healthcare advancements to biotech breakthroughs, Fintech to EdTech,

clean energy to sustainable technology, Indian startups are solving global challenges while at the same time creating employment opportunities and boosting the country's quest towards self-reliance, he added.

Underlining his government's commitment to fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem that

uplifts every dream and contributes to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', he said his dispensation has left no stone unturned to encourage a culture of startups.

He said his government's policies have focused on "Ease of Doing Business", greater access to resources and, most importantly, supporting them at every juncture.

He said, "We are actively promoting innovation and incubation centres so that our youngsters become risk-takers. I have personally been regularly interacting with upcoming startups."

This success of startup India reflects that today's India is dynamic, confident and future-ready, he asserted.

Modi said, "I compliment every youngster in the startup world and urge more youngsters to pursue this. It's my assurance you won't be disappointed."

Space docking: ISRO achieved the unbelievable, says Jitendra Singh



NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday congratulated ISRO scientists and engineers for accomplishing the space docking experiment and said it would pave the way for future missions, including the Bharatiya Antriksh Station.

Singh, also the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, took to X to greet scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). "Congrats ISRO. Finally made it. SpaDeX has accomplished the unbelievable... docking com-

plete... and it is all indigenous 'Bharatiya Docking System', Singh said.

"This paves the way for smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bharatiya Antriksha Station, Chandrayaan 4 and Gaganyaan," the minister said.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuous patronage has kept the spirits soaring at ISRO in Bengaluru.

Space agency ISRO successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), a crucial step towards several future missions, including setting up of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

2 CRPF commandos injured as IED planted by Naxals explodes in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, Jan 16 (Agencies): Two commandos of CRPF's CoBRA unit were injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Thursday, police said.

The incident occurred in the wee hours in Basaguda police station area when a joint team of security forces was out on an area domination operation, a senior police official said.

Personnel belonging to the 229th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and 206th battalion of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), an elite jungle warfare unit of CRPF, were involved in the operation, he said.

As per preliminary information, the personnel inadvertently came in contact with the pressure IED, triggering the blast and causing injuries to two of them, the official said.

The injured constables, Mridul Barman and Mohd Ishaq, of the CoBRA 206th battalion, were evacuated and shifted to Basaguda CRPF camp where they were provided preliminary treatment, the

official said, adding the duo was reported to be out of danger.

They have been referred to a hospital in state capital Raipur for further medication, he said.

Maoists often plant IEDs along the road and dirt tracks in forests to target security personnel during patrolling in the interior pockets of Bastar region, which comprises seven districts including Bijapur.

Civilians have also fallen prey to such traps laid by ultras in the past in the region.

On January 12, a 10-year-old girl was injured in Sukma district and two policemen suffered wounds in Bijapur district in similar incidents of IED blasts.

On January 11, a CRPF jawan received injuries in a similar incident in Bijapur.

On January 10, a villager was killed and three others were injured in two such incidents in Orchha area of the state's Narayanpur district.

On January 6, Naxalites blew up a vehicle with an IED in Bijapur district, killing eight police personnel and their civilian driver.

Mayawati urges workers to expand party base, raise money

LUCKNOW, Jan 16 (Agencies): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Thursday urged party workers to expand the party's base and strengthen its finances.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister issued the order in the meeting with party officials in Lucknow.

"Unlike Congress, BJP, and other opposition parties, we do not accept financial help from big industrialists or wealthy benefactors to fund our party activities," she said.

Mayawati shared with the workers Kanshi Ram's advice to avoid dependence on external financial support so that the party can focus on the welfare of mar-



ginalised communities without compromise.

The politician also criticised the Yogi-Adityanath-led state government, accusing it of targeting the poor and disadvantaged through excessive crackdowns.

"Reports from our party workers in districts reveal that poor, helpless, and hardworking individuals are being

indiscriminately arrested and jailed, giving the impression of a police state," she said.

She urged the government to uphold its constitutional responsibilities with sensitivity and seriousness akin to judicial integrity.

"People are asking why there is selective inaction against crimes committed by those in power. How will law and order improve under such partiality?" she remarked.

Mayawati reiterated her party's demand that Amit Shah retract his "anti-Baba Saheb" remarks.

She labelled the interest of Congress, Samajwadi Party, and BJP in Dalits as an "insincere election gimmick" and accused the parties of maintaining a discriminatory and communal attitude toward Dalits, tribals, the backward classes, and religious minorities, particularly Muslims.

"These parties exemplify the proverb 'Muh me Ram bagal me chhuri'," she asserted.

She cited data indicating a decline in school

enrolments, with 1.22 crore fewer children being admitted between 2018-19 and 2023-24, to slam the BJP

"Who is truly responsible for this loss, and whose future is being compromised? These are critical questions that need attention," she said, linking the trend to widespread poverty, unemployment, and inflation.

Mayawati accused successive governments of depriving the marginalised groups of basic rights such as education and healthcare.

"Only a government aligned with Ambedkarite principles, such as BSP's, can address these challenges comprehensively," she said.

Group of 101 farmers to resume Delhi march from Shambhu border on Jan 21: Pandher

CHANDIGARH, Jan 16 (Agencies): A group of 101 farmers will resume on January 21 their march to Delhi from the Shambhu border point to press the government to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price for crops, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said on Thursday.

The "jatha" (group) of 101 farmers earlier made three attempts to head towards Delhi on foot on December 6, December 8 and December 14, last year at the Shambhu border. They were not allowed to proceed by security personnel in Haryana.

The fresh move of protesting farmers came a day after a group of 111 farmers began a fast-unto-

death on the Haryana side of the border near Khanauri in solidarity with fasting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered its 52nd day on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at the Shambhu border point between Punjab and Haryana on Thursday, Pandher, who is the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader, slammed the central government for not accepting the demands of farmers who have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri for the last 11 months.

"Both the forums (SKM-Non Political, KMM) today decided that the 'jatha' of 101 farmers will resume their march to Delhi on January 21 from the Shambhu border," said Pandher.



"We have seen and we also feel that the government is not ready for any talks. It was the decision of both the forums to intensify the agitation," said Pandher.

On January 15, a group of 111 farmers began a fast-unto-death in solidarity with their leader Dallewal and vowed they wouldn't relent until their demands were met.

The new 'jatha' sat on the Haryana side of

the border — Dallewal has been sitting on a hunger strike since November 26 last year at the Khanauri border point on the Punjab side.

The Haryana Police has enhanced security on its side of the border. It has already imposed Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, banning gatherings of five or more people.

The protesting farmers have expressed concern over Dalle-

wal's "deteriorating" health, saying he risks "multiple organ failure" because of the prolonged fasting.

Dallewal, who is the convener of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), has been on an indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 last year.

Farmers, under the banner of the SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 last year, after security forces did not allow them to march to Delhi to press for their various demands including a legal guarantee for MSP for their crops.

Local Congress leader dies after being hit by speeding bus in Kerala



KERALA, Jan 16 (Agencies): MR Ravi, a senior Congress leader and executive committee member of the Alap-

puzha District Congress Committee (DCC), was fatally hit by a private bus near Poochakkal in Kerala on Thursday

morning.

The 70-year-old leader was standing near a bus stop during his morning walk when a speeding bus struck him around 7 am, according to Poochakkal police. Ravi succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital, officials said.

Police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the bus driver and are investigating the incident.

Kerala teen killed by fellow inmate after dispute at Thrissur children's home

THRISSUR, Jan 16 (Agencies): A 17-year-old boy, Abhishek from Irinjalakuda, was murdered by a 16-year-old fellow inmate at a children's home in Ramavaramapuram, Thrissur in Kerala, on Thursday morning. The attack occurred following an escalating dispute between the two boys, which had started the previous night.

During the confrontation, the 16-year-old struck Abhishek on the head with a hammer, causing severe injuries. Despite being rushed to Thrissur Medical College Hospital for treat-



ment, Abhishek succumbed to his injuries. His body is currently kept in the hospital mortuary.

The incident has prompted the Viyyur police to launch an

investigation into the circumstances surrounding the murder. The violent nature of the crime has raised serious questions about the safety measures and oversight in children's homes.

13 workers injured after oven explodes in Agra bread factory

AGRA, Jan 16 (Agencies): An oven explosion at a bread factory in the Hariparvat area's Transport Nagar left 13 workers injured on Thursday afternoon, with three of them in critical condition, according to police.

The incident occurred at the Medley Bread Fac-

tory around 1 PM, when more than 20 workers were on duty. Factory manager Jitendra told agency that, "We were working as usual when the oven suddenly burst. The ovens run on gas, and a leak might have triggered the explosion."

Deputy Commissioner

of Police (City) Suraj Rai confirmed the injuries and said that three workers in critical condition are receiving treatment at a private hospital.

Police said an investigation underway to determine the exact cause of the oven explosion.



NMOPS-J&K holds executive meeting at Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Under the visionary leadership of State President Sheikh Mohd Ashraf, the Jammu and Kashmir chapter of the National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) convened a Executive meeting at Electric Divisional office Parade Jammu to address the pressing issue of pension reforms.

During the conference, the organization unequivocally demanded the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), highlighting its inclusion in the election manifesto of Omar Abdullah. UT President Sheikh Mohd Ashraf stressed that the government must honor its commitment by abolishing the National Pension System (NPS) and restoring OPS to



safeguard the rights and financial security of employees.

In a resolute statement, Ashraf cautioned that failure to meet these demands would compel NMOPS-J&K to stage peaceful protests on Coming days in both Jammu and Srinagar, to intensify the movement for justice.

The President also voiced

strong dissatisfaction with the Unified Pension Scheme, underscoring its glaring inadequacies and the widespread discontent it has caused among employees across the Union Territory.

The Meeting was witnessed the participation of several prominent NMOPS leaders,

including Mir Bashir Ahmed, Neetan Kalyan, Tarun Gupta, Raman Kumar Sharma, Jalil Sheikh, Amar Mooman, Rail Singh, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Sushil Sharma, Sofi Tahir, Zahoor Ahmed Malik, Sushil Kumar Sharma, Imran Ahmed, Shakeel Ahmed Dar, Shahbaz Akbar Khan, Sanjay Sharma, Ashraf Hussain, Sanjeet Sharma, Atta ul Rehman, Ajay Sharma, Parshotam Singh, Vikee Pandita, Sandeep Kumar, Pardeep Kumar and Sanjay Sharma.

The leadership reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the cause, urging the government to take immediate action to address this critical issue. The NMOPS-J&K remains steadfast in its resolve to uphold the rights of employees and ensure a dignified future for all.

Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation gets CSR activities with Ministry of Corporate Affairs, GoI



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Secretary of Vansh Sabre Sports Foundation Kuldeep Kumar Gupta said the fast growing sports identity in Jammu & Kashmir, Vansh Sabre



VANSH SABRE SPORTS FOUNDATION

sports Foundation (VSSF) achieved another milestone by becoming first such sports organization in the Union Territory (UT) to entitles for Undertaking CSR Activities and get registered with ministry

of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India.

Meanwhile, President of the Trust, Dr. Anil Padha informed that the foundation (VSSF) has already been certified ISO 9001:2015, registered with MSME and also registered with income tax department under 12A and 80G and has initiated things for the welfare of sportspersons and other individuals associations with sports.

PDD Handwara hosts awareness program on PM Surya Ghar Mufat Bijli Scheme

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jan 16: The Power Development Department (PDD) Division Handwara conducted an awareness program on the PM Surya Ghar Mufat Bijli Scheme at Environmental Park, Handwara.

The initiative aimed to educate the public about the scheme's benefits and enrollment process, promoting solar energy as a sustainable power solution.

The event witnessed participation from all officers of PDD Division Handwara and Subdivision Langate, along with a substantial gathering of local residents. Er. Ayoub, Executive Engineer (Exn) PDD



Handwara, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, providing detailed insights into the scheme and highlighting its significance in fostering clean energy adoption.

Officials informed attendees about the availability of online links for registration under the scheme, encouraging eligible individuals to apply and benefit from the government's efforts to provide free electricity through

solar energy.

The program received an overwhelmingly positive response, with attendees expressing appreciation for the comprehensive information and support offered by the PDD team.

Awareness camps are scheduled to be conducted across the Handwara PDD region in the coming months to further disseminate information about the scheme.

SBI Karnah donates equipment worth Rs 2 lakh to PHC Gabra under CSR

Top News Report

KARNAH, Jan 16: The State Bank of India (SBI) Karnah branch has contributed equipment worth Rs 2 lakhs to Public Health Centre (PHC) Gabra as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The donation aims to enhance healthcare infrastructure and improve the quality of services for the local community.

The donated items include a 2400 kV generator, one office table, three airport chairs, two high-back chairs, and a water dispenser with a cooling cabinet. The equipment was officially handed over by Branch Manager Nasir



Nabi and Field Officer Nazir Ahmad and was received by Dr. Shafi Mallah, Medical Officer, PHC Gabra, during a brief ceremony at the health center.

"This initiative underscores SBI's commitment to the welfare of communities in remote and underserved areas like Karnah. By addressing critical needs, we aim to contribute to the region's development,"

said Branch Manager Nasir Nabi.

The donation has been warmly received by the PHC staff and the local population. The new equipment, particularly the generator, is expected to significantly improve the center's operational efficiency, especially during harsh winters when power disruptions are frequent.

Field Officer Nazir Ahmad emphasized

the bank's dedication to community support, stating, "SBI's CSR activities are focused on addressing real challenges faced by the community. Supporting healthcare facilities like PHC Gabra is part of our effort to make a meaningful impact."

Dr. Shafi Mallah, the Medical Officer of PHC Gabra, expressed his gratitude to SBI for the generous contribution, highlighting that the upgraded infrastructure would enhance patient care and create a more conducive working environment for the medical team.

Community members also lauded SBI's proactive approach, praising the bank for addressing

vital needs in the region. They emphasized that such initiatives play a critical role in uplifting healthcare services in remote areas like Karnah.

This contribution reflects SBI's broader vision of supporting sustainable development and improving public services in underserved regions. The equipment is expected to benefit both the healthcare staff and the local residents who rely on the center for essential medical services.

SBI Karnah's initiative reaffirms its commitment to being a socially responsible institution, dedicated to uplifting the quality of life in the communities it serves.

Maharishi Vidya Mandir School celebrates Makar Sankranti with acts of kindness

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Maharishi Vidya Mandir School, Sainik Colony, Jammu, celebrated the festival of Makar Sankranti with a heartwarming initiative that highlighted the values of compassion and generosity.

The school, in collaboration with the Sadbhavna Branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Jammu, organized a special event to mark the auspicious occasion by donating sweaters, blankets, and food to the underprivileged.

The initiative aimed to inculcate the spirit of sharing and empathy among students while reinforcing the significance of helping those in need during festive celebrations.

The celebration took place on the school premises, with enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and members of the Sadbhavna Branch of BVP. The day began with a traditional welcome, followed by a brief introduction to the significance of Makar Sankranti—a festival celebrated across India to mark the sun's transition into Capricorn, symbolizing new begin-



nings and prosperity.

The highlight of the event was the distribution of essential items, including sweaters, blankets, and food, to the needy. This act of kindness was carried out with the belief that giving on such an auspicious day brings blessings and fosters a sense of community.

The principal of Maharishi Vidya Mandir School emphasized the importance of celebrating festivals with a purpose. "Our aim is not only to educate students academically but also to nurture their emotional intelligence and social responsibility. This event was an opportunity for our students to understand the joy of giving and develop empathy for others," the principal said.

Students actively participated in the event, helping with the distribution and interacting with the beneficiaries. The smiles and gratitude of the recipients left a lasting impression on the young minds, teaching them the value of small acts of kindness.

The Sadbhavna Branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad, a socio-cultural organization dedicated to promoting Indian values and welfare activities, played a crucial role in the event. Representatives from the organization lauded the school's efforts in fostering a culture of sharing among the students.

A spokesperson from the BVP stated, "Festivals like Makar Sankranti remind us of the importance of self-

lessness and community spirit. Collaborating with Maharishi Vidya Mandir School for this noble cause has been a rewarding experience. Together, we hope to inspire the younger generation to carry forward these values."

The event concluded with a small cultural program, where students performed songs and recited poems reflecting the essence of Makar Sankranti. The day left everyone with a sense of fulfillment and a renewed commitment to serving society.

As the beneficiaries left with warm clothes and food, and the students carried home lessons in compassion, the event stood as a testament to the power of community efforts in making a difference.

Unmatched safety: Skoda Kylaq secures a 5-star rating in Bharat NCAP crash test

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Skoda Auto India's Kylaq, its first sub-4m SUV, has achieved the prestigious 5-star safety rating in the Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme).

This makes the Kylaq the first Skoda vehicle to participate in Bharat NCAP testing, continuing the brand's legacy of safety excellence established by the Kushaq and Slavia. Both Skoda Auto India's 2.0 cars have achieved 5-star safety ratings in their respective Global NCAP crash tests for both Adult and Child Occupant protection.

Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India said, "Safety is intrinsic to the Skoda DNA and since 2008, every Skoda car has been crash-tested globally, and in India, with a 5-star safety rating. Skoda Auto has been leading the campaign on car safety in India, with a fleet of 5-star safety-rated cars. We were the first brand to score a full 5-stars for adults and children under the Global NCAP tests.

And now Kylaq, our all-new sub-4-metre SUV, has topped the charts in its segment, in the Bharat NCAP testing.

Kylaq comes with comprehensive safety systems which include a



wide range of active and passive safety features as standard, including six airbags.

The use of hot-stamped steel, with a redone crash management system ensures the best possible safety in the Kylaq. This rating is a further testament to our commitment of democratizing European technology on Indian roads, which includes one of the foundations on which a car should be built, which is safety."

The Skoda Kylaq exemplifies the brand's commitment to passenger safety, featuring over 25 active and passive safety technologies as standard across all variants. Built on the robust MQB-A0-IN platform, the Kylaq combines advanced engineering and innovative features tailored to Indian roads and driving conditions.

With six airbags, Electronic Stability Control, Roll Over Protec-

tion, Hill Hold Control, Multi-Collision Braking, and XDS+ included as standard from the base variant, the Kylaq sets a benchmark for safety. The hot-stamped steel construction and redesigned crash management system further enhance cabin protection and crash resilience, reinforcing its safety-first approach.

The Kylaq secured 30.88 points in Adult Occupant Protection out of 32.00 (97%) and 45.00 points in Child Occupant Protection out of 49.00 (92%), making it the best performing vehicle in the ICE sub-4-metre compact SUV segment.

In the frontal offset barrier test for adult occupant protection, the Kylaq scored 15.035 points out of 16 (94%), with both the occupant compartment and footwell rated as stable.

In the side-moving deformable barrier

test for adult occupant protection, the Kylaq achieved 15.840 points out of 16 (99%).

For child occupant protection, the Kylaq earned the maximum possible score of 16 points (100%) in the frontal offset barrier test and full 8 points (100%) in the side-moving deformable barrier test for 1.5 and 3-year-old children.

The Kylaq also secured maximum points in the recommended child seat assessment, and an impressive 9 points out of 13 (69%) in the vehicle-based assessment.

The engineering development, testing, and project steering for the all-new Skoda Kylaq were led from the Technology Center in Pune, India, focusing on achieving best-in-class performance across all attributes.

Continuing this legacy, the Skoda Slavia followed in April 2023 with another stellar 5-star Global NCAP safety rating, reaffirming the robustness of the MQB-A0-IN platform developed specifically for India by teams in India and the Czech Republic.

The Kylaq now carries this tradition forward, showcasing Škoda's dedication to delivering world-class safety standards tailored specifically for the Indian market.

Dimple leads protest over mysterious deaths of 15 children in Rajouri District

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a strong protest rally on the Janipur High Court Road in Jammu, demanding justice for the tragic deaths of 15 children in the Budhal area of Rajouri district. The protest highlighted public outrage and called for immediate action to uncover the reasons behind the fatalities.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the deaths, holding both Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha accountable for taking immediate action.

"The people of Jammu express complete solidarity with the families of the victims in Rajouri," Dimple stated. He urged the administration to provide immediate compensation to the



bereaved families and visit the affected areas to address the situation firsthand.

Dimple issued a stern warning to the authorities, threatening intensified protests if the causes of the children's deaths were not determined soon. "If justice is delayed, we will escalate our agitation to ensure accountability," he asserted.

He also alleged that residents of Budhal, Kotranka, and surrounding areas have begun

migrating to safer places due to fear and uncertainty over the deaths.

Dimple expressed frustration over the lack of medical facilities in remote areas like Rajouri and criticized the inefficiency of the health department. "Neither the health department nor any agency has been able to find the truth behind the deaths of these innocent children. No one is ready to take responsibility," he alleged.

He pointed out that far-flung hospitals and medical colleges are poorly equipped to handle such emergencies. He highlighted the lack of doctors, surgeons, paramedics, and ambulances in facilities like Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and Rajouri, which he claimed is exacerbating the suffering of patients.

Dimple also drew attention to the viral fever outbreak affecting families across Jammu district. He accused

the health department of failing to issue advisories or take steps to address the spread of illness, which includes fever, body aches, headaches, and colds. "Each family in Jammu city is grappling with this viral fever, but the government has taken no remedial measures," he alleged.

Dimple demanded the immediate posting of more specialists, doctors, and surgeons in GMC Jammu and Rajouri, along with the provision of ambulances to cater to patients' needs. He called on LG Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah to prioritize the health crisis in the region.

The protest was joined by several prominent leaders, including Vipin Mahajan, Vicky Mahajan, Rakesh Sharma, Bishan Das, Ram Kumar Das, Akbar Khan, Shafi, Nazir Khan, Sanjay, and Subash. Together, they called for accountability and swift measures to prevent further loss of life.

Mission Director JJM, DDC Kishtwar review progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 16: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K UT, Mr. Khursheed Ahmad Shah, and District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Mr. Rajesh Kumar Shavan, JKAS, conducted a detailed review of the ongoing JJM works in District Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the Executive Engineer apprised the chair of the progress in implementing JJM. Detailed Presentation was presented regarding ongoing schemes. It was informed in the meeting 39 Schemes out of 129 Schemes have been completed in the district as on date.

Mission Director JJM emphasized the impor-



ance of completing all pending schemes and achieving 100% "Har Ghar Jal" certification for covered villages.

Key directives were issued to accelerate completion of all works the chair urged all stakeholders to work on a war footing to achieve the set targets and ensure seamless implementation of JJM in District Kishtwar.

The review meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kishtwar, Bodhranj Bhagat Superintending Engineer PHE (Mech.) Salim Malik and Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd.) Kishtwar. AEEs/AEs/ JEs of the District. Project Manager DPMU Kishtwar and officers from forest, R&B, also attended the meeting.

Employees' protest demanding GP fund, DA hike foiled in Srinagar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 16: A protest organized by the Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) in Srinagar on Thursday, demanding the release of General Provident (GP) Fund arrears and hike in Dearness Allowance (DA), was foiled by the authorities.

The employees had gathered at Press Enclave to voice their demands for long-pending dues and financial relief.

The protestors said that the government is ignoring their legitimate concerns including non-payment of GP Fund

arrears and the delayed implementation of the DA hike.

They said that the delay was severely affecting employees' finances amidst rising inflation.

Carrying placards and chanting slogans, the employees alleged that they had repeatedly approached the authorities, but their grievances remained unaddressed. "We have been left with no option but to hit the streets. Our financial stability is at stake," said one protestor.

Police swiftly intervened and dispersed the crowd. Authorities

cited prohibitory orders to justify their actions and maintained that the gathering was unauthorized.

Speaking to the media, EJAC representatives condemned the action, stating, "We will continue to fight for our demands peacefully."

The protest highlights growing discontent among government employees in Jammu and Kashmir over pending financial issues. The EJAC has warned of intensifying their agitation if the government fails to meet their demands in the coming days.

Kashmiri Pandit community raises concerns over NFSA Digital Database implementation



to 70s, face economic hardships, health issues, and emotional trauma.

The Kashmiri Pandit community emphasizes that inclusion in general national schemes under the NFSA could dilute the recognition of their status as a displaced population. They assert that any such measures should only follow the successful execution of a comprehensive resettlement plan.

"We have always upheld national values and cooperated with every government process," a community spokesperson said. "However, this digitalization must not come at the cost of our basic rights. Without a permanent address in our ancestral homeland, it becomes impossible to adhere to directives that could threaten our identity."

The community has urged the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Government of India to prioritize their rehabilitation and address their grievances with urgency. They stress that decades of displacement have already inflicted irreparable damage to their cultural identity, economic stability, and emotional well-being.

The Kashmiri Pandit community remains steadfast in their appeal for dignity, recognition, and survival. They hope that their concerns will be met with the seriousness they deserve, ensuring that no displaced individual is left behind in the transition to digitalized welfare systems.

Lieutenant Governor congratulates ISRO scientists on successful space docking

SRINAGAR, Jan 16 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today congratulated ISRO scientists on achieving historic milestone with successful docking of satellite under SpaDex.

"Congratulations to team @isro on achieving a historic milestone with successful docking of satellites under SpaDex! India is now 4th nation to reach this remarkable feat. This accomplishment will prepare the way for

future plans of Gaganyaan, space station & further exploration," Office of LG J&K said on X.

Congratulations to team @isro on achieving a historic milestone with successful docking of satellites under SpaDex! India is now 4th nation to reach this remarkable feat. This accomplishment will prepare the way for future plans of Gaganyaan, space station & further exploration.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: The displaced Kashmiri Pandit community has voiced strong concerns regarding their inclusion in the "One Nation, One Card" digital database under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). They have called for an immediate review of the process, emphasizing that the digitalization could potentially jeopardize their existing relief and ration benefits, which are crucial for their survival.

The NFSA format was introduced in 2016 but faced unified opposition from the Kashmiri Pandit community. The matter was subsequently raised with the then Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, leading to a deferment of the initiative. Since then, the community has depended on a separate budget allocation for their relief and ration system.

The community now fears that the implementation of the digital database without adequate

safeguards could erode their distinct identity as a displaced population and disrupt their access to critical resources.

The Kashmiri Pandit community has outlined the major concerns and demands. The community insisted that NFSA forms should not be mandatory until their permanent rehabilitation in their ancestral homeland.

They demanded that any ration cards issued under the digital database clearly identify them as "displaced," ensuring their unique status and uninterrupted benefits.

The community sought a formal guarantee from the authorities that no individual will lose their relief or ration entitlements as a result of digitalization.

Compensation for Lost Opportunities: Highlighting the plight of those who were aged 18-30 during the 1989-90 exodus, the community calls for one-time compensation for the loss of prime career years. Many of these individuals, now in their 50s

BJP hosts programme in Srinagar to celebrate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision & legacy

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 16: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir organized a commemorative event in Srinagar, to honor the extraordinary vision and legacy of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.


The party in a statement said that Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization) of BJP J&K, presided over the gathering, underscoring Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contributions to nation-building and his lifelong dedication to uplifting marginalized communities.

"Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of equality, justice, and empowerment continue to inspire us. His vision of an inclusive and progressive India guides our party's mission to ensure social harmony and equal opportunities for all," Koul remarked in his address.

The statement further reads that the event attracted enthusiastic participation from BJP leaders, party workers, and citizens, who paid glowing tributes to Dr. Ambedkar's legacy.

Speakers shared thought-provoking insights into his life, highlighting the enduring relevance of his teachings in addressing contemporary societal challenges.

"The programme concluded with a collective pledge to advance Dr. Ambedkar's mission of building a just and equitable society, reaffirming the BJP's commitment to his ideals".



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