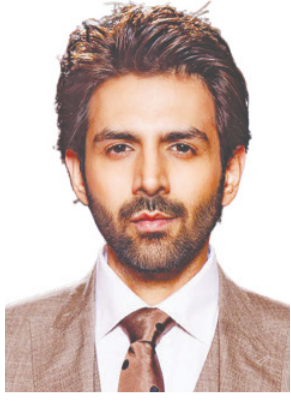


TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Netanyahu says deal to release hostages held in Gaza reached



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-17 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Lieutenant Governor congratulates Rakesh Kumar on receiving prestigious Arjuna Award

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday congratulated Rakesh Kumar on receiving prestigious Arjuna Award from President Draupadi Murmu. LG Sinha while extending commendation said Rakesh has brought immense pride to Jammu and Kashmir and the nation. "Congratulations to Rakesh Kumar on receiving prestigious Arjuna Award from Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji. Rakesh has brought immense pride to J&K and the nation, inspiring young sportspersons with his grit & determination. Wishing him continued success & greater glory," Office of LG J&K said on X.

Maid arrested for stealing jewellery from Srinagar home: J-K Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Police on Friday said a maid was arrested for stealing jewellery from a house in the HMT area of Srinagar. In a statement, a police spokesperson said that a complaint was received at Shalteng police station from a woman who alleged that unknown thieves struck at her parents' home while they were away for performing Umrah during the intervening night of January 15 and 16. In her complaint, she said that some jewellery items were stolen. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 04/2025 under the relevant section of law was registered at Police Station Shalteng and an investigation was initiated, read the statement.

"During the course of the investigation, some suspects were called for questioning, and the role of one suspect, namely Janatul Begum (working as the maid) wife of Mohd Chotu resident of Ward No. 7 Kusthan Madhepur Bihar A/P HMT Srinagar, was ascertained in the commission of crime," added the statement. "Upon her disclosure, the stolen Jewellery was recovered," said the spokesperson, adding that the case was solved within 24 hours.

Manu, Gukesh among four to receive Khel Ratna from President Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan



NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker and teenage chess world champion D Gukesh received a euphoric round of applause as they walked up to receive the prestigious Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna from President Droupadi Murmu in a glittering National Sports Awards ceremony here on Friday.

The other two recipients of the country's highest sporting honour were men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Paralympic gold-winning high jumper Praveen Kumar when the annual honours were bestowed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here. Harmanpreet was a part of the national sides that won bronze

medals in the Tokyo as well as Paris Olympics. Praveen, on the other hand, upgraded his silver at the Japanese capital to a gold last year in Paris. He was born with a short left leg. Thirty-two athletes are being honoured with the Arjuna Award out of which an unprecedented 17 are para-athletes. The athletes selected for the Arjuna award

include Paris Olympics bronze medal-winning group of wrestler Aman Sehrawat, shooters Swapnil Kusale and Sarabjot Singh and the men's hockey team players Jarmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Sanjay and Abhishek.

The para-athletes outnumbered the able-bodied ones in the list of Arjuna winners this time due to the magnificent Paris Paralympics performance in which they returned with 29 medals, including seven gold and nine silver.

The 22-year-old Bhaker became independent India's first athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics with her bronze-winning show in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events in August last.

The 18-year-old Gukesh became the youngest world champion ever by beating

■ Turn to page 9

Mysterious Deaths in Budhal: CM Omar Abdullah directs Health & Police Departments to expedite investigations



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the alarming situation in Budhal village of Rajouri district, where mysterious deaths have claimed 16 lives, with one more victim succumbing to an unexplained illness.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo; Advisor to the Chief Minister,

Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Dheeraj Gupta; ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar; Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, and other senior medical and police officers.

Secretary Health & Medical Education, briefed the Chief Minister on the steps taken

so far. He reported that health department teams had conducted door-to-door survey of over 3,000 residents in the affected area, collecting and testing samples of water, food, and other materials.

He informed that all test results, including those for influenza and other possible contaminants, came back negative.

The meeting was informed that additional testing was carried out by premier national institutes, including ICMR, National Institute of Virology, National Centre for Disease Control, CSIR, DRDO, and PGIMER Chandigarh, but no definite cause for the deaths was identified.

Police officials ■ Turn to page 9

Srinagar boy secures 1st position at IMD State-Level Meteorology Olympiad

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): A student of the Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) Srinagar Mohammad Kamil Masoodi, level 8, has bagged the first position in Jammu & Kashmir at the State-Level Meteorology Olympiad.

The award ceremony was conducted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) as part of its 150th Foundation Day celebrations.



As per the school handout, the Olympiad witnessed participants from across the Jammu

and Kashmir who showcased their knowledge and skills in

■ Turn to page 9

Security Forces launch search operation in Billawar area

JAMMU, Jan 17 (Agencies): In a coordinated effort, Special Forces of the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have launched a cordon and search operation in the Billawar area of Kathua district in Jammu region.

Sources said that the operation was launched

in response to intelligence inputs suggesting the presence of militants in the upper reaches of the district.

Security forces have cordoned off the area and are conducting extensive searches to locate the suspected militants.

Sources added that inhabitants have been advised to remain

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Farooq Abdullah's convoy meets with an accident in Rajasthan

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): A vehicle in the convoy of Farooq Abdullah, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and JKNC president, met with an accident near Dausa,

■ Turn to page 9

Cold wave intensifies in Kashmir as mercury dips after snowfall

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): The minimum temperatures at most places in Kashmir have fallen after snowfall as the meteorological department forecast mainly dry weather over the next three days, officials said on Friday.

The higher reaches of Kashmir as well as some areas in the plains of the valley received snowfall

on Thursday. Following the snowfall, cold conditions are prevailing in Kashmir as the night temperatures decreased at most places, they said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 2 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, half a degree up from the previous night's minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

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TENTH DAY / KRIYA

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

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



Sh. Raman Chander Antahal

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raj Dulari Raina (Mother)
Smt. & Sh. Nancy & Ashok Raina (Aunt & Uncle)
Anjee Raina (Wife)
Anjali & Anil Raina (Brother & Sister in law)
Lya & Ajay Raina (Brother & Sister in law)
Kishika Raina-Bhan & Avinash Bhan (Daughter & Son in Law)
Kishan, 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 98660 15559



SH. AJIT RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kanta Ji Chopra** W/o Sh Moti Lal Chopra originally from Kurzer 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
Sarjaj Chopra & Sushma Chopra
Grand Children
Akash Chopra, Vishali Chopra, Tanuj Chopra, Simran Chopra, Susheel Chopra
Mobile No.: 8493855637, 9419383385



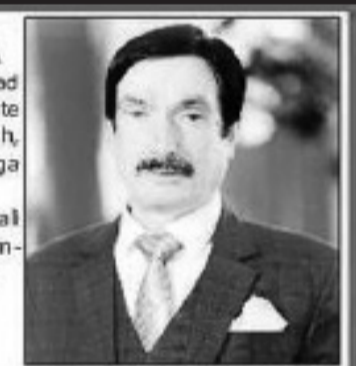
Smt Kanta Ji Chopra

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall take place at Badarkal 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 & Bhabies
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)
Vivean - Grandson



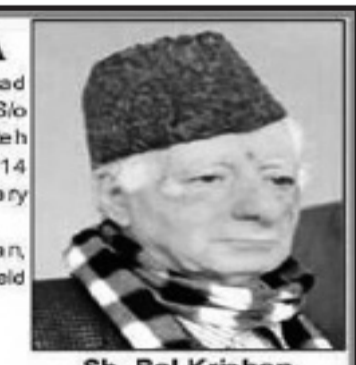
Sh. Jai Inder Raina

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bal Krishan Peshin** S/o L. Sh. Shamboo Nath Peshin originally from Feteh Kadal/Barzuila Srinagar and at present H.No. 14 Samiti Lane Sec-1 Durga Nagar on 11th of January 2025.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 19th Jan, 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and **ASSEMBLY** will be held at 11:30 am at Muthi Ghat Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN-
Sheela Peshin - Wife, 9086177018
Daughters & Sons in Law
Rekha and Anil Bamzai 9419152160,
Daisy and B.L. Kaul 9419186019
Renuka and Ashwani Wali 9810447923
Grand Children-Gayetri, Ashish, Arihant, Surabhi, Aayushi, Kartik, Saksham, Aditya, Teeja swani.



Sh. Bal Krishan Peshin

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved sister **Miss Sonika Mahajan** D/o Lt Sh Swarn Gupta & Smt Santosh Gupta R/o Ashok Nagar, Sattwari.

10th Day will be on 18-01-2025 (Saturday) from 10 AM to 11 AM at Durga Palace, Rampura, Shastri Nagar, Jammu.

Grief Stricken :-
Lt Sh Swarn Gupta- Father
Smt Santosh Gupta- Mother
Brothers and Sister-in-law
Sh Vikas & Smt Esha Gupta
Sh Suresh & Smt Pooja Gupta
Sh Sunil & Preeti Gupta
Sh Sandeep & Neha Gupta
Brother-in-law and Sisters
Sh Bhavrat Bhushan & Smt Jyoti Gupta
Sh Mintu & Smt Neeru Gupta
Sh Sandeep & Smt Pooja Gupta



Miss Sonika Mahajan

M/s S S Mahajan (Sattwari)
Sunil Gupta & Bros (Lower Bell Chaurani)
V S Mahajan (Narwal Pain, Sattwari)
Mahajan Enterprises (Narwal Pain Sattwari)
Mob : 9419110444, 9419716710, 9707398044

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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



SMT ASHA KUNDAN RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Shanta Bhat** W/o Lt. Sh. Sri Kanth Bhat R/o Lane No. 4, Saini Mohalla Gole, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25th Jan. 2025 (Saturday) and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 12.30 pm.

Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Kapil Bhat & Smt. Suneeta Bhat
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Sanjai Trakroo
Smt. Seema & Sh. Rajinder Wanchoo
Smt. Indu & Sh. Sunil Bangroo
Smt. Santosh & Rajinder Koul- Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law
Sh. J. L. Bhat- Brother
Sh. Harshit & Smt. Shriya Bhat- Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law
Grand Children: Danish, Jhanvi, Muskan, Shravan, Kanishka, Kunal & Khanak
Mob.: 9419147407, 9419268283, 7889417951



Smt. Shanta Bhat

FIFTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **BUA JI SMT LEELA DEVI** W/O LT. SH. B.D. SHARMA WHO LEFT ABODE ON 15-01-2025.

THE FIFTH DAY WILL BE HELD ON 18-01-2025 (SATURDAY) FROM 11 AM TO 12.00 NOON AT SHIV MANDIR, SECTOR-03, TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Nephews & Daughter-in-laws
Smt Sulbha & Sh Sat Pal Sharma
Prof. Darshana & Prof. Rajinder Parsad Sharma
Smt Suman & Sh Rajinder Pal Sharma
Smt Nimla & Sh Hari Parsad Sharma
Rajni & Ravi Kr. Sharma
Asha & Rakesh Sharma
Archana & Sanjeev Sharma
Deeply Remembered By:
(Sadotra Family)
Mob. 9149565525, 9622266555



SMT LEELA DEVI

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ved Parkash Jandial** S/o Late Sh Durga Dass R/o F-1860, Sec-14, Nanak Nagar Jammu on 14 January 2025.

Uthala will be held on 18th January 2025, 4 PM To 5 PM at Shivaji Temple Sec-01 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Chanchal Gupta (Wife)
Late Sh. Ashok Gupta and Late Smt Vijay Gupta (Brother and Sister-in-Law)
Sh. Vijay Gupta and Smt. Prabha Gupta (Brother and Sister-in-Law)
Sh. Rishi Jandial and Smt. Suresha Gupta (Brother and Sister-in-Law)
Rajneesh Jandial and Sonia Mahajan (Son and Daughter in law)
Vikas Jandial and Ambika Jandial (Son and Daughter in law)
Ranjeeta Mahajan and Vivek Gupta (Daughter and Son in law)
Sonia Jandial and Karan Gupta (Daughter and Son in law)
Surbhi Gupta, Sunidhi Gupta, Gungun Gupta, Trisha Gupta, Ayush Jandial, Aradhya Jandial, Jiyasa Jandial (Grand Children)



Sh. Ved Parkash Jandial

13TH DAY/KRIYA

With Profound grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Shri Baldev Singh Jaija** S/o Late Shri Sant Ram Resident of Village Gajajaysingpura (Sangrampur Ward No 75) Near Govt Girls High School Sangrampur Jammu who left us for his heavenly Abode on 7th of January 2025.

13TH DAY KRIYA performed on Saturday 18th of January at our residence at 11 am
Rasam Pagri at 12 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Bimla Devi (Wife)
Son's and Daughter in Laws
Mr Kuldeep Singh Jaija and Mrs Reetu Devi
Mr Surjeet Singh Jaija and Mrs Poonam Thakur
Grand Children's
Nevedita Singh, Shivanya Singh, Abhyudaya Singh Jaija, Shanya (Shinee), Monika
AND SAMASAT JAIJA FAMILY (9419264785, 9596925705, 7006182459



Shri Baldev Singh Jaija

8TH DAY/SHRADHANJALI
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 Gadi Garh, Jammu on 11 January 2025.
Programmes (at our residence):
8th day/ Shradhanjali/Asthi Visarjan hetu Prasthan on Friday, 17 January 2025 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
13th day- Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 12:00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Kamla Sharma (Wife)
(Son and Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Vipin 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
Smt. Neelam Raina & Sh. Sunil Raina.
Grand Children:
Dr. Prerna Sharma, Er. Adarsh Bhargav, Anubha Sharma, Er. Abhay Sharma, Aditya Sudan, Sayam Raina, Jayant Sudan, Kamna Sudan.
Ph. No.: 9419143754, 9419125377



Sh. Punu Ram Sharma

TENTH DAY
पिता धर्मः पिता स्वर्गः पिता हि परमं तपः।
पितरि प्रीतिमात्रे सर्वकं प्रीयन्ति देवता।।
A father is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, smiles with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail...
FATHERS DON'T EVER DIE!
Our beloved father, **Karanjogi** as well as **Gyanjogi Sh. Omkar Nath Bhat (Kuthari)** originally R/o Uthman, Anantnag, Kashmir attained sadgati on 12th January, 2025 at Delhi after brief illness.
MOURNING FROM OUR SIDE AND MALIN SIDE is at our place in Flat No. B-5, Tower B-2, Central Court, Residential Complex, Minn Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 21st Jan (Tuesday) at 9.30 am near canal in Sector 18, Rohini, Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Kama Bhat (Wife)
Virender Bhat & Anu (Son and Daughter in law) (Mob. 9717497311)
Surita Bhat W/o Late Ravi Shankar Bhat (Daughter in law) (Mob. No. 9419212337)
Kamun Lata & Raninder Dhar (Daughter and Son in law) (Mob. No. 8744990172)
Rahel Unnathi Rashki, Sahil Shekhar, Shikham, Shobha, Shriya (Grand children).
Zar Parivaz (MOB. NO. 981610771), Dhar Parivaz, Tickoo Parivaz.



GYANJOGI SH. OMKAR NATH BHAT (KUTHARI)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS
ਮੇਰੇ ਸ਼ੇਰੀ ਖਿਲਾਫ਼ ਤੇਰੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ
ਮੇਰੇ ਅਧਾਰਿ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਸੇਰੇ ਚੁੰਨੀ ਸਾਹਿ ਜੀ
With profound grief & sorrow, We regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sardar Jatinder Singh (KALA)** S/o Late Sardar Kalyan Singh R/o Ward No. 7, Rajgudi who completed his journey of life and left for heavenly abode on 11/01/2025.
The Bhog & Antim Ardaas for eternal peace of the departed soul will be held as per the programme:
Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on Friday 17/01/2025 at 10.00 AM at our residence.
Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on Friday 19/01/2025 at 10.00 AM at our residence.
Kirtan & Antim Ardaas at Gurudwara Shri Patshahi Chhevin Sahib, Rajouri on 19/01/2025 from 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM followed by **Guru ka Langer**.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Srn. Parveen Kour (Wife)
Brother & Sister-in-law
1. Nirmal Singh & Sdn. Anash Kour
2. Yashpal Singh & Sdn. Anoojeet Kour
Son & Daughter-in-law
1. Anil Singh & Sdn. Preeti Kour
2. Gurpreet Singh & Sdn. Manmeet Kour
Son-in-law & Daughter
1. Anmol Singh & Sdn. Indmeet Kour
MOBILE NO.: 9419266919, 9419172233, 9906040727



SARDAR JATINDER SINGH (KALA)

10TH DAY KRIYA
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Shanta Sumbli**, wife of Sh. M.L. Sumbli, establis. resident of Chitabul/Changpo, Srinagar presently residing at 9/10 Mohit Nagar Dehaddun. She passed away peacefully on 11th January 2025 at 5:40 PM.
The 10th Day Kriya will be performed on Monday, 20th January 2025 at 7:30 pm at Shivaji Temple, Dehaddun.
Smt. Shanta Sumbli was a beacon of love, strength, and wisdom for her family and everyone who knew her. Her kindness and generosity will always be remembered and cherished.
May her noble soul attain eternal peace.
In Grief:
Sh. M.L. Sumbli (Husband)
Sh. H.N. Sumbli (Brother in law)
Smt. Sheeb Pandita (Sister in law)
Smt. Rita and Ravinder Koul (Daughter and Son in law)
Smt. Sunita and Ravi Sumbli (Daughter in law and Son)
Smt. Ayashi and Anmol Sumbli (Grand Daughter in law and Grandson)
Dhruv Sumbli (Grandson)
And, samastya Sumbli, Bhan, Pandita and Koul Parivar.
Contact number: 9897032141



Smt. Shanta Sumbli

CHOUBARS!
"In life, we loved you dearly
In death we love you still,
In our hearts you hold a place,
No one else will ever fill!"
Four years have passed since you left us for the heavenly abode. The pain of losing you will never fade, but your blessings are always with us. We always feel your precious presence around us. You were a pillar of love, strength and source of inspiration for us.
Choubarsi of our beloved **Sh. Jungbir Singh** S/o Late Sh. Singh Dhillon will be held at our residence - House No. 687, Sector-E, Sainik Colony, Jammu on the 18th of January, 2025 from 12 noon onwards.
Deeply Missed and Remembered by:
Kamlesh Dhillon- Mother
Giti Jamwal- Wife
Anisha Dhillon- Daughter
Paramdev Dhillon and Monika- Brother and Bhabhi
Sisters and Brothers-in-law
Anita and Karan Kishore
Babla and Rajneet
Abhinava and Shapinder
Nieces and Nephews
Pradyuman, Anshika, Ananya, Hiteshwar, Aashan, Amish, Socha and Adhrik



Sh. Jungbir Singh

Mob. 8433958490, 7889792482

10TH DAY/KIRYA/RASAM PAGRI
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Puran Chand Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Balaki Ram Sharma R/o Ward No. 12, House No. 17 Arnia (Jammu Distt).
Rituals will be performed as per following programmes:
10th Day on 17th Jan. 2025 (Friday) at 10 AM at Near Shamshan Ghat Arnia.
Kriya on 18th Jan. 2025 (Saturday) 9.00 AM onwards at our residence.
Rasam Pagri on 18th Jan. 2025 (Saturday) 3.00-4.00 PM at our residence.
Grief Stricken
Smt Bandana Devi & Sh Vinodh Sharma -Daughter-in-law & Son
(Mob. 6005360761, 8803160937)
Kanav Sharma & Vinamra Sharma -Grand Son
Courtesy: NUBC-Welfare, Jammu J&K UT.



Sh Puran Chand Sharma

11/1945 to 01/2025

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Jammu student Swstik Sharma excels in National Meteorological Olympiad

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: A Jammu student of 8th class, Swstik Sharma, has excelled in the recently held National Meteorological Olympiad that was held across the country to celebrate 150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Swstik is a student of the PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sunjwan Military Station, Jammu.

He received the award from Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, Government of India, at a function in New Delhi.

The Met-Olympiad aimed to foster enthusiasm and awareness about weather and climate sciences among young students across the nation. This competition provided an opportunity for students to test their knowledge, participate in engaging challenges, and learn more about the science of meteorology.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the celebrations of the 150th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department (IMD) and also delivered



his address at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Prime Minister also released the IMD Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation. It includes plans for weather forecasting, weather management, and climate change mitigation.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was present. Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) also came to attend the function.

Officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal were invited to join the celebrations. Representatives from the Middle East and Southwest Asia were also invited.

Swastik is the son of Dr. Gautam Sharma and Dr. Meenakshi Sharma. Dr. Gautam is Dental Surgeon in the University of Jammu and Dr. Meenakshi is CMO in ESIC Hospital, Bari Brahmana, Jammu.

He is among the 3 students from Jammu and Kashmir to excel in the national level competition. He secured second position.

This was the first time that such an olympiad was organized across India by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

As part of the 150th Foundation Day celebrations, IMD conducted the National Meteorological Olympiad (Met-Olympiad) in association with the South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA) and the Indian Meteorological Society (IMS).

The Olympiad targeted students from classes 8th, 9th, and 11th, and was conducted at state and national levels.

Three state winners from every state and union territory (UT), as well as the national winner, were recognized for their accomplishments.

The winners also got the opportunity to participate in a one-day workshop and the 150th Foundation Day celebrations of IMD at New Delhi in the presence of esteemed dignitaries.

Fake helicopter tickets for Vaishnodevi Yatra unabated: Shiv Sena



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The game of fraud on online helicopter tickets for Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra continues unabated, 5-8 passengers are targeted every day, thousands of rupees are being defrauded, police administration, cyber cell are proving unsuccessful in curbing, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state head Manish Sahni said that the game of cheating in the name of online helicopter ticket booking has been going on unhindered for the past several months. There is a plethora of fake helicopter booking sites on Google search handle,

which are easily trapping innocent passengers in their web and committing fraud by giving them the false hope of confirmed helicopter tickets. Sahni said that he is receiving complaints of such frauds every day.

According to his information, the police administration and the Shrine Board are also receiving 8-10 complaints every month. On contacting the phone number registered on this website, these people claim to be working in Niharika Bhawan in Katra and to be employees of the Board.

However, the Shrine Board also has to face a lot of problems due to these fake tickets.

The Board also issues advisories from time to time and advises to avoid fake websites and apps. Sahni

said that all the above efforts are proving insufficient to curb this fraud.

Sahni has asked the Shrine Board and the administration to increase the scope of their efforts, put pressure on Google and other handlers to ban websites with names similar to Shri Mata Vaishnodevi, and has especially demanded strict monitoring and strict legal action from the police and cyber cell.

Along with this, he has appealed to the people to be cautious and book helicopter tickets and other facilities from the official website after thorough investigation.

On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, City President Rohan Malwal were present.

CEO Shrine Board chairs review meeting for Republic Day celebrations

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 17: Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board presided over a key meeting at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra to review preparations for the Republic Day-2025 celebrations. The meeting brought together senior officials from various government departments and security agencies, demonstrating a unified commitment to hosting a grand and flawless celebration.

It was decided that the main Republic Day function will be held at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex in Katra, where the Chief Executive



Officer, Shrine Board will unfurl the National Flag and take the salute during the ceremonial March past. A cultural programme by school children will also be presented. To ensure a seamless experience, the CEO emphasized the importance of timely completion of arrangements, strict adherence to security protocols and coordination among stakeholders.

Special attention was

given to venue preparation including proper seating arrangements, sound systems and illumination of premises. The CEO underscored the imperative of bolstering security measures along the pilgrimage route, encompassing the issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd control strategies and the expansion of holding areas both on the track and in Katra town. Additionally,

he reviewed disaster management measures directing agencies to make regular announcements and implement joint patrolling.

A slew of directives were also issued by the Chair to the concerned quarters for movement of vehicles, sanitation and drinking water arrangements and illumination of dark spots at Katra town, besides, physical and systematic

improvements wherever required after critical examination.

Superintendent of Police Katra assured the CEO that foolproof security arrangements would be made, presenting a detailed security grid and deployment plan. This includes the positioning of quick response teams and a multi-tier security grid comprising Police, CRPF, and other paramilitary forces.

Among those present in the meeting were Additional CEO, SMVDSB; SDM, Katra; SP, Katra; Jt CEO; Asstt CEO, SMVDSB; Tehsildar, Bhawan and SMVDSB; ACF; SDPO Bhawan & Katra and officers from Army, IB, CID, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

PDP Chief Mufti slams J&K Govt over transfer of ACB Official

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Peoples' Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said Friday the transfer of an Anti-Corruption Bureau official, who was probing a case, exposes a "nexus" between the corrupt and most powerful, and raises questions about the Jammu and Kashmir government's commitment to justice and accountability.

The Government has ordered the repatriation of ACB SSP Abdul Wahid, designated as Assistant Inspector General (AIG), to the Home Department as part of a rejig in the anti-graft body.

Wahid was investigating alleged corruption in the Srinagar Smart City Proj-

ect and recently booked two of its senior officers in disproportionate assets (DA) cases.

"The removal of Abdul Wahid & his colleagues from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) highlights the risks faced by officials who challenge corruption. It exposes nexus between the corrupt & most powerful," Mufti said in a post on X.

She said the act of "punishing the whistleblower" has revealed the Government's true intentions behind using various agencies including the ACB to raid properties of Kashmiris "under the guise of corruption investigations".

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E-NIT NO GWD/190 OF 2024-25 DATED 15.01.2025

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with Jal Shakti PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Providing, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Submersible Pump sets at W. No. 3 & W. No. 4 Pyl. Gurha Kalyal East Block Mandli in District Kathua under Capex Budget 2024-25	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non - Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 1.00 lacs	@ 2% of the estimated value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2025

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15.01.2025 to 22.01.2025.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 16.01.2025 (1300hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16.01.2025 (1400 hrs) to 22.01.2025 (1800hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
(i) Scanned copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 500.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. **It may be noted that** the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender. (ii) Scanned copy of EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR @2% of the estimated value pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu. **It may be noted that** the EMD should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender (iii) Scanned Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder. (iv) Scanned copy of GST Registration from competent authority (v) Scanned copy of PAN Card.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 24.01.2025 at 1400 hours. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Major Head: District Capex Budget 2025-25 (PRI Grants)
- Status of Funds: under approved budget
- AAA No. 02-Dev of 2025 Dated 10.01.2025
- Technical Sanction No. 601 of 01/2025 Dated 15.01.2025

GWD/6353-55
Dated:- 15.01.2025

DIP/J-9249/24

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Jammu

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EDITORIAL

Ease of Doing Business

The concept of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reflects the regulatory environment and bureaucratic efficiency that businesses encounter while starting, operating, and expanding. A favorable EoDB environment attracts investments, fosters economic growth, and creates employment opportunities by reducing unnecessary hurdles and establishing a business-friendly atmosphere. The World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business Index has been a global benchmark for evaluating these parameters.

One critical parameter is the ease of starting a business, which measures the time, cost, and procedures involved in setting up a new enterprise. Simplified processes, digital registration, and reduced paperwork enhance entrepreneurial activity. Another important aspect is construction permits, where clear guidelines and timely approvals ensure businesses can establish infrastructure without delays.

Access to credit is another vital factor. Transparent credit reporting systems, government-backed guarantees, and frameworks for collateral enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to secure funding. Similarly, streamlined taxation and compliance systems, such as online platforms for filing taxes and predictable tax policies, reduce the burden on businesses.

The ability to enforce contracts through efficient legal systems and specialized commercial courts builds confidence among investors. Additionally, resolving insolvency through modern bankruptcy laws ensures equitable treatment for creditors and opportunities for viable businesses to restructure.

For businesses engaged in global trade, the ease of trading across borders—including efficient customs procedures and advanced logistics infrastructure—is crucial. Lastly, access to reliable electricity and infrastructure forms the backbone of any business environment.

A high EoDB ranking significantly boosts a country's ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Investors prioritize stable regulatory environments where businesses can operate efficiently. Moreover, a favorable business climate encourages domestic entrepreneurship, fostering innovation and job creation, which drives economic growth.

Improved EoDB also enhances a nation's global competitiveness, making it better equipped to integrate into international supply chains. Overall, EoDB reforms contribute to economic prosperity by stimulating private sector development and increasing productivity.

One major challenge is regulatory complexity, with excessive rules and overlapping jurisdictions creating unnecessary barriers. Governments must simplify and harmonize regulations to improve the business climate. Corruption and red tape are additional hurdles that deter investments, requiring transparent systems and robust digital governance to address these issues.

Infrastructure deficiencies, such as unreliable electricity, poor transportation networks, and limited digital connectivity, can also impede business growth. Furthermore, judicial delays in contract enforcement and insolvency resolution weaken investor confidence. Addressing these issues requires significant structural and systemic reforms.

Countries worldwide have implemented various reforms to enhance their EoDB rankings. India, for instance, introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and online business registration portals, resulting in a notable improvement in its EoDB ranking. Singapore, recognized for its business-friendly environment, has streamlined processes for starting businesses and resolving insolvency. Rwanda, too, has emerged as a leader in Africa by simplifying property registration and business incorporation procedures.

Technology has become a transformative force in improving EoDB. E-governance platforms simplify business registration, licensing, and tax compliance. Digital payment systems reduce reliance on cash, curbing corruption. Additionally, blockchain technology offers secure and transparent solutions for contract enforcement and property registration, minimizing disputes and delays.

Improving the Ease of Doing Business is about more than achieving a higher ranking; it is about creating an environment where businesses can thrive and economies can flourish. This requires consistent policy reforms, investment in infrastructure, and the adoption of advanced technologies. Governments must focus on reducing bureaucratic hurdles, enhancing transparency, and building robust legal and financial systems. By fostering a business-friendly climate, nations can unlock their full economic potential, driving sustainable growth, innovation, and investment.

By: Omkar Dattatray

This year National Startup Day was observed on January 16, 2025, which was Thursday. National Startup Day is an annual observance in India dedicated to recognizing and promoting the vibrant startup ecosystem. The nation has celebrated and observed National Startup Day on 16th January 2025 with pride and enthusiasm. On January 16th January 2025 India marked nine years of Startup India, a transformative journey that began in 2016. Designated as National Startup Day, this occasion celebrates the nation's strides in fostering a robust and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. This day aims to mark the spirit of entrepreneurship to boost economic growth, innovation, and job creation. Additionally, it acts as a reminder of the government of India's dedication to encouraging and observing the startup community's noteworthy contributions to the progress of the country. Launched as a flagship initiative of the Government of India, Startup India aimed to nurture innovation and catalyze the growth of startups across the country. This year the nation has commemorated the day, Udyamotsav 2025, as part of the National Startup Week celebrations. During the inaugural Startup Innovation Week, on January 15, 2016, PM Modi announced the commemoration of Startup Day on January 16, to recognize the economic contributions made by entrepreneurs while celebrating startups' crucial role in India during the first Startup India Innovation Week. As a result, since 2022, National Startup Day has been commemorated every year on January 16 and this year it fell on 16 January Thursday. National Startup Day aims to create a supportive environment for entrepreneurial ventures while celebrating startups' crucial role in stimulating economic growth and employment creation. It is a platform designed to empower student entrepreneur by facilitating their engagement with the investor community, organized by the Ministry

of Education. It will enable student entrepreneurs to pitch their startups, seek funding, and receive mentorship on business models and scaling strategies, taking place across 14 Indian cities, including Delhi-NCR, Jaipur, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Trivandrum, and Guwahati. January 16 was observed as National Startup Day in India and 2025 is expected to mark a significant milestone in country's entrepreneurial journey and the day has been observed to celebrate the spirit of innovation and creativity that have driven growth of startups across the country. Startup policy Forum - SPF has launched Startup the Baithak and Startup Baatchet to have celebrated National Startup Day 2025. National Startup Day is celebrated on 16th January every year. The day honors the creativity, determination, spirit of startup founders. The Startup India initiative was launched by the Government of India in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, create jobs, build an ecosystem for startups, and derive economic growth. The initiative includes several programs, including 1-Infrastructure-Enhanced infrastructure, including incubation centers. 2-Intellectual property rights-IPR's. Easier IPR facilitation, including patent filing, and access to high-quality IPR services. 3-Regulatory environment, a better regulatory environment, including tax benefits, easier compliance, and improved company setup. 4-Exit mechanisms-Faster exit mechanisms to allow entrepreneurs to relocate resources. 5-Income tax benefits-Startups are exempt from income tax for three years after its incorporation year. 6-Public procurement-Related norms for public procurement, including exemptions from "prior experience" or "prior turnover" criteria. 7-Government e Marketplace - GeM-Startups can register as sellers on GeM to sell directly to government entities. The Startup 20 Engagement Group, which works to harmonize and collaborate among the largest global economies. To create innovation

hubs and research parks to encourage research and innovation. Startup India Scheme is an initiative by the Government of India for generation of employment and wealth creation. The goal of Startup India is the development and innovation of products and services and increasing the employment rate in India. Benefits of Startup India Scheme is Simplification of Work, Finance support, Government tenders, Networking opportunities. Startup India was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16th January 2016. January 16, National Startup Day celebrates the transformative role of startups and entrepreneurs in shaping economies and societies. It honors innovation, resilience, and creativity, highlighting the impact of startups in driving technological advancements and sustainable solutions. The day also emphasizes the importance of fostering an ecosystem that nurtures bold ideas and empowers entrepreneurs to challenge the status quo and build the future. The day honors the creativity, determination, spirit of startup founders so as to develop the industry and economy. With over 99,000 registered firms and an ecosystem worth dollar 500 billion, India is the world's third largest startup cluster. Startup India is a flagship initiative of the GOI, intended to catalyze startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India. India's startup journey began in the late 1990's and early 2000s. During this time, the country saw the rise of information technology giants like Infosys, Wipro, and TCS. These companies laid the groundwork for a new wave of innovations and entrepreneurship. When the young and brilliant minds behind the success of India's startup environment were still studying outside India, they realized that so many new services a products that they were using there had not yet been explored in India. So, they took the business models of those products and services like Uber & Amazon and started them in India. The known names like Ola & Flipkart came into being. This is

where the inspiration and courage came to take the first step towards the fastest-growing startup environment in the world. The real spark that ignited India's startup culture came with the advent of the internet and the rise of tech-savvy young entrepreneurs. The launch of companies like MakeMy Trip-2000, Filpkart-2007, and Zomato-2008 showed that Indian startups could not only exist but also thrive in the competitive global market. As India marks nine years of the Startup India initiative, the country's startup ecosystem has grown exponentially, becoming the third largest in the world with over 1.6 lakh government-recognized startups. These startups have not only revolutionized industries but also created 1.6 million jobs, contributing significantly to the nation's economic development. National Startup Day is more than a celebration, it is a tribute to the spirit of entrepreneurship. It highlights the collaboration between startups, investors, mentors, and policy makers in fostering innovation and self-reliance, initiated in 2016 as part of Startup India, the day emphasizes the government's commitment to creating a conducive environment for startups to thrive. In short by acknowledging the contributions of startups, the day also inspires aspiring entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams and contribute to the nation's growth story. The nation feels proud of the success of the Startup entrepreneurs and their role and contribution in the economic and industrial development of the country.

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

How to balance college life and building a startup

By: Vijay Garg

In recent years, college campuses have become fertile ground for innovation and entrepreneurship. Many students are leveraging their academic environment and youthful energy to turn simple ideas into thriving startups.

College dorms are associated with late-night study sessions, Maggi noodles, and endless conversations with roommates. But now, for many ambitious students, they're also the birthplace of big ideas. Today there are countless young dreamers across campuses in India building the next unicorn.

If you're a student dreaming of launching a startup while balancing classes and exams, this is your step-by-step blueprint for turning your dorm room idea into a thriving business.

START WITH A VISION

Every successful startup begins with a vision. Ask yourself: What problem am I solving? Your "why" will drive everything, from your idea's development to your motivation during tough times.

Let's say you notice fellow students struggling to find affordable, last-minute tutoring help. That's your problem. The solution could be an app connecting students to qualified, affordable tutors within hours. This vision becomes the foundation of your startup.

Take action by talking to friends or classmates to find out if the problem exists. Use surveys or online forums to gather insights from a larger audience. Then, go to the market.

PROFESSIONAL, ACADEMIC

AND PERSONAL

Once your idea is validated, map it out using a simple Lean Canvas. This one-page business model will help you outline your revenue, costs, unique value proposition, etc. The Lean Canvas ensures you stay focused on what matters without wasting time on unnecessary details.

Startups are risky, especially when you're balancing them with academics. Identify challenges like time conflicts or limited funds and create backup plans.

For example, use time management techniques like time-blocking to schedule dedicated hours for your startup.

Partner with a co-founder who can step in during the exam season or keep an emergency fund to manage unforeseen costs. Also, protect your physical and mental health by scheduling regular breaks, practicing mindfulness or journaling, and celebrating small wins.

ASSEMBLE A WINNING TEAM

Great ideas need great teams. Look for co-founders or collaborators with complementary skills. If you're a business major, pair up with someone who can code or design. University hackathons and startup clubs are fantastic places to find like-minded peers. As you are member of a team member, role clarity is essential. Assign specific responsibilities to avoid confusion. One person can handle marketing and outreach, while another can manage app development or product design.

BUILD AND TEST

Don't aim to create a polished, perfect product right away. Instead, start with a Minimum Viable Prod-

uct (MVP) - a simple version of your product that solves the core problem. For our tutoring app, for example, you can use no-code tools like Bubble or Glide to build a basic app prototype.

Then, gather feedback. Test your MVP with real users - friends, classmates, or even strangers online. Ask for honest feedback. Does the app solve their problem? What features would they like to see improved? This feedback loop will help you refine your product without wasting time on unnecessary features.

BUILD A STRONG BRAND

Your startup's brand is more than just a logo. It's the personality of your business. Think about how you want your startup to be perceived: professional, approachable, or innovative? Launch a simple website or landing page using tools like Wix or WordPress. Use social media platforms like Instagram to connect with your target audience, start building a community and excitement.

A compelling story helps. Share why you started your business. For example, if you struggled to find tutors as a freshman, make that part of your narrative. Stories resonate with people and can make your brand relatable.

MANAGE FINANCES WISELY

Money is often tight for student entrepreneurs. Start small and focus on essential expenses like app development or marketing. Use free tools for bookkeeping and tracking spending. Learn to track your key financial metrics, like breakeven point and customer acquisition costs, and lifetime value.

Explore funding options like bootstrapping - using savings or small

contributions from family and friends. You can try crowdfunding through platforms like Ketto to help you raise funds. Also, the government and many institutions offer innovation grants - apply for them.

MARKET AND GROW

You don't need a massive budget to market your startup. As a student, you can leverage your university network. Use campus email lists, host events with clubs, or post on bulletin boards to spread the word. A good growth hack is offering early users discounts or incentives for referrals. For example, users who bring three friends to your platform get their next session free.

Once your product gains traction, and you've validated your model, it's time to think big... angel investors or venture capital funding, and scaling up. You are ready for the big leap to the boardroom.

Building a startup from your dorm may seem challenging, but it's entirely possible and incredibly rewarding. Use the surrounding resources - your university, peers, and online resources. Start small, stay focused, and focus on delivering value. And who knows? Your idea might just be the next big success story everyone's talking about in India.

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

CSIR-IIIM, GGM Science College celebrate National Startup Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The Department of Biotechnology, GGM Science College, Jammu, in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM, Technology Business Incubator, Jammu, organized a joint special program to celebrate 'National Startup Day'.

The program aimed at fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and enhancing skill development among students.

This highly anticipated event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students and faculty members eager to explore the transformative potential of entrepreneurship.

The program started with the welcome address by Prof Kiran Bala, Head Department of Biotechnology in which she thanked Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GGM Science College for his support and encouragement for organizing such events.

She also extended thanks to Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR



IIIM for such an opportunity to host this event in our college.

Speaking at the event, the Principal of GGM Science College, Dr Romesh Kumar Gupta, remarked, "Such programs are instrumental in equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to become change-makers and innovators. We are proud to host initiatives that align with our vision of academic and entrepreneurial excellence."

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM (Chairman, IIIM-TBI) conveyed his greeting on the occasion of National Startup Day. In his message, he said 'National Start up day

is dedicated to entrepreneurs and day is to honour the transformative power of startups and their role in shaping the future of India'.

Dr. Saurabh Saran, PI, IIIM-TBI graced with his presence along with Dr. Shahid Jibran CEO, AIC, CSIR-IIIM (Br.), Srinagar, and Dr. Vidushi Abrol, Business Manager, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu.

Dr. Shahid Jibran, who delivered an engaging talk on "Fostering a Culture of Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities." His session shed light on the significance of cultivating entrepreneurial mindsets and navigating the challenges associated with building innovative ventures while Dr.

Vidushi Abrol presented on the "Role of CSIR-IIIM in Entrepreneurship and Skill Development in J&K."

She highlighted the pivotal contributions of CSIR-IIIM in nurturing local talent, driving innovation, and creating a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.

Dr Saurabh Saran lauded the efforts of the speakers and highlighted the role of IIIM-TBI in creating a niche for entrepreneurship and Startups in the UT of J&K by providing opportunities and supports to young innovators.

The program provided students with valuable insights into the opportunities available within

the entrepreneurial landscape and the role of skill development in fostering employability and self-reliance. There was an interactive session after the talks, where students engaged with the speakers, seeking guidance and inspiration for their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Dr. Neha Mahajan Assistant Professor Biotechnology presented the Vote of thanks to concluded the event. The event was conducted by Prof Gourav Gupta, Assistant Professor Biotechnology.

Among those who also graced the event with their presence included, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Dr Davinder Sharma, Dr Neha Sharma, Dr Nisha Slathia, Dr Arti Sharma, Dr Pankaj Mansotra, Dr Nancy Gupta, Dr Richa Sharma and Prof Kirti Sharma.

Earlier, a spokesperson from IIIM added that as part of National Startup Day celebrations, IIIM TBI is also organizing various awareness events at different colleges of Jammu region in the coming two days.

GDC Akhnoor organizes hands-on training workshop on mushroom cultivation



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 17: With a goal to give hands-on training to students and staff, GDC Akhnoor organized a workshop on "Cultivation technology of Oyster mushrooms (Dhingari)" on 18th of January. Oyster mushroom was chosen for this purpose because the cultivation technology of this mushroom, especially compost making is very simple as compared to other mushrooms. Moreover, this season is favourable for cultivation of oyster mushroom. The event started with a welcome address by Prof. Nidhi Jarngal, Assistant Professor Botany. She emphasized the importance of this training programme as an entrepreneurial opportunity,

especially for the young students. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the college. Speaking on the occasion, she urged the participants to opt this new 21st century crop for livelihood security. She further added that mushroom cultivation is one of the most profitable agri-business that can be started with a low investment making it an alternate source of income generation; especially in this region where the land is stony and unfit for crop production.

Prof. Pooja Devi, HOD, Botany provided hands-on training for cultivation of Oyster mushrooms, commonly called Dhingari. She gave the practical demonstration on "substrate preparation

for Oyster mushrooms" in which wheat straw was soaked in hot water overnight followed by draining of excess water from soaked straw.

After that, the process of Spawning (addition of mushroom seeds to the wet straw) was demonstrated and the spawned substrate was filled in polythene bags (60cmx40cm). The polythene bags were then incubated in a sterilized semi-dark room.

The polybags shall now be monitored on a regular basis for mycelial spread, pinhead formation and maturation of the oyster mushrooms. Harvesting of first crop of mushroom is expected within 35-40 days. About 50 students along with teaching and non-teaching staff members of the college attended this workshop.

At the end of the workshop, Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of Botany Department and encouraged the faculty to organize such activities in future also.

The workshop ended with formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Ruhi Sharma, faculty of Botany department.

SMVDU students shine at International Conference on Advanced Research in Civil Engineering



Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 17: Third-year students Samaira Sinha and Rishabh Kumar of the School of Civil Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), achieved a remarkable milestone by presenting their cutting-edge research work at the 29th International Conference on Hydraulics, Water Resources, River, and Coastal Engineering.

The prestigious event, organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, at the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune.

Their first research paper, titled "Modeling of Bridge Pier Scour Depth by Using HEC-RAS," focused on using the state-of-the-art Hydrologic Engineering

Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS).

This advanced tool, developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, enables precise simulation of river hydraulics, sediment transport, and scour depth. The research addresses critical challenges in bridge design and maintenance, contributing to safer and more resilient infrastructure.

It is pertinent to mention that Samaira Sinha, Rishabh Kumar, and Subham Kumar Singh presented another paper titled "Discharge Estimation in Meandering Compound Channels using ETR and MARS Model."

This work integrated advanced data-driven models such as the ETR (Extreme Learning Machine) and MARS (Multivariate Adaptive

Regression Splines) to improve discharge prediction in meandering river systems.

These innovative methodologies promise enhanced accuracy and efficiency in river flow management, supporting sustainable water resource utilization.

The students' participation at this international forum highlights SMVDU's commitment to fostering academic excellence and innovation.

Prof. V. K. Dogra, Head of the School of Civil Engineering, expressed his pride in the students' accomplishments, stating, "This is a significant achievement that showcases the talent and dedication of our young researchers. Their work not only contributes to the field of civil engineering but also brings global recognition to SMVDU."

The students' groundbreaking contributions and participation in such a high-profile conference have not only brought laurels to SMVDU but also underline the importance of integrating technology and research for addressing critical challenges in water resource and infrastructure management.

IGNOU offers PG Certificate in Cyber Law

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) offers its Postgraduate Certificate in Cyber Law programme, designed to cater to the dynamic needs of the knowledge society and the increasing demand for expertise in cyber laws, in the January 2025 Admission Cycle.

This programme offered in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, is ideal for professionals and graduates aiming to develop a comprehensive understanding of cyber law, cybercrime, and legal frameworks governing cyberspace.

This program is designed for professionals in law, computer science and chartered accountancy and also for individuals seeking careers in cyber law research, IT-related roles, or legal advisory positions in organizations and Multinational Companies.

Through this programme, learners will acquire critical knowledge and skills to understand, explore, and deal with chal-

lenges in cyber law; learn to address frauds, scams, and cybercrime conducted via the Internet; gain insight into social and intellectual property issues related to cyberspace; study legal and policy frameworks adopted globally to regulate cyberspace; explore the intersection of commerce and cyberspace and understand the IT Act and legal frameworks governing Right to Privacy, Data Security, and Data Protection.

Emphasizing the relevance of this course, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu stated that this programme is designed to addresses the requirements of cyber professionals in this fast-changing dynamics of digital world and aspiring professionals can now apply for this unique program for the ongoing January 2025 admission cycle and unlock better career opportunities in the ever-growing field of cyber law. The last date for the admission has been fixed as January 31, 2025.

J&K Ball Badminton Association conducts selection trials for senior men's team



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The J&K Ball Badminton Association (JKBBA) successfully conducted selection trials for the J&K Senior Ball Badminton Men's Team at the Gindun Sports Stadium, Raj Bagh, Srinagar. These trials were organized in preparation for the 70th Senior National Ball Badminton Championship 2024-25 for Men, which will be held in Bellari, Karnataka, from February 6 to 9, 2025. The selection process

was carried out under the supervision of the J&K Sports Council, ensuring transparency and fairness. Key observers included Maqsood Ahmad Khan, Deputy Manager of SKISC, J&K Sports Council; Iqbal Ahmad, Manager of Gindun Sports Stadium, Raj Bagh, Srinagar; and Dilbagh Singh, Tennis Coach.

They were joined by senior officials from the JKBBA, including Arsheena Khan, General Secretary of JKBBA and Joint Secretary of BBFI, and Mohsin

Farooq, a member of the association.

Out of the 20 participants who attended the trials, 16 boys were shortlisted to participate in a 21-day Residential Coaching Camp.

The camp, scheduled to run from January 14 to February 3, 2025, will also be held at Gindun Sports Stadium, Raj Bagh, Srinagar.

During this camp, the players will undergo rigorous training, after which the final team of 10 players will be selected to represent J&K at the national championship.

IMS Jammu organizes orientation for MBA, BBA and BCA students

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Jammu hosted an engaging Orientation Program for MBA, BBA and BCA students, aimed at motivating and inspiring them for the academic session ahead.

The event, attended by Director IMS Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, department coordinators, faculty members, and students, featured thought-provoking sessions, interactive activities, and valuable insights to empower students for a successful future.

Dr. Meenakshi Sharma commenced the program with an invigorating speech emphasizing the importance of dreams, resolutions, and adaptability in achieving

success. Linking life lessons with business strategies, she urged students to embrace change, step out of their comfort zones, and actively participate in campus activities.

Highlighting the significance of continuous learning and empathy for success, she also emphasized on having a clear vision and setting personal goals to navigate life effectively.

The first day included an enlightening session on "Achieving Problem-Solution Fit and Product-Market Fit" by Er. Divya Jamwal, Coordinator of the Management Department. Her talk outlined strategies for understanding customer needs, developing market-ready products, and navigating challenges like



resource constraints, competition, and changing market conditions.

This was followed by an interactive -- Innovate & Inspire: Tagline Creation Activity where students creatively developed taglines as part of a team-building exercise. The activity encouraged collaboration and showcased students' innovative thinking.

The second day of the event started with a captivating lecture on Work Ethics, by Er. Nidhi Jamwal, Soft Skills Trainer & Life Skills Coach, by underlining the importance of responsibility, innovation, and dedication in achieving professional excellence.

This was followed by an insightful session on Effective Sales and Marketing for

Entrepreneurs and Startups by Gurshish Kour, focusing on market research, branding, and digital marketing strategies.

Later, the "30,000 Money Challenge" activity was held, encouraging the students to learn effective budget allocation and strategic decision-making in a simulated entrepreneurial setting. The exercise aimed to teach the students the importance of financial planning, enabling them to achieve both short-term satisfaction and long-term goals.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Er Divya Jamwal, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, faculty, and students for making the program a success.

Saif Ali Khan recovering; Mumbai Police detain 1 person for questioning

The Mumbai Police on Friday said that the accused involved in the attack on Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was last seen near Bandra railway station and that the search is on to nab him, an official said.

Police suspect that after the incident, he may have caught the first local train in the morning and headed towards Vasai Virar. Mumbai Police team are searching in Vasai, Nalasopara and Virar areas, an official said.

Earlier today, Mumbai Police said that they have taken possession of a portion of the blade extracted from Saif's back, while efforts to recover the remaining part are still underway.

Meanwhile, the Lilavati Hospital said that the actor's family and the doctors will decide on moving the actor to a normal ward from the ICU later in the day.

Bollywood Actor Saif Ali Khan was attacked by an intruder in his 11th-floor Bandra flat at around 2:30 am on Thursday. The incident occurred when an intruder allegedly confronted the actor's maid at his residence. As Saif attempted to intervene and de-escalate the situation, it escalated into a violent altercation, resulting in the actor sustaining several stab wounds.

Saif was immediately taken to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital after being stabbed by the intruder.



He underwent surgery under the supervision of a team of doctors there. As per doctors, Saif sustained a major injury to the thoracic spinal cord due to a lodged knife in the spine, and surgery was performed to remove a 2.5-inch-long knife from the actor's spine and repair his 'leaking spinal fluid'. While Saif is "out of danger", doctors are continuing to monitor him. After surgery, he was shifted to ICU, where he is currently recovering.

Mumbai police registered an FIR regarding the attack on the actor and recorded the statement of the complainant, who is the maid employed by the actor.

In the complaint, it is alleged that the attacker demanded one crore rupees from the family.

According to the complainant, the intruder attacked the maid allegedly with a hexa blade, which hit both her hands.

"He ran towards me with something like wood in his left hand and a long thin hexa blade in his right hand, during the scuffle, he tried to attack me with the blade, when I tried to protect myself by moving my hand forward, something like a knife hit my wrist near both my hands and the middle finger of my left hand. At that time, I asked him "What do you want" Then he said, "I need money, I asked how much." Then he said in English 'One crore'," the statement read.

In the recorded statement, the house help mentioned that the incident happened at

2 AM on January 16. "When I looked again I saw a shadow at the bathroom door, and as I bent down to see who might be inside, one person came out and went towards their (Saif Ali Khan's) son," the statement added.

She further said, "He attacked Saif with a wooden object in her hand and a hexa blade... We all ran out of the room and pulled the door and then we all ran towards him. Hearing the sound, Ramesh, Hari, Ramu and Paswan who were sleeping came out. When we took him to the room again, the door of the room was open." Mumbai Police is currently investigating the matter and have formed 20 teams to track down and nab the intruder who stabbed Saif.

Dixit Gedam, DCP Zone 9 of Mumbai Police, who is part of the team investigating an attack on Saif, said that the incident was a "robbery attempt" and the accused used a fire escape staircase to enter Saif Ali Khan's house.

Gedam said, "Last night, the accused used a fire escape staircase to enter Saif Ali Khan's house. It appears to be a robbery attempt. We working to arrest the accused. 10 Detection teams are working on the case. An offence has been registered in Bandra Police Station."

Heavy police outside cinema hall in Amritsar; SGPC to stop screening of Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency'



Amid demands to ban Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency', police personnel in heavy numbers have been deployed outside the PVR Suraj Chanda Tara Cinema in Punjab's Amritsar after Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) decided to protest against the film being produced by the BJP MP.

The film is being released today, January 17, which has invited strong opposition from the SGPC, where the committee has demanded it be banned in Punjab.

SPGC president Harjinder Singh Dhani wrote a letter to Punjab Chief Minister Bhag-

want Mann, accusing the film of being "politically motivated with an aim to defame Sikh community".

"In a letter to Chief Secretary of the Punjab Government, it was clearly stated that 'Emergency' film will not be allowed to be shown in Punjab, as it remains politically motivated with the aim to defame Sikhs," the letter read.

In a video posted by the committee's handle on X, SGPC chief Dhani said that they have submitted a demand letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, requesting him to stop the release of the film that "incorrectly" portrays Sikh characters. "The role of Sikh

characters, especially Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in this film has been portrayed incorrectly. It always happens that the government often play with the emotions of Sikhs. This is why, we had registered objections earlier before the government to not release the film. However, with the release of the film scheduled in Punjab, we have submitted a letter to DC requesting him to stop the release."

"Meanwhile, the woman member of SGPC in the video says, "After the trailer of the film was released, many registered their objections that history was being presented wrongly and it can hurt sentiments of the Sikhs. However, this film is still being released. SGPC submitted a letter to DC (Amritsar)."

Rekha Sharma, a guard of a cinema hall in Amritsar, said, "I am not sure about the reasons, but the screening of this film (Emergency) will not take place here (at the cinema hall)."

Raveena for stronger measures in Bandra

The attack on Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan has once again raised serious questions about safety in Mumbai. Hours after the news about Saif's surfaced online, actress Raveena Tandon through an Instagram post wished Saif a speedy recovery and voiced concerns about the increased crimes in Bandra locality. "Targeting celebrities and soft targets in what used to be a safe residential area has become rampant, with Bandra losing out to unruly elements. Accident scams, hawker mafia, encroachers, land grabbers and criminal elements racing on bikes phone and chain grabbing. Need stronger measures. Wishing you a speedy recovery,"



she posted. Meanwhile, Bollywood actor Pulkit Samrat also

took to social media, calling the attack 'shocking'.

Disney+ Hotstar partners with Coldplay; to live stream band's Ahmedabad concert

Disney+ Hotstar on Friday announced that it will be broadcasting Coldplay's concert live from Ahmedabad on January 26 as part of its partnership with the British band.

Coldplay's highly-anticipated concerts in India are touted to be the biggest draw of 2025. As part of their 'Music of the Spheres World Tour', the British band has three shows at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 18, 19 and 21. A fourth show will be held at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on January 25.

In a statement, Disney+ Hotstar said the move is aimed at redefining the future of entertainment by democratising



access to high-quality experiences, enabling fans to experience this monumental event on every screen across the country.

"Hello to all our friends in India. We are delighted to announce that our concert from Ahmedabad will be streamed live on Disney+ Hotstar, enabling you to witness it from anywhere in India. We eagerly anticipate your presence and hope to explore your captivating country. We extend our warmest regards," said Coldplay frontman Chris Martin.

The streaming platform will provide high-quality visuals and an immersive experience, complemented by exclusive behind-the-scenes

content for subscribers. "At Disney+ Hotstar, we have revolutionised India's entertainment and sports consumption by delivering unparalleled immersive experiences.

"Our partnership with Coldplay underscores our unwavering commitment to bringing iconic cultural experiences to audiences across the nation. By harnessing our advanced technology and extensive reach, we are breaking down barriers to privileged access to premium entertainment," said Sanjog Gupta, CEO of JioStar - Sports.

Coldplay had earlier performed in the country in 2016 at the Global Citizen Festival in Mumbai.

Rasika Dugal on star culture creeping in OTT: People who are doing well in a certain space, should be kept on their toes

As Rasika Dugal turns a year older today, she is quite excited about how 2025 is shaping up to be for her. "I have two films, which have been travelling to festivals—Lord Curzon Ki Haveli and Little Thomas. There is one more film, and a series that I've done, directed by Rohan Sippy, and then Delhi Crime 3. There's a subsequent season of a show that I had done in 2023, which will start shooting shortly. And of course, Mirzapur The Film has been announced, and we will start shoot for it sometime this year," Rasika Dugal shares.

Amid this busy schedule, Rasika has got a day off on her birthday to put her well-planned itinerary in action: "I will start my day with a morning run, followed by a nice breakfast and then go to an art exhibition in town. I will end the day with a quiet dinner with family and friends at one of my favourite restaurants,

and if I can fit one more thing, I would like to revisit one of my favourite films, The Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind."

Rasika is one of the people who got recognition from the OTT space. Having been part of multiple successful shows, does she feel the star culture creeping in the medium has affected the positioning of actors who emerged on the web space? "The streaming services is a space where there's room for everyone. That has been its USP as there's this sort of democratic nature which makes it viable. Every month there is a show which has newcomers and new faces. So, there is room for everyone and that's the sign of a healthy place. I hope that continues," she responds.

The actor actually insists on the need of such shake ups. "I had a couple of suc-



cessful shows when the streaming services came about, and I used to feel that we shouldn't be so comfortable thinking we are now set here. People who are doing well in a certain space, should be kept on their toes. There should be a fair amount of healthy competition. It's always good for an actor as well as the space," she says.

However, Rasika admits that the medium is still struggling between the balance of quality and quantity. "I don't know whether it's well-balanced or not, but it's not true that whatever is happening on the streaming services is good. There are some not so great scripts here also, but there are good scripts too.

As long as there is enough material which is engaging you and is satisfying you creatively, it's all good. Once that sort of dwindles, then it becomes a problem," she ends.

Kartik Aaryan feels entourage cost debate in Bollywood 'blown out of proportion'



Bollywood has been abuzz with discussions about the escalating entourage costs of its actors, which are reportedly putting a significant strain on film producers. Actor Kartik Aaryan recently shared his perspective on the matter, suggesting that the issue has been blown out of proportion.

The actor spoke about the discussion around the rising entourage costs of actors during his appearance at SCREEN Live session in Mumbai on Thursday. He shared that many times, such issues are blown out of proportion.

Kartik said, "A lot of the times, these things are blown out of proportion. Even if one or two people have such habits, people think everyone is doing the same. We are very mindful about such

things, be it our entourage fees or business of the film. Everyone wants their film to make profits, and the whole team should get paid an appropriate amount. No one should get less money. When there were so many rumours coming up about entourage fees recently, I felt that it was blown out of proportion."

The actor also shared that he is mindful of his entourage costs. He added, "This is not something that exists with every personality or actor that you see right now. It might be happening with some people, but not everyone. As for me, I always try that my whole team as well as the producers should be happy in paying their amounts."

After clocking a great 2023 with the releases of Chandu Champion and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, Kartik has shifted focus to his next projects. Lately, he is sporting a new look with long hair and a heavy beard, which is making everyone wonder if it is his new look for Anurag Basu's upcoming untitled epic musical love story. Earlier this month, Kartik also announced that he will lead the upcoming film produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, titled Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri.

He was last seen in Anees Bazmee's horror comedy Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which was a huge success at the box office. He reprised his role of ghost-buster Rookh Baba from the 2022 blockbuster sequel. The film earned over 250 crore at the Indian box office.

India outstanding destination for investment in mobility sector: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): India stands as an outstanding destination for every investor looking to shape their future in the mobility sector, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, and assured all government support to investors.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 at Bharat Mandapam here, the Prime Minister said India is focusing on the development of green technology, EVs, hydrogen fuel and biofuels.

Emphasising that the strength of the 'Make in India' initiative fuels the growth prospects of the country's auto industry, he said sale of EVs is set to increase eight times by the end of the decade.

Modi said the government is working on a mobility system which can support economy and ecology, and create a system which can reduce the country's bill on the import of fossil fuels.

He said 'Make in India' ini-



tiative has played a huge role in the development of auto industry.

The initiative has got a push from the PLI (production linked incentive) scheme which has helped in the sales of more than Rs 2.25 lakh crore in the sector. This scheme has created more than 1.5 lakh direct jobs in the automobile sector.

"Ease of travel is a big priority of India. In the last budget, more than Rs 11 lakh crore

were provisioned for the development of infrastructure," the prime minister said, and added the network of multi-lanes and highways were expanded.

Noting that India's automotive industry is both fantastic and future-ready, he said India's auto industry witnessed a 12 per cent annual growth last year and exports too rose significantly.

Encouraging corporates to invest in the sector, Modi said

the rising middle class, rapid urbanisation, high quality infrastructure development, and affordable vehicles are going to push automobile sector.

The endeavour, he said, is to develop a complete ecosystem for mobility, the PM said.

He also said it is the right time to invest in battery storage system in India.

The five-day expo which is being held across three venues — Bharat Mandapam and Yashbhoomi in the national capital and India Expo Center and Mart, Greater Noida — is expected to witness over 100 new launches across automobiles, component products and technologies.

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, scheduled from January 17-22, will bring the entire value chain of the mobility ecosystem — from automobile manufacturers to components, electronics parts, tyre and energy storage makers, and automotive software firms and material recyclers — under a single umbrella.

Two BSF jawans injured in IED blast triggered by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district



NARAYANPUR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Two personnel of the Border Security Force were injured when Maoists set off an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Friday, police said.

The incident took place in the morning when a BSF road-opening party from its camp near Garpa vil-

lage was out on patrolling, a police official said.

The road-opening party was between the camp and Garpa village when Maoists detonated the IED causing injuries to two jawans, he said.

The injured jawans were being shifted to the hospital, he added.

On Thursday, two commandos of

CoBRA, an elite jungle warfare unit of CRPF, were wounded when a pressure IED planted by Naxalites went off in the neighbouring Bijapur district.

On January 12, a 10-year-old girl was injured in Sukma district and two policemen sustained wounds in Bijapur district in similar pressure IED blasts. Two days before, a villager was killed and three others were injured in two separate such incidents in the Orcha area of Narayanpur district.

Eight police personnel and their civilian driver were killed when Maoists blew up a vehicle with an IED in Bijapur district on January 6.

Four youths gang rape class 12 student in Bihar's Saran; one arrested

PATNA, Jan 17 (Agencies): A class 12th student was gang raped by four youths in Bihar's Saran district, prompting the police to arrest of one of the accused within 24 hours of the incident on Friday.

Saran Superintendent of Police Kumar Ashish said that the victim reached the police station on Thursday and lodged a complaint with Bhagwan Bazar police station, accusing four individuals of outraging her modesty.

The victim told the police that she came in contact with one of the accused through social media. On January 16, her social media friend called her on her phone when she was returning from her school by a bus from Baniapur. On her boyfriend's request she alighted from the bus and met him. Later they reached near a college where his three friends were waiting.

Taking advantage of the situation, the four accused took turns to rape her.

Being in a deserted place, her cries for help went unheard.

Later the victim reached Bhagwan Bazar police station and lodged a formal complaint against the accused. SP Kumar Ashish said that the girl was sent to Chapra Sadar Hospital for a medical examination. A forensic team also visited the place of occurrence and collected evidence to corroborate the victim's statement.

The SP said that a special team has been set up to conduct raids on suspected hideouts of the three remaining accused, who were absconding after the incident. "They will be brought to book at the earliest," he told the media.

The rape survivor got frightened after the incident as the accused threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the incident to the police.

"I somehow mustered courage and narrated the ordeal to the investigating officer," she added.

'India-US ties based on technology': EAM Jaishankar at the opening of US Consulate in Bangalore

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar joined US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, for the opening of the US Consulate in Bangalore. Speaking about the expanse of the India-US ties, Jaishankar said, "Our relationship will be heavily based on technology. It will have a much bigger space component because the space domain is just beginning to open up. Defence is a crucial area."

The event was also attended by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Jaishankar added,



"Defence is an absolutely crucial area. I look at technology, space and defence, and I think there is a case for stronger US presence and leveraging the capabilities of Bengaluru and Karnataka."

The minister also cited how two decades ago, there were virtually no

collaborative campuses, exchange of students and a stronger American education presence in this region," Jaishankar said.

The Minister cited how supply chains are undergoing a transformation. "Trusted supply chains will really become key to strategic partnerships and there I see a great future for India and the US," Jaishankar added.

He said that an American consulate was not there in Bengaluru was a gap in the relationship. It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, in 2023, said that this consulate was needed. "The formal opening of this consulate is one

more sign that we are overcoming the hesitations of history," Jaishankar said. He did not say it but the reference stemmed from the cold war era (1945-91).

"We will be opening our consulate in Los Angeles also," the EAM said.

US Ambassador Garcetti said, "The US mission is the second largest mission anywhere in the world. Presently, visa services are not being offered from Bengaluru, but will happen soon. US-India relations will be indispensable for peace, prosperity and for the planet."

Judgement in rape-murder of R G Kar doctor tomorrow

KOLKATA, Jan 17 (Agencies): The much-awaited judgement in the brutal rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, which led to nationwide outrage and prolonged protests, will be delivered on Saturday.

Sanjay Roy, who was a civic volunteer with the city police, was charged with committing the crime on the postgraduate trainee at the state-run hospital in north Kolkata on August 9 last year.

The judgement will be delivered on Saturday, 57 days after the trial commenced before the court of additional district and sessions judge, Sealadah court, Anirban Das.

The Kolkata Police which was

investigating the case initially arrested Roy on August 10, a day after the medic's body was recovered from the seminar room of the hospital.

Later, the Calcutta High Court transferred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation. The agency has sought the death penalty for the accused.

The in-camera trial in the rape and murder of the doctor commenced on November 12 and 50 witnesses were examined.

Hearing in the trial of Roy was concluded on January 9.

Maintaining that other persons were also involved in the crime, the parents of the victim have said that they expect that they will also be arrested and tried before the court.

The parents have also filed

an application before the court seeking further investigation into the case.

The crime led to nationwide outrage and prolonged protests by junior doctors in Kolkata, demanding justice for the victim and stronger security arrangements in state-run hospitals.

Opposition political parties, including the BJP and the CPI(M), protested the gruesome crime, but apolitical movements demanding justice for the victim were more visible with members of the civil society being at the forefront.

Members of the civil society in Kolkata and some other cities of the state took out midnight rallies terming those as 'Reclaim the night' to demand justice for the victim doctor, whom some

named "Abhaya", while others called her "Tilottama".

Disclosing the identity of a rape victim is prohibited by the law.

Supporters of archrival clubs of Kolkata - East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting - also took to the streets of the metropolis demanding justice for the victim.

The Supreme Court, which suo motu took up the matter concerning the rape and murder at R G Kar hospital, had formed a National Task Force (NTF) for suggesting a protocol for the safety of doctors and other medical professionals across the country.

The NTF filed a report before the apex court in November last year.

Nine killed as minivan rams into stationary bus on Pune-Nashik Highway



PUNE, Jan 17 (Agencies): At least nine people were killed after a tempo hit their minivan, causing it to ram into a stationary bus on

the Pune-Nashik Highway on Friday morning, police said.

The accident occurred near Narayangaon around 10 am.

The minivan was heading towards Narayangaon when a tempo hit the vehicle from behind, causing it to ram into an empty bus parked on the side of the road, said Pankaj Deshmukh, superintendent of police, Pune Rural.

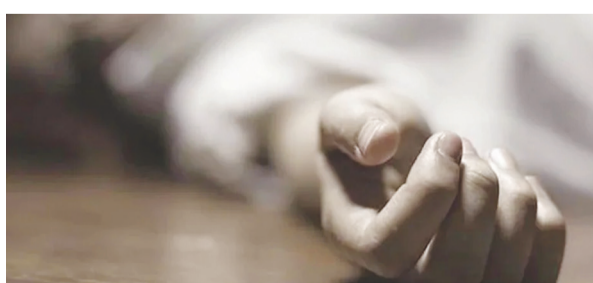
All nine occupants of the minivan were killed, he said, adding that further details were awaited.

NEET aspirant from Odisha dies by suicide in Kota, third case in 2025

KOTA, Jan 17 (Agencies): An 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Odisha allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, police said on Friday.

Officials said that no suicide note was recovered from the room. The incident occurred in Ambedkar Colony, Vigyan Nagar area on Thursday night.

According to police, Abhijeet Giri, hailing from Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, had been preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) at a coaching institute since April, 2024.



The incident came to light when around 8 pm when a mess worker went to deliver food to Abhijeet's room, a police officer said.

Upon receiving no response, the mess worker along with a few hostellers forcibly opened the door and found him hanging from the ceiling fan, Assistant

Sub-Inspector (ASI) Lal Singh Tanwar said.

A police team reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem, which will be conducted after his family arrives. They have been informed about the incident, the ASI added.

He said that no suicide note was recovered from the room and the reason

behind the suicide is yet to be ascertained.

The ceiling fan in the hostel room was not equipped with suicide prevention device, mandated by the district administration to prevent suicides in student accommodations, the officer said.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Abhijeet was good in studies and attended his coaching classes regularly, he said.

This is the third suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year. The city, a prominent hub for coaching institutes, saw 17 such cases in 2024.

Gehlot slams Centre, Punjab Govt over Dallewal's fast



JAIPUR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday accused the Centre and Punjab Government of being insensitive towards farmer

leader Jagdeep Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike.

The Congress leader said this is the reason why 111 other farmers have gone on a hunger

strike to put their point before the Government.

"It has been 51 days now since farmer leader Shri Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on a hunger strike.

His health is continuously deteriorating. In these 51 days, the Central and Punjab government have shown complete insensitivity," Gehlot said in a statement.

Dallewal has been on an indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26

last year in support of various demands of the farmers, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price of crops.

Gehlot said the Government heard their grievances after about 700 farmers lost their lives in protest against the three black farmer laws.

"It is beyond understanding why such a situation arises again and again and why the government does not want to find a solution by talking to the farmers' delegation," he said.

Netanyahu says deal to release hostages held in Gaza reached

PM's office had accused Hamas of renegeing on parts of the agreement to gain further concessions

TEL AVIV, Jan 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday a deal to return hostages held in the Gaza Strip has been reached, after his office had said earlier there were last minute snags in finalising a ceasefire that would pause 15 months of war.

Netanyahu said he would convene his security Cabinet later on Friday and then the government will approve the long-awaited hostage deal.

Netanyahu's pre-dawn statement appeared to clear the way for Israeli approval of the deal, which would pause the fighting in the Gaza Strip and see dozens of hostages held by militants in Gaza released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The deal would also allow hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to return to the remains of their homes in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 72 people in the war-ravaged territory on Thursday.

Netanyahu said he had instructed a special task force to prevent the return of the hostages returning from Gaza, and that their families had been informed the deal had been reached.

Israel had delayed a vote on Thursday on the ceasefire, blaming a last-minute dispute with Hamas for holding up approval as rising tensions in Netanyahu's government coalition raised concerns about the implementation of the deal just a day after US President Joe Biden and key mediator Qatar announced it was complete.

Netanyahu's office had accused Hamas of renegeing on parts of the agreement in an attempt to gain further concessions. In a briefing on Thursday, David Mencer, an Israeli government spokesman, said Hamas' new demands dealt with the deployment of Israeli forces in the Philadelphia corridor, the narrow strip bordering Egypt that Israeli troops seized in May. Hamas denied the claims, with Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official, saying the militant group "is committed to the ceasefire agreement, which was announced by the mediators."

The ceasefire agreement has drawn fierce resistance from Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners, which the Israeli prime minister depends on to remain in power. On Thursday, Israel's hard-line national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir threatened to quit the government if Israel approved the ceasefire. There was no immediate comment



from Ben-Gvir following Netanyahu's statement the hostage deal had been reached.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty called on Israel and Hamas to implement a Gaza ceasefire plan "without any delay" in an exclusive interview on Thursday. Egypt has been a key mediator between the enemies for years and a leading player in ongoing ceasefire negotiations.

The deal announced on Wednesday would pause the fighting with a view to eventually wind down a 15-month war that has destabilised the Middle East and sparked worldwide protests.

Hamas triggered the war with its October 7, 2023, cross-border attack into Israel that killed some 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage.

Israel responded with a devastating offensive that has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half of those killed.

The military campaign has levelled vast swaths of Gaza, and pushed about 90 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million from their homes. Hundreds of thousands are struggling with hunger and disease in squalid tent camps on the coast.

Netanyahu faces heavy internal pressure

The Israeli prime minister has faced great domestic pressure to bring home the hostages, whose families have pleaded with Netanyahu to prioritise the release of their loved ones over politics.

But Israeli divisions over the deal were on stark display on Thursday, as Ben-Gvir, a key coalition partner, threatened to resign, saying the ceasefire was "reckless" and would "destroy all of Israel's achievements."

The departure of Ben-Gvir's Jewish Power party would reduce the number of the ruling

coalition's seats in the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, from 68 to 62 — leaving Netanyahu's government with just the slimmest of majorities. Ben-Gvir said his party would return to the coalition if Israel resumes its war.

Ben-Gvir's resignation would not bring down the government or derail the ceasefire deal. But the move would destabilise the government at a delicate moment and could lead to its collapse if Ben-Gvir is joined by other key Netanyahu allies.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, for instance, is vehemently opposed to the agreement and has demanded that Netanyahu promise to resume the war against Hamas after the first phase of the ceasefire as a condition of his party staying in the coalition.

A night of heavy Israeli strikes Palestinians in Gaza reported heavy Israeli bombardment on Thursday as people were celebrating the ceasefire deal. In previous conflicts, both sides have stepped up military operations in the final hours before ceasefires as a way to project strength.

"We were expecting that the (Israeli) occupation would intensify the bombing, like they did every time there were reports of progress in truce talks," said Mohammed Mahdi, who is sheltering in Gaza City.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes killed at least 72 people since the ceasefire deal was announced. It said the toll from Thursday's strikes only includes bodies brought to two hospitals in Gaza City and the actual toll is likely higher.

"Yesterday was a bloody day, and today is bloodier," said Zaher al-Wahedi, a Health Ministry official.

The Israeli military said it had struck approximately 50 militant targets across the Gaza Strip over the past day, including weapons storage facilities and rocket launch sites.

Anxiety spread across Gaza on Thursday with the news of last-minute quarrelling between Hamas and Israeli officials.

"We ask our brothers in Hamas to communicate with mediators to end the war," said Omar Jendiya, in Deir al-Balah. "Enough with the destruction and killing."

A phased withdrawal and hostage release with potential pitfalls

Under the deal reached on Wednesday, 33 of some 100 hostages who remain in Gaza are set to be released over the next six weeks in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Israeli forces will pull back from many areas, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians would be able to return to what's left of their homes, and there would be a surge of humanitarian assistance.

The remainder of the hostages, including male soldiers, are to be released in a second — and much more difficult — phase that will be negotiated during the first. Hamas has said it will not release the remaining captives without a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal, while Israel has vowed to keep fighting until it dismantles the group and to maintain open-ended security control over the territory.

Ceasefire leaves questions about Gaza's future unanswered

US President-elect Donald Trump's Mideast envoy joined the talks in the final weeks, and both the outgoing administration and Trump's team took credit for the breakthrough.

Longer-term questions about postwar Gaza remain, including who will rule the territory or oversee the daunting task of reconstruction.

Israel has come under heavy international criticism, including from its closest ally, the United States, over the civilian toll in Gaza. It also blames Hamas for the civilian casualties, accusing it of using schools, hospitals and residential areas for military purposes.

Hamas has come under overwhelming pressure from Israel's invasion of Gaza's largest cities and towns and seizure of the border between Gaza and Egypt. Its top leaders, including Yahya Sinwar, who was believed to have helped mastermind the 2023 attack, have been killed.

But its fighters have regrouped in some of the hardest-hit areas after the withdrawal of Israeli forces, raising the prospect of a prolonged insurgency if the war continues.

Pakistan court convicts Imran Khan and his wife in 190 million pound Al-Qadir Trust case

The verdict, delayed three times previously, was announced by Judge Nasir Javed Rana in a makeshift courtroom at Adiala Jail



ISLAMABAD, Jan 17 (Agencies): The court on Friday convicted former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the 190 million pound Al-Qadir Trust case with the PTI founder being sentenced to 14 years in prison while seven year jail term has been handed over to his wife, Dawn reported.

The verdict, delayed three times previously, was announced by Judge Nasir Javed Rana in a makeshift courtroom at Adiala Jail. The court asked Imran Khan and his wife to pay a fine of amounting to Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 1million and PKR 500,000, respectively. Failure to pay the fines would cause six months in jail.

The judge announced the verdict amid tight security outside Adiala Jail. Following the announcement of the verdict, Bushra Bibi was arrested from the courtroom. The couple was indicted in the case on February 27 last year, shortly after the elections were held on February 8.

Before the hearing, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, while speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail, had said, "You can guess the injustice that have occurred over the last two years." He said, "If a fair decision is made, Imran and Bushra will be acquitted."

The case alleges that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals for Bahria Town Ltd for legalising PKR 50 billion that was identified

and returned to Pakistan by the UK during the PTI government, Dawn reported.

On December 23, when the verdict was supposed to be announced, an Islamabad accountability court postponed the verdict in the case till January 6 due to winter vacations.

On January 6, the verdict was not announced as Judge Nasir Javed Rana, who has been hearing the case, was on leave. During the hearing on January 13, the judge said that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi's absence in the accountability court at the Adiala Jail was the reason for the delay in announcing the verdict.

In 2023, PTI founder was arrested in various legal claims, which he has termed "politically motivated." In 2024, he was acquitted in the cypher and Iddat cases. However, he was charged in the Toshakhana 2 case.

In December 2023, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had registered a corruption case against Imran Khan and seven others, including his wife, in relation to the Al-Qadir University Trust, Dawn reported.

The case filed by NAB alleged that Imran Khan, who is currently in prison, played a "pivotal role in the illicit transfer of funds meant for the state of Pakistan into an account designated for the payment of land by Bahria Town, Karachi."

It claimed that despite given multiple opportunities to share information, the accused intentionally did not provide information on one pretext or another.

The suspects in the

case include property tycoon Malik Riaz Husain and his son Ahmed Ali Riaz, Mirza Shehzad Akbar, and Zulfi Bukhari. However, instead of joining the investigation, they absconded and were subsequently declared proclaimed offenders (PO), Dawn reported.

Bushra Bibi's close friend Farhat Shahzadi and Ziaul Mustafa Nasim, a legal expert for the PTI government's Assets Recovery Unit, were also declared POs. Subsequently, the properties of all six accused had been frozen.

According to the case, Riaz's son transferred 240 kanals of land to Shahzadi, while Bukhari obtained land under a trust, which NAB stated did not exist at the time of the transfer. According to the prosecution, the trust was formed only after the adjustment of 190 million pound, raising doubts regarding its purpose and legitimacy.

In July 2024, Pervez Khattak, a PTI leader back then who left the party in 2023 after the May 9 riots, said in court, that he also attended the meeting in December 2019, where then-accountability adviser Mirza Shahzad Akbar presented a confidential deed in a sealed envelope for cabinet approval.

Khattak said that when he asked details regarding the document, Akbar said that it was an agreement between the Pakistani government and UK's National Crime Agency for the refund of crime proceeds, as per the report.

Days later, Imran Khan's then-principal secretary, Azam Khan, testified that Akbar brought a note to ask for Imran Khan's approval to present the confidential deed in the cabinet meeting. Pakistan's then-minister of defence production, Zubaida Jalal, in the court, said that ministers were "kept in the dark" on the transfer of "crime proceeds" to Malik Riaz.

Death toll rises to 5 in rocket and gun attack on an aid convoy in restive northwestern Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): The death toll from a rocket and gun attack on an aid convoy in restive northwestern Pakistan has jumped to at least five, local authorities said Friday.

The attack happened Thursday when trucks carrying food, medicine and other relief supplies for hundreds of besieged residents were heading to Kurram, a district hit by sectarian violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Authorities initially said a security officer was killed in the attack, but Shaukat Ali, a district administrator in Kurram, said on Friday that another officer had died at a hospital and the bodies of three missing truck drivers had been found.



He said five drivers were still missing and their trucks had been burned by the attackers.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack in Kurram, which has been the scene of violence between Shiite and Sunni tribes since July 2024.

The violence surged in November when attackers opened fire on vehicles carrying passengers, killing 52 people, mostly Shiites. Since then, at least 130

people have died in violence there.

Thursday's attack came weeks after the government secured a ceasefire deal between tribal leaders.

Shiite Muslims dominate parts of Kurram, although they are a minority in the rest of Pakistan, which is majority Sunni. The area has a history of sectarian conflict, with militant Sunni groups previously targeting minority Shiites.

3 lawyers for the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny are jailed

PETUSHKI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Three lawyers who once represented the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were jailed Friday in Russia as part of the Kremlin's crackdown on dissent that has reached levels unseen since Soviet times.

Vadim Kobzev, Igor Sergunin and Alexei Liptser were jailed from 3 1/2 to five years by a court in the town of Petushki, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Moscow. They were arrested in October 2023 on charges of involvement with extremist groups, as Navalny's networks were deemed by authorities.

The case was widely seen as a way to increase pressure on the opposition to discourage defense law-



yers from taking political cases.

At the time, Navalny was serving a 19-year prison term on several criminal convictions, including extremism. He died in a Russian prison camp in February 2023.

The independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported that Kobzev said in his final statement in court on Jan. 10 that "we are being tried for transmitting Navalny's thoughts to other people."

Navalny's networks

were deemed extremist following a 2021 ruling that outlawed his organizations — the Foundation for Fighting Corruption and a network of regional offices — as extremist groups.

That ruling, which exposed anyone involved with the organizations to prosecution, was condemned by Kremlin critics as politically motivated and designed to stifle Navalny's activities.

According to Navalny's allies, authorities

accused the lawyers of using their position to pass information from him to his team.

Navalny, an anti-corruption campaigner and outspoken opponent of President Vladimir Putin, was arrested in 2021 upon his return from Germany, where he was recuperating from a nerve agent poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin. He was ordered to serve 2 1/2 years in prison.

After two more trials, his sentence was extended to 19 years. He and his allies said the charges were politically motivated and accused the Kremlin of seeking to jail him for life.

In December 2023, Navalny was moved from a penal colony in the Vladimir region east of Moscow to one above the Arctic Circle, where

he died in February at the age of 47 under still-unexplained circumstances. His widow, Yulia Navalnaya, and members of his team alleged he was killed on orders from the Kremlin. Officials have rejected the accusation.

Two other Navalny lawyers, Olga Mikhailova and Alexander Fedulov, are on a wanted list but no longer live in Russia. Mikhailova, who defended Navalny for a decade, said she was charged in absentia with extremism.

Kobzev, Liptser and Sergunin have been deemed to be political prisoners, according to human rights advocates from Memorial, Russia's most prominent rights group that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022. The group demands their immediate release.

All J&K GRDS resolves eight-year dispute. ousts litigants as per Sabha Constitution

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: During a press briefing organized to celebrate Lohri Milan, the All J&K Guru Ravidass Sabha (GRDS), represented by its Executive Body, Branch Heads, and prominent members of the Ravidassia community, announced the resolution of an eight-year-long dispute within the Sabha.

The Ravidassia biradri of J&K, numbering over 4 lakh members, convened a General Body Meeting on 29th December 2024 to address the prolonged conflict, which had previously been entangled in legal disputes and court orders.

The General Body Meeting, conducted as per the Sabha Constitution, invoked Rule 9 to oust both disputing parties. It also appointed an Adhoc Committee to oversee the upcoming Shoba Yatra on 9th February and the celebration of Parkash Divas of Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj on 12th February



2025. The newly elected Adhoc Committee was tasked with organizing these events with grandeur and harmony. The Sabha emphasized that neither the General IJas nor the current Adhoc Committee is under judicial review.

Amidst rumors suggesting that ousted President Piran Ditta might attempt to claim Sabha property based on a 2019 court order, the Sabha clarified that the General House holds supreme authority in resolving internal disputes. The 2019 court order pertains to individuals who are not involved in the current settlement.

The Sabha highlighted

earlier attempts to conduct elections under judicial oversight. On 1st June 2017, the 1st Additional District Judge constituted an Election Board chaired by Sh. Gopal Dass Dogra and supervised by the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu. However, Piran Ditta allegedly sabotaged the election process by withholding membership records and voters' lists and refusing to provide accommodations for storing essential documents. In December 2017, the Divisional Commissioner noted that the Election Board was not cooperating, leading to a stalemate in the electoral process.

To resolve the ongoing crisis, the General House invoked its constitutional powers to oust both parties and form the Adhoc Committee. This committee will not only organize key events but also facilitate elections for the next governing body as per the Sabha Constitution.

Prof. Shivgotra, the Sabha spokesperson, informed the media that nearly all branch sabhas have submitted memorandums to the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, supporting the Adhoc Committee. The memorandums urged civil and police authorities to avoid interference in

religious matters, citing potential law-and-order concerns tied to the sentiments of the Ravidassia Biradari.

The Sabha also disclosed financial irregularities involving the ousted President. An FIR was lodged against him for allegedly withdrawing Rs 2,30,000 from the SBI Bank on 30th December 2024 and 2nd January 2025 without authorization. Further investigations into past embezzlements are underway, and legal action will be pursued to safeguard public funds.

The Sabha extended its gratitude to the media and the civil and police administration for supporting its constitutional authority and ensuring the resolution of internal conflicts. The Sabha reiterated its commitment to fostering unity within the Ravidassia community and preserving the sanctity of its religious and cultural practices.

DSS rededicates with rejuvenated fresh team



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: After being unanimously re-elected as president of the 120 year old secular social organization Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) former Minister Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, in consultation with newly elected General Secretary H C Jalmaria Adv. announced his other office bearers selected from the cream of distinguished personalities of Jammu region.

The members briefly touched upon the historical journey of the 120 years and the major landmark achievements of the Sabha.

The team resolved to dedicate themselves for the cause of Jammu and Duggar Pradesh as envisioned by the founder forefathers and on secular lines taking with them Dogras from all walks of life, regions,

religions trades. The elected body and nominated members also represent a similar pattern.

Col Karan Singh (Retd) shall continue as Sr. Vice President of DSS, while Gambhir Dev Singh shall be Vice President in charge of Youth wing. Adv HC Jalmaria, Gen Secretary, G A Khwaja Addl. Gen. Secretary I/C Head Office, Arvinder Singh Amn Addl Gen Secretary, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Treasurer, Dr Nasib Singh Manhas, Convener Cultural Wing, Jagdeep Singh, Secretary Organisation, Brig VS Dhemana has been assigned IT, Social Media & Library, Amanat Ali Shah, Jt Secretary Org, Khajur Singh, Jt Secretary I/C Panchayat/ Numberdar and Chowkidar Cell, Prof. Dr Anita Billawaria Convener Mahila Wing

with Uma Katal & Prof. Sonia Jasrotia, Maj Gen Sunita Kapoor, VSM (Retd) Convener Ex-servicemen Cell, Co- Convener Col Dr. Virendra K Sahi, Vrc (Retd) & Lt.Col Rashid Ahmed (Retd.). Brig MS Jamwal, (Retd) Convener media Cell with Co- convener Col Dr Virendra K Sahi, Vrc & Gambhir Dev Singh. Besides that there is Bhawan Development Committee assigned to Col Karan Singh, Narinder Singh Jamwal, Chhankar Singh & Er Surinder Kumar.

Teachers Cell -Devinder Singh, Sumesh Damral & Sukhdev Singh, Youth wing Convener Adv Ashtam Siddiqui. The Numberdar and Chowkidar Cell includes, Convener Capt Sardar Singh (Nud) Co-convener Raj Kumar (Hiranagar) Rajkumar & Shankar Singh (Gran Morh- Reasi).

All the old & new members assured their full solidarity and voluntary willing desire to fully dedicate themselves to carry forward the noble aims and aspirations of the Sabha as per the charter and constitution of the DSS.

NCC Dte Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh initiates historic first flight at Udhampur

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 17: In a remarkable historical milestone for the National Cadet Corps (NCC), cadets from the newly raised 1 J&K Air Squadron NCC made their inaugural flight on Friday, marking a significant achievement for the NCC and its growing commitment to provide dynamic training opportunities to its cadets. The maiden flight took place at Udhampur, under the aegis of NCC Dte Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, offering the cadets an unforgettable experience and hands-on exposure to aviation.

1 J&K Air Sqn NCC which has been recently raised under the leadership of its first Commanding Officer Wing Commander Nitin Yadav holds the unique distinction of being the first and the only Air NCC squadron in this region. The unit is dedicated to fostering excellence in aviation and adventure training among cadets, preparing them for leadership roles both within the armed forces and in civilian



life. The unit has been equipped with Microlight aircrafts to ensure flying training of cadets and gain practical experience in aviation.

Cadet Siya Kotwal from SKUAST Jammu, the first cadet who got airborne expressed excitement and pride, saying, "Flying was an experience I will never forget. It's a dream come true and an opportunity I never imagined I would get. This flight has inspired me to push myself further and pursue my passion for aviation." Cadet Aviral of Army Public School at Udhampur

was also ecstatic on getting this experience, saying "This flying experience has motivated me to push myself in my dream of joining the Armed Forces. I will never forget this unique experience". Similar emotions and excitement were also displayed by Cadet Akshat Gupta of SKUAST Jammu and Cadet Bhumika Sharma of SMVDU Katra on getting first flying experience ever.

Speaking on the occasion, Wg Cdr Nitin Yadav emphasized, "This first flight signifies not just a technical achievement, but a

new chapter in the NCC's ongoing mission to inspire and challenge the youth of our nation in chasing their dreams. We are proud to provide opportunities for cadets to explore new horizons and enhance their skills in multi-dimensional domain."

The successful flying event is set to pave the way for enduring opportunities, further reinforcing the NCC's role in instilling a sense of adventure and discipline in the youth of the country. As part of the ongoing mission, the NCC aims to expand its aviation and adventure training programs, offering cadets more hands-on opportunities that promote confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

1 J&K Air Sqn NCC at Udhampur as part of NCC Group HQ Jammu is expected to play a key role in enhancing the NCC's aviation training capacity in this region, exploring the next generation of young leaders of the region to new vistas and make them future ready to contribute to the development of the nation.

GDC Kathua organises symposium Competition on Road Safety

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 17: Government Degree College (GDC), Kathua in collaboration with MVD, Kathua, Traffic Police, Rural Jammu and District Administration, Kathua organized a 'Symposium on Road Safety' on Friday in the College Auditorium under the aegis of "National Road Safety Month" from 1st January to 31st January, 2025.

The chief guest for the occasion was Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua. The guest of Honour was Girdhari Lal Sharma, SSP Traffic, Kathua. The event commenced with the lighting of traditional lamp along with Saraswati Vandana.

The Chief Guest of the occasion was welcomed by Dr. Sanjay Karupia, HoD Geology.

In the welcome address, the worthy Principal, Prof. Seema Mir applauded the efforts made by the district administration towards the welfare of

the College and students in terms of road safety. She exalted the Deputy Commissioner as a role model for young generation.

The chief guest for the occasion Dr Rakesh Minhas, IAS in his speech, stressed on the importance of 'Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha' while celebrating the National Road Safety Month. He encouraged the students to follow the traffic rules which in turn is beneficial for the drivers and the pedestrians.

He also congratulated the Patron of the College Prof. Seema Mir. And also appreciated the Literary committee, NSS and NCC for organizing such a splendid event. A pledge was also taken on the occasion of Road Safety.

A total number of 12 students participated in the competition from various Degree Colleges of District Kathua.

The jury members for the competition were Ranjit Singh, Additional DC, Kathua, Sukhdev Jamwal, DSP Traffic

and Dr. R K Manhas, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, Prof Ambika Rajput, GDC Kathua.

The first prize in the competition was bagged by Vishal Gupta from GDC Kathua, Second prize was given to Rahul Sharma from GDC Kathua and third prize went to Sumit Kumar from GDC Kathua. The members of the Literary/Debate/Symposium Committee, NSS volunteers and NCC cadets were present during the competition.

The event culminated with a vote of thanks by Dr Yash Paul Sharma, Staff Secretary.

The event was anchored by Kanika Sharma and Nikita Sharma. Prof Shalini Sharma, Prof Neelam baru, Prof Ravinder Kour, Prof Rupinder Kour, Prof Shivani Kotwal, Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Pinke, Prof Arvind, Dr Daya Ram, Dr Partima Sangra and many other faculty members including Non Teaching staff witnessed the event.

CUJ organizes TB Awareness Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ), in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Jammu, organized a one-day Tuberculosis

(TB) Awareness Camp in view of 100 days of TB Mukh Bharat to educate university staff about TB prevention and control.

The camp featured informative sessions led by distinguished experts, including Dr.

Nasreen, Dr. Geetanjali, Dr. Sonu. They provided detailed insights into TB, its symptoms, treatment options, and preventive measures.

The sessions aimed to spread awareness about early detection and reduce the stigma

associated with the disease.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Vijayata Puri, Senior Medical Officer, Central University of Jammu, who ensured the smooth execution of the program.

The awareness drive was well-received by the university staff and underscored the importance of collective efforts in combating TB. Saleem, Gaurav, and Ashok were also present as resource persons of the event.

FromPage No:1

Manu, Gukesh among four to receive Khel Ratna from President Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan

China's Ding Liren last month. He is only the second India after the great Viswanathan Anand to achieve this feat.

The annual honours are decided by a points system in which the maximum emphasis is on performances delivered at the Olympics and the World Championships.

Mysterious Deaths in Budhal: CM Omar Abdullah directs Health & Police

Departments to expedite investigations

informed the meeting that investigations are underway to determine the root cause of the fatalities, which have been limited to three families residing within 1.5 kilometers of each other.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah directed the health and police departments to expedite their investigations.

"The unexplained nature of these deaths is deeply concerning, and the government is committed to ensuring that the root cause is identified at the earliest. I urge all departments to collaborate and leave no stone unturned in resolving this issue," he stated.

It was also emphasized during the meeting that the health department has maintained an active presence in the area over the past 40 days, providing ambulances,

medicines, and essential facilities to address any emergencies.

Expressing his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Chief Minister reassured the public that the administration is treating the situation with the highest priority.

"The health and safety of our citizens remain our top priority. The government is fully committed to resolving this crisis and ensuring justice for the affected families," he added.

Security Forces launch search operation in Billawar area

indoors and cooperate with the authorities. Additional reinforcements have been deployed to track down the militants.

Srinagar boy secures 1st

position at IMD State-Level Meteorology Olympiad

meteorology and climate sciences.

"Kamil's outstanding performance not only highlighted his dedication and expertise but also brought pride to the school and the region," the school handout reads. Kamil attended the felicitation ceremony held at the IMD Headquarters New Delhi on January 13 of 2025.

"He was felicitated with a certificate from the organisers," it reads. Chairman GVEI, Mohammad Yousuf Wani congratulated the student and expressed his pride over the achievement of the student.

"This milestone not only brings honor to our school but also acts as an inspiration to other students to aim for greater heights. We wish Kamil continued success in all his future endeavors," the handout

reads.

He said that GVEI was committed to fostering academic excellence and encouraging students to participate in national and international platforms.

Farooq Abdullah's convoy meets with an accident in Rajasthan

Rajasthan, while en route to Ajmer Dargah Sharif.

The Delhi Police vehicle escorting Abdullah struck a blue bull (Neel Gai) on the highway. The car's front airbags deployed, and Abdullah, who was travelling by road under police escort, remained unharmed, media reports said.

Cold wave intensifies in Kashmir as mercury dips after snowfall

snowfall

down from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the night before.

The minimum temperature was minus 2.4 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 2 degrees Celsius at Konibal in Pampore town, minus 2.7 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and minus 2.4 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

The meteorological office has forecast mainly dry weather in Kashmir till January 19, with a possibility of light rain or snow at scattered places from January 20 to 22.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the harshest period of winter. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', which began on December 21, the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30, followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

BSF organizes medical camp, hosts Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Programme

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 17: The 26th Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) organized a free medical camp on Friday under its civic action programme at FDL Meelyal village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The initiative aimed to provide quality medical care and free medicines to underprivileged residents of the area.

The camp was inaugurated by former BDC chairman Fareed Ahmed Khan, along with officiating Commandant of the 26th Battalion BSF, SFP Vaifaie, and other officials.

A team of specialist doctors from the BSF and civil medical staff attended to over 250 patients, including men, women, and children, offering consultations



and free medicines.

Residents from neighboring villages praised the BSF for organizing the medical camp in such a remote area. They expressed hope that similar initiatives would continue in the future for the well-being of the locals.

Officiating Commandant Vaifaie empha-

sized the BSF's commitment to fostering peace, development, and better relations with the local population. "The aim of such programmes is to build goodwill and extend assistance during challenging times.

The 26th BSF Battalion has been conducting community outreach

programs consistently and will continue to do so," he said.

In addition to the medical camp, a special awareness session under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was conducted by local students. They delivered an impactful presentation on the dangers of drug abuse and the

importance of leading a healthy and substance-free life.

This initiative aimed to spread awareness among the community, especially the youth, about the need to combat the growing menace of drug addiction.

Deputy Commandant Vijay Kumar, Company Commander Inspector Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Sumit Thakur (AC/MO 26th Battalion), and Dr. Sreeparna Sahu (AC/MO 127th Battalion) were among the BSF officials present.

The camp also featured civil doctors, including Dr. Owais Ahmad (Psychiatrist), Dr. Rameez Nabi (Dental) Dr. Nuzhat Medical officer who contributed their expertise to the event.

UIPS celebrates victory at National Singing and Dance Sports Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Unique International Public School (UIPS) announced that two of its talented students, Amanpreet Singh, son of Gurnam Singh (Class 7B), and Navjit Singh, son of Gurnam Singh (Class 3), have brought honour and glory to the institution by winning gold medals in the pres-

tigious National Singing and Dance Sports Competition Session 2024.

Held on the 11th and 12th of January 2025 in Varodhra, Gujarat, the competition saw participants from across the country showcasing their exceptional talent.

Both Amanpreet and Navjit delivered outstanding performances that were highly praised by the judges and capti-

vated the audience.

Their dedication, hard work, and passion for the arts shone brightly on stage, earning them the top honors in their respective categories.

The entire school community takes immense pride in their achievements, which reflect the nurturing environment and emphasis on excellence at Unique International Public School. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sardar Amanpreet Singh and Sardar Navjit Singh, and look forward to their continued success in future endeavors.

We are confident that their success will inspire other students to pursue their passions and strive for greatness.

Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas is vision beyond slogan: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, coined by the Indian government under Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is serving as a powerful guiding principle for taking all together and benefiting all, without any consideration of region, class, faith or gender.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party & former vice chairperson, said this while sharing different welfare schemes of Modi government with the prominent SC activists of BJP.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that sabka sath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, is not just a slogan but a vision, with a philosophy which represents a commitment to inclusive development, ensuring that no individual, community, or region is left behind. It envisions a society where the collective efforts of every



citizen fuel the progress of the nation.

Balbir said that under the umbrella of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" significant strides have been made in various sectors. Key initiatives in education, healthcare, and infrastructure have empowered millions, particularly the underprivileged. For example, government schemes aimed at affordable housing, financial inclusion, and skill development have not only lifted families out of poverty but also enhanced their quality of life.

Whether through connecting rural areas with urban hubs, improving access to clean

water and sanitation, or implementing measures to ensure gender equality, every step reflects the core values of inclusivity and progress. It also calls upon every citizen to actively contribute to the collective goal, emphasizing that growth is not the responsibility of a few but a shared endeavor, he added.

Indeed it is not just a slogan; it is a mission, a vision, and a promise to make the dream of an inclusive and prosperous India a reality.

BJP SC activists Ashok Gandhi, Krishan Kumar Digra, Hans Raj Loria, Sardesh Rana, Lokesh Kumar, were in the meeting.

CABI officials meet Director Agriculture Jammu to strengthen plant health initiatives

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: A team of senior officials from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) Dr. Pia Ellison, Program Support Manager, PLANTWISEPLUS, CABI Switzerland; Dr. Vinod Pandit, Regional Director South Asia, CABI; and Dr. Manju Thakur, Crop Health Advisor, CABI visited the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu today for a meeting with Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen. The discussion focused on strengthening the Plant Health Clinics in the Jammu Division, enhancing surveillance for new pest invasions, and improving pest management practices in the region.

During the meeting, Director Arvinder Singh Reen emphasized the importance of educating pesticide dealers and farmers to ensure effective pest manage-



ment. He suggested the design of a comprehensive awareness campaign targeting pesticide dealers, Agriculture Extension officers and farmers, which would include crucial information on plant health and pest management. The Director also stressed the need for strong ties between Plant Health Clinics and pesticide dealers, allowing them to seek assistance from plant doctors for proper diagnoses. He acknowledged CABI's significant role in reducing the irrational use of pesticides, helping farmers to adopt recommended dosages at appropriate times.

Director Agriculture

also highlighted the critical role of Plant Health Clinics in mitigating crop pest and disease problems. He called for regular updates from CABI on pest management strategies, which would include proper sampling techniques, data collection, online validation, weather-based agro-advisory services, and analysis of data to guide plant doctors and stakeholders. Additionally, he underscored the importance of promoting bio-control methods as part of an effort to maintain ecological balance.

The meeting further discussed the ongoing efforts by the Agriculture Department in

implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. Director A.S Reen emphasized the need for training more Plant Doctors, facilitating real-time data sharing, and providing further training to enhance their expertise.

Dr. Pia Ellison, Program Support Manager, PLANTWISEPLUS, CABI Switzerland elaborated on CABI's role in promoting sustainable plant health practices. She discussed the potential for reducing pesticide use to cultivate organic products that meet international export standards. Dr. Ellison also emphasized the importance of transi-

tioning to climate-smart plant health practices, which would not only ensure the supply of safer food but also contribute to local production of plant protection products.

As part of her visit, Dr. Pia Ellison also visited the Plant Health Clinic at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo, gaining valuable insights into its operations. Following that, she visited the Plant Health Clinics in Vijaypur, District Samba, to further assess the functioning and impact of these clinics in the Jammu Division.

The meeting and site visits were attended by key officials, including Joint Director Agriculture Extension/SLUB Satish Sharma, Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, SMS Arun Khajuria, Resource Persons Rajeev Singh, Shishupal, Monika and other officers from the Agriculture Department.

Prominent women activists unite for change under leadership of Tara Chand

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: A meeting of prominent women activists from the Chhamb and Akhnoor assembly took place today demonstrating a formidable commitment to social justice and empowerment in the region. The gathering was spearheaded by the working president and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Tara Chand.

The meeting was graced by the chief guest, Shameema Raina, the J&K Mahila Congress president. Sharing insights on women's rights and community engagement, Smt. Raina emphasized the crucial role women play in shaping democratic processes and advocating for constitutional values. She stresses to women to strengthen the Congress party in constituency and booth levels in all assembly constituencies of Jammu. The



Mahila Congress works to empower women in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the session, Tara Chand rallied the women activists present, urging them to participate in the upcoming "Samvidhan Bachao Rally Yatra," scheduled for January 18th. The rally will commence at Satwari Chowk and conclude at Ambedkar Chowk, under the esteemed leadership of J&K Congress President Shri Tariq Hameed Kara Sahab. Sh Tara Chand conveyed that the rally aims to raise awareness about constitutional rights and encourage active civil

participation among women.

"Today, we stand at a pivotal moment where the power of women in democracy can no longer be understated," said Sh Tara Chand. "Together, we will march for our constitutional rights and voice concerns that affect our communities."

The meeting garnered enthusiastic support from the attendees, characterized by a resolute spirit of solidarity and determination. Women leaders voiced their commitment to once again proving that they are indispensable catalysts for positive

change in society. As the rally approaches, the unity and fervor among women of Chhamb and Akhnoor continue to grow, underscoring their unwavering commitment to ensuring justice, equality, and progress. All interested participants are encouraged to join this monumental event in remembrance of the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution.

Other prominent leaders who attended the rally include Praveena Akhtar, Adv. Tehseena Bukhari, Bachno Devi, Neelam Kumari, Kanta Devi, Sarfo Devi and others.

KDP Wing of DPAP demands return and rehabilitation with Special Packages

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: In a joint statement, the Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), led by its President Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, and others, called on the Government of India and the J&K Union Territory Government to devise a comprehensive resettlement and rehabilitation policy for displaced Kashmiri people.

The policy, they urged, must include special economic, employment, educational, and compensation packages in consultation with stakeholders who have endured 35 years of displacement in exile.

The leaders appealed to the displaced community to unite in their efforts to return to the valley, reconnecting with their lost culture, ancestral properties, birthplace, and even

cremation grounds. They also urged the majority community in the valley to join them in pressing the Central and UT Governments for the repatriation of displaced Kashmiri Hindus, emphasizing the restoration of the centuries-old harmonious culture of the region, often referred to as Reshiwari.

The statement further urged the elected UT Government, led by the Chief Minister, to prioritize the return and rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Hindus. The leaders expressed hope that the restoration of statehood to J&K would enable the community to regain their lost rights and foster a renewed sense of belonging in their homeland.

They called for a 60% quota for officials from the J&K cadre, arguing that such individuals have a deeper understanding of the region's geography and demographics compared to officials from other

states.

The leaders proposed conducting elections for reserved seats for displaced community members rather than nominating representatives from specific sections.

They suggested reserving two seats in each district of the valley for displaced Kashmiri Hindus in panchayat, local bodies, and municipal elections. Additionally, they advocated for one reserved seat for each displaced camp in Jammu, with provisions for establishing a panchayat or town area committee for each camp.

The leaders highlighted the poor living conditions in camps and stressed the need for regular monthly meetings with camp residents to address their grievances.

They also proposed for allocating leased land within camps for overaged, educated, and unemployed youth to establish businesses

and entrepreneurial ventures, supported by subsidized loans; and announcing a special recruitment policy for 20,000 posts, including the creation of five police battalions with relaxed eligibility norms.

Furthermore, they demanded the integration of Prime Minister's Package employees with UT Government employees, abolishing their supernumerary status. They noted that 23,700 posts left vacant by fleeing employees during the exodus were filled by valley residents, depriving displaced youth of employment opportunities.

The leaders appealed to all displaced political parties, social activists, and organizations to unite and fight for a one-time comprehensive resettlement and rehabilitation package. They urged collective efforts to restore the rights and dignity of the displaced community, ensuring their rightful place in the valley.

BCCI issues new policy guidelines for Team India to limit Travel, baggage, family visits

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued strict guidelines for the Senior Men's Cricket Team, aiming to enhance discipline, streamline logistics, and promote team unity during domestic and international tours.

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued strict guidelines for the Senior Men's Cricket Team, aiming to enhance discipline, streamline logistics, and promote team unity during domestic and international tours.

The new guidelines include travel, baggage limits, family visits, and team dynamics.

Players are expected to travel with the team for all matches and practice sessions. Separate travel arrangements with families are discouraged to maintain discipline and team cohesion. Any exceptions must be pre-approved by the head coach and chairman of the selection committee.

"All players are expected to travel with the team to and from matches and practice sessions. Separate travel arrangements with families are discouraged to maintain discipline and team cohesion. Exceptions, if any, must be pre-approved by the Head Coach and Chairman of the Selection Committee," BCCI stated.

To streamline logistics and avoid challenges, the BCCI has set specific baggage limits for players and support staff. For away tours lasting more than 30 days, players are allowed 5 pieces of luggage (3 suitcases and 2 kit bags) or up to 150 kg, while support staff can bring 3 pieces (2 large suitcases and 1 small) or up to 80 kg. For away tours shorter than 30 days, players are permitted 4 pieces (2 suitcases and 2 kit bags) or up to 120 kg, and support staff are allowed 2 pieces (2 suitcases) or up to 60 kg. During home series, both players and support staff are limited to 4 pieces (2 suitcases and 2 kit bags) or up to 120 kg for players, and 2 pieces (2 suitcases) or up to 60 kg for support staff.

"Excess Baggage Limit Players are required to adhere to the



specified baggage limits shared with the team. Any excess baggage costs will need to be borne by the individual player. This policy helps streamline logistics and avoid unnecessary expenses.

Baggage policy:-

Away long-duration tours (more than 30 days):

Players - 5 pieces (3 suitcases + 2 kit bags) OR upto 150 kgs. Support staff - 2 pieces (2 big + 1 small suitcases) OR upto 80 kgs.

Away short duration tours (less than 30 days):

Players - 4 pieces (2 suitcases + 2 kit bags) OR upto 120 kgs. Support staff - 2 pieces (2 suitcases) OR upto 60 kgs.

Home series:

Players - 4 pieces (2 suitcases + 2 kit bags) OR upto 120 kgs. Support staff - 2 pieces (2 suitcases) OR upto 60 kgs."

Players must adhere to these limits, with any excess baggage costs being borne individually.

The presence of personal staff, such as managers, chefs, assistants, and security personnel, is restricted on tours and series. Any exceptions require explicit approval from the BCCI. This measure aims to ensure team focus and minimize logistical complications.

"Restriction on Individual Staff on Tour/Series Personal staff (e.g., personal managers, chefs,

assistants and security) are to be restricted on tours or series unless explicitly approved by the BCCI. This ensures that the focus remains on team operations and minimizes logistical challenges. - this has to be done away with," BCCI said in a statement.

Players must coordinate with team management regarding the transfer of equipment or personal items to the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. All costs incurred due to separate arrangements will be the responsibility of the player.

"Sending bags separately to the Centre of Excellence Players must coordinate with team management regarding equipment and personal items being sent to the Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru. Any additional costs incurred due to separate arrangements will be the player's responsibility," BCCI stated.

The family travel policy is designed to balance players' personal well-being with team commitments. Players who are away from India for more than 45 days during overseas tours are eligible to have their partners and children (under 18) join them for one visit per series, with a maximum duration of two weeks. The BCCI will cover shared accommodation with the player during the visitors' period, while all other expenses

must be borne by the player. Visits should be coordinated to occur at a single time, with dates agreed upon by the coach, captain, and GM Operations. Any exceptions to this policy must be pre-approved by the coach, captain, and GM Operations, and additional expenses beyond the visitors' period will not be covered by the BCCI.

"Family Travel Policy The family travel policy ensures a balance between players' personal well-being and team commitments:

* Eligibility: Players absent from India for more than 45 days during overseas tours can be joined by their partners and children (under 18) for one visit per series (format-wise) of up to a two-week period.

* Provisions: The BCCI will cover shared accommodation with the player for the Visitors' Period. All other expenses are to be borne by the player.

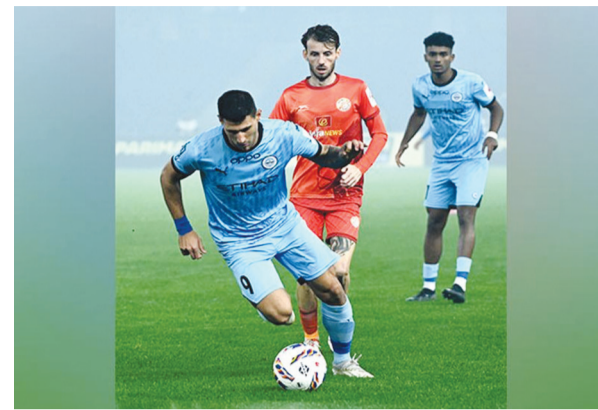
* Coordination: Visits must be scheduled at a single time during dates agreed upon by the Coach, Captain, and GM Operations.

* Exceptions: Any deviation from this policy must be pre-approved by the Coach, Captain and GM Operations. Additional expenses outside the visitors' period will not be covered by the BCCI.

Players are required to stay with the team until the scheduled end of a match series or tour, even if matches conclude earlier than planned. This ensures team unity, bonding, and consistent team dynamics.

"Players returning home if matches end early then players are required to stay with the team until the scheduled end of the match series or tour, regardless of whether matches conclude earlier than planned. This ensures unity, fosters team bonding, and avoids disruption to team dynamics," as stated in the policy by BCCI.

Karelis equaliser secures a point for Mumbai City FC, as Punjab FC's indifferent run continues after 1-1 draw



NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Punjab FC (PFC) and Mumbai City FC (MCFC) played a 1-1 draw at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25. The Islanders kept 60.8% of the possession, but Punjab FC took five shots on target as compared to the two of the visitors, as per ISL press release.

Mumbai City FC have gotten to 24 points, occupying the sixth spot, whereas the home team are eighth with 20 points, drawing twice and losing thrice in their last five encounters.

Mumbai City FC got the first real opportunity of the game in the 14th minute to get the lead, as attacking midfielder Brandon Fernandes served an impeccable corner kick from the right side. Instead of aiming to go deep inside the box, his delivery was targeted for Nikolaos Karelis in the near post, and the striker did well to get into an unmarked spot and adjust his position, but ended up hitting the bar with his effort.

Punjab FC had Luka Majcen break the deadlock in the added time of the first half. The

home team arguably surprised the Mumbai City FC defence by trying to hit them on a fast break. Luka Majcen rushed ahead down the centre, passing the ball to Asmir Suljic, who took two touches, burst forward and attempted a slick through ball back for Majcen. The striker picked up the ball and drilled it into the bottom right corner.

Mumbai City FC pulled the equaliser back in the 58th minute, producing a co-ordinated team effort initiating with Vikram Partap Singh bringing down a long ball on the right flank. Vikram worked his way in, before laying the ball behind for Yoell van Nieff. The midfielder took a couple of steps ahead, before passing to Karelis, who was at the edge of the box. The striker made a sharp turn, and hammered home on the bottom right corner to draw the scores level.

Eight minutes later, Jayesh Rane swung into the centre of attention, spotting Vikram outside the box with space in front. The attacker unleashed a shot that missed the right post by a whisker.

Punjab FC began

regaining rhythm soon afterwards, as Ezequiel Vidal and Nihal Sudheesh combined in the attacking third to cause troubles to the Mumbai City FC backline. Vidal trusted Nihal in the 74th minute at the centre of the box with a precise pass that the latter did well to target at the top right corner. The shot was saved by TP Rehenesh in time though.

Brandon was exemplary from another corner kick, merely five minutes later, as his cross met Mehtab Singh in the middle of the 18-yard area. Mehtab's headed effort had tremendous power but lacked direction, landing beyond the left side of the goal.

In the 87th minute, Mumbai City FC were absorbing pressure from a cohesive Punjab FC attack. They immediately broke on a counter-attack, but the entire move couldn't culminate in a neat finish in the end, as van Nieff took a left-footed long ranger shot from over 35 yards out, missing hitting the target by a fair margin, as both teams walked away with a point each from the game.

Karelis embraced a more concentrated role up front tonight. He didn't participate in build-up as much, completing eight out of his 12 attempted passes, making a tackle, and notching the all-important equaliser too.

Mumbai City FC will next play Mohammedan SC on January 26, whereas Punjab FC are set to square off against Jamshedpur FC on January 28.

Yuvraj Singh backs Rohit Sharma despite two consecutive Test series losses against New Zealand, Australia

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh backed India skipper Rohit Sharma's leadership skills despite two consecutive series losses against New Zealand and Australia in Tests at home and away respectively.

As a captain, Rohit has seen some embarrassing lows as of late. Just before the Test series against Australia, India lost their first home Test series in 12 years, to New Zealand by 0-3. This was also their first-ever white-wash in a home Test series of three matches or more.

"Gautam Gambhir needs to be given more time as he has just come into the system. Rohit won us the T20 World Cup and he was the captain when India reached the World Cup (ODI) final. Mumbai Indians won 5 IPLs under Rohit's captaincy. He stepped down in the last Test (of BGT) to give someone else the chance, how many captains have done that in the past? I look at what he has done in the last 3-5 years, one tournament can't decide. For me, the series defeat at home was more disappointing as India



losing 3-0 against New Zealand was tougher," Yuvraj Singh said during an event.

Rohit's captaincy has been a mix of memorable highs and some extremely disappointing lows. Be it a 10-match winning streak during the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup at home, which concluded with a loss to Australia in the final or India's redemption with an ICC T20 World Cup title win in 2024 at Barbados, Rohit's captaincy has given fans plenty of positives. Under him, the team also made it to the final of the ICC World Test Championship 2023, where they lost to Australia.

However, since the second half of 2024, luck seems to have

deserted the 'Hitman' both as a batter and captain. In the 2024/25 Test season which started with the home series against Bangladesh, Rohit scored just 164 runs in eight matches and 15 innings at an average of 10.93 with the best score of 52. During the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, he could make just 31 runs in three Tests with best score of 10. His form struggles were such that he opted out of the final Test at Sydney.

In the 2024 calendar year, Rohit lost six Tests, including four matches at home. This led to a decline in Rohit's Test record as captain, winning 12 and losing nine, while three ended in a draw.

Women's Ashes: Gardner, King shine as Australia sweep England in ODIs, take 6-0 lead

Ashleigh Gardner's maiden hundred and Alana King's 5-wicket haul helped Australia defeat England by 86 runs to win the 3rd ODI and sweep the series on Friday, January 17. Australia have taken a 6-0 lead in the Women's Ashes as England hope to hang by a thread.

HOBART, Jan 17 (Agencies): Australia moved within touching distance of retaining the Ashes after Ashleigh Gardner's maiden international century and Alana King's 5-wicket haul powered them to a dominant 86-run victory over England in Hobart. The win gives Australia a commanding 6-0 lead in the series, needing just two more points to secure retention.

Gardner's exceptional knock, a run-a-ball century, rescued Australia from a precarious spot as they were reduced to 59 for 4 after opting to bat first. Supported by Beth Mooney and Tahliia McGrath, Gardner turned the innings around. McGrath, under scrutiny for her recent form, delivered a timely 38-ball fifty, while Georgia Wareham, returning to the side, propelled Australia past 300 with a blistering late cameo.

England's chase began on shaky ground when Megan Schutt struck in the first over, dismissing Maia Bouchier. A sharper blow followed as captain Heather Knight edged behind



to Alyssa Healy. Tammy Beaumont and Nat Sciver-Brunt mounted a recovery with an 89-run stand, but the mounting required run-rate kept England under constant pressure. Beaumont brought up a gritty half-century before being bowled off her pads in Wareham's impactful first over, marking her ODI return since March.

Sciver-Brunt, as so often the backbone of England's batting, reached a 53-ball fifty but was undone by a skidding delivery from Wareham that crashed

into her stumps. England's hopes briefly flickered when Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Amy Jones struck four consecutive boundaries, but their momentum was snuffed out by a moment of brilliance. Wyatt-Hodge attempted an ambitious shot over the off-side, only for Phoebe Litchfield to sprint back from cover and execute a stunning diving catch over her shoulder.

From there, England collapsed, losing six wickets for just 22 runs. Alana King starred with the ball, claiming

a career-best 5 for 46, taking her tally to nine wickets in the last two matches. To cap a sensational day, Gardner also produced a remarkable boundary catch at deep midwicket, tossing the ball back over the rope before diving forward to complete the grab.

Gardner's century, only the second ODI ton ever scored from No. 6 or lower, was a masterclass in pacing an innings. Coming to the crease with Australia in trouble, she brought up her century in 100 balls, accelerating through the 90s with consecutive boundaries off Sciver-Brunt. Her partnership with McGrath, who joined her with Australia teetering at 154 for 5, was crucial. Together, they added valuable runs in what were the best batting conditions of the series. In the final 10 overs, Australia hammered 104 runs, showcasing their extraordinary batting depth.

The frenetic start to the match saw England burn both DRS reviews within four overs, though they successfully overturned

a call to dismiss Litchfield, who edged behind after a bright start. Ellyse Perry's dismissal soon after, caught flicking to short fine leg, and a lean series for Annabel Sutherland, who fell cheaply again, left Australia in trouble.

However, Gardner's counter-attack, including a towering six off Sophie Ecclestone, steadied the innings before McGrath and Wareham added the finishing touches. Ecclestone, England's key spinner, endured a torrid outing, conceding 17 runs in the final over to record the second-most expensive figures of her ODI career—three of her worst outings now coming against Australia.

For England, the task of chasing over 300 required a performance akin to Gardner's brilliance, but no batter could replicate her controlled aggression. With this win, Australia inches closer to retaining the Ashes, leaving England needing victories in all three T20Is and the Test match to regain the trophy for the first time since 2014.

Sat participates in Special Abhishek ceremony at Tirupati Balaji Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: BJP State President for Jammu and Kashmir UT, Sat Sharma, along with Ramesh Babu (office subordinate), Pattabi Reddy, Varinder Gupta, and Vishal Chopra (spokesperson for DPAP Party, Jammu and Kashmir), paid obeisance at the Tirupati Balaji Temple, Jammu.

The leaders participated in the special Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara and prayed for the welfare of the country.

The Abhishek ceremony, a significant



ritual dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, is performed every Friday at the temple. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma expressed his joy and pride over the establishment of the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu. He described

the temple as a symbol of South Indian culture in the region, offering a heavenly experience to devotees. He also appealed to the public to visit the temple and seek blessings, emphasizing that the dedication of the temple would

boost spiritual tourism in Jammu.

Ramesh Babu, the temple superintendent, also spoke during the ceremony. He appealed to the Transport Commissioner to initiate a bus service to the temple to facilitate easy access

for devotees. He further suggested starting a Bharat Darshan bus service, which would promote the temple among tourists and highlight its cultural significance.

The event was attended by several other dignitaries, including Vivek Gupta, Pandit Neeraj Shukla, and Ravi Tej Pandit, who actively participated in the ceremonies.

The Tirupati Balaji Temple continues to be a hub of spiritual and cultural integration, attracting devotees from across the region and beyond.

CRC Jammu organises Cervical Cancer Awareness Program at Jammu College of Physiotherapy

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu, under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized a Cervical Cancer Awareness Program at Jammu College of Physiotherapy.

The event featured an informative lecture delivered by Dr. Devedika Padha and Manisha Yadav, faculty members from CRC.

The primary objective of the program was to raise awareness among women about cervical cancer and emphasize the importance of its early detection.

The program witnessed the participation of faculty members and students from various professional streams.

Dr. Navinderpal, Principal of the college, extended heartfelt gratitude to CRC, Jammu, for conducting the awareness program. He also expressed appreciation for Dr. Rohnika

Sharma, Director of CRC, Jammu, for her pivotal role in organizing the initiative.

In his address, Dr. Singh thanked the college management, particularly Chairperson Suman Sharma, for their unwavering support and encouragement of such impactful activities.

This awareness initiative marks a significant step towards educating the female population about cervical cancer prevention and fostering a proactive approach to health.

Appoint chairman, other members of 8th Pay Commission: NMC urges PM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) president, Subash Shastri on Friday urged upon PM Modi to immediately appoint chairman and other members of 8th Pay Commission, constitution of which was approved by the Union Cabinet and described it a welcome step for the salaried class and pensioners.

"Since the due date for implementation of 8th Pay Commission is 1st January 2026, it is hoped that the commission will complete its report within the given time frame, so that the benefits of 8th Pay Commission could reach the beneficiaries from January 2026" Shastri added.

Addressing a meeting of NMC workers, Shastri said that notification for the appointment of Chairman and other member of the 8th Pay Commission is need of the hour.

Referring to the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations implemented in 2016, Shastri highlighted the provision to merge 50 per cent DA into basic pay or pension once DA crosses 50 per cent.

He said: "With DA now at 53 per cent, we request the Government to merge

50 per cent DA into basic pay or pension."

The NMC leader also demanded 20 per cent interim relief for Centre and State Government employees and pensioners till the implementation of the 8th Pay Commission.

Shastri stressed on the need to immediately restore Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as a confidence building measure because many States have done this. Release of 18 months' pending DA arrears and regularization of daily wagers who have completed seven years of service in March, 2024 remained other demands, along with the demand of hike in monthly emoluments to Rs. 18,000 and enhancement of medical allowance to Rs. 1000 per month on the pattern of Ladakh.

Shastri also has urged CM Omar Abdullah to announce the release of pending 3 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) instalment due from July this year added that other States have already released 3 per cent DA instalment.

Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ram Singh, Ramesh Sharma, Anil Gupta, Chaman Lal, Birbal, Ex-Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh, Subash Sharma and Ram Lal Sharma were also present in the meeting.

Book on Dogri Sahitya Academy Awardees hit market

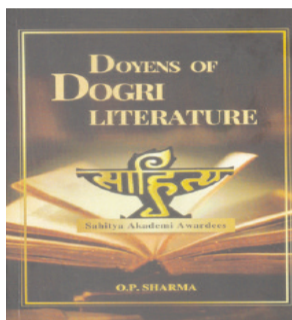
Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The first-ever book in English entitled "Doyens of Dogri Literature" highlighting all the 50 Sahitya Akademi Awardees in Dogri has hit the market.

This over 200 pages book has been authorised by O.P Sharma, eminent journalist and writer, and published by Starline Syndicate Service, Jammu carries brief biographical sketch of each literary luminaries and showcases their contribution to the Dogri language and its literature.

The prominent Dogri writers who have received the coveted Sahitya Akademi Award includes Prof. Ram Nath Shastri, Padma Sachdev, Kehri Singh 'Madhukar', Dinoo Bhai Pant, Krishen Smailpuri, Kunwar Viyogi, Dr. Jitendra Udhamपुरi, Ved Rahi, Om Goswami, Mohan Singh, Yash Sharma, Abhisap, Darshan Darshi, Deen Bandhu, Om Vidyarthi, Shiv Nath, Champa Sharma, Lalit Magotra, Shailinder Singh, Shiv Menta, Inderjeet Kesar, Veena Gupta, Vijay Verma and others who begged this prestigious honour.

It may be mentioned



that the book begins with the Rigveda Shloka: "Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions." Significantly, it has been dedicated to: Universal mankind, Dogri writers and readers. It may be recorded that the Dogri language has been included in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution and is proudly now one of the languages of the Indian literature. As per NEP-2000, the mother tongue including the Dogri has been given due importance. As Dogri is our identity as also pride and so it has to be projected and promoted in all our educational institutions, at all levels and popularized as people's language.

Worthwhile to note that the Dogri language is on upswing with more and more books being published or translations of other classical works being brought out by our young and talented Dogri writers/poets.

Some institutions like Sahitya Akademi (New Delhi), J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Radio and Doordarshan stations, J&K Information and PR Department and others are contributing in encouraging the growth and development of the Dogri language.

In addition, some other organizations like Dogri Sanstha, Nami Dogri Sanstha, Duggar Manch; dramatic clubs like Natrang, Samooh Theatre; as also Senior Citizens Support System Club, Chowadi and many other voluntary bodies are lending their support in promotion of the Dogri language and its literature. This book is available at Rs. 700/- from starline.syndicate.service@gmail.com.

It is note-worthy that this book in English contains messages from prominent luminaries like Dr. Karan Singh, Prof. Umesh Rai (V.C. Jammu University), Dr.

Sudhir S. Bloeria (ex. VC Jammu Central University), K.B. Jandial IAS (retd.) Dr. Kasturi Lal (ex. Principal, GMC and chairman, Senior Citizen Support System Club); Neeraj Rohmetra (Executive Editor of Daily Excelsior), Prof. Lalit Mangotra (President - Dogri Sanstha), Capt. Lalit Kumar Sharma, IFS (convener - Nami Dogri Sanstha), Major Gen. Govardhan Singh Jamwal, Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma, and Padma Shree Dr. Jitendra Udhamपुरi.

This book has been printed on a fine paper with quality printing and carries many coloured-photographs, which add to the get-up of this valuable volume. It is

outcome of much hard work, in-depth interviews and deep study of records. It is expected that this book will ignite interest of the wide readership and lead to further research work by the academicians and scholars so that the Dogri language attains its due high status like other Indian regional languages.

It is hoped that the common readers will find this book "Doyens of Dogri Literature" will be read by one and all as also kept in the educational libraries and even adorn on the personal library shelves so that our mother tongue Dogri goes apace.

Govt's decision to constitute 8th Pay Commission hailed

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 17: Large number of Ex-servicemen who converged at Kanshalian here on Friday, hailed the Centre's approval to constituting 8th Pay Commission, saying it reflects the government's commitment towards welfare of employees and pensioners.

This came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved setting up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and



allowances of 65 lakh pensioners.

"This shows the commitment of the government of India, Bhartiya Janata Party activists: Hony Captain Kamal Dass, Hans Raj Loria and Rattan Lal Kaith

said. Prominent among the ex-servicemen present on the occasion, included Subedar Major Ram Paul (Retd), Subedar Kaku Ram (Retd), Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar (Retd) and Havildar Des Raj (Retd).

JKECC postpones protest after talks with administration

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Employees Coordination Committee (JKECC) has postponed its today's planned protest after the administration assured that their issues would be taken up with the government.

A representative of the committee in a press

conference said they have decided to give the government 15 days to address their concerns.


"We will hold talks with the administration during this period and assess the progress made on our demands," the representative said.

The employees are demanding the release of GP fund arrears and a

hike in Dearness Allowance (DA).

On January 16, the employees staged a protest to press for their demands, but it was foiled by the police.

The committee has warned that if their demands are not met within the stipulated time, they will then decide future course of action.



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