

# TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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**Kritika Kamra consciously lets go of work that glorifies dependent women**



**'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has become people-powered initiative: PM**

**US: Donald Trump calls Bishop Budde "nasty" after her mercy plea during inaugural prayer service**



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## BRIEFLY

### Army troops open fire on pakistani drone along LoC in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, Jan 22 (Agencies): Army troops opened fire to bring down a Pakistani drone which entered into the Indian side from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir early Wednesday, officials said.

However, the drone returned to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) after hovering briefly over an area near the border fence in Mendhar sector, they said.

The troops picked up the movement of the drone around 1 am and fired nearly a dozen rounds.

A search operation was launched with the first light of the day on Wednesday to ensure there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics by the drone, the officials said.

The search operation was continuing when last reports were received.

### Rusted Mortar shell defused in Kathua

JAMMU, Jan 22 (Agencies): A rusted mortar shell was defused in a forest area in Hiranagar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday, officials said.

The mortar shell was noticed by a shepherd, who had gone to Mayan Kannah forest to graze his sheep this morning, the officials said.

They said Shawar informed the local police following which a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the scene and the mortar shell was defused.

### Army soldier killed in accidental fire in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, Jan 22 (Agencies): An army soldier was killed in an accidental discharge of fire in the Kalaroos area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

Official sources told news agency JKNS that army personnel died after his service rifle went off accidentally, resulting in grievous injuries to him.

He was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment where doctors on duty declared him brought dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up.

Two drug peddlers

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## "Common factor in all deaths is involvement of the brain, damage to nervous system": Principal of GMC Rajouri on 'Mysterious Illness'

RAJOURI, Jan 22 (Agencies): A mysterious illness has struck the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in 17 deaths. Medical authorities have rushed to the area to investigate the cause of the illness.

According to Dr Amarjeet Singh Bhatia, Principal of Government Medical College Rajouri, a common factor among the deaths is the involvement of the brain and damage to the nervous system.

"Forensic departments



from Chandigarh and Lucknow, and teams from MHA are present here. A common factor in all the deaths is the involvement of the brain

and damage to the nervous system," Dr Bhatia said.

He also emphasised the recovery rate of the people affected by this

'unidentified disease.' "Out of 9 patients that were admitted to GMC Rajouri, 5 recovered. We have conducted preventive CT scans also, but recovery becomes tough once the brain gets involved," Bhatia said.

"We are hoping to find the cause (behind the illness) soon. We will educate the people and raise awareness among them like not to exchange foods," he added.

While the exact cause of the illness remains

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## Mysterious Deaths | J&K's Rajouri village declared containment zone

JAMMU, Jan 22 (Agencies): Unable to reach a conclusive finding as to what caused 17 mysterious deaths in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, authorities on Wednesday declared the Budhaal village as a containment zone under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

District Magistrate of Rajouri has declared Badhaal a containment zone following recent health concerns in the area. Acting under Section 163 of the BNSS Act (previously Section 144 of the CrPC), strict measures have been imple-

mented to ensure public safety and prevent the spread of any potential issues.

As part of the containment plan, Houses of affected families have been sealed. The entire area has been divided into three zones for efficient management. All public and private gatherings have been prohibited.

To ensure the well-being of the residents, designated officers and officials have been tasked with monitoring the preparation and distribution of meals provided to families within the containment zones.

The administration has assured residents that further details and updates will follow as the situation develops.

At least 17 locals, including 11 children, have died since December 8, 2024, in Budhaal village of Kotranka subdivision in Rajouri district. The last death was reported on January 17.

The people have lost lives because of a mysterious disease, claim the locals. Samples analysed at various premier laboratories of the country have returned negative results for viral or bacterial infection

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## Article 370 was not meant for Kashmir, but for Dogras: Farooq Abdullah



JAMMU, Jan 22 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) President Farooq Abdullah addresses party workers during one-day conference, at party office in Jammu on Wednesday.

National Conference president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday that Maharajas had come up with Article 370 provision in 1927 to protect the land of Dogras.

Addressing workers in Jammu, Farooq Abdul-

lah, said that there were apprehensions that Punjab residents will settle in Jammu and Kashmir, thus Article 370 was brought in a century ago to protect the land of Dogras.

"It was not brought for Kashmiris, but for Dogras. Nobody will come to Kashmir as they are afraid of Muslims," he said.

He further added that a propaganda is being created that Hindus are in danger, but the fact is

nobody can threaten 80 per cent population.

"There is no threat from outside the country but India at present is facing internal threats," he said. He also asked workers to think about what they have lost and what they have gained.

He also slammed the Peoples Democratic Party, stating that it was late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who formed the coalition government and brought the

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## Over 100 sheep charred to death in blaze in Samba

SAMBA/JAMMU, Jan 22 (Agencies): Over 100 sheep died after a cowshed caught fire and was gutted in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir early Wednesday, officials said.

The fire broke out in



the cowshed of Shapian, son of Jamal Din, at Rakh Barotian in the Vijaypur tehsil around 3.30 am, the officials said.

They said four fire tenders were rushed to the

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## Nitish Kumar's JD(U) withdraws support to BJP-led Manipur government

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): The Janata Dal (United) JD(U), a member of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), officially withdrew its support to the BJP-led government in Manipur on Wednesday.

In the statement from JD(U)'s Manipur Chief, Ksh. Biren Singh, the party said, "In the election to the State Assembly of Manipur held in February/March 2022, six candidates set up by Janata Dal(United) were returned. After a few months, five MLAs of Janata Dal (United) defected to BJP. Trial



under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India of the five MLAs is pending before the Speaker's Tribunal. After Janata Dal(United) became a part of the INDIA bloc, support to the BJP-led government was withdrawn by Janata Dal(United) by

informing the office of the Governor, Leader of the House (Chief Minister) and Speaker."

"As such, the seating arrangement of the lone MLA of Janata Dal (United) in Manipur, Md Abdul Nasir is made in the Opposition Bench in

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### TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ RASAM PAGARI

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SMT. BHUSHAN KUMARI WIFE OF LATE SH. MOOL CHAND GUPTA R/O WARD NO.13, HOUSE NO. 21 NEAR CITY HIGH SCHOOL (BOYS) LAMBI GALI UDHAMPUR ON 12 JAN 2025.

**TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 21 JAN 2025(TUESDAY) FROM 11.30 AM TO 12.30 PM AT SHIV MANDIR HOUSING COLONY UDHAMPUR.**

**KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 24TH JANUARY (FRIDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE.**

**RASAM PAGARI SHALL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 24 JANUARY (FRIDAY) AT 4 PM.**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh Anil Gupta & Smt Rajni Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)  
Sh Sunil Gupta & Smt Suparna Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)  
Sh Pawan Gupta & Smt Renu Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)  
Sh Arun Gupta & Smt Pratibha Gupta (Son & Daughter in law)  
Smt Anita Gupta & Sh Jugal Kapoor (Daughter & Son in law)  
Ph No : 9095141006, 9419150614, 9419159350, 9419150263, 9622067081

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**SMT. BHUSHAN KUMARI**

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Kailash Kumari** W/o Sh Sangram Singh R/o Vill-Garhi PO Domana, Jammu on 21 Jan 2025 at 11.00 AM and **Kriya** will be held on 24 Jan 2025 (Friday) at our residence at 1.30 PM.

**WITH GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Devars & Devranis**  
Sh Sudershan Singh & Smt Tripta Devi  
Sh. Shital Singh & Smt Saroj Devi  
Sh Subhash Singh & Smt Anju Devi  
Sh Ajay Paul Singh & Smt Sneha (Son & Daughter in law)  
Sh Udhay Paul Singh (Son)



**Smt Kailash Kumari**

**Contact No. 8082810878, 9419134501, 8492023262**

### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Anuradha Sharma (Radhu)**, Headmaster, GHS, Govindsar, Kathua who left for heavenly abode on 15th January, 2025.

**TENTH DAY** shall take place on January 23, 2025 (Thursday) at our residence, Ward No. 15, Patel Nagar Kathua, Near Shiva Floor Mill at 11 am.

**KRIYA** will be performed on January 24, 2025 (Friday) at 12:30 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Dwarka Nath Sharma and Ayodhya Devi- Parents  
Yash Pal Sharma -Husband  
Ananya Sharma -Daughter  
Akhilesh Sharma -Son  
**AND ENTIRE SHARMA FAMILY**  
**CONTACT: 9419245097**



**Anuradha Sharma**  
Headmaster, GHS  
Govindsar, Kathua


### TENTH DAY KRIYA

The 10th Day Kriya of our beloved **Sh Mohan Lal Bhat (Papa Ji)** S/o Lt. Raghav Ram Bhat R/o Chowdriend, Shopian Kashmir A/P Flat No. 17, Block-119, Lane No. 20, Mini-Township, Jagti, Nagrota Jammu who left all of us untimely on 15-01-2025 for heavenly abode jummy.

The 10th Day shall be held on 24-01-2025 at 8 AM at Akhnor Jammu.

The Assembly for paying our respect & offering prayers for the departed souls liberation, after Kriya shall be held at Block-119, Lane No. 03, Jagti Nagrota on 24-01-2025 at 11 am.

**Grief Stricken**  
Son & Daughter-in-law  
Sh Ramesh Kumar Bhat & Smt Baby Bhat (8603743585)  
Son-in-law & Daughter  
Sh Tej Krishna Bhat & Smt Tosha Bhat (8603144370)  
Sh Sanjay Kumar Razdan & Smt Pinky Razdan (7006489171)  
Grand Children  
Amit Bhat, Diksha Bhat, Abhishek Bhat & Priyanka Abhishek Bhat  
Sunil Bhat & Monika Bhat, Manvi Razdan, Janvi Razdan



**Sh Mohan Lal Bhat (Papa Ji)**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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




**Smt. Shanta Bhat**

### ANTIM ARDAS

**MAY HER JOURNEY AHEAD BE PEACEFUL**  
**BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB:** 10:30 AM  
**KIRTAN** 11AM-12:30 PM- Followed by Langar on 26th Jan 2025.  
Venue: 4 Ext, Gandhi Nagar.

**Deeply Remembered By:**  
Daughter and Son-in-law  
Sabina and Puninder Khorana  
Daughter-in-law & Son  
Bubbles and Late Jagdeep Singh Sahani  
Granddaughters  
**Mob: 8800604800**



**Sardarni Ranbir Kaur Sahani**  
04/01/1941-20-1-2025

### ADH BARKHI

With profound grief we would like to share that **Mrs. Reenu Kapoor** W/o Kuldeep Kapoor left us for her heavenly abode on 29/07/2024.

**Adh- Barkhi** will be performed on Thursday 23 January, 2025 at 10:30 am at our residence W.No. 2 Basohli, Near Netaji School Basohli.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sh Darshan Kumar Kapoor (Father in law)  
Smt Tripta Kapoor (Mother in law)  
Sh Kuldeep Kapoor (Husband)  
(Brother in law & Sister in law)  
Pankaj & Anu Kapoor  
Amandeep Kapoor (Son) 7889723448  
Ayoush Kapoor (Son) 8492073712



**Mrs. Reenu Kapoor**

### THIRTEEN DAY/UTHALA

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

The following rites and rituals will be performed as per given below:-

**KRIYA:** 23rd January Thursday 12:30 PM at our residence H.No. 800, Subash Nagar Rehari Colony Jammu.

**UTHALA:** 25th January Saturday 12:30 PM at our residence H.No. 800, Subash Nagar Rehari Colony Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt. Pushpa Jamwal - Grand Mother  
Oshin Jamwal : Wife  
Myra Jamwal : Daughter  
Davinder Singh & Lata Jamwal : Taya Ji & Tayi Ji  
Deepankar & Waibha Jamwal - Brother & Bhabhi  
Manik & Manisha Sambyal : Brother & Bhabhi  
Swati & Chetan : Sister & Brother-in-law  
Bua Ji and Fufa Ji, Mause Ji & Massi Ji, Brothers & Sisters and All Jamwal Family

**IN LAWS**  
Kewal Krishan Dutta & Rekha Rani : Father & Mother-in-law  
Ishan Dutta & Anuj Dutta : Brothers-in-law  
Anamika Dutta : Sister-in-law  
**AND ALL DUTTA FAMILY**




**Shivankar Jamwal (Chinu)**

### BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **S. Balvinder Singh** S/o Late S. Churcharan Singh originally from Raj Bagh (Ujh), Kathua at present living at H.No. 272, Sec- B, Sainik Colony, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 15th January, 2025.

The **BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS** program shall take place as follows:  
**AARABH AKHAND PATH SAHIB** - 22.01.2025 (at residence 09:00 a.m.)  
**SMAPTI AKHAND PATH SAHIB** - 24.01.2025 (at residence at 09:30am)  
**BHOG, KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS** - 24.01.2025 (at Gurudwara Sainik Colony, Jammu from 11:00 am to 1:00pm)  
Followed by Gurukh Langar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
- Jaswant Kour (Wife)  
- Parvinder Singh & Ranju (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
- Baljeet Singh & Harleen Kaur (Son and Daughter-in-law)  
- Kanav Parag Singh, Divyot Kaur, Balraj Kaur (Grandkids)  
**- ALL NEAR AND DEAR FAMILY MEMBERS.**  
**CONTACT NUMBER: 9419151385, 9419247185, 7889642775, 9530902693**  
For directions follow the links given below:  
Residence: (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LUVk3JmM6NU1b7m7>)  
Gurudwara Sainik Colony (<https://lg.co/kgsoBY482q>)



**Late S. Balvinder Singh**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ms. Jaya Bhat Pandita** W/o Ramesh Kumar Bhat H. No 41, Lane No. 2 Dream City Muthi Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17th January-2025 at 4.00 (a.m).

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 25th January 2025 ( Saturday) at Akhnor Chanderbhaga Ghat and Assembly for paying tributes and respect to the departed soul will be held at our residence Dream City Muthi Jammu on 25th January-2025 at 11.30 (a.m).

**Grief Stricken:-**  
Ramesh Kumar Bhat (Husband)  
Adarsh Bhat & Garima Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-Law)  
Abijay Bhat (Son)  
Satish Bhat & Sunita Bhat (Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law)  
C.M. Bhat & Roopa Raina (Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law)  
Bimba Ji W/o Late Sh. Rattan Lal Bhat (Sister-in-Law)  
**(SAMAST BHAT PARIVAAR) Mob. 7889335089, 7889444015, 7780973351**



**Ms. Jaya Bhat Pandita**

### OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform sad demise of **Smt. Jagat Mohini Nehru** W/o Late Sh. Jagat Nath Nehru ex-resident of Kala Khud, Habba Kadal, Srinagar presently at Flat No. 42, Tower No 2, Palm Olympia, Gur City 2, Greater Noida (West), Noida.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 27th January 2025 at Ganga Nahar, Chola Hatidwar, Modad Nagar, UP at 8.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
Sh. Sanjay Lal Nehru (Son) 9205403132  
(Grandson and Grand Daughter)  
Sh. Pratik Nehru & Pratibha Nehru 9310572232, 9178525488  
Smt. Rashmi & Sh. Sanjay Nehru (Daughter-in-law & Son) 9419701710, 9419147499  
Smt. Parag & Sh. Adarsh Krishna Kaul (Daughter & Son-in-law) 8743081212, 9718387401  
Smt. Usha & Sh. Ashok Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law) 9688116238, 9646087172  
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Sanjay Rambal (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Sarita & Sh. Vinod Razdan (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
Smt. Sunaina & Sh. Sunish J (Daughter & Son-in-law)  
(Grand children: Amit & Ambika, Amol Ji & Aparna, Amlesh Ji & Aruna, Manish Ji & Ancha), Shubul, Arnav, Jyesh, Ayansh, Nyra, Meesha)




**Smt. Jagat Mohini Nehru**

### FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our Brother-in-Law **Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhaya** S/o Sh. Madan Lal Upadhaya resident of Janipur Colony on 20-01-2025.

The **FIFTH DAY** will be held on 24-01-2025 at 12.00 Noon at my residence H. No 65, Sector 2 Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt & Prof (Retd) N.N Sharma  
Smt & Dr (Retd) Rajesh Kumar Sharma  
Smt & Er. (Retd) Vinod Kumar Sharma  
**MOBILE NO: 9419185553, 9419193183, 9796825397**



**SH. JAI KUMAR UPADHAYA**

### Tenth Day/Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you that **Mrs. RENU SHARMA** W/O LATE LT. COL. NAREINDER SHARMA R/O 377/378 Bakshi Nagar, Opp. Baghat Singh Chowk, Jammu left for her heavenly abode on 13-01-25.

**10th Day** will be performed at our Residence on **22-01-25 Wednesday at 12 Noon.**  
**Kriya** will be performed at our Residence on **23-01-25 Thursday at 12 Noon.**

**Grief Stricken:**  
Raghav Punj - Son  
Arshia & Aman Sharma - Daughter & Son-in-Law  
Sh. Surender Sharma & Mrs Viay Sharma - Brother-in-law & Bhabhi  
Mr Vinod Sharma & Mrs. Pratibha Sharma - Brother-in-law & Bhabhi  
Mrs. Geeta Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Ramesh Sharma - Bhabhi  
Mr. Subhash Sharma & Mrs. Veena Sharma - Brother-in-law & Bhabhi  
Mr. Ravish Bhaskar & Saroj Bhaskar - Nandoia & Nanad  
Smt. Sudesh Sharma W/o late Sh RD Sharma. - Sister  
Smt. Preeti Khajuria & Sh. Vinay Khajuria - Sister & Brother in law  
Sh. Arun Sharma & Smt. Poonam Sharma - Brother & Bhabhi




**Mrs. RENU SHARMA**

### OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shyama Pandita** W/o Late Sh. Bansilal Pandita originally from Pampore, Kashmir, presently residing at Lalleshwari Vatika, Sector 21 D, Faridabad on 20th January 2025.

**10th Day** will be performed at Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad on 28th January (Tuesday) 2025.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**  
(Son and Daughter in law)  
O.K. Pandita and Sunita Pandita  
(Daughter and Son in law)  
Sunita Kalpashu and Kuldeep Kalpashu  
Sujata Dhar and Anil Dhar (Daughter and Son in law)  
(Grand Children)  
Nitin Pandita, Madhurima Dhar and Kamakshi Kalpashu  
**Contact No. 9871328973, 9419134597, 9899957847.**




**Smt. Shyama Pandita**

### FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of our Brother-in-Law **Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhaya** S/o Sh. Madan Lal Upadhaya resident of Janipur Colony on 20-01-2025.

The **FIFTH DAY** will be held on 24-01-2025 at 12.00 Noon at my residence H. No 65, Sector 2 Sharika Vihar Lower Roop Nagar Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Smt & Prof (Retd) N.N Sharma  
Smt & Dr (Retd) Rajesh Kumar Sharma  
Smt & Er. (Retd) Vinod Kumar Sharma  
**MOBILE NO: 9419185553, 9419193183, 9796825397**



**SH. JAI KUMAR UPADHAYA**

### Tenth Day/ Kriya/ Uthala

With profound grief we regret to inform you that our mother **Smt. Lilla Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Bishamber Dutt Sharma Left for the Heavenly Abode on 14 - January 2025.


**Tenth Day** will be performed at our residence, H. No. 117 Sector 7 Channi Himmat, Jammu on 23 January 2025 from 11 AM to 12 Noon.

**Kriya** will be performed at our residence, H. No.117 Sector 7 Channi Himmat Jammu on 24 January 2025.

**Uthala** will be performed at Shri Punch Mandir, Sector-2, Channi Himmat Jammu on 25 January 2025 from 2 PM to 3 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
**Sons and Daughter in law**  
Er. Rajesh Sharma (Retd. AEE Mech) & Nalini Sharma Anil Baru  
**Daughters and Son-in-law**  
Lt. Manju Dogra & Lt. Vijay Dogra  
Neelam Raina & D. K. Raina  
Jyoti Bhardwaj & R. D. Bhardwaj

**Deeply Remembered by:**  
**All Baru and Sadotra family**  
**Mob: 7006466683, 9419148370, 7006002626**



**Smt. Lilla Sharma (Baru)**


**Grandchildren**  
Bhawna & Vinay  
Harvansh & Neha  
Heena & Pankaj  
Vasudha & Anuj  
Vaishali & Sushain  
Aditya & Radhika  
Arjun  
Geetanshu  
Achitya  
Harshit

### BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the demise of **Smt. Prakash Kour** W/o Sh. S. Kehar Singh, R/o H.No.177, Sector-C, Sainik Colony, Jammu, on Wednesday, 15th January, 2025.

In Loving Memory of Departed Soul  
**Aarambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 21-01-2025 (Tuesday) at 10 AM at our residence.  
**Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 23-01-2025 (Thursday) at 10 AM at our residence.  
**Kirtan & Antim Ardass** on 23-01-2025 (Tuesday) from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Gurudwara Sahib Sri Singh Sabha Sainik Colony, Jammu

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Daughter-in-Laws & Sons:-  
Mrs. Parveen Kour W/o DSP Satinder Singh (Sati)  
Mrs. Baljeet Kour W/o Mr. Surender Br Singh (Honey)  
Daughters & Son-in-Laws:-  
Mrs. Iqbal Kour W/o Late S. Avtar Singh  
Mrs. Raghbir Kour W/o Satpal Choudhary  
Mobile No: 9419197157, 9086099699, 9149181041, 9086389198



**Smt. Prakash Kour**

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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



**Sh Narman Nath Bhat**

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## Discrimination with Jammu region continues to be the hallmark of NC govt: GL Raina

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: The single message that signifies the agenda of the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah this week is continued discrimination with the Jammu region. While Kashmir province gets clear cut proposals of estimated cost of total value more than the Jammu region gets approval worth just estimated cost, said Girdhari Lal Raina.

Girdhari Lal Raina, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Secretary was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Media reports suggest that the J&K Council of Ministers, which met under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister in the Civil Secretariat on January 20,



2025 cleared all the proposals in its agenda.

Proposals cleared as reported are; a) implementation of a 3-tier faculty structure in Government Dental College, Srinagar, and Indira Gandhi Government Dental College, Jammu, as per the norms of the Dental Council of India (DCI) on staffing patterns; b) administrative approval accorded to proposals mooted by the Housing & Urban Development Department viz.,

dumpsite remediation through biominning and bioremediation of 11.00 Lakh MTs of legacy waste at Achan dumping site, Srinagar, at an estimated cost of Rs. 60.50 Cr ; c) pollution abatement and conservation of River Jhelum at Chuntkul and Gawkadal areas in Srinagar, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6445.68 lakh (Rs. 6380.68 lakh under the National River Conservation Plan) and at River Banganga at Katra Town, at an estimated cost of

Rs 92.10 Cr under the National River Conservation Plan.

Construction of a new hospital block for the emergency operation theatre at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar and proposal regarding dispensing with oral tests or interviews for posts in pay level-6, as recommended by the J&K Service Selection Board too were approved by the cabinet, sources said

Other agenda items, as reported were proposals related to J&K Excise Policy; Amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 and the revision of Dearness Allowance (DA) payable to the government employees, pensioners w.e.f., July 1, 2024 also got approval of the Council of Ministers.

We denounce this biased and discriminatory policy of NC towards the Jammu region, said Raina.

## Dr. Narinder Singh holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24; Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary, BJP & MLA, RS Pura-Jammu South held a public darbar at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dozens of deputations from various parts of Jammu approached the party headquarters to share their issues with the senior leader and requested for their quick disposal.

Most of the issues presented were related to the repair and upgradation of lanes, drains, and roads. Many depu

tations presented the issues of streetlights and some pressed for their revenue department related issues. Few presented the issues related to the police department and other issues were related to the electricity supply and drinking water supply.

Dr. Narinder Singh, while listening to the grievances of the people, said that the BJP serves the people with an unmatched dedication. He said that the party leaders are available for the people 365 days in a year. The party

works with the motto of Antyodaya, which means the welfare of the people, who were marginalized and neglected earlier. He also said that as an MLA, he is available to the people in all their genuine needs and issues, and it will be his priority to provide the people with the solutions to their issues in a time bound manner.

While speaking on the public darbar, he shared that many issues presented by the people were sorted out on the spot and oral and written communications were made with the concerned departments for the rest issues.

## Awareness Lecture on various Academic Application Software for students held at GCW Udhampur



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 22: The Department of Computer Applications, Government Women College (GCW), Udhampur organized an awareness lecture on various Academic application software such as JUCC, DigiLocker, ABC etc under the aegis of IQAC at the college campus.

The workshop was organized under the headship of Dr. Preeti Dubey, Department of Computer Applications.

Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania was elated and appreciated the department for organizing such an event for the awareness of the students with the various application software required to ease out their academic journey.

Rachna Bharti demonstrated the use of JUCC app as well as the portal designed for the undergraduate students of all colleges affiliated to University of Jammu to check their univer-

sity related information such as their profile, examination related information.

She also apprised the students about the way of updating their information. The introduced the students to various menu options of the application software. The app is a one-stop solution for all their information. The students were also told about the safety features of the software.

Dr. Preeti Dubey continued

the session by apprising the students about the DigiLocker initiative of the Govt. of India. She, in her lecture, informed the students that the university of Jammu was also registered with the DigiLocker.

She apprised the students that under the IT Act of 2000, the DigiLocker certificates/documents are recognised to be equivalent to actual physical documents.

She also talked about linkage of ABC (academic bank of credits) with the DigiLocker and explained the students about the importance of creating abc ids by the students.

The students gave positive feedback regarding their increased awareness about the various software available for the use of students to ease out their student life.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Akshi Gupta. Dr. Rudrika Kalsotra presented a vote of thanks.

## MLA Ramgarh holds Public Darbar at Panchayat Nanga

### Top News Report

RAMGARH, Jan 22: A Public Darbar was held on Wednesday at Panchayat Nanga, Ramgarh, with Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, in attendance, alongside DDC Ramgarh Anita Choudhary, Mandal Pardhan Ramgarh Nancy Choudhary, Sodhagarmal, Tilak Raj, Rattan Chander, Joginder Lal, Amrik Singh and Gurdal Baba.

The event provided a vital platform for local residents to voice their concerns directly to their

elected representatives.

The residents discussed a variety of issues affecting the area. Key topics included stagnant water at Ditch, the lack of an outlet near Klair Singh's house, the removal of barbed wire along the border, and the urgent need for flood compensation for farmers in Nanga.

Other major concerns raised included the construction of a new Nallah, blacktopping of roads, and compensation for landowners. The public also highlighted the incomplete community hall projects, unemploy-

ment concerns, and the installation of solar lights in the region.

Additionally, residents expressed concerns about the CPWD's construction of a culvert on private land, the high fees for recruitment forms for border security, and the necessity for a veterinary hospital camp for local animals.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal assured the public that their issues would be addressed promptly, and efforts would be made to ensure the development and well-being of the region.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
Office of the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

E-NIT No PHEC/III/ 28 OF 2024-25

The Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu for and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir invites Tenders by e-tendering from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government, (U.T now) for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of work.	Esdt. Cost	Cost of documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor
1	Improvement of water supply of Sector 4 Trikuta Nagar under UT Capex.	Rs. 183461/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 3670/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee
2	Improvement of water supply from GHKP school towards by way of providing and laying and fitting of Distribution system in Sector 3 Nanak Nagar from the House of Avinesh Sharma upto Satpal.	Rs. 234653/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs.4694/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee
3	Interconnection OHT Sector 7 with Distribution line opposite Ambica Super Market under UT capex.	Rs. 227862/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 4558/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee
4	Improvement of water supply of Gandhi Nagar near Tube well No 9 Gandhi Nagar by interconnection of OHT with Tube well under UT capex.	Rs. 177236/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 3545/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee
5	Replacement/ by passing of wormout distribution pipe line to Sector B Sainik Colony under UT capex,	Rs. 369197/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 7384/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee
6	Providing water supply to Office of Executive Engineer T&C Division B.R. Ambedkar Chowk Jammu	Rs. 119382/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 2388/-	2 Months	A,B,C and Dee

Position of Funds: Available AA = Accorded

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	20.01.2025
2.	Date of Publishing.	20.01.2025 05.00 PM
3.	Period of Downloading of bidding documents.	20.01.2025 05.30 PM
4.	Bid Submission Start date.	20.01.2025 06.30 PM
5.	Bid Submission End date	28.01.2025 04.00 PM
6.	Date and time of opening of pre qualification bids (online).	29.01.2025 02.00 PM

NO MSME CERTIFICATE ENTERTAINED.

- The Tender can be downloaded from J&K Govt. website.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu /tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>

NO PHEC/III/ 3737-52  
Dated: 20.01.2025

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## EDITORIAL

LEARNING FROM  
BADHAAL

The recent health crisis in Badhaal Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir, has left the nation in shock and underscores the vulnerabilities in India's public health system. Over the past month, the region has witnessed 17 mysterious deaths and several children falling gravely ill. Despite efforts by medical teams and government authorities, the root cause of this crisis remains elusive. This incident is a stark reminder of the need to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure, enhance rapid response mechanisms, and build public trust in times of health emergencies.

The crisis began with reports of children and adults experiencing severe symptoms, leading to sudden deaths. Despite the intervention of central medical teams, local healthcare systems have struggled to diagnose the illness. Families have reported cases of individuals being referred to hospitals in Jammu, only to return as fatalities. This has led to growing panic, with some residents choosing to migrate to safer areas.

Adding to the distress is the slow pace of government action. The affected families are demanding answers, compensation, and immediate medical relief. The crisis has exposed glaring gaps in the healthcare system, including inadequate diagnostic facilities, insufficient communication between health agencies, and a lack of preparedness for public health emergencies.

The time taken to deploy expert medical teams and establish a coordinated response has amplified the crisis. A streamlined mechanism for rapid deployment of resources and specialists is critical to contain the spread of illnesses and reassure the public.

Public mistrust has grown as families witness repeated failures to diagnose or treat the illness. The lack of clear communication from health authorities has fueled rumors and panic, further destabilizing the region.

The fear of falling victim to the illness has led many families to migrate, disrupting lives and livelihoods. Such migrations often exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities, as displaced individuals struggle to find stability in new locations.

The Badhaal Rajouri incident is not an isolated event. Similar public health crises have occurred globally, from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to India's own struggles with the Nipah virus. These events highlight the importance of proactive measures, robust healthcare systems, and public awareness.

Rural areas must be equipped with modern diagnostic tools, well-trained medical staff, and efficient referral systems. Mobile health units and telemedicine can bridge the gap between rural populations and specialized healthcare services.

The government must invest in the creation of multidisciplinary rapid response teams that can be deployed immediately in the event of a health crisis. These teams should include epidemiologists, virologists, toxicologists, and public health experts.

Misinformation and fear often worsen health crises. Transparent communication from health authorities, coupled with awareness campaigns, can help dispel rumors and provide communities with actionable information.

Mystery illnesses often emerge due to new pathogens, environmental toxins, or zoonotic diseases. A robust surveillance system, combined with increased investment in medical research, can help detect potential threats early and prevent their spread.

Health crises require a collaborative approach involving multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, healthcare providers, NGOs, and international organizations. Coordinated efforts can ensure a more comprehensive and effective response.

Policy interventions play a pivotal role in preventing and managing public health crises. The government must prioritize health spending, particularly in underserved regions. Initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat scheme have made healthcare more accessible, but more targeted programs are needed to address the unique challenges of rural areas.

Additionally, policymakers must consider enacting laws that mandate the timely investigation of unexplained deaths and illnesses. These investigations should involve expert panels and provide clear timelines for reporting findings.

The tragedy in Badhaal Rajouri is a wake-up call for India's public health system. It highlights the urgent need for a multi-pronged approach to prevent and manage health crises, particularly in rural and remote areas. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, enhancing diagnostic capabilities, and fostering community trust are essential steps in this direction.

As the nation mourns the lives lost in Rajouri, it is imperative to turn this crisis into an opportunity for systemic change. By learning from this incident and implementing the necessary reforms, India can build a more resilient and equitable healthcare system, ensuring that no community is left vulnerable in the face of future health challenges.

## Mahakumbh –the largest Congregation of Faith &amp; Indianness

By: Omkar Dattatray

Maha Kumbh is really a rare religious, cultural and patriotic congregation occurring every twelve years and the Maha Kumbh which is going on in Prayagraj in 2025 January-February has occurred after a very long gap of 144 years as it is a spiritually and religiously more significant and a holy dip during this mela purifies, cleans one's soul and is believed to give salvation to devotees which in religious terminology is called Moksha. The Maha Kumbh Mela is a congregation of faith and Indianness because it is a large gathering of people from all over India who share a common Hindu faith and culture. The festival is a time for spiritual reflection, cultural celebration, social interaction and above all symbolizes Indianness. In fact Prayagraj turns into a mini-India during Kumbh or Maha Kumbh Mela and thus it can be said that it showcases Indian faith, traditions and nationalism and patriotism as people from various regions of the country converge in Prayagraj and perform holy dip in sacred confluence of the three rivers Ganga, Yamuna and mystical Saraswati and Indianness is in full swing during the mela. People from almost all regions of India perform the holy bath in the Sangam of sacred three rivers and interact with each other and exchange their experience of Maha Kumbh and the devotees are from different languages, traditions and so exchange of language happens and the languages get richness and in this way the notion of Indianness is furthered and strengthened. Kumbh Mela /Maha Kumbh Mela is a congregation of faith and devotion because of the following –A-The Maha Kumbh or Kumbh Mela is a pilgrimage to sacred rivers, where devotees bathe to cleanse their sins, impurities and achieve spiritual rewards and in fact enlightenment and salvation which is the

aim and highest objective of every Sanatan Dharmi. B—The festival is centered around the idea of the "pot of amrita"[nectar of immortality], which came out when gods and demons churned the cosmic ocean of creation. C-The Kumbh Mela / Maha Kumbh Mela is a time for spiritual seekers to meet with sadhus, saints, seers and religious gurus and learn from their wisdom. Maha Kumbh Mela symbolizes Indianness because of the following—A—Maha Kumbh or Kumbh Mela is a celebration of Indian culture, traditions, and history and demonstrates Indian cultures richness and beauty as well as its inclusivity which is famous all over the globe. B-The festival features processions, devotional music, and other cultural activities. C-The Maha Kumbh Mela is a time for people to come together and foster Indianness and experience the vibrancy, dynamism and glory of Indian culture and its beauty as well as richness. During Maha Kumbh Mela people from various traditions and regions and languages meet with others who share their faith and culture. Social cohesion is ensured by Maha Kumbh Mela. This Mela is a time for people to engage in social and cultural activities, such as shopping and attending cultural performances. Kumbh as well as Maha Kumbh plays a central spiritual role in the country, exerting a mesmeric influence on ordinary Indians. The event encapsulates the science of Astronomy, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices, making it extremely rich in Knowledge. Kumbh and Maha Kumbh Mela is an important Hindu pilgrimage, celebrated approximately every six and twelve years, correlated with the partial or full revolution of Jupiter and representing the largest human /faith gathering in the world. At the heart of the Maha Kumbh lies the ritual of snan –holy bathing at the Triveni Sangam. It

is believed that during this sacred period, taking a dip in the confluence purifies the soul, absolves sins, and helps devotees attain moksha –liberation from cycle of birth and death. Maha Kumbh Mela, world's largest religious gathering is underway in India. The Maha Kumbh Mela has officially started in India on 13TH January, 2025 with Paush Purnima Snan and will last till February 26, 2025 aligning with Maha Shivratri. These sacred bathing rituals, or Shahi Snans, are believed to purify the soul and wash away sins, making them the spiritual highlights of the event. Maha Kumbh 2025 is considered to be an extraordinary event that takes place once 144 years at Prayagraj. This year's Maha Kumbh is especially significant due to its alignment with rare celestial configuration that occurs once every 144 years, amplifying its spiritual importance and drawing unprecedented numbers of pilgrims. This year's celestial configuration –coupled with Uttrayana's divine energy –are thought to magnify the spirituality of the holy bath, making 2025 a particularly auspicious year for devotees. The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a religious gathering, it is a living embodiment of India's rich spiritual heritage. The event showcases the coexistence of ancient traditions and modern aspirations, bringing together sadhus, scholars, seers, saints, devotees and tourists alike. The Maha Kumbh Mela is a Hindu and Indian festival that is celebration of Indian culture, spirituality, and country's sacred rivers. This festival is based on a Hindu legend about a pitcher of immortality and is considered the world's largest / gargantuan gathering. Kumbh Mela /Maha Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip at a river /confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and mystical sarswati and it is widely

believed that a dip at the sangam cleanses the soul and absolves the devotees of all sins and finally ensures salvation and thus this festival is of special religious and spiritual significance. The Maha Kumbh 2025's importance is magnified by the confluence of rare planetary alignments. According to professor Jambhale, Diana Eck, in her exploration of Kumbh Mela, connects its significance to the myth of amrita and the cosmic battle between gods and demons. She emphasizes how the celestial alignments during Maha Kumbh are seen as a divine moment for spiritual renewal and liberation. In his writings, Mark Tully describes Kumbh Mela as "a cultural phenomenon", underscoring its power to unite people from diverse traditions and backgrounds. It is not merely a religious event but a living heritage that showcases India's cultural, spiritual diversity. The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 is poised to attract an estimated 45 crore devotees from across the globe, making it one of the largest gatherings in human history. The event offers a unique opportunity for pilgrims to immerse themselves in centuries old rituals, listen to discourses by revered saints, and experience the vibrant spiritual and cultural ethos of India. In short Maha Kumbh Mela is the congregation of faith, spirituality, cultural diversity, India's and human unity as well as Indianness. PM Modi has rightly opined that Maha Kumbh Mela is the festival of Indianness and it fosters spirit of Bharatiyata and so it can be truly called an event of Indianness besides being a largest gathering of faith.

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

## Nail Care in Winters

By: Shahnaz Husain

Do you have dry, cracked, splitting brittle fingernails during the winter months?

It's not just your skin that dries out during the winter months; your nails do too! As soon as there's even a hint of chill in the air, your nails start to chip and flake.

If you are experiencing slow nail growth, brittle nails, nail breakage, nail splitting, and other nail problems nowadays, winter is to blame here as well. People often take special care of their hair and skin during chilling weather, but forget to take care of their nails.

Nails are part of the integumentary system (skin) of your body and they develop from the outer layer of your skin called the epidermis. The exact same cells that form the outer layer of your skin also form your nails. These cells harden more in your nails, but structurally they share many common features and needs.

Natural oils hold together the different layers of your nails, so cold and dry winter months and lots of hand washing with harsh soaps will dry out this natural "glue." It's very similar to the dry skin you experience during the winter months.

The same concept to fix dry skin can be used for dry nails, but different formulations are recommended because of the unique structural properties of your nails.

Here are easy winter nail care tricks to make sure your nails stay long and strong.

One easy way to counteract cold weather? With a nice warm pair of gloves

Protect your nails by wearing a nice warm pair of rubber gloves for your washing chores. This is when you are gardening, house cleaning, washing dishes, or using harsh chemicals.

When you wear gloves, you protect your nails from getting dry and at the same time, keep dirt out of your nails. Massage a cream, oils, or ointments to dampen nails and the skin around the nails after washing chores.

Doing so can protect your nails from breakage and help locking in moisture to help preserve the cuticle seal and strengthen the nail itself.

For dry hands and nails, massage almond oil on the hands and around the nails too, in order to soften the cuticles. The cuticle (skin surrounding the nail) should be kept soft and smooth. Otherwise, it sticks to the nail and gets dragged as the nail grows. This causes the skin to get stretched and torn. The skin can even become infected if this happens. Daily massage is even more important during the dry winter season.

For moisturizing your nail, take 1 tablespoon of almond and castor oil, and mix a little hand cream in it. Massage the mixture into your hands. Follow up with moisturizer and treat yourself to a weekly hand at-home treatment mask.

Never cut, push back, or try to get rid of cuticles altogether. In fact, the cuticle is the nail's natural protective seal. Moisturizing the cuticles with cream or oil helps protect and strengthen your nails helping stimulate nail growth, and bringing blood and nutrients to maintain healthy nails.

Cuticle oils will penetrate into the deeper layers of the skin and hydrate the cuticle, skin, and nail area, and help in preventing breakage of the nails.

Once a week soak the nails in lukewarm water for a few minutes and afterwards apply the cream to the nails. Massage them, so that it helps to soften the skin and lock in the moisture by wearing cotton gloves for at least an hour. Then push the cuticles back gently using a cotton bud. Never use sharp instruments to clean under the nails.

For strong and healthy nails, include adequate protein and calcium in your diet. Take skimmed milk, yoghurt, cottage cheese (paneer), fish eggs and sprouts. Follow a ten-day programme of taking gelatin. Dissolve one teaspoon of gelatin in a little boiling water. Cool the water and add it to fruit juice. Have this daily for ten days.

A weekly manicure keeps nails in good condition. For a home manicure, first, remove old nail varnish. To cut nails, use a nail clipper. Then shape them with an emery board. File in one direction only. Soak the hands in lukewarm water for 5 min-

utes after adding a few drops of shampoo. Use a soft brush to clean your nails.

If you have nails which break easily, avoid frosted nail polish. If there is any infection or pain, avoid filing the nails and using nail polish. Get medical attention first. Fungal infection of the nails is quite common.

Sometimes, the nails acquire a yellowish tinge, due to wearing nail polish constantly. Sun exposure and some pastel colours can leave a yellowish tinge.

For protection, use clear, transparent nail polish as a top coat. UV-resistant top coats are also available. To protect the nails apply a transparent base coat first and then apply the colour of your choice.

To get rid of the yellowish tint on the nails, scrape the surface of the nail with the finest-grain side of an emery board so that the nail is not damaged. Then apply UV-resistant or clear polish for protection. The nails can also be "buffed" or rubbed with a piece of chamois leather.

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

## Free Medical Camp and Organ Donation Awareness held at Balnoi

### Top News Report

POONCH, Jan 22: Balnoi Battalion of the Indian Army in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation, Diva International and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) J&K conducted a "Free Medical and Organ Donation Awareness Camp" at Balnoi Base, Sub Division Mendhar, Tehsil - Mankote, District Poonch.

The main aim of conducting this medical camp was to provide essential free health care services to the villagers in the Area of responsibility of Balnoi Battalion.

The People's Hut Foundation headed by Dr. Rohit Koul which is a national level registered NGO registered with Govt of India & Niti Aayog brought together



a team of dedicated health care professionals who volunteered to offer medical consultations.

The SOTTO J&K was also invited and was represented by Dr. Irfan Ahmed Lone, Transplant Coordinator SOTTO J&K. He shared the importance of Organ Donation and clarified some myths that people have when it comes to organ donation and transplantation.

The medical camp themed "Mobile Health Clinic Program" saw an overwhelming partici-

ation where more than 487 patients availed the free services from villages of Mankote Block. In addition to medical consultation in Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Dentistry, ENT, Pathology, General medicine, Ophthalmology the camp also provided free Allopathic Medicines basic health screening and awareness about Nutrition. Hygiene and preventive care.

The medical camp provided medical services to all villages in Mendhar, including Balnoi, Dabraj, Sagra, Ghani and Mankote,

which lack basic medical facilities due to their proximity to the Line of Control.

A special grievance and service camp for the people of Balnoi and nearby villages was also organized by J&K Bank in collaboration with People's Hut Foundation under the supervision of Deepak Bhan, Chief Manager, J&K Bank with the assistance of Anoop Kumar and Amit Kumar Bali, Assistant Managers of the J&K Bank. It received a great response from the local people.

## Army organises mobile medical patrol at Kalal



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 22: The Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district through a mobile medical patrol in the villages of Simbal and Chidiyala to address the medical needs of the locals, as well as the Gujjar and Bakkarwals in the area.

The inhabitants of these areas are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain.

They benefited immensely from this initiative, which con-

tributed to the overall well-being of the locals, who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare, leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates.

The mobile medical patrol, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compassion for local villagers, as well as Gujjar and Bakkarwals.

The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care and check-ups, which included basic health assessments, treatment of common ailments, and distribu-

tion of necessary medicines.

The team emphasized preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention. The response from the local population has been overwhelmingly positive.

The locals expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps, with a special focus on women's healthcare.

Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrol also played a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local communities.

A total of 34 villagers (9 men, 19 women, and 6 children) benefited from the mobile medical patrol.

## KDP Wing of DPAP urges streamlining relief organization procedures

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), led by President Sanjay Dhar, has issued a joint statement calling for significant reforms in the functioning of the Relief Organization. Joined by Chairman Piaray Lal Pandita, General Secretary Raj Kumar Ticku, Publicity Secretary Charanjeet Singh, Mahila President Daizy Dhar, Mahila Working President Renu Razdan, and others, the leaders emphasized the need for easing procedures and ensuring time-bound disposal of migrant issues.

The leaders demanded the publication of a Citizen's Charter detailing the duties of Camp Commandants and Zonal Officers to

mitigate the difficulties faced by migrants in obtaining certificates, bifurcations, and other services. They criticized the current system for its lack of standardized procedures and supervision, despite online facilities being available.

Key demands include Implement fixed, time-bound processes for staff across all sections, ensuring efficient issuance of certificates and resolution of grievances, Authorize Zonal Officers to handle minor issues like deletions due to deaths or additions for newborns at the zone level, Direct Zonal Officers to visit camps twice weekly to address grievances, Organize public grievance redressal camps for on-the-spot resolution of petty issues, Issue proper notifications before requir-

ing migrants to submit forms.

The leaders also highlighted critical issues at Jagti Migrant Camp, including unscheduled power cuts, the need for adequate police deployment, delayed elections for the Resident Welfare Association, pending shop allotments, and unfulfilled promises of repairs and renovations. They called for the installation of streetlights, CCTV cameras, and urgent road repairs up to Kandoli.

Expressing gratitude to the Relief Commissioner for his ongoing efforts, the leaders urged him to prioritize the community's unresolved issues. They also appealed to the Chief Secretary of J&K to ensure the fulfillment of promises made during his recent visit to Jagti Camp.

## Two Bailey Bridges inaugurated over Shyok River



### Top News Report

LEH, Jan 22: Two Bailey Bridges have been inaugurated over Shyok River near Shatse Taknak in Diskit Sub Division, Leh connect-

ing Shyok and Nubra Valleys. These bridges were jointly inaugurated on Wednesday by Brigadier VS Salaria SC, SM, Commander of Siachen Brigade and Tsering Angchuk, Deputy Chair-

man LAHDC, Leh.

These two Bailey Bridges of length 50 ft and 100 ft have been constructed by Fire and Fury Corps Engineers over Shyok River.

Various dignitaries

including Military dignitaries, Mukul Beniwal IAS, SDM Nubra and community members of Charasa, Burma, Kuri and Murgi villages of Siachen Region attended the inauguration. These bridges

reduce the travel distance by approximately 40 kms and travel time by approximately two hours from the farthest villages in Nubra and Shyok Valleys.

Inauguration of the bridges meets the requirement of the community members, greatly improving the accessibility to essential services during harsh winter season.

Charasa, Burma, Kuri and Murgi villages of Siachen Region are greatly benefitted from the initiative.

## Army organizes insightful interaction with students at Jarra Wali Gali

### Top News Report

POONCH, Jan 22: To mark International Education Day, the Indian Army organized an engaging and insightful interaction with students

of Girls High School, Jarra Wali Gali, Poonch.

A total of 98 students and 12 teachers attended the lecture. Emphasis was placed on the transformative role that education plays in

empowering individuals and communities.

The event aimed to celebrate the power of education in fostering global unity and sustainable development while encouraging young

minds to embrace lifelong learning. The impact of education in addressing global challenges was discussed, along with the role of technology in transforming the learning

experience. The event concluded with appreciation from the school staff and students for organizing such lectures, which provided valuable insights to the students of the school.

## BMW Motorrad India launches new BMW S 1000 RR

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: The new BMW S 1000 RR with price Rs 21.10 lakh has been launched in India on the second day of Auto Expo 2025.

This heavily popular super sport bike will be available in the country as a completely built-up unit. Bookings are open now throughout the BMW Motorrad dealer network and deliveries will commence from April 2025 onwards.

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "The new BMW S 1000 RR continues with its endless strive for improvement and success securing its leading position. It is a favourite amongst racing enthusiasts looking out for the next thrill. The new BMW S 1000 RR with even higher track performance is the Superbike icon. BMW Motorrad has once again set emphasis on the



sports aspirations and the BMW DNA, making what's good even better."

Riders can further customise with two optional packages - Dynamic and M. The Dynamic package sharpens the RR's racing qualities for added performance and comfort. The package includes: DDC electronic chassis, which is exclusive to use in motorsports here,

for optimum damping and optimum road contact in every riding situation, additionally Electronic cruise control and heated grips are also included. The M package sharpens the sporty profile of the RR. Exclusive Light white/M Motorsport paintwork is only included in this package and gives the motorcycle a powerful look. The package includes: M Sport seat for

optimum support on the hunt for crucial milliseconds. Weight-optimised M Carbon wheels with M Tapes for maximum riding dynamics. In addition, the M footrest system and the black fuel filler cap.

To enable customers to own BMW Motorrad motorcycles of their choice, BMW Financial Services India offers flexible and hassle-free finance solutions. What's more, it goes beyond just motorcycles - with accessories financing, ensuring that you're fully equipped for all your riding experiences. For complete peace of mind, all BMW Motorrad bikes come with a standard warranty for 'three years, unlimited kilometers', with an option to extend the warranty to fourth and fifth year. Road-Side Assistance, a 24x7 365 days package further ensures prompt services in case of breakdown and towing situations.

## NSF celebrates 133th birth anniversary of Shaheed Roshan Singh

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a program in Jammu University, and on the birth anniversary of Shaheed Roshan Singh who laid his life for the country.

Amid slogans "Shaheed Roshan Singh - Amar Raha" "Bharat Mata ki jai", they paid tributes to Shaheed Roshan Singh and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary, JKNC presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh President NSF was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of National Secular Forum (NSF) members to come forward and organize these functions. He also said that the right tribute to Shaheed Roshan Singh would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination.

Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to

push for this demand.

Dr Sukhdev Singh threw light on the life of martyr Roshan Singh who was born on 22 January 1892, in the Thakur household of Navada village to Kaushalya Devi and Jangi Singh, Thakur Roshan Singh was a diehard nationalist who wanted to free India from the grip of the British colonisers. He was sentenced to death, along with Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and Rajendra Lahiri. He was executed at Allahabad Jail on 19 December 1927.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF, also spoke on the occasion.

Gourav Partap Singh University Unit President delivered the welcome address; Roshan Sharma, Jammu District President was delivering the vote of thanks.

## "I made frantic calls": Zeenat Aman reveals she nearly choked on her BP medicine

In her latest Instagram post, Zeenat recounted ordeal that took place after long day of work

Veteran Bollywood actress Zeenat Aman recently shared a nerve-wracking experience on her Instagram account, revealing that she nearly choked on her blood pressure medication in the middle of the night.

The candid post shared on her Instagram handle gave insight into the actress's life beyond the limelight.

In her latest Instagram post, Zeenat recounted the ordeal that took place after a long day of work. "At the risk of sounding like an old lady suffocating on her tablets, allow me to share with you what happened last night," she wrote, sharing details of the event that left her panicked.

According to the actress, after a busy day at a studio in Andheri East, she returned home to her ecstatic dog, Lily, and proceeded with her nightly routine.

"My very last task before I could surrender to sleep was to take my blood pressure medication," Zeenat wrote.

However, things took an unexpected turn when the pill got stuck in her throat. "I popped the pill into my mouth, took a sip of water, and then felt my breath catch. There it was, this little pill lodged in my throat. Too far down to regurgitate and too far up to swallow."

As panic began to set in,



Zeenat was left alone at home with only her pets for company. Despite multiple attempts to drink more water, the pill remained stuck.

"There was nobody at home with me other than the dog and the five cats, and panic began to set in," she shared.

In a desperate attempt to get help, she made frantic calls to her son, Zahaan, who abandoned his plans to rush to her aid.

Once Zahaan arrived, they managed to reach the doctor, who reassured them that the pill would eventually dissolve. "We

finally got through to the doctor who said it would dissolve in time, and I spent the next few hours sipping warm water and waiting," Zeenat recalled.

The experience left her reflecting on the importance of patience in difficult situations.

"I woke up this morning feeling a little sheepish about the ordeal. But having been through it, I feel the need to contrive a metaphor from the experience," she wrote.

The actress described how her panic over the pill mirrored life's challenges, emphasizing the value of patience, restraint, and equanimity.

"The pill is a metaphor for that situation. It was all I could think about, its discomfort was intense, I sought solutions from others, but ultimately all I could do was practice patience and control over my own fears," she wrote.

Zeenat concluded her post by writing, "Sometimes it's important to tackle an issue head-on. To confront, challenge, and change. But sometimes a situation requires those other softer acts of patience, restraint, and equanimity."

Aman will be seen next in the Netflix series 'The Royals' and the film 'Bun Tikki', starring alongside Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi.

## Kritika Kamra consciously lets go of work that glorifies dependent women



From portraying a tough spy in For Your Eyes Only or a sharp-witted cop in Gyaarah

Gyaarah, actress Kritika Kamra has shared that she is drawn to roles that break stereotypes

and that she consciously lets go of work that glorifies weak, dependent women. She wants to tell stories that show women in a stronger light.

"I want to tell stories that reflect strong, multi-dimensional women who stand their ground and challenge societal expectations. It's not just about playing different roles; it's about representing characters with purpose and depth that inspire audiences," said the actress.

Highlighting her approach, she stated, "I've consciously let go of work that glorifies weak, dependent women. My characters stand on their own terms. They have agency, resilience, and a voice that demands to be heard. As an actor, I feel a responsibility to portray women who embody strength and individuality," said Kritika. On the work front, Kritika will next be seen in 'Matka King'. It delves into the intricate world of Matka gambling that started in Mumbai.

## Dua Lipa terrified as fans sneak into hotel after in security lapse

Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa, who recently performed in India, had a harrowing encounter when fans snuck into her hotel and waited for her outside her bedroom door.

The 29-year-old 'New Rules' singer was staying in a hotel in Santiago, Chile, when fans managed to enter her private quarters, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The British singer has been in the city to film a commercial before the security breach took place.

While it is understood that Dua is unharmed following the incident, it has been reported that she has been left shaken by the experience and a reevaluation of her security is underway.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the overzealous fans were able to access the hotel she was staying in and get inside her room. They are believed to have been waiting for the star to take photographs, and also lay in wait near a lift in an attempt to get close to



her.

Security swept the hotel, which is reported as the five-star Ritz-Carlton in the South American city.

A source told The Sun, "Things were manic as she touched down with fans desperate to see her. A group of fans gained access not only to her hotel floor but some were found outside her room. Security ended up doing an extra sweep and there were more fans waiting at her lift. Dua said she would not take pictures inside her hotel".

The incident has come

less than a year after a security breach left Dua rattled when she was due to perform at the Glastonbury music festival.

The star had been preparing to take to the Pyramid Stage for the first time last June, and rehearsed in Birmingham ahead of the slot.

A fan managed to track down the singer and her army of dancers while they were rehearsing for her Glastonbury set. He reportedly made his way into the rehearsals studio, filming as he went for his social media content.

## How time passes: Javed Akhtar on 50 years of 'Deewaar'

Salim-Javed, as the two were known at the time, gave Hindi cinema some of its biggest hits but the Yash Chopra-directed "Deewaar", starring Amitabh Bachchan and Shashi Kapoor, holds a special place

Time passes "so quietly and quickly", lyricist-scriptwriter Javed Akhtar recalled fondly as he looked back at "Deewaar", his blockbuster with Salim Khan that released 50 years ago this day.

Salim-Javed, as the two were known at the time, gave Hindi cinema some of its biggest hits but the Yash Chopra-directed "Deewaar", starring Amitabh Bachchan and Shashi Kapoor, holds a special place. In the same year in August, the duo delivered another blockbuster in "Sholay".

"Deewaar" was released on January 21, 1975. Theek pachaas saal pehle (exactly 50 years back). How time passes so quietly and so quickly. It is happening all the time but remains a wonder," wrote the lyricist, who celebrated his



80th birthday recently.

The film, also starring Nirupa Roy, Neetu Singh and Parveen Babi, has stayed in public consciousness through the decades and its dialogues like "Mere paas maa hai" and "Davar sahab, main aaj bhi phenke hue paise nahi uthata" are still oft remembered punch lines.

"Deewaar" revolved around two impover-

ished brothers struggling to survive in the slums of Mumbai. When they grow up, the elder brother Vijay (Bachchan) turns to crime while the younger one Ravi (Kapoor) becomes an honest police officer.

In the Prime Video documentary series "Angry Young Men", which released last year, Akhtar spoke about how they struggled to crack the climax of the film

though they had the perfect script.

"People say 'Deewaar' has a perfect screenplay. We wrote it in 18 days from a small storyline. Then I wrote the dialogue in about 20 days," said Akhtar.

But they were yet to nail 'the end', said Khan. "Once the script was completed, we knew we hadn't cracked the climax. So Javed and I completed it, sitting on the parapet nearby (his Bandra house).

"Then we went straight to Yash Chopra's house and narrated it. For almost five minutes there was complete silence," Khan recalled in the docu series.

In the docu series, Bachchan recounted watching the epic temple scene at the premiere night of "Deewaar" in which his char-

acter Vijay, who grows up to become an atheist, finds himself in front of god to pray for his ailing mother.

And the opening line goes: "Aaj khush toh bohut honge tum."

"I do remember the premiere of 'Deewaar' and there was actually a snigger and a gentle laughter in the audience. That was so unexpected and they thought it was some kind of a joke. But within a couple of seconds after that, they just froze," Bachchan said.

For many years, the screenplay of "Deewaar" was taught as the perfect screenplay at Pune's Film and Television Institute of India.

In 1976, Salim-Javed won all Filmfare Awards in the writing categories — best story, best dialogue and best screenplay — for "Deewaar".

## Josh Gad reveals why he was denied a role in 'Avatar'

Hollywood star Josh Gad almost got a role in the 2009 sci-fi blockbuster "Avatar," but was denied because he did not have the physical archetype filmmaker James Cameron was looking for.

In his new memoir, "In Gad We Trust," Gad recalled how while desperate to find a reprieve from starring in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" on Broadway, he went out to audition for other TV and film roles. And "one of the first things" he tried out for was a "new James Cameron movie called 'Avatar'," reports variety.com.

"I put myself on tape and shortly thereafter got a call that Cameron wanted to fly me to Los Angeles for a final callback at his Lightstorm production offices," he said.

If cast, Gad would've essayed "the role of Jake Sully's (Sam



Worthington) best friend and translator to the alien race known as the Na'vi."

Revealing the reason as to why he did not get the movie, Gad said:

"I apparently did not get (the role) because, while James Cameron was said to be thrilled with my audition, when I was turned into a digital Avatar I supposedly looked like a tall, overweight Smurf."

The role appeared to be scooped up by Joel David Moore, who plays Norm Spellman in "Avatar," a close confidant to Jake Sully and an expert on the Na'vi language.

"Avatar" was first released in December 2009. It became the highest-grossing film of all time, raking in \$2.9 billion worldwide to date.

The sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," currently sits in third place with a lifetime gross of \$2.3 billion. At the 2024 D23 Expo, Cameron revealed the title of the third "Avatar" film: "Avatar: Fire and Ash," which is set to release on December 19, 2025.

## Kangana Ranaut and Diljit Dosanjh's fates are intertwined through their films

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and Punjabi sensation Diljit Dosanjh's fates are intertwined through their films "Emergency" and "Panjab 95" due to the chatter around both the movies.

Diljit took to Instagram, where he posted a note apologising that his film "Panjab 95", has once again faced a hiccup in its release in India.

"We are very sorry and it pains us to inform you that the movie Panjab 95 will not release on 7th Feb due to circumstances beyond our control," he wrote.

The movie, which is based on the life of prominent Sikh human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, was proposed to be named as "Ghalughara" initially, which means massacre, but after the objection of the Censor Board the movie title was renamed to "Panjab 95" with



120 scene cuts.

Sikh religious body, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), intervened, and the Censor Board relented with the cuts but asked the title to still be changed. According to reports, the film's trailer was launched on YouTube the same year but was removed a day later.

In Kangana's case with "Emergency", the film has been halted

in Patiala, Amritsar and Bathinda amid fear of protests.

Protests took place across Punjab as different leaders of Sikh organizations including The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) asked for ban on "Emergency" as they claim the film "tarnishes the image of Sikhs and distorts history".

A tweet by SGPC also stated that it demands a ban on the film in Punjab, which is scheduled to release on January 17, 2025.

The film is touted to be controversial due to its subject matter, which revisits the tumultuous period of the 1975 Emergency declared by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The film delves deep into the historical and political upheaval of the time, shedding light on a chapter that continues to evoke polarising reactions across the nation.

# 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has become people-powered initiative: PM

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' initiative completes 10 years today

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): With the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' initiative completing 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said it has been instrumental in overcoming gender biases and creating the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) was launched by the prime minister on January 22, 2015, at Panipat in Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining child sex ratio and related issues of women empowerment over a life cycle continuum.

"Today we mark 10 years of the #BetiBachaoBetiPadhao movement. Over the past decade, it has become a transformative, people-powered initiative and has drawn partici-



pation from people across all walks of life," Modi said. 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has been instrumental in overcoming gender biases and at the same time it has created the right environment

to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams, the prime minister said.

"Thanks to the dedicated

efforts of the people and various community service organisations, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has achieved remarkable milestones," Modi said in his post on X.

"Districts with historically low child sex ratios have reported significant improvements and awareness campaigns have instilled a deeper sense of the importance of gender equality," Modi said.

"I compliment all stakeholders who have made this movement vibrant at the grassroots level. Let us continue to protect the rights of our daughters, ensure their education and create a society where they can thrive without any discrimination," he said.

"Together, we can ensure that the coming years bring even greater progress and opportunity for India's daughters," Modi

# Uttar Pradesh Cabinet meets in Kumbh Mela area, approves key projects, policies



MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, Jan 22 (Agencies): The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet met in the Maha Kumbh Mela area on Wednesday following which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced several key decisions on development projects and policy changes aimed at boosting the state's growth.

Addressing the media, the CM highlighted the wide range of topics discussed at the meeting, including the development of Uttar Pradesh, policy matters, and specific issues related to Prayagraj.

One of the major announcements was related to the state's aerospace and defense policies. The CM said the aerospace and defense policy, initially implemented in 2018, has completed five years and will now be revamped.

"The revised policy will include new incentives to attract large investments into the sector," Adityanath announced.

The cabinet also discussed the distribution of incentives under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Fortune 500 investments made in Uttar Pradesh.

"New investment proposals were presented, and Letters of Intent (LOIs) will be issued. Among the key investments, a Rs 10,000 crore investment in Mirzapur and additional proposals in Moradabad were dis-

cussed. There are two more such projects," he said.

Additionally, the CM shared details of a scheme to provide smartphones and tablets to youths in the state. The government has allocated funds for this programme and it is expected to roll out in the coming months, he said.

After the cabinet meeting held at the Triveni complex located in Arai of Mahakumbh Nagar, the CM said the construction of two new bridges in Prayagraj was approved at the cabinet meeting.

Another important decision was the establishment of a medical college in Balrampur, which will be named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The KGMU Lucknow's Satellite Center in Balrampur will be converted into a medical college, and it is set to begin operations in the next academic session, he said.

The cabinet also approved the construction of three new medical colleges in Baghat, Hathras and Kasganj districts under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

In collaboration with Tata Technologies, the state government has also decided to establish 62 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and five Centers of Innovation, Incubation, and Training.

This initiative aims to

provide modern education and skill development to the youth of Uttar Pradesh through a hub-and-spoke model. "Furthermore, the Cabinet approved the establishment of a Directorate of Prosecution in the state," the CM announced.

The chief minister also spoke about the issuance of bonds by municipal corporations of Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Agra.

"This follows the successful issuance of bonds for Lucknow and Ghaziabad, which had yielded positive results. The issuance of bonds is seen as a way to brand these municipalities and boost their development," he said.

Highlighting the importance of Prayagraj, the CM spoke about the city's global significance. He praised the record number of pilgrims who visited the Sangam for the holy bath, with over 9.25 crore devotees participating in the event.

He also said the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation will issue bonds to fund the construction of a super-specialty hospital.

In addition to this, bonds will also be issued for Agra to address its specific needs, and for Varanasi, with particular focus on the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the city, he said.

# Cabinet approves continuation of National Health Mission for another 5 years

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved continuation of the National Health Mission for another five years. Briefing reporters about

the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, Union minister Piyush Goyal said the Mission has met historic targets in the last 10 years. Goyal pointed out that nearly 12 lakh health-

care workers joined the National Health Mission (NHM) between 2021 and 2022 and India fought the COVID-19 pandemic under the Mission.

# Kejriwal unveils 7-point 'manifesto' for middle class, says they are victim of 'tax terrorism'

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): A national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced a seven-point "manifesto" for the country's middle class, saying they have been neglected by successive governments and are a victim of "tax terrorism".

In a video message on Wednesday, he said the middle class is the real superpower of the Indian economy but has long been ignored and exploited solely for tax collection.

Kejriwal announced the seven-point charter aimed at addressing the concerns of the middle class.

The demands included raising the education budget from the current 2 percent to 10 percent and capping private school fees. He also proposed subsidies and scholarships for higher education to make quality education accessible to all.

The A chief stressed the need for an increase in healthcare spending, suggest-

ing a rise to 10 percent of the GDP, along with the removal of taxes on health insurance premiums.

Kejriwal also called for an increase in the income tax exemption limit from 7 lakh to 10 lakh, citing the heavy financial burden on the middle class.

Another demand was the removal of GST on essential goods, which Kejriwal argued disproportionately affects middle class households. He also advocated for more robust retirement plans, including free healthcare for senior citizens in both private and government hospitals.

Additionally, he urged the central government to reinstate the 50 percent concession on train fares for senior citizens, which was discontinued in recent years.

Kejriwal criticised political parties for reducing the middle class to what he described as a "slave mindset" since independence. He



pledged that A MPs would raise the voice of the middle class in upcoming parliamentary sessions, vowing to make their issues a central focus of the political discourse.

The announcement comes just weeks before the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for February 5, with results to be declared on February 8.

The Aam Aadmi Party, which won 62 of the 70 assembly seats in 2020, is seeking a third consecutive term.

# 13 people killed in 2 road accidents in Karnataka

BENGALURU, Jan 22 (Agencies): Thirteen people were killed and 19 injured in two early-morning road accidents in Karnataka on Wednesday, police said.

A truck carrying fruit vendors, fell into a 50-metre-deep valley in a forest area of Savanur-Hubballi Road killing nine people and injuring nine others, police said.

The victims were transporting fruit to a local fair being organised in a place called Yellapura.

The driver of the truck swerved to the extreme left in a bid to allow a vehicle that was trying to overtake it around 5.30 am, Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police M Narayana told agency.

"As the road in the section doesn't have barrier walls on the edge, the truck fell into the valley.

The injured have been shifted to KIMS Hospital in Hubballi," the officer said.

In the second accident, four people, including three students, were killed and 10 others injured when the vehicle they were travelling in overturned near Araginamara Camp in Sindhanur, Raichur district.

The students of Mantralaya Sanskrit Pathashala were on a pilgrimage to Hampi to offer prayers at Narahari temple.

The deceased students have been identified as Aryavandan (18), Sucheendra (22) and Abhilash (20). Driver Shiva (24) also died in the accident. The 10 injured have been admitted to a local hospital.

Sindhanur Traffic Police Station registered a case.

# 5 men sentenced to death for rape-murder of Chhattisgarh girl

KORBA, Jan 22 (Agencies): A fast-track court in Korba district of Chhattisgarh has sentenced five men to death for gang-raping and killing a 16-year-old girl and murdering her two family members in 2021.

The Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) sentenced another accused to life imprisonment.

Additional sessions judge Mamta Bhojwani convicted Santram Majhwar (49), Abdul Jabbar (34), Anil Sarthi (24), Pardeshi Ram (39) and Anand Panika (29) under Sections 302 (murder), 376 (2) G (gang-rape) and other sections of the IPC, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and sentenced them to death, said special public prosecutor Sunil Mishra on Wednesday.

The court sentenced another accused, Umashanakar Yadav (26), to life imprisonment, he said.

While delivering the judgement on January 15, the court said this inhuman and cruel act of the accused is extremely perverted, heinous, brutal and cowardly, he said.

The copy of the order was made available on Monday.

On January 29, 2021, the teenage girl was allegedly raped and bludgeoned with stones before she was dumped

in a forest leading to her death near Gadhpurda village under Lemru police station area of Korba district.

The accused also killed the girl's father, aged around 60, and his four-year-old granddaughter who were with her.

The incident came to light a few days later when the deceased man's son lodged a missing person report at Lemru police station, following which the cops swung into action and rounded up six accused following their interrogation.

Mishra said that the police found in their investigation that the main accused, Manjhar, who had employed the victim's family as his cattle grazer, was

pressing the girl to become his second wife.

When she and her family opposed this, Manjhar and his five associates raped and killed her and also murdered her two family members.

The victims belonged to the Pahadi Korwa tribal community, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

The court has said in its judgement that this inhuman and cruel act of the accused is extremely perverted, heinous, brutal and cowardly, because they have killed three innocent and weak people to satisfy their lust. This has shocked the collective conscience of the entire society, the lawyer said.

# 24-year-old NEET aspirant dies by suicide in Kota, fifth case in three weeks

JAIPUR, Jan 22 (Agencies): A 24-year-old student from Gujarat, preparing for NEET, allegedly died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota on Wednesday.

This is the fifth such incident this year that has been reported from Kota, a coaching hub for National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance

Examination (JEE) aspirants.

The incident came to light at 9 am when she failed to respond or open the door, police officials said. After the door was forced open, the authorities found the girl's body hanging from a ceiling fan in her hostel room.

Further investigation will be done once the

student's family reaches Kota, the police added.

The police noted that no suicide note was left in the room.

This incident comes barely a week after an 18-year-old NEET aspirant, a resident of Odisha, died by suicide on January 17.

However, this was not the only case of suicide that was reported from

Kota last week. On January 16, a JEE aspirant, hailing from Odisha, was found hanging in his room.

In two separate incidents, two students preparing for JEE died by suicide in their hostel rooms two weeks back. One belonged to Madhya Pradesh while the other hailed from Haryana.

# Two Maoists, including area commander, killed in Jharkhand's Bokaro

RANCHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): Two Maoists were killed in a gunfight with security forces during an anti-Naxal operation in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Wednesday morning. Among those killed in the encounter are area commander Shanti from Chatro village in Giridih district and Manoj from Dhavatar village of the same district. According to the information received so far, Shanti is the wife of hardcore Maoist Ranvijay Mahato, who is wanted by the police, with a reward of Rs 15 lakh. Ranvijay Mahato was arrested from Bermo on Tuesday. During

the search, AK-47 rifles and INSAS were recovered from the Maoists.

The incident took place in the Penk Narayanpur police station area near the jungles of Banshi Jarwa.

The operation, led by Jharkhand Police in coordination with 209 CoBRA Battalion, was backed by accurate intelligence inputs from the Intelligence Bureau and local authorities that six hardcore Maoists were hiding in the Banshi Jarwa forests. As soon as the joint team of security personnel reached there, the Maoists started firing on them.

Responding to that, the security

forces also fired back in retaliation leading to heavy firing from both sides. Two policemen are reported to be injured in this encounter. The security personnel have cornered the Maoists from all sides and combing operation is on to locate the Maoists. This strategic effort also resulted in the recovery of a significant cache of weapons, including an AK-47 and two INSAS rifles.

Authorities are currently analyzing the seized firearms and working to gather further intelligence to strengthen their ongoing efforts against Maoist activity in the region.

## US: Donald Trump calls Bishop Budde "nasty" after her mercy plea during inaugural prayer service

*In a post shared on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said that Bishop Budde failed to speak about the large number of illegal migrants that entered the US and killed people.*

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 22 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday slammed the Bishop who during her sermon for the inaugural prayer service urged him to have "mercy" on people in the US who she said are "scared now." Calling Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde "nasty" and "Radical Left hard line Trump hater," Trump said that her sermon was "very boring and uninspiring" and added that she and her church "owe the public an apology."

In a post shared on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said that Bishop Budde failed to speak about the large number of illegal migrants that entered the US and killed people.

"The so-called Bishop who spoke at the National Prayer Service on Tuesday morning was a Radical Left hard line Trump hater. She brought her church into the World of politics in a very ungracious way. She was nasty in tone, and not compelling or smart," Trump posted on Truth Social.

He added, "She failed to mention the large number of illegal migrants that came into our Country and killed people.



Many were deposited from jails and mental institutions. It is a giant crime wave that is taking place in the USA. Apart from her inappropriate statements, the service was a very boring and uninspiring one. She is not very good at her job! She and her church owe the public an apology!"

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, the leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, during her sermon for the inaugural service on Tuesday, looked directly at Trump and urged him to have mercy as the "vast majority of immigrants are not criminals," The New York Times reported. She said, "I ask you to have

mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now." She stated, "There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican and independent families, some who fear for their lives."

Bishop Budde said, "The vast majority of immigrants are not criminals." She said, "I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away, and that you help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here."

It was the direct appeal to Trump at the start of the first

full day of his presidency. Her remarks came 24 hours after Trump returned back to the White House and issued several executive orders focused on transgender rights and immigration.

Donald Trump, who sat in the first row of pews in the towering Washington National Cathedral, looked down and away. US Vice President JD Vance raised his eyebrows and looked several times at his wife, Usha Vance, who kept looking at the Bishop, The New York Times reported.

When Bishop Budde finished, Trump said something to Vance, who shook his head. Members of the Trump family seemed to look at one another and they were noticeably disturbed. Donald Trump's son, Eric Trump, shook his head, as per the report.

When asked on what he thought of the service, Trump responded, "I didn't think it was a good service, no."

Bishop Budde is not the only prominent clergy member to express concern over Trump's stance on immigration. Earlier on Sunday, Pope Francis termed Trump's plans for mass deportations "a disgrace."

## "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is Boss Sahab," says Fijian PM Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka



SUVA, Jan 22 (Agencies): Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, has termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the real "Boss" of the world.

In a meeting with Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Indian Minorities Federation (IMF) Convener Satnam Singh Sandhu and IMF Founder Prof. Himani Sood in Fiji, Rabuka said PM Modi is a top global leader.

Praising PM Modi's mantra of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' for ensuring everybody develops and prospers together, the Prime Minister of Fiji said, "I believe Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is a great governance model that PM Modi is practising, which ensures inclusive development for all. I think the world should adopt it for making it a better place to live."

"My friend (PM Modi) had been re-elected (as PM) after we met (in 2023), so congratulations again and I would like to make sure that he gets the message that Fiji is still here. We are still committed to our journey of peace, on which he has been on that journey for long. Oneness' in our development,

oneness in our progress and all these are great ideals for all world leaders," Fijian PM added.

The Fijian PM said PM Modi has become an icon for peace and Hindus all over the world. "Having the confidence of those in India is a big number. So, I congratulate him for that. The oneness in that journey of Hindus in the world will eventually translate into oneness in the peoples of the world," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had met Rabuka in May 2023 in Port Moresby during his visit to Papua New Guinea on the sidelines of the third Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit.

On behalf of the Fijian President, Ratu Wiliame Maivalii Katonivere, Prime Minister Rabuka had then bestowed Prime Minister Modi with the highest civilian honour of the Republic of Fiji—the Companion of the Order of Fiji (CF).

This is not the first time that any world leader has praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier in 2023, Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese had called him (Modi) Boss. The former President of the US, Joe Biden, had described PM Modi as a fantastic and globally powerful leader and expressed a desire to take his autograph.

The Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni also described PM Modi as the most loved of all around the world. The Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen had said that PM Modi is an inspiration for the world and the President of Guyana said that they owe him a debt of gratitude.

## Top Hezbollah commander Sheikh Hamadi shot dead in front of house in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan 22 (Agencies): Senior Hezbollah commander Sheikh Muhammad Ali Hammadi, who was on FBI's most-wanted list, was shot dead in front of his house in eastern Lebanon, according to reports.

Hammadi died on the spot on Tuesday night as unidentified assailants opened fire and shot the senior Hezbollah official six times.

Ruling out any political angle, local reports claim that Hammadi was killed over a years-long family feud.

Hammadi came under FBI's radar after he had hijacked a West German plane in 1985, carrying



153 passengers. He was reportedly involved in the torturing and killing of an American national on the flight.

The incident comes amid the ongoing ceasefire deal between Israel and Lebanon. In 2023, Hezbollah had joined Hamas' war against Israel.

Last year, Israel infil-

trated Hezbollah's supply chain, causing several walkie-talkies and pagers to explode across Syria and Israel. Upping the ante, Israel eliminated at least seven top-ranked Hezbollah commanders, including Hassan Nasrallah, and invaded southern Lebanon in the weeks leading to the ceasefire deal.

## Rare winter snowstorm paralyzes US, 10 dead, over 2,100 flights cancelled

FLORIDA, Jan 22 (Agencies): Many southern states in US are witnessing a "rare winter storm" that has left at least 10 dead. Record snowfall in several areas in the region has led to the closure of schools and government offices.

Many places on the southern coast, including New Orleans, Louisiana, Alabama, and Pensacola in Florida, have received record snowfall.

Earlier, the National Weather Service (NWS), a US government agency, warned that a "rare winter storm" will bring "heavy snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the Gulf Coast and Southeast, with widespread travel impacts expected."

Several states, including Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, had declared emergency after the NWS alert.



With roads shut and over 2100 flights cancelled, life has come to a standstill in the southern US stretching from South Texas to Jacksonville in Florida.

NWS has stated that it will take days, even after the snowfall stops, before roads are open and flight operations resume. "The Arctic Air Mass will create

widespread sub-freezing overnight lows along the Gulf Coast and throughout the Southeast. The cold weather will exacerbate power outages," the NWS added.

Saying that the affected places will slowly return to their normal temperatures by the end of the week, the NWS stated, "Dan-

gerously cold temperatures and wind chill values will linger for much of the South and eastern US."

Louisiana received its first ever blizzard warning. A blizzard warning means that a region is expected to receive heavy snowfall and strong winds up to 60 kmph, reducing general visibility below 500 meters.

30 million people in Virginia were under a snowstorm warning. By Tuesday night, many areas in Louisiana received up to 10 inches of snow, while a few places in Mississippi and Alabama received more than 4 inches of snow.

A vehicle crashing on a highway in Texas led to the death of five people, according to reports. Two storm related deaths have also been reported in Alabama. In Georgia, one person purportedly died of hypothermia.

## Qatar announces successful facilitation of detainee swap between US, Afghanistan

DOHA, Jan 22 (Agencies): The State of Qatar announced the successful facilitation of a detainee swap between the United States of America and Afghanistan.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency, Qatari Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi, stated that the good offices of the State of Qatar have resulted in the release of two American citizens who had been detained in Afghanistan, in exchange for the

release of an Afghan citizen detained in the United States of America, stressing that all of them arrived in Doha, and the necessary arrangements were made in preparation for their return to their respective countries.

He expressed Qatar's gratitude to both the Afghan Caretaker Government and the Government of the United States of America for their positive response to the State of Qatar's efforts and their cooperation in facilitating the detainee swap process. He

expressed the State of Qatar's hope that this agreement would pave the way for achieving further understanding as a means to resolve disputes through peaceful means.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs pointed out that Qatar's foreign policy is based on constructive dialogue as a strategic option to bring viewpoints closer, pointing in this regard to the successes of Qatari diplomacy in a number of important files, emphasizing Qatar's pivotal role in the field of

mediation, including humanitarian efforts and the reunification of families.

He also pointed out that the State of Qatar has emerged as an effective party in providing innovative diplomatic and humanitarian solutions aimed at addressing crises, and its continuous efforts have been able to alleviate the suffering of those affected, the latest of which is its efforts with partners to reach a ceasefire deal in the Gaza Strip and the swap of detainees and prisoners there.

## Turkiye: Nine detained in connection with ski resort fire that killed 76



ISTANBUL, Jan 22 (Agencies): Turkiye has detained nine individuals in connection with a deadly fire at a ski resort hotel that claimed the lives of 76 people, as reported by Al Jazeera on Wednesday.

According to Al Jazeera, the arrests, confirmed by Turkiye's Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya, include the hotel's owner, as concerns over the building's safety measures continue to grow.

Six prosecutors have been appointed to investigate the incident, which is believed to have originated in the restaurant area of the 12-story Grand Kartal Hotel, located at the

Kartalkaya ski resort in the Bolu Mountains.

The Turkish government is facing mounting criticism as witnesses and reports indicate that the hotel's fire detection system failed to activate during the blaze, with survivors among the 238 registered guests saying no fire alarms went off and they had to navigate the smoke-filled corridors in total darkness, as reported by Al Jazeera.

Guests described scenes of panic, with some jumping from windows to escape. Minister Yerlikaya shared that 45 victims' bodies had been returned to their families, while DNA testing

is underway to identify the rest.

"Our hearts are broken. We are in mourning," the minister told reporters outside the hotel, as quoted by Al Jazeera. "But you should know that whoever is responsible for causing this pain will not escape justice."

The hotel expressed its condolences and vowed full cooperation with authorities.

"We are cooperating with authorities to shed light on all aspects of this incident," it said in a statement as quoted by Al Jazeera. "We are deeply saddened by the losses and want you to know that we share this pain with all our hearts."

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a national day of mourning on Wednesday following the incident.

The incident occurred during the peak winter tourism season at Kartalkaya, a popular ski destination located about 295 km east of Istanbul.

## Bangladesh Airport on high alert after bomb threat

*Airport Executive Director Group Captain Kamrul Islam confirmed the matter to reporters. He said that flight BG-356 was threatened with bomb attack on its way from Rome to Dhaka.*

DHAKA, Jan 22 (Agencies): A bomb threat has been issued on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight from Rome, Italy to Dhaka. Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka was informed about this threat by call-

ing from an unknown number.

Airport Executive Director Group Captain Kamrul Islam confirmed the matter to reporters.

He said that flight BG-356 was threatened with bomb attack on its way from Rome



to Dhaka.

The flight made an emergency landing at Hazrat Shahjalal Airport at 9:20 am.

The flight's 250 passengers and 13 crew were evacuated from the plane and brought to the terminal.



## Several deputations call on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to highlight public issues



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several deputations at Civil Secretariat Jammu, and listened to their issues, demands and grievances for immediate redressal.

A deputation led by District Development Council Chairman Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur, brought development and employment issues to the notice of the Chief

Minister.

Representing far-flung areas of Paddar, Dachhan, Atholi, Nagseni and other areas of Kishtwar district, the delegation submitted a memorandum of demands to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, highlighting key issues faced by these remote areas of Kishtwar district.

The delegation emphasized the need for employment opportunities for locals in ongoing and upcoming power projects,

along with the upgradation of schools and health institutions to address critical shortages of

teachers, doctors and paramedics.

They also brought attention to the need for improved public infrastructure, including better roads, reliable drinking water facilities and the establishment of banking services in remote areas.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring equitable development in remote areas for upliftment of

marginalized communities.

In a separate meeting, a deputation comprising former legislators of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly met the Chief Minister to discuss their concerns.

They requested for an enhancement of pension benefits, noting that the last revision occurred over a decade ago.

Besides they requested for an increase in medical allowance.

They also sought intervention of Chief Minister in giving directions for smooth and hassle free entry of ex-legislators to the Legislative Assembly and Secretariat premises and to devise a simple mechanism to facilitate their easy access.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the delegation that their issues would be taken up promptly.

CM Omar Abdullah said that his government gives due recognition to their contributions to public service and assured that a mechanism would be devised to facilitate their entry without any difficulty.

## Principal Secretary Culture releases O P Vidyarthi's book at JKAACL

Emphasises importance of such literary works in raising awareness about environmental issues



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Principal Secretary, Culture and School Education, Suresh Kumar Gupta, today released a Hindi book titled "PushpitPulkit Path Pe" authored by Dr. O.P. Vidhyarthi at an event held at K.L. Saigal Hall.

The function was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), bringing together a galaxy of eminent writers, thinkers and literary enthusiasts.

The event was presided over by Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Director General of Police and graced by Deepika Sharma, Secretary in Culture Department; prominent Dogri writer, Professor Lalit Mangotra; author Dr. O.P. Vidhyarthi besides Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor, Gojri and Head of Jammu Division, JKAACL.

In his keynote address, Suresh Kumar Gupta lauded Dr. O.P. Vidhyarthi's deep connection with the biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir. He praised the author for his prolific contribution, having penned 51 books dedicated to the themes of environmental conservation and the beauty of Mother Earth. Calling him a "living encyclopedia of forests and forest products," Gupta emphasized the importance of such literary works in raising awareness about environmental issues.

Deepika Sharma highlighted the need to disseminate Dr. Vidhyarthi's knowledge among the younger generations. She advocated for organizing similar programs in educational institutions to inspire students to connect with and conserve the environment.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, in his presidential

address, described the book as a poetic representation of the forests' beauty, the anguish of nature during disasters and the healing touch of environmental balance. He read select excerpts from the book, sharing their profound impact with the audience.

Dr. O.P. Vidhyarthi shared insights from his journey, reflecting on the life experiences that inspired him to write and dedicate himself to environmental conservation.

Eminent art historian Lalit Gupta commended Dr. Vidhyarthi's unparalleled contributions, advocating for his recognition on a national scale.

Professor Lalit Mangotra also spoke about the author's remarkable literary contributions, particularly in Dogri literature, and shared his personal association with him.

Earlier, Dr. Javaid Rahi, said that the objective of the event was to honor Dr. O.P. Vidhyarthi's significant contributions to Dogri and Hindi literature, as well as his efforts in promoting environmental awareness.

The program featured scholarly presentations by Maharaj Krishan Santoshi and Pooja Kapoor Suri, who shared critical analyses of the book and the author's literary journey.

The proceedings were conducted by Rajkumar Behrupia, while S. Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi, JKAACL, delivered the vote of thanks.

This event celebrated a writer whose works not only enrich regional languages but also serve as a call to action for environmental preservation, inspiring future generations to value and protect nature.

## JKRERA, Revenue Department to conduct joint inspections to curb growth of illegal colonies



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: To curb the growth of illegal colonies in Jammu district, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) will conduct joint inspections with the Revenue department.

The decision was taken today during a meeting of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaisya

with Chairperson, JKRERA, Satish Chandra.

During the meeting, the issue of development of illegal colonies

in the district was discussed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the Chairperson of the actions being taken by the district administration against unauthorised constructions.

"Notices will be issued to the defaulters and strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder," said the Chairperson JKRERA.

He added that this move is aimed at ensuring planned development, protecting home-buyer's interests and preventing unauthorised constructions in Jammu district.

## Modi Govt empowers women, making them equal partners in Nation's Development: Kavinder

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta today lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarkable vision for women empowerment, highlighting the transformative impact of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, which completes its 10th anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that under the leadership of PM Modi, India has seen a radical shift in its approach to gender equality. He stated, "The Modi government has not only empowered women through policies but has ensured that they are given a platform to thrive, making them equal partners in the nation's development."

Since its launch in 2015, BBBP has been a key driver in changing societal perceptions and ensuring that girls have access to the education and opportunities they deserve. "This initiative has broken down deep-rooted gender biases and provided girls across the nation with the support they need to build their futures," he remarked. Highlighting the significant improvements in districts with historically low Child Sex Ratios (CSR), Kavinder noted that BBBP has succeeded in creating an environment where the girl child is no longer seen as a burden but as a symbol of hope

and potential. "The Modi government's policies have not only empowered women but also instilled a sense of pride and equality within the society," he said.

In addition to BBBP, Kavinder pointed out the success of numerous other initiatives like the Mudra Yojana, Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, which have further strengthened women's financial independence and provided them with the means to chart their own course.

"Today, daughters are becoming leaders, entrepreneurs, and achievers. With initiatives that cater to education, health, and economic independence, the government has laid the foundation for a more inclusive and progressive India," he added. He also praised the active participation of citizens and community organizations in promoting the goals of BBBP, stressing that the movement has truly gained momentum at the grassroots level. "It is the collective efforts of the people that have made this initiative a success," he stated, urging all Indians to continue protecting the rights of women and ensuring their empowerment.

"On this historic occasion, I reaffirm the BJP's commitment to ensuring that every woman and girl in India has the opportunity to live her dreams without fear of discrimination or inequality," he added.

## DC Kupwara provides uniforms to sanitation workers of MC Handwara

### Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 22: In a gesture to acknowledge and support the dedicated sanitation workers, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara Ayushi Sudan today distributed uniforms to 45 field staff workers including sweepers and drivers of the Municipal Committee Handwara.

The initiative aims to enhance the morale and working conditions of the sanitation staff that play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the area.

The distribution ceremony was held in the meeting hall of D.C Office Complex Kupwara, in the presence of EO MC

Handwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat. The uniforms, provided by the District Administration, are designed to ensure the safety and comfort of the workers while they carry out their essential duties.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC commended the tireless efforts of the sweepers and emphasized the importance of sanitation workers in the development of a clean and healthy environment. She interacted with the municipality staff and assured that the district administration would continue to prioritize the welfare of the staff engaged in sanitation and other essential services.

## From Page No:1

## "Common factor in all deaths is involvement of the brain, damage to nervous system": Principal of GMC Rajouri on 'Mysterious Illness'

unknown, authorities have ruled out bacterial or viral infections. The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, has assured citizens that the health department, along with other departments, is working to understand the causes behind the incidents.

## Mysterious Deaths | J&K's Rajouri village declared containment zone

although some toxins have been found in samples collected from the victims.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the village on Tuesday and assured the villagers that the actual reason for the deaths would soon be found. He also condoled the deaths of the villagers.

The health department has scanned 3,500 locals, including residents of Budhaal and adjacent villages. Those results also did not confirm any viral or bacterial infection. An inter-ministerial team constituted under the orders of Union Home Minister Amit Shah is presently in the village to point out the exact cause of the mysterious disease.

## Article 370 was not meant for Kashmir, but for Dogras: Farooq Abdullah

Bharatiya Janta Party to Jammu and Kashmir.  
"We (NC), Congress and other

parties had approached him for extending our support, but he refused and formed the coalition government with the BJP. The party should introspect and look within what it has done," he said.

He also stated that nobody can dictate the present dispensation as Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to work for the welfare of the people.

## Over 100 sheep charred to death in blaze in Samba

spot and the blaze was put off quickly.

"More than 100 sheep were burnt to death in the fire, while a few could be saved," Station House Officer of Vijaypur Zaheer Mush-taq said.

"All possible assistance will be extended to the affected family which has suffered a significant loss," Tehsildar Sudesh Kumar said.

## Nitish Kumar's

## JD(U) withdraws support to BJP-led Manipur government

the last session of the Assembly by the Speaker. It is, hereby, further reiterated that Janata Dal(United), Manipur Unit does not support the BJP-led state government in Manipur, and our lone MLA, Md. Abdul Nasir shall be treated as an opposition MLA in the House," the party said. This follows the withdrawal of support by the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) in November 2024, which had pulled out of the N Biren Singh-led BJP government in Manipur amid ongoing tensions in the state. Meghalaya Chief Minister Sangma wrote a letter to BJP National President JP Nadda, stating that the Manipur government under Biren Singh's leadership had "completely failed to resolve the crisis and restore normalcy." In the 2022 Manipur Assembly elections, the JD(U) won

six seats. However, five of its MLAs later switched to the BJP. Despite the withdrawal, the BJP-led government in Manipur is unlikely to face any challenge to its stability as the party holds 37 seats in the 60-member assembly and has the support of five MLAs of the Naga People's Front and three independents.

## Army soldier killed in accidental fire in Kupwara

arrested in Baramulla & Budgam SRINAGAR, Jan 22 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 02 drug peddlers in Baramulla & Budgam and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party headed by SHO Police Station Boniyar at a checkpoint established at Chak Limber, Boniyar intercepted a suspicious person. He has been identified as Gh Nabi Dar son of Late Mohd Subhan resident of Babagai Limber. During search, 50 grams of contra-

band charas like substances was recovered from his possession. In Budgam, a police party of Police Station Chadoora at a checkpoint established at Durbugh near Higher Secondary School Chadoora, intercepted a suspicious vehicle (Maruti 800) bearing registration No. JK01H-8720 driven by Sajad Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat resident of Gopalsaif Dedmaribagh Chadoora. During search of vehicle, one polythene bag containing grinded charas like narcotic substance weighing 01 kg and 700 grams was recovered. Vehicle used in commission of crime was also seized. All the accused have been arrested and cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated. We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

## Special Ganesh Poojan, Hawan organized at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

### Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 22: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has organized a special Ganesh Poojan and Hawan at Bhawan, commemorating the sacred Magh month. The special Poojan and Hawan were performed to seek the blessings of Lord Ganesh and Mata Vaishno Devi Ji for the peace, welfare and prosperity of humanity and seek forgiveness for any errors or omissions in the conduct of Poojan / Rituals.

The event was conducted by pujaris who meticulously followed age-old Vedic traditions including chanting sacred mantras, offerings to the holy conflagration and prayers for



divine blessings and spiritual harmony. The event held at the holy Yagyashala near Atka area as per the guidance of Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, aimed to uphold the sanctity and traditional essence of the rituals while ensuring their alignment with established religious practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer said that the Magh month is considered highly

sacred and a special Poojan and Hawan is being organized for the benefit of the devotees. He underscored that the Head Pujari has been instructed to regularly review and oversee the rituals for ensuring that they remain true to their spiritual and cultural roots. The natural cave shrine has been open to devotees since Makar Sankranti with approximately 4,000 to 5,000 pilgrims having darshan of the sanctum sanctorum from the old cave

daily, said the CEO.

Notably, the Shrine Board has been consistently organizing various Hawans, Yagyas and other spiritual activities on significant occasions including the sacred Shat Chandi Maha Yagya twice a year during the auspicious Navratras. A large number of pilgrims are availing the facility of Hawan and Nav Chandi Path at the new Yagyashala on a routine basis. Additionally, the daily Hawan Poojan at

Adhkuwari Temple also commenced on Makar Sankranti, offering devotees another opportunity for spiritual enrichment. For convenience, devotees can book Poojan services online through the official website of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

The event witnessed participation from officers and staff of Shrine Board and a large number of devotees all of whom expressed their deep reverence for the initiative. Special arrangements were made to ensure a smooth and spiritually uplifting experience for all attendees and for continuing their unwavering faith in maintaining the sanctity and legacy of the Shrine.

## Army organises medical patrol at Ranthal, Gadyog



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 22: 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 is always praised and commended.

Following its ethos and traditions, the Indian Army has been at the forefront, working alongside the Awam in their fight against medical-related issues.

The Indian Army, at Samote, organized a medical patrol in the far-flung areas of Ranthal and Gadyog.

A total of 58 locals, including 16 men, 18

women, and 24 children from the villages of Ranthal and Gadyog, availed the benefit of free medical treatment and free distribution of medicines.

Doctors and medical personnel from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during the medical patrol, which was organized with the objective of providing medical aid to the people.

The local populace appreciated the selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also foster synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam toward the development of the region.

## TUCC urges Govt to address long-pending issues of working class

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: The Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC) convened a press conference to raise awareness about the long-standing challenges faced by the working class in Jammu and Kashmir. The leadership emphasized the urgent need for resolution and warned that if the government fails to act, the working class will have no option but to resort to "Sangarsh" (struggle). TUCC appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Lt. Governor to personally intervene and establish a high-level or Cabinet Sub-Committee to address the workforce's genuine demands.

The leadership expressed gratitude to the Government of J&K for releasing a 3% DA hike for government employees and pensioners, a decision approved during a recent Cabinet meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. They acknowledged the positive impact this move would have on employees' lives while urging further action on other critical issues.

TUCC demanded the regularization of all temporary and seasonal workers engaged between 1994 and 2015, including casual, daily wage, need-based, contractual scheme workers, and CAMPA workers. They emphasized the need for separate budgetary allocations to address



decades of exploitation faced by these workers.

The union also called for the implementation of need-based minimum wages for casual and temporary workers across departments, in line with the Supreme Court's Raptakos judgment. Additionally, TUCC highlighted the need for immediate allocation of funds to clear long-pending GP fund bills, ensuring government employees can access their hard-earned savings.

The leadership demanded the reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to replace the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), enabling a secure retirement for government employees. They also stressed the need to address payment delays for 754 CAMPA workers and enhance the budgetary quota for their wages.

Other demands included amendments to recruitment rules in departments such as Forest, Social Welfare, and Jal Shakti to create promotional avenues for employees. They also urged the reorganization of the Skill Development Department and the regularization

of contractual staff with over ten years of service.

TUCC called for the year-round utilization of seasonal workers in the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, compensation for cooling-off periods, and the enhancement of honorariums for Anganwadi workers and helpers to match neighboring states. They further advocated for granting ASHA, Anganwadi, and MDM workers official worker status and ESI coverage.

The union also demanded the immediate regularization of left-out daily wagers engaged before 1994 under SRO-64 in the Kamraj and Bandipora Forest Divisions.

The press conference was attended by veteran trade union leaders, including Muzaffar Ahmad Ganai (General Secretary), Molvi Nazir Ahmad (Provincial President TUCC Jammu), Mohammad Iqbal Ganie, Raj Singh, Nishat Raina, Hardev Singh Chib, Fahmida Najjar, Shahzadi Gill, Rajinder Singh, Mr. Rakesh H&P, Vikram Jeet, Satish, and Choudhary Fareed Ahmed.

## J&K Employees Joint Consultative Committee demands immediate action on pending issues

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 22: A meeting was convened by the J&K Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Khan, at Srinagar with the participation of other committee members namely Shabir Ahmad Langoo, Javid Ahmad Akhooon, Khalid Mahmood, Khaja Sajad, Mohd Shafi, Mustafa Khan, Rehmatullah Khan Farooq Ahmad Kawa Mohd Sadiq, Hilal Lone, Aamna Gee, Haji Ab Qayoom Baigh, Reyaz Kar, Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger, Saleem Sager, Ishfaq Tailbali, Masood Ahmad Nazki and Mukhtar Ahmad Wani, have recognized and expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister J & K for taking a favorable decision by his cabinet to release a 3% Dearness Allowances (DA) among the employees. This positive step has been appreciated and has expected that the pending 2% House Rent Allowances (HRA) also will be released shortly. The members have discussed the pressing concerns of government employees in Jammu & Kashmir. The committee raised serious concerns and demanded immediate action from the government on the following issues:

Khan, Chairman J&K EJCC, has strongly urged the government to immediately release the pending General



Provident Fund (GPF) of employees. The GPF is a crucial savings tool that is maintained in the public account and cannot be utilized for other development purposes. The delay of over six months in the disbursement of these funds has caused significant hardship to employees, who rely on these savings for emergencies, medical needs, or important family events such as weddings. The non-release of these funds is causing severe anxiety among employees and disrupting their financial planning. The non-disbursement of the GP fund raises serious concerns and puts spotlight on the government's financial management practice. The situation has raised question about the whereabouts of the fund, which are supposed to be securely held in the Public Account for the benefit of the employees.

Khan also demanded for Release of Gratuity and Post-Retirement Benefits for Retired Employees, raised the issue of delayed payments to retired employees. There are pending bills in the treasury for

over six months concerning the disbursement of gratuity and post-retirement benefits. Retired employees, who have given decades of service to the government, are now facing considerable hardships due to the non-release of these payments. The committee has urged the government to expedite the disbursement process to alleviate the difficulties faced by these retired employees.

While addressing the gathering J&K EJCC has demanded the regularization of all temporary employees, including FP shop dealers, Anganwadi workers, Hamals, casual laborers, Aayas, contingent paid workers in the education department, need-based workers, and employees engaged in various centrally sponsored schemes. These employees have been serving the government for many years, often on minimal wages. Despite their invaluable contribution, they remain in a precarious employment situation. The committee has called for their regularization and, until the process is completed, has urged the

government to bring them under the Minimum Guarantee Wages Act. and the wages under this act needs to be enhanced up to Rs. 20000.00 monthly keeping in view the day to day inflation.

They also demanded for Restoration of SRO-43 Rules in its original provisions. The committee has expressed its strong opposition to the recent amendments to SRO-43, a rule that had been in place since its inception. The changes made to this rule are deemed unacceptable and harsh, particularly as it impacts the empowerment of the families of deceased employees, who rely on compassionate appointments as their only source of livelihood. The JCC has urged the government to restore the original provisions of SRO-43.

Sr Spokesperson of J&K EJCC raised the issue and demanded for Abolition of the New Pension Scheme and Restoration of the Old Pension Scheme. The J&K EJCC has called for the immediate abolition of the New Pension Scheme (NPS) and the restora-

tion of the old pension scheme. The NPS has raised concerns among employees who are now demanding the return of the old pension system, which provided a more secure and predictable future for them after retirement.

General Secretary of J&K EJCC demanded for Policy for Regularization of Sessional Teachers. He demanded that a policy be framed for the permanent regularization of sessional teachers. Additionally, it has been observed that during winter vacations, teachers are often engaged in various official duties such as online classes, census work, awareness campaigns, training, surveys, and BLO tasks. The JCC has urged that their leave salary be released, comparable to other government employees who perform such duties.

J&K EJCC also demanded for release of border allowance for employees working in border areas, recognizing the unique challenges and risks they face in providing essential services in these regions.

The J&K EJCC emphasizes that these issues are of urgent importance and must be addressed promptly to ensure the well-being and financial stability of both current and retired employees. The committee has called on the government to take immediate action and fulfill these demands at the earliest.

## Truecaller works seamlessly on iPhone

Real-Time Caller ID and Spam Blocking Now Available on iOS 18.2 and Newer

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Truecaller, the global leader in communication platforms, has announced its most significant update for iPhone users. This update brings Truecaller's complete spam and scam-blocking capabilities to iOS, ensuring feature parity with its Android counterpart.

This breakthrough has been made possible through Apple's Live Caller ID Lookup framework. This API is designed to provide live caller identification in a privacy-preserving manner using advanced homomorphic

encryption. Truecaller is the first platform worldwide to implement this technology at scale, offering iPhone users enhanced caller ID services without compromising their privacy.

With 15 years of experience in filtering unwanted communication, Truecaller's latest update leverages its cutting-edge AI and extensive global database to identify almost all incoming calls. This ensures that iPhone users no longer have to deal with unidentified calls as long as Truecaller has any associated information.

The update also introduces automatic spam call blocking, a highly requested feature among



iPhone users. Additionally, the app now allows users to search up to

2,000 previously identified numbers in their iPhone app's Recents

list, making it easier to revisit past interactions.

Truecaller has further expanded its offerings by launching a Premium Family Plan, enabling users to share all Premium benefits with up to four family members at an affordable monthly or annual price.

To access these new features, users must update to Truecaller for iPhone version 14.0 or later. Go to iPhone Settings > Apps > Phone > Call Blocking & Identification. Enable all Truecaller switches and reopen the Truecaller app to activate the features.

Rishit Jhunjhunwala, CEO of Truecaller, shared his excitement about the update and said, "We

are excited to bring the full power of Truecaller to iPhone. We see tremendous potential and growth in our iPhone user base, and parity with Truecaller's Android experience has been top of their wishlist. This update does that and more while preserving privacy for all calling activity."

The new features will be available globally to Truecaller Premium users. Free users on iOS will continue to enjoy ad-supported number search and caller ID for verified businesses. Automatic spam blocking and live caller ID features are being rolled out starting today and will reach all users worldwide within the coming days.

## ICC Chair meets IOC President to discuss key LA 2028 initiatives for cricket

*This was the first time Shah was meeting with Bach and they explored potential avenues for collaboration in promoting the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect within the cricketing world.*

LAUSANNE, Jan 22 (Agencies): International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah has held discussions with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and other senior officials from the IOC this week and attended an LA 2028 International Federations seminar at the Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The ICC Chair was also joined by ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice, with the meeting focusing on key areas of collaboration between the ICC and the IOC in the build-up to the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

This was the first time Shah was meeting with Bach and they explored potential avenues for collaboration in promoting the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect within the cricketing world.

It is an exciting time for cricket with tremendous opportunities to engage with existing and new fans ahead of the LA 2028 Games, paving the way for potential future collaborations



with the Olympic movement that will benefit athletes, fans, and the global sporting community.

ICC Chair, Jay Shah said, "We were delighted to meet with Thomas Bach and IOC officials, it was a productive meeting and an important milestone on the road to LA 2028.

The inclusion of cricket in the Olympic Games represents a watershed moment for our sport and a real opportunity for transformative growth for 2028 and beyond," as quoted from a

release by ICC.

"We discussed a range of critical issues and continued to build relationships with our friends across the Olympic movement. We look forward to the next three and half years working in collaboration with the IOC and LA 2028," he added.

Cricket is set to make its return to the Olympic Games in the 2028 Los Angeles edition. This marks the sport's re-entry into the Olympics after a hiatus of 128 years. Cricket last featured

in the 1900 Paris Olympics, where Great Britain won the gold medal by defeating France in the final.

The decision to include cricket in the 2028 Olympics was made during the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session held in Mumbai in October last year.

The format for the competition will be T20, a fast-paced and popular version of the game, that is expected to attract a global audience.

Cricket's reintroduction to the Olympics follows its successful return to the Asian Games in Hangzhou last year, where it was included for the first time since 2014.

The Asian Games featured a multi-nation T20 tournament for both men's and women's teams. India dominated the event, securing gold medals in both categories. In the men's tournament, Afghanistan and Bangladesh took home silver and bronze medals respectively, while in the women's tournament, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh won silver and bronze.

## Our bowlers delivered exceptional performance: Dubai Capitals assistant coach Munaf Patel



DUBAI, Jan 22 (Agencies): The Dubai Capitals delivered a masterful performance to halt the Desert Vipers' unbeaten run with a convincing six-wicket victory at the Dubai International Stadium.

The win was orchestrated through a clinical bowling display, with Dushmantha Chameera and Zahir Khan each claiming three wickets to restrict the Vipers to 139, as stated in a release from ILT20.

Former Indian cricketer Munaf Patel now Assistant Coach of Dubai Capitals, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance and accepted

that their team's performance dipped a bit.

"Our recent form had dipped slightly, with three consecutive losses, but today our bowlers delivered an exceptional performance. The pitch conditions worked in our favour from the moment we started bowling," Munaf Patel was quoted in a release from ILT20 as saying.

Reflecting on the team's strategy, Patel added that they have been given complete freedom to express themselves on the field.

"We gave our players complete freedom to express themselves, whether it was about

scoring runs or rotating the strike. We had confidence in our batting depth, with three capable batsmen still in reserve. Today's victory wasn't just about breaking their streak; it was about executing our plans perfectly," he added.

Patel also praised the team's tactical approach; "Our bowling unit's performance today showcased their true potential. The conditions suited our style, and the decision to bowl first proved crucial in setting up this victory. The team demonstrated great character in bouncing back from our recent setbacks."

The Dubai Capitals will look to maintain their winning momentum when they face Abu Dhabi Knight Riders in their next fixture at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. With this crucial victory boosting team morale, the Capitals aim to climb higher in the tournament standings and secure their position in the play-off race.

## There was a sense of fear during rehab, but I've crossed that phase: Shami

KOLKATA, Jan 22 (Agencies): Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami has revealed that he was gripped by a sense of fear when he began his rehabilitation after a long injury layoff, but managed to overcome that phase by training his mind to stay focused on the national comeback.

Shami was sidelined after the ODI World Cup final against Australia in November 2023 due to an ankle injury that required surgery. The recovery from that was followed by a swelling on his left knee during the domestic comeback some weeks back.

Following his inclusion in India's Champions Trophy squad, his return has garnered national attention. He is also in the squad for the five-match T20 series against England beginning here later this evening.

"I waited for an entire year and I worked very hard (to get back to full fitness). There was a sense of fear (of getting injured during rehabilitation) even while running," Shami said in a video posted by BCCI.

"It is difficult for any player to get injured after being in full flow, go to the NCA (National Cricket Academy) for rehabilitation and then make a comeback," he added.

The cricketer, however, said an athlete is far more determined after dealing with an injury.

"When you go through injuries, I feel you grow stronger as an athlete, this is what I feel. Because you have to repeat a lot of things while being mentally strong," Shami went through the domestic grind, representing his home state Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq and Vijay Hazare but a swelling in his knee finally ruled him out of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Test series in Australia.

On his competitive return in the Ranji



Trophy, he guided Bengal to their first win of the season with a seven-wicket haul. He followed it up with impressive performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (11 wickets) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (five wickets).

Shami's T20 career has been sporadic, with just 23 appearances since his debut in 2014. His last outing in the format was against England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal.

The 34-year-old said he has overcome the setbacks and is raring to go.

"Whatever is done, is done. I have crossed that (injury) phase. If you work hard you will get the results. That's what I believe in. If you get injured you have to make a comeback for your team for your country. So fight and grow," he said.

"If you are strong and believe in yourself and you have confidence in your abilities, have self-belief, then I don't think you will find any difference. Confidence is important for any task," he added.

Shami said he concentrated on improving his skills with a lot of focus on fitness during his rehabilitation.

"The rhythm is very important. Everything in life has a flow. Whatever it is, your fitness, mindset and skill is important for bowling," he explained.

## Rohit Sharma leads star parade as Ranji Trophy resumes

MUMBAI, Jan 22 (Agencies): A rare congregation of stars will be on display when the Ranji Trophy resumes on Thursday with big names such as Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant agreeing to show up for their respective sides, nudged primarily by the BCCI's stern diktat on respect for domestic cricket.

Rohit will be turning up for defending champions Mumbai after nearly a decade when action resumes in the second half of the country's premier red-ball competition across different venues.

For the first time this season, the two biggest white-ball competitions—Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy—split the Ranji Trophy into two halves with each state side playing five matches apiece in the first leg.

With every team to play two more matches in the second round, a lot will be at stake not only for the sides involved but also for various national players, who have been clearly told that they cannot ignore domestic cricket anymore following crushing defeats to New Zealand at home and Australia in an away series.

Even though batting superstar Virat Kohli will take a few more days to recover from a neck strain before joining his Delhi teammates for the final round of group stage matches from January 30, Rohit is set to play for Mumbai under the leadership of Ajinkya Rahane.

In all likelihood, Mumbai will



pair him with Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top, replicating the India combination, when they will face a formidable Jammu and Kashmir, currently placed second in Elite Group A.

At the top is Baroda, who beat Mumbai in the season-opener, but the Rahane-led side can be backed to find their mojo and get back in the saddle to aim for a record-extending 43rd title.

The outing with Mumbai is expected to benefit India's out-of-sorts Test and ODI skipper Rohit, who has endured a horror run with the bat over the last three months.

How Rohit responds to the fresh challenge could also determine India's fate in the Champions Trophy next month, which could well be his last shot at winning another major event.

Pant vs Jadeja in Rajkot

At Rajkot, Delhi will face two-time winners Saurashtra where

the mercurial Rishabh Pant will face off against his teammates Ravindra Jadeja and Cheteshwar Pujara. The contest is a must-win for both the teams in Group D.

Both Delhi and Saurashtra, placed fourth and fifth respectively, have just one win each in the last Elite Group and they have a lot of ground to cover against table-toppers Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh.

Only top two teams from each of the four groups will advance to the quarterfinals stage.

Gill adds punch to Punjab vs Karnataka

Punjab have one win to show from five matches which leaves them fifth in Group C, but the focus will be on India's new ODI vice-captain Shubman Gill who too has endured a challenging phase with the bat.

Punjab will face Karnataka, who are high on confidence

coming off their title-winning campaign in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, in their backyard of M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Gill's return makes up to some extent for the unavailability of Abhishek Sharma and Arshdeep Singh, who are on national duty for T20Is against England, in the Punjab squad.

Karnataka will be bolstered with the return of Devdutt Padikkal and Prasad Krishna who both played a part at various stages in India's tour of Australia.

In another big match, Bengal will miss the services of pacer Akash Deep and Abhimanyu Easwaran at Kalyani, who both picked up injuries during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, in the Group C clash against Haryana.

Mohammed Shami, who proved his fitness during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, has already linked up with the Indian team for the T20Is against England which means his state side Bengal will have to make do with available resources to move up one slot from the third.

Last year's Ranji Trophy runner-up Vidarbha, who lost to Karnataka a few days ago in the final of Vijay Hazare Trophy, will be confident of their chances as they take on a fourth-placed Rajasthan in Jaipur in Group B.

Karun Nair will be determined to carry his splendid form from the 50-overs white-ball competition into the four-day games and continue to dream of making an India comeback.

## Kaif lauds "great white-ball cricketers" Rohit, Virat; believes Team India require them in Champions Trophy 2025

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (Agencies): Former cricketer Mohammad Kaif showered praise on stalwart Indian batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, calling them "great white-ball cricketers". Kif was speaking in a video on his YouTube channel.

Kaif also mentioned that Team India will need Rohit and Virat in the forthcoming Champions Trophy 2025.

Kohli made his debut in the ODI format in 2008 against Sri Lanka.

Following that he has scored a whopping 13906 runs from 295 50-over matches at a strike rate of 93.54. He also has an average of 58.18. Meanwhile, Rohit played his maiden ODI match in 2007 against Ireland. In 265 ODIs, the skipper scored 10866 runs at a strike rate of 92.43 and an average of 49.16.

Speaking on his official YouTube channel, Kaif said that both Rohit and Virat will not be playing for a long since they

are in their late 30s. He added that the two experienced Indian batters will contribute a lot to the Men in Blue squad during the Champions Trophy 2025.

"You need Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Rohit is 37 years old and Kohli is 36 years old. They are not going to play for a long time. Pray for them, back them. They are two great white ball players. They are not going to play for a long time. I believe that



they will play well. They will contribute a lot to the upcoming Champions Trophy. If they play well, you will win the matches in Dubai. Rohit Sharma gives a fast start. Virat Kohli takes advantage of that start..." Kaif told on his official YouTube channel.

The freshest challenge awaiting for Team India is the ICC Champions Trophy, starting from February 19 till March 9. It will be hosted by Pakistan and UAE, with

India playing its matches in UAE under a hybrid model.

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 fifty-over matches and will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai.

The biggest match of the tournament between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23. India will start its campaign against Bangladesh on February 20. India's last league match will be against New Zealand

on March 2. The Rohit Sharma-led side will play all their matches in Dubai.

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

## Despite strong security claims, crime and gang wars are prevalent in Jammu: Shiv Sena

### Demand for police verification of outsiders

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Gang wars, criminal incidents and illegal drug trade are becoming a challenge in the temple city of Jammu. The common man of Jammu is living in the shadow of terror today. Yesterday, in broad daylight, a youth was shot dead in the middle of Jammu city due to gang war and the accused escaped easily.

This proves the claims of the police administration about three-layer security and vigilance, and even birds cannot fly, to be hollow, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of crime, theft and drug smuggling in Jammu and said that this is the second shooting incident in Jammu city in the last 20 days.



On January 3, a BJP leader's son was shot in broad daylight. Yesterday, a man was shot dead in broad daylight a few meters away from the Navabad police station and the main Republic Day celebration venue.

The accused managed to escape. At the same time, the suspicion of these gangsters being in contact with the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi is a matter of grave concern. It is clear that like other states,

the notorious Bishnoi gang has spread its tentacles to Jammu. It is clear that Jammu is becoming an ideal refuge for outside criminals. Outside criminals in connivance with local youths are openly committing such crimes as part of a plan to create an atmosphere of terror in Jammu and make life difficult for the common people.

At the same time, incidents of theft of two-wheelers and other things are a daily affair. Jam-

mu's ring road has become a hub of crime and robbery.

In 2024, 300 people were arrested in 200 cases of drug trafficking in Jammu district. Heroin and other drugs worth several hundred crores of rupees have been recovered.

Sahni said that the main reason for the increasing criminal and theft incidents in Jammu is the outsiders camping in Jammu without police verification and information. These people easily commit criminal incidents and return to their own or neighboring states.

Sahni has demanded from the police administration to strictly crush hooliganism and keep a close watch on outsiders along with verification and record.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber, President Mehila Wing, Vikas Bakshi, Gen Secretary, Sanjeev Kohli, vice president, Raj Singh, President Kanghar Wing, Sunita Kumari and Kiran Slathia.

## Shiv Sena prays for peace, prosperity on anniversary of Pran Pratishtha

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit today offered prayers to Lord Shri Ram at the party's state central office on the completion of one year of Pran Pratishtha of Lord Shri Ram Lalla

on the Holy land of Ayodhya. State head Manish Sahni and other senior leaders were present on this occasion. Manish Sahni said that at the feet of Lord Shri Ram. prayers were offered to peace, prosperity, mutual brotherhood, happiness in the

entire country and the world including Jammu-Kashmir.

Sahni said that the contribution of vandanias Balasaheb Thackeray and Shiv Sainiks in the Lord Shri Ram temple movement in Ayodhya cannot be ignored at all.

## ABDPSS continues Shri Ram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa path" Abhiyaan in temples

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS) organized a grand Shri Ram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmatt, Jammu.

The event was led by Sanjeev Sharma, Social Worker and Aayushman Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence alongwith Pt. Anil upadyaye from Ayodhya (U.P.).

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras, Prarthna "Hey Prabhu Ananad-data Gyan Humko Dijije" and thereafter "Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees participated alongwith family members. Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to

its significance. After the path, the speakers highlighted the devotion of Lord Hanumanji, his incredible contribution towards society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama. They emphasized how Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult circumstances continue to inspire society and remain relevant today.

After the completion of ShriRam stuti and the Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa, a Sat-sang session was held where devotees gained spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the Acharya Manoj Kumar coming from Ayodhya. The gathering provided the attendees with an opportunity to engage deeply in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ramji and Hanumanji.

The National Coordinator of the Samiti Sunil Sharma informed that over the years, many initiatives have been launched by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Pra-

char Sewa Samiti to expand the knowledge of the sacred scripture-Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in every body.

For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth (not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Brahamgyani Guruji.

The event saw active participation from key figures such as Kewal Krishan Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushman Sharma, Rohit Verma, Om Parkash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, Rahul Yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema Jamwal, Soni Kumari, Shalini Devi, Sawitri Sharma whose active contributions were pivotal in making the event a grand success.

## Dimple leads protest over mysterious deaths in Badhaal



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, held a strong protest rally on Janipur High Court Road to highlight the worsening health crisis in Badhaal Rajouri. The protest follows the alarming news of ten more children falling sick in Badhaal Kotranka and the mysterious deaths of 17 individuals in the region.

Addressing the rally, Dimple demanded immediate action from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, urging him to visit the affected areas and take stock of the situation. He called for a high-level inquiry by the CBI and NIA to uncover the cause of the deaths and illnesses.

Dimple further demanded the Jammu and Kashmir government, along with the Lieutenant Governor, to open separate emer-

gency wards in medical colleges to provide specialized treatment for patients from Badhaal Kotranka. He stressed the urgency of airlifting the ten newly detected cases to premier medical institutions such as PGI Chandigarh and AIIMS Delhi for immediate treatment.

Dimple criticized the GMC Rajouri and GMC Jammu hospitals, alleging they have become "death hubs" due to their inability to provide effective treatment. He expressed disappointment with the central government's medical team, accusing them of failing to diagnose the cause of the illness even after a month of investigation.

"The patients are referred from Rajouri to Jammu, but only dead bodies return," Dimple lamented, emphasizing the dire need for a robust healthcare response.

Dimple demanded adequate compensation for the affected families and criticized the government for not owning responsibility for the deaths. He alleged that the ongoing crisis has forced people to migrate from Rajouri, Badhaal, and Kotranka to safer locations.

He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to visit the affected areas, meet the victims' families, and take swift action to address the crisis. Dimple also called on the health department and other agencies to intensify their efforts to uncover the truth behind the mysterious deaths and illnesses.

The protest rally was supported by other leaders, including Sanjay Sethi, Bishan Das, Rinku Sharma, Brama, Akbar Khan, Shafi, Nazir Khan, Vipin Mahajan, Vicky Mahajan, and Rakesh Sharma, among others.

## BJP notifies election schedule for J&K President

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) notified the election schedule for its Jammu & Kashmir President.

Sanjay Bhatia, Returning Officer for State President Election, Jammu & Kashmir notified the election schedule on 22nd of January' 25.

The notification reads 23rd of January' 2025 from 12 noon to 04:00

PM as the date and time of filing of forms for the election of BJP state president.

The time of the scrutiny of forms is from 05:00 PM to 07:00 PM on 23rd of January' 2025.

The date of election for the post of state president is on 24th of January' 2025.

The result of the election for the state president of J&K BJP will be declared on 24th of January' 2025 at 12 noon.

## DSS alarms over police action against army ex-servicemen

#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 22: Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) held a virtual meeting of their executive body after the DSS President returned from Delhi.

The incident under Police Station Bakshi Nagar, Jammu was discussed. As per the Ex-servicemen including a JCO (Gazetted Officer) and An Non Commissioned Officer, they were arrested for a minor offence of allegedly parking their Car in an area not designated for Parking when they had gone to give Lohri sweets to their relatives.

They were taken to police Station on the night of 13/14 January, unlawfully detained for the night and subjected to manhandling and third degree torture.

The Army duo Subedar Suresh Kumar & Havildar Chander Shekhar who are brothers complained that their medical was influenced after the grave injuries and even release delayed after the grant of bail by competent authority by the Bakshi Nagar SHO Azad Hussain Manhas.

It seems laughable that the dedicated Army personnel have been slapped with charges of anti-national activities.

The DSS took strong note of the complaint and called for a thorough fare enquiry and action against the guilty.

Th. Gulchain Singh said that such incidents in a sensitive border UT where our Army and Police work together is alarming and stern measures are required to curb such tendencies

as reported from some other States also.

Maj Gen Sunita Kapoor, VSM, Col Dr Virendra Sahi, VrC of the ESM cell pointed out the Army & JKP have a healthy track record of working in unison and have faced many challenges and actions against the Pakistan sponsored proxy war together, hand in gloves as a team. Such an act may adversely impact the cohesive team working of the two disciplined grand forces.

DSS called for proper justice to the two Army-men who have given their best years of life in the defense, protection and security of the nation and J&K. They called for exemplary action against the high handed attitude if proved after a fair independent enquiry.



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