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BRIEFLY

CRPF barrack damaged in fire incident in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): A fire broke out in a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Barrack in Srinagar causing damage to the bedding and clothes, officials said. The Fire and Emergency Service officials said that fire broke out during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in the CRPF barrack at the Indoor Stadium was brought under control with the prompt action by the fire fighters. However, some bedding and clothes of the force men were damaged in the fire incident. No one was injured in the incident.

Several fire fighting tenders were rushed to the spot from the various city centre stations to douse the leaping flames soon after the call was received, they said.

The cause of fire is stated to be due to the electric short circuit, they added.

Driver found dead under mysterious circumstances at Banihal railway station

BANIHAL, Jan 24 (Agencies): A tempo driver was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his vehicle at the Railway Station in Banihal on Friday morning.

An official told news agency JKNS that a body was found under mysterious circumstances in a vehicle at the Railway Station in Banihal.

He is said to be a tempo driver of the same vehicle in which he was found dead, however, his identification is yet to be ascertained. The police reached the spot, official said.

121 kilos of narcotic substances seized in Srinagar destroyed

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday destroyed 121 kilos of narcotic substances that were seized from the summer capital.

The destroyed substances included heroin, brown sugar, crystal meth, fukka, charas, and codeine phosphate, among others.

Police said the Drug Disposal Committee of Srinagar district destroyed 121

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Opposition members suspended from Parliamentary panel on Waqf bill

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): All opposition members of the parliamentary panel on the Waqf Amendment Bill were suspended for a day on Friday amid continuous protests and accusations against Chairman Jagdambika Pal of steam-rolling through the proceedings.

The suspended members are Kalyan Banerjee, Mohammad Jawed, A Raja, Asaduddin Owaisi, Naseer Hussain, Mohib-ullah, Mohamed Abdullah, Arvind Sawant, Nadeem-ul Haque, Imran Masood.

BJP member Nishikant Dubey moved the motion for suspending the opposition members which was adopted by



the committee, BJP member Aparajita Sarangi claimed the conduct of opposition members was "disgusting" as they were continuously creating ruckus during the meeting and using unparliamentary language against Pal.

The meeting of the parliamentary committee began a stormy

note, with opposition members claiming they were not being given adequate time to study the proposed changes to the draft legislation.

Before calling Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the religious head of Kashmir, the members of the Committee held dis-

cussions among themselves which turned stormy with opposition leaders claiming the BJP was pushing for speedy acceptance of the report on the Waqf Amendment Bill with an eye on the Delhi elections.

The heated arguments during the meeting led to a

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Want to see J&K youth among top notch entrepreneurs in the Country: LG Sinha

JAMMU, Jan 24 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the government is committed to ensure that the youth of J&K emerge as top-notch entrepreneurs in the country.

Addressing BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship run-up event at IIM Jammu, LG Sinha highlighted the rapid industrial progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Over the past few years numerous industries have been established, with many more in the pipeline," he said, adding, "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented industrial boom. The government is committed to ensuring that the youth of J&K emerge as top-notch entrepreneurs, contributing significantly to India's economy."



He said, "India was known as a global knowledge hub in the past and now it's the responsibility of the youth to take country to the new heights."

LG Sinha hailed the New Education Policy by terming it as a revolutionary roadmap to shape India's educational and technological future. "The NEP is our guide and will play a pivotal role in aligning our education system with

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Drones, Spotters in place for smooth conduct of R-Day functions in Kashmir: IGP

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Multi-tier security arrangements, including drones and spotters, are in place to ensure a smooth conduct of the Republic-Day functions in Kashmir, the valley's top cop, V K Birdi, said here on Friday.

"Proper and secure arrangements have been made for those who want to participate in the function," the inspector general of police (IGP) told reporters after a full dress rehearsal at the Bakshi Stadium, the venue of the main Republic-Day function in the Kashmir valley on January 26.

The IGP said multi-tier security arrangements are in place and surveillance is being maintained to ensure a smooth



conduct of the function. "Surveillance in the form of drones or spotters and very deep and intricate security arrangements have been made," he said.

Birdi appealed to people to participate in the January 26 programmes in large numbers.

He said surveillance is also being kept on "bad elements", including surrendered militants.

"Police have their own SOP (standard operating

procedure). There is a way to keep surveillance on bad elements and we are undertaking these actions as per the law," he said.

To a question on allegations of some big fish involved in the narcotics trade escaping the clutches of the law, Birdi said while these are a subject matter of investigations, habitual offenders cannot escape the law and action will be taken against them.

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J&K's cadet Ekta Kumari makes history as Parade Commander at Kartavya Path

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Ekta Kumari, the Leading Cadet of 1 J&K Naval for Unit NCC, Srinagar, and a BSc student at Government College for Women Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, has achieved a remarkable milestone in her journey. She has been honoured with the prestigious position of Parade Commander for the All India NCC Girls Contingent at the Kartavya Path Parade on the occasion of Republic Day 2025 making her the pride of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh.

Ekta, who always dreamt of joining the Defence Forces, was inspired by her father, a retired soldier from 12 JAK LI, and her deep-rooted values of disci-



pline and service to the nation. Her educational journey began at Army Public School, Akhnoor, and continued through her college years where she joined the NCC with a goal of fulfilling her life-long ambition.

Her passion for NCC led to remarkable achievements in social work and adventure activities from her first year. Ekta's determination and grit were tested when she set her sights



on the Republic Day Parade (RDC) but faced moments of doubt.

However, the unwavering encouragement of her brother, Lavneet, and the continuous support of her mother gave her the strength to continue.

Speaking about her achievement, Ekta Kumari expressed, "Becoming Parade Commander of the All India Girls Contingent at Kartavya Path is the

biggest and proudest moment of my life. This victory is not just mine but belongs to my family, my unit, and the entire Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh."

Ekta attributes her success to the guidance of her mentors, including her ANO and trainers Imran, Altaf, and Bakshi Sir. She gave out a message to the youth "Dream big, so that you don't sleep until they are fulfilled."

She also expressed her gratitude towards Lt Col Abhijeet, Drill Ustaaad Jaswinder, and other key personnel who helped shape her training and preparation at the Nagrota NCC Camp.

She acknowledged the immense support she received from

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Sat Pal Sharma elected J&K BJP President Unopposed



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Veteran leader Sat Pal Sharma was elected unopposed as the president of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Friday. This would be his second term as the party's Jammu and Kashmir chief.

Sharma called upon workers to support him in strengthening the

party in the Union Territory. "Sat Pal Sharma has been elected unopposed in the elections. I congratulate him on his victory," returning officer (RO) Sanjay Bhatia announced at a function organised at the party headquarters here.

Sharma, who was nominated as president of the Jammu and

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- ◆ Surrender Of Cops In DL
- ◆ Updation Of Mobile Number In RC/DL

DI/17-1458/24

Kanwal Krishan Peshin awarded "Plaque Meritorious Service"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Kanwal Krishan Peshin I/C Divisional Fire Officer Jammu awarded with "Plaque Meritorious Service" by Resolvio Foundation which is a National Organisation of Repute.

Kanwal who was initially appointed as Fireman and subsequently elevated to higher ranks from time to time, is a well-trained and professional fire fighter and has been performing exemplary service.

His flight to success has been because of his hard work and dedication in the field of fire fighting, fire auditing, search and rescue operations and public awareness regarding fire safety.

He has attended a number of major fire incidents in life staking situations as a brave



firefighter and with professional competence.

The officer has supervised a number of major fire incidents where both life and property was involved and as a leader has derived mechanism on the operational grounds in such a way to counter these fires and save precious lives and property.

The officer was award

ed as a recognition to his bravely by the Director of Resolvio Foundation, Suresh Kumar where in the fire incident he saved many lives during a fire fighting operation at Cold Storage factory wherein Ammonia Gas was leaking his brave efforts not only rescued the general public from the area but also the factory workers

and owners from the devastating scene on May 14, 2024.

Director of the Resolvio Foundation Suresh Kumar added that the officer along with discharging his normal duties additionally conducted fire auditing of various leading industrial occupancies besides as a part of public awareness programme

has conducted Lectures, Essay Competitions, Mock drills, Evacuation drills in educational and other institutions.

The officer has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance by way of effective management of the rescue/ fire fighting operations, Exceptional teamwork and collaboration with other emergency responders during Amarnthji Yatra, VIP visits etc. The officer, as a part of Public Awareness, has also written jingles and theme songs for promotion of the Fire & Emergency Services Department.

In recognition of the outstanding performance, professional acumen, sense of duty, honesty and dedication rendered, we are honouring Kanwal Krishan Peshin, I/C DFO with this plaque Meritorious Service on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025.

Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School celebrates Republic Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar, celebrated the 76th Republic Day on Friday with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. Parents, who hailed from the armed forces, were invited as Special Guests to honour the occasion with their presence and inspire everyone with their valour and dedication to our Nation.

The students of class IX put forth a mesmeris-

ing programme which began with a welcome dance and a skit to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950 highlighting the contributions of its chief architect, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly. Their vision of justice, equality and liberty continues to guide us as a nation.

The cultural segment showcased the vibrant diversity of India. Traditional and contemporary dances, celebrating the

unity in diversity of our great Nation, enthralled the audience. A parade featuring students, accompanied by a majestic tableau display from various states, brought alive the rich heritage and progress of our country.

The motivational speeches by the Special Guests emphasizing the importance of duty, discipline and patriotism inspired one and all. The celebrations concluded with the vote of thanks followed by the National Anthem.

J&K Tourist Trade People's Federation asks CM, LG to facilitate pilgrims, tourists



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: The Jammu & Kashmir Tourist Trade People's Federation appealed to the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to address a pressing issue concerning the development and facilitation of pilgrims and tourists.

"Approximately 1.5 crore pilgrims visit Jammu and Kashmir annually, including both locals and visitors from other states. Major pilgrimages such as the Machail Yatra in District Kishtwar and the Kailash Yatra in Tehsil Bhaderwah, District Doda, have significant potential to attract more pilgrims. However, due to the lack of smooth and well-maintained tracks, adequate facilities, and government

support, 75% of these pilgrims are diverted to neighboring states like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand," Adv. Nikhil Padha, President of the Federation, said in a press conference here on Friday.

Adv. Nikhil Padha strongly urged the government to take immediate action to enhance facilities, develop infrastructure, and implement policies to promote Jammu and Kashmir's beautiful tourist destinations and pilgrimage sites.

HE also called upon civil society, NGOs, and religious organizations to collaborate and take initiatives to maximize the potential of these destinations, creating a significant impact on the region's economy and tourism sector.

In the first week of

March, our organization will launch a two-month roadshow across all districts of Jammu province, followed by Kashmir province, to raise awareness among local people, educated youth, and representatives from various districts about the importance of tourism.

The goal is to promote tourism as a means of creating employment opportunities for educated youth and making them key stakeholders in the sector.

Additionally, Adv. Nikhil Padha plan to hold a meeting soon with the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to present our concerns and recommendations regarding tourism development.

This press conference was also attended by Amit Kesar (General Secretary), Anil Kumar, Rattan Lal Sharma, Joginder Kumar, Rajinder Kumar, and Suresh Kumar Babh, who emphasized the urgency of taking steps to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's tourism infrastructure and ensure its long-term growth.

JU organizes awareness programme to celebrate National Girl Child Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: On the eve of National Girl Child Day, the Centre for Women's Studies today organised an awareness programme for the students of Government High School, Bhagwati Nagar, Canal Road Jammu.

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu in her lecture highlighted the importance of celebration of National Girl Child Day. She explained the theme of this year i.e., "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future," and said that this day is dedicated to raising awareness about the rights, education and empowerment of the girl child. Further, she averred that education is not just a fundamental right rather, it is the foundation upon which girls can build their brighter futures for themselves, their families, and



the community at large. Education is crucial for breaking the stereotypes and helping foster equality and empowerment. She also explained the various initiatives taken by the government, like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and scholarship schemes for the girls to promote their educa-

tion. While interacting with the students, she also gave details about various legal safeguards available for the girls, like Right to Education Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act etc.

Earlier Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Faculty Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the participants and briefed about the importance of National Girl Child Day. Further, she said that the goal of this day's observance is to raise awareness of the various injustices that girls encounter in society. Additionally, the objective of this day is to increase awareness of the rights of girls and the significance of their education, health, nutrition, and safety among people nationwide.

A large number of students and teachers of the school very actively participated in the program. The students very actively gave various performances related to the theme in the form of songs, dance and poems etc. The program was coordinated, and a vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Saranjit Kaur faculty, Centre for Women's Studies.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 98 of 2024-2025/Jammu East Dated 22-01-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Repair of Furniture of Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	7.22	600	2% of Advertised Cost	1 1/2 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 29-01-2025	A, B, C & D

Position of AAA : Accorded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-01-2025 to 28-01-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	25-01-2025 at 1200Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	22-01-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	28-01-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29-01-2025 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e. treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.

No :- 8885-95
Dated :- 22-01-2025

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(Er. Satish Bhagati)
Executive Engineer
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EDITORIAL

Democracy
in India

India, the world's largest democracy, is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of democratic ideals in a diverse and complex society. Since gaining independence in 1947, India's democratic framework has been rooted in its Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. This framework not only enshrines the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity but also provides a robust structure for governance and rights protection. Over the decades, India's democracy has evolved, overcoming challenges while setting examples for the world. India's democratic journey began with the vision of leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi, who believed in the power of democracy to unify a fragmented society. The Indian Constitution provides for a parliamentary system of governance with three main pillars: the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. It ensures universal adult suffrage, granting every citizen above 18 years the right to vote, irrespective of caste, religion, gender, or economic status. One of the most remarkable features of Indian democracy is its ability to hold regular and largely peaceful elections. The Election Commission of India has successfully conducted free and fair elections at both national and state levels. This periodic electoral process empowers citizens to choose their representatives and hold them accountable. Diversity is another cornerstone of India's democracy. With 28 states and 8 Union Territories, India embraces linguistic, cultural, and religious pluralism. The federal structure ensures that states have the autonomy to address regional issues while adhering to the national framework. India's vibrant media and civil society also play a crucial role in safeguarding democratic principles. Investigative journalism, public protests, and the active participation of NGOs help hold the government accountable and give voice to the marginalized. Despite its successes, Indian democracy faces several challenges. Electoral processes, though generally fair, are often marred by issues such as voter suppression, misuse of money power, and criminalization of politics. According to reports, many elected representatives face criminal charges, raising concerns about the quality of leadership. Corruption remains a persistent problem, undermining public trust in democratic institutions. Bureaucratic inefficiencies and nepotism often hinder effective governance, leading to a disconnect between policymakers and citizens. Social inequalities based on caste, gender, and religion continue to challenge the ideal of equality enshrined in the Constitution. Communal tensions and divisive politics, fueled by populism, threaten the secular fabric of the nation. Freedom of speech and expression, a fundamental pillar of democracy, is occasionally curtailed. Increasing incidents of censorship, attacks on journalists, and restrictions on dissenting voices have sparked debates about the erosion of democratic values. The judiciary in India acts as the guardian of the Constitution, ensuring checks and balances. Landmark judgments, such as the Kesavananda Bharati case, which established the "basic structure doctrine," have reinforced democratic principles. However, judicial delays and backlogs remain a significant concern, impacting the timely delivery of justice. Electoral reforms, such as addressing the issue of black money in elections and introducing transparency in political funding, are essential to strengthen democratic processes. Additionally, greater representation of women in legislatures can enhance inclusivity and equity in governance. For Indian democracy to thrive, a collective effort is required from all stakeholders. Citizens must exercise their voting rights responsibly, demand transparency, and hold leaders accountable. Education and awareness can empower the population to make informed decisions and resist divisive propaganda. At the policy level, addressing systemic issues such as corruption, poverty, and unemployment is crucial to fostering trust in democratic institutions. Ensuring equal opportunities for marginalized communities can bridge societal divides and promote inclusivity. India's democracy, with all its imperfections, remains a beacon of hope for billions. It has not only survived but also flourished under challenging circumstances, proving its resilience. As the nation continues its democratic journey, it must strive to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and liberty, ensuring that the voices of all its citizens are heard and respected. A robust and inclusive democracy is key to India's progress and global standing.

Mother tongue became the medium of education

By: Vijay Garg

From one corner of India to the other, the English language continues to dominate and is increasing day by day. English has left a corner for the languages of the people of different nationalities living in the Indian subcontinent. English is the official language of government at all states and at the central level. English is also the medium of higher education, especially scientific and technical education. English is also the medium of almost all examinations for jobs and higher education. Good career path in India passes through English. Today English is a symbol of fashion and social prestige. If we want to talk in the context of Punjabi language, we are victims of double slavery. We are enslaved to English as well as Hindi. In many urban areas of Punjab, the circulation of Hindi newspapers today has overtaken Punjabi newspapers and is giving equal competition in many places. One of the reasons for this is that the Hindi-speaking population has settled in large numbers in the cities of Punjab. Surely they should know their language it is not wrong to provide newspapers and other means of information. The second reason is that today the middle class of Punjab and especially the urban middle class has betrayed their mother tongue. He is running after English Hindi. In these homes, children are getting used to speaking English and secondly Hindi from childhood. Speaking Punjabi is discouraged. The middle class (urban) of Punjab now takes pride in speaking English or Hindi only. Hindi is spoken in a very large area of India. Rulers of India make it the national language. They say, but it is the official language of the country. After independence, there was an attempt to impose Hindi on the people speaking different languages of India, which met with strong opposition in various parts of the country, especially in the southern states. When India is not a nation, it cannot have a national language. The Indian subcontinent is home to many nationalities. Apart from common region and common culture, language is an important part that together make up a nation. So strongly opposed to suppressing the languages of different nationalities should go. Yes, people of different nationalities living in India need a communication language to communicate with each other. Hindi may be the most suitable as such a contact language due to its geographical spread, but its choice

should also be by mutual consent of the people of all nationalities of India. Today there are schools in Punjab where speaking Punjabi is prohibited. Surely in other states of India there will be such schools where children will be banned from speaking their mother tongue. Knowing about such schools, Kenyan writer Ngugi WaThyongo's words come to mind. Ngugi says that when his country was enslaved by the British, the school he attended as a child prohibited children from speaking the local language (Gikyu). If the children ever spoke in their mother tongue even by mistake, they were beaten with canes. Papers were stuffed into the child's mouth, then the paper was taken out of the mouth of one child and stuffed into the mouth of the other child, then the same paper was stuffed into the mouth of the third, then the fourth and so on among all those children. There were those who committed the 'crime' of speaking their mother tongue. Punjabi language is fully capable of expressing everything, but the love of English by some of our intellectuals shows how far they have gone from Punjabi language and Punjabi people. If necessary, it should be written in one's own language and later translated into other languages as needed. The progress of Punjabi language is expected from the literary pamphlets of Punjabi, but many pamphlets are trashing the Punjabi language. Some of the literary thieves writers published in them often steal 'maal' from Hindi and if one has access to English. Through this stolen 'goods', they are also bringing Hindi. English words into Punjabi language in bulk. However, all the words capable of expressing the meaning of words taken from other languages are also present in Punjabi language. Some intellectuals use Hindi English only to express intellectualism. Many political parties/groups also publish their magazines and newspapers in English only. Even the most slogans against imperialist slavery. The same is the case with those who plant. Those who raise slogans against imperialist slavery are themselves mentally slaves to the language of the imperialists (America, Britain). It has become a fashion to use English words on a large scale in everyday conversation between 'educated' people. This is another manifestation of mental slavery. English is not our choice, it is compulsion. The rulers have imposed a foreign language on us. Earlier in Punjab, English was taught as a compulsory subject from the sixth standard and later Jathedar Tota Singh made it

compulsory from class I. Many students are not able to continue their studies due to not being good at English. It is not a measure that a student who knows English well will be intelligent. There are many countries in the world which are not slaves of English. The people there have established new records in every field of knowledge such as literature, art, science etc. by studying in their own languages. Russia, Japan, France, Germany etc. are many countries that have winter without English. These countries-Children get an opportunity to study in their mother tongue. English is the language of England, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. In many countries of the world, especially in Africa and Asia, where English has been suppressing local languages for almost a century, it has become the language of only a small segment of the population (the ruling classes and the urban upper middle class). English is by no means an international language, as some people make it out to be. Of course the world community is one such language is needed, through which people of different languages can communicate with each other. This language can be English or any other language of the world. The world community should choose an international communication language by mutual consent. This can only be possible when the people of the world are freed from capitalist-imperialist oppression. Today, language is also a powerful weapon in the hands of the imperialists and their local joidars to rob the working people, to destroy their language and culture. Language is that tool through which people communicate with each other, learn from the past and dream of the future. Working people can dream of a society free from robbery, injustice and oppression only in their own language. Only in their own language can they formulate plans for liberation from capitalist-imperialist plunder and implement them. Language is the most important weapon of class struggle and the rulers want to take this weapon away from us. In terms of language, the condition of our society is very serious. English is spoken everywhere. Race across society to learn English. It is like knowing English means being a great scholar among scholars. One who cannot learn English, remains a victim of inferiority complex. At such a time, to speak against this linguistic slavery is to stand against the current, but we have to stand against the current. Today, all over India, only poor working people are

protecting their mother tongues. Even in Punjab, only the working people of Punjab are preserving the Punjabi language. Parties/organizations dedicated to the complete emancipation of working people against linguistic slavery. You have to stand up. The struggle against linguistic slavery is an important part of the project of complete people's liberation today. We have to take some concrete steps against English slavery. We should study and write in our own language. The knowledge that is not available in our language should be studied in another language. We need to write in Punjabi only and later it should be translated into other languages as needed. We have to encourage the culture of doing all the work in Punjabi among the common people as well. Normal people will have to propagate against the slavery of English through articles, poems and also orally. People will have to be raised from the inferiority complex of not being able to learn English. While talking to common people (Punjabi speakers) one should speak pure Punjabi avoiding the use of words from other languages (English, Hindi). It should also be demanded from the government that the mother tongue should be made the medium of education in practical form, not just on paper. It is a well-accepted fact that one learns better in the language in which one thinks. Language has a deep connection with the cultural life of the people and their geographical environment. Therefore, a person can acquire knowledge in a better way only in his mother tongue. Learning other languages is not a bad thing, but a good thing. The more languages one learns, the more one has access to the resources of knowledge created by mankind. No language should be imposed on any linguistic group or nation. So English should not be imposed on students as a compulsory subject, but an optional one. The subject should be so that only those who need it study English. Why only English, education of other languages of the world should also be provided for the students. The right to choose the language should be given to the students. These are not the final words on the language problem. Much should be written on the various aspects of this issue.

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

Special importance of National Voter's Day for the country's democracy

By: Avnish longowal

Every year 25 January is celebrated as National Voter's Day across the country. The first National Voter's Day was celebrated on 25 January 2011. The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950. The Election Commission of India decided to celebrate 25th January as National Voter's Day every year with the aim of encouraging voters to participate in the democratic electoral process. The purpose of celebrating this day is to make the people, the youth, aware of the importance and right of voting. To increase participation in voting, that is why the age of becoming a voter was reduced from 21 years to 18 years through the 61st Amendment of the Constitution so that the youth of the country can become a part of the political process. Nation

building while playing an important role in nation building.

National Voter's Day is very important. On January 26, 1950, the constitution came into force and the citizens of the country got the right to vote. On the occasion of National Voter's Day, programs are organized at the polling booth level at Tehsil, District, State and country level to spread awareness with the aim of making people a partner in voting. Essay, poster making, painting, quiz competitions are conducted in schools and colleges on national Voter's Day. On the occasion of the polling booths, all those adults who are 18 years of age on January 1 of the respective year are included as new voters. Such newly registered voters are linked to the election process by issuing Election Photo Identity Cards. On this day, the general public is informed about the importance of

becoming a voter, making an identity card and the right to vote. The voting system is computerized. Already, the sweep team is carrying out awareness campaign under the leadership of Hon'ble District Deputy Commissioners, District Assistant Nodal Officers regarding voter awareness and importance of vote, exercise of right to vote by young generation for creation of healthy Samaj and building of strong nation. is necessary Elections are the cornerstone of democracy. Every citizen should use his right to vote, vote without any greed. Vote should be used after testing the eligibility of the election candidate. Gender, caste, religion etc. should not be discriminated while voting. Buying votes with notes or drugs should not be allowed. A candidate with a clean image should be voted for.

In order to educate the youth to vote, the Punjab State Election Commission is

conducting a quiz competition dedicated to the students and youth on the National Voter's Day, in which the winning students are being given laptops, mobile phones and other prizes. Democracy is right. Sweep team, administration students educational institutions are playing an important role to create awareness about the correct use of vote to make it successful in the meaning.

Voters should be aware and vote. Follow Rajdharm and donate this auspicious charity.

One day of voting, rest day rest

Choose the candidate of your choice by voting each time.

**(Avnish longowal)
Member Sweep team
Barnala
Distt Barnala (Punjab)
7888346465**

Rich tributes paid to PDP MLC Yashpal Sharma on his third death anniversary

Top News Report

RS PURA, Jan 24: Senior PDP leader Narinder Sharma accompanied by Karan Singh, Sukhvinder Singh, KK Sharma, Vicky Dogra, Sunil Sharma, Tarlok Chand on Friday paid rich floral tributes to PDP MLC Yashpal Sharma on his third death anniversary at Kotli Shah Doula in RS Pura Jammu South constituency. On this occasion, a grand Langar was organized in loving memory of Late Yashpal Sharma.

Narinder paying his tributes remembered him as a towering personality, great mobilizer, and a loyal and experienced leader besides highlighting his contribu-



tions to the people, the party, and social causes. Yashpal Sharma was known for his simplicity, honesty and humility, earning him the respect of people from all faiths, shades, and ideologies.

He was often referred to as 'Sher-e-Poonch' (Lion of Poonch) for his fearless voice and leadership in the border belt

of Rajouri-Poonch. Sharma's legacy continues to inspire, with demands to rename the Poonch Sports Stadium after him as a tribute to his contributions. His death is still remembered as a great loss to Jammu and Kashmir and his life's work remains a testament to his dedication to the

people and the region, added Sharma.

Narinder Sharma, while paying his respects to the veteran leader, described Yashpal Sharma as "a voice of the people." "Sharma was recognized as one of the few individuals with rare knowledge about every aspect of Jammu and Kashmir's history, dating back to before 1947. He dedicated his entire life to promoting peace, goodwill, and communal harmony in society," he said.

Recalling his personal association with Sharma, Narinder praised him as a "great professional and a noble soul". Sharma's integrity, honesty, dedication, and boldness were

highlighted, emphasizing his role in fostering socio-political awakening in the border district of Poonch, he said.

Narinder lamented the loss of a seasoned, public-spirited, and dedicated politician at the state level, saying Poonch lost a beloved, respected, and broad-hearted leader who prioritized public service above everything else. Recalling the contribution of Yashpal Sharma in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir, Narinder said that Sharma remained associated with the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed throughout his life.

He said that since the days of Janta Dal, Yashpal Sharma was a close confidant of late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Army organises welding cadre for youth at Patrara



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 24: In a bold move to address skills development and promote youth employment, the Indian Army has formally inaugurated the Welding Cadre at Patrara, designed specifically for young people looking to gain hands-on experience and expertise in the vital trade of welding.

The initiative aims to

provide valuable training, certifications, and job placement opportunities for the youth, setting them on a path to success in one of the most in-demand industries today.

The program will offer comprehensive training that covers a wide range of welding techniques, safety standards, and industry practices.

Through a combination of classroom learning and practical workshops, participants will

gain a thorough understanding of both the theoretical and applied aspects of welding.

This will include instruction on various welding processes such as MIG, TIG, Stick, and arc welding, among others.

The program is accredited by NSDC and will be conducted for approximately 45 days. A total of 20 students (excluding 2 instructors) are attending the program.

Army conducts medical patrol at Kewal

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 24: The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol for the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities in the remote area of Kewal, District Rajouri.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to provide essential healthcare services in remote areas.

The medical patrol was organized to address the immediate healthcare needs of the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, who often face challenges in accessing quality medical facilities due to the region's difficult terrain and limited infrastructure.

During the event, a team of The Indian Army doctors provided free consultations, distributed medicines, and educated the community on preventive healthcare measures.

Special attention was given to women, children, and the elderly, ensuring their health concerns were addressed.

In addition to medical assistance, the Indian Army also distributed essential hygiene kits to promote cleanliness and prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

The local population expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts, highlighting the positive impact such initiatives have on their daily lives.

The outreach reflects the Indian Army's dedication not only to safeguarding the region but also to contribute to the overall well-being of its people.

India triumphs at Kho Kho World Cup, winning men's and women's titles

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: India has achieved a historic milestone by clinching victory in both the Men's and Women's categories at the Kho Kho World Cup, solidifying its dominance in the sport.

This prestigious global event featured participation from 23 nations and included the successful conduction of over 90 matches.

Nazia, a pivotal member of the Indian team, played a crucial role in securing the victory.

The tournament's technical operations were seamlessly managed by experts

such as B.S Tirthi, Pankaj Malhotra, and Fayaz, ensuring the smooth organization and officiation of matches.

The event was supported by General Secretary Amrinderpal Singh, who played a key role in management, and Sahil Sharma, who contributed as a social influencer.

This remarkable achievement underscores the growing international recognition of Kho Kho and India's unparalleled expertise in the sport.

Dr. Baljinder Kour, President of the association, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the team, particularly appreciating the contributions of the JK team.

Army organizes Chai Pe Charcha with Sarpanchs, Panchs at Lam

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 24: In its ongoing efforts to connect with the locals and discuss the critical issues being faced by the villagers, the Indian Army organized a Chai Pe Charcha with Sarpanchs, Panchs, and a few locals at Lam.

The program was attended by all Sarpanchs, Panchs, and several locals from the area. All members showed keen interest and participated in the discussion.

The aim of the meeting was to bring out the critical

issues faced by local villagers through meaningful discussions and to enhance relations with the Indian Army.

The event encouraged open and constructive discussions on various topics, including community development, enhancing socio-economic status, the progress of villages, and the role of local governance in shaping the future of the community.

Discussions in the meeting revolved around key issues such as infrastructure development, healthcare services, mental

health, education, and sustainable community initiatives.

In an effort to enhance the development and security of local villagers, an important step is being taken to strengthen the relationship between army personnel and village Sarpanchs, Panchs, and locals.

A total of 5 Sarpanchs and 35 Panchs attended the event and expressed their gratitude for the continuous support provided by the Indian Army in motivating and guiding the locals towards a better social and economic status.

DD News Jammu Coffee Table Book on J&K Assembly Elections 2024 presented to DC Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 24: Kalash Nath, District Correspondent, Prasar Bharti Kishtwar, presented a Coffee Table Book of Doordarshan News Jammu on the coverage of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Elections to Rajesh Kumar Shavan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar.

The book, which was earlier released by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, showcases the efforts of Doordarshan News Jammu in promot-

ing voter education and awareness during the elections.

The Coffee Table Book highlights key initiatives undertaken by the Regional News Unit (RNU) of DD News Jammu, including social media campaigns, signature drives under the Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, and special voter education programs.

These efforts were designed to reach out to voters across Jammu & Kashmir, with a particu-

lar emphasis on remote areas.

During the event, Kalash Nath briefed the DC on the collaborative efforts made by DD News Jammu to inform and engage the electorate, ensuring that every voter had access to essential election-related information.

The DC Kishtwar appreciated the significant contributions made by DD News Jammu, especially in increasing voter awareness in underserved areas.

"I commend Kalash

Nath and the entire team of DD News Jammu for their dedication to strengthening the democratic process. The Coffee Table Book is a reflection of the collective efforts to empower voters and ensure greater participation in the electoral process," said DC Kishtwar.

The event was attended by senior officers, including DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, District Information Officer (DIO) Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, along with other officials.



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Priyanka Chopra, Mindy Kaling and Guneet Monga hail Oscar nod for short film 'Anuja'

Hollywood stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Mindy Kaling, and Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga have celebrated the Academy Award nomination of their film 'Anuja' in the Live Action Short category.

The New Delhi-set short film from directors Adam J Graves and Suchitra Mattai is pitted against "A Lien," "I'm Not a Robot," "The Last Ranger," and "The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent" in the category at the Oscars 2025.

The nominations for the upcoming award ceremony, which were twice postponed earlier this month due to wildfires in Los Angeles, were announced by comedians Bowen Yang and Rachel Sennott.

"Anuja" follows a gifted nine-year-old Anuja, who must make a choice between education and factory work alongside her sister — a decision that will shape both their futures. It stars Sajda Pathan and Ananya Shanbhag.

Monga serves as an executive producer on the film, with Mindy



Kaling taking on the role of producer. Recently, Priyanka Chopra Jonas also came on board as an executive producer.

"Yaaaay! 'Anuja' is heading to the 2025 Oscars as a nominee for Best Live Action Short Film! Incredible! Thank you to @theacademy for the amazing honour," Priyanka posted on Instagram.

"It's an honour for @purplepebblepictures and I to be a small part of this film's journey

alongside our amazing partners @suchitramattai, @mindykaling, @guneetmonga, and @shine.global," she added.

Kaling hailed "Anuja" as a story of "resilience, sisterhood, and hope." "We're incredibly honoured to be nominated for Best Live Action Short Film at the Academy Awards 2025... It has been such an honour to produce this short film and learn from the artists involved. So proud

@kalinginternational gets to be a part!" she wrote on Instagram.

"Anuja" is produced in collaboration with the Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT), a non-profit founded by filmmaker Mira Nair's family to support street and working children, alongside Shine Global, and Krushan Naik Films.

Monga, who earlier produced the 2023 Academy Award-winning documentary short film "The Elephant Whis-

perers," said "Anuja" is an ode to the "unbreakable bond between two sisters who dared to dream beyond their circumstances." "Ultimately it is a celebration of all the beautiful children who face dire circumstances every day around the world. Even through unimaginable odds, they show us there is reason to smile. We are endlessly grateful to our team, partners and audiences — who believed in Anuja and carried its message across the globe."

"This nomination is a testament to how a story made with all heart can transcend all borders, sparking meaningful conversations about education, child labour rights, and the dreams of young children everywhere," Monga said.

Monga had also executive produced "Period. End of Sentence," which won the 2019 Academy Award for documentary short film.

The 2025 Academy Awards will be held on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Bhumi Pednekar talks about gender equality at the World Economic Forum in Davos



Actress and environmentalist Bhumi Pednekar, who is at the World Economic Forum

in Davos, Switzerland, talked about the challenges in bringing about greater gender equality in society and also about her acting career.

Recognised as a Young Global Leader (YGL) by the World Economic Forum last year, Bhumi Pednekar said she was keen to be a good role model for young girls who watch movies.

"We all are here just to have positive conversations about how can we make the world better and, honestly, I'm full of gratitude that I was given this opportunity because right from the start of my career with my work on screen and off screen, I've truly tried to make a difference," she said.

Bhumi said there was a need for more women in places of power. "We need women in places of power and this change needs to happen from a grassroots level— from the grassroots level to boardrooms. We need to see women in the process of decision-making."

Sunny Deol's 'Jaat' to release in theatres on April 10

Bollywood star Sunny Deol's "Jaat" is set to hit the theatres across the country on April 10, the makers announced on Friday.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers and People Media Factory, the film is slated to release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages. It is touted as a "high-octane drama" with "larger-than-life action sequences".

The action film is directed by Gopichand Malineni, known for "Don Seenu", "Bodyguard", "Balupu", and "Veera Simha Reddy".

"Action Superstar @iamsunnydeol is coming to the big screens with unrestricted action & unfathomable aura. #JAAT grand release worldwide on April 10th in Hindi, Telugu & Tamil. MASS FEAST GUARANTEED," People Media Factory posted on Instagram.



Deol, whose last film "Gadar 2" was a huge blockbuster, also announced the release date of the film on his X handle.

"Jaat" also stars Ran-

deep Hooda, Vineet Kumar Singh, Saiyami Kher and Regina Cassandra in pivotal roles. Ace composer Thaman S has provided music for the film.

Neha Sharma is looking forward to the shoot of her next Punjabi film Sanjog

For actress Neha Sharma, each visit to Chandigarh is like being back home. Even though she belongs to Bhagalpur, Bihar, it's the relaxed pace of life here that gives her a warm feeling.

In the city recently, Neha shared, "Chandigarh is one of my favourite cities. Each time I come here I am bowled over; it's so green and clean. People don't seem to be in any rush, unlike the fast-paced Mumbai. Coming here is so relaxing."

Even though each time that the Crook actress comes to the city, it's for work, she said, "Work doesn't feel like work here, the great vibe of the city rather rejuvenates me."

From a political lineage (her father Ajit Sharma is a Congress MLA in Bihar), Neha started with an aim to pursue fashion design and studied at



the National Institute of Fashion Technology in New Delhi. While studying, she got into modeling and films.

She opened her film innings with a Telugu film in 2007 and over the years, she has been part of Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi films, including Kyaa Super Kool Hain Hum, Yamla Pagla Deewana 2 and Tanhaji. Language is certainly no barrier for this actress, who also has to her credit a Mandarin film Xuanzang—a 2016 Chinese-Indian historical adventure film.

Pollywood calling. A fan of comedies, she is looking forward to be her next, Sanjog. Neha has been part of Punjabi movie Ik Sandhu Hunda Si earlier. Sanjog, to be directed by Harish Gargi, would see Neha Sharma join Jassi Gill, Happy Raikoti and many other known faces of Pollywood. "I have long

enjoyed Punjabi comedies and to be a part of one is quite wonderful."

Touted as a gripping Punjabi movie filled with emotion, drama and unforgettable moments, it offers a peep into a world of destiny, love and unforgettable twists. "I fell in love with the script, it's hugely entertaining and my character is fun," shared Neha, who is looking forward to the month-long shoot schedule in Punjab later this year.

In tricity, to inaugurate NITZ Beauty Lab & Co, she looked gorgeous in an ethnic velvet ensemble. "NITZ Beauty offers diverse services and is soon going to be a hotspot for brides and grooms to be. I saw their fashion show and am quite impressed by their hair and makeup dos."

Neha is raring to be back for the film shoot, and hoping to explore the City Beautiful more.

Kangana Ranaut blasts own govt over 'Emergency', says British MP spoke out while Indian politicians were mum

Kangana Ranaut's portrayal of Indira Gandhi in the film, "Emergency", is bold and confident.

And, without doubt, the film has been controversial.

But the film is so close to the actress' heart that she went all out to hit out at her own government and politicians over not supporting her during the screening of 'Emergency'.

She took to social media to take a swipe at the Indian politicians and feminists after British Parliamentarian Bob Blackman inside British Parliament raised concerns on Khalistani sympathisers disrupting screenings of the "Emergency" film in British cinemas.

"British MP raises his voice for my fundamental right of free speech

meanwhile pin drop silence from Indian politicians and feminists #Emergency," wrote Kangana.

An Opposition Conservative Party Member of Parliament has urged the UK Home Secretary to intervene after his constituents in north-west London were threatened by "masked Khalistani terrorists" who burst into a screening of Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency'.

"On Sunday, many of my constituents gathered and paid for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow Vue cinema. At about 30 or 40 minutes into the screening of the film, masked Khalistani terrorists burst in, threatened members of the audience and forced the screening to end," Bob



Blackman said in Parliament.

Kangana Ranaut has earlier said the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's (SGPC) demand for a ban on "Emergency" and the film's restricted screenings in parts of Punjab is a complete harassment of "art and

the artist".

SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhama had written to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann demanding a ban on the movie.

Many cinemas in Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala and Bathinda did not screen "Emergency" after members of the

SGPC protested against the movie. Police force was deployed outside the malls and cinemas in the state.

The political drama, which sees Ranaut playing the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, focuses on 21 months of Emergency from 1975 to 1977.

"Emergency", in controversy over its censor certificate and allegations that it misrepresents the Sikh community, was released across the country on Friday after several delays.

In August last year, the SGPC sent a legal notice to the film's producers, alleging that it "misrepresented" the character and history of Sikhs, and asked them to remove objectionable scenes depicting "anti-Sikh" sentiments.

Shehnaaz Gill turns up the fun with her hilarious overacting



Actress Shehnaaz Gill has once again left fans in splits with her latest Instagram post.

The actress and singer shared a hilarious video of herself eating in a way that only she could pull off—using a fork in the most comical manner. In the video shared on her Instagram, Shehnaaz is seen eating with a fork. The way she eats, combined with her funny facial expressions, is guaranteed to make anyone burst into laughter. The video is a perfect example of Shehnaaz's knack for turning even the simplest moments into comedic gold.

Sharing this hilarious clip, the 'Honsla Rakh' actress wrote in the caption, "Mere overacting ke paise kaat lo buraah-

hhhhhhhh."

Yesterday, Gill posted a video of her pre-birthday celebration in Dubai. The clip featured Shehnaaz savoring a peaceful moment aboard a cruise, with the stunning Dubai skyline creating a mesmerizing backdrop. A grand cake placed beside her added a sweet touch to the celebration. The words "Happy Birthday Shehnaaz" lit up on the giant wheel behind her, and she looked visibly surprised and delighted.

For the caption, the 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant wrote, "Celebrating me in style at Ain Dubai! My amazing friend made my birthday unforgettable in this stunning city of dreams. #CountingDownToTheBigDay—happy birthday to me in advance! #AinDubai #DubaiDiaries #BirthdayGoals #GratefulHeart."

Shehnaaz Gill, who will turn 32 on January 27, has kicked off her birthday celebrations in Dubai with her friends.

On the work front, Shehnaaz, who rose to fame with her stint on "Bigg Boss 13," was last seen in an item song in Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri's movie "Vicky and Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video."

She will next be seen in the upcoming film "Ikk Kudi," which marks her debut as a producer. Written and directed by Amarjit Singh Saron, the Punjabi film is set to hit theatres on June 13, 2025.

Resolute in ensuring no discrimination against girl child: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): In his message on National Girl Child Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India is proud of the accomplishments of its girls across all fields.

Modi added that his government is equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child.

In a post on X, he said, "Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her. India is proud of the accom-



plishments of the girl child across all fields."

Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her. India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields. Their feats continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Modi said his government has focused on sectors like education, technology, skills and healthcare among others which have contributed to empowering the girl child.

Kharge Urges union minister to fast track key proposals for Central University of Karnataka



BENGALURU, Jan 24 (Agencies): Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday demanded the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to expedite the approval of key proposals related to Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, which are currently pending before the Centre.

In a letter to the Minister, he noted that the Central University of Karnataka serves as an hub of education for students not only from Kalaburagi and the seven districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region but those from entire Karnataka and several areas of neighbouring states.

Kharge who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said that the University plays a vital role in addressing educa-

tional disparities and fostering opportunities for growth.

Highlighting that the development and growth of such institutions require the Central Government's sustained financial and institutional support, Kharge stated that sanction of new post-graduate departments, teaching positions and HEFA funding proposal that are critical to the progress of the University and the region await the approval from the Government of India.

In the letter, Kharge stated that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended establishing various postgraduate departments, including Statistics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Plant and Animal Sciences, Genetics and

Genomics, Library and Information Science, and a BA/LLB program. The matter is currently under consideration.

"To operationalize the proposed departments, the sanction of 55 teaching positions is essential. This proposal is also in the advanced stages of process and awaiting approval," he said.

Kharge also mentioned that the University has submitted a proposal under the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) for constructing hostels for boys and girls, along with other essential infrastructure. This matter is also under consideration.

"Given the importance of these initiatives for the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region and their significant impact on students from underprivileged and underdeveloped areas, I kindly request your urgent intervention in the matter. I urge you to instruct the concerned officials to follow-up and expedite the approval of said proposals on a priority basis," he stated.

Centre, Delhi Police conspiring to kill Kejriwal, claims AAP

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday accused the BJP-led Centre and the Delhi Police of conspiring to "kill" its supremo Arvind Kejriwal and urged the Election Commission to restore his security cover provided by the Punjab Police that was withdrawn.

There was no immediate reaction from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or the Delhi Police to the allegation.

Addressing a press conference here, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and

her Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, said they had written to the EC, demanding "fair grounds" to the AAP in the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls and the restoration of Kejriwal's security cover given by the Punjab Police, along with an audit of "life-threatening" attacks on him.

They alleged that the Delhi Police, which came under the Centre, had turned a blind eye to the alleged attacks on Kejriwal in accordance with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's order.

"There are two players involved in this conspiracy to kill Kejriwal — the BJP and the Delhi Police.

They are both conspiring to end his life. Attacks have been attempted on him one after the other.

In October (last year), an attack was made on him. Upon our investigation, it was found that the attackers were BJP workers, but the police took no action," Atishi alleged.

"We have written to the EC, demanding that Kejriwal's security be



restored. We do not trust the Delhi Police as it is under Amit Shah's control," she added. The AAP leaders

alleged that resorting to "dirty politics" ahead of the Delhi polls, the BJP had conspired to get Kejriwal's security removed.

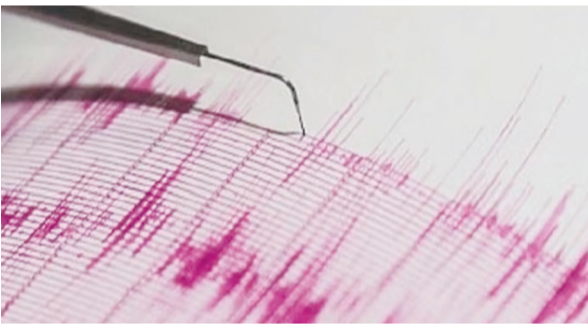
Residents in panic as double earthquake shakes Uttarkashi

DEHRADUN, Jan 24 (Agencies): Residents rushed out of their homes in panic after two jolting earthquakes hit the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand on Friday morning.

According to the Disaster Management Office, there have been no reports of casualties or property damage in the district besides a landslide that occurred on Mount Varunavrat shortly after the quakes.

The district's Disaster Management Officer Jai Prakash Singh Panwar told the TNIE that residents of Uttarkashi experienced two significant tremors on Friday morning. "The first earthquake struck at approximately 7:41 am, registering a magnitude of 2.7 on the Richter scale, with its epicentre near the district headquarters," he explained.

The initial quake sent shockwaves through the region, prompting



residents to rush out of their homes in alarm. Just under half an hour later, at 8:29 am, a second tremor was felt, with a magnitude of 3.5. "The epicentre of this second earthquake was situated within the forests of Barsu in the Gangotri Bhattwari block," added DDMO Panwar.

Authorities are monitoring the situation closely, ensuring that safety protocols are in place for the community. Fortunately, there have been no immediate reports of injuries or significant property damage, but the seismic activity has heightened

awareness among residents about the potential risks associated with living in a seismically active area.

In response to the recent earthquake tremors, local administration officials have urged residents to remain vigilant and seek shelter in safe locations.

According to government sources, rocks began to tumble from the landslide zone of Mount Varunavrat during the quake. It is important to note that Mount Varunavrat has a history of landslides. Fortunately, there have been no reports of casualties or significant property damage thus far.

Sexual harassment at workplace: SC says plea for job security of ICC members 'important'

The petition argues that women ICC members in the private sector were not entitled to the same level of protection and security of tenure that ICC members in the public sector enjoyed.

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday said the plea for job security for members of the internal complaint committees for sexual harassment at workplace was an "important" and sought the assistance of the solicitor general of India.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said despite issuing notice to the Central government, neither anyone appeared nor a reply was filed.

"This is an important cause which has been raised in the matter. We would like to examine it. You serve the copy on the solicitor general. If no one appears on the next date, we will appoint an amicus," the bench told the petitioner's counsel.

The petitioners are Janaki Chaudhry, former member of a ICC committee, and former journalist Olga Tellis.

The bench posted the hearing next week.

On December 6, the top court, while agreeing to examine the plea, issued notice to the Minis-



try of Women and Child Development.

The PIL sought security of tenure and protection from retaliation for members of internal complaints committees (ICC) constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH Act) in private work places.

The petition filed through advocate Munawwar Naseem claimed women ICC members

in the private sector were not entitled to the same level of protection and security of tenure that ICC members of public sector enjoyed.

The PIL said while ICC members were tasked with the duty to adjudicate sexual harassment complaints on the payroll of a company, they could be terminated from service (with 3 months' pay) without being offered any reason if a decision went against the senior man-

agement of the private workplace.

"This creates a serious conflict of interest and constraints for the ICC members from taking free, fair and impartial decisions...if they take a decision that goes against the will of the senior management, they are susceptible to victimisation and retaliation, such as unfair termination and demotion," the PIL said.

Private sector ICC members have no recourse to the principles of natural justice, nor can they challenge their dismissal (on account of decisions taken by them) in an appropriate forum, it added.

"The 'hire and fire' rule forms part of the basic tenets of the 'master-servant' relationship. In private sector, if an employee has been terminated from their service, they have no remedy other than the right to claim three months' salary or severance...if the actions of an ICC member ruffle feathers in the upper echelons of a private company," argued the PIL.

Woman beaten, hair shaved by others because she couldn't repay loan

AGARTALA, Jan 24 (Agencies): In a disturbing incident, a woman in the Lalsinghmura area of Bishalgarh in Tripura's Sepahijala district was allegedly assaulted and had her head partially shaved by a group of other women.

Police from Bishalgarh Women Police Station rescued the victim after receiving information about the incident and brought her to the station for safety and initial inquiry.

Inspector Shiuli Das, in-charge of the Bishalgarh Women Police Station, who is investigating the matter stated that the attack was reported-

ly carried out by members of a local Self-Help Group (SHG).

The victim alleged that a group of women assaulted her and shaved half of her head, possibly over a financial dispute involving money borrowed from the SHG. "We are conducting a thorough investigation to uncover the facts," the police officer told media.

The victim recounted the harrowing incident, claiming that around 15-20 local women barged into her home while she was in the kitchen.

After a brief conversation about her travel

plans, the group allegedly dragged her outside, rebuked her, assaulted her, and shaved half of her head.

She added that the attackers demanded she immediately return the money borrowed by her husband from the SHG, prompting the violent act.

Police have filed a suo motu case against 20-21 unnamed individuals under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), including Section 74 for outraging the modesty of a woman, Section 115(2) for voluntarily causing hurt, and Section 3(5) for common intention.

Autorickshaw driver assaults, rapes woman on beach in Palghar

MUMBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): A 20-year-old woman was raped and assaulted by an autorickshaw driver at a beach in neighbouring Palghar district, police said on Friday.

The police have arrested the accused for the assault that took place at Vasai Beach earlier this week, an official said.

The official said the woman was spotted near Goregaon railway station here on Wednesday morning, and when questioned, she informed the police about the rape.

She was taken to a government-run hospital, he said. The woman, in her statement, has alleged that she met the accused autorickshaw driver at Vasai railway station premises, and he took her to the beach, where he assaulted and raped her, the official said.

He said a case was registered at Vanarai police station, and multiple teams were formed to apprehend the accused.

The teams launched a search between Churchgate and Virar railway stations and nabbed the 32-year-old accused from a slum in Khairpada Valiv, the official said.

8 killed in blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra



BHANDARA, Jan 24 (Agencies): Eight people were killed after a blast caused the roof to collapse at the ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara dis-

trict on Friday, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had earlier said that 13 to 14 workers were stuck after the

roof of a unit collapsed in the blast.

According to police and district authorities, the explosion occurred in the LTP section of the ordnance factory in the Jawahar Nagar area around 10.30 am.

District Collector Sanjay Kolte said 13 to 14 people were working in the unit at the time of the incident.

Fadnavis, in a post on X, had earlier said five people were rescued, and the district collector and superintendent of police were at the spot, while a team from the state disaster response force from Nagpur was on the way.

“Unfair relationship”: Trump’s message for China on “trade deficit”

Calling the relationship “unfair”, Donald Trump said the US doesn’t want to take any advantage but wants fairness.

WASHINGTON, Jan 24 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump, affirmed hope of having a “very good relationship” with China under his administration, while also stressing the need to have a “level-playing field” regarding the trade situation.

Virtually addressing the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Trump said, “He (Xi Jinping) called me. But I see it very good. I think that we are going to have a very good relationship,” Trump said, noting that the US has been facing significant trade deficits with China, a situation he attributed to former President Biden’s policies.

Calling the relationship “unfair”, Trump said the US doesn’t want to take any advantage but wants fairness.

He also criticised the Biden administration for allowing the trade deficit to go “out of hand”.

“It is just an unfair relationship. We have to make it just fair...All we want is fairness. We just want a level playing field. We don’t want to take



advantage. We have been having massive deficits with China. Biden allowed it to get out of hand...It is just an unfair relationship. We have to make it just fair. We don’t have to make it phenomenal, we have to make it a fair relationship. Right now, it’s not a fair relationship,” he said.

Trump pointed out that the US has been running large deficits with many countries, particularly in Asia, and stressed the need to address these imbalances.

“The deficit is massive as it

is with other countries, a lot of Asian countries. But we have deficits that are very big and we can’t keep doing that. So, we are not going to keep doing that,” he said.

Despite these trade issues, Trump expressed his personal admiration for President Xi, describing their relationship as generally positive, even during strained moments, such as the outbreak of Covid-19 in Wuhan.

“I like President Xi very much, I have always liked him. We always had a very good rela-

tionship,” Trump said.

“It was very strained with Covid coming out of Wuhan... But we always had a great relationship, we look forward to doing very well with China and getting along with China. Hopefully, China can help us stop the war with, in particular, Russia-Ukraine. They have a great deal of power over that situation,” he added.

Notably, the WEF summit, underway in Davos, Switzerland, from January 20 to 24, serves as a platform to deliberate on pressing global challenges, economic transformations, and sustainability goals.

Earlier, just days before his swearing-in, Trump held a telephone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and discussed a range of issues including trade, fentanyl, and TikTok.

Stressing the expectation that the two global leaders will “solve many problems together,” the then President-elect said they would do “everything possible” to make the world “more peaceful and safe”.

Afghan women’s group hails court’s move to arrest Taliban leaders for persecution of women



KABUL, Jan 24 (Agencies): An Afghan women’s group on Friday hailed a decision by the International Criminal Court to arrest Taliban leaders for their persecution of women.

The International Criminal Court’s chief prosecutor Karim Khan announced Thursday he had requested arrest warrants for two top Taliban officials, including the leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Since they took back control of the country

in 2021, the Taliban have barred women from jobs, most public spaces and education beyond sixth grade.

In a statement, the Afghan Women’s Movement for Justice and Awareness celebrated the ICC decision and called it a “great historical achievement.”

“We consider this achievement a symbol of the strength and will of Afghan women and believe this step will start a new chapter of accountability and justice in the country,” the

group said.

The Taliban government has yet to comment on the court’s move.

Also Friday, the UN mission in Afghanistan said it was a “tragedy and travesty” that girls remain deprived of education.

“It has been 1,225 days — soon to be four years — since authorities imposed a ban that prevents girls above the age of 12 from attending school,” said the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Roza Otunbayeva. “It is a travesty and tragedy that millions of Afghan girls have been stripped of their right to education.”

Afghanistan is the only country in the world that explicitly bars women and girls from all levels of education, said Otunbayeva.

Sri Lanka revokes power purchase deal with India’s Adani

COLOMBO, Jan 24 (Agencies): Sri Lanka has revoked a power purchase agreement with Indian conglomerate Adani Group following allegations of corruption, energy ministry sources in Colombo said Friday.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s administration opened probes into the company’s local projects after billionaire founder Gautam Adani was charged with bribery in the United States late last year.

The administration of his predecessor had in May 2024 agreed to buy electricity at US\$0.0826 per kilowatt from an Adani wind power complex yet to be built in the island nation’s north-west.

But a top energy ministry official said Dissanayake’s cabinet decided earlier this month not to proceed with the deal.

“The government has revoked the power purchase agreement, but

the project is not cancelled. A committee has been appointed to review the entire project,” the source said, speaking to agency on condition of anonymity. Several activists had challenged the agreement, arguing that smaller renewable projects were selling electricity at two-thirds the price of Adani.

The proposed construction of Adani’s 484-megawatt wind power plant in the Mannar and Pooneryn coastal areas is facing a separate Supreme Court challenge over environmental concerns. An official document seen by agency on Friday confirmed that Sri Lanka’s cabinet this month decided to appoint a panel to “re-evaluate” the project’s construction.

It also confirmed the withdrawal from the power purchase agreement, which the current ruling party had strongly criticised while in opposition.

Dissanayake came to power in September promising to tackle corruption and bring back stolen Sri Lankan assets said to be stashed abroad.

Indian industrialist Adani was charged in the US on November 19, accused of paying bribes and hiding the payments from US investors, according to prosecutors in New York.

Adani Group has dismissed the charges as “baseless”. With a business empire spanning coal, airports, cement and media, Adani Group has been rocked in recent years by corporate fraud allegations.

Adani was the first foreign investor to enter Sri Lanka in the wake of a 2022 financial crash that devastated the island nation’s economy.

His firm’s proposed \$442 million wind power plants were approved in February 2023 but the project has been stalled by court challenges.

North Korea prepares to send more troops to Russia after suffering casualties, South Korea says

SEOUL, Jan 24 (Agencies): South Korea’s military said Friday it suspects North Korea is preparing to send additional troops to Russia after its soldiers fighting in the Russian-Ukraine war suffered heavy casualties.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff also assessed in a report distributed to journalists that North Korea is continuing its preparations to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile intended to reach the United States.

President Donald Trump’s return to the White House may brighten Pyongyang’s prospects for high-level diplomacy with the U.S., as he met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un three times during his first term. Many experts say Kim likely thinks his evolving nuclear program and expanding military cooperation with Russian President Vladimir Putin could give him a greater leverage than during his 2018-19 summits with Trump.

North Korea has been supplying a vast amount of artillery and other conventional weapons to Russia, and last October it sent about 10,000-12,000 troops to Russia as well, according to U.S., South Korean and Ukraine intelligence. Seoul, Washington and others worry Russia could in return transfer to North Korea sophisticated weapons technologies that can enhance



its nuclear program.

North Korean soldiers are considered to be highly disciplined and well-trained, but their lack of combat experiences and unfamiliarity with the largely flat plains that make up most battlefields in the Russian-Ukraine war have made them easy targets for drones and artillery strikes.

South Korea’s spy agency said last week that it assessed about 300 North Korean soldiers had died and another 2,700 had been injured. Earlier in January, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy put the number of killed or wounded North Koreans at 4,000, though U.S. estimates are lower at around 1,200.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said that North Korea is believed to be accelerating preparations to send more troops to Russia, without saying how it reached the assessment.

Deepening military ties between North Korea and Russia could embolden Kim over his dealings with the U.S. and South Korea. In a major political conference last month, Kim recently vowed to implement the “toughest” anti-U.S. policy. But many experts say Kim may eventually want to sit down for talks with Trump if he thinks the U.S. president could make concessions.

Their previous talks collapsed after Trump rejected Kim’s offer to dismantle his main nuclear complex, a limited denuclearization step, in return for extensive sanctions relief. Kim has since sharply increased the pace of weapons tests to expand an arsenal of nuclear missiles targeting the U.S. and South Korea.

In South Korea, there are concerns that Trump might give up the goal of a complete denuclearization of North Korea to focus

on eliminating the long-range missile program that poses a direct threat to the U.S., while leaving its nuclear attack capabilities against South Korea intact.

On Monday, Trump called North Korea “a nuclear power” as he boasted of his personal ties with Kim. That created a stir in South Korea, as Washington, Seoul and their partners have long avoided describing the country as a nuclear state out of worries that it could be seen as accepting North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

“I was very friendly with him. He liked me. I liked him,” Trump said during a press availability at the Oval Office after his inauguration. “Now he is a nuclear power. But we got along. I think he’ll be happy to see I’m coming back.”

Jeon Ha Gyu, a spokesperson for the South Korean Defense Ministry, told reporters Tuesday that efforts to achieve North Korea’s denuclearization must be continued as a prerequisite to realize lasting peace not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the world. South Korea’s Foreign Ministry also said it will closely coordinate with the Trump administration to achieve denuclearization.

Tibetan delegation in Denmark highlights China’s repressive policies during advocacy visit

COPENHAGEN, Jan 24 (Agencies): A delegation from the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, including members Geshe Monlam Tharchin, Namgyal Dolkar Lhagyari, and Konchok Yangphel, began their advocacy tour in Denmark with a meeting at the Danish Parliament, Folketinget, reaffirming resistance to China’s repressive policies. Central Tibetan Administration announced in a statement.

They were warmly received by Sascha Faxe MP, the foreign affairs spokesperson for the Atlantic and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, according to the statement.

During the meeting, MP Faxe highlighted Denmark’s democratic traditions while reiterating her commitment to defending human rights and opposing China’s growing influence. In response, Namgyal Dolkar Lha-



gyari delivered an in-depth presentation on the severe impact of China’s policies in Tibet.

She described the systematic efforts to erase Tibet’s unique language, culture, and identity through the forced assimilation of Tibetan children in state-run boarding schools. She also raised concerns about the environmental devastation caused by China’s construction of mega dams and the exploitation of Tibet’s natural resources, which

threaten the livelihoods of millions of Tibetans who depend on the plateau’s delicate ecosystem, Central Tibetan Administration reported.

The delegation called on MP Faxe and the Danish Parliament to translate their moral support for Tibet into concrete actions, urging stronger international advocacy for the Tibetan cause. In response, Faxe praised the leadership of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, noting that

his promotion of democracy within the Tibetan exile community serves as a powerful example for the world.

The delegation also held discussions with Mathias Parsbaek, Director, and Marlene Croydon Haritso, Senior Advisor at the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy, exploring opportunities to highlight Tibet’s democratic model on the global stage. The Tibetan delegation’s visit will continue with further meetings aimed at increasing international awareness of the ongoing struggles faced by Tibetans under Chinese rule.

The Tibetan delegation’s visit to Denmark underscores ongoing efforts to raise global awareness of China’s repressive policies in Tibet, seeking stronger international support for Tibet’s rights and democratic aspirations.

A fierce storm is lashing Ireland and Scotland with record winds, downing power lines

LONDON, Jan 24 (Agencies): Ireland was hit with wind gusts of 114 miles (183 kilometers) an hour, the strongest on record, as a winter storm battered the country and northern parts of the U.K. on Friday, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power.

Schools were closed, trains halted and hundreds of flights canceled in the Republic of Ireland, neighboring Northern Ireland and Scotland as the system, named Storm Eowyn by weather authorities, roared in.

Forecasters issued a rare “red” weather warning, meaning danger to life, for Friday across the whole island of Ireland and central and southwest Scotland.

“Please just stay at home if you can,” Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O’Neill said on BBC Radio Ulster. “We’re in the eye of the storm now. We are in the period of the red alert.”

The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh shut its doors and Scottish First Minister John Swinney said: “We have to be clear. People should not travel.”

More than 700,000 homes and businesses in Ireland and almost 100,000 in Northern Ireland were without power

due to “unprecedented, widespread and extensive” damage to electricity infrastructure, the Irish Electricity Supply Board said.

Ireland’s weather office, Met Eireann, said 114 mile an hour gusts were recorded at Mace Head on the west coast, beating a record of 113 miles (182 kilometers) an hour set in 1945.

Part of the storm’s energy originated with the system that brought historic snowfall along the Gulf Coast of the U.S., said Jason Nicholls, lead international forecaster at the private weather company AccuWeather.

The storm is being propelled by the jet stream and is being fed by energy in upper levels of the atmosphere. A rapid drop in air pressure is expected and could make Eowyn a bomb cyclone, which happens when a storm’s pressure drops 24 millibars in 24 hours.

Scientists say pinpointing the exact influence of climate change on a storm is challenging, but all storms are happening in an atmosphere that is warming abnormally fast due to human-released pollutants like carbon dioxide and methane.

DFSS holds protest condemning politicization of Badhaal illness mystery

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: A mystery illness in Budhal, Rajouri, has claimed 17 lives, primarily children, over the past two months, leaving many others seriously ill. Authorities have launched containment measures, including quarantining over 200 residents who had contact with the patients. Homes of affected individuals have been sealed, and movement to and from Budhal has been restricted in a Covid-like containment effort.

The government has ruled out infection as the cause but confirmed the presence of cadmium and another toxin, both of which attack the central nervous system, in patient samples. Residents have been urged to avoid local bread, vegetables, water, and milk to prevent further exposure.

In light of the crisis, children in critical condition were shifted to the SMGS Hospital, Jammu, where senior consultants,



including the HOD Pediatrics and Principal of GMC Jammu, provided immediate treatment. One child, whose condition worsened shortly after admission, was placed on a ventilator. Medical interventions in the hospital's ICU were credited with averting potential fatalities that might have occurred during transport to Chandigarh.

The MLA representing Budhal accused the Centre of indifference, suggesting the lack of high-level response was due to the area's Muslim-majority pop-

ulation. He alleged that if the crisis had occurred in Jammu, Kathua, Samba, or Udhampur, senior leaders, including the Prime Minister or Union Home Minister, would have personally intervened, with air ambulances arranged for patient transport.

These remarks have drawn sharp criticism. Ashok Gupta, president of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS), led a rally in Jammu city, condemning the politicization of the tragedy. Gupta labeled the MLA's comments as shameful and accused

him of exploiting the deaths for political gain. He further alleged that the MLA misled the public by claiming to have arranged patient admissions at PGI Chandigarh, a claim refuted by hospital authorities citing unavailability of beds.

Despite the political discord, the medical fraternity of GMC Jammu has been lauded for its tireless efforts. Faculty, paramedics, and administrators have pledged to stand by the people of Budhal during this crisis.

Ashok Gupta appealed to the public to pool resources and assist affected families in Budhal, emphasizing the need for collective action to save lives.

The protest was attended by Ganesh, Raju, Raghuveer, Ajay, Bantu, Prem, Naresh, Rampal, and others, who expressed solidarity with the affected families and called for an end to political blame games during this humanitarian crisis.

76th Republic Day full dress rehearsal held in Kishtwar

ADC Kishtwar unfurls Tricolor, leads salute for March Past



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 24: A Comprehensive full dress rehearsal was conducted today at the historic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar, setting the stage for the grand celebrations of the 76th Republic Day in 2025.

During the rehearsal, Sh. Pawan Kotwal, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Kishtwar, hoisted the tricolor and led the salute during the march past, which included contingents from the CRPF, Police, CISF, IRP, NCC (Sr. Div.) of GDC Kishtwar, Forest Protection Force, Homeguard, and schoolchildren. The parade was led by Parade Commander Dy. SP Sumit Kumar.

The school children and local performers delivered a colorful cultural program, showcasing theme-based per-

formances that captivated the audience with patriotic enthusiasm.

The event was carried out with strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

In his address, ADC Kishtwar underscored the core principles of the Indian Constitution—integrity, sovereignty, fraternity, and brotherhood—as well as the right to vote, which collectively shaped India into the world's largest democracy.

He also highlighted the success of citizen-focused welfare initiatives such as the Holistic Agricultural Development Programme, Ayushman Bharat, and PMAY, emphasizing their practical benefits for people across the Union Territory and the district.

Furthermore, ADC Kishtwar commended the district's progress, particularly the excep-

tional achievements of Kishtwar's youth in education, sports, and other sectors.

On this occasion, the Swachh Bharat Pledge and the pledge related to the ongoing Road Safety Week were also administered.

The event was attended by several prominent officials, including ASP Kishtwar, Pawan Sharma, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, EO Municipality Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, ARTO Kishtwar, DySP DAR Sajjad Khan, DYSSO Kishtwar inspector Panchayat Roopesh Sharma along with other district officers, civil and police administration officials, and staff from various departments.

Mandatory attendance for Govt employees at R-Day celebrations in Srinagar

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 24: The Office of the District Magistrate, Srinagar, has issued a directive mandating the attendance of all government employees in the Republic Day celebrations scheduled to be held at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, on January 26, 2025.

As per the order, all Heads of Departments (HoDs), District Officers, and Sectoral Officers within the jurisdiction of District Srinagar are required to attend the main func-

tion along with their subordinate staff as part of their official duty.

To ensure compliance, each department has been instructed to nominate a senior officer to mark the attendance of their staff and submit the attendance report to the District Level Nodal Officer.

Additionally, departments are required to appoint a representative who will be present at the main entrance of the venue to identify officers and officials from their respective departments.

Yamin-ul-Nabi, Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, Srinagar, has been designated as the District Level Nodal Officer for attendance management. He will consolidate attendance reports from all departments and submit them to the District Magistrate's Office.

The order reiterates that participation in the Republic Day function is considered an official duty, and any failure to attend will be treated as dereliction of duty and a violation of government instructions.

NSS Wing of GDC Bishnah observes two-day series of events on Road Safety Month

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: January is annually dedicated to Road Safety Awareness. In this regard, the Road Safety Club, in collaboration with the NSS Wing of GDC Bishnah, observed a two-day series of events on Road Safety Month from January 23rd to 24th, 2025.

The events included an essay writing competition on the topic "Importance of Traffic Awareness in the Current Age" and a screening of a movie on traffic signals, followed by a quiz contest. The



events were held under the guidance of Principal Dr. Shallu Samyal.

Approximately fifty students participated, enriching their knowledge on the subject. Dr. Sapna Bhargav, Convenor of the Road Safety Club, addressed the students on the pressing issue of traffic chaos and awareness.

The event provided

students with an opportunity to learn about traffic rules and their observance.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks, and students were instructed to adhere to traffic rules while driving and walking on the road. The event Road Safety was conducted by Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS, PO.

DSW CLUJ pays tribute to martyr Lt. Sushil Singh Khajuria

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: The Department of Dean Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the NCC Unit of MAM College, organized a solemn event to honor and remember the valor and sacrifices of Martyr Lt. Sushil Singh Khajuria.

The ceremony began with floral tributes paid to the martyr, followed by a prayer in silence to offer respect and wish for eternal peace for the departed soul.

The event was aimed to commemorate the unyielding devotion and sacrifices of national heroes, who laid down their



lives to uphold India's sovereignty and freedom.

Students and staff members of the college participated in the event with great enthusiasm and patriotism.

The program was meticulously organized by CTO Mohd Ashraf under the guidance of the Vice-

Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu.

To inspire the students, one of the cadets delivered an eloquent speech highlighting the story of Lt. Khajuria's bravery and selflessness while emphasizing the importance of remembering and honoring the sac-

rifices of war heroes and veterans which left the audience deeply moved and reflective.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by CTO Mohd Ashraf, who expressed gratitude to all participants for making the occasion meaningful.

A pledge was taken by everyone present to uphold the ideals of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism exemplified by Lt. Khajuria and other war heroes.

This heartfelt tribute served as a reminder of the immense sacrifices made by our armed forces and reinforced the commitment of the youth to preserve the nation's integrity and honour.

From Page No:1

Opposition members suspended from Parliamentary panel on Waqf bill

brief adjournment of the proceedings. The Mirwaiz-led delegation appeared before the Committee after it reconvened.

Trinamool member Kalyan Banerjee and Congress member Naseer Hussain stormed out of the meeting and told reporters that the proceedings of the committee had become a "farce".

They demanded that the meeting scheduled for January 27 for examining the proposed amendments clause-by-clause be deferred to January 30 or January 31.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on August 8, 2024 following its introduction in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.

The bill aims to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to address issues and challenges in regulating and managing waqf properties.

Want to see J&K youth among top

notch entrepreneurs in the Country: LG Sinha

global standards," LG Sinha remarked.

He stressed the critical need for collaboration between academia and industry to drive technological advancements.

"The synergy between educational institutions and industries is essential to foster innovation and develop cutting-edge technologies that will propel India further on the global stage," he said.

Drones, Spotters in place for smooth conduct of R-Day functions in Kashmir: IGP

The full dress rehearsal was also attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bhiduri.

"This is a festival of the people and we want more and more people to participate in it. We chose the Bakshi Stadium as the venue so that people can come in large numbers," Bhiduri told reporters.

He said the arrangements this

year are better than last year.

"I request the people to come in large numbers. Just have an I-card along with you and there is no need for a special pass etc. Anyone can come to attend the functions," he added.

J&K's cadet Ekta Kumari makes history as Parade Commander at Kartavya Path

her Unit CO Lieutenant Commander Tej Ram, Group Commander Brig Deepak Sajjanhar SM, Addl Director General Maj Gen Anupinder Bevlvi VSM, Contingent Cdr Col Amit Bhardwaj, and ANO Dr Nitika, all of whom ensured her experience was both comfortable and inspiring.

This extraordinary achievement proves that with dedication, hard work, and the right guidance, any goal is attainable. Ekta's story serves as an inspiration to the youth of the nation to dream big and work relentlessly towards fulfilling those dreams.

Sat Pal Sharma elected J&K BJP

President Unopposed

Kashmir unit of the party in November last year, filed his nomination papers for the president's post on Thursday as part of organisational elections under the ongoing "Sangathan Parv" of the party at the national level.

He was the sole candidate to file the papers in front of the national returning officer Sanjay Bhatia, a former member of Parliament from Haryana appointed by the party high command to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Flanked by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, Leader of Opposition in the J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma, national observer Shrikant Sharma, the party's general secretary organisation Ashok Kaul, and other senior leaders, BJP national vice president Saudan Singh honoured him with a headgear and a garland.

"I thank the entire leadership from the centre to the grassroots workers for providing me with another opportunity and trusting me to lead the party in Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma said after assuming the party chief's role here.

He sought the support of party workers in further strengthening the organisation.

"Together, we can make this party

stronger in Jammu and Kashmir. We achieved the highest vote share in the recent Assembly elections. I seek your support to elevate this organisation to new heights and ensure service to the people of J-K," he said.

In November last year, the BJP high command appointed him as the head of the party's Union Territory unit.

Sharma, 63, was denied a party ticket in the recent Assembly elections. He was appointed as the working president of the party in September amid resentment over ticket distribution and later elevated to the post of president, replacing the party's longest-serving J-K unit president Ravinder Raina.

Raina, who had succeeded Sharma in May 2018 and held the post for six-and-a-half years, has been made a member of the party's national executive.

Born into a Dogra family in Jammu, Sharma is a chartered accountant by profession, who won from the Jammu West Assembly constituency on a BJP ticket for the first time in 2014. He also served as a Cabinet minister for 40 days in the PDP-BJP government, which collapsed in 2018 after the saffron party withdrew its support.

Sharma held this post for two-and-a-half years between 2015 and 2018.

"I congratulate Sharma ji on his

election to the post of president," Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said.

He said, "Under Sharma's leadership, BJP workers will unleash their full potential to contribute to the growth of the country, and people will credit the party workers of J-K for their contributions to the country's development."

121 kilos of narcotic substances seized in Srinagar destroyed

kilograms of seized narcotic substances as part of the nation-wide campaign initiated by the Home Minister of India.

These drugs were confiscated in connection with multiple FIRs registered across Srinagar, police said in a statement.

It added that the destruction process was carried out after obtaining the necessary orders from the competent court.

The committee, comprising senior officers from various wings of the police, conducted the operation at the designated incineration facility in Lassipora, Pulwama.

"This initiative underscores the commitment of the Srinagar Police to eradicate drug abuse and contribute to the broader national effort to create a drug-free society," the statement said.

16 cases settled, Rs. 1,10,95,000 recovered in Special Lok Adalat at Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: In compliance to the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Bank Recovery Cases was held on Friday under the Chairmanship of Y. P. Bourney (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu) and supervision of Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu, regarding MACT and Bank Recovery Cases in the Court complex Jammu wherein three Benches were constituted in the District.

Bench No. 1 comprised of Chain Lal Bavouria, PO Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal Jammu and Gurdeep Singh Gill,



Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu. Cases to be taken of MACT Jammu. Bench No. 2 comprised of Kamlesh Pandita, Additional District Judge, Bank Court Jammu and Karan Nagpal, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu. Cases to be taken of Bank Cases of All Courts.

Bench No. 3 comprised of Rajni Sharma,

Additional Sessions Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu and Shahla Rafiqi, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu. Cases to be taken of MACT Jammu.

The total number of 34 cases pertaining to different nature was taken up, out of which 16 cases were settled. The total Amount recovered is Rs. 1,10,95,000.

GDC Vijaypur organises Tiranga Rally to commemorate Republic Day

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 24: In a series of events to mark the celebrations of 76th Anniversary of Indian Republic Day, NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of GDC Vijaypur organised 'The Tiranga Rally' under the aegis of "Nayi Chetna 3.0" and "Shikshit Bharat".

The aim of the rally was to inculcate the feelings of nationalism, oneness and harmony among college students and masses.

The Rally was flagged off by Dr. Vandana Verma, Principal of the college. A large gathering of Faculty Members, NSS Volunteers and students of the college joined in the celebrations. Principal of the college, while speaking on the occasion articulated that 76th year of the Republic is truly a



historic milestone in the journey of the nation in many ways. This is an especially festive occasion, just as we celebrated the unique greatness and diverse culture of our nation during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, when we completed 76 years of Independence. She further lauded the enthusiastic participation of faculty members and students in the event and urged them to contribute in

all possible manners in order to make the nation strong and united.

The rally was flagged off by Principal of the college. It started from college campus to Patti village and back to college campus. At the very outset, Dr Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) formally welcomed all the dignitaries and participants. She further briefed them about the event. The programme started with the distribu-

tion of National Flags to all gathered members and students followed by raising the Slogans, "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Jai Hind", "Vande Matram", "Desh Ki raksha kaun karega, Hum karenge Hum karenge". The Tricolour was waving in the air in every hand and the atmosphere was filled with patriotism.

Whole of the event was organized with full support of the senior faculty members like

Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science), Prof. Mamta Kundan (HOD Commerce), Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HOD Sociology), Dr. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education), Prof. Poonam Kundan (HOD Environmental Sciences), Dr. Manoj Heer (HOD Dogri) and Prof. Meetu Sharma (HOD Geography). The event was coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary (NSS PO) and Dr. Jan Mohd. Wani (PTI).

Directorate Placement GCW Gandhi Nagar, Dept of Botany CLUJ organize Placement Drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: The Directorate of Placement, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, and the Department of Botany, Cluster University of Jammu, successfully organized a placement drive in association with Gramik, an agribusiness startup dedicated to empowering farmers and women.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 students, eager to explore opportunities in the agribusiness sector. Following a rigorous selection process, 60 students were shortlisted for interviews.

The selected candidates will undergo a three-month internship program with a stipend of Rs. 9,000 per month, paving the way for potential full-time place-



ments within the organization.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from Gramik Simran Bedi, Senior Manager Maharashtra and J&K and Gagandeep Bedi, Assistant Manager, Human Resources J&K, highlighted the startup's mission to revolutionize the agricultural landscape by integrating modern business strate-

gies with traditional farming and good agricultural practices.

Prof. D.S Manhas, Director Placement, Cluster University of Jammu, commended the efforts of the organizing departments and expressed gratitude to Gramik for offering valuable opportunities to the students.

"We are committed to inculcate industry-academia collab-

oration to enhance employment prospects for our students," he added.

Dr. Anju Koul, Associate Professor Department of Botany, GCW Gandhi Nagar, expressed satisfaction over the overwhelming response from students and stated, "This initiative provides an excellent platform for our students to gain hands-on experience in the agribusiness sector and apply their academic knowledge in real-world scenarios."

Prof Sugandha Mahajan, Coordinator Dept of Botany Cluster University of Jammu added that the placement drive aligns with Cluster University of Jammu's vision to empower students with industry-relevant skills and provide them with meaningful career opportunities.

The event was coordinated by the faculty of Dept of Botany, GCW Gandhi Nagar and Cluster University of Jammu.

R-Day Full Dress Rehearsal held at Ramban, ADC takes salute

Top News Report



RAMBAN, Jan 25: The Full Dress Rehearsal for the 76th Republic Day celebrations was held with patriotic fervor at the District Police Lines, Ramban. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Varunjeet Singh Charak, unfurled the National Flag and took the salute from the participating contingents.

During the rehearsal, the ADC meticulously inspected the parade, which featured contingents led by Dy. SP DAR Imtiam Ahmed, representing the Police, IRP, Forest Protection Force, Women Contingent of J&K Police, and students from various educational institutions. Commending the seam-

less arrangements made by different departments, the ADC highlighted the significance of the occasion and appreciated the collective efforts for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

The parade was followed by vibrant cultural programs, including performances by local artists and students from Ramban's educational institutions, showcasing the district's rich cultural heritage.

Prominent attendees included Additional SP Gourav Mahajan, ACR S. Harpal Singh, ACP Ashfaq Ahmed, CEO Bikram Singh, DSWO Rahul Gupta, Dy. SP Om Prakash, XEN PWD Abhishek Gupta, Tehsildar, heads of various departments, and other officials.

GDC RS Pura organizes Inter College Singing Competition



Top News Report

RS PURA, Jan 24: To celebrate National Youth Day and Republic Day, NSS Unit, Cultural Committee and Department of Music of Government Degree College RS Pura Jammu, on Friday organised an Inter College singing competition on the theme "Patriotic Harmony."

Principal of the College, (Prof.) Dr. Preetpal Kour was the chief guest on the occasion. Wherein, the panel of judges consisted of Dr. Jasmeet Kour artist from All India Radio Jammu, Prof. Anupama Sharma retired HOD Music, GCW Parade.

The observer of the event was Prof. Shifali Abrol.

Several colleges from all over Jammu participated in the event.

The students showcased their patriotic fervour and musical talents through their renditions of their patriotic songs.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Chanchal Angral NSS PO.

The Principal in her address wished each one a happy republic day and said that we as a citizen should pledge to take part in nation building in our own unique ways.

1st prize was bagged by Ritisha Manhas of

GCW Parade Jammu, second prize was won by Netra Tickoo of GCW Parade while the 3rd Prize was won by Anjali Devi of GDC Bishnah.

The 1st consolation prize was shared between Chandpreet Kour of GDC RS. Pura and Nidhi Sharma of GDC Akhnoor, 2nd consolation prize was won by Rohit Kumar of GDC Udhampur.

Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Convener Cultural Committee, expressed gratitude to all participants, judges and attendees in the vote of thanks. The function was attended by students and staff of the college.

GDC Sidhra commemorates National Girl Child Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: GDC Sidhra commemorated "National Girl Child Day" by organising a mega event including a series of activities.

To begin with an "Awareness Lecture" on the topic "Importance of Women's Physical and Mental Health" was organised jointly by Women Development Cell, Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) and NSS Unit.

Dr. Sarika, Medical officer, AHCW, Bain Bajalta was the resource person. Program began with a welcome address by Dr. Anu Sharma.

Proceeding further, Dr. Sarika delivered an informative talk on this theme. She spoke at length about various aspects of Women's health. She sensitised the students about the importance of women's health as they are the progenitors of human race.



Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Convener Cultural Committee, expressed gratitude to all participants, judges and attendees in the vote of thanks. The function was attended by students and staff of the college.

She also highlighted the importance of mental health of women. She also talked about various social evils that pose stress to women's mental well being and added that we all should raise voice for ending violence against women, domestic abuse, sexual harassment etc.

In addition to the above

mentioned activity, a "Poster making competition" was also organised on the themes "Stop violence against women", "Safe workplace for women", "Beti Bachao beti padhao".

A number of students participated in the competition. Event was adjudged by Dr. Anshu Gupta, HoD EVS and Prof. Deepa Kak, HoD Education. First position was bagged by Chahat Sharma of B.A Sem-VI, second by Suhani Aithmian of B.A sem IV and third by Priya of B.A Sem VI.

Principal of the Col-

lege, Dr. G.S Rakwal also expressed his insightful views on the importance of this day. He further deliberated upon the significance of maintaining physical and mental health of girl child by providing equal opportunities to them and ending any kind of discrimination.

He further urged the students to spread the message of gender equality in the society and practice the same on their part too.

A rally of students was also organised in which students spread

the message of Gender equality.

They sensitised the community and locals around the College about the significance of gender equality, Importance of Girl Child, ending violence against women, gender based violence, and providing equal opportunities to girl children.

Various faculty members from GDC Sidhra graced the occasion, showing their support for the cause. Program concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS PO.

Program was jointly organised by Dr. Anu Sharma, Convener Women Development Cell, Dr. Harpreet Kour, Convener CASH and Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS PO along with full support and coordination of other committee members under the guidance of the Principal of the College, Dr. G.S Rakwal.

Activities were organised as a part of Nayi Chetna 3.0 campaign launched by Govt. of India.

ICC chairman Jay Shah elected as new member of Marylebone Cricket Club

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary and the current International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah was elected as a board member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) advisory board.

Shah was absent when MCC held the inaugural World Cricket Connects forum last year, which witnessed over 100 leading voices at the Lord's which will discuss the state of the global game. Shah is among the 13 founding members of the new World Cricket Connects advisory board, which will be headed by former Sri Lanka skipper and MCC president Kumar Sangakkara.

The other founding members of new advisory board are former India captain Sourav Ganguly, former South Africa opener Graeme Smith and former Director of England Cricket, Andrew Strauss along with England women's captain



Heather Knight and JioStar's CEO (Sports), Sanjog Gupta.

MCC announced that the second World Cricket Connects forum will take place later this year on June 7 and June 8, before the World Test Championship (WTC) final at the Lord's which will be played between Australia and South Africa.

MCC chairman Mark Nicholas expressed his thoughts on organising the second World

Cricket Connects forum which will take place later this year, in the month of June.

"We are looking forward to welcoming many of the game's most influential figures to debate the most important topics that dominate global cricket. An important step has been made in the forming of the World Cricket Connects Advisory Board," Mark Nicholas said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"We have assembled an impressive group of the best minds in cricket across several different areas relevant to our sport. I am delighted to be working with this experienced group and excited about what we can collectively achieve for the benefit of the global game," Mark Nicholas.

The new advisory board replaced the World Cricket Committee, which was formed back in 2006. The committee held the final meeting last summer.

World Cricket Connects advisory board members: Kumar Sangakkara (chair), Anurag Dahiya (ICC chief commercial officer), Chris Dehring (CWI CEO), Sourav Ganguly, Sanjog Gupta (JioStar CEO - Sports), Mel Jones, Heather Knight, Trudy Lindblade (Cricket Scotland CEO), Heath Mills (World Cricketers' Association chair), Imtiaz Patel (Former SuperSport chair), Jay Shah, Graeme Smith, Andrew Strauss.

Kapil Dev extends best wishes to Team India ahead of ICC Champions Trophy



GURUGRAM, Jan 24 (Agencies): Legendary Indian cricketer Kapil Dev has wished Team India the very best ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy, which will kickstart from February 19 onwards.

Kapil was speaking at an event held in Satya School, Gurugram.

While interacting with the media, the World Cup-winning captain was asked to wish India for the tournament, to which he said, "Always".

The ninth edition of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy is set to take place in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates from February 19 to March 9.

The eight-team tournament will feature 15 50-over matches and will be played across Pakistan and in Dubai. The biggest match of the tournament

between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan will be played on February 23 in Dubai. India will start its campaign against Bangladesh on February 20. India's last league match will be against New Zealand on March 2.

Group A of the tournament features current Champions Trophy holders and hosts Pakistan, along with India, New Zealand and Bangladesh, while Group B features Cricket World Cup 2023 champions Australia, alongside Afghanistan, England and South Africa.

The India Squad for Champions Trophy:

Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja.

India's Group Stage Fixtures:

February 20 - India vs Bangladesh, Dubai.

February 23 - India vs Pakistan, Dubai.

March 2 - India vs New Zealand, Dubai.

An injured Djokovic quits in Australian Open semifinal against Zverev

MELBOURNE, Jan 24 (Agencies): An injured Novak Djokovic quit because of a torn muscle in his left leg after dropping the first set of his Australian Open semifinal against Alexander Zverev on Friday.

Djokovic lost the opener 7-6 (5) in a tie-breaker and immediately walked around the net to concede the match to Zverev. Fans booed as Djokovic walked off towards the locker room, and he responded by giving two thumbs-up.

"It was getting worse and worse," Djokovic said later at his news conference, referring to the pain in his leg, which he hurt during his quarterfinal victory over Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday night. "I knew, even



if I won the first set, it was going to be a huge uphill battle for me."

Djokovic was bidding for an 11th championship at the Australian Open and record 25th Grand Slam title overall. He withdrew from last year's French Open before the quarterfinals after tearing the meniscus in his right knee.

The only set of Djokovic vs Zverev lasted 1 hour, 20 minutes and

included 19 points that lasted nine strokes or more apiece. The first four games alone lasted 31 minutes.

It was gruelling—and would have been even without dealing with a problem with one's body. But Djokovic showed up with his left thigh taped up, a reminder that he finished the contest against Alcaraz that way after hurting himself late in the first set.

Rohit shows some spark but falls for 28 in second essay on Ranji Trophy return

MUMBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): He pulled Umar Nazir for a trademark six, effortlessly lofted Auqib Nabi and Yuvraj Singh for a couple of more hits over the ropes to give a glimpse of his absolute best. But eventually, a fifty on Ranji comeback was not meant to be for India captain Rohit Sharma who fell for 28 here on Friday.

Playing his first game for Mumbai in domestic red-ball cricket in nearly a decade, Rohit's first day on the field was a disaster with the 37-year-old falling for a 19-ball 3 in the opening hour of the Ranji Trophy clash against Jammu Kashmir.

But on Friday, Rohit gave a far better account of himself to



notch up a fluent 28, his best in first-class cricket since a 52 in the second innings of the Bengaluru Test against New Zealand last year.

It has indeed been long for Rohit, who has since scored 0, 8, 18, 11, 3, 6, 3 and 9 in subsequent outings against New Zealand and Australia.

Back then in mid-October, India was cemented

on top of the World Test Championship points table and the house was in complete order for the national side.

But it all came crumbling down following defeats to New Zealand and Australia which forced Indian superstars to play domestic cricket.

On Friday, he looked for a big one but it wasn't to happen. Rohit's knock of 28 was mixed with

hits and misses in the initial stages, which all began with a tough dropped chance by Nazir in the fourth over when he could not grab a return catch on his follow through.

Rohit immediately responded with a pull shot for a six over the square leg.

A thick outside edge then flew between the fielder at gully and second slip, and on the final ball Rohit flashed hard and wide to put the ball away for another four on the off-side.

Dropped on one, Rohit had raced to 21 off 11 balls at one stage but he remained cautious mostly, even though there were a few times he was beaten.

With comparatively no moisture on the second

day wicket here at the BKC, J&K bowlers also had to work hard to keep it tight but could not stop Rohit from freeing up his arms for a total of three sixes and two fours.

Eventually, it took a perfectly-timed leap for a one-handed grab from J&K's Abid Mushtaq at mid-wicket off Nazir, who dismissed Rohit for the second time in the contest, to end the Indian captain's stay in the middle.

While the lanky Nazir had the last laugh, Rohit walked off with an innings that had elements of all that was and could have been, hits and misses infused with promise that a big knock could just be around the corner for the struggling mainstay.

Arjuna Awardee Rubina Francis opens up on Paris Paralympics 2024 comeback

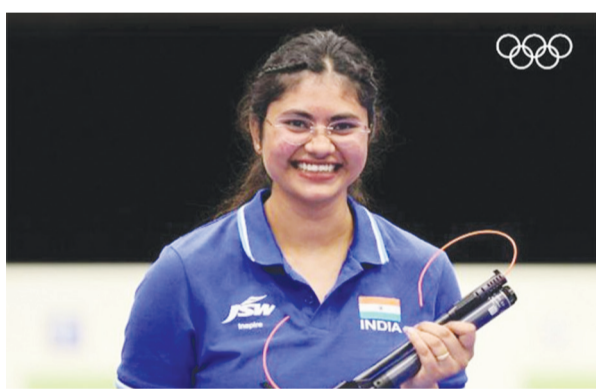
NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Paris Paralympics Games 2024 bronze medalist Rubina Francis recently appeared on the House of Glory podcast, an initiative by the Gagan Narang Sports Foundation. In the conversation, she also expressed her feelings about being conferred the Arjuna Award this year for her achievements at both national and international levels.

The star has established herself as a prominent figure in para shooting, particularly in the Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1 category. Building on her successful track record, Rubina secured her place to represent India at the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris and then went on to win her first Olympics medal—a

bronze.

"I am extremely honoured to be receiving the Arjuna Award and very thankful to the Indian government for recognising my achievements. This is a very special moment for me and my family as getting a National award is a dream for any athlete. It seems that my hard work has finally paid off and it almost feels unreal. After all the challenges that I faced in the last 3-4 years, this achievement has become even more special," said Rubina as quoted by a Gagan Narang Sports Foundation press release.

Francis qualified for her first Olympics in 2020 during the Tokyo Paralympics but finished seventh. In her conversation, she revealed how her performance in Tokyo put her



in a tough space, also making her think about leaving the sport.

"I sat at home and analysed myself. I wrote a full detail about what all went wrong and then I read it. That's when I realised how immature I was during Tokyo. An athlete properly plans before going to such a significant stage but that planning was not there with me. Both I and my country had to

face the consequences. Everybody was upset," revealed Francis as the press release added.

However, she overcame her shortcomings and applied the learnings in Paris, which helped her attain success in the tournament. She spent six months after her loss in Tokyo, working on herself, learning to develop a control on her mind, to ensure that she does well

in her sport.

Rubina again faced a tough phase when she continuously lost quotas in almost all the quota matches that took place between 2022 and 2024. However, she didn't give up and entered the Paralympics with the same spirit.

"I don't let the demotivation upset me for many days. It only lasts for 1 or a maximum of 2 months. But post that, I became normal, which is very important. Sports Psychology is very important. If I had realised it before Tokyo, I would have won a medal or at least delivered a good performance. I wouldn't have regretted or wasted six months," Francis added while discussing the importance of mental health.

Chembakath lauds Hyderabad FC's grit in securing their first home victory



HYDERABAD, Jan 24 (Agencies): Hyderabad FC interim head coach Shameel Chembakath expressed his delight as they secured a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Jamshedpur FC at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, earning Hyderabad FC their first home win of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season.

Hyderabad FC took an early lead in the 12th minute through Mohammed Rafi, who scored his first ISL goal. However, Jamshedpur FC struck back with two penalties converted by Javi Hernandez in the 24th and 28th minutes, putting the visitors

ahead 2-1.

Despite the setback, Hyderabad FC showcased resilience. Joseph Sunny's 69th-minute goal brought them back on level terms, and a stunning strike from Andrei Alba in the 74th minute secured their first home win of the season. The win is also the first under the interim head coach, who expressed his joy at the result.

"This is one of the most memorable moments in my entire coaching career. I think all the boys did well. For me, I just asked them four demands before they entered the pitch. The consistency, what we did

in the last few matches. Work rate I need that. And the commitment, that also they showed. And the last part which I asked, don't share the points. And (lastly) the clean sheet. The clean sheet we did not get, but we didn't share the points. That's what I asked - three points that they gave us. I don't know the other season but maybe for me, this is one of the best results for us," Chembakath remarked in the post-match press conference as quoted by the ISL official website.

The victory also marked Hyderabad FC's second comeback win of the season, with the first being against Kerala Blasters FC in November.

Chembakath acknowledged the team's defensive errors but highlighted the importance of their response.

"I think the mistake which we did in the defence was one of the things which always I'm concerned...a mistake happened in the game. But the comeback, of course, that is what we need. That is great. Mistakes happen, but we need to correct it. We need to improve it. We will keep on improving."

No Indian in ICC men's ODI Team of The Year

DUBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): India's lack of international commitments in the 50-over format in 2024 had a bearing on the ICC men's ODI Team of The Year with not a single cricketer from the country making it to the list released on Friday.

The all-star team announced by the ICC features four players from Sri Lanka, three

each from Pakistan and Afghanistan and one from the West Indies.

India played only three ODIs—an away series against Sri Lanka, losing two of them while the third one ended in a tie.

Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka was named skipper of the ICC team as well for his stupendous batting through the year.

In his 16 ODI appearances in 2024, Asalanka scored 605 Runs at an average of 50.2 Average, including a century and four fifties.

Sri Lanka played 18 ODIs in the year gone by, the highest among all teams, and won 12 of them.

Pakistan picked up seven victories from its nine ODI engagements, while Afghanistan won

eight of their 14 one-dayers.

Big-hitting West Indian Sherrifane Rutherford, who made his international debut in 2023, was the lone non-Asian in the all star XI for his 425 runs from nine games at an astonishing average of 106.2.

ICC Men's ODI Team of The Year for 2024: Charith Asalanka (Sri Lanka), Saim Ayub (Pak-

istan), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan), Pathum Nissanka (Sri Lanka), Kusal Mendis (WK) (Sri Lanka), Sherrifane Rutherford (West Indies), Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan), Haris Rauf (Pakistan), AM Ghazanfar (Afghanistan).

Unless commission based corruption at high level is cleared, celebration of National days is not going to yield fruit: Rao

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: A social & political activist, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press release issued here said that the celebration of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Jayanti/National day's/Yoga Day/a cleanliness Abhiyan is not going to yield much fruit.

dirty, corrupt & criminal elements and unless commission based corruption at high level is cleared, this celebration of freedom fighter's days/National & International day's/Yoga Day/a cleanliness Abhiyan is not going to yield much fruit.

Rao said that the adulteration in food stuff & medicines is much more killing than the heaps of rubbish & dirt. As of now, the talk of the town is that fruits & vegetables are being injected with chemicals to gain weight and growth. The Mangoes, Bananas etc are being subjected to harmful chemicals to help the fruits to ripe but instead they are imparting cancer to the common



citizens. Is there any mechanism with the government to check the menace which is hazardous to public life? As regards the exorbitant margin of profits in life saving drugs which is to the extent of 65% in almost all cases, there is a need to check the rates at the base manufacturing point right up to the consumer. Only then consumers can be saved from the clutches of the organized nexus of Manufacturers, Doctors and Chemists, he demanded. Either the

existing laws should be amended or stringent new laws should be enacted to deal formally with the adulterators. Those who are killing innumerable people by this slow poisoning should not be spared and nothing less than death punishment should be awarded to them. We should follow the footsteps of China in this regard. How can the law against corruption be enforced when it harms those who are to frame the law against it. Unless the big corrupts are brought to light nothing worth the name can see the light of the day.

Rao further said that there is a big list of Bureaucrats, Ministers, politicians and others

who are involved in many heinous acts and there is no provision to punish them. In our country culprits are being shielded because they are functionaries of one or the other party. The statements of some public servants at the top level regarding rapists that we cannot hang the culprits but compensate for it is perhaps the reflection of the same. Does compensation mean that one's life and honour can be restored and does it mean that such misdeeds can be checked, I do not think so, it will mean that rich can do anything at the force of his wealth and poor man's life and honour is always at stake.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes Traffic Awareness Rally



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: GCW Bhagwati Nagar, in collaboration with the NSS Unit Veerangana, successfully organized a Traffic Awareness Rally aimed at promoting road safety and educating citizens about the importance of adhering to traffic rules. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and several prominent dignitaries, making it a resounding success.

The rally was formally inaugurated by the esteemed Principal of the college, Dr. Meeru Abrol, who highlighted the vital role of road safety education in reducing traffic accidents and cultivating responsible citizenship. She commended the efforts of both the organizers and the participants for their dedication in spreading this crucial message of road safety.

Dr. Poonam Kumari, the Convener of the Road Safety Club, was

instrumental in coordinating the event. During her address, she emphasized the importance of simple but effective actions, such as wearing helmets and seat belts, which can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and save lives. Dr. Kumari underscored that such initiatives are essential in fostering a culture of road safety and responsible behavior on the roads.

The rally also received strong support from Dr. Kamal Deep Singh, the NSS Programme Officer, who encouraged students to take up the role of ambassadors for road safety in their communities. He urged them to actively share the message of responsible driving and pedestrian safety within their families and neighborhoods.

Notable faculty members, including Dr. Rahul, Dr. Muzzafar, Dr. Goyal Goswami Giri, Dr. Neeraj, and others, also participated in the event, adding their voices to the cause. They provided

ed valuable insights into the various road safety measures and the collective responsibility of society in ensuring safer road environments.

The participants of the rally marched through prominent city locations, holding banners and placards emblazoned with messages urging safe driving practices. Their slogans, along with brief public interactions, effectively conveyed the importance of adhering to speed limits, respecting pedestrian rights, and promoting a culture of safety on the roads.

This initiative by GCW Bhagwati Nagar and the NSS Unit Veerangana underscores the institution's commitment to fostering social responsibility and creating a safer environment for all. The rally concluded on a high note, leaving a positive and lasting impact on both the participants and the local community, inspiring them to take greater responsibility for road safety in their everyday lives.

Dr. Ambedkar advocated for equal rights to women: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for the cause of women empowerment. His firm commitment to ensuring gender equality and justice has left a permanent mark on India's socio-political landscape.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former vice chairperson, said this while discussing the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in empowering women of the



country, with a group of the women leaders of BJP, on Thursday.

He was talking to BJP Secretary & Mahila Morcha seh- prabhari, Veenu Khanna, State Executive Member, Shailija Gupta, Sushma Rani, Pooja Grover and

Sonika Rao. Balbir Ram Rattan shared that Dr. Ambedkar recognized that no society can progress without uplifting its women. A firm advocate for women's rights, Ambedkar introduced progressive reforms to

dismantle oppressive structures.

Balbir Ram Rattan further pointed out that as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar championed provisions to safeguard women's rights. He ensured that the Constitution guaranteed equal rights, protection against discrimination, and equal opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of gender. His emphasis on the right to education, property rights for women, and measures to prevent

exploitation were monumental in addressing gender disparities.

Dr. Ambedkar's vision continues to inspire movements for women's empowerment. His belief in education, economic independence, and equal representation remains vital in addressing the challenges women face.

As India progresses, Dr. Ambedkar's ideals serve as a reminder that true empowerment lies in fostering an inclusive society where women can realize their full potential, Balbir said.

GDC Paloura organizes rally on National Girl Child Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: NSS unit of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Paloura organized a door to door campaign and rally to mark the celebration of National Girl Child Day. The aim of this campaign was to create awareness in masses about the rights and welfare of the girl child for

their better future. NSS volunteers accompanied by NSS

PO Dr. Shivani Sharma interacted with the peoples of adopted village and acquainted them about the discrimination and inequalities faced by girls.

They also urged the people to focus on addressing issues like female foeticide, raising

awareness about the declining sex ratio, violence, poverty and illiteracy to foster a more inclusive and equitable environment for the girl child.

Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college lauded the efforts of NSS volunteers in organizing community based outreach programmes on National Girl child Day.

She stated that gender discrimination has created barriers that have hindered the full participation of women and girls in every aspect of society.

As he highlighted that holistic growth of girls is crucial not only for their individual well-being but also for the overall advancement of society.

GDC Marheen celebrates National Girl Child Day

Top News Report

MARHEEN, Jan 24: Department of Sociology in collaboration with Women Cell of GDC Marheen celebrated National Girl Child Day on the theme "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future" under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

In her address, she emphasized that Girls are the architects of a better future; empowering them with education, opportunities, and confidence is not just a responsibility but a necessity for building a progressive society, and let us ensure every girl realizes her full potential and contributes to

the growth of our nation. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp along with the recitation of Saraswati Vandana by the students.

The programme was organized and supervised by Dr. Munisha Devi and Prof. Manu Saini (Convener, Women Cell and HOD Department of Sociology).

The event featured a spirited intra-college debate competition where students passionately discussed gender equality and empowerment.

The jury members of the competition were Prof. Sandeep Choudhary, Dr Balbinder

Singh and Prof. Anoop Sharma.

In the competition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions were bagged by Kanika, Pallvi and Monika respectively.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners of the competitions were honored for their outstanding performances.

The other faculty members who were present during the program were Dr Arun Dev Singh, Dr. Shallu Rani, Prof Diksha Sharma, Prof Suman, Dr Meenu Sharma, Prof Naresh Kumar, Prof Naresh Kumari, Prof Saquib and Prof Arpana.

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