TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

ENTERTAINMENT

16

Privanka Chopra expresses sorrow over devastation caused by LA wildfires



NATIONAL

Mayawati urges workers

to expand party base,

raise money

INTERNATIONAL

Daily Evening Newspaper

US President Biden warns of 'oligarchy' formation in US



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

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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 @cyberpolicekmr, 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 offense. Legal action will be enforced against violators. WE ARE WATCH-ING," 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

■Turn to page 9

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 Commence 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 Turn to page 9

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



16 (Agencies): The Supreme Court dismissed Jammu and

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

create 334 judicial posts

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

accordingly dismissed.

Turn to page 9

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-



STUDY KOSH

studykosh595@fbl

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, Turn to page 9

Court acquits three in

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

■Turn to page 9

attempted murder case Rajiv

doubt. The case

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.

from Lilavati Hospital. Dr Niraj Uttamani,



fied 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

Turn to page 9

Saif Ali Khan was stabbed by an unidenof doctors led by Neurotified person during the surgeon Dr Nitin Dange. burglary and has "six cosmetic surgeon Dr stabs" out of which "two Leena Jain anaesthetiol-COO of Lilavati Hospiare deep", said a doctor ogist Dr Nisha Gandhi," tal, said that Saif was said Uttamani. stabbed by an unidenti-

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 criti-

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 Rsearch Lucknow, Defence Research Development Establishment Gwalior, the Microbiology Department of PGIMER Chandigarh besides the ICMR-Virus Turn to page 9



With profound grief and sorrow, we

regret to inform the sad demise of our

beloved Retd. Lect. Sh. Punu Ram

Sharma R/o Kamla Niwas, Ward No. 73

Lower Gad Garh, Jammu on 11 January

8th day/ Shradhanjali/Asthi Visarjan

hetu Prasthan on Friday, 17 January

Programmes (at our residence):

2025 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

at 12:00 Noon.

Grand Children:

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With deep grief and sorrow we inform that Tenth Day of our beloved Sh. Raman Chander Antahal will be performed on 15.01.2025 and Kriya on 18/01/2025 at our residence W. No. 3, Chenani. GRIEF STRICKEN

Nirmal (Wife) Father & Mother

Purshotam Chand & Krishana Rani Brother and Sister in law

Dinesh Antahal & Geeta Rani Sister & Brother in law

Sudha Rani & Pardeep Singh Jamwal Sister & Brother in Law

Rama Rani & Dr Ram Singh Sambyal (Daughters)

(Nephews & Niece)

Shreya & Shivika

Samerdev Antahal, Parnav Antahal, Chiterangda Antahal



Sh. Raman Chander Antahal

SH. AJIT RAINA

Smt Kanta Ji Chopra

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt.Raj Dulari Raina (Mother)

Smt. & Sh. Nancy & Ashok Raina (Aunty & Uncle) Anjee Raina (Wife)

Anjali & An I Raina (Brother & Sister in law) Liya & Ajay Raina (Brother & Sister in law)

Krishika Raina-Bhan & Avinash Bhan (Daughter & Son in Law)

Kalhan, Kanisha, Mariyam, Agastya (Children)

Pune Address: 8, LIVSTONIA III PALM GROVES, B.T.KAWDE ROAD, GHORPADI, PUNE 411 036. CONTACT: ANJLEE: +91 89834 67069, ANIL: +91 98603 15559

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Moti Lal Chopra (Husband) Son & Daughter In Law

Anil Chopra & Alka Chopra

Lt Sunil Ji Chopra & Anju Chopra

Grand Children

Sanjay Chopra & Sushma Chopra Akash Chopra, Vishali Chopra, Tanuj Chopra, Simran Chopra, Susheel Chopra Mobile No.: 8493856537, 9419383385

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Lalita Raina (Wife)

Akshay Raina (Son) - 9149880649

Daughter & Son-in-Law Nirshat & Ashwani Tickoo (9018124476)

Brothers & Bhables

Smt. & Sh. Shiban Krishan Raina (7889730265)

Smt & Sh. Roop Krishan Raina (9419260749) Smt Sh. Dr. Ravi Raina (7889771477)

Sh. Chaman Lal Koul (Brother-in-law) - (9599189182)

Vivaan - Grandson

FIFTH DAY

We regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved Smt Renu Sharma W/o Late Lt. Colonel Narinder Sharma R/o 377/378 Bakshi Nagar as on 13-01-2025.

The FIFTH DAY shall be on 17-01-2025 (Friday) at Ram Mandir Sec-D Sainik Colony Jammu at 12.00 Noon

GRIEF STRICKEN

Brother and Sister in Law

Sh. Arun Sharma & Poonam Sharma-

Sister & Brother in Law Smt Sudesh Sharma W/o Lt Dr R D Sharma

Smt Preeti Khajuria & Vinay Khajuria MOBILE NO: 9419113883, 8492957787



Sh. Jai Inder Raina

Smt Renu Sharma

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA

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

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

Satsang Timing: 12 Noon

Grief Stricken:

Father and Mother Wife and Kids

Brothers and Sisters In-law Sisters and Brothers In-law

Uncles and Aunties

Contact us: 9988328810, 8491098093, 8493878533 9419138787, 7006655078, 9419126007



Sh. Tilak Raj

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Smt Asha Kundan Raina W/o Late Sh. K.N Raina Originally resident of Nowgam, Shangus Anantnag Kashmir at present Ward No 59 Khajuria Mohalla Near lesus Care Convent School Paloura Jammu. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 21-01-2025 and Assembly will be performed at our residence 12.00 Noon. GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter in law & Son Smt Princy & Sh. Inder Raina, 9906101428 Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Kiran & Sh. Bharat Ji Bhat, 7889522409 Devrani & Devar

Smt Sarla & Sh. M.L Raina, 9906077338 Smt Babil & Sh. H.L Raina, 7006635726 Smt Rozy and Sh. C.L Raina, 9622191360 Smt Jyoti and Sh. N.K Raina 7006439065

Sister in Law Smt Jaya Kishori and Late Sh. S.N Pandita ate Smt Santosh and Sh. H.L Bhat Smt Sarla & Sh. A.K Pandita



SMT ASHA KUNDAN RAINA

Sh. Badri Nath Dhar

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Badri Nath Dhar (Bhai Ji) S/o Late Sh. Gwash Lal Dher originally resident of Kanth Paristan, Safa Kadal, Srinagar presently at residence 549-JMC / 11 E Bank Colony, Camp Road, Talab Tilloo Jammu who departed for his heavenly abode on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Friday, 17th January 2025 at Mata Bhadrakali Mandit, Thalwal, Jammu at 8

ASSEMBLY and PRAYER MEETING will be held at Curudware Singh Sabha, Near Grahat, Patanjali Shop, Revenue Complex Road, Camp Road, Talab Tilloo, Jammu (rear our residence) at 11.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Son and Daughter-in-law)

Sh. Sanjay Dhar and Smt. Neeta Rawal Dhar (9796220711) (9419105630)

Sh. Sunii Dhar and Smt. Sunita Kaul Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law) (9469175881,7889375869) (9419215961)

Mitali Dhar (Kishmish) and Shivesh Dhar(Bulbul) (Grand Children)

Sh. J.L.Fotedar (Brother-in-law) Smt. Phoola Kothedar and Sh. Kanya Lal Kothedar (Sister and Brother-in-law)

Sh. Barsi Lai Dhar and Smt. Bill Ji Dhar (Brother and Sister-in-law) All Rainas, Rawals, Kauls, Mattoos



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

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

ASSEMBLY will take place at 12 Noon at Muthi **GRIEF STRICKEN**

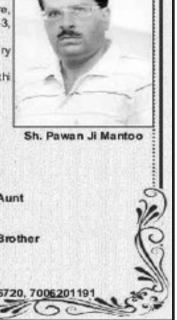
Smt. Sheetal Mantoo -Wife Smt. Reeta Ji & Sh. Sohan Lal Mantoo

Aunts & Uncles Smt. Phoola Ji & Bushan Lal Mantoo Smt. Raj Shree & Sh. Kumar Ji Mantoo

Smt. Suman Ji W/o Lt. Shubal Lal Mantoo - Aunt Sister & Brother-in-law Smt. Meerakshi Suri & Sh. Deepak Suri Smt. Kanchan & Deepak Mantoo - Bhabi & Brother

Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law Smt. Manisha & Rocky Shan Nihar Mantoo, Vivaan Mantoo - Sons

Mobile: 9419124265, 7889553379, 9682596720, 7006201191 07/00



10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Bushan Lal Bhat & Bitta Ji Bhat - Brother & Sister-in-law Roshan Lal Bhat & Dolly Ji- Brother & Sister-in-law Vijay Mohan Bhat & Ruby Bhat - Son & Daughter-in-law Anita Pandita & Sunil Pandita - Daughter & Son-in-law Rai Mohan Bhat -Son

Contact Nos: 9797375166, 9419122337, 9906175273

OBITUARY FROM MALUIN SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Sunital Chandra W/o Ashwani Kumar on January 11, 2025 in AIIMS, New Delhi. Mourning from Maluin Side will be held at 50, New

Mohinder Nagar, Indira Theatre Lane, Canal Road Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN (Brother & Sister-in-law) Anil Sharma and Nimi Sharma Akhilesh Sharma and Jyoti Sharma Smt. Rajni Sharma (Aunt)

(Uncle and Aunt) Sh. Ashok Sharma and Smt. Usha Sharma

Smt. Phoola Raina (Bua) Sh. Vijay Chatoo and Smt. Vijay Chatoo (Fufa and Bua) Neil, Sarthak, Kiyansh (Nephews)



SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

GRIEF STICKEN: Smt. Kamla Sharma (Wife) (Son and Daughter-in-law) Sh. Vipan Sharma and Dr. Geeta Sharma Sh. Devinder Sharma & Smt. Isha Raina (Daughter and Son-in-law) Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Raj Kumar Smt. Sushma Sharma & Sh. Sanjay Sharma

Dr. Prerna Sharma, Er. Adarsh Bhargay, Anubha Sharma, Er. Abhay Sharma, Aditya Sudan,

Ph No.: 9419143754, 9419125377



ace in Flat No. 8-6, Tower 8-2, Central Govt. Residential omplex, Minto Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi. OTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 21st Jan (Tuesday) at 9.30 am near canal in Sector 18 RIEF STRICKEN

amia Bhai (Wife) iender Bhat & Anu (Son and Daughter in law) (Mob. 9717497311) Sunito Bhat Wo Late Ravi Sharkar Bhat (Daughter in Iaw) (Mob. No. 9419212337)
Kusum Lass & Ravinder Oher (Daughter and Son in Iaw) (Mob. No. 9744090172)
Rahel, Urvashi, Rashi, Sahil, Shubham, Shivarsh , Shadha, Shriya (Grand children).
Zar Parivaar (MOB. NO. 9816110771), Dhar Parivaar, Tickoo Parivaar.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT S/ LATE SHINATH JI BHAT ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF SIRNOO TEHSIL & DISTRICT PULWAMA CURRENTLY RESIDING AT HIND, 78 SEC AZ LAXMIPURAM CHINCRE BEHIND SHIV MANDIR JAMMU ON 08TH JANUARY, 2025. THE MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS SIDE BEING OBSERVED AT SAME PLACE.

OBJECT TO BAME PLACE
SHIBBI LAL RAINA-SHABA JI (BROTHER IN LAW)
10TH DAY KRIYA SHALL TAKE PLACE ON 17TH
JANUARY, 2025, (FRDAY) AT AKHNOOR GHAT,
JAMMU AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE
AT 11.00 AM, AT OUR RESIDENCE.
ROBLES STRUCKEL.

GRIEF STRICKEN: SH. PKI I H VI P
DAUGHTERS & SONS IN-LAW
SMT GIRJA MUJISH & LATE SH ASHOK MUJISHI (0871869311)
SMT SUNITA BHAT & SH VINOD KR. BHAT (700859353), 9796892230)
SONS & DAUGHTERS IN-LAW
SH SUNIL, BHAT & SMT LOVELY (0419225880, 9149558260)
SH SATISH BHAT & SMT KHUSHBOO (941914683), 7008983224)
SH PAMES HZ BHAT & SMT, PRINCY BHAT (0419631490)
SH PAMES HZ BHAT & SMT, CHAUPA BHAT (7878777874)

GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS NISHA & PRABHAT JI, RUCHIKA & PAWAN JI, PRIYA & VINEET JI, SAHL & PREETI, RAHUI & REETA, SUMIT, RCHIT, AKASH, KOMAL, NAITIK, TIARA, MISHA AND RIVAN

10TH DAY KRIYA

Nth profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt. Shanta Sumbli, wife of Sh. M.L. Sumbli, erstwhile resint of Chhatabal/ Changora, Srinagar presently residing a 94/10 Mohit Nagar, Dehradiun. She passed away psacefully o 1th January 2025 at 5:40 PM.

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

Sh. M.L. Sumbli (Husband) ih. H.N. Sumbly (Brother in law) mt Sheeb Fordita (Sister in law)

Smt. Rita and Ravinder Koul (Daughter and Son in law) Smt. Sunita and Ravi Sumbli (Daughter in law and Son) Smt. Ayushi and Anmol Sumbli (Grand Daughter in law and Grandson)

And, samastya Sumbly, Bhan, Pandita and Koul Pariwar. Contact number: 9897032141



In loving memory of the departed soutrambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 15-01-25 at 10AM at o BOGH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB on 17-01-25 at 9:30 AM. Kirtan and Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Sahil

chari from 10,30 to 12.00 Noon; GRIEF STRIKEN Tanjeet Kour and Daljeet Singh (Sarju)

Son and Daughter-in-law S.Jaspæet Singh (Son) Kawal Kour Wo Late Bhupinder Singh Ji (Daughter and Son -in -law) Grand Children

TENTH DAY KRIYA Vith profound grief and sorrow we inform

82471509, 9419012275

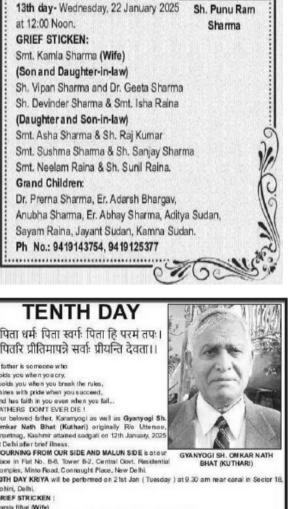
he sad demise of our respected centenari-an **Smt Leela Devi** W/o Late Sh. Vas Dev Prasher R/o Katra. FENTH DAY will be performed at Shiv landir, Tea Garden on 16-01-2025 from

12.00 Noon at our residence near Banda GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter in Laws Sh. Ravinder Prashar & Smt. Shashi Devi Smt Aruna Prashar W/o Lt Sh. Anii Prashar Daughters & Sons in Law

mt Vaishno Devi W/o Lt Sh. Ved Prakash Magotra Smt Tripta Devi W/o Sh. Ravinder Kerni Smt Nirmal Devi W/o Prof Rattan Lal Sharma Smt Aniali Devi W/o Sh, Subash Sharma

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SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT

SH RAMESH KR. BHAT & SMT. CHAMPA BHAT (7889707874)



Smt. Shanta Sumbli

Dhruv Sumbli (Grandson)



Brij Mohan Kour Ji



11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon. KRIYA will be performed on 17-01-2025 at

Prashar Family Katra MOBILE NO: 7006011904, 7006893883, 7006659690

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Agriculture Department Jammu organizes Buyer-Seller meet for flower growers



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 sevin Jammu's floriculture eral key projects under products. He stressed the Holistic Agriculture the need for proper Development Prohandholding for flower gramme (HADP) aimed growers and emphaat boosting floriculture sized the importance of developing a reliable in Jammu and Kashmir. These included Project buyer chain for flower No. 4: Strengthening growers, ensuring that they have a consistent Agri-Marketing System in UT J&K, Project No. and profitable market for

5: Promotion of Medicitheir produce. nal and Aromatic Plants Director Agriculture on a Commercial Basis. Jammu A.S Reen, shared his thoughts on and Project No. 14: Promotion of Commercial the importance of flori-Floriculture. Shri Yadav culture for the agriculemphasized the crucial tural development of the role of marketing and region. Director Agriculture further discussed branding in the success of commercial floriculthe motive for area expansion of commerture, noting that effective marketing strategies and cial floriculture under strong branding would HADP in the Jammu enhance the value of region. floriculture products, open new markets for

farmers and increase

farmers' income. He fur-

ther stressed that these

initiatives are designed

to improve agricultural

Rahul Yadav also

took the opportunity to

engage with the gather-

ing, reiterating the com-

mitment to strengthen-

ing the floriculture sector

under HADP, and pro-

viding vital insights on

its role in Jammu and

Kashmir's agricultural

transformation. Mission

Director noted the pres-

ence of buyers from

other states, highlight-

ing the growing interest

productivity.

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 market-

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

nurseries raised within polyhouses as a commercial business opportunity.

By growing high-quality seedlings, farmers can sell them yearround, 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 buvers, 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

Among the distinguished guests/ resource persons/ experts present were Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director Trainings, Department of Agriculture Jammu, Bhavishya Devgan, CEO, Salutem 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.

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 Pakistanoccupied 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

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

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. SNL to BXG and back

No.179-C-/PCET/SNL-BXG/24 Sr. Divisional Commercial ManagenFS, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites E-tender through IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of Perce 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-Sanahawal to Bhanga and back to Sanahwal. (PCET shall be 15 parce) 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

All interested bidders/leaseholder are requested to go through the terms and conditions of the tender and submit the queries/ suggestions through email at ID sr.dcmfsfzn@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-rjg.

nterested bidders may kindly join the VC through the link given on 20.01.2025 at 11:30 Hrs

For any queries may please contact. Sh. Siddhesh Kumar, CMVLease.

Mob.:- 9779233934 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS.

Northern Railway, Firozpur

evised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed agains 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 carnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS porta like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Deman NIT HEADER Contract Type Works Name of Work (i) S&T work in connection with Provision of IBS between Shri Mata valehno devi katra and Chakarwahal (single line) of Jamm Division Tender Closing 06.02.2025 Uploading Tender Date/Time Advertised (1) 1,00,69,436,86 Bidding Start Date | 23.01.2025

Period of

(i) 6 Months

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTEUAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders of

https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-8ig-JAT-1-24-25 Closing

Date/Time 06.02.2025, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-JAT-1-24-25

Earnest Money (i) 2,00,400.00

ate:- 14.01.2025



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMII 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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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://iktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

webs	site <u>nttp://jktenders.gov.in</u> as per below scriedu	ie:-			
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

(Er. Jugal Kishore) Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu



EDITORIAL

Unifying India's Linguistic Diversity

ndia, 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 parenting.

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

he death anniversary of Lt.Shri R.K. Bharati 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. Bharati and 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. Bharati 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 criminatory 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. Bharati 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 Qusim 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 Bharati 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. Bharati wrote much on the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and Dogrispeaking Kashmiri Rajputs, who also were made paupers overnight by one stroke of his pen by Chief Minister Mir Quasim. He was a farsighted person and had forecast the adverse days for Kashmiri Pundits. Bharati 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 Udru Capulet, which reads - Na Khuda He Mila Na Vasale Sanam Na Idhr 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 Pragawal 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, Bharati, 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. Bharati 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. Bharati also worked with Hind Samachar, a national Urdu Daily in Jallandar 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. Bharati 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 Bharati. Dr. Farooq used to pay visit to his Talab Tillo residence. Faroog used to come to the Kakran residence of Bharati. In Jammu, friendship grew between KT Editor Shri Ved Basian and Bharat and, between Editor of State Times Raj Daluja and Bharati, between Editor of Northlines Rattan Gill and Bharati. There was friendship between Founder editor of Jammu Jottings Subash Mehra and Bharati and there were good relations between the founder editor of Shadow Dr Roop Lal Sharma and Bharati Here in Jammu, Bharati 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 Bharati and Prof. Zahoor Ahamed. Bharati and Jagan Nath Azad, Bharati, and Dr. Prof. Shoib Inayet Mallik. In literary circles there

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. Bharati 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 .Bharati 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. Bharati 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. Jagarnath Azad's book 'Alien in a Native Land' and Dr. Karan Singh's book 'My Hair apparent, to mention a few. This great person, who was also a down-to-earth man, passed away after a brief illness at his Talab Tiloo 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, Amitab Matoo, VC of Jammu University, DGP Kuldeep Khoda, Mr Mr. M.Y. Teng, Prof. Zahoor Ahamad, 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



canvassed against the most draconian, dis-

By: Shahnaz hussain

he colder months raise concerns about dry 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

was friendship between Bharti and many

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, sea-

sonal 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)

Srinagar

Police arrest

fraudulent

goldsmith

counterfeit

ornaments

Kashmir's

Bijbehara

SRINAGAR, Jan 16

(Agencies): Police on

Thursday said that it

has apprehended an

individual involved in

the sale of counterfeit

In a statement, the

police said that on

9th January, a writ-

ten complaint was

lodged at Police Sta-

tion Nowhatta by an

individual namely Nisar

Ahmad Bhat, a resident

of Bindoo Kokernag, at

present living in Sri-

nagar & working as

a storekeeper at Lalmandi Srinagar, stating

therein that he had purchased gold ornaments

from one Mehraj Din Qazi, the proprietor of

M/S Soliya Ornaments

Upon close observa-

tion once purchased,

they turned out to be

In this connection

case vide FIR No.

02/2025 under relevant

sections of law was

registered in Police

Acting swiftly, the

investigating team

arrested the accused

shopkeeper identified

as Mehraj Din Qazi son

of Gh Mohammad Qazi

resident of Bijbihara,

and seized the fake

During questioning,

the accused admitted

to deceiving customers by embossing fake

hallmarks on gold-like

The investigating

team also learnt that

the accused had been

making home deliver-

ies of these counterfeit

items to various loca-

tions of Srinagar City,

The laboratory tests

of the seized gold iew-

ellery have confirmed

that the ornaments in

question are indeed

counterfeit, police said.

the case is going on

to uncover any further

links in this fraudulent

People are requested

not to fall prey to fraud-

ulent elements who

dupe people on various

counts including sale of

golden ornaments on

cheap rates, reads the

network.

statement.

The investigation of

including Nowhatta.

ornaments.

jewellery, police said.

Station Nowhatta.

in Bijbihara.

fake.

gold ornaments.

in south

with

LG Brig Mishra visits Chader Trek Registration Centre, Tourist Information Center Leh



Top News Report

LEH, Jan 16: The Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd), visited the Chader Trek Registration Centre in Leh todav to review the ongoing Chader Trek and assess the facilities at the Tourist Information Centre.

Secretary Tourism, Vikram Singh Malik; Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh, Ghulam Mohd; Assistant Director Tourism Leh, Padma

Angmo, JKAS, and other tourism stakeholders and officials were present during the visit. During his visit, the LG expressed dissatisfaction with the nonfunctional bathrooms and toilets, and the lack of necessary amenities. He also noted the absence of visible boards and required information for tourists, which is essential for their convenience and safety.

The LG inspected the

emergency oxygen supplies, beds, and other related infrastructure provided for tourists. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the dismal conditions observed and directed the Assistant Director of Tourism, Leh, to ensure that all necessary infrastructure and tourist information are made available at the earliest.

In light of the situation, the LG instructed that prefabricated toilet facilities be made available until the normal functioning of the existing toilets and bathrooms is restored.

The LG emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of service and infrastructure to enhance the experience and safety of tourists visiting the region.

Raman, Parul of JU to participate in

Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 16: Two students of B.P.Ed-2nd Semester from the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, Raman Kumar and Parul Sharma, has been selected for Red Run-10 Km event to represent the University of Jammu at the prestigious National Red Run Event, which will take place in Goa on 18th January 2025.

The Red Run is a national event that brings together athletes from various categories across the country. Mr. Raman Kumar and Ms. Parul Sharma, both pursuing their Bachelor of Physical Educa



tion (B.P.Ed) degrees, have earned their spots through their outstanding performances in previous events.

The event in Goa is expected to be a highly competitive and exciting platform for showcasing athletic prowess. In preparation, both athletes have undergone rigorous training under the expert guidance of the faculty and coaches at the Directorate of Sports and Physical

Education, University of

Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director of the Directorate of Sports and Physical Education, University of Jammu, extends their best wishes to both Mr. Raman Kumar and Ms. Parul Sharma and expresses their confidence in their abilities to perform well in this prestigious event. The University of Jammu looks forward to their continued success in future athletic endeavors.

Hartek bags largest Solar Plant in J&K Top News Report ting the standard for es a comprehensive

JAMMU, Jan 16: Hartek Group's, C&I Rooftop solar business unit has won complete solar EPC contract of 8 MW from Kandhari Beverages Private Limited one of the largest bottling plant of Hindustan Coca Cola. This will become Jammu & Kashmir's largest rooftop solar installation The project is under execution and will be commissioned this quarter. The installation will improve the region's renewable energy capability and drastically lower the facility's energy expenses by producing a mil-

lion units a year. "This remarkable 8 MW system is setsustainable industrial development in Jammu & Kashmir, not merely powering a building. Our C&I roof top solar business unit will continue to partner with leading Industries to meet their sustainability & net zero goals," stated Simarpreet Singh, Executive Director & CEO, Hartek Group

Notably, this is the third project awarded to Hartek by Kandhari Beverages in the past two years, bringing their total installations for the beverage company to 14 MW. The repeat partnership reflects customer satisfaction & strong execution capabilities. The scope encompassturnkey solution, including engineering and design, procurement of solar modules, inverters and associated equipment, testing & commissioning, and one year of operations and maintenance (O&M).

Hartek continues to lead the way in the solar sector, delivering impactful projects that showcase the transformative potential of renewable energy. With a commitment to driving sustainable growth, the company is focused on expanding its presence in the clean energy market, contributing to India's long-term vision for environmental and economic progress.

Kaith, others tribute Shakuntala Devi

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 16: BJP Activist R.L.Kaith accompanied by Hans Raj Loria, Hony Captain Kamal Dass (Retd), Lect. Deepak Kumar, Station Officer Gharu Ram, Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar (Retd), Sub Inspector Karan Kumar (Retd), Naib Subedar Kaku Ram (Retd), Havildar Des Raj (Retd), Havildar Master Ram (Retd) and many others visited the Village Kanshalian today, where they paid tributes to most respected lady: Shakuntala Devi on her death anniversary.

Kaith remembered the compassion Shakuntala Devi had for others, the caring and the consideration she showed towards people she had never even met.

Chanchla Devi, Kailash Devi and Sunita Devi missed her too much and said, "We can never be exactly like her. As we compare her to any other woman there is no comparison, she was the most wonderful women

we have ever known". Sat Paul Motan and Sikandar Lal Motan said, "The words can describe how we are feeling right know. We

While Subedar Major Ram Paul Motan (Retd) said, "My mother was strong, courageous and always kept a smile on her face".

will always think about her and miss her every day".

Among locals who tributed Shakuntala Devi were Vidya Ram, Gunga Ram, Gharu Ram, Rashpal Chand and Kuldeep Raj.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KAND KASHMIR **AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT** OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER, REASI Tel/Fax: 01991-245677; e-mail: caoreasio

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS:

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

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

DIP/J-9162/24

Sd/-Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi

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

Annexure- "C"

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

District	Tehsil	Block	Panchayats Covered	Proposed Location	
Reasi Bomag		Bomag	Dangakote/Sarhi	Pyt H.Q Dangakote	
Reasi	Chassana	Chassana	Banna A+B	Pyt H.Q Thand Sui	
Reasi	Bhomag	Bhomag	Sersundwan/Lamsora	Pyt. HQ. Bakka	
Reasi	Pouni	Pouni	Pouni, Kundkhanyri, Saloon, Mari	AEO Office Pouni	
Reasi	Thakrakote	JijBagli	Narkote, Dhakikote	Pyt H.Q Narkote	
Reasi	Mahore	Mahore	Dubri & Shikari	Pyt H.Q Dubri	
	Reasi Reasi Reasi Reasi Reasi	Reasi Bomag Reasi Chassana Reasi Bhomag Reasi Pouni Reasi Thakrakote	Reasi Bomag Bomag Reasi Chassana Chassana Reasi Bhomag Bhomag Reasi Pouni Pouni Reasi Thakrakote JijBagli	Reasi Bomag Bomag Dangakote/Sarhi Reasi Chassana Chassana Banna A+B Reasi Bhomag Bhomag Sersundwan/Lamsora Reasi Pouni Pouni Founi, Kundkhanyri, Saloon, Mari Reasi Thakrakote JijBagli Narkote, Dhakikote	

Sd/-(Harbans Singh) Chief Agriculture Officer

Handicrafts & Handloom Dept distributes Kani Looms, Namdah tools amongst artisans

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 16: Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir today distributed 10 Kani looms and 25 sets of specialized Namdah tools to local artisans free-of-cost, a significant initiative aimed at promoting the region's rich cultural heritage and empowering its traditional craftsmen.

The event was held at the Handicraft block office Safakadal Srinagar and was presided over by Mussarat Islam, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir.

This strategic move is part of the Government's ongoing efforts to support and sustain the centuriesold craft traditions of Kashmir, ensuring artisans have access to the necessary



resources to continue their work while gaining opportunities to expand into global markets.

Speaking at the event, Director emphasized upon the importance of this initiative. "This is a vital step towards enhancing the economic independence of our artisans. We are committed to providing them with the resources and opportuni

ties needed to thrive in the global market," he said

The distribution of Kani looms and Namdah tool kits will enable artisans to improve the quality and efficiency of their craftsmanship, empowering them to produce high-quality traditional products while increasing their competitiveness

The event was organized

tion of the programme. This initiative marks another important milestone in the ongoing efforts to uplift the Handicrafts sector in Kashmir, ensuring the preservation of its unique heritage and the

by the Assistant Director

of Handicrafts, Srinagar,

Mohsina Irshad, who also

played a significant role in

ensuring successful execu-

welfare of its artisans. It is significant to mention that since Srinagar's designation as a member of the **UNESCO Creative Cities** Network (UCCN) and its recognition as a Craft City by the World Crafts Council (WCC), the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom. Kashmir has accelerated its efforts to celebrate and preserve the region's rich artistic heritage.

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(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).

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

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



Kapadia-Payal 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 comedydrama 'Kneecap' and Iranian crime-drama 'The Seed of the Sacred

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

Fig'.

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

Awards. Suri goes head-tohead 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. Papal 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 filings that UMG falsely

pumped up the popularity of "Not Like Us" on streaming services. The track is nominat-

ed 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 cess." The company added: "Throughout his career, Drake has intentionally and successfully used UMG to distribute his music and poetry to engage in conventionally outrageous backand-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.

personal financial suc-

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 state-

"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 mostfollowed 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 shorttempered, 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 relationships, 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 Faruqui 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



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, Book-MyShow.

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 Sta-

tion.
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 accom-

plished the unbeliev-

able... docking com-

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

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, be 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-Adity-anath-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.

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

Speaking to report-

ers 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 Bhartiya 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 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

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

THRISSUR, Jan 16

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 childrens homes.

13 workers injured after oven explodes in Agra bread factory AGRA, Jan 16 (Agentory around 1 PM, when of Police (City) Suraj Rai

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-

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.



US President Biden warns of 'oligarchy' formation in US

Biden warned of the concentration of wealth in a few hands, as it would give them the opportunity to abuse their power.

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 16 (Agencies): US President Joe Biden on Thursday highlighted the formation of an 'oligarchy' in his farewell address from the Oval Office.

Biden warned of the concentration of wealth in a few hands, as it would give them the opportunity to abuse their power.

"In my farewell address tonight, I want to warn the country of some things that give me great concern. And this is a dangerous -- and that's the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultrawealthy people, and the dangerous consequences if their abuse of power is left unchecked. Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead. We see the consequences all across America. And we've seen it before," he said.

Biden said that the solution did not lie in punishing the wealthy, but to make them pay proportionately.

"More than a century ago, the American people stood up to the robber barons back then and busted the trusts. They didn't punish the wealthy. They just made the wealthy play by the rules everybody else had. Workers want rights to earn their



cant climate and clean energy

law ever, ever in the history of

the world. And the rest of the

world is trying to model it now.

It's working, creating jobs and

industries of the future. Now we

have proven we don't have to

choose between protecting the

environment and growing the

economy. We're doing both,"

He added that the 'powerful

forces' are using their influence

to eliminate the steps taken to

"But powerful forces want to

wield their unchecked influence

to eliminate the steps we've

taken to tackle the climate crisis,

to serve their own interests for

power and profit. We must not

be bullied into sacrificing the

future, the future of our children

and our grandchildren. We must

keep pushing forward, and push

faster. There is no time to waste.

It is also clear that American

leadership in technology is

tackle the climate crisis.

he said.

fair share. You know, they were dealt into the deal, and it helped put us on the path to building the largest middle class, the most prosperous century any nation the world has ever seen. We've got to do that again," he said.

Biden highlighted that the wealthy must put forth their fair share in taxes.

"The last four years, that is exactly what we have done. People should be able to make as much as they can, but pay -- play by the same rules, pay their fair share in taxes. So much is at stake." he said.

Biden also highlighted the threats of climate change, and said he signed the clean climate law, which is the most significant in history.

"Right now, the existential threat of climate change has never been clearer. Just look across the country, from California to North Carolina. That's why I signed the most signifi-

unparalleled, an unparalleled source of innovation that can transform lives. We see the same dangers in the concentration of technology, power and wealth," he said.

Biden quoted Former US Pres-

Biden quoted Former US President Dwight D Eisenhower, who warned of 'misplaced power' and spoke of military-industrial complex.

"You know, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower spoke of the dangers of the military-industrial complex. He warned us about, and I quote, "The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power." Six decades later, I'm equally concerned about the potential rise of a tech-industrial complex that could pose real dangers for our country as well," he said.

Biden warned of the perils of misinformation and lack of free press.

"Americans are being buried under an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation enabling the abuse of power. The free press is crumbling. Editors are disappearing. Social media is giving up on factchecking. The truth is smothered by lies told for power and for profit. We must hold the social platforms accountable to protect our children, our families and our very democracy from the abuse of power. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence is the most consequential technology of our time, perhaps of all time," he said.

Ex US President Obama expresses gratitude to Biden for his leadership

Obama praised Biden for his way of recovering the US economy after the Covid 19 pandemic.



WASHINGTON DC, Jan 16 (Agencies): Former US President Barack Obama on Thursday expressed his gratitude and admiration for US President Joe Biden's administration.

Obama praised Biden for his way of recovering the US economy after the Covid 19 pandemic.

"Four years ago, in the middle of a pandemic, we needed a leader with the character to put politics aside and do what was right. That's what Joe Biden did," he said.

Obama said that Biden created 17 million new jobs and lowered healthcare costs, making it the world's strongest recov"At a time when our economy was reeling, he drove what would become the world's strongest recovery - with 17 million new jobs, historic wage gains, and lower health care costs. He passed landmark legislation to rebuild our nation's infrastructure and address the threat

"I'm grateful to Joe for his leadership, his friendship, and his lifetime of service to this country we love," Obama added.

of climate change," he

said.

Notably, US President Joe Biden, who will be leaving office next week, negotiated a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas earlier in the day.

Following the cease-fire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu engaged in discussions with US President-elect Donald Trump and current President Joe Biden.

During these conversations, Netanyahu expressed his gratitude for their support in facilitating the release of hostages. He reaffirmed Israel's commitment to securing the release of all hostages and praised President Trump for emphasising the need to ensure Gaza does not become a haven for terrorism. Both leaders agreed to meet in Washington soon to further address these issues.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office in a post on X wrote, "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke this evening with US President-elect Donald Trump and thanked him for his assistance in advancing the release of the hostages and for helping Israel bring an end to the suffering of dozens of hostages and their families."

UK's Starmer arrives in Ukraine for security talks with Zelenskyy days before Trump is sworn in

KYIV, Jan 16 (Agencies): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Ukraine Thursday with a pledge to help guarantee the country's security for a century, days before Donald Trump is sworn in as US president.

The British government says Starmer and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will sign a "100-Year Partnership" treaty in Kyiv, covering areas including defence, science, energy and trade.

Starmer's unannounced visit is his first trip to Ukraine since he took office in July. He visited the country in 2023 when he was opposition leader, and has twice held talks with Zelenskyy in 10 Downing St. since becoming prime

One of Ukraine's biggest military backers, the UK has pledged 12.8 billion pounds (USD 16 billion) in military and civilian aid to Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion three years ago, and has trained more than 50,000 Ukrainian troops on British soil.

Starmer is due to announce another 40 million pounds (USD 49 million) for Ukraine's post-war economic recovery. But the UK's role is dwarfed by that of the United States, and there is deep uncertainty over the fate of American support for Ukraine once Trump takes office on January 20.

The president-elect has balked at the cost of US aid to Kyiv, says he wants to bring the war to a swift end and is planning to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, for whom he has long expressed admiration.

Kyiv's allies have rushed to flood Ukraine with as much support as possible before Trump's inauguration, with the aim of putting Ukraine in the strongest position possible for any future negotiations to end the war.

Zelenskyy has said that in any peace negotiation, Ukraine would need assurances about its future protection from its much bigger neighbor.

Britain says its 100-year pledge is part of that assurance, and will help ensure Ukraine is "never again vulnerable to the kind of brutality inflicted on it by Russia," which seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and attempted a full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The deal commits the two sides to cooperate on defense — especially maritime security against Russian activity in the Batlic Sea, Black Sea and Sea of Azov — and on technology projects including drones, which have become vital weapons for both sides in the war. The treaty also includes a system to help track stolen Ukrainian grain exported by Russia from occu-



pied parts of the country.

"Putin's ambition to wrench Ukraine away from its closest partners has been a monumental strategic failure. Instead, we are closer than ever, and this partnership will take that friendship to the next level," Starmer said ahead of the visit.

"This is not just about the here and now, it is also about an investment in our two countries for the next century, bringing together technology development, scientific advances and cultural exchanges, and harnessing the phenomenal innovation shown by Ukraine in recent years for generations to come."

Zelenskyy says he and Starmer also will discuss a plan proposed by French President Emmanuel Macron that would see troops from France and other Western countries stationed in Ukraine to oversee a ceasefire agreement

Zelenskyy has said any such proposal should go alongside a timeline for Ukraine to join NATO. The alliance's 32 member countries say that Ukraine will join one day, but not until after the war. Trump has appeared to sympathize with Putin's position that Ukraine should not be part of NATO.

As the grinding war nears the threeyear mark, both Russia and Ukraine are pushing for battlefield gains ahead of possible peace talks. Ukraine has started a second offensive in Russia's Kursk region, where it is struggling to hang onto a chunk of territory it captured last year, and has stepped up drone and missile attacks on weapons sites and fuel depots inside Russia.

Moscow is slowly taking territory at the cost of high casualties, along the 600-mile (1,000-kilometre) front line in eastern Ukraine and launching intense barrages at Ukraine's energy system, seeking to deprive Ukrainians of heat and light in the depths of winter. A major Russian ballistic and cruise missile attack on regions across Ukraine on Wednesday, and compelling authorities to shut down the power grid in some areas.

Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket blasts off in first launch, reaches orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Jan 16 (Agencies): Blue Origin, the space company founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos, launched its massive New Glenn rocket for the first time early Thursday, a livestream of the blastoff showed.

The rocket, whose inaugural mission had been delayed by several years, blasted of at 2:03 am (0703 GMT) from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Base in the US state of Florida, the webcast showed.

The mission is seen as critical to Blue Origin's efforts to compete with Elon Musk's SpaceX, which dominates the commercial space industry

industry.

"LIFTOFF! New Glenn is beginning its first ever ascent toward the stars," Blue Origin said on social media platform X.

"New Glenn has

passed the Karman line, the internationally recognized boundary of space!" the firm posted just a few minutes later.
And then: "Second stage engine cutoff confirmed. New Glenn's second stage and pay-

load are now in orbit."



An initial test launch of the towering 320-foot (98-meter) rocket, dubbed New Glenn in honor of legendary American astronaut John Glenn, had been scrubbed early Monday morning after repeated halts during the countdown.

The company later said it had discovered an icing issue on a purge line and would aim for a possible early Tuesday morning launch, but that weather conditions were unfavorable.

On Monday night, Blue Origin announced that launch had been postponed.

With the mission, dubbed NG-1, Amazon founder Bezos is taking aim at the only man in the world wealthier than him: fellow tech innovator Musk.

Musk's company SpaceX dominates the orbital launch market through its prolific Falcon 9 rockets, which have become vital for the commercial sector, Pentagon and NASA.

"SpaceX has for the past several years been pretty much the only game in town, and so having a competitor... this is great," G. Scott Hubbard, a retired senior NASA official, earlier told AFP, expecting the competition to drive down costs.

Upping the high-stakes rivalry, SpaceX also plans another orbital test this week of Starship -- its gargantuan new-generation rocket. Landing attempt

Blue Origin will now attempt to land New Glenn's first-stage booster on a drone ship stationed about 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) downrange in the Atlantic Ocean.

SpaceX has made such landings now rou-

tine, but this will be Blue Origin's first shot at the sci-fi feat.

High seas last week caused the New Glenn launch to be pushed back several days.

Meanwhile, the rocket's upper stage will fire its engines toward Earth orbit, reaching a maximum altitude of roughly 12,000 miles above the surface.

A Defense Department-funded prototype of an advanced space-ship called Blue Ring, which could one day journey through the solar system, will remain aboard for the roughly six-hour test flight.

Blue Origin has experience landing its New Shepard rockets -- used for suborbital tourism -- but they are five times smaller and land on terra firma rather than a ship at sea.

Physically, the gleaming white New Glenn dwarfs SpaceX's 230-foot Falcon 9 and is designed for heavier payloads.

It slots between Falcon 9 and its big sibling, Falcon Heavy, in terms of mass capacity but holds an edge with its wider payload fairing,

capable of carrying the equivalent of 20 moving trucks.

Slow v fast development

Blue Origin has already secured a NASA contract to launch two Mars probes aboard New Glenn. The rocket will also support the deployment of Project Kuiper, a satellite internet constellation designed to compete with Starlink.

For now, however, SpaceX maintains a commanding lead, while other rivals -- United Launch Alliance, Arianespace, and Rocket Lab -- trail far behind.

Like Musk, Bezos has a lifelong passion for space.

But where Musk dreams of colonizing Mars, Bezos envisions shifting heavy industry off-planet onto floating space platforms in order to preserve Earth, "humanity's blue origin."

If New Glenn suc-

ceeds, it will provide the US government "dissimilar redundancy" -- valuable backup if one system fails, said Scott Pace, a space policy analyst at George Washington University.

Taiwan: Council highlights overseas outreach success amid global policy shifts

TAIPEI, Jan 16 (Agencies): Backlash against Chinese political interference has paved the way for smoother diplomatic outreach efforts by Taiwan, according to the Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC).

In a written report submitted to the legislature, the council emphasised that shifting global policies have created new opportunities for Taiwan to expand its international presence, Taipei Times

OCAC Minister Hsu Chia-ching stated that global democracies are facing unprecedented challenges from authoritarian regimes like China and Russia.

"Policy changes have benefited the council's diplomatic efforts," Hsu said. The removal of entities such as Confucius Institutes and overseas Chinese police stations in Western nations has led to reduced resistance for overseas Taiwanese communities, easing their ability to engage on diplomatic fronts.

The council reported that as of last year, there were approximately 2 million overseas Taiwanese, 6,000 overseas Taiwanese groups, and 1,000 Taiwan schools, which collectively play a pivotal role in strengthening Taiwan's global connections. Unlike formal diplomatic mechanisms,

these communities enjoy greater flexibility in fostering ties, OCAC said, as per reports by Taipei Times.

In 2023, the council collaborated with overseas Taiwanese groups to organise 111 events across 46 regions, attracting a combined attendance of 106,000 people. These events supported Taiwan's meaningful engagement with global cooperative frameworks, including the WHO, in areas such as health, economics, culture, and education.

Notable initiatives included the Taiwan Day event at Ruhr-Universitat-Bochum and cultural showcases at Germany's AHOJ. Festival.

Taiwanese participation in South Australia's Multicultural Festival and New South Wales' Willoughby Spring Fair were also facilitated by the council.

Academic and corporate initiatives to encourage overseas Taiwanese to return for study and work drew 7,450 participants, Taipie Times reported.

Looking ahead, the council plans to amplify its efforts to advocate for Taiwan internationally while supporting Taiwanese entrepreneurs abroad, particularly in the semiconductor, artificial intelligence, defense, and next-generation communications sectors.

JU hosts insightful lecture on Paper Writing, Presentation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: The Department of Economics, University of Jammu, organized an enriching lecture-cum-interaction session today on the theme of "Paper Writing and Paper Presentation" for Ph.D. scholars. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Sarabjit Singh Toor, Head and Professor, Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, as the keynote speaker. The program com-

menced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Sunita Sharma. Head, Department of Economics, University of Jammu. Prof. Sharma extended her greetings to Prof. Sarabjit Singh Toor, esteemed faculty members, and scholars in attendance. She emphasized the significance of the session, introducing the theme and its relevance in enhancing academic and professional capa



In his keynote address, Prof. Sarabiit Singh Toor shared valuable insights on the Social science academic paper writing and effective presentation. He highlighted key considerations for crafting impactful articles, such as structuring research work, formulating clear objectives, and adhering to schol

arly standards. Prof. Toor also provided practical tips on presenting papers at seminars and conferences, focusing on audience engagement, clarity of thought, and effective communication.

The session proved to be an interactive platform where scholars and faculty members exchanged ideas and

sought guidance on overcoming challenges in academic publishing and presentation. Prof. Toor's expertise and engaging delivery left a lasting impression on the attendees, motivating them to enhance their research outputs.

Prominent faculty members, including Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Falender Sudan, Prof. Prakash Chand Antahal, Prof. Virender Koundal, Prof. Manoj Bhatt, Dr. Shallu Sehgal, Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Dr. Tsering Yangzom, Dr. Tarsem Singh, Dr. Rinnie Maharjan and Dr Apoorva Jamwal, were present, contributing to the vibrant academic environment

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Apoorva Jamwal, who expressed gratitude to Prof. Toor for his enlightening lecture, the faculty for their active participation, and the scholars for their enthusiasm.

This lecture-cum-interaction session marks a significant step in the department's efforts to foster a culture of academic excellence and research among its scholars. It provided a platform for young researchers to refine their skills and prepare themselves for contributing to the academic community with confidence and competence.

2nd edition of "Kulyat-e-Rasa Javedani" released at JU



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: The 2nd edition of "Kulyat-e-Rasa Javedanii', a collection of the Urdu and Kashmiri poetry of legendary poet Rasa Javedani, was released here this morning by Abdul Raheem Rather, Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly.

The book release function was jointly organized by the Department of Urdu, University of Jammu, and the Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society. The book is edited by Tanveer Ibn-e-Rasa son of Rasa Javedani and published by Sheikh Mohd Usman and Sons, Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering Abdul Raheem Rather high lighted Rasa Javedani's significant contributions to the promotion of Urdu and Kashmiri languages in Jammu and Kashmir. He described Javedani as the foremost romantic poet of Kashmiri literature after Rasool Mir whose Kashmiri ghazals are loved across the region.

Rather noted Javedani as the most prominent Kashmiri poet from the Chenab Valley who mentored many budding Kashmiri poets in the region. As an Urdu poet, Rasa Javedani was the contemporary of renowned Urdu poets like Hafeez Jalandari, Seemab Akbarabadi, Brij Narayan Chakbast, Pandit Data Trya Kafi and others said Abdul Raheem Rather. He also lauded the efforts of the Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary

Society in preserving and promoting the poet's legacy. Prof. Shad Ramzan, former

Head, Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, who presided over the event, described Rasa Javedani as a towering figure of 20thcentury poetry. He credited Javedani with introducing new dimensions to Kashmiri literature and being the only poet to master the ghaza form in the language. Prof. Ramzan praised the second edition of "Kulyat-e-Rasa Javedani" for spreading the poet's message of love, harmony, and brotherhood.

Basheer Bhaderwahi, Sah itya Akademi Awardee and Guest of Honour, shared cherished memories of his association with Javedani and highlighted his secular vision and portrayal of life's realities in both Urdu and Kashmiri poetry.

Earlier in his welcome address, Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik, Head of the Department of Urdu and President of the Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society, elaborated on the thematic rich

ness of Javedani's works. He noted that Javedani was

the only Kashmiri poet to write qasida, earning him recognition from critics like Mohd Yousuf Taing as the preeminent qasida writer in Kashmiri literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development paid glowing tributes to Rasa Javedani. The event was attended by a large audience, including students, scholars, and dignitaries such as Prof. Mohd Reyaz Ahmad, Dr. Chaman Lal, Dr Abdul Rashid Manhas, Khursheed Kazmi, Zahid Banhali and others.

The program featured critical papers on "Kulyat-e-Rasa Javedani" presented by Dr Shahnawaz Qadri, Assistant Professor of Urdu, and Brij Nath Betab, a renowned writer, in Urdu and Kashmiri, respectively. Dr. Farhat Shamim, Assistant Professor in the Department of Urdu, University of Jammu, moderated the proceedings, while Aseer Kishtwari, General Secretary of the Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society, delivered the vote

NOTICE

I, Babli Devi, declared that my name have wrongly been written as Chanchala Devi instead of Babli Devi (right Name) in my documents. I am applying for the correction of the same. Objections if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days of publication of this notice.

BJP Bulandshahr MP Bhola Singh participates in road show

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 16: BJP Bulandshahr MP Bhola Singh today participated in the road show and nomination of Urmila Gangwal from Madipur, Delhi Assembly. Talking to reporters at an election program today, he said that we are worshippers of Bhole, have faith in God and

have faith in the Constitution. We consider each of our BJP workers as God-like and I want to tell those God-like workers of mine to jump into the election field on a war footing and make their candidates win with a huge number of votes and save Delhi and the people of Delhi from disaster because this disaster has affected the entire Delhi.

Hundreds of BJP rajesthan BJP workers Delhi parwashi smti Rinki varma were present and joined the rally when the nomination papers were filed.

MP Bhola Singh said that because our biggest candidate has the lotus symbol and we have to get maximum votes for the lotus symbol and make our candidate victorious and form the BJP government.

MP Bhola Singh said that the BJP is the biggest party in the world. Here workers are given respect and honour and every BJP worker, like a god, is taught values and respect for his fellow BJP workers. This is not done in any other party. In other parties, workers are insulted and in the BJP they are respected.

FromPage No:1

govt employees and its term will end in 2026. Vaishnaw further said the chairman and two members of the Commission will be appointed soon.

Court acquits three in attempted murder case

dates back to 2013 when the complainant alleged that the three accused individuals had attacked him with the intent to kill. According to the FIR, the complainant claimed he was wrongfully restrained and assaulted with dangerous weapons, resulting in injuries. The incident reportedly occurred following a dispute, with the accused also accused of unlawfully trespassing onto the complainant's property.

The FIR was promptly registered at Gharota Police Station, leading to the arrest of the accused. However, they were later granted bail as the case proceeded to trial.

Over the years, the case saw numerous hearings and extensive deliberations. The prosecution relied on a combination of medical evidence, eyewitness testimonies, and circumstantial evidence to establish the guilt of the accused. The medical report detailing the complainant's injuries was presented as a critical piece of evidence to substantiate the charge of voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons.

The prosecution also emphasized the sequence of events, alleging that the accused had planned and executed the attack with malicious intent.

However, the defense, through Advocate Rishi Gupta and Advocate Randhir Kumar, countered these claims with a robust argument. They highlighted significant discrepancies in the prosecution's narrative, particularly in the testimonies of eyewitnesses. The defense also argued that the complainant had a history of personal enmity with the accused, which they claimed motivated the false allegations.

Moreover, the defense pointed to a lack of forensic evidence linking the accused to the weapons allegedly used in the attack. This, they argued, cast serious doubt on the credibility of the prosecution's case.

the evidence, Judge Ritesh Kumar Dubey concluded that the prosecution had failed to meet the burden of proof required to convict the accused. In his detailed judgment, the judge observed:

"The prosecution is obligated to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt. In the present matter, the inconsistencies in witness statements, coupled with the absence of corroborative evidence, do not support the allegations leveled against the accused.'

The court also noted that criminal cases demand a higher standard of proof to ensure that no innocent individual is wrongfully convicted. Accordingly, the judge acquitted all three accused namely Bahadhur Singh, son of Shankar Singh, Amandeep Singh and Jagdeep Singh, both son of Bahadur Singh, all residents of Bhalwal, Jammu, of the charges against them.

The acquittal marks a significant moment for the justice system in Jammu, highlighting both its strengths and areas of concern. While the verdict underscores the importance of a fair trial and the protection of individual rights, it also brings to light the challenges of delays in legal proceedings.

The case has reignited discussions about the need for swift and efficient justice delivery, particularly in matters involving serious charges like attempted murder. For the accused, the verdict represents a long-awaited vindication, while for the complainant, it raises questions about the handling of evidence and the investigation process.

As the legal fraternity reflects on this outcome, the case serves as a reminder of the delicate balance that courts must maintain between delivering justice and safeguarding the rights of the accused.

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

Saif's team has issued a statement on behalf of the actor and confirmed that there was an attempted burglary and it also mentioned that he is undergoing surgery.

"There was an attempted burglary at Mr Saif Ali Khan's residence. He is currently in hospital undergoing a surgery. We request the media and fans to be patient. It is a police matter," read the official statement issued by the actor's

team. A source claimed that Saif fought

with the thief without a weapon to protect his family. This happened in the middle of

the night. He fought tough and saved from family being harmed and he got injured in the process. While the guy had a weapon... Saif had nothing.

The police have started an investigation, and CCTV footage from the area around the house is being reviewed

According to reports, his wife Kareena Kapoor Khan and their children Taimur and Jeh are safe.

The Mumbai Joint CP Law and Order has confirmed the incident, stating that Saif was taken to Lilavati Hospital for treatment last night, and CCTV footage is being used to investigate the suspects.

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

Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, GMC Jammu.

The incident came into notice on December 7, 2024, when a family of seven got ill after a community meal, resulting in five fatalities. On December 12, 2024, a family of nine got affected, claiming three lives. The third incident occurred on January 12, 2025, involving a family of ten who fell ill after consuming another community meal, with six children requiring hospi-

Responding promptly, the Govt took a number of steps to find root cause of the unusual illness.

The Minister for Health and Medical Education, Ms. Sakina Itoo, visited the spot along with other cabinet colleagues, besides chairing several meetings with the Health and Medical Education Department, District Administration, and other related departments to find the cause of the illness and provide necessary healthcare facilities to the affected.

Chief Secretary J&K, Atal Dulloo, also chaired a series of meetings with health authorities, administration, technical experts from across the country, and police to ensure thorough fact-finding and provide the best healthcare facilities to the affected.

The department of Health and Medical Education has been providing the best possible treatment and management to the patients

CS advocates tough action against online scammers to safeguard public

them to train some master trainers who would go in districts to train about 5000 investigation officers in police department.

He maintained that this is the area of concern as the digital marketing and online transactions are becoming popular by each day making people vulnerable to defrauding on the hands of these criminals. He stressed on reaching out to students in colleges and villagers in blocks/panchayats for holding such outreach campaigns.

He also reviewed the progress achieved in disposal of pending fraud cases and called for concrete preventive action that would act as deterrent for others. He called upon the concerned to ensure effective implementation of BUDS Act and the relevant sections of newly adopted criminal laws to eradicate this menace from J&K.

Dulloo also underscored the need for taking strong action against fraudulent apps/websites, activities of Nidhi and other unregistered/ unaddressed entities duping the people of J&K.

Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Chandrashekhar Azad, discussed various steps that can be taken to tackle the rise of such fraudulent activities in cyber space and called for collaborative approach among all stakeholders. He also assured about accelerating the pace of literacy campaigns for creating necessary awareness in public besides building capacity of local law enforcement agencies to deal with such crimes in a more effective manner.

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

However, the observations made in the interim order to at the interlocutory stage is made tentative in the event subject to the final order that would be passed in the pending proceedings."

At the outset of the hearing, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj pointed out that 2 special leave petitions arising out of the the High same proceedings before the right Court are already pending before the Supreme Court. In response, Justice Roy noted that the top Court has granted relief in one of them, asking the High Court to not unnecessarily summon officials of J&K administration; however, the underlying order in the present case pertained to understaffed judicial offices.

Justice Bhatti, on the other hand, emphasized the burden on clerks and said that the UT itself invited the High Court's observations because of its contentions.

In response, the ASG raised a grievance that such matters shall be dealt with on the administrative side, not judicial. "If on the judicial side they say whatever we say is binding, we can't take anything forward", he said, while informing that 156 posts have already been created. Objecting to the following observation made by the High Court, the ASG added that the "government can't run with these observations":

".. Once the High Court has given on the judicial side its requirement for 334 posts, the act of the Government in stating that it would have to examine the requirement of the High Court based on the parameters of the number of judges working in the High Court and the number of posts against ongoing cases and also examining the requirement of this Court of 334 posts while drawing a comparison with the High Court of Himachal Pradesh and the Allahabad High Court with its principal seat at Allahabad and one Bench at Lucknow, is gross contempt."

Considering the submission, Justice Bhatti commented that perhaps the High Court was not happy with the comparison drawn with other High Courts/benches. Ultimately, the Court clarified that the High Court observations shall be seen as tentative.

Briefly put, the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court is seized of a writ petition, filed in 2017, which originally sought monetary benefits for High Court employees. Over time, the case evolved into a broader discussion about the critical need for additional staff to address the growing requirements of the judiciary.

The High Court strength increased from 14 to 17 judges in 2021, and

subsequently to 25. However, the UT administration repeatedly failed to act on recommendations from the High Court's Registry, which in 2014 proposed creating 334 posts across various categories. The matter gained urgency with a February 2023 order from the Court, which pointed the acute need for staff and infrastructure. Although the UT administration eventually sanctioned 24 posts in May 2023 after significant delays, the broader recommendation for 334 posts remained in limbo.

Taking serious note, the High Court, vide order dated November 12, 2024, highlighted that recommendations from the High Court or the Chief Justice concerning post creation are binding on the government, leaving no room for discretion. It held that the financial implications must be borne by the consolidated fund of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Criticizing the UT administration's approach as laggardly and casual, the Court noted that compliance reports filed in a phased manner lacked specificity or urgency. Frowning over the UT government's attempt to compare the requirements of the J&K High Court with other High Courts like Himachal Pradesh and Allahabad, the bench pointed out unique logistical challenges faced by the J&K High Court, such as maintaining dual establishments at Srinagar and Jammu, unlike other High Courts with single or primary

Warning that any future attempts by the government to assess judicial staffing requirements would invite contempt proceedings, the Court observed.

"This High Court shall understand and accommodate the UT if the question is restricted only to the issue of finances. But we would take very serious note henceforth, if committees are made to sit and ascertain and assess the requirement of this Court. If it is ever so done again, this Court shall exercise its powers to initiate proceedings of contempt against those officers for their indiscretion."

The case was listed before the High Court on January 25 for further review. Aggrieved by the order, the J&K government approached the Supreme Court.

sion for central

Govt announces After a thorough examination of 8th Pay Commis-

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

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

sports Foundation (VSSF) achieved another milestone by becoming first such sports organization in the Union Territory (UT) to entities 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 others 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

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-



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.

ticipated 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 sociocultural 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 selflessness 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.

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 allnew 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



Unmatched safety: Skoda Kylaq secures a

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

The use of hotstamped 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 Con-

trol, 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

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.

safety-first approach.

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 Repub-

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

Gautam Gambhir calls out 'indiscipline' in team India, proposes new rules to BCCI: Report

In the wake of the recent poor results, India head coach Gautam Gambhir wants changes in the team.

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) contemplates bringing changes to the way the team functions, the families of players are likely have their privileges taken away. The board has reportedly proposed limited family time on away tours, especially for long assignments. The changes are reportedly being discussed after India head coach Gautam Gambhir called out the 'indiscipline' inside the team which needed to be resolved.

According to a report in India Today, Gambhir feels the current group of players is quite undisciplined and the coach wants stricter guidelines to be in place

"Gautam Gambhir, during the review meeting, spoke about indiscipline in the Indian dressing room following the loss in the Border-Gavaskar series. Indiscipline is the reason why the BCCI



is reverting to pre-COVID rules, allowing two weeks of family presence on tour. Gautam and the players were on the same page regarding the topic of family stays," the report quoted a source as saying.

A senior Indian team player, who was present at the meet-

ing alongside coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, asked the BCCI bosses not to distribute match fee to the players immediately. Rather, their performances should be looked at before the money is disbursed.

"One senior player, who was

present at the meeting, suggested to the BCCI that the match fee should not be distributed immediately. Instead, players' performance should be considered before disbursing the fee, as some players are not prioritising domestic and national team commitments," the report claimed.

The report also claimed that only one complete team dinner happened while the Indian team was in Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Players would often be spotted going out in groups, a visual that coach Gambhir, understandably, didn't like.

The BCCI isn't just proposing rule changes for the players but coach Gambhir's personal manager has also been asked not to stay in the team hotel or VIP box any longer. Gambhir's personal aide has also had his privileges being taken away by the board.

India women must make this year their best in ODIs: Smriti Mandhana



RAJKOT, Jan 16 (Agencies): Smriti Mandhana believes India's back-to-back 3-0 series wins against the West Indies and Ireland have provided the perfect momentum for making it their "best year in one-dayers" as the team gears up for the 50-over World Cup at home.

India will host the women's ODI World Cup later this year and the team, which has been able to rediscover its form with six consecutive ODI wins, should drive home the advantage now, says Mandhana.

"Two 3-0 sweeps are definitely really good in a World Cup year especially. We have to like keep going and have this for the best year for one-days (dayers)," Mandhana said in a video shared by BCCI.

Mandhana (135) and Pratika Rawal (154) put on 233 for the first wicket for the third highest opening wicket part-

nership for India in ODIs, setting up their highest ever total of 435/5 and eventually for their biggest ever ODI win by 304 runs.

"I wanted to go out and bat with a lot of freedom. I said in the dugout before I went in about that you know, I'm going to try and play my shots because not many times you get an opportunity to do that," Mandhana said.

Rawal, who notched up her first hundred to make 154 off 129 balls with 20 fours and one six, admitted she slowed down nearing her century but gained pace of scoring once she was past the landmark.

"As a batter I always wanted to score more runs and doing that for your country is actually a privilege and I am very happy," she said.

"After (crossing) 70 (runs) I was a bit conscious that there was a hundred (on the cards). I was taking singles and going slow but when I got the hundred, I was like, let's just go for it. The 50 runs after the hundred came a bit quicker. I was able to score the way I score," she said.

Talking about her 233-run opening stand with the senior batter, Rawal said, "It felt like that it was happening with the flow, we didn't think about it." "We got to know stats now, actually," Mandhana added.

"Locked in": Kuldeep Yadav starts bowling ahead of all-important white-ball season

NEW DELHI, Jan 16 (Agencies): Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav started to practice in nets as he prepares for a Team India comeback ahead of the white-ball series against England started from January 22 and the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.

Taking to Instagram, Kuldeep shared a video of him bowling in the nets, looking fully "locked in" in his practice session.

Kuldeep was unavailable for selection for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy tour of Australia held from November last year to January this year, since he was referred to the BCCI Centre of Excellence after the end of the Test series against New Zealand for long-term resolution of his chronic left groin issue.

His last appearance for India was the first Test of the New Zealand series, in which he took three wickets back in October last year.

When he comes back, Kuldeep has an important milestone to look ahead to, of 300 international wickets. In 159 international appearances, he has taken 297 wickets at an average of 22.50, with the best bowling figures of 6/25. He has taken eight fivewicket hauls in interna-

tional cricket.

Kuldeep is not part of the squad for the five-match T20I series against England, kick-starting on January 22.

The five-match T20I series will kick off on January 22 in Kolkata. The second and third matches will be held on January 25 and 28 in Chennai and Rajkot, respectively. The fourth game of the series will be played on January 31 in Pune. Mumbai will host the final match of the T20I series on February 2.

The three-match ODI series will kickstart from February 6 onwards.

The freshest challenge awaiting India is the ICC

Champions Trophy, starting from February 19 till March 9. It will be hosted by Pakistan and UAE, with India playing its matches in UAE under a hybrid model.

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 50-over matches and will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai. The biggest match of the tournament between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23 in Dubai. India will start its campaign against Bangladesh on February 20. India's last league match will be against New Zealand on March

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

Legend 90 League: All set to bring my legendary form to field for Delhi Royals, says Shikhar Dhawan

RAIPUR, Jan 16 (Agencies): Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan has expressed his excitement about returning to the field and making every moment count in the upcoming Legend 90 League, slated to be played in February 2025.

Dhawan, who will represent Delhi Royals in the Legend 90 League, is elated to be back on the field.

"I'm super excited to share some big news with you all. This season of Legend 90 League, I'll be playing for the Delhi Royals. I'm all set to bring my legendary form to the field and make every moment count. Thank you to my fans for the continued support," said Dhawan as quoted by the Legend 90 League press release.

Meanwhile, Delhi Royals have bolstered its lineup with the inclusion of new players following the recently concluded players' draft for



the Legend 90 League. The team, already headlined by cricketing stalwarts like Dhawan and Ross Taylor, welcomes a host of talented players to its ranks.

The latest additions include Jerome Taylor and Denesh Ramdin from the West Indies, Danushka Gunathilaka from Sri Lanka, and Indian cricketers Sumit

Narwal, Parvinder Awana, Sharad Lumba, Lakhwinder Singh, and

Rajwinder Singh.

The newly added players bring a perfect mix of international experience and domestic expertise to the team, ensuring Delhi Royals' readiness for the Legend 90 League. The draft ceremony also saw the unveiling of the Delhi

Royals' jersey.

Delhi Royals are poised to make a significant impact in the upcoming edition of the League.

Speaking about the newly added players, Devender Kadyan, chairman of Mannat Group said, "The addition of these talented players enhances the depth and versatility of our squad. With a blend of cricketing legends and promising domestic players, Delhi Royals are ready to take on the challenge."

Echoing the enthusiasm, Mannat Group representative Mandeep Malik said, "Our team represents the pride and determination of Delhi. With players like Dhawan, Taylor, and the newly added stars, we are confident that Delhi Royals will deliver exceptional performances and captivate cricket fans in the Legend 90 League."

Last month, Delhi Royals unveiled their official logo, a stunning depiction of an armour shield symbolizing strength, resilience, and valour. Designed to reflect the team's fighting spirit and commitment to excellence, the shield represents the Royals' readiness to take on challenges with determination, the press release added.

Legend 90 is an exhilarating cricket tournament that unites legendary players in an innovative and fast-paced 90-ball format. This unique league is a celebration of cricket's finest icons, bringing them back to the field to relive the glory and excitement they once created.

The League will feature franchises and showcase the skills of legendary players. With its dynamic format and participation from iconic cricketers, the Legend 90 League promises to be a spectacular sporting extravaganza.

Willey, Holder lead Abu Dhabi Knight Riders to 30-run victory against Sharjah Warriorz

DUBAI, Jan 16 (Agencies): Abu Dhabi Knight Riders secured their first victory at the International League T20 (ILT20) season 3, defeating Sharjah Warriorz by 30 runs at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, a release from the league said.

Jason Holder picked up four wickets for just 23 runs and David Willey returned figures of three wickets for 19 runs to defend their total of 159/5 with ease.

Batting first, an unbroken partnership of 50 runs in the death overs between Andre Russell and Laurie Evans enabled the Knight Riders to post 159/5 after Kyle Mayers set the tone early with a rapid 21 runs. Evans remained unbeaten on 39 runs while Russell's 12-ball knock of 24 provided the late innings fireworks. In response, the Sharjah Warriorz innings was plagued by the lack of partnerships and an abundance of dot balls.

Mirroring the first innings, Sharjah Warriorz lost Tom Kohler-Cadmore and Jason Roy to David Willey in the first three overs. Johnston Charles looked to counterattack but was caught at deep backward square leg, off Jason Holder. The Warriorz were falling behind the equation at 29/3 in six overs. UAE's Rohan Mustafa struck four boundaries in his innings of 21 runs before he was claimed by Jason Holder in the eighth over.

Willey returned to the fray to pick up his third wicket, removing Karim Janat for nine runs. Bhanuka Rajapaksa's laboured innings of seven runs in 19 balls also came to an end when he fell to Shahid Bhutta in the 13th over leaving the Warriorz at 70/6 in 12.2 overs.



Harmeet Singh managed eight runs and Keemo Paul tried to fight back with a couple of boundaries until Jason Holder scalped both batters in the death overs.

With 54 runs required in the last two overs, skipper Tim Southee smashed two four and two sixes in the 19th over. The effort was purely consolatory as Mayers dismissed Southee in the final over and the Warriorz bundled up for 129 runs in 19.3 overs

Earlier in the evening, Adam Milne breathed fire in his opening spell rattling the stumps of Phil Salt and Kyle Mayers to bring the Knight Riders to 26/2 within three overs. Prior to his dismissal Mayers was on a rampage, smashing two fours and two sixes to score 21 runs in nine balls. At the end of the fielding restrictions, the scoreline read 49/2.

Coming in at number three, Joe Clarke did well to negotiate the challenging early overs, putting on 32 runs in 27 balls. Meanwhile, Michael Pepper was undone by Adil Rashid

for seven runs, holing out to UAE's Rohan Mustafa at deep backward square leg.

Harmeet Singh found a key breakthrough, pinging Joe Clarke on the pads in the 12th over. Alishan Sharafu made a vital contribution partnering with Clarke and Laurie Evans for 24 and 23 runs respectively before he was sent back by Adil Rashid with the score at 109/5 in 15.3 overs.

While Laurie Evans dug deep to finish with 39 runs in 31 balls on a night where he could not consistently find the middle of the bat, Andre Russell did the damage in the death overs, dispatching three sixes for an innings of 24 runs in 12 balls. The partnership was worth 50 runs in 27 balls as the innings closed at 159/5 in 20 overs.

Following the defeat, Sharjah Warriorz skipper, Tim Southee said as quoted by the ILT20 Press release, "The pitch was a tricky one. It is still early stages of the tournament; we will dust ourselves off and look forward to the next ones. We would like our dot balls to be a lot lower than 70 balls so we will try to minimise that. We know this game can change quickly, so we get a day off tomorrow and we go again."

Providing insight on his approach to bowling, Player of the Match, David Willey said, "I always aim to take wickets and try to swing the new ball to achieve that. The scoreboard generally dictates what we need, and I focus on reading the game well to deliver accordingly. I've built my career around swinging the ball and always strive to stay one step ahead of the batter."

Australian Open: Fritz, de Minaur reach round three with convincing wins



MELBOURNE, Jan 16 (Agencies): Top-seeded players Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur secured a spot in the third round of the ongoing Australian Open on Thursday with wins over qualifiers Cristian Garin and Tristan Boyer.

Both players completed their matches within 60 seconds of each other, with fourth-seeded Fritz downing Garin within an hour and 22 minutes by 6-2, 6-1, 6-0 while the eight-seeded and local favourite Minaur defeated Boyer in just under two hours by 6-2, 6-4, 6-3

by 6-2, 6-4 6-3.
Fritz is playing at his highest seeding in a

Grand Slam and the world number four has not broken through during his first two matches, smashing 24 winners against Garin. Against Garin, he won 80 per cent of his first-serve points and 60 per cent of second-serve points.

Speaking after the match, Fritz said as quoted by the ATP official website, "It always feels great to come out and play a match like that. I played well in the first round too, so I am high in confidence going into the third round. This is awesome."

On stage, he also announced donating

his 132,000 Australian dollars worth of first-round prize money for relief efforts for the Los Angeles fires.

The American's third-round challenge will be the recently crowned Auckland champion Gael Monfils, who defeated Germany's Daniel Altmaier 7-5, 6-3, 7-6(3) to extend his win streak to seven.

De Minaur on the other hand will be facing Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo, the 31st seed in the competition.

Speaking about Boyer, De Minaur said, "He is a dangerous player who takes the racquet out of your hand. My team did some scouting but ultimately it was about me bringing the best version of myself."

Both players also have tough quarterfinal opponents, with Fritz seeded to face Daniil Medvedev while Minaur could face the world number one Jannik Sinner.

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.

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 Vipan 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-



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.

ing was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kishtwar, Bodhraj **Bhagat Superintending** Engineer PHE (Mech.) Salim Malik and Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd.) Kishtwar. AEEs/ AEs/ JEs of the Distrcit. 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 nonpayment 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

Kashmiri Pandit community raises concerns over NFSA **Digital Database implementation**



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 onetime compensation for the loss of prime career years. Many of these individuals, now in their 50s 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

"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 motherland, 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

He pointed out that far-

flung hospitals and med-

ical colleges are poorly

equipped to handle

such emergencies. He

highlighted the lack

of doctors, surgeons.

paramedics, and ambu-

lances 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

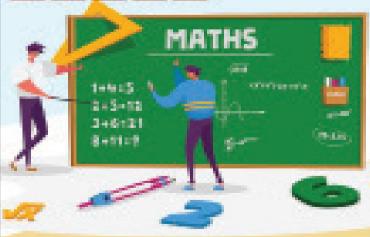
district. He accused

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 explo

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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

"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".