

TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT | 6

NATIONAL | 7

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Vaishali Arora talks about the show Udne Ki Aasha



EC used power of technology to strengthen people's power: Modi

Netanyahu warns again that Gaza ceasefire will not begin until Hamas provides hostage list



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-19 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

LG Manoj Sinha greets NDRF on its raising day

JAMMU, Jan 19 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended heartfelt greetings to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on its Raising Day. He lauded the brave hearts of NDRF for their unwavering commitment to saving lives and providing relief during times of distress.

In his message, LG Sinha praised the NDRF personnel for their outstanding efforts and professionalism.

In a Post on X, Sinha wrote, "Greetings to all NDRF personnel on @NDRFHQ Raising Day. The brave hearts of NDRF stand at the forefront, saving lives & providing relief during times of distress with their outstanding efforts & professionalism. I salute their courage, commitment & selfless service to the nation."

MeT predicts Rain, Snow from Monday in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar predicted three-day wet weather from Monday with rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The MeT office said the weather will remain dry over the plains with the possibility of light rain or snow over the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

During January 20 and 21 there is a possibility of light snow at isolated to scattered places while light rain over the plains of Jammu and on January 22 there is a possibility of light to moderate rain over the plains of Jammu and snow at many places of Jammu and Kashmir, it said.

Higher reaches of Chenab valley and Pir Panjal Range may also receive light to moderate snow.

Another spell of light to moderate rain over the plains of Jammu and snow at many places of Jammu and Kashmir is expected on January 23.

The night temperature rose at many weather stations but recorded below freezing point in Kashmir valley.

Srinagar had a low of -1°C recorded during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday and this was 1.0°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. ■ Turn to page 9

Train To Kashmir: 22-Bogie Train's Trial Run Successful On Katra-Srinagar Line

JAMMU, Jan 19 (Agencies): The trial run on the Katra-Budgam railway track of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) was completed on Sunday as the 18-coach trial train started at 8 a.m. from Katra railway station towards Kashmir.

"The trial 22-coach train has reached Budgam now and this completes the final trial run on the USBRL", officials of the railway monitoring the trial run said here.

The ambitious USBRL was completed for Rs 41,000 crore. The track covers 326 Km out of which 111 Km section is in tunnels with the T-49 tunnel being 12.77 Km long, which is the longest railway tunnel in the country.

Indian Railways has made the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.



The iconic Chenab Bridge is 1,315m long having an arch span of 467m and a height of 359m above the river bed. The Chenab Rail Bridge is a steel and concrete arch bridge carrying a single-track railway line, located between Bakhal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu Division.

The bridge spans the Chenab River at a height of 359 m (1,178 ft) above the river, making it the world's highest rail bridge and the world's highest arch. It is built between the Sangaldan Railway Station and the

Reasi Railway Station. Indian Railways has also built its first cable-stayed bridge over the Anji Khad. This bridge features a deck 331 meters above the riverbed and a main pylon height of 193 meters. Perched over the Anji Khad river that swells every monsoon season, the bridge is supported by a single pylon, a large vertical tower-like structure soaring 1,086 feet from the river bed similar to the height of a 77-storey building.

Surrounded on both sides by mountain peaks, the construction

site is subject to billowing, and gusty winds. The entire USBRL is the most challenging task completed successfully by the Indian Railways. It is probably the most challenging rail link ever built in the world over such a long distance between treacherous mountains, rivers and difficult topography and weather.

The USBRL will boost the horticulture, agriculture, tourism, trade, and education of students and also make travel easy and affordable for the average citizen between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

This project is also one of the most powerful infrastructures integrating J&K with other parts of the country. The Vande Bharat train will chug between Katra and Baramulla the day the inauguration is done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the final date of the inauguration is yet to be officially announced.

Army deploys Black Hornet Nano Drone to Boost Border Security in J&K



SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): The Indian Army has added the Black Hornet Nano drone to its fleet, a tiny

yet advanced surveillance tool aimed at enhancing border security, especially along the sensitive areas near

Pakistan. The drone, which was showcased during the 9th Veterans Day event at the Tanda Artillery Division in Akhnour, Jammu, is designed to help thwart infiltration attempts and keep a close watch on enemy movements.

Weighing only 18 grams and measuring just 16 cm in length and 2.5 cm in width, the Black Hornet Nano is one of the smallest military drones in use today. ■ Turn to page 9

Mortar Shell found near IB in Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, Jan 19 (Agencies): A rusted 82-mm mortar shell was recovered on Sunday by the Border Security Force (BSF) near the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.



The mortar shell was noticed by a BSF patrolling party near Border Outpost Kamour area in Ramgarh sub-sector around 9.45 am, the officials said.

The area was immediately cordoned off and the explosive device is being safely defused.

Jammu Tawi Railway Station gets Rs 450 crore facelift ahead of Kashmir train launch



JAMMU /SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): As the long-awaited train connection between Kashmir and Kanyakumari inches closer to reality, Northern Railway has announced plans to invest approximately Rs 450 Crore in the modernisation and redevelopment of Jammu Tawi Railway Station.

According to details, the project aims to enhance passenger experience, improve

connectivity, and boost operational efficiency, aligning the station with modern infrastructure standards.

An official revealed that the commissioning of the remodelled Jammu Tawi yard is scheduled for March 6, 2025. "With yard remodelling nearing completion, the remaining non-interlocking work is progressing rapidly," the official said. He described the yard remodelling as a

challenging yet crucial component of the station's redevelopment, which will enable further infrastructure enhancements.

The number of platforms will increase from three to seven, with the addition of four new platforms featuring state-of-the-art ballast less track technology. Enhanced hygiene will be ensured with washable aprons on all platforms, creating a cleaner ■ Turn to page 9

Cyclists On Kashmir-Kanyakumari Expedition For Pollution-Free India Leave Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 19 (Agencies): Five cyclists from Mumbai, who have started a Kashmir to Kanyakumari expedition, to spread the message of a "pollution-free India" left Jammu Sunday morning, expressing happiness they were able to cycle on snow.

Jammu Zone Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain received the cyclists — aged between 54 to 67 years — before flagging them off with good



wishes for their onward journey during which they plan to cover 4080 kms in 40 days.

Satish Jadhav (67), Mangal Bhanushali (64),

Manoj Chougule (62) Jitendra Jain (56) and Jayanti Gala (54) started their expedition from Lal Chowk, the nerve ■ Turn to page 9

Government Of India Certified Course

249 Days

SPOKEN ENGLISH LIVE COURSE

Different batches for School/College Students & Professionals

Your journey to Fluency Starts Here— Speak Confidently, Dream Bigger

Rs. 249/- Only

ENGLISH

You Will Learn:

- Fluently express yourself in English conversations.
- Master public speaking and presentation skills.
- Enhance your vocabulary effortlessly.
- Build confidence for seminars, webinars, and interviews.

Trainer holds 13 years of experience

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

249 Days of Learning

79 LIVE Classes

3 Sessions Per Week

Book Your Spot:

7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

www.studykosh.com

REGISTER NOW

Link in Description

SCAN QR CODE TO PAY

STUDY KOSH
studykosh595@fb

5TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Smt. Shobha Sharma

Owned and Managed Femina Collections for 25+ years (Trikuta Nagar) 5 years have passed, yet the emptiness is still as profound. We miss you in ways words can't capture -- Your smile, unwavering strength, and boundless kindness continue to fill our hearts and guide our lives. Every day without you is incomplete, and we long for the comfort of your presence. While the pain remains, the love you gave and the memories we carry will forever guide us. Always in our hearts, shaping our lives in ways that will never fade.

Deeply and Always Missed by:

Your Daughters
Son-in-Law and Elder Daughter
Kushagra Kalra and Mayuri (Rinki)
Manika (Anshi) - Younger Daughter
Sh. Vinay Sharma (Brother-in-law) & Family
All Near and Dear Ones
+91-9654352249, +91-9149181929



Late Smt. Shobha Sharma

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

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

4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

You may not be with us in close proximity but in our hearts you are, like you had always been and forever and ever will be.

FROM All Family Members



JASWANTA KOUR NAI BASTI

BARKHI

One year has passed since you left all of us in tears but your love, wisdom & kindness continue to guide us everyday. Your presence is deeply missed but your legacy remains eternal.

BARKHI of our beloved **Late Smt. Sharda Devi** W/o Shri Gopal Dass R/o H.No. 21, South Extn. 1-B, Trikuta Nagar (Menia Mohalla) Jammu will be performed at our residence on 20th January 2025 (Monday) at 12 Noon.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:

Gopal Dass - Husband
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Santosh Kumar & Rimpi Devi
Sandeep Kumar & Alka
Nishvit & Devansh - Grandsons
ALL FAMILY MEMBERS & RELATIVES
Mob. 9419254845, 8716094872, 8716948739



Late Smt. Sharda Devi

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. BRIJ NATH BHAT** S/o Lt. Sh. SARVANAND BHAT originally from Ichgam Budgam Kashmir and presently at 140-Shiva Colony, Kunjwani, Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 21/01/2025 at Thalwal Badrakali Mandir Mandal Jammu and **Assembly** will be held at our residence at 140-Shiva Colony, Kunjwani Bye pass Jammu at 11:00 a.m.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Mohni Bhat (Wife)
Brother & Sister in Law
Sh. Dwarka Nath Bhat & Smt. Jaskishori Bhat
Sons & Daughter in laws
Sh. Hira Lal Bhat & Smt. Jaikishori Bhat
Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat & Smt. Jeeta Bhat
Sh. Ravinder Kumar Bhat & Smt. Veena Bhat
GRAND CHILDREN:
Rakesh & Sujata, Simpy & Rahul, Rohit & Apoorva, Neha & Varun, Ashish & Omika and **All Great Grand Children**
Mobile Number: 7006943295, 9419283290, 7006199022



Sh. BRIJ NATH BHAT

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGARI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Bhushan Kumari** wife of Late Sh. Mool Chand Gupta R/o Ward No. 13, House No. 21 Near City High School (Boys) Lambi Gali Udhampur on 12 Jan 2025. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 21 Jan 2025 (Tuesday) From 11.30 AM To 12.30 PM at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony Udhampur.

KRIYA shall be performed on 24th January (Friday) at our residence **Rasam Pagari** shall be held at our residence on 24 January (Friday) at 4 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Anil Gupta & Smt Rajni Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh Sunil Gupta & Smt Superna Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh Pawan Gupta & Smt Renu Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh Arun Gupta & Smt Pratibha Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)
Smt Anita Gupta & Sh Jugal Kishore Gupta (Daughter & Son in law)
Ph. no.: 9086141006, 9419160614, 9419159350, 9419160263, 9622087081
MS Goverdhan Food Agencies
MS Sangeet Palace
MS JKCN Media
MS Shivalk Cable TV Network
MS JK Right Now



Smt. Bhushan Kumari

KRIYA / UTHALA

WITH DEEP GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. NEENA JAMWAL** W/O TH. ANCHAL SINGH JAMWAL, WHO LEFT FOR BRIGHTER WORLD ON 7TH OF JANUARY.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE, SARASWATI MARKET, PATEL BAZAR, PURANI MANDI, JAMMU AT 12.00 NOON ON SUNDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2025.

RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MAHAJAN HALL, JAMMU FROM 4 TO 5 PM ON MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

TH. ANCHAL SINGH JAMWAL RETD. J&K POLICE (PROSECUTION BR.) (HUSBAND)
DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
SMT. URVASHI AND BRIG V. S SLATHIA
SMT. VANDANA AND SH. NEERAJ JAMWAL (COMDT) - **DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**
SMT. MANJULA AND COL DHEERAJ JAMWAL - **DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**
SMT. RUPALI AND SH. RAHUL JAMWAL - **DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON**
SMT. SHUBANGINI AND SH. TAPAS SONI - **GRAND DAUGHTER AND SON -IN-LAW**
GRAND DAUGHTERS : TRYAMBICA, SUCHITA, ANAMAYA, NIAGHA, OMISHA
GRAND SON : NIDDYAAAT
PH. 9419186250, 9469130509



Smt. NEENA JAMWAL

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 Chhotala/Changpo, Srinagar presently residing at 94/10 Mohi 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 o'clock near 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: 9892032141



Smt. Shanta Sumbli

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

We regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sneh Abrol** W/o Sh. Darshan Lal Abrol, who left for heavenly abode on Friday 10th Jan 2025.

10TH DAY will be performed at Aap Shambu Mandir Upper Roop Nagar at 11:00 AM on 19th Jan 2025.

KRIYA will be performed at our residence 349/2 Upper Roop Nagar near Ram Vatika Park at 12:00 Noon on 22nd Jan 2025 Wednesday. Followed by **UTHALA** at Aap Shambu Mandir Upper Roop Nagar 4:00 PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Darshan Lal Abrol - Husband (Retd Jammu University Physics Deptt)
Mrs. Patsik & Mr. Arjun Abrol - Daughter in Law & Son
Mrs. Komal & Mr. Vikal Gaid - Daughter & Son in Law
Smt. Pooja & Sh. Pansholam Lal Abrol - Devarani & Devar
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Inder Parash Abrol - Devarani & Devar
Smt. Krishna W/o Lt. Ramesh Abrol - Sister in Law
Smt. Vijay Kapla & Sh. Ravinder Kapla - Sister & Brother in Law
Grand Children: Ashish Gaid, Trishika Abrol
All Abrol, Kesar, Gaid & Bhardwaj Family
MOBILE NO: 7006343399, 9419286190



Smt Sneh Abrol

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **10th Day Kriya** of our beloved **Smt. Vijay Devi (Tathee)** W/o Maharaj Krishan Raina, R/o Akura Anantnag Kmr A/P Model Town Gangyal, Jammu, who left all of us untimely on 12-01-2025 for her heavenly abode journey, shall be held on 21-01-2025 at 06:00 AM at Bhader Ghat, Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan, Thalwal Jammu.

The **Assembly** for paying our respect and offering prayers for the departed soul's liberation, after kriya shall be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 21-01-2025 at 10:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Raina, Bhat and Pandita families



SMT. VIJAY DEVI (TATHEE)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the sad demise of our beloved son **Shivankar Jamwal (Chinu)** S/o Jatinder Singh Jamwal & Anita Jamwal on 11th January 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Kali Mata Mandir, Opp. A G Office Shakti Nagar on Monday 20th January at 12.00 Noon after Assembling at our residence H.No. 800, Subash Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu at 9.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Pushpa Jamwal - Grand Mother
Oshin Jamwal : Wife
Myra Jamwal : Daughter
Davinder Singh & Lata Jamwal : Taya Ji & Tayi Ji
Deepankar & Waibha Jamwal - Brother & Bhabhi
Manik & Manisha Sambyal : Brother & Bhabhi
Swati & Chetan : Sister & Brother-in-law
Bua Ji and Fufa Ji, Mausa Ji & Massi Ji, Brothers & Sisters and All Jamwal Family
IN LAWS
Kewal Krishan Dutta & Rekha Rani : Father & Mother-in-law
Ishan Dutta & Anuj Dutta : Brother-in-law
Anamika Dutta : Sister-in-law
And All Dutta Family
Mob.: 7889405005, 9419966198, 9086051525



Shivankar Jamwal (Chinu)

17TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

17 years have passed, but your absence still leaves a space no one can fill. Your wisdom, unwavering love, and the strength continues to shape our each step. In moments of triumph, it's your pride; in times of struggle, your guidance echoes. Though you are no longer here in matter, your spirit is woven into everything we do. The lessons you taught us and the love you shared remain our guiding light, forever a part of who we are.

DEEPLY AND ALWAYS MISSED BY:

Your Daughters
Son -In Law and Elder Daughter
Kushagra Kalra and Mayuri (Rinki) -
Manika (Anshi) - Younger Daughter
Sh. Vinay Sharma (Brother) & Family
All near and dear ones
+91-9654352249, +91-9149181929



Late Shri. Vijay Kumar Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Uncle **Sh Narman Nath Bhat** S/o Late Maheshwar Bhat of Rahmoo, Pulwama A/P H.No. 20, Aman Vihar, Govind Nagar, Behind Gurudwara Tehsil Road Talab Tillo Jammu on 15.01.2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24.01.2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and **Assembly** at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 12.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sheela Bhat
Shuban Krishan Bhat & Rajni Bhat
Vikas Bhat and Madhu Bhat
Mob: 9444146473, 7358630166



Sh Narman Nath Bhat

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

Deputy Chief Minister reviews progress on Capex works in Nowshera



Underlining the significance of responsive governance, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to address public grievances at their doorsteps. He also called for strict implementation of the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) at the grassroots level, ensuring transparency and accountability in service delivery.

The Deputy Chief Minister further urged the officers to maintain a proactive approach in resolving issues faced by the public. He stressed the need for effective coordination among various departments for seamless execution of projects.

Top News Report

NOWSHERA (RAJOURI), Jan 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of ongoing works under the District Capex

Budget here. The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, ACD, Vijay Verma along with other district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister issued clear direc-

tives to expedite completion of all ongoing developmental works, ensuring adherence to quality standards. He emphasised the importance of timely project execution to meet the expectations of public and enhance the district's infrastruc-

Dy CM visits Sunderbani fire victims, assures help



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited the fire incident victims at Sunderbani and assured them complete support.

The Dy CM was accompanied by MLA Sunderbani, Randhir

Singh and other senior officers of local administration.

While interacting with the fire sufferers, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that the government will provide adequate compensation to them. He directed the officers to prepare a comprehensive damage assessment report as early as possible.

Gunshots heard during CASO in north Kashmir's Sopore

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Gunshots were heard during cordon and search operation in Gujarpoti Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday.

Quoting a top police officer the news agency JKNS reported that on a specific input, a cordon and search operation was launched in Gujarpoti Sopore area by contingents of police and army on Sunday afternoon.

He said that during searches, some gunshots were heard following which cordon layer was tightened around the suspected area.

The search operation is underway in the area, the officer said.

National Road Safety Month

Transport Commissioner flags off Students Rally



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 19: As part of ongoing National Road Safety Month, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, participated in a series of events in Anantnag aimed at enhancing road safety awareness.

The event featured flagging-off students rally with an aim to spread the message of road safety across the district and built a sense of responsibility in inculcating traffic rules right from minorhood.

In addition, the Transport Commissioner inaugurated a special road safety campaign by pasting stickers depicting crucial road safety measure messages on vehicles. These stickers highlighted essential practices such as wearing seat belts, adhering to speed limits, avoiding distractions and other measures to promote

responsible driving on roads. There were major eye-catching stickers bearing powerful messages such as "Think of Them: Drive Safe for Those Who Love You," "Slow Down: Someone Loves You," and "Drive Safe: Save Lives, Your Family Awaits" pasted on windshield.

Speaking at the event, Vishesh Paul Mahajan underscored the critical importance of road safety and called for collective efforts to reduce road accidents and fatalities. He emphasised the role of society, media in fostering a culture of safe driving behaviour and urged all stakeholders to contribute towards this mission.

The initiative also saw active involvement from local drivers, youth and community members. This initiative is part of a larger campaign to mitigate road accidents and promote a culture of

safety in Jammu and Kashmir. Later, the Transport Commissioner visited the proposed land for construction of office cum driving test track at Zudder.

The Transport Commissioner further reiterated that applicants should use their mobile phone as an agent to avail 54 available online services and not to fall prey to touts. Our department is committed to safeguard the interests of public in general and transporters in particular, he added.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan Rasool, reiterated departments commitment towards reducing accidents on roads and utilising every resource available to prevail a sense of safety on roads.

Later, ARTO Anantnag held a pledge ceremony among minor students for not taking control of vehicles before age of 18 or before becoming eligible for driving licences.

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre organises free health camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: The Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre in Udheywala, Jammu, organized a one-day free health camp. The camp featured Dr. Neera Singh, Pediatrician and Dr. Jaspreet Singh, Endocrinologist.

The health camp provided a comprehensive range of free medical services, including consultations with Dermatologist, Gynaecologist, Dental Surgeons, Ophthalmologist, Allopathy Physicians and Physiotherapist.

In addition to the free consultations, the camp offered check-ups for blood sugar, HbA1c, and blood pressure at no cost. A Full Body Check-up covering 66 parameters, including CBC, LFT, KFT, Lipid profile, BSF, Urine tests, and thyroid function tests (T3, T4, TSH), was available for a nominal fee of Rs. 1000, a substantial discount from the usual price of Rs. 1400.

A total 203 of patients



benefited from the expertise of 12 doctors at this camp. Blood sugar, HbA1c and Spirometry tests were done free of cost.

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Center, Udheywala, Jammu, in collaboration with the Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Jammu, organised Free Swarnaprashan Camp for children in the age group of 6 months to 16 years. The camp provided the traditional Ayurvedic immunization, Swarnaprashan, renowned for its potential to enhance immuni-

ty and promote overall well-being in children. Along with Swami Yajnadhara, Secretary, Dr. Jatinder Kour were present.

Distinguished guests including Shri Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North graced the event with his presence. He praised the Mission's commendable work and encouraged local citizens to make the most of these medical services.

Swami Yajnadhara, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, highlighted

the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly.

For other information contact us on number 9596984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

Website: <http://jammu.gov.in>
eMail: dcofficejammu@gmail.com

Ph: +91 191 2544366
Fax: +91 191 2546223
24X7 Helpline: 1077

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JAMMU
Wazarat Road Jammu-180001 (J&K)-India

NOTICE

This is for the information of the General Public DPs of PoJK (Displaced Persons 1965/1971) that 06 number of files/cases received by this office for One Time Settlement (OTS) have been scrutinized by the District Level Screening & Approval Committee from S.No. 4215 to 4220 uploaded on District Website for inviting objections by the non-applicants.

Objection/queries if any in said cases be furnished to this office within 10 days from the date of publication of the notice in the office of the concerned Tehsildar or through email at eoc.dcjammu@gmail.com.

DIP/J-9278/24

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, JKAS
Assistant Commissioner (Revenue)
Jammu

No: DCJ/DPs/2024-25/ 184-86
Dated: 16 .01.2025

FORMAT FOR RELEASE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, GO TO THE DISPLACED PERSONS OF POJK (1947) & CHHAMB (1965 & 1971) LIVING IN J&K B. CASES WHERE ORIGINAL BENEFICIARY IS ALIVE

S.NO	Full Name In English	Name Of Original Beneficiary	Gender	Address Line 1	District	State	Country	Scheme Specific ID	Center Share Payment Amount	State Share Payment Amount
983	DEPUTY SINGH SO KOR SINGH	DEPUTY SINGH SO KOR SINGH	M	RAKH DHOK	JAMMU	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	INDIA	JOURIAN/JMU/1971/ NC/1388/2016-17/4215	549692	

It is certified that the above beneficiaries are eligible to receive the relief as shown in the table under the "Scheme Central Assistance for one time settlement of displaced families from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Chhamb under Prime Minister's Development Package-2015 for J&K", approval of which was conveyed to the State Govt. of J&K by Govt. of India vide MHA's letter no. 31/01/2011-R&SO dated: 22-12-2016.

Artificial INTELLIGENCE Complete Course

AI market projected to reach \$17 billion by 2027

AI is the highest paid sector across the globe

Anybody Can Become An Expert

Make Your Career In A Rapidly Growing Sector

Course Designed By: IIT ALUMNI & INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Opportunity to Work on 10 LIVE PROJECTS

For: Earn & Learn Opportunity

- Python
- Data Science
- Machine Learning
- R Programming
- Probability & Advanced Statistics
- Deep Learning
- AI Tools & Framework

LIVE Classes

Rs. 500/- Per Month

7067312888, 7067871871, 7067313888

www.studykosh.com

EDITORIAL

Strengthening
Laws for Social
Media

The digital revolution has transformed the way people connect, communicate, and consume information. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, alongside Over-The-Top (OTT) streaming services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+ Hotstar, have become integral to everyday life. While these platforms empower users with a voice and offer diverse entertainment, they also present numerous challenges, including misinformation, hate speech, privacy breaches, and cultural insensitivity. Strengthening laws to govern these platforms is crucial to ensure responsible use, safeguard public interests, and maintain societal harmony.

One of the most pressing issues with social media is the rampant spread of misinformation and fake news. Unverified content, often propagated by bots or anonymous accounts, can incite violence, manipulate public opinion, and cause panic during crises. Additionally, platforms are frequently misused for cyberbullying, harassment, and hate speech, particularly targeting women, children, and marginalized communities. Current legal frameworks often fall short of offering swift and effective solutions to these challenges, leaving victims vulnerable.

Another significant concern is the lack of robust data privacy measures. Social media platforms collect vast amounts of user data, often without transparent consent mechanisms. This raises serious privacy and security issues, as data breaches and unauthorized access expose users to exploitation. Moreover, unregulated advertisements on these platforms exploit consumers with misleading claims, undermining trust and safety.

OTT platforms, on the other hand, face criticism for their lack of content regulation. While they have revolutionized entertainment with diverse offerings, many argue that some content promotes obscenity, violence, and themes unsuitable for certain audiences. These platforms often ignore cultural sensitivities, leading to controversies over content perceived as disrespectful to traditions and societal norms. Furthermore, piracy and copyright violations remain significant issues, with creators suffering substantial revenue losses.

To address these challenges, several measures can be taken. For social media, laws must mandate real-time fact-checking mechanisms to combat misinformation and require platforms to verify user identities. Stricter penalties should be imposed on platforms failing to remove flagged harmful content within a specified timeframe. Comprehensive data protection laws are also necessary to regulate how platforms collect, store, and share user data, ensuring transparency and accountability.

For OTT platforms, establishing a certification framework akin to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is essential to categorize content based on audience suitability. Age verification mechanisms should be introduced to prevent minors from accessing explicit material. Platforms should also form cultural sensitivity review boards to pre-screen content, minimizing potential controversies. To combat piracy, anti-piracy laws and digital rights management technologies must be strengthened.

Balancing regulation with freedom is equally important. Overregulation risks stifling creativity, innovation, and freedom of expression, which are critical in a democratic society. Collaborative efforts between governments, platform operators, civil society, and users are vital to create balanced laws that protect public interests without infringing on individual rights.

Strengthened laws governing social media and OTT platforms are essential to address the challenges posed by the digital age. By tackling misinformation, privacy breaches, cultural insensitivity, and other issues, these platforms can become safer and more inclusive. With thoughtful regulation, public cooperation, and responsible digital behavior, the immense potential of these platforms can be harnessed for societal good while minimizing harm.

One has to work hard to prepare for annual and board exams by focusing on studies

By: Vijay Garg

Time is precious. We should make good use of time. It is very important to make a proper schedule for regular study of all subjects. No subject is difficult. Yes, it is very important to give it more or less time according to the subject and syllabus. Therefore, time should be divided between different subjects in the morning, afternoon or night. The new year has arrived. New year is very important in student life. To work hard one should be ready from now to take a new flight of success with new thinking. Students are directly related to studies, so they should focus on their studies and take measures from now to prepare for annual and board exams. Every child dreams of getting good marks in exams and getting merit, but this charisma can only be achieved through hard work. Hard work crowns success on the head of students. Remember, with hard work our drops of sweat become pearls. Pre-Board Examination Preparation of Like every year, this year also in the month of January, the pre-board exams of the students are being conducted by the education department. Annual exams also come to mind. At this time, students should be busy studying. Students should remember that pre-board exams are important. Their marks are also counted in the annual result. The preparation of annual board exams becomes easier with the thorough preparation of these exams. Get rid of the fear of board exams. Goes and students get to know their level of effort. One should avoid playing a lot in cold weather. Commencement Board Exams The Punjab School Education Board has announced the annual board

exams of fifth, eighth, tenth and twelfth classes. These exams are starting in the month of February. Students should start preparing for their class subjects without any delay. Start preparing for each subject according to your datesheet. Datesheet should be done. People should take care of their time by learning from the so-called 'vele de raga, kuvele ke takkaran'. Create a suitable schedule. Time is precious. We should make good use of time. It is very important to make a proper schedule for regular study of all subjects. No subject is difficult. Yes, it is very important to give it more or less time according to the subject and syllabus. Therefore, time should be divided between different subjects in the morning, afternoon or night. Get in the habit of reading early in the morning. Reading every time is suitable for children who have passion for reading do not waste their time. Such children take their time to study. Students should not miss the opportunity to study at school and at home. One should cover the syllabus of all subjects stress-free. Early morning is considered to be the best time for studying. At this time our mind is refreshed. The environment is calm and constructive. Actions done at this time always come to fruition. Therefore, students should get up early and make it a habit to study. It is very beneficial to prepare for difficult subjects in the morning or early morning. Understand paper patterns. It is very important for students to understand their paper pattern. The paper pattern of the subjects assigned to each student according to their class is also different. Many students are preparing papers very well. But due to lack of complete knowledge of the paper pattern, they

make mistakes while answering the questions on the exam day. Students should check the marks-distribution of questions of each paper, size of answers to questions, total time, method of writing answers, marks awarded for beautiful writing etc. should be known. With this, they will avoid unnecessary effort and solve the paper stress-free. They will also get full time to solve the entire question paper. Go to school regularly. The habit of being disciplined in life is the way to success. You must not be absent from school. Must go to school on time everyday. This will lead to continuous preparation of all your subjects. Your interest in subjects will increase. There will be no fear while preparing for exams. Teacher to you will love. Classmates will respect you and your self-esteem will increase. While going to regular school makes it easier to get good marks in the exam, our determination to move forward in life also matures. Follow the method of writing from memory. In order to remember the answers to the questions for a long time, we should adopt the memorization and writing method. First of all students should read all the questions. Then the easiest of them. Answers to remaining difficult questions should be re-read in pairs and fours. After this one should practice writing on the copy. In this way, by memorizing and writing repeatedly, the answers to the questions are easily memorized. Answers memorized in this way are memorized by students for a long time. During the exams, they solve the entire paper without any fear or stress. Make the text beautiful. Beautiful writing is always effective. The education board also gives five extra marks for beautiful writing in the papers of

Punjabi, Hindi and English subjects in the annual examinations. This point should not be lost. Students should constantly practice good handwriting. Grammatical rules like letter structure, punctuation, making paragraphs etc. should be kept in mind. Does not want to do cutting in text. The handwriting should also be consistent. Word to word spacing should be kept equal. Beautiful writing in exams has a deep impact on the examinee. Beautiful handwriting also becomes a beautiful feature of our personality. Hard work brings success. Everyone wants success. Success fills us with self-confidence. So everyone wants to wear the crown of success, but it is not possible without hard work. So we should leave laziness and become scholars of hard work only. Remember that hard work springs from courage, then it is rewarded with success. Only with courage the birds fly in the amber, find the robe and then choose the robe. Jignu shines in the dark at night only with courage. Hard work done with courage and perseverance always brings results. So we study hard. Hard working students are always successful. They also pass with good marks and also come in merit. Their dreams come true. Hard work crowns their success.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Gali Kaur
Chand MHR Malout
Punjab Punjab)

In support of wife-staring and other ancient rituals

By: Krishna Shastri
Devulapalli

I think the press, social media warriors, and — more to the point, my favourite, the kind, beautiful Deepika — have been unduly harsh with L&T's S.N. Subrahmanyam. What did he say that was so wrong, I say? "I think we should work on Sundays, too, for how long can you stare at your wife?" or something to that effect. From my own experience, I can tell you — not for more than three seconds max. Because my wife can outstare me even when she's asleep. And that's because I'm usually guilty of not closing the lid of the avakkai bottle tight enough, or using her lipgloss on days I feel less than beautiful, and my guilt makes me blink. It is also important to note here that, as Bob Hope put it so eloquently, cowards run in my family. But this isn't about my insecurities. (There's a three-volume omnibus set in the making covering those in alphabetical order.) It's about the perceived impropriety of my schoolmate and senior Subrahmanyam's perfectly acceptable statement. (See how subtly I humble-brag there, lol.)

At this point, to give weight to my claim, let's go back

to our ancient culture. Actually, in all discourse or debate, going back to our ancient culture is a fail-safe option. For instance, yesterday, my driver asked for a loan. I told him that in ancient times sarathis didn't ask for loans, they imparted wisdom, and made him give me two hundred rupees. Again, I digress. Ten thousand or so years ago, on the day dedicated to the Sun God, legend has it that it was prescribed in certain sacred books, the names of which escape me presently, that husbands apportion a certain amount of time to stare at their wives. (Some of them had more than one those days. So that had to be taken into account, too, while allocating time. It was all quite wonderful, I tell you.) And, in return, the wives were meant to lower their eyes shyly, and say, "Chee, go, you naughty" in whichever one of our myriad ancient languages she was proficient in. The point is that this ritual, meant to encourage intimacy and hand-to-hand combat between life partners, known as the ardhangi netra pariksha, would only last for a few minutes. Because men had to go hunting or gathering depending on whether they preferred Udipi Shri Shanti Nivas-type fare or the Velu Military Hotel-type respec-

tively. And wives had to help with the children's gurukul homework and make ginger tea for ancient fathers-in-law. The point here is, while Sundays long ago did allot time for traditional wife-staring, it wasn't all one did on a Sunday. Or could afford to do. You get it? Fruit and deer weren't taking Sundays off, you see. And with refrigerator technology still in its nascent stages, thanks to our innovator forefathers concentrating on the R&D of air travel and cosmetic surgery, men still had to facilitate what has come to be known as "that-that-day-that-that-food".

Which is roughly what Subrahmanyam Anna was referring to in his deliberately misunderstood statement. When our forefathers could manage nut-gathering and rabbit-hunting on a Sunday, while not entirely ignoring the prescribed wife-staring, why not us? While everyone is taking objection to his comment, could someone specify to which part? Staring at one's wife? What is wrong, friends, with staring at one's own wife? That is our culture. Did he say stare at that nubile Mrs Gupitaji who does a rather nifty surya namaskar on the terrace next door in sheer yoga pants? No, sir.

Did he say glare, wink, gape, peer, peek or, heaven forbid,

wink at your wife? Of course not. That would be totally against our culture. If the WhatsApp forward Veeravankayala Vishwanatham, my baabai, sent me is anything to go by, that ancient book he quoted stated quite clearly that it had to be staring. And for a limited period. Nothing else. Did Subbu in any way imply that you can't stare at the wife on weekdays? If so, please present the evidence. See, it was only because of the sense of proportion, prioritisation and sacrifice of the great men in our golden past that we managed to invent things like chess, sticker bindi, yoga, reverse horn and dhoti with pocket. If wife-staring was all we had been doing, could our culture have risen to such heights? But you know what? This essay is quite redundant if you ask me. Subbu studied in the ancient city of Mylapore. And, as we all know, that means whatever he says is incontrovertible. Plus, he makes an average of 14 lakh smackeros per day. So, as we who believe in spirituality, our ancient culture and capitalism — that unassailably sacred tripod that holds up the world — having been saying to the rest of you for years: just shuttupp, shuttupp, shuttupp. (Except Deepika. You talk, ma. We like you.)

Value-Based Education is the Foundation for a Better Society": Sham Lal Sharma

Annual Day Celebration of Bhardwaj Academy, Barui, Graced by Shri Sham Lal Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: The Annual Day Celebration of Bhardwaj Academy, Barui, was marked by great enthusiasm and vibrant cultural activities. Shri Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and Former Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The program commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the spreading of knowledge. This was followed by a series of colourful and engaging cultural performances by the students, showcasing their creativity, talent, and dedication. The audience, comprising parents, teachers, and dignitaries, was thoroughly enthralled by the performances.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sham Lal Sharma praised the school for its commitment to holistic education and character-building. He said, "Bhardwaj Academy is setting a commendable example by focusing not only on academic excellence but also on cultural and moral values. These values are the foundation of a responsible and progressive society. The efforts of the school management,



teachers, and students are truly laudable."

He further emphasized the importance of integrating moral and value-based education into the learning process, stating, "Education is complete only when it prepares students to be compassionate, ethical, and socially responsible individuals. Schools like Bhardwaj Academy play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth and, thereby, the future of our nation."

Shri Sharma also appreciated the management and staff of the school for their dedication and innovative approach to education. He encouraged the students to continue excelling in all spheres of life and to uphold

the values imparted to them by their institution.

The highlight of the event was the prize distribution ceremony, where Shri Sharma personally felicitated students who had achieved excellence in academics, co-curricular activities, and other fields. His words of encouragement motivated the students to strive for greater heights while remaining grounded in humility and ethics.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Sham Lal Sharma expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the parents and dignitaries for their presence and unwavering support for the school. He said, "The collective effort of parents, teachers, and the school man-

agement is crucial in shaping the future of these young minds. I commend Bhardwaj Academy for being a beacon of quality education and values in the region."

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the school's Principal, Shri Bal Krishna Sharma. He expressed sincere gratitude to Shri Sham Lal Sharma for his inspiring address and encouragement. He also thanked all the dignitaries, parents, teachers, and students for their participation and support, saying, "Your presence has made this event memorable and successful. We look forward to continuing this journey of excellence and value-driven education with your blessings and cooperation."

Prominent dignitaries present at the event included DDC Shri Suresh Sharma, School Chairperson Mrs. Sunita Sharma, Former Sarpanch Shri Rashpal Sharma, School Management Committee Chairman Shri Ramesh Lal, Retired Regional Education Officer Shri Madan Lal, DGPC Member Sardar Ranvir Singh, Former IB Officer Sardar Navjot Singh, and other respected members of the community.

Fraudulent complaint filed by senior JKAS officer exposed, FIR Lodged

Balvinder demands stringent action



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Balvinder Singh, a prominent RTI activist and President of the Sikh Progressive Front, has exposed a shocking case of fraud and impersonation involving a senior JKAS officer. Addressing the media, Singh revealed that a false complaint was lodged against another JKAS officer using a fabricated email ID created in Singh's name.

Singh shared his disbelief upon being summoned by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu, regarding the complaint. Upon investigation, it was discovered that his identity had been fraudulently used to file a baseless complaint, aiming to defame a fellow officer and tarnish Singh's own credibility as a social activist.

On October 4, 2023, Singh filed a formal complaint at the Cyber Police Station, Gandhi Nagar, seeking to identify the person behind the fake email ID. After relentless efforts spanning over a year, an FIR (No. 25/2024) was reg-

istered on December 24, 2024, at the Cyber Police Station, Jammu, under Sections 66C and 66D of the IT Act, along with Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The investigation, supported by evidence from Google Inc. and telecom service providers, revealed the accused as Sh. Kulraj Singh, a JKAS officer currently serving as Joint Handloom Officer, along with Joshi Kumari, wife of Romesh Kumar of Dogra Hall. The digital and electronic evidence conclusively established their guilt in impersonating Singh and filing the false complaint. Both accused surrendered to the court and obtained interim anticipatory bail from the Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, effective until January 31, 2025.

Singh strongly condemned this grave misconduct, emphasizing that such actions by public servants undermine public trust and tarnish the reputation of the administrative system. "This unethical and illegal behavior

must be met with strict administrative action to set a strong precedent," Singh asserted.

He appealed to Lieutenant Governor J&K, Sh. Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary J&K, and Commissioner Secretary GAD to initiate stringent action against Sh. Kulraj Singh to uphold the integrity of the administrative services.

Additionally, Singh urged the J&K administration to issue a circular declaring impersonation, misuse of digital identities, and filing of false complaints as serious breaches of conduct under service rules, with strict punitive measures for offenders. Such measures, he said, would deter others from engaging in unethical and unlawful practices and restore public faith in government.

Prominent Sikh Progressive members who were present in the Press Conference are S Manjit Singh Gen Secretary, S Rajinder Singh Sudan Vice President, S Janak Singh, S Paramjit Singh, S T.P Singh, S Satinder Pal Singh.

Discrediting 'Father of Constitution', Cong lost right to speak for Baba Sahib: Kavinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta asserted that he can give numerous instances when the Congress party dishonoured the Indian Constitution and wrongly interpreted it for petty political gains.

He was speaking while addressing a meeting at Jammu West here today in which MLA Arvind Gupta, Arun Prabhat J&K BJYM President and others were present.

The BJP stalwart



said that Congress is accused of discrediting the Baba Sahib Ambedkar, who is known as the father of the Indian Constitution, for his remarkable contribution to the nation of gifting the precious book of laws and rules, which was being

implemented to govern India flawlessly.

He said that Congress, which is today posing as the bigger supporter of B R Ambedkar has disrespected him on various occasions thus losing the right to speak in favour of this one of the

outstanding legal luminaries of the country. He said that Congress has been misquoting HM Amit Shah over his remark on Baba Sahib, which is nothing but another failed gimmick of the oldest political party of the country. He said that by wrongly interpreting the Constitution of India on several occasions, this party has lost the right to speak for it long back.

He said that the so-called Padyatra for the Constitution is the last attempt by the leadership to stop this party's

ship from sinking as the hole of corruption practiced by this political outfit since decades has become real big and the leadership knows it well that their vessel is about to perish.

The senior BJP functionary asked the people not to fall prey to the political dramas being staged by the Congress leadership as it wanted to con the people once again to defraud them for satiating their long awaited vested interests as the party is out of power for over a decade now.

Don't dare to touch sole seat reserved for PoJK displaced community: Chuni warns pol parties

Top News Report

BATHUNI (Rajouri), Jan 19: The SOS International, a frontline organization spearheading the struggle for the rights of 12-lakh refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), has warned the political parties against interfering with the sole reserved seat for PoJK refugees.

It passed a unanimous resolution that any attempt to politicize this seat would not be tolerated and the PoJK refugees would be forced to launch a district-level agitation to oppose any such move. Thousands of people from PoJK while braving the biting cold gathered under the banner of SOS International in Bathuni area of Rajouri district today to demand political empowerment for their community.

Addressing the rally, Rajiv Chuni, Chairman SOS International, regretted the long-standing neglect of PoJK refugees by political parties, saying "Politicians, whether PM, CM, MPs, Ministers or MLAs, have failed to address our plight and bring us out of the current morass," he said. He issued a stern warn-



ing to political parties, urging them to refrain from interfering with the reserved assembly seat. "We have passed a unanimous resolution that any attempt to politicize this seat will not be tolerated. Our agitation, which started in Rajouri today, will extend to Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi and eventually other district headquarters across the region if any attempt is made to reap political benefits out of this sole seat reserved for PoJK refugees. We are determined to reach every household and mobilize against any such moves," Mr Chuni declared.

Mr Chuni threw light on the community's efforts to gain representation in the legislative assembly,

stating, "It was resolved that at least eight seats out of the 24 reserved for PoJK must be allocated to our people who fled PoJK in 1947. We achieved a small success in 2006 when the Wadhwa Commission recommended reserving eight seats for PoJK refugees living in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere."

The senior refugee leader also pointed to the 2014 report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, chaired by the former vice president of India and former BJP national president VenkaiahNaidu, which endorsed the demand for eight seats, even suggesting constitutional amendments if necessary. "The report was tabled in both the House of the Parlia-

ment in October 2014 but remains unimplemented," he said.

While criticizing the amendment in J&K Reorganization Act of 2023 for allocating only one seat to PoJK refugees, Mr Chuni said it was grave justice with the community of 12 lakh people.

He accused political parties of exploiting the sole reserved seat for their own gains, warning them to stay away. "This seat should be provided to a non-political person who can effectively represent and empower our community in the legislative assembly. He must be free from party affiliations and is committed to the cause of the community," Mr Chuni said.

He further argued that existing representatives

from the PoJK community who had risen to positions such as Ministers had failed to address the community's concerns. "If they had been competent enough, there would have been no need to reserve a seat for our community," he said.

"This seat was envisioned to empower the PoJK community and should be nominated for a non-political individual who can rise above party politics to serve the interests of PoJK refugees. Those associated with political parties and their organisations will prioritize party agendas over community welfare," MrChuni asserted.

The rally concluded with a fervent appeal for the government to honour its commitment to the PoJK refugee community by ensuring that the reserved seat serves its intended purpose—uplifting the lives of those displaced and empowering the community.

Prominent among those spoken on the occasion were VK Datta, Ved Raj Bali, Capt Ravinder Raina, Sushil Sharma, Shivali Sharma, Prof. Ram Parkash, Raj Kumar, Babu Kewal Ram, Som Raj, Khem Raj, Yogesh Sharma, TarvinderKumar and others.

Shiv Sena demands safe return of Kashmiri Pandits

Curse of displaced life should not become endless: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: It is unfortunate that Kashmiri Hindus have been forced to live the life of displaced people in their own country and state for the last three and a half decades. Governments claiming to be well-wishers have made political gains, Bollywood has made movies, and filled its coffers but the safe return of Kashmiri Hindus could not be made possible, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a program orga-



nized at the party's state central office, party state chief Manish Sahni said that about 35 years back, On January 19, 1990, Kashmiri Hindus were forced to leave their homes and migrate from Kashmir Valley. Even today, remembering the condi-

tions of Kashmir Valley during this period gives me goosebumps. Sahni said that even during the 11 years of BJP rule at the centre, which claims to be a well-wisher and to improve the situation in Kashmir, the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley had not been possible. For the last 35 years, Kashmiri Hindus are forced to live the life of refugees in their own country and state. Sahni demanded the Center and the Omar Abdullah government to fulfill the promises of safe return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

PGI & Aryans to organize Blood Donation Camp on 28th Jan at Aryans Campus

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: The Blood Donation camp would be organized with the support PGIMER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research), Chandigarh at Aryans Institute of Nursing & Aryans College of Pharmacy, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh on 28th Jan. A Health Check Camp will also be conducted.

The PGI team including Doctors, Nurses and Technicians will conduct a thorough medical checkup of voluntary & eligible donors to donate blood. Medical guidance & prescription will be given to the students, parents, faculty members & local residents of nearby villages. The donors will also be given certificates and donor cards along with refresh-

ments. Mrs. Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing said that such camps will kindle a spirit of social service in the students and community. While the free health checkup camp would help the local people to get their free checkup done and knowledge about their personal hygiene, care, medication etc.

Urvashi Rautela flaunts her diamond jewellery when asked about Saif Ali Khan's stabbing

Actor later deletes apology

Actor Urvashi Rautela recently found herself at the centre of a controversy following comments about the recent stabbing incident on Saif Ali Khan. The actor initially shared an apology on social media, only to delete it shortly after, sparking backlash.

The incident unfolded after Rautela was asked about the attack on Saif at his Mumbai residence during an interview. While expressing concern for the actor, she also spoke about her personal insecurities regarding wearing expensive jewellery, mentioning her gifts: a diamond-studded Rolex and a mini watch.

"It is very unfortunate. Now Daaku Maharaja has crossed Rs 105 crore at the box office, and my mother gifted me this diamond-studded Rolex, while my father gifted me this mini watch on my finger, but we don't feel confident wearing it outside



openly. There is this insecurity that anybody can attack us. Whatever happened was very unfortunate," she said.

Rautela later issued an apology on Instagram, which read, "Dear Saif Ali Khan sir, I hope this message finds you in strength. I am writing with a deep sense of regret and heartfelt apology. Until now, I was completely unaware of the intensity of the situation you are facing.

I feel ashamed that I allowed myself to be consumed by the excitement surrounding Daaku Maharaja and the gifts I was receiving, instead of pausing to acknowledge and understand what you are going through."

"Please accept my sincerest apologies for being so ignorant and insensitive. Now that I know the gravity of your case, I am deeply moved and want to extend my unwavering sup-

port. Your grace, dignity, and resilience during such a challenging time are truly admirable, and I have nothing but immense respect for your strength," she added.

The actor promised to prioritise compassion and understanding in the future. However, her decision to delete the post soon after only amplified the criticism.

Social media users called her actions "a publicity stunt". One user commented, "Why apologise if you're just going to take it down? Looks like she's not even taking her own apology seriously."

The stabbing incident occurred on Thursday morning when an intruder broke into Saif's house, leaving the actor with injuries near his spine and neck. He was rushed to Lilavati Hospital and underwent multiple surgeries. Saif's team shared a statement and mentioned that he is now out of danger and recovering.

Vaishali Arora talks about the show Udne Ki Aasha



Vaishali Arora, who portrays Riya in Udne Ki Aasha, has opened up about her experiences playing the progressive and relatable character on the Star Plus show. "Riya and I share many

similarities, so it's natural for me to add real-life nuances to her. Whether it's how she talks, sits or reacts in different situations, these small details make her more relatable," Vaishali said.

"I also listen to feedback from my directors and creatives, ensuring I stay true to their vision while bringing in my own elements."

Reflecting on her journey with the show, Vaishali said, "The bond I share with my co-stars and crew is amazing. Everyone is hardworking, and the atmosphere on set is so positive that I miss it when I'm not there. It's been an incredible experience so far." Riya's character stands out for challenging societal norms and questioning traditions, something Vaishali finds particularly exciting. "Riya is a modern woman who speaks her mind. One memorable moment was when she questioned her mother-in-law about why certain rituals are only for women. These are issues that resonate with audiences today," she said.

Actress Zalak Desai joins the show Anupamaa

Popular television show Anupamaa, produced by Deepa Shahi and Rajan Shahi, is all set to take an exciting new turn as a brand new family, the Kotharis, is about to enter the storyline. Fans, brace yourselves for some fresh drama, new faces and unexpected twists that will keep you glued to your screens. Zalak Desai, known for her impressive acting skills in shows like Laado 2 and RadhaKrishn, will be playing a pivotal role in this upcoming track. Her entry is expected to bring an interesting turn to the lives of Anupamaa and the Shah family. While details about the Kotharis' story arc are being kept under wraps, speculations suggest that their arrival will shake things up in ways we cannot imagine.



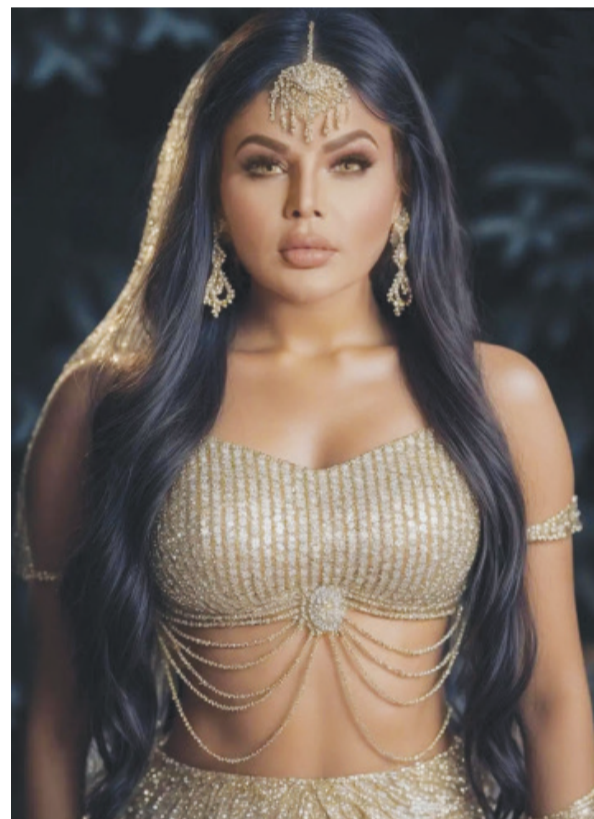
'Building wale itna paisa lete hai, aur CCTV bhi nahi laga sakte': Rakhi Sawant reacts to attack on Saif Ali Khan

Rakhi Sawant has reacted to the attack on actor Saif Ali Khan by an intruder at his Bandra residence during the early hours of Thursday.

In a video circulating online, Rakhi, visibly distressed, shared her thoughts on the incident and questioned the lack of security in "high-profile buildings".

"Oh my God! Such bad news. Saif Ali Khan, with whom I have also worked before, in a song during Rakesh Roshan ji's film at the very beginning of my struggling days. I could never have imagined, even in my dreams, that such a big tragedy could happen to Saifu," Rakhi said.

"Yeh building wale kya karte hain? Aap itna monthly paisa lete



ho, aur CCTV camera bhi nahi laga sakte? Kitni buri khabar hai yeh. 2025 mein kya ho raha hai? Itne diggaj logon ke saath kya ho raha hai? (What do the people in this building do? You charge such a high monthly fee, and yet you can't even install CCTV cameras? This is such terrible news. What is happening in 2025? What is happening to such great individuals?)," she added.

The actor was attacked by an intruder in his 11th-floor Bandra flat at around 2:30 am on Thursday.

The incident occurred when the 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, where he underwent surgery under the supervision of a team of doctors.

According to doctors, Saif sustained a major injury to the thoracic spinal cord due to a knife lodged in his 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 monitoring him.

Jessica Simpson's weight loss 'unleashed' her new personality before divorce: Report



Jessica Simpson credits her weight loss to "willpower," but the drastic change "unleashed" her new personality before she called it quits with Eric Johnson. According to report, the 44-year-old's slimmer appearance gave her a newfound confidence. But this confidence caused a shake-up in her life as she "suddenly felt 21 again."

The Blonde Ambition star has been vocal about her struggles with

body image and alcoholism. "In the past, she always had to kill herself in the gym and via starvation diets to get slim and stay that way," a family source told the outlet, adding that when things began to change, she too changed.

"Now, with her weight loss sticking, she [Simpson] started to want to sow her wild oats in a way she never could," the source continued. "She suddenly felt 21 again — except when she was 21 for real, she

was a married TV star who had to behave," the report added, referring to her marriage with Nick Lachey, whom she first met in 1998 when she was just 18.

While the I Wanna Love You Forever hit-maker began behaving differently, Johnson gave up, according to the source who said, "To be fair to Jess, Eric has accordingly checked out — he's been so over it and her for a while now and so infidelity on his part is not out of the question." "But it's also not out of the question on her part either," they added.

The report follows Simpson's recent statement, where she announced her separation from the former NFL player. "Eric and I have been living separately navigating a painful situation in our marriage," she said, per People. "Our children come first, and we are focusing on what is best for them. We are grateful for all of the love and support that has been coming our way, and appreciate privacy right now as we work through this as a family."

Zain Imam's journey as an actor has been inspiring



From his early days in Kaisi Yeh Yaariaan to becoming a household favourite with Naamkarann, Fanaa: Ishq Mein Marjawan, Tashan-e-Ishq, and now his stellar performance in Suman Indori, Zain Imam's journey has been nothing short of remarkable.

Zain shared, "I've always believed in working hard and letting my work speak. But the love and recognition I've received have been overwhelming. I didn't expect it to happen so quickly, but maybe that's the beauty of this profession." When asked how he dealt with setbacks, Zain's response was as inspiring as his performances. "Setbacks are part of the game, aren't they? For me, every challenge is an opportunity to learn and grow. Whenever something doesn't go as planned, I take a step back, reflect and channel that energy into becoming a better version of myself," he said.

Sagar Wahi joins the show Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya

Sagar Wahi, celebrated for his roles in the OTT show Madhuri Talkies and the film Panch Kri: Five Elements, has joined the cast of Sun Neo's show Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya. Adding a fun twist to the storyline, Sagar recently shared, "I play the role of Mayur in this show and he's a very entertaining character."

While he's serious and highly knowledgeable due to his extensive studies, he approaches life with humour and lightheartedness. No matter the problem, he solves it effortlessly. Mayur is fun-loving, but in real life I am very different from him.

Our personalities are completely opposite, yet I'm thoroughly enjoying this role."

Sagar's acting journey spans diverse roles, and Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya presents yet another exciting challenge. "As a theatre artiste, I love exploring something different, which is why I chose Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya—to try something new."

I've also worked in a film where my character



was so different that no one recognised it was me. Similarly, Mayur in

Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya is a completely distinct role."

EC used power of technology to strengthen people's power: Modi

PM's praise for the poll body in his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' comes ahead of its foundation day on January 25

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the Election Commission on Sunday, saying it has used the power of technology to strengthen people's power and also shown commitment to a fair polling process.

Modi's praise for the poll body in his monthly Mann ki Baat broadcast came ahead of its foundation day on January 25, observed as the National Voters' Day, and amid frequent criticism from the opposition for its alleged pro-BJP bias.

The EC has modernised and strengthened the election process from time to time, Modi asserted.

"It has used power of technology to strengthen people's power," he said, asking people to participate in the polling process in large numbers to be part of democratic process and empowering it.

Opposition parties have increasingly raised questions on the integrity of Electronic



Voting Machines (EVMs), and Modi's remarks can be seen as an endorsement of the EVMs.

The prime minister said doubts were cast on India's viability as a democracy after it became independent, but the country proved them wrong. After all, India is mother of democracy, he said.

The programme was held on

the third Sunday this month as against the last, which is usually the case, as next Sunday is Republic Day, Modi noted.

The prime minister played short audio clips of some of the members of India's constituent assembly, including its chairman Rajendra Prasad, Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Syama Prasad Mookerjee, to highlight

the values they promoted.

Ambedkar called for everyone to work together in everyone's interest, while Prasad highlighted India's commitment to humanistic values, he noted.

"We should take inspiration from them to build an India of which our Constitution makers would have been proud," Modi said.

The Republic Day will mark the 75th anniversary of the implementation of Constitution, he said.

Speaking of the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, the prime minister said people of various castes and regions have come together. There is no discrimination of any kind, he added.

Modi said extensive participation of the youth is visible in the gigantic get-together of devotees, saying it will strengthen civilisational roots and assure a gold future.

The event's global popularity is a matter of pride for every Indian, he added.

Delhi never seen such poll campaign when 'murderous attack' attempted on ex-CM: Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A day after an alleged attack on his vehicle during election canvassing, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said his life was dedicated to the country, but asserted Delhi has never witnessed such campaigning when a "murderous attack" was attempted on a former chief minister.

The AAP has alleged that New Delhi BJP candidate Parvish Verma's "goons" attacked Kejriwal during campaigning in the constituency on Saturday.

"The people of Delhi have never witnessed such campaigning and violence in which a murderous attack was attempted on a former chief minister. This is

their way of campaigning because they are badly losing," Kejriwal said, targeting the BJP.

He also laughed off Verma's claim that Kejriwal is going to lose the New Delhi seat by 20,000 votes. "Let him live in dreams for some days," he told the media.

Kejriwal also said he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about a housing scheme for government employees, proposing the Delhi government will build houses if the Centre provides land.

He said the scheme could be started with sanitation workers as beneficiaries and later other government employees can be provided houses on easy terms.

Modi govt converted ease of doing business to unease in doing business: Cong

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): The Congress on Sunday claimed that the Modi Government's "retrograde policies" have broken the confidence of investors in India and converted the ease of doing business to "unease in doing business".

Ahead of the Union Budget, the opposition party said that to fix this, the upcoming budget must eliminate "raid raj and tax terrorism".

It also called on the government to take action to protect Indian manufacturing jobs and take decisive action to shore up wages and purchasing power.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Modi Government has long proclaimed its desire to improve the "ease of doing business" in India but yet in the past decade "we have only seen an easing of private investment which has fallen to record lows and the easing out of businesspersons who

have departed India in large numbers for foreign shores".

"A byzantine, punitive, and arbitrary tax regime covering both GST and income tax - which amounts to sheer Tax Terrorism - is now the greatest threat to India's prosperity and has contributed to an 'unease of doing business'," he said in a statement.

The biggest component of investment - private domestic investment has been weak since 2014, Ramesh said, adding that it was solidly in the 25-30 per cent of GDP range during Manmohan Singh's tenure as PM.

"In the last ten years, it has collapsed to the 20-25 per cent of GDP range. This sluggish investment has been accompanied by a mass exodus of high-net-worth individuals. More than 17.5 lakh Indians have acquired the citizenship of another country over the past decade," he said.

An estimated 21,300 dollar millionaires left India between 2022 and

2025, he claimed.

"All this is happening for three reasons. Firstly, a complicated GST. According to former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian, the GST which was proclaimed by the PM to be a Good and Simple Tax has up to a 100 different tax rates, including cesses," he said.

The multiplicity of rates and confusion has facilitated alarming GST evasion of Rs 2.01 lakh crore, almost double the Rs 1.01 lakh crore reported in FY23, he said.

Ramesh claimed that 18,000 fraudulent entities have been uncovered with many more likely undetected.

"Secondly, despite claims to the contrary, Chinese imports into India continue unabated with a record trade deficit of \$85 billion in 2023-24.

This has damaged Indian manufacturing, especially in labour intensive sectors," Ramesh said.

Thirdly, weak consumption and stagnant



wages have reduced India's consumption growth despite the free availability of personal debt, he said.

"According to Ministry of Agriculture data, real wages for agricultural labour grew 6.8 per cent per year under the UPA, and declined 1.3 per cent per year under the Modi government," he said.

Citing the Periodic Labour Force Survey data, he said it shows that average real earnings stagnated between 2017 and 2022 across all workers -? salaried, casual and self-employed.

"These retrograde policies have broken the confidence of investors in India. To fix this, the

budget must eliminate raid raj and Tax Terrorism, take action to protect Indian manufacturing jobs and take decisive action to shore up wages and purchasing power, which in turn will incentivise Indian business to invest. Nothing less will do," Ramesh asserted.

Sharing his statement on X, Ramesh said, "The 2025/26 Union Budget will be presented thirteen days from today. Here is our statement on how the Modi Government has converted the ease of doing business to unease in doing business - thereby depressing private investment sentiment. Radical action is necessary to fix the damage."

Four killed, including woman and two children in Ghaziabad house fire

GHAZIABAD, Jan 19 (Agencies): A 32-year-old woman and her two children were among four charred to death after a fire broke out in a house due to short circuit early Sunday, officials said.



The family was sleeping when the fire broke out in the early hours. After dousing the flames, fire fighters recovered the bodies inside the house, Chief Fire Officer Rahul told agency.

The deceased have been identified as Gulbahar (32) and her two minor sons. A relative's son resid-

ing in the same house was also among those killed. The woman's husband Shah Nawaz escaped unhurt.

Three mowed down by ST bus in Maharashtra's Beed, driver apprehended



CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Three men were killed after being mowed down by a state transport bus in Maharashtra's Beed district in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Subodh More (20), Virat Ghodke (19) and Om Ghodke (20), who were residents of Ghodka Rajuri village, the official said.

The accident occurred around 6 am when a group of youngsters were train-

ing for police recruitment near Ghodka Rajouri village in Beed taluka, an official said.

The bus en route to Parbhani from Beed, hit the three men as they trained on the roadside. Two others in the group managed to escape unhurt, he added.

The trio died on the spot, and their bodies were taken to the district hospital in Beed for further formalities, he said, adding that the bus driver was apprehended and a case was being registered against him.

Following the accident, angry villagers vandalised the state transport bus and demanded jobs for family members of the deceased men in the state transport department, the official said.

Three dead, four missing as boat capsizes in Bihar's Katihar



KATI HAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Three people were killed and four others went missing after a boat capsized in the Amdabad area, they said.

The boat, with 17 people on board, capsized near Gologhat in the Amdabad area, they said.

Ten people have been rescued so far, officials said, adding that most of them managed to swim to the bank.

"The rescue operation is still underway for the four missing persons.

An investigation has been ordered to find the cause of the incident," District Magistrate Manesh Kumar Meena told agency.

Two of the deceased were identified as Pawan Kumar (60) and Sudhir Mandal (70), while the other person could not be identified yet, officials said.

Tourist, instructor killed in Goa paragliding accident

PANAJI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A 27-year-old woman tourist and her instructor were killed after they crashed into a ravine while paragliding in North Goa, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred at Keri village on Saturday evening, an official said.

Shivani Dable, a resident of Pune, and her instructor, Sumal Nepali (26), a Nepalese national, crashed to death at Keri Plateau around 5 pm, he said.

The official said Dable had opted to paraglide with an adventure sports company operating illegally.

As per the complaint, the paraglider plunged into a ravine soon after it took off from a cliff, killing the two on the spot, he said.

A case has been registered at Mandrem police station against company owner Shekhar Raizada under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita for endangering human life.

Delhi man, on way to distribute his wedding card, dies as car catches fire

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A man, who was on his way to distribute invitation cards for his wedding, died after the car he was travelling in caught fire in Delhi on Saturday night.

The incident took place near Baba Banquet Hall in Ghazipur.

According to the police, the victim burned

to death inside the car. Visuals of the incident site show the Wagon R completely charred - especially the driver's side.

The victim, a resident of Nawada in Greater Noida, was to get married on February 14, officials said.

"He went out to distribute his wedding invitation cards in the after-

noon. When he did not return till late evening, we tried calling him but his phone was switched off. Around 11-11:30, the police called us saying there was an accident and Anil is in hospital," the victim's elder brother Sumit said.

According to the victim's brother-in-law, Yogesh, he and Anil

used to work together.

"Anil was to marry my sister on February 14... We got to know about his death last night. We still don't know how the car caught fire," he said.

The cause behind the blaze is not yet known.

The victim's body has been sent for post-mortem and the investigation is underway, officials said.

Pedestrian killed after rod from flex banner structure falls, pierces his neck in Madhya Pradesh



JABALPUR, Jan 19 (Agencies): A 64-year-old man was killed after a rod from a flex banner structure fell and pierced his neck in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, an official said on Sunday.

A contractual employee of the local civic body was fixing the flex banner structure in Allahabad Bank Chowk on Saturday when a rod fell on a pedestrian, Civil Line police station in-charge Nehru Khandate said.

He said the rod fell on Kishan Kumar Rajak and pierced his neck.

The man was taken to a hospital, where the doctors declared him dead, the official said, adding that a case has been registered and a probe is underway to find out if the employee had followed safety protocol.

South Korea's impeached president is arrested over martial law declaration and his supporters riot

Decision to arrest Yoon ignited unrest at Seoul Western District Court, where dozens of his supporters broke in and rioted

SEOUL, Jan 19 (Agencies): Hours after South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was formally arrested, triggering rioting by his supporters, his lawyers said on Sunday that he remains defiant in his refusal to answer questions over the probe into his declaration of martial law last month.

Yoon was formally arrested early on Sunday, days after being apprehended at his presidential compound in Seoul. He faces possible imprisonment over his short-lived authoritarian push, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratization in the late 1980s.

Yoon's arrest could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody, lasting months or more.

The decision to arrest Yoon ignited unrest at the Seoul Western District Court, where dozens of his supporters broke in and rioted, destroying the main door and windows. They used plastic chairs, metal beams and police shields that they managed to wrestle away from officers. Some were seen throwing objects and using fire extinguishers, destroying furniture and office machines, smashing glass doors and spraying water on computer servers. They shouted demands to see the judge who had issued the warrant, but she had already left.

Hundreds of police officers were deployed and nearly 90 protesters were arrested. Some injured police officers were seen being treated at ambulance vans. The court said it was trying to confirm whether any staff members were injured and assess the damage to its facilities.

Court describes Yoon as threat to destroy evidence

In granting law enforcement's request for an arrest warrant for Yoon, the court said he was a threat to destroy evidence. Yoon and his lawyers on Saturday appeared before the court and argued for his release.



The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with the police and the military, can now extend Yoon's detention to 20 days, during which they will transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment.

Investigators are examining whether Yoon's Dec. 3 martial law decree amounted to an attempted rebellion. While South Korean presidents have wide-ranging immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason.

Yoon's lawyers could also file a petition to challenge the court's arrest warrant. Yoon Kab-keun, one of the president's lawyers, said he will not attend a questioning by the anti-corruption agency set for Sunday afternoon and will remain at the detention center.

Yoon Suk Yeol's appearance in court caused chaotic scenes in nearby streets, where thousands of his fervent supporters rallied for hours calling for his release. Even before the court issued the warrant for Yoon's arrest, protesters repeatedly clashed with police. At least two vehicles carrying anti-corruption investigators were damaged as they left the court after arguing for Yoon's arrest.

Yoon's defense minister, police chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested and indicted for their roles in the enforcement of martial law.

Yoon's lawyer decries his arrest

The crisis began when Yoon, in an attempt to break through legislative gridlock, imposed military rule and sent troops to the National Assembly and election offices. The standoff lasted only hours after lawmakers who managed to get through a blockade voted to lift the measure. The opposition-dominated assembly voted to impeach him on Dec. 14.

His political fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which is deliberating whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him.

Seok Dong-hyeon, another lawyer representing Yoon, called the court order for his arrest "the epitome of anti-constitutionalism and anti-rule of law." He pointed to the riot and said Yoon's arrest would inspire more anger from his supporters.

Yoon's People Power Party regretted his arrest but also pleaded for his supporters to refrain from further violence.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party, which drove the legislative effort to impeach Yoon, said his arrest would be a "cornerstone for restoring the collapsed constitutional order." It also called for stern punishment of the rioters.

The country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, expressed "strong regret" about the riot, saying it "directly undermines democracy and the rule of law." He asked for heightened security at the sites related to Yoon's case,

also including the Constitutional Court, and measures to ensure order during protests.

After its investigators were attacked by protesters later on Saturday, the anti-corruption agency asked media companies to obscure the faces of its members attending the hearing. Yoon insists his martial law decree was legitimate

Yoon and his lawyers have claimed that the martial law declaration was intended as a temporary and "peaceful" warning to the liberal opposition, which he accuses of obstructing his agenda with its legislative majority. Yoon says the troops sent to the National Election Commission offices were to investigate election fraud allegations, which remain unsubstantiated in South Korea.

Yoon has stressed that he had no intention of stopping the functioning of the legislature. He stated that the troops were sent there to maintain order, not prevent lawmakers from entering and voting to lift martial law. He denied allegations that he ordered the arrests of key politicians and election officials.

Military commanders, however, have described a deliberate attempt to seize the legislature that was thwarted by hundreds of civilians and legislative staff who helped lawmakers enter the assembly, and by the troops' reluctance or refusal to follow Yoon's orders.

If prosecutors indict Yoon on rebellion and abuse of power charges, which are the allegations now being examined by investigators, they could keep him in custody for up to six months before trial.

If the first court convicts him and issues a prison term, Yoon would serve that sentence as the case possibly moves up to the Seoul High Court and Supreme Court. Under South Korean law, orchestrating a rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Netanyahu warns again that Gaza ceasefire will not begin until Hamas provides hostage list



DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), Jan 19 (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said early Sunday that the ceasefire in Gaza will not begin until Hamas provides the names of the three hostages it is set to release later on Sunday in exchange for scores of Palestinian prisoners.

Israel meanwhile announced that it had recovered the body of Oron Shaul, a soldier who was killed in the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, in a special operation hours before the ceasefire was set to begin.

The bodies of Shaul and another soldier, Hadar Goldin, remained in Gaza after the 2014 war and had not been returned despite a public campaign by their families.

In a statement, Netanyahu said he had instructed the military that the ceasefire, which was to come into effect at 8:30 a.m., "will not begin until Israel has in its possession the list of hostages to be freed, which Hamas committed to provide." He had issued a similar warning the night

before.

Hamas blamed the delay in handing over the names on "technical field reasons." It said in a statement that it is committed to the ceasefire deal announced last week.

The exchange raised doubts about whether the ceasefire would begin as planned, the first step in a long and fragile process aimed at winding down the 15-month war.

The 42-day first phase of the ceasefire should see a total of 33 hostages returned from Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees released. Israeli forces should pull back into a buffer zone inside Gaza, and many displaced Palestinians should be able to return home.

The devastated territory should also see a surge in humanitarian aid.

This is just the second ceasefire in the war, longer and more consequential than the week-long pause over a year ago, with the potential to end the fighting for good.

Negotiations on the far more difficult second

phase of this ceasefire should begin in just over two weeks. Major questions remain, including whether the war will resume after the six-week first phase and how the rest of the nearly 100 hostages in Gaza will be freed.

Israel's Cabinet approved the ceasefire early Saturday in a rare session during the Jewish Sabbath, more than two days after mediators announced the deal.

The warring sides were under pressure from both the outgoing Biden administration and President-elect Donald Trump to achieve a deal before the U.S. presidential inauguration on Monday.

The toll of the war has been immense, and new details on its scope will now emerge.

Over 46,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that sparked the war killed over 1,200. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers have died.

Some 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced. The United Nations says the health system, road network and other vital infrastructure have been badly damaged. Rebuilding – if the ceasefire reaches its final phase – will take several years at least. Major questions about Gaza's future, political and otherwise, remain unresolved.

Taliban deputy tells leader no excuse for education bans on Afghan women, girls

KABUL, Jan 19 (Agencies): A senior Taliban figure has urged the group's leader to scrap education bans on Afghan women and girls, saying there is no excuse for them, in a rare public rebuke of government policy.

Sher Abbas Stanikzai, political deputy at the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks in a speech in southeastern Khost province.

He told an audience at a religious school ceremony there was no reason to deny education to women and girls, "just as there was no justification for it in the past and there shouldn't be one at all."

The government has barred females from education after sixth grade. Last September, there were reports authorities had also stopped medical training and courses for women.

In Afghanistan, women and girls can only be treated by female doctors and health professionals. Authorities have yet to confirm the medical training ban.

"We call on the leadership again to open the doors of education," said Stanikzai in a video shared by

his official account on the social platform X. "We are committing an injustice against 20 million people out of a population of 40 million, depriving them of all their rights. This is not in Islamic law, but our personal choice or nature."

Stanikzai was once the head of the Taliban team in talks that led to the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

It is not the first time he has said that women and girls deserve to have an education. He made similar remarks in September 2022, a year after schools closed for girls and months and before the introduction of a university ban.

But the latest comments marked his first call for a change in policy and a direct appeal to Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. Ibraheem Bahiss, an analyst with Crisis Group's South Asia programme, said Stanikzai had periodically made statements calling girls' education a right of all Afghan women.

"However, this latest statement seems to go further in the sense that he is publicly calling for

a change in policy and questioned the legitimacy of the current approach," Bahiss said.

In the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, earlier this month, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai urged Muslim leaders to challenge the Taliban on women and girls' education.

She was speaking at a conference hosted by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Muslim World League.

The UN has said that recognition is almost impossible while bans on female education and employment remain in place and women can't go out in public without a male guardian.

No country recognises the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, but countries like Russia have been building ties with them.

India has also been developing relations with Afghan authorities.

In Dubai earlier this month, a meeting between India's top diplomat, Vikram Mistry, and Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi showed their deepening cooperation.

British Indians welcome launch of Bradford City of Culture 2025

BRADFORD / LONDON, Jan 19 (Agencies): Bradford in the northern England county of West Yorkshire recently launched its City of Culture 2025 festivities, with British Indians enthusiastically joining in to showcase the region's diversity, vibrant bazaars and curry restaurants.

Bradford was designated the UK City of Culture for 2025 after winning government backing from a record-breaking 20 bids.

The initiative, covering the entire Bradford district across West Yorkshire, opened last weekend with a glittering performance that paid homage to the region as a melting pot of cultures – with one in three residents identifying as being of South Asian heritage.

"Our communities can and should be empowered to come together, tell their story and create change in their local area. That is what the UK City of Culture competition is all about," said Lisa Nandy, the British Indian Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

"So much enthusiasm and hard work has gone into organising Bradford's year. There is a real buzz in the city as people get ready to showcase their talents. I

would encourage everyone to go and see some of the fantastic events in the new year," she said.

A year-long roster of performances, exhibitions, events and activities inspired by the extraordinary variety of the landscape, from the city's historic centre to the bucolic countryside that surrounds it, will pay homage to Bradford's potent heritage as everything from a former industrial powerhouse to the world's first UNESCO City of Film.

Deepak Sharma, Trustee of Bradford Hindu Council – one of the many community groups who were hard at work since 2018 to put together the winning bid, is ecstatic about the Diwali, rangoli and Yoga events in the pipeline for the year.

"What our community is looking to do with Bradford being the City of Culture is looking to showcase our roots and diversity here," said Sharma, born in Bradford to parents who migrated from Punjab.

"We're going to do some rangoli with children, Yoga for International Yoga Day and a series of events planned for the summer such as mehndi festivals. We are also looking to put together a kind of gallery to showcase Indi-

ans costumes, music and dance from different parts of India. On the whole, visitors and Bradfordians alike will find a rich Indian cultural experience when they visit this year," he said.

Fatima Patel, who is a founder of the region's 'Asian Standard' weekly, is another proud "Bradford born and bred" to parents who migrated from Gujarat.

"We've got a lot to show off about. A lot of people from outside the city who haven't actually explored our city and don't actually realise how stunning, beautiful, dynamic and culturally alive our city is," said Patel.

So, to have the UK City of Culture 2025 in Bradford is absolutely amazing because we get to invite people to come and explore our lovely city, a lovely landscape, and to see how many amazing things we have going on in our wonderful town," she said.

Patel is particularly proud about the city's history of Indian cuisine, referred to as curry in the region having undergone a British makeover as a result of a mix of South Asian influences into the recipes.

"We're known as the curry capital, having won the title six years in a row. So, we take great

pride in telling everyone how we are the best when it comes to showing off our curry cuisine," she added.

Bollywood stars such as Akshay Kumar and Ranveer Singh are among those who have also been attracted by the city's historic architecture for some of the major blockbusters over the years.

"All eyes will be on Bradford as we mark the start of 2025 UK City of Culture... We'll introduce audiences to our rural landscapes, pay tribute to our local heroes, and platform the astonishing talent emerging from our radical city. Our time is now – and it starts with RISE," Shanaz Gulzar, Creative Director of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, said of the glittering opening ceremony last week.

Two major exhibitions opened in Bradford this month as part of the UK City of Culture programme – 'Nationhood: Memory and Hope' featuring new work by acclaimed Ethiopian artist Aida Muluneh, and 'Fighting to be Heard' (17 January – 27 April 2025) at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, which explores connections between the ancient art of calligraphy and boxing, alongside rare

items from the Arabic and Urdu collections of the British Library.

Meanwhile, the National Science and Media Museum has reopened following a major development to present a mesmerising David Hockney exhibition 'Pieced Together', which explores the world-famous artist's pioneering use of film and photography.

British Bangladeshi choreographer Akram Khan presents 'Jungle Book Reimagined', based on Rudyard Kipling's iconic work, at Bradford's Alhambra Theatre. Khan has reinterpreted the known story of Mowgli from another perspective, through the eyes of a refugee caught in a world devastated by the impact of climate change.

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, added: "Bradford's creative industries are brimming with ingenuity, diversity and attitude, and with these spectacular opening events, the whole world will get to see Bradford at its best."

"That's why we're investing GBP 6 million into Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 – to attract visitors and investment, create jobs and growth, and build a stronger, brighter West Yorkshire."

Kewal Sudan Sharma Elected as the New President of Dogra Grameen Brahmin Sabha

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 19: In a special meeting of the Executive Committee of Dogra Grameen Brahmin Sabha, Kewal Sudan Sharma was unanimously elected as the new President of the Sabha. This decision was made following the resignation of the former President, Krishna Lal Sharma, who stepped down prematurely due to health issues. Members of the Sabha extended their best wishes to Kewal Sudan Sharma and expressed their expectations for strong leadership aimed at the upliftment of the Brahmin community.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the functioning of the Sabha, and several important resolutions were passed for the welfare of the Brahmin community. The Sabha urged the government to establish a Brahmin Welfare Board, emphasizing that this would be a crucial step toward strengthening the community in an organized manner. Additionally, concerns were raised over the declining representation of the general category in jobs and education. The Sabha appealed to the government to reconsider policies to ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society.

Addressing the gathering, the newly elected President, Kewal Sudan Sharma, said, "I feel honored to accept this significant



responsibility. I am committed to working tirelessly for the service and upliftment of our community. Our goal is to unite the community, empower our youth through education and employment, and preserve our cultural and traditional values. I urge all members and the community to come together to make these efforts successful."

The meeting was graced by prominent members, including Neelkanth Sharma, Bhagwan Dass, former President Suresh Sharma, Krishna Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Captain Vijay Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Captain Kamal Sharma, and Romesh Sudan, Ex Sarpanch Anjali Sharma, Ankush Sharma among others.

The Sabha concluded the meeting with a unanimous pledge to advance the com-

munity under the leadership of Kewal Sudan Sharma.

Only Sudan Sharma became the new president of Dogra Rural Brahmin Sabha.

Akhnoor. In a special meeting of the executive committee of the Dogra Gramin Brahmin Sabha, Kewal Sudan Sharma was unanimously elected as the new president of the Sabha. This decision was taken after the former president of the Sabha, Krishna Lal Sharma, resigned prematurely due to ill health. In the meeting, the members of the Sabha wished good luck to Sudhan Sharma and expected strong leadership from him for the upliftment of the society.

During the meeting, the working of the Sabha was discussed in detail and many important resolutions were passed for the welfare of the Brahmin commu-

nity. The Sabha demanded the establishment of a Brahmin Welfare Board from the government to empower the Brahmin community in an organized manner. This would be an important step. Apart from this, deep concern was also expressed over the decreasing share of the general category in jobs and education. The gathering urged the government to reconsider this issue and said that all sections should get equal opportunities.

Newly elected president Kewal Sharma while addressing the gathering said, "I feel proud to get this important responsibility. I will do everything possible to serve the society and uplift the Brahmins. Our aim is to organize the society, motivate the youth We have to educate and make them employable, and preserve our cultural and traditional values. I appeal to all the members and people of the society to join hands to make this effort a success."

On this occasion, Neelkanth Sharma, Bhagwan Das, former head Suresh Sharma, Krishna Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Captain Vijay Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Captain Kamal Sharma, Romesh Sudan, former Sarpanch Anjali Sharma, Romesh Sharma, Ankush Sharma and many other dignitaries were present. At the end of the meeting, everyone resolved to take the society forward under the leadership of Kewal Sharma.

Arvind discusses development, infrastructure issues of Ward 32 with JMC Commissioner



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: In a move aimed at addressing key infrastructure challenges in the Jammu West Constituency, Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West, today held a significant meeting with Devansh Yadav, Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), along with senior officials from the JMC. The meeting which was convened to discuss the ongoing issues in the region, focused particularly on Ward No. 32.

The meeting highlighted a proposal to secure funding under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) for an amount of ₹2000.00 lakhs. This funding is seen as crucial for addressing the pressing

infrastructure requirements, enhancing civic amenities, and ensuring the overall development of Ward No. 32.

Arvind Gupta, during the meeting, emphasized the importance of timely infrastructure development to improve the quality of life for residents in the constituency. "This funding will be pivotal in addressing the long-standing issues and ensuring that the residents of Ward No. 32 benefit from modern and sustainable infrastructure. We are committed to delivering on our promises and ensuring that every corner of Jammu West sees the development it deserves," he stated.

Devansh Yadav, Commissioner of JMC, assured that the proposal will be thoroughly

reviewed and processed to ensure the allocation of funds for the timely execution of various developmental projects. He further stressed the importance of united efforts between the JMC and local representatives will effectively address the concerns of residents.

The funding under UIDF will be utilized for a range of critical projects aimed at improving public services, including road repairs, drainage systems, sanitation facilities, and the installation of modern amenities to cater to the growing needs of the constituency.

Arvind Gupta reaffirmed his commitment to continuously working with the JMC to resolve the concerns of the people of Jammu West, ensuring a cleaner, better-connected, and more vibrant community.

Day-3 of 'Inter Zonal Display Your Talent' at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: On the 3rd day of 'Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25' being organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, the events of Debate, Elocution, Quiz, Rangoli, Clay Modelling, Photography, Collage and Poster Making were conducted at University of Jammu.

The new format of Display Your Talent has been envisioned by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu which has witnessed a larger participation of the students from the far-flung areas. All the affiliated colleges from Jammu province were distributed into 5 Zones; Tawi Zone, Pir-Panjal Zone, Devika Zone, Ravi Zone and Chenab Zone where Zonal Level Display Your Talent competitions were organized and the winners of those competitions are now competing in Inter Zonal Level.

The esteemed adjudicators of the events included (Literary Activities) Prof. Lalit Magotra,

Ms. Esther Williams & Prof. Aekta Gupta. (Fine Arts) Sh. Yogesh Sharma, Sh. Mukesh Gupta, Sh. Vikas Dogra, Sh. Suresh Sharma & Chetan Bandral.

In Debate, Priyanka from Bhartiya College of Education, Aditi Mahajan from MIER, Jammu & Muskan Thakur from GCW Kathua were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Chanpreet from GCW Parade & Aabha from GCW Kathua. Dr. Ripudaman Parihar was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Elocution, Muskan Thakur from GCW Kathua, Nipun Sharma from CDOE, JU and Prachi Gupta from GCW Udhampur were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Dr. Tsering Yangzom was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Quiz, GDC Akhnoor, GDC Kathua and CDOE, JU were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Dr. Jasleen Kaur and Dr. Ankit Mahajan were the Quiz Masters.

In Clay Modelling,

Mehak from GDC Akhnoor, Shivam Gupta from IMFA and Deepak Sharma from GDC Kathua were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Dr. Sushanta Kumar Panda was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Poster Making, Janvi from IMFA, Karan Verma from GDC Sunderbani and Vanshika Rajput from GDC Bhagwati Nagar were declared First, Second & Third respectively. The Certificates of Merit were awarded to Deep Uday Singh from the Law School, JU & Oshin Thakur from Udhampur Campus. Dr. Bandana was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Photography, Kamran Latief Naik from GDC Thannamandi, Asvina Bhat from IMFA and Shivansh Bhogal from GDC Udhampur were declared First, Second & Third respectively. The Certificate of Merit was awarded to Himanshu Angotra from the Department of Botany, JU. Dr. Harish Chander was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Collage Making, Nikhil Singh and Bharti Verma from IMFA and Kamaljeet Kaur from GDC Paloura were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Dr. Harleen Kaur was the teacher incharge of the event.

In Rangoli, Manjali Sharma from GDC Kathua, Kashish from GDC Marh and Shehdeep Kaur from Kathua Campus were declared First, Second & Third respectively. Certificates of Merit were awarded to Monika Chaudhary from IMFA and Shreya Verma from GDC Sunderbani. Mr. Rakesh Sharma was the teacher incharge of the event.

The events of DSW are conceived, planned and organised by the team consisting of Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalun Sharma & Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy

Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur & Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Dean, SW), members of Campus Cultural Committee, Ms Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor) and Ifra Kak (Cultural Officer). The events were witnessed by the members of Campus Cultural Committee, teachers, students, scholars of the University of Jammu and prominent members of the civil society.

The events were managed by Sunny Singh, Rohan Sharma, Pawan Kotwal, Deep Uday Singh, Himanshu Angotra, Suhani Kapoor, Heemanshu Tickoo, Suhani Gupta, Sushma and Mamta. Sachin Sharma, Jatinder Singh & R.P. Singh. The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. The winners of the events would be felicitated on 20th January at 4 pm at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

On 20th January, the events of Mime, mimicry, Skit & One Act Play would be conducted at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, 10 am onwards.

Congress has no moral right to invoke Ambedkar's legacy: Adv. Purnima Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Spokesperson BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor, Adv. Purnima Sharma launched a blistering attack on the Congress party, accusing it of betraying Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideals and neglecting his contributions to the nation. She asserted that the Congress systematically sidelined Ambedkar throughout his lifetime and has now resorted to political opportunism by falsely claiming his legacy.

Reacting strongly over the Congress' upcoming 'Jai Babu-Jai Bhim-Jai Samvidhan' campaign, Adv. Purnima Sharma reminded the public of how the Congress government displayed utter disregard for Ambedkar's dignity even after his demise in 1956, forcing his family to bear the expense



of transporting his mortal remains. "This act alone reflects the Congress party's deep-seated apathy towards Dr. Ambedkar, despite his monumental role in shaping the Indian Constitution," she said.

She lambasted the Congress for undermining Ambedkar's vision of social justice and failing to uplift marginalized communities during its prolonged rule. "Congress has only used Dalits and backward sections as a vote bank while doing little to empower them. Their decades of governance lacked genuine

commitment to social justice," she asserted.

Contrasting this with the BJP's approach, Adv. Purnima Sharma highlighted the Modi government's initiatives like the development of Panch Teerth to honor Ambedkar's contributions, and numerous welfare schemes designed to uplift the underprivileged. "Unlike Congress, which only indulged in lip service, the BJP has taken concrete steps to realize Ambedkar's dream of an equitable and progressive society," she stated.

She called upon the people of J&K to recognize the difference between symbolic gestures and real commitment. "While Congress sheds crocodile tears, the BJP has demonstrated through actions that it truly respects and upholds Ambedkar's ideals," she concluded.

FromPage No:1

Jammu Tawi Railway Station gets Rs 450 crore facelift ahead of Kashmir train launch

environment. The expansion is expected to streamline train operations and provide passengers with a more comfortable experience.

The redevelopment plan includes the construction of two new 12-meter-wide foot over bridges (FOBs) and a 72-meter-wide air concourse connecting all seven platforms, ensuring seamless passenger movement. Additionally, a new 4,500-square-meter second entry building will be developed on the Narwal side to cater to the growing needs of passengers.

The main station building will also be upgraded to a 15,600-square-meter facility, equipped with modern amenities and a contemporary design. The signal control room will be relocated to the new station building. Furthermore,

the number of washing pit lines will increase from three to five, enabling the station to accommodate more trains efficiently.

The addition of four stabling lines will bolster the station's capacity to manage train operations and shunting more effectively. A new parcel siding will enhance freight-handling capabilities, while outdated mechanical interlocking systems will be replaced with advanced electronic interlocking for improved safety and operational efficiency.

Notably, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) recently authorized the opening of the newly constructed 17-km-long Katra-Reasi rail track for public carriage of goods and passengers.

The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new broad-gauge rail link marks a significant milestone, with the project now awaiting its official inauguration. Preparations are underway to introduce Vande Bharat, Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU), and Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains on this historic track.

With these developments, the

dream of a seamless train journey between Jammu and Srinagar is set to become a reality soon.

Army deploys Black Hornet Nano Drone to Boost Border Security in J&K

compact size and quiet operation make it nearly undetectable, offering soldiers a discreet way to gather intelligence. The drone is equipped with two cameras and can enter tight spaces, such as militant burrows, to capture valuable surveillance footage.

The Black Hornet Nano drone is particularly useful for providing immediate situational awareness in volatile areas. It can be carried in a soldier's utility belt and deployed quickly, with minimal training required. The drone's low noise levels allow it to fly undetected during operations, enabling the Indian Army to monitor the positions of militants without alert-

ing them.

This micro UAV, developed by Prox Dynamics AS of Norway, has already been adopted by several nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and India. It offers real-time video and still images via a small camera and can be flown in different conditions, including night operations, with a range of up to 1.6 km.

MeT predicts Rain, Snow from Monday in J&K

Kashmir during the period. Gulmarg recorded a low of -7.8°C against the -8.2°C and remained the coldest place of the valley. The temperature, however, was 2.4°C above normal for the famous ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district for the day.

The night temperature at Pahalgam further improved and recorded at -3°C against the -3.4°C the previous night. This was

3.3°C above normal for the valley of shepherds during the period.

The minimum temperature at the froner Kashmir district of Kupwara slipped to a low of -2.6°C on Sunday against the -1.3°C and this was still 0.3°C above normal for the place during this period of the season.

Kokernag in south Kashmir dropped and recorded at -3.4°C against -2.8°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C above the average for the picnic spot during the period.

The minimum temperature at Qazigund on Srinagar Jammu national highway further improved and recorded at -2.8°C on Sunday against the -2.5°C a day ago and it was 0.3°C above normal for the gateway to Kashmir during the period, the MeT office said.

Cyclists On Kashmir-Kanyakumari Expedition For Pollution-Free India

Leave Jammu

centre of Srinagar, on January 16 to spread awareness and inspire others to contribute toward building a cleaner, greener India.

"We welcome the group of cyclists and wish them best of luck for completing their cycling expedition by mid-February. They have come out with a message to safeguard environment and to have a pollution-free Bharat," the ADGP said after the flag off.

He said the age of the cyclists also conveys a message, especially to youngsters, to work on their fitness and achieve their goals. Jadhav said they have started the mission to raise awareness in every city and town along the route. "Cycling is the key to good health. It also helps in safeguarding environment," he said, expressing resolve to complete the journey in 40 days. He said it was his long cherished dream to peddle cycle over snow and "I am happy that my dream was fulfilled in the Valley". He advised youngsters to adopt nature and start cycling to stay fit.

EPFO members can now change personal details, transfer EPF online without employer's intervention

Around 27 per cent of grievances filed by members are related to member profile/KYC issues

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Over 7.6 crore members of retirement fund body EPFO can now change personal details like name and date of birth online without any verification by the employer or approval by EPFO with the rollout of a new facility.

Besides, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) members with e-KYC EPF accounts (Aadhaar seeded) can file their EPF transfer claims online with Aadhaar OTP (one time password) directly without any need for intervention of the employer.

Union Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the two new services.

The minister said around 27 per cent of grievances filed by members are related to member profile/KYC issues and that would see a significant drop after the rollout of the facility.

He also stated that large employers having a huge workload of such requests will also benefit.

The minister stated that the EPFO has simplified the process of joint declaration on the EPFO portal by allowing employees to self-correct most common errors in personal details like name, date of birth, gender, nationality, father/ mother's name, marital status, spouse name, date of joining and date of leaving, without any verification by employer or approval by EPFO.

This facility will be available for members, whose UAN (universal account number) was issued after October 1, 2017 (when Aadhaar matching was made mandatory).



No supporting document is required in such cases, the minister informed.

The UAN was issued prior to October 1, 2017, the employer can correct details without the EPFO's approval.

Requirement of supporting document has also been simplified for such cases.

Only where UAN is not linked with Aadhaar, any correction would have to be submitted physically to employer and after verification forwarded to EPFO for approval, he explained.

UAN registration is done by employer for the employee at the time of joining. For many employees, mistakes were committed by employers in recording father/spouse name, marital status, nationality and service details during the registration process or later.

In order to correct these errors, the employee had to make a request online with supporting documents.

The request would have to be verified by the employer and then forwarded to EPFO for approval before any change could be effected. This process was called Joint Declaration.

Out of the 8 lakh requests that

were forwarded to EPFO by employers in FY 24-25, it was seen that only 40 per cent were sent within 5 days, 47 per cent were sent after 10 days and the average time taken by employer was 28 days.

The simplification would provide relief to employees in 45 per cent of cases through immediate correction through Aadhaar OTP verification and in the balance 50 per cent of cases through the employer itself.

If any member who can self-approve has already filed his request which is pending with the employer, the member can delete the already filed request and self-approve as per simplified process.

This will benefit nearly 3.9 lakh cases pending with employer as on date.

About the simplification of process of claims for transfer of EPF account, the minister said EPF members with fully compliant e-KYC EPF accounts can file their Online Transfer Claims with Aadhaar OTP directly with EPFO without any need for intervention of employer.

If number of claims filed (1.3 Crore) during FY 2024-25 is considered more than 94 per

cent claims (1.2 crore) will instantly reach EPFO.

The turnaround time of EPF transfer claim processing will be considerably reduced since it does not require approval by the employer.

If any member has already filed his transfer claim which is pending with employer, the member can delete the already filed request and submit claim directly with EPFO.

The simplification will also greatly reduce the member grievances considerably (presently 17% of the total grievances pertain to transfer-related issues) along with the corresponding rejections.

Large employers who have a large workload of approving such cases will have significant improvement in the ease of doing business.

The internal processes of EPFO are also being simplified for transfer claim processing within this month which will further smoothen this process.

At present, any online request for transfer of PF account in case of any change of job has to be verified by the employer before submitting to EPFO.

In this process on an average 12 to 13 days are taken by employers before the claim reaches EPFO for verifying transfers.

During the last nine months, almost 20 lakh claims remained pending with employers for more than 15 days.

The minister also said that many initiatives are being taken to improve delivery of services by the EPFO aiming bring those at par with banking system.

RBL Bank net income plunges 86% in Q3 amid higher provisions for bad loans



NEW DELHI, Jan 19

(Agencies): Higher provisions for bad loans on a prudential basis pulled down the earnings of the mid-tier private sector lender RBL Bank, with its net income plunging by a massive 86% on-year to Rs 32.6 crore in the December quarter. Sequentially, earnings were 85% less than the previous quarter.

The bottom line was hit badly as it made an additional provision of Rs 414 crore on gross NPAs of the joint liability group portfolio, taking total NPA provision on this portfolio to 85 percent despite an improvement in overall asset quality.

Its gross non-performing assets (NPAs) improved to 2.92% in the reporting period from 3.12% a year ago but inched up marginally from 2.88% in the September quarter. Similarly, net NPAs also

improved to 0.53% from 0.80% on-year and from 0.79% sequentially, the bank management told reporters in a con-call.

In absolute terms, gross NPAs of the bank stood at Rs 2,701 crore compared to Rs 2,581.08 crore in the September quarter and Rs 2,551.05 crore in December 2023, while net NPAs stood at Rs 481.64 crore for the quarter compared to Rs 635.64 crore a year ago and Rs 697.51 crore in the September quarter.

Expecting a spike in bad loans from the microfinance book, the bank chose to make an additional provision, on a prudential basis, of Rs 414 crore on gross NPAs of the joint liability group portfolio, taking total NPA provision on this portfolio to 85%.

This had the bank's overall provision coverage ratio including technical write-offs at

93.46%. Credit cost, including above additional provision on GNPA in the JLG loans, was 139 bps for the period.

The total provisions of the bank including specific, general and contingent provisions are at 110% of GNPA.

Net interest income grew 3% on-year to Rs 1,585 crore, while net interest margin stood at 4.90% and other income rose 38% to Rs 1,073 crore; core fee income for the quarter rose 19% to Rs 871 crore.

Deposits grew 15% to Rs 1.07 trillion, of which the low cost Casa grew 12% to Rs 35,022 crore which is 32.8% of overall deposits.

Advances grew 13% to Rs 90,412 crore, of which retail loans grew 19%, housing loans grew 33%, vehicle finance grew 30% and commercial banking grew 21%.

Kotak Mahindra Bank net income up 10% to Rs 3,305 crore in Q3

MUMBAI, Jan 19 (Agencies): The fourth largest private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has reported a growth of 10% in standalone net income to Rs 3,305 crore in the December quarter. On a consolidated basis, the net profit increased to Rs 4,701 crore as subsidiaries, barring the microfinance arm, reported better numbers.

The interest income rose 14.75% to Rs 16,633.14 crore from Rs 14,495 crore, the bank management told reporters in a con-call. In the second quarter, the interest earned stood at Rs 16,426.97 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (NPA) inched up to 1.51% from 1.48% in the September quarter but declined from 1.68% in the December 2023 quarter. Similarly, net NPAs stood at 0.44% in the reporting quarter compared to 0.45% in the September 2024 period, and 0.36% in December 2023.

In absolute terms, gross NPAs stood at Rs 7,218.17 crore compared to Rs 6,834.74 crore in September 2024, and Rs 6,981.15 crore in December 2023, and net NPA stood at Rs 2,070.42 crore compared to Rs 2,066.51 crore in September, and Rs 1,487.03 crore

in December 2023.

BSS Microfinance, its micro lending arm, reported a Rs 50 crore net loss in the reporting quarter as against Rs 104 crore profit in the year ago period.

Net interest income increased 10% to Rs 7,196 crore from Rs 6,554 crore and net interest margin stood at 4.93%.

Fees and services increased to Rs 2,362 crore from Rs 2,144 crore, up 10 percent on-year.

Customer assets, which comprises advances and credit substitutes, increased 15% on-year to Rs 4.59 trillion from Rs 4.01 trillion in December 2023.

Advances increased 16% to Rs 4.34 trillion from Rs 3.72 trillion in December 2023. Unsecured retail advances including retail microcredit stood at 10.5%.

Deposits grew 15% to Rs 4.59 trillion from Rs 3.99 trillion. Of this, current deposits grew 12% to Rs 66,589 crore and savings deposits were almost flat at Rs 1.24 trillion compared to Rs 1.23 trillion a year ago and term deposits rose 24% to Rs 2.68 trillion from Rs 2.16 trillion.

The capital adequacy ratio stood at 22.8 of which the CET-1 ratio was 21.7.

PSU steel manufacturer RINL gets Rs 11,440-crore lifeline from government

NEW DELHI, Jan 19

(Agencies): The debt-laden Visakhapatnam-based public sector company -- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) -- has got a new lease of life after the Central government on Friday approved a revival package of Rs 11,440 crore for the company. Of the Rs 11,440 crore, Rs 10,300 crore will be in the form of fresh equity infusion and Rs 1,140 crore will be for converting the working capital loan into preferred share capital.

"With this revival package, many of the historical legacy problems that RINL used to face will be resolved. Simultaneously, a lot of effort is going to be put in securing the raw material for RINL and the modernisation of the plant," said Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology.



The minister said that very soon RINL will start functioning with two glass furnaces, and by August this year, all the three glass furnaces would be operational. Vaishnav further said that RINL has a very special position in the entire steel industry -- it is one of those plants, which is located at the coastal Andhra Pradesh in Vizag, and is very important for

the overall steel sector of the country.

RINL has been under financial distress for quite some time, reporting losses and mounting debt for almost a decade now. In FY24, the company posted net losses of Rs 4,850 crore compared to Rs 2,850 crore in the previous year. The company's total debt at the end of FY24 was at Rs 17,000 crore.

The Navratna PSU company has over 13,000 employees. The company has a total capacity of 10.8 million tonnes of manufacturing capacity. The Union government, which was once considering privatisation of RINL had to stall the process after political opposition, had last year infused Rs 1,650 crore to help it tide over financial and operational issues.

According to Vaishnav, the revival package would immensely benefit all employees of RINL and all the people connected with the economic activities of the company.

Revival package

In a post on X, PM Narendra Modi said the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of AP, and the revival package has been given "understanding the importance of the steel sector in building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat".

Scientists find sepsis molecule, to boost treatments for critically ill patients

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A team of US scientists has uncovered how a molecule found on certain bacteria may drive blood clotting in sepsis -- a life-threatening condition that causes about eight million deaths per year.

The team at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) focused on the role of specific blood clotting mechanisms in sepsis.

The findings may pave the way for enhancing treatments for critically ill patients. They found that lipopolysaccharide, or LPS -- a molecule found on the surface of certain bacteria like E. coli -- can directly activate proteins in the blood that trigger clotting.

This process can both block blood flow and damage vital organs in a chain reaction where proteins in the blood work together to form clots. The researchers



found a specific type of LPS, called O26:B6, that is particularly good at setting off this reaction, making it more likely to cause clotting problems.

The research, published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, is based on a study conducted in nonhuman primates. The team found that when bacteria containing LPS entered the bloodstream, it quickly activated the clotting system.

This included coagulating proteins like factor XII, which seems to initiate the clotting process,

causing a chain reaction. "People who are born without factor XII are healthy and don't bleed abnormally," said Joseph Shatzel, a physician-scientist at OHSU.

"That makes it a great target for therapies -- blocking it might help stop dangerous clots without causing bleeding."

Andre L. Lira, Postdoctoral scholar and lead author of the study, said his research focuses on how the physical properties of bacterial surfaces trigger the clotting system. Sepsis can arise from bacterial, viral, or fungal infections.

"Even when we know the bacteria causing the infection, different strains can behave differently," he said. "By understanding this, we hope to develop precision therapies." The team is working on experimental treatments targeting factor XII, including antibodies designed to block its activity.

Study decodes why sickle cell patients suffer cognitive problems

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): An ageing brain in people with sickle cell disease may be responsible for cognitive problems, finds a study.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterised by the presence of abnormal haemoglobin (Hb).

People with the illness are also likely to face trouble in remembering, focusing, learning, and problem-solving.

The patients face these conditions even without brain stroke. To understand, researchers and physicians from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis examined more than 200 young adults with and without sickle cell disease.

They participated in brain MRI scans and cognitive tests. Each person's brain age was calculated using a brain-age prediction



tool that was developed using MRI brain scans from a diverse group of more than 14,000 healthy people of known ages.

The estimated brain age was compared with the individual's actual age. The results, published in JAMA Network Open, showed that participants with sickle cell disease had brains that appeared an average of 14 years older than their actual age.

Sickle cell participants with older-

looking brains also scored lower on cognitive tests.

Further, the study showed that people experiencing economic deprivation, who struggle to meet basic needs, even in the absence of sickle cell disease, also had more-aged-appearing brains, the team said.

On average, a seven-year gap was found between the brain age and the participants' actual age in healthy individuals experiencing poverty.

"Sickle cell disease is congenital, chronically depriving the developing brain of oxygen and possibly affecting its growth from birth.

Also, children exposed to long-term economic deprivation and poverty experience cognitive challenges that affect their academic performance," explained Andria Ford, Professor of neurology at Washington University Medicine.

On This Day: India breached Gabba fortress to win Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Rishabh Pant was the star of the run chase as India breached the Gabba fortress to secure a historic and memorable win against Australia in Brisbane on January 19, 2021. This helped India win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1.

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): On this day in 2021, India pulled off one of their greatest wins in their history as they defeated Australia in Brisbane to breach the Gabba Fortress and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj amongst others, played a starring role as India would win the match by 3 wickets to hand Australia their first loss at the Gabba in 32 years. With this, they would also win the series 2-1.

India were given a target of 328 runs in the second innings when Pant and Gill stepped up with memorable knocks as the visitors achieved the 5th highest run chase on Australian soil. The match started with Marnus Labuschagne giving Australia the upper hand with a well-made 108. A fifty from then-captain



Tim Paine would give Australia a good total of 369 in their first innings with Shardul Thakur, T Natarajan and Washington Sundar picking up 3 wickets each.

India lost Gill early in their first innings before Rohit Sharma steadied things with 44. Despite good starts, the Indian middle-order failed to convert it to a big

score before Thakur and Sundar stepped up. They put 123 runs and scored fifties as India got 336 runs in the end.

The second innings was all about Siraj, who would rock the Australian middle order and ended with figures of 5 for 73. He was well-supported by Thakur, who picked up 4 wickets as well.

Dramatic final day India's chase got off to the worst possible start as they lost Rohit Sharma early.

However, Gill and Pujara put on a 114-run stand, with Gill scoring 91 before being dismissed. Rahane would also go for 24 as India looked up to Pujara and Pant to get the chase back on track.

The Indian wicketkeeper would counter attack the Aussie pressure with some delightful strokes. Australia thought they were back in the contest when Pujara returned to the pavilion but Pant would continue his onslaught and received support Sundar at the fag end of the run chase.

Pant would hit the winning runs in the end as the Indian players ran onto the field to celebrate with their hero.

DK Shivakumar congratulates Karnataka team for winning Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025 title



BELAGAVI (KARNATAKA), Jan 19 (Agencies): Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday congratulated the Karnataka State Cricket Team for clinching the 2025 edition of the Vijay Hazare Trophy by defeating Vidarbha in the final.

Smaran Ravichandran's century powered Team Karnataka to a 36-run victory over Vidarbha in the final, held on Saturday at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara.

"It is a matter of happiness that the Karnataka State Cricket Team beat the Vidarbha team by 36 runs in the final round match held at the Vadodara Stadium in Gujarat on Saturday. The Karnataka team clinched the title with a coordinated performance in both batting and bowling. I would like to congratulate all the players and the coaching staff

including the captain Mayank Agarwal for their impressive performance in the tournament," DK Shivakumar expressed happiness as quoted by the Karnataka CMO press release.

Recap of the final: Vidarbha won the toss and chose to bowl first. However, their decision did not work to their advantage in the first innings.

Openers Mayank Agarwal (32 runs from 38 balls, 5 fours) and Devdutt Padikkal (8 runs from 19 balls, 1 four) failed to provide a strong start, managing only a 23-run partnership.

The credit for Karnataka's success goes to their middle order, which propelled them to a commanding 348/6 in the first innings. Smaran Ravichandran (101 runs from 92 balls, 7 fours, and 3 sixes), Krishnan Shrijith (78 runs from 74 balls, 9 fours, and 1 six), and Abhinav Manohar

(79 runs from 42 balls, 10 fours, and 10 sixes) were the standout performers.

Vidarbha's bowlers struggled in the first innings, failing to make early breakthroughs. Darshan Nalkande and Nachiket Bhute picked up two wickets each, while Yash Thakur and Yash Kadam claimed one wicket apiece.

In the run chase, opener Dhruv Shorey shone with a remarkable knock of 110 runs from 111 balls, including 8 fours and 2 sixes. However, he lacked support from other batters.

Vidarbha skipper Karun Nair could only manage 27 runs from 31 balls at a strike rate of 87.10. Harsh Dubey played a valiant knock of 63 runs from 30 balls, including 5 fours and 5 sixes, but Vidarbha fell short by 36 runs.

Karnataka's bowlers played a crucial role, with Vasuki Koushik, Prasad Krishna, and Abhilash Shetty each claiming three wickets to dismiss Vidarbha for 312 runs.

Smaran Ravichandran was named the 'Player of the Match' for his century in the final. Meanwhile, Vidarbha skipper Karun Nair was awarded the 'Player of the Series.'

"Wish I was chairman of selectors": Surinder Khanna on not including Karun Nair in CT 2025 squad

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Former India cricketer Surinder Khanna shared his thoughts on the omission of Karun Nair from the Champions Trophy squad despite an exceptional performer in first-class cricket.

Ajit Agarkar and skipper Rohit Sharma held a press conference on Saturday to announce the 15-member squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025 and ODI series against England.

"I think Karun Nair is a bit unlucky. I wish I was the chairman of selectors. He hit 300 in the test match, and after that he disappeared. Now suddenly the moon has come out again, so that moon should shine for 2-3 years and how many 35-36 year olds can you have in the team? It's a one-day format, you require quick movers in the fielding," Surinder Khanna said while speaking to agency.

Nair was the top-run-getter not only for Vidarbha but also in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25, having accumulated a massive 779 runs in seven matches at a mind-boggling average of 389.50 as he has remained unbeaten in six innings. Even after his stupendous performance in domestic cricket, the 33-year-old failed to find a spot in the 15-member squad.

In six Tests for India since his debut in 2016, he made 374 runs in seven innings at an average of 62.33, with best score of 303*. Nair also played two ODIs for India, scoring 46 runs with best score of 39.

Further, the 68-year-old raised questions on Rohit and stalwart batter Virat Kohli's fitness and said that they both should get "mentally fit" and focus on their games to come back to form.

"The captain is also weak. I mean, if you make Rohit Sharma's field on the boundary, then two runs will be easily taken. Virat Kohli also fields in slips and only does fields inside the circle. Kohli is not making runs in the fielding, he is putting in a lot of effort. the circle. I hope they all get fit mentally and focus and come back to their form," Surinder Khanna added.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli came under fire for an underwhelming Border-Gavaskar Trophy campaign and overall a very disappointing 2024/25 season of Test cricket. Sharma (31 runs in three matches and five innings at an average of 6.20) and Virat Kohli (190 runs in five matches and nine innings at an average of 23.75 with a century) lacked big time with the bat. Virat fell for the outside-off-stump trap throughout the series, most notably by pacer Scott Boland who dismissed him four times.

The 2024-25 season of Tests has been miserable for 'Ro-Ko' (Rohit and Kohli). While Rohit scored just 164 runs in eight matches and 15 innings at an average of 10.93 with best score of 52, Virat scored a shambolic 382 runs in 10 matches and 19 innings at an average of 22.87, with just a century and fifty each.

In the end, the former cricketer lauded the management's decision to elect Shubman Gill as the vice-captain of the Men in Blue for the Champions Trophy 2025.

"It is a very good and positive development. The new generation who want to take captainship from Rohit Sharma, have been given leadership roles. When Shubman Gill was sent to Zimbabwe as a captain, he went to a couple of places.



The youngster has shown promise. Gill has to get his form, that's the main thing," Surinder Khanna concluded.

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

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 50-over matches and will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai. The biggest match of the tournament between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23. India will start its campaign against Bangladesh on February 20. India's last league match will be against New Zealand on March 2. The Rohit Sharma-led side will play all their matches in Dubai.

India squad for ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja.

Bopanna-Shuai enter mixed doubles quarterfinals of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 19 (Agencies): Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Chinese partner Zhang Shuai entered the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event at the Australian Open after they got a walkover in a second round match here on Sunday.

Bopanna and Shuai were up against fourth seeds Taylor Townsend of the United States and Hugo Nys of Monaco and the Indian-Chinese pair moved to the last eight round without



taking the court.

Bopanna and Shuai will next play the winner of the match between Hungary's Tímea Babos and El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo, and, the Australian combination

of Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.

The Indo-Chinese pair had earlier defeated Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodic of Croatia 6-4 6-4 in its opening match.

Australian Open: Coco Gauff downs Belinda Bencic to storm into quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Jan 19 (Agencies): Coco Gauff advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open 2025 with her stunning win over Belinda Bencic in the fourth round fixture at the Rod Laver Arena on Sunday, January 19. Gauff made a remarkable comeback in the game after losing the first set and dominated her Swiss rival in the next two sets to seal a magnificent 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 victory.

Bencic managed to break Gauff twice in the first set and became the first player to win a set against the American in the ongoing season. However, the opening set loss seemed to have awaked the sleeping beast inside of last year's semi finalist as she came back strongly to dominate Bencic in the next two sets winning them comfortably to extend her winning streak to nine matches in the ongoing season.

Following her stunning win, Gauff acknowledged the challenge posed by Bencic in the first set. However, the 20-year-old revealed how aggressive gameplay in the second set turned things in her favour.

"I thought in the first set she played great tennis, it was tough for me to be more on offence. Overall I'm happy with how I played, the first set could have gone my way with a few more points and I played more aggressively in the second set then reset to play my best



in the third. We worked very hard in the offseason, obviously there's still a lot for me to go to accomplish my goal," said Gauff in her on-court interview.

Furthermore, the 2023 US Open Champion recalled his father's words and mentioned that her sole focus was to be in a position to be proud of herself after leaving the court.

Badosa and Pavlyuchenkova also progress ahead

"Maybe a couple of years ago, if I lost the first set I might lose the match and I remember my dad said, 'we've got to toughen you up'. I was just trying to put myself in the position where I could leave the court and feel proud of myself," she added.

Gauff will next face-off with Spain's Paula Badosa in the quarterfinal, who beat Olga Danilovič 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) at Margaret Court Arena to progress ahead in the tournament. Meanwhile, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova also beat Donna Vekić 7-6 (7-0), 6-0 in straight sets at John Cain Arena to progress ahead in the competition.

Rishabh Pant likely to take captaincy role of Lucknow Super Giants for IPL 2025

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Star India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is likely to be named the skipper of the Sanjika Goenka-owned Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) franchise ahead of the Indian Premier League 2025 edition as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

Right-hand batter KL Rahul was not retained by the Lucknow franchise ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction despite taking the team to the playoffs in their first two editions of the cash-rich league.

After not retaining Rahul, the LSG team had two options to select for the role between Pant and Shreyas Iyer, so the franchise and management opted to go with the former.

Pant became the most expensive player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL), being bought by Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) for a massive Rs 27 crores during the IPL 2025 mega auction at Jeddah. The LSG franchise would be the second team in this tournament after Delhi Capitals (DC).

He beat compatriot Shreyas Iyer, who had just become the most expensive player in the league's history, going to Punjab



Kings (PBKS) for Rs 26.75 crores a few minutes back. He had beat Australia's Mitchell Starc, who marked his return to IPL after years with a record-breaking bid of Rs 24.75 crores.

Initially, there was a bidding war between LSG and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), with the latter giving up.

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) entered the bidding war, trying to bolster their explosive batting

attack and DC tried to use the 'Right To Match' card, but they could not match the value LSG put for Pant, breaking the bank for him and going beyond Iyer's value.

Pant has represented Delhi Capitals for his entire IPL career since 2016, scoring 3,284 runs in 110 matches at an average of 35.31, with a century and 18 fifties. He was appointed as the team's captain in 2021 and led

them to playoffs in the same season.

Ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction, LSG retained Nicholas Pooran, Mayank Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi alongside uncapped stars Mohsin Khan and Ayush Badoni.

The Lucknow-based franchise finished their IPL 2024 voyage in the 7th place in the standings with 14 points after winning seven of 14 matches.

Lucknow Super Giants: Batters: Aiden Markram, David Miller, Ayush Badoni (retained), Himmat Singh, Matthew Breitzke.

Wicketkeepers: Rishabh Pant, Nicholas Pooran (retained), Aryan Juyal.

All-rounders: Abdul Samad (spin), Mitchell Marsh (pace), Shahbaz Ahmed (spin), Yuvraj Chaudhary (spin), Rajvardhan Hangargekar (pace), Arshin Kulkarni (Pace).

Spinners: Ravi Bishnoi (retained), M Siddharth, Digvesh Singh.

Fast bowlers: Mayank Yadav (retained), Mohsin Khan (retained), Akash Deep, Avesh Khan, Akash Singh, Shamar Joseph, Prince Yadav.

Omar Govt committed for comprehensive development, youth empowerment: Rattan Lal Gupta

Asks Govt to review the Industrial policies and incentives in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), reaffirmed the party's unwavering commitment to the empowerment of J&K's youth, terming them as the backbone of society.

He was addressing a joining program held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, where he strongly criticized the Central Government for failing to fulfill its promises made on August 5, 2019, regarding the development of J&K. The Joining Programme was organized by S. Tejinder Singh Aman District President Jammu Urban YNC.

Expressing deep resentment, Rattan Lal Gupta stated that despite grand assurances on the floor of the Parliament, the ground reality in J&K remains unchanged. He highlighted that unemployment in the region has reached its peak in the last ten years, with no tangible outcomes from the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 85,000 crore signed by the previous J&K government in the past. He lamented that no major industries have been established, leaving the youth struggling for employment opportunities.

The senior NC leader further emphasized that the Omar Abdullah-led government has always been dedicated to the



cause of youth empowerment. He urged the newly joined members to create awareness among the youth regarding various government schemes aimed at fostering entrepreneurship in J&K. He stressed that J&K's youth are hardworking and equally competent as their counterparts across the country, but they require adequate support and opportunities to excel.

Calling upon the party cadre, Rattan Lal Gupta urged them to strengthen the hands of Omar Abdullah and work diligently towards ensuring that the youth of J&K receive their due rights and opportunities. He reiterated the commitment of NC Govt headed by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to building a progressive and prosperous future for the younger generation, emphasizing that their growth and success are pivotal to the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the party would continue to advo

cate for policies and programs that focus on skill development, job creation, and educational advancement, ensuring that no young individual in the region is left behind.

The Provincial President underscored the necessity of collective efforts in shaping a future where the youth can contribute meaningfully to the progress of J&K, reiterating NC's resolve to stand by them in their aspirations and struggles.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu asked the newly joined members to work hard and actively engage with the people at the grassroots level. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the party's base by connecting with the youth and addressing their concerns. He encouraged them to spread awareness about the party's vision and commitment to the welfare of J&K's youth, ensuring that they become

a driving force in the region's development.

Addressing the gathering, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman apprised senior party leaders about the pressing issues faced by the youth, including rising unemployment and the lack of opportunities due to hollow policies adopted by previous regime. He emphasized the need for a proactive approach to address these concerns and lauded the National Conference for its consistent efforts to uplift the younger generation.

Those who joined the party fold include: Raman Sharma, Tanveet Singh, Harsimarjeet Singh, Charanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Taranpal Singh, Taranjit Singh, Karanvir Singh, Shushant Bhaderwaj, Amit pal Singh, Kirsh Kumar, Kewal, Tarsem, Sunny and others.

Those who were present on this occasion included: Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Zamir Quershi, Nitish Gowsami, Muzaamil Malik Provincial Secretaries YNC Jammu, Ajay Kumar Block Secretary Jammu East, Yasir Ashan, Adhyan Sharma District Vice President Jammu Urban YNC, Amit Sharma, Majid Iqbal Naik District Joint Secretaries Jammu, Attal Singh Block President North A YNC, Sourav Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Akhil Mehra Ward Presidents Jammu Urban YNC and others.

SMVDU Hosts One Day Academic Exchange with Faculty Members of IIT-Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: In a significant step towards fostering student growth, academic collaboration and intellectual exchange, the School of Biotechnology (SoBT), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), hosted an interactive session with faculty, postgraduate (PG) and Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) Biotechnology students with the faculty from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Jammu. Prof. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology at SMVDU, expressed enthusiasm about the interaction, stating, "This exchange is not only about sharing knowledge but also about creating a roadmap for joint research projects, academic collaborations, and nurturing the next generation of biotechnologists." Faculty from IIT Jammu highlighted their ongoing research in bioengineering, synthetic biology, and drug delivery systems. Students from PG Biotechnology and BTech Biotechnology at SMVDU actively participated in discussions, showcasing their curiosity and enthusiasm. Faculty from both institutions expressed their interest in organizing joint workshops, faculty development programs, and student exchange initiatives. Collaborative research projects, particularly in areas like bioinformatics, biopro-

cess engineering, and sustainable technologies, were identified as promising avenues for partnership. The interaction underscored the importance of cross-institutional collaborations in enhancing academic and research outcomes. It not only inspired students but also laid the groundwork for a long-term partnership between SMVDU and IIT Jammu. Dr. Shafaq-Rasool, Associate Professor, at School of Biotechnology and Associate Dean Academic Affairs, concluded the session with a wrap-up of the event highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary research in bridging the gap leading to impactful innovations. The event was moderated by Ms. Tanvi Sharma, Ph.D. Scholar, School of Biotechnology. The interaction marked a significant step towards creating a collaborative ecosystem between SMVDU and IIT Jammu. By opening new avenues for academic and research opportunities, the event has set the stage for a long-term partnership that promises to benefit students and faculty alike. With initiatives such as exchange programs, and dual degrees with scholarships, the collaboration aims to redefine academic excellence and equip students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the ever-evolving field of biotechnology. The event was organized under the active patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor SMVDU. He expressed his vision of creating a vibrant academic ecosystem that encourages innovation and interdisciplinary learning, and he lauded the efforts of both faculties for initiating this meaningful dialogue.

Natrang stages play 'Sarkari Afsar'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Natrang presented 'Sarkari Afsar', a play in Hindi in its weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre today at its Studio Theatre here in Kachi Chawni, Jammu. The play has been written by Laxmikant Vaishnav and was directed by Neeraj Kant. The play portrayed a real life situation of a 'Sarkari Daftar' (Government Office) and highlighted the vices in a very intelligent manner.

The play opens in a Government Office where all the employees are shown to be working in their own styles. As they have job security, no one bothers to

exercise punctuality; on the contrary, they have their own reasons to modify the rules and regulations as per their personal convenience. The common vices like red-tapeism, nepotism, favouritism, corruption, absenteeism and sycophancy which are generally associated with such offices are prominently shown in the play in a very genuine manner. The office has a peon who listens to none as no one can remove him from his permanent job and moreover no one, even the boss has courage to say anything to him as he has lot of secrets of theirs and thus exploits them at appropriate

times. Everyone in the office has his/her weakness and each one is busy exploiting that just to implement a personal agenda. The only person who musters respect from this stubborn peon is an official who is relative of a minister who works fearlessly as being a relative of a Minister, as no one could harm him in any manner. On the top of it, the Head of the Department, who was supposed to maintain integrity and punctuality of the office himself, shirks from his duties and remains absconding from the office to cater to his personal merry making engagements. But to the dismay of all, a vigilance officer conducts a surprise raid and finds no one in the office without any information and thus orders suspension of all the absconders. But by the time this new situation could establish the faith of good governance, the raid by a vigilance officer turns out to be dream and the fate of working

of a Government office continues to be the same.

Natrang young artists who performed in the play included Mihir Guiral, Aryan

Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal and Lalita Sharma. Lights were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music of the play was scored by Kananpreet Kaur.

Keshav Chopra releases Punjabi Album "Chal Dove Kariye Viyah"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Prominent Social Activist and Chairman of the Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra here today released Punjabi Album "Chal Dove Kariye Viyah" at Press Club of Jammu. The programme was organized by SKV Films.


The song "Chal Dove Kariye Viyah" has been sung by singer Ajay Parwana and composed by Shiv Vohra. The Producer of the song is Neha Sharma and the video has been prepared by Rahul Dutta and Tarun Sharma, Director of Photography is Raj Kumar and Lead role has been played by Sonia Bhagat and Shiv Vohra. The Album has been released on You



Tube Channel "SKV-FILMS" simultaneously. Keshav Chopra while speaking appreciated the work of the Whole team of the album and said that new opportunities are being opened for youths of the J&K. He also highlighted the importance of such initiatives in preserving and promoting the local artists and Music. We as a societal family must give support to the young talent which will bring laurels to the entire J&K. Keshav said

that the youth who are engaged in such activities should be encouraged both by the Government and social organisations. Samvedna society is committed to support the talent of Jammu and Kashmir he further added.

Director Rahul Dutta and Tarun Sharma while speaking on the occasion said they are confident that the song would hit stands in neighbouring states like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi as well.



Government Of India Certified Course

MASTER MATHEMATICS

with the Power of Vedic Maths

Enhance Your Child's Interest in Maths!
20+ years Experienced Trainer

100% LIVE

249 Days Course

★★★★★


Rs. 249/- Only

249 Days of Learning
79 LIVE Classes
3 Sessions Per Week

- Speedy Calculations
- Mental Maths for class 5th onwards
- Creative Problem-Solving
- Helpful for all entrance exams (UPSC/PCS/CLAT/Banking/JEE/Army etc.)

Book Your Spot:
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

Link in Description



SCAN OR CODE TO PAY