

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Elon Musk dubs USAID "criminal organization," says "time for it to die"



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BRIEFLY

Youth crushed to death by speeding truck in Jammu

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): A young biker lost his life after being crushed by a speeding truck at New Plot Road in Jammu on Monday morning.

Police sources said the truck, loaded with cement, hit the biker, killing him on the spot. "The deceased has been identified as Akshay Kumar, a resident of Bhadarwah, who was currently staying with his relatives in Chinor." Following the accident, the truck driver fled the scene, causing chaos and stranding traffic for over an hour. The incident led to a massive traffic jam, inconveniencing commuters.

Bakshi Nagar Police Station has registered a case and launched an investigation to track down the absconding driver.

Rajasthan tourist dies after falling unconscious in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): A tourist from Rajasthan passed away after falling unconscious in the Kullen Sonamarg area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

An official said that Vijesh Borana, a resident of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, fell unconscious at Kullen Sonamarg. He was immediately shifted to SDH Kangan, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The official said the body was sent to Jammu for further procedures after medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, an investigation into the incident has been initiated.

PDD worker electrocuted in Srinagar Succumbs after nine days

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): A Power Development Department (PDD) worker, who was critically injured after receiving an electric shock in Srinagar's Nowshera area, has succumbed to his injuries, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the worker, identified as Bashir Ahmad Sofi (38), a resident of Ganderbal, was electrocuted while on duty in Nowshera on January 26.

He was admitted to a hospital for treatment but succumbed to his injuries after nine days.

Anand Jain takes over as ADGP Armed J&K



Rajiv

JAMMU, Feb 3: Anand Jain-IPS on Monday took over as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed J&K at Armed Police Headquarters J&K in Jammu.

On his arrival, the ADGP Armed was presented Guard of Honour by a smart contingent of Armed Police.

The senior officers

who were present on the occasion, Sarah Rizvi, DIG IR Jammu, Shiv Kumar Sharma DIG JKS Range, Vinod Kumar, DIG AP Jammu, Dalip Kumar-SSP Staff Officer to ADGP Armed J&K and other GO's and staff members of APHQ J&K.

Anand Jain, a 1999 batch IPS officer who was functioning as ADGP Jammu Zone, was transferred and

posted as ADGP Armed J&K vice Vijay Kumar-IPS on January 30, 2025 vide order No. 79-Home of 2025 dated January 30, 2025 issued by Home Department J&K.

The ADGP inspected all the branches/Sections of APHQ Complex and interacted with the concerned staff to get the first-hand information regarding their functioning.

Srinagar Police files chargesheet against seven terror associates

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): Srinagar Police have filed a chargesheet against seven terror associates under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(PA)) in the Hon'ble UA(PA) Court, Srinagar, officials said today.

The chargesheet pertains to Case FIR No. 31/2024, registered at Police Station Khanyar, under Sections 13, 18, 20, 23, and 38 of the UA(P) Act, along with Section 7/25 of the Arms Act.

A total of 08 accused were involved in the case, including a Pakistani terrorist operating under the code name Usman, who was killed in a police encounter, said a spokesman of Srinagar Police.

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Will oppose Waqf (Amendment) Bill in & outside Parliament: NC chief spokesperson



SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) senior leader and MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq said on Monday that his party will oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in and outside the Parliament.

Expressing disappointment, the NC leader who is also chief spokesperson of the party said the reservations and concerns of minorities were not addressed genuinely in the bill.

Talking to Greater Kashmir, the NC leader stated that despite reservations and concerns expressed over Waqf

(Amendment) Bill, the pleas of Muslims were not heard genuinely. "It is unfortunate... Despite Muslims and MPs of different shades of opinions expressed their dissent and concern over the bill, their pleas were not heard genuinely. It is disappointing that reservations expressed by minority of the country were not addressed. The NC will oppose this bill tooth and nail. The party will fight against it in and outside the Parliament," NC leader said.

Terming it a "grave interference" in religious affairs of the minor-

ity community, the NC leader said that under fresh amendments there has been a provision that any Hindu individual can be a member of Muslim Waqf Board, while as in Hindu's Waqf there is no such provision in place.

On meetings of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq with Kashmiri pandits in New Delhi, the NC leader termed it a "welcome step".

"National Conference (NC) always advocated the return of Kashmiri pandits. We believe Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits. The dream of Kashmiriyat cannot be fulfilled till KPs come and live with their brethren in valley like they were living before 1989. We support Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's initiative. We want KPs should return to valley and live at their original places, but not in ghettos," the NC leader

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AIKS meets Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Minorities Affairs



NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) led by its president Ravinder Pandita called on Kiren Rijiju, minister of minorities and Parliamentary affairs in New Delhi today.

AIKS discussed and presented him a memo

random seeking minority status and benefits to minorities within the state. The minister said that it was irony that Kashmiri hindus are minorities in state but majority in union which is true with a few states more. He listened to the points raised by AIKS

like constituting a minorities commission in J&K, declaring us minorities and referred to SC direction of 2018 in a petition by Ankur Sharma as also Justice Venkatchaliah NHRC report.

The minister was

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Five arrested for killing Gataro Gang leader in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 3 (Agencies): Five persons, including the main accused gangster involved in the killing of a 37-year-old man affiliated with the criminal Gataro gang in Jammu city, have been arrested, police said on Monday.

Sumit Jandiyal, the kingpin of the Gataro gang, was shot dead by three members of a rival group here on January 21 this year in Jammu, they said.

In connection with the killing of Gataro gang kingpin Sumit, the police have launched an operation to track down the killers, the officials said.

In this direction, the main accused Harash along with others Arun, Ajay and two other supporters Abihay and

Raj were arrested by the Crime Branch and Jammu and Kashmir Police in a joint operation in Delhi, they said.

The trio were moving from one place to another after committing the murder, they officials said, adding they were in the process of escaping to Nepal.

They were arrested near ISBT in New Delhi on Sunday in a joint operation of the Crime Branch of Delhi Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police and were handed over to Jammu and Kashmir Police, the officials said.

"Harash, Arun and Ajay were involved in that murder. Harash is the main accused," an officer said, adding

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Kulgam Attack: Retired soldier succumbs, family stable

SRINAGAR, Feb 3 (Agencies): An ex-Army man, who along with his wife and daughter were attacked by militants in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, has succumbed to his injuries on Monday.

An official said that an ex-Army man, his wife and daughter were injured after they were attacked by militants in BehiBagh area of Kulgam.

He said that all three were taken to hospital in injured condition where ex-army man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Wagay succumbed to

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10th Day / Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Parkesh Singh Chib** S/o Late Sh. Mian Singh Chib R/o Uttam Nagar Kunjwani Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 25-01-2025.



Retd. Nb/Sub. Sh. Parkesh Singh Chib (12 JAKRIF)

10th Day will be performed on 03-02-2025 (Monday) at our residence Uttam Nagar Kunjwani at 11.30 am.

Kriya will be held on Thursday 06-02-2025 at our residence H.No. 284/C Uttam Nagar, Kunjwani at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Simro Devi - Wife
Romesh Singh Chib & Anuradha Chib - Son & Daughter-in-law
Daughter & Son-in-law

Neelam Jasrotia & Upjinder Singh Jasrotia
Reeta Charak & Kuldeep Singh Charak
Late Sh. Janak Singh Chib & Sita Devi - **Brother & Sister-in-law**
Sh. Vijay Singh Chib & Prem Lata - **Brother & Sister-in-law**
Late Sh. Reghbir Singh Chib & Kanta Devi - **Brother & Sister-in-law**
M.No: 9419144882 / 7006636040

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, sorrow and with heavy heart, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Niranjan Nath Tikoo** S/o Lt. Sh. Suchanshan Tikoo erstwhile resident of Bulgam Sopore/H.No. 11, Lane No. 1, Adarsh Nagar Barama (Bantala) Jammu at present E-45/46 Arya Samaj Road Uttam Nagar, New Delhi for heavenly abode on 27/1/2025.



Sh. Niranjan Nath Tikoo

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 onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Shanta - Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sanjay & Yogita Tikoo
Sunil & Renu Tikoo
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sushma & P.K Sami
Purni & Opinder Saraf
Fancy & Kuldeep Bakshi
and All Grand Children
Contact : 9899143274, 9210333272, 9419144815

10TH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

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



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

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

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Babu Ji Raina** (Sabnue) S/o Late Sh. Shyam Sundar Raina (Sabnue) originally resident of Nai Sadak, Ganpatyaar, Srinagar, Kashmir presently residing at H.No. 11 Lane No. 2, Shividass Colony, Tomal, Bohri, (Near Laxmi Palace), Jammu on 27/1/2025.



Sh. Babu Ji Raina (Sabnue)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Mata Baderkali Temple, Thalwail, on 5/2/2025 (Wednesday) 9 am.

Assembly for public will be held at our residence, H.No.11, Lane No 2, Shividass Colony, Tomal Bohri Jammu by 12.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Raina's (Sabnue) of Nai Sadak, Ganpatyaar
SRINAGAR, KASHMIR
9419158122, 7889352299, 9796866841, 9796838347

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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



Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Kanta Devi - Bhabhi
Daughter in law & Son
Smt Raman & Sh Rattan Sharma
Smt Roma & Sh Deepak Sharma
Daughters and Son in Law
Smt Shobha & Sh Ashok Sharma
Smt Pamila & Sh Shiv Nandan Kumar
Smt Sheela & Sh Anil Sharma
Grand Children : Resham, Ameesha, Aakriti, Kamyia, Snigdha, 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.



Lakshmishori (Babi)

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 5th February 2025 at Ranipora Yarbali (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 Thapoo
Sudasha Ji W/o Late Shyam Lal Pandita
Girja Ji W/o Ashok Ji Pandita
Reeta Ji W/o Bal Krishan Pandita
Grand Children:- Sheeta, Komal,
Aashish & Archana, Smile, Satyam.
CONTACT NO:- 9906916945, 9971614273, 7051501737

RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Krishna Devi** W/o Late Sh. Gagan Singh Jamwal, Who left for the heavenly abode on 19th of Jan, 2025.



SMT KRISHNA DEVI

RASAM PAGRI will be performed on 5th of February (Wednesday) at 2.00 pm at our residence, F-501, NITCO Lane, Talab Tillo Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughter in Law

Sh. Shiv Dev Singh & Smt Bharti Wazir
Sh. Pankaj Jamwal & Smt Rajni Slathia
Daughters & Sons in Law
Sh. Rajinder Singh & Smt Sreshtha Jamwal
Sh. Raghuvir Singh & Smt Sushma Jamwal
Sh. Manjeet Singh & Smt Lata Jamwal
Sh. Vinod Singh & Smt Anita Jamwal
Grand Children: Yashvardhan, Swara, Avikshit, Bhanu, Aditya and Neha, Bhumika, Aman, Aakash, Maanya, Rajyavardhan.

TENTH DAY / KRIYA/

RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our dearest **Smt. Krishna Devi** left for her heavenly abode on 24 January 2025.



Smt. Krishna Devi

Tenth Day will be performed on 02 February 2025 at 11 am at our residence Shiv Nagar, Udhampur.

Kriya will be performed on 05 February, 2025 at Devika Ghat.

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on 07 February, 2025 Btw 3:00-4:00 PM at our residence Shiv Nagar, Udhampur

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shiv Kumar Verma - Husband

Sons & Daughter in law
Sanjay Verma & Arti Verma (9419294441)
Ajay Verma & Jyoti Verma (7006633865)

Daughters and Son in law:

Veena Devi & Rakesh Sehgal
Sunita Verma & Mohinder Pal Verma
Mukta Mani & Ram Prasad

TENTH DAY / KRIYA & UTHALA

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



Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhyay

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

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

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

Venue: Trimurti Mandir, Janipur Colony.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

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

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).



Smt Kamla Sahib

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

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Kailash Kumari** W/o Shri Moti Ram Sadotra R/o Udhampur who left for her heavenly abode on 26th January 2025.



Smt. Kailash Kumari

10TH DAY will take place on Tuesday 4th February 2025 from 11:30 am onwards at our residence 15/149 Dhar Road Shakti Nagar near IDBI Bank Udhampur and **KRIYA** will held on 5th Feb. 2025 Wednesday at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Moti Ram Sadotra (Husband)
Son & Daughter in law
Suresh Kumar & Nisha Sharma (9596978003)
Inder Sadotra & Jyoti Sharma
Daughter & Son in law
Smt Sushma & Sh Bansil Lal Khajuria
Smt Shashi Kiran & Sh Vinod Kumar

TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our beloved Mother **Smt. Chuni Labroo / Rani Bhan** W/o Late Sh. Nand Lal Bhan, Who left us for heavenly abode on January 28th. A guiding light in our lives.



Smt. Chuni Labroo / Rani Bhan

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnour on 6/2/2025, Thursday at 9.00 am.

Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.30 am.

IN GRIEF

Sushma & Ashok Kaul
Rita & P.R. Khushu
Renu
Joshina & Bharat
Shruti & Akhil
Vrinda & Vishal
Nivaan & Viraj
Bhans & Labrus

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdr Pritam Kour** Bal W/o Sarda P S Bal from Village Fojpora (Ktag) Kashmir A/P 15-Apna Vihar Kunjwari Jammu on 27-01-2025 at Mumbai.



Sdr Pritam Kour Bal

Programme
Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9.30 AM on 03-02-2025

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 9.30 AM on 05-02-2025 at our residence.

Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Guru Ka Bagh (Channi Himmat) 11.00 AM to 12-30 PM

followed by Guru Ka Largar,
Grief Stricken

P S Bal (Husband)

Son's & Daughter-in-laws
Manjit S Bal and Davina Kour
(Rtd VP L&T)

D.P.S. Bal (Rtd SEPPD) and Harmeet Kour

Grand Children : Sahaj, Manal, Tanvi

M. Nos. 6005795078, 9419198478, 9879366655

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the unfortunate demise of **Mrs. Vijji Moza**, W/o Late Shri Bansil Lal Moza residing at 173 /10, Punchkula, who left us for heavenly abode on Sunday 26th January 2025.



MRS. VIJJI MOZA

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held at Shani Mandir, Ghaggar Ghat, Punchkula on Tuesday, 4th February at 9am.

IN GRIEF:

Apama & Rajiv Koul

Vanita & Rishi Koul

MOZA'S, RAINA'S, ALONGWITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mob: 9811347023, 9815215022

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our mother **SMT. KAUSHALYAWATI BAGATI** W/o LT. TRIBHUKAN NATH BAGATI originally resident of Tekpora Lohab of District Kupwara Kashmir presently at H.No.46, Lane No.2, Arandnagar Bohri on 30/1/2025.



SMT. KAUSHALYAWATI BAGATI

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnour Ghat on 4th February 2025 and assembly will be held at our residence H.No. 46 Lane NO.2 Arandnagar Bohri at 11am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Daughter in-laws and Sons)

Smt. Veena Bagati & Sh. Shaban Lal Bagati

Smt. Sunita Bagati & Sh. Purn Kumar Bagati

Smt. Chanti Bagati & Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bagati

Smt. Veena Bagati & Sh. Rajesh Kumar Bagati

Smt. Sunita Bagati and Sh. Sindu Bagati

Smt. Indu Bagati & Sh. Sanjeev Bagati

Smt. So. Lalini Bagati (Dowry)

Smt. Govardhan Pandita & Sh. Brij Nath Pandita (Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law)

(Daughters & Sons in-law)

Smt. Priya Pandita & Sh. Bansi Lal Pandita

Smt. Sarla Pandita & Sh. Bhanu Lal Pandita

Smt. Reema Kaul & Sh. Satish Kaul

Smt. Smita Bhat & Sh. Hira Lal Bhat

Sh. Bhaskar Nath Raina

Smt. Babi Raina & Sh. Sh. Sushheel Raina

Smt. Anita Raina & Sh. Bhanu Ji Raina

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Mohini Kaul** W/o Late Rattan Lal Kaul originally resident of Budgam (Kmir), presently at Kanan Nagar (Ward No.6), Udhampur on 26-01-2025.



SMT. MOHINI KAUL

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Devika Ghat Udhampur 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

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Rajvir Singh Mankotia** S/o Lt. Anant Ram R/o 9A, Sector E Extension Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 27/01/2025.



Shri Rajvir Singh Mankotia

10th Day will be performed on 05/02/2025 (Wednesday) at our residence Talab Tillo, Jammu at 11 AM.

13th Day Kriya will be held on Saturday 08/02/2025 at our residence Talab Tillo Jammu at 12 noon onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Rajkumari (Wife)

Mrs Radhika & Shivender (Daughter & Son in law)

Brother & Sister-in-law

Mrs Rajni & Col Yashvir Mankotia

Mrs Uma & Sh Yashvir Mankotia

Mrs Neera & Col Sukhvir Mankotia

9419107626, 9419864210, 9622070028, 9622261999

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 suddenly left for heavenly abode on Jan 29, 2025.



Smt. Janak Rani Dhar (Chuni Jigri)

Tenth Day will be performed on 7th of Feb 2025 at Akhnour Ghat, 7.00 am, **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11.00 am.

Grief Stricken

Lagan Society celebrates 5th Basant Utsav



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Lagan Society for Art and Culture (Regd.) organized 5th Basant Utsav (Bhajan Sandhya on Basant Panchmi) at Writer's Club, Abhinav Theatre Complex, here today with enthusiasm.

The event was graced by distinguished personalities from various walks of life, was a surrounding success, living the audience enthralled with soulful performances and heartfelt tributes to Indian music and culture.

The event witnessed the gracious presence of Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG, Jammu as the Chief Guest.

The function was presided over by Padma Shri Dr. S. P. Varma, while renowned writer and composer Yashpal Yash adorned the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome extended by Executive Member Sonia Dogra followed by mesmerizing performances of young child artists whose innocence and melodious renditions captivated the hearts of all present.

A series of soulful bhajans by renowned artists such as Jyotsana Dogra, Akash Sangral, Parmita Sharma, Lagan Verma, Aditya Sharma, Sarthak Verma,

Shingarika Malhotra, Advaita Verma, Ruhan Jain, Adhaan Jain, Ayushman Bhardwaj and Kritika Chowdhary kept the audience spellbound.

The musical ensemble featured Mr. Prince Bhatti on the keyboard, Amit Anand on the Tabla, and Nilesh Sharma on the guitar, adding depth and harmony to the performances.

In his address, Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG, Jammu lauded the exceptional talent showcased by the young artists and commended President of the society, Rajesh Kumar Verma for his tireless efforts in channelizing the creative energies of the

youth towards music.

Padma Shri Dr. S. P. Varma, in his inspiring speech, urged the younger generation to embrace perseverance and remain steadfast in preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Rajesh Kumar Verma, who expressed gratitude to the esteemed guests, the media, and all the artists whose contributions made the event a grand success.

On the occasion, Girdhari Lal (General Secretary, LSAC), Shubham Manmar (IT Incharge, LSAC), Rohit Bains (Publicity Secretary, LSAC), Dr. Atyant Shobna Sharma (Advisor, LSAC), Sunil Mahajan (Advisor, LSAC), Lokesh Chander (Member Executive, LSAC), Asha Kesar, Uttam Singh Uttam, Ashok Khajuria were present.

The proceeding of the Bhajan Sandhya was soulfully anchored by Nirupama Jamwal. The program concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, followed by a tea session for the guests.

The Bhajan Sandhya was not just an evening of melodious devotion but also a testament to the enduring spirit of Indian Art and Culture, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who attended.

Dimple leads protest against traffic chaos in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, on Monday along with traders, led a strong protest rally against the accidental death of Akshay Kumar, 20-25 years old boy, on Amphalla-New Plot road due to traffic problem.

Addressing the protesters, Sunil Dimple strongly criticized the government's inaction, alleging that Jammu city roads have turned into 'Khoooni Roads' (death traps) due to unregulated traffic.

He accused the administration of prioritizing revenue collection through e-challans rather than implementing effective traffic management solutions.

Dimple appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to construct an exclusive ring road to ease traffic congestion, start a metro train service from Amphalla Manda to Janipur High Court, Roop Nagar, Bantalab, and up to Akhnoor, and to

improve the overall traffic management system in Jammu City.

Dimple also alleged that the condition of Jammu's roads is extremely poor, with numerous potholes and broken stretches requiring urgent black-topping.

He highlighted that uncovered or broken ERA and JMC sewerage manholes are causing accidents, putting commuters at great risk.

He further demanded that the government immediately begin the construction of a four-way ring road from Amphalla Manda to Janipur High Court, Roop Nagar, Bantalab, and up to Akhnoor, emphasizing that this is the only long-term solution to Jammu's traffic crisis.

Additionally, he called for the construction of flyovers at Rehari Chungi and Jewel Chowk to ease congestion.

Dimple criticized the traffic department's e-challan system, alleging that it is being used as a tool to harass the public instead of improving road safety. He stated that

traffic police officers are more focused on clicking photographs for e-challans rather than ensuring the smooth movement of vehicles.

He also condemned the actions of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) employees, who frequently seize traders' establishments and goods worth lakhs of rupees under the pretext of traffic management, calling it an ineffective solution.

Dimple warned that if immediate action is not taken, he would launch a mass agitation against the worsening traffic conditions in Jammu City.

He further alleged that VIP movements and security checkpoints (nakkas) only add to the city's traffic woes. He criticized the practice of halting common citizens for extended periods during the movement of LG and CM convoys, causing immense inconvenience to the public.

Other prominent leaders who participated in the protest included Bharat Bhushan Bhat, Ashok Kumar, Sameer Gupta, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Jamwal, Vinay Kumar,

All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha emphasizes community unity, Welfare

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: A joint press conference of All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha (J&K) was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chaman Lal Floria, President of Shiromani Sant Kabir Trust, Kabir Nagar, Kotli Gala Bana, R.S. Pura.

The Chairman of Sant Kabir Trust extended a warm welcome to Shamsher Chand (President, All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha, J&K), J.L. Bhagat (Chairman), and Janak Raj (General Secretary).

During the press conference, the joint committee earnestly appealed to the Megh Biradari of the state to unite and strengthen the Sabha for giving strength and the welfare of the community.

The members emphasized the importance of working tirelessly for the upliftment of the community, setting aside personal conflicts.

Darshan Kumar urged community-elected representatives, government employees, social workers, statesmen, and intellectuals to support the marginalized and oppressed sections of society. He stressed that intel



lectuals should give back to the community.

Chaman Lal Floria, Chairman of SSKT Kotli Gala Bana, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the formation of a dedicated, hardworking, and visionary committee under the leadership of J.L. Bhagat and Shamsher Chand.

Master Balak Ram, President, extended a warm welcome to All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha (J&K).

Shamsher Chand, President, thanked all participants from various villages, towns, and

Jammu city for attending the meeting.

In his address, he assured the Megh community of his commitment to uniting and strengthening the community. He pledged to leave no stone unturned in raising their voice and advocating for their rights. He also expressed his gratitude to the Shiromani Sant Kabir Trust, Kabir Nagar, Kotli Gala Bana, R.S. Pura for their warm reception.

Surinder Bhagat, General Secretary, emphasized the need for unity among the Megh

community and urged everyone to actively participate in initiatives aimed at their upliftment.

He stated that collective efforts were necessary to bring meaningful change and ensure the community's development and recognition in all spheres of society.

Dignitaries present at the press conference included Jagga Ram Bhagat (Ex. Sarpanch), Sat Paul, Tilak Raj Bhagat (Ex. Sarpanch), Jeet Raj, Janak Raj (Ex. Sarpanch) and J.L. Bhagat.

The conference concluded with a collective commitment to the community's growth and unity.

No plan to generate, increase income: Sahni

Police budget under the Centre, no state status in near future

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has described the lack of announcement of any special package for the industry and unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir in the full budget of the third term of the Modi government by Finance Minister. Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday as disappointing.

At the same time, the announcement of the budget of Jammu-Kashmir Police Force by the Central Government is an indication that the state status of Jammu-Kashmir will not be restored in the near future.

Sahni said that a hollow hue and cry is being made about exemption in income but there is no plan to generate and increase income. He said that when there is no employment, what



is the use of exemption in income. He said that when there is no employment then what is the use of income exemption.

Today unemployment is a matter of deep concern, in June 2024, the national unemployment rate was 9.2%, while the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir was 11.8%. At the same time, calling the allocation of Rs 40,619.30 crore to Jammu and Kashmir in the budget as inadequate, he said that Rs 42,277.74 crore was allocated to Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25, which was later revised to Rs 41,000.07 crore

while Rs 41,751.44 crore was allocated in the year 2023-24. Sahni said that politics is also dominating the budget, the Modi government has given a package of 60 thousand crores to Bihar in one go.

The population of India may be close to 1.40 billion, but only 3.19 crore Indians pay income tax. Out of these, the income of about 2 crore people is less than Rs 7 lakhs. That is, they were already getting exemption. The income of RS 50-60 lakh people is close to Rs 12 lakhs. That is, the announced tax system is going to benefit about 60 lakh people, but the drum is being beaten in such a way that 84 crore people will benefit. At the same time, the unemployment rate in India in June 2024 is 9.2% while the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir is 11.8%. Sahni said that there is no special provision in the budget to curb unemployment.

Contingent Paid Employees in J&K Education Department demand Minimum Wages, unfreezing of posts



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The Contingent Paid Employees (CPEs) Union of the Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has raised concerns over the long-standing exploitation of its workforce, urging the authorities to implement the Minimum Wages Act and unfreeze frozen posts in the department.

In a letter addressed to the Department of Education, J&K UT, the Union expressed the grievances of employees who have been

working for decades in temporary positions with meager wages, ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 1000 per month.

These workers, including Sweepers, Night Watchmen, and Water Persons, have been drawing wages out of local funds or the O.E. budget, despite being entitled to the benefits under SRO 308 as per the order issued in 2011.

According to the Union, the Education Department has consistently forwarded the proposal to the Finance Department for the implementation of the Minimum

Wages Act. However, due to various political and bureaucratic hurdles, the employees have been denied justice and basic privileges promised by the order.

The letter highlights the ongoing exploitation and distress of these workers, emphasizing that they were hopeful for change with the rise of a new political party in power. Their hopes were further encouraged after the new party took charge of the Education Department.

The Union now urged the authorities to prioritize the welfare of these employees by taking

immediate steps toward the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act and addressing the long-pending issue of frozen posts.

The letter called on

the government to acknowledge the significant contributions of these employees to the department and ensure they are granted their rightful due.

BADC appeals for completion of pending building work of Primary School Garangan in Mendhar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization dedicated to the welfare of the tribal population and border residents of Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the Education Department and the Government of J&K to complete the pending construction work of the Primary School Garangan in the border town of Mendhar, district Poonch.

Recently, at the invitation of local villagers, Dr.

Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK-BADC, along with other functionaries of the organization, visited various areas of Block Mankote. During his interaction with local prominent people, including senior citizens, retired government officials, and young students, several socio-economic issues of the area were highlighted. These issues require immediate attention from the District Administration Poonch and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The villagers also raised the issue of the incomplete construc-



tion of Primary School Garangan, Kasblari, under the jurisdiction of the Zonal Education Office (ZEO) Mankote. They informed the BADC Chairman that the building has remained unfinished for over a decade. An esti-

mated amount of Rs. 10 lakh was sanctioned for the construction work in 2012, but for unknown reasons, the work was never completed.

During an on-the-spot visit to the school, accompanied by prominent locals, the former

Vice-Chancellor (VC) observed that the school's wall structure stands erected without a rooftop, leaving students and teachers to face significant hardships.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, the former VC and a native of Kasblari village, has urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Sakina Itoo to pay special attention to the remote and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He has written a formal letter to both leaders, highlighting the urgent need to address the issue of the incomplete school building.

EDITORIAL

RISING CRIME

Crime has been a longstanding issue in many societies across the globe. Recently, rising crime rates have become a topic of increasing concern, as communities, governments, and law enforcement agencies grapple with growing crime in urban and rural areas whether it's violent crime, property theft, drug-related offenses, or cybercrimes, these trends impact daily life, public safety, and the well-being of citizens. Understanding the root causes, societal consequences, and potential solutions to rising crime is vital for crafting effective policies and interventions to protect communities.

One of the most prominent factors contributing to rising crime is economic disparity. Poverty, unemployment, and the lack of economic opportunities can drive individuals to engage in criminal behavior, as it may seem like the only way to survive or improve their situation. People living in impoverished areas are more likely to become involved in crimes such as theft, drug trafficking, or violent activities. The desperation that often comes with financial struggles can push individuals into criminality, as the rewards from criminal acts may appear greater than the risks.

The breakdown of social structures, including family units, plays a crucial role in crime rates. A lack of strong family support, dysfunctional households, and childhood trauma can lead to emotional and behavioral problems that make individuals more prone to criminal activity. In areas with high rates of domestic violence or child abuse, young people are at risk of becoming offenders themselves. Furthermore, environments that normalize criminal behavior, such as communities where gangs or organized crime are prevalent, can foster an atmosphere where crime becomes part of the culture.

Law enforcement is often a key factor in controlling crime. When police departments face understaffing, insufficient funding, or ineffective policies, they may struggle to prevent or respond to criminal activities adequately. Corruption within the police force or a lack of trust between communities and officers can also undermine efforts to tackle crime. In such situations, criminals may feel emboldened to commit offenses, knowing that the risk of getting caught is low. Weak law enforcement also allows for the flourishing of organized crime and drug trade, which exacerbate the crime problem.

Substance abuse, particularly the addiction to drugs like opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamine, has been linked to rising crime rates. Addiction leads individuals to engage in illegal activities to fund their habits, such as theft, burglary, or drug trafficking. Additionally, drug-related violence, including gang wars and turf battles, can result in an increase in violent crime. The opioid epidemic, for example, has fueled a rise in overdose deaths, property crimes, and assaults in many areas.

The rise of technology has provided new opportunities for criminals to exploit. Cybercrime, including hacking, identity theft, online fraud, and data breaches, has become a significant issue globally. As more people conduct transactions and share personal information online, the risk of being targeted by cybercriminals increases. While technology can be used to combat crime, such as through surveillance and crime reporting apps, it also provides a new landscape for criminal behavior, making it harder to track and prevent certain types of crime.

The most immediate and direct impact of rising crime is a decrease in public safety. Citizens may feel unsafe in their neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces, which can lead to heightened anxiety, social isolation, and a reduction in the quality of life. The fear of becoming a victim of crime can cause people to avoid certain areas or alter their daily routines. This sense of insecurity can erode trust in public institutions and create divisions between different social groups.

Crime imposes a significant financial burden on society. Businesses may face losses due to theft, vandalism, or fraud, which can lead to higher prices for consumers and reduced profitability for companies. Additionally, the costs associated with law enforcement, legal proceedings, and incarceration place a strain on government resources. Rising crime can also lead to decreased property values in affected areas, making it harder for residents to build wealth or for communities to attract investment and development.

As crime rates rise, social services such as healthcare, rehabilitation programs, and mental health services are often stretched thin. Many individuals involved in criminal activities require intervention through rehabilitation or mental health support. However, the resources available for such services may be limited, particularly in areas with high crime rates. This can perpetuate the cycle of criminal behavior, as individuals who do not receive adequate support may reoffend and contribute further to rising crime.

Basant Panchami Ke Dher Sari Mubarka aur Badayea

By: Omkar Dattatray

Lo the auspicious occasion and festival of Basant /Vasant Panchami which in fact is the festival celebrated for the coming of the spring season. This festival is the harbinger of energy, positivity and amusement. In fact Basant Panchami is the occasion to celebrate Saraswati Worship and we should pay obeisance to the Saraswati the goddess of learning and knowledge so that she showers her divine blessings to us and we live a life full of knowledge, wisdom and learning. This year the festival of Basant Panchami falls on 3rd of February [Monday] and we should celebrate it with devotion and fervor. Vasant Panchami falls on the fifth day of the bright lunar fortnight –Sukla Paksha of the month of Maga in the Indian lunisolar calendar. Vasant Panchami, also rendered as Vasanta Panchami & Basant Panchami is a Hindu festival that marks the start of spring and the worship of Saraswati, the goddess of learning and arts. It is celebrated in India, Nepal, and other South Asian countries. It is celebrated as the arrival of spring as well as worship of Saraswati. People start the new beginnings, such as education, marriage, and business on this occasion. The preparation for Holi, which takes place 40 days later begins on this day. On this day, people wear yellow clothes, offers prayers to Saraswati and fly kites. People eat and distribute traditional sweets among relatives and friends. People also visit to temples to worship Saraswati and offer flowers and sweets to the deity. Some people recite hymns and mantras in honor of Saraswati. Schools, colleges organize programs in which students participate and sing, dance and perform other activities. It is significant for students and learner, marking the start of educational journeys. It symbolizes energy and prosperity. It is also the harvest time for the mustard crop. Basant Panchami is also known as Saraswati Puja, Vasantotsav, Sripanchami and Gyan Pan-

chami. Vasant Panchami is a festival of Hindus that marks the beginning of preparations for the spring season. It is celebrated by people in various ways depending on the region. Vasant Panchami also marks the start of preparations for Holi and Holi, which occur forty days later. As per Hindu beliefs Maa Saraswati the deity of learning, music and art was born on this day and thus to achieve wisdom and art from her people celebrate Basant Panchami as Saraswati pooja. This day is very auspicious, thus people start new work, business, get married or start education or anything new on this day. Basant Panchami is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm in various parts of India. The festival is dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, known as the goddess of art, music, and knowledge. The goddess Saraswati symbolizes creative energy and power in all their forms. The yellow color plays an important role in this festival. Basant Panchami marks the beginning of the transition period from winter to spring. After Makarsankranti, the sun gradually starts its northward journey from the tropic of Capricorn as winter gradually fades away, leading to warmer days. A pleasant change in season heralds the arrival of spring, as the subcontinent heaves a sigh of relief from the severe winter cold. After this transition period of around 30 days, starting from Vasant Panchami, spring comes into full bloom around the time of Holi. Basant Panchami is of great significance in this land. In ancient times, Vasant Panchami was also the festival of the river Saraswati. In many parts of India this festival is known as Saraswati Pooja, a day to propitiate Goddess Saraswati. Saraswati Pujas are conducted in houses while the Saraswati temples are decorated and thronged by devotees. In south India, it is celebrated as Sri Panchami, Sri being one of the names of Goddess Lakshmi. Basant Panchami is also the day when Goddess Parvati sent Kama Deva to disturb Lord Shiva's penance. This festival of

Vasant Panchami is thus associated with all the three goddesses in the Hindu trinity. In other words, it is the day that celebrates knowledge, prosperity, and creative energy. In Hindu culture, it is considered a day of worship for the goddess Saraswati, accompanied by vibrant festivities, including kite flying, music and wearing yellow clothes. In north India and in the Punjab province of Pakistan, Basant is considered to be a seasonal festival and is celebrated as a spring festival of kites. Hinduism places an great amount of cultural importance on the celebration of Basant Panchami since it signals the end of winter and the start of the flowering season called spring season. People worship Goddess Saraswati by dressing in yellow and presenting her with yellow flowers and sweets. The color yellow is reputed to represent prosperity, wisdom and optimism. This festival is celebrated with great fervor and excitement. During Basant Panchami, the color yellow, which represents pleasure and sunlight, is regarded highly significant among Indian's. It stands for the approach of spring, fresh starts and optimism. During the celebrations, the vivid color is present everywhere, including in the food, decorations and apparel. Yellow is traditionally linked with the Hindu Goddess Saraswati, who is symbolic of wisdom and knowledge, and yellow is her favorite color. Therefore, in order to get her blessings and guidance, people dress in yellow and offer yellow flowers to the deity. Worshipping Goddess Saraswati is one of this festivals most prominent ceremonies. Prayers are offered and devotees wish for the deity's blessings to succeed in their academic and artistic aspirations. The goddess is dressed in yellow and embroidered with yellow flowers, which stand for the coming of spring and fresh start. People wear yellow clothing and use yellow flowers to beautify their homes. To achieve success in the associate sector, many individuals worship items such as books, pens, musical

instruments and laptops that are linked to knowledge and music. Kite flying is another well-known Basant Panchami custom. All ages of people congregate in open areas and on rooftops to fly kites and compete with colorful kites. Participants strive to slash each other's kites with their own while the sky is ablaze with color and applause. It is an enjoyable and thrilling event that strengthens relationships and promotes a feeling of community. Various rituals and customs are performed to celebrate Basant Panchami. Basant Panchami is the festival dedicated to goddess Saraswati who is their goddess of Knowledge, language, music and all arts. She symbolizes creative energy and power in all its forms, including longing and love. The season and festival also celebrate the agricultural fields ripening with yellow flowers of mustard crop, which Hindus associate with Saraswati's favorite color. People dress in yellow saris or shirts or accessories, share yellow color snacks and sweets. Some people add saffron to their rice and then eat yellow cooked rice as a part of an elaborate feast. Many educational institutions arrange special prayers or pujas in the morning to seek the blessings of the goddess. One of the legend behind Vasant Panchami is based on the Hindu god of love called Kama. Pradyumna is Kamadeva reborn as Krishna's son. Thus Basant Panchami is known as "Madana Panchami." Pradyumna is the son of of Rukmini and Krishna. He awakens the passions of the earth and its people and thus the world blooms anew. There are several legends associated with the Basant Panchami and for the paucity of space cannot be listed here. In short we can say the spring season is the king of the seasons and let us celebrate Basant Panchami which is the festival of coming of the spring with great devotion and gaiety.

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

New theory unites Einstein's theory of relativity with quantum mechanics

By: Vijay Garg

For over a century, quantum mechanics and Einstein's general relativity have stood as the cornerstones of modern physics, yet their unification remains one of science's greatest challenges.

Scientists have proposed a groundbreaking theory aimed at bridging the gap between two fundamental frameworks of modern physics: quantum mechanics and Einstein's general relativity.

Scientists have proposed a groundbreaking theory aimed at bridging the gap between two fundamental frameworks of modern physics: quantum mechanics and Einstein's general relativity.

For over a century, quantum mechanics and Einstein's general relativity have stood as the cornerstones of modern physics, yet their unification remains one of science's greatest challenges.

Now, researchers at University College London (UCL) have introduced a groundbreaking theory that challenges conventional approaches to this problem.

Quantum gravity seeks to bridge the gap between the microscopic world, where quantum mechanics governs particle behavior, and the macroscopic realm, where gravity shapes spacetime.

Traditionally, physicists have assumed that Einstein's theory must be modified to fit within the quantum framework. However, UCL researchers propose a striking alternative: a "postquantum theory of classical gravity" that reexamines the fundamental relationship between these two domains.

The weighing of a mass - an experiment proposed by the UCL group which constrain any theory where spacetime is treated classically.

The weighing of a mass - an experiment proposed by the UCL group which constrain any theory where spacetime is treated classically.

The Quantum-Relativity Divide
Quantum mechanics, rooted in probability and wave functions, has been remarkably successful in describing subatomic behavior. General relativity, on the other hand, precisely explains how gravity governs the cosmos. Yet, attempts to merge these theories into a unified framework have repeatedly faced obstacles.

This latest proposal challenges conventional wisdom, suggesting that instead of forcing gravity into a quantum framework, researchers should explore a new perspective—one where classical gravity interacts with quantum systems in ways previously unexplored. The implications of this theory could reshape our understanding of the universe, offering a fresh path toward reconciling two of physics' most successful yet conflicting models.

In contrast, general relativity paints a different picture of the universe, where gravity arises from the curvature of spacetime caused by massive objects. While these theories excel in their own domains, they clash when brought together, leading to mathematical inconsistencies and contradictions.

A New Approach: Spacetime as Classical
Enter Professor Jonathan Oppenheim and

his team at UCL, who have challenged the status quo with their groundbreaking theory. In two parallel papers published simultaneously, they propose a novel perspective that suggests spacetime may remain classical and unaffected by quantum mechanics.

This theory, as described in a paper published in Physical Review X (PRX), refrains from modifying spacetime itself and instead modifies quantum theory.

The image depicts an experiment in which heavy particles (illustrated as the moon), cause an interference pattern (a quantum effect), while also bending spacetime. The hanging pendulums depict the measurement of spacetime.

The image depicts an experiment in which heavy particles (illustrated as the moon), cause an interference pattern (a quantum effect), while also bending spacetime. The hanging pendulums depict the measurement of spacetime.

The core tenet of this theory is that spacetime remains classical, not subject to the constraints of quantum theory. Instead, quantum theory is tweaked to account for intrinsic unpredictability mediated by spacetime. The consequence?

Spacetime experiences random and violent fluctuations that exceed the expectations set by quantum theory. These fluctuations, if measured precisely enough, render the apparent weight of objects unpredictable.

To put their theory to the test, the researchers propose a groundbreaking experiment aimed at detecting fluctuations in mass over time. For instance, consider a 1kg mass - the standard measurement used by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. If the measurements of this 1kg mass exhibit fluctuations smaller than those required for mathematical consistency, it would challenge the new theory.

This experiment, which has far-reaching implications for our understanding of gravity and quantum mechanics, is not just theoretical but practical. It serves as a critical juncture in the ongoing debate between competing theories of quantum gravity. Professor Oppenheim, along with Professor Carlo Rovelli and Dr. Geoff Penington, leading proponents of quantum loop gravity and string theory, respectively, have even placed a 5000:1 odds bet on the outcome.

Jonathan Oppenheim, a physicist at University College London, is developing hybrid theories that could unify classical gravity and quantum mechanics.

Jonathan Oppenheim, a physicist at University College London, is developing hybrid theories that could unify classical gravity and quantum mechanics.

Five Years of Rigorous Testing
The UCL research group, led by Professor Oppenheim, has spent the past five years meticulously developing and examining their theory, scrutinizing its consequences from various angles.

As Professor Oppenheim puts it, "Quantum theory and Einstein's theory of general relativity are mathematically incompatible with each other, so it's important to understand how this contradiction is resolved."

Their journey has been marked by relentless exploration of the fundamental nature

of gravity and the cosmos itself, probing the boundaries of our knowledge and challenging preconceived notions.

Beyond the Weight of Gravity: Implications of the Postquantum Theory

While the focus of the postquantum theory is on reconciling quantum mechanics and general relativity, its implications extend far beyond the realm of gravity. One notable consequence is the elimination of the notorious "measurement postulate" in quantum theory.

The prediction of the semiclassical Einstein equation is depicted in the right panel, compared with what we expect to occur based on the statistical interpretation of the density matrix in the left panel.

This postulate, which has long perplexed physicists, posits that measurements collapse quantum superpositions into definite states. In the new theory, quantum superpositions naturally localize through their interaction with classical spacetime, obviating the need for this postulate.

Professor Oppenheim's journey to this groundbreaking theory was motivated by his attempt to unravel the mysteries of the black hole information paradox. According to standard quantum theory, information cannot be destroyed.

Therefore, an object entering a black hole should somehow radiate information back out. However, this concept directly contradicts general relativity, which posits that once an object crosses a black hole's event horizon, it becomes inaccessible.

The postquantum theory offers a unique perspective, suggesting that the fundamental breakdown in predictability inherent to spacetime allows for information to be destroyed, resolving this long-standing paradox.

The proposal to test whether spacetime remains classical by detecting random fluctuations in mass is just one part of the puzzle.

Another experimental proposal aims to verify the quantum nature of spacetime through a phenomenon called "gravitationally mediated entanglement." These experiments, though challenging, hold immense promise in advancing our understanding of the fundamental laws of nature.

Consider a variation of the gedanken experiment proposed by Feynman [12,35] and Aharonov [36] in which a massive particle travels through two slits as a plane wave. Quantum theory predicts an interference pattern on the screen behind the slits which enables a determination of the particle's momentum.

Professor Sougato Bose, an expert in the field who was not involved in the recent UCL announcement but had previously proposed the entanglement experiment, emphasized the importance of these endeavors, stating, "Experiments to test the nature of spacetime will take a large-scale effort, but they're of huge importance from the perspective of understanding the fundamental laws of nature. I believe these experiments are within reach - these things are difficult to predict, but perhaps we'll know the answer within the next 20 years."

At the heart of this theory lies a delicate interplay between quantum particles, such as

atoms, and the fluctuations in classical spacetime. These fluctuations, if the theory holds, must occur on a scale yet to be detected but should be large enough to impact quantum particles' behavior.

The proposed experiments seek to find this elusive balance, shedding light on whether spacetime remains classical or succumbs to quantum mechanics at microscopic scales.

In the words of Professor Oppenheim, "Now that we have a consistent fundamental theory in which spacetime does not get quantized, it's anybody's guess." The journey has just begun, and the future of physics has never looked more intriguing.

Quantum theory tells us that particles obey Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, and we can never know their position or velocity at the same time.

Background information
Quantum mechanics background: All the matter in the universe obeys the laws of quantum theory, but we only really observe quantum behavior at the scale of atoms and molecules.

Quantum theory tells us that particles obey Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, and we can never know their position or velocity at the same time. In fact, they don't even have a definite position or velocity until we measure them. Particles like electrons can behave more like waves and act almost as if they can be in many places at once (more precisely, physicists describe particles as being in a "superposition" of different locations).

Quantum theory governs everything from semiconductors which are ubiquitous in computer chips, to lasers, to superconductivity to radioactive decay. In contrast, we say that a system behaves classically if it has definite underlying properties. A cat appears to behave classically - it is either dead or alive, not both, nor in a superposition of being dead and alive.

Why do cats behave classically, and small particles quantumly? We don't know, but the postquantum theory doesn't require the measurement postulate, because the classicality of spacetime infects quantum systems and causes them to localize.

Gravity background: Newton's theory of gravity, gave way to Einstein's theory of general relativity (GR), which holds that gravity is not a force in the usual sense. Instead, heavy objects such as the sun, bend the fabric of spacetime in such a way that causes the earth to revolve around it.

Spacetime is just a mathematical object consisting of the three dimensions of space, and time considered as a fourth dimension. General relativity predicted the formation of black holes and the big bang. It holds that time flows at different rates at different points in space, and the GPS in your smartphone needs to account for this in order to properly determine your location.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

Five-day Skill Development Programme on Soft Computing and Applications begins at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 3: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has inaugurated a Five-Day Skill Development Programme on Soft Computing and Applications, scheduled from 3rd-7th Feb, 25, organised by School of Computer Science & Engineering.

The programme is funded and supported by the Higher Education Department, Government of UT of J&K to inculcate the startup skills among the youth of UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The initiative aims to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills in the rapidly advancing domain of Soft Computing and particularly to inculcate the start up skills in the domain.

The programme has attracted participants from esteemed institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, including Central University of Jammu, UIET Kathua, University of Jammu, and MIET Jammu, covering various regions of the UT.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof.

(Dr.) Pragati

Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, as the Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Kumar emphasised on the evolution and growth of the internet along with the rise of the domain of soft computing.

His inspirational words resonated with the participants, setting an encouraging tone for the event.

Prof. K.R. Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU, is the Coordinator of the programme, with Prof. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Dr. Pooja Sharma, and Manoj Kumar serving as Co-Coordinator.

The distinguished guests at the inaugural event included Dr. Shitala Prasad from IIT Goa and Prof. Dinesh Kumar Vishwakarma from DTU Delhi, who shared their valuable insights with the participants.

Additionally, the event will feature lectures by renowned faculty members from premier institutes like IITs, NITs, CSIR, and JNU, along with industry experts, aiming to bridge the gap between academia and industry in the modern technological landscape.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Manoj Kumar Gupta, followed by an introduction to the workshop by Manoj Kumar.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Pooja Sharma, Associate Professor (SoCSE). A dedicated team of student organizers—Rajat, Rudraksh, Aditya, Tanish, Bhoomi, Arya, Achalendra, and Bigan—has worked diligently to ensure the smooth execution and success of the event.

The organizing committee of the Research Project extended its heartfelt gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar and Registrar Ajay Kumar Sharma for their unwavering support and commitment to fostering a learning-driven environment at SMVDU.

The Five-Day Skill Development Programme on Soft Computing and Applications promises to be a transformative platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation, empowering participants with advanced knowledge and industry-relevant skills.

Massive combing operation underway after retired Soldier martyred in terror attack

Top News Report

KULGAM, Feb 3: A massive combing operation was launched in the Behi Bagh area of Kulgam district following a terrorist attack that left a retired soldier dead and his wife and daughter injured.

The attack, which occurred today afternoon, has prompted an immediate response from security forces, who are currently scouring the area for terrorists involved in the assault.

Senior security officials have visited the site to assess the situation and ensure the safety of residents.

Authorities have not

yet released further details regarding the circumstances surrounding the attack or the identities of the victims.

The operation is ongoing, and more information is expected to be provided as the investigation unfolds.

Ex-Army man, his wife and daughter were injured after they were attacked by terrorists in BehiBagh area of Kulgam.

Officials said that all three were taken to hospital in injured condition where ex-army man identified as Manzoor Ahmad Wagay succumbed to injuries while his wife and daughter are said to be stable.

GDC Kathua celebrates World Wetlands Day 2025



Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 3: The Department of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with the Ravi Eco Club and NSS Units of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, celebrated World Wetlands Day 2025 with great enthusiasm.

This year's theme, "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future," emphasized the crucial role wetlands play in environmental conservation and sustainability.

To mark the occasion, a Poster Making Competition was organized on the said theme under the guidance of the Worthy Principal, Prof. Seema Mir.

The competition was conducted in the Department of Environmental Sciences under the supervision of Prof. Arvind Kumar, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Hilal Ahmed Dar, and Dr. Anjali Devi.

The posters were meticulously evaluated by a panel of esteemed judges, including Dr. Yash Paul Sharma (HoD, Urdu), Dr. Kulbir Singh (HoD, Mathematics), and Dr. Pritima Sangra NSS PO. The

competition saw active participation from students, showcasing their creative expressions and deep understanding of wetland conservation.

The winners of the competition were Nitika Verma, Khushbo Mehra, and Tanvi Sharma who bagged 1st 2nd and 3rd positions respectively whereas Riya sharma and Hinna sharma were adjudged for consolation prizes.

On the occasion, Prof. Arvind Kumar engaged students in a discussion about the significance of wetlands and their ecological importance. He highlighted how wetlands act as natural water filters, provide habitat for diverse species, and mitigate climate change effects.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of the College addressed the students, commending their efforts and encouraging them to take proactive steps toward environmental conservation.

She emphasized the need for collective action to protect wetlands for a sustainable future.

Such initiatives continue to foster environmental awareness and responsibility among students, reinforcing their role as future custodians of nature.

Army organises "Chai Pe Charcha" at Tundagarh Batsiala



Top News Report

REASI, Feb 3: The Indian Army organized an engaging and heartfelt "Chai Pe Charcha" interaction with the Gujar and Bakarwal communities at the remote location of Tundagarh village in the Reasi district. The initiative aimed to foster mutual trust, strengthen community relations, and address the concerns of the local populace.

The event witnessed the active participation of community elders, youth, and women from the Gujar and Bakar

wal communities, who warmly interacted with the Indian Army personnel. Over cups of chai, discussions revolved around the region's development, education, healthcare, and the promotion of communal harmony.

The Indian Army emphasized its commitment to addressing the needs and aspirations of the local communities while encouraging them to avail opportunities in education, skill development, and employment.

Special attention was given to raising awareness about the importance of unity, peace,

and national integration in fostering progress and prosperity in the region.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts and appreciated the gesture of organizing such an informal yet impactful platform to voice their opinions and build stronger bonds.

The Indian Army continues to remain steadfast in its mission to promote inclusivity and development, contributing to the region's socio-economic growth while ensuring security and stability.

Army organizes amity meeting with Sarpanch, Nambardar at Salani

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 3: The Indian Army organized an Amity Meet at the Higher Secondary Government School in Salani, Poonch District, with the goal of fostering enhanced communication and strengthening ties between the Army and the local community. Salani, situated close to the Line of Control, faces numerous challenges on a daily basis.

The meeting was attended by local representatives, including members of the civil administration, Sarpanch, Nambardar, teachers, and village elders from Salani and surrounding areas. The initiative marked a step forward in promoting continuous and constructive interaction between the Indian Army and civil society.

The session also included a special focus on educating the younger generation about the qualifications needed



to join the Indian Army and how they can play an integral role in shaping the future of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Army highlighted the opportunities available to locals for personal and professional development under the Sadbhavna initiative.

A key highlight of the meeting was the productive discussion regarding the collective efforts of both the Indian Army and the local population in combating terrorism. The Indian Army emphasized the importance of local cooperation in ensuring peace and security in the region.

This message was well-received by the community, who expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to engage with them in a transparent and constructive manner.

The local community expressed a strong desire for such meetings to be held regularly to maintain the harmonious relationship between the residents and the Indian Army. Villagers praised the Indian Army's unwavering support in times of need and reaffirmed their trust in its leadership, requesting that these events continue in the future.

AYUSH Deptt organizes Nasha Mukta Abhiyan Awareness Program at SAR Institute

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Feb 3: Strengthening the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the Department of AYUSH, in line with directives issued by District Administration Ramban, organized a lecture-cum-awareness program at SAR Institute, Ramban to educate students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and mobile addiction.

During the event, Raju Singh from Padhoji Institute, Jammu, delivered an insightful lecture on counselling and mobile addiction, emphasizing the psychological impact and strategies to overcome dependency. He highlighted the growing concern of digital addiction among youth and the need for balanced usage of technology.



Senior Medical Officer & District Yoga Coordinator, Dr. Masood Iqbal Zarger, spoke about the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, underlining the critical role of Yoga and Meditation in de-addiction and mental well-being. He urged students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and engage in activities that promote mindfulness and self-discipline.

Expressing gratitude, Head of SAR Institute, Ajaz Ahmed, thanked the Department of AYUSH for conducting

this valuable awareness session. He appreciated the efforts of the District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Basaar-Ul-Haq Chaudhary in organizing programs that contribute to the well-being of students and the community.

The session concluded with a call to action, encouraging students to spread awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse and adopt healthier life choices.

GDC Ramgarh hosts awareness program on 'Traffic Rules and Drug Abuse'

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Feb 3: In an effort to raise awareness among students about the importance of following traffic rules and the dangers of drug abuse, the Road Safety Club and NCORD Cell of Govt. Degree College Ramgarh, in collaboration with the 'UNNAT' NGO, organized an insightful awareness program.

The event was held under the guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

The program began with a warm welcome by the Principal, who highlighted the significance of the event and the importance of the topics being discussed.

She emphasized the need for creating awareness among young minds regarding social issues that impact their lives directly.

Neena Abrol, the General Secretary of the UNNAT NGO, coordinated the event along with Anjal Sethi and Rahul Gupta, both Executive Members of the UNNAT



NGO.

Gaurang Abrol, a student at NIT Srinagar and also a member of the NGO, was present to show his support and contribute to the success of the event.

The key resource persons, Ashutosh Abrol (JKAS) and Dr. Nitin Sharma (Assistant Professor, Law School, University of Jammu), delivered thought-provoking lectures on their respective topics.

Ashutosh Abrol spoke about the severe consequences of drug abuse, emphasizing its harmful

effects on individuals, families, and society.

He also highlighted preventive measures and encouraged students to stay vigilant and make informed choices.

Dr. Nitin Sharma focused on the critical importance of following traffic rules, discussing how adherence to these regulations can prevent accidents and ensure road safety.

He also connected the issue of drug abuse with road safety, noting that substance abuse can lead to impaired judgment and

dangerous driving.

Both speakers engaged students with compelling information and interactive discussions, urging them to take responsibility for their own safety and well-being.

Dr. Snobar, convener Literary Club and Road Safety Club managed the conduct of the event along with other members.

The programme was attended by Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar (PTI), Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Dr. Neeraj, Priya Sharma, Anjali, Darpan and Dr. Susheel Bhagat and students of the college.

NGO also distributed the stationary kit to all the students as a thoughtful gesture.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Snobar, who expressed gratitude to Principal of the college, the resource persons, the guests, and the students for making the program a success.

Army organises Multi Speciality Medical Camp for remote areas of LoC



Top News Report

NOWSHERA, Feb 3: In a remarkable initiative aimed at serving the local populace of the far-flung and remote areas of Nowshera, the Indian Army at Nowshera under the aegis of Ace of Spade Division and White Knight Corps conducted a Multi-Speciality Medical Camp as an outreach programme to commemorate Nowshera Day 2025.

Nowshera Day is celebrated on February 6 every year to commemorate our victory in 1947-48 Indo-Pak War in Naushera Sector and

in remembrance of Naik Jadunath Singh, PVC, who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation on this day in 1948.

The medical camp, held on 03 Feb 2025, featured a team of dedicated healthcare professionals including artificial limb fitment specialists, paediatricians, dental specialists, eye doctors, and ENT experts.

These specialists provided comprehensive medical consultations, care and treatment to the residents, addressing a wide range of health concerns.

One of the standout features of this initiative was that all medical services were provided to the locals entirely free of cost.

The community in these remote areas, often lacking access to specialized healthcare, got greatly benefitted from the expertise of the medical fraternity.

The event saw significant participation from the local residents as more than 400 people got benefitted from the Medical Camp. 39 individuals got artificial limb fittings and 15 Wheel chairs were distributed.

The beneficiaries extended their deep gratitude towards the Indian Army. The event is a testament of the Army's ongoing efforts to reach out to communities in need, ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible to all, even in the most remote corners of the country.

1975: Hindi Film Spring

It was the year of cult classics — new themes, stars, directors and script writers

In Indian politics, 1975 is remembered as a turning point. It was the year the Emergency was imposed, fundamental rights were crushed and the Constitution itself seemed to be frozen. With the Opposition leaders in jail, it was a political winter. But, for the Hindi film industry, it was the spring season, with the emergence of many new stars, new story lines and new directors. No other year produced so many cult classics — 'Deewar', 'Sholay', 'Chupke Chupke', 'Chhoti Si Baat', 'Julie', 'Khushboo', 'Mausam', 'Mili', 'Aandhi', 'Nishant' and then the sleeper hit, 'Jai Santoshi Ma'.

Fifty years ago, these films came like a breath of fresh air, and even today are watched, dissected and analysed for their social significance.

The biggest stars of the year though were the scriptwriters Salim-Javed, the brains behind 'Deewar' and 'Sholay'. Their fees matched those of the top actors. This was also the first time that the public became aware of scriptwriters and started recognising their faces.

Numerous fresh themes were explored, many new genres emerged, several conventions were broken, and a whole bunch of wonderful actors came to the forefront and caught the public imagination.

What explains this year of new beginnings? Firstly, the government lauded art films of the late 1960s and urged mainstream filmmakers to learn from them. This did not produce much results other than mainstream films adopting gimmicky camera shots to appear 'arty'. Secondly, a significant number of new actors from the Film and Television Institute of India and the National School of Drama, who were prepared to enact off-beat roles, had joined the film industry.

But much of the innovation was cost and technology-driven. Most equipment, belonging to the '50s, was obsolete.



Only the big producers could get import licences. Studio sets were expensive and shooting on different locations a big exercise in logistics. The solution was the bungalow shoot in hired mansions, seen in nearly all of these films. Fifty years ago, even the camera film was not readily available and was not up to global standards. Perhaps the stress on better and tighter screen plays was inevitable.

Lastly, this was mostly pre-Emergency. The fate of 'Aandhi' and the arrival of the Emergency pushed the industry back onto the path of safe entertainment. The producers could not afford to annoy governments. No surprise then that the '80s had a surfeit of Angry Young Men and Disco Dancers! Here's a recap of the classics of 1975...

DEEWAR

Amitabh Bachchan (Vijay) and Shashi Kapoor (Ravi) are two fatherless brothers living in a slum. Vijay begins life as a worker but after trying to lead a trade union ends up losing his job and turns to crime. Ravi, the younger brother, studies and becomes a police officer and almost straightaway learns that his brother is a dangerous gangster. If this story sounds familiar, it's only because it's been copied endlessly. The meeting of the brothers is as dramatic as one could hope for.

The film belongs to Amitabh and established him as an Angry Young Man dispensing his own form of justice when the state machinery was inadequate. Cinematically, the film

borrowed kung fu techniques from Hong Kong, which brought innovation to fight scenes that are acrobatic and often air-borne. Director Yash Chopra has too many zoom-ins and zoom-outs and overly fast shots showing everyone's reactions, but when the camera catches a silent, brooding Amitabh smoking a bidi and thinking of his next move, you realise this is a style not seen before. The dialogues were popular and 'Mere Paas Ma Hai' is still quoted!

Modern viewers may not like the bad wigs and metres of shiny polyester she sports, but Nirupa Roy as the mother who does not leave the path of virtue gave a career-best performance. The script writers had 'Mother India' in mind, but 'Deewar' created a new archetype for the Indian mother.

SHOLAY

An arid region is facing the terror of dacoit Gabbar Singh (Amjad Khan) and his gang. The local Thakur (Sanjeev Kumar), a retired police officer himself, despairing at the failure of the state machinery, hires ex-convicts Dharmendra and Amitabh to take on the dacoit. The two appear inept if not comic and are busy wooing local girls. Though one of them eventually dies, they finish off the dacoit gang.

With an awesome ensemble cast (Jaya Bhaduri, Hema Malini and a host of character actors), 'Sholay' was a gripping story of justice with scenes of sadism, cruelty and gory violence. It entertained but also shocked. With many repeat viewers, it

became a blockbuster hit and people began quoting its dialogues. It was the first film where the dialogues were released in an audio cassette. Dwarka Divecha's lyrical cinematography and the eerie background music score by RD Burman heightened the emotions of the narrative. While Amitabh recapped his Angry Young Man persona, Dharmendra popularised a new genre of the comic action hero which is still going strong.

While 'Deewar' looked east to Hong Kong, director Ramesh Sippy drew inspiration from Sergio Leone's spaghetti western films. The characters are grimy and unshaven and not without their failings. It was a new realism without the left-wing moralising that cinema usually used. Gabbar became a commonly used word thanks to Amjad Khan's commanding performance.

CHUPKE CHUPKE

The film is a middle-class comedy with polished performances by Dharmendra, Sharmila Tagore, Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan. Hrishikesh Mukherjee often looked homewards to Bengal for inspiration and this film was a remake of an Uttam Kumar hit. The film hinged on mistaken identities but part of the fun was about the lack of common sense in college professors, who for all their intellectualism get taken in by imposters.

In an age of social media and background checks like ours, this kind of mistaken identity is unlikely. But 50 years ago, we were a society

with more social trust. Amitabh was himself the son of a professor so he obviously enjoyed this role. It's still a hilarious watch.

CHHOTI SI BAAT

Basu Chatterji had already established himself as a competent director, but this comedy made him a household name. A young working girl in an office in Bombay (Vidya Sinha) must choose between two suitors who are her co-workers, a dashing Asrani and a timid Amol Palekar. Fortunately, Palekar finds a life coach in Ashok Kumar and even beats Asrani in the funniest-ever table tennis match. Basu had adapted a British comedy, 'School for Scoundrels', but Amol Palekar's character of the timid middle-class male negotiating urban life stood out. Palekar did several subsequent films with this Mr Everyman character which contrasted with the Angry Young Man films.

Basu, like Gulzar and Hrishikesh Mukherjee, was left-wing and they were all former assistants to Bimal Roy. This film, however, lacks the usual 'Bad Capitalist, Good Worker' kind of propaganda. But most of all, it recalls Bombay in a sweet spot before the overcrowding set in.

MILI

A terminally-ill patient fights courageously and tries to make the life of all those around better and brighter — well, it's not 'Anand' but 'Mili', which was dubbed the female version of 'Anand'. Hrishikesh Mukherjee created a character in 'Mili' which was different from 'Anand' but equally heart-wrench-

ing. This was also probably Jaya Bachchan's most acclaimed performance. In that era, Jaya was a bigger star than Amitabh. Amitabh played a depressed alcoholic character brought back to normality by Mili's love. They just don't make these kind of female-centred films anymore!

JULIE

A remake of a Malayalam hit, 'Julie' retained many stars from the original. Lakshmi, unknown to Hindi audiences but a respected figure in the South, did the title role and you can find Sridevi making her Hindi debut as Julie's kid sister. Julie, a young Anglo-Indian girl, falls in love with a Brahmin boy who moves elsewhere for a job and loses contact with her. Julie is pregnant and gives birth to a child who must be given up to an orphanage (the Catholic church does not allow abortion) and one expects the film to be another seduced-and-abandoned kind of weepy story. But Julie's mother (Nadira), who was unsympathetic earlier, has a change of heart. Will the lovers ever reunite and what happens to the baby?

'Julie' shocked strait-laced audiences with its frank depiction of pre-marital romance and sex. Even more novel were the reunited lovers' attempts to overcome religious (Hindu versus Christian) and caste (Brahmin versus lower caste) prejudices. Caste and religion and the passions these aroused were absent from Hindi films at that time. Lakshmi unfortunately never got another standout role in Bombay

and Sridevi took time to return.

KHUSHBOO

Gulzar had a bumper year with three films, all relying on stories from well-known authors. Gulzar, being a fan of Bengal, not unexpectedly chose a Sarat Chandra novel for this period film dealing with child marriage. Hema Malini and Jeetendra, better known as dancing stars then, got an opportunity to show their acting chops and did remarkably well. Hema, in particular, was fiercely defiant. While Jeetendra soon went back to his Jumping Jack kind of films, the industry noted that Hema could single-handedly carry a film. Gulzar was a heavy director and the film may drag for today's audiences, but the performances broke stereotypes and were path-breaking.

MAUSAM

Based loosely on an AJ Cronin novel on male repentance and amends, Sharmila in a fiery role shows the subtle restraint she learnt from Satyajit Ray.

AANDHI

Released before the Emergency, this was one of the first attempts at political filmmaking. Celebrated Hindi writer Kamleshwar wrote the story. The daughter of a well-known politician succeeds to his political role after his death, but political success comes at the cost of her marriage, which ends in separation. Years later, while on the campaign trail, she stays in a hotel where her estranged husband is the manager. While she rediscovers her feelings for her husband, they do not reunite, as the husband

supports her political role and even mounts a political meeting in her support.

The supposed resemblance to Indira Gandhi — Suchitra Sen, the lead actress, had a white streak in her hair, though her mannerisms did not copy Indira Gandhi — ensured that the film ran into trouble with the Election Commission during its release before the Emergency. During the Emergency, it received an outright ban while the producers released statements that it was inspired by Gayatri Devi and Tarakeshwari Sinha's stories, both being opponents of the Congress. In 1977, it was re-released and attracted curious crowds.

NISHANT

Shyam Benegal's film on evil landlords in pre-Independence Hyderabad attracted curious viewers eager to see the new and much heralded actors Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patil, Anant Nag and even the then not-so-well-known Shabana Azmi. As evil went, the feudal landlords had rape but not murder in their arsenal and were not as plain evil as Gabbar Singh. Still, this was the first Benegal film to get decent mainstream crowds and was a hopeful sign for the future.

JAI SANTOSHI MA

Apart from 'Julie', all the nine films above avoided mention of religion, except perhaps the temple scenes in 'Sholay'. 'Jai Santoshi Ma' was a stupendous success and theatres which showed it were treated as temples, with audiences removing footwear. The doorways would be garlanded with marigolds. As a film, this was B-grade stuff but the music was a hit and the aarti song 'Main To Aarti Utaroon Re' can still be heard in temples. The film was a smash hit and led to an upsurge in religious devotion, particularly during the Emergency, when there were no political meetings!

1975 was undeniably a defining year for Indian cinema.

Actress Sonakshi Sinha sells Bandra West apartment in Mumbai for Rs 22.5 crore



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha has sold her Bandra West apartment in Mumbai for Rs 22.50 crore, according to Square Yards.

In a statement on Monday, real estate consultant Square Yards said it has reviewed property registration documents reviewed by Square Yards related to

this transaction.

"The property sold by Sinha is located in 81 Aureate, a project by MJ Shah Group, spread across 4.48 acre and featuring 4 BHK apartments.

The apartment has a carpet area of 391.2 square metre (around 4,211 square feet) and a built-up area of 430.32 square metre (around 4,632 square feet)."

The transaction incurred a stamp duty payment of Rs 1.35 crore and registration charges of Rs 30,000.

"The same apartment was bought by Sonakshi Sinha in March 2020 for Rs 14 crore and was recently sold for Rs 22.50 crore, reflecting a 61 per cent appreciation in value since the purchase," Notably, Sinha owns one more apartment in 81 Aureate, it added.

Beyonce confirms Cowboy Carter tour for 2025



As per reports, Netflix had earlier hinted at the announcement by sharing clips of her performance on Instagram with the caption, "tonight seems like the perfect night to rewatch 'Beyoncé Bowl' on Netflix."

It is believed that the tour announcement is what Beyoncé had been planning to announce on January 14 but she postponed it due to the Los Angeles fires. She said at the time, "The January 14 announcement will be postponed to a later date due to the devastation caused by the ongoing wildfires around areas of Los Angeles. I continue to pray for healing and rebuilding for the families suffering from trauma and loss. We are so blessed to have brave first responders who continue to work tirelessly to protect the Los Angeles community. To join our efforts in supporting those impacted, please visit @BeyGOOD. Love, B"

She first announced the Cowboy Carter album during a surprise Super Bowl commercial in February 2024 when she released singles 16 Carriages and Texas Hold Em.

The 27-track record has been responsible for putting a spotlight on Black country artists.

Actress Delnaaz Irani revives Akbar Birbal on stage

If you loved watching the show Akbar Birbal on TV, actress Delnaaz Irani has quite the treat for you. She cannot stop beaming and the reason for this happiness is her new play titled #Akbar@Birbal. The actress is seen in the play with Paritosh painter. She says, "The show had a successful run on TV for almost three-and-a-half years, and now we are back with it in theatre. What's a clear icing on the cake is that we have the same cast. There is Ali Azgar, who is a very renowned artist and Nyrra Banerjee.

The rest of the cast remains the same as well. Vishal Kotian plays Birbal, I am playing Rani and the guy who was playing Saleem, Pavan, is still the same. As for Paritosh, he is a very dear friend of mine and has been a renowned theatre personality, writer for theatre, movies and serials. The



show was his idea and one call from him had me so fascinated that I immediately said, 'Okay, done. We'll do it,' she says.

She added, "For me, performing on stage is a very pure form of expression of my craft. Theatre is my first love, so there is nothing spe-

cific that I look for in a play. When a play is offered to me, I am only looking forward to performing on stage. I have been associated with the medium for almost 33-34 years non-stop and have done Hindi, English, and Gujarati plays. It's been quite a journey."

“Only those students who are guaranteed to pass...”: PM Modi attacks AAP

PM Narendra Modi criticized the AAP government in Delhi, accusing it of prioritizing its image over the future of students.

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): In an interaction with students in the national capital on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, accusing it of prioritizing its image over the future of students.

PM Modi said that the AAP government allows only those students to go beyond class nine who secure good marks to protect its own image.

“I have heard in Delhi, they (AAP government) do not allow children to go further after class 9. Only those children who are guaranteed to pass are allowed to go. Because if their result is bad, their government’s reputation will be ruined. That is why very dishonest work is done,” the Prime Minister said.

On Sunday, addressing a public rally at New Delhi’s RK Puram, Prime Minister said that similar to the change of



weather ushered in with the arrival of Basant Panchami, Delhi will herald a “new spring of development.”

“In a few days, a new spring of development will arrive in Delhi. This time, the BJP government is about to form in Delhi. The ‘AAP-da party’ has wasted 11 years. My biggest request is that we should be given a chance to serve the

people of Delhi. I promise to go to any length to remove every difficulty you face. A double-engine government will come to Delhi that will make the lives of every poor and middle-class family prosperous,” he said.

He also guaranteed Rs 5 nutritious meals for people living in slums and announced the setting up of a welfare

board for auto drivers and domestic workers, while assuring that no existing welfare schemes would be discontinued.

“A welfare board will be set up for auto drivers and domestic workers, providing them with insurance coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh. The BJP government will also assist with children’s school fees. I give another guarantee: these AAP-Da people are spreading falsehoods, but not a single slum in Delhi will be demolished. The welfare schemes for the public in Delhi will not be stopped,” PM Modi asserted.

The Delhi Assembly elections will take place on February 5 in a single phase, with the counting of votes scheduled for February 8. The national capital is set to witness a triangular contest between BJP, Congress and AAP.

Delhi left behind as AAP kept fighting with Centre: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): BJP leader Amit Shah on Monday said states with a double-engine BJP government had progressed in the last 10 years, but Delhi had been left behind because the Aam Aadmi Party kept making excuses and fighting with the Centre.

Speaking at a public meeting in Jangpura, Shah called AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia “bade miyan and chhote miyan” and accused them of “looting” Delhi.

“States having a double-engine BJP government have progressed in the last 10 years. Delhi has been left behind, they keep making excuses and fighting with the Centre like a cry-

baby,” the Union Home Minister said. Firing a fresh salvo at Sisodia, who is contesting from Jangpura against BJP’s Tarvinder Singh Marwah, Shah said he is the only education minister in the country who went to jail in connection with a liquor scam.

He alleged that Kejriwal lied to the people of Delhi and gave them only garbage, toxic water and corruption.

“Bade miyan and chhote miyan” looted Delhi after making false promises. They are both going to lose the elections,” he said.

Shah claimed that the BJP is the only party that can transform Delhi into a world-class capital city. He also attacked Kejriwal for failing to keep his promise of taking a dip in the Yamuna.

BJP headed for worst defeat ever, plans to use ‘goons’: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Monday claimed the BJP is going to face its worst defeat ever in these polls in Delhi and will use its “goons” and Delhi Police to influence the results.

In a video message on the final day of campaigning for the February 5 polls, Kejriwal alleged the BJP was already resorting to unfair tactics in the face of a “massive defeat”.

Despite all these, the AAP is heading towards a historic victory and the BJP its worst defeat since the party came into being, Kejriwal claimed.

“The BJP will use its goons and Delhi Police extensively to win the elections. They will try to intimidate voters,



especially those in slum areas,” he claimed.

The former Delhi chief minister further alleged that BJP workers would try to bribe slum-dwellers by offering Rs 3,000-Rs 5,000 and marking their fingers with black ink to prevent them from voting on election day. “Take their money, but do not let them put ink on your finger,” he urged voters.

He said that to counter these alleged malpractices, his party has set

up “quick action teams” and distributed spy cameras and body cams in slum areas. “We have deployed cameras to capture BJP goons engaging in any wrongdoing.”

Cautioning voters against the alleged BJP manipulations, Kejriwal claimed the party would demolish slums if voted to power. “Selling your votes would be like signing your own death warrant,” he said.

Maha Kumbh stampede: SC rejects PIL seeking safety measures for pilgrims

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking measures to ensure safety and security of people attending the world’s largest religious gathering – Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj – where at least 30 pilgrims died and over 60 got injured in a stampede on January 29.

The PIL, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, had also sought action against Uttar Pradesh officials for lapses on their part that led to a stampede.

“It is an unfortunate incident... something which is of concern, but go to the high court. A judicial commission has been constituted already,” CJI Sanjiv Khanna told Tiwari, who



urged the top court to intervene as such incidents were becoming regular.

On behalf of the Uttar Pradesh Government, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi told the Bench that a judicial inquiry was under way into the incident and a similar petition had been filed in the high court.

A day after the stam-

pede at Maha Kumbh, Tiwari had filed a petition accusing the Uttar Pradesh Government of “lapses, negligence and utter failure of administration” and sought action against UP Government officials for their alleged negligence and lapses that led to the stampede.

“Direct the State of Uttar Pradesh to submit a status report on the Maha Kumbh-2025 stampede incident that took place on January 29 and also direct it to initiate legal action against the persons, authorities and officials concerned for their negligent conduct,” Tiwari submitted.

He also sought directions to state governments to prevent stampedes at crowded places like Maha Kumbh and ensure safety and security of people attending religious festivals.

“All state governments with the coordination of the Uttar Pradesh Government shall also deploy its small medical team at Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, comprising doctors and nurses, so that during any medical emergency, there is no shortage of medical

staff,” Tiwari demanded. He wanted the top court to issue directions to ensure that VIP movements did not affect or create danger to the common devotees’ safety and maximum space for entry and exit of devotees at Maha Kumbh was provided to pilgrims.

The PIL sought directions to all states to ask their facilitation centres at Prayagraj to provide basic information regarding the safety measures and guidelines to the pilgrims.

There should be proper arrangements for announcements, display boards showing direction, roads etc in multiple languages so that people from other states don’t face problems, stated the PIL.

Manipur violence: SC seeks forensic report over audio clips against CM

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Saying the state was “limping back to normalcy”, the Supreme Court on Monday sought a sealed-cover forensic report on the authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging the role of Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh in the ethnic violence.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar sought the report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) within six weeks and posted the plea by the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR) for March 24. KOHUR, represented

by advocate Prashant Bhushan, sought a court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged role of the chief minister in the ethnic violence.

Justice Sanjay Kumar, who was the chief justice of the Manipur High Court before being elevated to the top court, said, “The chief minister of Manipur had hosted

a dinner for me when I was elevated to this court, so if you have an issue with me hearing the matter then you can tell me...” Bhushan said he did not have a problem.

“The state is gradually limping back to normalcy and we will keep it (the matter) on hold at the moment,” the CJI

said. The bench would later see whether the top court or the high court should hear the case.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, was in agreement with the observations.

Bhushan, however, termed the contents of the audio leaks a “very serious matter”.

Make in India good idea, but PM Modi failed: Rahul Gandhi in Parliament



NEW DELHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, while replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President’s address in the Parliament on Monday, appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Make in India’ programme and termed it a good idea, ‘conceptually’, but, said that “it is clear that he failed”.

“The Prime Minister proposed the ‘Make in India’ programme, I think it was a good idea...The result is right in front of you, manufacturing fell from 15.3% of GDP in 2014 to 12.6% of GDP today, which is the lowest share of manufacturing in 60 years. I am not blaming the

Prime Minister, it would not be fair to say that he did not try. I could say that the Prime Minister tried but he failed...” said Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi further lashed out at the Central government and said, “We have as a country failed in organising production and handed it over to the Chinese.”

He further said that Chinese forces are present in our nation because ‘Make in India’ failed and our country “refuses to produce”.

“Any country basically organises two things. You can organise consumption, and then you can organise production. The modern way of saying organising consumption is services. The modern way of

saying organising production is manufacturing, but there is more to production than simply manufacturing. We have as a country failed in organising production,” he said.

“We have excellent companies that try to organise production... essentially what we have done is we have handed over the organisation of production to the Chinese. This mobile phone, even though we are saying we make this mobile phone in India, that is not a fact. This phone is not made in India. This phone is assembled in India. All the components of this phone are made in China...we are paying a tax to China,” Gandhi added amid heavy sloganeering and objection by BJP MPs.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju objected to Rahul Gandhi’s remark during the Motion of Thanks to the President’s address. Many NDA MPs showed disagreement with LoP’s remarks on organisational production failure in India.

BJP MLA’s brother shoots son dead over financial dispute in MP’s Ujjain

UJJAIN, Feb 3 (Agencies): A BJP MLA’s brother shot his 30-year-old son dead with a licensed gun following a dispute in Madhya Pradesh’s Ujjain on Monday morning, police said.

The incident occurred in Makdon tehsil around 9.15 am, an official said.

BJP MLA Satish Malviya’s elder brother, Mangal, shot his son with a 12-bore licensed gun, Additional Superintendent of Police Rural,

Nitesh Bhargava said. He added Mangal had a dispute with his son Arvind about taking money from the family’s grocery store. Following a heated argument, he opened fire.

Arvind died on the spot, and his body was sent for post-mortem, the official said, adding that the accused has been taken into custody for questioning.

Satish is the BJP MLA from the Ghatiya seat in Ujjain district.

Congress leader’s son found dead in Patna

PATNA, Feb 3 (Agencies): The son of senior Congress leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan was found dead in Patna on Monday, police said.

The body of Ayaan Ahmad Khan was found hanging from a ceiling fan at the official residence of his father, the Bihar Congress Legislature Party leader, in Sachivalaya area here, a senior officer said.

Patna Senior Superintendent of Police Awkash Kumar said, “Senior officials along with forensic experts have reached the spot and are collecting scientific evidence.



The matter is being investigated from all angles.”

The body has been sent for postmortem examination, he said, adding that the exact cause of death was yet to be ascertained.

Khan is the MLA of Kadwa Assembly seat in Katihar district. Bihar Congress chief

Akhilesh Prasad Singh, in a post on X, said, “I am shocked by the news of the sudden death of Ayaan Ahmad Khan, son of Shakeel Ahmed Khan. My condolences are with his family. May God give strength to his family in this hour of grief and grant peace to the departed soul. Om Shanti.”

At least 15 killed in car bomb explosion in northern Syria

Manbij in northeastern Aleppo province continues to witness violence even after the downfall of President Bashar Assad in December.

DAMASCUS, Feb 3 (Agencies): At least 15 people were killed and dozens wounded Monday when a car bomb exploded in the outskirts of a northern Syrian city, local civil defense and a war monitor reported.

The car on the outskirts of the city of Manbij detonated next to a vehicle carrying agricultural workers, killing 14 women and one man, the local Syrian civil defense reported. Another 15 women were wounded, among them in critical condition. However, Britain-based war monitor The Syrian



Observatory for Human Rights said 18 women were killed as well as one man.

Manbij in northeastern Aleppo province continues to witness violence even after the downfall of Presi-

dent Bashar Assad in December, where Turkish-backed factions known as the Syrian National Army continue to clash with the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

North Korea slams US Secretary of State Rubio for calling it a 'rogue state', dismisses remark as 'nonsense'

SEOUL, Feb 3 (Agencies): North Korea on Monday criticised Marco Rubio for calling the country a "rogue state", dismissing a comment made by the top US diplomat during a recent interview as "nonsense".

In Pyongyang's first public denunciation of the new Trump administration, a foreign ministry spokesman said that the nuclear-armed country would "never tolerate any provocation of the US".

North Korea "will take tough counteraction", against any US actions, according to a statement carried on state news service KCNA.

The comments come



after US President Donald Trump said he would "reach out" to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after previously meeting with him during his first term.

In a recent radio interview, Rubio mentioned North Korea and Iran as "rogue states" that "you have to deal with" when making foreign policy decisions.

The foreign ministry spokesman dis-

missed Rubio's "nonsense" remarks, which "thoughtlessly tarnish the image of a sovereign state as a grave political provocation".

Rubio's comments were "nothing new" and "it would be more surprising if he had said (a) good word about the DPRK", he added, using the official acronym for the North.

Issued from such a high level -- the foreign ministry -- Pyong-

yang's statement carries "significant weight" according to analyst Hong Min.

"The statement interestingly is a mixed signal," said Hong, a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"While it outwardly criticises the US, the statement subtly outlines North Korea's expectations. Essentially, it's providing a guide for how North Korea hopes the Trump administration will approach diplomacy moving forward," he told agency.

Largely cut off from the world diplomatically and economically, and under a bevy of sanctions, North

Korea's nuclear weapons programme has been a major thorn in the side of the United States for years.

Trump, who had a rare series of meetings with Kim during his first term, said in January that he would reach out to the North Korean leader again, calling Kim a "smart guy".

A summit between the two in Hanoi collapsed in 2019 over talks on sanctions relief and what Pyongyang would be willing to give up in return.

Last week, despite Trump's diplomatic overtures, North Korea said its nuclear programme would continue "indefinitely".

Elon Musk dubs USAID "criminal organization," says "time for it to die"

WASHINGTON, Feb 3 (Agencies): American tech billionaire Elon Musk has called United States Agency for International Development (USAID) a "criminal organization" and said that it is "time for it to die."

In a post on X, Musk wrote, "USAID is a criminal organization. Time for it to die."

He made the statement in response to a post which mentioned that USAID senior officials were put on leave after they physically tried to stop Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) officials from accessing agency systems.

Musk's statement comes amid mounting reports that US President Donald Trump wants to abolish USAID, an independent federal agency, and fold it into the US State Department, agency reported. Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at the White House, Stephen Miller, has accused USAID's workforce of being overwhelmingly Democrats.

Two top senior officials at the USAID were put

on administrative leave on Saturday night after trying to refuse officials from DOGA to access systems at the agency, even after DOGE officials threatened to call law enforcement, CNN reported, citing multiple sources familiar with the matter.

Sources said personnel from DOGA tried to physically access the USAID headquarters in Washington, DC. However, they were stopped from accessing the system. Two of the sources said that the DOGE officials demanded to be allowed in and threatened to call US Marshals to be allowed access, CNN reported.

Three sources said the DOGE personnel wanted to gain access to security systems and personal files of USAID. Two of those sources also said the DOGE officials wanted to access classified information, which can be accessed by only those having security clearances and have a specific need to know, agency reported. Three sources said that the DOGE officials were eventually allowed to



access the headquarters.

The incident is the latest showdown as the DOGE wants to have increasing authority over the federal government with an aim to reduce spending. On Sunday, US Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who is also a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "Reports that individuals without appropriate clearance may have accessed classified USAID spaces as well as American citizens' personal information are incredibly serious and unprecedented."

She added, "We are seeking immediate answers about any implications for our national security and are bringing a group

of bipartisan Senators together on this as soon as the Senate comes back tomorrow."

Katie Miller, who was appointed by Trump in DOGE, on Sunday seemed to confirm that DOGE personnel had accessed classified information. In a post on X, Miller wrote, "No classified material was accessed without proper security clearances."

USAID's website went dark and a new page for the agency appeared on the website of the US State Department. In addition, USAID's X account also went offline. Shortly being sworn in as US President on January 20, Trump issued an executive order pausing all foreign aid for 90 days, resulting in widespread

confusion, layoffs and program shutdowns. USAID Director of Security John Voorhees and his deputy are among dozens of USAID officials who have been put on leave amid fears that the agency is being intentionally dismantled.

Democratic lawmakers have said it would be illegal for Trump to unilaterally eliminate a federal agency without holding consultations with the Congress. Established in 1961 under then-US President John F Kennedy's administration, the USAID is the US government's humanitarian arm which dispenses billions of dollars annually across the world in an effort to alleviate poverty, treat diseases, and respond to famines and natural disasters. Last week, around 60 senior USAID staff were put on leave after accusations of trying to circumvent the executive order on foreign aid, agency reported. Another senior official was put on leave for attempting to reverse that move after finding no evidence of wrongdoing.

Ukraine drone attack sets off fires, flights suspended at Russian airports



MOSCOW, Feb 3 (Agencies): Ukraine's overnight drone attack targeted fuel and energy facilities in Russia, sparking a fire in the Astrakhan region and forcing the suspension of flights at several airports, Russian officials and media said on Monday.

"Ukrainian armed forces attempted a drone attack on objects located in the region, including fuel and energy facilities," Igor Babushkin, governor of the Astrakhan region in southern Russia, said on the Telegram messaging app.

"Falling drone sparked a fire. There were no casualties." Babushkin did not say

what was on fire. Baza, a Russian news Telegram channel that is close to Russia's security services, said that Ukraine attacked a gas processing plant near Astrakhan.

Russia's aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia said that it was suspending flights from the airports of Astrakhan as well as from four others, in Kazan, Nizhnekamsk, Saratov and Ulyanovsk to ensure air safety.

Earlier, Rosaviatsia temporarily suspended flights from the Volgograd airport in southern Russia, but flights there have since been restored, it said on Telegram.

There were no official reports on any attack

on Volgograd, but Baza, and other Russian news Telegram channels reported a large coordinated drone attack that reportedly targeted an oil refinery.

Agency could not independently verify the Baza reports. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine.

Kyiv has said previously that its attacks inside Russia are aimed at destroying energy, transport and military infrastructure that is key to Moscow's war efforts.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has said they are also a response to Russia's continued bombing of Ukraine since the start of Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Fly Jinnah to operate Dhaka-Karachi flights soon

DHAKA, Feb 3 (Agencies): Karachi-based airline Fly Jinnah is set to operate Dhaka-Karachi flights soon, Bangladesh government officials said on Monday.

After the launch of a direct shipping line between Chittagong in Bangladesh and Karachi in Pakistan, a direct air link between the two countries will be launched soon, they said.

"Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has approved a proposal of Fly Jinnah to operate direct flights between Bangladesh and Pakistan", said Abdul Naser Khan, Additional Secretary to Bangladesh's Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

"We will sign a deal to resume Dhaka-Karachi direct flights", he told agency, without elaborating.

Recently, Bangladesh signed a deal with Pakistan to import 50,000 tonnes of rice, the offi-

cial said. Bangladesh's interim government had earlier lifted the visa restrictions against Pakistan.

In January, Bangladesh's High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan said, "Now the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh have started a new era. The relations are going to be strengthened in multidimensional ways."

The direct flights between the two countries have not yet been established. But it is a demand of the people of both sides of the two countries."

Khan also mentioned that Bangladeshi patients have begun travelling to Pakistan for medical treatment, further boosting people-to-people connections.

Khan further explained, "Both sides are working to facilitate the concerning airlines to start the connections as early as possible. So far I know, from Bangla-

desh's side, Bangladesh (Biman) Airlines, which is our national carrier, has planned to operate Dhaka to Karachi to London ways also this country has started working." He made these comments during a seminar in Peshawar, and his speech was uploaded on YouTube by BNN News.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner's visit to Peshawar is part of his ongoing travels across Pakistan, including recent visits to Lahore and Multan. The High Commissioner expressed optimism about the potential impact of direct flight services, stating, "I am confident that after starting the direct flight connections, a high momentum will be started for trade, business, investment, education, and tourism." This move is expected to further strengthen the ties between the two nations in multiple sectors.

South Africa asks Taiwan to shut down its diplomatic office, Taipei cites pressure by Beijing

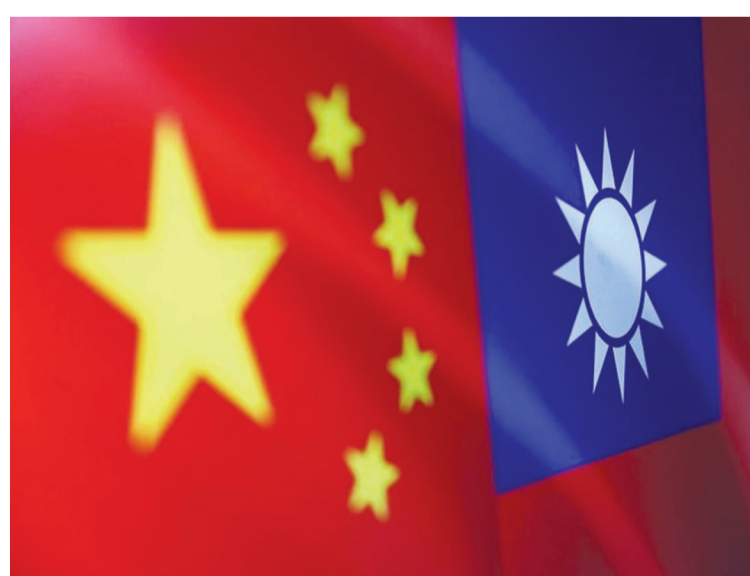
While upholding Taiwan's stance that it would never accept unilateral changes to the 'status quo,' Taiwan's ministry said that it has been in contact and has been attempting to ascertain South Africa's opinions regarding future bilateral relations through diplomatic channels since October last year.

TAIPEI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that South African government's demand that Taiwan's representative office leave Pretoria despite ongoing negotiations demonstrates that China has enhanced its repression of Taiwan, Taipei Times reported.

In a statement, the Taiwan ministry said, "We will continue to communicate with the South African government based on the principles of equality and dignity," Taipei Times reported.

While upholding Taiwan's stance that it would never accept unilateral changes to the "status quo," Taiwan's ministry said that it has been in contact and has been attempting to ascertain South Africa's opinions regarding future bilateral relations through diplomatic channels since October last year.

The South African government attempted to downgrade the representative office and rename it a "trade office" in a



letter issued to the Taipei Liaison Office in South Africa late last month, asking the staff to leave Pretoria by the end of the next month, according to Taipei Times.

According to the ministry, the Chinese government recently sanctioned Ivan Meyer, the head of the Democratic Alliance, the second-largest party

in South Africa, over his visit to Taiwan, Taipei Times reported. South African government's repeated requests for the representative office to leave the capital within a certain time frame, despite ongoing negotiations with Taiwan showcases China's repression of Taiwan in South Africa has escalated.

"Taiwan's position on not

accepting the South African government's unilateral contravention of bilateral agreements remains unchanged, and the nation will continue to uphold the principles of reciprocity and dignity when communicating with the South African government. Our subsequent responses will depend on the South African government's actions and will be determined by Taiwan's relevant plans. Related progress in this matter will also be explained to the public and the media in a timely manner," the ministry said as quoted by Taipei Times.

The ministry further said, "We once again solemnly call on the South African government, as host of the G20 Summit this year, to abide by the 1997 legal framework for bilateral relations. Before a consensus is reached, they should not take any coercive measures or other measures that may interfere with the operations and expatriate services functions of Taiwan's representative office."

CM honours NCC Cadets of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Directorate

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, welcomed the NCC cadets of the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh Directorate at the prestigious Convention Centre today. The event was organized to celebrate the cadets' remarkable achievements at the Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2025 and to acknowledge their dedication and excellence.

The ceremony commenced with the National Anthem, followed by a warm welcome address delivered by Cadet Kumkum Sharma and Cadet Aryan Khajuria, who expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support for the NCC and youth empowerment.

In his introductory remarks, Cadet Aryan Khajuria highlighted Omar Abdullah's distinguished leadership, recalling his contributions to the political and socio-economic progress of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted Sir's inspiring journey as one of India's youngest Parliamentarians and his tenure as Minister of State for External Affairs.

Cadet Kumkum Sharma presented the achievements of the Jammu, Kashmir, and



Ladakh Directorate at RDC 2025. Under the esteemed guidance of Additional Director General, Major General Anupinder Bevi, VSM, the Directorate secured 1 Raksha Mantri Commendation, 4 DG NCC Commendations Cards, 10 DG NCC Medallions, and 2nd Runner-up Trophy in both Group Dance and Ballet.

The cadets celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of JUO Abida Afreen, who was honoured with the Raksha Mantri Commendation Card and has been selected for the upcoming Mt. Everest expedition. They also paid tribute to SUO Ekta Kumari, who brought immense pride to Jammu and Kashmir by leading the All India NCC Girls Marching Contingent as Parade Commander on Kartavya Path. Additionally, they recognized the achievements of SUO Ulfat Khan, who commanded the Prime Minister's Rally during

RDC 2024. The success of the contingent was made possible under the leadership and supervision of Col Amit Bhardwaj, ANO Lt Dr. Nitika, ANO S/O Ashaq, and GCI Dhaniya, who guided and mentored the cadets throughout their RDC journey.

The event featured an inspiring cultural performance by the cadets, showcasing their talent through Group Dance and Group Song, followed by a captivating account of their RDC journey, narrated by Cadets Rajveer, Sumit Malhan, and Alankrita Sharma.

As a token of appreciation, Major General Anupinder Bevi, VSM, ADG JK&L, presented a memento to the Chief Minister, expressing gratitude for his continued support towards NCC and youth development.

In his address, the Chief Minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to the NCC contin-

gent for their outstanding discipline, dedication, and the immense pride they have brought to the Union Territory. He specifically commended Senior Under Officer S.U.O. Ekta Kumari, recognizing her exceptional leadership and the honour she has earned for the UT through her achievements. He also covered his journey as an NCC Cadet.

Addressing the cadets, the Chief Minister lauded the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for instilling discipline, leadership, and a strong sense of responsibility among youth. He emphasized that the values upheld by the NCC play a crucial role in shaping the future of young individuals, fostering a spirit of service, and strengthening national pride.

He also urged NCC cadets to take an active role in addressing the growing concern of drug abuse among the youth. Acknowledging

the influence and reach of NCC within communities, he encouraged cadets to lead awareness campaigns, conduct educational programs, and engage with society to prevent substance abuse and guide young individuals toward a healthier and more productive future.

"The NCC has always been a symbol of discipline and nation-building. I urge cadets not only to uphold these values but also to contribute to other social causes. By educating people about its harmful effects and carrying out awareness initiatives, NCC can play a transformative role in protecting the future of our youth," the Chief Minister stated.

The Chief Minister assured the government's full support for initiatives led by NCC that focus on youth empowerment, community engagement and drug abuse awareness. He expressed confidence that with their unwavering commitment and leadership, NCC cadets will continue to make a positive impact on society while upholding the honour of the Union Territory and the nation.

The event concluded with the NCC Song, National Anthem, followed by a group photograph and tea.

Bhim Sen Tuti takes charge as IGP Jammu Zone



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Bhim Sen Tuti, an IPS officer of the 2004 batch J&K cadre, has taken over the charge of Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone today on 3-2-2025 FN from outgoing ADGP Jammu Zone Sh. Anand Jain, IPS.

Prior to his posting as IGP Jammu Zone, the

officer served in the Police Department in various capacities as SDPO East, Jammu; Addl. SP Sopore; SP Leh; SP Kishtwar; DIG JSK Range (twice); DIG DKR Range; and IGP Hqr/POS PHQ J&K.

During service, he also remained on deputation to Jharkhand and UT of Ladakh as SP/DIG.

Upon his arrival, he was warmly received by

DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar, along with other senior officers from the Jammu district.

A detailed briefing was given by the outgoing ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, to the incoming officer on emerging challenges on account of crime, militancy, and law and order in the Jammu province.

Besides, an introductory meeting was also held with the officers of ZPHQ Jammu by IGP Jammu Zone, and a briefing was given to focus on important emerging issues/challenges of Jammu Zone.

The Zonal Police Headquarters, Jammu Zone bid a heartfelt farewell to Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu Zone.

The farewell ceremony was attended by senior officials and staff members of the Zonal Police Headquarters/RPHQ Jammu.

Largan Brahman Biradari congregation of Feb 5

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The Annual Mail of Largan Brahman Biradari will be held on February 5, 2025 at Dadi Deri Asthan Village Largan, Post Office Aitham. President of the Biradari, Om Parkash

Sharma said that function will start at 11:00 AM with Kuldevi Pujan and after that Bhandara will be followed.

Sharma appealed to all members of Largan Brahman Biradari to attend the Mail and seek the blessing of Kuldevi Dadi Deri. Contact No. 9622381770.

Drug awareness programme organized at PM Shri KV 1 Gandhi Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: To wipe out the menace of drug abuse from society and under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan on Monday, Raj Kumar, SSP ANTF J&K on Monday organized drug awareness programme at PM Shri KV 1 Hr. Secondary School Gandhi Nagar Jammu and Govt. Girls High School Gandhi Nagar Jammu participated by 300/100 students along with staff.

The awareness regarding hazardous effects of the drug abuse physically, mentally and financially is shared among the participants.

They are advised to stay away from drugs as drug abuse will completely ruin the life and future of the young generation.

Further the participants were motivated to participate in extra-curricular programmes and sports activities, to prevent youth from switching to drugs, as drug consumption

make them mentally and physically weak.

The participants were briefed to remain away from Peer Group Pressure. Thus, we should say "No to Drugs and Yes to life".

The staff of the school and students along with other participants were also advised to share information with ANTF J&K if any drug peddler is operating in their respective areas. The identity of the informer will be kept secret.

Furthermore, officers/officials of ANTF Jammu visited various schools of Jammu Division and made liaison with the incharges of schools.

The schools have been visited by the officers/officials of ANTF Jammu are Govt. Hr. Sec. School R.S. Pura, St. Peter Hr. Sec. School, Karan Bagh, Govt. Primary School Narwal Pain, Satwari, Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar, Dogra Hr. Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, Sri

Ranbir Multilateral High Sec. School Jammu, Chirag Public High School Bathindi, St. Xavier Convent Sr. Sec. School, Barnai, Jammu, Govt. Girls Middle School, Barnai, PM Shri KV, CRPF Bantalab, Govt. High School, Kothi Shah Dulla, R.S.Pura, SNS Vidya Mandir, Sushil Nagar Camp Road Talab Tillo, 13 Govt. High School, Gole Panjpeer, Viveka Nand Modern Public School, Channi Rama, and Nations Pride High School Ramgarh

During visit of the aforementioned schools, incharges of the schools have been requested to remain in touch with ANTF Jammu for providing information regarding drug abuse, to prevent youths/students from drug menace. Moreover, officers/officials have also shared their mobile numbers to the incharges of the school for sharing the inputs about the drug related activities if any found in future.

Basant Panchami celebrated at CDOE, JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, celebrated Basant Panchami today with great enthusiasm. The event commenced with a soulful rendition of Saraswati Vandana by Shikhar Sharma, Vanish Sharma, and Gourav Goswami, setting a spiritual tone for the day. This was followed by Pushpaanjali, offered by Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director,



CDOE, along with faculty members, officers, and staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Srivastava elaborated on the cultural and spiritual significance of Basant Panchami. He highlighted that the festival marks the arrival of spring, a

season symbolizing renewal, growth, and transformation. He further emphasized that the day is dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the epitome of wisdom, knowledge, and creativity, and serves as a reminder to seek enlightenment and learning.

Adding to the discourse, Shikhar Sharma, an NSS volunteer, explained the essence of Saraswati Vandana, while Ananiya Gupta, another NSS volunteer, shared insights into the significance of the festival.

Dr. Rajber Singh Sodhi, Program Officer, NSS Unit V, recited a poem on Basant Panchami and also proposed the vote of thanks.

The celebration witnessed the presence of distinguished faculty members, including Prof. Sandeep Kour Tandon, Prof. Anupama Vohra, Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Dr. Hina Abrol, Dr. Saranpreet Kour Broca, Dr. Neha, Dr. Pooja, Dr. Jatinder, Dr. Mamta, Dr. Pragati, and Dr. Himanshi, along with the staff of CDOE.

Basant Panchami celebrated at Central University of Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Centre for Comparative Reli-

gion and Civilizations at Central University of Jammu celebrated Saraswati Puja on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami in the university campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Niranjna Bhandari, Director of the Centre, emphasized the importance of celebrating festivals to create awareness among stu-

dents about India's rich cultural and traditional heritage. She highlighted that the Centre actively organizes such events to foster inclusivity and respect for diverse traditions.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students of the Centre, along with attendees from other departments.

The event commenced with Vedic chanting by

students, followed by the Aarti offered to Mata Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and learning. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of sweets and fruits among all present.

Prominent faculty members from the Centre, including Dr. Arvind Rituraj, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, and Dr. G.V. Snigdha Raj, graced the occasion with their presence.

From Page No:1

Srinagar Police files chargesheet against seven terror associates

Charges have been formally filed against the 07 individuals for their involvement in various terror-related activities, while an abate challan has been submitted in connection with the deceased Pakistani terrorist, he said.

Will oppose Waqf

(Amendment) Bill in & outside Parliament: NC chief spokesperson

held. He highlighted that the return of Kashmiri pandits shall be facilitated from every corner as it will strengthen sense of security among them. "This is a good beginning," he said.

AIKS meets Kiren

Rijiju, Minister of Minorities Affairs

apprised of various meetings with NCM in the past also and recommendations also thereof. The issue assumes significance after abrogation of Art 370 and unification of J&K state, says Ravinder Pandita, President of AIKS.

AIKS presented and felicitated Kiren Rijiju with a Sharda shawl and portrait. AIKS also urged for reopening of Sharda Peeth PoK on the lines of Kartarpur. The Min-

ister after hearing the delegation suggested that a larger delegation should meet Hon'ble minister with these political issues and assured AIKS that he will facilitate a meeting with Home ministry.

AIKS team comprising its General Secy. Sunil Koul, Vice President Vijay Kashkari, noted debator & activist Amit Raina and Shrawan Pandita, invited Kiren Rijiju for Intl Mother Tongue day festival to be organised in New Delhi on 22 February and presented him the latest issue of Naad Magazine, official mouthpiece of AIKS.

Five arrested for killing Gataro Gang leader in Jammu

further investigation is ongoing after seeking remand.

Earlier on January 21, three youths intercepted an SUV and fired four rounds at Sumit Jandiyal at Jewel Chowk.

The critically injured Jandiyal was taken to the Government Medical College Hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead

on arrival, police said, adding that the assailants commandeered a two-wheeler at gunpoint and fled.

Kulgam Attack: Retired soldier succumbs, family stable

injuries while his wife and daughter are said to be stable.

Meanwhile, the forces have cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

More details awaited.

CBC Organizes Swachhta Action Programme at Chanapora

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 3: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Field Office Srinagar, organized An Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme under Swachhta Action Programme at the Community Hall in Chanapora, Srinagar today. The event, held in collaboration with the Chanapora Municipality, was aimed at raising awareness about the ongoing Swachhta Abhiyaan (Cleanliness Campaign) and promoting a clean and healthy lifestyle within the community.

The event saw active participation from local residents, social activists, sanitation workers, and resource persons from various departments. Resource persons from various departments delivered speeches on the importance of cleanliness, environmental preservation,



and adopting hygienic practices for a sustainable future.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar, Naseer Ahmad Rather, emphasized the role of the Swachhta Abhiyaan as a key initiative of the Central Government. He stated, "This programme was organized to further promote the initiatives under the Swachhta Action Plan, which has significantly inspired and motivated citizens to understand the importance

of cleanliness in daily life." He said, the sanitation workers are the true heroes of our communities, who play a vital role in ensuring that our streets remain clean and healthy.

A Cleanliness Shramdhan activity was carried out by sanitation workers in various wards of the Chanapora Municipality. To support the efforts, dustbins, gloves, masks, sanitizers, brooms, and informative literature on the Swachhta Abhiyaan

were distributed among participants, especially the sanitation workers.

Cultural troupes empanelled with CBC Srinagar presented entertaining skits highlighting the importance of maintaining cleanliness and contributing to a cleaner environment.

The event was attended by a large number of sanitation workers, sanitation inspectors, ward officers, and social activists who shared their commitment to keeping the localities clean and healthy.

Later, the sanitation workers also took out a rally promoting slogans of adopting a hygienic lifestyle.

The participants also took a pledge to devote at least two hours a week for promoting cleanliness. The sanitation workers were also felicitated with certificates and mementoes for their contribution towards maintaining Swachhta.

Muntazir expresses deep concern over proposed privatization of power distribution in J&K

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 3: Apni Party Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin on Monday expressed his deep concern over the proposed privatization of power distribution in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the government not to proceed with the proposal, as it would surely have an adverse impact on the people who are already grappling with a range of economic challenges.

Pertinently, the central government, under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, has decided to privatize the distribution of power across Union

Territories, believing that privatization will improve the operational and financial efficiency of power distribution utilities. In his statement Muntazir Mohiuddin said, "It seems that the government is preparing to move forward with plans to privatize power distribution after the implementation of smart metering. The proposed privatization of power distribution will surely increase power tariffs, overburdening the people of J&K who are already grappling with significant economic challenges, including growing unemployment and inflation."

Urging government

not to proceed with proposal of privatization of the power distribution, Muntazir Mohiuddin said, "Apni Party humbly requests Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter, ensuring that the proposed privatization of power distribution is not pursued, as it will have a significant negative impact on the already worsening economy of the people in J&K."

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir will oppose any effort to move forward with the privatization of power distribution in the region," Muntazir further said.

ANMT School Doda organizes debate competition on 'Leprosy, Tuberculosis, and Biomedical Waste Management'

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 3: The Govt ANMT School Doda successfully organized a debate competition on the crucial topics of Leprosy, Tuberculosis, and Biomedical Waste Management today on 03-02-2025. The event aimed to raise awareness among students about these important health concerns and their management.

The programme was graced by Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, as the Chief Guest, while Principal ANMT Doda, Vidya Kotwal, along with Dr. Javed Ahmed Parray, Mohd Shafi Attu, and Advocate Sanjeev Rana, were also present. The staff of ANMT School and enthusiastic students also attended the event.

A total of 10 students from different paramedi-



cal courses participated in the debate competition, delivering insightful speeches on their respective topics. Their presentations reflected deep understanding and awareness of the subjects.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, highlighted the significance of leprosy and tuberculosis awareness, as well as the proper management of biomedical waste. He conducted an interactive session, providing valuable insights to the students.

Principal ANMT Doda, Vidya Kotwal, also addressed the gathering, expressing gratitude to the CMO and other dignitaries for their presence and support in making the event successful.

Later, participation certificates were distributed among all the students in recognition of their efforts and engagement in the competition.

The event concluded on a positive note, emphasizing the importance of health awareness and proper biomedical waste disposal in the medical field.

GDC RS Pura celebrates World Wetlands Day at Gharana Wetland

Top News Report

RS PURA Feb 3: The Department of Environmental Sciences and Eco-club of Government Degree College, R.S. Pura under the aegis of IQAC successfully organized an educational trip to the renowned Gharana Wetland on occasion of the world wetlands day under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of GDC R.S. Pura.

Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the need for environmental stewardship and the role of youth in preserving natural habitats.

Gharana wetland is a significant ecological site known for its rich biodiversity and migratory bird population. The trip aimed to provide students with firsthand



exposure to wetland ecosystems and raise awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

The college students, accompanied by faculty members visited the wetland to observe its diverse flora and fauna.

The trip was designed to bridge the gap between

theoretical knowledge and practical experience, enabling students to understand ecological dynamics, habitat conservation, and the challenges faced by wetlands.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to witness various migratory birds, includ-

ing bar-headed geese, northern pintails, and black-winged stilts, which travel thousands of miles to seek refuge in the wetland.

Dr. Sudesh Kumar, an expert in birds provided insightful discussions on the significance of wetlands in maintaining ecological balance,

water purification, and supporting local livelihoods.

The trip concluded with an interactive session where students shared their observations and discussed strategies for conservation and sustainable practices.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the college administration for organizing such an enriching experience.

The trip was organized by the faculty of environmental sciences, Prof. Priya Darshini Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Dr. Akriti Parihar and Eco-club of the college.

The faculty members Dr. Raj Kumar, Prof. Geetika Goswami and Prof. Rajinder Singh accompanied the students.

Ritesh Kapoor conferred with Skill Bharat Samman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Ritesh Kapoor, Director Principal ASN Hr. Sec. School, Channi Himmat was conferred with Skill Bharat Samman during Principal's Conclave, a gathering of esteemed educators from across the country which held at NESCO, Goregaon, Mumbai on 1st February 2025.

The programme was organized by OLL Skills for All & Elite Principals Club, India. Around 300 plus Directors, Principals & Educators were awarded with Skill Bharat Samman while 6 were awarded with Lifetime Achievement Awards including Dr A.K.Kapoor, Chairman Adarsh Educational Trust and Mrs. P B Kapoor, Chairman AP Educational Trust.

Manju Mangal Prabhat Lodha-Philanthropist and wife of Skill Development Minister Maharashtra and Chairperson Lodha Foundation was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Lt. Gen Surendra Kulkarni- Ex Director Mayo College, Ajmer was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was conducted by Vidushi Daga, Chairman OLL, Shreyaan Daga, Founder & CEO OLL, Dr Seema Negi-Managing Advisor OLL.

During the event the AI Avatar of the Principal was also launched by Dr. Seema Negi which is a digital representation of a school principal, powered by AI technology.

This avatar can be used in various ways to enhance the educational experience, improve communication and increase accessibility. The AI avatar can serve



as a virtual receptionist, providing information and guidance to students, parents and visitors.

The Skill Bharat Samman award is a distinguished honor that acknowledges outstanding contributions to the development of skills and educating the children in reaching towards their goals and dreams.

OLL- Skills for All was started by its Founder & CEO Shreyaan Daga when he was 15 years old and at the age of 18 he aired on Shark Tank India S2 as the youngest to be funded.

He became an inspiration for all Student Entrepreneurs. Shreyaan believes that School students are the ones who are innocent enough to think of crazy ideas, and are not scared to implement them.

Ritesh Kapoor after being conferred with this prestigious award said that this award is a testament to my institution's commitment to

promoting skill development and excellence in education and this award will motivate us to continue striving for excellence in education. We are grateful to the organizers for recognizing our efforts and contributing to the growth of our nation's future leaders.

He added that the Principals' Conclave provided a platform for educators to share best practices, discuss innovative approaches to education, and collaborate on initiatives that promote academic excellence and skill development.

The Skill Bharat Samman award is not just a recognition of my efforts, but also a motivation to continue working towards promoting skill development and excellence in education and looking forward to continuing my journey and making a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and communities.

AAP urges Delhi voters to resist emotive slogans, election "Jumlas" from traditional parties

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Senior leader of AAP-J&K-UT, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, has urged the people of Delhi to remain vigilant and not be swayed by emotive slogans and "imaginary election Jumlas" from traditional political parties ahead of upcoming elections.

In a press release issued today, Mr. Rao expressed astonishment at the sudden shift in the rhetoric of prominent leaders from the ruling dispensation. He pointed out how these leaders, who previously criticized Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's welfare initiatives as "Muft Ki Rewari" (free handouts), are now promising freebies like Rs 500 per LPG cylinder, free electricity, and water in poll-bound



states.

Rao highlighted the hypocrisy in these promises, stating that the same leaders who once mocked free electricity, world-class education, and healthcare initiatives in Delhi are now pledging similar benefits for other states.

He demanded an apology from these leaders for their previous criticism of Kejriwal's policies and warned that the promises they are making now should be seen for what they are: "Jumlas," or hollow elec-

tion slogans aimed at fooling the public.

He further challenged the ruling party and other traditional political forces to implement these promises in the states they currently govern before making such guarantees in the upcoming election states.

Otherwise, Rao claimed, it would be safe to assume these are just more baseless election promises meant to deceive voters.

In his statement, Rao also spoke on the economic and political situation under the current government, claiming that the ruling dispensation has burdened the country with a debt of more than 150 billion dollars, devalued the Indian rupee, and undermined democratic institutions since

coming to power in 2014.

The AAP leader also pointed out the selective targeting of opposition leaders by agencies like ED, CBI, and IT during election times, which he suggested was part of a strategy to tarnish their image for electoral gain. He urged voters to look beyond the superficial promises and judge the situation for themselves.

Finally, Rao emphasized the success of the Delhi model of governance, stating that it is a blueprint for addressing issues like power, water, quality education, and healthcare.

He claimed that all political parties, including those in power, are now acknowledging that these issues must be addressed if they want to maintain public support.

Gopal Vittal appointed as acting chairman of GSMA Board

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman & MD, Bharti Airtel and Deputy Chair GSMA has been appointed as the Acting Chair of the GSMA board following the resignation of José María Álvarez-Pallete, Chairman & CEO, Tele-

fónica from the company. By virtue of this resignation, he is no longer able to continue in the position of the Chair of the GSMA.

Gopal was recently re-elected as the Deputy Chair of the GSMA board. He has also served the board as a key member for the term



2019-2020.

GSMA represents the global telecommunications industry with over

1100 companies from the telecom ecosystem across the world including telecom service providers, handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet companies, as well as organizations in adjacent industry sectors.

With ideology of "selflessness," "fearlessness," Gambhir clears India's T20I approach: "Want to hit 250-260 regularly"

While establishing the intention of hitting 250-plus scores regularly in T20Is, India head coach Gautam Gambhir lavished praise on his players for embracing 'high-risk, high-reward cricket', which allowed them to fetch a 4-1 series win over England.

MUMBAI, Feb 3 (Agencies): While establishing the intention of hitting 250-plus scores regularly in T20Is, India head coach Gautam Gambhir lavished praise on his players for embracing "high-risk, high-reward cricket", which allowed them to fetch a 4-1 series win over England.

India's ideology to play an aggressive brand of cricket, irrespective of the situation, was evident in the previous three T20Is against England. In Pune, England fast bowler Saqib Mahmood left India in tatters by clinching three wickets and topping it up with a maiden in the second over.

Despite facing an unprecedented setback, India batters kept the ante up and attacked the English bowlers to end their innings on a fighting total of 181/9, which proved to be too much for the tourists.

On Sunday in Mumbai, wickets kept falling from one end, but Abhishek Sharma went all guns blazing, lifting the hosts



to a record-shattering total of 247/9, India's fourth-highest in the format.

"That's the kind of T20 cricket we want to play. We don't want to fear losing a game of cricket. We want to play high-risk, high-reward cricket and these guys have adopted that ideology, that policy really well. And I think the ideology of this T20 team is based on selflessness and

fearlessness. And I think in the last six months, these guys have done it day in, day out," Gambhir told the host broadcaster.

"We want to try and get to 250-260 regularly. And in trying to do that, there'll be games where we'll get bundled out for 120-130. And that is what T20 cricket is all about. And unless and until you don't play that high-risk cricket, you won't get those big

rewards as well. Most importantly, I think we're on the right track. Come those big tournaments, we want to still continue playing this way, and we don't want to fear losing anything," he added.

One of the main reasons behind India's success was England's inability to read Varun Chakravarthy's spin. The Indian mystery spinner remained an unsolved puzzle for the English batters.

He finished the series at the top of the wicket-taking chart with a whopping 14 scalps, at an average of 9.85 and an economy rate of 7.66.

"I think his transformation from IPL to international T20 cricket has been phenomenal. And this series was probably the benchmark as well because England is a high-quality side. They've got some really quality cricketers and the kind of surfaces we've played on - I think they were fantastic batting wickets, and the way he's bowled those tough overs has been phenomenal," Gambhir said of Varun.

Praggnanandhaa beats Gukesh to clinch Tata Chess title

The bespectacled 19-year-old from Chennai comes from behind to upstage the 18-year-old world number three 2-1 in the tiebreaker of the event's 87th edition



WIJK AAN ZEE, Feb 3 (Agencies): The Indian juggernaut in international chess remained unstoppable as Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa fought through exhaustion and nerves to defeat world champion D Gukesh in a clash of compatriots to clinch the Tata Steel Masters title for the first time in his prolific career.

The bespectacled 19-year-old from Chennai, a city that has become the cradle of Indian chess, came from behind to upstage

the 18-year-old world number three 2-1 in the tiebreaker of the event's 87th edition here.

This was after both players ended up tied on 8.5 points after losing their 13th-round games. While Gukesh lost to fellow Indian Arjun Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa went down to Vincent Keymer of Germany.

In the tie-breaker, there was huge drama typical of two young players looking to win each and every game they played in the tournament as they played

the tie-break. "I am still shaking, it was such a crazy day. I don't know how to express. I didn't really expect to win. Somehow things went my way," Praggnanandhaa told the official tournament website after his triumph.

Asked if it was the most-tense day of his chess career, which began when he was two, he said, "Today is more special because I won the tournament. Definitely most stressful day."

The teenager became the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to win the title. Anand won it thrice (2003, 2004 and 2006) individually when it was called the Corus Chess Tournament, named after the title sponsor. The legend also shared the honours twice (1989 and 1998) in its earliest form of Hoogovens Tournament.

U-19 Women's WC: Trisha, Kamalini, Aayushi, Vaishnavi in Team of the Tournament



KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 3 (Agencies): Newly-crowned champions India dominated the ICC's 'Team of the Tournament' for the just-concluded women's Under-19 T20 World Cup with four players from the country, including the swashbuckling G Trisha, finding a place in the line-up.

India outclassed South Africa by nine wickets in the final here to defend the title that they had first won in 2023.

The hard-hitting Trisha, who was named Player of the Tournament, her opening partner G Kamalini along with left-arm spin pair of Vaishnavi Sharma and Ayushi Shukla made it to the team, the ICC

said in a statement. Trisha was also the top run-getter in the tournament, making 309 runs with a hundred against Scotland, the first-ever three-digit score in the showpiece.

She averaged 77.25 and made runs at a strike rate of over 147. She also picked up seven wickets with her handy leg-spin.

Kamalini gave solid support to Trisha at the pole position, making 143 runs and her most important innings was an unbeaten 56 from 50 balls against England in the semifinal to send India into the final.

Aayushi took 14 wickets in the tournament and she grabbed two for 9 against SA in the final.

Vaishnavi, who bagged 17 wickets, recorded a sensational 5/5 against Malaysia including a hat-trick.

South Africa's Jemma Botha, England's Davina Perrin, and Australia's Caoimhe Bray, all of whom scored more than 100 runs over the course of the competition, too found a place in the team.

Sri Lanka's Chamodi Praboda, Puja Mahato of Nepal and England's Katie Jones were the other members of the team, with South Africa's Kayla Reyneke as the captain.

Proteas seamer Nthabiseng Nini was named 12th player following her six wickets across the tournament.

After firing record-breaking ton at Wankhede, Abhishek downplays competition with Gill, Jaiswal for opening slot

MUMBAI, Feb 3 (Agencies): After firing a record-breaking ton in the fifth T20I at the Wankhede Stadium, Abhishek Sharma downplayed the competition for the opening slot between him, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

With Gill and Jaiswal being cooped up in the ODI and Test formats, Abhishek has been the preferred candidate for the opening slot. After an underwhelming run in South Africa, the young southpaw made the most of the opportunity by turning the tides against England.

After making a promising start to the series with a belligerent 79(34), Abhishek stored his best for the last T20I of the five-match affair. He brought thunder down at the Wankhede with a swashbuckling performance, toppling numerous records on his way to 135(54), second fastest century for India.

With India having some time on their hands before appearing in the T20I once again, Abhishek made a strong case for himself to avoid jostling for a spot when the star duo return to the



format in future.

"I had met Jassu [Jaiswal] and Shubman yesterday [at the BCCI awards]. There has never been a competition among us - we are playing together since Under-16. There was just one dream - to play for India. The three of us are playing now, so there is no better feeling," Abhishek said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

The flamboyant southpaw looked effortless while dealing with boundaries. The sheer timing and the raw power overwhelmed England in the first innings as India surged to a herculean total of 247/9.

After his carnage ended at the Wankhede, Abhishek revealed it was captain Suryakumar Yadav's advice that

helped him on his way to break the shackles and express himself freely.

"I was in a zone where I was going to react to the ball. I didn't even know my score. I just asked Surya [Suryakumar] paaji 'What do you think?'. He said, 'Since a wicket has fallen, you can take your time, take a couple of balls.' That really helped me because of him, only I would say the hundred happened, and my highest score happened. At that time, I didn't realise I was going to hit the fastest hundred [second-fastest for India]," he said.

Throughout his time on the crease, swiftness with aggression was a key aspect of the approach he adopted. He raced to his fifty in just 17 balls and then

delivered the second-fastest century for India by completing the feat in 35 deliveries. His mesmerising display met its end at 135(54), the highest individual score by an Indian in the T20I format.

"It never crossed my mind that I should play till the end. I react to the ball based on the team's situation. Luckily today, when I was in the 80s or 90s, Surya paaji came in and said you've played well so far, worked hard, so you can take two or three balls. When the captain is [batting] with you and tells you something, I felt I should bat carefully," he said.

"When Hardik [Pandya] came in, he said, 'Since wickets are falling, you have to play according to the situation and bat till the end since you are hitting the ball well'. Then Axar came in... these three are senior players and have played well for India, so no better players to listen to in that situation," he added.

Abhishek went on to outline the role that his mentor and former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has played in his rise to stardom. The constant

backing from seniors, including Suryakumar, Hardik Pandya and head coach Gautam Gambhir, has made Abhishek's life much easier.

"Yuvi paaji was always there for me, and put all these things in my mind and believed in me. When Yuvraj Singh tells you that you are going to play for the country and win games, you also try to believe in yourself and give your best. I talk to him after every game. He is the one I listen to. He knows me better than me," he said.

"When your captain and coach tell you that you have to play like this and we are backing you, we'll be there for you always, that is the biggest motivation for a young player in the team. In South Africa, I remember Hardik paaji and Suryapaaji telling me, you are 100 per cent going to make some runs, just believe in yourself. In this series, Gauti [head coach Gautam Gambhir] paaji came back, and I feel grateful that they believe in me, that's not normal and is the biggest motivation for any player," he added.

Hina Munawar appointed first female manager for Pakistan men's cricket team

KARACHI, Feb 3 (Agencies): Hina Munawar, a police officer with a strong background in security and operations, has been named as the first female team manager for the Pakistan men's cricket team ahead of the Champions Trophy.

Munawar, who has served in the Frontier Constabulary in the high-risk Swat area, has been appointed as the Operations Manager for Pakistan's Tri-Nation series and the Champions Trophy which begins on February 19 in Karachi.

While senior retired bureaucrat Naveed Akram Cheema will continue as team manager,

Munawar's appointment has sparked curiosity among cricket fans, experts, and media.

After passing the Civil Superior Services exam, Munawar transitioned into various law enforcement and security roles.

"Perhaps her appointment is aimed at streamlining operations within the team and between players and the board, as she has worked in strategic and leadership roles, helping to streamline various operations," said a source close to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Munawar, who joined the PCB last year, was also appointed manager of the Pakistan women's under-19 team for the



Asia Cup.

"She made history as the first female district officer in the Frontier Constabulary in Swat, breaking gender barriers in a traditionally male-dominated field," the source added.

It is understood that PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi brought Munawar into the board on depu-

tion, as she remains part of the Police Service of Pakistan.

The PCB aims to streamline team management and create a more organised and efficient environment, with her appointment bringing fresh perspectives to the traditionally coaching-focused and male-dominated setup.

Michael Bevan 'The Finisher' inducted into Australia's Cricket Hall of Fame

MELBOURNE, Feb 3 (Agencies): Dubbed one of the world's top limited-over batters, former cricketer Michael Bevan has been elevated to Australia's Cricket Hall of Fame.

"One of the best finishers the game has ever seen. Congratulations to former Australian player Michael Bevan on his induction to the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame," Cricket Australia wrote on X.

Australia's 'Picasso in Pyjamas' was an artist in the ODI format. He boasts 6,912 runs in 232 matches at an average of 53.58, putting him in the debate for Australia's greatest one-day batters.

He was a master in creating moments and memories that are etched in the die-hard cricket fans. During his decorated career, Bevan was a part of Australia's 1999 and 2003 World Cup wins.



"I feel very fortunate. I got to play a sport that I loved... I got to play in some great teams and experience some amazing moments in a really great era of Australian cricket. And it's amazing to be recognised for perhaps some of the unique things that I help bring to Australian cricket, particularly in one-day cricket. It's been a number of years, but I

look back on all those things with a lot of pride and a lot of fondness," Bevan said as quoted from cricket.com.au.

Bevan's inclusion comes in the aftermath of Cricket Australia making a change in criteria that allows players to be included "for their overall contribution to the game of cricket, whether that is across all formats, or in just one format, available in their era."

Bevan represented Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Yorkshire, Sussex, Leicestershire and Kent. In first-class cricket, he made 237 appearances and garnered 19,147 runs at 57.32, including 68 centuries and 81 fifties, with a top score of 216.

His induction into Australia's Hall of Fame follows this season's previous inductees, Michael Clarke and Christina Matthews.

Save Jammu from becoming a city of gangsters, looters, thieves, drug peddlers: SSP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: Once known as the peaceful 'City of Temples,' Jammu is now witnessing an alarming rise in crime, leaving its residents concerned for their safety. Gang wars, daylight lootings, daring thefts, and drug-related offenses have become increasingly common, raising serious questions about law and order in the region.

(Retd.) Col S.S Pathania, Chief Convener and President of the Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), JKUT, has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation in the city. He called upon law enforcement agencies to take swift and decisive action to curb the surge in criminal activities.

"Jammu is turning into a hub for criminals, and people are feeling insecure. The administration must act now before it is too late. Law enforcement agencies need to be proactive in ensuring that the city remains safe," Pathania stated.

He pointed out that the influx of illegal



immigrants, including Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, is playing a significant role in the increasing crime rates. He urged the government to address this issue urgently, stating that their unchecked presence could have severe repercussions for the city's security.

Pathania also warned that the Jammu region is already facing a dual threat from terrorism and narco-terrorism. The added burden of rising crime could lead to catastrophic consequences if not tackled immediately. He emphasized that police and intelligence agencies must adopt a pre-emptive approach to crime prevention.

"The administration must take steps to restore public confidence by ensuring their safety and securing their properties. It is crucial that law enforcement agencies intensify their efforts to maintain law and order," he added.

The rising crime wave has left residents anxious, with many demanding a stronger crackdown on criminals. The Sainik Samaj Party has called for urgent measures to prevent Jammu from becoming a city overrun by lawlessness.

The coming days will be crucial in determining how the administration and law enforcement agencies respond to this growing crisis.

GGM Science College organizes Poster Making Competition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: The National Service Scheme (NSS) units of GGM Science College, Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences, celebrated World Wetlands Day on Monday by organizing poster-making competition to raise awareness about wetland conservation. Students enthusiastically participated

in the competition, creating impactful posters that highlighted the crucial role of wetlands in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and sustainable environmental practices. Through their creative artwork, students emphasized the urgent need to protect and preserve these vital ecosystems.

Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta applauded the efforts of the NSS volunteers, the Department of Environmental Sciences, and NSS POs in organizing the event.

He stated, "Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth, and it is inspiring to see students using their creativity to spread awareness about their conservation. Such initiatives foster environmental responsibility among young minds."

The event was successfully coordinated under the guidance of NSS Program Officers, Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma, along with active support from the Department of Environmental Sciences.

Their collective efforts ensured the success of the program and reinforced the college's commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability.

J&K EJAC demands urgent completion of Handicrafts-Handloom Department merger

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 3: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) has raised serious concerns over the prolonged delay in finalizing the merger of the Handicrafts and Handloom Departments. Despite the government's decision under Order No: 71-IND of 2020, dated 30-03-2020, the merger remains incomplete even after five years, causing widespread frustration among employees.

J&K EJAC President Wajahat Hussain Dur-

rani emphasized that the delay has led to severe stagnation of posts due to the non-conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs). Employees have repeatedly been informed that their promotions cannot proceed until the merger is fully implemented, effectively halting their career progression. This has resulted in low morale, professional insecurity, and growing resentment among employees who have dedicated years of service to these departments.

Notably, the Chief Sec-



retary of J&K Atal Dulloo recently directed all departments to conduct DPCs regularly to prevent career stagnation. However, employees of the Handicrafts and Handloom Departments continue to be deprived of this right, with authorities citing the incomplete

merger as the reason. This contradiction has caused unnecessary distress and confusion among the affected workforce.

In light of these concerns, EJAC urged the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to take immediate and decisive action to finalize the modalities of the merger and ensure its proper execution. The government must prioritize this issue to prevent further injustice to employees who have already suffered due to administrative inaction.

A structured and transparent approach is needed to ensure the smooth functioning of these departments and to facilitate long-overdue promotions and career growth opportunities.

EJAC stands firmly with the employees of the Handicrafts and Handloom Departments and assures them of its unwavering support in their legitimate demand for justice. The government must act without delay to resolve this long-pending issue in the best interest of employee welfare and institutional efficiency.

Budget rationalised IT slabs, says HDFC Bank principal economist

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: According to Sakshi Gupta, Principal Economist, HDFC Bank; "Addressing concerns around the slowing demand from the middle class, the budget rationalised personal income tax slabs across the board along with revision in the limits of the tax deducted at source. This is likely to spur consumer demand and savings by the middle class that has faced challenges from elevated inflation and lower income growth. Beyond the sops for the common man, the budget focusses on improving the ease of doing business through a "light touch" regulatory approach. The next five-year fiscal strategy has been geared towards promoting agriculture, MSMEs, exports and promoting greater participation from the private sector in India's

capacity building going forward. The FM's fiscal strategy has tilted towards boosting consumption while the capex target has been kept broadly unchanged from the 2024-25 budgeted plans. The counter-cyclical push provided by the budget is within its broader strategy of fiscal consolidation, targeting a fiscal deficit of 4.4% in 2025-26. Despite the revenue foregone due to the income tax changes, fiscal consolidation is achieved through compression on the expenditure side in 2025-26.

This budget announcement solidifies our expectation of 6.6% of GDP growth in 2025-26. No major surprises for the bond market with the market borrowings broadly in line with expectations. This along with the upcoming rates cuts and Open market purchases by RBI, bond yields are expected to trend lower."

PM Modi gave big relief to taxpayers in budget: Aseem Gupta



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: In a landmark move that brings massive relief to the middle class, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will now be completely exempted from paying income tax.

Aseem Gupta, BNP senior leader & Vice President, Jammu & Kashmir, said this welcoming this historic decision, stating that it reflects the government's

commitment to empowering taxpayers and accelerating economic growth. By significantly raising the tax-free income limit, the Modi government has ensured that hard-working citizens have more financial freedom to invest, save, and spend for a better future.

Aseem Gupta hailed it as a bold and visionary step that will strengthen the financial stability of millions of Indian families. He emphasized that this reform will provide substantial relief to salaried employees, self-employed professionals, and small business owners, allowing them to plan their finances with greater confidence. He further stated that under PM Modi's leadership, India is witnessing a progressive and taxpayer-friendly economic transformation, making wealth creation easier for every citizen.

This historic tax relief is not just a policy change but a significant step towards 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047, ensuring a stronger and more prosperous middle class. The Union Budget 2025-26 reflects the Modi government's vision of a simpler, fairer, and growth-oriented taxation system, reaffirming its dedication to building a self-reliant and financially empowered India, Aseem said.

Kaith praises Union Budget 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 3: R.L Kaith, who recently joined Bharatiya Janata Party, has lauded the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman, citing its potential to drive India's economic growth and strengthen exports.


Kaith welcomed the budget's recognition of exports as the fourth engine of growth and the newly announced Export Promotion Mission, which will set sectoral and ministerial



targets with support from the Commerce, Finance, and MSME Ministries.

"The Union Budget puts India on the path to

Viksit Bharat, unlocking domestic growth potential while shaping a trade roadmap to navigate global uncertainties," Kaith stated.



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