

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

### J&K Finance Department authorizes further funds for 2024-25

JAMMU, Jan 29 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has approved the release of additional funds under the Revenue Budget for the financial year 2024-25.

As per the latest order, departments with an expenditure of 70% or above will receive 100% of the Budget Estimates (BE) or Revised Estimates (RE), whichever is lower, while those below 70% will get 85%. Specific expenditure heads, including telephone, hospitality, advertisement, and seminars, will receive 90%, with an additional 10% for heads below 55%.

Full funding is granted for electricity charges and similar credits.

However, allocations for LTC, vehicle purchases, furniture, power, food grain costs, snow clearance, and the Disaster Response Fund remain withheld.

The release of funds is subject to austerity measures outlined in previous government orders.

### MeT predicts week-long wet weather in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 29 (Agencies): As "Chillai Kalan" approaches its end, the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar has forecast a week of wet weather starting Wednesday afternoon in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The 40-day-long harshest period of winter, known as "Chillai Kalan," in the Kashmir Valley is set to conclude on January 30. This phase largely remained dry, except for two brief spells of snowfall.

The MeT office said the weather will generally remain cloudy with the possibility of widespread rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir this afternoon.

It said there are chances of fairly widespread light to moderate rain, snow, and thunderstorms on Thursday.

The weather generally will remain dry and cloudy with the possibility of light rain and snow over the isolated reaches on Friday while another fairly widespread spell of rain and snow is possible on Saturday, the MeT office said.

The wet weather will continue till February 4 with the forecast of widespread rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir on February 3.

Meanwhile, the night temperature significantly improved amid cloud cover in the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday.

The minimum temperature recorded in Srinagar during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday was 1.9 C against the -4.3 C the previous night, and this was 2.8 C above normal for the summer capital of

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## SC seeks details of FIRs, Charge sheets against men for divorcing wives through Triple Talaq



NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to provide the details of the number of FIRs and chargesheets filed against men for pronouncing instant triple talaq to divorce spouses in violation of the 1991 Muslim Women (Protection of Rights in Marriage) Act.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice

Sanjay Kumar, hearing as many as 12 petitions challenging the constitutionality of the 1991 law, also asked the Centre and other parties to file their written submissions to the pleas.

The bench fixed the petitions for final hearing in the week commencing March 17.

Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, a Kozhikode-based Muslim organisation, is the lead petitioner in the

case.

"The respondent (Centre) shall file the total number of FIRs and charge sheets pending under section 3 and 4 of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights of Marriage) Act 2019. The parties also file written submissions not exceeding three pages in support of their contention," the bench said.

Instant 'triple talaq', also known as

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## Budget Session Begins on Jan 31 with President's Address

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will take up discussion on President Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament on Monday as the Budget Session begins on January 31.

The President will address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Lok Sabha chamber on Friday and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the General Budget on Saturday.

The Finance Minister will table the Economic Survey on Friday when both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will convene briefly after the President's address.

Lok Sabha has provisionally allotted

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## Police conduct raids at 25 locations in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Jan 29 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday conducted raids at 25 places here on the houses of terrorists operating from across the Line of Control, officials said. Jammu travel guide

The raids were carried out in different areas of the border district as part

of the ongoing investigations into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against terrorists operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), the officials said.

They said CRPF personnel assisted the police during the operation.

The houses of Iftikhar

Hussain and his brother Mohd Parvaz were raided at Tundi Taran near the town at around 9.50 am but nothing could be found during the searches lasting more than an hour, the officials said.

Another brother of the duo, Mohd Asgar alias "Billa" alias "Kaka", is a terrorist who is operating

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## Republic Day Parade: Uttar Pradesh Tableau Wins First Prize; J&K Rifles Wins Best Marching Contingent

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh's tableau, showcasing the ongoing Mahakumbh at the 76th Republic Day celebrations, won the first prize, while the marching contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was adjudged the best among the three services.

Tripura's tableau,

with the theme "Eternal Reverence," won the second prize among the tableaux from states and union territories, according to the Defence Ministry.

The tableau from Andhra Pradesh, which showcased eco-friendly wooden toys, was adjudged the third-best.

Among the central ministries and departments,

the tableau of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was declared the best.

The best marching contingent among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other auxiliary forces was the Delhi Police team.

The ministry said three panels of judges were constituted to assess

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## JK Government removes PDA Chief after crackdown on illegal construction in Pahalgam

SRINAGAR, Jan 29 (Agencies): The government has removed Masarat Hashim as Chief Executive Officer of the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA), just weeks after he initiated action against illegal constructions in the popular tourist destination. Hashim was recently posted as Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), barely a

month after getting the PDA assignment.

Hashim's removal came shortly after he issued notices to approximately 300 individuals accused of constructing hotels, lodges, and houses without proper permission, many of them in violation of environmental regulations. Among the notices was one issued on January 16, 2025,

to a violator who had allegedly constructed an unauthorised building with a plinth area of 1,596 square feet and a height of 32 feet. The notice warned of possible sealing or demolition if the recipient failed to respond within 48 hours, reports appearing in the media said.

This is not the first time a PDA chief has been

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## Wildlife dept daily wagers, casual labourers protest outside CM's residence in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 29 (Agencies): Casual labourers and daily wagers of Wildlife department Wednesday protested outside chief minister's residence in Srinagar, demanding regularisation of services and wages at par with other employees.

As per the news agency, scores of daily wagers and casual labourers assembled

outside CM's Gupkar residence to press for their demands.

"We have been serving the department for over a decade and unfortunately, our pleas have been ignored so far," said one of the protesters.

He said that the government should look into the matter and fulfill the demands at the earliest. A delegation of the pro-

testers also met National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah. "The NC President assured the delegation that he will take up the issue with the minister concerned in Jammu on Monday," the protesters informed.

They, however, said that in case their demands are not met, they will continue their protest.

## Govt likely to install water meters on commercial establishments under phase 1: CE PHE

SRINAGAR, Jan 29 (Agencies): Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE Jal Shakti Department, Braham Jyoti Sharma said on Wednesday that government will likely to install water meters on commercial establishments under phase-1.

Speaking to Greater Kashmir, Sharma said that the Jal Shakti

Department has covered 88 percent households who have been provided tap water under Har Ghar Jal Yojana scheme. "So far 88 percent tap water connections have been completed under Har Ghar Jal Yojana scheme. Under Jal Jeevan Mission the department is monitoring the working

and implementation of schemes from centre and state levels. The work is under progress and 88 percent of task under Household Tap Connection (HTC) is completed, while the rest is underway," he said.

He said the government has fixed March

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## OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we express heartfelt condolence on untimely and sad demise of our beloved **BENTHATI (TOSHA JI)** D/o Lt. T.N. Bhat originally Darbagh Harwan Srinagar A/p Saraswati Vihar Bohri, on 24-01-2025.



**BENTHATI (TOSHA JI)**

We pray to Almighty God to grant eternal peace to the departed soul at Vaikunth.

**GRIEF STRICKEN FROM MALUIN SIDE AUNT & UNCLE**

Smt Lalshishori Koul W/o Lt Gawash Lal Koul  
**BROTHERS AND BHABHIS**  
Sh. Chandan Koul & Smt Tosha Koul  
Sh. Moti Lal Koul & Smt Rajni Koul  
Sh. C.L. Koul & Smt Nirmala Koul  
Sh. Vinod Koul & Smt Chandernika Koul

## 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, Naveen Shiksha Kendra) & Pratibha Jamwal  
(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:** Hridayanshu Slathia, Sudhanshu Pathania, Siddharth Pathania, Shrey Katoch  
**Contact:** 9086038261, 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.



**MR. SHAKTI SAGAR BHAT**

Originally from Bangund, Verinag, Anantnag.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 01-02-2025 (Saturday) at Sainik School Nagrota at 9.00 AM.

**Mourning** is being held at Block-72, Flat-4, Lane No. 16, Jagti.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Renu Bhat - Wife  
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 Kantu 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.

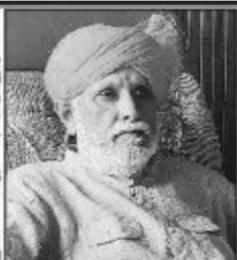
**Rasam Pagri/Uthala** on 30/1/2025 (Thursday) at 1:00 PM at Radha Krishan Temple Village Raipur

**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. Kaushalya 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 Bhatwal  
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

## THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved parents, **Retd. Lect. Sh. Punu Ram Sharma and Smt. Kamla Sharma** W/o Late Retd. Lect. Sh. Punu Ram Sharma.



**RETD. LECT. SH. PUNU RAM SHARMA AND SMT. KAMLA SHARMA**

**THIRTEEN DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at our residence, Kamla Niwas, Ward No. 73, Lower Gadi Garh, Jammu on Thursday i.e. 30th January, 2025 at 12 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

**Son and Daughter-in-law**  
Sh. Vipin Sharma and Dr. Geeta Sharma  
Sh. Devinder Sharma & Smt. Isha Sharma  
**Daughter and Son-in-law**  
Smt. Asha Sharma & Sh. Raj Kumar  
Smt. Sushma Sharma & Sh. Sanjay Sharma  
Smt. Neelam Raina & Sh. Sunil Raina.  
**Grandchildren:** Dr. Priema Sharma, Er. Adarsh Bhargav, Anubha Sharma, Er. Abhay Sharma, Aditya Sudan, Sayam Raina, Jayant Sudan, Kamra Sudan.  
**PH NO.:** 9419143754, 9419125377

## TENTH DAY / KRIYA & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhyay** S/o Late Sh. Madan Lal Upadhyay R/o 738-Janipur Colony, near Ram Lila Ground on Monday, 20-01-2025.



**Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhyay**

**TENTH DAY:** 29-01-2025 (Wednesday) from 11 A.M. to 12 P.M. at Trimurti Mandir, Janipur Colony.

**KRIYA:** 30-01-2025 (Thursday) 12 Noon at home.

**UTHALA:** 07-02-2025 (Friday) from 4 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Venue: Trimurti Mandir, Janipur Colony.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Smt Shanta Sharma (Wife)  
**(Son and Daughter-in-law)**  
Er Naveen Sharma and Pooja Bindra (Teacher)  
**(Daughter and Son-in-law)**  
Renu Sharma (JKBOSE) and Rajesh Khajuria (JKP)  
**Grandchildren (Arya, Aryan, Akriti, Mrighank)**

## BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

ਜੇ ਚੀਜ਼ੇ ਮੈਂ ਸਗਲ ਬਿਨਾਮੈ ਨਿਹਿ ਬਾਦਰ ਵੀ ਫਾਈ ॥  
Whatever is seen in this world shall all pass away, like the shadow of a cloud.

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



**Sardarni Surjeet Kour**

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

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

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

At Gurudwara 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 Balli & Sukleen Kour

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

**Grand Children:**

Angad, Samson, 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 Akhnoor 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 & Rains 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. Paray 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 Koul & Lt. Mohani Jee (Behan Jee)  
Sh. Chuni Lal Bhat & Santosh Bhat  
Sh. Ramesh Kumar Pandita & Toja Pandita  
Sh. Manoj Kumar Koul & Rita Jee Koul

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

## TENTH DAY KRIYA

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**SMT. RATNA RAINA**

**10th Day Kriya** will be performed on (Friday) 31st January, 2025 at 8.00 AM, Murad Nagar Ghat, Ghaziabad.



**SMT. RATNA RAINA**

**Prayer Meeting** on (Friday) 31st January, 2025 at 4.30 PM at A1 Block Park-3, South City 2, Sohna Road, Gurgaon.

**LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Rattan Lal, Bharti, Ajay, Sanjay, Rakesh, Richa, Deepa, Shruti, Raghvi, Tanmay, Pushpangi, Avishi  
**RSVP - 7507027506, 90134113745, 7875444848**

## TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** of our most beloved

**Sh. Dileep Kumar Bhat (Raja Ji)** son of

Pandit Jagat Nath Bhat resident of Ladhu,

Tehsil Pampore Kashmir and at present

residing at 45, Indira Colony, Gole Gupral

Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu whose sudden and

untimely demise has left us shattered and

perpetually heart broken, shall be performed

on 30th January, Thursday at Akhnoor Ghat,

Akhnoor and **ASSEMBLY** shall be held at 11

AM at 45, Indira Colony, Talab Tillo to pay

homage to the departed.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Daughter and Son in Law**

Nishu and Vivek Pandita

**Bhabhis and Brothers**

Smt. Vinod Kumar & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat

Smt. Kaki & Sh. Ashok Kishen Bhat

Smt. Pinky & Sh. Kanya Lal Bhat

**Sister and Brother in Law**

Smt. Asha and Sh. R. K. Bhat

**And Samast Bhat Parivar and Pandita family of Ambica Vihar, Poonch House.**

We thank you all for sharing our grief in this moment of deep pain with us.

**PHONES:** 962756927, 789402146, 906226389, 901913440, 789556262



**SH. DILEEP KUMAR BHAT (RAJA JI)**

## 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.

**TENTH DAY** will be held on Tuesday

28.01.2025 at Gurudwara 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. Smita 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. Aru & Sh. Rajinder Sharma

Smt. Asha & Sh. Nareesh Sethi

**Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law**

Sakshi W/o Sh. Vivek Sharma

**Mr. Nitesh Gupta (Grandson)**

**MOB:** 9419155155, 9796155155



**Smt. Raj Kumari**

## OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our mother **SMT. KAUSHALYAWATI BAGATI** W/o Lt. TRILOK NATH BAGATI originally resident of Tekpora Lobb of District Kupwara Kashmir presently at H.No.46, Lane No.2, Anandnagar Bohri on 26/01/2025.



**SMT. KAUSHALYAWATI BAGATI**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 31st February 2025 and assembly will be held at our residence H.No. 46, Lane NO.2 Anandnagar Bohri at 11am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**(Daughter in-laws and Sons)**

Smt. Veena Bagati & Sh. Shaban Lal Bagati

Smt. Sunita Bagati & Sh. Purn Kumar Bagati

Smt. Charu Bagati & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bagati

Smt. Veena Bagati & Sh. Rajesh Kumar Bagati

Smt. Suran Bagati and Sh. Sindhu Bagati

Smt. Indu Bagati & Sh. Sanjeev Bagati

## ISRO's 100th launch marks quantum leap in India's Space journey: Dr Jitendra

### Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 29: In his first response to the Indian Space Research Organisation's successful 100th launch from Sriharikota this morning, Union Minister of State for Space Dr Jitendra Singh said, "the launch of GSLV-F15/NVS-02 Mission is not simply another landmark milestone but this launch, being the 100th one, marks a quantum leap in India's Space journey."

Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed his deep sense of privilege in being associated with the Department of Space at such a momentous time when the world is amazed by a series of extraordinary achievements registered by the ISRO one after the other and highlighted the remarkable transformation of ISRO under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that while ISRO was established in 1969, it took more than two decades to set up the first launch pad in 1993. The second launch pad came up only in 2004, marking another decade-long gap. However, in the last 10 years, India's space sector has undergone unprecedented expansion, both in terms of infrastructure and investment. "This 100th launch marks a



quantum leap in the space sector, which did not happen in the last six decades. We are now building a third launch pad in Sriharikota, and for the first time, expanding beyond Sriharikota with a new launch site in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district, where the foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Modi last year in February," he stated.

The Minister also underlined the rapid rise of private sector participation in space. "In 2021, we had barely a single-digit number of space startups. Today, we are nearing 300, many of which are world-class enterprises and entrepreneurial success stories. India is positioning itself as a frontline player in the global private space sector," he noted. This growth has translated into real economic impact—investment

in the sector has surged, with Rs 1,000 crore invested in 2023 alone. The space economy, currently valued at \$8 billion, is projected to reach \$44 billion in the next decade, further cementing India's role as a global space powerhouse.

Dr. Jitendra also highlighted India's growing dominance in commercial space launches. "Today, 90% of foreign satellite launches are being carried out through ISRO, reflecting the global confidence in our capabilities," he said. The reforms initiated in the past decade, including the unlocking of the space sector for private players, have led to greater innovation, investment, and international collaborations.

Taking to social media, Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated the Indian Space Research Organ-

isation (ISRO) for its unwavering commitment to excellence and its ability to consistently raise the bar in space exploration. He stated, "100th Launch: Congratulations ISRO for achieving the landmark milestone of 100th launch from Sriharikota. It's a privilege to be associated with the Department of Space at this historic moment. Team ISRO, you have once again made India proud with the successful launch of GSLV-F15/NVS-02 Mission."

Reflecting on the remarkable journey of India's space program, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the visionary contributions of early pioneers like Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan, whose efforts laid the foundation for India's burgeoning space sector.

The 100th launch from Sriharikota, therefore, is not just a numerical milestone but a symbol of India's accelerated progress in space exploration. From decades of gradual development to a decade of transformational growth, ISRO's journey stands as a testament to India's technological prowess and its aspirations to lead in the global space economy. With new infrastructure, increased private participation, and record-breaking investments, India is poised for even greater achievements in the years to come.

## Traders Federation felicitates Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: A grand ceremony was held at the Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market office on Wednesday under the leadership of President Deepak Gupta to honor renowned writer, educationist, and advocate of Jammu's Dogra culture, Prof. Lalit Mangotra. Recently awarded the Padma Shri by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prof. Mangotra was felicitated with a memento and chunri by the Federation.

"We all thank Prof. Lalit Mangotra for his tireless efforts in promoting our mother tongue, Dogri. Through his writing, he has elevated Dogri to new heights, and today, with this recognition, the language itself has received national-level respect. This award is not just for Prof. Mangotra but for the entire Dogri-speaking community," said Deepak Gupta.

Highlighting his contributions, Gupta emphasized that Prof. Mangotra has been an eminent Dogri writer, dedicated to the promotion and development of Dogri literature and culture for nearly 50 years. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and honors while holding prestigious

positions in various literary and cultural organizations. Prof. Mangotra has played a crucial role in strengthening and modernizing Dogri literature, ensuring its progress alongside other Indian languages.

In his various capacities, Prof. Mangotra has organized numerous seminars, symposia, and conferences on vital literary topics, as well as workshops to address the needs of Dogri. He has also initiated folk fairs and book exhibitions to popularize the language. Under his leadership, Dogri Sanstha Jammu pioneered the publication of children's comic books in Dogri to engage young readers.

Additionally, he has been instrumental in bringing Dogri literature to a wider audience by ensuring its translation into English and Hindi. His literary works have gained such prominence that two of his books have been included in the postgraduate syllabus at Jammu University—an honor for all Dogras.

Gupta also highlighted Prof. Mangotra's distinguished career as a scientist, teacher, and researcher in High Energy Physics. Having served as Professor and Head of the Department of Physics and Com-

puter Sciences at the University of Jammu, he also held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Sciences. His international research experience includes over five years in various European laboratories, contributing to more than 300 scientific publications in international journals. Recognizing his vast contributions, the Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri, a proud moment for the entire community.

Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Lalit Mangotra thanked the Traders Federation and its leadership for the honor. He also extended his appreciation to the central government for the Padma Shri recognition. "For the past 50 years, I have been working to promote Dogri on national and international platforms. This award is not just my achievement but also that of my colleagues and supporters who have stood by me," he remarked.

On this occasion, Senior Vice President of the Federation Dheeraj Mahajan, Vice President Vishal Gupta, General Secretary Abhimanyu Gupta, Secretary Rahul Gupta, and Cashier Nitish Gupta were also present.

## Chief Justice rolls out Activity Calendar of J&K Legal Services Authority for year 2025

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: In a significant step towards strengthening legal awareness and ensuring access to justice for all, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, on Wednesday rolled out an Activity Calendar (Wall Hanging) 2025 of the J&K Legal Services Authority in the august presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, who joined the simple but impressive ceremony virtually from Srinagar.

The Activity Calendar 2025 serves as a comprehensive roadmap for legal awareness programs, legal aid initiatives and outreach activities planned for the current year across the

Union Territory of J&K. Besides highlighting key dates for National and Special Lok Adalats, it outlines awareness campaigns on social justice issues, training programs for legal aid functionaries, helpline numbers for enhanced accessibility and initiatives aimed at strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

While releasing the calendar, the Chief Justice commended the J&K Legal Services Authority for its commitment in bridging the gap between legal institutions and the legal aid seekers, particularly those from marginalized and underprivileged sections of society.

The Chief Justice emphasized that the calendar will act as a guiding document for all stakeholders, including judicial officers, legal

aid counsels, para legal volunteers, and legal services institutions, to effectively execute their responsibilities in ensuring access to justice.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority also underscored the importance of activity calendar in timely execution of legal aid initiatives and stressed that the calendar would serve as a strategic tool for organizing legal literacy programs, Lok Adalats, victim support initiatives and pro bono services across the UT.

The event also marked discussions on further strengthening legal aid mechanisms, enhancing digital outreach and promoting legal literacy at the grassroots level.

The calendar includes special focus areas such as legal assistance to

prisoners, empowerment of women and children, awareness on cyber laws, environmental justice, rehabilitation of victims of crime and undertaking of special campaigns launched by the NALSA.

The function was attended by Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, M. K. Sharma, Pr. Secretary to the Chief Justice, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial, Jammu, Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computers (I.T.), Jeewan Kumar, Secretary, HCLSC and other officers of the Registry who also appreciated the efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority in conceptualizing and preparing an extensive activity schedule, ensuring timely execution of legal aid services in line

with the objectives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The unveiling of the Activity Calendar 2025 stands as another milestone in the continued efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority towards enhancing legal awareness, promoting justice for all, and fostering a society where legal services are accessible to every individual, irrespective of their socioeconomic background.

## Balbir, Kaith, Loria, others congratulate Sat on becoming BJP State President once again

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Balbir Ram Rattan, R.L. Kaith, Hans Raj Loria and many others called on Sat Sharma at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, today, and congratulated him

on being unopposed elected State President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for second time.

They hoped that the new President's broad vision and past experience would further

strengthen Bharatiya Janata party.

Sat Sharma, on this occasion, said that BJP is the only party that does not promote a family but provides equal opportunities to all the workers to rise to

any post.

Other prominent persons who were present on the occasion included Ex Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Ex Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Master Naresh Kumar Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

## MLA Bishnah starts development works of Rs.39 lakh



### Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jan 29: Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MLA Bishnah Constituency start the development works of Rs.39 lakh which includes under IDMT 2024-25 amounting to Rs.28 Lacs in Arnia Town

Ward No.1 to Ward 13 and Rural Development Capex Works amounting to Rs.11.00 lakh in Village Bahadurpur.

While addressing the gathering at Arnia and Bahadurpur Dr Rajeev MLA appeal the people it is my duty to serve

every nook and corner of the Bishnah Constituency so the people with the vision to be a Bishnah Model Constituency so the people not to be far away for their development.

The MLA said that the BJP led Government by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi take the Oath to help the weaker section of the societies and provide every assistance for the welfare of the people. He has only vision that last person of the society be helped by Welfare Central Government Schemes.

Surekha Bhagat, DDC Arnia, Engineering staff of PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah and senior BJP workers namely Surinder Singh Chib Ex Corporator, Supinder Sharma, Mandal Pardhan Arnia Girdhar Sharma, Ex Chairman Municipality Committee Arnia Ramesh Saini and Captain Bodh Raj and other prominent workers of the BJP accompanied the MLA during his inauguration functions.

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## EDITORIAL

Road  
Development

Road development plays a crucial role in shaping the infrastructure of a country, influencing its economic growth, connectivity, and overall quality of life. Roads serve as the backbone of a nation's transportation system, facilitating the movement of goods, services, and people across vast distances. Whether for urbanization, trade, tourism, or national defense, the development of road networks is integral to achieving sustainable progress in a country. In this article, we explore the significance of road development, the factors that contribute to it, and the challenges faced during the process.

Roads form the primary mode of transportation for millions of people globally. They provide access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment. The development of roads improves connectivity between urban and rural areas, thereby enhancing the overall social and economic fabric of a country. For instance, remote regions can benefit from better access to markets, schools, and hospitals, ultimately improving the standard of living for residents.

From an economic perspective, efficient road networks are crucial for facilitating trade. Roads allow for the movement of raw materials, finished products, and services between cities and regions. This not only boosts domestic trade but also opens up avenues for international trade. Industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction depend heavily on well-developed road infrastructure to transport goods to local and global markets. Moreover, road networks encourage investment, as businesses are more likely to establish themselves in areas with reliable transport options.

In addition to economic benefits, road development is closely linked to national security. Roads are essential for the swift movement of troops, supplies, and equipment, making them a strategic asset during times of conflict or natural disasters. Furthermore, road infrastructure supports emergency response teams, facilitating access to affected areas in case of accidents, medical emergencies, or environmental catastrophes.

Several factors contribute to the development of roads, ranging from population growth and urbanization to technological advancements. One of the primary drivers is the increasing demand for better connectivity due to population growth. As cities expand, the need for improved road networks to accommodate rising traffic volumes becomes paramount. Urbanization also necessitates the construction of new roads to connect previously isolated areas to the central hubs of activity.

Government policies and investments play a significant role in road development. In many countries, governments allocate substantial budgets to improve and maintain road infrastructure, recognizing its impact on economic growth and national welfare. Public-private partnerships (PPP) have also emerged as an effective model for financing and implementing road projects, as they combine the strengths of both sectors.

Technological advancements in road construction and maintenance techniques have made it easier and more cost-effective to develop roads. Modern machinery, innovative materials, and improved construction methodologies enable faster and more durable road construction. Additionally, smart technologies such as traffic management systems and road sensors help optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, and improve safety on existing roads.

Despite the numerous benefits of road development, several challenges hinder the process. One of the most significant obstacles is the financial burden associated with large-scale road projects. Constructing roads, particularly in remote or difficult terrain, requires substantial investments in materials, labor, and technology. Governments often struggle to secure the necessary funding, leading to delays or the abandonment of important projects.

Environmental concerns also pose a challenge to road development. The construction of roads through ecologically sensitive areas, such as forests, wetlands, or wildlife habitats, can have detrimental effects on the environment. Deforestation, soil erosion, and loss of biodiversity are just a few of the negative consequences of road construction. To mitigate these impacts, governments and organizations must implement sustainable practices, such as eco-friendly road designs and compensatory afforestation.

Land acquisition and displacement of communities can further complicate road development projects. Securing the land needed for road construction often involves legal, social, and political challenges. Displacing local populations, especially in rural or indigenous areas, can lead to protests and opposition, delaying or halting projects.

Another challenge is the maintenance of existing road infrastructure. Over time, roads degrade due to heavy traffic, weather conditions, and wear and tear. Routine maintenance, repairs, and upgrades are essential to keep roads in good condition and ensure safety for travelers. However, limited resources and competing priorities often result in inadequate road maintenance, leading to deteriorating road conditions and an increased risk of accidents.

By: Shahnaz Husain

There's a toxic relationship between winter and hair fall. Winter weather can be tough on your hair, and it's not just about the cold. The drop in temperature, low humidity levels and indoor heating strip out moisture leaving your hair dry and brittle. The drop in humidity during the winter season dries out the air, which in turn, pulls moisture from your mane. Moisture is important, as without it, issues like frizz, breakage, dandruff, and an overall dull appearance can cause excessive hair loss during the colder months.

Winter hair care is not limited to your pre- and post-shower routine. Instead, it involves making key adjustments to your overall lifestyle.

1---Use Luke Water---- Hot showers might feel comforting in the cold, but they can suck out the moisture from the hair, making it more vulnerable to breakage. Hot water and steam can strip away natural oils, leading to hair dryness. Further, it can also cause dandruff and scalp irritation. So, opt for lukewarm/ cold water when washing and rinse off your hair. Always try to finish with a cold water rinse, as it seals down cuticles, locking in the moisture and making the hair look shinier

2---Avoid excessive heat styling: --- While it's tempting to blow-dry your hair more often in the winter, Excessive use of heat tools like blow dryers, straighteners and curling irons can further dry out your hair potentially leading to breakage and further dryness. Allow the hair to dry naturally and use heat-free styling methods whenever possible.

If you like to style your hair with hot tools, apply a heat protectant spray first. A good heat protectant will help keep your hair shiny and smooth, even when using hot styling tools.

Switch to shampoos and conditioners that are specifically designed for hydration. Look for ingredients like aloe vera, shea butter, or keratin to nourish your hair and keep it hydrated. Use a lightweight hydrating serum and leave-in conditioners that help to lock in moisture and keep your hair smooth and manageable

Avoid products with sulfates or alcohol that can strip your hair of moisture. Stick to nourishing, alcohol-free styling products to keep your hair soft and hydrated.

The right Wintertime hair care products can keep your locks looking their best.

It will help you combat frizz and offer sleek, manageable hair. Always go for hair serums with argan oil or silicone, as these ingredients build a protective layer on the hair, offering extra protection and shine.

3---Eat Healthy---

Healthy hair starts from within. Ensuring proper nutrition is fundamental to maintaining healthy hair, especially during winter.

Staying adequately hydrated is vital, as water is crucial in maintaining hair moisture. By nourishing your body from within, you provide the foundation for luscious and resilient hair, even in winter's challenges.

Drink plenty of water, juices, and soups and eat a balanced diet rich in vitamins A, C, and E, along with omega-3 fatty acids, to nourish your hair during winter.

Vitamin A nourishes the scalp and increases blood into hair follicles, while vitamin E prevents hair breakage.

Include fruits, vegetables, nuts, soybeans, and flaxseeds in your diet.

4---Avoid Tight Hairstyles

Hairstyles such as ponytails or braids, which pull your hair back harshly can also often lead to weaker hair and breakage from the roots. It can put excessive tension on the hair

shafts leading to hair loss, so keeping things loose is a good idea. A relaxed braid or a low, loose ponytail will keep your hair healthy while looking stylish.

This also applies to rubber bands and hair clips, which can also cause damage if too tight.

5--Oil your Hair-----

It is all the more important to nourish your hair regularly with natural ingredients. They are non-toxic and do not harm the structure of the hair.

Incorporate natural oils into your hair care routine to provide an extra layer of protection and hydration. Sesame oil, argan oil, coconut oil, and jojoba oil are excellent choices. Have hot oil therapy once a week. Heat oil and apply on the hair. If the hair is dry and damaged, pure coconut oil or pure almond oil may be applied. Using your fingertips massage the scalp gently, actually moving the scalp in circular motions. This helps to improve blood circulation to the follicles. Then do the hot towel wrap.

6--Apply Hair Mask

Curry leaves are said to contain nutritive elements, including antioxidants, which bring back health to the roots and promote hair growth. Curry leaves contain beta-carotene, which is converted into vitamin A. This vitamin helps in the production of sebum, the natural oil that keeps the scalp and hair roots moisturized. A well-moisturized scalp is conducive to hair growth.

Make a paste of curry leaves, one tablespoon of honey and coconut oil and apply to the hair. Wash off after half an hour.

7---Rinse with Milk

After your shampoo, rinse the hair with milk and leave on for 5 minutes. Then rinse off with plain water. It would help to add body and shine to the hair. For extremely dry hair, add a little milk to egg yolk and apply on the hair half an hour before shampoo.

This is a wonderful nourishing treatment for dry hair. The hair looks soft, smooth and shiny.

8--Egg Hair Mask for Damaged Hair

The B-vitamins in eggs, including Biotin (B7) and Niacin (B3), play a significant role in promoting hair growth. The natural oils present in eggs help moisturize the hair, providing a natural shine and luster. The proteins in eggs can help repair damaged hair by filling in gaps and cracks along the hair shaft. Eggs can act as a natural conditioner, providing moisture to dry and damaged hair. Applying egg white on the hair 15 minutes of shampoo helps to reduce oiliness and add body to the hair.

9---Apply Apple Cider Vinegar

The natural pH of the scalp is slightly acidic, and commercial shampoos can sometimes disrupt this balance. Apple cider vinegar, with its acidic nature, helps to restore the pH level of the scalp. A balanced pH contributes to a healthier scalp and can enhance the overall condition of your hair. Apple cider vinegar has natural antibacterial and antifungal properties, making it effective in combating dandruff and alleviating an itchy scalp. Regular use of ACV can help maintain a healthy scalp environment and reduce the occurrence of dandruff. Mix one part apple cider vinegar with two parts water. After shampooing, pour the mixture over your hair as a final rinse. This helps restore the pH balance of your hair and adds shine.

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

## Steps to success in space

By: Vijay Garg

Recently, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has achieved the feat of making one satellite by connecting two satellites in space. ISRO first successfully placed two satellites in Earth's orbit, then connected the two. In scientific language it is called 'Space Docking Experiment' (SPADEX) and India has become the fourth country in the world to achieve such capability. Before India, America, Russia and China have accomplished this feat. Indian This achievement of scientists is important in the sense that they developed their own 'posting mechanism' with limited resources and their ability. Successful countries had not yet given this very complex and sensitive technology to India. That is why ISRO has also patented it by naming it 'Indian Posting System'. Indian scientists not only made satellites and made them one, but also separated them back. This technique is very useful, because in future India has to be made its own space center and while creating a space center. It is most important to specialize in the art of connecting the satellite to another, because no construction in space will be completed in one stroke, but will need to carry the desired material again and again for the space center. If it is difficult to install a large satellite into a space orbit, a large satellite can be prepared by adding small satellites. This success has demonstrated ISRO's innovation ability and ability to develop domestic advanced techniques, which has reduced dependence on external support. When India If this technique will be adept in this tech-

nique, then any older satellite in space can be 'recharged' or repair again. Then India will also play an important role in the cleanliness drive in space, about which America, Russia and China do not think much. Mastery in this technology can make India potentially become a major partner in international projects such as 'Lunar Gateway' or other collaborative space station efforts. Thus Chandrayaan-4, Gaganyaan and Indian Space Stash with the success of this mission The path of missions has not become easier, as Chandrayaan-4 mission will bring samples of Moon's soil to Earth, while Gaganyaan mission will send humans into space. It was very important for ISRO to be successful in this mission, because it is used extensively in servicing satellites, operating space stations and interplanetary missions. This success of India is very important in the discovery of many secrets and information hidden in space. Will be useful. Along with technical proficiency, through this mission India will enter the global commercial space market. Ensuring its place. By 2030, this market can be one million million dollars. Currently, India stakes only \$ 8 billion. The government aims to increase it to \$ 44 billion by 2040. Keeping this goal in mind, the government has approved the construction of the third launch pad in Sriharikota. Currently, two launch pads are present here. The new launch pad will be made keeping in mind the future needs of the space area. With this, India also fulfilled the demand of the world along with executing the mission of its need. Will be able to According to the government, India will establish its own space center in space by the

name of Indian Space Station by the year 2035. With the introduction of Indian Space Policy 2023, allowing 100 percent foreign direct investment for the space sector has given a lot of encouragement to new entrepreneurs. Is. At present the space sector is developing rapidly thanks to public and private partnerships. Currently, about three hundred startups are contributing to the space economy. Government for space startup 'venture fund' One thousand crore rupees have been earmarked. According to ISRO Chairman, India aims to increase its contribution to the global space economy from two percent to ten percent in the next ten years. India is also working towards reducing its import dependence. If we look at India's achievements in the space sector, Chandrayaan-1 (2008) was India's first lunar mission under Chandrayaan Mission, which discovered water molecules on the Moon. India's first Mars mission Mangalyaan (2014) was launched in its first attempt. He was successfully executed. This low -cost mission made India the first Asian country to reach Mars orbit. After that the Arbirer, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan) were included under Chandrayaan-2 (2019). On August 23, 2023, under Chandrayaan-3 (2023), India successfully landed the Moon's southern pole and thus became the first country to do so. In memory of this historical achievement, the country announced to celebrate August 23 every year as National Space Day. Through this, the Government of India has given India Started a one -month campaign to highlight the remarkable achievements of space missions and inspire the youth of the country. Its theme was- 'Touching life touching

the moon: India's space saga'. ISRO successfully launched the ESO-08 and SR-0 satellite through the third flight of the smallest satellite launch Veekal D3 on August 16, 2024. These satellite monitoring, disaster monitor Will provide. Furthermore, India has mastered affordable and reliable launch technologies. Created a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission. Currently, Gaganyaan Mission is an ambitious human space flight program of India in the pipeline, which is planned to be launched around 2025. ISRO has also prepared the outline of 'Space Mission' till 2040 and work on it is going on at a fast pace. It is also worth mentioning here that India's space programs have entered into many collaborations with Russia, America and the European Union. While cooperating in joint missions, on the other hand it also provided help in satellite launch and space technology to SAARC and developing countries. This is the reason why ISRO's credibility and global leadership is being considered. The credit for this goes to ISRO's technical capability and economical model. Its projects are an example of time and cost efficiency. Thus, India's space story, which started with limited resources, today inspires the world towards new heights. This is the story of India's science, technology, innovation and It also reflects the journey of self-reliance.

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

## CLUJ organizes placement drive at GGM Science College



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: The Directorate of Placement, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), in collaboration with Department of Botany and Career Counselling and Placement Cell GGM Science College organized a placement drive in association with Gramik, an agribased start-up dedicated to upgradation of traditional agricultural system on modern lines and empowerment of farmers.

The event was organized under the vision

ary guidance and patronage of the Principal of GGM Science College Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta.

About 80 students of Botany subject participated in this placement drive to explore career opportunities in agribusiness sector. A rigorous selection process was carried out by the representatives of the Gramik Company and 20 students were shortlisted for the interview.

Initially, the selected candidates will have to undergo a three months internship programme

during which they will be entitled for a monthly stipend of Rs.9000 and subsequently there will be a full time placement within the organization.

While interacting with students, representatives from Gramik, Simran Bedi, Senior Manager and Gagan-deep Assistant Manager HR briefed the students about the start-up mission and career opportunities and future prospects with Gramik Company.

Dr. B.P. Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Botany lauded the efforts of Placement

Cell, Cluster University of Jammu and Gramik Company for providing a door-step placement opportunity to the students of GGM Science College.

Highlighting the importance of Corporate sector is providing job opportunities and reducing unemployment Dr Devinder Kumar Sharma, Convener Career Counselling and Placement Cell, GGM Science College motivated the students to explore corporate sector for suitable career options and not to depend on Govt. jobs only.

Prof. D.S. Manhas, Director Placement Cell, Cluster University of Jammu also interacted with the students on this occasion and expressed his satisfaction over overwhelming response from the students and successful culmination of the placement drive.

The whole event was conducted by the faculty of Botany, GGM Science College.

## Honour, respect each other while fulfilling your duties: Satguru Mata Sudiksha



### Top News Report

JAMMU /PUNE, Jan 29: In the divine presence of Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Maharaj and the Nirankari Rajpita Ji, a grand mass wedding ceremony was held.

A total of 93 couples, hailing not only from Maharashtra but also from various states across India and even from abroad, were united in the sacred bond of marriage. The event took place at the Military Dairy Farm Ground in Pimpri, Pune, following the formal conclusion of the 58th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam in Maharashtra.

Satguru Mata Sudiksha blessed the newlywed couples, advising

them to honor and respect each other while fulfilling their duties with mutual love and devotion. She also appreciated their families for embracing the simple Nirankari wedding tradition and extended her best wishes for their future. As part of the Nirankari wedding tradition, each couple was adorned with the symbolic "Sanjha-Haar" (shared garland) by the mission's representatives, in addition to the customary "Jaimala" (garland exchange). This was followed by the recitation of the Nirankari Laavan, which imparts teachings on leading an ideal married life.

During the ceremony, Satguru Mata and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit showered divine blessings upon

the newlyweds by offering floral tributes, an act that was mirrored by the gathered families and devotees. It was truly a heavenly spectacle.

Notably, a significant number of the bride and groom participants were graduates, postgraduates, and highly educated professionals. Some families had the means to conduct lavish weddings but chose to follow the divine teachings of Satguru Mata Ji, embracing the simple Nirankari wedding tradition. By doing so, they set an exemplary precedent for society. Undoubtedly, this divine gathering of simple weddings stood as a powerful symbol of unity, breaking barriers of caste and social distinctions, beautifully reflecting the core message of the Nirankari Mission.

## Army organises 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Kalu Lohran



### Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 29: With the aim to promote a clean and healthy lifestyle in society, the Indian Army at Samote organised the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Govt Primary School Kalu Lohran, Targain.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of cleanliness in their environment and its direct

impact on health and well-being.

The campaign was designed to highlight the significance of maintaining cleanliness, not only for personal well-being but also for the overall health of the community and the environment.

It emphasized the link between cleanliness and a healthy society, urging participants to take proactive steps in their daily routines to ensure better waste

management, improved sanitation, and better personal hygiene.

The aim of the campaign was to spread awareness about the need for cleanliness in their surroundings and for a healthy society.

The students were made to understand various health problems related to waste disposal, unhygienic living conditions, sewage problems, and personal hygiene. The students enthusiastically participated in the event.

The event culminated with all participants taking a pledge to keep their names, surrounding areas, and countryside clean. Around 110 people, including 2 teachers and 24 students, attended the event.

## JKTF terms recently introduced Unified Pension Scheme a joke with employees

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), led by State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, has strongly criticized the recently introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) under the National Pension System (NPS), describing it as a deceptive and inadequate scheme for employees. The forum's president argued that the scheme, notified on January 24, 2025, was not the pension scheme that had been promised, but rather an "Assured Pay Out" or "Family Pay Out" system, which lacks the security of the old pension system.

One of the main concerns is that the UPS is a funding-based pension system that relies on regular contributions from both the employee (10% of Pay+DA) and the employer (10%). The government will contribute an additional 8.5% of Basic Pay+DA, which can be invested according to the government's option. These contributions, along with the returns from investments, are pooled together into a Pool Corpus. However, to avail the full benefit of the scheme, employees must authorize the transfer of their entire Individual Corpus to the Pool Corpus.

If an employee has made partial withdrawals during their service, they would need to make additional contributions to avail the full benefits. The initial promise of allowing employees

to withdraw up to 60% of their funds has been omitted from the January 2025 notification, making it seem like a broken promise.

Additionally, the scheme has strict eligibility criteria. Employees are only eligible if they have been superannuated or compulsorily retired at the time of their scheduled superannuation. If an employee wishes to voluntarily retire, they can only opt for the scheme after 25 years of qualifying service. Those with fewer than 10 years of service are excluded from the scheme. The scheme also offers an assured pay out, which is calculated as 50% of the last 12 months' average Basic Pay, but only if the employee has completed 25 years of qualifying service.

The family payout is capped at 60% of the assured pay out, but it does not include the minimum payout guarantee of Rs 10,000, which is applicable to the employee's pay out.

In light of these issues, the forum rejected both the NPS and UPS, urging the Jammu and Kashmir government to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as promised in their election manifesto.

Ashraf Sheikh emphasized that restoring the OPS is essential for the financial stability and dignity of employees after their years of service.

He stressed that anything less than the OPS would undermine the very essence of social security and employee welfare.

## GDC R S Pura organizes slogan writing competition to promote road safety awareness



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Road Safety Club of Government Degree College R. S. Pura today organized a slogan writing competition to promote "Road Safety campaign" under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the college.

This competition is an opportunity to unleash students' creativity and craft impactful slogans that promote road safety awareness. More than thirty students participated in the competition.

The students write slogans pertaining to Do's and Don'ts with respect to Road Safety Rules.

In the said competition Shikha Devi, Gurpreet Kour and Kashish Sharma clinched first, second and third price respectively.

The competition was judged by Prof. Sankait Gupta and Dr. Hari Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college impressed upon the teachers and students to wear helmets seat belts not driving under the influence of

alcohol and drive within the permissible speed limits.

She further emphasized that to avoid chance of collision, a safe distance is to be maintained while driving. The event was organized by Prof. Sanjeev Upadhyay, Convener of Road Safety Club of the college.

The organizing committee members viz. Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Prof. Rajinder Singh, Dr. Rakesh Kalotra and Dr. Roopali Slathia were present on the occasion.

## Newspaper Day celebrated at GMS Dabuj Shahzada

### Top News Report

RAMGARH, Jan 29: On the occasion of Newspaper Day, celebrated at Government Middle School, Dabuj Shahzada, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and former Minister for Health and Medical Education J&K delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the crucial role of the press as the fourth pillar of democracy.

He highlighted how the freedom of the press contributes significantly to national development by fostering a transparent and informed public.

Dr. Manyal also spoke about the importance of Republic Day celebrations, stressing that patriotic songs and cultural activities play an essential role in instilling a deep sense of pride, unity, and national identity among citizens.

"The press is the Fourth Pillar of democracy, and it is essential for maintaining transparency and accountability in governance," Dr. Manyal remarked during his address. He further emphasized how events like Newspaper Day serve as a reminder of the media's critical role in shaping



ing public discourse.

The event was attended by ZEPO Anil Verma and Narinder Gupta, Incharge of Government Middle School Dabuj Shahzada, both of whom supported and appreciated the significance of the day.

Their presence at the event was a meaningful reflection on the nation's democratic values and the importance of the press in shaping public opinion.

In a separate event, Dr. Manyal inaugurated the Urban Aura clothing showroom in Mawa, Rajpura. He extended his congratulations to local entrepreneurs Bunty Singh Katal and Ritik Kumar for their efforts in launching the business. Dr. Manyal praised their entrepreneurial spirit, high

lighting how initiatives like these are vital for fostering economic growth and providing job opportunities in the region.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by several prominent dignitaries, including Asha Rani, District President of BJP Samba, and DDC Rajpura. Both leaders commended the positive impact of such entrepreneurial ventures on the region's growth and development.

Also present were Mandal President Rajpura Asha Rani, Mandal Pardhan Bainglar Monu Jamwal, and Sarpanch Mawa Anita Choudhary, who expressed their support for both the Newspaper Day celebrations and the inauguration of the new showroom.

## Rajan demands strict action against beggars in Jammu

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Rajan Gupta, the president of Sarv Shakti Sena, Jammu & Kashmir, has voiced his concerns over the rising presence of beggars in Jammu city. He stated that these individuals have occupied key areas across the city, causing significant annoyance and inconvenience to the residents.

Rajan further alleged that most of these beggars are not locals but migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh. He claimed that their increasing numbers are contributing to a rise in the crime rate in the city. "The citizens of Jammu are witnessing crimes they have never seen before, and this alarming trend needs immediate attention," he said.

The Sarv Shakti Sena president appealed to the government to take strict and effective action to address this issue. He urged the administration to identify these individuals and implement measures to restore order and ensure the safety of the city's residents.

"This is not just a matter of public inconvenience but also a serious threat to law and order in the city. The government must act decisively to safeguard the interests and security of the people of Jammu," Gupta said in his statement.

The Sarv Shakti Sena has called for urgent intervention to curb the problem and restore peace in Jammu.

## Registrar XI clinches victory at Anant Khel 2025 Sports Meet at CUJ



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: In an exhilarating cricket match held under the Anant Khel-2025 sports meet at Central University of Jammu, Registrar XI secured a commanding victory against Faculty Youngstar XI with a stellar performance. The match witnessed an enthusiastic response, with a huge gathering of students, faculty members, and staff cheering for both teams.

The 15-over match saw Youngstar XI winning the toss and electing to bat first. Under

the leadership of Captain Bhawani Singh, the team posted a competitive total of 118 runs for the loss of 7 wickets.

Chasing the target, Registrar XI, led by captain Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ and vice-captain Dr. Rajan Badyal, showcased outstanding batting skills. Openers Dinesh and Ranjan set the foundation for a successful chase, with Dinesh delivering a match-winning performance by scoring an unbeaten 50 runs, earning him the prestigious Man of the Match title.

Registrar XI achieved the target in just 11

overs, scoring 119 runs for the loss of 3 wickets, securing a well-deserved victory.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, congratulated the winning team for their outstanding performance and appreciated the spirit of sportsmanship of both teams in fostering a culture of sports and teamwork at the university.

Both teams displayed exceptional sportsmanship and competitive spirit, making the match an exciting spectacle. The players showcased remarkable performances, keeping the audience engaged throughout the game.

## Babbu Maan's poetry book Mera Gham gives a peek into the real Ma(a)n

For the devoted, dedicated fan base that eagerly awaits Babbu Maan's next song and the film with bated breath, the artiste had a surprise. The Saara Di Jhadi hitmaker offered not a song or another film, but a page from his personal troves titled Mera Gham—a collection of poems that the singer, actor, composer and screenwriter wrote during his college years. This heavy tome, a debut poetry book, by Babbu Maan, has poems, ghazals and nazms in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English.

Kaun sa gham...everyone gathered at the book launch was intrigued? Was it love, which didn't meet its manzil during college years or something else? "When we folks from the village move to the city, we come with aspirations and, yes, love is one of them. The subject of my poems carries youthful angst; political and societal issues; Partition pain to love and loss," shared Maan. Daur aata hai aur daur jata hai/ Diwana har daur main maffil sajata hai/ Bikte honge fankar tukdon pe/ Pagal shayar apni dhun main gaata hai..." read his poem Pagal Shayar.

Babbu, a one-man army, writes, composes and sings his songs, "I write on subjects that I feel about. Growing up in a village, casteism irked me, as did majdoors not getting due wages in time. Life back home is very



different than the cities. Part of that time comes in the book and has stayed with me in the kind of songs I sing or the films I write."

Real change is slow

Social media has permeated everyday life and Maan called it a good platform, "The idea is how you use it. If you are using it to put forward a good idea or initiative, why not? But if you use it to create another controversy, one is better off it."

Equality and opportunity for all is what the film Ekam's writer and producer strongly believes in. Known to raise his voice on issues that irk him, Maan shared, "I best express as a songwriter-singer. Real change is slow and all of us have to be a part of it. Change becomes real only when it becomes a law."

Maan makes a case for professionals from different walks of life to get their due too. "Wherever I see, there are interviews of artistes only. Why not those of doctors, lawyers and other professionals?" He speaks about how unregulated use of social media can be unsettling. "In comparison, reading a book makes you sahaj," he said.

Back in time

Going back to the book, Maan recalled sakhi in gurdwaras as his first read. "We all have read and learnt from our history, and those stories have shaped who we are today."

Ask him about his next song and he candidly said, "What do you want to listen?" His next single drops in early February. And, there are going to be more

books. There is going to be a qissa on Heer and poems in Shahmukhi too.

He also talked about love across the border. "My naankas were based in what now is Pakistan. My mother was born there. Political gimmicks divided our country into two."

Through an hour-long meet, Maan won hearts with his straight-forward approach. Sharing anecdotes from his life, being vocal about the challenges he faced to moving towards a better future, he appealed, "If there is any cause that can make a real change, call for me, I will there."

From pind to the shahar

Inspired by his iconic music album by the same name, Mera Gham reflects themes of love, life's lessons, societal realities and the teachings of Sikh gurus. These heartfelt pieces capture Babbu Maan's journey from a pind (village) to the shahar (city), while exploring hardships and joys. Encouraged by friends from his college days, Babbu described the book as a, "Journey through memories, a reflection of tougher times and the better Punjab we see today." Books ground us and connect us to our roots; Maan added, "In an era of social media, readers must approach truth with caution."

(Mera Gham would be available online from February 5).

## Richa Chadha on taking break: I am trying to breathe for now



Bollywood actress Richa Chadha recently shared a heartfelt post on her social media, opening up about her brief hiatus and the whirlwind of changes in her life.

In an Instagram post, the actress revealed that she took a small, "undeclared break" from social media, explaining that it was necessary for her to focus on her new role as a mother. She described the period as "bananas," acknowledging the challenges of balancing motherhood

with rediscovering herself.

Richa wrote, "I took a small undeclared break of sorts from SM. Sigh! Had to. Needed to. Now back. Somewhat. Between becoming a new mom and trying to remember who I was, it's been bananas. I feel like giving birth is also birthing a new me."

Expressing gratitude to her followers for their patience during her time away, she added, "But first, thank you to those who stayed through my hiatus. I know I don't

owe you updates, but I like to chat with you all sometime... kinda like a big WhatsApp group. I am trying to breathe for now. Lots of love."

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal first crossed paths on the sets of "Fukrey," and their bond has only grown stronger since then. The couple made headlines in September 2022 when they announced their plans for an eco-friendly wedding. They tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony in Lucknow.

The duo welcomed their first child, a baby girl last year. In a joint statement, they shared, "We are tickled pink with joy to announce the arrival of a healthy baby girl on 16.07.24! Our families are overjoyed and we thank our well wishers for their love and blessings."

On the work front, Richa Chadha's most recent appearance was in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Netflix series "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar."

Ali Fazal, on the other hand, was last seen in "Mirzapur 3" on Prime Video. He has several exciting projects lined up, including "Metro In Dino," "Lahore 1947," and "Thug Life."

## Sikhlens: Sikh Arts and Film Festival 2025 returns to Chandigarh

Sikhlens returns to Chandigarh for its sixth consecutive year. The festival will be held on February 22 at the Tagore Theatre. Originating in 2001, Sikhlens now hosts festivals across 16 cities worldwide, including the United States, Canada and India, revealed Ojaswee Sharma, award-winning director and India head, Sikhlens Festival.

"Sikhlens is not just a platform for storytelling; it is a movement that bridges cultures and creates meaningful conversations through the universal language of art and cinema. Each year, we aim to push



boundaries and present films that inspire, educate, and unite audiences," he added.

The founder of Sikhlens, Bicky Singh is very happy with the response, "We are

doing our sixth film festival in Chandigarh. This year, there are two world premieres — Saka Sirhind, The Martyrdom of Younger Sahibzaadey and Raah E Nanak," he says.

## B Praak teams up with Shreya Ghoshal for Aaiye Ram Ji

Popular musical duo Jaani and B Praak have teamed up with Shreya Ghoshal for the devotional song Aaiye Ram Ji. Jaani and Praak have launched Kripa Records, a devotional music label with their debut song, Aaiye Ram Ji, sung by Shreya Ghoshal. The latest track, a soulful and heartfelt prayer to Lord Ram, features Shriya Saran.

Composed by B Praak, the lyrics have been penned by Jaani. The track invokes Lord Ram, asking him to bring peace and justice to a world facing struggles while embodying his virtues of compassion,



bravery and righteousness.

Shreya shared, "It's always a blessing to

lend my voice to a devotional song, and Shriya has brought it to life beautifully with her

heartfelt performance in Aaiye Ram Ji. Singing this track was a deeply emotional and sacred

experience for me. B Praak and Jaani are exceptionally talented artists, and it's always a pleasure to collaborate with them. I wish them the very best for this wonderful new initiative with Kripa Records."

Shriya Saran added, "Shooting for this song in such a serene and divine setting was truly a special experience. As I immersed myself in the story, I felt a deep connection with Lord Ram, making the entire journey incredibly spiritual. Enacting Shreya's mesmerising voice made it even more magical. B Praak and Jaani are brilliant artists."

## Soha Ali Khan seeks blessings at Buddhist temple with family

Soha Ali Khan recently shared heartwarming photos from her visit to the iconic Kiyomizu-dera temple in Japan, alongside her husband, actor Kunal Kemmu, and their daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu.

The family trip took place at the famous Buddhist temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site located in Kyoto. Soha took to her Instagram handle and posted a couple of photos wherein she Kunal, and Inaaya are seen exploring the temple's serene surroundings, taking in the stunning architecture and picturesque views.

The family looked happy and relaxed, making the most of their time together in one of Japan's most treasured landmarks. The couple also posed together for the happy clicks. Sharing the images, Soha wrote in the caption, "Gratitude and blessings."

A few days ago, Soha and Kunal celebrated a decade of marriage as

they shared throwback pictures and videos from their 10-year-long journey together. The 'Rang De Basanti' actress dropped a heartfelt post, featuring a beautiful video from their wedding day, vacation snapshots, and special moments from their life together. For the caption, Soha wrote, "Ten years later... I still do, and I always will."

Meanwhile, Kunal shared a collection of vacation photos and posted a heartfelt message dedicated to his "jaan," Soha.

He wrote, "In sunshine, in rain. In happiness, in pain, You make the cold seem warmer, and you make the odd seem sane. It would be incomplete, this journey called life, if I didn't have you as my partner, my wife @sakpataudi. Happy 10th Anniversary, my jaan. This song was always meant for you. Even when I didn't know you."

Soha, daughter of former cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi



and actress Sharmila Tagore, tied the knot with Kunal on January 25, 2015.

The couple welcomed their first child, daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, on September 29, 2017.

## Selena Gomez deletes video of herself crying over deportation of illegal immigrants

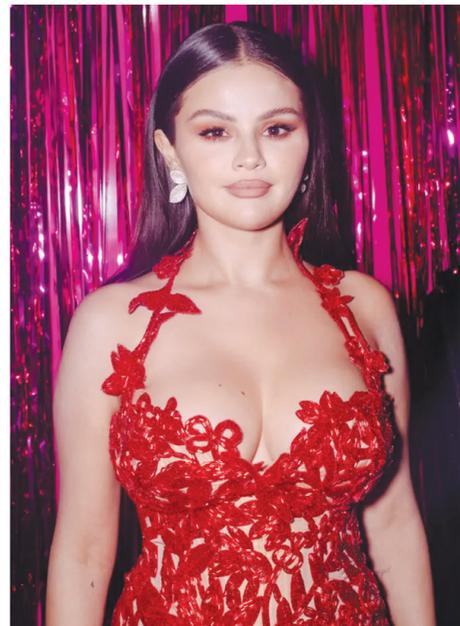
Actress-singer Selena Gomez has deleted a video of her emotional outburst in which she was seen crying over deportations of illegal immigrants by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The video resulted in her getting conservative backlash online, reports 'Variety'.

"I just wanted to say that I'm so sorry", a crying Gomez said in a video on her Instagram Story. "All my people are getting attacked, the children. I don't understand. I'm so sorry. I wish I could do something but I can't. I don't know what to do. I'll try everything, I promise".

As per 'Variety', several conservative commentators criticized her for posting and crying over illegal immigrants being deported from America. Selena deleted the video and posted a since-deleted response on her Instagram Story, "Apparently it's not ok to show empathy for people".

Right-wing political host Tomi Lahren posted



a video on X slamming the actress-singer and called her a "certified moron".

"This is why we don't take our political advice from Disney child stars", she wrote.

Since President Trump's inauguration last week, his admin-

istration has prioritised reinforcing efforts to deport illegal immigrants from the country. On Sunday, ICE reported 956 arrests and 554 detainees were lodged in a single day.

Selena has expressed her disagreements with the Trump campaign

before. Speaking with 'Variety' in October during the Los Angeles premiere of her Oscar-nominated musical 'Emilia Perez', Gomez said that she "definitely wants to stand by my people." The actor's comments came when asked to respond to comedian Tony Hinchcliffe's racist remarks against Puerto Rico at a Trump rally in New York.

Earlier, the 'Only Murders in the Building' actress, 32, marked New Year's Eve by sharing a series of videos and photos of herself and the music producer boyfriend Benny Blanco, on Instagram just weeks following their engagement.

Selena Gomez kicked off her slideshow with a shot of a paper plate with beans on which someone scratched "I love you" in ink, reports 'People' magazine.

She also included a cozy selfie with Blanco, as well as a shot from a glam couple's night out in which he kissed her hand.

## “Condolences to those who lost loved ones”: PM on Maha Kumbh stampede

**PM Modi wished for speedy recovery of around 30 women who were injured after a teeming crowds broke barricades, leading to the stampede.**

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended condolences even as casualties were feared after a stampede at the Maha Kumbh fair grounds earlier today.

PM Modi wished for speedy recovery of around 30 women who were injured after a teeming crowds broke barricades, leading to the stampede. He assured that the local administration is helping those affected.

Since the stampede broke out, PM Modi has spoken to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath four times, assuring him of full support from the Centre.

The stampede broke out just a kilometre away from the Triveni



Sangam ghat on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya, when around 10 crore pilgrims are expected to take a holy dip.

Akharas cancelled their processions and deferred the holy dip after the stampede.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told reporters that some



people were “seriously injured” in the incident, adding that the situation is under control.

He said that the crowd pressure remains, and urged people to take a dip at the nearest ghat and not make way for the Sangam Nose.

“The elderly, children and asthma patients need to be extremely

cautious and bathe at ghats nearest to them. All are Ganga ghats and all would get the same ‘punya’ (divine blessings) as it is Mauni Amavasya,” he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel also called him to take stock

of the situation, the CM added.

The Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya is the most significant ritual of the Maha Kumbh. This year, the occasion holds added spiritual importance due to a rare celestial alignment known as ‘Triveni Yog,’ which occurs once every 144 years.

The Maha Kumbh 2025 has already witnessed over 15 crore pilgrims taking a holy dip in the past 17 days. Over 4.80 crore devotees took the snan on Tuesday alone - even more than that of Amrit Snan’ on Makar Sankranti (3.5 crore), the Uttar Pradesh government said.

The Maha Kumbh started on January 13 and will continue till February 26.

## Maha Kumbh stampede: Congress slams Centre, Yogi gov't for ‘half-baked’ arrangements

**Congress chief Kharge urged the central and state government to wake up at now and improve the system so that such unpleasant incidents do not happen in future.**



NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday hit out at the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government over the “stampede-like” situation at the Sangam, demanding that the Maha Kumbh management be handed over to a better administrator than Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the movement of VVIPs there be stopped.

Multiple casualties were feared after a “stampede-like” situation broke out at the Sangam on Wednesday amid the ongoing Maha Kumbh, as millions of pilgrims turned up for a holy bath on Mauni Amavasya, officials said.

In view of the incident, the akharas called off their traditional ‘Amrit Snan’ for Mauni Amavasya, even as devotees in large numbers continued to take a dip at Sangam and other ghats in the Mela area.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that the news of “many people losing their lives” and many people getting injured due to the stampede on the banks of the Tirthraj Sangam during the Maha Kumbh is extremely heartbreaking.

“Our deepest condolences to the families of the devotees and we wish for the speedy recovery of the injured,” he said.

“Half-baked arrangements, VIP movement, paying more attention to self-promotion and mismanagement are responsible for this. Such arrangements despite spending thousands of crores of rupees are condemnable,” the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X.

“Many important ‘shahi snans’ are still left, so the central and state governments should wake up now, and improve the system so that such unpleasant incidents do not happen in future,” Kharge said.

“The arrangements for accommodation, food, first aid and movement

of devotees etc. should be expanded and VIP movement should be reined in. This is what our saints and sages also want,” he said.

Kharge urged Congress workers to help the victims in every possible way.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the news of “many people’s death and many getting injured due to stampede in Prayagraj Maha Kumbh is extremely saddening”.

“I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured.”

“Mismanagement and administration’s special focus on VIP movement instead of common devotees are responsible for this tragic incident,” Gandhi said in his post on X.

Noting that there is still a lot of time left for Maha Kumbh with many more Mahansans to be held, Gandhi said the government should improve the system to prevent a tragic incident like today.

“VIP culture should be reined in and the government should make better arrangements to fulfill the needs of common devotees,” Gandhi asserted. He urged Congress workers and leaders to help the affected families.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also expressed sadness over the incident.

“May God grant peace to the departed souls. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I wish for the speedy recovery of the injured,” she said in a post on X.

The devotees visiting the Kumbh area were constantly complaining of the severe chaos but no attention was paid and administrative negligence was observed, she said in a post on her WhatsApp channel.

Priyanka Gandhi appealed to the government to airlift the injured and arrange for their immediate treatment.

“The deceased should be identified and sent to their families and immediate arrangements

should be made keeping the convenience of the devotees paramount. The devotees are requested to perform the bath with patience and peace,” she said.

“May Maa Ganga protect everyone,” she added.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress’ media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said, “The death of many devotees in the stampede during Kumbh bath in Prayagraj is very saddening.”

The kind of crowd that was there and the half-baked arrangements that were put in place, there was always a danger of such an accident happening,” Khara said.

Many ‘maha snans’ are still left, so it is necessary that additional security forces be sent there and the responsibility of management be given to some other better administrator than Yogi Adityanath, Khara said and demanded that the movement of VVIPs be stopped.

Officer on Special Duty for the Mela Akanksha Rana said, “Some people have got injured and have been hospitalised after a barrier broke at the Sangam. We are yet to have the exact count of those injured”.

The Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya is the most significant ritual of the Maha Kumbh and is expected to draw around 10 crore pilgrims.

This year, a rare celestial alignment called ‘Triveni Yog’ is occurring after 144 years, amplifying the spiritual significance of the day.

Around 2 am, the blaring sirens of ambulances and police vehicles rushing to the Sangam pierced through the continuous chants of mantras and shlokas echoing from loudspeakers across the Kumbh Mela area.

Those injured were taken to the central hospital established in the Mela area. Relatives of many injured also reached there, as did some senior administrative and police officials.

The Triveni Sangam -- confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati -- is considered the holiest by Hindus, with a belief that taking a dip in it during Maha Kumbh and particularly on special bathing dates like Mauni Amavasya washes away people’s sins and provides them ‘moksha’ or salvation.

## ‘I drink same water, can Haryana BJP poison me?’ PM Modi on AAP’s ‘poisonous Yamuna claims’

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), dismissing its claims that the Haryana government had “poisoned” the Yamuna river.

He stated that he himself drinks the same Yamuna water.

Addressing a public meeting in Delhi’s Kartar Nagar, PM Modi came down heavily on the AAP for misleading the people of Delhi.

Referring to AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal’s allegations that Haryana was “poisoning” the Yamuna, PM Modi called it a “grave sin” for political gain.

“A former Delhi Chief Minister has made serious allegations against the people of Haryana. Out of fear of defeat, AAP has lost its mental stability. Are Haryana’s people any different from Delhi? Don’t their families and relatives live here? Can they poison the water

that their own families drink?” the Prime Minister questioned.

Taking a direct jibe at the claim, PM Modi said, “This Prime Minister also drinks the same water. Foreign diplomats, ambassadors, and even Delhi’s poor drink the same water. Does AAP think the BJP government in Haryana would poison the water to kill Modi? What kind of absurd claim is this? Was there a conspiracy to poison the judges of this country as well? Delhiites, those who deliberately commit such sins are neither forgiven by Delhi nor by the nation.”

Calling the allegations an insult to the nation, PM Modi said, “This is not just an insult to Haryana; this is an insult to India, to our values, and to our character. In this country, offering water is considered a sacred duty. But these people, fearing electoral defeat, are resorting to such baseless allegations.”

Predicting a political

backlash, he said, “This time, Delhi will teach a lesson to those spreading such lies. Their boat will sink in this very Yamuna.”

The Prime Minister also highlighted the achievements of the BJP governments in different states. “There are many people in the country who were still deprived of basic facilities like toilets, roads, gas connections, bank accounts, and electricity. Many people from Uttarakhand live here in Delhi. Uttarakhand, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, has a difficult mountainous terrain. When we formed a government there, we ensured that every village got roads. Now, the youth are returning to their villages,” he said.

Highlighting his government’s achievements, PM Modi said, “Before I came to power in 2014, only 3 crore rural households had tap connections. In the last five years alone, 12 crore new families have



received tap water. This scheme existed during Congress rule, but we expanded it from 3 crore to 12 crore in just five years. We don’t stop schemes; we strengthen them.”

Taking aim at the AAP’s handling of Delhi’s water crisis, he remarked, “If even the remotest villages in India can get clean tap water, why is Delhi’s tap water undrinkable? Forget drinking water, even the water supplied for daily use is dirty. If the BJP can provide tap water to remote villages, we can ensure clean tap water for every house-

hold in Delhi too.”

Lashing out at AAP’s unfulfilled promises, PM Modi said, “AAPda has left Delhi at the mercy of the water mafia. They have sought votes in three elections in the name of cleaning the Yamuna, and even today, they continue to make the same false promises. Their shamelessness is shocking. They deliberately want Delhi’s residents to struggle for water. Our Purvanchal friends are forced to worship Chhathi Maiya amid filth every year due to their failures.”

## Multiple vehicle pile-up on UP highway due to thick fog, over 6 injured

GHAZIABAD, Jan 29 (Agencies): Over six people were injured after a dozen vehicles collided with each other on the Delhi-Meerut expressway in Ghaziabad due to dense fog on Wednesday morning.

The collision led to a massive traffic jam on the Delhi-Meerut



expressway.

A video from the scene shows crashed vehicles piled up on the expressway due to thick fog, causing a traffic jam.

Police reached the spot soon after and cleared the jam. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

## Two Maoists including woman killed in gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand

RANCHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Two Maoists were killed in an encounter between security forces and the CPI (Maoists) in the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. Two INSAS rifles have been recovered from the spot.

“A joint team of Jharkhand Police and 209 Cobra Battalion had an encounter with Maoists during which two, including one woman, were killed. A security personnel sustained a minor injury in his hand,” said Chaibasa SP Ashutosh Shekhar.

“Bodies of the two rebels killed in the gun battle have been recovered from the spot,” he added.

One of the Maoists killed in the encounter has been identified as zonal commander Sanjay Ganju. The other one is said to be the female friend of the dreaded Maoist Anal Da, who has a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head.

The search operation in the area is still on.

According to SP, a joint team of Jharkhand Police and 209 Cobra Battalion had gone for a search operation in the highly Maoist-affected area of Sonuwa.

As soon as the police team moved inside the forests at around 7:00 am, the Maoists ambushed and started firing.



The security forces fired in retaliation killing one rebel on the spot. One of the soldiers is among the 2 injured in the incident.

Jharkhand Police has put in all its efforts to meet the deadline set for eradicate Maoists from Jharkhand. Four Maoists have already been killed in police encounters this month.

## 12-year-old girl abandoned at railway station in Navi Mumbai; probe indicates rape

THANE, Jan 29 (Agencies): A 12-year-old girl was found abandoned at a railway station in Maharashtra’s Navi Mumbai township and a probe later indicated that she was raped, police said on Wednesday.

The Vashi Government Railway Police (GRP) have registered a case in this connection and search is on for the culprits and her family, they said.

The girl was found



alone on a platform at Ghansoli railway station in Navi Mumbai on Monday.

The police personnel on patrolling duty enquired with her, but she could not tell her

name or give any other information about herself or her family, senior police inspector Rajesh Shinde told agency.

The girl was then taken for a medical test which indicated she had been

raped, he said, adding the minor could not provide any information about the offence.

A case has been registered against unidentified persons under sections 65(1) (rape), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 3(5) (criminal act done by several persons in furtherance of common intention of all).

Efforts were on to identify the victim, her family and to nab the culprits, the official said.

## North Korean leader Kim inspects nuclear facility as Pyongyang pressures Trump administration

SEOUL, Jan 29 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected a facility that produces nuclear material and called for bolstering the country's nuclear fighting capability, state media reported Wednesday, as the North looks to increase pressure on the United States following the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

Kim's visit suggests a continued emphasis on an expansion of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, though Trump has said he's willing to talk to Kim again to revive diplomacy. Many analysts view North Korean weapons moves as part of a strategy to win sanctions relief and political concessions from the United States.

The official Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim visited the nuclear-material production base and the Nuclear Weapons Institute. It didn't say where those facilities are located, but North Korean photos of Kim's visit indicated that he likely visited a uranium-enrichment facility that he went to last September. That visit was North Korea's first disclosure of a uranium-enrichment facility since it showed one to visiting American scholars in 2010.

During the latest visit, Kim said North Korea reported "amazing" results in its pro-



duction of nuclear material last year and underlined the need to exceed this year's production goal to strengthen "the nuclear shield of the country," according to KCNA.

Kim said that further boosting the country's nuclear counteraction posture is "our invariable noble task" to cope with intensifying challenges posed by "hostile forces," an apparent reference to the US and South Korea.

The start of Trump's second term raises prospects for the resumption of diplomacy between the United States and North Korea, as Trump met Kim three times during his first term.

The Trump-Kim diplomacy in 2018-19 fell apart due to wrangling over US-led economic sanctions on North Korea, and Kim has since significantly dialled up weapons testing activities.

During a Fox News interview

broadcast Thursday, Trump called Kim "a smart guy" and "not a religious zealot." Asked whether he will reach out to Kim again, Trump replied, "I will, yeah."

North Korea hasn't yet directly responded to Trump's overture as it continues its belligerent rhetoric against the US along with weapons testing activities. Many experts say Kim could eventually sit down for talks with Trump and would likely think he now has greater leverage than before because of his enlarged nuclear arsenal and deepening military ties with Russia.

On Sunday, North Korea said it tested a cruise missile system, its third known weapons display this year, and vowed "the toughest" response to what it called the escalation of US-South Korean military drills.

North Korea views US military training with South Korea

as invasion rehearsals, though Washington and Seoul have repeatedly said their drills are defensive in nature. In recent years, the United States and South Korea have expanded their military exercises in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear programme.

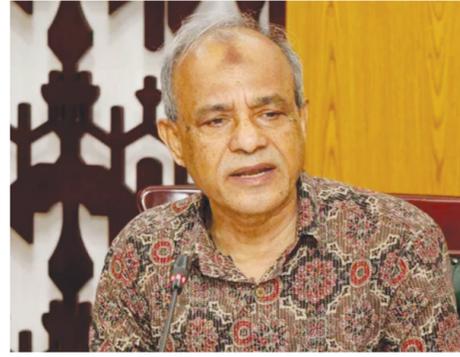
During the September visit to the uranium-enrichment facility, Kim stressed the need to further augment the number of centrifuges to "exponentially" build more nuclear weapons.

North Korea first unveiled a uranium enrichment site at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex to a visiting delegation of American scholars in 2010. Many experts say the uranium enrichment facility disclosed in September was likely a different place from the one shown to the US scholars.

Nuclear weapons can be built using either highly enriched uranium or plutonium, and North Korea has a facility at Yongbyon to produce weapons-grade plutonium as well. Estimates of how many nuclear bombs North Korea can add every year vary, ranging from six to as many as 18.

In 2018, a top South Korean official told parliament that North Korea was estimated to have already manufactured 20 to 60 nuclear weapons, but some experts say the North likely has more than 100.

## 'Unfair deals' with India will be discussed, says Bangladesh's home affairs adviser



DHAKA, Jan 29 (Agencies): Bangladesh interim government's Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury on Wednesday said all "unequal agreements" made with India during the tenure of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League will be discussed.

Addressing a press conference on the upcoming border conference between the chiefs of India's Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh, he accused Indian nationals in border areas of manufacturing drugs and smuggling them across

the border, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"They manufacture Phensedyl and smuggle it into Bangladesh. Although they claim to produce it as medicine, it is actually made as a narcotic," Chowdhury was quoted as saying.

He said any activity within 150 yards of the border requires mutual approval from both sides and added that there is no provision for unilateral action.

The adviser added that if a mosque or temple is to be built for development purposes, the consent of both countries is necessary. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that such consent is

obtained in the future, he said.

Chowdhury said discussions will be held during the conference regarding stopping alleged border killings and shooting at unarmed Bangladeshi citizens at the border.

The adviser further said that the conference will also address the alleged issue of the BSF or Indian nationals abducting or detaining Bangladeshi citizens.

"Measures to curb border violations, illegal crossings, and infiltrations by the BSF or Indian nationals will be emphasised. Additionally, preventing the smuggling of illegal drugs like yaba and Phensedyl, weapons, ammunition, and explosives from India into Bangladesh will be a priority," he said.

The adviser also said that issues such as equitable distribution of water in rivers along the Bangladesh-India border, water extraction from rivers, implementation of water agreements, and reopening the mouth of the Rahimpur canal will be discussed.

## Australian police foil anti-semitic attack involving explosives

SYDNEY, Jan 29 (Agencies): Australian police said on Wednesday they had foiled a planned anti-semitic attack after discovering a caravan containing explosives, in an escalation of threats against the Jewish community that authorities called terrorism.

The caravan was discovered on January 19 in Dural, a suburb some 36 km (22 miles) northwest of the centre of Sydney, New South Wales Deputy Police Commissioner David Hudson said.

"That caravan contained an amount of explosives and some indication that those explosives might be used in some form of anti-semitic attack," he said.

The threat had been fully contained and there was no further threat to the Jewish community, the official added.

Hudson said arrests had been made but did not disclose how many or what the charges were.

New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said over 100 officers were investigating the incident under a joint counter-terrorism operation involving state and federal police.

"This is the discovery of a potential



mass casualty event. There is only one way of calling it out, and that is terrorism," he said.

Australia has suffered a spate of anti-semitic incidents in recent months, with attacks on synagogues, buildings and cars since the beginning of the Israel-Gaza war in late 2023.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, whose centre-left Labor Party faces re-election in polls that must be held by May, has been criticised by the opposition over the rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the country.

The government says it has taken extra steps to protect the Jewish community, including more funding and a federal taskforce to investigate anti-semitic incidents.

## M23 rebels expand their control in east Congo as Rwanda's Kagame joins calls for ceasefire

KINSHASA, Jan 29 (Agencies): Rwanda-backed rebels captured large parts of eastern Congo's largest city including its airport, the United Nations said, as Rwanda's president on Wednesday joined calls for a ceasefire in the decades-long conflict.

Much of the beleaguered city of Goma was calm early Wednesday morning, after a day during which thousands of fleeing people hunkered down by roadsides as missiles flew and injured people streamed to overwhelmed hospitals.

While government forces still control pockets of Goma, residents who spoke to The Associated Press by phone on Tuesday said that the M23 rebel group was in



control of much of the city.

The M23 rebels, who claimed to have captured the city on Monday after a week-long advance, are one of about 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo. The conflict escalated with the rebels' advance into Goma, which left dead bodies on the streets

and drove hundreds of thousands of already displaced people to flee once again.

After clashing with government forces, the rebels took control of the airport, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at a briefing on Tuesday, warning of "risks of a breakdown of law and order in the city given the proliferation of weapons."

Rwandan President Paul Kagame said on X that he spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on "the need to ensure a ceasefire and address the root causes of the conflict once and for all."

His government denies supporting M23, despite reports from UN experts who estimate there are up to 4,000 Rwandan forces in Congo. Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting Hutu rebels and former militiamen whom it blames for the 1994 genocide.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe has told The Associated Press that Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi "will have to accept talks with M23" to bring an end to the conflict.

M23, made up primarily of ethnic Tutsis, has told the AP that it plans to set up an administration in the city so people can continue living normal lives and displaced people can return home.

Analysts have warned that securing a rebel withdrawal could be more difficult than in 2012, when M23 first captured Goma but withdrew after days. Murithi Mutiga, programme director for Africa at the Crisis Group, said that the group has become more emboldened by Rwanda, which feels Congo is ignoring its interests in the region and which has accused Congo of failing to meet demands of previous peace agreements.

## 14 members of Australian religious group convicted over diabetic girl's death

BRISBANE, Jan 29 (Agencies): Two bereaved parents and 12 fellow members of an Australian religious congregation accused of killing an 8-year-old girl by withholding her diabetes medication were found guilty on Wednesday of manslaughter.

Elizabeth Rose Struhs died on January 7, 2022 at her family's home in Toowoomba in Queensland state after six days without her prescribed insulin shots for type-1 diabetes.

Her father, Jason Richard Struhs, 53, and the leader of the family's religious group called "The Saints", Brendan Luke Stevens, 63, had been charged with the more serious crime of murder, but Queensland Supreme Court Justice Martin Burns found both guilty of her manslaughter.

Burns also found another 12 members

of the congregation, including the victim's mother, Kerrie Elizabeth Struhs, 49, and the victim's brother Zachary Alan Struhs, 22, guilty of manslaughter. No one charged escaped conviction.

All 14 were remanded in custody to appear in court for sentencing on February 11. Each faces a potential maximum sentence of life in prison.

The victim's adult sister, Jayde Struhs, told reporters outside court that she welcomed the verdicts.

"Although we had a good outcome today, I have to acknowledge the system failed to protect Elizabeth in the first place," Jayde Struhs said.

"We are only here today because more wasn't done sooner to protect her or remove her from a credibly unsafe situation in her



own home," she added. In finding the father and religious leader not guilty of murder, Burns said the prosecution had failed to prove they had shown reckless indifference to life.

"There remained a reasonable possibility that, in the cloistered atmosphere of the church which enveloped Struhs ... that he (the father) never came to the full realisation Elizabeth would prob-

ably die," Burns said.

But the judge found the victim's parents had shown an "egregious departure from the standard of care" with the support and encouragement of the other defendants.

At the start of the trial last year, Stevens argued they held a reasonable belief that God would heal the child.

Burns urged them all to get lawyers before they are sentenced.

## One soldier killed, five injured in FC post attack in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR, Jan 29 (Agencies): A soldier was killed and five injured when unidentified armed men attacked Frontier Constabulary (FC) post in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a source said on Wednesday.

The unknown gunmen attacked FC Daryuba Post in the Baran Dam area of Bannu district on



Tuesday night with light weaponry, the source said.

The attackers killed an FC personnel and injured five others in retaliatory firing before escaping from the scene, the source said.

The injured have been moved to Peshawar Hospital for treatment.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

## 10 civilians gunned down in E Afghanistan



KHOST, Jan 29 (Agencies): Unidenti-

fied armed men shot dead 10 civilians, all

members of the same family, in eastern Afghanistan's Khost province on Tuesday night, a spokesman for the provincial government, Mustaghfar Garbaz, said Wednesday.

The gruesome incident took place in Ali Shir district late Tues-

day when unknown armed men entered a house and opened fire, killing 10 people including two men and eight women and children on the spot.

Garbaz said that efforts are underway to arrest and bring to justice those behind the multiple murders.



## DFSS holds protest against Mallikarjun Kharge's statement on Maha Kumbh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: A massive protest was held in Jammu city by the workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of their president, Ashok Gupta, against Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's recent statement on the Maha Kumbh. The protestors condemned Kharge's remarks, in which he stated that taking a holy dip in the Ganga would not eradicate poverty or provide jobs.

Gupta strongly criticized Kharge's comments, calling them "insensitive and offensive." He accused the Congress leader of mocking a sacred event that holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for millions of Hindus. "By ridiculing the Kumbh Mela, where crores of devotees participate with devotion and faith, Kharge has insulted the sanctity of the Ganga and the sentiments of Hindus worldwide," Gupta said.



Drawing attention to past instances, Gupta questioned why Sonia Gandhi herself took a holy dip during the Kumbh in 2001. He further challenged Kharge to issue a similar statement about the Hajj pilgrimage, asking, "Will he also dare to say that going for Hajj will not resolve issues like hunger and poverty?"

Highlighting the economic significance of the Maha Kumbh, BJP leader Trivedi pointed out that the event is expected to generate an economic boost of Rs 2.5 lakh crore, contributing nearly 1% to India's GDP. He emphasized the surge in spiritual tourism, which has seen a 21.4% increase, including a rise in visa applications from foreign

visitors. "The Maha Kumbh is not just a religious event but also a significant contributor to India's economy and cultural heritage," he said.

Trivedi also highlighted the international appeal of the event, mentioning that notable figures like Lauren Powell, wife of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, have participated in past Maha Kumbh events. He also noted the presence of monks from Russia and Ukraine, who, despite their countries' ongoing conflict, are united in performing havans for world peace at the event.

Gupta reiterated that criticism of the Maha Kumbh and its associated spiritual practices reflects a lack of understanding of its cultural and economic importance. The protest saw the participation of several party workers, including Abhishek, Ganesh, Raju, Raghuveer, Ajay, Bantu, Sanjeev, Prem, Rampal, Vikky, and many others.

## Nitish calls for strengthening Party Base through teamwork



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Nitish Mahajan, Mandal President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, held a meeting with Shakti Kendra Parmokh Naresh Chopra and Booth Presidents Suram Singh, Rajeev Sharma, and Ramesh Gandhi along with Magan Grover to discuss various developmental issues and party strengthening strategies. The meeting focused on understanding the concerns of booth-level workers and reviewing ongoing

projects in their respective areas.

During the discussion, Nitish Mahajan emphasized the need to strengthen the party base by fostering teamwork, ensuring greater involvement of karyakartas, and encouraging active public participation. He stressed that the BJP's success is rooted in its dedicated workers and their continuous engagement with the people. He urged party functionaries to remain in close contact with general public, address their grievances effec-

tively, and create awareness about BJP's initiatives for development and welfare.

Nitish also deliberated on various challenges faced at the grassroots level and explored ways to enhance coordination between party workers and local administration for the timely execution of development works. He assured that the concerns raised during the meeting would be communicated to the relevant authorities for swift resolution.

Reaffirming BJP's commitment to holistic development and people-centric governance, he called for a collective effort to ensure the party's vision reaches every household. The meeting concluded with a pledge to work with greater dedication and unity to strengthen the party and serve the people effectively.

## Dimple meets Sakeena Itoo, discusses issues of youths

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: A high-level delegation led by Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, met with Education, Health, and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo at the Secretariat office. They held a detailed discussion on issues related to youth, education, health, vocational trainers, Rehber-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Taleem, and the expulsion of paramedical staff from government medical colleges in Jammu, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Rajouri, Anantnag, and Baramulla.

Sunil Dimple demanded that Minister Sakeena Itoo address the challenges faced by vocational trainers under the SAMGRA scheme. He criticized the policies of the education department over the last decade, stating that vocational trainers, who educate students in classes 9 to 12, have been unfairly treated. The government has outsourced these classes to contractors, who hire highly qualified postgraduates but pay them meager salaries while making huge profits.

Dimple urged the



government to end the contractor system and ensure that vocational trainers receive direct salaries from the government. He warned that if their demands are not met, vocational trainers would begin a mass agitation from February 3rd.

Other issues discussed included concerns related to NYC, REK, Janglat, Sehat land donors, cooks, CPW, Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers, and the regularization of daily wagers across various departments. Dimple also called for improved healthcare facilities in government medical colleges and hospitals, particularly in Badhaal and Kotranka, and requested Minister Sakeena Itoo to visit the Dental College and Gandhi Nagar Hospital. He raised concerns about the expulsion of

paramedical staff under the SRO of GMCs in Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Anantnag, and Baramulla, emphasizing the existing staff shortage in these hospitals. He demanded that Minister Sakeena Itoo clear all pending cases under SRO-43 and expedite the recruitment process for teachers and lecturers, as many schools are facing staff shortages.

Dimple further alleged that GMC Rajouri and Jammu have become "death hubs" due to poor management. He also discussed the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, special status, Article 370, and various political issues.

Minister Sakeena Itoo gave a patient hearing to the delegation's demands and issued on-the-spot orders for their redressal.

## Modi Govt committed to ensure TB-Free Bharat: Arvind

Participates in TB Mukht Bharat Campaign, Emphasizes commitment to a TB-Free Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today participated in a programme organized under the 100-day Tuberculosis (TB) awareness campaign led by the District TB Control Society, Jammu.

The campaign, launched as part of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, began on December 7, 2024, and will continue until March 17, 2025. Marking its 50-day milestone, the initiative aims to eradicate TB by raising awareness and strengthening healthcare services.

Accompanying MLA Arvind Gupta at the event were Mandal President Kushant Daffara and Anil Angral, BJP workers Karan Sharma and Mohit Vaid along with prominent health officials, including Dr. Rakesh Mangotia (Director, Health Services Jammu), Dr. Harbaksh Singh



(Chief Medical Officer, Jammu), Dr. Jyoti Jolly (State Tuberculosis Officer), Dr. Anu Saloch (Superintendent, CD Hospital), and Dr. Rakesh Sharma. Medical officers, District TB Control (DTC) Jammu staff, and officials from the State TB Office (STO) also attended the event.

Dr. Rakesh Mangotia, Director Health Services, Jammu briefed the attendees on the progress of the campaign and the steps

being taken to enhance TB detection and treatment. He also encouraged individuals and organizations to become "Nikshay Mitras" by adopting TB patients and supporting them in their recovery journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta lauded the efforts of the medical fraternity and health officials in their relentless fight against tuberculosis. He emphasized that the BJP-

led government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to ensuring a TB-free India and has introduced various schemes to support TB patients, including nutritional assistance and free medication. He also highlighted the importance of community participation in achieving the goal of eliminating TB by 2025.

"The fight against TB requires collective action. Public awareness, early detection, and timely treatment are crucial in eradicating this disease. I urge every citizen to actively contribute to this mission by spreading awareness and supporting TB patients," Gupta stated.

Arvind Gupta assured full support to health authorities in their mission to achieve a TB-free Jammu.

The event concluded with a pledge to intensify efforts in spreading awareness and ensuring that every TB patient receives proper treatment and care.

## Career Guidance Session on "English for Competitive Exams" held at Dogra Degree College

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 29: Dogra Degree College conducted a Career Guidance Session on "English for Competitive Exams" on Wednesday at the Multipurpose Hall for BBA, B.Com, and BA students.

The session was conducted by Dr. Abhimanyu Dev Singh Billawaria, who imparted a well-structured module on English grammar and shared valuable English language tips

essential for excelling in competitive exams.

The session was organized under the leadership of Dr. Bela Thakur Principal, DDC and coordinated by the faculty members. Students actively participated and benefitted from the interactive learning experience.

Dr. Billawaria's expert guidance provided them with a deeper understanding of language concepts, helping them strengthen their foundation in English for various career opportunities. The session concluded with a vote of

thanks by Rakesh Mohan Koul, HOD, Department of Management & Commerce, DDC who expressed gratitude to Dr. Abhimanyu Dev Singh Billawaria for his insightful session.

Koul also emphasized the importance of discipline and time management in academic and professional success. The students appreciated the session and found it highly beneficial for their future endeavors. Dogra Degree College remains committed to organizing such informative and career-oriented sessions.

## From Page No:1

### SC seeks details of FIRs, Charge sheets against men for divorcing wives through Triple Talaq

'talaq-e-biddat', is an instant divorce whereby a Muslim man can legally divorce his wife by pronouncing 'talaq' three times in one go.

Under the law, instant 'triple talaq' has been declared as illegal and void and will attract a jail term of three years for the husband.

In a landmark verdict, the Apex Court on August 22, 2017 had put the curtains down on a 1,400 year old practice of 'triple talaq' among Muslims and set it aside on several grounds, including that it was against the basic tenets of Quran and violated the Islamic law Shariat.

### Budget Session

### Begins on Jan 31 with President's Address

two days (February 3-4) for discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, while Rajya Sabha has earmarked three days for the debate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reply to the debate in Rajya Sabha on February 6.

### Police conduct raids at 25 locations in Rajouri

from across the LoC, the officials said.

They said the searches are still continuing and further details are awaited.

The raids came a day after security forces conducted massive search operations at nearly two dozen places across Jammu as part of the strategy to wipe out terrorism from the region which was

rocked by several terror attacks last year.

The combing operations in the high altitude areas and the forest belt along the LoC concluded without any contact with the terrorists, the officials said, adding the security forces have stepped up the anti-terrorist operations to ensure the terrorists could not utilise the winter to establish their bases.

### Republic Day Parade: Uttar Pradesh Tableau Wins First Prize; J&K Rifles Wins Best Marching Contingent

the performance of the marching contingents from security forces and tableaux from various states, union territories and ministries and departments of the central government.

In addition, an online poll was conducted on the MyGov portal from January 26 to 28 for citizens to vote for their favourite tableau and marching contingents in the 'Popular Choice' category.

In the poll, the tableau of Gujarat (Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas) won the first prize, while the second and third positions went to Uttar Pradesh (Mahakumbh 2025) and Uttarakhand (Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports), respectively.

The 'Popular Choice' award for the best marching contingent went to the Signals contingent.

In the poll, the CRPF marching contingent emerged as the best among the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.

The award for the best tableau among the central ministries and departments in the poll went to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### JK Government removes PDA Chief after crackdown on

### illegal construction in Pahalgam

removed after acting against illegal construction. In 2023, Syed Sajad Qadri, a former CEO of PDA, was transferred to Ladakh after highlighting violations at an under-construction hotel in Pahalgam.

The High Court had earlier directed the administration to halt illegal constructions in Anantnag district while hearing a Public Interest Litigation aimed at preserving Pahalgam and its surrounding areas. An official suggested that Hashim's transfer was influenced by the hotelier lobby and certain politicians.

### Govt likely to install water meters on commercial establishments under phase

### 1: CE PHE

31, 2025 as deadline for the completion of the project.

On Judicious use of water, he said that government will likely to install water meters in commercial establishments during phase-1.

"This is under consideration of the government. However in first phase the water meters will likely be installed in commercial establishments, then it will be extended further according to the mandate of the government," he said.

### MeT predicts week-long wet weather in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir. The day temperature recorded in Srinagar on Tuesday was 6.2 C above the normal of 7.9 C.

The minimum temperature also witnessed a significant rise in other weather stations of the valley, with the tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded at -0.8 C and the ski resort of Gulmarg at -2.5 C on Wednesday.

## Steering Committee approves Ladakh State Action Plan on Clean Air

### Top News Report

LEH, Jan 29: The Administration of UT Ladakh has achieved a significant developmental milestone with the approval of the State Action Plan on Clean Air and the launch of the Online Consent Management & Monitoring System (OCMMS) by the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.

Additionally, a Pictorial Guide on Bio-medical Waste Segregation and Disposal, aligned with the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, was unveiled to promote effective waste management practices.

In a key meeting held at the Civil Secretariat in Leh yesterday, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Advisor to UT Ladakh and Chairman of the State Action Plan on Clean Air, granted approval to the State Action Plan on Clean Air. This comprehensive plan, prepared by the Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC), was finalized after detailed discussions with the Steering Committee.

Dr. Kotwal commended the relatively better air quality in Ladakh compared to other parts of the country. He directed the LPCC to install two prominent



digital display boards in Leh and Kargil districts at locations such as the main bazaars and airports to showcase Ladakh as a "clean air region."

Additionally, he emphasized the need for rigorous efforts to procure electric buses and hydrogen buses for public transportation to reduce pollution and provide convenient transit options.

Dr. Kotwal also issued directives for the timely disposal of phased-out diesel generator (DG) sets and the adoption of retrofitting equipment for diesel machinery and vehicles, in line with existing guidelines, to minimize carbon emissions. He instructed the Transport Department to develop a policy for setting vehicle age limits for both private and commercial

vehicles, along with a vehicle scrapping policy tailored to the unique requirements of the region. Furthermore, he urged the concerned departments to expedite necessary approvals for solid waste management initiatives in Leh and Kargil.

Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary of the LPCC, presented a detailed overview of the action plan during the meeting. He shared air pollution analysis data for Leh and Kargil, which included average particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5) levels from 2019 to November 2024. The data indicated that particulate matter levels have remained consistent over this period.

Following the meeting, Dr. Kotwal officially launched the

Online Consent Management & Monitoring System (OCMMS). This new platform will serve as a single-window system for stakeholders across public and private sectors, enabling them to obtain pollution-related consents and authorizations seamlessly without paperwork.

The Advisor also unveiled the Pictorial Guide on Bio-medical Waste Segregation and Disposal, developed by the LPCC. This guide aims to raise awareness about proper bio-medical waste management, ensuring compliance with the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, and fostering sustainable waste disposal practices.

The meeting and launch event was attended by Dr. Vasanthakumar, Commissioner/Secretary of Forest, Ecology & Environment; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Member Secretary of the LPCC; Bhupesh Chaudhary, Secretary of Transport; Santosh Sukhdeve, Deputy Commissioner Leh; Mandeep Mittal, Regional Director LPCC; Tsewang Paljor, Chief Engineer PDD, and other senior officials. Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary of Industries & Commerce, and Srikant Suse, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, also participated via video conferencing.

### DLCDC meeting held at Ramban

## Approval of Calendar of Activities for IYC-2025 & Review of M-PACS



### Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 29: The 6th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) meeting was held today in Ramban under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary to approve the calendar of activities for the International Year of Cooperatives-2025 (IYC-2025).

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban, Roshan Lal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Ramban, Ashfaq Ahmed, and district heads of allied departments, DDM NABARD and other officials.

During the meeting, a comprehensive calendar of activities was approved which includes organizing a Sehkar Mela, Health Camp, Organising awareness & Training Camps in collaboration with Agriculture and allied departments. The committee also approved the plan for inauguration of a Mini Super Bazaar at M-PACS Maitra, the opening of PMJAK at PHC Batote, and the establishment of two food processing units. In addition to this, an exhibition showcasing organic products from cooperatives will be held as part of the celebrations.

The committee also reviewed the decisions from the last two Joint Working Committee

meetings, which were approved by the chair. One of the key discussions revolved around the Grain storage project at Village Pernote. The identified land was deemed unsuitable, and the Revenue Department was instructed to find an alternative site for the project.

Furthermore, the DDC directed the Deputy Registrar, Cooperatives (DRCS) Ramban and other committee members to expedite the formation of new M-PACS, Dairy, and Fisheries Cooperative Societies.

He also instructed them to identify potential panchayats where awareness camps should be organized in collaboration with allied departments to mobilize cooperative membership.

Earlier, Deputy Registrar, Cooperatives Ramban, Ms. Priyanka Sharma, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the overall scenario of the cooperative sector in the district.

## India-Japan cultural exchange program held at MVIS



### Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 29: MV International School in collaboration with Senior High School of Kogakuin University, Tokyo Japan organised a cultural exchange program on Wednesday.

The session was honoured by the esteemed presence of honourable District Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, JKAS.

The program was supervised by Chiho Nakagawa from Japan in presence of students and staff from both the schools.

Students of music and dance studios of MV International School presented 'Mash-up' of Indian and Japanese songs and dances with a blend of cultures of the two countries.

Students from the Japanese school shared their experiences of activities and daily schedules.

They talked about their school life and interests in sports and dance, they shared that it was normal for them to clean their school before they leave for home on daily basis.

Students from MV

International School shared about the life of people in Jammu Kashmir, its traditions, cuisines, costumes, education and famous personalities.

School Director Gourav Abrol said that this program is not just the meeting of minds but also the coming together of two ancient and vibrant cultures, each with its own unique traditions, languages, art forms and philosophies.

The program ended with a promise to carry this learning forward by way of more such initiatives in the future.

## YCET organizes session on "Career Opportunities in the Armed Forces: A Pathway to Serve, Lead, and Grow"

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Yogananda College of Engineering and Technology (YCET) Conducted a session on "Career opportunities in Armed Forces and How to seek jobs in Armed Forces" for the Students of final and pre-final year. The Guest Speaker was Brigadier (Dr). Vijay Sagar Dheman along with his team members Anpurna Pandit CEO of Achievable Blooming Careers Institute, Vishal Dogra Marketing and Social Media Manager and Aneesh Verma Marketing Executive. The session started with a welcome address by Er. Rajnish Magotra, H.O.D Civil Engineering, Brigadier (Dr). Vijay Sagar Dheman known as Scholar Warrior is a retired Army veteran who retired as Additional Director General NCC, briefed the students about the Armed Forces.

These forces are a cornerstone of nation-



al security, providing defense and support across land, air, sea, and cyberspace domains. With a rich history of service, sacrifice, and leadership, the military offers individuals a unique chance to develop their potential and make a meaningful impact both at home and around the world.

He also stated the meaning of chetwode Motto "The safety, honour and welfare of your country come first, always and every time. The honour, welfare and comfort of the men you command come next. Your own ease, comfort and safety come last, always and every time.

This is known as the "Chetwode Motto" and is the motto of the officers passing out from the academy."

He described the Armed Forces, unparalleled opportunities for individuals to serve their country, build leadership skills, and achieve personal growth while contributing to the safety and security of the nation. As the demand for highly skilled personnel continues to grow, the military invites individuals from all backgrounds to explore the diverse career paths and benefits available across various branches. Whether one can be interested in technology,

engineering, medicine, logistics, or leadership, the Armed Forces offer a broad spectrum of roles designed to develop talent and skills. There are positions for entry-level recruits, specialized professionals, and leadership opportunities at every stage of one's career. The Armed Forces actively seek individuals who are motivated, disciplined, and eager to make a difference in the world.

He also briefed students How to seek jobs with Armed Forces. Joining the Armed Forces begins with exploring the wide array of careers available. He also encouraged the students to fill the form before 5th February, 2025 and can get information on eligibility requirements, the application process etc. Recruiting offices nationwide are ready to provide guidance, answer questions, and

help applicants navigate the next steps.

The objective of the lecture was to enlighten the students with various benefits beyond the battlefield like Professional Advancement, Job Security, Economic stability, quality of life, social status, Variety and Adventure etc.

His main Perspective was to make the students familiar with the various Career Opportunities in the Armed Forces. Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Rana, Director, YCET, Er. B.R Verma, Chief Coordinator, YCET, Er. Dinesh Gupta Dean Academics, YCET H.O.D's and Faculty Members of the various Departments were also present during the session. Overall the session was proven to be very inspiring thought provoking and informative for students. The session ended with the vote of thanks by Er. Rajnish Magotra, H.O.D Civil Engineering.

## APS Damana executes CBSE Art-integrated activity

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: CBSE Art-Integrated Activity under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Flagship Programme was executed by APS Damana in collaboration with APS Ahmedabad on Wednesday as per CBSE Circular No. Acad-54/2023.

The programme hosted by Aditya Rajput & Ereksa Shandal of Class IX under the consistent mentorship of the Activity Coordinator, Neeru Devi TGT English , Level Coordinator (IX-X).

The event commenced with vivacious & reverentful Lok Dharshan of J&K through a Cherishing Folk Ballad & Folk Dance Performance by the students of APS



Damana under the music maestro, Sunny Kumar TGT Music.

Further, APS Ahmedabad showcased the rich cultural vibrancy of Gujarat through an alluring Folk Ballad. Then APS Ahmedabad persistently manifested the extravaganza of their cultural ebullience through an astounding Folk Dance Perfor-

mance.

The event turned stupendous with the glimpses of the cultural vibrancy through an exhibition showcasing the gallery of J&K intrinsic visual Arts comprising of ethnic paintings, Samaavar, Shikara & delicious cuisines under the comradeship of Anju Kumari TGT Arts . The exhibition was an epit-

ome of the rich cultural heritage & bequest of both the states.

Further, Shaluk Kapoor Vice Principal APS Damana and Neeru Devi TGT English, Level Coordinator IX & X acknowledged the diligent & collaborative efforts of the students & the concerned teachers in promoting the experiential & joyful learning.

At last, Siya Choudhary of Class IX presented a vote of thanks and culminated this cultural exchange programme.

The Students participated in the event whole heartedly showcasing their creative, ethical & ethnic hues soaked in cultural vinyor. This Cultural Exchange Programme has really satiated the cultural quest with the acquaintance of the traditional vibrancy & legacy of both the states.

This Cultural Exchange Programme accorded an opportunity to the students of both the Schools to be familiarized with Culture, Tradition and Geography of J&K and Gujarat as envisaged in the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Programme (EBSB).

## MVD Kishtwar conducts Road Safety Slogan Writing contest



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 29: As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month programme, Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Kishtwar led by ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, JKAS, conducted an online road safety slogan writing contest.

The contest, saw an enthusiastic participation from youth of Kishtwar. They showcased their creativity by depicting powerful

messages on safe driving and following traffic rules.

The competition aimed to engage youth in promoting road safety and instilling a sense of responsibility towards creating a safer environment for all road users.

Over 40 youth participated, using vibrant colors and innovative ideas to convey messages about following traffic regulations, wearing seat belts, and avoiding distracted driving.

Prizes were awarded to top five contestants namely Mutayyeb Ayubi (First), Keshav Sharma (2nd), Ayan Saroori (3rd), Suresh Kumar (4th) and Deepak Thakur (5th), based on their creativity and catchy slogans.

ARTO Kishtwar appreciated the all contestants for their participation and encouraged them to spread road safety awareness among their family, friends, and society.

The Competition overall served as a creative platform to educate and inspire individuals to prioritize road safety, ultimately contributing to reducing accidents and saving lives on the roads in District Kishtwar.

## “Desert Vipers’ have batting, bowling firepower; are real contenders for the title”: Harbhajan Singh

DUBAI, Jan 29 (Agencies): As the International League T20 (ILT20) season 3 enters the exciting final phase, former Indian cricketer and legendary spinner Harbhajan Singh has been impressed with the level of competition and the exciting performances on display.

Reflecting on the ongoing season, Harbhajan shared his thoughts on the tournament stating, “The tournament is going great, and we’ve seen some excellent cricket. The good thing about this tournament is that all the teams have shown quality, which means they still have a chance to make a comeback,” as quoted from a release by ILT20.

He added, “Across the three venues all pitches are different which makes it more competitive and interesting.”

Among the standout performers from the UAE this season, Harbhajan highlighted the exceptional talent of Gulf Giants’



Aayan Afzal Khan.

“Aayan Afzal Khan is doing a great job. I have been following him and speaking to him from the first season. I think Aayan could win the Blue Belt award as the most valuable UAE player.

As the wickets dry up over the course of the competition, spinners will be key, and it’s going to be a lot of fun to watch,” he said.

Turning his focus to the Desert Vipers, who became the first

team to qualify for the play-offs, Harbhajan had high praise for their all-round strength.

“From the games I’ve seen or worked on during my time here, I think the Desert Vipers look like a really strong team. They have a brilliant bowling lineup with the likes of Mohammed Amir and Lockie Ferguson, and their batting features some serious firepower. They are real contenders for the champion-

ship,” he added.

Looking ahead, Harbhajan shared his predictions for the highest run-scorer (Green Belt) and wicket-taker (White Belt) of the season.

“I think Fazalhaq Farooqi and Mohammed Amir have been in phenomenal form with the ball, taking wickets in every game. I think one of them could finish at the top of the ladder. So far, Shai Hope and Tom Banton have scored a lot of runs, but the second part of the tournament has just started. I want to see more players performing, scoring runs, and climbing up the ladder,” he noted.

On the future of the league, he said, “This league is very important for UAE cricket. At the moment we have two players from the UAE in each team, maybe that number will go up to three or four in the next few seasons as the UAE players are getting better.”

## Djokovic withdraws from Serbia’s squad ahead of Davis Cup qualifiers



BELGRADE, Jan 29 (Agencies): World number six Novak Djokovic has pulled out of Serbia’s Davis Cup first-round qualifying tie due to injury, the country’s tennis federation (TSS) said.

Djokovic, who was set to represent Serbia in their Jan. 31-Feb. 2 meeting with Denmark in Copenhagen, retired due to a hamstring injury in his Australian Open semi-final match against Alexander

Zverev last week.

The 24-times Grand Slam champion was booed by the crowd at Melbourne Park and he responded by posting a photo of an MRI taken of his left hamstring with the caption: “Thought I’d leave this here for all the sports injury ‘experts’ out there.” Djokovic, 37, was part of the Serbian team which lifted the Davis Cup in 2010 following a memorable victory over France in Belgrade.

“We are weakened by not playing Novak, but we are still going for the win. The Danes have a great player in Holger Rune, but our players are also great and I believe in my team,” Serbia captain Viktor Troicki said.

## “Can’t complain, my job is to just keep focusing”: Varun Chakravarthy on team’s loss despite his exceptional bowling performance

RAJKOT, Jan 29 (Agencies): After registering a five-wicket haul against England in the third T20I of the five-match series against England, India leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy reflected on the team’s loss despite his five-wicket haul at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.

England defeated India by 26 runs in the third T20I to keep the five-match series alive, making the scoreline 2-1. England set a target of 172 runs, which India could not chase down despite early fireworks from Abhishek Sharma.

“I can’t complain because that’s the nature of the game. There have been, even when I don’t take 5 wickets, we might end up losing. I can’t complain. My job is to just keep focusing on what I can do, and what I can perform for the team. And that’s all, that’s all is in my control,”

In a game that was arguably decided by both side’s ability to churn out runs on a slow turf and a bowler’s ability to put a lid on the scoring rate. Varun excelled in keeping a check on the scoring rate and making the batters dance to his tune.

He instantly made his impact felt after being introduced by Suryakumar in the final over of the powerplay. Varun hardly gave away runs to Ben Duckett and Jos Buttler and conceded just three in his first over.

In his next four overs, Varun turned the English batters inside out and cruised to his second five-wicket haul in the T20Is for India. His magic with the ball didn’t salvage a victory for the Men in Blue, but was enough to crown him the Player of the Match. The leg spinner bagged the wickets of Jos Buttler, Jamie Smith, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, and Jofra Archer.

Recapping the third T20I of the five-match series, Men in Blue skipper



Suryakumar Yadav won the toss and elected to bowl first in the encounter.

Opener Ben Duckett made a vital half-century before he was caught by Abhishek Sharma off the bowling of Hardik Pandya, having put on a good stand with Buttler to put England on a firm footing at 83/2.

The England middle order, however, was unable to negotiate with Varun Charkravarthy, who sliced through them, taking 5-24. That left England on 127/8, requiring Liam Livingstone to make a valiant 43 from 24 balls, with solid final-wicket support from Adil Rashid and Mark Wood, both of whom made 10.

England finished on 171/9, which looked like it might be slightly under par, but their bowlers flew out of the traps, taking wickets regularly with none of the India top-four making it past 24 runs.

Pandya impressed with the bat, making 40 off 35, and putting on a 38-run partnership with Axar Patel.

But after Buttler caught Pandya off Jamie Overton’s bowling in the 19th over, there was simply too much for the tail to do, ending the innings 26 runs short.

India lead the five-match series 2-1 heading into the fourth T20I in Pune on Friday, January 31.

## Afghanistan’s female cricketers reunite for a match after 3 years in exile due to Taliban ban

MELBOURNE, Jan 29 (Agencies): Cricketer Firooz Amiri says her team will “represent millions of women in Afghanistan who are denied their rights” when the side reunites after more than three years for an exhibition game in Australia on Thursday.

An Afghanistan Women’s XI will play a Cricket Without Borders XI in the match at Melbourne’s Junction Oval. It will bring together 21 female players who were formerly contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) before the Taliban regime re-took control in August 2021.

Since fleeing Afghanistan, the women cricketers banned from playing in their home country have been based in Canberra and Melbourne and playing for various club teams in local competitions.

Amiri and Nahida Sapan, who will captain the Afghanistan Women’s XI, thanked the Australian government and Cricket Australia for their support in promoting women’s sport.

“It’s very special for all of us to get back together after three years, leaving everything and losing everything back home in Afghanistan and come together



again,” Amiri said this week.

Amiri was forced to flee her home country when the Taliban took control. She and her family first traveled to Pakistan and then were evacuated to Australia.

“I also want to express deepest gratitude for everyone who support us. Your support means the world to us,” Sapan said. “Together we are building not just a team. We are building a movement for change and improvement.”

“This is a very historic moment for all of Afghan women. This match can open doors for Afghan women for education, sport and our future.” Sapan told the BBC in 2023 that her family received death threats from government officials after the Taliban re-took power. The threatening messages included: “If we find you, we will not let you live.” Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley praised the resilience of the players. He said it

was a powerful moment when they were presented with their team shirts for the exhibition match.

“To see their playing shirts for the first time with their names and numbers on the back, you can see how much it means to them,” Hockley said. “I’m just inspired by their resilience, their love for the game.” Hockley said CA would continue to “advocate” for change at a global level through discussions with the International Cricket Council (ICC). He said Thursday’s game represented an important first step.

“This match shines the light on the fact that in places around the world, not every woman and girl has the chance to play,” Hockley said. “We continue to advocate at the ICC and continue to engage with the ACB (Afghanistan Cricket Board).”

“It’s such a complex situation. It’s bigger than cricket.” Under Taliban rule, the Afghanistan

Cricket Board cannot field a national women’s team because the country’s laws forbid women from playing sport, studying and medical education, moves that have been criticized by world groups including the International Criminal Court.

Afghanistan is a full member of the ICC and a condition of that status should require it to have a women’s side.

England and Australia are refusing to participate in direct series against Afghanistan in protest, but continue to play against it in ICC events, such as next month’s Champions Trophy global event in Pakistan.

England cricket captain Jos Buttler said last week that his side should not boycott a match against the Afghanistan men’s team when they are scheduled to play in the Champions Trophy on Feb. 26 in Lahore. South Africa’s sport minister, however, has urged the Proteas

to boycott their match against Afghanistan in the same tournament.

When asked why Australia was prepared to play a men’s game against Afghanistan in an ICC event, but not in a bilateral series, Hockley said CA was “duty-bound” to play all its scheduled fixtures at ICC events.

“We’re really trying to do everything we can in our power to make a difference,” Hockley said. “We’ve played Afghanistan in other ICC events. You have to draw a line somewhere and I think we’ve made our stance pretty clear.”

Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan from Afghanistan’s men’s national cricket team have posted support of women’s education on social media after the Taliban closed training institutes for nursing and midwives.

Hockley said he hoped Thursday’s match, the format for which was not announced, would become an annual one and that it would “promote lots of conversations.”

“You need moments like this to prompt real change. The first piece is awareness,” Hockley said. “Hopefully this game just raises awareness. I think it’s a real beacon of hope.”

## England’s Kate Cross to miss one-off Women’s Ashes Test against Australia at MCG

MELBOURNE, Jan 29 (Agencies): England will miss the services of right-arm seamer Kate Cross or the one-off Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), while two important Australian players make comeback in the squad in order to seek a series white-wash, as per the ICC official website.

Cross has failed to recover from the back injury that forced her to watch on from the sidelines during the ODI component of the ongoing Ashes series against Australia, with the veteran set to be replaced in England’s XI by fellow pacer Ryana MacDonald-Gay or additional spinner.

“Kate Cross is unfortunately

not going to be playing. She’s been amazing. She’s worked so diligently to try and get over her (back) injury. Worked really hard, but she hasn’t quite been able to get back to her pace and her performance level. Really gutted for her, because she’s a key member for us, and it’s been really great to have her back around the group actually the last couple of days, she’s a huge member of the team and a leader in this group,” England captain Heather Knight confirmed on Wednesday as quoted by ICC.

The news is better for Australia as they look to complete a clean sweep of their arch-rival in the multi-format Ashes



series, with skipper Alyssa Healy and star all-rounder Ash Gardner both likely to play in the Test match that commences at the MCG on Thursday.

Gardner has been passed fit to return from her calf niggle, while Healy has shaken off her foot complaint and is set to captain the side in Melbourne.

Healy fronted the media at the MCG on Wednesday and said she expects to play in the one-off Test.

“I’m good to go. We’ll make a final decision on what the XI looks like over the next little period... but I feel like I’m ready to go, so we’ll wait and see what happens. The final XI hasn’t quite been decided upon just yet,

but I’m standing here in front of you without a moon boot, saying I’m ready to go,” Healy said.

Australia Test squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath (vc), Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

England Test squad: Heather Knight (c), Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Kate Cross, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Ryana MacDonald-Gay, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danni Wyatt-Hodge.

## World Pickleball League: Bengaluru Jawans stage comeback to defeat Dilli Dillwale 3-2

NEW DELHI, Jan 29 (Agencies): Bengaluru Jawans delivered a thrilling comeback to secure a 3-2 victory over Dilli Dillwale on Day 5 of the World Pickleball League. Katerina Stewart’s sensational performances earned her the Player of the Tie accolade, as Bengaluru bounced back from 1-2 down to seal the win, as per a release from the World Pickleball League.

The tie began with the men’s singles, where Bengaluru’s Jack Foster showcased his trademark forehands, overpowering Eduardo Irizarry in a dominant 27-10 victory. Foster’s consistency and power gave Bengaluru an early lead. The women’s doubles saw a nail-biting contest between Trang Hyunh-McClain and Alejandra Borobia of Bengaluru and Dilli’s Lauren Mercado and Alexa Schull. Despite Bengaluru maintaining a narrow lead for much of the match, Dilli fought back in the closing moments to clinch a dramatic 13-11 victory, levelling the tie at 1-1.

The men’s doubles followed, with Marcello Jardim and Mauro Garcia of Ben-

galuru taking on Dilli’s Kenta Miyoshi and Leander Lazaro. Both teams were evenly matched, with the scores tied at 5-5 at halftime. Dilli capitalized on the Spanish duo’s errors to edge ahead and win 12-9, taking a 2-1 lead in the tie.

In the women’s singles, Bengaluru’s Katerina Stewart delivered a spectacular performance against Alexa Schull. Stewart dominated from the start, showcasing her skill and precision. She closed the game with an emphatic 34-5 victory, levelling the tie at 2-2 and setting up a decisive mixed doubles clash.

The mixed doubles saw Stewart return alongside Mauro Garcia to face Dilli’s Lauren Mercado and Willy Chung. Dilli took an early lead, but Stewart once again proved instrumental, driving Bengaluru to overturn the deficit. With the fans on edge, Bengaluru secured a 14-9 victory to win the tie 3-2.

Bengaluru Jawans’ resilience and Stewart’s commanding performances were the highlights, leaving the team and fans jubilant as they celebrated a hard-fought victory.

**'People get the Government they deserve'**

## Democratic rights of people of Delhi were crushed by BJP through ordinance against SC verdict, Bill on services matter: Rao

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Sr. AAP leader, J&K, Jammu, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, in a press statement issued here has strongly criticized 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 councillor & INDIA bloc candidate, Kuldeep Kumar, the rightful winner of the Chandigarh Mayor election, overturning Officer Anil Masih, who had invalidated eight ballots cast in favour of the AAP candidate. The Court ruled that the invalidation was deliberate and unjustified.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, & 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, making the first time such an incident has occurred in India's electoral history. Mr 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 & 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 Delhites 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 & bills". Highlighting BJP's failure, Rao stated,

"The BJP government has a disaster on all fronts. It has brought nothing but misery to the common people instead of delivering on its promises of Achhe Din. Unemployment has reached record levels, rising sky-rocketing prices of eatables, LPG prices have skyrocketed from 450 to 1100, and the Modi government has failed to create the promised two crore jobs per year." He pointed out that Jammu & Kashmir has suffered the most under BJP's governance, citing rising unemployment & 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 dispensation 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, he predicted that BJP would face another electoral defeat in the Delhi Assembly election 2025, 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," Rao asserted.

## International player, technical official Pankaj Malhotra felicitated

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: JKMGGA facilitated Pankaj Malhotra and congratulated him as India won both the Men's and Women's World Cup 2025, creating history.

Pankaj Malhotra played a key role in the World Cup as he acted as an International Technical Official.

Recently, Pankaj Malhotra qualified for the ITO Exam of KKFI in 2024. He was also selected from J&K for the Interna-



tional Technical Training Program conducted by KKFI in New Delhi in 2024. Additionally, Pankaj Malhotra was a part of the final match of

the World Cup. In December 2024, he was awarded the Prof. Chaman Lal Khel Ratna for excellence in International Sports Kho-Kho as a player.

## Army Goodwill School Hajinar excels at National Innovation Exhibition



commended their dedication and urged them to continue their journey of scientific exploration and innovation, expressing confidence that their success would bring greater recognition to their school, families, and the people of Karnah.

The school extended its deep gratitude to the Bharti Airtel Foundation for providing young minds with such an invaluable platform to nurture their talents. This achievement stands as a testament to the students' hard work, ingenuity, and passion for science and technology, reaffirming the school's commitment to excellence in innovation.

With such dedication and mentorship, the future looks promising for these young innovators, inspiring many others to push the boundaries of creativity and scientific progress.

Top News Report

KARNAH, Jan 29: Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar has brought pride to the region by making a remarkable impact on the national stage. A project from the school's Innovation Club, mentored by Mr. Rashid Fareed, was selected for the Grand Exhibition organized by the Bharti Airtel Foundation at Plaksha University, Mohali, Chandigarh, on 26th January 2025.

The Fire Defence

System, an innovative project developed by Assad Zahoor and Obaid ur Rehman, both Class 10th students, received widespread appreciation at the exhibition. Their project showcased exceptional creativity, problem-solving skills, and technical expertise, earning high praise from the jury.

To honor their achievement, Brigadier S. K. Pradhan, VSM, Commander Shakti Vijay Brigade, felicitated the young innovators on 29th January 2025. He

## Beating Retreat ceremony 2025 held at GDC Mahanpur

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 29: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur in collaboration with Department of Physical Education and Sports celebrated beating retreat ceremony within campus.

Beating Retreat is a ceremony that marks the end of Republic Day festivities in India. It is held on the evening of January 29, three days after Republic Day, at the Vijay Chowk, New Delhi.

The ceremony features a musical performance by the bands of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Delhi Police, and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF). The ceremony is presided over by the President of India, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

The Beating Retreat



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

In her Address, the Principal said that this day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the vision of leaders who drafted a constitution that upholds justice, liberty, and equality for

all. A felicitation ceremony was also organised to honour the students who have performed exceptionally well in the Academics, NSS, Sports and cultural activities.

The Principal of the College GDC felicitated students namely Varun Proch (Cultural), Vishal Singh (Cultural), Anshu Devi (sports), Meenakshi (painting). They all were felicitated

with trophies. The programme was hosted by Dr. Rupalee and Dr. Sapna and vote of thanks was presented

by J. S. Soodan.

The faculty members present in the celebration were Mohinder Nath Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Nisha, Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Babli, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Nishu, Namita Trogia, Divya, Dr. Suhail Ahmed Dar, Sameeksha Sharma, Monika Devi, Anuradha, Pooja Sambyal, Shivani Panooch, Kuldeep, Ramesh, Mangu Ram, Surinder Kumar, Sunny Sharma, Sewa Ram, Anu Radha, Anu and Shibu Din. More than 80 students participated in the programme.

## ABDPSS oragnizes Samoohik Path program in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 29: Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS) organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The event was led by Sanjeev Sharma, social worker and Aayushman Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator of the Samiti graced the occasion alongwith Pt. Mahesh Pandey from Ayodhya (UP).

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic Mantras, Prarthna "Hey Prabhu Anand-data Gyan Humko Dijiye" and thereafter Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees participated alongwith family members.

Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to its sig-

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

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

Sunil Sharma informed that over the years, many initiatives have been launched by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Pra-

char Sewa Samiti to expand the knowledge of the sacred scripture-Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in every body. For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth ( not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Brahmgyani Guruji.

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



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