

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

J&K Police recovers 290 bottles of codeine phosphate during searches in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on a tip off recovered 290 bottles of Codeine Phosphate during a search operation from a house and arrested the accused at Panthachowk area of Srinagar. Jammu travel guide

Police on Thursday said based on credible information, a search operation was conducted by the Panthachowk Police Station at the residence of Irfan Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Athawajan during which 290 bottles of Codeine Phosphate were recovered.

The search operation was carried out in the presence of the Tehsildar Panthachowk.

A case has been registered under FIR No. 05/2025 under Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is currently in progress.

Body found in 1000-ltr water tank in Pampore

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): An unidentified dead body was found inside a 1000-litre water tank at a residential house in Khrew area of Pampore town on Thursday.

Sources told news agency KDC that the body was recovered from a water tank at the residence of Gh Nabi Shah, son of Gh Mohiud-Din, in New Colony, Khrew, Pampore.

Police have launched an investigation to ascertain the identity of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the incident. Further details are awaited.

NDMA warns of high risk forest fire in J&K till Jan 30

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday issued a warning of a very high risk of forest fires in Jammu and Kashmir over the next seven days.

The prolonged dry spell in the region has led to a sharp rise in forest fire incidents, particularly in the Jammu region.

"Very High Forest Fire Risk is likely to occur over forest areas in

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Almost all Ideological Tasks completed in last ten years: Amit Shah



AHMEDABAD, Jan 23 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said "almost all" pending ideological tasks including the abrogation of Article 370 have been completed by the Narendra Modi government, and it will continue on the same path in its third tenure.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after inaugurating the Hindu Spiritual & Service Fair, also known as 'Hindu Adhyatmik Seva Mela', at the Gujarat University grounds here.

There was a time

when Hindus hesitated to disclose their identity in their own country, he claimed.

"In ten years, the situation has changed. Now, almost all the pending works as per our ideology have been completed, be it the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, abolition of triple talaq and implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC)," he said.

Notably, while the UCC has not been implemented at the national level,

BJP-ruled Uttarakhand has introduced it and Shah had told the Rajya Sabha last month that it would be implemented in all the states.

While the Modi government completed these unfinished works in ten years, earlier governments had not touched them for 70 years, Shah further said in his speech here.

The Modi government will continue in the same direction in its third tenure, he added.

He also noted that it was a matter of pride that "170 countries accepted Yoga."

"During the G20 Summit, leaders from across the world came here and offered their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, which is also a matter of pride for us. The government was successful in bringing back nearly 350 stolen idols of our deities from across the world."

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ACB conducts raids in Kashmir parts to probe irregularities in firemen recruitment

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday conducted raids at twin districts of Kashmir valley in connection with irregularities in the selection process of firemen in Fire & Emergency Services.

As per news agency KDC, the Anti-Corruption Bureau officials conducted the first raid at the residence of a retired KAS Officer in Bategoo, in south Kashmir's



Anantnag district.

An official said the raid led by DySP rank officer, was carried out in connection with FIR No. 01-2025 registered at the Police Station Central Kashmir.

The case involves irregularities committed in the selection process of Fireman/Fireman Drivers in the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Department.

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Heli service to J&K's snowbound border areas soon, Trial run conducted in Gurez



SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government is set to launch helicopter services to remote area, including

Gurez, Karnah, and Tangdhar, to ensure connectivity to these snowbound areas.

An official said that a private Jet Serve Aviation

company conducted a trial run for a helicopter service to Gurez Valley today.

He said that the trial run was conducted in the Bagtore area of Gurez and helicopter service to Bagtore, Baduaab, Dawar, and Badugaam villages will start soon. Similar trials will be conducted in other snowbound areas, including Karnah and

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Delhi High Court issues notice to NIA on bail plea of Baramulla MP Er Rashid

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the stand of the NIA on Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer's plea on the issue of granting him bail in a terror-funding case.

Justice Vikas Mahajan asked the agency to file

its response and listed the matter for further hearing on January 30.

Senior counsel appearing for the lawmaker argued that his bail plea has been pending in the lower court for a considerable time and urged the high court to either direct its expeditious

disposal or decide the matter itself.

"Issue notice. Let reply/status report be filed," the high court said.

On December 24 last year, Additional Sessions Judge Chanderjit Singh dismissed Rashid's plea urging

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J&K Police initiates legal action as fake account of Jammu ADGP's appears on FB

JAMMU, Jan 23 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday initiated legal action following a fake account of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Anand Jain appeared on the Facebook social media platform.

The police spokesman said, "it has come to our attention that a fake Facebook account has been created using the name of Anand Jain with a profile picture of the ADGP and a misleading introduction claiming to be associated with 'Department Jammu & Kashmir ADGP, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K.'" This

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Arms, ammunition recovered from school in Awantipora



SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): Security forces have recovered arms and ammunition from a government

school in the Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

An official told news

agency that in a joint operation of police, 42 RR & 130 Battalion of CRPF recovered arms and ammunition from government primary school Larmooh.

He said that the arms and ammunition includes a grenade, UBGL, electric detonator, non-electric detonator, 10 bullets, a pistol magazine.

"Further investigation in this regard is going on," the official said.

J&K: Probe ordered into discrepancies in JKP constable examination

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): The J&K Service Selection Recruitment Board (JKSSRB) has ordered an inquiry to probe the allegations leveled against the Board over the "discrepancies" in the JKP Constable Telecommunication examination, the result of which was declared

recently.

Talking to agency, Chairperson JKSSB Indu Kanwal Chib said the Board has ordered an inquiry to probe the allegations.

"The members have given the task and we have asked them to look into the matter very intricately. We have given a certain amount of time

to them to inquire the matter," Chib told Greater Kashmir. "Let us see what comes out of it," he added.

Earlier, the aspirants of the JKP Constable Telecommunication and Photography exams raised serious concerns while alleging irregularities and questioned the transparency of the

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TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Ex Serviceman S. Ravinderpal Singh (Rinku)** S/o. S. Harjeet Singh, R/o. Saranoo, Rajouri who left for his heavenly abode on 18-01-2025 and **Antim Ardas** will be held on 27-01-2025 on Monday from 10:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M at Our Residence at Saranoo, Rajouri.



Ex Serviceman
S. Ravinderpal Singh
(Rinku)

"You will remain in our hearts forever"

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Rajan Kour - **Wife**
S. Navtej Singh - **Son**
S. Harjeet Singh & Sdn. Satwant kour (**Father & Mother**)
S. Purshotam Singh Raja & Ranjeet Kour (**Brother and Bhabhi**)
S. Inderjeet Singh & Sabita (**Brother in Law**)
S. Harpreet Singh & Daljeet Kour (**Brother in Law**)
Mob No: 7006366793, 9419144733

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.



Smt Kailash Kumari

WITH GRIEF STRICKEN

Devars & Devaranis
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**)
Contact No. 8082810878, 9419134501, 8492023262

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.



Smt. Shanta Bhat

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 25th Jan. 2025 (Saturday) and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 12.30 pm.
Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Kapil Bhat & Smt. Suneeta Bhat
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Sanjai Trakroo
Smt. Seema & Sh. Rajinder Wanchoo
Smt. Indu & Sh. Sunil Bangroo
Smt. Santosh & Rajinder Koul- **Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law**
Sh. J. L. Bhat- **Brother**
Sh. Harshit & Smt. Shriya Bhat- **Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law**
Grand Children: Danish, Jhanvi, Muskan, Shravan, Kanishka, Kunal & Khanak
Mob.: 9419147407, 9419268283, 7889417951

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.



Shivankar Jamwal
(Chinu)

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, Mousa Ji & Massi Ji, **Brothers & Sisters** and **All Jamwal Family**
IN LAWS
Kewal Krishna Dutta & Rekha Rani : **Father & Mother-in-law**
Ishan Dutta & Anuj Dutta : **Brothers-in-law**
Anamika Dutta : **Sister-in-law**
AND ALL DUTTA FAMILY

**TENTH DAY
RADHA SOAMI JI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SH. SUBASH CHANDER DOGRA JI** S/o Late Sh. Sain Dass Ji, who left for his heavenly abode on 15/01/2025.



SH. SUBASH
CHANDER DOGRA
(1956-2025)

10TH DAY will be on Friday, 24/01/2025. Satsang will be from 12:00 to 01:00 PM followed by Langer at Maha Kameshwar Mandir, (Bharat Mata Mandir) Ward No 52, South Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Rakesh Kumar (Gero) - **Wife**
Brother's & Bhabhi's:
Sh. Kasim Chand & Smt. Simro Devi
Sh. Bansi Lal & Smt. Neelam
Sh. Rashpal Chand & Smt. Raj Kumari
Sh. Gopal Krishna & Smt. Anu
Sister's & Brother-in-Law's:
Smt. Kamla Devi & Late Sh. Omprakash
Smt. Kamlesh & Sh. Karam Chand
Smt. Shankuta Devi & Sh. Cuddev Raj
Smt. Kanta Devi & Sh. Goru Ram

Smt. Shrishta Devi & Sh. Amir Chand
Smt. Sunita Devi & Sh. Jagdev Raj
Son's & Daughter-in-Law's:
Sh. Sunil Kumar Dogra & Smt. Anamika
Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Dogra & Smt. Sarika
Daughter & Son-in-Law:
Smt. Shivani Dogra & Sh. Balbir
Grand Children
Divyanshi, Sushanti, Samartha

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.



Smt. Lilla Sharma (Baru)

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 Panch 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 (Reid. AEE Mech) & Nalini Sharma Anil Baru
Daughter's 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

Grandchildren
Bhavna & Vinay
Harivansh & Neha
Heena & Parikaj
Vasudha & Anuj
Vaishali & Sushain
Aditya & Radhika
Arjun
Geetanshu
Achitya
Harshit

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.



Anuradha Sharma
Headmaster, GHS
Govindsar, Kathua

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

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.



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

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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

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



Late S. Balvinder Singh

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 Saini Colony, Jammu from 11:00 am to 1:00pm
Followed by Gurukul Langer.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
- Jaswant Kour (Wife)
- Parvinder Singh & Reju (**Son and Daughter-in-law**)
- Baljeet Singh & Harleen Kaur (**Son and Daughter-in-law**)
- Kanav Parag Singh, Diviji Kaur, Balveera Kaur (**Grandkids**)
- ALL NEAR AND DEAR FAMILY MEMBERS.
CONTACT NUMBER: 9419151355, 9419247185, 7889642775, 9530902693
For directions follow the links given below:
Residence: (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LUVK3JmT6N1U1b7m7>)
Gurudwara Saini Colony (<https://g.co/kgs10Y482q>)

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 Kirti Khand, Habba Kadal, Srinagar presently at Flat No. 42, Tower No 2, Palm Olympia, Gur City 2, Greater Noida (West), Noida.



Smt Jagat Mohini Nehru

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 27th January 2025 at Gurga Natar, Chola Handwar, Mead Nagar, UP at 8.30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Bansil Lal Nehru (Son) 9205403132
(**Grandson and Grand Daughter**)
Sh. Pratik Nehru & Pratibha Nehru
0310572322, 8178025488
Smt. Rashmi & Sh. Sanjay Nehru (**Daughter-in-law & Son**)
9419701710, 9419147499
Smt. Parina & Sh. Anuraj Krishna Kaul (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)
8743081212, 9718387401
Smt. Usha & Sh. Ashok Koul (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)
9886116238, 9846087172
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Sanjay Rambal (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)
Smt. Sarita & Sh. Vinod Rattan (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)
Smt. Sunaina & Sh. Sunand J (**Daughter & Son-in-law**)
(**Grand children:** Anil & Anshika, Anmol Ji & Aparna, Anshu Ji & Anura, Manish Ji & Anchal, Shubul, Arav, Jyesh, Jayansh, Nyra, Meesha)

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. Bansi Lal Pandita originally from Pampore, Kashmir, presently residing at Lalleshwari Vatika, Sector 21 D, Faridabad on 20th January 2025.



Smt. Shyama Pandita

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 Kalpeshu and Kuldeep Kalpeshu
Sujata Dhar and Anil Dhar (**Daughter and Son in law**)
(**Grand Children**)
Nitin Pandita, Madhurima Dhar and Kamakshi Kalpeshu
Contact No. 9871328973, 9419134597, 9899957847.

UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. RAM LAL GUPTA** S/O SH. BADRI NATH R/O BASPUR BANGLA R.S. PURA JAMMU, WHO EXPIRED ON 11-01-2025.



SH. RAM LAL GUPTA

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 24-01-25 (FRIDAY) AT PARI PALACE BASPUR BANGLA R.S. PURA FROM 3:00PM. TO 4:00 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT. SHARDA DEVI - **WIFE**
MR. RATESH GUPTA - **SON**
GRAND CHILDREN: SAKSHAM, RIDHIMA, AASHVI
MOB: 9796801500

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Uncle **Sh Namjan 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.



Sh Namjan Nath
Bhat

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

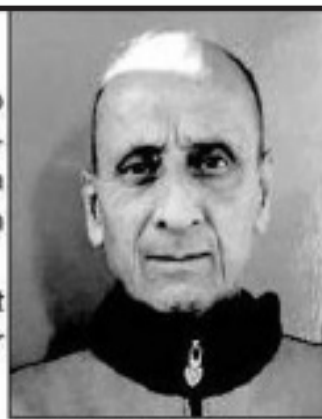
Smt. Sheela Bhat
Shubhan Krishan Bhat & Rajni Bhat
Vikas Bhat and Madhu Bhat
Mob: 9444146473, 7358630166

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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.



SH. JAI KUMAR
UPADHAYA

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

Workshop on "Cyber First Responder Programme" for NCC cadets inaugurated at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: A three-day interactive workshop on "Cyber First Responder Programme" for NCC cadets was inaugurated today at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar.

This is an endeavor by the NCC Directorate of JK&L in conjunction with United Service Institution, New Delhi (USI) and Cyber Peace foundation, which is a nominated Cyber Centre of Excellence.

The workshop is the initiative of Maj General Anupinder Bevi, Vishisht Seva Medal, Additional Director General of NCC Directorate of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, who is the driving force behind this program to empower the cadets with requisite skills and certification. NCC, the country's



premier youth organisation, has been proactive in spreading awareness among citizens about important values and safety measures.

The aim of the "Cyber First Responder Program" is to educate young cadets and/or instructor staff on the concept of cybersecurity with solid foundational knowledge to raise their awareness about safe digital practices and risk prevention measures. These First Respond

ers can then assume the role of Cyber Ambassadors with the power to shield the vulnerable, enlighten the unaware, and act as warriors against cyber threats.

The USI and Cyber Peace foundation, through impactful initiatives, are committed to enhancing internet safety and empowering individuals in India, particularly young minds, through its "Cyber First Responder Program" pan-India.

The goal is to instil behavioural changes in over one million netizens over the next eighteen months. It is a volunteer-driven initiative dedicated to promoting a peaceful, responsible, and inclusive cyberspace for all.

This is in sync with the NCC pledge, wherein the cadets pledge to Undertake Positive Community Service in the Spirit of Selflessness.

The workshop is being conducted by Deepak Yadav, who is a highly experienced Cyber Security Researcher and Master Trainer at the Cyber Peace Foundation.

With over 7 years of expertise in the field, he specializes in digital forensics and network security. He has played a pivotal role in strengthening cyberse-

curity awareness and skills, having trained over 40,000 government officials, including police personnel and law enforcement agencies, as well as more than 1 million students.

His commitment to fostering a safer digital world continues to inspire and empower individuals and organizations across various sectors.

The workshop is being attended by Officers, PI staff, ANOs and 100 NCC cadets of first, second and third year from 14 different colleges, hailing from the districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda and Ramban.

These empowered cadets will be Cyber Ambassadors and spread the knowledge amongst their peers, friends and family, thus empowering the society.

Efforts underway to uncover cause of mysterious deaths in Badhaal Rajouri: Dy CM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, on Thursday assured that both the Jammu and Kashmir and the Central government are making serious efforts to uncover the cause of the unexplained deaths in Rajouri.

At least 17 people have died so far in the Badhaal area, but the exact cause of their deaths remains unclear.

Chowdhary expressed his deep concern over the tragic deaths, describing the situation as a "bad luck" for J&K, Rajouri, and the entire country. "We are unable to save ourselves," he told reporters in Jammu, emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

He acknowledged the fears and concerns of the local residents, stating, "People are in a state of fear. I under-

stand their worries, but I appeal to the public that there is no need to be afraid. The government is doing its best to identify the cause. We are working hard to determine where this is coming from."

While reiterating that no virus or infection has been detected, Chowdhary confirmed that the investigation is ongoing. "Once we pinpoint the cause, we will be able to completely address it," he assured.

Chowdhary also highlighted the government's proactive response, noting that the Chief Minister personally visited the area. The Home Ministry sent the team and the district commissioner has been stationed in Rajouri to manage the crisis. "Different doctors from Delhi are assisting us, and we are leaving no stone unturned to stop these deaths," he added.

Law students join Team Jammu's efforts to tackle drug mafia, promote Dogri culture

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Students from various law colleges gathered today at the head office of Team Jammu in Shakti Nagar, Jammu, to pledge their full commitment in the relentless battle against the drug mafia that continues to ravage the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The event marked a decisive step in Team Jammu's efforts to tackle the growing drug menace while simultaneously working to preserve the region's rich Dogri language, culture, and heritage.

The students took an oath to be active par-

ticipants in spreading awareness about the destructive impact of drugs, helping to educate their peers, and advocating for strong, community-driven action against the drug mafia. They also committed to working alongside Team Jammu to ensure that those involved in the drug trade are brought to justice.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman Team Jammu encouraged the students and welcomed their active involvement in this crucial fight. "Today marks a powerful step in our war against the drug mafia. These law students will not only spread aware-

ness but will also be at the forefront, using their legal expertise to break the drug mafia's hold on our community. With their dedication, I believe we can make a significant dent in this fight and restore a sense of safety and hope for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

The students will also gain practical experience in the coming months, working within the legal system to actively dismantle the drug network. This initiative is expected to play a crucial role in breaking the mafia's grip on the region and providing a brighter, drug-free future for the younger genera-

tion.

In a move that reflects the growing urgency of addressing drug-related issues in Jammu and Kashmir, Team Jammu has strengthened its collaboration with law students to ensure a comprehensive legal framework for curbing the drug trade. The students' involvement will enhance the capacity of local authorities to take swift and decisive actions against drug traffickers and dealers, aligning legal expertise with grassroots mobilization. This strategic partnership is expected to foster a coordinated response, further empowering

law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders in the fight against this public health crisis.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including, who all echoed the importance of youth involvement in this urgent battle against drug abuse.

Team Jammu remains committed to its mission of curbing the drug menace and fostering a sense of pride in Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage. With the support of these dedicated students and the community at large, the fight against drugs is set to gain new momentum.

Shiv Sena takes firm resolve on Bala Saheb Thackeray's birth anniversary, remembered Netaji



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit paid tributes to party founder revered Bala Saheb Thackeray on his birth anniversary and vowed to protect Dogra cultural identity and restore the rights of the sons of the soil.

In a program organized in Bari Brahmana area of Jammu, party leaders present includ-

ing state

chief Manish Sahni paid tributes to revered Bala Saheb Thackeray and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on their birth anniversary and pledged to take their ideas to the masses and take them forward.

Sahni said that Subhash Chandra Bose had awakened the spirit of freedom by giving the slogan 'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Main Tumhe Azadi Dunga' and Bala Saheb had awakened

the spirit of Hindu-tva among Hindus by giving the slogan "Garv Se Kaho Main Hindu Hoon".

Despite being a political party, Balasaheb Thackeray had taught the Shiv Sainiks the lesson of 80% social service and 20% politics.

The Shiv Sainiks present on this occasion vowed to raise their voice for the restoration of the rights of the sons of the soil along with the protection of the Dogra cultural identity. A feast was also organized on this occasion.

On this occasion, Meenakshi Chhibber, Vikas Bakshi, Balwant Singh, Raj Singh, Shashipal, Pawan Singh, Mangu Ram, Sunita Kumari, Neelam, Shamlal, Narendra Kumar, and many others were present.

ENIT NO. 65OF 2024-25 DATED 20-01-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT JSPHEMUDHR/65OF 2024-25 DATED 20-01-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	Repair / rewinding of 250 HP motor and 75 HP motor installed at pumping station Salmay stage-1 st and stage-0 (Old) respectively.	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur)	(Rs. 3700.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 1850.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://ktenders.gov.in> from 20-01-2025 (18:00 Hrs.)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://ktenders.gov.in> from 20-01-2025 (18:30Hrs) to 29-01-2025 (3:00 PM).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://ktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 30-01-2025 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.
- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
 - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
 - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-
 - Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost
 - Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost.
 - One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
 - Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site conditions.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://ktenders.gov.in>

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2024-25/3518-21
Dated:-20-01-2025

DIP/J-9427/24

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Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division
Udhampur

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EDITORIAL

DEVELOPING
RAILWAY

The development of railway infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has become a transformative initiative aimed at connecting the region to the rest of India. The project, which has gained significant momentum over the past few decades, holds immense importance for the region's economic growth, social integration, and strategic security. Historically, the idea of introducing railways in J&K dates back to the early 20th century. However, due to the region's challenging topography and security concerns, the full-scale development of the railway network was delayed. It was only in the 2000s that the government took serious steps to modernize and expand the region's railway system, especially with the goal of linking the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, initiated in 2002, is the backbone of railway development in J&K. This 272-kilometer stretch aims to connect Udhampur in Jammu to Baramulla in Kashmir. The project is one of the most ambitious and challenging railway projects in the world, primarily due to the region's rugged terrain and the need for advanced engineering techniques. Several key milestones have been achieved in this project, including the completion of the Udhampur-Katra section in 2014, which is a crucial link for pilgrims traveling to the Vaishno Devi shrine. The Banihal-Qazigund section, operational since 2013, includes the Pir Panjal Tunnel, the longest railway tunnel in India, which reduces travel time significantly by bypassing the mountainous region.

Another significant achievement in the USBRL project is the Qazigund-Baramulla section, which became fully operational in 2009. This stretch serves as a lifeline for the Kashmir Valley, connecting the region with Jammu and facilitating the transport of passengers and goods. The Katra-Banihal section, currently under construction, includes the iconic Chenab Bridge, which is set to be the highest railway bridge in the world at 359 meters above the riverbed. The completion of this section will provide seamless rail connectivity from Jammu to the Kashmir Valley, further enhancing travel efficiency.

The engineering feats involved in the railway development in J&K are nothing short of extraordinary. The region's challenging geological conditions, including frequent landslides, earthquakes, and heavy snowfall, have necessitated the use of cutting-edge technologies. The Chenab Bridge, for example, is designed to withstand extreme weather and seismic conditions. Similarly, the Pir Panjal Tunnel, which spans over 11 kilometers, is equipped with advanced safety and ventilation systems to ensure smooth operations even in harsh winter conditions.

The economic impact of the railway network in J&K has been profound. One of the most notable benefits has been the boost to tourism, as the improved connectivity has made it easier for tourists to visit popular destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. This has not only increased the flow of visitors but has also generated substantial revenue for local businesses. Additionally, the railway system facilitates the transportation of local goods such as apples, saffron, and handicrafts, opening up new markets and reducing transportation costs. Furthermore, the railway projects have created thousands of jobs, both during construction and in the operational phases, contributing to local employment.

Strategically, the railway network holds immense importance for India's defense and security. The improved mobility allows for faster deployment of defense forces and resources in the region, which is critical given J&K's proximity to international borders. This infrastructure also helps in ensuring better logistical support for the armed forces and contributes to national security.

The railway network also plays a crucial role in social integration. By connecting remote regions of J&K with the rest of India, the railway system fosters greater unity and strengthens the bonds between different regions and communities. It enables easier travel for people, facilitates the exchange of ideas, and promotes cultural exchange, which ultimately contributes to national cohesion.

Despite the significant progress made, challenges remain. The region's harsh terrain, frequent natural disasters, and the high costs of construction continue to pose hurdles. Additionally, the environmental impact of large-scale infrastructure projects must be carefully managed to preserve the region's fragile ecosystem. Nevertheless, the future of railway development in J&K remains promising. Once the Katra-Banihal section is completed, and with the potential extension of the railway line to Leh under the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail link, the railway network in J&K will further enhance connectivity, boost economic growth, and contribute to the region's overall development.

The railway development in J&K is a monumental achievement that represents India's commitment to the region's progress. The network not only provides essential infrastructure for the region but also promotes economic, social, and strategic benefits. As the project continues to expand and evolve, it will undoubtedly play a key role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir, making it more connected, prosperous, and integrated with the rest of the country.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Los Angeles in California America is in news these days not for any good thing, but for the wild fires that occurred woods there and caused enormous loss to men, materials and jungles. It is the nature's fury and the nature is angry with the humans because they are greedy and have degraded environment and nature's and are damaging nature's ecology. Thus nature in its turn is punishing people in various parts of the globe. The wild forest fire that is still continuing in Los Angeles in California is one of the worst forest fires in the American history. The fires are already among the most destructive in LA's history when measured by the number of buildings destroyed. Rebuilding work will cost "tens of billions" of dollars, US former president Joe Biden has said. At least 25 people have died in the Los Angeles fires as two major blazes continued to burn across the sprawling US city as on 15th January but now the forest fire which had engulfed the residential areas and caused huge loss to the buildings, vehicles, infrastructure and also resulted in human loss besides the material loss is now receding with the slowing of winds there. The catastrophic LA wildfires have ravaged entire neighborhoods, claiming at least 27 lives and destroying over 12,000 structures. Economic losses have soared to a staggering dollar 275 billion. A red flag warning—indicating a high level of fire danger—is in place until 18.00—02.00 GMT on Wednesday, with strongest Santa Ana winds expected on Tuesday. Nearby, the largest fire in the Palisades area, and has burnt through more than 23,000 acres. It is still only about 14% contained, despite the efforts of thousands of firefighters. The blaze is moving east, threatening the exclusive neighborhood of Brentwood, home to the Getty Center, a world famous art museum that has evacuated its staff. The house of the son of former president of US has burnt and Kamal

Nature's Fury in Los Angeles

Harris's had left his house because of the danger of devastating fire which has caused enormous loss in Los Angeles to properties, vehicles and other paraphernalia. The overall destruction is immense, with more than 12,000 structures—homes, outbuildings, sheds, mobile homes and cars—destroyed. Celebrities Mel Gibson and Paris Hilton are among those who have lost their homes. Tens of thousands of homes were also without power which seems unthinkable in the most developed country. The fires could turn out to costliest in US history, with damage projected at up to dollar 150 billion, according to a preliminary estimate by AccuWeather. There were three active fires in the wider area, while a smaller fire is nearly contained as per California fire officials. The fires were in the following places—1-Palisades—The first fire to erupt a week ago and the biggest in the region. It has scorched more than 23,000 acres including the upmarket Pacific Palisades neighborhood and is only 14% contained. 2—Eaton—Affecting the northern part of LA, blazing through areas such as Altadena. It is the second biggest fire in the area, burning more than 14,000 acres. It is now 33% contained. 3—Hurst—Located just north of San Fernando, it began burning last Tuesday. It has grown to 799 acres, but is almost contained. 4—Auto—Broke out on Monday, it has reportedly been stopped from moving forwards after spanning 56 acres. The earlier Kenneth, Archer, Sunset, Lidia, Woodley and Olives fires have been contained. Fire officials have not publicly identified the cause of the blaze. However, multiple lawsuits allege the fire started by utility department owned by Southern California Edison, the largest power provider in Southern California. The question which haunts the mind of the people is was Los Angeles fire man made? While no definitive answers have emerged yet, experts believe a combination of natural and man-made factors could be behind the wildfires. The fires, including the massive Palisades and Eaton Blato zes begun

few days before 13 January and have scorched over 62 square miles of land, fuelled by strong Santa Ana winds. The pertinent question is why is Los Angeles prone to wildfires? There is a lot of fuel on the landscape to burn. This time last year, LA was plagued with flooding and landslides that broke an extended long-term draught across the region. The burst of moisture led to plant growth, which has been steadily drying over the past year of very dry conditions. But one thing is not clear why have these Los Angeles fires spread so fast and ferociously? The answer to this question depends partly on whether you look at the immediate proximate cause—high "Santa Ana winds" and drought or longer-term trends in ecology, fire suppression and land use. In the first instance, LA is experiencing a climatological phenomenon called "Santa Ana winds" that leads to strong and very dry winds that create dangerous fire weather conditions. This happens regularly in Southern California in the late autumn and winter, driven by high pressure over interior and temperature gradients [between Southern California's comparatively warm coast and much cooler areas of high desert at higher elevations in Nevada and Utah], which create strong and very dry winds that blow out of the mountains and towards the warmer coast. These winds are further accelerated by the topography of the narrow mountain valleys leading down to LA and coast. High Santa Ana winds fuel any ignitions, making them burn hotter, spread faster and farther, and greatly complicate fire suppression efforts, since it is hard to deploy air assets like tanker planes and helicopters to spread water and fire retardant. In these conditions, the Eaton fire burning the San Gabriel Mountains east of Pasadena reportedly grew twentyfold in size within hours, according to the New York Times. This has become possible because the vegetation is exceedingly dry. The last even moderate rainfall recorded at LAX airport was in April 2024. Since then, precipitation was

recorded at LAX on just five other dates, totaling a meager 0.15." The landscape is tinder dry, and so any ignition source, whether from errant cigarette butts or sparks from power lines blown over in the strong winds, is much more likely to take hold and spread. The Los Angeles Fire in Palisades erupted in the morning of January 7, 2025 in a Pacific Palisades, a LA neighborhood east of Malibu, as a brush fire. The blaze, which had grown to 23,713 acres, was 52% contained within few days. There was enormous loss to life and property in Los Angeles and the wildfire was a worst catastrophe and it devastated LA. Thousands of the inhabitants of LA fled from their places and were displaced and are the worst sufferers. The causes that sparked the fires are under investigation, and scientists noted that because there was no natural ignition sources this time of the year, the fires were almost certainly started by human activity in some way—whether sparks from power line, fireworks, arson or some other cause. An extremely warm summer and fall, an unusually dry winter, hillside covered with bone-dry vegetation and strong Santa Ana winds all played their part in the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles history. In the mix of conditions that have contributed to the most destructive fires in LA history, scientists say one single significant ingredient is human—caused climate change. In brief humans should learn a lesson or two from the January wildfire in LA and try to protect environment and never try to damage nature's balance and then and only then people will be saved from the natural fury like wildfires or otherwise we should remain ready to face such natural tragedies. Therefore we should resolve to preserve and conserve natural environment and wildlife as well as jungles, rivers, mountains etc. for our own good.

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

The Cloud revolution: Real-time insights, sustainability and strategic transformation

By: Vijay Garg

In 2025, cloud computing is no longer just a utility—it is the driving force behind digital transformation and innovation.

Today, data doesn't just reside in distant servers but operates at the edge, enabling real-time insights while safeguarding privacy. The future of cloud computing in 2025, a technology driven by innovation, scalability, and sustainability.

As we look ahead, the cloud is no longer just a utility but a strategic enabler of digital transformation. Emerging technologies like Kubernetes, Docker, hybrid-multi-cloud architectures, and edge computing are poised to redefine how businesses operate. Additionally, the focus on data security and sustainability will ensure the cloud ecosystem supports not only businesses but also global environmental goals. The right cloud service provider plays a pivotal role in this transformation. Choosing the right provider ensures businesses get access to the latest technologies, robust security, scalability, and cost efficiency. It also enables organisations to meet regulatory requirements and integrate seamlessly with existing systems, making cloud adoption a catalyst for innovation.

Major trends expected to dominate cloud computing in 2025
AI-Powered Cloud Solutions:
The integration of artificial

intelligence (AI) into cloud computing is poised to revolutionise the industry by 2025. Enhanced automation will streamline complex tasks like resource allocation and anomaly detection, freeing businesses to prioritise innovation over operations.

Predictive analytics powered by AI will help organisations anticipate market trends, optimise processes, and elevate customer experiences. Additionally, intelligent decision-making capabilities, driven by machine learning models, will enable cloud platforms to provide real-time recommendations, fostering smarter and more impactful business outcomes.

Edge Computing
With the proliferation of IoT devices and real-time applications, edge computing is set to transform industries by 2025. Critical computations will occur closer to data sources, drastically reducing latency for time-sensitive applications like autonomous vehicles and remote surgeries.

Multi-Cloud Strategies:
By 2025, organisations will increasingly shift to multi-cloud environments, breaking free from single-vendor dependencies to enhance resilience and flexibility. This approach enables businesses to distribute workloads across multiple cloud providers, optimising performance and cost efficiency. Advanced tools for unified management will streamline gover-

nance, security, and orchestration, making it easier to harness the full potential of multi-cloud setups.

Serverless Computing:
Serverless architecture is set to become the go-to choice for developers, offering unmatched efficiency and convenience. With cost-effective pay-per-use models, businesses can avoid resource overprovisioning while developers concentrate on coding as cloud providers handle infrastructure.

Kubernetes and Docker:
Containerisation technologies like Kubernetes and Docker are revolutionising cloud computing, setting the stage for 2025. Kubernetes ensures seamless scalability by orchestrating containerised applications across varied environments, while Docker enhances flexibility with consistent application performance across platforms. By automating deployment, scaling, and maintenance, these tools free developers to focus on innovation, enabling more reliable application delivery.

Hybrid-Multi-Cloud Architectures:
Hybrid and multi-cloud strategies are poised to dominate as businesses aim to optimise their cloud environments. These approaches offer operational flexibility by enabling workloads across on-premises, private, and public clouds, ensuring businesses leverage the best of each. By reducing dependency on a single vendor, multi-

cloud setups enhance resilience and continuity while allowing cost-efficient workload allocation without compromising performance.

Data Security in Cloud Computing:
As cyber threats continue to escalate, securing cloud environments has become a top priority. Zero-trust architecture enforces stringent identity verification at every level, reducing the risk of unauthorised access. AI-driven threat detection leverages machine learning to identify and neutralise potential breaches in real time, while advanced encryption techniques safeguard data both in transit and at rest. Sustainability in the Cloud

Energy-efficient data centers powered by renewables and AI-driven cooling systems are minimising carbon footprints. Circular hardware models emphasise recycling components, reducing waste, and promoting resource efficiency.

The future of cloud computing is not just about technology but the strategic advantages it brings to businesses.

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

Dr. Arshad Kichloo meets Dr. Farooq Abdullah to discuss issues in Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 23: Dr. Arshad Kichloo held a significant meeting with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister and current Rajya Sabha member, to address pressing issues faced by the people of Kishtwar district.

The discussion focused on unemployment, recruitment challenges in hydel projects, the regularization of daily wagers, and the

plight of RAMSA teachers.

Dr. Kichloo emphasized the urgent need for transparent and merit-based recruitment processes in hydel projects to ensure employment opportunities for the local youth.

He also raised concerns about the delayed regularization of daily wage workers, urging immediate attention to secure their livelihoods.

Another critical topic of discussion was the

improvement of education standards in Kishtwar.

Dr. Kichloo stressed the importance of ensuring the proper functioning of the university campus to provide quality higher education for students in the district.

He highlighted the need for better infrastructure, faculty, and resources to uplift the region's educational landscape.

Dr. Abdullah assured Dr. Kichloo of his commitment to raising these issues at the appropriate platforms and working towards practical solutions for the betterment of Kishtwar.

This meeting reflects Dr. Kichloo's continued efforts to advocate for the district's development and address the challenges faced by its residents.

MSME sponsored awareness programme organized by Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K at Panchayat office Pattan

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 23: A one-day MSME sponsored awareness programme focusing on entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors for rural youth, specifically targeting sheep breeders, was successfully organized on Thursday by Division of Agricultural Extension & Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K at Panchayat Office Pattan. The event brought together experts from diverse fields to educate and inspire participants to explore innovative ways to enhance livelihoods through sustainable practices.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Quadri Javid Ahmad,



training organizer, who emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in empowering rural communities.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, shared words of wisdom on the potential of sheep breeding as a profitable income-generating sector. She emphasized the need for adopting modern practices and entrepreneurial approaches to maximize benefits.

Dr. Showkat Ahmad,

District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla captivated the audience with his field experiences, sharing practical tips and success stories that inspired participants to consider innovative methods in sheep breeding.

Dr. Muneer Ahmad, Ph.D Pharmacology (VAS) provided an informative overview of various government schemes and initiatives aimed at supporting livestock farmers. He encouraged par-

ticipants to take advantage of these schemes to improve their livelihoods.

Dr. Waqar Ahmad delivered a comprehensive lecture on winter management of livestock, equipping the attendees with essential strategies to ensure the well-being of their animals during harsh winters.

Prof. M.H.Chesti addressed the vital topic of manure management, shedding light on efficient ways to utilize

manure as a resource for both environmental sustainability and economic benefit.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shafat Kubravi, expressing gratitude to the participants, speakers, and organizers for their contributions to the event's success.

This initiative provided rural youth with valuable knowledge and resources, inspiring them to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors. It also reaffirmed the commitment of stakeholders toward empowering rural communities for a sustainable future. As a gesture of support, free medicines were distributed to participants to aid in the health and well-being of their livestock.

Minority Commission committed to ensuring equal rights for Kashmir's minorities: Rouble Nagi

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 23: Member of the Minority Commission, Rouble Nagi, emphasized the commission's ongoing efforts to ensure equal rights and protection for all minority communities residing in Kashmir.

Speaking at a press conference in Srinagar today, Nagi outlined the commission's key objectives, which include safeguarding the cultural, social, and economic rights of minorities and ensuring they have access to all government benefits and services.

Nagi highlighted that the Minority Commission is dedicated to addressing the concerns of marginalised groups, ensuring that they are not deprived of their rights or opportunities. She acknowledged the challenges faced by minorities in the Valley but assured that the



commission is actively working to create a more inclusive environment. "We are committed to providing minorities with equal representation in government bodies and ensuring that they receive a fair share of resources, which is essential for their social and economic growth," she stated.

The commission, according to Nagi, is also focused on resolving issues related to property rights, access

to education, and healthcare, and promoting their participation in community and political activities. She stressed the importance of protecting the religious and cultural identities of minorities, while also integrating them into the larger fabric of the society.

Furthermore, Nagi pointed out that the commission has been working on strengthening the relationship between minority

communities and law enforcement agencies to ensure their safety and security. Efforts are being made to educate the public about the rights of minorities and dispel misconceptions that may exist.

"The Minority Commission is working tirelessly to ensure that every individual, regardless of their religious or cultural background, enjoys the same opportunities and protection under the law," Nagi said. "We are

committed to addressing any issues faced by minorities in Kashmir and will continue to advocate for their rights at all levels of governance."

She also reiterated the importance of creating awareness within communities to promote tolerance, understanding, and respect for diverse cultures. "By fostering inter-community dialogue and cooperation, we aim to create a peaceful environment where every individual can live freely and without fear," she added.

Rouble Nagi's address comes at a time when there is increased focus on strengthening the rights of minorities in Jammu and Kashmir. The Minority Commission continues to work closely with local authorities, civil society organizations, and community leaders to create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

GDC Darhal celebrates road safety month with engaging activities



Top News Report

DARHAL, Jan 23: Government Degree College (GDC) Darhal organized a series of engaging activities to celebrate Road Safety Month, emphasizing the importance of safe driving practices within the community.

The initiative aimed at raising awareness and promoting road safety both on and off campus.

Under the patronage of Principal Prof. Zamir Mirza, the event witnessed collaborative efforts led by Dr.

M. Saleem Wani, IQAC Coordinator, and Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, Head of NSS.

A large number of faculty members and students participated in the activities, demonstrating strong commitment to the cause.

The activities included informative sessions, workshops, and interactive discussions on road safety topics. Faculty members including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. Taseem, Dr. Anzaar Ahmed, Dr. Sagir, Dr. Atta ur Rehman, Dr. Muzammil, Sumina

Begum, Dr. Mukhtar, Rahul, Dr. Shakeel Kataria, Dr. Iqbal, and many others contributed their expertise to enhance the awareness campaign.

Participants expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to spreading the message of road safety, fostering a culture of responsible driving among peers and the larger community.

Through these activities, GDC Darhal aims to instill a sense of responsibility and caution among road users, ultimately contributing to safer roads for everyone.

105-foot National Flag installed at DC office Baramulla



Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 23: A 105-foot national flag has been installed at the premises of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) office in Baramulla.

In preparation for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26, DC Baramulla Minga Sherpa Thursday said extensive meetings and on-spot visits have been conducted to ensure the smooth execution of events across subdivisions, tehsils, blocks, and the district.

This year, in addition to the traditional flag-

hoisting ceremonies, the district administration, in collaboration with the Indian Army, is organizing a special campaign titled "NoYOR Army," which will include a display of weapons. Residents are encouraged to actively participate in the bird-chirping events planned as part of the celebrations, he told.

Speaking about the 105-foot flag, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Baramulla expressed gratitude to the Municipal Council for their efforts in making this possible. "This flag is not just for the DC

office; it is a pride for all of Baramulla. The installation of the flag enhances the public space and signifies our commitment to the development of the district," the DC said.

During a review meeting held earlier, the DC highlighted Baramulla's achievements under the district Apex budget, the largest in Jammu and Kashmir. With over 1,900 developmental projects underway, the district is progressing steadily. Despite the chilly weather slowing down concreting works, the administration is optimistic about completing these projects in the coming weeks.

Kashmir Industry Body Criticises Exclusion from Key Industry Boards, Demands Stakeholder Representation

SRINAGAR, Jan 23 (Agencies): The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has expressed deep disappointment over the exclusion of its representatives from the boards of key industry-related public sector undertakings (PSUs), including SICOP and SIDCO, following their reconstitution on Wednesday. This decision has been criticised as a missed opportunity to engage key stakeholders in shaping the industrial policies of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, FCIK noted that, before the state reorganisation in 2019, it played an integral role in representing the industrial community, directly engaging with the government and influencing policy decisions. The exclusion of both FCIK and the Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ) from these boards undermines the role of stakeholders who have historically contributed to the region's industrial development.

FCIK highlighted its disappointment given the industrial community's expectations of the new government's commitment to fostering growth through public-private partnerships. It emphasised that the exclusion risks creating policies disconnected from the realities faced by industries on the ground.

"Stakeholders like FCIK and FOIJ bring invaluable insights, experience, and knowledge. Their representation

ensures that policies are well-informed and aligned with the sector's needs," the statement read, adding that decisions without such input often prove ineffective or counterproductive.

The organisation also stressed the need for fair and transparent evaluation of PSUs like SICOP and SIDCO, which play a crucial role in developing industrial infrastructure and providing services to industries. It called for greater accountability and collaboration to ensure these PSUs meet the highest standards.

FCIK has demanded the immediate restoration of its and FOIJ's representation on the boards of industry-related PSUs and high-level decision-making committees. It believes such representation is vital for fostering transparency, accountability, and sustainable growth, as well as for attracting investment to the region.

FCIK President Shahid Kamili has personally raised the issue with Deputy Chief Minister Surender Kumar Choudhary and Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Sogami. Both have assured Kamili that FCIK will be included in the boards of relevant PSUs. The chamber remains hopeful that the government will act promptly to address these concerns and incorporate authentic representatives of the industrial community in decision-making processes.

NSS Unit, Road Safety Club of GDC Mahanpur organises rally



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 23: NSS Unit and Road Safety Club of GDC Mahanpur organised rally on Thursday in the College. The campaign raises awareness about road safety and encourages safe driving practices.

It's important because it helps reduce the number of road accidents and injuries.

It was organised by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Physical Director under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College.

The rally was flagged off by the Principal Madam Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan. The Awareness rally of

students was led by Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan. They stopped and urged the riders of four-wheelers and two-wheelers to strictly follow traffic rules and cautioned against activities to prevent accidents.

The staff members who were present in the programme were Prof. Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Nisha, Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Dr. Sapna Devi, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Namita Trogia, Divya, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Sameeksha Sharma, Monika Devi, Anuradha, Pooja Sambhal, Shivani Panooch. Over than 60 students participated in the programme.

R Madhavan says he is okay with his film *Hisaab Barabar* dropping directly on OTT

Throw any question at him and he has an instant, logical answer. Nothing catches the intelligent actor off guard. National Award-winning actor R Madhavan, known for superhits like *Tanu Weds Manu*, *3 Idiots* and more, who will soon be seen in the lead role in Zee 5's *Hisaab Barabar*, is okay with his film dropping directly on OTT.

Web platforms are a familiar turf for the actor, who has been part of web series like *Breathe* and *The Railway Men*. During the days of pandemic, his film *Maara* too had a direct to OTT release. Today, he believes, "There is a firm line between what works on streamers and which films deserve a theatrical release." If visual grandeur is what delineates a theatrical outing, on OTT, he states, "What you need are good performances and an intriguing storyline. On that count, *Hisaab Barabar* is an OTT film." Since the film champions a common man's crusade, we wonder if stardom too can be put to effective use to further societal causes. He says, "It is easy for me to play it like a star, but then the empathy for the character would be lost. Stories of underdogs, of those who make it against all odds, say a rickshawallah's son becoming an Indian Air Force pilot, are more potent than superhero sagas. These are Herculean efforts that surpass all other achievements and even stardom."

Content is king now

Of course, what made him say yes to *Hisaab Barabar* was also its unusual premise of banks surreptitiously cheating its cus-



tomers of small, almost paltry amounts, yet making a killing for themselves in the process. Prior to signing the film, he had this uneasy feeling of not having any control over his accounts. In real life, however, he is not obsessed with numbers like his reel character. But yes one *hisaab* he would like to settle is recognition in consonance with his talent. And to those who dub him 'Akshay Kumar of South', his repartee is laced with annoyance, "Some figment of a foolish mind which puts one's credibility at stake."

Indeed. For someone who has given us many blockbusters in Hindi cinema too, what is his take on the much-talked-about north-south alchemy. He says, "Content is now the king. Earlier, stardom was all that mattered. Now a well-intended story, whether it comes from North or South, works wonders. Besides, OTT has made us privy to cinema in all languages, especially from the South and built a fan base. So, *Pushpa 2* in Hindi does more business than

the one in its original language." No magic in remakes

With more and more viewers becoming language agnostic, expectedly, remakes have lost relevance. Take his successful Tamil film *Vikram Vedha*, which failed to enthuse viewers when remade in Hindi with big stars like Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan. He observes, "Gone are the days when pan-Indian audiences would not have seen Ghajini before its remake in Hindi hits the screens. The only excitement today remakes can generate is comparison with the original." But the real competition, he feels, is not from within, but outside. As Korean content is gaining much currency, he quips, "My son knows more about Korean stars than Indian, which is not right."

Director's eye

As president of the FTII, 'a position of honour and responsibility' he hopes to make a difference and, "Ensure taxpayers' money is well-spent, and students stick to the industry and make it more relevant."

What effective changes he will bring about during his tenure he does not reveal right away. One day he would also like to talk at length about the uniqueness of his directorial debut, *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, which won a National Award. The director in him would likely surface again, only if he finds yet another passion project like *Rocketry*, which he understood inside out. Besides, he feels there is much in him to give us as an actor.

Thinking man's actor

For now, watch him play an overzealous common man for whom every penny counts, and one who makes those who rob him and others of it accountable. Apart from an aam aadmi picking up cudgels, the film also celebrates the collective power of society coupled with vast reach of social media.

He reasons, "There was a time when you heard the stories of an angry crusader through articles etc. Now it can gain momentum in real time and involve all of us." Interestingly, during the shooting of one of the climactic scenes in the film, he shares how the crowds, which had gathered, actually started debating the issue. Whether the film, which drops on January 24, will be a conversation-starter, he assures, "It will make you rethink." As does this thinking man's actor. When not acting, he could be seen lined-up on the golf course or posting his son Vedaant's swimming achievements, for which he takes no credit. But for being the man and the actor he is, he deserves all plaudits.

Actress Ahsaas Channa says acting is a deeply personal journey



Actress Ahsaas Channa, who is known for *Kota Factory*, *Modern Love Mumbai*, *Mismatched* and others, has said that acting is a deeply personal journey, and for an actor to

have an actor parent has no bearing on their craft. She, however, said that having an actor parent surely helps to understand the business side in the field of entertainment.

Ahsaas is the daughter of actress Kulbir Kaur Badesron. She shared, "I'm not sure if being raised by an actor is fundamentally different from being raised by someone outside the industry, when it comes to developing your skills as a performer. I believe that acquiring the skill set for performing arts is a deeply personal journey."

She further mentioned, "While I deeply value my mother as an actor and cherish all the experiences she has gained, which have taught me so much, I also understand her perspective when she says that my performance and craft must ultimately be my own journey. Developing my skills as an actor is something I have to build based on my own abilities, experiences and dedication. That said, having a parent in the same industry has been immensely helpful in giving me insight into the business side of things. It's provided me with a clearer perspective on the realities of how the industry functions, which is undeniably an advantage from that standpoint". Earlier, Ahsaas was seen in the music video of O Belya.

Yami on the shift in B'wood for female actors returning to work post motherhood

Yami Gautam Dhar was back to work in September 2024, four months after delivering her baby Vedavid. And now, she is set to start promoting her upcoming film *Dhoom Dhaam*. Yami reveals she has been offered multiple roles in the last year, which is a testament to how times today have changed from when actors would be hesitant to reveal their marital status, and female actors especially lost out on good roles after embracing motherhood.

"We have come a long way. I do think about this... we are so fortunate to have reached a stage like this. A lot of work has gone into it. Imagine there was a time, not just for actresses, but even for actors to maybe not disclose their marriage because of a certain image. Of course it was there to a greater extent for an actress," she says.

Yami adds, "If you want to have a family... someone very senior once told me 'your biological clock is always in



contradiction with your career clock'... I can't even imagine, that time was so different, and I am sure creatively so restricted."

She asserts that female actors need to be given the autonomy to decide for themselves. "It should be your choice whether you want to work or don't want to work after getting married or starting a family,

that's the kind of environment needed. If an actress wants to work after having a baby, she should be absolutely free.

Having said that, what I am seeing is that it also depends on the kind of filmography you create for yourself. Longevity is the key. The road to that is doing consistent substantial work," Yami wraps up.

Monali Thakur rushed to hospital, stops concert after feeling breathless

Monali Thakur, best known for popular songs like *Sawar Loon* and *Zara Zara Touch Me*, was rushed to hospital after she complained of breathlessness. The singer was performing at the Dinhat festival in Bihar, when she looked distressed and stopped her concert completely.

Monali rushed to hospital

As per agency report, after Monali looked distressed and stopped her performance mid-way, her team intervened and sought medical attention. Monali was then rushed to Dinhat Sub-District Hospital in Cooch Behar, where she's currently undergoing treatment. More details of her health and condition are awaited.

Monali's recent controversy

Earlier this month, Monali issued a statement after she walked off the stage mid-performance during her Varanasi concert in Uttar Pradesh on December 22. The incident took place when Monali exited the stage



after performing for just around 45 minutes.

In videos that went viral on the internet, Monali was seen addressing the audience, saying, "I am disheartened that my team and I were so excited to perform here. Let's not talk about the infrastructure and its condition, as that is the management's responsibility. I can't explain what they have done to the stage just so they can steal money."

The singer took to her Instagram account on Monday where she shared details about

the alleged mismanagement, and mistreatment against her and her team by the event organisers. "I had hoped not to end 2024 or begin the new year 2025 by addressing the horrific and negative incident my team and I faced in Varanasi. However, after much reflection, I feel it is important to share these unfortunate truths-not only to raise awareness but also to call for reforms in how such matters are handled. Attached is a confession and apology letter issued by the founder of the event-

organizing company. Hope this letter is sufficient to clear any confusion anyone might have had about the credibility of any of the false defamatory accusations made against my team and me, as well as the treacherous and unethical conduct of the organizers," wrote Monali.

Monali also shared that her team faced "severe negligence" in basic infrastructural safety that forced her to leave the stage in the middle of her performance. "It has been deeply troubling for me to process the reckless and irresponsible behavior of the event management company's team. Especially, their misuse of laws designed to protect against sexual harassment-laws that are vital for safeguarding people, specially women in our society-is both appalling and unacceptable. Weaponizing such laws for personal vendetta, ego satisfaction, or retaliation against those who refused to comply with unethical practices is not only a gross abuse

of rights but also deeply disrespectful to genuine survivors of these heinous crimes," the singer wrote.

"These reckless behavior undermines the credibility of survivors who show immense courage in seeking justice and hampers the hard work of those fighting to eradicate such crimes. It is particularly disheartening to see young women participating in such actions, as it damages the cause and creates distrust around an issue that should always be treated with the utmost seriousness," she added.

Monali also criticised the "treatment of vendors" and those "working behind the scenes" at the event. "It is absolutely unacceptable to treat vendors poorly, cheat them of their hard-earned money, or con them in any way," she said. "Disrespecting and harassing those working behind the scenes... is not the way forward. Such behavior should never be tolerated or entertained."

Divyanka Tripathi calls her first TV show traumatic: Didn't know I was depressed

Actor Divyanka Tripathi has been in the industry for over two decades. She recently confessed that she was struggling with depression in the initial stage of her career, calling her first show "traumatic show of her life".

In an interview with agency, Divyanka looked back at her journey in the industry.

The *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* actor said, "Mera first show was the traumatic show of my life. Tab yeh depression ka concept nahi pata tha (My first show was the traumatic show of my life. At that time, I didn't know the concept of depression)."

The actor shared that people are

nowadays more aware of the situation because of exposure on social media.

Divyanka added, "Kehte hain na ignorance is bliss. Shayad kyunki mujhe pata nahi tha ki main depression se guzar rahi hun, isiliye maine usko itna seriously nahi liya aur main nikal gayi. But woh mera ek phase tha jab meri aur doston ke saath mein baatein hoti thi ek kamre mein aur jaise hi woh ek do logon ke naam nikalte the, rona shuru ho jaati thi. (They say that ignorance is bliss. Maybe because I did not know that I was going through depression, that is why I did not take it seriously, and I came out of it. But that was



a phase of mine when I and my friends used to talk in a room, and as soon as she would mention the names of one or two people, I would start crying".

She said that venting out helps, and hence, one should have a good therapist or friend who can listen patiently.

In 2004, she participated in India's Best Cinestars Ki Khoj and ended up being in the top 8 from Bhopal zone.

Divyanka rose to fame after she played Vidya Pratap Singh in her debut TV show *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann* (2006). She also played Dr Ishita Iyer Bhalla in the widely popular show *Yeh Hai Mohab-*

batein (2013). In 2017, she participated in the dance reality show *Nach Baliye 8* and emerged as the winner. She also participated in *Khatron Ke Khiladi 11* and was the runner-up.

The actor was last seen in *The Magic Of Shiri*. Set in 1996 in Delhi, the show follows a woman who faces financial struggles and decides to reinvent herself as a stage magician. It puts the spotlight on the challenges that she faces in this new journey. It also features Jaaved Jafferri, Namit Das, Parmeet Sethi, Pitabhash Tripathi, Neelu Kohli, and Darshan Zareewala. It was released on Jio-Cinema Premium.

Stay united for 'viksit Bharat': PM Modi on Bose's birth anniversary

Addressing a 'Parakram Diwas' event, Modi said people should seek inspiration from Bose's life for India's unity.

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called upon people to stay united in pursuit of 'viksit Bharat' and warned them against the forces seeking to weaken the country and break its unity.

Addressing a 'Parakram Diwas' event held in Cuttack to commemorate Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary in the city of his birth, Modi said the iconic freedom fighter's life is a source of continuous inspiration for people.

In the remarks delivered virtually, he said Netaji, as Bose was fondly called, chose to shun comfort zone and preferred to struggle for the country's independence.

Modi said, "He never got trapped in a comfort zone. Similarly, we all have to step out of our comfort zone to



build a viksit Bharat. We have to make ourself best globally. We have to chose excellence and focus on efficiency."

Bose was single-mindedly focussed on the country's 'swaraj' (self rule) and people from diverse background united for the cause, he said.

"Now we have to stay united

for a developed India," he added.

He said people should seek inspiration from Bose's life for India's unity.

"We have to stay alert to those who wanted to weaken the country and break its unity," he said.

The prime minister cited a

host of decisions, including the naming of islands in the Andamans after Bose, installation of his statue at India Gate and celebration of his birth anniversary as 'Parakram Diwas', taken by his government to emphasise on its work to promote his legacy.

Bose took pride in India's heritage, he said.

Fast pace of development, he added, goes hand in hand with people's progress, strengthening of the armed forces and overall development.

While over 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, modern infrastructure in also being built and the strength of armed forces has risen in an unprecedented manner in the last one decade, he said.

India has emerged as a strong voice globally, he added.

No event conveys more powerful message of harmony and unity than Maha Kumbh: Shah



AHMEDABAD, Jan 23 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said no other event in the world conveys a more powerful message of harmony and unity than Maha Kumbh where anyone can take a dip in the Ganga irrespective of identity.

People across the world are in awe after watching the scale on which the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj has been organised, he said, speaking after inaugurating the Hindu Spiritual & Service Fair, also known as Hindu Adhyatmik Seva Mela, at the Gujarat University grounds here. Ambassadors of various countries

requested him for "invitation cards", said the senior BJP leader.

"I told them there is no formal invitation for this mega gathering, because crores of people converge here on their own at a specific time as per the alignment of the planets," Shah added. They could not believe that 40 crore people gather at a place without any invitation, he said. When asked who organises the whole thing, "I told them what the government does is very small in comparison to what religious leaders, saints and their organisations do for the people going there," said the minister.

"Kumbh gives a message of harmony and unity because no one asks which religion, sect or caste you belong to. You will get food without any discrimination and go back home after taking a holy dip. No other event in the world conveys a more powerful message of harmony and unity than Maha Kumbh," Shah said.

Despite such a large number of pilgrims gathering, no one lives in hotels because everyone gets accommodation in the tents on the banks of the Ganga, noted the Union minister. Such arrangements have been there for ages, even during the Mughal and British rules and when Congress was in power, he noted, while urging the people of Gujarat, especially the younger generation, to visit Maha Kumbh. He himself will visit Maha Kumbh on January 27 to take a holy dip in the Ganga, Shah said.

Jalgaon train accident toll rises to 13; 8 bodies identified: Police

JALGAON, Jan 23 (Agencies): The death toll in the Jalgaon train accident has gone up to 13 with the recovery of a headless body along the railway tracks, police said on Thursday.

Some passengers of the Mumbai-bound Pushpak Express, who got off the train after an alarm chain-pulling incident, were run over by the Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi on the adjacent tracks in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district on Wednesday evening.

"Of the 13, we have identified eight bodies so far, including two from their Aadhaar cards," Special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya Karale told PTI.

The eight identified deceased include four hailing from Nepal, Jalgaon district information officer Yuvraj Patil told agency.

Out of the 15 persons

injured in the incident, 10 were currently undergoing treatment – nine at the Pachora civil hospital and one at a medical facility in Jalgaon city- while the others who suffered minor injuries were discharged, he said.

Meanwhile, the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express reached the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), its final destination in the Maharashtra capital, at around 1.20 am on Thursday, a railway spokesperson said.

The Central Railway's general manager and other senior officials also reached the accident spot at night and inspected the site, he said.

They also visited the hospitals where the injured persons were taken for treatment.

The tragedy unfolded on Wednesday eve-



ning when passengers onboard the Pushpak Express, fearing a blaze, hastily jumped onto the adjacent tracks and were run over by the oncoming Karnataka Express, officials earlier said.

The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora town in north Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, when the Pushpak Express halted after someone pulled the chain at around 4.45 pm

on Wednesday, Central Railway officials said.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and Publicity, Railway Board, however, denied that any spark or fire inside the coach caused passengers to pull the alarm.

In a video message from Davos in Switzerland, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said, "Some passengers in the train mistakenly assumed that smoke is

coming out of the train and they jumped. Unfortunately, they were run over by another train."

The CM announced a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of the kin of the passengers who died in the tragedy.

The Railway Board separately announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1.5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, Rs 50,000 for grievous wounds and Rs 5,000 for simple injuries.

Andhra college student walks out of classroom in session, dies after jumping off 3rd floor

CHANDIGARH, Jan 23 (Agencies): A first-year student at a college in Andhra Pradesh died by suicide after jumping from the third floor of the building.

The shocking incident was captured on a surveillance camera.

The Narayana college student walked out of the classroom at 10:15 a.m., stood on the ledge, and jumped off the third floor.

He also took off his slippers before jumping. A video from the classroom shows the boy leaving the room while the class was in session.

The video also shows his classmates walking

out of the room shortly after they realised he had jumped.

Anantapur Rural sub-divisional police officer T Vekateshulu said the 16-year-old had just returned to college from Sankranti holidays on Thursday morning and died by suicide at 11:55 am. "After the holidays, this boy came to the college around 9:30 am on Thursday. While the class was going on, around 11:55 am, he suddenly came out from the classroom and jumped from the third floor," Venkateshulu told agency.

Immediately, the college management shifted the injured boy

to a local hospital where doctors examined him and declared that he was dead. Police said the intermediate student hailed from Ramapuram village of Batthenapalli mandal in Sri Sathyasai District.

The suicide of the boy pursuing intermediate first year at Narayana Junior College was captured on CCTV cameras. The recording shows him rising from his bench and straightaway proceeding to jump from the third floor unperturbed, police said.

Meanwhile, police are taking a complaint from the boy's parents to register a case and investigate further.

Delhi wants Sheila Dikshit's development model, not 'false propaganda' of PM Modi, Kejriwal: Rahul

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Delhi now wants the "real development model" of former chief minister Sheila Dikshit and not the "false propaganda and PR model" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Gandhi shared on Facebook a video montage highlighting issues such as inflation, unemployment, pollution and corruption.

"Bad construction, dirt, inflation, unemployment, pollution and corruption – the truth of Delhi is in front of the public," the former Congress chief said in his Facebook post in Hindi.

"Delhi now wants the same real development model of Sheila Dikshit ji, not the false propaganda and PR model of Modi and Kejriwal," Gandhi said ahead of the Assembly polls.

Gandhi could not address a public meeting in the Sadar Bazar Assembly constituency on Wednesday as he was unwell and appealed to people via a message read out at the rally to ensure the party's victory in the polls.

Due to his ill-health, Gandhi could also not travel to Karnataka's Belagavi for the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally on Tuesday and earlier, his political programme in the New Delhi constituency could not be held.

Earlier this month, Gandhi had



launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying there is no difference between the two leaders and they do not want backwards, Dalits, tribals and minorities to get their due share.

Specifically targeting Kejriwal at his first public meeting for Delhi assembly polls, Gandhi had said that the AAP convener was following "Modi's strategy of propaganda and false promises" despite rising pollution, corruption and inflation in the national capital.

He also promised a caste survey in Delhi if the Congress formed the Government in the national capital.

Gandhi had hailed the work done under three successive Sheila Dikshit-led Governments and asserted that neither Kejriwal nor the BJP can match the Congress' track record.

Amid crow deaths due to bird flu, 4,200 chicks found dead in Maharashtra's Latur

LATUR, Jan 23 (Agencies): Nearly 4,200 chicks were found dead in a poultry farm in Maharashtra's Latur district, days after about 60 crows succumbed to bird flu, an official said on Thursday.

The five-to-six-day-old birds died in the Dhalegaon village, Ahmedpur tehsil, and samples of the carcasses have been sent to the State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Aundh, Pune, on Wednesday, he said.

Deputy Commissioner for Animal Husbandry Dr Shridhar Shinde said their team had visited the site.

Officials said the baby chickens died over two to three days. The poultry farm owner did not immediately alert the authorities about the deaths, which caused the infection to spread and kill 4,200 of the 4,500 chicks he had bought, they said.

Dr Shivaji Kshirsagar, deputy commissioner of the Ahmedpur veterinary hospital, has appealed to owners to get their poultry farms registered and keep the local officials informed in case of such incidents.

Earlier this month, nearly 60 crows were found dead in Udgir city in the district. Tests by the Pune-based Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the ICAR - National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, confirmed that bird flu was the cause of the deaths, officials had said.



Money disbursed under Ladki Bahin scheme won't be recovered from anyone: Ajit Pawar



MUMBAI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday assured that there would be no recovery of funds disbursed under the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' scheme.

The Ladki Bahin scheme, launched before the 2024 state assembly election, provides eligible women from financially disadvantaged sections a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500.

Maharashtra has over 2.43 crore beneficiaries of the programme, costing the state exchequer approximately Rs 3,700 crore per month.

Pawar's assurance comes amid opposition claims that the government will trim the list of beneficiaries, take back the money disbursed to ineligible persons and eventually stop the scheme.

"Last time, we had limited time for the verification of documents of potential beneficiaries. We wanted to link the Aadhaar of every beneficiary to the scheme but could not do so. However, there will not be any recovery of the given money," Pawar said.

The NCP chief was speaking at an event at the Vasantdada Sugar Institute in Pune where he shared the dais with Sharad Pawar, who now heads NCP (SP).

The Ladki Bahin programme was credited as one of the major reasons for the Mahayuti alliance's resounding victory in the state elections last year. It has promised to raise the monthly amount to Rs 2,100.

Asked about his discussions with Sharad Pawar, the NCP chief said, "We talked about sugar-related matters. Cooperation, excise, agriculture, and power departments are linked to the sugar business. We also discussed issues concerning the Vasantdada Sugar Institute."

The deputy CM said he had reviewed the functioning of the agriculture department and highlighted potential misuse of government schemes.

"When the government introduces schemes for people's benefit, there are always some unscrupulous elements trying to take undue advantage. Similar cases seem to have occurred with the Re 1 crop insurance scheme," Pawar said.

Earlier, Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate had said there were irregularities in the implementation of the Re 1 crop insurance scheme for farmers, noting places of worship were shown as agricultural lands to claim benefits.

On the reported friction between the Shiv Sena and the NCP over district guardian ministers, Pawar said, "It is the prerogative of the chief minister (Devendra Fadnavis) to assign the responsibility of district guardian ministers to his cabinet colleagues. He will make a decision upon his return from Davos."

Trump says he chose not to pardon himself, defends clemency to Capitol rioters

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 23 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump revealed on Thursday that he declined the option to pardon himself before leaving office in 2021 as he believed he had done nothing wrong.

In his first Oval Office interview since assuming the presidency again, Trump told Fox News host Sean Hannity that the suggestion of self-pardon was made as he was departing the White House after losing the 2020 election.

"I was given the option. They said, 'Sir, would you like to pardon everybody, including yourself?' I said, 'I'm not going to pardon anybody. We didn't do anything wrong,'" Trump said during the hour-long interview, during which he often touched on past grievances.

Trump also took potshots at his predecessor, Joe Biden, for not issuing himself a pardon before leaving office, hinting that it was a mistake the Democrat may come to regret.

"This guy went around giving everybody pardons," the President said, referring to Biden granting clemency to criminal



offenders, Trump critics and family members in his final days as commander-in-chief.

"And you know, the funny thing, maybe the sad thing, is he didn't give himself a pardon. And if you look at it, it all had to do with him," Trump said.

The conversation then turned to Trump issuing "full, complete and unconditional" pardons for around 1,500 people involved in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol. The group included individuals convicted of violent acts. The move saw Trump fulfilling a campaign

promise within the first few hours of his second term.

Hannity pressed the President on his decision to pardon convicts who had been violent toward police officers during the insurrection. He downplayed the incidents, describing them as "very minor."

"They were protesting the vote because they knew the election was rigged, and you should be allowed to protest the vote," Trump claimed, continuing to falsely assert that the 2020 election was stolen, despite repeated court rulings, official findings,

and the conclusions of his own attorney general to the contrary.

He added, "Some of those people with the police – true – but they were very minor incidents, OK. You know, they get built up by that couple of fake guys that are on CNN all the time."

When Hannity objected, noting that protesters should not invade the Capitol, Trump defended his decision, asserting that most of those pardoned were "innocent" and going through a tough time in prison. He added that going over every single case would be a long and laborious process.

"These people have served, horribly, a long time," he said. "It would be very, very cumbersome to go and look – you know how many people we're talking about? 1,500 people."

Trump's mass pardons sparked immediate controversy, with judges who sentenced the rioters stating that the move won't change the truth about the mob's attack on a bastion of American democracy. On the other hand, Trump's supporters viewed the clemency as justified for what they believe was an overreach in prosecutions.

Thailand's first Olympic champion sentenced for attempted rape



BANGKOK, Jan 23 (Agencies): A Thai court on Thursday sentenced the country's first Olympic gold medalist to just over three years in prison for the abduction and attempted rape of a teenager.

Somluck Kamsing, now 52, became a national hero when he won featherweight boxing gold at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The Khon Kaen pro-

vincial court found Somluck guilty of child abduction and attempted rape, before granting him an appeal and bail.

"For attempted rape by force and taking a person over the age of 15 but not over 18 for the purpose of indecency, the first defendant's actions constitute a single offence that violates multiple laws," a court statement said.

Somluck filed a request for bail, which the court granted at 300,000 baht (\$9,000) while he pursues his appeal.

The court ordered him to pay \$5,000 in damages.

A 17-year-old girl filed a complaint in December 2023 against Somluck saying he had assaulted her in a hotel in Khon Kaen, a city in the kingdom's northeast.

Somluck, who also won boxing titles at the 1994 and 1998 Asian Games in Hiroshima and Bangkok respectively, denied the allegations.

Police confirmed local media reports at the time that Somluck met the teenager at a bar, where they stayed until 3:00 am, before the incident took place.

Taiwan plans to cull up to 120,000 green iguanas due to negative agriculture impact

PINGTUNG, Jan 23 (Agencies): Taiwan plans to cull up to 120,000 green iguanas, with supporters urging humane methods to bring down the animal's population, which is wreaking havoc on the island's agricultural sector.

Around 200,000 of the reptiles are believed to be in the island's southern and central areas, which are heavily dependent on farming, according to Chiu Kuo-hao of the Forestry and Nature Conservation Agency.

Specially recruited hunting teams killed about 70,000 iguanas last year, with bounties of up to \$15 each. Local governments have asked the public to help identify iguana nests and they recommend fishing spears as the most humane means of killing the animals.

"A lot of people bought them as cute little pets, not realizing how big and long-lived they would become, so they set them free in the wild, where they've really taken to the Taiwanese environment," said Lee Chi-ya of the agricultural department in the southern county of Pingtung. "That's allowed them to reproduce at a considerable rate, necessitating us to cull them and restore the balance of nature."

Green iguanas have no natural predat-

ors in Taiwan and have moved into areas that can be difficult to access, mostly forests and the edges of towns.

Males can grow to 2 feet (6.6 feet) long, weigh 5 kilograms (11 pounds) and live up to 20 years, while females can lay up to 80 eggs at a time.

Mainly native to Central America and the Caribbean, they are not aggressive despite possessing sharp tails and jaws and razor-like teeth. The reptiles subsist on a diet of mostly fruit, leaves and plants, with the occasional small animal thrown in.

Though popular as pets, they are difficult to keep healthy in captivity and many die within a year.

Hsu Wei-chieh, secretary general of the Reptile Conservation Association of Taiwan, said his group wants to teach farmers how to stay safe, protect their property and treat the iguanas in a humane manner.

"We're here to help see that this project is carried out smoothly," said Hsu.

Tsai Po-wen, a vegetable farmer in Pingtung, said the training was paying off.

"We used to attack them, but it wasn't any use. Now we're learning more effective, safer methods," Tsai said.

South Korean investigators call for indictment of detained President Yoon

SEOUL, Jan 23 (Agencies): South Korean investigators asked prosecutors to indict the country's detained President Yoon Suk Yeol over his short-lived imposition of martial law last month, as it accused him of rebellion, abuse of power and obstruction of parliament on Thursday.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials said that Yoon staged a "riot" and sought to undermine the constitution when he declared martial law on Dec. 3 and sent troops and police officers to seal the National Assembly.

Lee Jae-seung, deputy chief prosecutor at the CIO, told a televised briefing that Yoon also abused his power by mobilizing troops for an illegitimate purpose and attempted to obstruct parliament's right to vote on ending martial law.

Despite the presence of armed troops, lawmakers managed to enter the assembly chamber and called for an end to the emergency decree in a unanimous vote. The



assembly later impeached Yoon, suspending his presidential powers, and the Constitutional Court is now deliberating to determine whether to formally throw Yoon out of office or reinstate him.

Yoon has steadfastly maintained that his actions were intended to issue a warning to the opposition-controlled parliament over its obstruction of his agenda, rather than to disrupt its work.

The Corruption Investigation Office has been leading a probe into Yoon with police

and military authorities, and detained him last week.

"As you know, despite facing a nationally grave allegation as ringleader of a rebellion, the suspect has been constantly maintaining uncooperative stance and defying criminal judicial proceedings," Lee said.

Yoon rebuffed efforts to question him for weeks and used the presidential security service to repel a first attempt to detain him.

Yoon argues that the investigation and his detention are

illegal.

Yoon's defense team issued a statement accusing the CIO of "humiliating" Yoon by trying to pressure him to speak to investigators and abusing his human rights by preventing him from contacting family members. Yoon has refused to participate in questioning since being detained, citing his right to remain silent.

Appearing at a Constitutional Court hearing for the first time on Tuesday, Yoon denied that he ordered the military to drag lawmakers out of the National Assembly to prevent them from voting. Commanders of military units that were sent to the assembly have testified that Yoon ordered them to pull lawmakers out.

Yoon's martial law decree has shaken South Korean politics and financial markets and hurt its international image. Yoon's subsequent defiance and the opposition's push to oust him have also intensified South Korea's already-serious internal divide.

Lunar New Year giveaway of cash, food leaves 4 dead in Cambodia as crowd surges

PHNOM PENH, Jan 23 (Agencies): Four people died and five others were injured Thursday as a crowd scrambled for a handout of food and cash from one of Cambodia's richest people as a Chinese Lunar New Year gift, officials said.

The victims were crushed as the crowd of hundreds surged forward when the gates to Sok Kong's walled compound in Phnom Penh opened to start the distribution of \$10 in cash

and two kilograms (4.5 pounds) of rice, police spokesperson Sam Vichhika said.

The victims, who all fainted in the crush and fell to the ground, were taken to hospital but two women and two men, aged between 37 and 71, could not be saved, he said.

It was not immediately clear whether they were killed in the initial crush of the crowd or from injuries they sustained once on the ground.

Following the incident the authorities cleared the crowd and suspended the rest of the giveaway. Sok Kong has multiple investments, including in the hotel, casino and oil industries, and is also known to have a close personal relationship with former longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen.

He and other wealthy residents of the capital traditionally give gifts to the poor annually for Chinese New Year, which begins next week.

Pakistani government proposes sweeping controls on social media

ISLAMABAD, Jan 23 (Agencies): Pakistan's opposition said Thursday the government is seeking to further suppress freedom of speech a day after it proposed sweeping controls on social media that could include blocking platforms and sending users to prison for spreading disinformation.

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, introduced in the National Assembly by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday, would create an agency with the power to order "unlawful and offensive content" blocked from social media, and to ban individuals and organizations from social media.

Social media platforms would be required to register with the new Social Media Protection and Regulatory Authority, and those failing to comply with the law could face temporary or permanent bans.

The law also makes spreading disinformation a criminal offense, punishable by three years in prison and a fine of 2 million rupees (\$7,150).

The move comes nearly a year after Pakistan blocked the X platform ahead of an election that the opposition party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan says was rigged. X is still blocked in the country, although many people use virtual private networks to access it, like in other countries with tight internet controls.

Khan has a huge following on social media, especially X, where supporters frequently circulate demands for his

release. Khan has been behind bars since 2023, when he was arrested for graft. Khan's party also uses social media to organize demonstrations.

The leader of the opposition denounced the proposed legislation, saying it was aimed at further suppressing freedom of speech. Omar Ayub Khan, who is not related to the imprisoned former premier, said the bill could "lay a foundation for the suppression of voices advocating for constitutional rights".

The new agency would be able to order the immediate blocking of unlawful content targeting judges, the armed forces, parliament or provincial assemblies. The law also forbids uploading remarks from parliament that have been struck from the record.

Pakistani media has faced growing censorship in recent years. Journalists have said they face state pressure to avoid using Imran Khan's name, and most TV stations have begun referring to him only as the "founder of the PTI" party.

Human rights defenders and journalists' unions have vowed to oppose the law, but with the government holding a majority, its passage is all but assured.

Afzal Butt, president of the Federal Union of Journalists, said the law was an attempt to suppress the media, social media and journalists.

The government says the law is necessary to limit the spread of disinformation.

TV host and ex-pop star Masahiro Nakai retires amid sexual assault allegations

TOKYO, Jan 23 (Agencies): Masahiro Nakai, one of Japan's top TV hosts and a former pop star, said Thursday he was retiring to take responsibility over sexual assault allegations that are part of a wave roiling Japan's entertainment industry and have triggered an avalanche of lost advertising at one of the networks where he worked.

Weekly magazine Shukan Bunshun reported in December that Nakai had reached a 90 million yen (\$580,000) settlement with a woman over the alleged sex assault at a 2023 dinner party that Fuji TV staff allegedly helped to organize. He acknowledged "a trouble" and a settlement, while denying any violence, in a statement earlier this month. The magazine has also alleged that Fuji TV has long exploited its female announcers to entertain stars like Nakai.

"I, Masahiro Nakai, is retiring from entertainment activity as of today," Nakai said in a statement distributed to his paid fan club and posted on social media by apparent members. Japanese media also confirmed and reported his



retirement. "I am truly sorry for causing trouble and losses to so many people," Nakai said, and repeated his "sincere apology" to the woman. "I'm really, really sorry for saying good-bye this way ... Sayonara." Japan's entertainment industry is in the midst of a wave of sexual assault cases, including the abuses of hundreds of boys and young men by late talent mogul Johnny Kitagawa, whose now-defunct agency Johnny & Associates managed many boy bands, including the one to which Nakai belonged, SMAP.

Last Friday, Fuji TV President Koichi Minato acknowledged the company had been aware of the problem six months before the magazine

report and hadn't disclosed it. Minato apologized and said Fuji TV would investigate the case but also said he believed his employees had not done anything wrong. After dozens of commercials were withdrawn, Fuji TV apologized for causing trouble to advertisers and agencies but declined to disclose details. Following shareholders' demands for further clarification about the scandal and steps the company had taken and what measures are planned, Fuji was set to have a special board meeting later Thursday.

Nakai said in his statement that he has sorted out all negotiations of terminating his shows and contracts with television, radio and sponsors. He said he has yet to take all his responsibility and promised to "face various problems and respond sincerely." Fuji Television Network's vice-chairperson Ryunosuke Endo, who is also head of Japanese commercial broadcasters' association, in a televised live news conference Thursday noted Nakai's retirement was his "personal decision" but said Nakai was part of the upcoming investigation and that he hoped for his sincere cooperation.

GDC R S PURA organises visit to Suchetgarh border for educational field trip



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 23: A group of semester 1st students from the Geography Department, Govt. Degree College R.S. Pura, participated in a one-day field trip to Suchetgarh Border.

The visit was organized as part of their academic curriculum, offering students an opportunity to learn with real-world experiences.

The trip was organized under the leadership and guidance of Principal (Prof.) Dr. Preetpal Kour, who has always supported such educational initiatives. The students were accompanied by the Head of Department of Geography, Prof. Geetika Goswami and faculty members Dr. Hidayat, Hilal, Avneet, and Kamal.

The trip proved to be an enriching experience

for the students as they explored the region's geographical features and interacted with local tourists to understand the tourism potential of the area.

The HOD, faculty and the students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Principal (Prof.) Dr. Preetpal Kour for her continuous support in providing such valuable learning opportunities, which are essential for the student's academic growth and exposure.

Dy CM inspects Smart City works; asks to fast pace Jammu beautification

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today inspected the ongoing smart city works at Residency Road, Jammu.

The Dy CM was accompanied by Municipal Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Devansh Yadav and other senior officers.

While inspecting the ongoing works, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for strict quality monitoring and fast paced execution of the project. He asked the officers for expeditious completion of beautification works being executed in Jammu city, so that the people get benefitted from these development initiatives.

"Instructions have been already given to the executing agencies for taking the work in accordance with the already approved plans and there should be no compromise with the quality of works. Strict action would be initiated in case of any deviation and low quality works", maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

While asking for undertaking developmental works in consonance with the local needs and aspirations, the Deputy Chief Minister said that developmental plans should be formulated in consonance with the demands and convenience of people of the area.

NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur celebrates Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 23: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur celebrated Birth Anniversary of Neta ji Subhas Chandra Bose on Thursday. A floral tribute was given to Netaji by the staff members of GDC Mahanpur. This National event is celebrated in India to mark the birthday of the prominent Indian freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He played a pivotal role in Indian independence movement.

This whole programme

was conducted under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Sangeeta Sudan.

The staff members who were present in the programme were Prof. Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Nisha, Dr. Joginder Singh Soodan, Dr. Sapna Devi, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Namita Trogia, Divya, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Sameeksha Sharma, Monika Devi, Anuradha, Pooja Sambyal, Shivani Panooch.

Distt Bar Association & Aryans organize seminar on "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)" was discussed in a seminar jointly organized by Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh & District Bar Association, Chandigarh (UT). Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh graced the occasion as chief guest, while Adv Parminder Singh, Secretary, Distt Bar Association was Guest of Honour. Dr. Nancy Sharma, Asst. Prof., University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh

was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Sharma said that he Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) of 2023 replaces the existing Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860 as the primary penal law of India. She elaborated Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023. These new laws significantly overhaul India's criminal justice system, replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and

Indian Evidence Act (IEA) 1872.

Dr. Anshu Kataria mentioned that this focuses on the new Indian criminal code which replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), with discussions about its key features and implications for the legal system; the Ministry of Law and Justice organized several conferences across India to raise awareness about this new law among legal professionals, law enforcement, and the public at large.

In the concluding speech, Advocate Parminder Singh thanked Aryan Group for organizing this seminar. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Nancy Sharma, Assistant Professor, University Institute of Legal Studies, Punjab University, Chandigarh for the session on the Indian Penal Code. He expressed that in the future also, Aryans will keep on organizing seminars on various subjects of law.

Poonch: Heavy penalty imposed on Stone crushers, leaseholders for Violation of mining regulations

Top News Report

POONCH, Jan 23: To enforce compliance to environmental norms, District Mineral Officer (DMO) Poonch, during his recent whirlwind tour of the district, has imposed substantial penalties on several stone crushers, leaseholders and a government company for violation of regulations.

A penalty of ₹37 lakh has been imposed on stone crushers and ₹2 lakh on leaseholders for violation of operational and environmental norms and mining lease agreements. An additional

₹2 lakh penalty has been charged from a government company for not complying with operational guidelines.

To enforce strict compliance with mineral exploitation laws and promote sustainable mining practices, the DMO also issued a penalty notice of ₹25 lakh to stone crusher unit holders across the Poonch district for violations of established norms.

The DMO emphasized that these actions are taken to ensure that mining operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and enforce payment of due royalties.

District Administration Poonch celebrates 10 years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

Top News Report

POONCH, Jan 23: The District Administration Poonch hosted a vibrant event today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, aimed at supporting girls and promoting gender equality. The celebration took place in the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College.

Organized by the District Social Welfare Department under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, the event featured Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal as the Chief Guest. The gathering included District Education Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer, AD FCS & CA, the College Vice Principal, along

with the officers, officials, and students from numerous educational institutions.

Under the slogan "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," the event aimed to combat biases against girls, addressing critical issues such as female foeticide, underage marriages, and gender prejudices. The goal was to raise awareness and foster an environment conducive to the overall development of girls.

The event commenced with the lighting of a lamp by Chief Guest Vikas Kundal, followed by reciting of the National Anthem. Attendees enjoyed a variety of cultural performances, including skits and dances presented by students, all centered on BBBP theme.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significant strides made in women's education, empowerment, and improvements in child sex ratios over the past decade. The Deputy Commissioner urged all citizens to actively participate in these efforts, reinforcing the programme's message to protect and empower the girl child.

District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat also addressed the audience, emphasizing the BBBP scheme's mission to educate citizens against gender bias and enhance welfare services for girls.

The event also featured speeches from various guests and students, further promoting the theme of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

From Page No:1

Almost all Ideological Tasks completed in last ten years: Ami Shah

the Union minister said. Talking about the Hindu Adhyatmik Seva Mela, Shah said Hindu temples and organisations served society in various ways including educating tribals or providing healthcare to lakhs of poor citizens, but never publicized their work.

He thanked the Rashtriya Swamsevaka Sangh for bringing all such service-oriented Hindu organisations under one roof through this event so that people understand the contribution of these institutions.

The Seva Mela has some 200 stalls of Hindu organisations working for the betterment of society, including one dedicated to Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, the 18th century ruler of Indore state who restored nearly 200 temples including Somnath which were destroyed by Muslim invaders, he noted.

J&K Police initiates legal action as fake account of Jammu ADGP's appears on FB

fraudulent account is being used to mislead the public and exploit their trust."

"We strongly condemn such unethical and fraudulent activities. The public is urged to remain vigilant and avoid responding to messages, friend requests, or any solicitations from such fake profiles," said the spokesperson.

He said, "instances of similar scams in the past have led to financial losses and emotional distress for victims."

The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, emphasizes that this fraudulent act is a serious violation and an attempt to mislead the public, the spokesman said.

He stated, "the Jammu and Kashmir Police takes such cyber offenses very seriously. Immediate legal action has been initiated against the individuals involved in this unlawful activity."

A thorough investigation is currently underway, and strict action will be taken as per the law to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable, said the spokesperson.

The public is advised to be cautious and avoid engaging with such fake accounts, report any suspicious online activity to the authorities promptly, rely only on verified and legitimate social media accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police for official communication or updates.

"For reference, the official Facebook profile of the ADGP is easily identifiable. Stay alert, stay cautious, and report any suspicious activity," said the Police spokes-

man.

J&K: Probe ordered into discrepancies in JKP constable examination

selection process done by the JKSSB.

The aspirants said some candidates who excelled in the Telecommunication and Photography exams had performed poorly in which some aspirants were awarded marks in the earlier JKP (Executive/Armed/SDRF) paper.

Following the complaints of the aspirants, PDP leader Iltija Mufti said that JKSSB continues "jeopardizing the future of J&K's youth."

"Massive discrepancies in the JKP Telecommunications exam wherein toppers fared poorly in the previously held constable exams. The government that rose to power by making lofty promises has conveniently washed its hands of any accountability," she wrote on her X handle.

In wake of this, the National Conference spokesman, Imran Nabi Dar hit back at PDP leader and accused her of stoking unnecessary controversies by peddling half baked statements.

"Before criticising the government, her party should understand the context. Rather than creating unnecessary controversies, it would have been better if she had addressed this matter to the LG before blurring out a half baked

statement to the media," he said. Dar said that PDP was "mother of all scams" which got born in their tenure with BJP.

ACB conducts raids in Kashmir parts to probe irregularities in firemen recruitment

The second raid, as per sources, was conducted at Alooichi Bagh area of Srinagar. The raid is linked to the same case involving irregularities in the selection process for Fireman and Fireman Drivers in the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Department.

The ACB is probing several individuals, including members of the Departmental Recruitment Board, the Technical Committee, officers and officials of the F&ES Department, and others involved in the recruitment process.

Heli service to J&K's snowbound border areas soon, Trial run conducted in Gurez

Tangdhar, he said. He official said that the service has been introduced to assess the feasibility of providing aerial connectivity during emergencies. The helicopter service will primar-

ily cater to emergency evacuations of patients, government employees, and students, among others, the official added.

Heavy snowfall has left these areas out of bounds as Bandipora-Gurez, Kupwara-Tangdhar, and Karnah-Chowkibal roads remain closed.

Delhi High Court issues notice to NIA on bail plea of Baramulla MP Er Rashid

him to pronounce the verdict on his pending bail application.

The trial judge said at the present stage he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the regular bail plea.

The case was sent back to the ASJ by the district judge for hearing.

The ASJ court requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers since Rashid was now an MP.

On Thursday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) counsel said the agency has already written to the high court for designation of the MP-MLA court as a court that could deal with NIA cases.

Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case. Cases of the NIA and the ED also

involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others.

The ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir valley.

NDMA warns of high risk forest fire in J&K till Jan 30

J&K in the next seven days. In case of emergency, dial 112," the NDMA said.

The NDMA warning is valid till 11 am up to January 30.

Jammu and Kashmir, a forest-rich region, boasts 20,230 square kilometers of forest, covering about 10% of its geographical area. Excluding Ladakh, which lacks significant natural forests, the proportion of forest cover increases to 47%.

The forests in the Kashmir region predominantly fall in the dry temperate class, with species such as Deodar, Kail, and Fir thriving at varying altitudes. These evergreen forests, with their lush ground cover, are typically less vulnerable to fires. However, the risk escalates during prolonged dry periods. Officials said that the region has experienced an 81% rainfall deficit from January 1 to 22, receiving just 11.4 mm of rainfall compared to the normal 60.5 mm for the period. The alarming rainfall deficit underscores the heightened vulnerability of the forests to fires during the ongoing dry spell.

Tiranga Rally conducted by children at Hirri to celebrate Republic Day



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 23: On the eve of Republic Day, the Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers, in collaboration with the children of Hirri village, organized a vibrant Tiranga Rally to mark the occasion with patri-

otic fervor.

The rally commenced at Khar Mohalla Path in Hirri and concluded at Pir Baba Stop, covering key points in the village. Approximately 50 children of various age groups, along with enthusiastic locals, including the Principal

of BHSS Hirri, actively participated in the event.

The rally was a testament to the community's unity and zeal, showcasing their dedication to celebrating the nation's spirit on this special occasion.

GDC Ramgarh Students sensitized about legal protection for Women at Workplace

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 23: Women Development Cell-CASH of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized an awareness programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

The event was organized under the guidance and supervision of the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra and was aimed at empowering women by creating awareness about their legal rights to prevent and address sexual harassment at the workplace.



The program was coordinated by Dr. Snobar, convener of the women development cell of the college. The resource person for the session was Advocate Mehrugh Syedan- a renowned expert in criminal law, civil litigation and other legal matters.

She delivered an informative lecture on the provisions of POSH Act, 2013, its significance, and the protection it offers to women in the workplace. She highlighted the role of the Internal Complaint Cell (ICC) and Local Complaint Cell (LCC), which

serve as vital platforms for addressing sexual harassment cases both within institutions and at the local level.

She also highlighted the "Vishaka Guidelines" that were stipulated by the Supreme Court of India, in Vishaka and others v State

of Rajasthan case in 1997, regarding sexual harassment at workplace, a landmark case which helped with giving rise to the POSH Act, 2013.

She also threw light on welcome and unwelcome behaviour at the workplace.

The event concluded with a call for increased awareness and collective efforts to create a safer working environment for women. The session was attended by all the faculty members including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Brahm Dutt, Ashok Kumar (PTI), Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Dr. Neeraj, Priya Sharma and Anjali.

MLA Ramban leads "Swachhntantra" Sanitation Drive ahead of Republic Day

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 23: In a significant initiative to promote cleanliness and patriotism, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju today led a special sanitation drive themed "Swachhntantra - Gantantra Ki Shaan, Swachhta Se Bane Mahaan."

The drive, aligning with the spirit of Republic Day, aims to underscore the importance of cleanliness as a fundamental pillar of national progress and development.

Republic Day marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution and celebrates values such as justice, equality, and responsibility. Cleanliness, being central to these principles, was highlighted as a collective responsibility of every citizen. The sanitation drive was envisioned as a community-driven initiative to



inspire action towards a cleaner and healthier environment across Jammu & Kashmir.

The campaign, organised by the Municipal Council Ramban under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, included special sanitation activities

in and around District Hospital Ramban and other health institutions. These efforts brought together various sections of society, including local citizens, Swachhta ambassadors, hospital staff, and attendants.

The participants showcased great enthusiasm

and solidarity in making the event a success.

Prominent officials present on the occasion included Chief Medical Officer Dr Kamal Ji Zadu; Medical Superintendent District Hospital Vrinder Trishal; CEO Municipal Committee Sudarshan Jamwal and other district offi-

cers, health workers, and prominent citizens. Their active participation reinforced the significance of collaborative efforts in achieving the vision of a clean and healthy Ramban.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Arjun Singh Raju emphasized the critical role of cleanliness in achieving the ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

He urged citizens to adopt cleanliness as a way of life and contribute to making Ramban a model district in terms of hygiene and sustainable practices.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold cleanliness and work towards a healthier environment, reflecting the true spirit of "Swachhntantra." The campaign is expected to inspire further community participation in cleanliness initiatives throughout the district.

MVM Jammu celebrates Shri Ram Pran Pratishtha Utsav



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Maharishi Vidya Mandir (MVM), Jammu, celebrated Shri Ram Pran Pratishtha Utsav with immense enthusiasm and devotion.

The event witnessed active participation from students, teachers, and staff, who came together to honor the teachings and values embodied by Shri Ram,

Lakshman Ji, Sita Ji, and Hanuman Ji.

Principal Vishnu Govind Verma, addressing the gathering, emphasized the relevance of these teachings in today's world.

He urged students to focus on inculcating morals and ethics as foundational elements for character building.

The celebration included devotional songs, speeches, and

cultural performances, creating an atmosphere of spirituality and inspiration.

The event not only instilled a sense of reverence among the attendees but also reinforced the importance of leading a life guided by virtues such as truth, humility, and service.

The school community pledged to uphold these values in their daily lives.

Apni Party expresses grief over PDD employee's tragic death

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 23: Apni Party Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of Bilal Ahmad Shah, an employee of the PDD, who was electrocuted while on duty at the power station in Soura last week, and passed away on Wednesday. He extended his deepest condolences to victim's family.

Apni Party leader said that these vulnerable employees and workers mostly fall prey to

the tragic death due to the lack of safety gears and proper training.

He said, "The tragic death of Bilal Ahmad is not an isolated case. We frequently hear about the deaths and grave injuries of PDD electricians, linemen, workers, and casual labourers as they come into contact with live transmission wires during repair duties. The primary causes of such tragedies are often the lack of safety gear, proper training, safety drills, and the non-implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). If this is

true, it is both shocking and distressing."

Muntazir further said, "Also, it is a matter of grave concern that daily wagers and casual labourers with the PDD are neither entitled to insurance nor receive any financial assistance in such cases."

"This matter demands the urgent attention of the authorities, and all necessary measures must be taken to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of employees and workers who are most of the times vulnerable due to the nature of their duties," he added.

District Employment & Counseling Centre Samba hosts Job Fair

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 23: The District Employment & Counseling Centre Samba successfully conducted a comprehensive Job Fair today, bringing together job seekers and prominent employers to address local employment challenges.

As many as 10 private companies including Jamkas Pharmaceuticals, Uflex Ltd, Kandhari Beverage Pvt Ltd, LIC, Guru Ji Placements, Agile Herbals participated in the fair. Over 300 job seekers registered



for the event of which 62 candidates were shortlisted by participating companies

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma inaugurated the job fair and

engaged with employers. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration of government departments and the private sector.

Employment Naresh Kumar encouraged youth participation and facilitated employer interactions.

Beyond job interviews, the event also pro-

vided crucial support to attendees including counselling on self-employment schemes including Mission YUVA, Mumkin, Tejeswini and Information about government-sponsored entrepreneurship programs. On-the-spot registration on the J&K state employment portal (<http://jakemp.nic.in>) was also provided.

The job fair acted as a significant step in connecting local talent with employment opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship in the region.

Army organizes friendly volleyball match at Kulhand Camp

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 23: In response to the popular demand of the locals in Kulhand, the Indian Army organized a friendly volleyball match between two local teams of Doda on 22 January 2025, under the initiative of "Khelo India."

The match brought together players from diverse castes, creeds, and religions, showcasing an exemplary spirit of sportsmanship and unity. A total of 17 local players participated,



making it a thrilling and closely contested match from start to finish.

The event aimed to foster a

competitive spirit among the youth and provide them with a platform to display their talent. It also served as an opportunity

to strengthen the bond between the local community and the Indian Army.

The Company Commander of the Indian Army graced the event as the chief guest, commending both teams for their outstanding performances. Prizes were distributed to the participants, adding to the joy and excitement of the occasion.

Team members and spectators expressed their gratitude for the initiative and requested the organization of more such sporting events in the future.

GGHS Domana students join DIPR to promote Nasha Mukt Bharat campaign



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: A Cultural program on Nasha Mukt Bharat campaign was organised by Cultural Unit Jammu today at

Government Girls High School Domana. Artists of the Cultural Wing of the Information Department and students presented a scintillating cultural programme.

Incharge Headmaster Rajesh Singh shared his views on the topic and also appreciated the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing the program to aware the future of the nation. Among others staff members, officials of the Information Department and a large number of audience witnessed the program.

The whole programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information Jammu Atul Gupta and supervision of Cultural Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

Half a decade of transformative impact at Sachin Tendulkar Foundation

Marking half a decade of serving the less-privileged and the needy in ways that enable them to believe and take the lead, the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation (STF) held a close-knit celebration in Mumbai at The Bombay Club.

MUMBAI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Marking half a decade of serving the less-privileged and the needy in ways that enable them to believe and take the lead, the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation (STF) held a close-knit celebration in Mumbai at The Bombay Club.

Tributes and acknowledgements from friends, family, well-wishers, and non-profit partners, paved the event as STF reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring better living with primary focus areas of health, education, and sports for children.

The theme of the evening, "Shine Brighter Together" shed light on the Foundation's core idea of impacting lives, especially children through sports, health and education.

For Sara Tendulkar, daughter of former India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, who recently donned the mantle of Director at the Foundation, the evening was her first official engagement. Stepping on the path shown by her parents at such a young age, Sara brings in a fresh perspective of connecting with the youth and helping them take flight with their aspirations.

Reflecting on her family's commitment to bettering lives and the transformative potential of the Foundation's initiatives, Sara said, "Growing up, I was



always inspired by my family, who shaped my understanding of the power of giving. I had the opportunity to witness the Foundation's work and see the spark of hope that lights up in the lives of not just the children but entire families. Over the last five years, the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation has touched over 100,000 young lives, and that's a hundred thousand reasons to keep going. I am grateful to everyone who believed in us and stood by our side to make this journey possible," as quoted by the press release from STF.

"As Director, I cannot wait to build on what my parents started and make sure that every little dream gets noticed and nurtured. I look forward to this

journey as we light up a world of possibilities for children who are the future," she added.

A short film introduced the guests to the Foundation's work. The audience was enlightened on the continued dedication of the Tendulkars and STF towards a shared dream of empowering the young dreamers, through strategic partnerships. The work done by the 15+ NGO partners who STF collaborates with was acknowledged and applauded.

Coldplay's Chris Martin was in attendance and engaged in a Tete-a-tete, on stage with Sachin Tendulkar.

Pressing on the Foundation's journey, Sachin Tendulkar shared, "When I walked back to the pavilion one last time, I

had an inkling in my mind that my innings was far from over. Anjali and I had this vision to do something to ease living for the less privileged and give young dreamers some assistance to believe in themselves and take flight. We realized that the germination of the idea was easier than implementing it. Eventually, STF came into being and now we've traversed half a decade of doing our bit. The journey is in full swing and with Sara leading the way now, I am confident that STF will continue to transform million dreams into reality and give wings to the doers."

Starting with a humble vision of connecting with people and assisting them in realizing their full potential, STF is at the threshold to expand its sports-for-development initiatives multi-fold, so that millions more children and youth across the corners get benefitted.

The futuristic vision looks at creating more advanced infrastructure in rural areas, strengthening healthcare access for children through collaborations with local hospitals and authorities, and introducing innovative education programs aimed at bridging opportunity gaps and skill development. By merging the core vision with a new zeal, STF aims to make the next decade a decade of fulfilling 'billions of dreams.'

Rohit Sharma's struggles continue with a 3-run knock in Ranji Trophy



MUMBAI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Team India captain Rohit Sharma's poor form with the bat continued as he was dismissed for just 3 runs on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy match against Jammu & Kashmir at Mumbai on Thursday. Rohit faced 19 deliveries before falling to pacer Umar Nazir Mir, extending his run of disappointing performances.

Rohit's last Ranji Trophy appearance for Mumbai was in November 2015 when he scored a blazing 113 off 140 balls against Uttar Pradesh in a match that ended in a draw.

In Test cricket, Rohit's recent performances have raised concerns about his form. During India's tour of Australia,

the seasoned opener managed just 31 runs in five innings across three Tests.

The 2024-25 Test season, in particular, was disappointing for Rohit. He accumulated only 164 runs in eight matches and 15 innings at an average of 10.93, with his highest score being 52, a solitary half-century against Bangladesh.

As captain, Rohit faced some significant challenges. Before the Test series against Australia, India suffered their first home Test series defeat in 12 years, losing 0-3 to New Zealand. This was also India's first-ever whitewash in a home Test series since 2000.

After India's 295-run victory in the first Test against Australia at

Perth under the leadership of Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit rejoined the team following the birth of his second child.

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the senior selection committee's decision regarding Rohit's inclusion on January 20.

Young southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal who is Rohit's batting partner in red-ball cricket for India was dismissed early as well, he managed only 4 runs before being trapped LBW by Auqib Nabi. The duo's dismissals left Mumbai reeling during their first innings.

Meanwhile, Shubman Gill, captaining the Punjab team in their clash against Karnataka, also endured a tough outing. The star batter could score just 4 runs before being dismissed by Abhilash Shetty, further highlighting the challenging day for India's prominent cricketers in the domestic tournament.

It was far from an ideal start for the Indian stars in their respective Ranji Trophy matches, raising questions about their current form as the domestic season unfolds.

Gukesh becomes highest-ranked Indian at 4th in latest FIDE rankings, displaces Erigaisi

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 (Agencies): Continuing his rapid rise, world champion D Gukesh dethroned compatriot Arjun Erigaisi to become the highest-ranked Indian chess player, at fourth, in the latest FIDE rankings on Thursday.

Gukesh, 18, achieved the feat when he logged his second victory in the Tata Steel Tournament in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands) defeating Vincent Keymer of Germany.

Gukesh, who was awarded the Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna recently, has amassed 2784 rating points, while Erigaisi, who was the highest-ranked Indian for a long time, has slipped to fifth with 2779.5 rating points.

Norway's Magnus



Carlsen continues to be the undisputed world No.1 with 2832.5 points, followed by United States' Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura (2802) and country-mate Fabiano Caruana (2798).

Gukesh has been in sublime form ever since he beat China's Ding Liren to clinch the world title in Singapore in December last year.

He took a break from the game to attend to functions and festivities back home and skipped the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York.

On his return to the board, Gukesh has not lost a single game in Wijk Aan Zee. He has two victories and three draws so far in the tournament with eight rounds still to go.

Abhishek Sharma smashes record for most sixes by an Indian in T20I chase

KOLKATA, Jan 23 (Agencies): Abhishek Sharma delivered a stunning performance in the first T20I against England, smashing a blistering 20-ball half-century while hitting the most sixes by an Indian in a T20I run chase, according to Wisden.

The match, held at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, saw India's spinners dominate the first innings, bundling England out for just 132. Varun Chakravarty (3/23), and Axar Patel (2/22), kept England's batters under pressure, with only England skipper Jos Buttler offering resistance. Buttler played a lone hand with a 44-ball 68 before falling to Chakravarty.

Chasing a modest target, India cruised



to victory in just 12.5 overs with seven wickets in hand. Leading the charge was Abhishek Sharma, who hammered 79 off just 34 balls. His explosive knock included eight

sixes, setting a new record for the most sixes hit by an Indian in a T20I chase. Sanju Samson (26 off 20) and Tilak Varma (19 off 16) provided valuable support as India comfort-

ably overhauled the target.

Abhishek's six-hitting spree featured three maximums off Adil Rashid, two against Mark Wood, and one each off Jofra Archer, Jamie Overton, and Gus Atkinson. His tally of eight sixes surpassed the previous Indian record of six sixes in a T20I chase, a mark jointly held by Rohit Sharma (achieved twice), Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Axar Patel.

Globally, the record for most sixes in a T20I chase stands at 18 by Estonia's Sahil Chauhan. Among players from Full Member nations, South Africa's Richard Levi holds the record with 13 sixes

against New Zealand.

Indian left-handers bashing English bowlers in the T20I format has been a love affair that became famous with Yuvraj Singh's exploits in the 2007 T20 World Cup.

Mentored by Yuvraj, Abhishek put his power-hitting ability on exhibition in the series opener against English tearaways. It was the second-fastest fifty by an Indian against England in the T20I format.

Abhishek's mentor, Yuvraj, holds the record for hammering the fastest fifty, brought up in just 12 deliveries in Durban in 2007. KL Rahul's heroics in Manchester, in 2018 saw him celebrate his fifty in 27 deliveries.

Maharashtra's Ankit Bawne suspended for dissent in Ranji Trophy

NASHIK, Jan 23 (Agencies): Maharashtra batter Ankit Bawne has been handed a one-match suspension for showing dissent during a Ranji Trophy match. The decision was conveyed to the team ahead of their sixth-round Group A clash against Baroda in Nashik, reported ESPNcricinfo.

The incident in question occurred during Maharashtra's fifth-round game against Services, prior to the white-ball season. Bawne, serving as the stand-in captain, refused to leave the field after being declared out despite clear evidence suggesting the ball had bounced before Shubham Rohilla completed the catch at slip off spin-

ner Amit Shukla. With no Decision Review System (DRS) available as the match was livestreamed rather than televised, Bawne was unable to challenge the umpire's decision.

Ankit Bawne's protest delayed the game for nearly 15 minutes before play resumed following intervention by match referee Amit Sharma and Maharashtra coach Sulakshan Kulkarni. The situation drew further attention when regular Maharashtra captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was in Australia with India A at the time, shared replays of the controversial dismissal on social media.

"Players are subject to fines and reprimand, what about proper assessment of umpires,"



Kulkarni said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"Why do the same erring umpires continue to officiate and play spoilsport? When there are blunders of this nature, the anger is justified," he added.

Bawne has been a key performer for Maharashtra this season, amassing 361 runs in five matches at an average of 51.57, including a century and two half-centuries. However, his

absence for the Baroda match will be a significant setback for the team.

Maharashtra is currently struggling in Group A, sitting second from the bottom and already out of play-off contention. With a maximum possible tally of 22 points, they trail Baroda and Jammu & Kashmir, both of whom have already accumulated more points in the group.

India will adhere to ICC's dress code at Champions Trophy: BCCI

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 (Agencies): The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told agency, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side of the jersey.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

"BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Saikia told agency. "Whatever the other teams will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit," he added.

However, Saikia said that whether national captain Rohit Sharma participates in the ICC's pre-tournament engagements, including a press conference and an official photo shoot in Lahore, is something that is still being discussed.

"Whether Rohit Sharma travels to Pakistan for ICC media engagements is something that's still not decided," Saikia added.

There were some unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to the host nation's name being embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political ties between the two countries.

It is understood that there was never any doubt about following the logo guidelines and the BCCI did not raise concerns with the global body.

When Pakistan came to India in 2023 for the 50-over ICC World Cup, Babar Azam and his men duly sported the host country's name on their jerseys as part of the tournament protocol.

The Champions Trophy is being conducted under a 'Hybrid Model' for the first time as BCCI didn't get permission from the Indian government to travel to Pakistan.

India will play all its matches,

including the marquee league match against the arch-rivals from across the border, in Dubai. In case, the Indian team reaches the semi-final and subsequently final, the two matches will be played in Dubai as well.

As far as Rohit Sharma visiting Pakistan is concerned, the matter is still under consideration and there are certain issues that the Indian cricket board needs to consider if its captain visits Pakistan for a customary photo-shoot and pre-event press conference.

It remains to be seen if the ICC decides to hold these events in Pakistan or shift the pre-tournament captains' engagements to the UAE.

Even that would be a massive logistical task for all other teams, which are playing in Pakistan.

The opening match of the tournament between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand will be held in Karachi on February 19. India will start their campaign against Bangladesh a day later.

GDC Ramnagar organizes symposium on birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chander Bose

Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Jan 23: The Department of History at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized a symposium on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chander Bose. This Day is celebrated as Prakaram Diwas.

The theme of the symposium was Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's legacy—his pivotal role in the Indian National Movement.

This Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Neta ji Subhas Chander Bose and honor his contributions to the nation. The symposium aimed to inspire and educate students about Neta Ji Subhas Chander Bose's role and contribution in shaping the future of the country.

The event likely began with a brief introduction to Neta ji Subhas Chander Bose's life and contribution and importance of Prakaram Diwas in fostering national unity, social responsibility.

Prof Manmohan Singh Head Department of



History GDC Ramnagar Presented formal welcome note and gave detail introduction about the event.

Faculty members and students have shared their perspectives on the life and contribution of Neta ji. Discussions probably revolved around his emphasis on the National Movement during British rule.

More than fifteen speakers presented their views on the life and contribution of

Neta ji Subhas Chander Bose. In their views they highlighted his contribution in the National Movement.

They apprised the audience that Initially, Bose was an active member of the Indian National Congress (INC), working under the leadership of figures like Gandhi and Nehru. He was elected President of the INC twice (1938 and 1939) and advocated for more direct action to secure India's

independence. However, his differences with Gandhi on strategy led him to break away from the Congress.

Another participant Anish Bharti shared his views on his resignation from the Congress and foundation of the Forward Bloc in 1939, aiming to unite the various factions of the Indian nationalist movement. His focus was on mobilizing people for a more radical approach to achieving independence.

Sulekha Devi focused on his most significant contribution to the national movement was his leadership of the Indian National Army. While the INA initially started under the leadership of Captain Mohan Singh, Bose reorganized it in 1942 and took it to greater heights. He mobilized Indian soldiers in Southeast Asia to fight against the British, marking a major shift in the Indian struggle from mere resistance to an armed rebellion.

Another speaker Nitin highlighted his com-

mitment to Social and Economic Reform: Bose also envisioned a future for India that went beyond political freedom. He was a strong proponent of economic independence, advocating for industrialization and social reforms. He believed that the removal of British colonialism should be accompanied by a transformation in the social and economic fabric of India.

The other participants who presented their views were Riya Sharma, Arti Devi, Bikram Singh, Shruti Sharma, Deep Shikha Sharma, Anjali Devi, Simmi Devi, Sonika Devi.

The event likely concluded by Dr Zahid Ahmed Mir with reflections on Neta ji contribution.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Dr Bhavnish Chand Anthal Principal Govt Degree College Ramanagar and supervision of Prof Manmohan Singh Head Department of History GDC Ramnagar.

BVP observes Guru Teg Bahadur Balidan Divas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: The Bharat Vikas Parishad (J&K Prant) organized Guru Teg Bahadur Balidan Divas" at Mahant Bachitar Singh College of Engineering and Technology, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu. The event featured Sriman Mahant Manjit Singh as the Chief Guest and Prof. R.D. Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University, as the Guest of Honour. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, State President, delivered the welcome address.

The highlight of the event was a debate competition on the topic "Life and Teachings of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji", in which 33 students from various schools participated. Jaspreet Kour of Guru Harkrishan Public School secured the first position, Rupali Bral of J.S. Luthra Academy, Channi Himmat, won the second position, and Avantika of Dogra Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, secured the third position.

Mahant Manjit Singh elaborated on Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's teachings and sacrifices for humanity, emphasizing his role in promoting welfare. Prof. R.D. Sharma encouraged students to stay positive and work hard for the nation's development.

The event was organized under the leadership of Prant President B.B. Sharma, Prant General Secretary Shiv Ram Sharma, Prant Finance Secretary Sunita Gupta, Prant (Pramukh Sanskar) Gopal Gupta, Gurmeet Singh (State Convener, GTBDD), Arun Sharma (National Member, NGSC), and Ashok Gupta (National Member, Sampark).

The program received active support from the college's management committee.

The debate competition was judged by Madhu Gupta, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, and N.D. Sharma.

Other dignitaries present included I.D. Soni (State Patron), Amita Sharma (Regional Secretary, Mahila and Bal Vikas), Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma (Regional Secretary, Sewa), Rajesh Baru (Regional Secretary, Sampark), Dr. Sheryansh Jain (Convener, Yoga), Vijay Sharma (Prant Sewa Pramukh), Jagjit Singh Isher (Prant Pramukh, Environment), and Aarti Sharma (State Mahila Pramukh), among others.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sunita Gupta, State Finance Secretary. The program witnessed participation from students, teachers, staff, and members of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

J&K Senior National Women Beach Handball team beats Maharashtra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Senior National Beach Handball (Women) team has been a standout performer in the ongoing Senior National Beach Handball Championship being held at Guwahati in Assam from January 10 to 13, 2025.

The team has maintained a commanding lead, defeating formi-

dable opponents and earning widespread praise for their exceptional skills and teamwork.

After registering decisive victories against Jharkhand, Arunchal Pradesh and Assam, the J&K team triumphed over Maharashtra in a nail-biting match, winning by 14-12, 15-13 set won by 2-0 and enter quarter final showcasing their resilience and strategic play.

The J&K Women team outstanding performance in Assam after a long decade reflects their dedication and hard work, hopes are high that they will continue to excel and bring glory to the region. Their achievements serve as an inspiration for aspiring players from Jammu and Kashmir, demonstrating the immense potential and talent in the UT.

SMVDU students shine at Vishwakarma Awards

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 23: In a remarkable achievement, a team of students from School of Mechanical Engineering secured the 11th position out of 600 teams at the prestigious Vishwakarma Awards 2024.

Organized by Maker Bhavan in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, the competition focused on innovative solutions under the theme of "Clean and Green Technology."

The SMVDU team showcased their ingenuity with a groundbreaking invention—a



non-electric automatic pothole-filling machine. This eco-friendly innovation addresses a critical challenge in infrastructure maintenance by providing a sustainable and efficient solution for repairing potholes.

The team was led by V. Yash Raj and comprised Saatwik Sharma, Sahaj

Pratap Singh, and Zafir Ashraf Beigh. Their project was guided by Dr. Sanjay Mohan, whose mentorship played a crucial role in refining their design and execution. The Vishwakarma Awards are renowned for recognizing talent and promoting sustainable development

through innovative technology.

Competing against a diverse pool of teams, the SMVDU students stood out for their practical approach and commitment to environmental sustainability.

Dimple meets Dr Farooq abdullah, demands to intensify efforts for restoration of J&K statehood



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 23: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, on Thursday held a meeting with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, National Conference President and leader of the INDIA bloc, to discuss pressing issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including development, employment, and the challenges faced by traders and youth.

Dimple congratulated Dr. Farooq Abdullah on the successful completion of three months of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government.

Dr. Abdullah reiterated his party's commitment to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, special status, and Article 370, stating that these were integral to the region's identity and rights, originally granted by Maharaja Hari Singh to

protect the land and jobs of its people.

Dr. Abdullah criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for dismantling the state into two union territories and for transferring J&K's power projects to other states, which he claimed had led to increased unemployment since August 5, 2019.

He assured Dimple that the government remains committed to reinstating the Darbar Move, a practice initiated by Maharaja Hari Singh to foster communal harmony and strengthen bonds between Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Sunil Dimple reiterated his demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra princely state, revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A, and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions.

He urged Dr. Abdullah to intensify efforts to coun-


ter the BJP's decisions of August 5, 2019, which he described as unconstitutional and unacceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple also called for practical measures to alleviate the hardships faced by residents, including resuming the Darbar Move from April 2025, providing free solar lights to poor families, allocating 200 units of free electricity, 12 LPG cylinders, and double rations to the public.

The two leaders discussed strategies for addressing unemployment and resolving issues related to various worker categories, including daily wagers, SPOs, vocational trainers, land donors, contractual lecturers, home guards, and others. Dimple emphasized the need for regularization of their services and age relaxations to provide relief.

Additionally, Dimple urged Dr. Abdullah to expedite the process of Rajya Sabha nominations and hold elections for urban local bodies (ULBs), municipal corporations, panchayats, and District Development Councils (DDCs).

The meeting concluded on a positive and result-oriented note, with both leaders expressing their commitment to resolving the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



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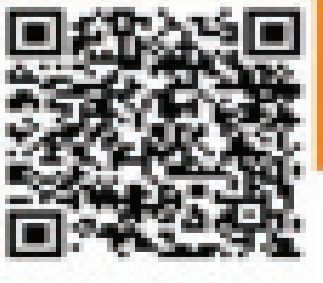
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