

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Actor Kunal Verma talks about fatherhood and family



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Getting hard criminals out, says Trump as his admin begins deportation flights



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BRIEFLY

Exchange of fire in Kathua after suspicious movement

JAMMU, Jan 25 (Agencies): Army troops exchanged fire with terrorists in the higher reaches of Kathua district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said, as a massive search operation is underway to trace out the ultras who fled after the initial fire-fight. The alert sentry post of a temporary Army camp in Batod panchayat detected the movement of suspected terrorists at around 1:20 am and opened fire, the officials said. They said the terrorists fired back and the intermittent exchange of fire continued between the two sides for nearly half an hour. However, there was no casualty on either side, the officials said, adding that the terrorists, believed to be three in number, fled into a nearby forest. They said the Army troops have launched a cordon-and-search operation to track down the terrorists and further details are awaited.

Woman Dies, Husband Injured in North Kashmir Fire Tragedy

BANDIPORA, Jan 25 (Agencies): A non-local couple working with the Beacon organization in the Sonarwani area of Bandipora suffered severe burn injuries, leaving the woman dead and her husband battling for life at District Hospital Bandipora. Reports reaching Kashmir Dot Com said that Anjani Devi (30), a resident of Gorkhpur, succumbed to her injuries, while her husband, Ramesh Kumar, remains in critical condition. The exact cause of the incident is yet to be determined.

Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal, confirmed Anjani Devi's death and stated that Ramesh Kumar is undergoing treatment. "The deceased's body has been sent for post-mortem, and further details will emerge following the investigation," he said. The police have taken cognizance of the matter and initiated an investigation.

Record room damaged in fire at sub-district hospital Mendhar

MENDHAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): A record room at Mendhar sub-district hospital complex in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district was damaged in a fire on Saturday, officials said.

Kashmir train trial run completed as Vande Bharat Express reaches Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Years of hard work and dedication, and some engineering marvels later, the dream of Kashmir's rail connectivity finally came true as a specially-designed Vande Bharat Express train arrived here on Saturday, completing its trial run.

The train, on its maiden trial run, arrived at the Srinagar station in the Nowgam area on the city outskirts from Katra in Jammu.

It had reached Jammu on Friday.

As the Vande Bharat Express reached the station at 11:30 am, it was welcomed with slogans and praises for the Indian Railways.

A large number of people and railway officials were waiting for the train since the morning, many of them carrying garlands to welcome the officials on board the train.



After a brief halt at the station here, the train moved to the Budgam station to complete its trial run.

"The first trial run of the Vande Bharat between Katra and Kashmir was completed successfully," an official said.

The train is specially designed to operate seamlessly in Jammu and Kashmir's challenging winter conditions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to flag off the train from Katra, as the commis-

sioner of railway safety has given the green signal for running the train service on the Katra-Baramulla section. The date of the flagging-off ceremony is yet to be announced.

The railways has completed 272 kilometres of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

According to railway officials, the Railway Board, on June 8 last year, unveiled a Vande Bharat Express train specially designed to

operate seamlessly in Jammu and Kashmir's challenging winter conditions for the upcoming Katra-Srinagar rail route. The train incorporates special climate-related features.

Compared to the other 136 Vande Bharat Express trains running in different parts of the country, this train has several additional features to meet operational challenges and passengers' needs in the extreme weather conditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

It includes advanced heating systems that prevent the freezing of water and bio-toilet tanks, provide warm air for the vacuum system and ensure optimal functioning of the air-brake system for smooth operations even in sub-zero temperatures.

The train also features embedded heating

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28 JKP personnel honoured with Gallantry, Service medals on Republic Day



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): A total of 28 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir have been recognised among 942 police, fire, home guard, civil defence, and correctional services personnel across the country for their exemplary service and gallantry. The awards were announced on the occasion of Republic Day 2025.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Home Affairs, out

of 95 Gallantry Awards, 28 were awarded to personnel from Jammu & Kashmir, 28 from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 3 from the North-East, and 36 from other regions.

The Gallantry Medal (GM) is awarded for acts of exceptional bravery in saving lives, protecting property, preventing crime, or apprehending criminals, considering the risks involved in the line of duty. Of the 95 Gallantry Medals award-

ed, 78 were given to police personnel, while 17 were awarded to fire service personnel.

The President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) recognizes a special distinguished record in service, while the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) honours valuable service marked by dedication and resourcefulness.

In total, 101 personnel received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM), including 85 from police services, five from fire services, 7 from civil defence and home guard services, and 4 from correctional services.

Additionally, 746 personnel were awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM), with 634 awarded to police personnel, 37 to fire service personnel, 39 to

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RBI Imposes Rs 3.31 Crore Penalty on Jammu Kashmir Bank



MUMBAI, Jan 25 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has penalised Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Bank of India, and Canara Bank for deficiencies in

regulatory compliance. Jammu and Kashmir Bank has been penalised Rs 3.31 crore for contravention of certain norms related to financial inclusion -

access to banking Services - Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA), 'Know Your Customer' and 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

In another release, the RBI said Rs 1 crore penalty has been imposed on the Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

A penalty of Rs 1.63 crore has been imposed on public sector Canara Bank for

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J&K defeats Star-Studded Mumbai in Ranji Trophy Match



JAMMU, Jan 25 (Agencies): In a remarkable feat, Jammu and Kashmir defeated star-studded Mumbai team by five wickets in their Elite 'A' Ranji Trophy encounter at BKC Stadium in Maharashtra on Saturday.

Chasing a target of 205, Jammu and Kashmir lost five wickets.

At one point in time, the J&K team were 112/1, but then fell to 159/5, before the partnership between Abid Mushtaq and Kanhaiya Wadhavan saw the team through to win the encounter against the defending champions. With the win, J&K has reached number 2

in the points table. The Mumbai team squad featured international cricketers in Ajinkya Rahane (C), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, and Shardul Thakur.

27-year-old Yudhvir Singh Charak of J&K was named man of the

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TENTH DAY

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



Ex Serviceman
S. Ravinderpal Singh
(Rinku)

"You will remain in our hearts forever"

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Rajan Kour - **Wife**

S. Navtej Singh - **Son**

S.Harjeet Singh & Sdn. Satwant kour (**Father & Mother**)

S. Purshotam Singh Raja & Ranjeet Kour (**Brother and Bhabhi**)

S. Inderjeet Singh & Sabita (**Brother in Law**)

S. Harpreet Singh & Daljeet Kour (**Brother in Law**)

Mob No: 7006366793, 9419144733

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad and untimely demise of **Mr. Vijayesh Khajuria**, S/o Late Sh. Shashi Kant Khajuria R/o 3-A Karan Nagar, near Hill Top, Jammu.

10TH DAY will be observed on Jan 25 (Saturday) at Ved Mandir, Amphalla Jammu at 11.30 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on Jan 26 (Sunday) at our residence at 12.30 PM.

UTHALA will be performed on January 27 (Monday) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas, near Ved Mandir Amphalla, Jammu, from 4. PM to 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Madhu Raina (**Mother**)

Shruti (**Sister**)

(**Chachi and Chacha**)

Kusum and Ramakant Khajuria

Sushma and Ravikant Khajuria

Meenu & Chanderkant Khajuria

Meera & Nishikant Khajuria

Charu & Kapil Kant Khajuria

Ph. No. 9419143132.

7006390955, 9469132126



MR. VIJAYESH
KHAJURIA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hem Raj Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Vishwanath Sharma R/o Ban Sultan, Miran Sahib (Near Govt Boys High School) who left for heavenly abode on 17 January 2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 26 January 2025 (Sunday) at our residence at 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 27 January 2025 (Monday) at our residence at 10 AM.

UTHALA will be performed on 27 January 2025 (Monday) at Hanuman Mandir Main Bazar Miran Sahib from 4 PM - 5 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Raj Kumar (**Wife**)

Harit (Sanju) & Ruchi Sharma (**Son & Daughter-in-law**)

Amit Sharma (Shelly) (**Son**)

Daughters & Son-in-laws:

Anju Sharma & Sundresh Varm Kumar (Retd. SE PDD)

Rekha & Er. Gurmukh Singh

Poonam & Er. Ajay Gupta

Neeraj & Er. Vikas Sharma

Mob: 9796874999



Sh. Hem Raj Sharma

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us but the void will remain forever and your everlasting memories will never fade.

CHOUBARSI of our beloved father **Late Sh Brij Mohan Sharma (Vijay)** S/o Late Sh. Chajju Ram Sharma will be performed on 26th January (Sunday) 2025 at our residence H.No. 222, Shestri Nagar, Jammu.

SHEJ - 12:30 PM.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-

Smt. Vijay Laxmi - **Wife**

Sh. Sat Paul and Smt. Usha Sharma (**Brother & Bhabhi**)

Sh. Raghunandan & Smt. Rama Mishra - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Sh. Deepak & Smt. Shafali Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Sh. Anmol & Smt. Poonam Sharma - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

PHONE No: 962222220



Late Sh Brij Mohan
Sharma (Vijay)

KRIYA/UTHALA

In Loving memory of

Sh Vinod Kumar (Retd. Dev. Officer LIC).

"Your love and kindness will never guide us. Though unseen & unheard, you are always near - still loved, still missed & held so dear." With deep sorrow, we inform you of the passing of **Sh Vinod Kumar**, who left for his heavenly abode on 16th January 2025. We request your kind presence to join us for the

Kriya & Uthala to pray for the departed soul & seek eternal peace. **Kriya:** 27th January 2025 (Monday) at 12:00 Noon at 9/A Extn. New Kana Naga, Jammu - 180005.

Uthala: 27th January 2025 (Monday).

Langar: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Rasam Pagri: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Gurudwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chand Nagar, Opposite Hotel Fortune Riviera Jammu.

Your presence & prayers would mean a lot to the family during this difficult time.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY:

Sunita Rani - **Wife**

Brother & Sister-in-law

Late Sh Gulshan Kumar & Saroj Rani

Sh. Naresh Talia & Smt. Seema Talia

Brother-in-law & Sister

Lt. Sh. Subash Chander & Smt. Krishna Luthra

Sh. Ramesh Luthra & Smt. Sangeeta Luthra

Daughter & Son-in-law

Vimrty Talia & Akhileshwar Thakur

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Vikul Talia & Sumeha Chib

Sandeep Kumar & Rashmi Talia

Ashish Talia & Deepali Talia

Rahul Talia & Mona Talia

Sahil Talia & Nandini Talia / Akshay Talia

Grand Children

Aria Talia, Trijal Talia, Arnav Talia,

Prarav Talia, Anaya Talia

Deeply Remembered By:

TALLA, LUTHRA, CHIB & THAKUR FAMILY

Contact: +91-962222779, +91-9419192676



Sh Vinod Kumar

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashok Mengi** S/o Lt. Ram Lal Mengi R/o Tea Garden Katra, who left for heavenly abode on 16/01/25.

10th Day will be performed on 25/1/2025 (Saturday) from 11 AM at our residence Tea Garden Katra (V.D.).

Kriya will be performed at our residence on 27/1/2025 (Monday) at 12 Noon.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 27/1/2025 (Monday) at 4 PM at our residence Tea Garden, Katra (V.D.)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Kanta Mengi - **Wife**

Narinder & Neelam Mengi - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Sunita & Ajeet Kapoor - **Sister & Ji Ja**

Suman & Rakesh Nayyar - **Sister & Ji Ja**

Pooja & Ashu Gupta - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Palak & Vasu Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

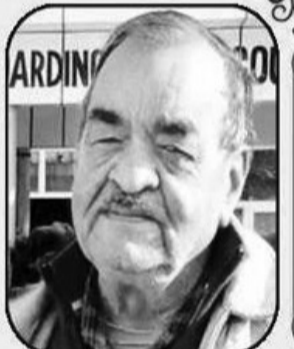
Pankaj & Ishita Mengi - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Rohit & Palak Mengi - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Abhi & Sonali Mengi - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Mr. Abhishek Mengi - **Son**

MOB: 8803200000, 9469230000



Sh. Ashok Mengi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Mr. Shakti Sagar Bhat** S/o Lt. Rattan Lal Bhat, Flat-12, Lane No.16, Block-74, Jagti Nagrota, who left for his heavenly abode on 23-01-2025. Originally from Bangund, Verinag, Anantnag.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 01-02-2025 (Saturday) at Sainik School Nagrota at 9.00 AM. **Mourning** is being held at Block-72, Flat-4, Lane No. 16, Jagti.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Renu Bhat - **Wife**

Nancy Bhat & Lt. Rattan Lal Bhat - **Mother**

Susheel Bhat & Sunita Bhat - **Brother & Bhabhi**

Monika Pandita & Pankaj Pandita - **Sister & Brother-in-law**

Aditi Bhat - **Daughter**

Nikhil Bhat - **Son**

Samast Bhat Parivar

Mob: 9797384477, 9596770357



MR. SHAKTI SAGAR
BHAT

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Khema Shori** W/o Lt. Chuni Lal Dhar originally resident of Sarat Nagar at present 317-G, Bharat Nagar Rehari Colony Jammu.

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 28th of Jan. 2025 (Tuesday) at Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Phallan Mandal Tethwal subsequently assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education at 11.30 AM.

Grief Stricken

Raj Dulari - **Bhabhi**

Veeraji & Ashok Dhar - **Daughter-in-law & Son**

Sweety & Kuldeep Dhar - **Daughter-in-law & Son**

Veena Ji & Krishan Ji Dhar - **Daughter-in-law & Son**

Smt Reeta Raina - **Daughter**

Dr. Sushma - **Daughter**

Asha & Satish Dhar - **Daughter-in-law & Son**

Chander Kanta & Sanjay Dhar - **Daughter-in-law & Son**

Raj Kumari Moza - **Sister**

Ranjana & Bodh Raj Koul - **Bhabhi & Brother**

Anjali, Babi, Simple, Sonu - **Daughters**

Grand Children: Piyush, Aditi, Deepika, Anemika, Sanam, Sajjan

Great Grand Children: Mayra

Samast Parivaar

Dhar, Bhan, Katoch, Raina

Mobile No. 7889815171, 9596946825, 7006959983



Smt Khema Shori

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Usha Sharma** W/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Sharma R/o H.No. F- 373, behind Police Station, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 16-1-2025.

The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 25/1/2025 (Saturday) at our residence Bakshi Nagar, Jammu at 11:30 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence on Sunday 26 January, 2025 at 12:00 Noon.

Uthala will be performed at Arya Samaj Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on Monday 27 January, 2025 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Pawan Kumar Sharma - **Husband**

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. Madan Lal Sharma & Smt. Sneh Lata Sharma

Sh. Naresh Sharma & Smt. Meena Sharma

Sh. Pankaj Sharma & Smt. Bandhu Sharma - **Son & Daughter-in-law**

Smt. Purvai & Sh. Sudhir Kumar Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**

Anahita Sharma, Saavi Sharma, Saavv Sharma, Neil Sharma - **Grand Children**

Mobile No.: 9650967362, 9419246232



Smt. Usha Sharma
(25/6/1946 - 16/1/2025)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that **Sh Ram Krishan Chib** S/o Late Chattar Singh R/o Doyian, Teh Khour at present H.No 383 Chib Mohalla Digiana Jammu left for heavenly abode on 17th January 2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed at H.No 383 Chib Mohalla Digiana Jammu on 26th January 2025 at 12. Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughter in Laws

Swarn Singh Chib & Shanti Chib

Nasib Singh Chib & Anita Chib

Yashkaran Singh Chib & Kiran Chib

Daughters and Sons in Law

Rita Manhas & Late Bachan Singh

Sushra Bhau & Sahib Singh

Kamlesh Manhas & Subash Singh

Meenu & Karan Singh

Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-Law

Manvi & Rahul Slathia

Grand Children: Navneet, Shivam, Kanika, Aryan and Akshit



SH RAM KRISHAN CHIB

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we regret to inform you of the sad demise of **S. Suraj Singh Dutta** Son of Lt. S. Jabbar Singh Dutta, originally hailing from Dher, Tal and presently residing at H. No. 88/5, Preet Nagar, Digiana, Jammu, who departed for his heavenly abode on 17th January 2025.

The schedule for the Bhog and Antim Ardhas is as follows: **Aardh** of Shri Akhand Path Sahib Ji on 24th January, 2025 (at residence 9:00 AM).

Smagti of Shri Akhand Path Sahib Ji: 26th January 2025 **Bhog, Kirtan & Antim Ardhas:** 26th January 2025, at Gurdwara Rani Talab, Digiana, Jammu, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Followed by Guru Ka Langar)

GRIEF-STRICKEN:

Sdn. Manjeet Kour (Wife)

S. Satinder Singh (Son)

Sdn. Spinder Kour (Daughter) & Dr. Ranbir Singh (Son-in-law)

Sdn. Retinder Kour (Daughter) & S. Simranjeet Singh (Son-in-law)

The Dutta & Raina Families

Contact No.: +91-7006269512



S. Suraj Singh Dutta
(Retd. AO, PDD)

MALUIN SIDE CONDOLECE

Our heartfelt condolences on untimely sad demise of our dear sister **Raj Kumari (Bhatt)** W/o Sh. Ramesh Karwani, R/o Bhagwati Nagar on 23rd January, 2025.

May Bhagwan Vishnu grant her place in Vishnu Bhavan and rest her soul in peace there.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt Usha & Sh. Janki Nath Bhatt

Smt Girja & Sh. Raj Nath Bhatt

Smt Teja & Sh. Badri Nath Bhatt

Smt Pinky & Sh. Bansi Lal Bhatt

Kailash Vihar, Udhaywala, Lane No 1, House No 16



Raj Kumari (Bhatt)

DISCLAIMER

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Rattan Lal Gupta expresses serious concern over deteriorating industrial sector in J&K Urges Union Govt to establish DRDO Centre, Rail Coach Factory in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has raised serious concerns over the alarming condition of industrial units in Jammu and Kashmir, blaming the successive government for their apathetic approach towards the existing industrial sector.

Strongly reacting to the recent statement by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha regarding the assurance from the Prime Minister and Home Minister on enhancing the Industrial Development Scheme for J&K, Rattan Lal Gupta said that no concrete efforts have been made in the past ten years to revive the struggling industrial sector. He lamented that while the government has been making lofty claims, industrialists continue to suffer due to lack of support and proper policy framework.

He highlighted that the industrial sector



in Jammu is reeling under a severe economic crisis, with many units already shut down and others on the verge of closure. He asserted that despite repeated appeals, the government has failed to provide any substantial financial relief or introduce commerce- and industry-friendly policies to rejuvenate the sector.

The senior NC leader criticized the government for inviting investors from outside the Union Territory while completely ignoring the plight of existing

industrialists. He stated that local entrepreneurs are struggling due to non-productive policies of the administration, which have remained unchanged for nearly a decade. He further said that the lack of communication between the government and industrial stakeholders has worsened the situation, leading to uncertainty and financial distress among local business owners.

Gupta stressed the urgent need for an expansion model for existing industries, stating that J&K lacks a proper startup ecosystem for industrialists. He pointed out that no major startup ventures have been visible on the ground, primarily due to the absence of well-formulated schemes and financial incentives.

He pointed out that since the abrogation of Article 370, no major industrial units have been established in the Jammu region, which contradicts the government's claims of rapid industrialization. Instead, he said, industrialists are grappling with financial difficulties

due to the government's negligence and lack of proactive measures.

The Provincial President sought immediate financial support for both existing and new industrial units through Central and State fiscal incentives. He also urged the government to introduce reforms in GST reimbursement to ease the financial burden on industrialists.

Furthermore, he called for the establishment of a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) centre and a Rail Coach Factory in Jammu, which would not only boost industrial development but also generate significant employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rattan Lal Gupta reaffirmed commitment of NC Government headed by Omar Abdullah in supporting the business community and urged the administration to take immediate corrective measures to save the dying industrial sector before it is too late.

J&K CM Abdullah congratulates State Team for beating heavyweights Mumbai

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on Saturday, congratulated the senior men's cricket team for beating defending champions Mumbai by five wickets in a Ranji Trophy game. This is the second time that J&K team has defeated the 42-time champions in latter's backyard. The pacers Umar Nazir Mir, Auqib Nabi and Yudhvir Singh shared 19 Mumbai wickets amongst themselves

to set up the victory and the target of 205 was achieved without much fuss. "What a brilliant achievement by the J&K Ranji Trophy team.

To defeat the defending champions & that too in their own backyard is a memorable achievement. I send my congratulations to the players, the management & support staff. We are all very proud of you," the CM said in a post on his official handle on X.

VKMI celebrates National Girl Child Day at HLF Higher Secondary School

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) celebrated National Girl Child Day at Himmat Learning Field Higher Secondary School (HLF) with enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose.

The event was graced by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, President of VKMI, and President of the HLF School Management Committee, as the Chief Guest. Abhinandan Jain, Retired Chief Manager of SBI, attended as the Guest of Honour.

In his keynote address, Dr. Jain emphasized the importance of National Girl Child Day, observed annually on February 24.

He explained that the day aims to safeguard the rights of girl children, empower them, and promote a positive outlook toward them in society. By raising awareness and advocating for change, this day serves as a powerful reminder of the value and potential of every girl child.

Dr. Jain elaborated on the key objectives of the day, beginning with its role in spreading awareness about societal challenges such as gender discrimination, child marriage, and violations of girls' rights. He highlighted the importance of addressing these issues collectively to create a more equitable society.



The day also serves as a symbol of empowerment, inspiring girls to recognize their rights, opportunities, and potential to contribute to stronger families and communities.

Promoting gender equality was another critical focus, with Dr. Jain calling for a cultural shift where boys and girls are treated as equals, fostering fairness and mutual respect. Additionally, he stressed the importance

of improving access to education and healthcare for girls, ensuring their well-being and independence.

Dr. Jain further discussed actionable areas to create a supportive environment for girls. These included providing opportunities for self-reliance through financial independence, ensuring safe spaces at home, school, and work, and changing societal mindsets to view daughters as blessings rather

than burdens.

He also outlined the broader societal benefits of empowering girls, such as contributing to economic growth by enhancing the workforce, breaking cycles of poverty through education and independence, and fostering healthier and educated generations. Gender equality, he emphasized, leads to a more just, inclusive, and harmonious society.

Abhinandan Jain, in his address, highlighted

the balance between the rights and responsibilities of girl children. He shared his insights on how empowered girls play a vital role in shaping a progressive and compassionate society.

The program concluded with C.M. Sharma, Chairman and General Secretary of VKMI, offering a thought-provoking discourse on the spiritual aspects of life. Indu Sharma, Principal of HLF School, extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all attendees for their participation and contributions.

National Girl Child Day serves as a powerful reminder of the potential within every girl and the collective responsibility of society to nurture and empower them. By uplifting our daughters, we create a brighter and more equitable future for all.

GDC R S PURA celebrates National Voters Day



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 25: On the eve of National Voters Day, Department of Political Science and NCC unit of Government Degree College R. S. Pura organised a Pledge ceremony under the guidance of Principal Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and coordinated by Dr Rakesh Choudhary HOD Department of Political Science.

Observed annually on January 25, National Voters Day highlights the importance of electoral participation and

aims to encourage first-time voters to actively engage in the democratic process.

This year underscores the pivotal role every voter plays in strengthening our democracy. The day serves as a reminder of the power vested in each citizen to influence decisions that shape our collective future. To mark this day, various activities were conducted among students in the college.

College premises campaigns to educate students about the impor-

tance of voting and the registration process. Special ceremonies to honor young voters who have registered for the first time. Encouraging citizens to take a pledge to exercise their voting rights responsibly in offline and online mode.

Addressing the significance of the day, Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal, said, "National Voters Day is a celebration of our democratic values.

It is a call to action for every eligible citizen to participate in the electoral process and make their voices heard. Together, we can ensure that every vote counts and that no one is left behind in this journey toward a vibrant and inclusive democracy." In the pledge ceremony, all the faculty members along with students and NCC cadets of the College participated.

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Northern Railway has decided to extend the Periodicity of following Special Train as per details given below:-

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03310	Jammu Tawi	Dhanbad Jn.	Bi-Weekly/ Wed, Sun	29.01.25	From 02.02.25 to 30.03.25 (Except 02, 05, 12 & 26.02.25)	13

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ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
 e-NIT No. MID/J/e-NIT/2024-25/130 Dated: 23/01/2025

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms **Repairs to 400 KVA electrical transformer at LIS Ratti Bakhta.** The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 'I' - Tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance of terms and conditions of the tender and Cover 'II' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1	Repairs to 400 KVA electrical transformer at LIS Ratti Bakhta.	Complete job as per Scope of Work	2% of the quoted value	Rs200.00	10 Days	180 Days from date of Submission of bid.	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu.

1. The tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>: 23/01/2025 (06:00PM)
 2. Submission of online bids: 23/01/2025(06:00 PM) to 01/02/2025 (10:00 A.M).
 3. Opening of Cover I online bids: 01/02/2025 (2:00 PM)

-sd-
 Executive Engineer
 Mechanical Irrigation Division
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EDITORIAL

NECESSITY OF
VOTING

Voting is one of the most powerful ways for individuals to influence the direction of their country, region, or local community. It is the cornerstone of any functioning democracy, where citizens are not just passive recipients of government decisions, but active participants in shaping them. The necessity of voting cannot be overstated, as it is not just a right, but a responsibility that empowers people to decide on leadership, policies, and the laws that govern them. This essay delves into the reasons why voting is crucial for the health of a democracy, the importance of individual participation, and the collective responsibility it entails.

At its core, democracy is built on the idea of "rule by the people." For democracy to function effectively, citizens must have a say in who governs them. Voting is the most direct and impactful way to exercise this power. When people vote, they are ensuring that their views, values, and priorities are represented in government. The legitimacy of a government is derived from the consent of the governed, and voting provides that consent. Without voter participation, the government risks becoming disconnected from the people it is meant to serve, which can lead to a breakdown in democratic values and practices.

One of the primary reasons voting is necessary is that it helps to ensure fair and accurate representation. In any democratic system, elected officials are expected to act in the best interests of the people who elect them. If citizens do not vote, the elected representatives may not reflect the desires or needs of the broader population. Low voter turnout can skew the results of elections, leading to a government that is not truly representative of the entire populace. Moreover, voting allows citizens to hold their elected officials accountable. If an elected leader is not delivering on promises or acting in the best interests of the people, voters have the opportunity to replace them in the next election cycle.

Through voting, individuals help determine the policies and laws that will shape their everyday lives. Whether it is decisions on education, healthcare, taxes, or national security, voting directly impacts the decisions that government bodies will make. When individuals engage in elections, they choose representatives who align with their views and who will work to enact laws that benefit society. Voting is also essential for determining the direction of public policy, including crucial issues such as climate change, economic development, and social justice. The decisions made by elected officials have far-reaching consequences, and voting ensures that citizens have a voice in those decisions.

Voting plays a significant role in fostering national identity and unity. In a diverse society, citizens come from various backgrounds, belief systems, and experiences. The act of voting brings people together, creating a shared sense of purpose and collective responsibility. Elections serve as a reminder that every citizen has an equal stake in the future of the country. Voting promotes inclusivity, encouraging individuals to participate in the democratic process regardless of their social or economic status. When people come together to vote, it reaffirms the notion that all voices matter in a democracy.

Voting is also an important safeguard for protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens. By voting, individuals can help defend the democratic system against authoritarianism and policies that undermine civil liberties. The right to vote is a fundamental aspect of democratic governance, and when citizens fail to vote, they risk allowing the erosion of freedoms and rights that have been hard-won over time. In many countries, voting is the primary mechanism through which people can resist government overreach and ensure that their voices are heard in discussions about the future of the nation.

Despite its importance, voter turnout is often low, particularly in certain age groups or regions. One of the challenges facing modern democracies is voter apathy—the tendency of citizens to disengage from the political process because they feel their vote does not matter or that politics is too complex or corrupt. Overcoming apathy is crucial, as a disengaged electorate undermines the foundation of democracy. It is essential that individuals recognize that their vote does indeed matter and that the responsibility to vote is part of being a conscientious citizen. Voting is an opportunity to make a difference, whether on a national, regional, or local scale.

National Voters Day & Its importance

By: Omkar Dattatray

India is the largest democracy of the globe and thus elections, votes and voters are important in India. Without elections, democracy cannot be thought of and really democracy is a meaningless proposition sans elections and thus elections are the way of choosing representatives in a democracy and so voters who cast vote to elect their representatives are an inseparable part and parcel of a democracy and we can say that elections are the soul of democracy and a way to elect government of the choice of the voters. Realizing and recognizing the significance and pivotal role of voters, National Voters Day is celebrated annually in India on 25th January to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India. It is celebrated to encourage the youth to participate in the vote in the electoral process. It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right. This year that is in 2025 we are celebrating 14th National Voters Day. The main objective behind the celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and maximize enrolment, especially for new voters. It is celebrated every year with a particular theme. It not only encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process but also focuses on the right to vote as the basic right. National Voters Day is observed to honor the day of the foundation of the Election Commission of India in 1950. The objectives of this are to raise awareness of the value of voting in a democracy and promote active engagement in the election process. It underlines how each individual vote can have a significant impact on the future of the country and stresses the importance of voting responsibly, ethically, and with knowledge. India is a democratic. It was established by the government of India in order to encourage young voters to take part in the elections or political process. India is a democratic country

.Every citizen has the basic right to vote. He or she has the right to select his leader to whomever they think is capable of leading the nation, solving the problems of common people, bringing about change etc. National Voters Day is a significant root of India as the future of the country lies in the leader that we choose. Just think once, if we do not come forward to vote the right in favor of the right leader, then progress and development of the country will be hampered and will also affect the people of the country. Voters Day was first celebrated on 25th January 2011. Since then National Voters Day is celebrated every year with great enthusiasm, fervor and dedication to democracy. It is pertinent to mention how national voters day came into existence in the country. A meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, approved a Law Ministry proposal to pinpoint 25th January as the National Voters Day. On this day rallies in government campus and educational institutions are organized to throw light on the importance of vote and it the voters are made aware about the importance and value of casting the precious vote. It was appreciated that new voters were reluctant and indifferent to register for voting as voters and thus it is considered the responsibility of the election commission of India, SED's and deputy commissioners to get the new voters registered and in this connection the role of ECI, SED's. Thus ECI, SED's and the district collectors and other departments play their part in making people aware about the importance of vote and of casting precious vote. In a democracy, the citizens have the right to vote, which is one of the fundamental and basic rights of citizens in a democracy. People are made aware about the value and significance of exercising their vote so as to further and thrive democracy. New voters of the age of 18 years are registered as voters in the electoral rolls and citizens are not only made aware about the significance of exercis-

ing their precious vote but new voters are encourage to get themselves registered so that at the time of polls, they are in a position to exercise their powerful tool and peaceful weapon of vote which can forms the destiny of the citizens in a democracy. The then information and broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni told reporters that 25th January was declared the National Voters Day. By registering the new voters, who have attained the age of 18 years, were showing less interest in getting themselves enrolled as voters in electoral rolls. She said the level of their enrolment was as low as 20 to 25 percent in certain cases. "In order to, the effectively deal with this problem, the Election Commission of India, has decided to take up a vigorous exercise to identify the eligible voters attaining the age of 18 years as of January first every year in each of the 8.5 lakh polling stations across the country," she said. Such eligible voters should be enrolled on time and handed over their Electoral Photo identity card -EPIC on 25 January every year, Soni said, adding this initiative is expected to give the youth a sense of empowerment, pride and inspire them to exercise their franchise. The new voters are provided with a badge with logo 'Proud to be a voter -Ready to vote'. The slogan No Voter to be left out has been coined to further emphasize the focus on inclusiveness. The National Awards are being conferred for excellence, proficiency and innovation in election processes and procedures. These awards recognize contribution by election machinery, government departments/ agency/PSU's, CSO, NGO's and media. The greatest joy is seen at the time of exercising their franchise by the young new voters and it is in fact their vote which gives strength to democracy. On the fourth National Voters Day, a disability activist Satendra Singh's RTI caught Election Commission of India off-guard when they were found violating Supreme Court orders to enfranchise voters with

disability. The ECI of India is a constitutional body established by the Constitution of the Republic of India empowered to conduct free and fair elections in the Republic of India. It is headed by a chief election commissioner and consists of two other election commissioners. Formed on 25th January 1950, that is 75 years ago celebrated as National Voters Day. At present chief election commissioner is Rajiv Kumar, election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. Voting in India is done using Electronic voting machines-EVM's and there are provisions for postal voting and special arrangements for the disabled. EVM's were introduced by the EC to reduce malpractices and improve efficiency. The EVM's were first used rather trialed in 1982 in the by-election to Paravur assembly constituency in Kerala in a limited number of polling stations. The Republic of India has instituted universal suffrage known as universal adult franchise since independence from the British Raj, with the adoption of the constitution of India in 1948. Every year we have a theme of the National Voters Day and in 2025, the theme of the National Voters Day is -"Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure." This theme carries forward the momentum of last year's theme, emphasizing the significance of voting as a fundamental right and responsibility. Let us celebrate and observe National Voters Day so that last man in the queue is encouraged to vote and actually votes on the day of voting. Long live Indian democracy and our voting right.

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

Mamta Kulkarni: From the Glitter of Glamour to the Path of Renunciation

By: Amarpal Singh Verma

Many consider success and material comfort to be the ultimate goal of life, but who knows where and how life will lead? The transformation of a famous Bollywood heroine into a Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhara compels us to think deeply.

The glamorous world in which Mamta Kulkarni lived for a long time may seem alluring, but it is equally challenging. Her life was no exception. As her popularity grew, controversies also became a part of her journey. However, the path of renunciation she has chosen, leaving behind a life filled with glamour and opulence, is not an easy turn. Adopting the path of renunciation is difficult for anyone. But now that Mamta Kulkarni has taken this step and started seeking spiritual peace, there must be significant reasons behind it.

Making a name in Mumbai's dream city is the aspiration of millions of youth. Every young person wants to step into the dazzling world of Bollywood and establish their identity in it. Mamta Kulkarni also had this dream, which she realized. In the 1990s, Mamta was one of the most beautiful and popular actresses. She carved a unique identity in Bollywood with films like Waqt Hamara Hai, China Gate, Sabse Bada Khiladi, Krantiveer, Baazi, and Karan-Arjun. However, the way she changed the direction of her life after reaching the pinnacle of glamour and success speaks volumes about the ups and downs she faced.

On one hand, her glamorous photoshoots and bold personality kept her in the media spotlight, while on the other hand, her name was associated with several controversies. Gradually, she distanced herself from the film industry. After disappearing from the world of cinema, Mamta Kulkarni chose the path

of spirituality. She removed herself from media and public life. Slowly, her inclination toward spirituality deepened. Her 2013 book 'Autobiography of an Yogini' also hinted at this direction. Mamta had said a decade ago that some people are born for worldly tasks, while others are born for God. "I, too, am born for God," she had declared. Following this ideology, Mamta has now distanced herself from the film world and fully embraced spirituality. During the Maha Kumbh, the Kinnar Akhara honored her with the title of Mahamandaleshwar. After embracing renunciation, Mamta has also been given a new name, Mamta Nand Giri. After witnessing many ups and downs in life, Mamta perhaps decided to become a renunciate, believing that true happiness and peace are not found in the external world but in the depths of the soul.

Her journey from a glamorous actress to a Mahamandaleshwar conveys the message that life can

begin anew at any point. Despite being surrounded by controversies and struggles, Mamta has chosen her own path and is now striving to establish herself at new heights through spirituality.

Although this journey belongs to Mamta Kulkarni, it also forces us to reflect on what the true purpose of life is and what steps we can take to achieve it. Until now, Mamta's story was solely linked to Bollywood, but today, her story resonates with anyone seeking change and self-realization in life.

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GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes Essay Writing, Poster-Making Competition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: In the spirit of patriotism and creativity, the Department of Political Science, GCW Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, organized an Essay Writing and Poster-Making Competition, as part of the celebrations leading up to the 76th Republic Day of India.

The event began with an inspiring address by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who highlighted the importance of Republic Day and encouraged students

to actively participate in building a progressive and inclusive India.

The event, organized by Dr. Rahul Verma and Muzaffar Hussain of the Department of Political Science, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments, showcasing their

talent and passion for the nation.

The essay writing competition centered around the theme "India @76: Celebrating Diversity and Progress," encour-

aging students to reflect on the nation's journey, its rich cultural heritage, and its strides toward

development. Students presented thought-provoking essays that highlighted the significance of unity in diversity, constitutional values, and the role of youth in shaping India's future.

The poster-making competition provided a platform for students to

express their creativity visually. With the theme "India of My Dreams,"

participants crafted vibrant and innovative posters that portrayed their aspirations for the country's growth, sustainability, and inclusivity.

A panel of esteemed judges, comprising Dr. Poonam from the Department of Dogri, evaluated the entries based on originality, creativity, and alignment with the theme.

Salony Gorla emerged as the winner in both the essay writing and poster-making competitions, securing first

place in both categories. Arpita Jamwal and Anjali secured second and third positions in the essay competition, while Shalalu and Meenakshi Kumari earned second and third places in the poster-making contest.

The event concluded in the presence of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol with a sense of pride and inspiration, as students and faculty alike renewed their commitment to upholding the ideals of the Indian Constitution.

Republic Day celebrations held in Bhagwati Nagar

Sat Sharma's election as BJP State President hailed



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: 76th Republic Day was celebrated in advance at a function held in Bhagwati Nagar here today. Former Deputy Commissioner and BJP Leader Guldev Raj Bhagat was the Chief Guest.

At the outset, all present on the occasion, strongly hailed Sat Sharma's election as Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party President.

BJP Activist R.L.Kaith described Sat Sharma as an eminent leader, an erudite politician, a selfless social worker, forceful orator, and indeed a public spirited personality. He articulates the aspirations of the masses. His works echo total commitment to nationalism, he said.

Thereafter, the participants filled the ambience with patriotic slogans and songs, while distributing sweets to mark their happiness on the occasion.

The Chief Guest said this day is a symbol of freedom, equality and integrity of our country and its every citizen. He said on this day in 1950, the Constitution of India was adopted that bestows us with the guarantees of all fundamental rights including freedom with respect to speech and expression; freedom of religion to all the citizens; freedom of personal liberty; freedom to live a life of dignity, and so on.

BJP Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria said that the BJP remembers the sacrifices made by great persons in the service to the Nation and appealed to everyone else to remember their contribution. He said that J&K is progressing on the

path of peace and prosperity while defeating the nefarious designs of anti-national forces.

R L.Kaith asked the youths and others to pledge for the unity and integrity of the Nation. He said that India is progressing forward under the strong leadership of Narendra Modi.

Kaith Music Industry Director Vicky Kumar said, 'Let us all pledge to contribute to the continued success and growth of our nation, ensuring that India remains a beacon of hope and progress on the world stage.'

Others who spoke on the occasion were Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa (Retd), Havildar Des Raj (Retd), Havildar Ghari Lal Lakhotra (Retd), Ravinder Gupta, K.K. Malhotra, Master Naresh Kumar, Tilak Raj Bassa, Jagdish Raj, Kumar Ravi, Nishan Singh, Bhavya Choudhary, Harsh Kumar and Rajni Devi.

NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur celebrate National Voters Day

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 25: National Voters' Day is being celebrated across the country with the theme of "Nothing like voting, I vote for Sure."

It was organised by Dr. Sapna devi HoD Hindi under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College.

On this day teaching, non teaching staff and students took pledge.

The pledge aims to raise awareness about the importance of voting and inspire citizens, especially the youth, to actively participate in the electoral process. Beside this students namely Monika Sharma 4th sem, Preti Sumbria 4th sem, Amisha Rani 4th sem, Mohini Thakur 6th sem, Simran 6th sem and Neekita 6th sem took part in poster making competition

and spread awareness among staff and students about their vote.

The main objective behind the celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and maximise enrolment, especially for new voters.

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

More than 60 students participated in the programme. Everyone participated in the Programme with enthusiasm.

GDC Sidhra celebrates National Road Safety Month 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: In view of observance of 'National Road Safety Month 2025' Road Safety Club in collaboration with NSS Unit of the GDC Sidhra organised a series of activities including an awareness rally as well as lecture with an attempt to propagate the cause of safer road amongst the general public.

The main aim of the awareness rally was to educate the general public on the importance of adhering to traffic rules and regulations, providing information on the latest road safety technology and best practices as well as to promote respon-

sible driving behaviour such as avoiding distractions, obeying speed limits and respecting traffic signals. The volunteers enthusiastically were seen educating the riders to essentially wear helmets for preventing concussions and preventing them from brain damage and injuries from accidents.

In her address to the students, Dr. Mussarat Chowdhary (Convener) Road Safety Club, emphasised on fostering community involvement through local events, road safety works and interactive sessions in addition to encouraging school, business and local organisations to

actively participate in spreading the road safety message.

Proceeding further, Dr. Purvaiya Hans, Programme Officer (NSS) advocated to the students for use of seat belts, helmets and other safety gears to reduce the severity of injuries in case of accidents.

The programme was organised under the able guidance of Principal Prof (Dr.) G.S Rakwal with active participation of Dr. Harpreet Kour, Dr. Mussarat Chowdhary (Convener) Road Safety Club, Dr. Purvaiya Hans Programme Officer (NSS) as well as members of these clubs.

GDC Neeli Nallah organizes pledge taking ceremony under National Voters Day



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 25: GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organized a pledge taking ceremony under National Voters Day and an awareness lecture on New Criminal Law and Traffic Rules under the able guidance of Prof. Dr. Seema Arora, Principal of the college.

The event started with a pledge taking ceremony on National Voters Day in which the students as well as the staff members took pledge. The theme of the event was "Nothing Like Voting, I

Vote for Sure".

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, made the students aware about National Voters Day and said that this day is celebrated every year on 25th of January to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. The main purpose of this day is to encourage young voters to participate in the electoral process and to increase voter enrolment.

Following the pledge taking ceremony, an awareness lecture was also organized on New

Criminal Law and Traffic rules in which Nishant, SHO Garhi and Ridhim, SI were the resource persons. During the lecture Nishant, SHO Garhi introduced the students to the new criminal law. He said that the aim of the new criminal law is to make the criminal justice system more modern, equitable and just. The New laws prioritize the rights of victims especially women, children and marginalized communities. Ridham, SI made aware the students about the new traffic rules. He stressed

that the mission of J&K Traffic Police is to safeguard the lives of people and to reduce the incidents of accident rash and negligent driving. Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, stressed upon the students that they must be aware about new criminal law and always follow traffic rules. He thanked the resource persons for delivering such an informative lecture to the students. The program concluded with an interactive session where participants discussed their queries and concerns thereby further enriching their under

standing of Criminal law which is a significant step towards empowering younger generations with the knowledge of the legal mechanisms.

The whole event was convened and organized by Dr Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology. The others present were Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mubariq Mahire, Dr. Muntazir, Dr. Zahoor Mir. The program ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Mubariq Mahire expressed gratitude to the resource persons, students and the teaching and non-teaching staff for their active participation.

NSS Unit of GDC Ramnagar organizes Awareness Rally on Preliminary Health Care and Voting Awareness



Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Jan 25: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized an impactful awareness rally and campaign in the adopted village of Thapal under the able patronship of Dr. Bhavnaish Chand, Principal of the college. The event focused on spreading awareness about preliminary health care and the importance of casting votes. The campaign was conducted under the supervision of the NSS Program Officer Prof Ritika Mahajan, with active participation from NSS volunteers.

The rally commenced with the volunteers enthusiastically raising

slogans and displaying posters that highlighted basic health care tips. These posters, prepared by the volunteers, provided valuable insights into maintaining hygiene, recognizing early symptoms of common diseases, and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

In addition to health awareness, the campaign emphasized the importance of voting and its critical role in strengthening democracy. Volunteers motivated the villagers by explaining the power of their vote and encouraged them to actively participate in the upcoming elections. The locals showed great interest, listened attentively, and appreciated the efforts of the NSS team.

The Principal of GDC

Ramnagar lauded the efforts of the NSS unit and expressed heartfelt appreciation for their dedication. "Initiatives like these play a vital role in empowering communities and creating a well-informed society. I commend the NSS team for their commitment to societal well-being and their efforts to bring about positive change," said the Principal in their address to the volunteers and villagers.

The rally concluded with a renewed sense of awareness among the villagers and a promise to make informed choices regarding their health and voting. The NSS unit remains committed to conducting such initiatives that benefit the community and promote the values of service and responsibility.

The cast of Punjabi film Shukrana — Neeru Bajwa, Jass Bajwa and Amrit Maan — believes content is king now

If you think it is comedy and light-hearted content that dominates Punjabi films, *Shukrana*, streaming on OTT platform Chaupal, reflects the continuous evolution of the industry. The film emerges as a refreshing change. It's a narrative that not only reflects the struggles and triumphs of ordinary life, but also conveys a universal message of gratitude, strength and emotional depth. And its actors Jass Bajwa, Neeru Bajwa and Amrit Mann remain committed to telling real, heartfelt stories that resonate with a broader audience.

Authentic portrayal: Jass Bajwa

Jass Bajwa, known for his dual talents in singing and acting, reflects on the novelty that *Shukrana* brings to the showbiz landscape. "It's a challenge to write such scripts when Punjabi cinema is perceived as a source of comedy content," he shares.

The depth and emotional arc of the film appealed to him, especially the way it authentically



cally portrays the struggles of a Punjabi household. "I liked the emotions, the depth and the storyline that depict the true essence of a Punjabi family. Anyone can relate to it." Jass also speaks fondly of his co-star Neeru Bajwa, calling her one of the finest actors he's had the privilege to work with. "She is a wonderful actor. She is someone whose films I have always appreciated, and to work with her was adding a feather in my cap," he says. When it comes to his future projects, Bajwa is looking forward to *Sarpnchi 2*.

Moving beyond looks: Neeru Bajwa

For Neeru Bajwa, a powerhouse in the Punjabi film industry, playing a de-glam look was

a refreshing shift, as she is known for her glamorous presence. "I was very happy when I read the script that someone tried to utilise my skills.

The audience is also maturing as they're more interested in content now than just glamour," she says. The evolution of Punjabi cinema has been a significant journey for Neeru. She recalls how in the past Bollywood influenced the trends. "When the films were made during earlier times, most of the content was inspired by Bollywood, but now we're making films of Punjab and by Punjab, which are being appreciated by people outside the country as well." The landscape of cinema is shifting and Neeru believes it's the con-

tent that holds the most value now.

For Neeru, who has a Hindi film in her kitty, the idea of returning to Bollywood isn't about nostalgia, but finding scripts that resonate. "I don't mind doing Hindi projects, but all I want are good scripts where I can give my 100 per cent," she says.

All for good content: Amrit Maan

If you also think *Shukrana* is something totally different from all that Amrit Maan has done so far, the singer-actor quips, "Well, that's the other shade of a good, biba Punjabi munda." When asked whether singing or acting comes first, Amrit is quick to point out that while he's selective about his acting roles,

music is deeply intertwined with his soul. "I am very choosy about my acting projects, but music is something that comes from my soul," he says. He envisions a future in films that are grounded in real, impactful stories. "Good content, with strong roles, real stories from Punjab," he sums up his aspirations.

The essence of gratitude that *Shukrana* conveys isn't just a theme in the film, but something Amrit carries into his personal life as well. "Life is not fair to everyone or in every situation. You experience both good and bad times. At times, you feel supported, and at other times you feel unsupported. But the key to standing tall in every situation is having gratitude towards the Almighty," Amrit reflects. It's a sentiment that resonates with the very core of the movie, a story about standing strong through the highs and lows, with a sense of gratitude that pushes you forward.

Farman Haider enjoying his role in Pocket Mein Aasmaan



Farman Haider from the Star Plus show *Pocket Mein Aasmaan* is in a happy zone and enjoying his role. He shared, "*Pocket Mein Aasmaan* is a very different and unconventional tale, and this is where our show stands out. As Rani, the lead girl of the show, is pregnant, so it's interesting to see her point of view. She then goes on to study and is a very different character."

About his role in the show, he added, "During adolescence, all of us have that angst; I try to remember that and bring it to the character of Digvijay. The challenge for Rani is that despite being an expecting mother, she wants to aim for all her dreams, which makes life more troublesome for Digvijay, her husband, who tells her to choose either pregnancy or career. I think it is time we show the world through our show that there's nothing that girls and women can't do. If they want to be a mother and ace their careers, they can do that."

Emotional homecoming for Arjun Bijlani's mother

Television heartthrob Arjun Bijlani recently experienced a wave of emotions as his mother returned home from Lilavati Hospital.

She had been battling Influenza B and faced a situation that required her to remain in ICU. After spending more than a week under intensive care, she is now back home, though her recovery requires the support of an oxygen mask and cylinder.

Arjun shared, "I want her around me all the time. She is my happiness, my everything. Seeing her smile again gives me immense strength." The actor, known for his unwaver-



ing dedication to both his family and work, admitted that the past few weeks were incredibly challenging. Balancing his professional commitments while

staying by his mother's side during her critical condition tested his resilience.

However, his love and determination ensured that she never felt alone.

Randeep Hooda to share screen space with John Cena in 'Matchbox'

Hindi film actor Randeep Hooda will be seen sharing screen space with Hollywood star John Cena in the upcoming action thriller *Matchbox*. The film is currently being shot in Budapest. The actor will be reuniting with Extraction director Sam Hargrave in the movie, which marks their second collaboration following their 2020 Netflix hit.

Matchbox will follow a group of childhood friends who must work together to stop an impending worldwide disaster and rediscover their friendship along the way. The live-action film, based on Mattel's die-cast matchbox toy vehicle line, also stars Teyonah Parris, Jessica Biel and Sam Richardson. Production is currently underway in Budapest.

The film is inspired by Mattel's popular toy vehicle line, which



was invented in 1953 by automotive enthusiast Jack Odell. Odell's daughter was allowed to take a toy to school only if it was small enough to fit in a matchbox and when her schoolmates began clamouring for their own

'matchbox car', the brand was born.

Randeep said that he was excited to be working with Sam again. "We had a great time on our first collaboration with *Extraction*. Sam is a master

of high-octane storytelling and action. Glad to be joining the team in Budapest." Hargrave is directing based on a screenplay by David Coggshall and Jonathan Tropper. Hargrave, whose action credentials include stunt coordination for Marvel blockbusters *Avengers: Endgame*, *Infinity War*, *Thor: Ragnarok* and DC's *Suicide Squad*, recently helmed *Extraction 2*. His first outing with Hooda saw the Indian actor deliver a breakthrough performance as Saju alongside Chris Hemsworth.

Randeep, who directed and starred in 2024's *Swatantra Veer Savarkar*, is currently busy with *Jaat* under director Gopichand Malineni, alongside veteran actor Sunny Deol. The actor will also be seen in Arjun Ustara by acclaimed filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj.

Emilia Perez leads Oscar nominations

Netflix's Spanish-language musical *Emilia Perez* topped the list of movies nominated for Academy Awards, followed by *The Brutalist* and *Wicked*.

Emilia Perez, the story of a Mexican drug lord who transitions to a woman and starts a new life, earned 13 nominations.

The Brutalist, about a Holocaust survivor chasing the American dream, and *The Wizard of Oz* prequel *Wicked* picked up 10 nods each.

All three films will compete for the coveted best picture trophy at the Oscars ceremony in Hollywood on March 2. A *Complete Unknown*, starring Timothee Chalamet as a young Bob Dylan, dark romantic comedy *Anora* and papal selection drama *Conclave* also landed in the best picture race.

The other nominated films were the science-fiction blockbuster *Dune: Part 2*, Brazilian political docudrama *I'm Still Here*, racial drama



Nickel Boys and horror movie *The Substance*. Nominations for the film industry's highest honours were postponed twice as Los Angeles grappled with wildfires that devastated parts of the city this month. Several red-carpet celebrations have been postponed or cancelled.

First nod for Demi Moore

Demi Moore has added new glory to her

career as she is being recognised for her first-ever Oscar nomination for her role in *The Substance*.

The 62-year-old actress was named one of the five contenders for Best Actress at the 2025 Academy Awards. Moore shared, "Being nominated for an Oscar is an incredible honour, and these last few months have been beyond my wild-

est dreams. Truly, there are no words to fully express my joy and overwhelming gratitude for this recognition. Not only for me, but for what this film represents. I am deeply humbled." In her statement, the actress also opened up about the challenges her community is facing due to recent fires in Los Angeles.

"This is a time of incredible contrasts,

and right now, my heart is with my friends, family, neighbours and community here in LA," she wrote.

"The fires have devastated so many lives, but to see the way our community has united leaves me in awe of the resilience and compassion that defines us, and this moment is a reminder of how incredible we are when we stand together," Moore added.

The Substance is a dark horror comedy in which Moore plays Elisabeth Sparkle, a struggling actress who begins taking a mysterious drug to stay young and relevant.

The drug creates a younger version of herself, played by Margaret Qualley, and the two must share their public lives - a fragile balance that soon spirals out of control.

The role has earned Moore rave reviews and a Golden Globe win for Best Actress in a Comedy or Musical.

Actor Kunal Verma talks about fatherhood and family



Kunal Verma, who recently made a return to television after a seven-year break, is currently seen playing the role of Vihan in

the popular Star Plus show *Jhanak*. While his career has seen its fair share of successes, it's his personal life that has truly shaped his outlook

in recent years.

Verma, who became a father to a son Krishav, has learned to strike a balance between his career and family life. "Work is important to me, but being a good human being and spending quality time with my family is just as vital," he says. His time away from television, especially after Krishav's birth, allowed him to reflect on what truly matters. "I've always been grateful for the time I got to spend at home, even taking charge of the kitchen sometimes. It has been a rewarding experience," he shares.

As *Jhanak* continues to attract viewers, Kunal is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a meaningful project, while also cherishing his role as a father. "Both phases—when I wasn't working and now, when I am—are important to me. I give my 100 per cent to everything in my life, whether it's my career or family," he concludes.

PM Modi meets Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Hyderabad house in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Saturday.

PM Modi extended a warm welcome to Prabowo Subianto at the Hyderabad House. The two leaders warmly greeted each other and shook hands before proceeding for meeting.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal noted that the discussions between the two leaders will further bolster the relationship between India and Indonesia.

"Furthering ties with an important partner in India's 'Act East' policy. PM @narendramodi extended a warm welcome to President @prabowo of Indonesia at the Hyderabad House. Discussions to further bolster India - Indonesia relationship lie ahead," Jaiswal posted on X.

Earlier in the day, Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. He laid a wreath at Rajghat and signed the visitors book. Subianto was accompanied by Minister



of State for External Affairs (MoS) Pabitra Margherita.

Prabowo Subianto received ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The ceremonial welcome highlights the significance of the visit and sets the stage for enhanced diplomatic discussions between India and Indonesia.

"A special welcome for a special friend! President Droupadi Murmu @rashtrapatibhvn & PM @narendramodi warmly welcomed President @prabowo of Indonesia on his maiden State Visit to India. President @prabowo received a ceremonial welcome & Guard of Honour at the Rashtrapati

Bhavan forecourt," Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

Prabowo Subianto is the Chief Guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations. His visit marks his first State Visit to India since assuming office in October 2024.

Prabowo Subianto said Indonesia considers India a "very great friend" and expressed his commitment to promoting closer cooperation and closer partnership with India.

Indonesia's President said, "I just express my deepest appreciation and the great honour I received today. I have been officially invited to India. Indonesia considers India a very great friend. India

was one of the first countries, maybe the first country to recognise our independence, to support us in our struggle for independence, we will never forget what India did to help us. I am very honoured today and I am doubly honoured that tomorrow I will be the chief guest at your Republic Day parade."

"So, Madam President, I would like to express my deepest thanks. Excellency, Prime Minister Modi, just to express to you that I'm committed to promoting closer cooperation, closer partnership with India. That is my determination," he added.

According to MEA's earlier press release, India and Indonesia share warm and friendly ties spanning over millennia. As a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, Indonesia is an important pillar in India's Act East Policy and our vision of the Indo-Pacific. The State Visit of Indonesia's President will provide an opportunity for the leaders to undertake a comprehensive review of bilateral ties as well as to discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Govt's requisite support to India's tourism and hospitality sector lacking: Kharge



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Alleging that the Government's requisite support to India's tourism and hospitality sector is lacking, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday called for a collective effort to reform the sector, including filling the infrastructure gaps and aggressively promoting inbound tourism.

On National Tourism Day, Kharge said the country boasts of a rich diversity of natural beauty, ancient monuments, multitude of culinary traditions and multi-faceted cultures, making it an ideal destination for global travellers. However, the true potential of India's tourism industry is far from

being fully realised and foreign tourist arrivals in the country have remained well below the pre-COVID-19 levels, he said, adding that this is "extremely worrying".

Despite the Centre's stated commitment to revitalising this crucial economic segment, the requisite support and impetus have been lacking, a situation that demands immediate attention, Kharge said.

"Therefore on #NationalTourismDay, we urge for a collective effort to reform the sector, including filling the infrastructure gaps and aggressively promoting inbound tourism," he said.

Kejriwal vows to resolve sewage issues across Delhi if AAP retains power

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday vowed to address all sewer-related problems in Delhi on a priority basis if his party is re-elected in the upcoming Assembly polls.

In a video message, the former Delhi chief minister highlighted the development work undertaken by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the city's unauthorised colonies, stating that significant progress has been made in providing basic infrastructure in these areas.

"When we formed the government in Delhi, there was no development work in unau-



thorised colonies. No government worked for these colonies. We started the development work and today, almost all such colonies have sewer pipelines and other facilities," he said.

Kejriwal acknowledged that several areas in the city are grappling with issues of sewage water contaminating drinking water. "I have decided that

all sewer-related issues across the city will be solved on a war-footing after the AAP forms its government," he said.

The 70-member Delhi Assembly is scheduled to go to polls on February 5, with the results set to be announced on February 8. The AAP is seeking a third straight term in power, having won 62 of the 70 seats in the 2020 election.

UP Govt's claim on economy unrealistic, BJP can only say a trillion lies: Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW, Jan 25 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said the Uttar Pradesh government is only capable of "a trillion lies" and its claim of making the state's economy reach the USD 1 trillion target in the next four years is "impossible".

In a post on X, Yadav alleged the BJP government was plagued with corruption, and said there were no tangible investments that have left the farmers, traders, businessmen, and

industrialists struggling.

"BJP can only make a record of saying 1 trillion lies and nothing else," he said in a Hindi post.

"The UP BJP government is again throwing around the slogan that UP's economy will reach USD1 trillion in the next four years. According to today's 'growth rate', this is impossible, that is why this is a "mahajhoth" (big lie)," Yadav said.

He said that unemployment was rising unabated in the state and farmers, industrial-

ists and traders were worried about their work.

"If people do not have money, how will purchasing power come; if workers are migrating where will labour resources come from?" the SP president said.

Yadav went on to highlight concerns regarding inflation, people's income, job creation for the youth, and the rising costs of medicine and education.

Everyone is saying they do not want the BJP, Yadav added.



EC's Independence 'Severely Compromised' By PM-HM Duo: Congress

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): The Congress hit out at the Election Commission on Saturday, saying the "self-congratulation" on National Voters' Day would not obscure the fact that the poll panel as it has been functioning makes a "mockery" of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves.

The opposition party also alleged that over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been "severely compromised" by the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The National Voters' Day has been celebrated for the past 15 years to mark the inception of the Election Commission (EC) on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves."



"Today has been celebrated as National Voters Day since 2011 to mark the day on which the Election Commission came into being 75 years ago on Jan 25th, 1950," he noted.

The Election Commission is a Constitutional body and its first Chairman was the legendary Sukumar Sen whose role in establishing the foundations of our electoral democracy was crucial, Ramesh said.

"He was the sole Chief Election Commissioner for eight years. His 'Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52' is a classic. But the preparations of the draft electoral roll for the first elections had been completed before Sen took over," he said.

The story of this historic endeavour and of the people involved in it is narrated very finely by Ornit Shani in her definitive 'How India Became Democratic', Ramesh

pointed out. There have been other distinguished CECs, among whom TN Seshan stands tallest and whose contributions were seminal, he said.

"Sadly, over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been severely compromised by the PM-HM duo," Ramesh alleged.

"Some of its decisions are now under challenge in the Supreme Court. Its stand on the concerns raised on the recent assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra has been shockingly partisan," Ramesh said.

"There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves," he said.

4 Dead, 2 injured as car collides with truck in Uttar Pradesh

SHAHJAHANPUR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Four people were killed and two injured when a car collided with a truck in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Saturday.

Superintendent of Police Rajesh S told PTI that the victims, residents of Gora and Dahena villages located within the Allahganj police station limits, were travelling in a car when the accident occurred



around 11 pm on Friday near Kateli village. The car collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

"The victims have been identified as Rahul Kumar (25), Vinay Sharma (27), Akash (22) and Gopal (24). All of them were killed on the spot," the officer said.

Police have seized the truck but the driver remains at large and efforts are on to arrest him.

BSP leader Harbilas Singh Rajjumajra shot dead by armed assailants in Haryana's Naraingarh

AMBALA, Jan 25 (Agencies): A Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader from Haryana's Ambala was shot dead by armed assailants in Naraingarh, police said on Saturday.

Police stated that BSP leader Harbilas Singh Rajjumajra was accompanied by two friends, Puneet and Gugal, when the attack occurred while they were in their car on Friday evening.

Puneet also sustained bullet injuries. After the attack, they were rushed to PGIMER, Chandigarh, where Harbilas succumbed to his injuries late at night, while Puneet was reported to

be out of danger. Police said the attackers have so far not been identified.

Naraingarh SHO Lalit Kumar reached the crime scene to begin the investigation. Superintendent of Police, Ambala, S S Bhoria, said that a police team has been formed to apprehend the assailants.

Ambala-based BSP leaders have demanded that the police make every effort to apprehend the accused as soon as possible.

Rajjumajra had unsuccessfully contested the assembly election from Naraingarh last year.

Man, wanted for murder in 3 states, killed in police encounter in Meerut



MEERUT, Jan 25 (Agencies): A criminal wanted for the murder of a family of five in the area of Lisari Gate police station in Meerut was killed by Police during an encounter, officials said on Saturday. The accused, Naeem, had a bounty of Rs 50,000 for killing his stepbrother, stepbrother's wife and three children in the Lisari Gate area, police said.

The encounter took place with the accused Naeem alias Jameel

at Chowki Summer Garden area Madina Colony Phase - 2, where the accused fired at the police team with the intention to kill, in the retaliatory action, Naeem was injured and sent to hospital. He was declared dead there, police said.

The accused was also wanted in murder cases in Delhi and Maharashtra, police added. Naeem was living in the Lisari Gate area by changing his name. He had killed the entire

family of his stepbrother with an accomplice. According to the police, the victims had injuries on their head and there was a possibility that the crime had been committed due to reasons of rivalry.

"At Lisari gate PS, we got information that five bodies have been recovered at a house. Police reached the spot and the people said that the house had been locked from outside. Inside the house, there were bodies of a couple and their three children, it seems like they had been hit on the head with a blunt object," SSP Tada told ANI.

The accomplice was on the run and has a bounty of Rs 50,000, police said.

Hamas releases four female Israeli soldiers in exchange for 200 Palestinian captives

The first exchange took place Sunday with the release of three Israeli hostages and 90 Palestinian captives.

DEIR-AL-BALAH, Jan 25 (Agencies): Hamas on Saturday released four female Israeli soldiers to the Red Cross in a planned exchange for 200 Palestinian captives in Israel, as part of a fragile ceasefire agreement that ended a 15-month-long "genocidal" war in Gaza.

It's the second exchange since the ceasefire took effect last weekend, halting Israel's war on Gaza for at least six weeks during which dozens of Israeli hostages and hundreds of Palestinian captives will be freed while humanitarian aid will be allowed to enter the starvation-struck territory.

The four soldiers—Karina Arie, Daniella Gilboa, Naama Levy and Liri Albag—appeared to be in good condition and were smiling as they waved to the crowd in Gaza City's Palestine Square, where they were handed over to the Red Cross. The soldiers carried a bag each, seemingly containing souvenirs from Gaza, similar to that gifted by Hamas to the hostages who were released on Sunday.

In return for the four soldiers, Israel should free 200 Palestinians who were lodged in Israeli prisons, some serving life sentences. The first exchange took place Sunday with the release of three Israeli



hostages and 90 Palestinian captives, mostly women.

The Palestinians released by Israel on Sunday include Khalida Jarrar, leader of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and a feminist activist.

Jarrar has been repeatedly arrested by Israel since 2015 for being vocal about Palestinian prisoner rights and being affiliated with PFLP, which is considered a "terrorist" group by Israel. Her most recent arrest was in December 2023.

Another prominent released Palestinian prisoner is journalist Rula Hassanein, an editor for the Ramallah-based Wattan Media Network.

30-year-old Hassanein was arrested by the Israeli army while she was breastfeeding her daughter. She was tried before an Israeli military court at the Ofer Prison and was

charged with incitement on social media over posts that reportedly included retweets on X and her expression of frustration over the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza, according to Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, calls have intensified for the release of Palestinians abducted from Gaza by Israeli forces during the war. This includes Dr Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of the Kamal-Adwan hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip, who was detained by Israeli forces during a deadly raid on the hospital and whose whereabouts are still unknown.

According to the ceasefire agreement, in the first phase of the three-phase ceasefire, 33 Israeli captives are to be released by Hamas in exchange for up to 1,900 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has however violated the ceasefire agreement and killed a Palestinian child on the second day after the deal came into effect. It has also launched deadly attacks in the occupied West Bank killing and detaining several Palestinians.

The UN on Friday raised concerns about Israel's use of war-like mechanisms in the occupied West Bank in violation of international human rights law.

"The deadly Israeli operations in recent days raise serious concerns about unnecessary or disproportionate use of force, including methods and means developed for warfighting, in violation of international human rights law, norms and standards applicable to law enforcement operations," UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Thameen al-Kheetan told a media briefing in Geneva.

At least 12 Palestinians have been killed and several others wounded in Israel's attacks on the occupied territory, which escalated since the signing of the ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

Israel's war on Gaza, found by UN experts and human rights organisations to be a "genocide," has killed at least 47,000 Palestinians including more than 18,000 children, over 200 journalists and a thousand healthcare workers.

Apartment building collapses in central Turkey, trapping 2 people

Officials say rescuers are battling to reach two people trapped under a collapsed apartment building in central Turkey



ISTANBUL, Jan 25 (Agencies): Rescuers were battling to reach two people trapped under a collapsed apartment building in central Turkey on Saturday, officials said, with three others already rescued. No deaths were reported.

The collapse comes amid renewed focus on building safety following the deaths of 78 people in a fire Tuesday that ripped through a 12-story hotel at a ski resort in northwestern Turkey.

Investigators are examining whether proper fire prevention measures were in place.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on Sat-

urday that 79 people were registered as living in the four-story apartment block in the city of Konya, some 260 kilometers (160 miles) south of the capital Ankara.

Those remaining under the debris were Syrian nationals, Yerlikaya said, adding that the cause of the building collapse was not immediately known. "If there is a fault, negligence or anything else, we will learn it together," he told journalists.

TV images showed emergency workers sifting through a large pile of rubble Saturday morning following the building's collapse

Friday evening. State-run Anadolu Agency reported that four people were detained as part of the investigation.

The second anniversary of an earthquake that hit southern Turkey and north Syria, killing more than 59,000, is just two weeks away. The high death toll at the time was due in part to building safety regulations being ignored.

In 2004, a 12-story apartment building collapsed in Konya, claiming the lives of 92 people and injuring some 30 others. Structural flaws and negligence were blamed for the collapse.

Ex-president Rajapaksa's son arrested by Lanka police on corruption charges

Yoshitha is second among Mahinda Rajapaksa's three sons

COLOMBO, Jan 25 (Agencies): Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa's son Yoshitha Rajapaksa was arrested by police on Saturday on corruption charges in a property purchase case.

Ex-navy officer Yoshitha was arrested from their home territory of Beliatta over the investigation of alleged misconduct in the purchase of the property during the term of his father's presidency prior to 2015.

Yoshitha is the second among Mahinda Rajapaksa's three sons.

His uncle and former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was also quizzed by the police last week on the same property - a holiday home in the southern religious resort of Kataragama.

The arrest came as



Mahinda Rajapaksa filed a fundamental rights petition on Friday in the Supreme Court seeking its intervention to reinstate his security, which was significantly reduced by the government last month.

Since the formation of a new government led by President Anura Kumara Disسانayake in November last year, Mahinda Rajapaksa's

eldest son and legislator, Namal Rajapaksa, was quizzed by the police over another property case alongside an employee of Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The new government in the run-up to elections had vowed to arrest everyone accused of wrongdoing during Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency between 2005 and 2015.

Getting hard criminals out, says Trump as his admin begins deportation flights

WASHINGTON, Jan 25 (Agencies): Within just a little over four days after Donald Trump took over as the 47th President of the United States, the country has begun deportation flights for illegal immigrants using military aircraft.

Mass deportation of illegal immigrants has been one of the major poll promises of the Trump campaign. As part of it, Trump has also signed an executive order declaring that future children born to undocumented immigrants would no longer be treated as citizens.

The Department of Defence said two of its aircraft conducted repatriation flights from the US to Guatemala.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt later told reporters that Trump's border policies have already led to the arrest of 538 illegal immigrants and deportation flights using military aircraft, the first since President Dwight Eisenhower, have begun.

"Deportation flights have begun. President Trump is sending a strong and clear message to the entire world: if you illegally enter the United States of America, you will face severe consequences," she wrote on X.

Talking to reporters in North Carolina, President Trump said, "Deportation is going very well.



We're getting the bad, hard criminals out. These are murderers. These are people that have been as bad as you get, as bad as anybody you've seen. We're taking them out first."

According to Congressman Tony Gonzales from Texas, the Department of Defense on Friday assisted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with deporting 80 Guatemalan nationals from Biggs Army Airfield.

"Texas has been ground zero for the border crisis and will be ground zero for deportation operations. In four days, President Trump has done more to protect our country than Biden did in four years," he said.

Speaking on the Senate Floor earlier this week, Senator Michael Benette said the Bill Laken Act provides to stop

the issuing of visas to countries which refuse to accept deported people.

This bill provides State attorneys general the power to seek nationwide injunctions to completely block certain countries, like India, China and El Salvador, from sending immigrants here, he said.

"Imagine a Salvadorian farmworker on an H-2A visa living in Florida or Louisiana committing a violent crime leading to a deportation order. He should be deported. I am not here to dispute that. I don't dispute that," Benette said.

"But with this bill, if El Salvador doesn't accept his deportation, Florida's attorney general could ask a court to force the Federal Government to ban all visas from El Salvador or all H-2A visas or all H-1B visas for

high-tech workers for all that matters," he added.

Congressman Gabe Vasquez, however, said that mass deportations would hurt every aspect of the economy and society. "Hardworking immigrants who contribute billions to our economy, to our family farms, to our rural small businesses and our nation's emerging industries deserve a fair shot at residency and citizenship," he said.

According to Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, DREAMers are worried that they'll be deported from the only country that they've ever called home.

"Families are worried that they're going to be torn apart. Children who go to school are afraid that they may come home to an empty house. They are afraid to go to church or even to seek medically necessary care in hospitals where they could be detained and deported," she said.

"Who's going to rebuild Los Angeles if we're deporting a huge pool of our workforce who are construction workers? What happens when they're deported? What do we think will happen to the cost of housing, which is already expensive enough? Without their skilled labour the recovery will be much slower and more expensive and take much longer," she said.

Philippines accuses China's forces of harassing fisheries vessels in South China Sea

MANILA, Jan 25 (Agencies): Chinese coast guard ships and a Chinese navy helicopter harassed a group of Philippine fisheries vessels conducting a scientific survey in a hotly disputed area of the South China Sea, forcing them to cancel the operation, the Philippine coast guard said Saturday.

Beijing has repeatedly asserted sovereignty over most of the South China Sea and accused rival claimant states, including the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia of encroachment. China has demarcated its territorial claims with a 10 dashed-line printed on maps but has not provided the exact coordinates. The incident took place Friday near Sandy Cay, three small uninhabited sandbars flanked by an artificial island base of Chinese forces and a Philippines-occupied island in the Spratlys archipelago, the coast guard said.

The Chinese coast guard ships approached two larger vessels, which maneuvered to avoid a collision, and a navy helicopter flew

low over two smaller boats deployed by the ships, forcing the survey to be called off.

A Chinese coast guard statement said that it drove the Philippine ships away after they entered the waters without China's permission and attempted to land on the cay — which is called Tiexian Reef in Chinese — and conduct sand sampling.

Videos released by the Philippine coast guard show a Chinese coast guard ship sailing very close to a vessel officials identified as belonging to the Philippines. Another video shows a Chinese military helicopter hovering low over the rough seas near a vessel flying a Philippine flag.

The latest flare-out of the long-simmering territorial disputes in one of the world's busiest trade and security passageways could test President Donald Trump's commitment to maintain America's role as a counterweight to China, which has increasingly carried out assertive actions in the disputed waters.

His predecessor, Joe Biden, strengthened

an arc of security alliances in Asia while in office in a bid to curb China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea, East China Sea and around Taiwan, a self-governed island which Beijing has vowed to take by force if necessary. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a telephone call on Wednesday with his Philippine counterpart, Enrique Manalo, discussed issues of mutual concern, including "the People's Republic of China's dangerous and destabilizing actions in the South China Sea," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.

Rubio "conveyed that the PRC's behaviour undermines regional peace and stability and is inconsistent with international law," Bruce said in a readout of the call.

Rubio "underscored the United States' ironclad commitments to the Philippines under our Mutual Defence Treaty," Bruce said.

Biden and his administration had repeatedly warned China that the US is obligated to help defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty

ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under armed attack including in the South China Sea. China has warned the US to stay away from what it says is a purely Asian dispute.

In 2017, China accused the Philippine military of secretly plotting to occupy and build a structure on one of the three sandbars, about 2.5 nautical miles (4.6 kilometers) from the Philippine-occupied Thitu Island, two senior Philippine officials told The Associated Press at the time. China protested and surrounded the sandbars with three navy ships, a coast guard ship and 10 suspected militia ships, according to a confidential Philippine government security report seen by the AP at the time.

Chinese and Philippine diplomats resolved the issue by agreeing that forces from both sides should not set foot on the sandbars, the two Philippine officials said.

Chinese ships, however, have continuously kept watch off the sandbars since then,

according to the Philippine military.

Separately, the Philippine coast guard said it has been ordering Chinese coast guard ships to stay away from the Scarborough Shoal, another disputed area about 124 nautical miles (230 kilometers) off the northwestern Philippines.

The Chinese coast guard ships have approached up to 60 nautical miles (111 kilometers) from the Philippines coast in recent weeks, well within the country's exclusive economic zone, a stretch of water where a coastal state has exclusive rights to tap resources, but where foreign ships have rights of "innocent passage" as provided under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Philippine coast guard said.

The Chinese coast guard has defied the Philippine coast guard order to leave the area, which it said falls within Chinese waters. It warned the Philippines "to immediately stop all infringement activities, provocations and false accusations."

Kavinder highlights PM Modi's transformative leadership on National Voters' Day

Says India continues to shine as a global power under PM Modi's leadership

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta emphasized the significance of National Voters' Day, stating that India takes pride in being the world's largest democracy. He was speaking after addressing a meeting at the BJP headquarters in Jammu, where he lauded the people's role in strengthening democratic values.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership for accomplishing what remained undone for seven decades. "Under PM Modi's dynamic governance, India has witnessed historic transformations. The abrogation of Article 370 was a monumental step in integrating Jammu & Kashmir fully with the nation, a task that previous gov-



ernments hesitated to undertake," he asserted.

Highlighting key achievements of the Modi government, the senior BJP leader said, "The long exile of Ram Lalla has ended, and a grand Ram Temple now stands in Ayodhya. The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor has been developed, and the Somnath Temple is being

adorned with gold, reinforcing our civilizational pride. The abolition of Triple Talaq has empowered Muslim women, ending decades of injustice."

Kavinder also underlined the global recognition of Indian culture, stating that over 170 countries now celebrate and propagate Yoga under PM Modi's influence. "The govern-

ment has worked tirelessly to restore India's lost heritage, bringing back more than 350 stolen idols of deities from foreign lands. India's cultural and linguistic heritage is being revived on an unprecedented scale," he added.

Kavinder Gupta urged the people to actively participate in the electoral process, stating that every vote is a step toward strengthening democracy and shaping the nation's future. He reaffirmed BJP's commitment to nation-building and ensuring that India continues to shine as a global power under PM Modi's leadership.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Bharat Bhushan Chairman Jammu district Rajiv Charak, Sanjay Baru, Darshan Singh, Joginder Sharma, Girdhari Lal Balgotra, Raza Riaz, Rakesh Sharma and Sumit Saharan.

CS administers oath to Officers on 15th National Voters' Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: On the eve of the 15th National Voters' Day on Saturday an oath-taking ceremony was held at Civil Secretariat here in which Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo administered oath to the officers and officials including the Administrative Secretaries of the UT.

The officials vowed that they being citizens of India take oath on keeping firm faith on democracy and strive

for the independent, impartial and peaceful election and will cast their votes fearlessly irrespective of religion, community and language.

This Year's Theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure" is similar to last year. It highlights the significance of voters to participate in the electoral process independently without any fear or favour on the basis of religion, race or language. Moreover, 25th Janu-

ary is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) which came into existence in 1950 and 2025 marks the 75th year of its existence. This day was first celebrated in 2011 to encourage young voters to take part in the electoral process.

The Election Commission's main objective is to increase the enrolment of the voters especially the youngsters who had recently attained eligibility at the age of 18 years or more.

Installation of nameplate at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium at JU resolved

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: A long-awaited demand for the installation of a nameplate at the General Zorawar Singh Auditorium at the University of Jammu has been successfully resolved. The announcement was made today during a press conference led by Parateek Raina, a prominent student activist and law student of the university.

The General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, inaugurated in 2007, has been without a nameplate despite being dedicated to the legendary General Zorawar Singh, a figure revered for his contributions to the region's history. Speaking to the media, Parateek Raina expressed his gratitude toward the university administration for taking the necessary steps to honor General Zorawar Singh's legacy.

"The administration has approved the tender for the installation of the nameplate,

with a budget allocation of 7 lakhs. The project has already been allotted, and the installation work is expected to be completed by March," Raina said, noting that this marks a significant victory for the student community.

Raina also highlighted the continuous efforts of students, including the submission of a memorandum to former Governor Dr. Karan Singh, which played a pivotal role in drawing attention to the issue. The collective determination and perseverance of the student body were key to ensuring that this long-standing demand was addressed.

The successful reso-

lution of the matter not only recognizes General Zorawar Singh's contributions but also ensures that his legacy is honored in a meaningful and lasting way. The nameplate installation will serve as an important reminder of the historical and cultural significance of the auditorium for generations to come.

The press conference, attended by enthusiastic students, was a moment of celebration for the university community. Among the prominent students present were Shivam Singh, Mukesh Sharma, Usman, Kamal, and others who expressed their support for the initiative.



Sumit Khajuria elected as President Tawi Trekkers J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, JAN 25: Sumit Khajuria, a highly trained and experienced mountaineer, a skier, a rafter, a scuba diver and a sport climbing judge was unanimously elected as President of Tawi Trekkers J&K in an election meeting held at Press Club of Jammu on Saturday whereas Sonam Sidharth was re-elected as the General Secretary, the outgoing President Shawetika Khajuria was unanimously nominated as the Working President of the club.

Belonging to the second generation of Tawi Trekkers J&K Sumit Khajuria, a silent and very efficient organiser, has led many suc-

cessful mountaineering expeditions and has contributed substantially for the grand success of Himalayan Trekking Programmes and various other adventure activities organised by Tawi Trekkers J&K.

Earlier, the club welcomed its chairman Anil Goswami, a former Home Secretary of India, Co-Chairman Sh. Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Vice President Press Club of Jammu; patron Rahul Sharma, Chairman, Sprawling Buds ICSE School; Advisor of the club Ram Khajuria, a veteran member Vivek Chauhan and Rakesh Goswami, an observer from Mountaineering Association of J&K. Patron of the club Ashwani Sharma,

former MLA, Advisor Professor Lalit Magotra and Legal Advisor of the club Prem Sadotra, however, could not attend the meeting due to certain unavoidable reasons.

Elections to the other office bearers and executive members were also conducted by Ram Khajuria, a founder member and now an advisor of the club, in the presence of an Observer from Mountaineering Association of J&K Rakesh Goswami, an executive member of the Association.

Whereas Arti Sharma was re-elected as Sr. Vice President Mridhu Padha and Seema were elected as Vice Presidents. Sonam Sid-

harth and Amit Khajuria were also unanimously elected as General Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Club respectively. Shashi Kant was again elected as Treasurer of the club.

International sport climber Shivani Charak and Senior members Shobha Rajput of Samba, Sushil Singh, Sunil Chakharria of Bishnah, Anukampa Sharma of Udhampur, Sourav Deep Singh of Surinsar, Binder Pal Singh, Prerna Charak of Rajouri, Sanjeevani of Mendhar and Ulfat Khan of Bhaderwah were also unanimously elected as executive members.

Before the elections, in a meeting of the veteran members of the club, Vivek Chauhan, Princi-

pal of Oriental Academy Sr. Secondary School, Jammu who has been contributing substantially for the success of various activities of the club was nominated as an Advisor of the Club. Besides, the members expressed satisfaction about the performance and achievements of the club. They felt pride in the fact that the club has produced so many national champions and international sport climbers besides a number of brilliant mountaineers who have scaled formidable peaks including Everest, Kangchenjunga, Manaslu, Shivaling and Mount Vinson in Antarctica. They, however, stressed the need for handing over reigns of management to younger lot of the club in a phased manner and also involve sufficient number of lady members to run the affairs of the club.

In the end Sumit Khajuria, President of the club thanked the members for reposing so much faith in him and promised to work with full dedication to take the club to new heights.

FromPage No:1

Kashmir train trial run completed as Vande Bharat Express reaches Srinagar

elements in the windshield to automatically defrost the driver's front lookout glass, ensuring clear visibility in harsh winter conditions.

In addition to these climate-related features, it includes all other amenities of the existing Vande Bharat trains — fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic plug doors, mobile charging sockets and the likes.

By enhancing the Kashmir valley's connectivity to the national railway network, this train symbolises India's commitment to bridging geographical and economic gaps, the officials said.

The approval by the commissioner of railway safety marks a significant step towards completing the 272-km USBRL project, which aims at connecting the Kashmir valley to the broader Indian Railway network.

Over the last month, the Indian Railways has conducted six trial

runs on various sections of the track, including crucial milestones such as the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad bridge, and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab river at Kauri.

The Anji Khad bridge, a critical part of the USBRL project, is an engineering achievement, featuring a single pylon rising 331 metres above the river bed. The pylon, which took several years to complete, now rises 191 metres above its foundation level.

With a total length of 473.25 metres, the Anji Khad bridge is one of the two highest railway bridges in the world, alongside the Chenab bridge at Kauri, which holds the title of the world's highest railway bridge at 359 metres above the river bed, 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

28 JKP personnel honoured with Gallantry, Service medals on Republic Day

civil defence and home guard services, and 36 to correctional services.

For the Jammu and Kashmir region, the awards include 15 Gallantry Medals (GM), 2 President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM), and 10 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM). The Ladakh region received 2 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM).

Details are available at www.mha.gov.in and <https://awards.gov.in>.

List of Awardees President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM):

Anand Jain, Additional Director General, Jammu & Kashmir Nitish Kumar, Additional Director General, Jammu & Kashmir Medal for Gallantry (GM):

Jammu & Kashmir: Azhar Rashid, Deputy Superintendent of Police Maajid Afzal Wani, Head Constable Safer Lone, Constable (1st Bar to GM) Shahnawaz Ahmad Deedad, Constable (1st Bar to GM) Suresh Kumar Bhat, Assistant Sub-Inspector Aqib Qayoom Yattoo, SgCT Manzoor Ahmad Bajard, SgCT Vijay Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police Rakesh Balwal, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police

Iftikhar Talib, Superintendent of Police (1st Bar to GM)

Faroz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Sub-Inspector (1st Bar to GM) Sudish Singh, Head Constable Pawan Kumar, Head Constable Irshad Ahmad Lohar, SgCT

Late Himayun Muzzammil, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Posthumous) Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM):

Jammu & Kashmir: Mohd Yaseen Kichloo, Superintendent of Police

Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Inspector Pardeep Gupta, Inspector Sanjeev Singh Salathia, Deputy Superintendent of Police Som Raj, Inspector Rohini Dhar, Inspector Rajpal Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector Ghulam Hassan Beigh, Head Constable

Mohd Iqbal Mir, Inspector Kuldeep Singh, Naik Home Guard and Civil Defence (MSM): Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Divisional Warden, Jammu & Kashmir Correctional Services (MSM): Vijay Kumar, Section Officer, Jammu & Kashmir Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, Warder, Jammu & Kashmir

RBI Imposes Rs 3.31 Crore Penalty on Jammu Kashmir Bank

non-compliance with certain directions on priority sector lending, the interest rate on deposits and financial inclusion — access to banking services — BSBDA, the RBI said.

Also, a penalty of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on Datson Exports, West Bengal for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by NBFCs'.

In each case, the RBI said penalties were based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and were not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

J&K defeats Star-Studded Mumbai in Ranji Trophy Match

match for all-round perfor-

mance as took seven wickets and scored 20 runs in the match which remained in limelight as it marked return to domestic circuit by Indian test team captain Rohit Sharma after a decade.

Record room damaged in fire at sub-district hospital Mendhar

The fire broke out in the record room inside an old building around 9 am, but timely intervention of hospital staff, fire and emergency services personnel, Army, police and CRPF averted major damage especially to the adjoining X-ray room and eye care centre, the officials said.

They said another room housing hospital dispensary also suffered some damages in the fire, which was fully doused by 11 am.

Block Medical Officer, Mendhar Ashfaq Ahmad said preliminary investigation suggested that a short circuit due to overloading caused the fire.

"The fire alarm system of the hospital got activated immediately when the fire broke out. The hospital staff rushed and managed to shift the important equipment to safety. We are assessing the damage in the record room," the doctor said.

FM Yang Syan celebrates 76th Republic Day at Leh

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 25: On the evening of 76th Republic Day, a grand event was organised by FM Yang Syan 90 MHz, Dil se Dil Tak at Leh Market on 25 Jan 2025. The event served as a platform to honour rich cultural heritage of Ladakh while fostering a sense of unity and patriotism among the locals.

The program highlighted unique traditions of Ladakh region through captivating dance performances, showcasing the area's vibrant culture and artistic excellence. A thrilling Taekwondo demonstration added a touch of excitement, reflecting the athletic spirit of the youth. A



special performance by Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre band left the audience mesmerised with its patriotic

tunes further instilling a sense of national pride. The local RJs of FM Yang Syan enthralled the crowd with lively

interactive sessions.

The gathering was further enriched by presence of esteemed dignitaries from the civil

administration, police authorities as well as Indian Army. Army veterans, school students, NCC cadets, shopkeepers and tourists attended and enjoyed the event to its maximum.

The program encouraged active participation from the youth, emphasising the importance of the next generation in shaping nation's future. The event concluded with a lively quiz competition centred on the theme of Republic Day. It was aimed to educate and engage children while promoting camaraderie and knowledge sharing. Gifts were distributed to the participants, leaving them motivated and joyful.

PTTI Vijaypur observed National Voters' Day



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 25: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on National Voters Day, organized a pledge taking ceremony in the Institute to observe National Voters Day. On this occasion, all GOs/staff/trainees of the Institute took Pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of the country and dignity of free, fair and peaceful

elections and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by consideration of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement.

While speaking on the occasion, Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Principal PTTI Vijaypur informed that established by the Election Commission of India in 2011, National Voters' Day, is celebrated annually on January 25th, to raise awareness

about electoral rights and encourage voter participation, especially among youth and reiterated that Election Commission of India's theme for this year celebration of National Voters Day is "Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure" to emphasize the importance of voting and pride in Electoral participation.

Among others, Khushwant Singh-DySP, Surinder Paul Singh DySP, Kulbir Singh DySP, Inspr. Anil Kumar-CDI, Inspr. Javid Hussain-RI, SI Sulinder Singh-SM, SI Shakeel Singh-LO of PTTI Vijaypur were present on the occasion.

MLA Bishnah starts development works amounting to Rs.129 lakh

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jan 25: Member of Legislative Assembly from Bishnah Assembly Constituency, Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat kick started the Link road from Chak Avtara Panchayat Ghar, construction work of link road from Palli Ratnal Road to Kailash Higher Secondary School Chak Murar by way of thick interlocking tiles and construction of road from H/o of Bal Krishan to Jeet Raj of village Chak Murar amounting to Rs.50 lakh, the works being executed by the PWD (R&B) Department under UT Sector.

Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat also started the development works Panchayat Saidgarh amounting to Rs.33 lacs, Panchayat Chack



Murar amounting to Rs.23 lakh and in Panchayat Nougarn amounting to Rs.23 lakh totaling 79 lakh being executed by the Rural Development Department, which will not only cut short the walking distance but will also provide meteled link to farmers to their fields and also improve the living standard of the inhabitants of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rajeev also highlighted the urgency of addressing developmental challenges

to improve the quality of life in the area. Responding to the concerns, MLA assured the residents of his unwavering commitment to Bishnah constituency to develop and transforming it into a Model Constituency.

Block Development Officer Bishnah Devi along with her Engineering wing and Panchayat Secretaries and Engineering staff of PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah accompanied the MLA during his inauguration functions.

KCCI urges government to regulate airfares on Srinagar/Jammu/Delhi routes amid exorbitant pricing

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) expresses its deep dismay at the ongoing failure of authorities to regulate airfares on the Srinagar/Jammu/Delhi routes. This issue not only poses a significant concern for the economy and tourism of Kashmir, but also places an undue burden on the local populace, who are forced to pay exorbitant prices for air travel compared to other regions.

The KCCI laments that despite concerted government efforts to promote Kashmir as a premier tourist destination, current airfares render the region a costlier option for intending

travellers. Recent analyses reveal that airfares to Kashmir can exceed the cost of flights from Delhi to Dubai, raising serious concerns about the impact on tourism, healthcare access for patients needing treatment outside J&K, and the ability of businesspersons and common citizens to return home from various parts of the country. The exorbitant airfare remains unexplained in view of the present low tourist footfall.

The KCCI emphasizes that these exorbitant fares are detrimental to the business community and the general public, travellers, students, sick, aged, and sportspersons.

This is not the first time

the KCCI, as the apex body representing the business community, has raised this pressing issue. Despite previous communications, including a formal presentation to the Parliamentary Committee last year, the situation remains unresolved. Authorities often cite demand and supply dynamics as justification for high fares; however, KCCI argues that if demand for travel to Kashmir is indeed high, airlines should respond by increasing the number of available flights rather than hiking prices.

The KCCI has previously highlighted these concerns regarding unwarranted fare hikes, which have been acknowledged by the Department-related

Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture, Government of India.

Unfortunately, it appears that airline operators on the Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar route have disregarded the clear recommendations made by the committee, leading to irrational fare increases that amount to undue profiteering and hinder tourist movement.

The KCCI urges the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation and the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee without delay. The committee has recommended establishing a mechanism to cap

upper and lower airfare limits to prevent 'predatory pricing' and sudden fare surges. Moreover, it calls for close monitoring of airline websites to ensure accurate fare representation and penalization for misinformation.

The KCCI reiterates the Ministry of Civil Aviation's responsibility to the travelling public and the nation at large, emphasizing the need for a fair pricing mechanism to prevent exorbitant charges.

Additionally, the Chamber calls on airlines operating on the Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar route to increase flight availability to accommodate the growing demand for travel to Srinagar.

Anantnag Police organize National Voters' Day ceremonies across district

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 25: On the occasion of National Voters' Day 2025, Anantnag Police organized Pledge Ceremonies across the district to promote awareness and reaffirm commitment to democratic principles.

The main ceremony was held at the District Police Office Anantnag, where SSP Anant-



nag, Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarty, administered the Voters' Pledge to officers and personnel of the district police.

Similar ceremonies were conducted at other police establishments under the guidance of supervisory officers.

During the event, Participants pledged to uphold the democratic traditions of the country, maintain the dignity of

free, fair, and peaceful elections, and vote in every election without fear or influence based on religion, race, caste, community, language, or inducement.

The event concluded with a collective reaffirmation of faith in democracy and a resolve to uphold the principles of the democratic process in both personal and professional capacities.

UNDP, Coca-Cola Found partner to scale up management of plastic waste



Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, Jan 25: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) have partnered to help address the growing challenge of plastic waste management in Asia, a region that is home to significant environmental opportunities and challenges.

Rapid urbanization, increasing demand for single-use plastics, and gaps in waste management infrastructure has contributed to a rising volume of plastic waste, making effective solutions more urgent than ever.

A significant portion of the world's plastic waste enters the ocean through waterways in the region, posing serious threats to marine ecosystems, human health, and livelihoods. Sixteen of the top twenty polluting rivers in the world are in Asia, and account for more than two thirds -of the

global annual volume of plastics flowing into the world's oceans.

In response to this urgent issue, UNDP and TCCF are scaling up efforts in nine Asian countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam—supported by a \$15 million grant from TCCF to support UNDP's initiatives across the region.

The three-year multi-country programme launched in India today, will help improve plastic waste management, promote recycling, reduce plastic leakage into the environment, foster country-based solutions, and facilitate regional collaboration. By adopting and disseminating best practices across the region, the programme aims to inspire policy changes and community-level actions to reduce and help to eliminate disposable plastic and improve the livelihoods of waste workers.

While expanding suc-

cessful initiatives, the programme will focus on developing innovative business models for waste collection and recycling, offering technical advice on environmental best practices and tapping into the latest technology to improve collection and recycling, to reduce plastic leakage.

"Tackling plastic waste isn't just about cleaning up—it's also about building a smarter development model. Across Asia, countries are combating the problem by embracing the circular economy. Through our Zero Waste and Plastics initiatives, we are helping them craft policies, attract investments, and reduce the consumption of single-use plastics," said Christophe Bahuet, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. "With this initiative, we are also empowering communities to scale up solutions that will effectively reduce plastic pollution and safeguard our planet."

MLA Randhawa calls for youth empowerment under PM Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat

Inaugurates La Pino'z Pizza at Bahu Plaza

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Vikram Randhawa, Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, reaffirmed his commitment to youth empowerment and entrepreneurship while inaugurating La Pino'z Pizza Hut at Bahu Plaza, Gandhi Nagar. The event marked a significant step towards promoting self-reliance and economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including BJP District President Naresh Singh, Kulvir Singh Charak, Rahul Kumar ex Corporator, Surjeet Singh and Nitish Mahajan Mandal Presidents, and other prominent personalities. Their presence underscored the significance of such entrepreneurial ventures

in driving economic prosperity and generating employment opportunities in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa lauded the efforts of Menak Kumar, the owner of La Pino'z Pizza, for demonstrating remarkable vision and initiative in the food and hospitality sector.

He emphasized that private enterprises like these contribute significantly to the economic development of the region and play a crucial role in transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a hub of opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Encouraging the youth of Jammu & Kashmir to seize the opportunities presented by various Central Government schemes, Randhawa highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-employment. He asserted that Prime Minister Modi's government has rolled



out numerous initiatives to support young business minds and stressed the need for them to transition from job seekers to job creators. "The government is committed to providing financial assistance, skill training, and infrastructural support to those willing to embark on their entrepreneurial journey.

The youth must take advantage of these schemes to build a self-reliant and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir," he stated. Randhawa reiterated the BJP's unwavering support for

fostering a business-friendly environment in the region. He assured that the LG led administration would extend all possible assistance to young entrepreneurs, ensuring that they face minimal bureaucratic hurdles while setting up and expanding their businesses. He also called upon industry leaders, financial institutions, and government bodies to collaborate in creating a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem that nurtures innovation and economic independence.

Gukesh holds Abdusattorov; Praggnanandhaa stays in lead

WIJK AAN ZEE, Jan 25 (Agencies): World champion D Gukesh played out a draw with overnight joint leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, while R Praggnanandhaa signed peace with defending champion Wei Yi of China in the sixth round of the Tata Steel chess tournament here.

With only decisive game in the 14-players round-robin tournament at the De Morian on Saturday, Abdusattorov and Praggnanandhaa continued to share the lead on 4.5 points out of a possible six and Gukesh is right on the toes of the leaders with four points.

Seven rounds are still left in the first major tournament of the year.

P Harikrishna, Alexey Sarana of Serbia and Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia share the fourth spot on 3.5 points each and are within the striking distance of the leaders.

Gukesh held his ground in a challenging endgame against Abdusattorov, escaping with a draw after 64 moves.

The game began with the Italian Opening, leading to an equal middlegame.

However, as complications arose, Abdusattorov seized a persistent advantage and handled the position skillfully.



In the endgame, Gukesh was forced to concede a pawn, and the situation worsened when Abdusattorov sacrificed his knight for three pawns, putting the Indian under significant pressure.

Despite being in a difficult position, Gukesh once again showcased his defensive resilience, capitalising on an inaccuracy by his opponent to salvage a hard-fought draw.

Praggnanandhaa tried to make a foray with white pieces against Wei Yi out of a Ruy Lopez opening.

The Chinese always had the desired counterplay and the game was drawn after 58 moves.

P Harikrishna raised vision with his two extra pawns against Jorden van Foreest of Holland but the latter used his bishop pair well to draw level.

Arjun Erigaisi who has been under pressure right from the first round, decided to play it very safe with white and drew quickly with top rated Fabiano Caruana of the United States in a Berlin defence game.

Arjun just followed the routine theory and exchanged pieces to reach a dead-drawn minor piece endgame.

Leon Luke Mendonca also drew with Max Warmerdam of Holland out of a Queen's pawn opening game to reach 1.5 points like Arjun.

In the challengers section, R Vaishali could not get much against tailender Irina Bulmaga of Romania and the draw was agreed to vide repetition in a rook and pawns endgame while 11-year-old Faustino Oro of Argentina defeated Divya Deshmukh.

Results (Round 6)

Masters: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 4); Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 1.5) drew with Max Warmerdam (Ned, 2.5); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4.5) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 3); P Harikrishna (Ind, 3.5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 3.5) beat Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 3.5).

Challengers: Nodirbek Yakubov (Uzb, 3) drew with Frederik Svane (Ger, 2.5); Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 1) drew with R Vaishali (Ind, 3.5); Benjamin Bok (Ned, 4) drew with Nodirbek Kazybek (Kaz, 3.5); Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 2) drew with Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 3.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) lost to Faustino Oro (Arg, 2.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 4) drew with Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 4.5); Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 2.5) vs Ediz Gurel (Tur, 2.5).

Tiigers of Kolkata set to roar in ISPL season 2 with powerhouse squad



MUMBAI, Jan 25 (Agencies): The Tiigers of Kolkata, reigning champions of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL), are gearing up to defend their crown as season 2 kicks off on January 26, 2025.

Guided by an exceptional leadership team, the Tiigers have been rigorously preparing for the big day through intensive training sessions. Their focus has been on nurturing team cohesion and refining strategies to maintain their competitive edge.

The recent ISPL auction, held in Mumbai saw the Tiigers of Kolkata strategically assemble a formidable squad consisting of 16 strong players for a total of Rs97.45 lakhs.

Strengthening their roster with a blend of seasoned players and promising newcomers, some noteworthy additions include ace all-rounder Bhavesh Pawar, secured for Rs 8.50 lakhs, dynamic batsman Fardeen Kazi who was secured for Rs15.90 lakhs and versatile all-rounder Prathamesh Thakare who was acquired for Rs11.00 lakhs. This strategic approach is sure to bring

out a perfect blend of skill, dedication, and teamwork, making them an unstoppable force on the field.

Aksha Kamboj, executive chairperson of Aspect Global Ventures and co-owner of the Tiigers of Kolkata team remarked as quoted by the ISPL press release, "The Tiigers of Kolkata embody the spirit of resilience and teamwork. Our preparations for ISPL Season 2 reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence. With a strong squad and a strategic approach, we are confident in our ability to defend the title and make our supporters proud.

The journey ahead is challenging, but the passion and dedication of the team will surely bring the trophy home once again."

As the countdown to ISPL Season 2 begins, the Tiigers of Kolkata remains focused on their mission to retain the championship. With a strategic blend of experienced players and emerging talents, the team is poised to deliver compelling performances that resonate with their supporters and uphold the spirit of the league.

PAK vs WI: Noman Ali becomes first Pakistan spinner to take Test hat-trick

MULTAN, Jan 25 (Agencies): Noman Ali scripted history on Saturday in Multan, becoming the first Pakistani spinner to take a hat-trick in Test cricket. The 38-year-old ran through the West Indies batting unit on Day 1 of the final Test of a two-match series in Pakistan. Noman had figures of four for six after his maiden hat-trick as West Indies were reeling at 44 for 7 in the morning session.

26 years after Wasim Akram became the first Pakistan fast bowler to take a hat-trick in Tests, Noman Ali has joined an elite list. Noman became only the fifth Pakistani bowler to complete a hat-trick in the longest format of the game. Before Noman, Naseem Shah had taken a hat-trick in 2020 in a Test match against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi.

Noman Ali, who was the first chage bowler for Pakistan on Day 1 of



the Test match, got the big wicket of West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite in his second over to deflate the morale of the visiting team. West Indies lost their first wicket -- Mikyle Louis -- to debutant pacer Kashif Ali inside the first 15 minutes of the day's play. After that, the West Indies batters were treated to high-quality spin from both ends as Sajid Khan and Noman kept it tight, making the best use of the surface that spun big as early as the first hour of the Test.

Noman dismissed Ali Justin Greaves, Tevin Imlach and Kevni Sinclair to complete his hat-trick in the 12th over.

Babar Azam took a stunning low catch at gully to ensure Sinclair's edge was caught and Noman completed his hat-trick.

Noman was unplayable as Pakistan prepared a dust bowl for the second successive Test in Multan. The left-arm spinner was able to beat the West Indies batters on both sides of the edge of the bat. Justin Greaves was caught in the slips when he tried to play an expansive drive while Tevin Imlach was dismissed LBW after a failed sweep.

For the hat-trick ball, Noman gave a bit of air, fighting the delivery and inviting Sinclair to play it.

India's first Olympic Equestrian Anush Agarwalla bids heartfelt farewell to his horse, Manni

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Indian equestrian Anush Agarwalla, who made history as the first Indian to compete in the dressage event at the Paris 2024 Olympics, has bid a heartfelt farewell to his trusted horse, Manni, as the 19-year-old champion enters retirement.

In an emotional video shared with his followers, Anush expressed his deep gratitude for the incredible journey he shared with Manni, a bond that transcended competition and became the cornerstone of his career.

Manni was more than just a horse to Anush; he was a partner, a teacher, and a source of unwavering support.

Reflecting on their time together, Anush said, "Manni gave me my many firsts--my first Grand Prix, my first international Grand Prix, and my first international placings. He took me to the big international shows I had only dreamed of. But most



importantly, he taught me how beautiful it is when a horse and rider completely trust each other."

The duo's partnership spanned seven years, during which Manni helped Anush scale new

heights in the world of equestrian sports. From competing in prestigious Grand Prix events to achieving international recognition, Manni was instrumental in shaping Anush's historic career. In the video,

Anush shared the joy of witnessing Manni thrive, describing him as a horse who gave his 100% every single day, no matter the circumstances. Anush Agarwalla's rise to prominence has been nothing short of extraordinary. At the Paris 2024 Olympics, he became a trailblazer for Indian equestrianism, inspiring a generation of aspiring riders. His career also includes a gold medal at the 2022 Asian Games in the Dressage team event and a bronze medal in the individual event in Equestrian Dressage at the 2022 Asian Games, along with consistent success in international competitions across Europe.

While Anush's accolades have brought glory to India, his tribute to Manni highlights the unbreakable bond between a rider and their horse. In the video, he reminisced about the simple joys of their companionship, from feeding Manni carrots

every morning to hearing his welcoming neigh as Anush arrived at the stables.

As Manni retires, Anush expressed his hope that the horse will enjoy his well-deserved rest, saying, "Now it is your time to relax and enjoy the rest of your life the way you want to. I hope to enjoy your company for many, many years to come." He concluded the video with a heartfelt message: "You will always have a very special place in my heart. Thank you, Manni. You truly are the best."

Anush's farewell to Manni is a poignant reminder of the unique connection between horse and rider--a bond built on trust, mutual respect, and shared dreams. As he continues to prepare for future competitions, Anush carries forward the lessons Manni taught him, a legacy of excellence that will undoubtedly inspire equestrian enthusiasts across the nation.

SA20 2025: Sunrisers Eastern Cape raise the roof at St. George Park with fourth straight win

GQEBERHA, Jan 25 (Agencies): Sunrisers Eastern Cape raised the roof at St George's Park with a fourth consecutive victory to power the defending champions into second place on the SA20 table, as per the SA20 press release.

Sunrisers are up to 19 points just one below the table-toppers Paarl Royals, who have played one game less.

The 14-run victory over the Joburg Super Kings was hard earned with the Sunrisers once again relying on their captain Aiden Markram and their most senior bowler Marco Jansen.

Markram held his team's innings together with a high-quality 43 from 29 balls, while Tristan Stubbs also enjoyed a welcome return to form with 35

not out off 22 balls. Opener David Bedingham also contributed a solid 37 that pushed the Sunrisers up to a highly competitive 165-4.

"They have a strong batting line-up. It was there and thereabouts (concerning a par score). 160, it felt like a good score. They bowled really well. They bowled some tight overs and put pressure back on us. They (SEC) are very successful at home," said JSK captain Faf du Plessis as quoted by the SA20 press release.

Sunrisers' bowling attack has proved the difference over the last four matches and so they showed yet again on another rousing night in Gqeberha.

It was Jansen who led the way with the



new ball in the Powerplay. Despite having Du Plessis (27 off 18 balls) dropped at slip by Simon Harmer, Jansen responded two balls later to dismiss the JSK skipper in exactly the same fashion.

Harmer made amends by holding on to the chance the second time around.

It was in fact good

captaincy from Markram who gave Jansen a third over in the Powerplay in the hope of breaking a promising opening partnership between Du Plessis and Devon Conway.

The New Zealand international laid down the anchor for the remainder of the JSK innings with 43 off 40 balls but did not have

sufficient support at the other end for the visitors to haul in the target.

This was due to sustained pressure from the Sunrisers' bowling attack with Richard Gleeson (2/37), Otneil Baartman (2/32), Liam Dawson (1/10) and Markram (1/21) all chipping in to maintain the pressure on the Super Kings.

"They (bowling unit) are clear in their plans and have played a lot of T20 cricket. They assess conditions, come up with a plan and then it comes down to execution. They have been clutch for us. Even tonight, the game was in the balance, they came up with plans and executed them. More often than not, it is the execution by them," Markram said.

WFI that operated from Brij Bhushan's house to be shifted to CP in February



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Admitting that its operations were being conducted from the residence of former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Saturday said this was a temporary arrangement and the body will move to a new office in Connaught Place early next month.

WFI, which was suspended by the Sports Ministry in December

2023, has been functioning from its old address -- the long-time home of its former chief and five-time BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh at 21, Ashoka Road, despite an ongoing sexual harassment trial against Singh.

"We operated from a small Hari Nagar office and were looking for a better place but the uncertainty due to the government suspension delayed shifting to a full-

fledged office," a source in WFI said.

"On Basant Panchami, we will move to the new office in CP. All this confusion is due to suspension. Hopefully it will be lifted and we will be able to work freely."

While handing out the suspension, the Ministry had said that running the federation from within "premises controlled by former officer bearers" was one of the reasons for their action.

Singh faced charges of stalking, harassment, and intimidation, along with making "sexually coloured remarks," following months of protests in early 2023 by the country's top wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat.

Leaves of doctors, paramedics cancelled to deal with mysterious deaths in Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Jan 25 (Agencies): Authorities have cancelled all leaves of doctors and paramedics in the wake of a medical alert following the deaths of 17 people from Badhaal village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district due to a mysterious illness.

The number of people sent to quarantine has risen to 230.

Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh said the initial investigation conducted by the toxicology laboratory in Lucknow concluded that the cause was not any infection, virus or bacteria but a toxin.

Principal of Rajouri Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital, Dr Amarjeet Singh Bhatia, on Friday addressed a press conference in Rajouri

and announced that all leaves of doctors and paramedic staff have been cancelled.

"The winter vacations have also been cancelled to deal with the medical alert situation after 17 people from three families died under mysterious conditions in the last one-and-a-half months," he said.

He further said the Jammu and Kashmir government has deputed 10 additional medical students to GMC Rajouri to aid the medical setup amid the ongoing health situation.

The health condition of three persons undergoing treatment at GMC Hospital in Jammu and PGI Chandigarh is being monitored, officials said.

Four people, including three sisters, were shifted to hospitals, with three airlifted to a hospital in Jammu on Wednesday.

More persons, including relatives who had come in contact with the victim families, were sent on Friday to quarantine as a precautionary measure.

As a precaution, more individuals, including close relatives of the deceased, have been relocated to the Nursing College quarantine centre in Rajouri, increasing the number to 230, the officials said. Strict security has been put in place at the Nursing College quarantine centre in Rajouri, which has been heavily secured and fenced, they added.

Several people who came into contact with the affected families, from taking children to the hospital to burying them, have also been identified, they said.

The Union minister said a thorough investigation is underway. "The

initial investigation conducted by our toxicology laboratory in Lucknow concluded that it was not due to any infection, virus or bacteria but rather a toxin," he said.

He added that the investigation into the nature of the toxin is going on. "There is a long series of toxins being tested. I believe a solution will be found soon. Additionally, if there was any mischief or malicious activity, that is also being investigated," he said.

The remote Badhaal village was declared a containment zone on Wednesday, with prohibitory orders imposed on all public and private gatherings in the wake of the deaths, the officials said.

Seventeen people, including 13 children, from the families of Mohammad Fazal, Mohammad Aslam and

Mohammad Rafiq in Badhaal village died due to a mysterious illness over the past one-and-a-half months.

Both the central team and police are continuing their separate probes into the deaths, they said.

A central team continued its investigation on Friday into the cause of the deaths which occurred in three families.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which was set up by the police after certain neurotoxins were found in the samples of the deceased, continued its probe into the criminal angle. They have questioned over 50 people in this case, the officials said.

Dr Bhatia revealed that the common factor among all 17 deaths is the involvement of the brain and damage to the nervous system.

CUJ signs MoU with Garuda Aerospace Chennai to establish Centre of excellence on Drone Technology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: The Department of Electronics and Communication at Central University of Jammu organized Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony at ISRO Building, CU Jammu.

This MoU was signed between Central University of Jammu and Garuda Aerospace Pvt.Ltd., Chennai under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Vice chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

On the occasion, Registrar Central University of Jammu Prof. Yashwant Singh, Chief Operating Officer of Garuda Aerospace, Dr. Vijay Kumar, HoD ECE Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Faculty

members, staff and students were present.

Prof. Yashwant Singh highlighted the infrastructure and facilities available at the Central University of Jammu. He also highlighted the importance of such MoU and Collaborations to develop the solutions for the society and nation as per industry 5.0.

Dr. Vijay Kumar, Chief operating officer of Garuda Aerospace showed keen interest to establish their Centre of excellence (CoE) on drone technology at Central University of Jammu. The aim of the CoE is to provide the training & internships to the students, develop the UAV lab, and to develop the research

& development facility on drone technology at Central University of Jammu to develop the solutions for agriculture sector, defense sector and space technology.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Datt Sharma, Associate Professor & Dr. Haneet Kour, Research Associate at Satish Dhawan Centre of Space Sciences (SDCSS). At the end of the event, Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Registrar Prof. Yashwant Singh, COO Garuda Aerospace Dr. Vijay Kumar, faculty members and students present during the MoU ceremony.

Mauni Amavasya on Jan 29

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Mauni Amavasya is a spiritually significant day dedicated to self-reflection, silence, and acts of kindness.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and president of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, explained that this year, the Magha Amavasya Tithi begins at 7:37 PM on Tuesday, January 28, and ends at 6:06 PM on Wednesday, January 29. Since the sunrise falls on January 29, this year's Mauni Amavasya will be observed on Wednesday, January 29.

Observing specific practices on this day



is believed to enhance spiritual growth and promote inner peace.

One important guideline is to avoid wearing black clothes. Black is traditionally associated with negativity and is considered inauspicious during sacred rituals. Instead, it is recommended to wear light or bright colors that symbolize purity

and positivity. Additionally, avoid wearing belts or shoes during prayers or rituals, as these symbolize material attachments and are seen as disrespectful in sacred settings.

Harming others, whether through words or actions, is regarded as the greatest sin on this day. Mauni Amavasya encourages

practicing kindness, compassion, and understanding. Wrong actions not only affect one's current state but can also have long-term consequences on their spiritual and personal growth. This day provides an opportunity to focus on righteous behavior and avoid any deeds that might harm others or oneself.

Donating items associated with your zodiac sign on Mauni Amavasya is believed to

bring positive energy, prosperity, and the removal of obstacles. Each zodiac sign is linked to specific items that align with its energy.

Aries- Donating red clothes or jaggery enhances good fortune.

Taurus- Offering white items such as rice or milk symbolize purity and abundance.

Gemini- Donating green vegetables or lentils promotes growth

and harmony.

Cancer- Offering silver items or milk-based products brings emotional balance and stability.

Leo- Donating wheat, saffron, or yellow clothes enhances confidence and vitality.

Virgo- Offering green gram or educational materials supports wisdom and intellectual pursuits.

Libra- Donating curd, sugar, or white clothes promotes peace and

balance.

Scorpio- Offering red lentils or copper items strengthen determination and resilience.

Sagittarius- Donating yellow clothes or turmeric attracts prosperity and good health.

Capricorn- Offering black sesame seeds or iron items removes obstacles and fosters strength.

Aquarius- Donating black blankets or mustard oil supports humanitarian efforts

and detachment from material concerns.

Pisces- Offering yellow sweets or bananas promote spiritual growth and emotional well-being.

By following these practices and making thoughtful donations, individuals can align themselves with the spiritual energy of Mauni Amavasya, fostering positivity and paving the way for a brighter future.

MP Ladakh flags off Fit India Cycling Drive at Sindhu Ghat

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 25: Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohmad Hanifa, flagged off the Fit India Cycling Drive at Sindhu Ghat, Leh. The event, organized by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Regional Centre Zirakpur, was part of the Fit India Movement, envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle across the nation.

The cycling route began at the pictur-

esque Sindhu Ghat, passing through Shey Palace, a historical landmark. Cyclists then took a U-turn, traversing through local villages, allowing participants to experience the rich and ancient cultural heritage of Ladakh—the world's highest desert plateau. The ride concluded back at Sindhu Ghat, which also served as the finish line.

Approximately 70-80 cyclists participated in the event, representing various sports disciplines such as boxing, taekwondo, and ice

hockey. Their enthusiastic involvement highlighted the spirit of sportsmanship and fitness.

Prominent dignitaries graced the occasion, including Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Deputy Director General of the Sports Authority of India, Vineet Kumar; and Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Ladakh, Vikram Singh Malik, along with other officials from the Union Territory of Ladakh and SAI.

Pledge Ceremony organized at GDC Marheen

Top News Report


MARHEEN, Jan 25: The NSS Unit and Electoral Voter Literacy Club of Govt. Degree College Marheen organized a pledge ceremony in the celebration of National Voters Day on Saturday.

The Programme was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, esteemed Principal of the college. On this Occasion, the Principal of the College addressed the gathering and pointed out the importance of National Voters Day which we celebrate every year to educate the young voters regarding the importance of their representation in Democracy.

She motivated the young students

and NSS volunteers to come forward to participate in this democratic process in case they are eligible to cast their vote and also appealed to them to carry this message among the people so that they can participate actively in this electoral process of India. The students, the NSS volunteers and the staff members of the college participated in the pledge ceremony.

The event was organized by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Balbinder Singh Convener, Electoral Literacy Club. On this occasion, the faculty members who participated include Prof. Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha, Dr. Shalu Rani, Prof. Suman, Dr. Meenu Sharma Arpana and others.



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