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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369 Regd. No. JK-435 Vol.-16 Issue-36 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

JCO found dead in Poonch

JAMMU, Feb 6 (Agencies): A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) was found dead with a bullet injury in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident occurred in the border area of Mendhar sector when some jawans discovered the Naib Subedar lying injured.

He was immediately rushed to a hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The Army is investigating the incident, with initial reports suggesting the possibility of a suicide.

Sopore hospital's operation theatre sealed after alleged medical negligence

SOPORE, Feb 6 (Agencies): Authorities have sealed an operation theatre of a private hospital in north Kashmir's Sopore following a case of alleged medical negligence, where a woman, admitted for ear surgery, reportedly had her uterus removed instead.

According to Sources, the woman was getting treatment at Hakim Sonuallah hospital by a doctor and was scheduled for an ear surgery at the hospital. But, in absence of the doctor, the procedure was allegedly carried out another doctor, who mistakenly performed a hysterectomy.

Following public outcry, authorities sealed the hospital's operation theatre, citing severe lapses in medical protocols.

"We are investigating the matter thoroughly and have served notices to the hospital management, doctors, and staff to explain their position. Preliminary inquiry and evidence suggest that this operation theatre should not have been operational in the first place, and therefore, we have sealed it," additional deputy commissioner Sopore SA Raina said.

He said that a thorough probe is underway and strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty.

Magisterial Inquiry Ordered Into Alleged Custodial Death in Kathua

JAMMU, Feb 6 (Agencies): The District Magistrate of Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir has ordered a magisterial

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Chandrayaan-4 to launch in 2027: Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): India will launch the Chandrayaan-4 mission to bring back samples of moon rocks to the Earth in 2027, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said.

Chandrayaan-4 will involve at least two separate launches of the heavylift LVM-3 rocket that will carry five different components of the mission which will be assembled in orbit.

"The Chandrayaan-4 mission aims to collect samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to the Earth," Singh told PTI Videos in an interview.

The minister said the Gaganyaan mission, which involves sending Indian astronauts in a specially designed spacecraft to low-earth orbit and bringing them back safely, will be launched next year.

In 2026, India will also launch Samudrayaan, which will take three scientists in a submersible

up to a depth of 6,000 metres in the deep ocean, to explore the seabed.

"This achievement will align with the timelines of India's other landmark missions, including the Gaganyaan space mission, marking a pleasant coincidence in the nation's journey toward scientific excellence," Singh said.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the Samudrayaan mission in his Independence Day speech.

The minister underscored the potential of the Samudrayaan to unlock vast resources, including critical minerals, rare metals, and undiscovered marine biodiversity, all of which are crucial for the country's economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan project carrying a robot, 'Vyommitra', will also take place this year.

Singh said that while the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in 1969, it took more than two decades to set up the first launch pad in 1993.

The second launch pad came up in 2004, another decade-long gap. However, in the last 10 years, India's space sector has undergone unprecedented expansion, both in terms of infrastructure and investment, he said.

"We are now building a third launch pad and for the first time for heavier rockets, and expanding also beyond Sriharikota with a new launch site in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district to launch small satellites," Singh said.

The minister said that India's space economy, currently valued at USD 8 billion, is projected to reach USD 44 billion in the next decade, further cementing India's role as a global space powerhouse.

The reforms initiated in the past decade, including the unlocking of the space sector for private players, have led to greater innovation,

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Delhi HC asks NIA to clarify stand on Er Rashid seeking custody parole to attend Parliament

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked National Investigation Agency (NIA) to clarify its stand on an application moved by Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid seeking custody parole to attend ongoing parliament session amidst a jurisdictional row.

The bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan has scheduled the hearing for February 7.

Rashid, who is currently in Tihar Jail facing terror charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, was mainly sought interim bail.

During the hearing, Delhi High Court acknowledged that the Registrar General has filed an application with the Supreme Court of India regarding the jurisdictional authority to hear Rashid's bail plea in an NIA case.

This issue arose after the Special NIA Court (Trial Court) recently declined to hear the matter, citing that it falls under the jurisdiction of the MP/MLA court since Rashid Engineer has become a Member of Parliament.

Counsel representing

■Turn to page 9

Man arrested in Baramulla after video of Kaaba-Like structure surfaces on social media

SRINAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district have apprehended a man after a video of him constructing a structure resembling the Holy Kaaba went viral on social media.

The individual, identified as Abdul Razak Lone and a resident of Waripora Kunzar, was taken into custody following public outrage.

In a statement police said Lone had constructed a structure resembling the Holy Kaaba, which was later voluntarily demolished by locals during the night.

"Preliminary inquiry suggests that the individual appears to be mentally unsound. As per due legal procedure, necessary medical evaluation will be

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Pakistan will take Hamas' help for terrorist attacks in Kashmir: VHP

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) spokesperson Vinod Bansal on Thursday claimed that Pakistan will now take the help of Hamas for terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The VHP leader shared on social media platform 'X' that on Wednesday, Hamas commander Khaled al-Qaddoumi and other Pakistani terrorists were spotted during a rally in Pakistan-Occupied- Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

He further claimed that Pakistan's Intelligence agency ISI is playing an important role in this "terrorist alliance".

Slamming the Hamas sympathisers and "radical Muslims" in India, who have been raking up the Gaza issue, raising 'Philippines Zindabad' slogans in Parliament and shedding tears for global terrorists, he questioned their silence on the issue.

"Will they not utter a single word over this issue?" he said, adding "Shouldn't they protest against terrorism as they

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Truck driver killed in army firing after allegedly ignoring security check in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, Feb 6 (AGencies): A dramatic and intense chase unfolded in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the death of a truck driver.

On February 5, security forces established a Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) based on intelligence inputs about potential terrorist movements. When a speeding suspicious civil truck was spotted, it refused to stop despite repeated warnings, leading to a 23-kilometer high-speed chase.

Indian Army's Chinar Corps posted on X and said that the security forces fired shots at the truck's tyres to deflate them, bringing the vehicle to a halt near Sangrama Chowk. The injured driver was immediately rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, where he was declared dead.

"On February 5, based on a very specific intelligence input about the move of terrorists, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established by Security Forces. One speeding suspicious civil truck was spotted. When challenged, the truck didn't stop despite repeated warnings instead accelerated further while crossing the check post. Alert troops pursued the vehicle for over 23 km. Shots were fired aiming at the tyres to deflate which forced the vehicle to halt at Sangrama Chowk. Consequent to detailed search, the injured driver was immediately evacuated to GMC Baramulla by Security Forces where he was declared dead," the Chinar Corps said.

The Indian Army's Chinar Corps reported that a detailed search of the truck, now in police custody, is underway. An investigation into the driver's antecedents is also in progress. The incident highlights the ongoing security concerns in the region and the measures being taken to prevent potential terrorist activities.

"The fully loaded truck has been sent to nearest police station. Detailed

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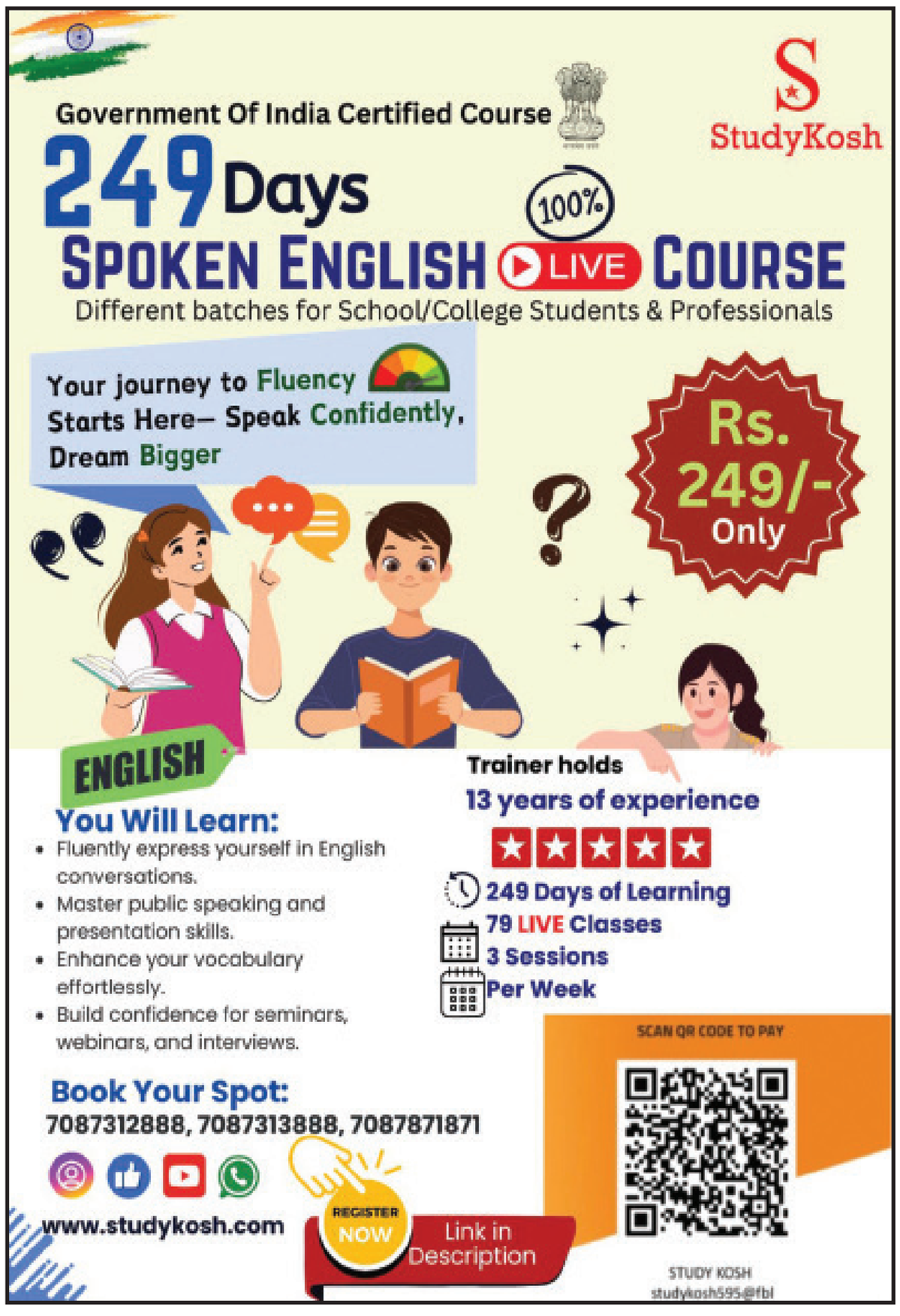


UTHALA

SH. SUNIL BAMBA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD & UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. SUNIL BAMBA** S/O LATE SH. NAND KISHORE BAMBA R/O LANE NO. 1, H.NO. 122, LAJPAT NAGAR, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 04-02-2025 (TUESDAY).
UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED AT GURUDWARA GURU NANAK DEV JI, CHAND NAGAR, OPPOSITE FORTUNE INN RIVIERA HOTEL, JAMMU ON 07-02-2025 (FRIDAY) FROM 03:30 P.M. - 04:30 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SMT. SONIA BAMBA **(WIFE)**
SMT. ASHA BAMBA **(SISTER-IN-LAW)**
SMT. ANJU & SH. SANJEEV BAMBA **(BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW)**
SMT. ANJU GUPTA **(SISTER)**
MOBILE : 9419192479, 6005044232, 9697522025

TENTH DAY, KRIYA

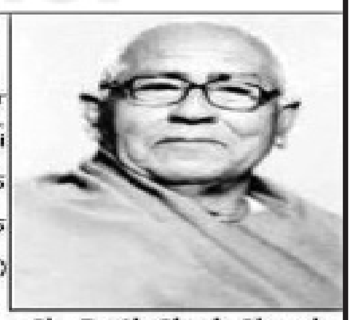
Smt. Dayawanti Chaodhari

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that the sad demise of our beloved **Smt.Dayawanti Chaodhari** W/o Lt. Sh Hem Raj Chaodhari (Ramnagar Wale) R/o MIG 22 Phase 1st Housing Colony Udhampur expired on 27/01/2025.
TENTH DAY will be performed on 05/02/2025 (Wednesday) at Shiv Mandir Hall Housing Colony Udhampur at 11:00 AM.
And **KRIYA** will be performed at Devika Ghat on 08/02/2025. (Saturday).

GRIEFSTRICKEN :-
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Smt. Seema and Sh. Naresh Kumar Chaodhari
Smt. Suman and Sh. Ashok Kumar Chaodhari
Smt. Sushma and Lt Sh. Jatinder Kumar Chaodhari
Daughters and Son-in-law
Smt. Asha and Lt Sh. Ram Parshad
Smt. Neelu and Lt Sh. Parveen Kumar
Smt. Sanjogta and Sh. Parkash Chand
Smt. Shashi and Sh. Ashok Gupta
Grand Children
Smt and Sh Aditya Chaodhari
Smt and Sh Ankit Chaodhari
Advait Chaodhari and Anish Chaodhari
Contact Numbers:-
9419160624,7006050883, 6005639730

10TH DAY/ KRIYA/UTHALA

"ALWAYS OF OUR'S HEART"



Sh. Parth Singh Charak

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved (Father) **Sh. Parth Singh Charak** S/o Lt Sh. Punjab Singh Charak H.No 86 (Private), Sec 2 Chhanni Himmat, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 30-1-2025.
10TH DAY will be performed on 7th of Feb (Friday) 2025 at our residence at 11 AM.
KIRYA will be performed on 10th of Feb (Monday) 2025 at our residence at 12 AM.
UTHALA will also be performed on 10th of Feb (Monday) 2025 at our residence at 2 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Bimla Devi - **Wife**
Brothers and Bhabi's
Lt Sub Sh. Chhattar Singh Charak and Lt. Smt. Shakuntla Devi
Sh. Kehar Singh Charak and Neelam Charak
Son's-in-law and Daughters-in-law
Keshav Singh Charak and Laxmi Charak
Labb Singh Charak and Rajni Charak
Son's-in-law & Daughter
Daljit Singh Chib and Sushma Chib
Harnam Singh and Meenu Thakur
Mobile Nos : 9858510575, 9906310575, 9419122089, 9419797224

UTHALA

Smt Raj Kumari

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Kumari** W/o Late Sh Bal Krishan Gupta R/o 659, Lane No. 7 Opp. J&K Bank Gole Pulli, Talab Tillo on 19th Jan. 2025.
Uthala will be held on Friday 07.02.2025 at Gurdwara Talli Sahib, Talab Tillo from 03.00 pm to 04.00 pm.

Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in law
Sh Pawan Gupta & Smt Shallu Gupta
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt Satya Gupta W/o Late Sh Dev Raj Gupta
Smt Neelam Gupta W/o Late Sh Romesh Gupta
Smt Tripta & Sh Dilip
Smt Parvesh & Sh Sham Gupta
Smt Anu & Sh Rajinder Sharma
Smt Asha & Sh Naresh Sethi
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Sakshi W/o Sh Vivek Sharma
Mr Nitesh Gupta **(Grandson)**
Mob: 9419155155, 9796155155

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Lt. Rtd. Col Tara Mani** S/o Late Shri Beli Ram Mansotra R/o Lane No 3, Greater Kailash, Jammu.
The **10th Day** will be performed at Shiv Mandir, Lane No. 9 (Up-side) Greater Kailash on 29/01/25 at 10 am and **Kriya** will take place on 30/01/25 at our residence Lane No. 3, Greater Kailash.
The **Uthala** will be performed at Shiv Mandir Lane 9 (Up-side) Greater Kailash on 07/02/25 at 4 to 5 PM.

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Late Smt. Sheela Pandita
1/1/1946 to 31/1/2025

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sheela Pandita** W/o Lt. Sh. Soom Nath Pandita, originally R/o Nuner, Ganderbal presently residing at H.No. 1877-B, Jain Nagar, Delhi-81.
10th Day Kriya will be performed at Munak Canal, Ghat near Badli Telephone Exchange, Sector -18 Rohini on Sunday 9th February, 2025 at 9.30 a.m

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Sister-In-Laws)
Smt. Lalitashorie W/o Lt. Sh. Shyam Lal Pandita
Smt. Jaikishorie W/o Lt. Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandita
Sh. Shiban Krishen Pandita & Smt. Usha Ji Pandita **(Brother-In-Law & Sister- In-Law)**
Sh. Rajinder Pandita & Smt. Rashmi Pandita **(Son & Daughter-In-Law)**
Smt. Jyoti Koul & Sh. Sanjay Koul **(Daughter & Son-In-Law)**
Smt. Renu Raina & Sh. Sanjay Raina **(Daughter & Son-In-Law)**
Vasundhara & Shivam Bhat **(Grand Daughter & Son-In-Law)**
Grand Children:- Dr. Kartik, Dr. Shagun, Shivam, Riddhima
Mobile No. 9818578093, 9419420115, 9419117919

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

Smt. Bimla Kohli

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Bimla Kohli** W/o Late Sh. Satya Pal Kohli R/o Near Police Station Lakhanpur, who left for heavenly abode on 28-01-2025.
10th Day will be performed on Thursday 06-02-2025 at our residence at Lakhanpur at 9.00 am.
13th Day Kriya will be held on Saturday 08-02-2025 at our residence at 11.00 am.
Rasam Pagri will be held at Rivaz Palace Lakhanpur on Saturday 08-02-2025 from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

Grief Stricken
Sons & Daughters-in-Law
Sh. Ashok Kohli & Smt. Bholi Devi
Sh. Pushpinder Kohli & Late Smt. Sandhya Kohli
Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Smt. Vijay Luxmi & Sh. Romesh Salhotra
Smt. Suman Bala & Sh. Sudesh Nijhawan
7006631155, 9906071094

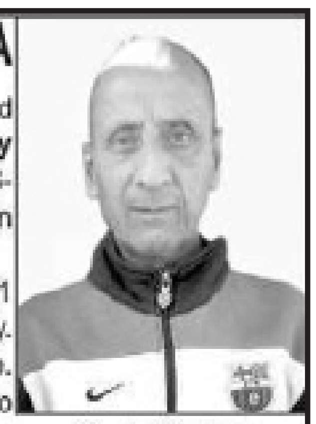
TENTH DAY / KRIYA/ RASAM PAGRI & UTHALA

Smt. Krishna Devi

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.
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

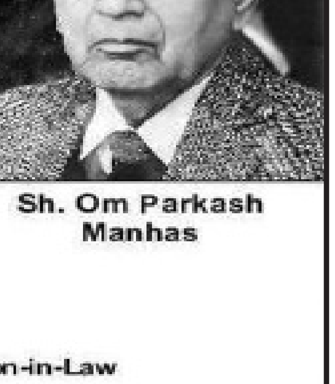


Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhyay

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jai Kumar Upadhyay** S/o Late Sh. Madan Lal Upadhyay R/o 738-Janipur Colony, near Ram Lila Ground on Monday, 20-01-2025.
TENTH DAY: 29-01-2025 (Wednesday) from 11 A.M. to 12 P.M. at Trimurti Mandir, Janipur Colony.
KRIYA: 30-01-2025 (Thursday) 12 Noon at home.
UTHALA: 07-02-2025 (Friday) from 4 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Venue: Trimurti Mandir, Janipur Colony.

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

10th Day/Kriya/Uthala

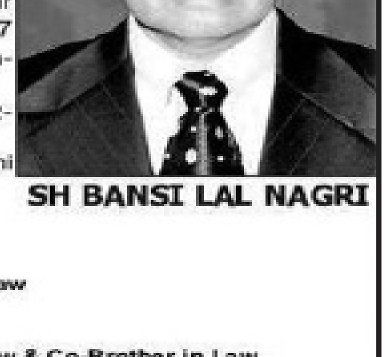


Sh. Om Parkash Manhas

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Om Parkash Manhas** S/o Late Sh. Bal Krishan Manhas R/o Bahu Fort Jammu on 29-01-2025.
Tenth Day will be performed on 07-02-2025 (Friday) at our residence at 11.00 am.
Karam Kriya will be performed on 08-02-2025 (Saturday) at our residence.
Pagri/Uthala will be performed on 10-02-2025 (Monday) at our residence at 04.00 pm.

Grief Stricken
Smt. Rama Manhas- **Wife**
Sh. Vikram Manhas- **Son**
Smt. Nidhi Manhas- **Daughter-in-Law**
Sh. Rohini Manhas- **Son**
Smt. Priya Manhas- **Daughter-in-Law**
Sh. Ashok Manhas- **Brother**
Sh. Kishore Manhas- **Brother**
Smt. Juhi Manhas & Sh. Ajay- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**
Mob.: 7006272451, 9419108226

10TH DAY KRIYA

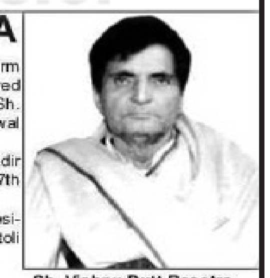


SH BANSI LAL NAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Bansi Lal Nagri** S/o Late Sh. Shamboo Nath Nagri originally resident of H. No 220 Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir A/p H. No 56B, Lane No 17 Bhawani Nagar, Janipur Jammu for heavenly abode on 30th Jan 2025 at 5.40 AM.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 07-02-2025 at Akhnoor Ghat.
ASSEMBLY will be held at 12.00 Noon at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate School Education.

WITH GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Dulari Nagri - **Bhabhi**
Smt Tosha Nagri - **Bhabhi**
Smt Sarla & Sh A.K Koul -**Sister & Brother in Law**
Smt Nancy Trisal -**Sister in Law**
Smt Suman Trisal -**Sister in Law**
Smt Munni & Sh. Vijay Kumar Kaul -**Sister in Law & Co-Brother in Law**
Sanjay Nagri & Meenakshi Nagri -**Son & Daughter in Law**
Grand Children: Ritik, Rinish & Hitesh
MOBILE NO: 6005493520

10TH DAY & KRIYA



Sh. Vishnu Dutt Basotra

With extreme grief and sadness we inform the sad and abortive death of our beloved **Sh. Vishnu Dutt Basotra** S/o Lt. Sh. Bishamber Dass Basotra R/o Village Supwal (Samba).
10TH DAY shall be performed at Shiv Mandir Pandoka Coloney Paloura (Jammu) on 7th Feb 2025 at 12 Noon.
KARM KRIYA shall be performed at our residence H.No.119, Sec-4, Vikas Nagar Patoli (Jammu) on 8th Feb 2025 at 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Meena Sharma -**Wife**
Sh. Sham Sajan - **Brother**
Smt. Tanu Sharma & Sh. Chandan Sharma - **Daughter & Son-in-law**
Ms Manu and Virinder Sharma -**Daughters**
Smt. Sawita Khajuria W/o Lt. Sh. Ashok Khajuria **(Sister)**
Smt Mohini & Sh. Manohar Sharma - **Sister & Brother-in-law**
Smt Sanjogita & Sh. Yoginder Dubey -**(Do)**
ALL BASOTRA FAMILY
ALL SARSWAT FAMILY
M.NO: 9419138740, 7889727809

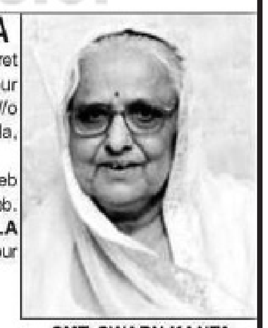
10TH DAY KRIYA

SMT. GOPI SHORI RAINA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform untimely and sad demise of our beloved mother **Karmayogini Smt. Gopi Shori Raina**; W/o Lt. Sh Soom Nath Raina originally resident of Village Gund Gushi, Distt. Kupwara (Kashmir); Presently at H. No 82, Lane no 6, Laxmi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu, J&K UT; left for her heavenly abode on 2nd of February 2025.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 11/02/2025 (7:30 AM) and the **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education office around 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Jager Nath Bhat **(Brother)**
Smt Rhoda Ji and Dr. H N Bhat **(Bhabhi and Brother)**
Smt. Dasha Ji Bhat **(Bhabhi)**
Smt Kishna Ji and Sh Tej Kishen Raina **(Daughter in law and Son)**
Smt Usha Ji and Mot Lal Pandita **(Daughter and Son in law)**
Smt Desha Ji and Manohar Lal Raina **(Daughter in law and Son)**
Smt Sharika Ji and Dileep Raina **(Daughter in law and Son)**
Smt Sunaina and Sh. Sunny Raina **(Grand Daughter in law & Grandson)**
Smt Kajal Bhan and Sh. Anil Bhan **(Granddaughter & Grand Son in Law)**
Smt Shalini Gupta and Sh. Gaurav Gupta **(Granddaughter & Grand Son in Law)**
Smt Pooja Pandita & Sh. Amit Pandita **(Grand Daughter in law & Grandson)**
Smt Isha Bhat and Sh. Sumit Bhat **(Granddaughter & Grand Son in Law)**
Smt Shafali Chaturvedi and Sh. Shubham Chaturvedi **(Granddaughter & Grand Son in Law)**
Dr. Varsha Tandon and Dr. Kanav Tandon **(Granddaughter & Grand Son in Law)**
Great Grand Children - Shyna, Aama, Myra, Jaivik, Gaurvi, Divyana, Kashvi, Devishi, Vihaan, Darsh
CONTACT NO: 7006029375 ; 9419198023 ; 9419131565; 9867565304

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/ UTHALA

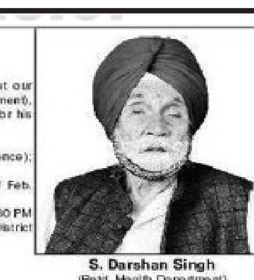


SMT. SWARN KANTA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Swarn Kanta** W/o Sh.Narottam Sharma R/o Boti Mohalla, Ghagwal Disttt. Samba
10TH DAY will be performed on 7th Feb (Friday) at 10.30 AM, **KRIYA** on 8th Feb. (Saturday) from 9AM to 1PM, and **UTHALA** on 10th Feb. (Monday) at 1PM at our above residence

GRIEF STRICKEN
Narottam Sharma- **Husband**
Sons & Daughter in Law
Jatinder Sharma & Anita Sharma
Raj Sharma & Vaishali Sharma
Daughters & Sons in Law
Neelam Sharma & Vijay Sharma
Madhu Sharma & Parminder Sharma

TENTH DAY
BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS



S. Darshan Singh
(Retd. Health Department)

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you that our beloved **S. Darshan Singh Ji** (Retd. Health Department), resident of Mohalla Sarian, Ward No. 7, Poonch, left for his heavenly abode on January 29, 2025.
The schedule is as follow:
Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib (at residence); Wednesday, 5th of Feb. 2025 at 9.00 am.
The **Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib**, Friday, 7th of Feb. 2025 (at residence): 9.00 am.
Kirtan and Antim Ardas Feb. 7, 2025,10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Gurudwara Baithak Maharaj Mohar Singh Ji, near District Hospital Poonch.

Grief-Stricken:
Sdrn. Sarasti Kour **(Wife)**
Sons and Daughters-in-law
S. Balbir Singh (Retd. Head Theatre Technician, Gen. Secy. Shri Guru Ram Dassji Sewa Society) & Narinder Kour (Health Dept.)
Dr. Jasbir Singh (Principal, GDC Poonch) & Baljeet Kaur (Lecturer School Edu.)
Bhabhis
Sdrn. Ram Kour W/o Late S.Ujagar Singh (ZEO)
Sdrn. Satwant Kour W/o Late S.Babu Singh (DySP)
Grand Children
Kavan Nain Kour W/o Gurvinder Pal Singh
Dr. Rupambir Singh (AIIMS Delhi)
Gaganbir Singh (Dept. of Posts)
Er. Rhythm Nain Kour
Arjunbir Singh
Karanbir Singh
Great Grand children: Zorawar Singh & Fateh Singh

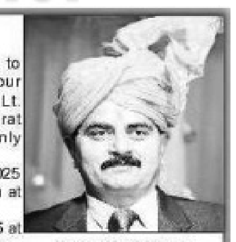
KRIYA AND UTHALA

Smt. Sudarshan Gandotra

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Sudarshan Gandotra** W/o Lt. Sh. Krishan Kumar Gandotra R/o H.No. 107/B New Plot, Near Krishna Building, Jammu on 25th of January 2025.
KRIYA will be held on Wednesday 5th of February 2025 at our residence 107/B New Plot, Near Krishna Building, Jammu at 12:00 Noon.
UTHALA will be performed on 7th of February 2025 (Friday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu at 04:00 to 05:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sunil Kumar Gandotra and Rachna
Daughter and Son-in-law
Achla Sharma and Rajesh Sharma
Sangeeta Gandotra **(Daughter)**
Tilak Raj Gandotra and Suman Gandotra **(Devar and Devarani)**
Gulshan Uppal and Late Vijay Uppal **(Brother and Sister-in-law)**
Praveen Uppal **(Brother)**
Grandchildren:
Natasha and Karan Dev Ray
Sanidhya Gandotra
Sushant Gandotra
Salil Sharma
Great Grand Son: Devyansh Dev Ray
Mob. 9419193357, 9419300737

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

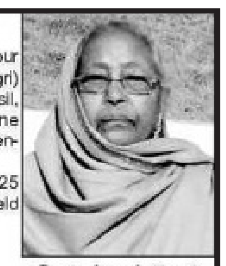


Shri Rajvir Singh Mankotia

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.
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 Yudhvir Mankotia.
Mrs Neera & Col Sukhvir Mankotia
9419107626, 9419864210, 9622070028, 9622261999

OBITUARY



Smt. Janak Rani Dhar (Chuni Jigri)

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

Grief Stricken
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Chaman Lal Dhar & Smt. Veena Dhar
Smt. Shanta Dhar - **Sister-in-law**
Grand Children
Mr. Sandeep Koul & Mrs. Nisha Dhar
Mr. Tarun Ji Raina & Mrs. Shallu Dhar
Mr. Rohit Bhat & Mrs. Neetu Dhar
Mr. Akshay Dhar & Mrs. Vibha Bhat
Contact No: 9149517810, 9419214874

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One Nation-One People-One Culture playing pivotal role in realizing vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat": LG

JAMMU, Feb 6 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that One Nation – One People – One Culture, is playing a pivotal role in realizing the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

Interacting with youth from North-Eastern states visiting Jammu under ABVP's Students' Experience in Inter-State Living initiative, Sinha said, "This programme, launched in 1965, has created an emotional bridge between the youth of North-East region and the rest of the country."

He highlighted the motto of this wonderful initiative- One Nation – One People – One Culture, which is playing a pivotal role in realizing the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and enabling youth to live and understand Unity in Diversity in real sense, said the Lieutenant Governor.

" He called upon the youth to work collectively to build a strong Viksit Bharat," adding, "I want our youth to focus on needs and aspirations of weaker and vulnerable sections of the society so that they are able to participate in the development process and contribute to all-round progress."

Director Agriculture Jammu releases souvenir on Scientific Beekeeping

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: The Director of Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, today released a Souvenir on Scientific Beekeeping during the concluding session of a two-day seminar on scientific beekeeping under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM). The event was organized by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu, with the aim to raise awareness about the benefits of beekeeping among beekeepers, farmers, unemployed youth, women, and entrepreneurs from the Jammu division.

The souvenir is a comprehensive compilation of research, expert advice, and practical guidance on scientific beekeeping, designed-to provide farmers and beekeepers in the Jammu region with valuable information on modern beekeeping techniques.

The program, held at Baba Jitto Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo, Jammu, was attended by Alok Pandotra, Deputy Director Trainings (J), Vikrant Dogra, Chairman JKDCL & UAMMCL, Rajesh Verma, Assistant Entomologist Jammu, Dr. Neeraj Rajwal, Assistant Soil Chemist Jammu, Dr. Adil Rashid, Assistant Soil Survey Officer, Deepak Singh, Training Officer FTC Jammu, Om Singh, Farm Management Specialist FTC Jammu, agricultural extension officers, and over 250 beekeepers, women, entrepreneurs, unemployed youth, and farmers from the Jammu region.

During the event, Director A.S. Reen emphasized the importance of beekeeping not only for honey production but also for enhancing pollination, which plays a vital role in increasing agricultural yields. He pointed out that beekeeping is an eco-friendly and economically viable practice that can significantly boost the agricultural economy while promoting biodiversity. He also stressed the importance of good packaging and marketing of honey products, urging stakeholders to focus on both increasing production and creating strong marketing strategies to enhance honey consumption.

Beekeeping, a key component of Jammu's agricultural landscape, has gained renewed focus in recent years due to its economic potential. Director A.S. Reen also called for collaboration between the Agriculture Department, research institutions, and local beekeepers to establish training programs, workshops, and outreach initiatives to promote the adoption of scientific beekeeping methods. During the event, Director Agriculture felicitated and distributed certificates to progressive beekeepers of the Jammu division for their achievements.

Rajesh Verma, Assistant Entomologist, highlighted that the souvenir covers a wide range of topics, including beekeeping equipment, hive management, disease control, and honey extraction techniques. It also features success stories from local beekeepers who have benefited from adopting scientific beekeeping methods. Furthermore, the souvenir underscores the importance of sustainable beekeeping practices to ensure the health and longevity of bee populations.

The officers and staff of the Apiculture Development Scheme, Directorate of Agriculture Jammu, conducted the proceedings of the program.

J&K Govt Sports Awardee 2025 Tarun Gandotra set to inspire next generation of sports stars

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Iconic Skater Tarun Gandotra, belonging to Duggarland's heart Jammu has become an inspiration for many aspiring sports persons of the region after he was handpicked for the prestigious J&K Government (Sports) Award on Republic Day 2025 for Exceptional Contribution to Sports.

In a remarkable recognition of outstanding capabilities and perseverance, Tarun, who is working as an Inspector with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, has been awarded the J&K Government's prestigious sports honour on Republic Day 2025.

His unparalleled achievements in the field of speed skating and inline hockey have not only brought glory to the region but also placed him as a formidable name in India's sporting landscape.

The ace sports person, who holds a B-tech in Computer Science, has been an extraordinary ambassador of J&K and India on the global sports stage.

He has represented the nation on 10 occasions at the prestigious Asian and World Championships, Vice Captain of Indian Team 3 times, showcasing his consistency and excellence across multiple international platforms. His unparalleled commitment to the sport is evident in his continuous presence in the national circuit, having participated in 18 national championships and securing the national champion title once.

With an impressive tally of 39 medals across national, All India, and state-level competitions, Tarun's journey is a testament to the powedispline and perseverance. His dominance in the state and zonal competitions is remarkable, with 7-time titles as State and Zonal Champion, further establishing his dominance within the country.

Despite his demanding career in the police force, Tarun has displayed an exceptional ability to balance his professional duties with his passion for sports. The feat achieved by this multi-talented figure has proved that his persona has been gifted with a unique physical prowess, adaptive mental resilience and unending determination, making him an extraordinary role model for the next generation.

"My sporting field has taught me resilience and the significance of remaining focused, both in and out of the playground. I feel immensely privileged to represent J&K and the country, and this coveted recognition has further inspired me to do more for the achieving more in life" said Tarun Gandotra on receiving the coveted award recently.

Undoubtedly, Tarun Gandotra has become an asset for both J&K Police and the country's sporting fraternity for he being an extraordinary player and committed personality, that can achieve almost all goals in life with great ease. For sure, he has become an inspiration for future generations of sports persons.

All said and done, the Jammu and Kashmir Government's recognition of Tarun is a well-deserved acknowledgment of his unparalleled achievements and an inspiring reminder of the extraordinary potential that exists in the UT of J&K.

Javed Rana inaugurates seminar on Lt. Faiz Hussain Inqalab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Javed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forests, and Tribal Affairs on Thursday inaugurated a day-long seminar on eminent Gujjar leader and freedom fighter Late Faiz Hussain Inqalab at K.L. Saigal Hall. The program was organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages and conducted in Gojri language. Prominent writers and scholars from across Jammu & Kashmir participated in the event.

Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; Dr. Javaid Rahi, Regional Head JKAACL Jammu; Former MLC Rahim Dad; Noted writer Rashid Azam Inqalabi; and Choudhary Mohd. Rashid, former Registrar of BGSB University Rajouri were present in the presidium of inaugural session.

Javed Rana stressed on the importance of language in preserving the identity of a community and lauded the efforts of Lt. Faiz Hussain Inqalab in promoting Gojri language and tribal culture. He highlighted Inqalab's crucial role in reforming the people of the twin border districts and stated that his contributions to national integration and uniting different identities of the border regions in testing times against external threats will be remembered for all times to come.He appreciated JKAACL for holding this purposeful event in this capital city and stressed that more such events should be organised to connect people with their roots.

Harvinder Kour, in her address, underlined the importance of Gojri as a significant language of J&K and reaffirmed JKAACL's commitment to the preservation, propagation, and documentation of the language. She urged the younger generation to remember and connect with the legacy of heroes like Lt. Inqalab.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, while speaking on the occasion, stated that the main objective of the seminar was to highlight the contributions of the legendary tribal leader. He mentioned that JKAACL has already published a well-researched book on Lt. Inqalab's life and work and announced plans for another publication following the conclusion of the seminar.

Noted writer Ch. Rashid Azam Inqalabi paid homage to Lt. Inqalab, stating that the best way to honor his legacy is to work towards the upliftment of the poor, downtrodden, and people living in far-flung areas.

Several scholars and researchers presented papers on Lt. Faiz Hussain Inqalab, including Dr. Ishtyaq Ahmed Masba, Dr. M.K. Waqar, Engineer Liaqat, Prof. Mohd Rashid (former Registrar, BGSB University), Dr. Liaqat Nair (Professor, BGSB University), and Hussan Perwaz (renowned broadcaster).

The seminar also featured musical tributes to the late leader, with performances by Ayaz Ahmed Saif, Anisa Kareem, Barkit Hussain, and Qammar Shabban, accompanied by Rakesh Anand on flute, Sayall Jasrotya on tabla, and Rakesh Kumar on octopad.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mehmood Raiz, and Shoukat Naseem of Gojri section conducted the proceedings.

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

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/99 of 2024-25 Dated 20-01-2025 and
Fresh Short e-NIT No. DGN/105 of 2024-25 Dated 04-02-2025 (2nd Call)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (` in Lacs)	Cost of document (in `)	Earnest Money (in `)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Shelter Shed and GYM Equipment at Park No. J/GN/10 at Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (Under M.H-4406) **(2nd Call)**	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	4.85	600	9700 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 11-02-2025	"A" , "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- **Accorded by Deputy Director Floriculture, Park & Gardens, Jammu order No. DFJ/P&S/2024-25/4184-90 dated 12-12-2024 for S.No. 5**

Position of TS :- **Sanctioned by this office order No. 135/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2024-25 dated 15-01-2025 .**

Project Authority :- **Deputy Director Floriculture, Park & Gardens, Jammu for S.No. 5.**

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

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-02-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-02-2025 to 10-02-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	07-02-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	04-02-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	10-02-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-02-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

DIP/J-9870/24

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

EDITORIAL

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is a unique initiative launched by the Government of India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is an interactive session where the Prime Minister engages with students, parents, and teachers to discuss various aspects of exams, including stress management, effective study techniques, and the importance of a positive mindset. Over the years, this annual event has evolved into a significant platform that aims to alleviate exam-related anxiety and inspire students to approach their academic journey with confidence and enthusiasm.

Exams are a crucial part of a student's life, but they often bring immense pressure, leading to anxiety and stress. Understanding this challenge, the Prime Minister initiated Pariksha Pe Charcha as an opportunity for open dialogue, allowing students to express their concerns and receive valuable advice. The event also provides insights for parents and teachers on how to support students effectively, fostering an environment conducive to learning and holistic development.

The 2025 edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha continues to build upon its successful legacy. Held in a hybrid format, the event took place in New Delhi while being broadcasted live across schools in India. It witnessed an overwhelming response, with lakhs of students, teachers, and parents participating through online and offline mediums.

This year's discussions revolved around the importance of mental well-being, the role of discipline in academic success, and how students can turn challenges into opportunities. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of enjoying the process of learning rather than solely focusing on results. He encouraged students to cultivate curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills to excel not just in exams but in life.

Stress-Free Preparation: The Prime Minister advised students to develop a structured study plan, emphasizing the importance of time management and regular revision. He encouraged students to set realistic goals and break their study schedules into manageable segments to avoid last-minute cramming.

One of the core messages of PPC 2025 was the importance of maintaining a positive attitude. PM Modi highlighted that failures and setbacks are stepping stones to success, and students should view them as learning experiences rather than obstacles.

The event also addressed the significant role that parents and teachers play in shaping a student's academic journey. PM Modi urged parents to refrain from imposing unrealistic expectations on their children and instead provide emotional and moral support. He also encouraged teachers to adopt innovative teaching methods that make learning engaging and fun.

A crucial discussion point was the need to maintain a balance between academics and extracurricular activities. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of physical fitness, hobbies, and creative pursuits in developing a well-rounded personality. He suggested that students allocate time for sports, music, and other activities to refresh their minds and enhance productivity.

Recognizing the rapid digital transformation, the Prime Minister encouraged students to use technology wisely. He emphasized leveraging educational apps, e-books, and online resources for enhanced learning while being cautious of excessive screen time and distractions.

Over the years, Pariksha Pe Charcha has transformed into a movement that fosters a positive academic environment. Students who participate in PPC gain confidence, develop resilience, and learn essential life skills that go beyond textbooks. The initiative has also played a vital role in breaking societal stigmas around exam-related stress, promoting a healthier approach towards education.

Pariksha Pe Charcha has been instrumental in shifting the focus from rote learning to conceptual understanding. By addressing students' concerns and motivating them to embrace education as an exciting journey, PPC has contributed significantly to the overall development of young minds.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 once again proved to be an inspiring and transformative event, reinforcing the idea that exams should be viewed as a part of the learning process rather than a stressful burden. The Prime Minister's words of wisdom, practical tips, and empathetic approach resonated with students, parents, and teachers alike. As India moves towards a more holistic and student-friendly education system, initiatives like PPC will continue to play a crucial role in shaping a confident and future-ready generation. By adopting the principles discussed in Pariksha Pe Charcha, students can cultivate a positive outlook, manage stress effectively, and achieve success not only in exams but in all aspects of life.

Political Parties Heaping Ravedie's in Delhi Polls

By: Omkar Dattatray

Lo there is competition between AAP,BJP & Congress in promising Ravedie's that is freebies to Delhite's to woo voters to their side in the current crucial Delhi polls. There is mad race and one up-manship between the political parties in promising and heaping Ravedie's to the people of national capital. Both BJP & Congress is not lagging behind AAP in announcing Ravedie's to voters of Delhi not withstanding their stand in this respect in earlier elections of 2010 and 2015 and irrespective of the drain of the economy due to such poll freebies. There is cut –throat between the APP,BJP and Congress so far as the promising of Ravedies/Freebies to the people of Delhi is concerned .All the political parties are busy to outnumber the other two in promising freebies to the Delhite's to turn them in their favor so that they will vote for them in the ongoing elections.BJP and Congress has seen and realized that in the previous three Delhi polls, AAP stole the show with thumping majority by sweeping all the three Delhi Polls solely because of AAP's promise of poll freebies like free power ,free water ,salary to Immams ,Free bus seats in DTC busses and the like and so in the current election ,BJP and Congress as well are promising Ravedie's to people of Delhi regardless of its strain and dent on the economy of the country .The AAP,BJP and the Congress have upped their ante in the run-up to the Delhi election 2025.All the three parties have opened their pitaras of Revedie's that is the poll freebies to woo voters in poll –bound Delhi. They have made tens of promises to fulfill the needs of the poor ,the middle class ,women ,youth ,priests and other sections of the society if they form government in Delhi after winning the Delhi Assembly Election 2025.But ,in this battle of cash ,revedies /freebies ,who is offering more –is it the AAP,BJP or the Congress? The key promises and schemes announced by the three parties are as under—AAP has promised cash amount of Rs 2100 to women above the age of 18 years.BJP has promised Rs 2500 for those below poverty line ,Rs 21,000 for pregnant women[Matru Suraksha Vandana Scheme].And the Congress has promised Rs 2500 to women as [Pyari Didi Yojna].AAP promises full financial assistance to children from Dalit community for pursuing higher education abroad. This promise is made to woo youth of the Dalit community.BJP promised Rs 15,000 for up to two attempts for students preparing for competitive examinations .Congress also promised Rs 8,500 and apprenticeship of a year. The list of free services ,the AAP ,the BJP and the Congress have promised the following to voters if they win Delhi elections—AAP promised bus free travel for women and students men and women. It promised 50% concession on Delhi Metro fares for students. Again AAP promised up to 200 units free electricity to people of Delhi and 50% subsidy beyond and water for water for Delhiites and Tenants.BJP promised Rs 500 subsidy on LPG Cylinders and one free cylinder each during Holi and Diwali and all Delhi government welfare schemes including free electricity and free bus rides will continue. It promised up to Rs 5 Lakh health insurance by central government and additional insurance up to Rs 5 Lakh by Delhi government. Further BJP went one step ahead and promised free education for needy students from Kindergarten to postgraduate level in government institutions. On the other hand Congress promised free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh for every resident of Delhi in hospitals. It also promised LPG cylinder at Rs 500 to people of Delhi. Congress will provide Ration Kit which will include 5kg Rice,2kg sugar ,1 liter oil,6 kg lentils,250 gram of tea leaves. It also promised free electricity up to 300 units. In fact all the three parties that is AAP,BJP and Congress has opened its Pitara of freebies and have outnumbered each other by heaping huge freebies irrespective of its effect upon the government exchequer and the adverse impact upon the economy. It election season in Delhi seems to be the season of offering and promising freebies to the voters of Delhi. Now AAP is no longer a lone party to promise revedei's and freebies to the voters in order to induce them to vote in its favor. The BJP and the Congress are not lagging behind in promising freebies in the ongoing assembly polls in Delhi. It seems that all the three parties contesting assembly polls are on more or less on the same page so far as promising of poll freebies is concerned. It will now be difficult for the voters of Delhi to make a fair choice since all the contesting parties are promising olive branch of freebies to the electorate and it is to be seen in whose favor the balance of votes will tilt. One thing is obvious that it is in fact the poor people, and those living in Guggi Joffidies who will get lured and attracted to vote on the basis of poll freebies. Besides all marginalized sections of Delhi population and even lower middle class will also be lured to vote on the bases of poll freebies. Rich people and those who live at the higher strata of society are hardly impacted by the promise of distribution of revedie's and freebies. Thus in case of Delhi polls, the poll outcome may again be dictated by the poll freebies as they will not be induced to vote for a political party on the base of its poll freebies. But in the ongoing Delhi assembly election, all the three contesting parties are upbeat with promising poll freebies to Delhiite's not withstanding its adverse impact on the purse of the government. Again all the three parties of AAP,BJP and Congress are unmindful of the effect of the revedie's and freebies as well as popular schemes on the economic health of the country. But they are only busy in promising poll freebies to the electorate of Delhi to by hook or crook lure voters to their side. There is tough competition in all the three parties of AAP,BJP & Congress in giving promises regarding freebies and in offering the green pastures of Revedie's to voters of national capital in order to woo them to their side. The future of Ravedie politics will be decided after the results of Delhi polls.It will only be clear after the counting of votes on 8 February 2025 which party will steal the show and be victorious in gaining power in Delhi and till then we should only wait and watch which side the political and poll wind will blow. It seems that this time also the broom of AAP may will appeal most to the poor and marginalized sections of Delhi ,but final picture will be clear after counting of the votes.

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

Holistic education can improve future employability

By: Vijay Garg

The success of school education hinges not just on the student's academic achievements but also on enhancing their social and emotional learning, according to the economic survey.

The survey indicates that India's school education system caters to 248 million students in 1.47 million schools, supported by 9.8 million teachers.

The survey indicates that India's school education system caters to 248 million students in 1.47 million schools, supported by 9.8 million teachers.

The economic survey stresses the need for holistic education to improve the employability of the workforce in the future. It also emphasises the need for online and offline education models to complement each other, an essential requirement that emerged after the pandemic.

The survey indicates that India's school education system caters to 248 million students in 1.47 million schools, supported by 9.8 million teachers. Government schools constitute 69% of these institutions, educating 50% of the student population with 51% of the teaching staff. Conversely, private schools represent 22.5% of schools, teaching 32.6% of students with 38% of teachers.

The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 targets achieving a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), by 2030. Currently, GER is almost universal at the primary level, at 93%. Initiatives are being taken to close the enrollment gaps at the secondary level (77.4%) and higher secondary level (56.2%), moving the country towards its goal of inclusive and equitable education for all. GER is the percentage of students enrolled in one level of education compared to the population of that age group.

Declining dropout rates

Moreover, recent years have seen a steady decline in school dropout rates, now at 1.9% for primary, 5.2% for upper primary, and 14.1% for secondary education. Despite these improvements, challenges remain in student retention, with rates at 85.4% for primary education (classes I to V), 78% for elementary (classes I to VIII), 63.8% for secondary (classes I to X), and 45.6% for higher secondary (classes I to XII)

"The dropout rates among school children have reduced in schools, but they are still high at 1.9% for primary schools, 5.2% for upper primary schools and 14.1 % at secondary schools," said Kamlesh Vyas, partner at consulting firm Deloitte India.

"All these students need to be put in training programmes or back into schools if we have to leverage our demographic dividend. What the data doesn't tell us is the literacy and numeracy levels of the children who are not dropping out. That has to be a focus area as well," he added.

The success of school education hinges not just on the student's academic achievements but also on enhancing their social and emotional learning (SEL). "A good education enhances a child's mental and physical health, academic performance, and life skills," the survey states. It also draws attention to mental health issues in the workforce.

Although online learning and digital technology have broadened educational access, the time-honoured approach of classroom-based education still retains significant value. The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a cost-effective remedial programme, bringing education directly to students' doorsteps. This initiative aims to bridge the educational disparities of the pandemic, promote equity and enhance learning outcomes.

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

Lecturer Forum calls on School Education Minister, plea for addressing regularisation issue

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: A delegation of All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum led by Pardeep Singh Rakwal, President Jammu Division; Mohd Younus Gurezi (Forum President for Kashmir Division), Dr Manzoor Ahmed, Chairman Schoool Education Employees Co-ordination Committee (SEECC), J&K UT, and RS Salathia, Chairman, called on Minister of School Education, Sakina Masood Itoo in her office Chamber at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Among various issues aimed at providing quality education to the students at +2 level in the light of NEP 2020, the issue of Regularisation of incharge lecturers prominently figured in the meet with the minister.The delegation apprised Sakina Itoo of the trauma, harassment and agony the incharge lecturers were subjected to.She was informed by the high power delegation that the incharge lecturers were supposed to be regularised within six months of their elevation but they had been rendered unregularised for years together for no genuine or valid reason.

The Minister was also told that regularisation of Incharge lecturers was not going to put any additional burden on the financial health of the state exchequer because they were already working against the vacant sanctioned posts of Lecturers which was already included in the J&K budget.

Reacting to the issue of regularisation of incharge lecturers, Sakina Masood *Itoo said immediately directed Additional Chief Secretary (Administrative Secretary School Education Department), Shantmanu to put up the file of regularisation of incharge lecturers for convening DPC meet .

The prompt action on the part of Education Minister, Sakina Masood Itoo was welcomed by all the members of the delegation, which , besides Rakwal, Gurezi, Dr Manzoor and Salathia was comprised of Ghar Singh Ramesh Kumar Padroo, Gh Nabi Malik, Rajnish Raina, Showkat Ahmed Zargar, Tariq Ahmed, RK Uppal, Shafquat Hussain, Mohd Yousuf , Shahid Ahmed (All senior office bearers of the forum from both Divisional bodies of the forum) and others.

An eight- point memorandum containing burning issues of the officers of entire +2 cadre was presented to Education Minister, who discussed the points with the delegation.

The issues that were raised by the delegation of Lecturers ' Forum in the memorandum include Filling up of vacant posts of Principals by promoting senior lecturers, grant of ACP to fulfil long pending demand of the Forum, repatriation of lecturers and left-out Principals from Zone 5 and other districts, removal of Lookafter/ Incharge tag from Principals, provision of vacational status to Principals and regularisation of Principals.

Meanwhile Pardeep Koul , District President, All J&K +2 Lecturers ' Forum Kishtwar, Surinder Madhyal (Kathua President), Jagjit Singh (Poonch President), and all other District Presidents, in a statement, have welcomed the prompt directives of Madam Sakina Masood Itoo, Minister of School Education to ACS, Shantmanu for putting up the file for regularisation of Incharge lecturers and expressed the hope that assurances would change into action very soon.

At the end, the delegation expressed gratitude to the minister for being sympathetic to the genuine issues of the officers of +2 cadre with the firm hope that regularisation of Incharge lecturers would be completed in shortest possible time to bring incharge lecturers out of the trauma so that they could focus on their work instead of visiting offices to get their overdue right.

JKESL condemns terrorist attack on ex-serviceman in Kulgam

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: J&K Ex-Services League (JKESL) condemned terrorist attack on ex-serviceman in Kulgam on February 3, 2025.

Unidentified terrorists attacked three citizens- namely Manzoor Ahmed Waghey, a veteran soldier, was martyred, seriously injuring wife, Aaina Akhtar, and niece Saina Hameet – at Behibagh in Kulgam.

The cowardly act of terror on unarmed citizens was perpetrated by the inimical elements who do not want peace and prosperity in today's Kashmir. In this dastardly act of terror even the innocent women & child were not spared.

Waghey, who retired from army in 2021, had received bullet injury in stomach, his wife & niece had leg injuries. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. Waghey was from Territorial Battalion (H&H) based in South Kashmir. The aim of this attack could be to create fear in the mind of the general public and distract younger generations from joining the Territorial Battalion (H&H).

Security forces, comprising Police, CRPF & Army personnel, launched a search operation for the terrorists who fled after the attack.

JKESL strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack on Manzoor Ahmad Waghey & his family in Kulgam. The entire Ex-Servicemen community of J&K stands in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief and prayed for their speedy recovery.

Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Sharma, AVSM, SM (Retd), President, JKESL said in a Media briefing today that JKESL is fully committed for the welfare of veteran families & will provide all possible help to the aggrieved family.

JKNC delegation from Udhampur meets with Mubarak Gul

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: To appraise about the hardship faced by booth level workers, a delegation of the JKNC from Udhampur, met with Hai Mubarak Gul, former Speaker MLA Eidgah here on Thursday.

They expressed deep concern over the growing difficulties that workers have endured in the last many years, stating that their sufferings have increased manifold due to administrative apathy lack of employment opportunities and inadequate healthcare, and sanitation facilities link road connectivity, lack of drinking water etc.

The delegation was led by Ramesh Kumarm Zone Udhampur Reasi Vice-president. During the meeting, the delegation apprised Haji Mubarak Gul about the hardship being faced by booth level party workers due to the lack of basic amenities.

They highlighted several key issues including water and electricity shortages poor road connectivity.

Mubarak Gul gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that the present government headed by Omar Abdullah will take adequate measures to address these pressing concerns.

"The present government, under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, is determined to bring much-needed relief to the people.

We are committed to empowering people by ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities," he asserted.

Gul asked the delegation to strengthen the party base and actively engage in mobilizing support at the grassroots level.

He called upon them to gear up for the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body polls to ensure a strong NC presence in local governance.

GGM Science College organizes awareness lecture on J&K Startup Policy

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The Startup Committee and Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) of GGM Science College Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), organized an awareness lecture on "Startup Policy in Jammu and Kashmir" under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College.

The event, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 was aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurial skills among students.

Over 100 students from different semesters actively participated in the session, engaging in discussions about startup culture, government initiatives, and business development strategies.

The resource person for the session, Monika Salaria, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, provided an in-depth overview of the various schemes under the startup policy.

She highlighted key aspects of launching a sustainable and scalable business, government support mechanisms, and strategies to generate innovative business ideas.

Earlier Dr. Balwinder Kaur, Convener, Startup Committee of the College in her welcome address, emphasized the importance of viable business ideas and encouraged students to focus on uniqueness, feasibility, and competition. Students also shared their ideas, leading to an engaging professional discussion on transforming an idea into a successful entrepreneurial venture.

Participants were guided through interactive exercises designed to enhance their creative thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Dr. Vandana Khajuria (HOD English) appreciated the efforts of the Startup and IIC Committees, encouraging them to organize more such initiatives in the future.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed faculty members, including Dr. Narinder Kumar (HOD Zoology), Dr. Ajay Singh Dadwal (Convener, Institution Innovation Council), Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Dr. Chaman Lal, Dr. Anil Kumar Verma, Dr. Arun Sharma, and Prof. Vishal Sharma.

The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Balwinder Kaur, expressing gratitude to the organizing team and participants for making the event a success.

Aryans in association with Max Hospital organises seminar

Cardiologist from Max interacted with Aryans Students

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: To raise awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh in association with Max Super Specialty Hospital Mohali organized a workshop on "How to prevent Heart Attack in Youngsters?" Dr Deepak Puri, Senior Director, Cardiovascular Thoracic surgery, Max Super Specialty Hospital Mohali interacted with students.

Dr Puri mentioned that According to recent World Health Organization data, CVDs claim approximately 17.9 million lives annually, accounting for 32% of all global deaths. This burden is particularly pronounced in low- and middle-income countries, where nearly 80% of these deaths occur. The economic impact

of heart diseases is equally concerning, with healthcare costs and lost productivity creating substantial financial strain on both healthcare systems and families.

Dr Puri elaborated about risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and smoking continue to rise globally, further exacerbating this public health crisis. There is an urgent need to strengthen public health initiatives focused on heart disease awareness. Making an effort to create awareness around heart diseases, he said. Mrs Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Aryans College of Nursing was present.

Ganesh Sharma's art works to be displayed in "Sculpture Rocks" at Triveni Kala Sangam

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Well known Eminent Senior contemporary Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma's latest art works Sculptures to be displayed in "Sculpture Rocks" at New Delhi's very prestigious art gallery, "Triveni Kala Sangam" . "Sculpture Rocks" an exhibition of Twenty Seven (27) Senior and eminent Sculptors invited from across the country. The prestigious exhibition is organized by "Artorii Advisory", and curated by Parveen Mahto. Exhibition preview will be held on 11th of February 2025, and the exhibition will continues till 17th of February 2025.

The participating invited eminent senior contemporary Sculptors from different parts of the country are Angelina Rask, Bhumika Sharma, Bhupat Dudi, Brijesh Kumar, Chandrashekhar Bheda, Dharminder Kumar, Ganesh Kumar Sharma, Gangadhar Mahto, Harpreet Singh, Inderpal, Mohd. Sultan Alaam, Narinder J S Maloya, Parminder Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Rajinder Parshad Singh, Satyendra Kumar, Seema Singh, Sheela Chamaria, Shiv Raj Singh, Siraj Sexena, Sohrab Ali, Sonal Lall, Sushank Kumar, Suraj KantSwain, Umashankar Pathk, and Vikash Dhaman.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma State, National and International Awardee eminent Sculptor from Jammu and Kashmir UT has been invited for this prestigious sculptures art exhibition.

It is mentioned here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working in the field of art and culture from more than forty five years and participating regularly in national and international art exhibitions, group shows and seminars.

Army conducts medical patrol at Argi, Bharakh

Top News Report

RAJOURI/REASI , Feb 6: The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in remote areas of Bharakh, Danti and Phagla villages of Rajouri and Reasi district for locals, gujjar and bakkarwals.

The patrol provided on the spot medical services and check-ups, including basic health examinations, common illness treatment and medicine distribution.

By providing medicines, knowledge about illness prevention, diet and hygiene, the patrol educated the locals on preventive healthcare.

The locals expressed deep gratitude for the initiative taken by the Indian Army for providing healthcare at their doorsteps. A total of 71 villagers including 37 men and 34 women benefited from the medical patrol.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office : 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor : M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor : Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No : (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.
e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com
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People are more open in relationships today but the simplicity of love still exists, says filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya

He says stories of love and togetherness, of sentiments and sanskar. After winning the audience with his blockbusters Maine Pyar Kiya, Hum Aapke Hain Koun and Hum Saath Saath Hain, among others, Sooraj Barjatya is all set to bring his trademark style of storytelling to OTT. He debuts as a showrunner with Bada Naam Karenge, which is all set to premiere on SonyLIV on February 7.

The leading man of Rajshri Productions, Barjatya was open to OTT but on demand always was a racy, crime thriller aimed at urban audiences. 'The audience is not yet ready for family entertainers," he was told during multiple meetings with different platforms. When SonyLIV approached him for a 'Rajshri' show aimed at family viewership, Barjatya was pleasantly surprised. "Post the pandemic, different generations subscribed to the OTT. And many I met expressed their desire to see something beyond violence and vulgarity, kind of a family entertainment. When Sony approached us to make a show that brings families together, it was very inspiring and exciting."

Keeping it simple

Bada Naam Karenge is what he calls komalata se bhari hui kahani. It's about two youngsters from small places, living in Mumbai, trying to fit in while also trying to stay true to who they are. Do the audience get the quintessential hero 'Prem' back in Bada Naam Karenge? "To some extent, yes. I always get blamed that my heroes are too politically 'correct'. I have asked our story writer Manasvi and director Palash Vaswani to take liberty and expand."

The lead pair comprises newcomers Ritik Ghanshani and Ayesha Kaduskar, who play Rishabh and Surbhi, respectively. They want to make big in this world while also taking the families along. "How these two fall in love and try to balance both the worlds forms the crux of our show," avers Barjatya.

Ties of love

Love has been the central themes in all his films, and this one is no different. Has the definition of love changed from his very first Maine Pyar Kiya in 1989 to now in 2025 with Bada Naam Karenge? "People are sure more open in relationships today, but that simplicity of love still exists. Prince Charming has stayed, as has the desire to marry someone who has qualities of one's mother. So many Korean shows today are essentially Mills and Boon stories. So, love has stayed through it all."

In the times when stories are full of blood and gore, Barjatya wants to stick to his formula. "All kinds of stories should be made—all nav ras. True love exists and these are the stories we want to keep telling."

He recalls how once when he met his guru Mahesh Bhatt (he assisted him in Saaransh), he was asked about what he was up to. Sooraj told him that they were shooting a scene of juta chupana for Hum Aapke Hain Koun. "He told me, 'jab tak joote chipate rahoge success milti rahegi'. What he meant was as long as I was true to myself, all would be well." Barjatya has taken his master's lesson well.

Good things in the world

Awards, blockbusters, commercial success and now a National Award for his last directorial Uunchai, what does he want next? "Not many youngsters come to watch my films, but those who come bring their bau ji, mamis and buas along. That gives me immense happiness."

Despite being firm in his beliefs, Barjatya doesn't want Rajshri to be constricted to his viewpoint only. The reins of business are also being held by his sons Avnish Barjatya and Devaansh Barjatya. Avnish is a director, who helmed Dono recently, while Devaansh heads TV and OTT division. "Maine Pyar Kiya and Hum Aapke Hain Koun came decades back and I still get love for those films. On the weekends, the films are still aired on TV. So, I tell my sons Avnish and Devaansh and now that Plash (Vaswani) has joined us, to stick to Rajshri's core but also feel free to expand. Its 75 years of Rajshri legacy, take it forward."

Personal note

While we have loved the world Sooraj Barjatya paints, when not working he loves to read Hindi literature. He has just finished the Bhagavad Gita and is into reading the Purans now. He meditates regularly. "Earlier, I would do one film in four to five years, now there are films, TV shows and OTT and the business side as well, so barely get free time," he shares. Among his most favourite films, he counts Sound of Music as the top. "It's a lovely family story, a kind of a dream where the 'right' wins," he says. Among his favourite actors, of course, there are Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit. Among directors, he names Raj Kapoor as his favourite. Ask him about a song, and he croons Gadi Bula Rahi Hai from the film Dost. "I believe growing up in Agra and watching trains touched something in my core. Gadi Bual Rahi Hai has stayed with me ever since."

It is a conscious decision: Neil Nitin Mukesh on playing grey roles

Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh says he made a "conscious decision" to take on grey roles right from his 2007 debut with Sriram Raghavan's "Johnny Gaddaar".

His latest film "Hisaab Barabar", which is streaming on ZEE5, is another addition to his filmography populated by anti-hero roles in movies, including "Players", "7 Khoon Maaf", "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo", "Wazir", "Kaththi" (Tamil), and "Kavacham".

"Hisaab Barabar" features R Madhavan in the role of Radhe Mohan Sharma, a railway ticket checker who uncovers a small discrepancy in his bank account. It soon leads to a dangerous journey filled with fraud, deceit and corruption. Neil portrays Mickey Mehta, a ruthless banker in the movie.

"I love playing such (grey) roles. This is a conscious decision from the very beginning of my career. As an actor, you have to be aware of your strengths, weaknesses, what your audience expects of you and what you want to do, and also be reminded that it's not easy because every shade of grey is different, every character is very different. Every shade and character will have its own trait," Neil told agency in an interview.

Citing the example of Hollywood stars Jack Nicholson and Heath Ledger, the actor said it's great to see top actors playing antagonists.

"Today, your heroes only want to play dark roles," he added.

Even then, Neil wants to maintain a balance between "good and bad roles".

"I like that range. I try to get some kind of human element into my shade of grey like some guys are bad, and some have a human side to them. With this character of Mickey Mehta, I've tried to imbibe a certain human element into him."

The actor said he was initially sceptical about boarding the cast of "Hisaab Barabar" as the plot appeared similar to his Tamil film "Kaththi". Fronted by Vijay, the 2014 movie also had a "common man versus system" kind of commentary.

"I was like, 'Should I be doing something similar?' What happens is that subconsciously there are similar traits. But when I heard the story, I felt there was yet another flavour that I could offer. My character is not just a bad guy, who's doing bad things, he is somebody who believes what he's doing is right. He is all doing it with conviction and it has been presented in a comedic way," Neil added.

Also featuring Kirti Kulhari and Rashami Desai, "Hisaab Barabar" is described as "a gripping narrative of financial fraud, corruption and the relentless pursuit of justice".

"It has a very strong message that needs to reach a certain audience, and also tries to make them aware of a certain situation that might happen. It is being told in a very comical way, in a satirist way, and it layered the film beautifully," the actor said.

"Hisaab Barabar" is directed by Ashwni Dhir, known for "One Two Three", "Atithi Tum Kab Jaoge?" and "Son of Sardaar". Produced by Jio Studios and SP Cinecorp, the film has been released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Yo Yo Honey Singh to join forces with Shael Oswal

Music lovers are in for a treat as the maestro of melody, Shael Oswal, will be joining hands with rap king Yo Yo Honey Singh. Given that both artistes master a different genre of music, their collaboration is expected to bring out something unique. Shared Yo Yo, "Bringing my rap game to Shael's signature romance is a vibe like never before! This track is gonna be a whole mood—get ready for 2025." Shael stated, "Music is all about evolution, and this collaboration with Yo Yo is something fresh, unexpected, and absolutely electrifying. Can't wait for the world to hear what we've created." Over and above this, it looks like Yo Yo Honey Singh is set to enter another professional association soon. Recently, Pakistani singer, Ali Zafar dropped a picture with the rapper on his official Instagram account. The photograph shows both musicians seated in a music room filled with large speakers, a massive screen and a small one.

Vicky Kaushal opens up on how he prepared for his role in Chhaava

Actor Vicky Kaushal, who is gearing up for the release of his film Chhaava, has shared how he prepared for the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. The movie has been directed by Laxman Utekar. Produced under the banner of Maddock Films, Chhaava is a period drama that portrays the legendary story of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, played by Vicky Kaushal. The film is set to depict the courageous Maratha ruler's legendary reign, beginning with his coronation in 1681.

During the film's promotion in Jaipur, Vicky said, "A biopic needs a lot of preparation work not only for an actor, but for the entire team. Working on a historical subject is really challenging because of the huge budget required for creating a different era on screen. We have tried to make it as realistic as possible," he said. "As an actor, the preparation is not only physical but also mental. There was action training, bodybuilding training and also research on the history, as it was important to understand that period," he added.

The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Akshaye Khanna. Vicky recalled how during the shooting of Zara Hatke Zara Bachke director Laxman Utekar told him about the film. "He told me this would be our other film. I had read about Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in history books, so got very excited about the project. But I needed to do more research to know finer details. I never played the character of a fighter before and there was an emotional connection. Moreover, I had never done a historical film." Zara Hatke Zara Bachke is a 2023 film starring Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan.

Chhaava is touted to be a 'stirring tale of the courageous warrior whose coronation in 1681 marked the beginning of a legendary reign'. He continued, "Laxman sir showed me a sketch and I said 'he looked like a lion'. He said 'I want a lion'. I needed time, so we took seven months in which I gained 25 kg, learned horse-riding and sword-fighting, and then when he was satisfied finally, we started shooting. So, overall it took four years to complete this film." The movie is slated for release in theatres on February 14.

Diljit Dosanjh treats this disease with a simple trick

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, whose Dil-Luminati Tour has been a massive rage across the globe, is sharing tips on how to combat tension in routine life.

The actor-singer took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he can be seen giving advice to people on how to keep tension at bay. The video shows Diljit treating the tension of different people with one slogan, "Tension mitra nun hai nahi".

He wrote in the caption, "Tension, ye Bimari Kis Kis Ko Hai? (Tension - Who all have this disease?)".

One of the instances in the video also shows Diljit poking fun at the government advisories on his shows when international music artists don't get issued any such advisory. Diljit appeared to me making a backhanded comment on the recently concluded Coldplay shows in India.

Earlier, the actor-singer had shared the first look from his upcoming movie 'Punjab '95'. He took to his Instagram, and shared an array of pictures in which he can be seen in his character from the film.

He wrote in the caption, "I Challenge the Darkness. Punjab 95".

The film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra. He was the director of a bank in the city of Amritsar in Punjab during the militancy period in Punjab. Following Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, the police were empowered to detain suspects for any reason, ostensibly as suspected terrorists.

The police were accused of killing unarmed suspects in staged shootouts and burning thousands of dead bodies to cover up the murders. Khalra was investigating four major cases at one time and continued to collect evidence and witnesses.

The Central Board of Film Certification in India had proposed 120 cuts in the film to the makers. There was no certainty over the exhibition of the film given its sensitive subject matter. However, following Diljit's meteoric rise and global attention, it seems that the film will be finally able to see the light of day.

Meanwhile, Diljit also recently met the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in the national capital. The two spoke about various subjects, and Dilit even sang for the PM.

I hope to work for 20 more years: Shahid Kapoor

Ever since his debut in 2003, Shahid Kapoor has given memorable characters and even performed in hip-swaying songs. The Bollywood star says he is 'very passionate' about what he does and hopes to give it his best professionally for the next two decades. From Mauja Hi Mauja, Mat Maari, Tu Mere Agal Bagal Hai, Saree Ke Fall Sa, Dhating Naach, Aaja Ve Mahi and Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Shahid has given unforgettable hook steps to many songs in his films. "I am very passionate about what I do. And the more time I spend doing it, my passion grows. I want to give it my best each time," he shared. The actor, whose latest release is Deva, expressed gratitude for having got a chance to work with some great people in the industry, who have helped him etch memorable characters and songs in the mind of audiences. "As you spend more years as an actor, it helps you realise and recognise how fortunate you have been when you look back at your body of work and you feel like, man, I got some great opportunities to work with some great people, you know, and I'm fortunate to have been in that position." The 43-year-old star expressed his desire to work for many more years to come. "I have got the love of audiences for 21 years now and hope to work for another 20. You want to grow, you want to evolve," he said.

S Jaishankar Meets PM Modi Amid Deportation Of 104 Indians From US

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, amid an uproar over the deportation of 104 Indians who entered US illegally.

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, amid an uproar over the "inhuman" deportation of 104 Indians who entered US illegally.

The Union minister is also likely to deliver a statement in the Parliament on the matter at 3 pm. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned within minutes of convening for the day as the Opposition demanded a discussion on the "deeply distressing and humiliating" manner of deportation.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said Indians have been deported before too, but never in the manner immigrants were transported from US to India. "This is

never a manner that Indians were deported. Handcuffing of our people is an insult," he said.

A US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, the first such batch of Indians deported by the Donald Trump government as part of a crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Of them, 33 each are from Haryana and Gujarat, 30 from Punjab, three each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and two from Chandigarh. Nineteen women and 13 minors, including a four-year-old boy and two girls, aged five and seven, were among the deportees, sources told agency.

The deportees were questioned inside the airport terminal building by different government agencies, including the Punjab Police, and various state and central intelligence agencies to check if they have any criminal record.

Those living in Amritsar were taken to their homes in police vehicles, while those from Gujarat landed at the Ahmedabad airport earlier this morning.

The US action came just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 13 visit to Washington for wide-ranging talks with President Donald Trump.

PM, Sadhguru, Deepika, Massey in all new avatar of Pariksha pe Charcha this Feb 11

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): In the all new avatar of Pareeksha pe Charcha, this year prime minister Narendra Modi will be accompanied by leaders from across segments -- the fields of films, spirituality and nutrition.

The following will be part of the annual event which PM addresses in the format of engagement with students -- Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Deepika Padukone, Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, nutritionist Rujuta Divekar, actors Vikrant Massey and Bhumi Pednekar.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 edition is scheduled for 11 am on February 10 and will be telecast on multiple platforms including DD.

Thirty-six students from all states/UTs to directly interact with PM Modi at Pariksha Pe Charcha.

From Mental Health to Technology, Top Experts across broad spectrum to join Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 to guide students in the most engaging and interactive manner.

Education ministry added that PPC 2025 had set a record with 5 Crore participation nationwide.

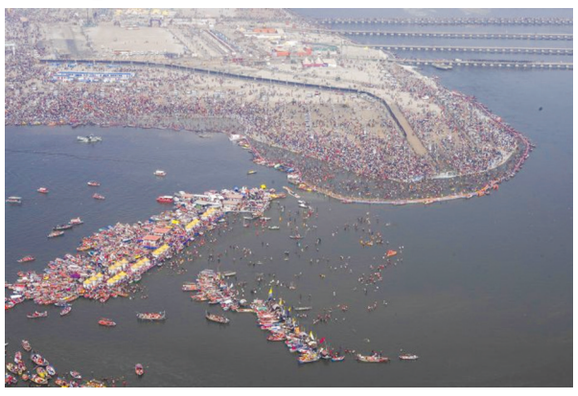
Akharas lower their flags, begin leaving Maha Kumbh

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, Feb 6 (Agencies): The Maha Kumbh officially concludes on February 26, but it is time to move on for the 13 akharas that define the essence of the grand congregation. And the first sign of their departure is the lowering of their respective flags.

Following the final 'Amrit Snan' on Basant Panchami on Monday, the akharas have began leaving with a traditional 'kadhi pakoda' meal. The 13 akharas belong to different sects of 'sanyasis' (worshippers of Lord Shiva), bairagis (followers of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna), and udasins (devotees of the five deities).

Nearly 150 seers of the Bairagi sect's Panch Nirvani Akhara began leaving on Tuesday. About 35 are left. "Once Thakur ji (the deity) is ceremoniously moved, the 'dharma dhwaja' (religious flag) will be loosened," said Mahant Raju Das of Shri Panch Nirvani Ani Akhara, associated with Hanuman Garhi in Ayodhya.

The Naga sanyasis of



Juna akhara will start their departure on February 7.

"Our akhara will hold the 'kadhi pakoda' feast on February 7 after which the seers will begin loosening the ropes of the 'dharma dhwaja' and start their departure," Juna akhara's international spokesperson Shri Mahant Narayan Giri told PTI,

He said they will first head to Kashi, where they will stay till Mahashivartri. There, they will participate in a grand procession, visit Kashi Vishwanath, play 'Masane Ki Holi' (a unique Holi celebration among ascetics), and take a ritual dip in the Ganga before proceeding to their respective monasteries and ashrams.

Sadhus of the Awahan and Panch Agni akharas will also hold similar processions in Kashmir before heading back to where they came from, Giri said.

Within the Bairagi akharas, some will travel to Ayodhya and others to Vrindavan. Members of the Udasin and Nirmal akharas will proceed towards Punjab, particularly Anandpur Sahib.

According to Giri, after Basant Panchami, the Maghi Purnima and Mahashivaratri holy dips at the Maha Kumbh are primarily for general devotees. The seers of the akharas do not stay back for these occasions.

Attempt to push RSS agenda: Rahul slams govt at protest against draft UGC regulations

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged the UGC's draft regulations on the appointment of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges was an attempt to push the agenda of the RSS that aimed to achieve its idea of imposing "one history, one tradition, one language" on the country.

Speaking at a protest against the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations organised by the DMK here, the opposition leader in the Lok Sabha said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) aim was the eradication of all other histories, cultures and traditions of the country.

"That is its starting point and that is what it wants to achieve. It attacks the Constitution because it wants to achieve one idea which is its idea — one history, one tradition, one language — on this country," the former Congress chief said.

"This attempt that it is doing with the education system of different states is just another attempt to push its agenda," Gandhi said.

"Each state has its traditions, history, language and that is why I keep saying that, in the Constitution, India is called a 'Union of States', that means all these histories, traditions, languages come together to make India the Union of States and so that is how we have to think about it," he said.

"We have to respect all the languages, all the cultures, all the traditions, all the histories and we have to understand where they are coming from," he said.

The Tamil people have their history, language, traditions, and they have had their struggles, he said.

"Doing this is an insult to the Tamil people and also to all other states where the RSS is trying to impose its hegemony," he said of the UGC's draft regulations.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also hit out at the BJP-RSS, alleging that they wanted to take over all the power of state governments.

"They want to make politicians servants of industrialists. We can never support the new education policy… I am supporting all the students here and the decision that you have taken. I am against the NEP (National Education Policy). I am against the BJP," he said.

The Congress has termed the draft UGC regulations on the appointment of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges "draconian and anti-Constitution", and demanded that those be immediately withdrawn.

Hitting out at the Centre over the draft regulations, the Congress on Wednesday said the justification that the rules had been updated for compliance with NEP, 2020, did not withstand scrutiny and must be rolled back.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh had said the State Higher Education Ministers' Conclave was hosted in Bengaluru by Karnataka minister MC Sudhakar, with six ministers or their representatives from Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand (all-opposition ruled states) adopting a 15-point resolution on the UGC's "draconian" draft regulations.

"The constitutional principle of federalism is sacrosanct and the quality of higher education should be one of the ultimate endeavours of the Union Ministry of Education. NEP, 2020, does not prevail over either and the justification that the rules have been updated for compliance with NEP, 2020, does not withstand scrutiny," he had said.

Ramesh had asserted that these draft regulations must be rolled back immediately.

The conclave was organised by the Karnataka government's Department of Higher Education on Wednesday to discuss the various provisions of the draft University Grants Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education Regulations, 2025, and grading of higher education institutions based on the implementation of NEP, 2020.

Quite unnecessary, says Tharoor over alleged mistreatment to deported Indian nationals

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday expressed dismay over the alleged mistreatment to Indian nationals, who were recently deported from the US.

He, however, said the US had the right to deport people if they were staying illegally in the country.

Member of Parliament Tharoor said it was not good to hear that these deported Indian nationals were brought back "forcibly in a military plane and handcuffed".

"That was quite unnecessary. It should have been enough to put them on a commercial aircraft or civilian aeroplane and send them back. If you want to do a mass deportation, do in civilian charters. That would have been the more humane thing

to do," said Tharoor, as quoted by agency.

He said, "By and large, these people had no bad intentions, they are not criminals, they are not convicted of anything else. They are there to make a better life for themselves which they have done by violating your laws so you can send them out. But, handcuffing and putting them in a military aircraft and sending them in this way, I think India should say that this is not entirely advisable...," he said.

Cong MP Tewari slams 'inhuman' treatment of illegal Indian immigrants

CHANDIGARH, Feb 6 (Agencies): Congress MP Manish Tewari on Thursday expressed anguish over handcuffing of illegal Indian immigrants, who were deported by the US government, calling it "absolutely inhuman".

A US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal immigrants from various states landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, the first such batch of Indians deported by the Donald Trump government as part of a crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Of them, 33 each were from Haryana and Gujarat, 30 from Punjab, three each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and two from Chandigarh.

Jaspal Singh, who was among deportees on Wednesday, claimed that they were handcuffed and legs were chained throughout the journey and those were taken off only after landing at the Amritsar airport.

Senior Congress leader and Chandigarh MP Tewari said, "This is absolutely inhuman to handcuff and shackle people, not allow them to even use the toilet for 40 hours while deporting them is medieval." "What is there crime? They went looking for a better life. They did it illegally but that does not make them criminals that they need to be bound hand and foot and treated worse than animals."

Questioning the Centre over the issue, Tewari said, "What is the point of all those summits with @realDonaldTrump if @PMOIndia & @DrSJaishankar cannot ensure that our country men are not treated in the most humiliating and degrading manner."

On Wednesday, the C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the US Air Force landed at the Amritsar airport.

The US action came just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington to hold wide-ranging talks with President Donald Trump.

Three Mahakumbh devotees run over by speeding train in Bihar

PATNA, Feb 6 (Agencies): Three people, including two women, were run over and killed by a speeding train in Bihar's Munger district early on Thursday.

The deceased identified as Ram Ruchi Devi (65), Amit Kumar (41) and Usha Devi (61) were returning home after taking a holy dip at

Sangam (Prayag Raj) on the occasion of Maha Kumbh.

The incident took place when the victims were crossing a railway track near the Rishikund railway halt on the Jamalpur-Sultanganj railway section of East Central Railway. Locals said the victims came in contact with the Gaya-Howrah Express while crossing tracks.

Poor visibility due to dense fog is being attributed as the reason for the tragedy.

Eyewitnesses said that the train that hit the victims was coming from Bariarpur and heading towards Jamalpur.

A big crowd assembled on the site after the incident.

Government railway police and those from the railway protection force dispersed the mob and sent the bodies to a hospital for post-mortem examination.

Trump order seeks to ban trans-gender women and girls from female sports

Order likely to face legal challenges, affects small number of athletes; Amnesty International calls the ban an attempt to 'stigmatise and discriminate against LGBTQ+ people'

WASHINGTON, Feb 6 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump signed an executive order attempting to exclude transgender girls and women from female sports, a directive that supporters say will restore fairness but critics say will infringe on the rights of a tiny minority of athletes.

The order directs the Department of Justice to make sure all government agencies enforce a ban on transgender girls and women participating in female school sports under Trump's interpretation of Title IX, a law against sex discrimination in education.

"The war on women's sports is over," Trump said at a signing ceremony with about 100 women and girls aligned behind him, many of the youngest ones wearing uniforms and sports jerseys.

"My administration will not stand by and watch men beat and batter female athletes." The order, which is likely to face legal challenges, threatens to cut off federal funding for any school that allows transgender women or girls to compete in female-designated sporting competitions.

It would affect only a small number of athletes. The president of the National Collegiate Athletics Association told a Senate panel in December that he was aware of fewer than 10 transgender athletes among the 530,000 competing at 1,100 member schools.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) welcomed the executive order for providing a clear national standard in the face of "a patchwork of conflicting state laws and court decisions", saying in a statement that it would conform its policy accordingly.

"The NCAA Board of Governors is reviewing the executive order and will take necessary steps to align NCAA policy in the coming days, subject to further guidance from the administration," the statement said.

Under the current policy, the NCAA requires transgender women athletes to meet testosterone limits on a sport-by-sport basis.

The issue has also connected with voters, who responded with enthusiastic applause when Trump mentioned bans on transgender athletes at his campaign rallies. He repeatedly aired television advertisements that criticised allowing transgender women and girls to compete in female sports.

Polls have found a majority of Americans oppose transgender athletes competing in sports that align with their gender identity, and 25 Republican-led states have passed laws that ban transgender girls from participating in girls' sports.

Federal courts have generally ruled in favour of letting transgender girls compete. A 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruling blocked Idaho's ban, while the 9th Circuit and the 4th Circuit have also stopped bans from being enforced against specific plaintiffs in West Virginia and Arizona. A federal district court judge in New Hampshire has blocked that state from enforcing its ban against two plaintiffs.

But the Biden administration's 2024 interpretation of Title IX that it protects transgender people from discrimination on the basis of sex was blocked by a federal judge in Kentucky in January.

TARGETING TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Wednesday's directive follows a series of other Trump executive orders restricting transgender rights, including one attempting to halt all federal support for healthcare that aids in gender transition for people under 19 and another that bans transgender people from serving in the military. Those orders encountered immediate legal challenges.

On his first day in office on January 20, Trump signed an order demanding government employees refer only to "sex" and not "gender", and declaring sex to be an "immutable biological reality" that precludes any change in gender identity.

Trump's order goes beyond high school and college sports, calling for the US government to deny visas for transgender females seeking to compete in the United States.

It will also instruct the State Department to pressure the International Olympic Committee to change its policy, which allows trans-athletes to compete under general guidance preventing any athlete from gaining an unfair advantage.

A White House official said the United States will use "all of our authority and our ability" to enforce the order in Olympic events on US soil. The 2028 Summer Olympics are due to be held in Los Angeles.

Chris Erchull, a senior staff attorney at the pro-LGBTQ legal group GLAD Law, said the various interscholastic athletics associations and coaches have successfully maintained fairness in sports for years, and banning trans-athletes does nothing to ensure fairness or safety.

"We're talking about a minuscule number of students. What's more, we're talking about students who aren't posing any threat to other girls in school sports, and yet there is this enormous effort to take away their rights," Erchull said. "It's an absurd way to approach those goals." Human rights organisation Amnesty International called the ban an attempt to "stigmatise and discriminate against LGBTQ+ people".

However, the order was cheered by Republicans in Congress including US Representative Tim Walberg, who criticised the Biden administration for trying to "unravel decades of progress made by women to appease the most radical fringes of its own base".

Bangladesh protesters vandalise houses of Awami League leaders after setting fire to Hasina's family house

DHAKA, Feb 6 (Agencies): Protesters in Bangladesh have demolished more houses of leaders of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and defaced murals of the country's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after they vandalised and set on fire the former family home of the deposed prime minister.

The unrest sparked after a live online address by Hasina.

Several thousand people rallied in front of Hasina's father Mujibur Rahman's house in the capital's Dhanmondi area, which was earlier turned into a memorial museum, early Wednesday following a social media call for "Bulldozer Procession" as Hasina was supposed to make her address.

An excavator later started demolishing the residence. The demolition was still underway on Thursday morning.

The residence of Hasina, Sudha Sadan, located on Road 5 in Dhanmondi, was also set on fire by protesters late on Wednesday, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Since the ousting of the Hasina-led government on August 5, Sudha Sadan had been completely vacated.

Protesters also demolished the Khulna home of Hasina's cousins Sheikh Helal Uddin and Sheikh Salauddin Jewel.

Thousands of people gathered around the house, chanting "Delhi or Dhaka—Dhaka, Dhaka" and "Down with Mujibism".

Ahsan Habib, additional deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star, "I have seen the news of the incident on Facebook, but I don't have further information." Sheikh Helal was the former MP of Bagerhat-1 and Sheikh Salahuddin Jewel was the former MP of Khulna-2.

Protesting students removed the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University.

The homes of former lawmaker of Kushtia-3 and Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and president of Kushtia Awami League Sadar Khan were ransacked.

Protesters in Chattogram took out a torch procession to demonstrate against Hasina's speech, which was broadcast from Bangladesh Awami League's social media handles last night.

They later defaced Sheikh Mujib's murals at Chittagong Medical College and in the city's Jamal Khan area.

Leaders and activists of Students Against Discrimination held a protest rally and a sit-in in the Bandar Bazar in Sylhet.

The mural of Mujib at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur was defaced by the protesters on Thursday.

In Barishal, demonstrators brought a bulldozer to the house of Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, former mayor of the city corporation and Hasina's relative. He owns a two-storey home in the city's Kalibari Road area.

Protesters vandalised a mural of Bangabandhu near the Circuit House ground in Mymensingh city with hammers and crowbars around 11:30 pm yesterday, Prothom Alo newspaper reported.

The "Mujib Mural" of Bangabandhu Hall was also vandalised at the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Trishal.

The mural of Mujibur Rahman and his wife Fazilatunnesa Mujib at the Chuadanga deputy commissioner's office was demolished around 12:15 am on Thursday, the Bangla Daily reported.

In Bhairab, Kishoreganj, the protesters vandalised the mural of Mujib at the upazila Awami League office and at the upazila parishad last night.

The student movement earlier promised to scrap Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution as they promised to bury the "Mujibist constitution" while some far-right groups also suggested a change of the national anthem adopted by Mujib-led post-independence government.

Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 last year when she fled Bangladesh following a massive student-led protest that toppled her Awami League's 16-year regime.

Hasina's father is widely viewed as an independence hero, but anger at his daughter has tarnished his legacy.

In a Facebook livestream, Hasina condemned the attack and demanded "justice".

"They can demolish a building, but they can't erase history," she said.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

US State Secy Marco Rubio refuses to attend G20 Summit in Johannesburg, cites "South Africa is doing very bad things"

WASHINGTON DC, Feb 6 (Agencies): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that he will not be attending the upcoming G20 summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, citing concerns over the country's actions, including the expropriation of private property.

He further criticised South Africa's use of the G20 platform to promote "solidarity, equality, and sustainability" to promote "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and climate change."

Sharing a post on X, Rubio said, "I will not attend the G20 summit in Johannesburg. South Africa is doing very bad things. Expropriating private property. Using G20 to promote "solidarity, equality, & sustainability." In other words: DEI and climate change."

Rubio emphasised that his primary responsibility is to safeguard America's national interests

He added, "My job is to advance America's national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism."

The G20 comprises 19 countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkiye, United Kingdom, and United States.

The G20 members include the world's major economies, representing 85 per cent of global Gross Domestic Product, over 75 per cent of international trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

Notably, South Africa assumed the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2024, through to November 2025.

The G20 Presidency rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries. The 19 member countries are therefore divided into five groups comprising a maximum of four countries each.

Most of the groups are formed on a regional basis, that is countries from the same region are usually put in the same group. Only Group 1 (Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and the United States) and Group 2 (India, Russia, South Africa and Turkiye) do not follow this pattern.

Group 3 includes Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico; Group 4 includes France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom; and Group 5 includes China, Indonesia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Two years on, survivors of Turkish earthquake still struggle with loss, hardship

ANKARA, Feb 6 (Agencies): Two years have passed since a devastating earthquake shattered Turkiye's southern region, but for Omer Aydin and many other of its survivors, the memory and the suffering remain fresh.

While struggling with a third winter in the cold inside a shipping container-like temporary housing unit, the single father of three is grappling with a cost-of-living crisis that is affecting the whole country as well as still trying to heal the scars from the disaster.

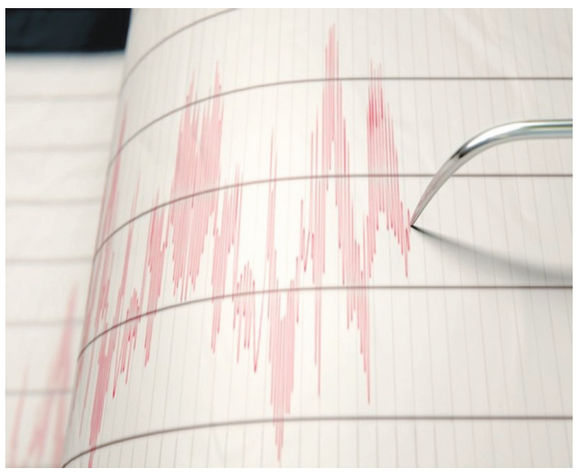
The 7.8-magnitude earthquake on February 6, 2023, and a second powerful tremor that came hours later, destroyed or damaged hundreds of thousands of buildings in 11 southern and southeastern Turkish provinces, leaving more than 53,000 people dead. Another 6,000 people were killed in neighbouring northern Syria.

It was one of Turkiye's worst disasters.

Aydin, a 51-year-old electrician who survived along with his elderly mother and his children, said sounds from the earthquake still echo in his mind.

"The sounds of the homes crashing down, the sounds of the cries for help ... I still shake when they come to my mind," Aydin told The Associated Press by telephone.

The house Aydin shared with his mother and children in the Mediterranean port city



of Iskenderun — in the worst-hit province of Hatay — split into two, he said. The family were lucky to get out without injuries, he said, but ended up spending four days in the cold inside a makeshift tent he constructed with plastic sheets and pieces of wood.

Aydin now lives in a container home at a temporary housing settlement called a "container city" in Iskenderun but is struggling to make ends meet on a small state pension that he says barely covers anything.

He occasionally finds work as an electrician but jobs in Iskenderun are scarce, he says.

He is the sole provider for his family. His oldest son, who is 26, is receiving cancer treatment and needs to travel regularly to a hospital in the city of Adana, some 135 kilometers (84 miles) away, adding to the financial burden. His youngest child, a daughter, is at school while his middle son is also unemployed while waiting to start his military service.

Life in the container city is a daily struggle, and sanitary conditions can be poor, he says.

His family will qualify to receive one of the hundreds of thousands of government houses that are under construction, but Aydin is worried about furnishing it or paying the bills once they move in.

"I don't even own a pin, what will I do once I move in?" he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said recently that 45 per cent of the earthquake housing had been completed by the end of 2024. The government was aiming to deliver a total of 452,983 homes, shops and other work spaces that it has promised by the end of 2025.

Jessie Thomson, the head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Organization in Turkiye, said nearly half a million people remain in temporary container cities two years after the earthquake struck.

"Hundreds of thousands continue to face immense challenges securing sustainable incomes, with depression and despair rising," Thomson said. "The road to recovery is long and arduous, demanding continued support and solidarity." Aydin told the AP that when he rests his head on a pillow, he prays that he won't wake up to face another day.

"I swear, every day when I go to bed and put my head on the pillow, I pray to God to not wake me up in the morning," he said.

Songul Erol, a 29-year-old mother of two girls aged 7 and 3, is slowly rebuilding her life in Samandag, another town in Hatay province, after spending months in tents and a container home.

With the help of funds provided by the Turkish Red Crescent to small businesses, she was able to rent a shop and reopen her business selling bait, nets, knives or other gear used by fishermen and hunters.

She has turned a room at the back of the shop into a living space for herself and her daughters, whose severe allergies were exacerbated by the conditions in the tents and the container home.

Haunted by memory of buildings that tumbled in Samandag, she told the AP in a video call that she has only one dream: "That is to move to a one-story house that is not surrounded by apartment buildings."

Argentina announces it will leave World Health Organization

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 6 (Agencies): Argentina has announced it will leave World Health Organization (WHO). Argentina's presidential spokesperson Manuel Adorni made the announcement regarding the decision, CNN reported.

While addressing a news conference, Adorni said, "President (Javier) Milei instructed (foreign minister) Gerardo Werthein to withdraw Argentina's participation in the World Health Organization."

"We Argentinians will not allow an international organization to intervene in our sovereignty, much less in our health," he added.

Manuel Adorni attributed Argentina's decision to "profound differences regarding... health management, especially during the pandemic that... led us to the longest lockdown in human history and a lack of independence in the face of the political influence of some states," CNN reported.

The announcement comes just weeks after US President Donald Trump signed an executive order, announcing the withdrawal of the US from WHO.

In a statement issued later, Argentina's presidential office accused WHO of causing economic damage during the COVID-19 pandemic by "(promoting) endless quarantines." The statement reads, "It is urgent to rethink from the international community why supranational organizations exist, funded by all, that do not meet the objectives for which they were created, engage in international politics, and seek to impose themselves above member countries." WHO works in Argentina. However, Adorni said Argentina did not receive finance from WHO for health management. He said, "Therefore, this measure... does not represent a loss of funds for the country nor does it affect the quality of services."

He claimed Argentina's withdrawal from WHO would give "greater flexibility to implement policies" in Argentina's interests and "greater availability of resources." He further said, "It reaffirms our path towards a country with sovereignty also in health matters," CNN reported.

Earlier in January, US President Donald Trump on the first day of his second term in office announced he planned to withdraw the United States from the global health agency.

Trump, who is considered an ideological ally by Milei, criticised WHO in his executive order on January, said its "mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic that arose out of Wuhan, China, and other global health crises, its failure to adopt urgently needed reforms, and its inability to demonstrate independence from the inappropriate political influence of WHO member states," were reasons for the US withdrawal from the global health agency.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed regret over the United States' announcement to withdraw from the global health agency and emphasised the importance of WHO in safeguarding the health and security of people worldwide, including Americans. However, the agency does hope that the United States will reconsider its decision and looks forward to engaging in "constructive dialogue" to maintain the partnership between the US and the agency for the health and well-being of millions around the globe.

Dr. Jitendra reiterates government's commitment to "Zero Tolerance Against Corruption", highlights various steps taken to curb it

Top News Report

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Feb 6: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterates government's commitment to "Zero Tolerance Against Corruption" and highlights various steps taken to curb it while answering to an unstarred question in Rajya Sabha, on Thursday.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the steps undertaken by the government.

Speaking on Systemic improvements and reforms to provide transparent citizen-friendly services and reduce corruption, he said, these, inter alia, include Disbursement of welfare benefits directly to the citizens under various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the Direct Benefit Transfer initiative; Implementation of E-tendering in public procurements; Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedure and systems; and Introduction of Government procurement through the Government eMarketplace (GeM).

Other steps undertaken vt government, Dr Jitendra said, discontinuation of interviews in recruitment of Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and Group 'C' posts in Government of India; INVOCATION of FR-56(j) and AIS(DCRB) Rules, 1958 for retiring officials from service in public interest whose performance has been reviewed and found unsatisfactory; THE All India Services (Disciplinary and Appeal) Rules and Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules have been amended to provide for specific timelines in the procedure related to disciplinary proceedings; the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been amended on 26.07.2018. It clearly criminalizes the act of giving bribe and will help check big ticket corruption by creating a vicarious liability in respect of senior management of commercial organizations; central Vigilance Commission (CVC), through various orders and circulars recommended adoption of Integrity Pact to all the organizations in major procurement activities and to ensure effective and expeditious investigation wherever any irregularity/misconduct is noticed.

The institution of Lokpal has been operationalised by appointment of Chairperson and Members. Lokpal is statutorily mandated to directly receive and process complaints as regards alleged offences against public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. In addition, the CVC as an apex integrity institution has adopted a multi-pronged strategy and approach to combat corruption, which encompasses punitive, preventive and participative vigilance.

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 (No. 17 of 2014) has been notified on 12th May 2014. In terms of provision of sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. No such notification has been made by the Government for the reason that the Act required amendments aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, Security of the State, etc., before it is brought into force. The government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May 2015 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May 2015 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha. The Bill has since lapsed upon the dissolution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha.

Vaanya Mahajan of Heritage School makes mark in India Book of Records

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Vaanya Mahajan, a student of Class IIC, at Heritage School, has earned the title of 'IBR Achiever' for identifying flags and naming 50 countries in just 30 seconds at the tender age of 8, as confirmed on January 6, 2025.

Vaanya's remarkable talent, honed in grammar and mapology classes at Caren N Berry, enabled her to identify and name the countries of all flags in just thirty seconds.

A video capturing her doing so within the given time was submitted to the IBR committee which then officially recognized her feat.

In recognition of her extraordinary ability, Vaanya has been awarded a certificate, a medal, a metal pen, an IBR badge and the IBR book of records. With this, she now proudly holds the title of 'IBR Achiever.'

This accomplishment goes beyond mere memorising, it highlights the importance of cognitive skills, memory training and the appreciation of global culture through the lens of the national flags.

Heritage School extended its heartfelt congratulations to Vaanya on this outstanding achievement and wishes her the very best in all her future endeavors.

We are incredibly proud of her and look forward to seeing her continue to shine in her academic and personal pursuits.

Cashify opens its 2nd retail store in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Cashify, India's leading re-commerce platform for pre-owned smartphones and gadgets, is strengthening its foothold in Jammu with the launch of its second retail store in the city, located in Prem Nagar.

Recognizing the rising demand for premium yet budget-friendly smartphones in tier-2 cities, Cashify is expanding to meet the evolving digital needs of consumers.

Jammu, a key trade and commerce hub in the region, has a growing base of businesses and industries that rely on technology. With smartphones and electronic devices becoming essential tools for work, education, and entertainment, the city presents an ideal opportunity for Cashify to provide high-quality, affordable, and sustainable smartphone solutions. The increasing trend of smartphone trade-ins and refurbished device purchases further reinforces the brand's decision to expand its retail presence here.

Cashify's newest retail outlet is designed to offer an all-in-one smartphone experience. Customers can sell old phones for maximum value to get instant payment for pre-owned devices at competitive market rates; buy certified refurbished smartphones

at unbeatable prices to save big on top-quality, warranty-backed devices that are nearly half the price of new ones; and discover premium mobile accessories to explore a wide range of high-quality accessories at the best deals besides get instant, reliable phone repairs with a 6-month warranty for complete peace of mind.

Mandeep Manocha, CEO & Co-Founder of Cashify, said, "It's exciting to see how steadily the demand for refurbished devices is growing. It reaffirms the shift towards smarter, more sustainable tech choices. At Cashify, our mission is to make premium technology both affordable and accessible, and our expansion into Jammu is a step towards bridging the digital divide. With this store, we're not just offering certified refurbished devices—we're building trust, enabling smarter upgrades, and driving a more circular economy for smartphones."

Three students from Anantnag represent in "Shotokan" International Karate Championship at Amritsar

Two win gold medals, one bags bronze

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Feb 6: Three students from South Kashmir's Anantnag represent in Shotokan International Karate Championship 2025. The Championship was held at Amritsar Punjab, in which four countries including India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Srilanka was participated in the Shotokan International championship.

The players who represent for Kashmir include Zaid Gulzar, Aaisha Aijaz and Mohammad Mukaram among two players hails from Dooru Shahabad and one from Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Anantnag District.

At least 500 students participated from 4 states in the Championship,in which 40 students from Jammu Kashmir was in queue and only 3 players from Amateur Dojo have been selected from Kashmir among two won Gold medals and one won Bronze medal.The Medals won by players include Zaid Gulzar (Gold) a student of Army Goodwill School Ujroo Qazigund, Aaisha Aijaz (Gold) a student of Decent Public School Dooru,and Mohd Mukkaram (Bronze) a student of Shemstar International School Qazigund.

While talking to our correspondent, Zaid said that all the credit for his win went to his parents as well as his coach, Aamir Gulzar who provided him with the platform to achieve the goal. Zaid & Aisha Aejaz sending a message to the youth said that the young generation must participate in such sports events and keep away from evils like drug addiction.

His coach Aamir Gulzar said that it was a proud moment for the family and not only the Anantnag district but it was proud movement of Jammu Kashmir.

He said that his students had worked hard since the beginning and that he got the fruit by the grace of Almighty Allah.

Amir said that 500 children from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and India was participated in playing karate at the intenational level, in which 40 children from Jammu and Kashmir participated, and among these 40 children, Zaid, Aisha Aejaz was the only child who won gold and another one student Mohammad Mukkaram won Bronze Medal while playing karate at international level.

Amir Gulzar Said, it is a pride and Glorous moment for Anantnag district that young players represent for International Games.

Meanwhile Zonal Physical Education Officer Dooru Bashir Ahmad said that it is a proud moment not only for Anantnag district but also for Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh that these young children have won gold medals by showing their talent at the international level.

He said that the youth should come to participate in sports activities as much as possible so that drugs can be eradicated.

FromPage No:1

Chandrayaan-4 to launch in 2027: Jitendra Singh

investment, and international collaborations, Singh said.

"With new infrastructure, increased private participation and record-breaking investments, India is poised for even greater achievements in the years to come," he said.

Delhi HC asks NIA to clarify stand on Er Rashid seeking custody parole to attend Parliament

the Registrar General of the Delhi High Court informed the court that the Registrar General has already approached the Supreme Court for clarification and will mention the matter tomorrow before the Supreme Court for urgent listing.

On last date of hearing, NIA opposed the interim bail plea of Baramulla MP Rashid Engineer, arguing that it was not maintainable and should be dismissed on merits. In its reply, the NIA said, "The present case is a classic case of misuse of Interim Bail provision which has to be used sparingly when intolerable grief and suffering is displayed by the concerned Accused."

NIA further stated that the Applicant/ Rashid Engineer has not specified in what manner he will be able to serve his constituency and vague averment has been made that he intends to "serve the constituency" and therefore the same is not a valid ground for grant of any relief whatsoever. "Moreover, the work done by the Applicant/ Accused is put to strict proof to the work done by the Applicant/ Accused in his constituency," it said.

Rashid's counsel Senior Advocate N Hariharan argued that while his bail petition was heard in August, the subsequent issue of jurisdiction had left him without a remedy.

The counsel for Rashid Engineer submitted that his entire constituency cannot go unrepresented for a long period as he was not granted interim bail during the last session as well. He pointed out that his regular bail is pending since September 2024.

Engineer has moved the High Court after Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Chander Jit Singh, the special judge assigned to NIA cases, declined to rule on his bail application on December 23. The judge stated that the court only had the authority to hear miscellaneous applications, not bail petitions.

Rashid was arrested in August 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). During his incarceration, he filed his nomination for the 2024 parliamentary elections from jail and won by a margin of 2,04,000 votes, defeating former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

In 2022, the NIA Court of Patiala House Court ordered the framing of charges against Rashid Engineer and several other key figures, including Hafiz Saeed, Syed Salahuddin, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, Masrat Alam, Zahoor Ahmed Watali, Bitta Karate, Aftab Ahmed Shah, Avtar Ahmed Shah, Naeem Khan, and Bashir Ahmed Butt (also known as Peer Saifullah).

The charges are part of an ongoing investigation into terror funding in Jammu and Kashmir, where the National Investigation Agency (NIA) alleges that various militant organizations, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and JKLF, collaborated with Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, to orchestrate attacks on civilians and security forces in the region.

The NIA's investigation claims that in 1993, the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) was formed to further separatist activities, with funding channelled through hawala and other covert methods. Hafiz Saeed, along with Hurriyat leaders, is accused of using these illicit funds to fuel unrest in Jammu and Kashmir, targeting security forces, inciting violence, burning schools, and damaging public property.

The agency contends that these operations were designed to destabilise the region and promote terrorism under the guise of political resistance.

Man arrested in Baramulla after video of Kaaba-Like structure surfaces on social media

conducted, and he will be taken to a psychiatric hospital after obtaining requisite orders from the Executive Magistrate," the statement said.

Baramulla Police has urged the general public to refrain from spreading rumors or misinformation regarding this incident on social media or any other platform.

"Circulating unverified information can lead to unnecessary panic and misinterpretation of facts, Police said, adding strict legal action will be taken against anyone found indulging in rumor-mongering or attempts to incite unrest.

"We request all citizens to maintain peace, communal harmony, and cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Any concerns or suspicious activities should be reported to the police through official channels," the police said.

Pakistan will take Hamas' help for terrorist attacks in Kashmir: VHP

did in support of Gaza."

He said: "Now all these anti-India elements have been exposed once again."

Bansal's remark came after Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commanders, and senior Hamas representatives, took part in Pakistan's propaganda exercise recently.

The rally indicates Pakistan's involvement with terrorist organisations to fuel unrest in the region.

Notably, Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently shared that after the abrogation of Article 370, terror incidents in J&K have reduced by 70 per cent.

Truck driver killed in army firing after allegedly ignoring security check in Baramulla

search of the truck in police custody is underway and investigation on antecedents of the suspect is in progress," they added on X.

Magisterial Inquiry Ordered Into Alleged Custodial Death in Kathua

inquiry into the death of Makhan, son of Murid, a resident of Billawar. The decision comes in response to the alleged custodial killing of the individual.

According to an official order issued today, Anil Kumar (JKAS), Tehsildar Lohai Malhar, has been appointed as the Inquiry Magistrate to investigate the case and ascertain the actual cause of death. He has been directed to submit a detailed report within five days.

The inquiry will involve recording statements from all relevant individuals and following all requisite legal procedures. The District Magistrate, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, has instructed the inquiry officer to ensure a comprehensive probe into the matter.

Copies of the order have been sent to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Billawar, and the appointed Inquiry Magistrate for necessary action.

The order states that further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.

DC Kishtwar approves 15 Rent Assessment Cases

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 6: The District Rent Assessment Committee, which met here today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, approved 15 rent cases.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, Social Welfare, JKRLM, Education, Health, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA and ISM Department were approved by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the fixation of rent for various structures where government offices are functioning across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers to pay rent to the concerned owners of land and structures on time and ensure the safety of government/rented property.

He further directed the District Officers to pay the approved rent only after proper verification of records.

One case was deferred by DC Kishtwar for the next meeting, subject to re-verification.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ASP Kishtwar Pawan Sharma, AD FCS&CA Shafqat Ali Keen, DNO Ayush, Dy. CEO, and other concerned officers and staff.

International Cancer Day and National cancer prevention month commemorated at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 6: On the occasion of International Cancer Day, the Centre for advanced research (CAR-SMVDU) and NSS Volunteers at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, organized an enlightening awareness lecture and poster competition on cancer prevention and risk factors.

The event was led by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology, along with his dedicated research team.

Dr. Kumar, along with research scholars Rajeshwer Jamwal, Minerva, Bhawani Sharma, and Agamya Gupta, delivered comprehensive lectures on various types of cancers, including lung cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, and gastrointestinal (GI) cancers.

The sessions focused on understanding cancer progression, identifying key risk factors, and promoting preventive measures to reduce cancer incidence. Addressing the students, Dr. Kumar emphasized the importance of early detection and lifestyle modifications in mitigating cancer risks.

He highlighted how environmental factors, genetic predisposition, and lifestyle choices contribute to cancer development.

The research scholars further elaborated on advancements in cancer research, recent treatment approaches, and the role of biotechnology in combating the disease.

The event witnessed active participation from students, fostering meaningful discussions on cancer awareness and the significance of scientific research in early diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, the NSS SMVDU organized a documentary screening on cancer awareness, followed by a poster competition on the theme.

The event provided a creative platform for students to showcase their understanding of cancer prevention and research through visually engaging posters.

A human chain was formed by student volunteers of NSS to showcase their support and commitment towards awareness and prevention of cancer.

The initiative was widely appreciated for its contribution to spreading crucial knowledge on cancer prevention and encouraging young minds to engage in cancer research.

The Centre for advanced research (CAR), School of Biotechnology at SMVDU continues its commitment to promoting health awareness and cutting-edge research in cancer biology.

Godrej Enterprises Group drives transformation in healthcare sector with ergonomic solutions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Interio, one of India's leading furniture brands of Godrej Enterprises Group, is expecting to grow its healthcare segment at 15 % over the next 3 years, owing to favourable market conditions backed by the demand for specialized and higher quality healthcare. With significant growth witnessed in Tier 2 & Tier 3 locations within the private healthcare segment and doubled sales volumes to private hospitals, the segment has been growing steadily at 10%.

Sameer Joshi, Sr. Vice President and Head of B2B Business, Interio said, "The Indian healthcare sector is experiencing rapid growth, driven by expanded coverage, enhanced services, and increased investment from both public and private players. Despite the progress, there remains a significant opportunity in creating healing environments that prioritize patient comfort and safety, particularly in critical care areas like ICCUs and ICUs, while addressing the challenges faced by caregivers. At Godrej, we are deeply committed to continuous innovation, striving to elevate the quality of care and experience in healthcare facilities. Our thoughtfully designed solutions are tailored to meet the needs of patients, caregivers, and healthcare organizations, ensuring we contribute meaningfully to every step of the healing journey."

The product portfolio combines functionality and innovation to elevate the quality of healthcare delivery. Godrej's state of the

art manufacturing facility at Khalapur manufactures hospital beds, examination couches, medical lockers and cabinets, patient mobility, etc. as per the customer's preferences. In addition to this, the plant also manufactures medical accessories that are indispensable to modern Healthcare requirements in India.

Research conducted by Interio has shed light on the pressing challenges faced by caregivers, who are vital stakeholders in the healing process. The study revealed that caregivers, such as nurses, walk an average of 8-10 kilometres during an eight-hour shift due to inadequately designed spaces. It also found that over 90% of nursing staff experience some form of musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), with the most prevalent pain areas being the legs (56%), knees (51%), and upper and lower back (51%). Additionally, 61% of caregivers reported occasional neck pain, while 41% had taken one to three days of leave, and 7% had taken four to six days of leave within two months to manage their pain. This not only highlights the impact on caregiver well-being but also indicates a clear productivity loss for healthcare organizations.

The brand's latest innovation - Advanced Lateral Tilt bed featuring high-low bed movement, patient head-and-foot board side movement, trendelenburg positions and unique bed lateral tilt movement for challenging patient care scenarios. Their specialized research-backed products specifically designed for nephrology departments, maternity wards, and emergency units further demonstrate their commitment to specialized healthcare solutions.

Director CBC, J&K and Ladakh, calls on Vice Chancellor, BGSBU

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 6: Ghulam Abass, Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, called on the Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, at the university campus on Thursday.

During the meeting, both dignitaries discussed avenues for collaboration between BGSBU and the Central Bureau of Communication in promoting educational outreach, awareness campaigns, and youth engagement initiatives.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the university's commitment to fostering academic excellence and community-oriented programs, emphasizing the importance of effective communication in today's digital era.

Abass appreciated the contributions of BGSBU in higher education and assured support for initiatives that align with the CBC's mandate of information dissemination and public awareness.

He expressed keen interest in organizing joint programs, workshops, and awareness drives to enhance students' understanding of government schemes and policies.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal extended gratitude to Ghulam Abass for his visit and welcomed future collaborations that would benefit students, faculty, and the broader community. He reiterated the university's dedication to working with government agencies to facilitate knowledge-sharing and skill development among youth.

Karra expresses outrage over Sopore, Kathua killings

Demands time bound judicial probe

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 6: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Thursday expressed outrage over the unfortunate incident in Sopore area in which a truck driver lost his life due to firing by Army.

In a statement Tariq Hameed Karra strongly condemned the killing of Truck Driver, terming the incident as very fortunate, a matter of grave concern. He said such incidents are detrimental to peace initiatives, attributing to fear psychosis in the society. Killing of Innocent persons is barbaric, inhuman and unacceptable in a civilized society, Govt should look into the matter very seriously and ensure that no innocent life is lost.

Karra urged the Govt to order a timebound judicial probe into the incident to ascertain the facts and the circumstances which left the family of the deceased truck driver devastated.

Meanwhile JKPCC President condemned the killing of Makhan Din of Perody (Kathua)who was reportedly detained and subjected to brutal torture in police custody. Karra urged the Govt to bring the facts out and ensure justice to the family of the deceased Makhan Din. Though the magisterial enquiry was ordered into the incident, that should be time bound, ensuring that justice is delivered to the family of the deceased Makhan Din, Karra added.

SMVDU hosts 400 students from KV No. 2 Jammu Cantt for an Educational Excursion

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 6: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, proudly hosted a group of 400 enthusiastic students from Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Jammu Cantt as part of its comprehensive outreach activity program.

This initiative aimed to enhance students' knowledge and awareness about the opportunities available at higher educational institutions. The visit was meticulously organized by the NCC and NSS teams of SMVDU, ensuring a well-rounded and informative experience for the young visitors.

The coordination of the event was led by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU, along with NSS Student Volunteers & NCC Cadets. Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU, in his welcome address, motivated the students to excel in life and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Throughout the day, the students, accompanied by their teachers, explored various state-of-the-art facilities within the university.

They were given an in-depth tour of the various labs, Central Library, and Networking Centre. The tour also included a visit to the university's impressive auditorium, where the students could envision themselves participating in future academic and extracurricular activities. The visit served as a significant motivational boost for the students, encouraging them to aspire to join higher educational institutes upon completing their class 12th. More than 400 students, along with their dedicated teachers, actively participated in this educational excursion, gaining invaluable insights into university life and academic opportunities.

In addition, Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, School of Architecture & Landscape Design, also interacted with the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Jammu Cantt, sharing valuable insights about the SMVD University. The teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Jammu, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the authorities of SMVDU for hosting this enlightening visit. They acknowledged the university's efforts in inspiring the next generation of students to pursue higher education and achieve their academic goals.

DC reviews of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Poonch District

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 6: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal and Mission Director JJM (J&K), Khursheed Ahmad Shah jointly convened a meeting today to assess the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district Poonch.

The review focused on the organizational structure, ongoing civil works, and challenges faced in project implementation.

During the meeting, the XEn Jal Shakti provided a detailed overview of the JJM schemes, highlighting that out of 132 schemes, 30 have been successfully completed.

The Mission Director emphasized the need to expedite ongoing works and initiate projects that have yet to commence, particularly in remote and urban areas, ensuring equitable access to clean water for all residents.

The discussion also covered the status of various components, including Borewell, pipe networks, GSR, pump rooms etc.

The Mission Director directed all engineers and concerned officials to prioritize quality and timely completion while maintaining proper supervision throughout the process.

Notably, of the 112 mechanical works, 26 have been finished, and of the 97 electric substations works, 73 are complete. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti, Vikas Sharma, SE Hydraulic Circle Poonch, Xen PHE: Rajeev Ghai, SE Hyd. Circle Poonch Choudhary Mohammad Taj, SE Mech. Er. Bodh Raj Bhagat, Consultants: Er. Vijay Arora & Er. Gurcharan Singh, DPMU Poonch Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, Members of third Party Inspection agency.

Ravi Shastri speaks up on India-Pakistan rivalry ahead of Champions Trophy 2025

Ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, former India head coach Ravi Shastri opened up on the rivalry between India and Pakistan and also provided insights on head coach Gautam Gambhir's remarks.

NEW DELHI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, former India head coach Ravi Shastri opened up on the rivalry between India and Pakistan and also provided insights on head coach Gautam Gambhir's remarks, as per the ICC.

Gambhir recently said the importance of the Champions Trophy group stage fixture against Pakistan was the same as every other fixture at the event, with all games at the tournament of equal value.

Speaking to host Sanjana Ganesan on the latest edition of The ICC Review, Shastri stated that while he had spoken of the fixture in the same light back when he was head coach, there's more to it.

"I was the coach for seven years. Whenever I was asked, I said the same thing (as Gambhir). But let me assure you, deep down, there's a lot more to that than you actually think, that's for

the media. You have to say it. But deep down, you want to win that. Because if you don't, you'll be reminded of it until the next time you play against Pakistan," Shastri said as quoted by the ICC official website.

"People don't care what you have done in the past. They're not bothered about the last 10 games if you won eight or you won nine. But they'll remind you if you lose one, until the next time you play them. It can be a taxi driver, it could be anyone on the street. What happened to India? The same question to Pakistan. What happened to Pakistan? So it always plays on your mind, so whether you like it or not, it's a different game. Different beasts altogether," the former cricketer added.

India and Pakistan, slotted in Group A of the Champions Trophy, are set to face-off on February 23 in Dubai.

The two teams had previously locked horns at the venue in an ICC tournament in 2021, when Pakistan registered a mammoth 10-wicket win.

Shastri, however, believes that the throwback won't be taking up much headspace for Indian players.

"No, that won't play on their mind because that was a T20 game. This is a 50-over clash. It's totally different. It's a longer game which suits India more, because in T20 you can get upset. In 50-over cricket, if you've got experience and you've got depth in your batting and bowling departments and you know, it makes a massive, massive difference. when you look at India and Pakistan man to man, India is a far better side and far more experienced as well," Shastri said.

Rohit plays down speculations on future: 'Focussed on games against England, Champions Trophy'

NAGPUR, Feb 6 (Agencies): Indian captain Rohit Sharma played down speculations about his future in international cricket, saying it is irrelevant to talk about his career at a time when he is "focussed" on the three ODIs against England and the ICC Champions Trophy.

India will tune up for the Champions Trophy, starting February 19, with the three One-Day Internationals against England beginning with the first one here on Thursday.

"How it is relevant that I talk about my future plans when there are three ODIs and a Champions Trophy. The reports (on my future) are going on for a number of years and I am not here to clarify those reports," Rohit said at the pre-match press conference.

"For me, the three games (against England) and the Champions Trophy is very important. My focus is on these games and I will see what happens thereafter," the India skipper added.

Rohit has been battling poor form for a while now with the batter managing only 31 runs across five innings at an abysmal average of 6.20 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.

While there is no doubt that he is not looking to walk into international sunset anytime soon, there were reports that the BCCI has asked him to spell out his future plans after the Champions Trophy.

West Indies set to begin 2025 home season with three Tests against Australia

SAINT JOHN'S, Feb 6 (Agencies): West Indies will begin their World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle with three home Tests against Australia.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) revealed an action-packed schedule for the senior men's and women's teams from May to December 2025, featuring a mix of home and away fixtures.

Before playing their first home Test, the West Indies will tour the UK from May 21 to June 15. The West Indies will play three ODIs and three T20Is each against Ireland and England.

The three home series against Australia, which will run from June 25 to July 16, will be Daren Sammy's first Test assignment as West Indies head coach since taking over from red-ball coach Andre Coley.

The first Test will begin on June 25 at Kensington Oval, Barbados, and the second game will be hosted at the Grenada National Stadium on July 3. The final Test of the series will begin on July 12 at Sabina Park, Jamaica.

After the conclusion of the Test series, the action will shift to white-ball cricket, with the West Indies squaring off against Australia in five T20Is from July 20 to July 28.

The Caribbean side will end the home summer with three T20Is and three ODIs against Pakistan from July 31 to August 12. Florida's Broward County will host the three T20Is, and Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad will be the home for the three ODIs.

After the conclusion of the white-ball series at home, the West Indies will travel to India, Bangladesh, and New Zealand from September 21 to December 23. The Caribbean side will play two Tests against India, three T20Is and ODIs against Bangladesh, and an all-format tour of New Zealand, consisting of five T20Is, three ODIs, and three Tests.

The women's team will begin their 2025 campaign with the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in Pakistan from April 4 to 19. In the tournament, six teams will compete for two spots in the marquee event in India, scheduled for August-September.

After the qualifiers, the women's team will tour England for a full white-ball series consisting of three T20Is and three ODIs from May 21 to June 8.

Later in 2025, the women's team will host South Africa for a historic white-ball series at the 3Ws Oval in Barbados, marking the first time the venue will stage such an international series.

India's only ICC elite umpire opts out of Champions Trophy in Pakistan

DUBAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): India's only representative in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, Nitin Menon, has opted out of officiating in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan this month due to personal reasons.

The ICC announced a list of 15 match officials, including three match referees and 12 umpires for the marquee tournament, scheduled to commence in Karachi on February 19 with the final on March 9.

Australian legend David Boon, Sri Lankan great great Ranjan Madugalle and Zimbabwe's Andrew Pycroft were named as match referees for the eight-team tournament.

The event will be held at three venues in Pakistan -- Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi, while India will play all their matches in Dubai, starting with a clash against Bangladesh on February 20, owing to security concerns.

"The ICC wanted to put him (Menon) on the Champions Trophy roster. But he decided against travelling to Pakistan due to personal reasons," a BCCI source told agency.

Menon could not have stood in the matches in Dubai as the ICC follows the policy of appointing neutral umpires. The world body did not comment on Menon in its statement to unveil the list of officials.

All the three match referees chosen for the tournament are experienced. Boon has featured in the 2017 Champions Trophy final, while Madugalle is back after officiating the 2013 final. Pycroft also featured in the 2017 tournament.

"A distinguished panel of 12 umpires will officiate the eight-team event, with six returning officials from the 2017 edition, including Richard Kettleborough, who stood in the final of the previous Champions Trophy in the UK," the ICC said in a release.

Kettleborough, a veteran of 108 ODIs, will be joined by fellow umpires Chris Gaffaney, Kumar Dharmasena, Richard Illingworth, Paul Reiffel, and Rod Tucker, who also officiated in the 2017 tournament.

"Dharmasena will be extending his stint of officiating 132 ODIs at the upcoming tournament, a record for an umpire from Sri Lanka in the One-Day format."

Kettleborough and Illingworth, who both stood together during the 2023 World Cup final in Ahmedabad, will be joined by Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Ahsan Raza, Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, Alex Wharf, and Joel Wilson. All of them officiated at the World Cup in India.

ICC's senior manager (umpires and referees), Sean Easey, said the extensive experience of the match officials will provide high-quality games.

"We always strive to appoint the most deserving officials for such prestigious events, and we are confident that this group will do an outstanding job in both Pakistan and the UAE. We wish them all the best for a memorable tournament," he said.

Match Officials: Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Ahsan Raza, Paul Reiffel, Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, Rodney Tucker, Alex Wharf, Joel Wilson.

Match Referees: David Boon, Ranjan Madugalle, Andrew Pycroft.

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur hopeful about lifting WPL trophy

MUMBAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur is hopeful about lifting the Women's Premier League title for the second time in the upcoming season.

The third edition of the women's T20 tournament will be held in four cities - Baroda, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Mumbai. The tournament will kick off on February 14 at the newly built BCA Stadium in Baroda.

In a high-octane season opener, Gujarat Giants (GG) will square off against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).

In the previous season, the champions of the inaugural season finished second in the standings and stood in a comfortable spot to defend their title. However, back-to-back defeats in the playoffs derailed their journey to the final.

Harmanpreet expressed hope of reclaiming the title in the upcoming season and told ANI, "The tournament is very important for us. Everyone is practising well. The camp is going well, and we are very excited for this season. Hopefully, we will win the trophy again."

With hopes of adding another trophy to their cabinet, Harmanpreet is aware the journey won't be easy, considering the balance that the rest of the teams have found.

"All teams appear to be balanced. I think this season we will see exciting games, and there won't be any easy games for us," she added.

While voicing her opinion about the impact of WPL, Harmanpreet believes the competition has served as a platform for women cricketers to improve.

"Since the arrival of WPL, women's cricket has been improving because before, hardly 15 to 20 women cricketers got the chance to

play top-level cricket. But now there are a lot of young players who get to play with and against international cricketers. I think the WPL platform is helping a lot of players, especially the young cricketers," she said.

In the upcoming season, Baroda will host a total of six matches before the action shifts to Bengaluru, where RCB will play their first home game against the formidable Mumbai Indians at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on February 21.

The final leg of the tournament will unfold in Mumbai, with the iconic Cricket Club of India (CCI) hosting the last two league matches and the two high-stakes Playoff games. Mumbai Indians will conclude the league stage with back-to-back home games against Gujarat Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 10 and 11, respectively.

On their quest for glory, Mumbai Indians retained a strong core, including skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, West Indies star Hayley Matthews, England's Nat Sciver-Brunt, and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr.

The retained players also included Amandeep Kaur, Amanjot Kaur, South Africa's Chloe Tryon, Jintimani Kalita, Keerthana B, Pooja Vastrakar, Saika Ishaque, Sajana Sajeevan, South African pace veteran Shabnim Ismail, and Indian wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia.

During the mini-auction, Mumbai Indians added four players to complete the 18-member squad by getting South African all-rounder Nadine de Klerk and Madhya Pradesh all-rounder Sanskriti Gupta and Rajasthan pacer Akshita Maheshwari in addition to Kamalini.

MI WPI 2025 squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Amandeep Kaur, Amanjot Kaur, Amelia Kerr, Chloe Tryon, Hayley Matthews, Jintimani Kalita, Keerthana Balakrishnan, Natalie Sciver-Brunt, Pooja Vastrakar, Saika Ishaque, Sajana S, Shabnim Ismail, Yastika Bhatia, Nadine de Klerk, G Kamalini, Sanskriti Gupta, Akshita Maheshwari.

Abhishek skyrockets to second spot in T20 batters' ranking

DUBAI, Feb 6 (Agencies): In-form India opener Abhishek Sharma leapfrogged 38 places to the second spot in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings for batters while his teammate Tilak Verma dropped a rung to the third place.

Abhishek produced the best innings of his fledging international career when he smashed a quick-fire 135 in the fifth and final T20 against England in Mumbai, leading India to a thumping 4-1 series win.

Abhishek's innings came off just 54 deliveries and was adorned with 13 sixes. It was the highest score by an Indian men's player in the shortest format.

As a result, the 24-year-old zoomed to the second spot in the latest ranking.

Australia star Travis Head continues to lead the T20I batters' chart, but Abhishek is just 26 rating points behind him following his record-breaking effort at Wankhede.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav is placed fifth and all within striking distance of Head, while his India teammates Hardik Pandya (up five rungs to equal 51st) and Shivam Dube (up 38 spots to 58th) also moved up the rankings chart following some good scores against England.

It's a similar story on the bowlers' rankings with spinner Varun Chakravarthy moving up three places to joint second with Adil Rashid on the back of his 14 wickets and player-of-the-series effort against England.

Fellow spinner Ravi Bishnoi (up four places to sixth) also climbed the list after taking five wickets in the series against England. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh also finds himself in top 10 at ninth place.

West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein reclaims his spot as the No.1 bowler after he lost the mantle to Rashid a week earlier.

A host of Australian players gained ground in the latest Test rankings following their impressive effort in defeating Sri Lanka by an innings and 242 runs during the recent first Test in Galle.

Stand-in skipper Steve Smith gained three places to move up to fifth following his 35th Test century, while opener Usman Khawaja climbed six places to 11th after contributing his highest Test score of 232 during the romp.

Yashavi Jaiswal remained on the fourth spot in the Test batters list, which is being headed by England's Joe Root, followed by Harry Brook and New Zealand's Kane Williamson.

Jasprit Bumrah, who is recovering from back spasm, maintained his top spot. He was recently named ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year and ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja is the other Indian in top 10 at the ninth spot.

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada jumped a spot to the second while Australia captain Pat Cummins is at third position, followed by Josh Hazlewood and Noman Ali of Pakistan.

Veteran Australia spinner Nathan Lyon has improved two spots to jump to sixth overall and pacer Mitchell Starc is up two places to 12th following their efforts in Galle.

Sports Minister Satish Sharma hosts dinner for Wushu medalists

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, J&K, hosted a special dinner to honor the outstanding achievements of the J&K Wushu athletes at the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand. The event celebrated their remarkable performances and contributions to J&K's sporting excellence.

The medal-winning athletes, including gold medalists Surya Bhanu Partap Singh (60kg) and Mohd Kamraan (90+kg), silver medalist Ayeera Chisti, and bronze medalists Arjun Sharma, Rohan, Ishant Singh, and Saleem Kumar, were felicitated for their dedication and hard work.

Congratulating the athletes, the Minister praised their commitment and resilience, highlighting their role in elevating J&K's presence in the national sports arena.

Keeping in view the achievements of Wushu in UT J&K at National and International Level, he assured Wushu academy for Wushu sports fur nurturing the talented wushists athletes in one shed and other sports as welle emphasizing the government commitments to nurturing young talent.

Kuldeep Handoo (Dronacharya Awardee) thanked Sports Minister for the encouragement and the commitment he made with Wushu athletes during the interaction. He also thanked the J&K Sports Council for providing better facilities to the Wushu athletes in the UT J&K.

Yudhvir Sethi visits Dev Asthan Ratan Vansh Trust's Dev Temple in Sarwal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Yudhvir Sethi (MLA, Jammu East) visited Dev Asthan Ratan Vansh Trust's Dev Temple in Sarwal, Ward No. 17, Pakka Talab, Jammu East, on Thursday.

The people of Ward No. 17 had made a 'Sukkhan' that if Yudhvir Sethi won the assembly elections from Jammu East, they would visit the temple with him and install a flag as a mark of gratitude.

Fulfilling this pledge, Yudhvir Sethi, along with Braham Jyot Satti (State Incharge BJP OBC Morcha), Ramesh Kumar (Vice President, Jammu BJP), Raman Sharma (Senior BJP Leader), Swati Sharma (Mandal President BJP),

Ashok Salgotra (District President OBC), Balwan Singh (Senior BJP Leader), and Rakesh Kumar Vicky (Mandal President OBC), visited the temple, paid obeisance, and installed the flag in the presence of Kumta, the temple priest.

Following the ceremony, Sethi visited the surrounding area and pledged to provide essential facilities to the residents. JMC officers were summoned to the site, and work instructions were issued to ensure prompt action.

Addressing the gathering, Sethi stated that the BJP is a nationalist party committed to the welfare of all segments of society. He emphasized that the people of Jammu East are his family, and he will continue to serve them selflessly. With over 30 years of public service, he reaffirmed his dedication to working for the people's well-being.

Sethi expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support from the people of Sarwal Ward 17 and reiterated his commitment to ensuring that everyone receives essential facilities. He instructed JMC officers to take swift action to address residents' needs.

He further stated that collective efforts could bring significant improvements, and he looked forward to working together for the betterment of the Jammu East constituency.

Braham Jyot Satti thanked Yudhvir Sethi for his prompt action in addressing public demands, including the installation of public toilets in the temple premises. He highlighted BJP's ideology of inclusive development, emphasizing that the party works for all religions and classes, unlike other political parties that cater to specific regions or groups.

Satti concluded by reaffirming BJP's commitment to serving humanity across Jammu and Kashmir, following the principle of 'Nation First' for the betterment of India and its citizens.

IMS Jammu organizes industrial visit to Jai Beverages Bari Brahmana

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: The Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Jammu, organized an insightful industrial visit for its BBA students, aimed at providing them with practical industry knowledge and bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world applications.

The students visited Jai Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (PepsiCo), located in the SIDCO Industrial Complex, Bari Brahamana, Jammu. PepsiCo, a global leader in the food and beverage industry, is known for its commitment to innovation, quality, and sustainable practices in its manufacturing processes.

The visit began with a warm welcome from Sushil Ruhela, General Manager of HRAD and Litigation, who introduced the students to the core values of PepsiCo, including their focus on operational excellence and sustainability. His presentation set the stage for a detailed tour of the facility.

T.S. Bedi, Operations Director, shared insights into the overall operations strategy of PepsiCo, providing students with a broader understanding of how the company achieves efficiency and maintains quality across its production processes.

Later, Manish Singh, Head of Facilities for all three factories, guided the students through the plant's infrastructure, explaining how advanced technologies and efficient management practices ensure smooth operations.

The students were then taken through the production area by A.P. Shukla, Operations Manager, who explained the entire manufacturing process, from quality control to packaging.

The students gained first-hand knowledge of the cutting-edge technology used in the production of PepsiCo's popular beverages.

The visit also provided the students with a chance to learn about human resource management and legal operations within a large-scale manufacturing company.

This industrial visit was an excellent opportunity for the BBA students to engage directly with industry professionals, ask questions, and learn about the operations of a leading multinational company.

IMS Jammu continues to prioritize hands-on learning experiences to prepare its students for future professional challenges.

The visit to Jai Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (PepsiCo) was a testament to the institution's commitment to providing practical exposure.

Director, IMS Dr Meenakshi Sharma expressed her thanks and sincere gratitude to PepsiCo, particularly Sushil Ruhela and the entire team, for their warm hospitality and for making this visit an enriching experience for all students.

Barwal Ekta Manch Punjab honours Kaith on Guru Gyagi Jayanti 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Bharatiya Janata Party's R.L.Kaith, Ex Deputy Chairman, Municipal Committee, Ghou-Manhassan Krishan Lal, Hony Captain Kamal Dass, Naresh Kumar, Jagdish Raj and many others visited the Guru Gyagi temple at Shahzadpur on Thursday, and paid obeisance to Guru Gyagi on the occasion of his 128th jayanti.

Kaith said, Guru Gyagi was one of the greatest humanists born, who proclaimed his great message of peace, humanism, love, service and devotion to all people of all lands and faiths. He believed in the doctrine of Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man.

He regarded all human beings as belonging to a single family and there was no question with him as to who was better or worse. All persons are equal in the eyes of God and all those who believe in Him as the Supreme Truth. There may be several paths to reach the Truth but it is essential to follow the path correctly.

Kaith added that may Guru Gyagi's eternal message guide us on the path of creating a kind and peaceful world. Earlier, Batwal Ekta Manch Punjab honoured Kaith for his outstanding social work.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Lect. Deepak Kumar, Ex Subedar Major Ram Paul Motan, Sub Inspector Darshan

Dimple leads protest for Restoration of J&K Statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 6: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu and Kashmir, led a strong protest rally demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and special status.

Addressing the gathering, Dimple warned of a Jammu and Kashmir Bandh if the statehood is not restored as per the Supreme Court's directions during the ongoing budget session.

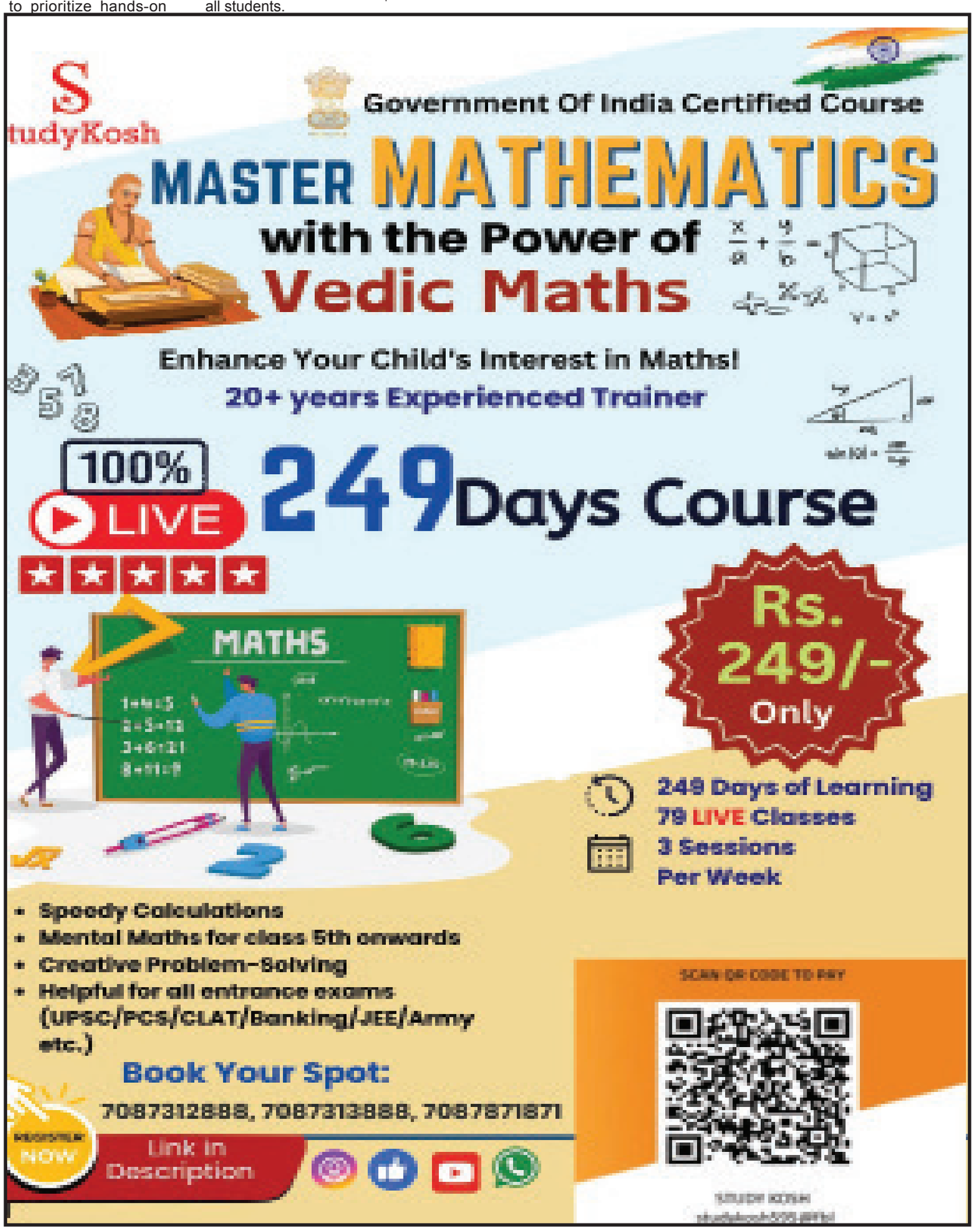
Dimple called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to fulfill their commitments and restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood without delay. He criticized the BJP-led government for not providing a clear timeline despite the Supreme Court's orders.

The protest rally witnessed participation from various political parties and organizations from Jammu, Kashmir, Pir Panjal, and Chenab Valley regions.

Dimple announced that he is in talks with leaders from different factions to launch a united movement for the early restoration of statehood and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions.

Dimple also pressed for the resumption of the Darbar Move from April, urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate action. Additionally, he demanded essential relief measures for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including free drinking water, 200 units of free electricity where smart meters have been installed, twelve free LPG cylinders annually, and double ration distribution from March onward.

He further warned of strong agitation if drinking water meters are installed in the region. Dimple accused the central government of being non-committal on restoring Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood.

As part of the movement, Dimple announced a major protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi in February to press for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions.

Prominent leaders present at the rally included Swarn Lal, Arun Verma, Vijay Virdi, Mohan Lal, Skala Singh, Vikas, Deepak and Babu Singh.