

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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**Sikandar Kher talks about his preparation for Chidiya Udd**



**Kejriwal urges Centre to enact law banning loan waivers for corporates**



**PM Wong urges Singaporeans to foster unity in 'polarised' world**

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## BRIEFLY

### Terror-Related Case | NIA raids at several places in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday carried out raids at several places in Srinagar and Sopore areas of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror-related case, officials said. Jammu travel guide

The agency sleuths carried out the searches at the residences of three persons identified as Javid Ahmad Sheikh, A R Shalla and Nisar Ahmad.

Simultaneous raids were also carried out at two places in Srinagar, including a residential house and an office premises belonging to a man hailing from Sopore town.

The searches were in progress and further details awaited.

### DSP injured in Jawahar Nagar fire incident

SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): A Deputy Superintendent of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sustained burn injuries in a fire incident on Tuesday in Srinagar's upscale Jawahar Nagar area, officials said.

The fire broke out in the official residence of the ACB officer, identified as Hilal Ahmad, on Tuesday morning. During the incident, the officer sustained burn injuries.

Ahmad was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment, where his condition is reported to be stable, officials added.

Fire and Emergency officials said that the fire was brought under control, and has caused damage to the quarter.

Soon after the incident several fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained, they said.

### Two SPOs among four injured as vehicle overturns in Reasi

REASI, Jan 28 (Agencies): Four persons, including two Special Police Officers (SPOs), were injured after a vehicle overturned near BMG road in the Bagga area of Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials told news agency JKNS that a tempo turned turtle near BMG road, Bagga, while traveling from Chassana to Mahore around 9:30 am.

The injured persons include a 65-year-old woman from Badhora Bagga, 30-year-old SPO from Channa Kottle, 43-year-old SPO from Bathoie, and a 23-year-old

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## UT status not permanent, Statehood will return: Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday acknowledged the distinct differences between governance in a state and a Union Territory while expressing optimism for future changes.

"There is a notable contrast between the governance of a state and that of a Union Territory. While we do not have full command and control, I remain hopeful that time will bring about positive change," Abdullah said, adding that despite the constraints, 80 percent of the govern-

nance remains in their hands.

Speaking at a function in Jammu, Chief Minister reaffirmed that the restoration of statehood remains a primary goal for his administration, referencing the assurances made by the Prime Minister at Sonamarg. "The current UT status is not permanent. I am confident that statehood will eventually be restored," he declared.

Omar Abdullah further emphasised the significant strides made by his government, particularly in passing resolutions in both the cabinet and

the Assembly. "Both resolutions have not been rejected, which is a notable achievement. In the past, Assembly resolutions were dismissed swiftly, but this one has been received differently. Even those who opposed us have acknowledged it as a 'masterstroke,'" he said.

When questioned about the future trajectory, Abdullah acknowledged the complexities of regaining lost rights, stating, "Those who have taken away our rights will not return them voluntarily. However, no government is permanent, and a change in New Delhi could restart the dialogue."

Omar admitted to the challenges of meeting public expectations in the current environment but asserted that his administration has made progress in bridging the gap between the people and the government. "Despite the limitations,

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## 15 injured after Vaishno Devi-Bound bus collides with truck in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 28 (Agencies): At least 15 people were injured when a bus carrying pilgrims to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine collided with a stationary dumper truck near here on Tuesday, officials said.

The condition of all the injured, including three children and two women, is stated to be "stable", they said.

The accident took place at Nagrota on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when the driver of the bus lost control of the vehicle, police said.

The injured have been admitted to the Government Medical College and Hospital for treatment, officials said.

## J&K Police busts Inter-State Drug Trafficking module, 2 nabbed from Delhi and UP



SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police busted an inter-state drug trafficking module by arresting two kingpins from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Police on Tuesday said that it has dismantled a major inter-state drug trafficking network while investigating Case FIR No. 136/2024 under sections 8/22-29 NDPS Act.

Based on evidence from the investigation, including bank transactions and communication records, two key drug suppliers Raju Gupta from Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh,

and Mohammad Abrar from Bhajanpura, Delhi were identified as major sources of narcotics supplied to local drug peddlers in Kashmir valley.

A Srinagar police team conducted extensive operations in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi over 10 days with the assistance of local police during which Raju Gupta was apprehended on January 23, 2025 in Bareilly, and Mohammad Abrar was arrested on January 24, 2025 in Bhajanpura.

Both suspects were presented before the

respective courts, transit remands were obtained, and they are now in police custody.

Moreover, a suspicious courier parcel linked to the accused has been identified in Loni, Ghaziabad, and steps are being taken to retrieve it with court approval.

The financial transactions and properties of the accused are under scrutiny for potential attachment under the NDPS Act.

This case originated on November 8, 2024 during a routine police checking at Tarbal Chowk, Srinagar when a motorcycle was intercepted, leading to the arrest of three drug peddlers Aijaz Ahmad Ganie (Athwajan Pantha Chowk), Owais Ahmad Gojri (Brari Pora), and Mir Roman (Ali Masjid Eidgah).

Police also seized 140 bottles of Codeine

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## Search Operations underway at nearly two dozen places across Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 28 (Agencies): Security forces on Tuesday launched a massive search operation at nearly two dozen places, mostly in the higher reaches and forest areas along the Line of Control, to counter terrorists who carried out several attacks last year in various districts of Jammu region, officials said. Jammu travel guide

After carrying out deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch since 2021, terrorists spread their activities to six other districts in Jammu region last year, leaving 44 people, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists dead.



Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in the terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards came as a concern for the security agencies.

The officials said a search operation is underway at 23 places –

highest 10 in the Chenab valley districts of Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban, seven in Rajouri-Poonch belt and three in Udhampur, two in Reasi and one in Jammu district.

The relentless operations by the army in the vulnerable areas, especially in the dense forests in close synergy with police and central armed police forces is meant to counter the

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## MeT Predicts six-day wet weather forecast from Jan 29 in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): A series of Western Disturbances (WDs) is expected to impact Jammu and Kashmir starting Wednesday night, potentially bringing light rain and snow to scattered to fairly widespread areas over the region for the next six days, officials said.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar predicted a six-day wet weather beginning Wednesday.

The weather generally will remain dry till Wednesday afternoon with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches during the night.

It said a fresh spell of light rain/snow at scattered to fairly widespread places is likely to occur during the night of January 29 till the morning of January 30 and at isolated places during January 31.

There is a possibility of another spell of light rain and snow in scattered to fairly widespread places on February 1 and 2, while a few middle and higher reaches may receive moderate snowfall during the period, the MeT office said, and yet another light spell of snow can't be ruled out at scattered places on February 3.

The weather will likely

remain generally cloudy on February 4 and 5 with the possibility of light rain and snow scattered to fairly widespread places.

Meanwhile, the night chill persisted in the Kashmir Valley, though there was a slight improvement as Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of -4.3°C against the -5.5°C on Monday, officials reported.

This was 3.4°C below the average for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

There is a

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**UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Gupta** W/o Rakesh Kumar R/o D-312, Lower Shiv Nagar, Jammu. **UTHALA** will be performed on 29/1/2025 (WEDNESDAY) at 4.00 to 5.00 PM Jagat Resort, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.



Smt. Krishna Gupta

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**  
Rajat Gupta & Suman Gupta  
Shubham Gupta & Kirti  
**Grand Child : Tejaswani Gupta**

**10TH DAY & KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father, **Sh. B.S. Slathia** (Principal Retd.), who proceeded to his heavenly abode on 19th January 2025.



Sh. B.S. Slathia  
(Principal Retd.)

**10th Day** will be observed on Tuesday, 28th January 2025, at 10:30 AM and **Kriya** will be held on Friday, 31st January 2025, at 12 noon at our residence, Lane no 57, Greater Kailash, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**(Son and Daughter-in-law)**  
Rajesh Slathia (Principal, GDC Ghagwa) & Pratibha Jambwal  
**(Daughter and Son-in-law)**  
Prof. Sucheta Pathania (Dean, Faculty of Arts, Jammu University) & Prof. Satishwar Pathania  
Prof. Sujata Slathia (Principal, GDC Ghagwa) (**Daughter**)  
Dr. Swasti Slathia & Dr. Anish Khajuria (**Granddaughter and Grandson-in-law**)  
Shriya Katoch & Akhil Gupta (**Granddaughter and Grandson-in-law**)  
**Grandsons:** Hriyanshu Slathia, Sudhanshu Pathania, Siddharth Pathania, Shrey Katoch  
**Contact:** 908603261, 9419202740.

**10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Manohar Lal Gupta** (Retired Chief Manager J&K Bank) S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Parkash Gupta (Ex GM J&K Bank) R/o House No. 131, Sector No. 4, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 21/Jan/25.



SH. MANOHAR LAL GUPTA  
(Retired Chief Manager  
J&K Bank)

**10th Day** will be performed on 29/Jan/2025 (Wednesday) from 11 AM to 12 Noon at Panch Mandir Sector 5 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**Kriya** will be performed on 1/Feb/2025 (Saturday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** will be performed on 5 Feb, 2025 (Wednesday) at 12 Noon to 1 PM at Panch Mandir Sector 5 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Smt. Neelam Gupta (Wife)**  
**Sons and Daughters-in-law**  
Sh. Kunal Mahajan and Smt. Ambika Arora Mahajan  
Sh. Kapil Mahajan and Smt. Sonali Mahajan  
**Grand-Children:** Anvi Mahajan, Avyan Mahajan  
**Bucha Family**  
**Contact No.:** 9682611669, 9619758314

**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.



MR. SHAKTI SAGAR BHAT

**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**  
**Nanoy 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**

**TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani** S/o Late Shri Beli Ram Mansotra R/o Lane No 3, Greater Kailash, Jammu.



Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani

The **10th Day** will be performed at Shiv Mandir, Lane No. 9 (Up-side) Greater Kailash on 29/01/25 at 10 am and **Kriya** will take place on 30/01/25 at our residence Lane No. 3, Greater Kailash.

The **Uthala** will be performed at Shiv Mandir Lane 9 (Up-side) Greater Kailash on 07/02/25 at 4 to 5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Smt Kanta Devi - Bhabhi**  
**Daughter in law & Son**  
Smt Raman & Sh Rattan Sharma  
Smt Roma & Sh Deepak Sharma  
**Daughters and Son in Law**  
Smt Shobha & Sh Ashok Sharma  
Smt Pamila & Sh Shiv Nandan Kumar  
Smt Sheela & Sh Anil Sharma  
**Grand Children :** Resham, Ameesha, Aakriti, Kamyra, Snigdha, Shantanu and Tarush  
**Great Grand Children :** Kartavya  
**Contact Number:** 8192902842 & 9419727856

**10TH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Balbir Singh Jamwal** S/o Sh. Late Mukund Singh R/o Village Raipur (Bantlab) Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17/1/2025.



Sh. Balbir Singh Jamwal

**Tenth Day** on 26/1/2025 (Sunday) from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Raipur Talab (Radha Krishan Mandir).

**Kriya** on 29/1/2025 (Wednesday) 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Radha Krishan Mandir Raipur.

**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** on 30/1/2025 (Thursday) at 1:00 PM at Radha Krishan Temple Village Raipur

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**Leela Jamwal - (Wife)**  
**Jaidev Singh Jamwal - Brother**  
**Ummed Singh Jamwal - Brother**  
**Rajinder Singh Jamwal - Elder Son**  
**Shakti Singh Jamwal & Nalini Jamwal - Son & Daughter in law**  
**Ishani Singh Jamwal - Grand Daughter**  
**9419112282, 8491049712**

**TENTH DAY & KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Thakur Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas Ji (Ex. M.P. Rajya Sabha)** son of Late Shri Janak Singh & Lt. Smt. Kausalya Devi Ji R/o Ward No. 60 Paloura, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 20-01-2025.



Thakur Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas  
(Ex MP Rajya Sabha)

**10th Day** will be performed on 29-1-2025 (Wednesday) at our residence Paloura, Jammu at 11 am.

**Kriya** will be held on Saturday 1-2-2025 at our residence Ward No. 60, Near Raina Hr. Sec School Paloura, Jammu at 12:00 noon onwards.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Wife :** Smt. Rajni Devi  
**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Abhinav Manhas & Heena Charak  
**Daughter & Son-in-law**  
Kanupriya Rajput & Shubam Pawaar (IES)  
**Brother & Sister-in-law**  
Shri Sushil Manhas & Smt. Anuradha Rajput  
**Sister & Brother-in-law**  
Late Smt. Nirmala Devi & Shri Jaswant Singh Bhalwal  
**Smt. Neelam Devi & Shri. Jagdish Singh Chib**  
**Smt. Promila Devi & Shri Swarn Singh Chib**

**Nephew & Niece:**  
Pratham Manhas  
Sayam Manhas  
Dikshita Manhas  
**Mob: 7006505006, 9469211780, 9797647723**

**UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR BELOVED **SMT. SUSHEEL SAWHNEY** W/O LT. SH. SAT PAL SAWHNEY, H.NO. 321 SECTOR 1A TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 26-01-25.



SMT. SUSHEEL SAWHNEY

**UTHALA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT SHIV MANDIR, SECTOR 3, TRIKUTA NAGAR, JAMMU ON 29TH JAN 2025 WEDNESDAY FROM 03:00 PM TO 04:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW**  
RAKESH SAWHNEY AND DIVYA SAWHNEY-  
SEEMA AND RAJEEV VERMA- DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW  
SH. MADAN LAL SAWHNEY AND SNEH SAWHNEY - BROTHER-IN-LAW & BHABHI  
SH JAI GOPAL SAWHNEY AND LT. SMT SUSHMA SAWHNEY -BROTHER-IN-LAW AND BHABHI  
LT SH. NAND LAL GANDOTRA AND SMT. RAJ GANDOTRA -BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER IN LAW  
LT SH. SURINDER NARGOTRA AND SMT. SUDERSHAN NARGOTRA -BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER IN LAW  
SH. MADAN NARGOTRA AND SMT KANTA NARGOTRA- BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER IN LAW  
SH. BODH RAJ VERMA AND LT SMT. RAMA VERMA -BROTHER AND SISTER IN LAW  
LT. SH. OM PRAKASH NARGOTRA AND LT. SMT. PUSHPA DEVI -BROTHER IN LAW AND SISTER  
NEHARIKA, ARYAN, MANAS, RISHIKA-GRAND CHILDREN  
**॥ ॐ शान्ति ॥**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief, we inform you of the passing away of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanti Devi Salaria** W/o Late Subedar Chamel Singh Salaria, at our residence D/11, Sainik Colony on 17/01/2025.



Smt. Shanti Devi Salaria

**Tenth day Kriya** will be performed at Ram Mandir, Sainik Colony.

**Date :** 26/01/2025

**Time :** 12.00 Noon

**13th Day Kriya** will be performed at our residence.

**Date :** 29/01/2025

**Time :** 12.00 Noon

**GRIEF STRICKEN :**

**Daughters-in-law & Sons**  
Mrs Rama and Lt Col M. S Salaria  
Mrs Indu and Col Kuldeep Singh Salaria  
Late Mrs Viaso Devi and Late Mr Narinder Singh Salaria  
Mr Pawan Singh Salaria - Son  
Mrs Babita and Mr Shayam Singh Chandel - Daughter & Son-in-law  
Late Mrs Vasudha and Mr Bharat Singh Jasrotia - Daughter & Son-in-law  
**Contact number : 9419149552, 8803013152, 7506643592**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

ਜੇ ਈਸੇ ਮੇ ਸਗਲ ਬਿਨਾਮੈ ਨਿਉ ਬਾਚਰ ਕੀ ਫਾਈ ॥  
Whatever is seen in this world shall all pass away, like the shadow of a cloud.



Sardarni Surjeet Kour

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardarni Surjeet Kour** W/o Late S. Janak Singh Bahl Retd. CE (R/O Golan Bastamulla a/p Narak Nagar Jammu) on 22-01-2025. **BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS** shall take place as per following program.

At residence, H.No. 1485, Sec-13, Lane No. 3, Narak Nagar, Jammu.

**Aarambh Sri Akhand Paath** 29-01-2025 (Wednesday) at 10:00 AM

**Bhog Sri Akhand Paath** 31-01-2025 (Friday) at 10:00 AM

At Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, Narak Nagar, Jammu

**Kirtan and Antim Ardass** from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Followed by **Guru ka Langar**

**IN PROFOUND GRIEF**  
(Daughter & Son-in-Law)

**Dr. Jasbir Kaur & Dr. Karanvir Singh (Son & Daughter-in-Law)**

**Dr. Sandeep Singh Bahl & Sukleen Kour**

**Jaspreet Kaur & Mr. Rohini Malhotra. (Daughter & Son-in-Law)**

**Grand Children:**  
Angad, Samroon, Ranvir & Bavta

**Mob No. 9596718107**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief, sorrow and heavy heart, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Ms Mohini Bhat** W/o Sh. Chaman Lal Bhat R/o H.No. 634, Housing Colony Janipur who left for heavenly abode on 22-01-2025 at 8.15 PM.



Ms Mohini Bhat

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 31-01-2025 (Friday) at Akhnor Chanderbhaga Ghat and Assembly for paying tributes and respect for the departed soul will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 10.30 AM.

**Grief Stricken**

**Sh Chaman Lal Bhat -Husband**  
**Ravi Kumar Bagati & Pains Bagati -Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Sanjay Kumar Ganjoo & Gunjan Ganjoo -Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Abhishek Kumar & Sheeta Bhat -Daughter & Son-in-law**  
**Brothers & Bhabhis**  
Sh Pran Nath Bhat & Sunita (Lovely) Bhat  
Sh Pranay Lal Bhat & Lalita Bhat  
**Devars & Devranis**  
Lt. Mrs Lal Bhat & Lt. Phooli Jee Bhat  
Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat & Anita Bhat  
Sh Hiral Lal Bhat & Renu Bhat  
**Brother-in-laws & Sisters**  
Sh Mohan Lal Kaul & Lt. Mohani Jee (Behan Jee)  
Sh Chuni Lal Bhat & Santosh Bhat  
Sh Ramesh Kumar Parbha & Toja Pandita  
Sh Manoj Kumar Kaul & Rita Jee Kaul

**Mob. 9419121378, 7006154037, 9682390042, 8553012605**

**BARKHI**

(1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY)

It's been one year since you left us for heavenly abode but your love and blessing still surround us. Your memories are fresh in our heart and mind. You are missed by everyone.



Smt. Anjana Sharma

**Barkhi** of our beloved **Smt Anjana Sharma** will be held at Tharmatt Mohalla G/o SK Brothers Hardware Store near Shiv Temple Gathi Udhampur on 29 Jan. 2025 at 12.00 Noon.

**DEEPLY MISSED BY :**

**Mr Ajay Kumar -Husband**  
**Sh Parma Nand Tharmatt -Father-in-law**  
**Mr Rydham Sharma -Son**  
**Mr Sanjay Kumar -Brother-in-law**  
**Mrs Kiran Bala -Sister-in-law**  
**Mr Abhay Tharmatt -Nephew**  
**Mr Aniket Tharmatt -Nephew**  
**Contact: 9906142125, 9906470125**

**OBITUARY**

With deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of respected Sh. Om Prakash Badal S/o Late Pt. Pawan Nath Badal R/o W/o 7 Lane No. 1 Shalok Badawa, SEC-03 EXT Chowk Road, Sainik Colony on 19th Jan 2025.



Sh. Om Prakash Badal

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on Tuesday 28th January 2025, 11:00 AM at our residence.

**KRIYA** will be performed on Wednesday 29th January at our residence from 11am onwards.

**UTHALA** on Wednesday 29th January 2025 at Ram Mandir Bantlab, Sec-03 Sainik Colony Jammu from 4 PM-5 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Daughters & Son in law:**  
Mrs. & Dr. Vinod Sharma  
Smt. & Dr. Pawan Bhat  
Sangeeta (D/O) & ER Anil Sharma  
Smt. Urmil Sharma W/o Late Prof. M.L. Sharma - Sister  
**Bhabhi:**  
Smt. Kamla Badal W/o Late Sh. Hiran Chand Badal  
Smt. Raj Badal W/o Late Surinder Nath Badal  
Smt. Rama Badal W/o Late Suresh Chand Badal  
Pankaj & Ashay Dutt - Grand Daughter & Grand Son in law  
**GRAND CHILDREN :**  
Soni & Mohan Sharma  
Anika & Vikas Sharma  
Parul & Neha Sharma  
Devi & Pawan Bhat  
Aarohi & Ashish Gupta  
Sarvagya Sharma  
**Grand Children:** Vivan, Nitya, Saurav, Sankar & Siddhant  
**Contact No.:** 9892014982/9787

**TENTH DAY & KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Raj Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Bal Krishan Gupta R/o 659, Lane No. 7 Opp. J&K Bank Gole Pully, Talab Tillo on 19th Jan. 2025.



Smt. Raj Kumari

**TENTH DAY** will be held on Tuesday 28.01.2025 at Gurdwara Talli Sahib, Talab Tillo from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

**KRIYA** will be held on Friday 31.01.2025 at our residence at 12:00 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Pawan Gupta & Smt. Shalini Gupta  
**Daughters & Son-in-law**  
Smt. Sangeeta Gupta W/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Gupta  
Smt. Neelam Gupta W/o Late Sh. Ramesh Gupta  
Smt. Tripta & Sh. Dilip  
Smt. Parvesh & Sh. Sham Gupta  
Smt. Arun & Sh. Rajinder Sharma  
Smt. Asha & Sh. Nareesh Sethi  
**Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law**  
Smt. Kirti W/o Sh. Vivek Sharma  
Mr. Nitesh Gupta (Grandson)  
**MOB: 9419155155, 9796155155**

**The 13th Day & RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Prem Aggarwal** S/o Late Sh. Subash Chandra & Lt. Smt. Brindvasini Devi R/o Flat No. 18, Block-A, Sampark Housing Society, Rama Channi, Jammu.



SH. PREM AGGARWAL

who left for his heavenly abode on 16-01-2025.

**THE 13TH DAY & RASAM PAGRI** will be held on 29-01-2025 (Wednesday) at 2:00-03:00 pm, at Euphoria Hall, Prateek Laurel, Sec-120 Noida, U.P.

**Grief Stricken**

**Smt. Ragini Aggarwal (Wife)**  
**Sh. Harshit & Sonal Aggarwal (Son & Daughter-in-Law)**  
**Mrs. Geetika & Akhil Gaur (Daughter & Son-in-Law)**  
**Brother & Bhabhi**  
Pradeep & Brj Aggarwal  
Prabhat & Ajay Aggarwal  
Lt. Smt. Sundhya & Alok Govil (Sister & Brother-in-Law)  
**M/S Deep Enterprises, 34 Ranbir Market, Jammu - 180001**  
**Phone: 8826213763**

**RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sudden demise of **Sh. Parshotam Lal Sharma** (S/o Lt. Sh. Bell Ram) R/o 106, Green Park Colony, W. No. 14, Near Bus Stand, Kathua.



SH. PARSHOTAM LAL SHARMA

**RASAM PAGRI** will be performed on 29th January 2025 at 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at our residence.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**Smt. Kiran Sharma - Wife**  
**Son & Daughter-in law**  
Vikas Sharma & Anshu Sharma  
**Daughter & Son in law**  
Dr. Ritu Boreja & Dr. Parvesh Boreja  
Dr. Arti Sharma & Surinder Sharma (KAS)  
**Brother & Bhabhi :**  
Smt. Champa Sharma  
(W/o Late Sh. Ram Lal Sharma)  
Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma & Smt. & Neelam Sharma  
**CONTACTS 9906077094, 8082198094, 9419163054**

**CHOUBARS**

Four years have passed since you left us forever for your heavenly abode. The pain of losing you will never fade away, but your blessing are always with us. You will forever stay in our hearts, guiding and inspiring us.



SMT. VED KUMARI KHAJURIA

**CHOUBARS** OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT. VED KUMARI KHAJURIA** W/O LT. SH. RATTAN PARKASH KHAJURIA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 29TH JANUARY 2025 (WEDNESDAY) AT 12 PM AT BRAHMIN SABHA, PARADE JAMMU.

**DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY:**

**Son & Daughter-in-law**  
Sanjay & Pooja Khajuria  
**Daughters & Son-in-law**  
Sarla Khajuria & Ramesh Chander  
Arti Khajuria & Umesh Sharma  
& All Khajuria family.  
**GRAND CHILDREN:**  
Darish & Aditya  
Umang & Anish  
Adhyan, Aarish & Advika  
**7006496112, 9419147565**

**MOURNING FROM MALYUN SIDE**

With profound grief & sorrow, we are informing all our relatives & friends that our beloved sister **Smt. Ratna Raina (Peer)** wife of Sh. Rattan Lal Raina D/o Late Sh. Hari Krishan Peer & Lt. Smt. Kamla Watti Peer of Reshpur Mohalla, All Kadal Batyar Srinagar attained Nirvan on 23rd January 2025.



Smt. Ratna Raina (Peer)

**Mourning** from Malyun side is being observed at H.No. 51, Subash Nagar Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**SAMASTA PEER PARIVAR**  
Zutshi's, Tickoo's, Razdan's, Rangroo's, Nehru's.  
**Call No. 9469051086, 9419125912**

**DISCLAIMER**



## Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour in Directorate of Health Services Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: 76th Republic Day was celebrated in Directorate of Health Services Jammu with great patriotic fervour.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra unfurled the Tricolour in presence of all officers and officials of the Directorate.

This was followed by singing of National Anthem. Addressing the gathering, DHS Jammu congratulated everyone on the occasion of Republic Day and said



the day has great significance as India became sovereign democratic and republic on this day. Constitution of India was adopted on 26th January 1950, which provides fundamental rights to every citizen of the country. Director Health Ser-

vices Jammu exhorted all the participants in the function to work with zeal and spirit for better delivery of healthcare services. Patriotic songs were presented by Dharmesh Nargotra (Section Officer) and Sangeet Kour (Junior Assistant) on the occasion.

Haripriya, Arya Thakur and Shreya Gandhi who were also part of the musical Programme were honoured with gifts by Director Health Services Jammu. A Plantation drive Ek Pedh Desh Ke Naam was done in collaboration with Department of Urban Forestry Division Jammu under direct supervision of DHS Jammu and DFO Jammu Ashwani Kumar and his team. As part of 100 days TB elimination campaign, a Pledge was taken by all present on the occasion to promote

awareness and reiterate the commitment to eliminate tuberculosis in the region.

The celebration ended with distribution of sweets among all present on the occasion.

Building of Directorate of Health Services Jammu and Health Institutions of all districts of Jammu Division were illuminated on the eve of Republic Day as a part of celebration. Flag unfurling ceremonies were also held in the Health Facilities and offices across Jammu division.

## Keshav Chopra meets Lt Governor



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Chairman of the Samvedna Society and prominent social activist, Keshav Chopra, met with the

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to discuss various issues of public importance.

During the meeting, Keshav Chopra briefed the Lt Governor on the

initiatives and achievements of the Samvedna Society, highlighting its efforts to serve different sections of society.

Chopra emphasized the society's commitment to promoting the rich culture and local artists of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also shared insights into the society's future plans aimed at fostering social welfare and cultural development.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha commended the Samvedna Society for its dedication and impactful work in supporting the underprivileged.

He reiterated the government's commitment to holistic development and assured the society of full support and cooperation in its endeavors.

## BVP (Shivalik) Branch celebrates 76th Republic Day with patriotic zeal



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: The Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) Shivalik Branch celebrated the 76th Republic Day at Shaheed Park, Channi Himmat, Jammu, with great enthusiasm and national pride.

The event was graced by Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu, as the Chief Guest, while B.B. Sharma, State President of BVP, presided over the occasion. Arun Sharma, National Council Member, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The celebration began with the ceremonial unfurling of the National Flag by the Chief Guest, accompanied by the singing of the National Anthem, which resonated with patriotism and unity.

A highlight of the event was a self-composed poem by Dr. Shreyansh Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, emphasizing the historical significance of Republic Day and celebrating India's achievements, particularly in the past two decades.

In his address, Chief Guest Vikram Randhawa underlined the importance of Republic Day, saying, "This day holds immense significance as it marks the adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, transforming India into a sovereign, democratic republic."

He encouraged the younger generation to uphold constitutional values and contribute to building a prosperous nation.

B.B. Sharma, State President of BVP, expressed his gratitude to the attendees

and commended the Shivalik Branch for organizing such a meaningful event. He urged everyone to take pride in India's progress and uphold democratic principles.

Ashok Gupta, National Council Member, emphasized the responsibility of every citizen to safeguard the honour and integrity of the Constitution, calling for collective efforts to preserve India's democratic foundation.

The proceedings were conducted by Ashok Khajuria, Secretary of the Shivalik Branch.

Prominent dignitaries, including H.C. Vaid (President, Shivalik Branch), Rakesh Sharma (Treasurer), Dr. Vijay Sharma (Media Pramukh), Sunita Mahajan (District Coordinator), O.P. Dubey, Prof. Virinder Gupta, Shashi Gupta, Krishan, Anju Bansal, Dr. Neelam Gupta, Jyoti, Rajesh Gupta, and other members, along with students, children, and local residents, actively participated in the event.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets, fostering a sense of unity and joy among all participants.

## Mysterious deaths: 11 patients admitted in 4 days, all stable & out of danger, says GMC MS

### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 28: The Medical Superintendent of Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri, Dr Shamim Ahmed, stated on Tuesday that 11 patients have been admitted to the hospital over the past 3-4 days.

He however confirmed that all the patients are stable, showing no signs of serious complications, and are currently out of danger.

Seventeen people have died and several others were affected due to inexplicable illness in the Badhal village, which is a hilly area about 55 km away from Rajouri's headquarters and 145 km away from Jammu city.

Multiple local and national testing agencies have ruled out any spread of disease so far.

Medical Superintendent while talking to news reporters, said, "11 patients have been admitted to the hospital over the past 3-4 days. All of them are stable, not showing any serious complications, and are out of danger. None of the patients require ventilators or ICU care", he assured.

Dr. Shamim Ahmed highlighted that the patients are being closely monitored by a dedicated team of doctors from various departments, including medicine, pediatrics, and anaesthesia. The team is working round the clock to ensure their recovery.

Despite challenges like limited resources and staff shortages, especially after the recent Badhal incident, Dr. Ahmed praised the hospital's medical staff for their tireless efforts.

He also acknowledged the support of the principal, who is actively overseeing the treatment.

The authorities continue to investigate the cause of the mysterious deaths while ensuring that all patients receive the best care possible.

## Jammu Police Crack Minor Boy's Murder Case, Three Arrested With Weapons

JAMMU, Jan 28 (Agencies): Jammu Police on Tuesday cracked the murder case of a minor boy and arrested three accused persons with sharp weapons in Bishnah area in the city outskirts.

Police said that murder case has been successfully solved in the Bishnah area.

Police sharing details added that on January 13, 2025 at 11:55 PM, an alert was received reporting that an unidentified individual had been brutally murdered with a sharp-edged weapon and the body was lying along Bhatyari-Bishnah Road.

The deceased was later identified as Ajay Kumar, 17, son of Romesh Lal, resident of Bhatyari, Bishnah.

Police later registered a case and started the investigation.

Police said that the deceased was a conductor of a mini bus.

As per police, a special investigation team meticulously worked through technical analysis and human intelligence to track down the suspects.

"The persistent efforts led to the identification of few suspects and police parties carried out raids at various locations within Jammu and adjacent districts to nab the culprits," said police.

They said that three accused persons were arrested and identified as Anmol Sharma, 24, Nikhil Sharma, 29, both residents of Jakh, Samba and Nishant Choudhary, 23, of Vijaypur, Samba.

During sustained questioning, police said that the accused confessed to the crime, revealing that the

murder stemmed from a personal rivalry. According to their statements, Nikhil Sharma launched a fatal assault on the victim using a sharp weapon while Anmol Sharma and Nishant Choudhary were actively involved in executing the crime, which they had planned to avenge the personal rivalry over altercation which had happened between the accused Anmol Sharma and other party.

As part of the ongoing investigation, police have recovered the weapons used in the crime while vehicle involved in the commission of the offence has also been seized, police said.

With all three suspects in custody and key evidence secured, the investigation is progressing towards a watertight prosecution, police added.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU**  
e-mail : [xenpwwdivgandhinagar@gmail.com](mailto:xenpwwdivgandhinagar@gmail.com)

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**Short e-NIT No. DGN/103 of 2024-25 Dated 24-01-2025**

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Installation of fixed Chairs, Providing of Grill / Railing and Edge Wall of Gym Equipment area in newly constructed pathway Amphitheater at Bage-E-Bahu, Jammu (Under M.H-4406)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	14.31	600	28620 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 01-02-2025	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

**Position of AAA** :- Accorded by Deputy Director Floriculture Parks & Gardens Jammu vide order No. DFJ/P&S/2024-25/4792-98 dated 14-01-2025.

**Position of T.S** :- Sanctioned vide this office vide order No. 136/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2024-25 dated 21-01-2025.

**Project Authority** :- Deputy Director Floriculture Parks & Gardens Jammu.

**Major Head of Account** :- Under M.H-4406.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-01-2025 to 31-01-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	28-01-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	24-01-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	31-01-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-02-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

.. Sd ..  
(Er. Rahat Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-9588/24

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## EDITORIAL

## J&amp;K in Cricket: A Growing Legacy

Jammu and Kashmir, a region known for its breathtaking natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, has also made significant strides in the world of cricket over the years. While the state has traditionally been overshadowed by cricketing powerhouses like Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai, the passion for the sport among the people of Jammu and Kashmir is undeniable. Over time, Jammu and Kashmir's cricket scene has grown, providing a platform for talented cricketers to showcase their skills and compete at both national and international levels.

In the early 2000s, the situation began to change. With increased government support and investment in sports infrastructure, the region saw the construction of better cricket grounds and stadiums, including the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar, which became one of the most prominent venues for cricket in Jammu and Kashmir. The introduction of tournaments like the Ranji Trophy and other regional competitions gave local cricketers the opportunity to prove themselves on a larger stage.

The Jammu and Kashmir cricket team began to participate more actively in the domestic circuit, primarily in the Ranji Trophy, where they competed against teams from other Indian states. While the team struggled initially due to the lack of experience and exposure, it gradually improved its performance and started to produce cricketers who could compete with the best in the country.

One of the key turning points in Jammu and Kashmir cricket came with the rise of young talent from the region. Cricketers like Parvez Rasool, the first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to play for the Indian national team, brought the spotlight on the state's cricketing potential. Rasool, a talented all-rounder, represented India in limited-overs cricket and became an inspiration for many young aspiring cricketers in the region. His success demonstrated that the cricketing world had a place for players from Jammu and Kashmir, and it encouraged many youngsters to take up the sport professionally.

Apart from Rasool, several other players from Jammu and Kashmir have gained recognition in the domestic cricketing circuit. Cricketers like Shubham Khajuria, who has represented Jammu and Kashmir in domestic competitions, and Samiullah Beigh, a promising fast bowler, have been among the rising stars. The state's cricketing infrastructure has also benefited from the increasing number of cricket academies and training programs aimed at grooming young talent. These academies, led by seasoned coaches and former cricketers, have played a pivotal role in honing the skills of young cricketers and providing them with the exposure needed to compete at higher levels.

Jammu and Kashmir's representation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) is another significant milestone in the state's cricketing history. Players like Rasool have been part of the IPL, further proving that the state has the potential to produce cricketers who can perform on the national stage. Although the state's representation in the IPL has been limited, it is a sign of progress and reflects the growing interest in cricket in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, despite these challenges, the future of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir looks promising. With increasing support from the government, sports bodies, and private organizations, the infrastructure for cricket in the region is gradually improving. The state's cricketing academies are producing talented players who have the potential to represent India at the national level. As more young cricketers emerge from Jammu and Kashmir, the region's cricketing legacy is bound to strengthen.

Jammu and Kashmir's journey in cricket has been marked by both challenges and achievements. From a modest beginning to producing talented players like Parvez Rasool and Shubham Khajuria, the state's cricketing community has shown resilience and determination. With better infrastructure, more opportunities, and the continued support of the government and the BCCI, Jammu and Kashmir's cricket scene is poised to make a significant impact on the national stage in the years to come. As young players continue to emerge from the region, there is no doubt that Jammu and Kashmir will continue to contribute to the rich legacy of Indian cricket.

## Miraculous Muslim Festival of Shab-e-Miraj

By: Omkar Dattatray

This year the festival of Shab-e-Miraj falls on the night of 27th January that is on the night of Monday and J&K government has ordered its holiday on January 28, 2025 Tuesday. It is a festival of tremendous importance and is observed/celebrated across the globe by the Muslims with devotion and gaiety. Muslims observe and celebrate many festivals throughout the globe and one such important festival is Shab-e-Miraj. It is observed by the Muslims with great devotion and they remember their prophet Mohammad PBH and his travel during that night from Macca to heaven. Muslims all over the world commemorate that night when their prophet had travelled to heaven from Mecca. Shab-e-Miraj is also known as Isra and Mi'raj and is a very significant observance for Muslims. The term Isra means traveling or walking at night, and mi'raj connotes going up or rising to a high place. This festival marks Prophet Muhammad's night journey and ascension into heavens. That miraculous journey happened in two parts around the year AD 621, on the 27th night of the month of Rabaj. It is believed that first, Prophet Muhammad went from Mecca to Jerusalem, and then he ascended to the heavens by Allah's will. The event unfolded at a time when the Prophet was going through a period of pain after losing two of his loved sons. Shab-e-Meraj, also known as Isra and Mi'raj, is a Muslim festival that commemorates the night journey of the Prophet Muhammad to the heavens. The event is celebrated on the 27th night of Rajab, the seventh month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This date marks a journey that has no parallel in human history and depicts the power of Allah that

is beyond the horizons of human comprehension. Shab -e-Miraj, also called as Al-Isra Wai -Miraj and the night of Miraj. These terms portray one of the most miraculous experiences that Allah has bestowed upon Prophet Muhammad -PBUH. This incredible journey took place during a time when Prophet was facing intense hardship and pain. His emotions were tested with the passing of two of the most beloved people in his life. The story goes like this-When Angel Jibra'eel woke the Prophet from sleep and led him to a white beast named Buraq and commenced his journey to Masjid Al-Aqsa. During Al-Aqsa Wal-Miraj, Jibreel stopped the Buraq and told our beloved Prophet to pray at several places to emphasize the visiting the places in which Allah -swt bestowed his bounties upon his pious people. From praying near the tree where Allah spoke to Musa, praying on Mount Sinai, where Allah gave the revelation of the Torah, the grace of Musa as and at Bethlehem, where Isa was born. When finally arriving in Masjid al -Aqsa, the Prophet was informed that the soul of every Prophet sent by Allah from the time of Adam to the time of Lsa was brought to pray behind him, so that they would come to know the superiority Prophet Muhammad. During the second part of the Night of Miraj, Prophet Muhammad's rose to the heavens with Jibreel. During the ascension, he met eight prophets in the seven heavens. Each prophet greeted Prophet Muhammad -PBUH with, "Welcome, O' pious Prophet and pious brother". Bukhari. When he finally reached the highest level in the heavens, he was brought into the divine presence of Allah, alone at Sidratul Muntaha[a boundary beyond which none may pass].It was here that Allah gave this ummah the gift of

compulsory Salah. On the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Miraj that is on this miraculous night, we should reflect on the lessons maximizing our worship and good deeds. Being charitable and providing for those in need is a fundamental value of being a good Muslim which is why we, as Muslims must give what we can to help. Many Muslims wait till Ramadan to give donations but have you ever thought of the rewards you would reap if you give in Rajab -the Month of Allah. The Prophet -swa said, 'Rajab is the month of Allah, Shaban is my month and Ramadan is the month of my Ummah-Suyuti. Whenever wherever you pray Allah listens and if He desires your wishes will be fulfilled. But Shab -e-Miraj is one of those nights which is so holy and such a great night, that celebrating it for the rest of time is too short a celebration. The thing about this grand nights celebration is like every celebration in Islam, we revert back to Allah, pray and be happy for his Mercy. We don't dance, or binge or act crazy to celebrate, it's just not the way. This act is indeed a act of voluntary worship, nothing forced or compulsory, and voluntary worship goes to wipe out your deficits in the Farz or compulsory worship and elevates your status manifold. It also develops your moral character. If Allah wishes He accepts or He could just slap it back in your face, why one may ask, it's because it's something you have just to do it, not doing it invites punishment. But voluntary is exactly the opposite, if you don't do it, there is no punishment, but to the contrary you are rewarded greatly. The more you do it, the greater the reward. Where granting of wishes comes in, one should not do it for granting wishes but to please the Almighty. And thus there is no chance of objection. It does not mean there is no chance of

rejection. It also does not mean that you cannot pray for granting wishes. By all means do it but do not mix it up. If you do not beseech Allah for whatever you needs, whom will you turn to. Shab-e-Miraj is a tremendous event, a huge sign from Allah, the Almighty. However, there is no authentic report which provides us with the exact date of this event that is Mehraj. Moving on we have no report from even a single Companion of the Messenger of Allah -peace be upon Him, having spent the night of 15th of Shaban as the people now a day's do these days. For if there was any good in that, the Companions would have preceded us in acting upon it. And as their followers, we need to stop where they stopped, without innovating in this perfect religion of ours! But the fact is that Miraj indeed happened and it is mentioned in holy Quran and hadiths. However, neither the date of Miraj nor any special prayer or special reward is mentioned in any authentic hadith. To conclude it can be said that Shab-e-Miraj is the miraculous and marvelous night and it is the great and auspicious occasion for praying and thus Muslims across the world observe it and pray to Allah in order to absolve themselves of the sins. Shab-e-Miraj is in fact a very divine and tremendous night for the Islamic world.

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

## Challenge to get out of the clutches of intoxication

By: Vijay Garg

The conference held some time ago on the problems arising from drugs was important in the sense that its abolition and solution was committed. Drug trafficking is a challenge for all countries of the world, not only in India. A large number of teenagers and youth are consuming drugs in almost all countries. Surprisingly, its business is not stopping even after imposing legal restrictions on drug production, storage, distribution and transactions there. The question is How, why and with whose collusion is this happening? Drug abuse is more common among youth in countries where family units have become or are becoming invalid. In a country like India where teenagers and youth still have some fear of family and society. Drug trafficking there is less as compared to other countries, but for the last few decades, it has been seen that drug trafficking is flourishing in the states whose governments are suffering from incompetent governance and inaction. Tama of the world Drug trafficking is the biggest business among the black businesses. In order to expand this black business, human trafficking and especially trafficking of adolescent girls and girls for prostitution has also been taking place in large numbers. Other parallel businesses have also been running to satisfy the uncontrolled and immoral appetites of drug users. As a result of the expansion of technology in the world, the speed with which human daily activities have become dependent on modern devices, the drug and human trafficking trade has also increased. Indulged gangs have also started dark web, crypto-

currency, online and drone -based cheating. As a result, no activity of society is saved due to their widespread side effects. Even the economy is side effects from the illegal economy arising out of drug trafficking. Due to the vigilance of the central government, there has been a seven -fold increase in drug seizure in the last ten years. In 2024 alone, drugs worth Rs 16,914 crore have been seized. Where in the time period of 2004 to 2014, a total of 3.63 lakh kg of madnesA total of 24 lakh kg of drugs were seized from 2014 to 2024, which is more than the previous decade. several times higher than in the past decade. Similarly, while drugs worth Rs 8150 crore were destroyed in 2004-2014, drugs worth Rs 54,851 crore were destroyed between 2014-2024, which is several times more than the previous decade. During the Drug Destruction Fortnight also, drugs worth Rs 8600 crore will be destroyed. A few days ago, more than 560 kg of cocaine and 40 kg of hydroponic marijuana were caught in Delhi. Was gone Its estimated value was more than seven thousand crores. Earlier, on October 5, a drug called 'Mefedron', a 907.09 kg 'Mefedron' worth 1814 crore and raw material used to make it was also seized in a factory in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. The total value of the drug seized in these two actions was about eight thousand crores. Such a huge amount is being used in restricted illegal work, what can be more unmistakable than this. This incident can easily imagine that drugs Who knows how much money might be being used in this overall business. There is no estimate of how big a separate economy the mafias might be running. In just a few operations,

drugs worth thousands of crores are seized. Then it is even more difficult to estimate the total value of the goods being distributed here and there in the country and the world, hiding from government rules and regulations. By misleading the children, teenagers, young men and women of the country- The easiest way that the mafia finds to do whatever they want in the world is through drugs. It appears only in production, distribution and broadcasting. This is the reason that no government of the world is able to ban drug dealers permanently. That is why they are not able to end. The government will now have to consider it seriously. Because the widespread network of drugs is spread. People involved in this, from making drugs to selling, complete their work in a very commercial way. There is no doubt that some components of governance and administration in getting the drug trade easily complete They are involved. Otherwise these mafia do not flourish so much. This problem is not limited to giving secret protection to the purchase and sale of drugs. Currently, healthy, fatal chemical mixtures are being added to packets closed and semi -made food products and beverages. This practice has increased more than before due to the autocratic expansion of industrialization and urbanization in the last two and a half decades. At the same time, monitoring of this practice, the official duty of the government of control over it has also fallen blunt. Drugs and People's health is deteriorating due to unwanted consumption of wheat, rice, pulses, vegetables, fruits, spices, oil, ghee, packaged food and beverages containing chemical mixtures. The common man is helpless.

Not only has it mostly affected the internal organs of his body, it is also manifesting in the form of mental disorders. Whatever determination the government is showing regarding the complete eradication of drug trafficking and its control, it will be fulfilled only if there is concrete implementation. Only then. Circumstances will appear to have changed. there until the orgasmA substances. To the smugglers. Unless they are punished and exposed to the society, trafficking cannot be publicly discouraged. The time has come to effectively end the anarchy of smugglers. The Union Home Minister, while presiding over the regional conference held recently on the topic 'Drug Trafficking and National Security', said that as a representative of the government, he will not allow any drug smuggling in or out of the country. He called for the security and development of the country, quick solutions to these problems should be found through joint efforts of the states, central government and technical experts. This has given rise to hope that in the coming times the drug dealers will be tightened.

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



# Nitish felicitates Sat Sharma on his reappointment as BJP J&K President

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Hailing the dynamic leadership and unwavering commitment of Sat Sharma, Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, on Tuesday extended warm felicitations to him on being reappointed as the State President of BJP Jammu & Kashmir for a second term.

The momentous occasion witnessed enthusiastic celebrations among party cadre, who lauded Sharma's exceptional leadership and his relentless dedication to the party's growth in the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, Nitish Mahajan described Sat Sharma as a stalwart of BJP, who has consistently worked



towards the upliftment of Jammu & Kashmir with his visionary approach and people-centric politics. He recalled Sharma's significant contributions as a former MLA and former Minister, emphasizing his role in ushering in a new era of development and

progress across the region. "Sat Sharma's reappointment is a historic decision that reflects the party's immense faith in his leadership and organizational capabilities. His tenure as a former Minister and MLA has been marked by transformative

initiatives that have strengthened the BJP's footprint across J&K. Under his stewardship, the party has expanded its grassroots network, ensuring that the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaches every household," he added.

Highlighting Sat Sharma's relentless pursuit of public welfare, Nitish Mahajan credited him for implementing key developmental projects, empowering youth, and championing the cause of the underprivileged. He expressed confidence that under Sharma's leadership, BJP will continue its march towards a stronger, more progressive Jammu & Kashmir, with a focus on good governance, infrastructural development, and socio-economic empowerment.

# Have patience', says Omar Abdullah on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, UCC

SRINAGAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday called for patience and due process regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand.

Talking to reporters in Jammu on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Omar stated, "No law is being implemented at the moment. Parliament's committee is working on the matter, and the debate

is still underway. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has presented his views to the committee. Let the committee complete its work, and after that, there will be a debate in Parliament."

Regarding the UCC being implemented in Uttarakhand, Abdullah remarked, "Let them proceed with their plans. They may do what they want, but the final decision will be taken in Parliament. It won't be decided by individual states or territories."

# NSF celebrates birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: National Secular Forum (NSF), organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Lala Lajpat Rai Amar Raha" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai", they paid tributes to Lala Lajpat Rai and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu District, JKNC presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF and Incharge University Unit was the Special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organize these functions. He said that Lala Lajpat

Rai was one of the foremost leaders who fought against British rule in India. He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari (Lion of the Punjab). Rai led protests against the Simon Commission that was instituted to study potential constitutional reform. He was severely beaten up by British police during the protest and succumbed to his injuries a few days later, on November 17, 1928.

On this occasion, Zonal Secretary JKNC Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Lala Lajpat Rai". Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction.

He also said that the right tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF also

addressed this occasion and shed light on the life of Lala Lajpat Rai, Lala Lajpat Rai was born on January 28, 1865 in village Dhudike, in present day Moga district of Punjab. Lala Lajpat Rai joined the Government College at Lahore in 1880 to study Law. While in college he came in contact with patriots and future freedom fighters like Lala Hans Raj and Pandit Guru Dutt.

He founded the Indian Home League Society of America and wrote a book called "Young India". The book severely indicted British rule in India and was banned in Britain and India even before it was published. He was able to return to India in 1920 after the end of World War.

Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman delivered the welcome address, Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

# Child Care Institutions Palaash, Pareesha shine on 76th Republic Day

## Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Jan 28: The Child Care Institutions Palaash and Pareesha of District Bandipora made their mark on the 76th Republic Day celebrations, securing the first position in the district-level event.

The institutions, which provide care and support to children in need, showcased their talents and skills.

The Republic Day celebrations in Bandipora were attended by various dignitaries, including DDC Chairperson Deputy Commissioner,



SSP and other senior officials. The event featured a parade, cultural programs, and the distribution of prizes to the winners.

District Child Protection Officer, Mr. Sahir Majeed, congratulated the children of both institutions on their achieve-

ment. "I am thrilled to see the children of Palaash and Pareesha excel on the 76th Republic Day celebrations. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, and I am proud of each and every one of them," he said.

Chairperson of the Child Welfare Commit-

tee (CWC), Dr. Asima, also praised the children for their achievement. "The hard work of the children has yielded fruits, and they have made us all proud. I congratulate the children, staff, and management of Palaash and Pareesha on this achieve-

ment," she said. PO Gowhar Mahmood also congratulated the children and institutions on their achievement.

"This is a proud moment for all of us, and I am happy to see the children of Palaash and Pareesha excel on the 76th Republic Day celebrations," he said.

The success of Palaash and Pareesha on Republic Day has brought pride and recognition to the institutions. The institutions' commitment to empowering children and providing them with opportunities for growth and development is truly commendable.

# Several delegations call on Lt Governor Brig Mishra

## Top News Report

LEH, Jan 28: Several delegations called on The Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier (Dr) B.D. Mishra (Retd), at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat today. Advisor to the LG Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Secretary Education Bhanu Prabha; Deputy Secretary Culture Academy Leh Tsewang Paljor and Under Secretary Sumera Shafi, were present during the meetings.

In one of the meetings, Jigmat Norboo (Khayal Ladakhi), an Urdu poet from Leh, called on the



LG and he informed the HLG about the defunct status of the special Urdu desk at the Culture Academy, Leh, which was established in 2020 by the former Secretary of Tourism and Culture Rigzin Samphel, IAS,

for the promotion of the Urdu language.

He requested the revival of this desk and expressed his willingness to work voluntarily until the office becomes fully regularized. The LG assured Norboo that the

matter would be examined, and necessary actions would be taken.

In a separate meeting, Iftiqar Alam, a Master at the Education Department, sought the Lieutenant Governor's intervention regarding his pending promotion, which has been stalled due to qualifications-related issues. The LG clarified that recruitment rules cannot be altered for individual candidates. He emphasized that the recruitment rules clearly state that for promotion, candidates must hold a master's degree in the subject they teach.

# Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi inaugurates Elder Helpdesk at SNM Hospital Leh

## Top News Report

LEH, Jan 28: In a significant step towards improving healthcare services for senior citizens, Ghulam Mehdi, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, inaugurated the Elder Helpdesk at SNM Hospital Leh.

This initiative, managed by HelpAge India in collaboration with the hospital, aims to provide dedicated support to elderly patients, ensuring they receive the healthcare services they need with dignity and care.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, State Head of HelpAge India, Dr. Tashi Thinles, Director of Health, Dr. Dolma Chuskit, CMO Leh, and Dr. Jigmet Wangchuk, Deputy Medical Superintendent.



The Elder Helpdesk is designed to assist senior citizens in navigating the healthcare system, making their hospital visits more efficient and comfortable. The initiative addresses the unique needs of elderly patients, offering them timely and compassionate assistance. The helpdesk team consists of four dedicated staff members, including a Team Leader, a

Coordinator, and an Elderly Assistant (Vridh Mitra), all committed to ensuring the elderly get the support they need during their visit.

This service will provide various forms of assistance to elderly patients, such as mobility support, including wheelchair services, to help them move around the hospital.

The team will also guide senior citizens through different OPD

departments, particularly those who come without an attendant. Additionally, the helpdesk will facilitate the collection of diagnostic reports and medicines for elderly patients, making their experience more convenient.

For those in need of further care or shelter, the helpdesk will establish connections with old age homes and other resources.

Furthermore, the helpdesk will assist in identifying and linking elderly patients with relevant government schemes, ensuring they have access to all available benefits.

The inauguration of the Elder Helpdesk is a significant step towards improving the healthcare experience for the elderly in Leh.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH. GROUND WATER  
DRILLING DIVISION, JAMMU

E-Mail: [phesdr@jksm.gov.in](mailto:phesdr@jksm.gov.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. GWD/JJM/206 of 2024-25 Dated: 25.01.2025**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division, Jammu invites e-tenders on item rate basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/ Consortiums of all classes, required to be registered with Jal Shakti (PHE) Department of UT of J&K apart from registration with JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other State / UT Government for "Construction of 250 Dia. Production tube Wells by any suitable method (Reverse/Direct/Rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 01 Water Supply Scheme (01 no. Tube well) of District Jammu of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)". The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) two covers viz. **Cover 1**-consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2**-shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Tender fee In INR	EMD	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity	time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of 250 mm Dia. Production Tube Wells by any suitable method (Reverse/Direct/Dual rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 01 Water Supply Scheme (01 no. Tube well) of District Jammu of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)"	1000/-	Rs. 0.50 Lac	As per Appendix 'E'	180 days	As per bid document.

**Position of funds: Available Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Jammu

**Critical Dates:**

i	Publish Date	25.01.2025
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	25.01.2025
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	28.01.2025(12:00 Noon)
iv	Bid submission start date	28.01.2025(2:00 PM onwards)
v	Bid submission end date	04.02.2025(6:00 PM)
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	05.02.2025(3:00PM)

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

2. The pre-bid meeting shall held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division, Jammu through virtual/online mode.

3. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

No: GWD/JJM/6679-91  
Dated: 25.01.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-9594/24



## National School of Drama to stage four plays at Balwant Gargi Auditorium as part of its Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2025

"I regard the theater as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being. This supremacy of the theater derives from the fact that it is always 'now' on the stage."

— Thornton Wilder/ Oscar Wilde

As the National School of Drama gets ready for what its director Chittaranjan Tripathy calls Mahakumbh of theatre, the famed Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2025, one of its tributaries will land right in Bathinda district in Punjab.

The theatre extravaganza that opens in New Delhi today at Kamani auditorium would be celebrated across 13 cities, including two in foreign countries namely Colombo and Kathmandu, in a first of its kind initiative in foreign lands.

Featuring more than 200 unique productions from nine different countries, the festival includes myriad flavours and colours of theatre. Though its credo line goes 'ek rang, shreshth rang' in actuality it will be a complete bouquet of theatre. From folk forms to tribal, from classical to contemporary, from non-verbal to verbal, the festival will showcase many traditions of theatre all through 20 days of its run time.

In Bathinda the festival kicks starts on February 8 and concludes on February 12, offering five insightful plays. "Reasons for choosing Bathinda in Punjab," according to Tripathy, "is our endeavour to spread the fragrance of the 25-year-old



festival in hitherto unexplored areas, where the festival has not gone before."

He further adds, "In Punjab since in the previous editions Chandigarh and Amritsar have been satellite locations, we decided to move to fresher pastures." Besides he shares they got immense support from organising partners in Bathinda.

Starting February 8, theatre buffs in Bathinda will get to savour Hindi play Antim Raat. Starring noted actor Rajendra Gupta, the play takes a leaf out of the Founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah's life, days before the Partition of India. His fractured relationship with his daughter Dina Wadia who like him married a Parsi forms the dramatic core of the play.

Other plays in the offing at the Balwant Gargi auditorium are Abhijaan in Bengali, which focuses upon the volatile period of Bengal, and Phoenix Pokhi in Assamese will be staged on February 11. Swapanlok in Hindi

is inspired by an interesting folktale of a woodcutter and realisation of his dreams in a fairytale fashion.

If you are wondering why a Punjabi play is not part of the Bathinda capsule Tripathy has a credible answer. "For people in Bathinda must have watched plays in their language by Punjabi theatre stalwarts several times. The idea is to introduce them to plays in other languages and regions."

Bharat Rang Mahotsav will showcase plays in nearly 21 languages and Punjabi certainly is one of them. Noted theatre repertory Navdeep Kaur's play Sohni Mahiwal, a production of the department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh is also an integral part of the festival, only it will be staged in New Delhi.

No doubt, New Delhi which is where the hallowed institute was set up in 1959 as part of Sangeet Natak Akademi and later emerged as an autonomous entity will be the epicenter of

majority of its allied activities.

Besides interactive sessions with directors, master-classes, a dedicated programme on literary arts, 'Shruti' will feature book launches and discussions on literature. Another major highlight of the festival is in line with its last year's brainchild of largest number of artistic performances themed around a common subject. This year through an interesting programme Vishwa Jan Rang, a short play bringing out the relevance of Natyashastra, will connect people and cities across different continents.

Noted actor Rajpal Yadav, NSD's distinguished alumnus, is immensely excited by this idea in particular and one day would like to feature in a play based on Bharat Muni's treatise on performing art of theatre. For now Yadav is too happy to be the festival's brand ambassador.

Of course, NSD's real brand value lies in its vast repertory of plays. Incidentally, Bharat Rang Mahotsav coincides with the 65th Anniversary of the National School of Drama Repertory Company. Hence The Repertory Company which is celebrating Rang Shashthi theatre festival series, staging some of its most popular plays on various platforms across the nation, will also present some of its productions during the Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

If the live medium of theatre ignites your imagination, get ready for Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2025, where NSD is expected to fire on all four cylinders.

## There was a sense of fear earlier, now I'm comfortable as an actor, says Khushi Kapoor



Khushi Kapoor says she has gained more confidence after her movie debut *The Archies* and hopes that shows in her second movie, *Loveyapa*, where she stars opposite Aamir Khan's son Juanaid Khan.

The upcoming romantic-comedy is directed by Advait Chandan of Laal Singh Chaddha

and *Secret Superstar* fame.

"This film allowed me to explore my abilities as an actor. In the first film, I was very comfortable in Betty's role because it is very similar to how I am. This one was challenging but fun at the same time for me. It feels like I've gained more experience. For me, it was not to let fear

hold me back," Khushi, the younger daughter of legendary actor Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor, said in an interview.

Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*, an adaptation of the popular comic series, marked the movie debut Khushi, Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda.

Khushi admits that she was "sacred" while facing the camera for *The Archies*. "I've gained more confidence the more I work. There's a sense of fear and maybe that didn't let me push myself to what I think I'm capable of (in the first film). At that time that was my best. As you learn and grow, you should keep getting better. So, hopefully, I'm learning more and doing more and that will help," she said.

Described as a "tangled tale of love and its complications with a mix of fun and laughter", *Loveyapa* is the story of a young couple (Khan and Kapoor) whose lives take a turn as unspoken secrets come to light after they exchange their mobile phones.

## Saniya Nagdev is happy about Jamai No. 1

Saniya Nagdev, who has been winning hearts with her portrayal of Kamlesh in the popular television show *Jamai No. 1*, recently opened up about her journey on the show and her aspirations for the year ahead. Known for her vibrant energy and dedication to her craft, Saniya shared insights into her character, the show's progression, and how she balances her personal and professional life.

When asked how she sees *Jamai No. 1* progressing this year, Saniya said, "Yes, of course, my show is progressing wonderfully, and I feel truly fortunate to be a part of it. I am portraying the character of Kamlesh and absolutely enjoy bringing a bit of chaos and fun to the storyline. The entire team is



having an amazing time shooting together, and I believe this joy and camaraderie translate into a highly entertaining experience for our audience. The response has been incredible, and it's heartening to see the show grow day by day."

Saniya believes that relatable storytelling stems from the complexity of characters. "No matter what type

of character you play—whether it's positive, negative or comic—every role has its own significance. Ups and downs are part of every character's journey, and they are essential for storytelling. When you showcase your craft genuinely and effectively, it resonates with the audience. This connection is what ultimately ensures the success of a show," she explained.

## An upset Sonu Nigam lists Kishore Kumar, Alka Yagnik as India's 'pending Padma awardees'

Noting that Padma Awards were even given posthumously to recognise talent and contribution of individuals, popular singer Sonu Nigam has expressed disappointment over Kishore Kumar, a voice that has inspired singers across the world, for not being considered for "a Padma Shri".

In an Instagram video shared on Sunday, a day after the awards were announced, Nigam—who himself is a Padma Shri recipient—also said colleagues like Alka Yagnik, Shreya Ghoshal and Sunidhi Chauhan should be felicitated with the honour given their contribution to the music world.

"There are two singers who have inspired singers all over the world. We have limited one of them with the Padma



Shri, that's Mohammed Rafi. The other one didn't even get a Padma Shri, Kishore Kumar. Awards are being given posthumously," Nigam said in the post, cap-

tioned as "India and its pending Padma Awardees".

While Rafi received the Padma Shri in 1967, 13 years before his death, Kumar—who died in

1987—is yet to be felicitated with the honour.

Part of the Padma Awards 2025 are late singers Sharda Sinha and Pankaj Udas, who have been posthumously honoured with Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan, respectively. Singers Arijit Singh and Jaspinder Narula were named Padma Shri recipients.

Nigam, who received the Padma Shri in 2022, said there are many personalities from different walks of life who have mastered their craft but weren't recognised by the government for their contribution. He also pitched the names of Yagnik, Ghoshal and Chauhan for the honour.

"Among the current singers, Alka Yagnik had such a long and phenomenal career, she hasn't received anything

yet. Shreya Ghoshal has been proving her brilliance for a long time. She should also be honoured. Sunidhi Chauhan has inspired an entire generation with her unique voice. She also hasn't received anything yet," he added.

At the end of the video, the singer asked his followers to mention the names of personalities from different fields, whether it's music, acting, science, or literature, who deserve to be felicitated with the Padma Awards.

Known for tracks "Suraj Hua Maddham", "Abhi Mujh Mein Kahin", "Tumse Milke Dil Ka", "Ram Jaane" and "Diwana Hai Ye Man" to name a few, Nigam rose to fame in 1995 with his song "Accha Sila Diya" from the film "Bewafa Sanam".

## Anil Kapoor shares priceless moments from Mr India to celebrate Shekhar Kapur's Padma Bhushan

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has been awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian honours, as part of the Padma Awards 2025.

The announcement was made on the eve of Republic Day, and the film industry has been quick to shower Kapur with congratulatory messages acknowledging him for his remarkable contributions to cinema.

Reacting to the news, Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor took to his Instagram handle to congratulate Shekhar Kapur. In his heartfelt message, Kapoor shared nostalgic throwback photos from the sets of the iconic 1987 film *Mr India*, where the two, along with the late Sridevi, had worked together.

The pictures captured the magic of their work together and evoked fond memories for fans of the classic film.

"Congratulations to my dear friend @shekharkapur on receiving the Padma Bhushan! Your brilliance and unwavering dedication to cinema is truly an inspiration. This honour is a testament to your incredible journey, and



I couldn't be happier, Shekhar," Anil Kapoor wrote, expressing his joy and admiration for the filmmaker.

In response to the honour, Shekhar Kapur expressed his gratitude on X (formerly Twitter), writing, "I am humbled that the Government of India has considered me to be

deserving of a #PadmaBhushan. Hopefully, this award will make me strive harder to serve the industry that I am part of, and the beautiful nation that I am so fortunate to belong to. Thank you also to our film audiences of India, for I am because you are."

Shekhar Kapur is widely celebrated for his diverse and impactful films, including *Bandit Queen*, the British biographical drama *Elizabeth*, and its critically acclaimed sequel *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007), which earned Cate Blanchett an Academy Award.

His work continues to resonate globally, with *The Four Feathers* (2002), a film starring Heath Ledger, marking another milestone in his illustrious career.

Despite his global recognition, Kapur's roots in Indian cinema remain strong, with his films *Masoom* (1983) and *Mr India* still being loved by audiences.

He is currently working on a sequel to *Masoom*, titled *Masoom 2*, with a fresh storyline while staying true to the heart of the original.

## Sikandar Kher talks about his preparation for Chidiya Udd



Sikandar Kher, who essays the role of Akram

Khan in the Amazon MX Player gripping crime

drama *Chidiya Udd*, has prepared well for the character he essays. "Well, my approach to preparation is usually extremely instinctual. It begins with me reading the script multiple times and seeking ways to bring a unique, distinctive touch to the character. But, of course, the process doesn't stop there—much of the character's evolution happens on set, influenced by the ideas exchanged with my co-actors and the director's vision. It's a collaborative journey that shapes the character organically."



## Can't accept export of raw materials; value addition must happen in India: PM Modi at Odisha conclave

*Inaugurating the 'Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave' in Bhubaneswar, Modi said he considers eastern India as the growth engine of the country, and the state plays an important role in it.*

BHUBANESHWAR, Jan 28 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that value addition to resources must be done in India to minimise dependence on imports, at the 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the first business summit held by the Mohan Charan Majhi government in Bhubaneswar's Janata Maidan, PM Modi said, "India cannot rely on fragmented and import-based supply chains. Instead, a robust supply and value chain must be built within India to minimise the impact of global uncertainties."

Adding that both the government and the industry are responsible for building a self-reliant economy, Modi said it is not ideal that India's resources are exported and imported back after value addition overseas.

The PM urged industry partners and the state government to work together to build a modern ecosystem aligned with Odisha's aspirations and provide new opportunities for the youth. Creating more job opportunities will lead to prosperity and progress in the state, he added.

"This is an era of AI, and everyone is talking about Artificial Intelligence. However, the Aspiration of India, not just AI, is the power of our country. Aspiration grows when the needs of the people are fulfilled. In the last decade, the country has witnessed the benefit of empowering crores of people. Odisha represents the same aspiration," he



added.

Describing Odisha as outstanding, symbolising the optimism and originality of a new India, Modi said its people have always shown a passion for outperforming others.

Sharing his personal experience of witnessing the skill, hard work and honesty of people from Odisha in Gujarat, the PM expressed confidence that with new opportunities emerging in Odisha, the state will soon reach unprecedented heights of development.

Odisha has a significant role to play in the development of a prosperous India.

The PM said ASEAN countries have shown interest in strengthening trade ties with Odisha. "I consider eastern India as the growth engine of the country, with Odisha playing a crucial role in this. History shows that during times when India significantly contributed to global growth, eastern India also made important contributions," he said.

The people of the state have taken a pledge to build a prosperous Odisha and the central government is providing all pos-

sible cooperation to fulfill this resolution, he added.

"I firmly believe that Odisha will soon reach the pinnacle of development that no one could have ever imagined. I am delighted to see that Chief Minister Majhi's team is working tirelessly to accelerate the state's development," the PM said.

PM Modi said Odisha is becoming one of India's leading states in various industries, including food processing, petrochemicals, port-led development, fisheries, IT, edutech, textiles, tourism, mining, and green energy.

"Yehi samay hao, sahi samay hai (this is the right time)," said the Prime Minister, urging business delegates to invest in Odisha with the assurance of 'Modi Ki Guarantee.'

"The government is working to build a vibrant ecosystem for research and a special fund has also been generated for the same. Industries should come forward and work with the government," he said.

Noting the state's long coast, Modi said the old ports here are being developed and new ones

are being built.

The PM said the state has immense tourism potential.

"Today, the focus is wed in India, heal in India. The natural beauty of this place is conducive for this," he said.

Expressing his affection for Odisha, the PM said he had visited the state nearly 30 times as Prime Minister and emphasised his trust in the state's potential and its people.

"As PM, I have visited the state more than all the Prime Ministers of India taken together since Independence," he remarked.

The PM also inaugurated the 'Make in Odisha' exhibition, showcasing the state's achievements in developing an industrial ecosystem.

The conclave will serve as a platform for industry leaders, investors, and policymakers to converge and discuss the opportunities Odisha offers as an investment destination, the statement said.

Among the programmes being hosted at the conclave are CEOs and leaders' roundtables, sectoral sessions, B2B meetings, and policy discussions, it said.

Around 7,500 delegates, including some top industrialists, are expected to attend the two-day conclave, a statement said.

Apart from Majhi, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw and a host of industry captains including Anil Agarwal, Sajjan Jindal, Naveen Jindal, Subhrakant Panda, Karan Adani were present among other dignitaries.

## Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi visits family of tiger attack victim



WAYANAD, Jan 28 (Agencies): Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday visited the family of the woman who was killed by a tiger last week in this high-range district in Kerala.

Priyanka, also the Congress general secretary, arrived at the Kannur airport and then travelled to Wayanad by road, a party source said.

She reached the home of Radha, who was killed by a tiger when she was out collecting coffee beans at the Priyadarshini Estate in Manantha-

vady village here on January 24, at around 1.15 pm and consoled the victim's family.

The 'man-eater' tiger that killed Radha was found dead in Kerala's high-range district of Wayanad on Monday and an autopsy on the dead cat revealed the presence of the victim's hair, dress, and a pair of earrings in its stomach, forest officials said.

The Wayanad MP will also be visiting the family of N M Vijayan, former district office-bearer of the party, who, along with his son, died by suicide.

Seventy-eight-year-old Vijayan, who was the Wayanad District Congress Committee (DCC) treasurer, and his son Jijesh, 38, died at Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital on December 27, 2024 after attempting suicide.

The incident has triggered a political controversy, with the ruling CPI(M) alleging that a cooperative bank job scam involving MLA I C Balakrishnan pushed the duo to take such drastic action.

Prominent Congress leaders in the district, including Balakrishnan and DCC president N D Appachan, were, thereafter, arrested in connection with the case and released on bail as they had obtained anticipatory bail from court.

After visiting Vijayan's family, Priyanka will hold a meeting at the collectorate in the afternoon, the source said.

## Kejriwal urges Centre to enact law banning loan waivers for corporates

NEW DELHI, Jan 28 (Agencies): Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding a nationwide law to prohibit the waiver of loans given to billionaires.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Kejriwal criticised the central government, alleging favouritism toward the wealthy by writing off corporate loans worth thousands of crores. He claimed such practices burden ordinary citizens with excessive taxes while benefitting the rich.

"Common people are paying half their salaries in taxes, while the loans of the rich are being waived. Why doesn't



the central government waive home loans, car loans, or other financial burdens of ordinary citizens?" Kejriwal asked.

He asserted that stopping loan waivers for billionaires could allow the government to halve income tax and GST rates, double the taxable income limit, and eliminate GST on essential commodities.

"This is a massive scandal, and it's time to put an end to it," he said.

Delhi Assembly elections are scheduled for February 5 and the result will be announced on February 8.

Kejriwal is seeking a third consecutive term, following AAP's landslide victory in 2020 when it won 62 out of 70 seats.

## 7 killed, about 60 injured as wooden structure collapses at event in UP's Baghpat

BAGHPAT, Jan 28 (Agencies): Seven people died and about 60 were injured after a wooden structure collapsed at a religious event in Badaut on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred at around 8 am during a programme organised for the 'Abhishek' of Lord Adinath at Shri Digambar Jain Degree College ground on Gandhi Road in Baraut city in Baghpat district.

The event was part of the Moksha Kalyanak Nirvana Mahotsav of the Jain community under the aegis of Shri 1008 Adinath Bhaktaambar Prachar.

Of the injured, 20 were discharged after they were administered first aid while 39 are undergoing treatment at a hospital, they said.

The wooden stairs

of the 65-foot temporary stage built in the Maanstambh Complex broke due to which the devotees on the stage and standing near it fell down, police said.

Earlier in the day, District Magistrate Asmita Lal told reporters that five people were killed and 39 sustained injuries in the accident. She added that the annual event has been held here for the last 30 years.

Later, Additional District Magistrate Pankaj Verma told PTI that two more people had died during treatment taking the toll to seven. He said 39 people were undergoing treatment in hospitals.

Some eyewitnesses claimed that the injured could not get immediate medical assistance and had to be taken to hos-



pital in e-rickshaws as there were ambulances available.

Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya said permission was taken for the programme by the organisers. "We are probing the incident," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the district administration officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured and also wished a speedy recovery to

them.

Meanwhile, panic gripped the area after the incident resulting in a stampede-like situation. Police personnel rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

According to those present at the event, the temporary stairs could not bear the weight of the huge crowd of devotees and gave way.

"Due to government and administrative

negligence and carelessness, there was no monitoring of crowd control at the religious festival... hundreds of devotees are reported to be injured and there is unconfirmed information of some casualties. We pray to God that everyone is safe," the SP media cell said on X.

"Yogi government is concerned with putting on a spectacle in the name of religion but the people are not getting any facilities and security. There is no arrangement for crowd control and safety of devotees due to which accidents often happen at religious events in which lives are lost and the BJP-Yogi government washes its hands off," he said.

He also accused the Adityanath government of indulging in corruption.

## Three minors killed as bike hits flyover divider in Hyderabad

*Accident occurred in early hours on Bahadurpura-Aramghar flyover*



HYDERABAD, Jan 28 (Agencies): Three minors were killed when a motorbike they were riding rammied into a road divider on Dr Manmohan Singh flyover here on Tuesday.

Police said the accident occurred in the early hours on the Bahadurpura-Aramghar flyover under the limits of Attapur Police Station of Cyberabad Commissionerate.

Two of the minors died on the spot while a third succumbed at Osmania Hospital. The deceased were aged between 14-15 years, said AIMIM MLA Mohammad Mubeen, who visited the

Osmania Hospital.

The deceased were identified as Maaz Qadri, Mohammed Ahmed and Syed Imran. They were heading towards Aramghar from Bahadurpura.

According to police, overspeeding and triple-riding led to the mishap. Attapur police shifted the bodies to Osmania Hospital mortuary for autopsy and took up further investigation.

The flyover connecting Bahadurpura at Nehru Zoological Park to Aramghar crossroads was inaugurated early this month. This is the second-longest flyover in the city.

In another accident in the city on Tuesday, a 10-year-old girl died after coming under the wheels of a truck in the Sheikhpet area. The accident occurred when the girl was on her way to school with her father on a motorbike. The two-wheeler was hit by the truck and the girl fell under the wheels of the truck. The girl died on the spot. Gaddam Atharvi was a Class five student at the Delhi School of Excellence in Manikonda.

In the third accident, a Class 10 student died after the scooter she was riding was hit by a truck in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The accident occurred when the girl was returning home from tuition. She died on the spot. Police said negligence by the truck driver led to the mishap. A case was registered at Medipally police station of Rachakonda commissionerate. Police took the truck driver into custody and took up an investigation.

## Teen dies by suicide in Nagpur, had searched 'what happens after death' online

NAGPUR, Jan 28 (Agencies): A 17-year-old girl in Maharashtra's Nagpur city allegedly committed suicide after searching online about "what happens after death", police said on Tuesday.

The victim, a Class 12 student of a private school and the only child of a regional director at the RBI in Nagpur, frequently searched for information about death and foreign cultures, they said. She allegedly first slashed her wrist, making cross marks with a 'stone blade knife' which she had apparently ordered online, and then slit her throat to end her life, the police said.

Her mother, a homemaker, found her lying in a pool of blood in her bedroom at their home in Chhatrapati Nagar area at around 5.45 am on Monday and raised an alarm,

the police said.

After being alerted, police reached the spot. They seized her mobile phone and while checking it, they came to know that she had been searching on Google for information about "what happens after death", an official from Dhantoli police station said.

She had written extensively about foreign cultures in her diaries, he said.

The police learnt that the girl was particularly interested in the European culture and had been researching on death for some time. This suggests that she was planning suicide for several weeks, the official said. During inspection of the body, the police noticed the girl had made five cuts on her wrist, including two cross marks, and also slit her throat, he said.

Investigations suggested the girl was addicted to online gaming and frequently searched for information about death and foreign cultures, the official said.

The knife with a stone blade and wooden handle, which she allegedly used to end her life is not available in the local market, he said. Police suspect the girl might have ordered the knife online and authorities were checking her social media account, the official said.

The girl lived with her parents on the ground floor of their house, while the first floor was occupied by her uncle's family and grandmother.

The Dhantoli police have registered a case of accidental death and are conducting further probe into it.



## PM Wong urges Singaporeans to foster unity in 'polarised' world

SINGAPORE, Jan 28 (Agencies): Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on Tuesday called on multi-ethnic Singaporeans to make a concerted effort to engage and reach out to those of different races and religions while expressing concern about a "divided" and "polarised" world.

"We may have different views on issues that matter deeply to us. But we cannot let our differences pull us apart," said Wong in his first Chinese New Year message as prime minister since taking over the leadership of the prosperous city-state last year.

"In a world that is increasingly divided and polarised, our unity is a precious asset that we must continue to protect and nurture," he stressed in a national message.

Singapore's diversity is a "source of strength" and the people here must continually seek ways to deepen mutual understanding and expand



common space, he said.

Around 74 per cent of Singapore's six million population comprises Chinese people, the rest are Malays, Indians and foreigners of other origins.

Singaporeans celebrate Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year) on Wednesday and Thursday (January 29-30) but a long weekend mood for holidays has set in across the multi-racial society.

In his traditional annual message, Wong noted the world is

becoming "more dangerous", pointing to terrorist groups using the conflict in West Asia to further their agenda and call for attacks.

While Singapore will remain vigilant against any security threats, the country must also be mentally prepared for the possibility of an attack occurring here, said Wong.

"If that were to happen, we must be able to stand together as one united people, resolute and undivided."

"Such challenges should not weaken the fabric of our society, but instead strengthen our resolve to protect our harmony and way of life," the Prime Minister said.

This year's Chinese New Year is special as it coincides with SG60, coined to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Singapore's independence.

Noting that 60 years marks a full cycle of life in Chinese culture, Wong said: "It is therefore timely to reflect on how far we have come, honour the contributions and sacrifices of our pioneers, and build on their legacy to chart our next steps forward."

"As we step into our next life cycle, let us do so with courage, determination and resolve.

"Together as one Singapore family, we can keep our nation a beacon of safety, security and stability amidst a troubled and volatile world," he said.

## Semiconductor trade with US a 'win-win', says Taiwan amid Trump tariff threats



TAIPEI, Jan 28 (Agencies): Semiconductor business between Taiwan and the United States is a "win-win" model for both sides given the high level of complementarity, the island's economy ministry said on Tuesday, responding to tariff threats from US President Donald Trump.

Home to the world's largest contract chip-maker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the island is a key link in the global technology supply chain for companies such as Apple and Nvidia.

Trump said on Monday he plans to impose tariffs on imported chips, pharmaceuticals and steel in an effort to get the producers to make them in the United States.

"Taiwan and the US semiconductor and other technology industries are highly complementary to each other, especially the US-designed, Taiwan-foundry model, which creates a win-win business model for Taiwan and US industries," Taiwan's economy ministry said in a statement in response.

The ministry "will continue to pay attention to US policy going forward, and there will be close contact and cooperate between the two sides to ensure that Taiwan's and US' industries and national interests can develop in a mutually beneficial way in the face of global challenges".

In 2020, under the first Trump administration, TSMC announced that it would build a \$12 billion

factory in Arizona in a win for efforts by the US government to wrestle global tech supply chains back from China. It later boosted those plans with the total investment now standing at \$65 billion.

TSMC declined to comment on Trump's tariff remarks.

Earlier this month, Taiwan Economy Minister Kuo Jyh-huei said he only expected a small impact from any tariffs imposed by Trump on semiconductor exports given their technological superiority.

In another potential challenge for Taiwan, Trump last week directed federal agencies to investigate persistent US trade deficits and unfair trade practices and alleged currency manipulation by other countries.

Taiwan's trade surplus with the United States surged 83 per cent last year, compared with 2023, with exports to the US hitting a record high of \$111.4 billion, driven by demand for high-tech products such as semiconductors.

## Trains canceled across Bangladesh as rail union goes on strike

DHAKA, Jan 28 (Agencies): Trains were canceled across Bangladesh on Tuesday as railway staff went on strike for higher pensions and other benefits, affecting tens of thousands of passengers and freight transport.

Saidur Rahman, acting president of the Bangladesh Railway Running Staff and Workers Union, said the strike was called after a meeting with the interim government headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus failed to reach a deal late Monday.

Rahman said the strike would continue indefinitely if the government does not accept their demands.

The state-run railway system carries some 65

million passengers per year in the densely populated nation of 170 million people. It employs about 25,000 people and operates a network of over 36,000 kilometers (22,000 miles).

The main Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital, Dhaka, was mobbed by hundreds of disappointed passengers who were not aware of the strike. Many waited for hours before going home.

As the country's railway adviser visited, passengers shouted complaints.

Fouzul Kabir Khan, the country's railway affairs adviser, told reporters that such a nationwide strike was "regrettable" and he urged the protesters to end the strike.

He said that "doors for discussion" were open

to resolve the standoff. Shahadat Hossain, a station manager in Dhaka, said at least 10 trains were scheduled to leave the station on Tuesday morning. Authorities arranged buses as an alternative, but they were not enough to meet demand.

Mohammed Nadim was stranded at the Kamalapur Railway Station as he travelled hundreds of kilometers overnight to reach Dhaka for his vacation to the southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar.

"I came here in at 5:30 a.m. from outside Dhaka. But after one hour or so, I came to know that my train will not run. Now I have been stranded here for hours without any hope. The station officials told

me my ticket money will be reimbursed, but I don't know when," he told The Associated Press at the scene.

He refused to travel to his destination by a bus as arranged by the authorities as an alternative.

"It's too far. I have come here to travel by train. I don't want to travel this far by an air-conditioned bus even. Now they are offering me this bus that has no air-condition," he said.

Dhaka-based Jamuna TV station reported that railway workers protested in Chattogram, the country's second largest city. The southeastern city has the country's largest seaport, and the massive garment industry relies on trains to bring goods to it for export. The

industry earns about \$38 billion a year from exports, mainly to the United States and the European Union.

In the northwestern region of Rajshahi, angry passengers smashed furniture of a station and attacked a staff, according to Jamuna TV.

The Yunus-led interim government has been running the country since August, when former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India amid a student-led uprising and ended her 15-year rule. The interim administration is struggling to restore order amid reports by the global lending agencies such as the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank of slower economic growth.

## Italy sends more migrants to Albania for processing following court rejections

SHENGJIN, Jan 28 (Agencies): An Italian navy ship arrived Tuesday in Albania with 49 migrants intercepted in international waters for processing of their asylum applications at special Albanian centers, in the third such attempt following hurdles earlier raised by Italian courts.

Italy's Interior Ministry did not specify the nationality of the migrants brought to the port of Shengjin, 66 kilometers (40 miles) northwest of the capital, Tirana, but Italian media said they were from Bangladesh, Egypt, Ivory Coast and Gambia.

The attempt at processing in Albania follows two previous failures in October and November, when Italian judges refused to approve the detention of two small groups at the Albanian centers, built under a contentious agreement between Italy and Albania. The courts ruled that the migrants' countries of origin weren't safe enough for them to face the possibility of being sent back by the centers.

The cases have been referred to the European Court of Justice, which earlier established that asylum applicants could not undergo a fast-track procedure that could lead to repatriation if their home countries are not deemed completely safe.

The European court hearing on the case is scheduled for Feb. 25.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's government has vowed to reactivate the two centers in Albania after they remained dormant following the Italian courts' decisions.

Meloni's position was partially backed by a ruling in late December by Italy's

highest court, which said Italian judges could not substitute for government policy in deciding which countries are safe for repatriation of migrants whose asylum requests are rejected.

The decision does allow lower courts to make such determinations on a case-by-case basis, short of setting overall policy.

The migrants are to be checked in at a reception center at the port of Shengjin before being taken to the Gjader accommodation center, about 22 kilometers (14 miles) to the east.

The November 2023 agreement allows up to 3,000 migrants intercepted by the Italian coast guard in international waters each month to be sheltered in Albania and vetted for possible asylum in Italy or repatriation.

Italy has agreed to welcome those migrants who are granted asylum, while those whose applications are rejected face deportation directly from Albania.

The agreement to outsource the housing of asylum-seekers to a non-European Union member country has been hailed by some countries which like Italy are experiencing a high level of migrant arrivals, but human rights activists have criticized the deal as setting a dangerous precedent.

So far this year, 3,704 migrants have arrived in Italy, more than double the number in the same period last year, when 1,305 arrived. Last year, 66,317 migrants arrived in Italy, a drop of 58% from the previous year. Most arrived from Bangladesh, followed by Syria, Tunisia and Egypt, according to the Italian Interior Ministry.

## Four South African soldiers killed in DR Congo, taking toll to 13

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 28 (Agencies): Four more South African soldiers have been killed in fighting against the M23 armed group in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the defence force said Tuesday, after nine were killed last week.

Three soldiers were killed in fighting near Goma airport on Monday and another died after being wounded in an earlier battle,

the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said in a statement.

"The M23 rebels launched... a mortar bomb in the direction of Goma Airport, which landed in the SANDF base, and this resulted in the SANDF losing three members.

"Furthermore, the SANDF is also saddened to announce that one of our members who was injured during

the battle with M23 rebels over the past three days later succumbed to injuries."

The SANDF announced on Saturday that nine South African soldiers, including two from the UN peace-keeping force MONUSCO, were killed in clashes with M23 forces on Friday.

South Africa has also deployed troops to a regional force sent by the Southern African

Development Community.

Fighting has raged in Goma despite calls from the international community for the Rwandan-backed M23 to halt its advance on the city which is in a mineral-rich part of the vast DRC and is home to more than a million people.

There were conflicting accounts over how much of Goma remained under Congolese con-

trol after the M23 group and Rwandan soldiers entered the city centre on Sunday night.

"The SANDF remains fully committed to its peacekeeping responsibilities under the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMI-DRC)," its statement said.

## Pakistan outlaws disinformation with three-year jail term

The law was rushed through the National Assembly with little warning last week before being approved by the Senate on Tuesday as journalists walked out of the gallery in protest.

ISLAMABAD, Jan 28 (Agencies): Pakistan criminalised online disinformation on Tuesday, passing legislation that enshrines punishments of up to three years in prison, a decision journalists say is designed to crack down on dissent.

The law targets anyone who "intentionally disseminates" information online that they have "reason to believe to be false or fake and likely to cause or create a sense of fear, panic or

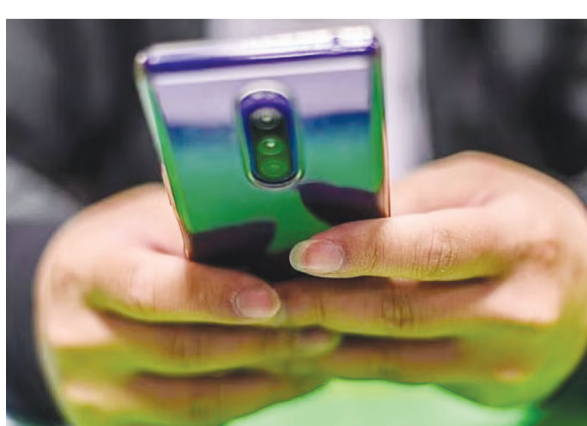
disorder or unrest." The law was rushed through the National Assembly with little warning last week before being approved by the Senate on Tuesday as journalists walked out of the gallery in protest.

Senior journalist Asif Bashir Chaudhry, a member of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, told agency the government had assured reporters they would be consulted but said they were "betrayed and backstabbed".

"We genuinely wanted a law against misinformation, but if it's not being done through open discussion but rather through fear and coercion, we will challenge it on every available platform," Chaudhry said.

"Even under dictatorships, legislation was not forcefully rammed through parliament the way this government is doing now."

The bill will now be passed to the president to be rubber-stamped.



Analysts say the government is struggling with legitimacy after an election plagued with

rigging allegations and with Pakistan's most popular politician, former prime minister Imran

Khan, in jail on a slew of corruption charges his party says are politically motivated.

Khan's supporters and senior leaders have also faced a severe crackdown, with thousands rounded up.

Social media site X has been shut down in the wake of elections last February, as posts alleging vote tampering spread on the platform.

Khan's name is censored from television and editors have reported increasing monitoring

of their programming.

Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, a member of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, called the new law "highly undemocratic" and said it would "fuel the political victimisation" of their activists.

However, government minister Tanveer Hussain said that the bill would focus on policing social media.

"I am sure that in the future, the anarchy caused in society through social media will

be controlled," he said.

There has been a proliferation of "disinformation" laws, including criminal legislation, worldwide in the past decade enabling governments to control speech online and police "fake news", according to human rights organisation Article 19.

Such laws can impede journalism, according to the group, which promotes freedom of expression and information globally.



## Dimple leads protest for restoration of J&K Statehood

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a protest today demanding the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood and the holding of immediate elections for the Rajya Sabha, municipal corporations, ULB, panchayats, and municipalities. The protest was a call for the fulfillment of promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the implementation of the Supreme Court's direction to restore Jammu and Kashmir as a Dogra state.

Addressing the protestors, Dimple criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for not raising their voice for the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, as well as for the Rajya Sabha elections and municipal elections. He accused the BJP of failing to act on these critical issues and alleged that the party's inaction was creating confusion



and hardship for the people, particularly the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dimple also voiced concerns about the "double power centers" created by the current administration, which, he claimed, were causing unnecessary harassment for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He questioned whether the people should seek help from the Lieutenant Governor's Raj Bhawan or the Civil Secretariat.

He further demanded that the Chief Election

Commission, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Omar Abdullah-led alliance government nominate a Jammu Dogra candidate for the Rajya Sabha seat, as well as five MLAs for the assembly. Dimple expressed his dissatisfaction over the lack of constituency development funds for the elected MLAs, while alleging that the MLAs were provided with luxury cars and salaries instead of focusing on the needs of the people.

Dimple also criticized the alliance govern-

ment for not addressing the concerns of Jammu districts, particularly in terms of Rajya Sabha representation. He accused the government of failing to fulfill its promise to restore statehood, special status, and Article 370, despite resolutions submitted by the elected Jammu & Kashmir Assembly.

The protestor leader demanded that the Chief Election Commission and the Jammu & Kashmir government immediately conduct elections for local bodies, panchay-

ats, and municipalities to restore full democracy at the grassroots level. Dimple further demanded that Dr. Farooq Abdullah and other alliance leaders nominate a Jammu Dogra candidate for the Rajya Sabha, particularly someone who has struggled for Jammu & Kashmir's statehood since the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

In addition to the political demands, Dimple also called for the provision of 200 units of free electricity, 12 LPG gas cylinders, double rations, and the restoration of the Darbar Move from April 2025. He questioned the installation of smart meters in the region, urging that the promised benefits, including the 200 units of free electricity, be provided to the people.

The protest was supported by other leaders including Sudershan Sharma, Mohan Lal, Bishan Das, Rinku Sharma, Sunil, Akbar Khan, Nazier, Shafi Khan, and many others.

## Reshi, Khalid visit Jagti, Purkhoo Camps



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Mohammad Faheem Reshi, Chairman of Greater Shah-re-Khaas Leadership, and Khalid Nayeem, Advocate for Kashmiri Pandits, visited the Jagti and Purkhoo migrant camps on Sunday to address the humanitarian challenges faced by the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

Reshi emphasized the longstanding struggles of Kashmiri Pandits residing in temporary settlements such as Jagti and Purkhoo camps in Jammu. He highlighted critical issues including inadequate housing, substan-

dard living conditions, insufficient medical facilities, limited educational opportunities, and high unemployment rates.

Nayeem elaborated on the hardships faced by residents in camps like Jagti, Purkhoo, and Muthi, where cramped quarters and poor infrastructure undermine efforts to preserve cultural identity and social stability. He expressed concern over the slow progress of rehabilitation and resettlement plans introduced by various governments over the years, leaving many members of the community disillusioned.

Despite efforts such as special employment packages, scholarships for students, and assur-

ances of secure resettlement in the Valley, Reshi noted that a comprehensive solution ensuring the dignified return and sustainable reintegration of Kashmiri Pandits into their homeland remains out of reach.

Nayeem stressed the importance of continued advocacy for the community's cause, underscoring the need to address their struggles to achieve long-term justice and rehabilitation. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to raising awareness about the plight of displaced Kashmiri Pandits and called for concerted efforts to provide lasting solutions to their challenges.

## Proud moment to see JAK Rifles March in 76th Republic Day Parade: Martand Singh



### Top News Report

JAMMU: Martand Singh, the great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, expressed immense pride and honor as the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (JAK Rifles) Regiment of the Indian Army marched in the 76th Republic Day Parade on Rajpath today. He highlighted the regiment's glorious legacy, tracing its origin to the J&K State Forces raised by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1820.

In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Martand Singh recalled the heroic role

played by the regiment in the expansion and consolidation of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly during the historic conquests of Gilgit-Baltistan and Ladakh. He paid tribute to the valiant soldiers of the erstwhile J&K State Forces, who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the state against adversaries.

Reflecting on the events of 1947, Martand Singh lauded the exceptional bravery of the J&K State Forces in resisting the Pakistani invasion. "Despite overwhelming odds, our forces made a heroic stand, and we

particularly remember the supreme sacrifice of Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC, and his handful of Dogra troops who held back the Pakistani invaders at Uri for two crucial days, ensuring vital time for the defense of Jammu & Kashmir," he stated.

He further emphasized the unique distinction of the JAK Rifles Regiment, which remains the only state force to have been integrated into the Indian Army in its original form, thanks to the instrumental efforts of Dr. Karan Singh Ji. "Since its integration, the regiment has continued its legacy of valor and excellence, earning numerous military honors and medals for its distinguished service to the nation," he added.

Martand Singh extended his heartfelt congratulations to the officers and soldiers of the JAK Rifles for their proud representation in the Republic Day Parade, reaffirming the unwavering spirit and sacrifice of the regiment in safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

## Residents of Trikuta Nagar urge JMC to resolve street light issues

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society has appealed to the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to address the long-standing issue of non-functional streetlights in various wards of Trikuta Nagar colony. In a letter addressed to the JMC Commissioner, the Society highlighted the increasing number of complaints regarding the repair and replacement of streetlights in the area.

Rajinder P. Kakkar, representing the Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society, stated that while JMC field staff have shown some responsiveness, they often lack the necessary accessories to fully address the complaints. On the other hand, ESSL, the agency responsible for streetlight maintenance, has failed to act on complaints despite assurances of resolution within 24 hours. "It has been over three months, and no visible action has been taken on the ground," Kakkar noted.

The Society has now

urged the JMC to implement a streetlight grid system that can automatically monitor and ensure the proper functioning of streetlights. They believe such a system would enhance safety, particularly for senior citizens, women, and children who often feel vulnerable during nighttime due to poor lighting and the presence of stray dogs.

"Making Trikuta Nagar a smart colony with brighter streets at night aligns with the vision of Jammu Smart City. This would not only improve the quality of life for residents but also ensure the safety of all," the letter emphasized.

The Society has offered to provide a detailed list of pending streetlight issues for action on a priority basis and has requested early intervention from the JMC Commissioner to resolve the matter.

Residents are hopeful that swift action will be taken to address this issue, ensuring that Trikuta Nagar becomes a safer and more livable area for all its inhabitants.

## KDP Wing of DPAP demands separate annual budgetary Plan for Kashmiri displaced people

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: The Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) has called for the allocation of a separate annual budgetary plan for Kashmiri displaced people by both the Central and Jammu & Kashmir governments. In a joint statement, leaders including President Shri Sanjay Dhar, Chairman Shri Piaraj Lal Pandita, and General Secretary Shri Raj Kumar Ticku emphasized the need for dedicated budgetary support to address the community's long-standing issues.

The leaders highlighted that since the genocidal displacement of Kashmiri Hindus in 1989-1990, the community has relied entirely on funds from the Central Government under the "Security and Relief Measures" head. These funds cover salaries for PM Package employees, construction, renovation, and maintenance of infrastructure, among other components. However, they lamented the absence of financial support from the State or Union Territory exchequer, which they argue has denied them equal citizenship

and developmental rights.

The leaders expressed concern about the alleged misuse of funds allocated for Kashmiri displaced people. They cited instances from 1996-1998 when ex-gratia funds for gutted houses were transferred to the State Government by the Centre, but only a fraction of the amount was disbursed to affected families. The remaining funds, they allege, were absorbed into the State exchequer, with no clarity on their utilization.

The leaders demanded a special audit of all funds allocated under the "Security and Relief Measures" head for displaced Kashmiri Hindus from 1990 to 2024 by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. They stressed the need for transparency to prevent unnecessary defamations of the displaced community regarding the expenditure of central funds.

To ensure fairness and accountability, the leaders urged the Central Government, particularly the Finance Minister, to allocate a fixed percentage (5%) of the total annual budget specifically for the displaced Kashmiri Hindu community under the "Security

and Relief Measures" head. They also called for a directive to the Jammu & Kashmir UT Government to allocate a reasonable percentage of the UT budget for displaced Kashmiri Hindus and Kashmiri Pandits still residing in the Valley.

The KDP Wing leaders reiterated the community's demand for a concrete and comprehensive resettlement and compensatory policy. They emphasized the need for a long-term solution that ensures the safe and dignified return of displaced Kashmiri Hindus to the Valley.

The leaders expressed hope that the Central and UT Governments would take immediate cognizance of their demands to uphold the community's rights and end the 35 years of exile. They stressed that the continued neglect of their issues is a matter of national concern and appealed for justice and equality for the displaced Kashmiri Hindus.

The statement concluded with a plea to the Central Government to act swiftly, as the prolonged exile has become increasingly intolerable for the community, which continues to uphold its patriotism and faith in the nation.

## From Page No:1

### UT status not permanent, Statehood will return: Omar Abdullah

we have done what we could. Our treasury is empty, but we are actively engaged in discussions with the Centre for financial assistance. Both the Finance and Home Ministers have assured support," he added.

Omar Abdullah also highlighted the financial disparities under the UT status. "Under the previous state setup, we received 90 percent grants and 10 percent loans under multilateral funding. Now, we rely on 100 percent loans, which is unsustainable," he explained.

Touching upon economic challenges, he acknowledged the lack of significant private sector investments in Srinagar and Jammu and stressed the importance of transparent recruitment to address

unemployment.

"Employment opportunities can also be fostered through private investment, but that requires creating a conducive environment," he said.

On energy, Omar Abdullah outlined plans to provide free electricity to the needy, but cautioned that the system must first be improved to reduce losses. Regarding daily-rated workers, he emphasized the necessity of reviewing their numbers before proceeding with regularisation. "The 2014 floods disrupted the process, but we are committed to addressing it," he noted.

Omar Abdullah also addressed social issues, particularly drug addiction, advocating a dual approach of both reducing supply and checking demand. "We must offer youth alternatives such as playgrounds and sports facilities," he said.

When asked about the possibility of a protest in New Delhi for the

restoration of statehood, Abdullah replied, "If there is any such programme, people will come to know."

### J&K Police busts Inter-State Drug Trafficking module, 2 nabbed from Delhi and UP

Phosphate, Rs 38, 530 in suspected drug proceeds, 3 mobile phones, and a drone camera allegedly used to monitor drug buyers, police said.

The backward linkage that emerged during investigation of this case led police to the aforementioned 2 drug dealers from Delhi and UP.

Investigations are on-going, with more arrests and seizures expected in the coming days, police added.

### Search Operations underway at nearly two dozen places across Jammu

terrors and thwart attempts of Pakistan-based handlers to spread terrorism to Jammu region, they said.

They said the search operations along with area domination will be intensified further in the coming months before the onset of the summer.

According to official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each) and Poonch (two) last year.

The dead included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, the officials said, adding among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from

Shiv Khouri temple and three Village Defence Guards.

While the pilgrims were killed in an attack on their bus which also claimed the life of the local driver and conductor, the VDGs were shot dead in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts.

### MeT Predicts six-day wet weather forecast from Jan 29 in J&K

possibility of a rise in minimum temperature by 2-4°C at many places from January 29 onwards, the MeT office said.

The minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday at Pahalgam in south Kashmir further dipped by a few notches and was recorded at a low of -6.6°C against the -6.4°C the previous night. This was -1.1°C below normal for the

tourist spot.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir improved by a few notches and settled at -5°C against the -5.2°C the previous night. However, it was 2.6°C above normal for the famed ski resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district during the period. Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway had a low of -4.1°C, Kokernag -1.6°C, and the frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara recorded a low of 4-1°C, the MeT office said. The 40-day-long harshest part of the winter, "Chillia Kalan," in the Kashmir Valley will end on January 30.

### Two SPOs among four injured as vehicle overturns in Reasi

man from Sungli Kote. The injured were promptly moved to CHC Mahore for medical treatment, added the official.



## Purpose of Life lies not in material accomplishments but in spiritual growth: Satguru Mata Sudiksha

Top News Report

JAMMU /PUNE, Jan 28: "The purpose of life lies not in material accomplishments but in spiritual growth." These profound words were expressed by Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj on the third and concluding day of the 58th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam held in Maharashtra. Addressing millions of devotees present, Satguru Mata Ji shared her divine message.

The three-day congregation concluded successfully last night.

Satguru Mata Ji emphasized that human life is considered superior because it holds the potential for self-realization. God is formless, and recognizing this eternal truth should be the ultimate goal of human life.

In her concluding remarks, Satguru Mata Ji stated that life is a blessing and should be lived in connection with the Almighty at every moment.

True spiritual satisfaction and peace can be attained only by living every moment of life in the right direction, allowing us to progress towards the infinite.

On the second day of the congregation, Satguru Mata Ji urged devotees to lead a balanced life by embracing devo-



tion and fulfilling their responsibilities. She explained this during the evening congregation at the 58th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam held in Pimpri, Pune.

Satguru Mata Ji elaborated that just as a bird needs both wings to fly, one must balance devotion with social and familial responsibilities in life.

Solely immersing oneself in devotion while avoiding worldly duties leads to imbalance. On the other hand, pursuing only material achievements without spirituality fails to provide a complete life.

She explained that balance between devotion and responsibilities can only be achieved through pure intentions, unconditional love for God, and a spirit of selfless service. Merely attaining God-knowledge is not enough; it must be incorporated into one's life.

Through an example, Satguru Mata Ji illustrated how a shopkeeper maintains integrity by delivering goods with accurate measures and

fair prices, showcasing balance in his work. Similarly, a devotee lives every moment in God's realization, prioritizing devotion, service, and prayer. This is the true essence of devotion.

Addressing the congregation, Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji explained that the purpose of devotion is to establish a loving connection with the Almighty. Saints' lives inspire us to realize our soul's divine origin and expand our existence towards the ultimate truth. He emphasized aligning faith and devotion with truth and experiencing divine love in every moment, making devotion truly meaningful.

On the third day, a multilingual poetry session was organized under the theme "Expanding Towards the Infinite." Poets from Maharashtra and other parts of the country presented their compositions in Marathi, Hindi, English, Konkani, Bhojpuri, and other languages, spreading the divine message of the Mission. Other attractions

The audience highly appreciated the poets' efforts.

In addition to the main poetry session, a children's poetry session on the first day and a women's poetry session on the second day were held on a smaller scale. Six children and six women poets delivered inspiring compositions in Marathi, Hindi, and English, which were enthusiastically received by the audience.

The exhibition based on the theme "Expanding Towards the Infinite" was a major attraction. Divided into two sections, the first part highlighted the Mission's history, ideology, and activities, along with Satguru's divine welfare tours across the globe. The second section showcased the charitable initiatives of the Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, including healthcare and social welfare programs. Models of the "Project Oneness" initiative, running across India, were key highlights.

Other attractions

included "Project Amrit" and the Nirankari Institute of Music and Arts, which drew significant attention.

A free chiropractic health camp was organized during the Samagam, focusing on spinal health. A team of 18 doctors from Australia, the UK, France, and the USA offered selfless services. Approximately 3,500 devotees benefited from this healthcare facility over the course of the event.

A 60-bed hospital with ICU facilities was set up at the Samagam venue. Additionally, three homeopathic dispensaries served 3,000-4,000 devotees daily.

The venue was equipped with 11 ambulances. Support was also provided by Y.C.M.A. Hospital and D.Y. Patil Hospital. A team of 282 doctors and 450 Sewadal volunteers extended their services in these dispensaries.

Free community kitchens were set up at three locations, serving food 24 hours a day in addition to during Satguru's discourses. The kitchen had the capacity to cook 72 quintals of rice at a time, feeding 70,000 devotees simultaneously. Additionally, four low-cost canteens provided snacks, mineral water, tea, coffee, and more at subsidized rates.

## AAP Leader criticizes BJP for anti-democratic actions, hails SC's verdict in Chandigarh Mayor Election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Senior AAP leader, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, issued a strong statement criticizing the BJP for undermining democratic processes and federal values. He hailed the Supreme Court's verdict in the Chandigarh Mayor election as a landmark victory for democracy and justice.

The Supreme Court declared AAP councilor and INDIA bloc candidate, Kuldeep Kumar, the rightful winner of the Chandigarh Mayor election, overturning the decision of Returning Officer Anil Masih, who had invalidated eight ballots cast in favor of the AAP candidate. The court ruled that the invalidation was deliberate and unjustified. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra physically examined the ballots on February 21 and confirmed they were not defaced. The court's decision reversed the earlier declaration of BJP candidate Manoj Kumar Sonkar as Mayor on January 30, marking the first time such an incident has occurred in India's electoral history.

Rao commended the judiciary for upholding democratic values and ensuring justice. "This is a major victory of good



over evil and a moment to thank the Supreme Court for safeguarding democracy," he said.

Rao strongly condemned the BJP-led central government's ordinance and the subsequent Delhi Services Bill, which nullified the Supreme Court's earlier judgment granting the Delhi government control over officers dealing with subjects outside public order, police, and land. He accused the BJP of bypassing the elected government's mandate and attempting to centralize power through unconstitutional means. He described the passage of the bill as a "cowardly act" that undermines federal values and warned Delhiites that the BJP's backdoor tactics show contempt for the electoral mandate. He added, "Even if BJP loses in elections, they aim to rule undemocratically through such ordinances and bills."

Highlighting BJP's failures, Rao stated, "The BJP government has been a disaster on all fronts. It has brought nothing but misery to

the common people instead of delivering on its promise of Ache Din. Unemployment has reached record levels, LPG prices have skyrocketed from 450 to 1,100, and the Modi government has failed to create the promised two crore jobs per year."

He pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the most under BJP's governance, citing rising unemployment and inflation as key issues.

Rao warned that the BJP's policies are pushing the country toward a dangerous path of centralization and dictatorship, undermining democracy and federalism. He accused the ruling party of adopting a policy that benefits the wealthy elite at the expense of the common people, threatening the unity and integrity of the nation. Concluding his statement, Rao predicted that the BJP would face another electoral defeat in Delhi in the 2025 Assembly elections, similar to the losses in 2015 and 2020. He urged the people of India to stand united against anti-people policies and defend the country's democratic values.

"This Supreme Court decision holds immense significance for democracy, and we must remain vigilant to protect our institutions and rights," he asserted.

## CUK to host winter sports event in Gulmarg

27 Universities, 169 athletes to participate: VC

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 28: The Central University of Kashmir announced on Tuesday that it will host the All India Inter-University Winter Sports event in Gulmarg on January 30-31.

In a press conference held at the DIPR Complex, Poloview Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir, said that the All India Inter-University Winter Sports event will be organized in Gulmarg from January 30 to 31. He said that sponsored by the Association of Indian Universities, the event will feature 27 universities, with 169 athletes, coaches, and managers participating.

Prof. Nath emphasized the importance

of this event in putting Kashmir further on the map as a winter sports destination, enhancing both the university's national identity and the region's winter tourism potential.

The second focus of the conference was the introduction of the Common University Entrance Test for post-graduate programs, with the application deadline fast approaching on February 1.

VC Prof. Nath urged Jammu and Kashmir students to take part in this national-level exam, which offers access to 48 central universities across the country.

The Participants of the press conference also highlighted the reforms under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on creating a learner-centric

education system.

They outlined the university's focus on preparing students for higher education, employment, and entrepreneurship, with the new motto "Educate, Enrich, Empower."

Prof. Nath mentioned ongoing infrastructure developments at the university, including new hostels and academic buildings, which are expected to be completed within 24-36 months.

The university is also introducing nine new academic best practices, which will be shared with faculty and stakeholders shortly.

Prof. Nath expressed hope that such events would contribute to Kashmir's growth as a hub for winter sports and education.

## GDC Doda organises guest lecture by Regional PF Commissioner

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 28: Continuing its efforts to motivate and engage the students, Govt Degree College Doda organized a guest lecture on 'Motivation through Goal Setting' by Mr Rizwan Uddin, Regional PF Commissioner Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

The programme started with an introductory speech by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad Assistant Professor English which was followed by a welcome address by Dr Javed Iqbal Principal GDC Doda. The prin-



cipal in his address welcomed the resource person and urged the students to take benefit from such initiatives. He further enjoined upon them to develop the spirit of questioning and assured them that more such programmes

would be organised in future.

Rizwan Uddin who is a motivational speaker and has delivered hundreds of lectures in different academic institutions across the country, deliberated upon goal setting, confidence

building and positive attitude. He suggested them to set aims and choose mentors to achieve the goals. Through different examples he further stressed upon reading habits, time management, self discovery, good health

and personal well being.

The programme ended with a question and answer session in which the students participated actively and interacted with the speaker.

The programme was coordinated and managed by Dr Jamsheed Ahmad with the support of Dr Jaswant Singh, Prof. Majid Gani and Dr Barkat Ali.

The event was attended by more than one hundred students including NCC cadets and NSS volunteers.

Dr Javed Iqbal Trambo, Dr Tanveer Hussain and Dr Tasir Sharief were present on the occasion.

## Sat Sharma's election as President reflects BJP's commitment to inner democracy: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: The Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has once again displayed its commitment to democratic values within the organization by electing Sat Sharma CA, as the new State President.

The election process reflects the party's tradition of fostering healthy inner democracy and empowering grassroots activists.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP spokesperson & former vice chairperson, said this while greeting Sat Sharma on his election as President.

He said that in a transparent selection process, Sat Sharma CA, a dedicated grassroots activist, with an exemplary track record of serving the people and the party, emerged as the unanimous

choice to lead the BJP's state unit.

His election has been widely welcomed by party activists, reflecting a collective vision to strengthen the party's foundations across the state, he said.

On his selection, Balbir Ram Rattan, expressed gratitude to the electoral college for the trust and confidence reposed in him.

"I feel pride in sharing that the BJP stands for inclusivity, growth, and development, and I am sure that the President would further the values while working to serve the people of our state," he added.

Under his leadership, the BJP will get more strengthened and wider its presence across the state and would bring victory to party in future elections of Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

## Kisan Mela cum Exhibition under HADP inaugurated at Kathua



Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 28: A one-day Kisan Mela cum Exhibition was inaugurated today at Kathua by Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Kathua constituency, and S. Arvinder Singh Reen, Director of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu. The event, organized under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 2024-25, focused on the development of seed and seed multiplication chains and aimed to empower farmers with knowledge of modern agricultural practices.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while S. Arvinder Singh

Reen presided over the function. The event was organized by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Shri Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Department of Agriculture, Kathua, and witnessed the participation of various stakeholders, including farmers, agricultural experts, and representatives from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, self-help groups, and private companies.

The exhibition featured a diverse range of stalls showcasing agricultural innovations, farm machinery, organic products, and the latest advancements in seed production. Among the many displays were sections dedicated to agriculture inputs, seed procurement, farm mechanization, and inte-

grated farming practices.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, in his address, emphasized that such events provide farmers with a valuable opportunity to interact with agricultural experts, gain insights into cutting-edge technologies, and apply these innovations to enhance farm productivity and income. He encouraged farmers to take full advantage of the opportunities presented in the Kisan Mela.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, urged farmers to explore various schemes available under the HADP and other centrally sponsored programs for adopting modern farming techniques. He highlighted the benefits of organic farming, exotic vegetable cultivation, integrated farming systems, and farm mechanization in driving sustainable agricultural growth. Furthermore, he underscored the importance of developing community-based seed procurement centers and strengthening FPOs to enhance seed multiplication chains and ensure food security.

As part of the event, farmers participated in live demonstrations at various stalls,

where they were educated on the latest agricultural innovations through electronic mediums. This unique approach, as instructed by the Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu, enabled farmers to engage with the content in smaller, interactive groups.

The exhibition also showcased the diverse activities of the Agriculture Department, including Plant Health Clinics, Agriculture Engineering, Apiculture, Mushroom and Spawn Production, Agronomy, Floriculture, Seed Analytical Laboratories, and Soil Testing Labs.

These displays provided valuable insights into the department's ongoing efforts to improve agricultural practices and promote sustainability in the region.

The event was conducted by the officers and staff of the Chief Agriculture Office Kathua, who ensured the smooth execution of the program.

The Kisan Mela served as a reminder of the importance of modernizing agriculture and fostering collaboration between farmers, experts, and policymakers to create a thriving agricultural ecosystem.



## Virat Kohli declines Delhi Ranji Team captaincy, backs Ayush Badoni to lead

NEW DELHI, Jan 28 (Agencies): Virat Kohli was reportedly approached by the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) to captain the Delhi Ranji team in their upcoming match against Railways. However, the star batter turned down the offer, expressing his desire to let young Ayush Badoni continue in the leadership role, according to a DDCA source.

Speaking to ANI, the source revealed, "We asked Virat if he would be willing to take up the captaincy for the game against Railways. However, he refused, saying, 'Let Ayush Badoni continue. I don't want to lead.'"

Kohli's decision reflects his support for the younger player and his willingness to give the next generation an opportunity to grow.

Kohli joined Delhi's practice session on Tuesday ahead of their Elite Group D Ranji Trophy match against Railways, scheduled for Thursday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Kohli, returning to domestic cricket after a significant hiatus, was spotted honing his skills in the nets as



he prepares for the much-anticipated encounter.

Earlier, Delhi coach Sarandeep Singh confirmed that Virat would join the Delhi squad for their Ranji Trophy match against Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Virat's participation in the domestic circuit comes after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) adopted a firmer stance on the participation of Indian international stars in domestic cricket.

Over the past few days, photos and videos of Virat working with

former India and Royal Challengers Bangalore batting coach Sanjay Bangar have surfaced on social media.

The final round of Ranji Trophy matches will conclude on February 2, just four days before India begins their three-match bilateral ODI series against England in Nagpur. Virat has accumulated 11,479 runs in 155 First-Class matches, with an average of 48.23 and a strike rate of 55.96.

In addition to Virat, experienced wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul has been included in Karnataka's squad for their

crucial Ranji Trophy fixture against table-toppers Haryana in Bengaluru. The 32-year-old was named in the squad subject to fitness, but according to ESPNcricinfo, KL Rahul has been cleared by the BCCI medical panel. An elbow niggle had kept him out of their previous match against Punjab.

Rahul's return to domestic cricket means Karnataka will head into the game with a full-strength squad. Devdutt Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna, who travelled to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, have also been included in the squad.

If Rahul is included in the playing XI, the match against Haryana will mark his first Ranji Trophy appearance in almost five years. His last match was in the 2019-20 semi-final against Bengal at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

Young batter Riyan Parag has also been declared fit for the upcoming round of Ranji Trophy matches after recovering from a shoulder injury. He will captain Assam in their final league fixture against Saurashtra in Rajkot, Gujarat.

## "Trav will go to the top": Steve Smith confirms Travis Head as opener for Galle Test



GALLE, Jan 28 (Agencies): Australia have not confirmed the playing XI for the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle, but captain Steve Smith has said that Travis Head will open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja, cricket.com.au reported on its website.

This decision marks a strategic shift as Head steps into the role previously occupied by teenager Sam Konstas.

Head impressed in the opening role during Australia's 2023 tour of India, stepping in for an injured David Warner. While speculation surrounded his inclusion, Smith clarified that Head is a definite starter for the two-match series, with only minor adjustments expected in the overall line-up.

"Trav [Travis Head] will go to the top, outside of that I think it will be pretty stable," Smith told reporters prior to Australia's final pre-Test training session, Smith said, as quoted from cricket.com.au.

"I don't see it being a great deal of change from that," he added. "The selectors liked what they saw in India when he (Head) had that opportunity," he said.

"He got after the new

ball, scored quickly and put the pressure on them straight away so I guess similar thinking here," he noted.

The final composition of the team depends heavily on the unpredictable nature of the Galle pitch, which saw a significant trim of grass following Australia's training session yesterday. Spin is expected to play a critical role, and this may influence Australia's selection strategy.

"He's going to have a lot of practice if he doesn't play, which in itself is great for development," Smith said of Konstas, as quoted from the official website of cricket.com.au.

"I only have to think back to 2013 (in India) where I didn't play the first two Tests, and just the amount of balls I was hitting in the nets and the skills I was able to develop from facing loads of net bowlers and things like that," he added.

"So whether he plays or not, I think it's going to be a wonderful experience for him," he noted. "He's going to learn a lot," he said.

Konstas, who made a remarkable debut with a fearless half-century against India on Boxing Day, has reportedly adjusted his approach

during practice sessions in Galle and Dubai, focusing on a more orthodox technique. If he is not slotted into the middle order, uncapped keeper-batter Josh Inglis could make his Test debut, while Nathan McSweeney, known for his part-time off-spin, is also an option.

Smith, recovering from an elbow injury sustained during the Big Bash League (BBL), is fit to bat but remains restricted in fielding, particularly throwing. Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Matthew Kuhnemann is being considered for a recall despite recently fracturing his thumb.

"Apparently the surgeon's done an incredible job for him to be able to field and do some of the things he (Kuhnemann) has been able to do the last couple of days, we're a bit gobsmacked," Smith said, as quoted from cricket.com.au.

"Either he's a tremendous actor or he's got great pain tolerance, but he's ticked all the boxes and should be ready to go," he said.

"We'd love to name a team as early as possible but things can change really quickly in this part of the world," he added.

"So we won't name a team yet, we'll wait and see what we get and probably the morning of the game go from there," he noted. "The sun hasn't been out very much lately so we'll have another look at the wicket and then name the team at the toss," Smith said.

Australia's team selection will likely hinge on assessing the pitch conditions on match day, with a focus on balancing their spin and batting options for the Sri Lankan challenge.

## AB de Villiers returns to Cricket, to lead Game Changers South Africa in World Championship of Legends

NEW DELHI, Jan 28 (Agencies): Cricketing fans worldwide are set to celebrate as South African icon AB de Villiers announces his long-awaited return to the sport after nearly four years.

De Villiers, revered as one of the most innovative and electrifying cricketers of all time, will lead the Game Changers South Africa Champions in the second edition of the World Championship of Legends (WCL). This premier T20 tournament, featuring retired and non-contracted cricket legends, promises a nostalgic yet exhilarating spectacle for fans across the globe.

Reflecting on his return, de Villiers said, "Four years ago, I retired from all cricket because I just didn't feel the urge to play any more. Well, time has passed, and my young sons have started playing the game. We've been playing more and more often in the garden, and, well, it feels as though some kind of flame has been lit again," as quoted from a release by WCL.

"So I am heading back to the gym and the nets, and I'll be ready for WCL in July," he added.

Known for his unmatched versatility and

fearless batting, de Villiers' comeback has ignited excitement within the cricketing fraternity. The Game Changers squad, which featured legends such as Jacques Kallis, Herschelle Gibbs, Dale Steyn, and Imran Tahir in the inaugural season, now has an even brighter future under de Villiers' captaincy.

Amandeep Singh, Co-Owner of South Africa Champions & Founder of Game Changers shared his excitement:

"We are honoured to compete in the World Championship of Legends and showcase the incredible talent of our cricketing greats. AB de Villiers' return as our captain is a monumental boost for our team, and his leadership will undoubtedly inspire us to new heights," Singh said.

Harry Singh, Co-Owner of South Africa Champions added, "AB de Villiers is not just a player; he's an icon who has inspired millions around the world. His decision to lead our team is a testament to his love for the game, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have him on board. This marks a historic moment for the team and the league," as quoted from a release by WCL.



Harshit Tomar, Founder and CEO of the World Championship of Legends, expressed his enthusiasm, "This is precisely why we launched the WCL - to bring back the legends we deeply miss. As a fan of AB de Villiers, I'm thrilled to see him return to the field. I'm sure cricket lovers in England and beyond will be delighted by his comeback."

Nishant Pitti, Chief Patron of the WCL, "Our partnership with the World Championship of Legends is a celebration of cricket's golden era. The return of AB de Villiers embodies the spirit of the league, and we are privileged to witness this iconic moment."

## Skillhub Online Games Federation, Global Esports Federation unite to bring Global Esports Tour 2025 to India

MUMBAI, Jan 28 (Agencies): In a landmark moment for India's esports ecosystem, Skillhub Online Games Federation (SOGF) announced its collaboration with the Global Esports Federation (GEF) to bring the Global Esports Tour (GET) 2025 to Mumbai. This historic event marks the first-ever Global Esports Tournament in India, further cementing the nation's role as an emerging force in global esports.

The first ever Global Esports Tournament in Mumbai will bring together top-tier professional esports athletes and teams to compete on a world-class stage. This initiative is a direct outcome of the Strategic Framework Agreement signed between SOGF and Global Esports Federation (GEF) in October 2024, signifying a long-term commitment to developing esports across South Asia, including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The Global Esports Tour Mumbai will not only showcase high-stakes competition but also serve as a launchpad for India's esports talent onto the interna-



tional stage. By hosting a prestigious event of this scale, SOGF aims to bolster India's esports industry, drive investments, and create unparalleled opportunities for athletes, developers, and organizations within the ecosystem.

Sibtain Baqri, Chief Executive Officer of SOGF, expressed his excitement about this milestone, "Bringing the Global Esports Tour to India is more than just a tournament--it's a movement. This event underscores India's potential as a global esports powerhouse, providing athletes with an international platform to showcase their skills and compete at the highest level. SOGF is committed to nurturing this ecosystem, and GET Mumbai is just the beginning of our larger vision to shape the future of esports in India and South Asia," as quoted from a release

by SOGF. Echoing this sentiment, Rustam Aghasiyev, Chief of Staff & Operations at Global Esports Federation, stated, "We are thrilled to expand our global footprint with the Global Esports Tour in Mumbai, which will introduce a new wave of opportunities for Indian and South Asian esports communities. Our partnership with SOGF is a significant step toward fostering an inclusive, competitive, and world-class esports environment in the region."

Global Esports Tour, the GEF's professional team series, showcases elite-level esports athletes and teams competing in high-stakes tournaments across iconic global cities. The arrival of GET in India underscores GEF's commitment to fostering inclusivity and delivering impactful experiences for athletes, audiences, and stakeholders alike.

## Keshav Maharaj points to powerplay struggles as Durban's Super Giants crash out of SA20

PAARL, Jan 28 (Agencies): Durban's Super Giants (DSG), runners-up in last season's SA20, have been knocked out of playoff contention following a string of poor performances.

With just one win in nine matches (two ending as no results), they sit at the bottom of the points table and have one game remaining. Reflecting on their dismal campaign, captain Keshav Maharaj attributed their struggles to consistently losing the powerplay phase, both with the bat and ball, and a glaring lack of early runs, as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

In the seven matches where they batted, DSG managed to score over 50 runs in the powerplay once, the only game they won, nearly three weeks ago. The team experimented with four different opening combinations, Bryce Parsons, Matthew Breetzke, Brandon King, and Quinton de Kock, yet ended up with the fewest powerplay runs among the six teams. Collectively, DSG's top two batters scored just 230 runs at an average of 16.42, a stark contrast to table-topping Paarl Royals, whose openers



Joe Root and Lhuan-dre Pretorius amassed 580 runs at 44.61, including five half-centuries.

One of DSG's most questionable decisions was using Quinton de Kock at No. 4 instead of his usual opening role, in an attempt to maintain a left-right batting combination. De Kock managed just one half-century in four innings at No. 4, alongside a 30-ball 43 against the Royals last week, but failed to make a significant impact otherwise.

At the start of the competition, there was a sort of method to the madness with regards to Quinny batting at four and after five games we realised that it wasn't really working out and we needed starts and then pushed Quinny up," Maharaj said at the post-match press con-

ference, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"He showed glimpses of what he can do, but probably didn't have the support around him to get those totals that we would have liked in the powerplay and to bat through," he added.

Middle-order batter Heinrich Klaasen also had a disappointing season, scoring 122 runs in seven innings, with 66 of those runs coming in a single knock.

DSG's batting woes were evident throughout the tournament. After scoring 200 in their opening match, they failed to surpass 150 in any subsequent games, with two scores below 120. While the batting order bore the brunt of the criticism, their bowling unit also struggled. "We didn't take enough

wickets in the powerplay and in doing so we didn't stem the flow of runs," Maharaj said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"We were quite expensive in most of the powerplays and once you lose the powerplay it's very difficult in the game of T20 cricket regardless of how well you bowl in that middle [period]," he added.

DSG's bowlers failed to dominate the powerplay, taking no more than two wickets in any game and conceding at least 41 runs in each of the eight powerplays they bowled. Wristspinner Noor Ahmad, with 10 wickets, was their stand-out performer, followed by Maharaj's seven. However, their pace attack lacked leadership. Chris Woakes was their top-performing seamer with five wickets in five games, while Naveen-ul-Haq and Junior Dala managed just four wickets each. Allrounder Dwaine Pretorius, who was expected to play a key role, featured in only two matches.

The lack of consistency in their playing XI likely contributed to their dismal run, leaving head coach Lance Klusener and the management with significant decisions to make ahead

of the next season. Despite the disappointing campaign, Maharaj, who previously led the team's remarkable turnaround last season to reach the final, seems eager to remain at the helm.

"I love captaincy. It gives me think clearly at times, especially on the field and keeps me a little bit calmer than I normally am," he said, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"The one thing that I really try and get is the camaraderie amongst my team-mates. It is a short competition and that's something that I feel I do really well: understanding my players and trying to get the best out of them. Sometimes it's hard, it doesn't transfer onto the field and I feel like it's one of those seasons. Having said that, I've enjoyed it very much. I'm very proud of my team so far. We've still got a game to go. There's a lot of pride to play for, a lot of meaning for this badge and for the owners that have invested in us, so we're not just giving up," he added.

DSG will play their final match of the season against Joburg Super Kings at the Wanderers on Saturday.



## Samagam 2.0: IIM Jammu paves way for formalization of its Alumni Association

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) hosted the Alumni Reunion, "Samagam 2.0," at its campus on January 25-26, 2025.

The alumni event witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni across various batches, offering an opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater, including MBA, MBA (HA & HM), and EMBA alumni, as well as faculty and students.

The reunion featured alumni introductions (both online and offline) and reflections, followed by faculty introductions.

A special video highlighting IIM Jammu's journey was also presented. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

In his address at IIM Jammu's Samagam 2.0, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the importance of mutual expectations between the students, alumni, and the Institute.

He stressed the need for alumni to take pride in their association with IIM Jammu and foster a sense of belonging and commitment.

He spoke about the Institute's ongoing efforts to engage alumni, mentioning alumni meets in major cities like Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, and the strong participa-



tion witnessed in these events. He encouraged alumni to stay connected, grow, and elevate the Institute's reputation, thus creating more opportunities for the IIM Jammu community.

During the interaction, he shared exciting news about a grand event to formalize the IIM Jammu Alumni Association as per the Society Act and the launch of Alumni Chapters across India.

The dates for these events will be announced soon. He also invited suggestions from alumni, emphasizing that sincerity, commitment, and collaboration are the key to success. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the attendees and reaffirmed IIM Jammu's vision of contributing to governance and policy development, ensuring the Institute continues to be a beacon of excellence.

The event began with a warm reception and campus tour, allowing alumni to relive cherished memories and witness the institute's remarkable growth. A formal event at Patanjali Classroom was started by lighting the lamp by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

A formal PowerPoint presentation on the roadmap for formalizing the Alumni Association of IIM Jammu was put forward by Dr. Vinod Durge, Associate Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu, on this occasion. Prominent attendees included Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Dr. Ravij Seth; Prof. Pankaj Maheshwari; Prof. Prashant Mishra; Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development and Chairperson of IIM Jammu Srinagar

Campus; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Diversity and Inclusion and Centre for Small Business Development Units; Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy; Dr. Sumit Maheshwari; and Dr. Sourav Mondal. Dr. Pradeep K. Tarei, Chairperson, Alumni Relations gave a welcome address and shared updated on alumni relations activities.

Dr. Jaganth G., Co-Chairperson, Alumni Relations gave a vote of thanks. The inaugural event was followed by a group photograph, leaving attendees with lasting memories and a renewed connection to the IIM Jammu family.

The faculties at IIM Jammu shared their experiences and emphasized their roles as members of the alma mater, highlighting the

significant contributions they make toward the progress of the Institute and the students. They reflected on the importance of maintaining strong connections with alumni, fostering a culture of continuous learning, and ensuring that IIM Jammu remains a hub for innovation, leadership, and excellence. Their insights underscored how the collaborative efforts between faculty, alumni, and students are crucial in shaping the future growth of the Institute and contributing to the holistic development of students.

The reunion featured engaging sessions, including a leadership panel discussion with alumni, Sports Activities, Cultural Odyssey, interactions with faculty and students, and networking over breakfast, lunch and dinner. Some of the alumni will also attend the Republic Day celebrations and visit to the transit campus at Canal Road, reliving their memories with a sense of nostalgia.

Samagam 2.0 underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering a thriving and engaged alumni network, embodying the institute's vision of excellence and collaboration. The event was coordinated by Alumni Relations Committee at IIM Jammu.

## SMVDU-TBIC participates in Konnect Interactive Session organised by JKEDI



### Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 28: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Technology Business Incubation Center (SMVDU-TBIC) participated in the prestigious Jammu Kashmir Konnect interactive session, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) held at the JKEDI campus in Bari Brahma.

The event aimed to promote collaboration and innovation within Jammu & Kashmir's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The session, hosted by Shri Rajinder Sharma, Director of JKEDI, featured Shri Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director of DPIIT, Government of India, as the keynote speaker.

The event brought together key stakeholders, including heads of incubation centers, their teams, and prominent startups affiliated with incubators across Jammu & Kashmir.

Representing SMVDU-TBIC, CEO Dr. Sanjay Mohan, along with Business Manager, Divye Duheta Mahajan and Committee Member Dr. Ankush Raina, actively contributed to the discussions, offering valuable insights.

During the session, SMVDU-TBIC emphasized several critical aspects vital for the growth and success of the startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

The team called for greater collaboration among stakeholders from different incubators to create a unified community plan aimed at supporting and uplifting startups.

Additionally, they highlighted the importance of establishing a robust mentorship network that would guide startups through every stage of their development.

SMVDU-TBIC also expressed a strong interest in exploring DPIIT's schemes that could further enhance the capabilities of both incubators and startups.

The interactive session provided an invaluable platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, discuss ongoing developments, and strategize ways to nurture entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir.

The dialogue underscored the need for a cohesive, inclusive, and resource-rich ecosystem that supports startups at all stages of their journey. SMVDU-TBIC expresses its gratitude to Shri Rajinder Sharma, Director of JKEDI, for providing the team with the opportunity to interact with Shri Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director of DPIIT, Government of India along with other stakeholders.

The discussions were invaluable in contributing to the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

Further gratitude is extended to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, for his unwavering support, which continues to inspire and guide the efforts at SMVDU-TBIC.

## End LG rule, restore statehood: Sahni



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded to end the dual power system in the J&K, restore the status quo and bring the Police Force under the state government along with accountability.

In a program organized today at the party's state central office, about two dozen youths influenced by the party's policies and ideas joined the party.

Party state chief Manish Sahni, who was present on the occasion, said that Jammu division is being affected the most by the dual power system implemented in Jammu and

Kashmir. The terrorists of Jammu division, which is considered peace-loving, are trying to establish their foothold. In the year 2024, terrorist attacks have taken place in 8 out of 10 districts of Jammu division. On the other hand, incidents of crime, drug trafficking, gang war, cow smuggling, crime against women are constantly increasing.

Recently, firing in broad daylight in the middle of Jammu city and the easy escape of the accused and the police being empty handed despite the passage of a week has created an atmosphere of apprehension among the public.

Police officers are call-

ing it a common incident of gang war and the Lieutenant Governor did not consider it appropriate to give any reaction on this. Not only this, asking any question about the police force and the security of the state in the assembly has also been banned and the permission of the Lieutenant Governor has been made necessary.

Sahni said that what kind of democratic system is being imposed on Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni has demanded from the Modi government at the Center to end the rule of the Lieutenant Governor in Jammu and Kashmir, restore the state status and bring the police force under the state government with accountability.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chibber, Vikas Bakshi, Bharat Mahajan Balwant Singh, Rohan Malwal, Manjeet Singh, Amit Sharma, Saksham, Harsh Kumar Aman Verma, Arpit Sharma, Vishal Kumar were present.

## Retired IAS Officer Guldev Raj Bhagat honoured

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 28: At a function held in Kaith Music Factory at Bhagwati Nagar, retired IAS officer Guldev Raj Bhagat was honoured for mobilizing social forces to work on the mission of Babasaheb Dr B.R.Ambedkar.

While speaking on the occasion, R.L.Kaith said, Guldev Raj Bhagat has always admired Babasaheb Dr B.R.Ambedkar and supported his ideals of social justice, equality, and liberty.


Guldev Raj Bhagat thanked for giving him a great honour and said, The Constitution of India,



authored by Babasaheb Ambedkar, is the supreme legal authority which binds the legislative, executive, and judicial organs of government. The Constitution grants all citizens Fundamental Rights and empowers the independent judiciary to invalidate legislations or government actions

which violate the Constitution, he added.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Messers Hans Raj Loria, EX Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar, Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Ex Havildar Ghari Lal, Tilak Raj, Vicky Kaith, Naresh Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.



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