# TOP NEWS OF J&K

**NATIONAL** 



# JAMMU, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

|6

ENTERTAINMENT

**Anoushka Shankar 'thrilled'** to present the 67th Grammy **Awards premiere** 



J&K situation changed after Article 370 abrogation, train

**Never talks about** people's issues: Priyanka hits back at PM Modi

Regd. No. JK-435

17

Vol.-16 Issue-30 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-**Election Rules Row: Supreme Court orders** 

8

EC to preserve video clips of polling

mum number of voters

per polling station from

A bench comprising

Chief Justice Sanjiv

Khanna and Justice

Sanjay Kumar passed

the order the counsel

1,200 to 1,500.

Srinagar man critically injured in Nowgam accident passes away

BRIEFLY

SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): A man who was critically injured in a road accident in Srinagar's Nowgam area on Monday passed away at SKIMS Soura this morning.

The deceased has been identified as Nazir Ahmad Naqash, a resident of Baghat Barzulla, Srinagar. According to reports, he suffered severe head injuries after being struck by an Alto K10 vehicle in Nowgam earlier this week

Following the accident, Nagash was initially taken to Ujala Cygnus Hospital for medical attention before being shifted to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment. He succumbed to his

injuries on Friday morn-

Notably, the police had already registered a case regarding the incident.

Road accident in **Punjab's** Ferozepur leaves nine dead

to Kashmir major achievement: Prez Murmu NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Asserting that situation in Jammu and Kashmir has changed after the abrogation of Article 370. President Droupadi Murmu on Friday described train to Kashmir as a major achievement of the government. Addressing a joint sitting of Parliament, mark-

ing the beginning of this year's Budget Session, President Murmu said, "There have been significant changes in

Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370. In the last



six months, the government has made record investments in future infrastructure." She added: "I am



happy to inform you that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project has been completed, and now the country will be connected by railway from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Under this project, the world's highest rail bridge has been constructed over the Chenab River." On national security, the President said, "The government has taken

historic steps to protect the country's borders and ensure internal security." She also spoke about

progress in the defence sector. "The government has moved from 'Make in India' to 'Make for the World' in the defense sector," President **Turn to page 9** 



Daily Evening Newspaper

Trump threatens 'hostile'

**BRICS against replacing US** 

dollar: Find another sucker

**INTERNATIONAL** 

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Election Commission of India to preserve video clips of the polling during the pendency of the pleas against the decision for the Election Commission of India (ECI) sought time to respond to the PIL filed by one Indu Prakash Singh.

Singh has challenged the panel's communications in August 2024 for increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency.

"The counsel appearing for respondent number 1 prays for further time to file affidavit. Let the affidavit be filed within three weeks from today. We deem it appropriate to direct respondent no 1 to

Turn to page 9

### **Engineer Rashid's son, AIP workers** detained during protest in Srinagar

application for a sit-in

near Pratap Park in the

Lal Chowk area of the

The cops, who were

waiting at the new

venue, bundled the

AIP workers, including

Rashid's son Abrar, into

vehicles and detained

them at Kothibagh

Before being taken

away, Abrar told report-

ers that not allowing

his father to attend the

Parliament session was

Police Station.

city.

SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Several Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) workers were detained on Friday as they were trying to sit on a day-long hunger strike here to demand the release of Baramulla Lok Sabha MP and party chief Sheikh Abdul

Rashid alias Engineer, police said. The AIP workers assembled at the Sangarmal Shopping complex where they had decided to hold the hunger strike

after the district authori-

ties rejected the party's

harmony.

murder of democracy. "He has been jailed for five and a half years and he is not allowed to attend Parliament. This is a murder of democracy," he said.

The AIP said that the party cadres had planned to sit on a daylong hunger strike in solidarity with Rashid, who is starting an indefinite hunger strike in Tihar Jail.

Rashid was elected to Lok Sabha from Baramulla constituency last year, defeating Omar Abdullah, now the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone.

# SC issues notice to Centre, BCI on plea for Bar Council in J&K

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The Supreme Court today issued notice to the Union of India and the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in an Article 32 writ peti-

tion filed by the Kashmir Advocates Association seeking the Bar Council of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Rajesh Bindal after very briefly

hearing Advocate Javed Shaikh, issued notice. At the outset, Shaikh submitted: "This is a writ petition under Article 32 field by Kashmir Advocates Association. Mylords, there is no Bar

Council in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir."

To this, Justice Nath responded: "Alright, issue notice returnable within 4 weeks."





FEROZEPUR (PB), Jan 31 (Agencies): A pick-up van rammed into a canter truck amid fog in this district on Friday, leaving nine people dead and many others injured, police said.

The accident took place near Golu ka Mour village in Guruharsahai sub-division.

Satnam Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Guruharsahai, said that as soon as the matter was reported, teams from the Sadak Suraksha Force (SSF) reached the spot and started the rescue operation.

The injured were sent to the nearest hospitals in Guruharsahai, Jalalabad and few of the critically injured were referred to the Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot.

The pick-up van was carrying more than 20 people, mainly those working as waiters, who were going to attend a function at Jalalabad.

During the preliminary investigation, it came to fore that the pick-up van driver lost balance over his vehicle and hit the truck on account of fog.

**BJP** spent **Rs 1,737.68 Cr for 2024** Lok Sabha **Polls**, States **Party's** expenditure report To EC NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The

Turn to page 9

Mehbooba Mufti urges Nitish Kumar, Naidu to oppose Waqf Amendment Bill

ble. and authoritarian." SRINAGAR, Jan 31 (Agencies): Peoples She according to news Democratic Party (PDP) agency KINS argued chief Mehbooba Mufti that the proposed has written to Bihar Chief amendments directly Minister Nitish Kumar undermine the core purand Telugu Desam Party pose of the Waqf Act, which is to protect and (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu, urging them preserve properties dedto oppose the proposed icated to religious and Waqf amendment bill charitable causes for the and prevent it from caus-Muslim community. ing damage to national "The bill comes at a

unity and communal time when, for the past decade, Muslims have In her letter, the former been systematically Jammu and Kashmir disenfranchised, disemchief minister expressed powered, and marginaldeep concern over the ized politically, socially, bill, calling it "unconstiand economically," Mufti tutional, unconscionawrote.

She accused the government of disregarding opposition concerns, calling the parliamentary consultation process a "farce" without genuine efforts to engage with the affected community. She further warned that the bill represents "a direct assault on the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution" and reflects "majoritarianism that has fueled bigotry and the marginalization of Muslims since 2014." Mufti also invoked Mahatma Gandhi's Turn to page 9

Sachin Tendulkar to get BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award

MUMBAI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The legendary Sachin Tendulkar, whose batting records and impact on international cricket have stood the test of time. will be conferred with the BCCI'S Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala here on Saturday.

The 51-year-old Tendulkar, who played 664 international games for India, holds the record for the highest number of Test and ODI runs in the history of the game.



"Yes, he will be the recipient of the C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2024," a Board source told agency. Tendulkar's 200 Test and 463 ODI appearances are also the highest by any player in the history of the game. He amassed 15,921 Test runs besides a whopping 18,426 in ODIs. However, he played

only one T20 International in his stellar career.

In 2023, the lifetime honour was bestowed on former India head coach Ravi Shastri and wicket-keeping great Farokh Engineer. Considered the great-

est batter of his era, Turn to page 9

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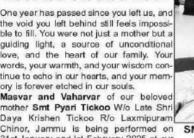


STUDY KOSH studykosh595@fbl

# **OBITUARIES**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Friday, January 31, 2025

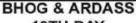
### MASVAR/VAHARVAR



Chinor, Jammu is being performed on SMT PYARI TICKOO 31st January and 1st February 2025 at our esidence. DEEPLY MISSED BY:

Daughters & Son-in Laws Daughter-in-Law & Son Meena Raina & B.B.Raina

Neerja & Romi Tickoo Mob: 9541303193



**10TH DAY** With profound grief and sorrow, we inform he sad demise of our beloved S. Harnan Singh S/o Raghbir Singh R/o H.No. 241 Sarwal Colony, Jammu on 23-01-2025. Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 30-01-2025 at 9.00 am at our residence. Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 01-02-2025 at 9.00 am at our residence. Kirtan & Antim Ardass will be performe at Gurudwara Shri Kalgidhar Sahib, Reha

Harjinder Paul Singh & Sdr. Ravleen Kour- Son & Daughter-in-Law S. Gurminder Paul Singh & Sdr. Tarunjeet Kour- Son & Daughter-in-Law

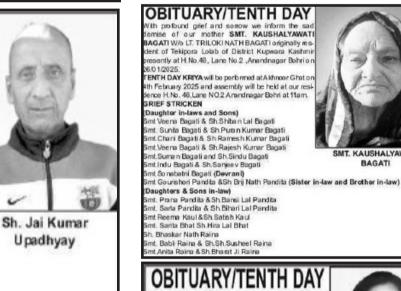
### **10TH DAY KRIYA**

10TH DAY KRIYA of our beloved Sh. Autar Krishan Tiku S/o Late Sh. Kailas Nath Tiku erstwhile resident of Khand Bhawan (Nawakadal)/ Bulbul Lanker, Srinagar, who shed his mortal frame at his last worldly abode: 467/Sector-02 Vinayak Nagar, Muthi (Upper) on the intervening night of January 23rd and 24th 2025, is being performed on Saturday, the 1st of February 2025 on the banks of river Chandra- Bhaga (at Akhnoor, Jammu).



Assembly is scheduled at 11 AM at Muthi Sh. Autar Krishan Tiku Kriya Ghat on the same day. Bereaved:

Sheila Tiku (Bhabi) Jaya Tiku (Spouse) Sarla Tiku (Younger brother's spouse) Son, Daughters, Daughter-in-Law, Sons-in- Law, Grand Children and all relations on In-Laws (Tikus); Paternal an Maternal Side 600505-8610, 889927-8421, 94191-54210, 993093-1187





BAGAT





S. Harnam Singh



Sdr. Charanjeet Kour- Daughter Sdr. Kamaljeet Kour & S. Balvinder Singh- Daughter & Son-in-Law Paul Stationary Store, Rehari Chungi Mob.; 9419182376, 9797600841

### Chungi, Jammu from 10.30 am to 12.00 GRIEF STRICKEN S. Tailnder Paul Singh (AAO)- Son

Pinky & Sunil Koul

Remi & Ashok Raina

Anjali & Ankush Koul Mob: 9469676396



Thakur Shri Shamsher

Singh Manhas

(Ex MP Rajya Sabha)

Mob: 7006505006,

9469211780, 9797647723

Nephew & Niece:

Prathern Manhas

Sayam Manhas

Dikshita Manhas

Sdn. Parvinder Kour (Pholli)

Upadhyay

Sdn. Ravneet Kour

TENTH DAY / KRIYA & UTHALA

(Niece)

(Nephew)

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.

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)

For the past 25 years, he had been residing at House No. 101, Sector 1, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Jammu, under the The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghaton Assembly will be held at Swami Krishan Joo Razdan Guru Maharaj, Swami Jagar Sanatan Dharam Satsang Bhawan, Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Nath Bhan (Bub Maharaj)

All devotees and disciples of Bub Maharaj Contact no. 9419284069 / 6005817279 / 9419281297 / 9419225101 / 9086254560 / 9419845429

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With deep reverence, it is informed that our Guru Maharaj, Swami Jagar Nath Bhan (Bub Maharaj), originally from

Manigam, Ganderbal, and presently residing at Swami

Krishan Joo Razdan Sanatan Dharam Satsang Bhawan,

Ganga Nagar, Bantalab, Jammu, has departed for his eternal

care of Smt. Pinky Pandita, W/o Roop Krishan Pandita.

abode, Vaikuntha Dham, on 23-01-2025.

01-02-2025 (Saturday).

Jammu, at 11:00 AM.

Forever in devotion,

# TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound one f, some wand with heavy heart, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father Sh. Niranjan Nath Tikoo S/o Lt Sh. Sucharshan Tikoo etstwhile resident of Bulgam Sopore/H.No. 11, Lane No. I, Adarsh Nagar Barnai (Bentalab) Jammu at present E-45/46 Arya Samaj Road Uttam Nagar, New Delhi for heavenly abode on 27/1/2025. 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Mutadnagar Ghat (U.P.) on

04/02/2025 and Assembly will be held at Uttam Nagar residence at 1 PM o rwards.

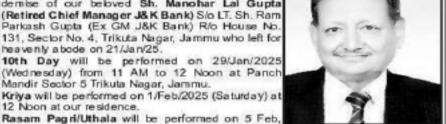
**GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt. Shanta - Wife Sons & Daughters-in-law Sanjay & Yogita Tickoo Sunii & Renu Tickoo Daughters & Sons-in-law Sushma & P.K Saraf Pumi & Opinder Saraf Fancy & Kuldeep Bakahi and All Grand Children Contact : 9899143274, 9210333272, 9419144615

2



Tikoo

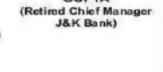
10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI With profound grief & somow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Manohar Lal Gupta (Retired Chief Manager J&K Bank) S/o LT. Sh. Ram Parkash Gupta (Ex GM J&K Bank) R/o House No. 131, Sector No. 4, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 21/Jan/25. 10th Day 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.



2025 (Wednesday) at 12 Noon to 1 PM at Panch SH. MANOHAR LAL **GUPTA** 

J&K Bank) Sh. Kunal Mahajan and Smt. Ambika Arora Mahajan

(Retired Chief Manager



Grand-Children: Anvi Mahajan, Avyan Mahajan **Bucha Family** Contact No.: 9682611669, 9619758314

Sh. Kapil Mahajan and Smt. Sonali Mahajan

Mandir Sector 5 Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

# TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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

Sons and Daughters-in-law





**GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Wife : Smt. Rajni Devi

Son & Daughter-in-law

Abhinav Manhas & Heena Charak Daughter & Son-in-law Kanupriva Ralput & Shubarn Pawar (IES) Brother & Sister-In-law Shri Sushil Manhas & Smt. Anuradha Rajput

ENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the

sad and untimely demise of our beloved Thakur Shri

Shamsher 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

10th Day will be performed on 29-1-2025

(Wednesday) at our residence Paloura, Jammu at 11

Kriva will be held on Saturday 1-2-2025 at our resi-

dence Ward No. 60, Near Raina Hr. Sec School

Paloura, Jammu at 12.00 noon onwards.

heavenly abode on 20-01-2025.

Sister & Brother-in-law Late Smt. Ninnala Devi & Shri Jaswant Singh Bhalwal Smt. Neelam Devi & Shri. Jagdish Singh Chib Smt. Promila Devi & Shri Swaran Singh Chib

# **BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sdn. Parvinder Kour (Pholli) W/o S. Manmohan Singh ji & D/o Late S. Jaswant Singh (ZEO) & Sdn. Surinder Kour R/o Mussa Chak Tehsil R.S. Pura, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 25.01.2025. Armabh Shri Akhand Path Sahib ji on Friday 31.01.2025 at their residence at 9.30 A.M. Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib ji on Sunday 02.02.2025 at their residence at 9.30 A.M. Antim Ardas and Kirtan at Gurudwara Sahib, Mussa Chak R.S Pura, Jammu on Sunday 02.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M to 12.00 Noon. Deeply & Fondly Remembered By :-

S. Sarabjeet Singh (Brother) Sdn. Upinder Kour (Bhabhi)

S. Gurpreet Singh Contact No. 7006464875

MR. SHAKTI SAGAR Renu Bhat - Wife BHAT Nancy Bhat & Lt. Rattan Lal Bhat - Mother Susheel Bhat & Sunita Bhat - Brother & Bhabi 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.

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt Kanta Devi - Bhabhi Daughter in law & Son

Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani

Smt Reman & Sh Rattan Shama Smt Roma & Sh Deepak Sharma Daughters and Son in Law Smt Shobha & Sh Ashok Sharma Smt Parmila & Sh Shiv Nandan Kumar Smt Sheela & Sh Anil Sharma Grand Children : Resham, Ameesha, Aakriti, Kamya, Shigdha, Shantanu and Tarush Great Grand Children : Kartavya Contact Number: 8192902842 & 9419727856

# TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Lakshmishori (Babi) W/o Late Sh. Bhagwan Das Ganjoo of Ranipora Anantnag on 28th of January, 2025. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 5th February 2025 at Ranipora Yarbal (Anantnag) at 09:30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN:-Ashok Kumar Ganjoo -Son Smt. Shashi Ji -Daughter-In-Law Vijay Ganjoo -Son Smt. Sunita Ji -Daughter-In-Law Daughters and Son in Law

Phoola Ji W/o Kanya Lal Thaploo Sudesha Ji Wio Late Shyam Lal Pandita Girja Ji Wo Ashok Ji Pandita Reeta Ji W/o Bal Krishan Pandita Grand Children: - Sheetal, Komal,

Ashish & Archana, Smile, Satvam, CONTACT NO:- 9906916945,9971614273,7051501737

Lakshmishori (Babi)

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

## TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Kamla Sahib W/o Late Sh Mohan Krishan Sahib R/o H.No. 144, Sec 3, L.No. 7, Durga Nagar, Jammu who left for her heavenly abode on 27th of January 2025 (Wednesday).

Tenth Day will be performed on 6-2-2025 (Thursday) at Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Thalwal Phallian Mandal, Jammu at 8.30 AM

Smt Kamla Sahib and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.30 am.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sons & Daughters-in-law Shri Kaka Ji Sahib Sh Jai Kishan Sahib & Smt Girja Sahib Sh Ashok Sahib & Smt Veena Sahib Daughters & Son-in-law Smt Bimla Mattoo & Sh B K Mattoo Smt Namrita Raina

Contact No. 9796608333, 9419105331, 9103038508

# UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Sh. Bishan Dass Gupta S/o Lt Sh. Hern Raj Gupta R/o 805 Royal Nest ;Trikuta nagar Jammu left for heavenly abode on 29/01/25 evening. Uthala shall be performed on Saturday 1st Feb, 2025 from 3 pm - 4 pm at Shiv Temple Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Pushpa Gupta (Wife) Son & Daughter in Law Dr. Ashok Vaid & Dr. Sabhyata Vaid Daughters & Sons in Law Anjali & Vinod Gupta Dr. Sapna & Suresh Gupta (IFS) Nisha & Ashish Pargal Brother in law & Sister in Law Sh. Jia Lal Gupta & Smt. Sneh Gupta Grand Children Akhilesh & Vaishali Animesh, Dr. Saishte, Hirdeshte, Mayank

emise of our mother Smt. Mohini Kaul W/o Late Rattan Lal Kaul originally resident of Budgam (Kmr), presently at Karan Nagar (Ward No.6), Udhampur on 26-01-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat Jdhampur on 04 Feb, 2025 and Assembly will be held at same place (Devika Ghat) at 10.30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters-in-law & Sons Smt. Neeta Kaul & Sh. Raj Kumar Kaul Smt. Laxmi Kaul & Sh. Kewal Krishan Kaul Smt. Banty Kaul & Sh. Kulbushan Kaul Daughters & Sons-in-law Smt. Saroj Sapru & Sh. Subash Sapru

Smt. Indoo Raina & Sh. Satish Raina All Kaul, Sapru & Raina Parivar



BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Sardarni Rajinder Kour, W/o Lt. S. Kirta Singh.

Singh. Bhog and Antim Ardas shall take place as per the following programme: At our resi-dence, H.No. 210 Ext. Sec 3 Vasant Vihar Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Arambh Sri Akhand Path on 30/01/2025 Chursden, St. 600. AM Bhos. St. Akhand

(Thursday) at 9:00 AM. Bhog Sri Akhano Path on 01/02/2025 (Saturday) at 10:00 AM At Gurudwara Bala Pritam,Sec-3 Trikuta

Nagar Kirtan and Antim Ardas from 11 AM to 12:30 Sardarni Rajinder Kour PM followed by Guru ka Langar on 01/02/2025 (Saturday). GRIEF STRICKEN:

Simranjeet Singh & Dr. Harleen Kour (Son & Daughter-in-law) Dr. Sandeep Kour & Dr. Gurneet Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law) Dr. Gurpreet Kour & Dr. Jaskaran Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law) Dr. Gurjyot Kour & Dr. Manmeet Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law) All relatives and friends I relatives and friends ontact: 9906069975, 9596836099, 7889783695, 9419198545

### OBITUARY

With profound grief this is to inform that our beloved Smt. Janak Rani Dhar (Chuni Jigri) W/o Lt. Sh. Janki Nath Dhar, originally of Frasil, Kulgam and presently residing at H.No. 31, Lane no. - 2, Shantipuram Muthi, Jammu had sudder ly left for heavenly abode on Jan 29, 2025. Tenth Day will be performed on 7th of Feb 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat, 7.00 am, Assembly will be he at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 am. Grief Stricken

Smt. Janak Rani

Dhar (Chuni Jigri)

Son & Daughter-in-law Sh. Chaman Lal Dhar & Smt. Veena Dhar Smt. Shanta Dhar - Sister-in-law

Grand Children Mr. Sandeep Koul & Mrs. Nisha Dhar Mr. Tarun Ji Raina & Mrs. Shallu Dhar Mr. Rohit Bhat & Mrs. Neetu Dhar Mr. Akshay Dhar & Mrs. Vibha Bhat Contact No: 9149517810, 9419214874



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Sh. Bishan Dass Gupta

# LOCAL/ADVT

# NCC Cadets of Republic Day contingent 2025 honoured by Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: The Raj Bhawan in Jammu resonated with pride and celebration as Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, hosted the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Republic Day Contingent (RDC) 2025.

These cadets, who represented the region at the prestigious Republic Day Camp in Delhi, were lauded for their outstanding achievements, dedication, and unwavering spirit. The event commenced with an interactive session on the Raj Bhawan Lawn, where Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, known for his strong support of youth initiatives, engaged with the cadets. He listened to their inspiring experiences and applauded their hard work in representing Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on a national platform.

A vibrant cultural performance by the RDC contingent captivated the audience. The cadets showcased their talent through a melodious group song and an energetic group dance, "Hum Ek Hain Hum



Shreshta Hain," symbolising India's unity in diversity.

Adding a personal touch, two cadets re shared their transformative journeys, narrating stories of resilience, th teamwork, and personal growth during their rigorous Republic Day to training. Their accounts th deeply resonated with the audience, highlighting the profound impact of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in shaping m

young leaders. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha presented Certificates of Excellence to cadets who made significant contributions to the success of the contingent.

The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh RDC Contingent excelled during the Republic Day Camp, securing several prestigious awards and accolades : JUO Abida Afreen,

recognized for her outstanding performance, has been honoured with the Raksha Mantri Commendation Card. She has also been selected to scale Mt. Everest later this year.

SUO Ekta Kumari brought pride to UT of J&K by being selected as the Contingent Commander for the All India NCC Girls Contingent. She led the contingent during the Republic Day Parade 2025 on Kartavyapath, earning appreciation from the President of India and the DG NCC Commen-

mir dation Card. on- Cadet Alankrita (APS, ing Udhampur), ANO Lt mp, Nitika Kundan (NIT, Srinagar) and Second Officer Ashaq Hussain (GHS, Machail) were honoured with DG NCC Commendation Cards for their exceptional contributions during the camp. Furthermore, 01 Offr, 1

JCO and 8 cadets from the contingent were awarded the prestigious DG NCC Medallions for their exceptional performance.

To mark the occasion, Maj Gen A. Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate, presented a memento to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha as a token of gratitude for his continuous support of the NCC's initiatives.

In his address, Manoj Sinha Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir commended the cadets for their discipline, perseverance, and excellence, underscoring the NCC's crucial role in shaping responsible and patriotic citizens. He expressed his appreciation for SUO Ekta Kumari, who brought immense pride and recognition to the UT of J&K.

Lieutenant Governor advised NCC cadets to Reflect, Focus, and Act on 5 questions. These, he said, are not just five questions but five resolutions that every NCC Cadet must uphold as a guiding force in their journey of service, leadership, and nationbuilding. These resolutions embody the spirit of

embody the spirit of discipline, dedication, and duty that every NCC cadet must carry forward for a stronger, more united, and prosperous India.

The event concluded on a high note, leaving attendees inspired and proud. This remarkable occasion not only celebrated the cadets' achievements but also reinforced the NCC's vital role in nurturing future leaders of the nation.

# Assistant Director Tourism Alka Mishra participates in Special Abhishek ceremony at Tirupati Balaji Temple

Expressing her joy,

Alka Mishra stated that

the establishment of the

Tirupati Balaji Temple in

Jammu is a matter of

pride and pleasure. "It

is a divine experience

to witness the rich cul-

tural heritage of South

India here in Jammu.

This temple provides

devotees with a heav-

enly feeling," she said,

appealing to the public

to visit the temple and

seek blessings. She

also emphasized that

the dedication of Lord

Venkateswara's temple

would significantly con-

tribute to the growth of

spiritual tourism in the

region.



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Assistant Director Tourism, Alka Mishra, along with Superintendent of Balaji Temple, RC Subramaniyam, Sai Krishna, Umesh Gupta, and Ramesh Babu, paid obeisance at the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu and participated in the special Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara. The ceremony, conducted every Friday, is a sacred ritual performed in reverence to the deity. During the visit, pravers were offered for the welfare of the nation.

Umesh Gupta shared his overwhelming experience at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, popularly known as Tirupati Balaji Temple, nestled amid the scenic Shivalik forests in Majeen, Jammu. He encouraged devotees who are unable to visit Andhra Pradesh to come to this temple to offer prayers and seek

the Lord's blessings. On this occasion, RC Subramaniyam, Superintendent of Balaji Temple, urged the Transport Commissioner to initiate bus services to the temple, ensuring easier access for devotees. He also emphasized the need for a Bharat Darshan bus service to enhance tourist awareness about the temple and its significance.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Pandit Neeraj Shukla, Ravi Tej Pandit, and several other distinguished guests.

# GGM Science College organises two-day awareness camp on gender-based violence

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: GGM Science College, Jammu, organised a twoday awareness camp on Gender-Based Violence on January 30 and 31, 2025.

Organized by the college's Women Empowerment and Development Cell in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, J&K, the event aligned with the Higher Education Department's Nayi Chetna 3.0 Campaign.

The programme, under the guidance of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta and Cell Convener Prof. Yasmeen Mughal, aimed to educate and sensitize students about the various forms and implications of gender-based violence, empowering them to become agents of change.

Day one featured a Slogan Writing Competition on the theme "Gender-Based Violence," with enthusiastic participation from students across various semesters.

The competition was judged by Dr. Jatinder Kour and Prof. Sunita Kumari from the Department of English. Bhupinder Kour (Semester IV) secured first place, followed by Mamta Bhagat (Semester I) in second, and Hasrat Kour (Semester IV) in third.

Day two featured an impactful



Awareness Lecture delivered by Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Chairperson of the Sensitization, Prevention, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment (SPARSH) Committee of Cluster University of Jammu.

Dr. Khajuria addressed various forms of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, workplace harassment, cybercrimes, and social discrimination, highlighting their psychological and emotional impact.

She also discussed legal provisions and redressal mechanisms available under Indian law and emphasized the role of educational institutions in fostering a safe and inclusive environment. The lecture was followed by a dynamic interactive discussion between students and faculty.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Mona Sethi, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Prof. Akanksha Parihar, Prof. Reetika Rani, Dr. Nisha, and Dr. Preeti Verma, with Prof. Akanksha Parihar leading the programme execution.

The Women Empowerment and Development Cell of GGM Science College remains dedicated to promoting gender equality and fostering a safer, more inclusive community through continued initiatives like this.





### OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.61of 2024-2025 Dated. 29-01-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Adverti sed Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Money	Time Allowed for comple te-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repair and Renovation of BEd Teaching Block and Construction of concrete Plateform under electric transformers Classrooms at GCOE Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	9.85	600	2% of Advertised Cost	30 Days	05-02-2025 (12.00Pm)	"A,B,C&D" Class

### Position of AAA: Accorded

### Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-01-2025 to04-02-2025upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR
		Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	30-01-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	04-02-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-02-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

No: - EE/R&B/BN/8905-24 Dated:- 29-01-2025 DIP/J-9658/24 549-(Er. Sandeep Gupta) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bakshi Nagar Jammu

# OP-ED

# EDITORIAL

# **Improving Life in Rural Areas**

Rural areas form the backbone of many nations, contributing significantly to agriculture, culture, and heritage. However, these regions often face numerous challenges that impact the quality of life, including limited access to healthcare, education, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. Addressing these challenges through strategic planning and policy initiatives can lead to substantial improvements in the standard of living for rural communities.

One of the key areas for improving rural life is infrastructure development. Roads, bridges, and transportation networks play a crucial role in connecting rural areas to urban centers, facilitating the movement of goods and people. Investments in better roads and public transportation can enhance accessibility to markets, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions. Additionally, ensuring access to clean water, proper sanitation, and electricity is fundamental for overall well-being. Rural electrification projects and the promotion of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power can provide sustainable solutions to energy shortages.

Healthcare in rural areas is often inadequate due to a lack of medical professionals, facilities, and essential supplies. To bridge this gap, governments and private organizations should invest in building and upgrading rural health centers, ensuring the availability of essential medicines, and deploying mobile healthcare units. Telemedicine services can also play a significant role in providing remote consultations and medical assistance to people in remote locations. Furthermore, training and incentivizing healthcare professionals to work in rural areas can help address workforce shortages.

Education is a crucial factor in improving the quality of life in rural regions. Many rural areas suffer from a lack of schools, trained teachers, and educational resources. Building more schools, improving teacher training programs, and incorporating technology-based learning can enhance educational outcomes. Distance learning and online education platforms can be leveraged to provide quality education to students who may not have access to well-established institutions. Additionally, vocational training programs should be promoted to equip young people with skills that align with market demands, thereby improving employment prospects.

Economic opportunities in rural areas are often limited, leading to migration to urban centers in search of jobs. Encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting small-scale industries can boost local economies and generate employment. Governments should introduce policies that provide financial assistance, training, and market access to rural entrepreneurs. Agricultural diversification, value addition, and agro-based industries can also create sustainable livelihoods for farmers. Furthermore, promoting tourism, handicrafts, and cottage industries can open new revenue streams for rural communities. Agriculture remains the primary source of income for many rural households. Improving farming techniques through modern technology, irrigation facilities, and access to quality seeds and fertilizers can enhance productivity and profitability. Encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming and crop rotation, can help maintain soil fertility and reduce environmental degradation. Farmers should also be provided with financial support, insurance schemes, and access to markets to ensure fair prices for their produce. The digital divide between rural and urban areas hinders economic and social progress. Expanding internet connectivity and digital literacy programs can bridge this gap. Digital platforms can be used for education, e-commerce, and financial transactions, empowering rural populations. Government and private sector initiatives should focus on improving broadband access, setting up community internet centers, and training individuals in digital skills to enhance their participation in the modern economy. Community participation is vital for sustainable development in rural areas. Local governance structures should be strengthened to allow communities to take part in decision-making processes. Encouraging self-help groups, cooperatives, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can foster collective efforts toward development. Social awareness programs on health, hygiene, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation can contribute to a holistic improvement in rural life. Environmental challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion, and water scarcity impact rural communities. Promoting afforestation, water conservation techniques, and sustainable farming practices can mitigate these issues. Governments and environmental organizations should work together to create policies that balance development with ecological preservation. Encouraging rural communities to participate in conservation programs can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility toward natural resources.

# Osho's Influence on Youth in the age of Social Media

### By Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj,

(Lecturer-Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Jammu University)

n the 21st century, India has witnessed a confluence of diverse ideologies and social movements shaped by its historical, cultural, and political tapestry. Among the influential figures whose ideas continue to resonate is Osho. Osho, a spiritual philosopher known for his unorthodox views on religion, meditation, and individual freedom, challenged traditional norms and explored the intersections of spirituality and modernity.

Osho, also known as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, is a polarizing figure whose teachings on spirituality, freedom, and individuality challenge conventional norms. Falk (2009) highlights how Osho utilized media as a tool for global dissemination of his ideas, emphasizing personal transformation over institutionalized religion. Chryssides (2005) discusses the portrayal of Osho in popular culture and media, noting the controversies and their implications for his movement.

Media serves as a critical platform for both philosophical dissemination and grassroots activism. Rajagopal (2009) identifies the media's role in shaping new social movements in India, including those inspired by spiritual leaders. Banaji (2011) argues that social media has amplified the reach and impact of such movements, fostering a digital public sphere where ideas of modernity and activism converge.

Different media—print, digital, and social platforms—mediate, transform, and amplify his ideas. Print media, with its permanence and detailed structure, provides a foundation for his philosophies, allowing for in-depth engagement. Digital media extends Osho's reach, making his teachings globally accessible through websites, online archives, and streaming platforms, often reshaping narratives to fit contemporary contexts. Social media, with its interactivity and immediacy, is promoting Osho's teachings through bite-sized content like quotes and videos. Each medium's unique characteristics influence how his legacy is perceived, whether through the depth of print, the adaptability of digital platforms, or the participatory nature of social media. These mediums uncover the evolving dynamics of his impact, reflecting the interplay between technology, message delivery, and audience reception. The 21st century, marked by the

The 21st century, marked by the convergence of traditional and digital media, offers a unique lens through which we can examine how the ideology of Osho is promoted. Osho as a spiritual mystic with a focus on individual freedom and meditation. The portrayal of his ideology in media reflects not only the content of his teachings but also the evolution of media itself in the digital age.

In traditional print media, Osho is often portrayed as a controversial yet profound spiritual leader. His emphasis on meditation and existential freedom receives coverage, but so do controversies surrounding his community and personal life. Print media tends to highlight his provocative statements and unconventional lifestyle, which can overshadow his philosophical contributions.

Television documentaries and programs on Osho often oscillate between admiration for his spiritual insights and criticism of the controversies linked to his commune in Oregon, USA. Programs usually focus on his philosophy in the context of Western reception of Eastern spirituality.

On platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, Osho's teachings are transformed into bite-sized quotes and visually appealing infographics. His philosophy on love, freedom, and meditation resonates with younger audiences, especially in the self-help and mindfulness niches. His enigmatic image is celebrated, often stripped of controversies.

Numerous blogs and websites, including his official channels, curate his teachings on spirituality, relationships, and meditation. These platforms provide nuanced discussions about his philosophy, often in contrast to the controversies that surrounded him.

YouTube channels dedicated to Osho feature his recorded lectures, meditative techniques, and interviews. Podcasts explore his ideas in a global context, linking them to the New Age spiritual movement. His teachings are re-contextualized for a 21st-century audience seeking personal growth.

Digital media has significantly expanded the reach of Osho ideas, transcending geographical and linguistic barriers. While traditional media often catered to specific demographics, digital platforms democratize access, enabling global discussions around his philosophy. Osho's teachings have been commodified in the digital age as part of the wellness and mindfulness industry. His ideology is often decontextualized for broader appeal.

Osho's teachings align with global trends in spirituality and self-help, finding a receptive audience in Western societies. His portrayal has shifted from controversy to a focus on his universal spiritual insights.

Digital media fosters real-time engagement, enabling users to reinterpret and reframe Osho's ideas. While traditional media provided a one-way narrative, digital platforms allow active participation through comments, discussions, and content creation.

Osho's ideology in 21st-century media reveals how globalization and digital platforms have transformed the dissemination and adaptation of his philosophy. Osho's teachings on spirituality, meditation, and personal freedom align with the global wellness movement.

In contemporary Indian society, Osho find renewed relevance, especially among youth, who engage with his ideology through digital media. Osho's teachings have been commodified and re-contextualized in the digital age, often stripped of controversies to appeal to global audiences seeking mindfulness and self-help.

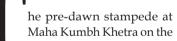
Digital media's role as a democratizing force is particularly evident. Platforms such as social media, You-Tube, podcasts, and blogs enable real-time engagement, amplifying Osho's spiritual. Youth-led social movements, bolstered by these technologies, integrate these ideologies into their efforts to challenge societal norms and advocate for change.

Globalization has further expanded the reach of these philosophies, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries. Osho's universal spiritual concepts resonate globally, especially in Western societies. This global dialogue underscores the enduring significance of his ideas in addressing the complexities of the 21st century.

Ultimately, the convergence of traditional and digital media has not only reshaped the narratives surrounding Osho but also reinforced their relevance in addressing contemporary challenges. His ideology continue to inspire youth-driven political, social, and cultural movements, demonstrating the transformative potential of media technologies in bridging the past with the future.

# Desist from politics over Stampede at Maha Kumbh

# By: Omkar Dattatray



largest congregations. It is very unfortunate and pure politics that too dirty that Akhilesh Yadav suggested that the management and administration of the Kumbh should be handed over to the Army. How sad is it , that within hours of the stampede at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, leaders of the Opposition parties targeted the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government in UP ,alleging that" mismanagement " and "VIP culture" led to the mishap and deaths? Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi blamed the "VIP culture" for the incident and said it should be curbed and the government "should make better arrangements to meet the needs of common devotees." He said, "Mismanagement and the administration's special focus on VIP movement, instead of common devotees ,are responsible for this tragic incident. "SP chief and former UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav said ,"Those who are making tall claims of world -class arrangements at Maha Kumbh should take moral responsibility for the deaths and should resign from their positions."He also called for stepped-up surveillance from the air. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also blamed "VIP movement", "half -baked arrangements " and "attention to self -promotion rather than management and mismanagement " for the incident. UP Congress president Ajay Rai said the state government was "busy in taking care of VIP's " and "destroyed " the arrangements ." This incident is a failure of the government. The VIP system is all around. There are no arrangements for ordinary people, "Rai said. Ujjwal Raman Singh ,Congress MP from Allahabad ,demanded an inquiry led by sitting judge of the Supreme Court into the incident. In fact politics over tragic deaths during Maha Kumbh stampede are unfortunate and malicious according to Arnab Goswami of Republic Bharat TV channel..According to him there was no VIP focus and to say that there was total mismanagement is wrong. The fact is that the police was appealing the crowd not to rush towards the trivini Sangam but the people crossed the police barricade

and as there were tens of thousands of people and hence the stampede .A PIL was also filed by an advocate in apex court on the stampede in Maha Kumbh requesting the top court to hold the officers of UP government entrusted with the management and arrangements responsible for the tragedy that struck in the wee hours of the morning of 29th January the date of Mouni Amavasaya near trivini Sangam. Accusing the UP government of failing to manage the Maha Kumbh efficiently, the PIL stated that such incidents occur repeatedly, yet no lessons have been learnt. The PIL was filed in the SC accusing the UP government of "lapses ,negligence, and utter failure of administration. "Be it as it is ,the UP government controlled the stampede and diffused the crowd and normalized the situation within a shortest time and the response after the tragedy was quick. The chief minister Yogi was in action and contacted the responsible civil and police officers of the Maha Kumbh Khetra and instructed the officers to hospitalize the injured .Yogi is very concerned about the stampede and he got emotional as 30 lives of the devotees were lost and directed the officers to make Kumbh Mela safe and comfortable. In this connection at least 5 instructions/guidelines were issued to the concerned senior officers for strict implementation so that Kumbh Mela becomes safe and sound. Yogi Adityanath has instructed officers to control crowd movement by setting up holding areas at border points and keeping return routes from Prayagraj open. The list of guidelines issued is as under-1 -Yogi government ordered judicial commission with three members to probe the tragic stampede to find the reasons and carelessness or negligence of the officers responsible for the deaths and injures to devotees and order the commission to give its report within a month. Yogi directed officials to ensure smooth traffgic flow in the Maha Kumbh Mela area, prevent unnecessary halts and avoid crowd buildup.2-Police officers have been directed to intensify patrolling in the area and keep key routes ,including Ayodhya

-Prayagraj, Kanpur-Prayagraj, Fatepur-Prayagraj, Lucknow-Pratapgrah-Prayagraj, and Varanasi-Prayagraj clear.All return routes from Prayagraj must remain open and unobstructed.3-Vehicles from districts bordering Prayagraj are being stopped at district borders ,with a blanket ban on the entry of four wheelers into the city till February 4.No special passes will be issued and vehicle entry into the area will be strictly prohibited with no exceptions.5-Devotees should be allowed to move according to the situation on the ground.5 Yogi said that the Amrit Snan will take place on Basant Panchami ,Feb 3,2025.The chief secretary and DGP are touring Maha Kumbh city and overseeing the arrangements on Thursday ,January 30.The chief minister ordered the deployment of Ashish Goyal IAS, who served as the Divisional Commissioner of Prayagraj during Kumbh 2019, and Bhanu Goswami, a former Vice Chairman of ADA , to further strengthen the arrangements. Besides five special Secretaries -level officers are being assigned to oversee operations. Thus many changes have been made and so it is expected to make the Maha Kumbh Mela smooth ,with safety and security to the pilgrims. The UP government should take lessons from the stampede and the resultant tragedy and should not allow such a situation to happen again. Rest the political parties especially of the Opposition should not politicized the stampede as it is unbecoming ,uncalled far and untenable as well as most unfortunate to resort to politics on the dead and so politics over the stampede should stop and instead the political leaders should cooperate with the state government to make Maha Kumbh Mela smooth ,safe,secure and comfortable.

eve of Mounai Amavasya at 1 to 2 AM is very unfortunate and it may have occurred because of huge overcrowdings .It is very sad that 30 pilgrims mostly women have died and 60 more are injured and are undergoing treatment in hospitals. But it is more disturbing that the opposition parties have resorted to worst politicking over the stampede at Maha Kumbh and they are holding UP government and chief minister of UP, Yogi Adhityanath solely responsible for the stampede resulting in deaths of 30 devotees and injures to many more. It is very unbecoming and untenable that Congress, Samajwadi Party, AAP ,Shiv Sena Uddhav and some other parties have alleged that mismanagement and giving priority to VVIP's and taking part in the campaigning by Yogi in Delhi polls is responsible for the stampede. SP Chief Akhliesh Yadav has gone to the extent of demanding the resignation of chief minister Yogi for stampede. It seems that the opposition parties have become much nervous on the successful Maha Kumbh as they know the credit for the successful Maha kumbh is going in favor of Yogi, Modi duo and the BJP government of Uttar Pradesh. So they are finding faults and weaknesses in the management of the Maha Kumbh Mela. It should be appreciated, acknowledged and accepted by all including the political parties of the opposition that it is a stupendous and herculean as well as challenging task to manage well the huge crowd and biggest gathering at the Maha Kumbh. But political parties are busy in blaming Yogi government for the Maha Kumbh stampede and the resultant unfortunate deaths. The fact is that the UP government is managing Maha Kumbh well and so Yogi and his government cannot and should not be held responsible for the deaths in the stampede, because despite best management ,the omissions and commissions cannot be ruled out in such

### (The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer)

# LOCAL

that sufficient blood

remains readily avail-

able for accident victims,

allowing for immediate

lifesaving interventions

during emergencies viz

a viz the importance of

road safety measures

and the MVD's efforts

to raise awareness

throughout the district.

He stressed the need

for adherence to safety

regulations while driv-

ing, underscoring the

critical role each individ-

ual plays in preventing

accidents and ensuring

ARTO Kishtwar Tasl-

eem Wani extended

gratitude to the Chief

Guest of the event ADC

Kishtwar, Major Akshay

7 Assam Rifles, DySP

DR Kishtwar, Superin-

tendent DH Kishtwar,

Media fraternity Kisht-

war for gracing the

occasion with their pres-

He also thanked the

Colonel 7 Assam Rifles

Vikrant Gupta,transport

union, drivers commu-

nity & health Depart-

ment Kishtwar for their

overwhelming sup-

port in organising the

blood donation camp.

The event served as a

testament to the Motor

Vehicles Department's

dedication to both road

safety and humanitarian

road safety.

ence.

efforts

# **Dimple meets Sports Minister Satish** Sharma, raises key demands

regularization of REK

(Rehbrey Khel) teach-

ers, NYC workers, Jan-

glat employees, CAPD

NAREGA workers, CPW

staff, land donors, KKG

workers, SPOs, and

daily wagers. Addition-

ally, he demanded an

employment package

Dimple criticized the

omission of Jammu &

Kashmir's statehood

restoration from Presi-

dent Droupadi Murmu's

for the youth.

fare

adjustments,



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, met with Satish Sharma, the Cabinet Minister for CAPD Food Supply, Transport, and Sports & Youth Affairs, to discuss key public welfare demands.

Dimple urged Satish Sharma to immediately provide double ration. 12 LPG cylinders, and 200 units of free electricity to the people from

to expedite efforts for the restoration of J&K's statehood, reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35-A, and the holding of Rajya Sabha seat elections. He also emphasized the need for Panchayat, Cooperative, ULB, Corporation, and Municipality elections. Satish this month onwards. He also called for the

assured that double ration, 12 LPG cylinders, and free 200 units of electricity would soon be provided to the people, as policy decisions had already been made. He also confirmed that all vacant government posts, particularly in the sports department, would be filled on a priority basis.

Sharma

budget address. He

pressed the minister

The minister gave a patient hearing to Dimple's concerns and issued on-the-spot orders for the redressal of various demands.

### MVD Kishtwar organises **Blood Donation Camp Top News Report** tion camp was to ensure

KISHTWAR, Jan 31: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Kishtwar under the overall supervision of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan JKAS organizes blood donation camp at District Hospital Kishtwar. This initiative was a part of the ongoing celebration of National Road Safety Month 2025.

The event was graced by the presence of chief guest ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal JKAS in presence of DySP DR Kishtwar Sajad Khan & Major Akshay from 7 Assam Rifles.

ADC Kishtwar applauds the efforts of ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani JKAS and other stakeholders in organising the blood donation camp.

During the event, ARTO Kishtwar, members of the drivers' community, Jawans from 7 Assam Rifles, journalists from Media fraternity Kishtwar, volunteers and MVD officials came forward to donate blood, highlighting their commitment to the humanitarian cause.

Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Kishtwar emphasised the primary aim of the blood dona-

# **Bukhari demands** monthly allowance for unemployed youth

### Urges centre to double J&K's grant, allocate funds for long-awaited tunnel projects

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has demanded that the central government provide a financial package for a monthly allowance to unemployed youth in order to give them some relief until they secure employment. He said that "there are more than seven lakh jobless youth, mostly graduates and postgraduates, who should be given a monthly allowance of up to Rs 20,000 to ease their financial burden"

He made this and other demands while speaking to reporters after a crucial party meeting in Jammu.

Apni Party President also called on the central government to double J&K's grant in light of the prevailing economic conditions and the financial challenges that the Union Territory (UT) is facing.

He said, "A significant amount of hydropower is being generated using the water resources of Jammu and Kashmir, yet the Union Territory derives only minimal benefits from it. Also, we are grappling with challenging economic conditions and financial hardships. In light of these circumstances, the Union government must take these factors into account and double J&K's grant, which currently stands at Rs 10,000 crore." Furthermore, Bukhari urged the central government to allocate the funds for the proposed tunnels in Jammu and Kashmir so that reliable road connectivity is established here. He said, "The Centre should also allocate funds for long-awaited projects, such as tunnels at Sadhna Top and on the Gurez-Bandipora Road, as well as the proposed Vailoo-Kishtwar tunnel and the Peer Ki Gali tunnel on the historic Mughal Road. The construction of these tunnels would ensure reliable road connectivity between regions and provide all-weather access to remote areas across Jammu and Kashmir.' Responding questions about the performance of the government, Bukhari said, "We are not going to judge the performance of this government so soon. However, the fact remains that the government itself admits its inability to perform. That said, I do not agree with the argument that two power centers are hindering the government's performance.' He added, "Everyone was already aware that the captain (the LG) holds a position in the Union Territory. The election was for the vice-captainship (Chief Ministership). Therefore, no one should complain about the existence of dual power centers; rather, the government should collaborate with the captain to serve the people.' Bukahri said that "the ruling party have boasted in its election manifesto and allured people to vote for it by claiming that it will provide 2 lakh government jobs, ensure the release of detainees, protect the mineral resources of J&K, regularize daily wagers, double the ration quota, and so on. Now, they must deliver. They cannot shy away from their commitments."

# Kavinder slams Congress for disrespecting President Murmu, calls out Feudal Mindset

President," he said.

of socially marginalized

communities. includ-

ing Dalits, OBCs, and

Tribals. "Their actions

over the years prove

that they only engage in

tokenism, while in real-

ity, they undermine the

very principles of social

The senior BJP leader

also criticized Congress

for sidelining Presidents

during their regime,

justice," he added.



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta launched a scathing attack on former Congress president Sonia Gandhi over her alleged remark referring to the President Droupadi Murmu's address at the Budget session of Parliament as a "poor thing." He stated that such comments demean the dignity of the highest constitutional office and expose the Congress party's feudal mindset.

In a press statement issued here today, the BJP stalwart accused the Congress of consistently disrespecting President of India, showing their disregard for the values of democracy and social empow

treating them as mere figureheads instead of upholding the dignity of their office. "Even during their tenure, the Congress leadership never gave due respect to the Presidents of India, reducing the high office to ceremonial status under their control," he said.

5

The former Deputy erment. "This is not the Chief Minister reaffirst time the Congress firmed that under has ridiculed President Prime Minister Naren-Murmu. Rahul Gandhi, dra Modi's leadership, who frequently flaunts India is witnessing an the Constitution, has era where the dignity not even shown the of constitutional offices courtesy of visiting the is being restored, and marginalized communi-The senior BJP leader ties are truly empowfurther alleged that ered. He called upon the Congress has no the people to reject the respect for Babasaheb Congress's outdated Ambedkar's Constimindset and support a tution. constitutional leadership committed values, or the upliftment

> national progress. Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta paid obeisance at Lal Dwara Mandir on the auspicious occasion of the 670th birth anniversary of Baba Lal Ji. He prayed for peace, prosperity, and harmony in the country and emphasized the significance of spiritual and cultural heritage in strengthening social values.

to justice, equality, and

# Newly appointed BJP KDD **President felicitated**

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jan 31: Prominent social activist Vinod Pandita on Friday called on newly appointed President Kashmir Displaced District, Rajeev Pandita, a young leader in his office chamber and felicitated him on being appointed as the President of KDD.

Wide range of discussions about the pertinent problems being faced by with community in exile were held in threadbare



and it is expected that under the leadership of Pandita, this community will surely get over all solace on account of their pertinent problems faced by them in exile for last more than thirty

six years. He wished the newly appointed President all the success in his future mission. Others who were present on the occasion were Vimal Raina, Sanjay Bhat and many others.

NDA organizes 2-day cluster of Block Level Sports Meet at Ramgarh

the tournament, includ-

ing Volleyball, Kho-Kho,

Badminton, Race, Shot

Put, and Skipping Rope. In

the Volleyball competition,

Ramgarh Volleyball Club

emerged as the cham-

pions, while Balouri Vol-

leyball Club secured the

The Chief Guest at the

closing ceremony was Dr.

Devinder Kumar Manval.

MLA Ramgarh and former

Minister for Health and

Medical Education, J&K.

Amit Choudhary, Execu-

tive Officer of the Munici-

pal Committee Ramgarh,

presided over the event.

runners-up position.

# **Road Safety Awareness Week concludes with** successful ceremony at GDC R S Pura

### **Top News Report**

R S PURA, Jan 31: The week-long Road Safety Awareness Program, organized by Road Safety Club in collaboration with NCC came to a successful conclusion on Friday with a grand ceremony at Government Degree College (GDC), R S Pura under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, principal of the college.

The event marked the end of an engaging and impactful week aimed at educating the public on the importance of road safety and reducing accidents.

The closing ceremony was attended by students and staff who participated in various activities throughout the week. The event featured different activities such as Pledge ceremony, Documentary show, speech, Slogan writing competition, awareness rally, highlighted the significance of safe driving



long activities by Convener road safety club, Prof Sanjeev Upadhyay who shared insights on key topics such as the importance of helmet use, adhering to traffic rules, and the dangers of distracted and drunk

driving. Participants took a pledge to uphold road safety standards and promote safe driving practices within their communities. Students of the college performed speech and songs that reinforced the message of road safety in an entertaining and engaging way.

awareness week have been remarkable. It is essential that we continue to work together to educate and encourage responsible driving habits"

The Road Safety Awareness Week at GDC R. S. Pura has been an overwhelming success, leaving a lasting impact on the participants and reinforcing the message of road safety within the community

The faculty who present on the occasion were Dr. Chanchal Angral, Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Prof Shifali Abrol, Dr. Jugal Kishore, Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Dr Hari Singh Dr. Rakesh Kalotra and Dr. Roopali Slathia further to conclude the event formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Rajinder Singh, HOD Punjabi.

schemes and avenues

for providing help-

ing hand especially to

women in case of need.

Prof. Rizwana Kousar

conducted the pro-

ceedings of the event,

ensuring a smooth and

engaging experience

for all participants. Prof.

Rumy Dar proposed the

formal vote of thanks,

expressing gratitude

to all participants and

organizers. This aware-

ness program was a

significant step towards

promoting gender sen-

sitization and equality

Other dignitaries pres-

ent included Dr Ashaq

Malik Convener IQAC,

Prof Supriya Gupta

Coordinator ICC, Dr

Sheraz Ahmed, Dr

Abdul Haque Naimi, Dr

Gulshan Rashid Bhat,

Dr Ather Aziz Raina,

Dr Nazar UI Islam, Prof

Altaf Hussain, Dr Junaid

Ahmed, Dr Showket, Dr

Mohd Zabir

among the youth.

practices and the role of the community in fostering a safer road environment.

The welcome address was presented by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri followed by description of the week

Principal of the college, emphasized, "The conclusion of this week marks a significant step toward making our roads safer. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the students and the staff during this

> When asked about the proposed Waqf amendment bill, which is about to be passed by the parliament in the upcoming budget session, Bukhari said, "This is a secular country."

> The preamble of the Constitution suggests that religious bodies should not be interfered with. As far as efforts to ensure the efficient management of Waqf properties are concerned, we support them, but religious bodies and institutions should remain under the authority of their respective communities, not the government."



### **Top News Report**

RAMGARH, Jan 31: Nations Development Association (NDA), in collaboration with MyBharat-NYK Jammu, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Government of India, successfully organized a 2-day Cluster of Block Level Sports Meet at the Community Hall in Ramgarh. The event, which concluded today, witnessed active participation from youth across various blocks of Samba District.

A total of five sporting events were held during

Chief Functionary of the Nations Development Association (NDA), expressed gratitude to all participants and delivered the vote of thanks.

He also took the opportunity to highlight various youth development programs initiated by NYKS (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan). As a token of appreciation, all participants were awarded medals during the concluding function.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manval commended the efforts of Sushil Singh Charak and acknowledged the vital role played by his team in organizing the event. Sushil Singh Charak, in turn, extended his thanks to the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Federation team, including Rinku Choudhary, Sandeep Singh, Dheeraj Kumar, Nancy Choudhary President Ramgarh and Naveen Sharma President Swankha.

# Army conducts class on Career **Opportunities at Sial Sui**

### **Top News Report**

RAJOURI, Jan 31: In a remarkable initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and providing them with an opportunity to secure careers in various government and private sectors, the Indian Army has successfully conducted a class on career opportunities at Government Middle School Panhar, Sial Sui, Rajouri.

The students were briefed on various schemes to join the Indian Army, Police, CAPF, and other government departments, along with the essential educational qualification requirements.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's broader effort to foster national integration, guide, and provide awareness to the youth in remote areas regarding job opportunities in government and private sectors ...

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office : 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor : M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor : Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No : (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

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**GDC Thannamandi hosts awareness** program on Gender Sensitization under New Chetna 3.0 Campaign

**Top News Report** 

THANNAMANDI, Jan 31: An awareness program on gender sensitization under New Chetna 3.0 campaign was organized by the Women Development Cell and Internal Complaint Committee of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi under the proficient guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed.

The event aimed to sensitize the youth regarding gender-based violence and promote a culture of equality and respect. Prof. Fatima Parveen, Coordinator of the Women Development Cell, delivered the formal welcome address, setting the tone for the event.

The New Chetna 3.0 is a national campaign against gender-based

History, emphasized the significance of promoting gender equality and respect. Principal Prof. Dr.

Farooq Ahmed congratulated the organizers and enlisted various

violence, promoting gender equality and providing support to survivors through 24x7 national help lines, One-Stop Centres, and fasttrack justice initiatives. The debate session

saw enthusiastic par

dents,

ticipation from stu-

Nousheen Qureshi (6th

sem), Rabia Sheikh,

Dr. Nagina Kousser,

the resource person,

shared valuable insights

on the importance of

gender sensitization

and the need to address

gender-based violence.

Head Department of

Dr. Nazakat Hussain,

and Mehtab Khan.

including

# **ENTERTAINMENT**

# Aditya Sarpotdar web series The Secret of the Shiledars is a leaf from history set in modern times

Unique is not just a word in USP (unique selling point) for filmmaker Aditya Sarpotdar, it is a philosophy, a mantra he lives by. If telling unusual stories is his forte, so is touching base with roots—cultural as well as historical.

6

Last year, his sleeper hit Munjya, which gave big-ticket films a run for money, was based on Marathi folklore, while today he is ready with a web show The Secret of the Shiledars with strong references to history. In case you are clueless about who exactly Shiledars were, well it's a term ascribed to soldiers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Aditya informs, "Shiledars were like a sacred collective, gatekeepers of Shivaji's kingdom." But mind you, The Secret of the Shiledars is not a historical show or set in the past, but right in 2024 and can be qualified as a treasure adventure show.

Historical context

Treasure hunt might seem like an idea borrowed from the western world, but he also elucidates how these films draw from their own cultural history, "With a history going right back to the Indus Valley civilisation, we have not cared to tap into the same space that lends itself as beautifully to such stories."

Since he grew up listening to the tales of the bravery of Shiledars, his interest was further piqued by the Marathi novel Pratipashchandra by Prakash Suryakant Koyade on which the show is based. An entirely fictional series, it asks tantalising questions like did Chhatra-



pati Shivaji have a treasure and was it hidden? If yes, where is it today and if people who have it are safeguarding it for a deeper purpose. Indeed, marrying history, culture and adventure with contemporariness isn't the easiest job in the world. But Aditya says, "If you come from a personal space of conviction, if you believe in your idea and have on board performers like Rajeev Khandelwal, you can always convince your audience."

Can't play safe anymore Yes, even if the world he intends to take them into is steeped in fantasy. If OTT has fuelled audiences' appetite for new and different content, we wonder if filmmakers have kept pace? He replies, "They better. For you can't play safe anymore. The year 2024 was a defining one in which 'tried and tested' was rejected and 2025 will reinforce this even more so." Thus, it's not just with The Secret of the Shiledars that he moves into a hitherto untried realm, but his big-budget upcoming film Thama too. Hold your breath and hearts too as Thama, for which he is currently shooting, will be a vampire drama, again a subject Hindi cinema has not attempted before or at least not well enough. Aditya shares, "Thanks to all those Hollywood films, we imagine vampires as these fantastical beings wearing black gowns, gelled hair and all. But Thama is going to envision vampires closer to our indigenous concept of betaals and will have a lot of our own cultural subtexts.

If that is not exciting enough, the unusual pairing of Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna is yet another reason for you to root for this love story set in a world far removed from our reality. Yes, like all Maddock films, there will be message, 'not in your face' variant but woven in between.

The one big advantage of being a part of Maddock's universe is, "They promote and harbour people with ideas that are not run of the mill, which is guite liberating." But can he afford to be a risk-taker for he happens to be a fourth-generation filmmaker? He makes no bones about the privilege which comes with hailing from a family of filmmakers. He says, "It does give you more access and it's always easy to make your first film." But at the same time in his 16th year of filmmaking, he insists, "You find your voice along the way." And as one will hear it resound once again in The Secret of the Shiledars, there are many rules like 'no nudity, no profanity' that he abides by.

Collective experience

Watching movies for him is a collective experience and for his web series The Secret of the Shiledars too he promises, "From a six year old to a nonagenarian, all can watch together." What's more, he assures, "It will tease your imagination and will pique your interest to know more about this period of history." After all, cinema he believes is a tool to empower audiences and transport them to bigger and better worlds. "Escapism', in his cinematic parlance 'is not merely a break from your dull routine but a fun trip to reimagine and re-examine the reality you inhabit'. So, as The Secret of the Shiledars drops on Disney+ Hotstar on January 31, enter his world of dreams, one where you can feel great about yourself and your past.

# Shruti Haasan pens a note of gratitude



self.

Actress and singer Shruti Haasan, who celebrated her birthday recently, has said that she senses this year would be a magical one and that she intends to "2025 is that magical year and I can feel it in my bones. As a January baby, I get to start my year with celebration and joy and I never take that for granted — I'm so thankful to all the beautiful people who surround me with love and good wishes."

Stating that her birthday this year was extra-special as she celebrated it with the unit of Lokesh Kanakaraj's Coolie, featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, the actress wrote, "It was extra special this year to celebrate with the wonderful Coolie team. Threw a birthday party after so long and was so glad to celebrate with so many lovely souls.

The actress also thanked her team that travels with her during shootings. "Grateful for my incredible team which travel with me through all the ups and downs, and are the best support system through all the work days and more."

She ended the note on how she planned to use this year. "This year I wish to learn more about myself - to own my wings and to build the fire — bigger better stronger... Thank you."

# Rapper Raftaar ties the knot with stylist Manraj Jawanda in close knit ceremony

Rap sensation Raftaar recently got married to fashion stylist and actress Manraj Jawanda. The ceremony took place on January 31, in the presence of the couple's family and close friends. This is his second wedding since he was married to Komal Vohra. Their divorce was finalised in



# The Mehta Boys trailer highlights strained father-son relationship

The trailer of The Mehta Boys offers a glimpse into the emotional rollercoaster of a complex father-son relationship. On Wednesday, Prime Video took to its social media handles to unveil an intriguing trailer for its much-anticipated original movie, directed by Boman Irani, who has co-written it alongside Academy Award winner Alex Dinelaris.



emotionally gripping preview of a story filled with family conflict, vulnerability and personal growth.

Taking to Instagram to

pen a long note of grati-

tude for all the birthday

wishes that came her

way, the actress wrote,

Boman Irani shared, "For me, The Mehta Boys is an extremely personal journey. The relationship between a father and son is one of the most complex and emotionally charged one. With this film, I wanted to delve into depth and authenticity, enriching the story in every way."

Avinash Tiwary, who portrays the role of Boman Irani's son Amay in the movie, mentioned, "Amay's character is layered with complexities, torn between familial loyalty and personal resentment.

Certain circumstances force him into an

2022.

The couple can be seen tying the knot in a traditional South Indian ceremony in a photo posted by a fan on X. Pictures of their pre-wedding functions have also been shared on social media. One of these pictures is from their "Haldi" ceremony, where they donned yellow and white outfits. Neither Raftaar, whose real name is Dilin Nair,

nor Manraj has shared an official statement about their nuptials. Fans began to speculate when a content creator posted a picture of s sign that read, "Welcome to the wedding

ared celebration of Dilin and Manraj. #ManDilYahin-Banenge." From the ecucree of Nair and Manraj dancing at what appeared to be a pre-wedding event. The film has been produced by Irani, Danesh Irani, Vikesh Bhutani and Shujaat Saudagar, under the banner of Irani Movietone LLP, in association with Chalkboard Entertainment LLP.

This heartfelt fatherson story features Boman Irani, Avinash Tiwary, Shreya Chaudhry and Puja Sarup in the lead roles. The trailer provides an how the bond between two people who deeply care for each other can be tested by time, misunderstandings and unresolved issues. It is a story that has stayed with me for years, and I'm thrilled to finally share it with audiences in India and across the world. I am deeply grateful to the talented cast for bringing their characters to life with such intense and transformative encounter with his father, reshaping his perspective in ways he never anticipated. Portraying this journey was both challenging and rewarding. I am proud to be part of a movie that explores such relatable themes of family ties and reconciliation."

The Mehta Boys is set to premiere on Prime Video on February 7.

# Anil Kapoor hopes for IPL 2025 trophy for Preity Zinta in birthday post

Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor took to social media to send his warmest birthday wishes to actress Preity Zinta, focusing on her exciting role in the upcoming IPL 2025 season.

Known for their close friendship, Anil's message was both a celebration of Preity's special day and a show of support for her team, Punjab Kings. With a heartfelt note wishing her success, he expressed his hopes for the team to win the IPL trophy this year.

The 'Mr. India' actor took to his Instagram stories to pen a lovely birthday note for Zinta and shared a photo featuring the two of them from a film.

For the caption, Anil wrote, "Happy Birthday! Your warmth, kindness, and that radiant smile light up every room. Wishing you all the best for IPL 2025, and may you win the trophy this year!"

The actress-turned-businesswoman, Preity, is the co-owner of the IPL team Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) and is gearing up for the 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League.



Meanwhile, the 'Soldier' actress is celebrating her 50th birthday today and is receiving heartfelt birthday wishes from her fans and loved ones on social media.

Preity, who made her Bollywood debut with a supporting role in Shah Rukh Khan's 1998 film "Dil Se," is known for her roles in movies like "Veer-Zaara," "Kal Ho Na Ho", "Mission Kashmir," "Sangharsh," and others.

The actress, who made her comeback at the Cannes Film Festival after a 17-year gap in 2024, is all set to make her acting return with the Bollywood film "Lahore 1947," starring Sunny Deol. Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, the action thriller will be produced by Aamir Khan Productions.

Last year in August, Sunny Deol wrapped up filming after an intense 70-day shoot. The production of Lahore 1947 completed its demanding schedule without any breaks.

A source close to the team had earlier revealed, "The shooting for Lahore 1947 has been successfully completed after an intense 70-day schedule, and there were no breaks during the entire process."

# Anoushka Shankar 'thrilled' to present the 67th Grammy Awards premiere

Sitarist Anoushka Shankar has been made the presenter of the 67th edition of the Grammy Awards. The musician who has been nominated for the award 11 times shared her excitement about getting the chance to represent India globally.

Anoushka wrote a long note on Instagram, expressing joy over the news. She posted a picture of the announcement, writing, "Eeeeeeee I have news! What a thrill to be asked to serve as a presenter at the 67th #GRAMMY-Premiere Ceremony this Sunday! The last time I presented was in 2016 - an extraordinary day, not only because I was nominated for my 5th Grammy for my classical album 'Home,' but also because I was the first Indian musician



ever to present at the ceremony."

She added that although much has changed, she looks forward to representing India, writing, "Although so much has changed (personally and globally) over the last nine years, I find myself once again in the wonderful position of representing India on the global stage."

Apart from presenting, Anoushka has also been nominated for two awards. She wrote, "I'm also proud to be nominated this year for my latest album 'Ch II: How Dark It is Before Dawn' and my featuring role on Jacob Collier's 'A Rock Somewhere' - my 10th and 11th Grammy noms respectively! Let's see what happens on Sunday." The musician has tours lined up in the US in March and in India in December.

The 67th Grammys will raise funds to support wildfire relief efforts in Los Angeles, USA. The ceremony can be watched live on February 2 at live.grammy. com. Performers at the award show this year include Chris Martin of Coldplay, Academy Award-nominated Wicked star Cynthia Erivo, John Legend, and Stevie Wonder among others.

# **NATIONAL**

# **One identity Bharat, one goal Viksit Bharat: President** stresses unity of purpose in Budget session remarks

Lauds government for progress on critical issues like 'one nation, one election' and the 'Waqf Act', peace in NE, focus on middle class, women, SCs, STs and OBCs

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): In her remarks at the commencement of the Budget Session of Parliament on Friday, President Droupadi Murmu emphasised the need for unity of purpose as the country aims developed nation status by 2047.

In a nearly hour-long address to the joint sitting of Parliament, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in presence, Murmu lauded the decadelong rule of the BJP-led NDA dispensation for all-round inclusive governance and said the past decade was one of cultural revivals of the country. Noting considerable progress on the fronts of key legislations that continue to be controversial and politically contested, the President said: "The government has also made swift progress on critical issues like "one nation, one election" and the "Waqf Act Amendment."

Her overall thrust was on flagging the governance model of the BJP over the past decade and on the ideal of nation first.

"Bharat is a country of 140 crore people. We have diverse states, diverse regions and diverse languages, yet as one nation, we have only one identity – Bharat.

And we have only one resolution, one goal – 'Viksit Bharat'!" she said in times of a fractured polity with the chasm between the ruling and opposition sides growing

In his speech, Murmu hailed the government for establishing peace in the northeast, aiming self-reliance in defence, inching closer to eradicating Left wing extremism, empowering the middle class, repealing obsolete laws and provisions for enhanced ease of living and for powering growth through infrastructure development in both physical and social fronts.

"The economic progress of a



nation like India is defined by the aspirations of the middle class and the fulfilment of those aspirations. The bigger the dreams of the middle class are, the higher the nation soars. It is my government that has, for the first time, openly acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of the middle class on every occasion," Murmu said mentioning as evidence the government decision to constitute the Eighth Pay Commission for the welfare of government employees, 50% assured pension to lakhs of employees under the Unified Pension Scheme, enactment of RERA to safeguard middle class, home loan subsidies and UDAN scheme that enables about 1.5 crore people to fly.

Acknowledging the role of taxpayers in nation-building, Murmu said the government has simplified tax-related processes. Noting that the pace of work has tripled in the third term of the NDA Government, Murmu said, "Today the nation is witnessing major decisions and policies being implemented at an extraordinary speed, with the highest priority given to the poor, the middle class, the youth, women, and farmers.'

Speaking of enhanced budgets for "Housing for All", the President said a budget of 5,36,000 crore rupees has been allocated for this purpose. "Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. Rs 41.000 crore has been disbursed to crores of farmers in recent months," she said, adding that day is not far when an Indian citizen will travel to space aboard the indigenously developed Gaganyaan spacecraft.

Murmu also said that in building a 'Viksit Bharat', the role of research, along with the role of farmers, soldiers and science, is of immense importance and lauded initiatives to make India a global innovation powerhouse, namely National Quantum Mission and others.

She said the government has worked with strong determination to lift the economy out of a state of policy paralysis and despite COVID-19 pandemic, its aftermath, and war-related uncertainties, the Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable stability and resilience, proving its strength.

Underlining the digital revolution which she said had eased the lives of people, Murmu said the government was building modern physical infrastructure and investing in social infrastructure through health initiatives.

She mentioned here the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project that has been completed, connecting the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway line. "Under this ambitious project,

the Chenab Bridge has been constructed, which is the highest railway bridge in the world," she said to applause, adding that work on the Shinkun La tunnel is also progressing successfully and upon completion, it will be the world's highest tunnel, ensuring year-round connectivity between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

Murmu said the government has established three strong pillars of Reform, Perform and Transform for India's development.

"The government has conducted an extensive review of laws enacted before the Constitution came into force. Many laws are being repealed or amended to ensure that the entire system can meet the current social and economic challenges. So far, the government has repealed more than 1,500 obsolete laws. By removing colonial-era laws, a 'Nyaya Sanhita' has been introduced in place of the Penal Code. With 'Jan Vishwas' (public trust) and 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation), my government is working to make the lives of citizens better. The "Vivad se Vishwas" initiative has been launched to resolve disputes.

In the same spirit, over 40,000 regulations have been simplified or reduced and 3,500 provisions have been decriminalised, Murmu said.

She also said that in an environment of global instability, India is emerging as a pillar of economic, social and political stability, setting an example for the world.

"Whether it is the G7 Summit, QUAD, BRICS, SCO, or G20, the world has placed its trust in India's strength, policy, and intent.

Today, India firmly presents its interests even on the largest global platforms," the President added.

# No spark from foreign lands: PM Modi takes dig at Opposition on **Budget session eve**

session. There has

been no attempt at any

shararat, no foreign

conspiracy," said the

prime minister in his

customary address on

the eve of the budget

session of Parliament

He was referring to

a range of issues the

Opposition has raised

in the past on the eve

of Parliament sessions

-- most lately the now-

shut US short-seller

Hindenburg's allega-

commencing today.



NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took a swipe at the Opposition over lack of any "spark from foreign lands" on the eve of a Parliament session for the first time in a decade.

"This is the first time in over ten years that I have been here and that there has been no spark of any kind from foreign shores on the eve of our Parliament tions of stock manipulation against Indian industrialist Gautam Adani and earlier, the Pegasus surveillance software issue and much earlier the Rafale deal with France.

The Prime Minister said this is the first time no spark of conspiracy has erupted from any nook or corner of any foreign land.

The PM also said the Budget session would lay the ground to give wings to Indian dreams of Viksit Bharat.

He also urged the Indian youth to participate in the journey of Viksit Bharat by 2047 recalling the contribution of the youth in the Indian freedom movement. The PM added there

was no attempt to create any mischief this time.

Never talks about people's issues: Priyanka hits back at PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'no foreign attempt to stoke fire' remark, saying he never talks about people's issues and does not address them.

Speaking with reporters ahead of the Budget session, Modi said it is perhaps the first time since 2014 that no attempt has been made from abroad to "stoke a fire" in India before the start of a Parliament session.

"He does not talk about people's issues, does not address them. We saw in the last session, he did not (allow) debate. So he will say such things," the Congress general secretary told reporters in Parliament premises.

In his remarks before the session, Modi took a swipe at opposition parties, saying there were people ready to do mischief before every session since 2014 and there was also no dearth of



those who would fuel such attempts.

"Shayad 2014 se lekar ab tak, ye pehla Parliament ka satr hai, ki jiske ek-do din pehle koi videshi chingari nahi pakdi hai, videsh mein se aag lagane ki koshish nahi hui hai (Perhaps since 2014, this is the first session of Parliament in which a day or two before the session, there has been no foreign attempt to stoke a fire from abroad)," Modi said before the start of the session.

Woman dies after being chased, repeatedly stabbed outside crowded eatery in Kolkata Ansari, police said, quoting evewitness First suspected case of Guillain-Barré Syndome reported in Hyderabad, Telangana

KOLKATA, Jan 31 (Agencies): A woman died after she was chased and allegedly stabbed multiple times outside a popular eatery in full public view in the eastern fringes of Kolkata by three people, including a minor, police said on Friday. The victim, Rofiya Saquil, in her 20s, was reportedly dragged down from a car next to the eatery and chased before being fatally assaulted on Thursday evening. The three suspects have been arrested and the body of the woman was sent for post-mortem procedures, a police officer said

The police said they were probing the possible angle of an extra-marital affair between the woman, a resident of Raja Ramnarayan Street of Narkeldanga area, and Mohammed Fahrukh Ansari, whose family members are suspected to have carried out the attack, as motive behind the crime

The incident took place around 8.30 pm on Thursday after the woman arrived at the dhaba adjacent to the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass at the Pragati Maidan Police Station area accompanied by

es. The woman, they added, was pulled out of her car and stabbed multiple times on her neck with a sharp weapon by a teenager who was accompanied by his mother and a 22-year-old man, who had reportedly followed the duo in a separate vehicle. Terrified eyewitnesses at the popular eatery found the profusely bleeding woman running for her life and screaming for help. She was chased down by the attackers and pinned to a wall where they continued with the assault, the police officer said.

All three suspects were later arrested by the police. Ansari, who is now absconding, has been identified as the husband of the woman who was a part of the team of attackers. The victim, too, was married to another man, he added. Saquil was moved to the state-run NRS Medical College and Hospital, where she died at around 2 am on Friday despite a surgical procedure being conducted on her at the emergency OT. Doctors attributed excessive bleeding as the likely cause of her demise

HYDERABAD, Jan 31 (Agencies): A woman from Telangana's Siddipet was admitted to a private hospital in Hyderabad with symptoms indicative of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological disorder. Her condition was reported to be critical, and she was reportedly on ventilator support.

This marked the first suspected case of GBS in Hyderabad, coming amid a rise in suspected cases in other parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra. As per a statement



issued by KIMS Hospital here on Friday, the patient had no travel history to Pune. Consultant neurologist on her case said: "Despite the high prevalence of this disease in Pune. Maharashtra, the patient has

no history of travel to Pune, nor does anyone in her family have a history of this condition. The GBS occurs when the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own nervous system after fever or

loose motions."

In Maharashtra, health officials reported 130 suspected cases of GBS, with three suspected deaths linked to the disorder. Most cases were concentrated in Pune and surrounding areas, with contaminated water sources believed to be the likely cause. The bacteria campylobacter jejuni, found in contaminated food and water, was suspected to be behind the outbreak.

A 17-year-old boy in Kolkata died due to septic shock and myocarditis, with doctors

tion that causes sudden numbness and muscle weakness, with symptoms including severe weakness in the limbs. In severe cases, it can lead to respiratory failure, requiring ventilator support.

suspecting that GBS

may have been the

GBS is a rare condi-

underlying condition.

Health authorities are monitoring the situation closely, and further details about the Hyderabad case are awaited as medical professionals work to confirm the diagnosis.

# 6 killed, many injured as truck rams vehicle of Kumbh returnees in UP's Ghazipur

A speeding truck crashed into a vehicle carrying Maha Kumbh Mela devotees in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, leaving at least six dead and many injured. The accident follows a deadly stampede in Prayagraj earlier this week.

GHAZIPUR, Jan 31 (Agencies): At least six people were killed and many injured after an uncontrolled truck rammed into a vehicle carrying devotees returning from Prayagraj's Maha Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur on Friday evening, officials said.

The accident took place in Kusmi Kala area near the Nandganj police station. The pickup van reportedly had around 20 passengers on board at the time of the accident.



All the injured have been shifted to Ghazipur Medical College

for treatment. The District Magistrate, along with police and

administrative officials, have reached the spot and are overseeing rescue operations. Meanwhile, the truck driver fled the scene after the crash. comes days after at least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in the pre-dawn stampede in the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj as millions of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, one of the most auspicious days of the Hindu calendar.

# Andhra Pradesh cop kills self in police station with service gun



WEST GODAVARI, Jan 31 (Agencies): A police sub-inspector in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, died by suicide on Friday morning by shooting himself with his service revolver inside the Tanuku Rural police

station. The incident occurred at around 7.45 am, according to West Godavari superintendent of police (SP) Adnan Nayeem Asmi. "Today morning he committed (suicide)

inside the police station.

An investigation will be

done, based upon that we will come to a conclusion and the reason behind it," Asmi said.

The deceased officer, identified as AGS Murthy, had recently been placed under vacancy in reserve (VR) due to corruption allegations, and an inquiry was pending against him. He had reportedly come to the police station on Friday morning before taking the extreme step. Police have begun the process of registering a case over the incident, while further details are awaited.

# **INTERNATIONAL**

# Trump threatens 'hostile' BRICS against replacing US dollar: Find another sucker

US President Donald Trump declared that he would impose 100 per cent tariffs on any BRICS country that takes steps toward abandoning the US dollar.

WASHINGTON, Jan 31 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump fired another warning shot at the BRICS bloc, of which India is a part, threatening to impose 100 per cent tariffs if they attempt to replace the US dollar with an alternative currency.

"The idea that the BRICS countries are trying to move away from the dollar, while we stand by and watch, is OVER," Trump wrote in a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, on Friday.

"We are going to require a commitment from these seemingly hostile countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar or, they will face 100% tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy," he said in

his signature bellicose style. BRICS, an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South



Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, has been discussing alternatives to the US dollar for international trade.

"They can go find another sucker nation. There is no chance that BRICS will replace the US dollar in international trade, or anywhere else, and any country that tries should say hello to tariffs, and goodbye to America!" Trump added. The US President's warning follows similar remarks he made after assuming office earlier this month, when he cautioned BRICS against taking a decision that could lead to 'de-dollarisation' of the global economy.

"They (BRICS) tried to do a number on the United States, and if they do that, they are not going to be happy about what's going to happen to them," he had told reporters in the Oval

### Office.

Prior to that, in December, he threatened the group with punitive tariffs if they moved forward with any plans to ditch the US dollar.

In response to Trump's threats, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had made it clear that India never supported the idea of moving away from the US dollar, but sought "workarounds" in pursuit of its trade interests. He also clarified that there were no current proposals for a BRICS currency.

While the US dollar dominates global trade, accounting for more than 90 per cent of transactions, other convertible currencies like the Japanese yen, euro, and British pound also play key roles. The US has not opposed their use.

In a similar fashion, a BRICS currency would serve as an alternative to facilitate trade among member nations and reduce reliance on a single currency.

# Israel says it struck 'multiple' Hezbollah targets in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley

Hezbollah to smuggle

weaponry into Leba-

non," the military said

It said the overnight

strikes were aimed at

targets that "posed a

threat" to Israel and

The military said it

intercepted a Hez-

bollah "surveillance"

drone approaching

Israeli territory, which

it said "represents a

breach of the cease-

fire understandings

between Israel and

"The (army) continues

to remain committed

to the ceasefire under-

Lebanon".

in a statement.

Israeli troops.



JERUSALEM, Jan 31 (Agencies): Israel's military said Friday it struck "multiple" Hezbollah targets in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, two months into a fragile ceasefire with the Lebanese group after major hostilities last year.

"The targets that were struck include a Hezbollah terrorist site containing underground infrastructure, used to develop and manufacture weaponry and additional terrorist infrastructure sites on the Syrian-Lebanese border used by standings between Israel and Lebanon, and will not permit any terrorist activity of this kind," it said.

The Israeli army missed a January 26 deadline to complete its withdrawal from Lebanon. It now has until February 18.

Israel had made clear it had no intention of meeting the deadline, charging that the Lebanese army had not fulfilled its side of the bargain.

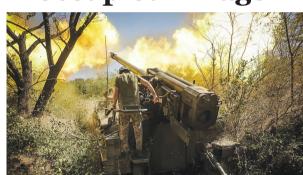
Under the terms of the ceasefire, the Lebanese army is to deploy in the south as Hezbollah pulls its forces back north of the Litani River, some 30 kilometres (20 miles) from the border. The Iran-backed militant group is also required to dismantle any remaining military infrastructure it has in the south.

# Russia says Kyiv's forces killed 22 people in occupied village

MOSCOW, Jan 31 (Agencies): Moscow on Friday accused Ukrainian troops of killing 22 people in an occupied Russian village, including eight women who were allegedly raped before being executed. Ukraine controls dozens of border settlements in the Kursk region of western Russia since launching a surprise offensive in August and says about 2,000 civilians still live in areas it occupies.

Russia has now retaken several towns.

Russia's Investigative Committee had said on January 19 it was investigating the killing of "at least seven civilians" in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye, about 20



blown up."

Russia and Ukraine

have accused each

other of killing civilians

since the conflict began

nearly three years ago.

Russian forces are

accused of murdering

hundreds of civilians in

the town of Bucha, near

Kyiv. Agency journalists

are among the interna-

tional media outlets that

have seen and photo-

graphed the bodies of

allegedly raped before being killed, the Investigative Committee said. Agency was not immediately able to verify the claims and there has been no official response from Ukraine. Russian investigators blame five Ukrainian soldiers for the killings and said one of them, Yevgeny Fabrisenko, was arrested during the fighting in the Kursk

# Philippines offers to return US missiles if China ceases South China Sea aggression

TAIPEI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has proposed returning US Typhon missiles stationed in the Philippines if China ceases its aggressive actions in the South China Sea, Taiwan News reported. Speaking ahead of a

meeting with US President Donald Trump, Marcos made it clear that the Philippines' stance on the missile system is tied to China's behaviour in the disputed waters.

Marcos' statement follows repeated calls from China for the Philippines to withdraw the Typhon missile system. However, the US and the Philippines decided in September to keep the missiles in place, reversing an earlier plan to temporarily remove them. Marcos questioned China's stance, saying, "I don't understand the comments on the Typhon missile system. We don't make any comments on their mis-



sile systems, and their missile systems are a thousand times more powerful than what we have."

He offered a deal to China, emphasising the need for de-escalation, reported Taiwan News.

"Let's make a deal with China: Stop claiming our territory, stop harassing our fishermen, and let them have a living, stop ramming our boats, stop water cannoning our people, stop firing lasers at us, and stop your aggressive and coercive behaviour, and I'll return the Typhon missiles," Marcos said. The Chinese embassy in Manila did not respond to requests for comment. The Typhon missile system was deployed by US forces during the Balikatan military exercises in April 2024, and reports indicate that the system's launchers have been redeployed to an undisclosed location in the Philippines.

The 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling sided with the Philippines, declaring that China's claims in the South China Sea lacked legal standing. Despite the ruling, China and Taiwan rejected the decision, Taiwan News reported. Taiwan claims all the territories claimed by China, but only controls a few islands in the region. Other countries like Vietnam and Malaysia also have competing claims in the area.

### Ukraine receives largest Swedish defence package amounting USD 1.23 Billion

KYIV, Jan 31 (Agencies): President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed thanks to Sweden for extending its 18th and the largest Swedish defence package to Ukraine till date. Zelenskyy said that the package would help meet Ukraine's military needs and signficantly contribute to strengthen its defence capabilities.

He shared the details in a post on X.

Zelenskyy said, "I am thankful to @SwedishPM Ulf Kristersson, the Swedish Government, and the people of Sweden for the 18th and largest Swedish defense package to Ukraine to date, totaling 13.5 billion SEK (\$1.23 billion)".

The post added, "We deeply appreciate that this military aid meets the urgent needs of the Ukrainian army and significantly contributes to strengthening our defense capabilities. Its reinforcement of our long-range capabilities and investments in weapons production in Ukraine are invaluable. Peace through strength can be achieved."

The post concluding by saying "We must all remember that threats like Russia's do not stop on their own; they advance only until the line where they are met with strength. That is why we must continue to strengthen this line together--from the Black Sea to the Baltic--to

kilometres (12 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

On Friday, it said it was now investigating the killing of "22 residents" between September and November. Among the victims,

whose bodies were found in the basements of several homes, were eight women who were The committee released a video of the interrogation of a man identified as Fabrisenko, who confessed. At a briefing on Friday, Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "First people were tortured, abused, then killed either by being shot or

region.

Ukrainian civilians killed, some with their hands tied.

tied. Moscow has denied the allegations and accused Kyiv of staging the footage -- a claim that has been rejected by several independent fact-checking organisations and media outlets, including agency. ensure peace and protect lives".

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy shared that he is receiving hourly updates on the situation in Sumy which he said was "from the site of a Russian Shahed strike".

Zelensky said that a residential building was destroyed. "Nine people were killed--my condolences to their families. Thirteen others were injured, including a child. Everyone is receiving the necessary assistance", Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

As per Al Jazeera, at least four people have been killed and nine injured, including a child, in a drone attack on an apartment building in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy.

# 5 years after Britain left EU, full impact of Brexit still emerging

LONDON, Jan 31 (Agencies): Five years ago Friday, two crowds of people gathered near Britain's Parliament — some with Union Jacks and cheers, others European Union flags and tears.

On Jan 31, 2020 at 11 pm London time – midnight at EU headquarters in Brussels — the U.K. officially left the bloc after almost five decades of membership that had brought free movement and free trade between Britain and 27 other European countries.

For Brexit supporters, the U.K. was now a sovereign nation in charge of its own destiny. For opponents, it was an isolated and diminished country.

It was, inarguably, a divided nation that had taken a leap into the dark. Five years on, people and businesses are still wrestling with the economic, social and cultural aftershocks.

"The impact has been really quite profound," said political scientist Anand Menon, who heads the think-tank U.K. in a Changing Europe. "It's changed our economy.

"And our politics has been changed quite fundamentally as well," he added. "We've seen a new division around Brexit becoming part of electoral politics."

A decision that split the nation

An island nation with a robust sense of its historical importance, Britain had long been an uneasy member of the EU when it held a referendum in June 2016 on whether to remain or leave. Decades of deindustrialization, followed by years of public spending cuts and high immigration, made fertile ground for the argument that Brexit would let the UK "take back control" of its borders, laws and economy.

Yet the result — 52% to 48% in favor of leaving — came as a shock to many. Neither the Conservative government, which campaigned to stay in the EU, nor pro-Brexit campaigners had planned for the messy details of the split.

The referendum was followed by years of wrangling over divorce terms between a wounded EU and a fractious U.K. that caused gridlock in Parliament and ultimately defeated Prime Minister Theresa May. She resigned in 2019 and was replaced by Boris Johnson, who vowed to "get Brexit done."

It wasn't so simple.

A blow to the British economy

The UK left without agreement on its future economic relationship with the EU, which accounted for half the country's trade. The political departure was followed by 11 months of testy negotiations on divorce terms, culminating in agreement on Christmas Eve in 2020.

The bare-bones trade deal saw the U.K. leave the bloc's single market and customs union. It meant goods could move without tariffs or quotas, but brought new red tape, costs and delays for trading businesses.

"It has cost us money. We are definitely

slower and it's more expensive. But we've survived," said Lars Andersen, whose London-based company, My Nametags, ships brightly colored labels for kids' clothes and school supplies to more than 150 countries.

To keep trading with the EU, Andersen has had to set up a base in Ireland, through which all orders destined for EU countries must pass before being sent on. He says the hassle has been worth it, but some other small businesses he knows have stopped trading with the EU or moved manufacturing out of the U.K.

Julianne Ponan, founder and CEO of allergen-free food producer Creative Nature, had a growing export business to EU countries that was devastated by Brexit. Since then she has successfully turned to markets in the Middle East and Australia, something she says has been a positive outcome of leaving the EU.

Having mastered the new red tape, she is now gradually building up business with Europe again.

"But we've lost four years of growth there," she said. "And that's the sad part. We would be a lot further ahead in our journey if Brexit hadn't happened."

The government's Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts that UK exports and imports will both be around 15% lower in the long run than if the UK had remained in the EU, and economic productivity 4% less than it otherwise would have been. Brexit supporters argue that short-term pain will be offset by Britain's new freedom to strike trade deals around the world. Since Brexit the UK has signed trade agreements with countries including Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

But David Henig, a trade expert at the European Center for International Political Economy, said they have not offset the hit to trade with Britain's nearest neighbors.

"The big players aren't so much affected," Henig said. "We still have Airbus, we still have Scotch whisky. We still do defense, big pharmaceuticals. But the mid-size players are really struggling to keep their exporting position. And nobody new is coming in to set up."

A lesson in unintended consequences

In some ways, Brexit has not played out as either supporters or opponents anticipated. The COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine piled on more economic disruption, and made it harder to discern the impact of Britain's EU exit on the economy.

In one key area, immigration, Brexit's impact has been the opposite of what many predicted. A desire to reduce immigration was a major reason many people voted to leave the EU, yet immigration today is far higher than before Brexit because the number of visas granted for workers from around the world has soared.

Meanwhile, the rise of protectionist political leaders, especially newly returned U.S. President Donald Trump, has raised the stakes for Britain, now caught between its near neighbors in Europe and its trans-Atlantic "special relationship" with the US.

"The world is a far less forgiving place now than it was in 2016 when we voted to leave," Menon said.

Can Britain and the EU be friends again? Polls suggest UK public opinion has soured on Brexit, with a majority of people now thinking it was a mistake. But rejoining seems a distant prospect. With memories of arguments and division still raw, few people want to go through all that again.

Labour Party Prime Minister Keir Starmer, elected in July 2024, has promised to "reset" relations with the EU, but has ruled out rejoining the customs union or single market. He's aiming for relatively modest changes such as a making it easier for artists to tour and for professionals to have their qualifications recognized, as well as on closer cooperation on law enforcement and security.

EU leaders have welcomed the change of tone from Britain, but have problems of their own amid growing populism across the continent. The U.K. is no longer a top priority.

"I completely understand, it's difficult to get back together after quite a harsh divorce," said Andersen, who nonetheless hopes Britain and the EU will draw closer with time. "I suspect it will happen, but it will happen slowly and subtly without politicians particularly shouting about it."

# LOCAL/CONTD....

# **APS Ratnuchak organises "sports grandeur 2025"**

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Jan 31: Armv Public School (APS) Ratnuchak orchestrated its much-anticipated annual sports extravaganza, "Sports Grandeur 2025", a spectacular confluence of athletic excellence and cultural magnificence.

The grand event commenced with the mellifluous rendition of Aditya Hridayam Salutations by the school choir, setting an auspicious tone. This was seamlessly followed by the ceremonial hoisting of the flag and an impeccably synchronized march past by NCC cadets, Scouts, Guides, and the proud house contingents,

Complementing the exuding discipline and athletic spectacle, an patriotic fervor. The sports arena pularray of spellbinding

sated with electrifying cultural performances energy as senior stumesmerized the audience-Unity in Syndents fiercely contested various track events, chronicity symbolized showcasing their agilseamless harmony, ity and stamina, while Maratha Legacy paid the ever-enthusiastic a resplendent tribute to valorous traditions, and primary wing students engaged in a delightthe grand culmination, ful array of fun races, Whimsical Innocence, spreading cheer and left an indelible impresexuberance. sion with its enchanting

charm.

The program also honored meritorious students for their exemplary achievements in both academics and sports, with the pinnacle of accolades being the prestigious **Overall House Trophy** presentation, a moment of immense pride and jubilation.

The Chief Guest, in an inspiring address,

underscored the paramount importance of holistic development, while the Principal, Mrs. Sonal Sharma, eloquently chronicled the institution's remarkable accomplishments in her detailed report. The event concluded

on a triumphant note, dazzling with the students' unparalleled performances and unwavering competitive spirit. The vibrant celebration left an ineffable mark on the hearts of spectators, ensuring that Sports Grandeur 2025 would be cherished as an unforgettable spectacle of excellence and enthusiasm.

# DBPS Parade pays tribute to Major Som Nath Sharma

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) Parade here today paid rich tribute to the first Param Vir Chakra recipient, Major Som Nath Sharma who laid down his life while defending Srinagar Airport from the attack of Tribals and Pak Army on November 3, 1947.

On 102th birth anniversary of Major Som Nath Sharma, DBPS president, Ved Parkash Sharma, DIG Jammu, Samba, Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma

and others paid floral tribute to Martyr Major Sharma at a function in Sabha premises wherein the speakers recalled supreme sacrifice of the great soldier.

They particularly mentioned that after the martyrdom of Major Sharma, almost his entire family joined Indian Army thereby setting an example that sacrificing life by one member from the family couldn't demoralize others. Senior BJP leader,

Chander Mohan Sharma, Retired Brigadier Rakesh Khajuria

and others also spoke on the occasion and demanded naming an airport in J&K after Major Sharma.

DBPS Chairman Advocate P.C. Sharma, NMC President Subash Shastri, Senior bureaucrats, B.D Sharma; Soujany Sharma, Former Deputy Commissioner Samba, DC, B.S Jamwal; Pt. Barita Ram Sharma, general secretary BVP J&K Prant, Shiv Ram Sharma, Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Parchar Sewa Samiti president, Sunil Sharma, Former Sanatan Dharam Sabha President Jagdish



Dogra, DBPS Sabha vice-president, Virendar Mohan Magotra, Satyanand Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, Nanak Chand Sharma, M.L Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, M.L Padha, Gurdas Sharma, S.S Baru, Prem Balotra, Rajesh Badgotra, Ritiz Khajuria, Devin-

der Sharma (Baboo), K.L Sharma, Satpal Sharma, Arun Sharma, regional joint general secretary BVP, and others also paid tribute to Major Sharma and appealed to Lt. Governor to declare holiday on the eve of Major Som Nath Sharma's birth anniversary.

with essential woodworking skills that will enhance their employability and promote selfreliance.

The cadre included hands-on training in furniture making, wood carving, repair work, and the safe handling of carpentry tools, guided by expert instructors.

Through Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army continues its commitment to the socioeconomic development of remote and underprivileged communities. This training program is a step towards creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the Gujjar and Bakkarwal youths, fostering self-sufficiency and improving their quality of life.

The Indian Army remains dedicated to strengthening its bond with the local populace and will continue to undertake similar initiatives to uplift marginalized communities.

## **GRP Jammu hosts farewell function** for superannuating police personnel

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: GRP Jammu hosted an impressive farewell function at Police Station GRP Jammu to bid adieu to the Police Personnel who superannuated from their active services. SSP GRP Jammu, Sh. Shailender Singh-JKPS along with other officers, officials participated in the function. The relatives of the superannuated SI Tej Krishan and SI Ranbir Singh also took part in the event.

SSP GRP Jammu while acknowledging the contribution of the outgoing officers conveyed his best wishes to the retiring police personnel and prayed for their good health and success post retirement. The superannuated police personnel also spoke on the occasion, shared their experience in the department and thanked SSP GRP Jammu and other officers & officials for organizing the farewell party.

### Deputy Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Sports Block at Degree College Nowshera

### **Top News Report**

NOWSHERA Jan 31: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today laid the foundation stone for much anticipated Sports Block at Government Degree College, Nowshera.

The project, to be established with an estimated cost of 208.50 lakh, aims to enhance sports infrastructure and provide better facilities for students and aspiring athletes.

The Deputy Chief Minister was

Sports Block would provide modern training facilities and encourage students to actively participate in various sports disciplines.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and local residents, who welcomed the government's focus on strengthening sports facilities in educational institutions.

Surinder Choudhary exhorted upon the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of the project while maintaining high standards of construction. He reiterated administration's resolve to develop robust sports infrastructure in the region, fostering a culture of health, fitness and excellence in sports. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the importance of such infrastructure in nurturing talent at the grassroots level. He expressed optimism that the project would significantly contribute towards the overall development of students in the region

### BJP demands public apology from CM for misleading statement on SPO honorarium hike

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: BJP spokesperson Gaurav Gupta has demanded a public apology from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his misleading and irresponsible statement regarding the hike in Special Police Officers' (SPO) honorarium. He stated that the entire episode, from the initial announcement to its abrupt deletion, has not only caused confusion but has also played with the emotions of thousands of SPOs and their families.

He was addressing press conference along



filled by the party."

This news sparked a wave of hope and joy among SPOs and their families. Howhocking turn of events, both posts lack of seriousness on the part of CM Omar Abdullah towards the hardworking SPOs who play a crucial role in maintaining law and order in J&K.

He further emphasized that the honorarium hike for SPOs falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), not the Chief Minister's domain, raising serious concerns about his awareness of governance protocols

Simply sacking the social media advisor does not absolve him of responsibility. Since the misleading announcement was made through his official handle, BJP demands that CM Omar Abdullah personally issue a public apology to all SPOs and their families for this unfortunate episode.



**Army organises carpentry** 

### **Top News Report**

REASI, Jan 31: As part

of its ongoing efforts to

empower local commu-

nities and enhance skill

development, the Indian

Army has conducted a

Carpentry Cadre for the

Gujjar and Bakkarwal

youths at Thillu from 16

December 2024 to 30

January 2025 under

Operation Sadbhavana.

This initiative aimed

to provide specialized

training in carpentry,

equipping participants

accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon; and other district and sectoral officers

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised government's commitment towards promoting sports and physical fitness among the youth. He highlighted that the new

with Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP Spokesperson and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Media Secretary at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

On 30th January, CM Omar Abdullah, through his official Instagram handle, posted an announcement expressing his delight over an increase in the honorarium for SPOs in J&K. Soon after, the official social media handle of the National Conference (NC) also tweeted, claiming it as "another promise ful-

FromPage No:1

were later deleted, and a fresh tweet was issued, acknowledging that the information was incorrect and had been posted without verification. The National Conference also announced the removal of the individual responsible for the misleading post from the position of Social Media Advisor to the Vice President, JKNC.

Gaurav Gupta strongly condemned this irresponsible handling of such an important issue, stating that it reflects a complete

The BJP stands in solidarity with all SPOs who were misled by this misinformation and assures them that the party remains committed to their welfare. Such deceptive practices must be condemned, and those in power must be held accountable for their words and actions.

### **J&K** situation changed after Article 370 abrogation. train to Kashmir major achievement: Prez Murmu Murmu said.

### **Election Rules Row: Supreme Court** orders EC to preserve video clips of polling

the CCTV recordings as they were doing earlier," the bench said. The top court on January 15 sought responses from the Centre and the poll panel on Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh's plea against the recent amendments, including no public access to CCTV, to the 1961 election rules.

Singh said the decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data.

On October 24, the top court refused to issue any notice to the poll panel but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the ECI so that its stand on the issue is known.

### The petitioner contended the poll panel's decision would impact the voters during the ensuing assembly elections in Maharashtra, Bihar and Delhi.

Singh said elections were normally held for 11 hours and it took about 60 to 90 seconds to cast a vote, and therefore 660 to 490 persons could cast their vote in a day at one polling station with one EVM.

Considering the average voting percentage to be 65.70 per cent, it was perceivable that a polling station prepared to accept 1,000 electors saw around 650 turn up. Singh's petition said there were booths where the elector turnout was in the range of 85-90 per cent. "In such a situation, about 20 per cent of voters will either end up standing in the queue beyond the voting hours or due to long waiting times, will abandon exercising their right to vote. Neither is acceptable in a progressive republic or a democracy," it added.

### SC issues notice to **Centre, BCI on plea** for Bar Council in J&K

that he is pressing for an interim relief. He said: "Your lordships are aware of the welfare tickets. The welfare tickets are to be published by the Government at the request of the Bar Council. The functions of Bar Council are right now being performed by the High Court. So, small indulgence. The Registrar may asked the Government to print it...

However, before he could complete it, Justice Nath interjected and stated that the Court can't grant an interim order. He said: "Whatever system is there so far will continue...Is High Court a party? Let the notice go and let them come."

Justice Bindal also questioned this interim request and said: "Where will the funds go when there is no Bar Council?"

### Mehbooba Mufti urges Nitish Kumar, Naidu to oppose **Waqf Amendment** Bill

vision of an inclusive India, saying that the bill threatens the secular fabric of the nation. Appealing to Nitish Kumar and Naidu, both key allies in the NDA government, she urged them to

use their influence to halt the bill, warning that its passage could harm national unity and communal harmony.

"You have always been staunch believers in our Constitution and have consistently championed the spirit of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb (composite culture). Today, as key members of the NDA, you are uniquely positioned to influence this matter and prevent this onslaught," she wrote.

The proposed Wagf amendment bill has sparked widespread debate, with opposition parties and minority organizations voicing strong objections.

### Sachin Tendulkar to get BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award

Tendulkar was not just a prolific run-scorer but also an icon of the game, who played for more than two decades after debuting as a 16-year-old in a 1989 Test against Pakistan.

The well-documented and numerous batting records apart, Tendulkar was also a key member of India's 2011 World Cup-winning team, which was his record sixth and last appearance in the show-

### piece.

At his peak, the diminutive righthander could bring the nation to a standstill by simply walking out to bat.

His dismissal was the most sought after among opposition teams, who did not hesitate to say that Tendulkar was the only Indian batter who could intimidate them. Overall, Tendulkar will be the 31st

recipient of the award, which was instituted in 1994 in the honour of India's first captain Col. C K Nayudu, who also served the game as an administrator.

Nayudu had a 47-year-long firstclass career between 1916 and 1963, which is a world record.

### **BJP spent Rs** 1.737.68 Cr for 2024 Lok Sabha Polls. **States Party's** expenditure report TO EC

Bharatiya Janata Party spent Rs 1,737.68 crore for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, according to the expenditure report submitted by the party to the Election Commission of India. Of the total amount, Rs 884.45 crore was spent on general party propaganda, while Rs 853.23 crore was allocated for candidate-related expenses.

Around Rs 611.50 crore was spent on media advertisements that included advertisements in print and electronic media, bulk SMS campaigns, and promotional content across cable, websites, and TV channels. The party also spent Rs 55.75 crore on publicity materials such as posters, banners, hoardings, and flags to bolster its election outreach.

Additionally, the BJP's expenditure on public meetings, processions, and rallies — including arrangements for stages, audio setups, barricades, and vehicles - stood at Rs 19.84 crore. Campaign-related travel expenses formed another significant portion of the party's budget.

The travel expenditure of star campaigners authorised by the party's central headquarters amounted to Rs 168.92 crore, while Rs 2.53 crore was spent on the travel of other party leaders. The BJP, which secured a third consecutive term in the general elections, heavily relied on mass outreach and publicity campaigns, as evident from its spending patterns.

Additionally, the gross receipts from the date of announcement of state elections to the date of their completion were Arunachal Pradesh Rs 5,552.57 crore, Sikkim Rs 5,552.41 crore and Odisha Rs 5,555.65 crore.

# LOCAL

rifices

# **Army conducts electrician cadre for local youth** at Chassana

### **Top News Report**

10

POONCH, Jan 31: In a significant initiative aimed at empowering the youth and fostering skill development, the Indian Army has conducted an Electrician Cadre for local youth at Chassana from 16 December 2024 to 30 January 2025 under Operation Sadbhavana.

This specialized training program was designed to equip young individuals with essential technical skills in electrical work, enhancing their employability and self-reliance.

The initiative aligns with the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to contribute to socio-eco-



electrical work.

Expert instructors guided par-

ticipants through the fundamen-

tals of wiring, electrical repairs,

and maintenance, ensuring they

nomic development in remote and border areas. The cadre included hands-on practical training, theoretical knowledge, and safety protocols related to gained valuable, industry-relevant expertise.

Operation Sadbhavana, a flagship initiative of the Indian Army, focuses on winning hearts and minds by addressing developmental and educational needs in remote regions.

This electrician training cadre is yet another step towards empowering the youth of Chassana, providing them with skills that can lead to sustainable livelihoods

The Indian Army remains committed to its mission of nation-building and will continue to undertake similar initiatives to uplift and support local communities.

# **Army observes Martyrs Day** at Batsiyala

cated to paying tribute

to the brave soldiers

and freedom fighters

who laid down their lives

in service of the nation.

included a wreath-

laying ceremony, a

moment of silence, and

interactions with the

families of martyrs to

acknowledge their sac-

The commemoration



### **Top News Report**

REASI, Jan 31: The Indian Army, in its unwavering commitment to honoring the sacrifices of the nation's heroes, has organized a solemn observance of Martyrs' Day at Batsiala

This event was dedi-

Local residents, schoolchildren, and dignitaries participated in the event to express their gratitude and reverence. Martyrs' Day serves as a reminder of the supreme sacrifices made for India's sovereignty and freedom.

The Indian Army remains steadfast in its resolve to uphold the values of patriotism, courage, and dedication to duty, ensuring that the sacrifices of our heroes continue to inspire future generations.

## Army provides classroom furniture to GPS at Sobka



### **Top News Report**

AKHNOOR, Jan 31: In a significant step toward improving educational facilities, the White Knight Corps at Malpur, Akhnoor, has provided classroom furniture to students at the Government Primary School in Sobka Village, Akhnoor, Jammu Division This initiative aims to promote educational development by providing better facilities. The provision of classroom furniture by the White Knight Corps was met with enthusiasm from both students and faculty.

Teachers expressed hope that this gesture would inspire students to embrace an enhanced learning

environment, which is essential for their overall development. This project, under Operation Sadbhavana, is part of the Indian Army's broader efforts to contribute to the

upliftment of communities through education. It aims to bridge the gap in access to essential resources for students

in remote and disadvantaged areas. Locals have wholeheartedly expressed

their gratitude, acknowledging the Indian Army's role in establishing lasting peace in the region and lauding its efforts to fulfil the aspirations of underdeveloped villages.

### **Top News Report**

DODA, Jan 31: The Indian Army organized a volleyball tournament at Bhagwah, which was a great initiative to promote sports and community engagement in the region.

The tournament, organized by the Bhagwah COB 10RR, saw participation from three teams: Kanhal, Bhagwah, and 10 RR. The competition was intense, but in the end, the Bhagwah team emerged as the winner.



The Indian Army is taking steps to engage with the local

### Bhagwah.

By organizing such events, the army is not only promoting sports but also fostering a sense of camaraderie and social responsibility. The Indian Army's efforts to work for the society and children are truly commendable.

Such initiatives help to build trust and strengthen the bond between the army and the local community. It's a great way to promote national integration and development, especially in remote and underserved areas.

# Ladakh Tourism participates in OTM 2025 in Mumbai,



### **Top News Report**

flung areas like Kanhal and

LEH, Jan 31: Ladakh Tourism takes part in the Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The Ladakh Tourism Pavilion was inaugurated by the officials from the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, along with tourism stakeholders from Ladakh.

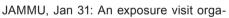
OTM provides a global platform for Ladakh's tourism sector to connect with industry leaders from domestic and international markets.

During the event, tourism stakeholders from Leh and Kargil will showcase a variety of tourism offerings from Ladakh, including hotels, guesthouses, adventure tourism itineraries and many more.

OTM, which opened today, will run until February 1st at the Jio Convention Centre in Mumbai. The Ladakh Tourism pavilion is located at booth number J-X128.

# **Bharti Airtel Foundation organizes exposure visit** of government teachers to CSIR-IIIM Jammu

**Top News Report** 





UTs in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education. of RMBD & IST at CSIR-IIIM, spoke about the Skill India Initiative, which focuses on upgrading the skills of teachers to improve the quality of education at the school level. lectures and practical sessions led by Dr. Asha Chaubey, Senior Principal Scientist and Head of the Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Department, who is also the Nodal Scientist for the Jigyasa program.

Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head The workshop kicked off with technical

# Army distributes solar power street lights to locals at Rajpura



Akhnoor.

The event was aimed

at promoting develop-

ment and improving the

quality of life in remote

areas. The locals and

the local administrative

bodies expressed their

gratitude to the Indian

Army for its contribu-

tions to their welfare.

The distribution of solar street lights is expected to positively impact the daily lives of locals, providing them with a sense of safety and security in their neighborhood along with essential amenities. The Indian Army's efforts to engage with locals and promote their welfare are ongoing. By organizing such events, the Indian Army aims to foster a sense of goodwill and cooperation among the local population while also promoting development and improving the quality of life in remote areas.

nized by Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Jammu, under the CSIR Jigyasa programme, concluded today at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.

The event saw the participation of 81 science teachers from government schools across Jammu, Samba, and Rajouri districts, supported by Bharti Airtel Foundation under its Quality Support Program.

The workshop aimed to provide teachers with hands-on training in cutting-edge science and research facilities, enhancing their understanding of practical science and research methods.

The initiative focused on equipping science teachers with skills that will enable them to inspire and engage students more effectively in their classrooms.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM

Jammu, addressed the participants and encouraged them to take full advantage of such opportunities.

He highlighted the importance of initiatives like the CSIR Jigyasa program, in fostering awareness about science and technology, which plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by society.

Anil Bhat, Regional Head of Bharti Airtel Foundation, provided insights into the Foundation's ongoing efforts to support schools across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

Teachers had the opportunity to conduct basic science experiments aligned with school curricula, offering them valuable hands-on experience that they can take back to their classrooms.

The exposure visit marked a significant step in bridging the gap between scientific research and classroom teaching, further strengthening the connection between the scientific community and educators.

### **Top News Report**

AKHNOOR, Jan 31: In a gesture of goodwill and commitment to the welfare of the local village people, the White Knight Corps of the Indian Army distributed solar-powered street lights in Rajpura village,

### Lumberdar and Chowkidar Association Kupwara holds meeting on honorarium increase

**Top News Report** 

KUPWARA, Jan 31: The All Lumberdar and Chowkidar Association of District Kupwara convened a meeting at TRC Kargama, Handwara, to discuss the demand for an increase in honorarium.

The meeting was chaired by District President Sheikh Parvaiz and attended by all Tehsil presidents.

During the meeting, the association emphasized that a formal memorandum detailing their demands has already been submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister,



Deputy Chief Minister, and various MLAs. They expressed confidence that the issue will be addressed in the upcoming budget session. Speaking on the occasion, the association members highlighted their crucial role as the bridge between the people and the government. They stated that it is through their

efforts that government programs and welfare schemes effectively reach every doorstep. The association reiterated its commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of Lumberdars and Chowkidars and urged the authorities to acknowledge

their contributions

by addressing their

demands at the earliest.

### Farmers gain expert insights at two-day Agriculture workshop tivity. Dr. Deepika Sood

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU /SOLAN, Jan 31: A two-day workshop titled "Farmer's Problems and Their Solutions: Interaction of Farmers with Agriculture Experts" was organized by the MS Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Shoolini University under the Initiative for Social Empowerment and Sustainability of Rural Population in the Western Himalayan Region.

The workshop aimed to address agricultural challenges faced by farmers in Solan and provide expert-driven solutions through an extensive agriculture extension programme. A team of agricultural



experts visited Shivathal farmers on training and village, where they interpruning methods for acted with progressive apple trees, followed by farmer and village Prad-Assistant Professor Dr han Mr. Mrigank Sood Bhagyashree's insights and 20 local farmers. on disease manage-Prof DD Sharma, led ment. Assistant Profesdiscussions on modern sor Dr Sonakshi guided farming practices, while farmers on apple processing techniques, and Assistant Professor Dr Assistant Professor Mr Perminder emphasized the significance of soil Bhupendra conducted a testing and micronupractical demonstration trient application for on training and pruning improved apple productechniques. Farmers tion. Assistant Profesexpressed keen intersor Dr Anshul educated est in adopting these

scientific methods and requested more such

interactive sessions. The expert team visited Kundla and Shamti villages, where they engaged with pioneering farmers Mr. Kamal and Mr. Naman, who specialize in protected cultivation of carnations and capsicum. Dr. DD Sharma highlighted the importance of farmer participation in extension programmes, while Associate Professor Dr Ravinder Nath provided quidance on effective insect management. Dr. Shweta Sharma shared sustainable crop management techniques, and Dr. Rajendra Kumar advised on optimal fertilizer use for improved soil health and producaddressed critical disease management concerns, offering valuable solutions to farmers. Farmers from both villages expressed their appreciation for the expert consultations and requested additional training sessions to further enhance their agricultural knowledge and practices. Prof Somesh Sharma, Associate Dean MS Swaminathan School of Agriculture said, the initiative by the MS Swaminathan School of Agriculture continues to strengthen the agricultural community in the region by bridging the gap between farmers and scientific expertise.

# **SPORTS**

# Virat Kohli falls for 6 in Ranji Trophy comeback, fans disappointed

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): Virat Kohli's much-anticipated return to the Ranji Trophy was short-lived, as he was dismissed for just six runs by Himanshu Sangwan on Friday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi.

Kohli showed a glimpse of his brilliance with a beautiful straight drive off Sangwan just a ball before his dismissal. However, the very next deliverv proved fatal--angled in on a fullish length just outside off, the ball seamed in sharply as Kohli attempted a drive but left a gap between bat and pad. The delivery rushed through, clipping the off-stump and sending the bails flying. It was a moment to remember for Sangwan, who not only claimed the prized wicket but also saw the stadium empty out soon after. Kohli's brief stay at the crease



lasted just 15 deliveries, with a solitary boundary to his name. His dismissal left Delhi at 87/3, still trailing Railways by 140 runs.

For the thousands of fans who had flocked to the stadium hoping for a Kohli masterclass, were opened fans and add deployed. As p over 15,000 fa match. The Group I a fan breachir rushed onto t Virat Kohli. W ing bowlers, and Siddhant Railways in

it was a moment of disappointment. However, there remains a chance for redemption--should Delhi get a second innings, Kohli will have another opportunity to make his mark. The Delhi stadium was buzz-

ing and filled with excitement on

es have been mostly disappointing. Some additional gates were opened to accommodate fans and additional security deployed. As per ESPNCricinfo, over 15,000 fans attended the match. The Group D clash also saw a fan breaching security as he rushed onto the field to meet

Day 1, a sight not common for

domestic cricket matches, with

fans awaiting action from their

hero whose recent performanc-

rushed onto the field to meet Virat Kohli. With Delhi's opening bowlers, Navdeep Saini and Siddhant Sharma, having Railways in trouble at 21/3, the person managed to evade security and reach Kohli and touched his feet. Security personnel quickly intervened and escorted the intruder off the field. Kohli requested them to go easy on the fan and avoid any harsh treatment.

# South Africa reach first-ever ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup final with victory over Australia

the tournament and

sees them qualify for

Sunday's final against

either India or England.

a trio of difficult chances

in the field, with some

late hitting from Ella

Briscoe (27\*) helping

the Aussies reach three

figures after they won

the toss and elected to

bat first at Bayuemas

Nthabiseng Nini set

the ball rolling for South

Africa by dismissing the dangerous lnes Mckeon

with the opening ball of

the match, with van Wyk

(4/17) getting in on the

act at the death courtesy

of some help in the field.

Seshnie Naidu held on

to a tough return catch to

dismiss Eleanor Larosa

for just seven, before

Luyanda Nzuza pro-

duced a similar feat in

Oval.

The Proteas held on to



KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Agencies): South Africa secured their maiden spot in the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup final after an impressive five-wicket win over Australia in the first semi-final in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, as per the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The Proteas excelled with the ball on the back of Ashleigh van Wyk's four-wicket haul and were on song in the field as they restricted Australia to just 105/8 and cruised past that target with 11 deliveries remaining courtesy of some excellent batting from Jemma Botha (34) and Kayla Reyneke (26).

The win sees South Africa maintain their unbeaten status at the field to send Hasrat Gill packing as the Aussies crawled to 62/5 with a little more than five overs remaining.

Caoimhe Bray (36) and Briscoe increased the run rate from that point on, but their total just north of 100 seemed a bit light on given South Africa's strong batting line-up.

Chloe Ainsworth (1/19) bowled Simone Lourens (five) with the first delivery of the third over to give Australia some hope, but Botha remained at the crease and seemed intent on keeping the run rate high as the Proteas maintained control of the contest.

The loss of Fay Cowling (seven) and Botha did little to quell the run rate, with Reyneke and Karabo Meso (19) combining to take South Africa within sight of victory.

The pair fell in quick succession, but Mieke van Voorst (8\*) and Naidu (2) joined forces to ensure there was no late slip up as the Proteas eased into the title decider.

# Mitch Marsh set to miss ICC Champions Trophy as injury strikes Australia

MELBOURNE, Jan 31 (Agencies): Australia has been hit hard with the news that allrounder Mitchell Marsh will miss the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy due to injury, as per the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Marsh has been suffering from a back problem and will be sidelined for Australia's Champions Trophy campaign that begins on February 16.

"Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Men's Champion's Trophy with ongoing lower back pain and dysfunction," Cricket Australia said via a statement, as quoted from ICC.

"The National Selection Panel and Australian men's medical team ruled Marsh out of the tournament with

the injury which has not responded sufficiently to rehabilitation," the statement added.

"His lower back pain flared in recent weeks leading the NSP to make the longer term decision for Marsh to complete a more extended period of rehabilitation," the statement noted.

"Marsh will now undergo a period of further rest and rehabilitation as part of his return to

play plan," it said. Australia selectors have until February 12 to finalise their squad and will be able to name a replacement player prior to this deadline.

"The NSP will meet to decide on a replacement for Marsh in due course," the statement continued.

"The deadline for the final squads for the ICC Men's Champion's Trophy is prior to Wednesday 12 February," it added. The squad features maiden ICC event call-

maiden ICC event callups for Matt Short and Aaron Hardie, along with the inclusion of pacer Nathan Ellis.

These three replace David Warner, who has retired, Cameron Green, sidelined due to back surgery, and Sean Abbott.

Abbott. Ellis earned his spot after an impressive Big Bash League season

Bash League season with the Hobart Hurricanes, who secured a place in the tournament finals. Short and Hardie, both versatile all-rounders, add depth to the squad. Ellis, a reliable pacer, can handle both opening and deathovers duties in white-ball cricket.

Short has been a consistent presence in Aus-



tralia's ODI setup since Warner's retirement in November 2023. Hardie, too, has contributed with 11 appearances in the 50-over format.

Australia, who last won the Champions Trophy in 2009, will kick off their campaign against archrivals England in Lahore on February 22, followed by a clash with South Africa in Rawalpindi on February 25, and their final group-stage match against Afghanistan in Lahore on February 28.

Australia will aim to end their 15-year Champions Trophy drought, having previously claimed the title in 2006 and 2009.

Australia preliminary squad: Pat Cummins (c), Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa (squad yet to be finalised). With flowers and chocolate, Uzbek GM Yakubboev says sorry to Vaishali for handshake furore

WIJK AAN ZEE, Jan 31 (Agencies): Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Yakubboev offered flowers, chocolate and a personal apology to Indian GM R Vaishali after causing quite a stir by refusing to shake hands with her before their game in the Tata Steel Chess Tournament here, citing "religious reasons".

Yakubboev met Vaishali, who was accompanied by her younger brother GM R Praggnanandhaa



I was in a hurry that day and really forgot. I want to wish good luck to both of you," he said. "You actually apolo-

him shaking hands with another Indian player Divya Deshmukh cropped up online. The Uzbek, while responding to it, stated

haa gised, I clearly rememalak- ber. You said sorry," ines Vaishali said. 11

# No captains' meet, photoshoot for ICC Champions Trophy 2025

NEW DELHI, Jan 31 (Agencies): The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will not feature the traditional captains' meet and official photoshoot, a practice typically held in the host country ahead of major ICC tournaments.

This decision marks a departure from past editions and is attributed to logistical challenges, according to ESPNcricinfo.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that neither the ICC nor the board had announced an official opening ceremony. However, an event supported by the ICC will take place in Lahore on February 16, three days before the tournament's first match. ICC officials present in Lahore at the time are expected to attend. One of the key reasons for skipping the captains' press conference and photoshoot is the tournament's hybrid model, which involves matches being played across four venues in two countries. With tight scheduling, teams will arrive in Pakistan just before the competition begins. Notably, Australia is set to land on February 19, the same day as the opening match.

This decision also resolves a potential diplomatic issue regarding the presence of India's captain, Rohit Sharma, in Pakistan. Due to political tensions, India has not played in Pakistan since 2008 and will compete in the tournament under a hybrid model, with



all their matches--including a potential final--being played in Dubai. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recently stated that Rohit's travel to Pakistan for a captains' event had not been discussed and was not on the agenda.

Similar adjustments were made during the 2024 Men's

T20 World Cup, where logistical challenges led to the ICC replacing the traditional captains' gathering with a digital launch. Captains' images were projected onto New York's Rockefeller Center instead of hosting an in-person event.

Meanwhile, the PCB is set to inaugurate two newly refurbished stadiums. The Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, undergoing a significant revamp, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on February 7, a day before it hosts the first ODI of a tri-series involving South Africa and New Zealand. Similarly, the National Stadium in Karachi will be inaugurated by President Asif Ali Zardari on February 11. and mother Nagalakshmi, on the sidelines of the ongoing event. The 23-year-old reiterated that he regrets the "awkward situation" that arose because of his actions. "I am sorry (about) what happened," Yakubboev told Vaishali in a video that was shared online by 'ChessBase India'.

Vaishali accepted his apology and assured him that she did not want him to feel bad about what transpired.

"It's clearly understandable. I didn't take it that way, you don't have to feel bad," she responded. Nonetheless, Yakub-

boev made it clear that he meant no disrespect. "...it was an awkward situation for both of us. In a video that went viral on social media earlier this week, Vaishali could be seen extending her hand before the start of a fourth-round contest against Yakubboev, who sat down without responding to it.

Yakubboev, who became a GM in 2019, lost that match in the Challengers' section of the tournament, which is in its 87th edition.

Yakubboev, a practising Muslim, posted a lengthy response on 'X' saying, he had all the respect for Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa but he "does not touch other women due to religious reasons." However, that claim was ridiculed when an old video of that the exchange with Deshmukh was also wrong in his belief.

He drew criticism for his statements and after his personal apology to Vaishali, he also met Deshmukh with flowers and chocolate to express regret. A picture of that meeting was also shared by 'ChessBase India'.

Yakubboev also had a brief conversation with Praggnanandhaa during his meeting with Vaishali, reiterating that he has immense respect for him too.

All three players wished each other the best for their upcoming rounds in the event before Yakubboev folded his hands in a 'Namaste' to say goodbye.

# Beau Webster returns to Hobart Hurricanes on three-year deal; Stars secure Liam Hatcher

HOBART, Jan 31 (Agencies): Australia's Test all-rounder Beau Webster is set to rejoin the Hobart Hurricanes on a threeyear contract, marking his return to his home state's Big Bash League (BBL) side after an eight-season stint in Melbourne, reported ESPNcricinfo.

Webster, 31, previously played five matches for the Hurricanes during the 2016-17 season before spending four seasons with the Melbourne Renegades and another four with the Melbourne Stars. Despite playing his entire domestic career for Tasmania, he is now set to don the Hurricanes jersey once again.

"I am pumped to return to Hobart next summer for the BBL, and get the opportunity to play on a packed Ninja Stadium in front of our fans, my friends and family," Webster said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"Vaughany [Jeff Vaughan] and Nelly [Nathan Ellis] have got the group playing a really good brand of cricket, and to see them win a championship makes me hungry to bring another one to 'Canes fans next season," he added.

His signing adds depth to the Hurricanes' squad, though it raises questions about team balance, given the presence of seam-bowling all-rounders Mitchell Owen and Chris Jordan in their title-winning XI. While Webster boasts an impressive first-class record, his T20 performances have been less dominant--he hasn't maintained a strike rate above 132 in any of his last



seven BBL seasons. How he integrates into the Hurricanes' high-tempo batting

lineup remains to be seen, but the franchise's general manager, Salliann Beams, expressed delight in bringing him back.

"We have seen over the past 18 months just how special of a player Beau is, and to have him re-join the Hurricanes is something that will make all Tasmanians proud to hear," Beams said. "Beau's skill set in the short form of the game is up there with some of the best in the country, and he can take the game away from the opposition with the bat while also providing another wicket-taking option with the ball," Beams said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"His leadership will also be a vital aspect of his role at the Hurricanes, and he is great mates with the players we already have on our list, which means he will fit into what we are trying to build seamlessly," he said. Meanwhile, the Hurricanes are still working to secure the re-signing of power-hitter Tim David, who played a key role in their championship-winning campaign. While the franchise is optimistic about retaining him, the Melbourne Stars are also in the race to sign him as a free agent.

In another key move, the Stars have added fast bowler Liam Hatcher to their squad on a two-year contract. Hatcher, who started his BBL career with the Stars in 2020, returns after a brief stint with the Sydney Thunder. Having played just four games in the 2023-24 season and missing Thunder's run to the 2024-25 final, he will be eager to make an impact in his second spell with the Stars.

# LOCAL/ADVT

# Indian Youth Congress protests against Kejriwal in New Delhi

## No action by AAP towards Yamuna pollution issue: Uday Chib



### **Fop News Report**

JAMMU/ NEW DELHI, Jan 31: The Indian Youth Congress led by IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib on Friday held a protest against Arvind Keiriwal outside his residence in New Delhi, over the issue of the polluted Yamuna and his government's failed promises on it.

J&K Youth Congress General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney and

various youth leaders participated in the protest. The youth congress leaders strongly condemned the AAP party for its failure in implementing their promises about cleaning the Yamuna river, calling them hollow and false. During the protest, the protesters raised slogans against the party

ised to get cleaned. They raised questions on the increasing pollution levels in the river and stated that no concrete action was taken by the AAP party towards fixing the issue. The agitators further criticized the party and highlighted that the promises made by them were false and empty, and Arvind Kejriwal, and the real picture questioning when he will of the Yamuna river is

take a dip in the Yamuna worse than before. river which he had prom-The deplorable condi-

tion of the Yamuna is proof of the incompetence of the AAP party in fulfilling any of their promises. There has been no development in the cleaning of the Yamuna river under their governance, the Youth Congress said. They stressed that the party does not remember it's five year old promise and has taken zero steps in this regard. The protesters then added that AAP has been talking about dangerously increasing ammonia levels in the water and ironically have taken no action to combat the challenge. The people of Delhi, they said, are waiting for Kejriwal Ji to take a dip in the Yamuna river as per his statement. The increasing pol-

lution is only one of the challenges Delhi is facing and evidently, there has been no serious response by the AAP government and they have failed to tackle the issue, the agitators stated. Like the clean Yamuna claim, all of their claims

and promises are completely empty since they are not backed by any action during their governance.

The people of Delhi will not be fooled by mighty rhetoric, the youth congress leaders stressed, adding that they will continue with the agitation to remind the AAP party and people of their complete failure.



Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha Channi

Retd Municipal Com-

missioner and Convenor

of Channi Himmat Unit

Speaking on the occa-

sion Ved Prakash Sharma

and others stressed on

giving due recognition to

the Brahmins who have

done a lot for the society

Sabha lauded the efforts

of the NMC Supermo

Subash Shastri, Ashok

Khajuria of BVP and Yash

Paul Sharma and others

for their contribution in

the field of upliftment,

downtrodden classes and

They were felicitated

with the presentation of

momentos. Speaking

on the occasion Captain

Lalit Sharma Retd IFS

lauded the efforts of the

Sunil Sharma.

and country.

social work.

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: As a part of the 76th Republic day Celebration Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha Channi Himmat Organized "Samman Samaroh" function at Vivekanand park, Sector No. 3 in Channi Himmatposh locality of Jammu. The event brought together students, artists, vedic Scholars, head of various religious

and social organizations, poets, prominent personalities, media personnel on one platform. The event was graced

by the President DBPS V.P Sharma, Lalit Sharma Retd. IFS, O.P Dubey Retd Chief Engineer, Soujanya Sharma

Channi Himmat Brahman Sabha for arranging such a colourful "Samman Samaroh" especially with the presence of so many

students in particular. After the address of other speakers Sh. Sunil shamra, convenor Channi Himmat Brahman Sabha stressed on propagation of moral values among Brahmins, eradication of Nasha which is rapidly flourishing among youth and celebration of different occasions viz Parshuram Jayanti, National days and Sanskritic events and upkeeping of Dogra Culture and heritage with unity and coordination.

Others included Dr. Vijay Sharma, Bhoomi Chand Sharma, Chanchal Pal Sharma, Diwakar Khajuria, O.P. Sharma, Renowned Poet Girija Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Prem Sharma, P. N. Koul, Inder Kumar Sharma, Chaman Lal Sharma, Rajinder Mehta, Rohit Kumar, Vishal Sharma, Sonam Sharma, Yash Paul Sharma, V.S. dubey, Vibhuda Sadhotra were present on the occasion.

# Pariksha Pe Charcha Quiz organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya, CUJ



### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: As per the directives of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) Headquarters, New Delhi, the Pariksha Pe Charcha Quiz Competition was organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya, Central University of Jammu (CUJ). The event was conducted under the esteemed guidance and support of Vice Chancellor, CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, who also serves as the Chairman

of Kendriya Vidyalaya. A total of 94 students

students from PM Shri KV Miran Sahib, KV Samba, KV Jammu, State Govt. Schools,

and CBSE-affiliated private schools. The competition commenced with the screening of five episodes of the Bharat Hain Hum program series, followed by a quiz comprising 25 multiple-choice questions related to the

series. The event was

marked by high enthu-

siasm and a strong com-

petitive spirit among the

The concluding cere-

participants.

tion, Ajit Kumar Sharma, Principal, KV Jammu, presented books as gifts to the dignitaries. The event was skillfully anchored by Radha

Rani, Music Teacher, KV Central University, Jammu. To acknowledge and motivate the participants, the winning students were awarded trophies and certificates. Additionally, all 94 participants received a copy of the book Exam Warriors by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with certificates

the designated Chairman of KV, CUJ.

As a token of apprecia-

of participation. Dr. Naresh Sharma, while addressing the students, encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in academics and beyond. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by

## Undemocratic 'Tughlaqi' decree in highly sensitive J&K, asking questions is prohibited: Shiv Sena

### Accountability of bureaucracy will decrease, arbitrariness will increase: Sahni

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has called the 'Tughlaqi' decree of special permission to the MLAs of highly sensitive state Jammu and Kashmir to ask questions on administrative matters related to security and home department during the assembly session as an attack on the

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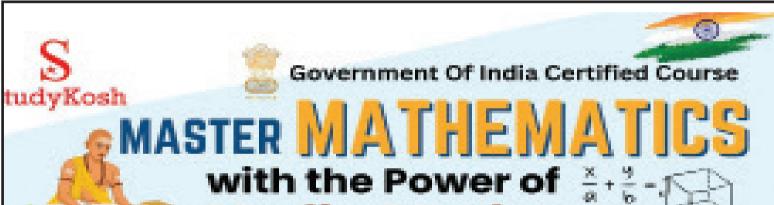
### constitutional and democratic system In a press conference held on Friday at the partv's state central office. state chief Manish Sahni said that after the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, the rights of the local people and elected

representatives are being continuously violated. After the decision of the Supreme Court, after a long



wait of about ten years, of Jammu and Kashmir the assembly elections became possible

Now that the elections have been held and the government has also been formed, but even after 100 days of the formation of the government, the promise of returning the status of a full state to Jammu and Kashmir has not been fulfilled. Sahni said that the above Tughlaqi decree will reduce the accountability of the bureaucracy and increase arbitrariness.



from 15 different schools actively participated in the event, including

mony was graced by Dr. Naresh Sharma, Principal, Community College, CU Jammu, and

Principal KV Jammu, Ajit Kumar Sharma, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem.

# **CUJ achieves NCTE Recognition** for M.Ed. Programme

### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 31: In a landmark achievement, the Departments of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) has secured recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to offer the Master of Education (M.Ed.) programme.

The recognition was granted under Clause 7(16) of the NCTE Regulations, 2014, during the 431st meeting (Volume-1) of the Northern Regional Committee (NRC-NCTE) held in New Delhi.

This approval marks a significant milestone in the university's commitment to quality teacher education and academic excellence.

Before 2019, NCTE did not regulate teacher education at the university, and hence, no separate validation was required for its M.Ed. programme. However, with evolving educational policies and regulatory frameworks, NCTE has now been entrusted with overseeing teacher education standards nationwide.

The Central University of Jammu's recognition stands as a testament to its adherence to the highest academic benchmarks. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ

congratulated the Department and hailed this recognition as a proud moment for the institution. This is a remarkable step towards enhancing the teacher education landscape at our university. Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ said that the University is committed to maintaining the highest academic standards and contributing to the field of teacher education.

Prof. Asit K. Mantry, Head of the Department of Educational Studies, shared his enthusiasm and said that this recognition will pave the way for the students to receive nationally accredited training, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field of education. Prof. Mantry conveyed his best regards to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and Prof. J.N.

Baliya, member of NRC-NCTE, for playing a key role in the recognition process. The faculty mem-

bers Prof. Ritu Bakshi. Dr Kiran, Dr Aman, Dr Ravi Vanguri, Dr Yad Ram, and Dr Mohan along with scholars and students celebrated this moment

The NCTE recognition will be effective from the academic session 2025-26, allowing aspiring educators to be enrolled in a programme that meets the national regulatory standards. With this new milestone, the Central University of Jammu reaffirms its position as a premier institution for teacher education and peda-

This recognition not only strengthens the university's academic portfolio but also aligns it with the national vision of improving teacher education standards across India. The Central University of Jammu looks forward to welcoming future educationists to a programme that promises excellence, innovation, and a bright future in the teaching profession.

gogical innovation.

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