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BRIEFLY

"Malicious, Concocted": J&K Congress Chief debunks Break-Up Reports with NC

JAMMU, Jan 21 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra while debunking reports that the alliance with the National Conference is on the verge of a collapse, termed them as "malicious" and "concocted."

Karra, asserted that there was no truth in these reports and that Congress was committed to this alliance and in support of the present dispensation.

"These are just baseless, malicious, concocted, and constructed rumours. I don't have much to say about it. This is not a thing to respond to," Karra stated.

Karra, however, added that they have been reiterating their principal demand for restoration of statehood and that they would not be a part of the cabinet unless statehood is restored.

"Statehood restoration is our principal stand. We are not joining the cabinet unless statehood is restored," he said.

Several reports have been doing rounds on social media that Congress was contemplating to put an end to the alliance with the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir.

Holding Assembly session in March would be inconvenient for MLAs: Sajad Lone to Government

SRINAGAR, Jan 21 (Agencies): Amid reports that the Jammu & Kashmir government has recommended holding an Assembly session in March, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Tuesday said that holding the session during the holy month of Ramadan would be inconvenient for the majority of MLAs.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Lone, a prominent opposition figure, voiced his opposition to the government's plan of summoning the Assembly session from the first week of March.

"A humble reminder to the elected government: It is Ramadan in the month of March."

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Central team continues probe into 17 deaths in Rajouri's Badhaal village

RAJOURI, Jan 21 (Agencies): A high level inter-ministerial team continued its probe for the second day on Tuesday to ascertain the cause of death of 17 members of three families in Badhaal village of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The central team headed by a director-rank officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs spent nearly six hours in the village on Monday as part of the probe.

The team returned to Badhaal village this morning from Rajouri and resumed their activities like collecting samples, and interacting with surviving members of three families and the villagers, the officials said.

Home Minister Amit Shah has ordered the constitution of the inter-ministerial team to ascertain the causes of death in the three



families linked to each other in the remote village, about 55 km from Rajouri town, between December 7 and January 19.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to visit the village later in the day to take stock of the situation and interact with the bereaved families.

Earlier, a Jammu and Kashmir government spokesperson said investigations and samples empirically indicated that the incidents were not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin

and that there is no public health angle.

A Special Investigation Team was set up after certain neurotoxins have been found in the samples of the deceased.

Authorities recently sealed a spring in the village after its water tested positive for some pesticides/insecticides.

The people in the village, having a mixed population, are hopeful that the probe will unveil the mystery behind the sudden death of 17 villagers, including 13 children.

National Conference leader and local MLA

Javid Iqbal Choudhary lauded the patience of the villagers in the face of such a big tragedy and their cooperation with the government and medical teams.

"Our villages are an example of communal harmony and all are praying that the investigators find a clue so that those who lost their members could know the reason for the deaths of their kin," he said.

Surjeet Singh Thakur, a local resident said the entire village is in the grip of fear and grief but "we are standing together in this testing time".

"We have been living in harmony and we are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the bereaved families," he said.

According to officials, the central team, in collaboration with the local administration, will work on providing immediate relief as well as taking

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Jammu AIIMS collaborates with 4basecare to establish State-Of-Art Centre



JAMMU, Jan 21 (Agencies): In a powerful alliance rooted in compassion and driven by innovation, AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare have joined forces to fight cancer, bring hope, and make precision Medicine accessible to all.

This collaboration is about more than science and technology; it's about giving patients and their families hope and a fighting chance at a healthier future.

Official spokesperson said that cancer is a battle no one should face alone, and this

partnership is determined to ensure no one has to. AIIMS Jammu, with its reputation for clinical excellence, and 4baseCare, a leader in precision medicine, have come together to make sure that the latest advancements in cancer and other genomic-related treatments are not just reserved for the few but available to everyone, regardless of where they live or how much they earn.

"In this partnership, AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare will use state-of-the-art genomic

technologies to provide cancer patients with personalised treatment options, helping them access the therapies most likely to work for them," she said, adding that by making these sophisticated tools part of routine care, they aim to ensure that every patient's story is heard and that each person's treatment is as unique as their cancer.

"There is, at present, no facility in J&K and adjacent areas providing such services. Even in other parts of India, there are just a couple of centres providing facilities of similar nature, however with lesser spectrum," said the spokesperson, adding that this facility will be not only a referral centre for Northern India, but for the whole of India and adjacent countries.

The collaboration

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Sopore encounter is over: IGP Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Jan 21 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, Vidhi Kumar Birdi today

said that the encounter between security forces and militants in Gujjarpat, Zaloora area of north Kashmir's Sopore

has been over.

"The security forces had received a tip-off about some suspicious movement in the area following which a cordon and search operation was laid. Soon the search party zeroed in the suspected spot the hiding terrorists fired upon, triggering gunfight in the area," IGP Kashmir said.

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Man killed by rival gang in Jammu: Police

JAMMU, Jan 21 (Agencies): A man was shot dead by rival gang members in Jewal Chowk area of Jammu on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

An official told news agency the man, travelling in an SUV, was attacked by unidentified persons, who were already present in the



Jewal Chowk. He said that four bullets were fired at him

and he sustained grievous injuries. "The injured was

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ED attaches two hotels in Patnitop



NEW DELHI, Jan 21 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has attached two hotels, valued at about Rs 15 crore, in the tourist town of Patnitop in Jammu and Kashmir as part of a money laundering investigation.

The federal agency said in a statement on Tuesday that the two facilities — Hotel Trinetra Resorts and Hotel Green Orchid — were built "beyond" the area permitted by the Patnitop Development Authority (PDA).

A provisional order was issued by the ED to

attach the hotels under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The two immovable properties are valued at Rs 14.93 crore.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that was filed against various owners and directors of hotels, guest houses, resorts, cottages and residences in Patnitop area apart from PDA officials.

It was alleged in the CBI complaint that these hotels "indulged in" commercial use of residential buildings,

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J&K Raj Bhawan celebrates Foundation Day of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: The Foundation Day of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura was celebrated in J&K Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

Students, Security personnel and the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur living in J&K were the special

invitees for the cultural programme celebrating the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, organized to commemorate the occasion.

In his address, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conveyed his hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

He paid homage to the great personalities of the three states and remembered their significant contribution in nation building.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the socio-economic transformational journey of North Eastern States, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the rapid and inclusive development has connected the aspirations of the people of the North East to the aspirations of the nation.

"Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur are the treasure troves of India's rich traditions, culture, folk art & crafts. I can say with immense pride that today the North Eastern States have emerged as growth engines of the country and are inspiring the entire society through their spiritual ideals and cultural values. May these blessed states continue to achieve new heights of growth, progress, and development. I wish the people happiness, peace, and prosperity in the years to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

CM Omar Abdullah reaches Badhal Village in Rajouri, meets affected families

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah arrived in Badhal village in Rajouri today to assess the situation surrounding the unexplained deaths that have shaken the community.

Omar Abdullah, accompanied by Minister Javed Ahmad Rana, met with the affected families and reviewed the ongoing investigation.

CM Omar assured residents that the government is fully committed to uncovering the cause of the tragic deaths, with multiple agencies actively involved in the investigation.

"The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is investigating the matter. The civil administration is also probing the situation, and the central government has constituted

a team to look into it," CM told media.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had previously formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) consisting of senior police officers and medical experts to probe the deaths. An inter-ministerial team, established by the Home Ministry, is working closely with local authorities to investigate all possible causes, including reviewing food and medicine consumed by the affected families, and exploring the possibility of poisoning linked to local rivalries.

The series of unexplained deaths has caused widespread fear and uncertainty within the community, with locals demanding transparency and clarity about the situation.

"The series of deaths is unprecedented, and we are committed to a transparent and thorough investigation," a source close to the

investigation said. "We are working closely with experts to uncover the cause of this tragedy."

Initial investigations have ruled out commonly known causes, heightening the mystery surrounding the deaths. As medical experts and investigators continue their work, there is hope that the cause of this tragic event will soon be determined.

The affected families and villagers are anxiously awaiting answers as the investigation progresses. The district administration and local leaders have expressed their condolences and called for patience as they continue to work towards resolving the issue. Authorities have promised swift action based on the findings of the expert team, with local leaders offering their full support to the grieving community.

Unexplained Illness: High-Level inter-ministerial team & SIT widen probe as authorities reseal house

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 21: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district have resealed a house in Badhal village after collecting fresh samples for investigation, following the tragic deaths of multiple family members, leaving the local community in shock and grief.

These deaths form part of a larger, enigmatic tragedy that has claimed the lives of 17 villagers over the past one and a half months.

The decision to reseal the house was made under the guidance of Kotranka's Additional District Magistrate, Dil Mir, following a detailed investigation by a high-level inter-ministerial team.

The team conducted an extensive survey of the premises, collecting samples for further analysis.

The Magistrate, Dil Mir told reporters, "As you know, eight people

in this house have lost their lives. The search was carried out to inspect the edible items. All the samples have been taken, and we have sealed the house again. This was routine; as of now, there is nothing new. The house was already sealed, and after collecting the samples, it has been resealed."

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of senior police officers and medical experts to probe the deaths. An inter-ministerial team was also stationed in the village, working closely with locals.

The SIT is analyzing medical purchases, reviewing food and medicine consumed by the affected families, and investigating possible poisoning due to local rivalries.

The home, which housed deceased family members, has now become a grim focal

point of the unfolding mystery.

The impact on the grieving family and the wider community has been profound, with fear and uncertainty spreading as villagers grapple with the lack of answers.

The unexplained circumstances have raised suspicions and deepened anxieties, as residents demand clarity and safety.

The series of deaths, unprecedented in its scale and nature, has prompted significant attention from local and central authorities.

After forming the inter-ministerial team, sources said that Home Minister Amit Shah is monitoring the investigations, while LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are coordinating with the authorities for a transparent probe.

Medical experts SIT and investigators are working tirelessly to uncover the cause behind this catastrophic

series of events.

Initial investigations have ruled out commonly known causes, adding to the enigma surrounding the case. The involvement of a multidisciplinary team reflects the gravity of the situation, as officials leave no stone unturned in their quest for answers.

The Government and Local leaders have expressed their condolences to the affected families, while also urging calm and patience as investigations continue.

The district administration, Police have assured the public of transparency and swift action based on the findings of the expert team.

As the investigation progresses, the villagers of Badhaal await answers with bated breath, hoping for clarity and a resolution to a tragedy that has shaken the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

NSS SMVDU volunteers organize wall painting event at Mansar

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 21: NSS SMVDU volunteers organized wall painting event at Mansar Lake and beautify the surrounding area of the lake with creative painting and rangoli making on the pathway of the lake.

Around 35 volunteers worked sincerely in this campaign and painted creative work on the lake

theme.

Different kinds of fishes, tortoises and other water bodies were drawn by the volunteers during the event.

Poetic sentences were also written on the wall on the lake theme. NSS student coordinators Sadhvi Sharma and Abhishek Sharma led the whole event.

NSS Programme coordinator

Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the painting event. Volunteers worked for around 8 hours during a span of 2 days for this activity.

Tourists and locals visiting the lake appreciated the efforts and creativity of the volunteers during the campaign. The event was the part of the 7 days special camp of the NSS unit of the University at Mansar.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAMMU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DIVISION NO. II, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No. JDA/II/e-NIT/2024-25/76 Dated 18-01-2025

Executive Engineer, JDA Division No. II, Jammu on behalf of Vice Chairman, JDA, invites tenders by e-tendering for Collection of parking charges at JDA's parking lot at Purani Mandi, Jammu from approved and eligible CONTRACTORS/ FIRMS for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of Job	Car/Jeeps	Two Wheelers	Minimum reserved bid for one year	Security Deposit @ 10% of the Minimum Reserved bid	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Period of contract
1	Collection of Parking charges in the JDA's Parking Lot at Purani Mandi Jammu.	74	62	₹20,00,000/- + 18% GST + 2% Income Tax	₹2,00,000/-	₹1000/-	One year

- Date of Publishing: 18-01-2025.
- The Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 18-01-2025 (1800Hrs) to 01-02-2025 (1600Hrs)
- The Bid shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 18-01-2025 (1800Hrs) to 01-02-2025 (1600Hrs)
 - The bids received will be opened on 03-02-2025 (1400Hrs)
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

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Executive Engineer
JDA Division No II
Jammu

JDA/II/543-50
Dated 18/01/2025

Hotel suffers minor damage in blaze at Lal Chowk

SRINAGAR, Jan 21 (Agencies): A minor fire incident on Tuesday afternoon damaged a room of a hotel at Polo View in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a minor fire

incident this afternoon damaged one room of the hotel "Gulam Mohidin and Sons," located in the Polo View market of the commercial hub Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

He said the fire and emergency vehicle was stationed at the spot. The situation is under control.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids upto closing date 13.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	615-TRD-FZR-2024-25
Name of work	TRD work in the Provision of metal crash barrier fencing 128.825 km and 1.0m RCC boundary wall along the track to prevent CRD over Vande Bharat Route on SNL-JRC-PTK section under Sr DEN-1FZR over Firozpur division
Approx. Cost (in ₹)	₹66,27,743.75
Cost of Tender Form (in ₹)	Nil
Date & Time for submission of Tender	Upto 13.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.
Earnest money (in ₹)	₹1,32,500/-
Completion Period	Six (06) Months
Opening of tender	13.02.2025 after 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars	www.irps.gov.in

Similar Nature of work: "Design, supply, erection loading & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE" (Ref: OHE Works S No. 1.1 of Pr. CEE/IRP's Letter No. 181-Exec/TRD/1894/PLI, dated 29.07.2023).

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No.: 615-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 16.01.2025 216/2025

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EDITORIAL

CHECK ON CRIME
ACTIVITIES

Jammu & Kashmir, a region with a rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty, has faced a complex history of challenges, including criminal activities. Over the years, efforts have been made to curb crime and maintain law and order. However, tackling crime in J&K requires a multifaceted approach, considering the region's unique socio-political landscape and the evolving nature of offenses.

The region's history of insurgency has led to militancy-related incidents being a significant concern. These include targeted attacks, arms smuggling, and radicalization. Despite a decline in such activities in recent years, sporadic incidents continue to pose challenges.

J&K's proximity to the "Golden Crescent" (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran) has made it vulnerable to drug trafficking. The rising use of narcotics, particularly among the youth, has led to an increase in drug-related crimes.

With the digital revolution, cybercrimes such as online fraud, hacking, and identity theft have seen a rise in the region. Many residents, especially in urban areas, have fallen victim to these crimes due to limited awareness about cyber safety.

Theft, burglary, and land disputes are prevalent, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. Land encroachment and fraudulent land deals are also significant concerns.

Reports of domestic violence, harassment, and crimes against women have been increasing, highlighting the need for robust mechanisms to address these issues.

J&K's law enforcement agencies have been working diligently to curb criminal activities. The Jammu & Kashmir Police, along with paramilitary forces, have intensified patrolling, surveillance, and area domination to deter criminal activities. Police stations have been modernized with better infrastructure and technological support. Programs like Police-Public Meets and Village Defense Committees have been instrumental in building trust between the police and local communities. These initiatives encourage citizens to report crimes and collaborate in maintaining peace. The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has been actively working to combat drug trafficking. Awareness programs in schools and colleges aim to educate youth about the dangers of drug abuse. Dedicated cybercrime units have been established to tackle the growing menace of online crimes. These cells work on creating awareness, tracking offenders, and providing assistance to victims. Units such as the Special Operations Group (SOG) focus on militancy-related crimes, while the Women's Police Stations address gender-based violence and domestic abuse. Fast-track courts and special tribunals have been set up to ensure timely justice in cases involving women, children, and land disputes.

Despite the measures in place, J&K faces several challenges in curbing crime. The region's proximity to international borders makes it vulnerable to cross-border crimes such as smuggling, infiltration, and espionage. Unemployment, poverty, and lack of education contribute to criminal activities, particularly among the youth. Many police stations and law enforcement units face shortages of modern equipment, trained personnel, and financial resources. A lack of awareness about legal rights and crime prevention mechanisms among residents, particularly in rural areas, hampers efforts to address crime effectively. Instances of corruption within law enforcement and administrative bodies undermine public trust and impede crime control measures.

Equipping police forces with advanced technology, increasing manpower, and providing specialized training can enhance their ability to tackle complex crimes. Modern surveillance systems, improved coordination between security agencies, and strict border control measures can help combat cross-border crimes. Skill development programs, job creation, and access to quality education can deter youth from engaging in criminal activities. Public awareness campaigns about cyber safety, drug abuse, and legal rights can empower citizens to protect themselves and report crimes.

Strengthening community policing initiatives and encouraging local participation in crime prevention can foster trust and cooperation between law enforcement and residents. Expanding fast-track courts and ensuring swift resolution of cases can deter criminal behavior and provide justice to victims. Tackling socio-economic disparities, providing mental health support, and addressing systemic corruption are essential to reducing crime in the long term.

Ensuring a crime-free Jammu & Kashmir requires a collaborative effort from law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, civil society, and the government. By addressing the root causes of crime, enhancing security measures, and fostering trust between the authorities and the public, J&K can pave the way for a safer and more prosperous future. The focus must remain on preventive measures, timely justice, and community empowerment to create a harmonious and secure environment for all residents.

PM Modi's Epoch-making SVAMITVA Scheme

By: - Omkar Dattatray

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi has said that real India lives in villages. Further it is safe and correct to say that India is basically and primarily an agricultural country and economy. PM Modi is translating into practice the Gandhi's vision of the upliftment of rural economy and thus is his government embarking programs and policies oriented in scientific, technological and innovative ways for the development of the Indian economy in general and rural economy in particular. The distribution of Svamitva cards at a very large scale to the rural residents of India is a step in materializing the Gandhi's vision of rural economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the master strategist and expert in making innovations for the development of the country and for ensuring the welfare of the people especially the residents of rural India. The distribution of Svamitva cards to a huge number of rural residents numbering over 65 lakh in 50,000 villages is not an ordinary thing but is in fact historical. It will directly benefit the farmers and land owners as well as owners of houses in rural areas as their landed property and houses has been digitized and this policy will result in reduction of the property disputes and lead to comfortable life to the farmers and property holders in rural India. PM Modi while addressing an event to distribute over 65 lakh property cards to property owners in over fifty thousand villages across 230 districts through video conferencing. Terming the property cards distributed under centre's SVAMITVA scheme a "guarantee of economic security," Modi said these documents once issued in all the villages of the country, will unlock economic activity worth over Rs 100 lakh crore. Calling it a "historic day for villages and rural areas of India," he said half of the country's more than six lakh villages had been surveyed by drones under the property survey program

which was launched in 2020. He said 2.25 crore in villages have so far received legal documents for their houses under the scheme. Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh said, "SVAMITVA Schemes consensus-Based Approach Resolves village disputes, fosters unity. He further added that, "property cards will enable formal credit access, empower women, make villages self-reliant. In fact in a historic and transformative moment for rural India, PM Modi recently presided over the largest-ever distribution of property cards ceremony under the SVAMITVA Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, empowering 65 lakh rural citizens with legal ownership documents in a single day. Besides some ministers from the union cabinet, there was large participation from citizens as well as Panchayat representatives and officials of line departments across 237 districts, with 9 union ministers personally overseeing regional distribution ceremonies. The momentous e-distribution ceremony, conducted via video conferencing, covered more than 50,000 villages across 10 states and 2 union territories, marking an unprecedented milestone in rural governance and empowerment. The distribution ceremony encompassed beneficiaries from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and the UT's of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh. This remarkable achievement brings the total number of property cards distributed under SVAMITVA scheme to 2.25 crore. It is pertinent to mention that five years ago, the SVAMITVA scheme was launched to ensure that the people residing in rural areas receive their property cards. Over 1.5 crore people have been issued SVAMITVA cards in past five years. Remarking that 21st century presents numerous challenges, including climate change, water scarcity, health crises and pandemics, PM highlighted that another significant challenge the world faces is property rights and the

lack of legal property documents. He cited a UN study that revealed many people in various countries do not have proper legal documents for their property. He added that the UN emphasized that reducing property requires people to have property rights. He highlighted that after receiving legal documents, lakhs of people had taken loans from banks based on their property, starting small businesses in their villages. Many of these beneficiaries are small and medium farmer families, for whom these property cards have become a significant guarantee of economic security. The Dalit, backward, and tribal families were most affected by illegal occupations and long and lingering court disputes. But now with legal documents, they would now be free from this crisis. PM said that once property cards are issued in all villages in the country, it will unlock economic activities worth over 100 lakh crore rupees. The SVAMITVA cards will minimize property disputes, enable modernization of assets, enhance livelihood and will foster economic empowerment and economic development in rural India. Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh emphasized at the historic event that on the unprecedented scale of the SVAMITVA property cards distribution has reached 237 districts through coordinated physical programs. He underlined that the distribution of 65 lakh property cards marks a transformative moment, empowering an equal number of rural households with the legal ownership rights. The minister highlighted how SVAMITVA scheme has become a cornerstone of rural empowerment. He particularly praised the Schemes consensus based approach to property documentation, noting that this collaborative method has significantly reduced village disputes and strengthened community harmony. In fact these property cards would not only facilitate access to banking services and formal credit but also serve as powerful tools for dispute resolution. This scheme has

great role in women empowerment, with many women now recognized as property owners or co-owners, marking a significant step towards gender equality in rural India. One can opine that SVAMITVA is not just about property rights. It is about making our villages self-reliant and our rural citizens Atmanirbhar. In fact SVAMITVA Scheme will generate new employment opportunities and enable rural entrepreneurship through improved access to financial services. This comprehensive approach aligns perfectly with PM's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, where rural India plays a central role in the country's progress and prosperity. The SVAMITVA Scheme, launched by PM Modi on 24TH April 2020, has emerged as a game-changing initiative in revolutionizing rural land governance. The scheme has successfully mapped over 3.17 lakh villages using advanced drone technology, covering an impressive 67,000 square Kilometers of rural residential land valued at Rs 132 lakh crore. The success of SVAMITVA has garnered international attention, with India's innovative land governance model set to be showcased at an International Workshop in March 2025 and the World Bank Land Governance Conference in May 2025. This global recognition highlights India's leadership in leveraging technology for sustainable development and grassroots governance. In short this scheme will transform and revolutionize the rural economy and rural India. So SVAMITVA Scheme is no less than rural revolution.

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

Being a republic has deeper meaning for India as it allows us to live values like democracy, equality, justice and freedom

By: Vijay Garg

India is going to celebrate its 76th Republic Day after a few days. Preparations for this are going on all over the country. The main event will be organized in the capital Delhi. If someone asks why Republic Day is special for India, then the answer to this question will be that after becoming a republic, the country has become free to take decisions in its internal and external matters. For India to be a republic has a very deep and important meaning. It is not just a political system, but it defines our country's values, history and future direction. The Republic has given India the right to decide its own political, economic and social policies. Through this, a democratic system was established in the country, in which the people got the right to elect their representatives. After the implementation of the Constitution in India, all adult citizens got the right to vote. Are these all normal things? After becoming a republic, the government becomes accountable to the people and has to give account of its policies through regular elections. Was all this possible during monarchy or white government? No. The Republic established the rule of law, in which all citizens are equal before the law. Citizens got fundamental rights, such as right to equality, right to freedom, right to religious freedom, etc. All citizens have these rights without any discrimination. These rights cannot be violated and the law entitles all citizens to protect rights. With the formation of the Republic, the rule

of law came into force in India. With this, an important step was taken towards establishing the rule of law in the country. This means that all citizens in the country, regardless of their social status, religion, caste or gender, are equal before the law. No person is above the law and everyone has to follow the law. Before becoming a republic, India was under British rule, where laws were made by the British and were intended to maintain their control over India. At that time, Indians did not enjoy equal rights and often faced discrimination. Now let us also talk about the important steps taken after becoming a republic to establish the rule of law. The Constitution of India played an important role in establishing the rule of law. The Constitution divided powers between different organs of the government (legislature, executive and judiciary), so that no one organ had too much power. An independent judiciary was established in the country, which interprets the laws and ensure that all citizens get justice. The judiciary is free from interference by the executive and the legislature. To ensure the rule of law, institutions like the Election Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General were created, which ensure that the government works according to the law. Over time, procedures for amending laws were also established so that they could adapt to changing social values and needs. It is important to remember that the rule of law is the foundation of democracy and it is essential for the development and prosperity of any country. It

ensures that all citizens feel safe, all citizens get equal opportunities, the government is accountable, corruption ends and peace and stability is maintained in the country. However, it is also true that there are still challenges in fully implementing the rule of law in India. Poor and marginalized communities face difficulties in accessing justice. Corruption and political interference also undermine the rule of law. Still, the rule of law in India is an ideal that continuous efforts are being made to achieve. With the formation of the Republic, the foundation of rule of law was laid in India. But there are still some challenges, but the country is continuously moving towards a society where the law applies equally to all. This is an ongoing process, in which the government, judiciary, civil society and all citizens will have to work together. The Republic attempted to achieve the goal of social justice, which includes providing equal opportunities to all sections of society. The Republic adopted India. They were given the right to decide their own economic policies, which gave impetus to economic development. The Republic promoted progress in education, leading to increased literacy rates. To understand how the path to India's economic progress was paved after becoming a republic, we have to pay attention to some important aspects: India started five-year plans inspired by the Soviet Union. Their objective was to develop the country's economy in a planned manner. These schemes include agriculture, industry, edu-

cation, health and basic focus was placed on areas such as structure. India adopted a mixed economy, in which both the public and private sectors were given important roles. The public sector was given the responsibility of developing heavy industries and infrastructure, while the private sector was encouraged to produce consumer goods and services. Land reform laws were enacted to end the Zamindari system and distribute land equally among the farmers. This increased agricultural production. In the 1960s, the Green Revolution began, using high-yielding seeds, fertilizers and irrigation techniques. This made India self-sufficient in food grain production. Loans and subsidies were provided to farmers, which helped them adopt modern agricultural techniques. Being a republic is a great achievement for India. It is a political framework that allows us to live values such as sovereignty, democracy, equality, justice and freedom. This paves the way to make us a strong, united and prosperous nation. We must remain committed to preserving the Republic and carrying forward its ideals. You can say that Republic of India is committed to realizing the happiness and dreams of every citizen. There can be no debate about this.

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

Capacity Building Workshop on National Rabies Control Programme held in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 21: A one-day capacity-building workshop cum orientation programme for healthcare professionals, including Medical Officers & MLHPs, was successfully organized on the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) at the Make Shift Campus of GMC Doda on Tuesday.

The event was organized by the District Surveillance Unit (IDSP) under the banner of the District Health Society Doda.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the workshop in the presence of the Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, and other esteemed guests including Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Dr Hamid Parry, Mohd Shafi Attu (HE), Sanjeev Rana, Mashhood Latif and staff of CMO office and Govt Nursing College Doda.

In his inaugural speech, Harvinder Singh highlighted the importance of the National Rabies Control Programme in combating this preventable yet deadly disease. He emphasized the critical role of healthcare professionals in ensuring timely interventions, raising public awareness, and strengthening community-level disease surveillance. "It is imperative that we work together to ensure no life is lost to rabies, which is entirely preventable. This workshop is a step towards empower-



ing our healthcare work force to achieve that goal," he said. He also encouraged participants to utilize the knowledge gained to create a robust healthcare delivery system in the district.

The workshop witnessed participation from Medical Officers and Mid-Level Health Providers (MLHPs) representing all medical blocks of the district, including Assar, Bhaderwah, Gandoh, Ghat, and Thathri. In his welcome

address, Dr. Om Kumar, Chief Medical Officer Doda, extended warm greetings to the participants and highlighted the significance of the NRCP.

He emphasized the importance of case evaluation and preventive measures in controlling rabies. The workshop featured expert sessions by prominent speakers. Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda, provided in-depth insights into the clinical aspects of rabies management, while Dr.

Naveed Anjum, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon from the Animal Husbandry Department, discussed the understanding rabies and prevention, followed by a lecture given by Incharge Anti Rabies Clinic GMC Doda Dr Anzer Majeed who discussed the zoonotic transmission of rabies, treatment and preventive strategies.

Among other the workshop was also attended by HOD Microbiology GMC Doda Dr Safia Khan and Dr Garima Charak from Department of Physiology.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals in rabies prevention, early diagnosis, and management, thereby contributing to the overall public health goals of the district. The event concluded with an interactive session, where participants discussed various challenges and shared their experiences, ensuring a productive and engaging programme.

Divisional Com Kashmir reviews final arrangements for Republic Day celebrations

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 21: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, conducted a comprehensive review of the final arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, ensuring that all necessary measures are in place for a smooth and secure event.

In a high-level meeting held earlier today in Srinagar, Bidhuri discussed the security, logistics, and infrastructure requirements for the celebrations, set to take place on 26th January. The meeting was attended by Deputy

Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-din and other senior officials.

Divisional Commissioner was briefed on the multi-tiered security arrangements, which are being closely coordinated with security agencies to ensure the safety of participants and attendees.

He emphasized the importance of smooth traffic management, crowd control, and medical facilities during the event. "Our primary goal is to ensure a seamless and safe experience for all those attending the celebrations," Bidhuri said during the meeting. The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the status of decorations and seating arrangements at the main venue, as well as preparations for the cultural programs and the ceremonial parade. Special attention was given to the availability of amenities for the public, including transportation and sanitation services. He directed relevant departments to complete all preparations ahead of schedule, ensuring that there are no last-minute hurdles. He also urged officials to maintain strict coordination to address any unforeseen challenges that may arise in the lead-up to the event.

NSS unit GDC Ramnagar organizes workshop on Soil Sampling Techniques



Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Jan 21: Since the occupation of most of the people of Ramnagar is agriculture so to acquaint the students about the nutrient contents of the soil and the practical knowledge of the soil testing methods, an effort 'Know Your Soil' an activity on Day 2 of Special Winter Camp. In session 1, a documentary on soil sam-

pling and soil testing techniques by J&K Directorate of Agriculture was shown to the volunteers. Then after Prof Ritika Mahajan, NSS Program Officer and HOD Chemistry delivered lecture on the nutrients of soil and necessity for the proper health of soil so as to increase the productivity of land and to raise the financial conditions of the farmers. In session 2, volun-

teers visited the various fields of adopted village Thapal and took the soil samples from various sites. Volunteers also propagated the message and aware the local farmers regarding the importance of soil testing and determination of soil health. Principal GDC Ramnagar congratulated the unit and appreciated the efforts of the unit working on the social and financial upliftment of the farmers.

Ruheena Shahzad mourns demise of Shamsheer Singh Manhas

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 21: BJP Senior Leader Ganderbal Ruheena Shahzad has expressed deep sorrow over the sudden passing of Shamsheer Singh Manhas, a prominent BJP leader, former State President of the party, and former Member of Rajya Sabha.

In a heartfelt message, Ruheena Shahzad described the loss of Manhas as a "monumental setback" for both the BJP and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He acknowledged the immense dedication and tireless efforts of Manhas in serving the public and strengthening the party, adding that his leadership and vision have inspired countless individuals.

"Shamsheer Singh Manhas's unwavering commitment to the people and his exemplary contributions to society will always be cherished. His demise is a great loss to the BJP family and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We extend our thoughts and prayers to his family during this challenging time," Ruheena stated.

On behalf of the BJP, Ruheena Shahzad offered his condolences to the bereaved family, praying for their strength to endure this profound loss and for the departed soul to attain eternal peace.

Reffa Boules India Federation hosts camp for Specially-Abled students



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: In a remarkable initiative, the Reffa Boules India Federation organized a one-day camp at Lawrence Public School, Sidhra, dedicated to empowering specially-abled students through sports.

This event is part of a series of camps aimed at boosting confidence and promoting physical well-being among these students. The camp, guided by skilled trainers, introduced participants to the basics of boules, fostering enthusiasm and skill

development. Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the federation, emphasized the importance of inclusivity in sports, stating, "This camp is just the beginning of their journey." The event was warmly received by participants and their families, with parents expressing gratitude for the federation's efforts. Plans for a future tournament were also announced, promising a competitive platform for these students to showcase their talents. This initiative not only celebrated perseverance but also paved the way for greater opportunities in the realm of inclusive sports.

Youth 4 Panun Kashmir unveils Jagti Declaration – 2025



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Youth 4 Panun Kashmir (Y4PK) launched the Jagti Declaration – 2025, a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen the struggle for justice, cultural preservation, and the reclamation of the homeland for Kashmiri Pandits. The declaration, unveiled at a press conference at the Press Club, Jammu, outlines key initiatives for youth-led grassroots action and community empowerment.

The Jagti Displacement Camp will serve as the hub for major community programs, symbolizing resilience and unity. Rahul Kaul, Apex Body Member of Y4PK, emphasized, "The Jagti Declaration is a roadmap for preserving our heritage and ensuring a secure future for our community."

Vithal Chowdhary, President of Y4PK, stated, "This declaration is a pledge for action, with the youth leading the charge for justice and revival."

Digamber Raina, General Secretary of Y4PK, highlighted the success of the recent Nishkasan ka Dard event, affirming, "The overwhelming participation reaffirms our resolve to continue the fight for justice and identity."

Ashwani Bhat, Senior Activist, and Jagti resident, remarked, "Jagti has always symbolized the Kashmiri Pandit spirit. This declaration ensures our collective voice remains united and strong." Young leaders expressed their dedication to the cause, with Sahil Pandita stating, "The Jagti Declaration empowers us to lead the fight for our homeland and heritage." Akshay added, "We will ensure our community's history and struggle are recognized globally."

The Jagti Declaration – 2025 is a call to action, urging all Kashmiri Pandits to unite and work toward a safe, just, and prosperous future for the community.

GDC Thannamandi initiates Republic Day celebrations by plantation drive

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Jan 21: Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi initiated the Republic Day Celebrations with a plantation drive organized by Department of Botany in collaboration with the College Beautification Committee and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit as part of Viksit Bharat @2047 Abhiyan here on Tuesday.

A daylong plantation drive organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of the College. Tehsildar Thannamandi Syed Mazhar Ali Shah and Naib-Tehsildar Thannamandi Mehmoode Azam were special guests on this occasion. Dr. Ashaq Malik, Head, Department of Botany, Prof. Fatima Parveen Convener, Campus Beautification Committee and Prof. Supriya Gupta, NSS PO at GDC Thannamandi coordinated the drive wherein students of Botany Department along with NSS Volunteers were involved in raising beds and plantation of seasonal plants.

This drive was part of the college's ongoing efforts to contribute in nation building by opting green initiatives. While terming plantation

the best way to celebrate Republic Day and paying tribute to national heroes, Prof. Farooq Ahmed emphasized upon the need to plant more and more plants on every occasion to conserve biodiversity, environment and more importantly combat climate change.

He appreciated the enthusiasm of the organizing team, especially the budding botanists and NSS Volunteers towards this green celebration and expressed hope for more such plantation drives on a monthly basis.

The program aimed to inspire students and faculty to understand practical aspects of Botany as well as draw deeper connections with biodiversity and environmental conservation in line with developing a patriotic sense of belongingness towards their college campus and nation at large for making it more green, lively and beautiful.

Besides students' volunteers, the organizing team included Dr. Ashaq Malik, Prof. Supriya Gupta, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Romy Dar, Dr. Showkat Ahmed, Dr. Mohd Shakoor and Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Army organizes career counseling session at Khellani



Top News Report

DODA, Jan 21: As part of the Indian Army's commitment towards nation building, Suhanda Battalion of Delta Force organized a Career Counseling session at HSS Khellani, Doda on Tuesday.

The initiative aimed to provide comprehensive guidance and support empowering youth to make a informed decisions about their careers.

That the total number of 26 girls and 27 boys from different parts of Doda District utilized this opportunity.

The career counseling session provided students with much-needed guidance and support, helping them navigate the complexities of career choices.

The counseling session likely provided information on various career options, including those in the Indian Army, to help students make informed choices. The presence of Indian Army personnel can be a great motivator for students, inspiring them to work hard and pursue their goals.

The event vividly showcased Army's unwavering commitment in the

service to the nation and its dedication to nurture strong positive relationships with the youth of the region. The efforts of the Indian Army were well received and appreciated by the locals.

The Indian Army's efforts to organize such initiatives are truly commendable. Their commitment to nation-building and community development is inspiring, and their presence in the region can have a positive impact on the lives of the people and the Suhanda Battalion of the Delta Force for taking this initiative and empowering the youth of Doda.

Here are B-town actors who are set for a South Indian debut in 2025

As the lines between Bollywood and South Indian cinema continue to blur, a fresh wave of Bollywood actors is set to make their South Indian debut in 2025. From seasoned performers to rising stars, these actors are venturing into uncharted territory, collaborating with iconic South Indian filmmakers and actors. Here's a closer look at their highly anticipated projects.

Great going
Ali Fazal, Thug Life
Ali Fazal, celebrated for his versatility in films and web series like *Mirzapur* and *Victoria & Abdul*, is all set to make his South Indian debut in the pan-India film *Thug Life*. Sharing the screen with the legendary Kamal Haasan, Ali is stepping into a world of grandeur and action. Directed by a prominent South Indian filmmaker Mani Ratnam, this multi-language release is expected to captivate audiences nationwide. With an impressive lineup of Bollywood projects in 2025, Ali's collaboration in *Thug Life* adds another feather to his cap, solidifying his position as one of the busiest and most versatile actors today.

Screen presence



Akshay Oberoi, Toxic
Known for his intense performances in films like *Fighter* and *Gurgaon*, Akshay Oberoi is ready to leave a mark in the South Indian industry with *Toxic*. Sharing screen space with Yash, Kiara Advani, Nayanthara and Huma Qureshi, this much-hyped project promises a high-octane mix of action and drama. Akshay is thrilled about his big-screen presence alongside a stellar ensemble cast and is working hard to ensure his South Indian debut

is unforgettable.
Intriguing mix
Sunny Hinduja, Hello Mummy
Sunny Hinduja, widely appreciated for his roles in *The Railway Men* and *Aspirants*, is taking his talent to the Malayalam industry with *Hello Mummy*. This comedy-horror film is an intriguing mix of scares and laughs, showcasing Sunny's versatility as an actor. With a gripping script and unique concept, *Hello Mummy* is set to mark Sunny's debut with a bang.

First take
Shanaya Kapoor, Vrushabha
Shanaya Kapoor is charting her path in the South Indian industry with her debut project, *Vrushabha*. Sharing the screen with none other than Mohanlal, the film boasts a star-studded cast, including Roshan Meka, Garuda Ram, Simran and Srikanth. Backed by Balaji Telefilms and co-produced by Ekta Kapoor, *Vrushabha* is a high-budget Telugu-Malayalam bilingual, directed by

acclaimed filmmakers.

Under wraps
Kareena Kapoor Khan, Yet-untitled

Bollywood's queen Kareena Kapoor Khan is ready to conquer the South Indian industry in 2025. While the details of her untitled project remain under wraps, Kareena has expressed her enthusiasm for this new venture, calling it a 'big South film'. Fans eagerly await more updates, as this marks Kareena's first foray into South Indian cinema. Known for her powerful performances and magnetic screen presence, her debut is bound to create ripples.

Negative zone
Sohail Khan, NKR21
Sohail Khan is all set for a Telugu film debut with the much-anticipated action thriller *NKR21*. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri and starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram in the lead role, Sohail takes on a significant negative role in the film. His character in the poster offers a glimpse of the intensity and menace he brings to the screen. *NKR21* promises a thrilling mix of action-packed sequences and emotional depth.

Kangana 'pained' over Emergency ban in Punjab: My films performed so well there



Actor and MP Kangana Ranaut has been in the news ever since her directorial, the political drama *Emergency*, was announced. The artiste recently shared a video to express her gratitude to those who flocked to cinema halls to catch the movie. However, in the same clip, Kangana reflected on its ban in Punjab.

The actor said, "I want to express my gratitude to everyone from Zee Studios. You guys have

given so much love to our film *Emergency*. We are speechless. However, I am slightly upset and pained about my film's state in Punjab. There was a time when people used to say my films used to work the best there. Now, my film is not even releasing in the state. And I have come to know that some of them are even against it in parts of Britain and Canada, and people are being attacked there. A few

people are responsible for spreading this kind of hatred. But, we are the ones getting burnt."

"The kind of love I bear in my heart for India is best exemplified through *Emergency*. You only decide after watching -- Is the movie bringing us together, or tearing us apart? That is all I have to say at the moment. Jai Hind," she added.

Kangana's film has been banned in Punjab after various Sikh bodies protested against its release.

Apart from the imposed Emergency period in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the film also touches upon her assassination and the Khalistan movement which was led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in the 80s, which was highlighted in the released trailer.

Various Sikh communities have accused the makers of misrepresenting and distorting facts.

Apart from Kangana, *Emergency* also features Anupam Kher and Shreyas Talpade among others in significant roles. *Emergency* hit theatres on January 17.

Screenwriter-author Mushtaq Shiekh, in Amritsar to talk about his latest book, *Secrets Within*, pours his heart out

The initial news reports on the attack on actor Saif Ali Khan rankled everyone, created a shock wave which was followed by lots of speculation and constant social media meme-fest. But Mushtaq Shiekh, screenwriter and author, who is close friends with Bollywood A-listers, including Shah Rukh Khan (whom he addresses as Suh), Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Tabu, Farah Khan, Ritesh and Genelia Deshmukh, calls this incident unprecedented.

"This was unprecedented, almost bordering on bizarre, that's why people are shocked. It happened inside a house, safety of your families compromised. This shocks you. I feel now maybe we cannot hide the fact that this is going to be the new normal. There were boundaries, people are now crossing it and now we need to do some basic hygiene test (in terms of safety) that these things don't happen."

Speaking at an event held for his latest book, *Secrets Within*, by Phulkari WOA and Majha House in Amritsar, Shiekh said the culture of excess in terms of movie stars has created challenges that have taken a turn for worse. "The rush to have more, documenting the lives of celebrities, film stars, the culture of excess is going to lead us to such situations, whether it's on social media or the paparazzi culture. We need to be ready for new challenges, re-think our safety norms."

He also shared an incident when personal space of some film actor was invaded in public, without any concern for the reaction. "The actor was eating out with the family and some fans approached for a picture. They were politely asked if it could wait and the reply from the fan was, 'no, we are getting late'. I mean, it gets tedious for film stars as well after a while and when the lines between adoration and obsession blur, problem arises."

Friends with King Khan
Of course, being friends with the King of Bollywood and star of stars, Shah Rukh Khan, has made Mushtaq privy to this fan-obsession. "People are obsessed with him. They are in awe and he has that charm to demand your attention when he walks into a room. So, it's natural," he says. Sharing how there was a time when SRK's interview got rejected by a leading magazine, Mushtaq recalled, "I first met him when he was still doing television and got an interview with him. He was so articulate. But my editor rejected the piece as Shah Rukh was not a star. I knew this



interview had to be published and so I found 30 other Khans, who were struggling to make it big in films, and spoke to them, got the story together and got it published," he shared.

That was also the beginning of his journey as a writer. "I owe a major part of my writing career to SRK, as he forms the subject of my earlier three books, including *Still Reading Khan*, his biography."

Love for thrillers
Shiekh, who wrote scripts for *RaOne*, *Om Shanti Om* and *Billu*, has now come up with his first fiction novel, *Secret Within*, a crime thriller, which he confesses is his favourite genre. "Thriller is my first love, I consume so much thriller fictions that now anyone who knows me knows this. Unpredictability, how it stumps the reader, is what makes it work. The book is written in a series format, where three more books will follow—*Secrets Buried*, *Secrets Forgotten* and *Secret Exposed*. But each book stands out individually as well," he says.

As a screenwriter, Mushtaq says films are a collective process, where many people and their creatives are involved in completing the final product. "It is quite commerce driven, which books not necessarily are. But my storytelling also comes from films, as my mind works that way. The pace can be felt in the book. Today, most authors know that they need to sustain the readers' attention because they are competing with social media, OTTs as competition."

1975: Year of 'Sholay', 'Deewar', 'Nishant' and more, when creativity peaked in Hindi cinema

It was a standout year, and not just in Indian politics. 1975, the year of the Emergency, spelt gold for Hindi cinema with memorable films such as "Sholay", "Deewar", "Aandhi" and "Nishant" making their way to theatres.

Fifty years on, they live on in public memory, each a classic in different genres and in different moods. It was also the year of "Chupke Chupke", "Mili", "Julie", "Chhoti Si Baat" and "Jai Santoshi Ma".

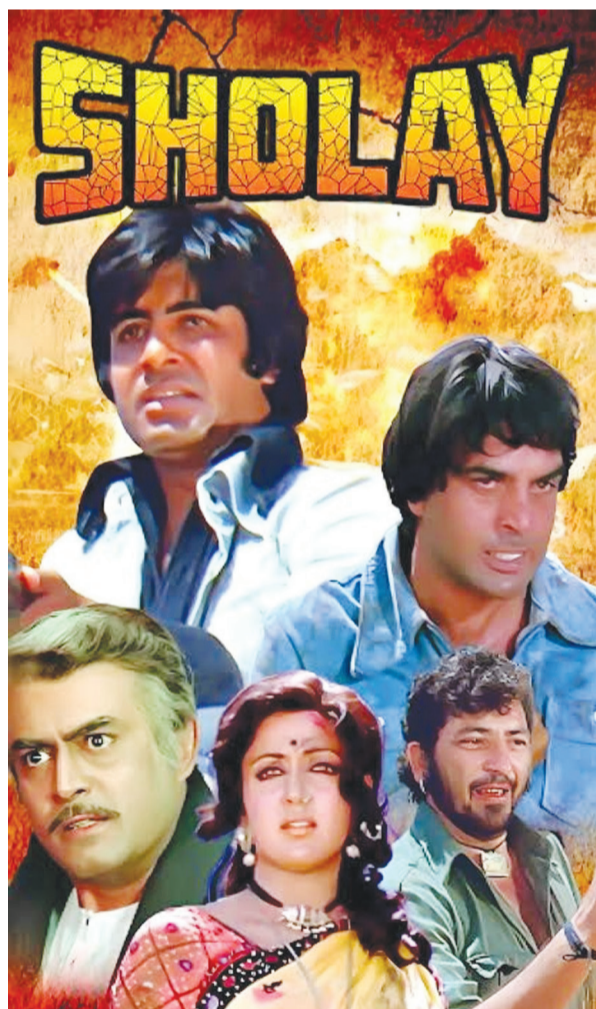
A happy confluence of talent, a projection of simmering public discontent or simply a time when writers-directors were true creators? Actually, 1975 was all of these.

If "Sholay" and "Deewar" cemented Amitabh Bachchan's image as the "Angry Young Man" and gave play to working class angst of the time, "Aandhi" was the lyrical lament of love that was not to be and "Nishant", a parallel cinema pioneer, was an angry exploration of feudalism in rural India.

It was not just about the actors but also blossoming of writers and directors like Salim Khan-Javed Akhtar (who scripted "Sholay" and "Deewar"), Gulzar (directed "Aandhi") and Shyam Benegal (directed "Nishant").

So what propelled this creative surge in a landmark year?

"It was really a happy confluence of writers, directors and actors blooming in the era but particularly in 1975..." Anjum Rajabali, known for writing the screenplays of films such as



"Rajneeti" and "Drohkaal", told agency in an interview.

"There were so many great films one after the other. Writers Salim-Javed, filmmakers Ramesh Sippy and Yash Chopra were coming of age..."

And the spectrum is so different. On the one hand, you have an intense action drama like "Deewar" and then you have "Sholay", a perfect comic book story, and then "Aandhi" which explores the relationship in the political context. I will use the term loosely but they are all the classics of popular cinema." Film historian, author and archivist S M M Ausaja added that many things got balanced in 1975. It was a year when commercial cinema was at its peak

("Deewar", "Sholay"), parallel cinema ("Nishant") was rising and middle-of-the-road films ("Aandhi", "Mili" and "Chupke Chupke") were thriving.

"And what a remarkable variety Amitabh Bachchan showed with both 'Deewar' and 'Sholay' and then in 'Chupke Chupke' and 'Mili'. It is also the celebration of 50 years of Amitabh Bachchan's stardom. No superstar has ruled for so many years because 'Deewar' and 'Sholay' established the 'Angry Young Man' persona," Ausaja told agency.

In his view, "Deewar", widely considered the best work of Salim-Javed, is a screenplay textbook of how commercial cinema should

be written.

Writing played a big role in the success of these films. Whether it was the winning pair of Salim-Javed, Gulzar or Rahi Masoom Raza, who wrote many films for Hrishikesh Mukherjee, writers had their ear to the ground and understood the public, Ausaja said.

"The public sentiment was anti-establishment and they instantly connected with a protagonist that was questioning the system (in 'Deewar'). It is ironic that Hindi cinema today has no connection with the masses. The question today is: Do films today even have the courage to question the establishment?" "Street 2" writer Niren Bhatt agreed.

"Writing was very strong in those days. There was no PR, social media or any other things. There were only films and if the public liked them, they became massively popular. Writers became big."

"You realise how detailed everyday humour was in 'Chupke Chupke', the language was literary and not slapstick. It is your textbook cinema dialogues written by Gulzar. Similarly, there has never been a political love story after 'Aandhi', which is a film made by a poet, not a filmmaker," he said.

While Hindi cinema was churning out great stories, other languages and documentaries were also contextualising the times through their stories.

"On the timeline of India's political and cultural history, which includes cinema, the

year 1975 distinguishes itself - imposition of emergency and the emergence of the Angry Young Man on screen, that is Amitabh Bachchan in 'Deewar', which had its roots in 'Zanjeer' of 1973," said Amrit Gangar, film scholar, historian and curator.

"Indian youth's anger was simmering in both real and reel life, reflected in the pan-Indian cinema... Even after half a century in 2025, the year 1975 is remembered not only for the national political emergency but also for its iconic Hindi mainstream cinema which was taking a turn," Gangar added.

Rajabali said it is interesting how Hindi cinema and what it is trying to say keeps changing through decades.

"In the 50s, you have filmmakers telling stories of nation building and there are also fissures that start to appear in their cinema where they start posing questions to the public about the idealism of the early days. And then you immediately come to the breezy 60s with Shyammi Kapoor and Nasir Husain."

"From the 60s, you dovetail into the dramatic intensity of the 70s where the whole 'Angry Young Man' persona starts to take shape and Salim-Javed bursts on the screen. And then you go back to the 80s, the dark ages of Hindi cinema. It makes for an interesting study," Rajabali said.

It is the golden jubilee year for a great list of films that spelt - and still does - gold for Hindi movies.

'Mighty blow': Home Minister Amit Shah on killing of 14 Naxals in Chhattisgarh

With the resolve for a Naxal-free India and joint efforts of security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today, Shah said.

NEW DELHI, Jan 21 (Agencies): Describing it as "another mighty blow to Naxalism", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said 14 Naxalites were killed in a joint operation by the CRPF, SoG Odisha and Chhattisgarh Police along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border.

With the resolve for a Naxal-free India and joint efforts of security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today, Shah said.

"Another mighty blow to Naxalism. Our security forces



achieved major success towards building a Naxal-free Bharat.

The CRPF, SoG Odisha, and Chhattisgarh Police neutralised 14 Naxalites in a joint operation along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border," Shah wrote on X.

An official said the Maoists were killed in a fresh exchange of fire that took place late Monday and early Tuesday morning in a forest under the Mainpur police station area along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border.

'Will not let Ekalavya thumbs be cut off': Rahul Gandhi extends support to BPSC protests, promises to raise it in Parliament



NEW DELHI, Jan 21 (Agencies): Asserting that exam paper leak is a weapon to take away the rights of youth, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that such incidents are happening everyday in BJP-ruled states and vowed to raise the issue of protesting BPSC aspirants in Parliament.

Days after visiting the site of the nearly month-old agitation in Patna against alleged irregularities in the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam and spending time with aggrieved students, Gandhi shared on his YouTube channel a video of his interaction with the protesting students.

In his post in Hindi accompanying the video, Gandhi said he discussed serious issues when he recently met the students, who suffered due to the "BPSC exam scam" in Bihar and faced a lathi charge by the police.

The students revealed the labyrinth of this paper leak and exam scam in full detail, he said.

"Whether the candidates get the question papers or not, they definitely go viral on social media. Candidates are trapped in vicious circles like normalization and scaling so that they cannot even know the guarantee of their employment from their scores," the former Congress chief said.

The students protesting in a Gandhian way were brutally lathi-charged and after that, cases after cases were forcibly filed against them, Gandhi said.

"There was rigging in 28 examination centres but the government is not ready to accept it. This video is the voice of thousands of students who are demanding justice and re-examination. After listening to them, I have promised to raise their demands in Parliament - this is not just a problem of Bihar but of the entire country, it is the problem of every aspiring youth," Gandhi said.

"I will not let the thumbs of these Ekalavyas be cut off," he added.

In the video, students explain to Gandhi how the leaked question papers did the rounds

on social media and they were beaten up by the police for protesting peacefully.

Gandhi assures them of raising their issue in Parliament after hearing their grievances and demands.

Gandhi on Saturday had expressed his backing for the protests against alleged irregularities in BPSC exams by visiting the site of the nearly a month-old agitation here and spending several minutes with aggrieved students.

After Gandhi wined up his pre-decided engagements in Patna on Saturday, a delegation of students had called on him at a hotel.

The delegation then urged him to visit Gardani Bagh where several aspirants have been on a round-the-clock protest seeking cancellation of the Combined Competitive Exam held last month.

Notably, over four lakh candidates had appeared for the exams at more than 900 centres across the state on December 13 when hundreds boycotted the test alleging that question papers had been leaked.

The BPSC denied the allegations but ordered re-examination for more than 12,000 candidates who had been assigned Babu Pariksha Parisar in the city, evoking resentment among other aspirants who have contended that they were being deprived of a "level playing field."

Outsourcing Manipur to Amit Shah abdication of PM Modi's responsibility: Congress slams Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 21 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of abdicating his responsibilities by "outsourcing" Manipur to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The opposition party reiterated its demand for the PM to visit the violence-hit northeastern state, terming his absence a "disastrous" neglect of duty. The criticism came after Prime Minister Modi extended greetings to the people of Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur on their Statehood Day through a social media post.

In response, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

took to X (formerly Twitter), accusing the prime minister of hypocrisy and indifference towards the crisis in Manipur, which has been engulfed in ethnic violence since May 3, 2023.

Ramesh stated, "The formerly non-biological - and now suddenly human - Prime Minister has just sent greetings to the people of Manipur on their Statehood Day through social media. Yet, he has stubbornly refused to visit Manipur even briefly ever since its agony began."

He further criticized Modi for travelling extensively around the world while ignoring the plight of the people in Manipur. According to Ramesh, the prime minister has refused to

meet with BJP MLAs from the state, avoided one-on-one discussions with the chief minister, and declined to engage with MPs, political leaders, or civil society organizations from Manipur.

Ramesh described Modi's Statehood Day message as "hollow" and reflective of "hypocrisy that knows no limits." He emphasized that the Congress party demands the prime minister visit Manipur immediately, stating, "This is the very least he can do to show his concern, if he has any."

The Congress party has been vocal in its criticism of the prime minister's handling of the crisis in Manipur, accusing the central government of failing to address the ethnic strife



between the Imphal Valley-based Meitei community and the Kuki-Zo groups residing in the hills. Since the violence erupted in May 2023, over 220 people have been killed and thousands have been displaced.

The opposition has also slammed Modi for his alleged indifference, asserting that his decision to delegate the matter to the Union Home Minister demonstrates a lack of

accountability. Last week, the Congress alleged that while Modi has found the time and energy to visit various countries, he has neglected to reach out to the distressed people of Manipur.

The ongoing ethnic violence in the state remains a critical issue, with the Congress party demanding immediate action and direct intervention from the prime minister to restore peace and stability.

BJP manifesto 'dangerous', will stop free education in govt schools: Arvind Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Jan 21 (Agencies): Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday described the BJP's election manifesto as "dangerous for the country".

He alleged that the party plans to shut free education in government schools and dismantle free health services, including the Mohalla Clinics, if voted to power.

In a press conference, Kejriwal accused the BJP of revealing its "true intentions" in the manifesto and warned voters against supporting the party.

"If the BJP comes to power, they will stop free education, end



free health facilities and make it difficult for the poor to survive in Delhi. This is a direct attack on the welfare of the common man," he said.

Kejriwal further appealed to people not to vote for the BJP, claiming that their policies would jeopardise the future of the country

and adversely impact the lives of Delhi's poor.

"The BJP's Sankalp Patra is a blueprint for closing government schools and Mohalla Clinics, which have been a lifeline for many," he added.

The BJP is yet to respond to the allegations.

Woman, her two children die of asphyxiation in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao

UNNAO, Jan 21 (Agencies): A woman and her two children allegedly died of asphyxiation in the Bangarmau area of Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred when the family lit a brazier inside a closed room to stay warm, they added.

Bangarmau Circle Officer (CO) Arvind Kumar said Alok Singh, a subedar in the Army currently posted in Ladakh, resided in the New Katra Mohalla of Bangarmau with his wife Rachna (35), their seven-year-old son Vaibhav, and four-year-old daughter Vaishnavi.

"On Monday morning, around 10 am, the family's milkman came to deliver milk and knocked on the door repeatedly, but no one responded. He then informed the woman's relatives, who live in Munnikheda village," he said.

Upon their arrival, the relatives broke open the door and found Rachna and Vaishnavi's bodies lying on the bed, while Vaibhav's body was on the floor.

Police reached the scene and initiated a legal inquiry. Alok Singh's brother, Pankaj Singh, said Alok had called his wife several times on Monday, but when the calls went unanswered, he assumed they were sleeping and did not call again.

Circle Officer Kumar said, "Prima facie, it appears that the brazier was lit inside the room. Initial investigations suggest that gas accumulation and suffocation may have caused the deaths.

RG Kar case: Bengal Govt moves Calcutta HC seeking death penalty for convict

KOLKATA, Jan 21 (Agencies): The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday granted permission to the West Bengal government to file an appeal against the Sealdah court order that sentenced Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment until death in the RG Kar hospital doctor's rape and murder case.

Advocate General Kishor Datta moved a division bench presided by Justice Debansu Basak to file the appeal to seek death penalty of Roy, the sole convict in the case.

The state government sought the high court's permission to file the appeal challenging the order passed by Additional District and Sessions Judge in Seal-

dah, Anirban Das, on Monday.

The Sealdah court sentenced Roy to life imprisonment until death after he was convicted of raping and murdering the on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, rejecting demands for the death penalty saying it was not a "rarest of the rare" crime.

The court also ordered Roy to pay a Rs 50,000 fine and directed the state government to pay compensation of Rs 17 lakh to the family of the deceased doctor.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the Sealdah court's verdict, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had

on Monday asserted that had the case been handled by the Kolkata Police, the death penalty would have been ensured.

"All of us have demanded the death sentence, but the court has given a life term until death...The case was forcibly taken from us. Had it been with the (Kolkata) police, we would have ensured that he was served a death sentence," she told reporters.

Later, posting on her X handle where she sounded more critical, Banerjee informed that the state government would challenge the Sealdah court verdict and move the Calcutta High Court.

Saif Ali Khan's attacker entered India seven months ago, used Bengal resident's Aadhaar card to get SIM: Police

MUMBAI, Jan 21 (Agencies): The Bangladeshi national arrested for the knife attack on Saif Ali Khan entered the country illegally seven months ago and used a West Bengal resident's Aadhaar card to procure a SIM before moving to Mumbai, police said on Tuesday.

Police on Sunday arrested the accused, Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir (30), from neighbouring Thane city for the stabbing incident

at the Bollywood star's residence in Bandra.

According to the police, Fakir, who changed his name to Vijay Das, crossed the Dawki River to enter India illegally seven months ago.

An official said the accused stayed for a few weeks in West Bengal and used the Aadhaar card of a local man to procure a SIM card before moving to Mumbai in search of a job.

He said the preliminary probe revealed that the

SIM card used by the accused was registered in the name of one Khukumoni Jahangir Sekha of West Bengal.

The official said Fakir also tried to get an Aadhaar card for himself but failed.

He said in Mumbai, the accused chose to work at places where he didn't need to furnish documents, and labour contractor Amit Pandey helped him get house-keeping work in pubs and hotels in Worli and Thane.

On examining Fakir's cellphone, the police found he had made several calls to Bangladesh and used mobile applications to make calls to his family in the neighbouring country.

Khan (54) was stabbed repeatedly by the intruder inside his 12-floor apartment in the building on January 16, necessitating surgery.

The metropolitan magistrate's court in Bandra has remanded the accused in five-day police custody.

Three persons, including wanted criminal gunned down by UP STF, cop sustains gunshot wounds

LUCKNOW, Jan 21 (Agencies): A wanted criminal and his three associates were gunned down in an encounter with the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police in Shamli district, officials said on Tuesday.

An STF inspector also suffered multiple gunshots in the exchange of fire that took place in the Jhunjina area of Shamli district during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, a senior police officer said.

"On the intervening night of January 20-21, Mustafa Kagga gang member Arshad along with three others -- Manjeet, Satish and one unknown accomplice -- were



injured in a police engagement with STF Meerut team.

They have succumbed to injuries during the encounter," said UP STF, Law and Order, Additional Director General of Police, Amitabh Yash.

"Arshad was wanted in a robbery case from Police Station Behat, Saharanpur. A reward of Rs one lakh was declared on him by the

ADG of Meerut Zone. A dozen cases of robbery, dacoity and murder were registered against Arshad," he added.

Yash said that Inspector Sunil, who was leading the STF team, received multiple gunshot wounds during the encounter and was admitted to Amritdhara Hospital in Karnal.

Sunil was later referred to the Medanta in Gurugram, he added. Further legal proceedings in the case are underway, the police said.

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), an elite wing of the state police, primarily deals with organised crime and criminals.

“We should all read it together!” Trump jests on seeing letter by Biden

Trump said that he too left one after the end of his term for Biden when he took office

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 21 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Tuesday while signing a series of executive orders and speaking to the press at the Oval Office stumbled upon a letter penned by his predecessor Joe Biden.

Trump said that he too left one after the end of his term for Biden when he took office.

“Maybe we should all read it together. Well, maybe I’ll read it first and then make that determination,” Trump joked.

A journalist asked Trump if he received any letter in his drawer. He then promptly opened it and found the letter.

“He may have. Don’t they leave it in the desk? I don’t know,” Trump said.

Trump thanked the journalist and said he would have not seen it, had the journalist not



pointed it out.

“Thank you very much. I may not have seen this for months. I did. I left him one in the desk,” he said.

Trump showed the envelope bearing the number “47” on it, with reference to Trump being 47th US President.

“Happy to help with the pass-

ing of the torch,” the journalist replied.

In leaving the letter for Trump, Biden kept with the now 36-year tradition of the departing Commander-in-Chief, writing a note to the incoming President, Fox News reported.

As he left the White House in 1989 after two terms in office,

former US President Ronald Reagan started the tradition - leaving a note for his successor, George HW Bush, who was also the Vice President.

Four years later, despite losing to then-Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, outgoing President Bush left Clinton a note in the Oval Office. The tradition has carried on to this day, as per Fox News.

Trump was sworn in for a second term at an indoor ceremony at the Capitol earlier in the day, where he was shielded against the icy winds of a polar vortex.

“The future is ours and our golden age has just begun,” US President Donald Trump said in his inauguration speech, promising that “nothing will stand in our way because we are Americans,” Al Jazeera reported.

Fire in hotel at ski resort in northwestern Turkey kills at least 10 people, injures 32



ANKARA, Jan 21 (Agencies): A fire broke out at a hotel at a ski resort in northwestern Turkey on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and hospitalizing another 32 with injuries, officials said. The fire broke out overnight at the restaurant of a hotel in the resort of Kartalkaya in

Bolu province, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said.

Two of the victims died after jumping out of the building in a panic, Gov. Abdulaziz Aydin told the state-run Anadolu Agency. Private NTV television said some people tried to climb down from their rooms using

sheets.

There were 234 guests staying at the hotel, Aydin said.

Television images showed the roof and top floors of the hotel on fire. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Kartalkaya is a popular ski resort in the Koroglu mountains, some 300 kilometers (186 miles) east of Istanbul. The fire occurred during the school semester break, when hotels in the region are packed.

Aydin’s office said 30 fire trucks and 28 ambulances were sent to the site.

Other hotels at the resort were evacuated as a precaution.

Landslides and flash floods on Indonesia’s Java island leave 16 dead and 9 missing

JAKARTA, Jan 21 (Agencies): Indonesian rescuers recovered the bodies of at least 17 people who were swept away in flash floods or buried under tons of mud and rocks that hit hilly villages on the country’s main island of Java, officials said Tuesday. Eight people were missing.

Torrential rains on Monday caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through nine villages in Pekalongan regency of Central Java province, as mud, rocks and trees tumbled down on mountainside hamlets, said Bergas Catur-sasi, who heads the local Disaster Management Agency.

He said rescue workers by Tuesday had pulled out at least 17 bodies in the worst-hit village of Petungkriyono, and rescuers are searching for eight villagers who are reportedly still missing. Eleven

injured people managed to escape and were rushed to nearby hospitals, Catur-sari said.

Television reports on Tuesday showed police, soldiers and rescue workers used excavators, farm equipment and their bare hands to sift through the rubble looking for the dead and missing in devastated villages, while others carried victims on bamboo stretchers or body bags to ambulances or trucks.

“Bad weather, mudslides and rugged terrain hampered the rescue operation,” Catur-sari said, adding that people who were fishing in the river and those who were taking shelter from the rain were swept away by flash floods.

National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said flash floods swept away villagers and vehicles passing

through devastated villages and triggered a landslide that buried two houses. The disaster also destroyed two main bridges connecting villages in Pekalongan district.

Seasonal rain from about October to March frequently causes flooding and landslides in Indonesia, an archipelago of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile floodplains.

Last month, a landslide, flash floods and strong winds hit the Sukabumi district of West Java province, killing 12 people. In November a landslide and flash floods triggered by heavy downpours hit Indonesia’s North Sumatra province, leaving 20 dead and two missing. A landslide in the region also hit a tourist bus that killed nine people.

Taliban government announces prisoner swap with US

KABUL, Jan 21 (Agencies): The Taliban government said Tuesday it had released two American citizens from prison in return for an Afghan fighter held in the United States, in a deal brokered by Qatar. Discussions about the prisoner exchange were confirmed last year, but the swap was announced after outgoing US president Joe Biden handed over to Donald Trump, who was inaugurated on Monday.

“An Afghan fighter Khan Mohammed imprisoned in America has been released in exchange for American citizens and returned to the country,” the Afghan foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said Mohammed had been serving a life sentence in California after being arrested “almost two decades ago” in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told agency two

US nationals had been released, declining to provide any further details on the exchange.

The family of US citizen Ryan Corbett, who was detained by the Taliban in 2022, confirmed he was released and expressed “overwhelming gratitude” that he was coming home.

“Today, our hearts are filled with overwhelming gratitude and praise to God for sustaining Ryan’s life and bringing him back home after what has been the most challenging and uncertain 894 days of our lives,” the family said on their website.

They thanked both the Biden and Trump administrations, as well as Qatar, for Corbett’s freedom, and called for two other Americans still held in Afghanistan to be released.

US media named William McKenty as the second released American detainee, noting little was known about what he was doing in Afghanistan and that his

family had asked the US government for privacy in his case.

The New York Times said two other Americans remain in detention in Afghanistan, former airline mechanic George Glezmann and naturalised American Mahmood Habibi.

In August 2024, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation said it was seeking information about the disappearance of Afghan-American businessman Habibi two years previously.

Biden came under heavy criticism for the chaotic withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in 2021, more than a year after Trump presided over a deal with the Taliban insurgents to end US and NATO involvement in the two-decade war.

New chapter After Trump’s election win in November, the Taliban government had said it hoped for a “new chapter” in ties with the United States.

Taliban authorities have repeatedly said they want positive relations with every country since sweeping back to power in 2021.

No state has officially recognised their government, with restrictions on women’s rights a key sticking point for many countries, including the United States.

The Taliban government on Tuesday called the exchange “a good example of resolving issues through dialogue, expressing special gratitude for the effective role of the brotherly country of Qatar in this regard”.

“The Islamic Emirate views positively those actions of the United States that contribute to the normalisation and expansion of relations between the two countries,” it added, using the Taliban authorities’ name for their government.

A 2008 US Department of Justice statement named Mohammed -- aged 38 at the

time -- as a member of “an Afghan Taliban cell” and said he was arrested in October 2006 and sentenced in December 2008 to “two terms of life in prison on drug and narco-terrorism charges”.

It was the first narco-terrorism conviction in a US federal court, the statement said.

Dozens of foreigners have been detained by the Taliban authorities since the group’s return to power.

It is unclear how many Afghan citizens are in US custody.

At least one Afghan prisoner remains in detention at the secretive US prison Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, Muhammad Rahim, whose family called for his release in November 2023.

In February last year, two former prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay until 2017 were welcomed home to Afghanistan, more than 20 years after they were arrested.

UK PM: Killing of 3 girls must spark ‘fundamental change’ in state protection

Prime Minister Keir Starmer says the killing of three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class must lead to “fundamental change” in how the British state protects citizens

LONDON, Jan 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Tuesday that the killing of three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class must lead to “fundamental change” in how the British state protects citizens and a reckoning with new threats from violent individuals that test the traditional definition of terrorism.

Starmer said the government must also answer “tough questions” about how authorities failed to stop a violence-obsessed teenager before he stabbed three young girls to death in the seaside town of Southport in July.

In a televised statement, the prime minister said that a public inquiry would tackle failings in the case of Axel Rudakubana, who injured another eight children, their instructor and a passer-by.

“The tragedy of the

Southport killings must be a line in the sand for Britain,” Starmer said.

Rudakubana, 18, unexpectedly changed his pleas to guilty on Monday, the first day of his trial at Liverpool Crown Court. He is due to be sentenced on Thursday.

His guilty plea means that details that had been withheld from the public to try to ensure a fair trial can now be reported. They include the fact that Rudakubana was referred three times to the government’s anti-extremism program, Prevent, when he was 13 and 14, and was in contact with multiple state agencies — all of whom failed to spot the danger he posed.

The attack occurred on the first day of summer vacation when two dozen little girls were in a class to learn yoga and dance to the songs of Taylor Swift. What was supposed to be a day of joy turned



to terror and heartbreak when Rudakubana, armed with a knife, intruded and began stabbing the girls and their teacher.

He killed Alice Da Silva Aguiar, 9, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Bebe King, 6. Eight other girls, ranging in age from 7 to 13, were wounded, along with instructor Leanne Lucas and John Hayes, who worked in a business next door and intervened.

The killings in the northwest England town triggered days of anti-immigrant violence across the country after far-right activists seized

on incorrect reports that the attacker was an asylum-seeker who had recently arrived in the U.K.

Rudakubana was born in Cardiff to Rwandan parents.

Critics have accused Starmer’s government of withholding information about the suspect in the aftermath of the attack. Starmer said there was no conspiracy of silence, just a desire to see justice done.

“The only losers if the details had been disclosed would have been the victims and the families because it ran the risk the trial would have

collapsed,” he said.

Police and prosecutors also face questions about why the case was not labeled terrorism, despite Rudakubana facing charges of possessing an al-Qaida manual and the poison ricin alongside charges of murder and attempted murder.

Starmer said the case showed that “terrorism has changed” and the law might need to be changed to deal with “a new threat ... (from) acts of extreme violence carried out by loners, misfits, young men in their bedrooms.”

“It is a new threat, it’s not what we would have usually thought of as terrorism when definitions were drawn up when guidelines were put in place, when the framework was put in place and we have to recognize that here today,” he said.

“It’s clearly extreme violence. It’s clearly intended to terrorize.”

Nepal President calls for winter session of parliament from Jan 31



KATHMANDU, Jan 21 (Agencies): Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel on the recommendation of council of ministers on Tuesday summoned the winter session of parliament from January 31.

After increasing pressure from the opposition, a cabinet meeting recommended President to summon the winter session which is set to begin one and a half months later than in 2024. The budget or the monsoon session of parliament had prorogued on September 16.

“The Honorable President, Shri Ram Chandra Poudel, pursuant to Article 93(1) of the Constitution of Nepal, on the recommendation of the Government of Nepal, Council of Min-

isters dated 2081/10/7, has summoned session of both Houses of the Federal Parliament on Friday, 18th Magh, 2081 BS at 1:00PM (Local Time) at the International Conference Center, New Baneshwor,” Shailaja Regmi Bhattarai, spokesperson at the President Office announced.

Earlier on Monday, Nepal’s Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli also had held discussions with Speaker Devraj Ghimire regarding the session.

Opposition parties, including the Maoist Center, have expressed strong dissatisfaction over the delay in convening the winter session.

They raised concerns over important bills and pre-budget matters that remain unaddressed due to the delayed session.

Seven opposition parties held a press conference last Friday, demanding a special session if the winter session was not convened promptly.

The delay has also been compounded by the government’s issuance of five ordinances without parliament’s formal approval, which opposition parties have criticized as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

In Nepal, the four months from Paus (mid-December to mid-January) to Chaitra (mid-March to mid-April) are usually considered the time for the winter session of the parliament. But the government reluctantly called on the winter session late by about two months late than the usual schedule which as per the experts will put pressure on the budget or the monsoon session of the parliament.

As of now 18 bills are pending in the House of Representatives and three bills in the National Assembly which too are stuck with the committees. The opposition stepping on it had been pressuring the government to call the house sessions at the earliest.

JBM expresses concern over transformation of Jammu into hub for liquor, drugs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: The Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JBM) has expressed deep concern over the ongoing transformation of Jammu, once known as the "City of Temples," into a hub for liquor and drugs, which is having a profound negative impact on the youth. The rise in substance abuse has led to a worrying trend of addiction, with many young people succumbing to the lure of these harmful substances.

Addressing a press conference, Ashok Sharma, Chairman of the Jammu Province Bachao Manch (JBM) and former legislator, voiced his grave concerns. "The people of Jammu are left astonished and perplexed. They are questioning why the previous administration pushed to turn Jammu into a 'Liquor City, despite strong and continuous protests from the public against the opening of wine shops in every nook and corner of our city," Sharma stated.

He was joined by key members of the organization, including Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, Retd.



Justice KYS Manhas, Ch Gharu Ram, Haji Shak Mohammed, Sh Satish Poonchi, Ashwani Sharma, Rajkumar Pandit, Rakesh Kumar ji and others.

Sharma highlighted the devastating impact of alcohol on the youth of Jammu, saying, "Many families have been destroyed due to the misguided policies of the administration. The repercussions of these decisions are irreversible, and the damage done to the lives of our youth is immeasurable. While a few have profited from these policies, the majority are losing their loved ones prematurely or are left to navigate endless rounds of doctor visits and hospital stays."

He expressed his deep concern about the lack of accountability in the administration and

urged the authorities to take immediate action to curb the growing menace of substance abuse.

Additionally, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma criticized the Indian government for its inaction on the long-promised restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Union Government promised to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, yet there has been no progress on this front. Statehood must be restored at the earliest, along with the Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) to protect the rights of the original inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir. This delay is causing irreparable damage to the people and their rights," he emphasized.

Turning to the agricultural sector, Sharma

called on the government to address the demands of the farmers, particularly the implementation of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) that would encourage them to continue with farming.

"The farmers are the backbone of our society, and if we do not ensure that they receive adequate support and fair pricing, many will be forced to abandon farming altogether," he said, stressing the need for long-term agricultural reforms.

On the issue of Jammu's growing traffic congestion, Sharma expressed his concern over the worsening traffic situation, particularly in Jammu city. "The traffic mess in Jammu is becoming unbearable. The government must urgently come up with a comprehensive plan to

manage the traffic flow and create more parking spaces around the city to ease the congestion. It is high time that we take this issue seriously and ensure free vehicular movement," he stated.

Sharma also criticized the government's failure to provide safe drinking water and proper sanitation to the people of Jammu. "The people of Jammu are grappling with multiple issues, including unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation facilities. These are basic rights, and yet, the government has failed to address them adequately. It is high time that these issues are prioritised," he said.

Furthermore, he raised concerns about the introduction of "smart meters," which he claimed were causing significant inconvenience to the people. "The problems created by the implementation of smart meters are numerous, and the government must take immediate corrective action to address these concerns and provide relief to the people," he added.

Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance enter into strategic partnership to create one of India's Largest Digital Platforms for Financial Services

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Bharti Airtel, one of India's largest telecom service providers and Bajaj Finance, the country's largest private-sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), today announced a strategic partnership to create one of India's largest digital platforms for financial services and transform last mile delivery.

The one-of-a-kind partnership brings together Airtel's highly engaged customer base of 375 million, 12 lakh+ strong distribution network, and Bajaj Finance's diversified suite of 27 product lines, and distribution heft of 5,000+ branches and 70,000 field agents.

Airtel will initially offer Bajaj Finance's retail financial products on its Airtel Thanks App for seamless and secure customer experience, and later through its nation-wide network of stores. The combined strength of the companies' digital assets will enable Airtel and Bajaj Finance to significantly deepen penetration of financial products and services.

Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman and MD, Bharti Airtel, said, "Airtel and Bajaj Finance, two trusted names in this country, have the shared vision of empowering millions of Indians with a diverse portfolio

of financial needs. The combined reach, scale and distribution strength of the two companies will serve as the cornerstone of this partnership and help us succeed in the marketplace. We are building Airtel Finance as a strategic asset for the group and will continue to invest in and grow the business. Today, we are trusted by over 1 million customers and our vision is to make Airtel Finance a one-stop shop for all the financial needs of our customers."

Rajeev Jain, Managing Director, Bajaj Finance, said, "India's digital ecosystem has been at the heart of data-driven credit underwriting and financial inclusion. Our partnership with Airtel not only leverages India's digital infrastructure for inclusive growth but also brings together the expertise and reach of two of India's leading and most-trusted brands. Together with Airtel, we seek to be the financier of choice to India and enable millions to access financial services, even in remote areas. We are excited to join hands with Airtel at a time when Bajaj Finance is harnessing the power of AI to enhance efficiencies and elevate customer experiences."

So far, two products of Bajaj Finance have been piloted on the Airtel Thanks App. By March, four products

of Bajaj Finance will be available to customers on the Airtel Thanks App. These include Gold Loan, Business Loan, a co-branded Insta EMI Card and Personal Loan. Airtel will progressively offer close to 10 financial products of Bajaj Finance within this calendar year.

Airtel customers have the opportunity to apply for the Airtel-Bajaj Finserv Insta EMI card via the Airtel Thanks App and later through its nation-wide network of stores. Airtel-Bajaj Finserv EMI card provides access to a range of offers available to Bajaj Finance customers. Users will benefit from flexible EMI options and payment plans for purchasing various goods, including electronics, furniture and groceries at over 1.5 lakh partner stores across more than 4,000 cities. Additionally, the co-branded card is applicable for e-commerce transactions on multiple platforms.

The Airtel Thanks App now also enables customers to secure a gold loan, enabling new-to-credit customers to access finance and integrate with the formal financial system.

As part of the partnership, both the companies are committed to strong regulatory compliance, data privacy and security, and seamless customer service.

Army Public School Damana organizes felicitation ceremony

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: To honour the exceptional achievements of its students and faculty, Army Public School Damana organised an impressive Felicitation Ceremony on Tuesday with boundless ardour, exuberance, and vivacity. Commander Chenab Brigade, Chairman APS Damana graced the occasion with his benign presence as the Chief Guest.

The dignitaries who presided over the event were Lt Col RS Slathia, SO School, Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana, Shailu Kapoor, Vice Principal of the School, Commanding Officers of different units and a congregation of Parents.

Naman Katoch (XI B), Vice Head Boy and Gaytri Singh (XI C), Vice Head Girl of the school extended a formal welcome to the guests and dignitaries.

The event commenced with the lighting of the divine lamp to invoke the blessings of the almighty trailed by the stupendous vibing with Lord Vinayaka. In the Felicitation Ceremony, the Academic Achievers of CBSE Board Results Class X & XII (2023-24) - School Toppers and



Subject Toppers were appreciated with Cash Incentives and Trophies.

The Sports Achievers of various categories i.e. National, Command and District Level were appreciated with Trophies and Certificate of Appreciation. The winners of various Inter-School Competitions were accorded with Trophies and Certificate of Acknowledgement.

The most fascinating aspect embellishing the event was the Symphonic Spectrum by Sunny Kumar, TGT Music & the young maestros of APS Damana exhibiting the melody soaked in the mellifluous ambrosia applauded by the dignitaries

& the gathering present in the event.

Further, the prodigious team of Educators was honoured with Cash Incentives and Certificate of Appreciation for their diligent & arduous efforts in escalating the result of Board Classes & for being the catalyst in triggering the holistic co-curricular & academic transactions of the students.

Sukriti Giri, TGT Computer Science was felicitated for receiving the prestigious Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card recognizing her illustrious contributions in the field of education.

Dr Hargobind Khorana House under the leadership of House

Incharge Jyoti Raina, TGT English and House Captain, Vanshika Sharma (XII B) clinched the title of the Champion House of the year. The zealous parents gathered in large numbers, constantly applauded the prize winners for their persistent hard-work & diligent efforts.

The Chief Guest addressed the gathering with his enriching & pedantic words and soliciting the students to continue pursuing their passion with the same fervour, whether in sports, academics, or any other field.

He also urged the parents to give unconditional support to the children as there are endless possibilities and opportunities for the students in the outside world. Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana motivated the students to march forward with determination, guided by the principles of Integrity, Innovation and Inclusivity.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Vice Head Boy & Vice Head Girl of the school. The event culminated with the singing of the National Anthem followed by the light refreshment for the Participants and the Guests.

J&K Transport Commissioner urged to reconsider E-Rickshaw fare rates: Ajeet Bhagat



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 21: Senior National Conference leader and spokesperson for Chenab Valley, Ajeet Bhagat, has called on the J&K Transport Commissioner to reconsider the fare rates for e-rickshaw autos. Bhagat stated that the current rate of Rs 10 per kilometer is insufficient and unreasonable, particularly for drivers who have taken bank

loans to purchase their vehicles.

Speaking on the matter, Bhagat highlighted the financial struggles faced by e-rickshaw owners, many of whom are educated individuals relying on their vehicles as their primary source of livelihood. He emphasized that the low fare rate makes it challenging for drivers to repay their loans, support their families, and maintain financial stability.

Bhagat urged authorities to review and revise the fare structure to ensure a fair income for e-rickshaw drivers, thereby safeguarding their well-being and livelihoods.

He reiterated the importance of such measures in fostering economic stability and providing justice to those who depend on this mode of transport for their survival.

The call for action has garnered attention, with e-rickshaw drivers echoing Bhagat's sentiments and appealing for immediate intervention from the Transport Department.

From Page No:1

Central team continues probe into 17 deaths in Rajouri's Badhaal village

precautionary measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

Experts from some of the most reputable institutions in the country have been arranged to manage the situation and understand the causes of the deaths.

The patients complained of fever, pain, nausea, intense sweating and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission to hospitals.

Jammu AIIMS collaborates with 4basecare to establish State-Of-

Art Centre

between AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare isn't just about science—it's about humanity. It's about two organisations coming together with a shared vision: to fight cancer not only with the best technology but with empathy, understanding, and a commitment to improving lives, she added.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS-Jammu, reflects, "For every patient we treat, we are treating a mother, a father, a sister, or a brother. This partnership is our promise to every family who walks through our doors that we will do everything in our power to bring them the care they deserve."

Hitesh Goswami, CEO of 4baseCare, adds, "Cancer changes lives, but so can we. By working together, AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare are committed to making sure that no patient is left behind. We are fighting for a future where every person has access to

the best care, the best treatments, and, most importantly, the best chance at survival."

This partnership isn't just about battling cancer today; it's about building a future where no one has to face this disease alone. AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare are laying the foundation for clinics and centres of excellence in precision oncology, bringing personalised care closer to home for patients in Jammu and beyond. They are ensuring that the promise of precision medicine becomes a reality for every patient, everywhere.

This collaboration between AIIMS Jammu and 4baseCare is more than a medical advancement—it's a beacon of hope, the spokesperson said, adding, "It's about giving families time, giving patients dignity, and giving everyone the opportunity to beat cancer, no matter their circumstances. Every life is worth fighting for, and let's hope for a brighter tomorrow."

Sopore encounter

is over: IGP Kashmir

He said during searches the security forces busted the hideout used by terrorists in the area.

The IGP Kashmir continued that one army soldier initially got injured who later on succumbed to his injuries on Monday, and added, "The operation is over now".

Responding to a query, the IGP Kashmir said that foolproof security arrangements are being done for smooth conduct of Republic Day celebrations in Kashmir valley.

"The preparations are being done. There will be multi-tire security arrangements in place for smooth conduct of Republic Day celebrations," IGP Kashmir added.

Man killed by rival gang in Jammu: Police

rushed to Government Medical

College (GMC) Jammu where he was declared dead on arrival, while unknown assailants have managed to flee from the spot."

The deceased was identified as Sumit Jandial (37), of Vijaypur, Samba. Meanwhile the police has ruled out any terror angle after a man was shot dead in the Jewal Chowk area of Jammu and that the incident was the result of gang rivalry. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Anand Jain, told reporters that the incident was due to gang rivalry. He said Gataru gang of Vijaypur attacked the member of its rival group and there was no terrorist angle in the incident.

ED attaches two hotels in Patnitop

made excess construction beyond approved limits and operated their businesses in prohibited areas (dense forests, agricultural areas, residential areas, etc.) and these alleged lapses were "over-

looked" by PDA officials. "Hotel Trinetra Resorts and Hotel Green Orchid were built beyond the area permitted by the PDA," the agency said. "Both had undertaken illegal construction beyond approved limits and acquired illegally encroached land while generating revenue from utilising the same," the ED said.

Holding Assembly session in March would be inconvenient for MLAs: Sajad Lone to Government

Holding the Assembly session in March would be inconvenient for a majority of the MLAs," Lone said.

Lone expressed his opposition to the timing of the session a day after the J&K government recommended holding the Assembly session in the first week of March.

Chairperson DDC Ramban reviews developmental progress under District Capex Plan 2024-25

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 21: The District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, under the leadership of Chairperson Dr. Shamsad Shan, convened today to review the district's developmental progress under the District Capex Plan 2024-25. The meeting saw active participation from Vice-Chairperson Rabia Beig, DDC members, Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Ashfaq Ahmed, and various sectoral officers.

The Chairperson urged officers and DDC members to work collaboratively to ensure that no SOS works under the current financial year's



plan remain incomplete. She stressed the need to address issues raised by the members promptly and complete projects within stipulated timelines to maximize public benefit. Reviewing other UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, she called for intensified efforts to ensure 100% progress in both physical and financial targets, aligning with the district's development goals. Reviewing the sec-

tor-wise progress, the Chairperson emphasized achieving 100% targets and directed officials to expedite project implementation. The DDC members highlighted critical priorities, including improved healthcare and education infrastructure, new road construction, accelerated Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) implementation, and enhanced power infrastructure. A strict deadline of 20

days was given to all district and sectoral officers, particularly under the Area Development Fund (ADF) sector, to demonstrate measurable progress by expediting the allotment and initiation of works. The Chairperson directed the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to work with full dedication and zeal to achieve tangible results, as a major chunk of the works pertains to the Rural Development

Department (RDD). She expressed displeasure over the slow pace of progress by the RDD engineering wing and instructed them to liaise closely with all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure swift progress on pending projects.

The ADDC highlighted the importance of synergy between the administration and elected representatives for achieving meaningful outcomes. He instructed officers to adhere to timelines and expedite ongoing projects to deliver timely benefits to the public.

The CPO provided a detailed presentation on the district's developmental achievements across various departments and issued necessary guidelines and instructions to officers to meet the targets.

GDC Marh students shine in Inter Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25 competition at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Kashish a student of 5th Semester and Sahil Sandhu of 1st Semester of GDC Marh have emerged victorious by securing 2nd and 1st Position in Rangoli Making and Western Instrument solo in first ever Inter Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25 competition organized at University of Jammu annually by Department of Student Welfare.

The prize distribution ceremony held on 20th January 2024 at JU where the Chief



Guest for the event was Suresh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, JK UT and guest of honour was Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu.

The ceremony was attended by Principal of the college along with faculty members to encourage the winner students.

All the Affiliated Colleges of Jammu Province were distributed into 5 zones namely Tawi Zone, Devika Zone, Ravi Zone, Pir-Panjal Zone and Chenab Zone. Kashish and Sahil Sandhu

firstly brought laurels at Tawi Zone Competition and then bagged top positions at Inter-Zonal Level.

Their exceptional performance and creativity has earned them a well-deserved recognition and they will be now representing the College at Regional Level at Chandigarh.

The Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul congratulated both the students as well as their family members. He also blessed them grand success in their future endeavors.

The Teacher-in-charge who worked tirelessly behind the curtain for the two meritorious students were Dr. Ashu Jolly (HOD Education), Dr. Sheetal Sharma (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Ruchika (Department of English).

Army organizes Medical and Veterinary Camp at Jhalamang

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 21: The Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values, and traditions of the highest order. The professional and humane face of the Indian Army is well known and has always been praised and commended.

To support the people from remote areas of the Pir Panjal Ranges in Rajouri District, the Indian Army at Samote organized a Medical and Veterinary camp in Jhalamang village. The aim of the camp was to provide basic medical facilities to the people residing in remote villages.

The Indian Army Unit at Samote, along with Medical and Veterinary doctors from Rajouri District, conducted the Medical and Veterinary camp wherein a total of 491 individuals (including 2 Civilian Doctors and 1 Army Doctor) attended the camp.

Four hundred eighty-eight locals, including 229 men, 101 women, and 88 children from Jhalamang and nearby areas, availed themselves of the benefit of free medical treatment, while 15 buffalos, 10 dogs, 10 sheep, and 35 goats benefitted from the veterinary



services.

The Medical and Veterinary camp was organized primarily to address the medical ailments of civilians and domestic animals reared by the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities during the winter season.

Typically, these migratory families and their livestock stay in their respective villages and face many challenges due to the remoteness of their dwelling areas.

The Medical and Veterinary camp conducted for the Gujjar and Bakarwal families has generated significant goodwill in the area. Locals have wholeheartedly appreciated the assistance provided by the Indian Army to the community and have conveyed their sincere thanks and gratitude for this noble gesture.

Arvind Gupta releases POJK 2025 Calendar, reiterates Modi Govt's commitment to displaced communities

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West, today released the POJK 2025 calendar for the Jammu district wing of POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti at an event held in Jammu.

The calendar features significant photographs depicting the displacement of POJK displaced persons (DPs) during 1947, 1962, and 1965, along with highlighting the Pakistan-occupied territory of Ladakh (POTL) and China-occupied territory of Ladakh (COTL). The initiative aims to educate future generations about the historical struggles and sacrifices of displaced communities while keeping their memories alive.

Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta lauded the efforts of POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti Jammu in continuously working for the cause of displaced persons.

He emphasized that the displacement of communities from POJK remains one of the most



tragic chapters in India's history, and it is crucial to ensure that their pain and sacrifices are never forgotten.

He reiterated that the release of the POJK 2025 calendar serves as a poignant reminder of the injustices suffered by these families and the need to work towards restoring their rightful place in history.

He also commended the dedication of the Samiti in documenting and preserving the

narratives of those who were uprooted from their homes and forced to live as refugees in their own country.

Arvind Gupta further stated that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains steadfast in its commitment to reclaim POJK, POTL, and COTL.

He assured that every effort is being made to secure justice for the displaced populations and to

ensure their rehabilitation and empowerment.

He highlighted that the Modi government is consistently working towards strengthening India's territorial integrity and will never compromise on its sovereignty. He called upon the younger generation to remain informed about these historical events and support initiatives that uphold the rights of displaced persons.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Rakesh Gupta, Convener of the Jammu District Samiti, Naresh Vohra, Arun Gupta, Kushant Prajapati (Mandal President), Chaman Lal, Karan Sharma, and Sahni, among others. They appreciated the initiative and pledged their continued support for the cause of POJK displaced persons.

The program concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen the movement for justice and the rightful restoration of India's occupied territories.

Army organizes Personality Development including English Speaking Workshop at Thannamandi

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 21: The Indian Army, as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', is conducting a Personality Development and English Speaking Workshop for the youth at Thannamandi, Rajouri district. This skill development initiative aims to improve their communication skills, build confidence, and help them achieve greater success and fulfillment in their personal and professional lives. The course has seen active participation of 25 youth from local communities.

The Indian Army has always been a pillar



of support in guiding and empowering local youth by providing skill development opportunities. Given the promising career prospects of English-speaking skills, the Personality Development and English Speaking Workshop has been organized for the

youth of Thanamandi and nearby areas.

By combining Personality Development with English-speaking skills, this workshop offers a unique opportunity for participants to enhance their communication abilities, build confidence, and develop

a more positive and empowered self-image.

The skills and knowledge gained through this workshop will also enable participants to build stronger, more effective relationships with others, both in their personal and professional lives.

Each participant's progress is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these youth. As a token of recognition, certificates of participation and gifts will be awarded to all participants on the closing day.

This initiative not only empowers the youth of Thanamandi but also strengthens the bond between the Army and the local community. A self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of this region.

GDC Sunderbani in collaboration with Traffic Police Rural Jammu organizes seminar-cum-extension lecture

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, Jan 21: NSS Unit of Government Degree College Sunderbani in collaboration with Traffic Police Rural Jammu organized a seminar-cum-extension lecture today on Tuesday on the theme Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Suraksha to observe National Road safety month w.e.f. January 1 to 31, 2025.

Dr. G.L. Sharma, SSP Traffic was the keynote speaker on the occasion. In his address, he emphasized the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations to ensure safety on the roads.

He discussed vari-



ous critical aspects of road safety, including the necessity of following speed limits and traffic signals; wearing seat belts and helmets to minimize injuries during accidents; avoiding distractions, such as using mobile phones while driving; educating young drivers about responsible driving practices; and ensuring pedestrian safety and respecting road users.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation of 120 students, faculty members, and others, who actively engaged in discussions and sought solutions to common road safety challenges.

Principal of GDC Sunderbani, Dr. Ashu

Vashisht in her address, motivated the students to act as responsible citizens by strictly following traffic rules and ensuring their safety and the safety of others on the road. She also stressed the role of youth in creating a culture of road safety awareness and contributing to the reduction of road accidents.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Faheem-ul-Haq, who highlighted the significance of the seminar's theme and the collaborative efforts of the college and the traffic police and concluded with formal vote of thanks by NSS PO Dr. Manjeet Singh.

Army organizes Ex-Servicemen Rally at Mathiyaniigala

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 21: In a gesture of goodwill and commitment to the welfare of veterans, the Indian Army conducted an Ex-Servicemen Rally at COB Mathiyaniigala, Rajouri District.

The event saw a significant attendance of 52 Ex-Servicemen and 4 Veer Naris. The rally aimed to reach out to veterans and Veer Naris, providing them

with essential information and support.

Representatives from the Zila Sainik Board, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and State Bank of India briefed the attendees on the latest policies and schemes.

These initiatives demonstrate the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of its veterans.

The participants expressed their satisfaction and apprecia-



tion for the organization's welfare efforts, reflecting the Indian

Army's dedication to the well-being of its veterans.

Restoration of state status in cold storage: Sahni

Demand to fulfill promises like minimum wage, regularization of daily wagers, 200 units of free electricity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has expressed disappointment over no discussion and decision on public issues and fulfillment of promises in the recently concluded cabinet meeting. Along with this, it has demanded to put pressure on the central government for the demand of restoration of state status and to declare Jammu as the permanent capital of the state.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state president Manish Sahni accused the Omar government for not fulfilling their promises, in the



cabinet meeting held on January 20, no discussion and decision was taken like regularization of daily wagers, implementation of minimum wage and fulfilling the promises of 200 units of free electricity, clean drinking water etc. The demand for restoration of statehood has also been put on cold bag. Tenure of the government till now, the

Chief Minister has not done anything special except official visits to Delhi and the ministers have not done anything special except official visits to various departments. Sahni said that the expectations of the public are turning into disappointment.

He demanded from the Omar Abdullah government to immediately fulfill the prom-

ises of giving minimum daily wages fixed by the Central Government to the cooks, Asha workers etc. posted in Anganwadi, government schools, regularization of daily wage laborers posted in various departments, 200 units of free electricity, drinking water, increase in old

age and widow pension, 12 free LPG cylinders, etc. Along with this, a demand was made to allocate a separate budget amount for the tourist places of Jammu division which is yearning for development and to declare Jammu as the permanent capital of the state.

Demand to raise voice for declaring Jammu as capital

JAMMU, Jan 21: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has demanded the BJP leaders who always chanted Jammu-Jammu and claim to be well-wishers to raise voice and put pressure for declaring Jammu as the permanent capital of the state. Sahni said that declaring Jammu as the permanent capital will put an end to the allegations of discrimination against Jammu, development will take place and the economy will get a boost. At the same time, administrative work will also be protected from the effects of weather and terrorism.

JU organizes Guest Lecture on 'School internship, dissertation and project work'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Centre for Distance and online Education (CDOE) University of Jammu organised a guest lecture on the topic "School internship, Dissertation and Project Work" today at committee room of CDOE.

The program started with the welcome address by Dr. Anuradha Goswami (Coordinator of M.A Education Programme) who introduced resource person Prof. Renu Nanda former HOD and Dean faculty of Education. The session aimed to equip M.A Education students

with useful knowledge and skills to effectively undertake project work, write a comprehensive research proposal, and prepare appropriate research tools.

Prof. Renu Nanda shared insights on how school internship acts as a bridge between theoretical knowledge and practical teaching experience. The lecture provided a detailed about research writing, emphasizing its importance in laying a strong foundation for academic research. Students were guided on selecting relevant topics, formulating objectives, and adopting appropriate methodolo-

gies. Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director CDOE presided over the function. On this occasion in his address, he focused on how this lecture will provide students practical insight and actionable strategies for completing project work successfully, internship and research proposal thereby preparing them for both academic and professional challenges in Education.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Anuradha Goswami. In her address Dr. Goswami shared valuable information on various components of course structure.

IIM Jammu Inaugurates Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's dynamic young leaders at the Prahalad Classroom on Tuesday. This leadership training program, conducted from January 20 to 23, 2025, is designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the picturesque lower Himalayas. The

program features seven carefully curated sessions aimed at fostering personal and professional growth. The inauguration commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, graced by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Sahay provided insights into the effort involved in building IIM Jammu and shared highlights of his professional journey.



He emphasized the significance of lifelong learning, self-reliance, and continuous growth, encouraging participants to explore opportunities for academic and professional development. He underscored the Institute's strategic location, rapid progress, and dedication to fostering excellence. He stressed the value of pursuing higher studies, stating that such learning is never wasted.

Reflecting on IIM Jammu's achievements, he encouraged participants to leverage the program

to gain transformative insights that not only benefit individuals and their organizations but also contribute to nation-building.

Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Chair, IIM Jammu delivered the welcome address, outlining the program's objectives and its alignment with NTPC's leadership vision.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu provided an insightful overview of the program, emphasizing

the innovative integration of trekking as a tool for leadership development.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rambalak

Yadav, Program Chair, followed by the National Anthem.

The program includes field-based experiential learning activities such as trekking in the Himalayas, empowering leadership, team building, sustainability and good governance, conflict resolution, negotiating solutions, intrapreneurship skills, strategic thinking, mastering communication for leadership, and digital transformation.

Through initiatives like these, IIM Jammu reaffirms its role in shaping future-ready leaders who can make meaningful contributions to society and industry.

BJP Zanskar delegation calls on CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 21: A delegation from the Bharatiya Janata Party Zanskar, led by nominated councillor of LAHDC Kargil, Namgyal Phuntsok and Vice President Lobzang Namgial called on Chairman/CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson. The delegation included Newly

Elected Mandal Presidents Padum Nawang Chosdzang, Sham Tashi Wangail, Karsha Lobzang Samstan, Thukjaj Lobzang, and Thukjang Gyaltsen; Treasurer, and senior member.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed various issues, and the CEC assured that he would take steps to resolve the matters.

Two Educational Boards: One for Poor, One for Rich—Why?" Rao questions inequality in Education

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Social and political activist Kuldeep Kumar Rao has urged the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and other leaders, including the Lt. Governor of J&K-UT, Manoj Sinha, and J&K-UT Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to prioritize the implementation of a uniform syllabus across the country.

Criticizing the disparity between CBSE and state boards, Rao stated that this dual system unfairly divides students based on financial status. He advocated for



uplifting state boards to CBSE standards to ensure equal opportunities for all children and promote national unity.

He also highlighted the shortcomings of government schools in J&K, attributing the poor state of education to corruption, nepotism, and inadequate infrastructure. Rao criticized

successive state governments for opening schools without proper planning, resulting in substandard education.

Calling for immediate reform, Rao urged authorities to address the plight of highly qualified, unemployed youth in J&K. He proposed district-wise teacher recruitment based on merit to utilize the potential of trained individuals nearing the age limit for employment.

Rao's appeal underscores the need for systemic change to ensure educational equity and build a brighter future for the nation.

Keshav Chopra organizes Aadhaar Enrollment Camp for children



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 21: Chairman of Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, organized a two-day Aadhaar Enrollment Camp at JK Montessorie School, Talab Tillo, in collaboration with Aadhaar Sewa Kendra Jammu.

The camp offered services such as new Aadhaar enrollments, biometric

updates for children, corrections, mobile number updates, and photograph changes.

Speaking on the occasion, Keshav Chopra emphasized the society's mission to provide doorstep Aadhaar services to the needy, particularly school children, to spare them the inconvenience of

traveling in cold weather. He announced plans to extend such camps to other schools, ensuring maximum children benefit from these services.

Dean Academics Apurv Gupta expressed gratitude to the Samvedna team for their thoughtful initiative. Operational Head of Aadhaar Sewa Kendra Peer Mubassir Shah, along with team members Shubham Tandon, Anju, Vikas Kumar, Manoj Tandon, and Sourav Gupta, were present during the camp.

This initiative reflects Samvedna Society's commitment to community welfare and ease of access to essential services.



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