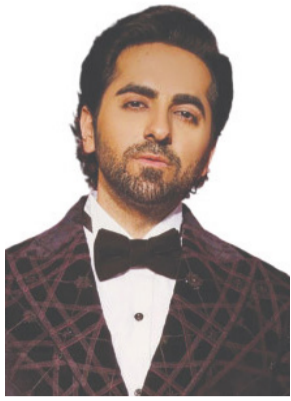


TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Elon Musk slams judge's decision on gender ideology web pages, calls it "absurd"

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BRIEFLY

Man found dead near his home in Reasi

JAMMU, Feb 12 (Agencies): Police recovered the body of a man on Wednesday in Reasi district, officials said.

Police has identified the body as Vijay Kumar son of Mani Ram of Sirla Bhaga in Reasi. His body was found near his home.

Upon receiving the information, locals said, Police reached on the spot and shifted the body to District Hospital Reasi.

A police official confirmed to GNS that legal and other medical formalities are underway in this regard.

Man dies after car rolls down into gorge in Ramban

BANIHAL, Feb 12 (Agencies): A man was killed after a car he was travelling in met with an accident on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

A police official said that a car bearing registration number JK-02BC 5010 which was on way from Jammu to Srinagar skidded off the road near Battery Chashma and rolled into a deep gorge.

Soon after the incident, a rescue operation was launched by police and civil QRT Ramban volunteers but found the occupant of the car dead on the spot, said the official.

The deceased has been identified as Amit Koul, son Badrinath Koul, a resident of Pattan Kashmir, presently living at Jammu.

16 sheep killed in leopard attack in Budgam village

BUDGAM, Feb 12 (Agencies): A leopard attack in Shamsabad, Khansahib area of central Kashmir's Budgam left a local farmer reeling from heavy losses. Mohammad Ramzan Bhat lost 16 sheep when the predator struck his livestock.

Bhat, who tried to protect his flock, had a narrow escape from the leopard, which retreated after the attack. "The loss is a major financial setback for the farmer," said locals and urged authorities to provide compensation to help him recover.

Residents of the area have called on the wildlife department to

Turn to page 9

Family in mourning after soldier son martyred in IED attack 2 months before marriage

SAMBAJAMMU, Feb 12 (Agencies): Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas had returned to his Army unit in Jammu's Akhnour sector on January 28 after a two-week holiday for his ring ceremony and giving final touches to his newly-constructed house to welcome his wife in April.

However, the joy of



the family proved to be shortlived as the 29-year-old soldier from Jammu and Kashmir's Samba, along with Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi from Jharkhand's Ranchi, were martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast by terrorists near the Line of Control (LoC) on Tuesday.

Turn to page 9

Statehood won't end terrorism in J&K, need people's support: Farooq Abdullah

JAMMU, Feb 12 (Agencies): National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that even if statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is restored, terrorism will still not end and that it needs peoples support.

Speaking with reporters, Farooq Abdullah, said that the issue of statehood has been there for many years. "Even if statehood is restored and we will get everything, but do people think it will end terrorism here. Those who have



been making tall claims that terrorism has ended here, ask them if it is still there or not," he said.

He added that yesterday only

two soldiers got martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. "Where did that come from. We need people's help to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. It is high time we should have peace. Only peace can do something here. Our children are unemployed. How can these issues be addressed when there is no peace," he remarked.

He also said that pre-poll alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party

Turn to page 9

Congress supports alcohol ban in J&K as PDP, NC MLAs push for legislation



SRINAGAR, Feb 12 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has expressed strong support for bills aimed at banning alcohol in the Union Territory. Senior vice president of the JKPCC, G.N. Monga, told Greater Kashmir that the Congress party would back the bills proposed by the Peoples Demo

cratic Party (PDP) and National Conference (NC) MLAs.

"In light of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and religious landscape, known for its deep-rooted Sufi traditions, and the rising drug addiction crisis, there is the need for strict legislation to address the growing concerns related to alcohol consumption," Monga said. He said that

the party would support the bill.

The bill, proposed by Fayaz Ahmad Mir, PDP MLA from Kupwara, seeks a complete ban on the advertisement, sale, purchase, consumption, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages in Jammu and Kashmir. Mir expressed concern that the increasing alcohol consumption is becoming a serious threat to society, particularly its impact on the youth, and urged lawmakers to take immediate action to curb the trend. The bill proposes stringent penalties, including imprisonment and hefty fines, for anyone found violating the ban.

In a similar move, National Conference MLA Ahsan

Turn to page 9

Theft accused dies after suffering severe chest, abdomen pain in Jammu hospital

JAMMU, Feb 12 (Agencies): A man arrested in a theft case over a week ago died at a hospital here after complaining of severe pain in his chest and abdomen, police said on Wednesday.

Madhya Pradesh native Suresh Anuragi, who was presently residing in Jammu's Trikuta Nagar, was on February 4 arrested along with two other associates in a burglary case registered at police station

Bahu Fort, they said in a statement late Tuesday night.

The police said the accused complained of severe pain in his chest and abdomen and was swiftly shifted to District Police hospital Jammu and his family was also informed.

Later, he was referred to Government Medical College Hospital at around 4 pm for treatment but breathed his last at around 9.30 pm,

they said.

"Anuragi's family was present with him at the hospital during treatment," the police said, adding that a request for magistrate inquiry has been raised and intimation was also sent to NHRC regarding the incident as per the provision of law.

Moreover, a request has been placed for post-mortem which will be conducted in the

Turn to page 9

Have passed directions to release salaries of NHM employees: Sakina Itoo

SRINAGAR, Feb 12 (Agencies): Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that she has passed directions for release of salaries to NHM employees.

In a post on X, Sakina Itoo, said that the government is committed to the welfare of health care workers and ensuring timely support.

"Have passed the directions for release of salaries of NHM employees. The government remains committed to the welfare of healthcare workers and ensuring timely support for their invaluable services," she said.

Earlier, NHM employees raised concerns over delayed salary and urged the government to address issue at an earliest.

LG should have invited Jammu and Kashmir CM in security review meeting: Advisor Nasir



SRINAGAR, Feb 12 (Agencies): Advisor to Chief Minister J&K, Nasir Aslam Wani said on Wednesday that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should have invited chief minister Omar Abdullah in the security review meeting.

"We have already made it clear that Lieutenant Governor J&K is looking for law and order. But principally chief minister Omar Abdullah

should have been invited as he has wide experience in dealing law & order, and security of the region but again he was not invited," said Advisor Nasir Wani.

Notably, Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha is chairing a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir today, which is being attended by top officials from Police, Army, CRPF and other security agencies.

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TENTH DAY & RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Bhuvneshwar Singh Slathia** who left for his heavenly abode on 04-02-2025 (Tuesday).
Tenth Day & Rasam Kriya shall be performed on 13-02-2025 (Thursday) & 16-02-2025 (Sunday) respectively at Shiv Mandir, Gurha Slathia, Mandi Andar, Bada Mahal.
Grief Stricken:
Smt. Sheela Devi (Wife)
Mrs. & Mr. Anrudh Singh Slathia
Mrs. & Mr. Basudev Singh Slathia
Mrs. & Mr. Ram Sharm
Late Sh. Balbir Singh Jammal (Son-in-Law)
Smt. Anjali Jammal (Daughter)
Bhabhis & Brothers
Mrs. & Mr. Nambur Singh
Mrs. & Mr. Surinder Singh



SHRI BHUVNESHWAR SINGH SLATHIA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

TENTH DAY KRIYA OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT. SHAM RANI BHAT W/O LATE SH AMAR NATH BHAT ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF HUGAM ANANTNAG AT PRESENT H NO 130 SHARIKA VIHAR LOWER ROOP NAGER JAMMU WILL BE HELD ON 14/02/2025 AT AKHNOOR GHAT. THE GATHERING WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT AROUND 1200 HRS.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SAMAST BHAT PARWAR
9419949404, 9419245804, 8713933245, 7298055757, 7006274256



SMT. SHAM RANI BHAT

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sheela Koul** W/o Lt. Sh. Ram Nath Koul at present Lakshmi Puram Chinore H/No. 19, near Posh Bab Ashram on Saturday 8th February, 2025.
10th Day shall be performed on Monday, 17th Feb., 2025 at Akhnoor. **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters and Sons in law
Raj Dulari Bhat W/o Mohan Lal Bhat
Phoola Zutshi W/o Sanjay Zutshi
Son and Daughter in law
Rattan Lal Koul and Daizy Koul
Phone No. 9419241226/9419205064



Smt. Sheela Koul

10TH DAY / KRIYA

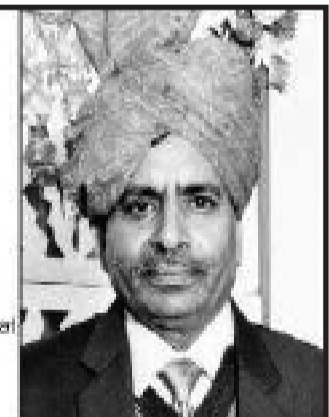
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Neelam Rani** W/o Late Sh. Vinod Kumar Gupta R/o Ward No. 2, Near Government Middle School Kabir Nagar, Kathua.
10th Day will be performed on 11-02-2025, Tuesday at 12 Noon at home.
Kriya and Rasam Pagri will be performed on 14-02-2025 Friday at 12 Noon at home Ward No. 2, Kathua Near Government Middle School Kabir Nagar, Kathua.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Ankush Gupta (7006636218) - Son
Pankaj Gupta (7889794400) - Son



Neelam Rani 12/1/1965 to 2/2/2025

RADHA SOAMI JI 10TH DAY

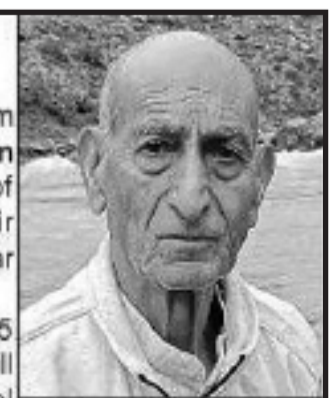
SH GHARU RAM JI
Departed on 04-02-2025
*Remember you with pride and gratitude
Your memory is our greatest treasure,
Your presence a cherished blessing,
A pillar of strength your virtues continue
to inspire us always*
SATSANG will be held on Thursday 13-02-2025 at 12:00 Noon at Guru Ravi Das Temple, Bshraht, Chini Ka Langer. 1:30 PM onwards.
Fondly Remembered By:
Smt. Shaani Devi - Mother
Smt. Raj Kumeri - Wife
Sh Ashok Meenia & Smt. Surita Devi - Brother & Bhabhi
Sh Pankaj Kumar & Smt. Neeta Devi - Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Kulkdeep Kumar & Smt. Rekha Devi - Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Parveen Meenia & Smt. Arti Devi - Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt. Piyanka Meenia & Sh. Sunil Kumar - Daughter & Son-in-law
Contact No: 9419731452, 9419228316, 8596340154, 889923212



Sh Gharu Ram Ji

OBITUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh Soom Nath Pandita** S/o Lt. Sh. Nand Lal Pandita of Jetty Road, Khewaja Bagh Baramulla, Kashmir A/P H.No. 16, General Lane Saraswati Vihar Tomal Bohri Jammu on 8th Feb. 2025.
10th Day will be performed on 17th Feb. 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat at 7.30 AM and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education Office Jammu at 11 AM.
Grief Stricken
Mrs. Naiha & Mr. Deepak Pandita
Pandita's, Dhar's, Tickoo's, Bazaz's, Koul's
Mob. No. 8492893958, 8492893959



Sh Soom Nath Pandita

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

Very sad to inform the untimely demise of our **Dear Vikas Kotru (Vicky)** S/o Late Surender Kotru, originally of Safakadal, Srinagar, presently at Shalimar Garden, Ghaziabad.
10th Day Kriya will be held at Ganga Canal, Murad Nagar on 17/02/2025 (Monday) between 8 AM to 10 AM. **Assembly & Prayer meet** will be held at 31, Dwarika Apts. Shalimar Garden Ext. 1, Sahibabad (Ghb.).
In Grief:
Smt. Sushma Kotru - Mother
Mrs. Rachna Kotru - Wife
Mrs. Rekha & Mr. Vishal Kotru - Bhabhi & Brother
Shri Ramesh Kotru & Usha Kotru - Uncle & Aunty
Master Aryan Kotru - Son
Ms. Prakriti Kotru - Daughter Ms. Achira Kotru - Daughter
Mrs. Pinky & Mr. Dinesh Bhat - Brother-in-law
Samast Kotru's, Bhat's, Jalali's, Saraf's, Trisali's, Kokiloo's Parivar



Vikas Kotru (Vicky)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Bimla (Tathiji)** W/o Sh. Maharaj Krishen Raina originally resident of Khardori Habbakadal/Channapora Srinagar Kashmir, who attained Nirvan on 6th Feb. 2025 at her residence H.No. 148, Lane 3A, Mandlik Nagar, Sec-2, Near Atta Chakki, Tophsherkhania Paloura, Jammu.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor on 15/2/2025.
Assembly for 10th Day will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education on 15/02/2025 at 10:45 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Maharaj Krishen Raina - Husband - 6005838112
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Smt. Meenakshi & Sh. B.K. Raina - 9419183246
Smt. Manjoo & Sh. K.K. Raina - 9469267654
Muskan, Molley & Bavish - Grand Children
Raina's, Bhat's, Bhan's, Koul's, Bindroo's, Mattoo's & Pandita Parivars



Smt. Bimla (Tathiji)

KATHA KIRTAN

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved **S. Daljeet Singh Raina (FCI)**, son of the Late Numbardar Udhama Singh Raina, who departed for his heavenly abode on February 10, 2025.
Katha Kirtan will be held in his memory at our residence: House No. 286, Sector 13, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.
From: 11th Feb to 14th Feb, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN.
Sdn. Ravinder Kour Raina (Wife)
S. Ravjeet Singh Raina (Son)
Sdn. and Sardar Parveen Singh Raina (Brother) (Govt. Contractor)
Sdn. and Sardar Harjinder Singh Raina (Brother)
Sdn. and Sardar Harbhajan Singh (Father in law)
Dr. Paminder Pal Singh (Brother in law)
Late Sdn. and S. Mohan Singh (Brother in law)
Late Sdn. and S. Sanmoh Singh (Brother in law)
Contact: 9086744440, 9419183802, 9622076707



S. Daljeet Singh Raina (FCI)

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Ranu Devi** W/o Late Sh. Joginder Singh Slathia R/o House No. 88, Old Rehari Chungi Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 01.02.2025.
10TH DAY will be performed on 10.02.2025 (Monday) at our residence.
KRIYA/13TH DAY will be performed on 13.02.2025 (Thursday) at our residence House No. 88, Old Rehari Chungi Jammu. (at 12:00 AM)
GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Son & Daughter in law
Swarn Singh Slathia and Anuradha Singh
Pawan Singh Slathia and Seema
Grand Son & Daughter
Sona Meethi & Mishri
Mob No. 8082075157, 7006888497



Smt Ranu Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow to inform the sad demise of **Lt. Shri Dawarka Nath Pandita**, S/o Late Dina Nath Pandita R/o Nadi Marg District Shopian, presently at Gurha Karan Lane No. 11 House No. 2, Barnali Bantalar Road, Jammu. (From Mallun side at Lane No. 18, Block 89, Quarter No. 19, Jagti.)
The **10th Day Kriya** will be held on Tuesday 18/02/2025 at Akhnoor Ghat at 8.00 AM. Following that **Assembly** will be around 11.30 AM at Muthi Ghat.
GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Son and Daughter in law
Sanjay Kumar Bhat & Rekha Bhat
Daughters & Sons in-law
Sweety Bhat & Ramesh Kumar Bhat
Geeta Bhat & Suresh Bhat
Grand Children
Payal Bhat, Deepak Koul, Mohit, Nishita, Dhani, Nishka
Contact No. 9682171051, 9858272837, 9818675412



Lt Shri Dawarka Nath Pandita

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With a heavy heart we mourn the sad demise of **Sh. Makhan Lal Mattoo** originally from Lower Sathu Chandapora Srinagar Kashmir at present at H.No. 32, Sector 8, Trikuta Nagar on 4th February 2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Thursday, 13th February 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat.
The **Assembly** will be held at our residence 32/8, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu at 11:30 AM
Forever In Our Hearts
Sunita & Dr. Virender Kaul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Savita & Sanjay Duloo - Daughter & Son-in-law
Dr. Deepa Mattoo - Daughter
Archna & Sanjay Kaul - Daughter & Son-in-law
Alpa & Sanjay Saraf - Daughter & Son-in-law
Anupa & Vikram Ahi - Daughter & Son-in-law
Tapasya & Harry Chona - Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Shama Kaul - Sister
Smt. Shekumata Mattoo - Sister-in-law
Smt. Asha & V. K. Kullu - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Sh. B. L. Warikoo - Brother-in-law
Smt. Usha Warikoo - Sister-in-law
Rohaan Duloo, Vanashika Kaul & Pragya Duloo, Ahna Kaul, Anika Saraf, Rudraksh, Avi, Kaynan, Vilasan
Grandchildren



Sh. Makhan Lal Mattoo

10TH DAY/OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Oma Shori** W/o Lt. Sh. Brij Lal Raina of village Pinglishi, (Traf) Kashmir, breathed her last on 08-02-2025 at her residence H.No. 21 Lane No. 2/3 Roop Nagar Endave-B Jammu.
10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 17-02-2025 and the **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate School Education at 11.00 am.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Mohan Rani - Devrani
Son's and Daughter-in-Law
Smt. Basanti & Sh. Tej Krishan Raina (9469187435)
Smt. Beta & Sh. Sanjay Raina (9419116765)
Daughter's and Son-in-Law
Smt. Vijay & Sh. Hira Lal Thaploo (Wanpooch)
Smt. Reeta and Sh. Chand ji Bakshi (Wachi)
Smt. Pinky & Sh. K.L. Bhan (Mahind)
Grand Children
Mrs. Anikta and Mr. Anshu Reshi (Ananthag)
Mrs. Aakriti & Mr. Nikhil Raina (9622046086)
Grand Children: Shivam Raina, Nitesh Raina, Rimpay and Rachna



Smt. Oma Shori

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our mother **Karamyogi Smt. Prabhawati Bhat (Tulsi)** W/o Lt. Sh. Neel Karth Bhat of Sagram, Kolarnag presently residing at Parku Camp, Jammu has joined the lotus feet of Almighty on 08 Feb 25.
Tenth Day Kriya Karan will be performed on 15 Feb 25 (Sat) at Akhnoor Ghat, Jammu at 0800 hrs. **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Parku Camp by 1030hrs.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Son and Daughter-in-law
Sh. Ashok Kumar Bhat and Smt. Nancy Bhat
Daughters and Son-in-law
Smt. Binu J and Sh. R.L. Pandita
Smt. Santosh J and Sh. S.M. Pandita
Smt. Bita J and Sh. M.K. Raina
Smt. Jyoti J and Sh. Ram ji Raina
Grands on and Grand Daughter-in-law
Mr. Sunny Sagar Bhat and Mrs. Sharu Koul Bhat
Grand Daughters and Grand Son-in-laws
Mrs. Archana Bhat and Mr. Rocky Koul
Mrs. Manju Bhat and Mr. Ronit Koul
Material Grand Children
Bobby j Anuj, Shalvi j Nishu j, Vity ji Anku ji, Anchu ji, Gugi ji and Lily ji
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Samaya, Mahi, Arav, Vivan, Rohvika, Shivon, Shival and Pa
Contact Nos. 959680321, 6005267976



KARAMYOGI SMT. PRABHAWATI BHAT (TULSI)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kulbushan Jandial** S/o Lt. Sh. Krishan Lal Jandial on 8th February, 2025, R/o W.No. 21, Dandyal, Near GEO Office, Udhampur.
Tenth Day will be held on 14th of Feb 2025, 12.00 Noon at Mahan Sabha, Udhampur.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Sushma Jandial - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Tarun Jandial and Heena Jandial
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Roshan Jandial
Smt. & Sh. Keval Jandial
Lt. Sh. Parshotam Jandial & Smt. Kajal Jandial
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Pooja Gupta & Pardeep Kudyar
Priya Gupta & Dinkar Razdan
Mobilo : 9419160478, 9419160618, 7006601776



Sh. Kulbushan Jandial

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Sita Devi** W/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh Sambhal R/o H.No. 55, Paloo Road, Jammu on 3rd Feb, 2025.
10th Day will be performed on Wednesday dated 12th Feb 2025 at Rani Park Mandir, Jammu at 11:00 AM.
Kriya will be performed on Saturday, dated 15th Feb 2025 at 12:00 noon at our residence H.No. 55, Paloo Road, Jammu. **Uthala** will be performed on Saturday, dated 15th Feb 2025 from 04:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Trikuta Yatri Bhawan, Anphalla, Jammu.
Grief Stricken:
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Yudhveer Singh Sambhal & Smt. Vishali Thakur
Smt. Yasho Rajaya Lakshmi & Sh. Sanjay Manhas - Daughter & Son-in-Law
Smt. Bhoi Devi W/o Late Sh. Ranbir Singh Sambhal - Devrani
Sh. Shiv Ram Nag & Smt. Kanta Devi - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Rani Chandol W/o Late Sh. Niranjan Singh Chandol - Sister-in-Law
Nephews: Sh. Rajeshwar Singh Sambhal, Rahul Singh Sambhal, Bhanu Partap Singh Sambhal
Grand Children: Yashasvini Sambhal, Adhiraj Singh Manhas Yuvraj Singh Manhas
Phone: 9419111900, 9419210926, 9419166516, 9419224527, 9086211352



Smt. Sita Devi

10TH DAY/OBITUARY

With a heavy heart, we mourn the sad demise of our dear **Asha Ji Gassi**, (Behan Ji) W/o Lt. Sh. Jagmohan Gassi, breathed her last on 10th February 25.
10th Day Kriya will be performed on Wednesday, 19th February, 2025 at Gouri Shankar Mandir at Palm Vihar, New Delhi, Originally from Dadi Kadal, Tankipora, Srinagar Pouni Chak, Jammu at present House No. 290, DDA Flats, Sector 23 Pocket 1, Mahadev Apartments, Dwarka, New Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Gassi's, Ambardar's, Peer's, Koul's and Raina's
Contact Nos. : 7889781897, 9999009442, 9312740428, 9622095514



Asha Ji Gassi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mrs. Taniya Raina (TANU)** W/o Mr. Rahul Raina (Shunty) erstwhile R/o 149 Kanikadal Habbakadal Srinagar presently at Lane 25 Block 158 Flat 18 on Jagti Township Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on Feb 08 2025.
Tenth Day Kriya will be held on Feb 17th at Akhnoor Ghat and the **Assembly** will be held at lane number 22 back side near old JK Bank at 11:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Mr. Rahul Raina (Husband) 6006053746
Father and Mother in law
Sh. Tony Raina & Smt. Neelam Raina (9906174981)
Razdan Family (9906350083)
Mahaldar Family (990669904)
Bhat Family (7780942022)



Mrs. Taniya Raina (TANU)

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Lt Governor Brig Mishra attend Union Minister YSS Dr Mansukh Mandaviya's meeting

Top News Report

LEH, Feb 12: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) virtually attended a meeting chaired by the Union Minister, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya to apprise the concerned State Ministers, Lt Governors and sports department officials of the course of action for the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect initiatives.

It was informed in the meeting that the transformative initiative is aimed at engaging young minds in national discussions and policy deliberations while fostering leadership and civic participation inspired by the vision of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to empower youth voices



and encourage their contributions towards achieving the goal of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

Stating that the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect initiatives would help in achieving the goal of a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, the LG assured

that UT Administration of Ladakh would organise the programmes as directed by the Union Minister, YSS to engage youth from Ladakh. Mentioning that sports is a means to engage youth, the LG asked assistance from the Union Minister in providing training, qualified coaches and establishing sports federations in

UT Ladakh for the promotion of sports such as ice hockey and horse polo.

The assistance from the Sports Minister, the LG further stated, would benefit youth from Ladakh and also prove beneficial in engaging more youth from the region.

Earlier, a detailed pre-

sentation was given on the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament comprising coordinated efforts at district, state and national levels for its successful execution along with a PPT on Viksit Bharat Ambassador-Yuva Connect Programme to facilitate direct engagement between India's youth and top policymakers.

The Union Minister, YSS, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya solicited support from all states and union territories to make the programme successful and asked to host programmes under the initiatives by engaging maximum youth.

Secretary, YSS, Vikram Singh Malik; Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha, and Additional Secretary, Law & Justice, Shashi Kant Bhagat were present in the meeting.

Deputy CM highlights visionary role of Guru Ravi Dass in societal renaissance

Exhorts youth to follow teachings of Saints, Seers to live contented life



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Highlighting the visionary contribution of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji in socio-economic transformation, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Wednesday said that the need of the time is to follow his teachings for creating an egalitarian and humane world to live in.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organised in connection with the celebration of 648th Prakash Utsav of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji at Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Krishna Nagar, here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that in present times, when the materialistic pursuits have played a havoc on the

fabric of our society, there is dire need to follow the teachings of our Saints and Seers for living a contented and Spiritual life. "We need to follow the teachings of our saints and sufis for making our lives more spiritual which would lead to a contented and blissful life", he added.

"The people of the subcontinent are aware of the contribution of Guru Ravi Dass ji in ensuring a society based on humane values and we need to propagate theses for betterment of mankind", stated the Deputy Chief Minister adding that this will form the basis of making our world more inclusive.

The Deputy Chief Minister also appealed the youth to follow the spiri-

tual teachings of great saints and not get carried away by the tendencies detrimental to their future and health. He expressed concern over mounting substance abuse while assuring strict measures to deal with this social evil.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at the Ashram and prayed for peace and prosperity of the country and Jammu and Kashmir in particular. He also interacted with the devotees.

The Management of All Jammu and Kashmir Shree Guru Ravi Dass Sabha also presented a memorandum to the Deputy Chief Minister projecting several issues like Proper implementation of Reservation for SC/STs in Employment, SC/ST Atrocities Act and other related demands.

Earlier, a deputation of former BDCs, Sarpanchs and Panchs called on the Deputy Chief Minister and projected several developmental issues of their respective areas seeking immediate redressal.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputation to look into their issues and concerns for their early redressal.

Health Minister addresses annual day celebration at IGGDC; inaugurates CBCT at hospital

Says Govt working on a structured policy to address employment concerns of dentists

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday remarked that the Omar Abdullah led government is actively working on a structured policy to address employment concerns of dentists and expand job prospects for them in government and allied sectors.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the Annual Day celebrations at Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised on the critical significance of medical education on society and role of dental professionals in strengthening public health services. "Medical is a very noble profession



as it directly impacts the public welfare", she stated. She added that the medical professionals have a very active role in shaping the well being of the society.

The Minister further said that new technologies are coming every other day in medical field and medical professionals need to upgrade themselves as per these evolving technologies. "Medical and dental field is an ever evolving field

requiring introduction of newer advancements to promote patient care", She maintained.

The Minister emphasized on the critical role of dentists in public health saying that the government is actively working on a structured policy to address employment concerns and create new job opportunities for dentists.

Commending the academic and clinical

excellence of IGGDC, she encouraged the students to pursue knowledge with dedication and serve society with compassion. She also applauded the institution's role in fostering research and innovation in dentistry.

In her welcome address, Principal and Dean, IGGDC, Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, presented a comprehensive report through PowerPoint Presentation, detailing the departmental overview and achievements of the college throughout the academic year, including major milestones and varied academic programs that have fostered academic and extracurricular development among the students. She sought Minister's intervention in introduction of postgraduate course in the college. She also applauded the help of government in

introducing written test for registrars to facilitate a fair process of faculty selection.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated the Alumni of college who are serving the society under various capacities in different government departments. The Minister also felicitated the meritorious students of various batches.

Notably, the Minister also released the first edition of college magazine 'UMeed' which serves as a platform for students to express their ideas.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated Dental Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) at the hospital.

Later, she conducted a detailed tour of the hospital to assess the functioning of the dental services being provided to the patients. She also interacted with the patients and had feedback about the services being provided at the facility.

Chairman LAHDC Leh reviews progress of plantation drive at Ranbirpur

Top News Report

LEH, Feb 12: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, chaired a meeting in the presence of Executive Councillor Ghulam Mehdi to review the progress of the "Plantation Drive at Ranbirpur" under the Go Green Go Organic Project.

The meeting was held in the conference hall of the Council Secretariat. The discussions primarily focused on the upcoming second phase of the Go Green Go Organic project, which



is set to take place in the Ranbirpur area of Thiksey village.

The meeting was attended by Councillor Thiksey, Chief Agriculture Officer Leh, Chief Horticulture Officer Leh,

Executive Engineers from I&F Leh, PDD, and Hydraulic, Block Development Officer, Ranger Officer, Forest Department Leh, Director of Go Green Go Organic.

BLSKS presents mega musical play "Kathoti Main Ganga" on Guru Ravidas Jayanti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: To commemorate the 648th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas and to promote the traditional folk culture of J&K, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) in collaboration with Sangam Tru Art presented the 479th Wednesday Series Mega Musical Play "Kathoti Main Ganga" at the Open Air Theatre, Durga Bhawan, Janipur, Jammu.

The musical play was written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, former Regional Director, Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, with music composed by Music Director M.C. Kotwal and renowned singer Raju Bajjal.

The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India. Other notable dignitaries included J.K. Raina, Producer and Director of Films, and Mukesh Singh, Media Personality from The Shadow Newspaper, Jammu, who graced the event as Guests of Honor.

The program commenced with soul-stirring devotional songs includ-



ing "Tum Chandan Main Pani," "Hari Migi Paduka Banai Liya Oh," "Prabhu More Avgun Chit Na Tharo," and "Ganga Par Kari De Ganga Mayi" performed by renowned artists and students of BLSKS. The captivating performances left the audience mesmerized, earning immense appreciation from the spectators.

The Chief Guest lauded the organizers for their efforts in spreading awareness through cultural performances and highlighted the life and teachings of Guru Ravidas. He emphasized that Guru Ravidas Jayanti is not just a celebration but a reminder of his efforts to abolish caste and gender discrimination, promote human rights, and spread the message of unity

through devotional songs and spiritual teachings.

The program was recorded and uploaded on social media, ensuring a wider reach for people who could not attend in person.

In his welcome address, Dr. M.L. Dogra emphasized the profound teachings of Guru Ravidas, stating that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was deeply influenced by his ideas. He highlighted that the Fundamental Rights chapter in the Indian Constitution reflects Guru Ravidas' philosophy of equality, love, universal brotherhood, and devotion to God.

Devotees across the country celebrate Guru Ravidas Jayanti by singing Gurbani, offering special prayers, and par-

tipating in Nagarkirtans. Many also visit sacred sites and take a holy dip in the river as an expression of their devotion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. M.C. Kotwal, General Secretary, elaborated on Guru Ravidas' mission to eradicate the caste system and promote equality among all of God's creations. He stated that Guru Ravidas, like the ten Sikh Gurus, worked relentlessly to spread spiritual wisdom and fight against caste-based discrimination.

The play featured mesmerizing performances by K.K. Joshi, Bindia Okheda, Sant Das, Kuldeep Raj, Renu Bala, Naiya Dagra, and Rajeev Salotra. Their artistic presentation of Guru Ravidas' teachings and struggles made a deep impact on the audience.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by the event coordinator, Deepak Kumar Dogra, expressing gratitude to all artists, dignitaries, and the audience for making the event a grand success.

This cultural and devotional event was a remarkable tribute to Guru Ravidas' timeless teachings, reinforcing the values of love, equality, and spiritual wisdom in society.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH. DIVISION KATHUA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 133/JSPHEMK dated: 10-02-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode online from approved and reputed/registered contractors/firms dealing with job for hiring of private vehicle having sufficient experience. The detail of works is as below:-

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing of Light inspection vehicle such as Scorpio/Bolero/Innova/Kylo etc. of recent make and Model on hire charges basis excluding POL. Salary of driver, toll tax, insurance and expenses for repair and maintenance etc. of vehicle which shall be borne by the firm. The contract shall be valid for a period of 01 year but extendable by incremental periods of 05 months with the approval of higher authority on same terms and conditions. The quoted rates should be on monthly rent basis for official use of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (M) Division Kathua for inspection of Govt. works.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	Rs. 500.00 (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua	10000/- (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	4.80 Lacs	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://ktenders.gov.in> from 10-02-2025 (6:50PM) and uploaded from 10-02-2025 (6:50 PM) to 17-02-2025 (04:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online <http://ktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on 18-02-2025 at 01:00 P.M. or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/3157-60
Dated: 10-02-2025

DIP/J-10055/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,
Kathua

EDITORIAL

Powering Solar Revolution

India is at the forefront of a solar energy revolution, rapidly expanding its solar power capacity to meet the growing energy demands of its vast population. As one of the world's largest consumers of electricity, the country has recognized the urgent need to transition to renewable energy sources. With ambitious government initiatives, technological advancements, and increasing private sector participation, India is poised to become a global leader in solar energy.

The Indian government has been instrumental in driving the solar energy revolution through key policies and programs. The National Solar Mission, launched in 2010 under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), set an ambitious target of achieving 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022. This initiative was part of India's broader commitment to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

Other significant initiatives include the PM-KUSUM scheme, which promotes the use of solar energy for irrigation, and the Solar Parks Scheme, aimed at developing large-scale solar projects. Additionally, policies like Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and incentives such as Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) have encouraged private sector investments in the solar sector.

India's solar capacity has witnessed unprecedented growth over the past decade. From less than 3 GW in 2014, the installed solar capacity surpassed 70 GW in 2023, making India the fifth-largest solar power producer in the world. This rapid expansion has been driven by declining solar panel costs, improvements in energy storage, and favorable policy frameworks.

Several states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, have emerged as solar power hubs due to their high solar irradiation levels. The world's largest solar power plant, Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan, is a testament to India's commitment to harnessing solar energy on a massive scale.

Technological innovations are playing a crucial role in India's solar revolution. The development of floating solar power plants on reservoirs and lakes has addressed land acquisition challenges. Hybrid solar-wind projects are optimizing renewable energy generation, while advancements in battery storage solutions are improving the reliability of solar power.

Research institutions and startups are also working on next-generation technologies like perovskite solar cells, bifacial solar panels, and solar-powered hydrogen production, which could further enhance India's renewable energy landscape.

Despite remarkable progress, India's solar sector faces several challenges. Land acquisition for large-scale solar projects remains a major hurdle, particularly in densely populated areas. Intermittent solar energy production, due to weather conditions and limited storage infrastructure, poses reliability issues.

Financial constraints, such as high initial investment costs and delays in payment to power developers, have also slowed down the sector's growth. Additionally, the dependence on imported solar panels from countries like China raises concerns about energy security and self-reliance. To counter this, the Indian government has imposed customs duties on imported solar equipment and is promoting domestic manufacturing through initiatives like 'Make in India' and the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.

India's vision of becoming a global leader in solar energy requires continued investment, innovation, and policy support. The focus must be on developing robust energy storage solutions, expanding grid infrastructure, and enhancing local manufacturing capabilities.

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) in solar power management can optimize efficiency, while off-grid solar solutions can help electrify rural and remote areas. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and foreign direct investments (FDIs) will also play a critical role in scaling up solar energy production.

India's solar revolution is not just about energy transition; it is about economic growth, environmental sustainability, and energy independence. By harnessing its vast solar potential, India can reduce its carbon footprint, create millions of green jobs, and emerge as a global clean energy powerhouse. With continued commitment and innovation, the future of solar energy in India looks brighter than ever.

Celebrating Guru Ravi Das Jayanti

By: Omkar Dattatray

This year the festival of Guru Ravi Das Jayanti falls on 12th February Wednesday and as usual the festival is being celebrated with enthusiasm, gaiety and fervor. The birth anniversary of the great Guru coincides with the auspicious occasion of Magha Purnima which is a big festival in Sanatan Dharma. Guru Ravidas, also spelt as Raidas, was an Indian saint and poet of 15th century. He belonged to a family of leather workers, he even claimed to be an achhoot or untouchable. Some of the verses found place in Guru Grant Sahib of Sikhism. Mirabai, a Rajput lady of a royal family of Rajasthan, was one of the followers of Guru Ravidas. Many people follow his teachings and consider him their Guru, the teacher. Guru Ravidas wrote poems in Brij Bhasha. A few of his poems are Guru Ravi Das was the Guru of the masses and the downtrodden sections of the society. He was a saint and reformer and was the big opponent of untouchability and fought for equality of men and women and all in the society. Guru Ravidas Jayanti, celebrated with devotion and reverence, marks the birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas, a prominent saint of the Bhakti movement. In 2025, the event commemorates the 648th birth anniversary. He was the great mystic poet-saint who gave much importance to Bhakti to realize Almighty. Guru Ravi Das spearheaded the Bhakti cult and movement. Guru Ravidas [1377-1527 C.E.], also known as Raidas, Rohidas, or Ruhidas, was a renowned spiritual leader and reformer of the Bhakti Movement. He is revered for his devotional songs and verses that emphasized equality, unity, and importance of a spiritual connection with God. His teachings inspired countless followers and left an indelible mark on Indian spiritual

and social traditions. As per historians, Guru Ravidas was born in 1377 C.E. in Mandhuadhe, a small village near Varanasi Uttar Pradesh, India. However, some scholars argue that his birth year may have been 1399 C.E. Despite the historical debate, his birth anniversary is traditionally celebrated on Magha Purnima, as per the Hindu lunar Calendar. His birthplace, now known as Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan, is a significant pilgrimage site for his followers, who gather here to pay homage and seek blessings. Guru Ravidas Jayanti holds immense significance for his followers, particularly in North India and Punjab. The day is observed with grand celebrations, including prayers, processions, and recitations of his hymns. His teachings, which stress equality, social justice, and elimination of caste-based discrimination, continue to inspire people to this day. Devotional prayers are offered in temples of Guru Ravidas in many places in north India. Devotees visit temples dedicated to Guru Ravidas, especially the Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan in Varanasi, to offer prayers and participate in special rituals. Colorful processions known as Nagar Kirtans, are organized in various cities, where his hymns and teachings are sung with devotion. Langars—community kitchens are arranged to serve free meals to devotees, symbolizing equality and essential unity of the mankind. Spiritual leaders and scholars share insights on Guru Ravidas's life and teachings, inspiring people to follow his path of truth and compassion. Guru Ravidas's teachings focused on universal love, equality, and devotion to God. He opposed social evils such as caste discrimination and advocated for a harmonious society. His verses, composed in regional languages, made spiritually assessable to the common people and inspired movements for social reform.

His followers known as Ravidassias, regard him as a divine figure whose messages transcend time. The Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan remains a beacon of his spiritual legacy attracting devotees from around the globe. Guru Ravidas Jayanti offers an opportunity to reflect on his teachings and strive for a more inclusive and compassionate world. Whether you participate in temple rituals, attend processions, or engage in acts of service, the day encourages you to embrace the values of love, equality, and devotion. On the 648th birth anniversary of this great saint, let us honor his legacy and imbibe his timeless wisdom in our lives. The teachings and poetry of this great saint cum poet is ever fresh and relevant in today's greed torn and materialistic world. His teachings are universal as these have universal application. Guru Ravidas's message of love, social equality, unity of the mankind, compassion are more relevant in modern time and they become our guides and torch bearers. Is Monistic Brahman or Anthropomorphic God, the God of Guru Ravidas. Ravidas argued that both these are one. In these manuscripts, Kabir initially prevails. Ravidas accepts that Brahman is monistic, but till the end Kabir didn't accept worshipping a divine avatar. Guru Ravidas Jayanti is an optional holiday observed on the full moon day in the month of Magh month. It commemorates Guru Ravidas, who was born in 1450 in UP Varanasi. He became a poet-saint, a reformist, and a spiritual figure who founded the Ravidassia faith in the broader spectrum of Hinduism. This festival is celebrated for his massive number of followers. People observe this day by taking a holy dip and the proceeding with the performance of a special aarti to seek the blessings of the distinguished Guru. He was a famous saint of the Bhakti Movement. His devotional songs and

verses made a lasting impact upon Bhakti Movement. In 2025, the event commemorates his 648th birth anniversary, observed on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, coinciding with Magha Purnima. Guru Ravidas was a teacher who was an Indian mystic, poet, social reformer, and a spiritual Guru who made significant contributions to the Bhakti Movement through his devotional songs, poetry, and spiritual teachings. He also penned 40 poems for Sikhism's sacred scripture, the Adi Granth. Guru Ravidas Jayanti has a special significance among the people following Sikhism, specially who follow Ravidassia sect, and other people who in any way revere Ravidas like some of the Kabirpanthis and other religions. Guru Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated with special prayers, bhajans, Nagar Kirtan processions, and reading his poetry, devotional songs and remembering his verses. Many devotees visit sacred rivers to take a holy bath, while others offer prayers at temples dedicated to Guru Ravidas. He is revered for his devotional songs and verses that emphasize equality, unity and the importance of a spiritual connection with God. His teachings inspired millions and left an indelible mark on Indian spiritual and social canvas. In short the teachings and message of equality, social justice and essential unity of mankind and his advocacy for social reform will continue to inspire countless people. The befitting tribute to this great saint cum poet is to follow his teachings which are more relevant in the modern day materialistic world. Let us follow his teachings and message for social, moral and spiritual development.

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

The Rise of Open marriages in Urban India

By: Dr. Anurag Pathak

An "open marriage" in India refers to a marital relationship where both partners consensually agree to pursue sexual or emotional connections outside of their primary partnership, though the concept is still considered quite taboo and not openly discussed due to strong societal norms and traditional values; it requires a high level of communication, trust, and clear boundaries between partners to function successfully.

Love is definitely not one-size-fits-all. While some people want to be in a monogamous relationship, others may prefer to have more than one romantic partner—and that's completely okay, provided that all parties are aligned, happy, and safe. Ultimately, there are lots of different types of connections an individual can experience, and one type of partnership that gets a lot of attention (but is largely misunderstood) is the

open relationship

An open relationship, also referred to as consensual non-monogamy, is one in which an individual has a primary partner but is free to explore other connections outside of that union. "An open relationship means that you are open to a romantic connection outside of your primary partner, and there are so many variations of what that could look like," clinical psychologist Dr. Morgan Anderson further explains. "At its most basic definition, it means you are willing to have a connection with people in a romantic way outside of your primary partner."

Open relationships allow both people in a union to openly have other sexual and/or romantic partners. "An open relationship can have many different configurations but, in general, being in an open relationship means there's an agreement that partners can engage in sexual and/or emotional relationships outside the main relationship," shares

Los Angeles-based sexologist Dr. Tara. "Although it's more popularly used among couples who allow each other to have sex outside the relationship, it's an umbrella term for many different types of non-traditional relationships."

Now we need to understand the clear difference between polyamory and open marriage. "Polyamory involves being in loving relationships with multiple people, with the love part being the key element and it comes before the sexual element. Poly partners are emotionally committed to one another, which is usually the defining difference between poly and open relationships," explains Dr. Tara. "One can be in a poly relationship with three people they love and not have sexual relations. Open relationships usually mean you're able to have sex outside the relationship, but the interesting thing is you can be poly and closed.

There isn't a clear-cut way to determine whether or not an open

relationship is right for you—what's most important is that you and your partner are on the exact same page. You should both be curious about seeing other people but still want to maintain your own partnership and have real, honest feelings for each other. Since there's a lot of nuance involved, this type of relationship will only work if you're both totally honest with each other and already have solid communication skills. "Everyone feels differently about opening up their relationship.

It's important to discuss this upfront with your partner, to explore what it would look like to open up your relationship, and to figure out how you could have a healthy, secure attachment while opening up your relationships.

*Dr. Anurag Pathak
Lucknow*

Former Dy CM backs alcohol ban in J&K as PDP, NC MLAs push for Legislation

'Open sale, use of alcohol near schools, temples & mosques is serious threat to society'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Senior Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Nirmal Singh, has voiced strong support for proposed legislation aimed at banning alcohol across the Union Territory.

His support comes in the wake of bills introduced by legislators from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and National Conference (NC), seeking to curb the sale, consumption, and promotion of alcohol in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Nirmal Singh said,

"I fully support the bill advocating for a ban on alcohol in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has never supported alcohol consumption, and wherever our government is in power, we have taken strong measures against it," he said.

Dr. Singh highlighted the growing awareness in Kashmir regarding the adverse effects of alcohol but stressed the need for similar consciousness in the Jammu division. "If there are restrictions in Kashmir, why not in Jammu? The open sale and use of alcohol near schools, temples, and mosques is a serious threat to

our society. Alcohol has destroyed families, and unfortunately, women are the worst victims," he added.

Addressing concerns about the economic impact on businesses dependent on alcohol sales in Jammu, Dr. Nirmal Singh dismissed such arguments, stating, "If we justify the business of alcohol, then what stops us from legalizing drugs? Both are harmful, and there must be strict restrictions. The health and well-being of our people are far more important than commercial interests."

The proposed bill,

introduced by Fayaz Ahmad Mir, PDP MLA from Kupwara, calls for a comprehensive ban on the advertisement, sale, purchase, consumption, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mir expressed deep concern over the rising trend of alcohol consumption, particularly its impact on the youth. "Alcohol is becoming a serious societal threat, eroding the moral fabric of our community. It's imperative that lawmakers act decisively to curb this menace," he said. The bill outlines stringent penalties, including imprisonment and hefty

fines, for violators.

In a similar move, National Conference MLA Ahsan Pardesi has also submitted a private member's bill seeking a ban on alcohol in Kashmir and other Muslim-majority regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Pardesi highlighted that the consumption of alcohol contradicts the region's sufi-reshi traditions and undermines its cultural and religious values.

Adding to the momentum, the Congress party has also announced its support for the bills proposed by the PDP and NC.

Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School hosts live screening of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School, Mandal, successfully hosted a live screening of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025, the much-anticipated interactive session between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and students from across the country.

Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister for initiating this unique platform, calling it an invaluable opportunity for students to gain insights into exam stress management and effective study techniques. She remarked, "Pariksha Pe Charcha provides students with practical guidance and motivation, helping them face exams with confidence and a positive mindset."

The event, held at the school's ICR rooms, witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of 550 students,

teachers, and parents. Students actively participated in the session, seeking advice on exam preparation, stress management, and personal growth. The Prime Minister's encouraging words on overcoming fear, maintaining focus, and embracing exams as a learning opportunity deeply resonated with the young learners.

Teachers and parents praised the initiative, highlighting how such interactions help bridge the communication gap between students and national policymakers. They emphasized the significance of addressing students' academic concerns and motivating them to excel.

The event concluded on an inspiring note, leaving students empowered and motivated to approach their upcoming exams with renewed confidence and determination.

Madhuparamhans enlightens devotees on Poornima



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Renowned spiritual leader Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi delivered a profound discourse at Ranjri on the auspicious occasion of Poornima, emphasizing the unity of all human beings beyond barriers of religion or caste.

Addressing the congregation, Sadguru Ji highlighted the fundamental equality among all people, stating, "Everyone has the same physical and emotional experiences—hunger, thirst, joy, and sorrow. Mentally, too, we are alike, bound by love, desires, anger, and ego."

He further elaborated on the mystical power of

the mind, describing it as an unseen force that controls human actions and thoughts. "This human being is but a puppet, governed by an opposing force within," he said. According to him, this force, known as Kaal (time) or the mind, orchestrates the actions of individuals, leading them toward destruction. He explained that all human activities are mental, and the soul remains distinct from worldly desires such as greed, attachment, and anger.

Sadguru pointed out that even great sages like Narada were not immune to the mind's influence. He stressed that throughout history, all saints and spiritual figures have struggled to truly comprehend and conquer the mind, which continues to govern humanity's actions.

His thought-provoking discourse left devotees reflecting on the profound nature of the mind and the path to true spiritual awakening.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 12: A review meeting on the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was conducted on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

During the meeting, the JPDCLE engineers apprised the chair about the registration of over 5,000 consumers under the scheme, with 1,940 applications submitted.

It was further informed that 85 applicants have successfully availed bank loans amounting to Rs 1.20 crores, as confirmed by Lovemeet Singh Parihar, Manager, J&K Bank.

The DC directed the vendors to expedite the installation of Solar Rooftop Systems (SRTs) within three days for all applicants whose loans have been disbursed.



Additionally, vendors were instructed to increase their installation teams to clear all pending cases.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the scheme, the DC advised the JPDCLE team to coordinate with vendors and address any minor operational challenges in a time-bound manner.

The initiative aims to facilitate consumers in availing the benefits of the government's solar energy scheme, promot-

ing clean and sustainable energy solutions in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) of the Power Development Department (PDD), Electric Division JPDCLE Kishtwar, along with registered empaneled vendors, including M/s Malik Solar, AD Agency, M/s Nehru Solar Solutions, M/s Sanjeet Sharma, M/s Adil Butt, and M/s Aditya.

IMS Jammu organizes IGNITE Your Career- a two days corporate exposure event



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), Jammu successfully conducted "IGNITE Your Career," a two-day Corporate Exposure Event, on 11th and 12th February for its MBA 2nd and 4th semester students. This dynamic event was designed to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in the competitive corporate world.

The event was a whirlwind of activity, featuring engaging workshops, insightful presentations, and interactive sessions that provided students with valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth. Day one commenced

with an impactful session on Financial Literacy conducted by Vibhu Goel, owner of VG Training Academy. Following this, participants delved deeper into self-discovery through a personality assessment designed to help them identify their strengths and build a unique career path.

This helped them to not only understand their own personality traits but also aided in explaining the kind of careers they are suitable for. Day two continued with an enlightening session led by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director of IMS, on the Topic -- "First Impressions Matter" where she discussed the critical importance

of making a strong first impression.

To simulate real-world scenarios, a mock interview session was held that provided invaluable insights and constructive feedback, allowing students to refine their interview skills and build their confidence.

Beyond skill development, "IGNITE Your Career" fostered a sense of community among aspiring professionals.

The event provided a platform for students to connect with each other, learn from industry experts, and gain valuable insights into the corporate world. This event exemplifies IMS Jammu's unwavering commitment to shaping future leaders and preparing them for a successful career journey.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan protest against martyrdom of brave soldiers



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a strong anti-Pakistan rally in protest against the martyrdom of a young Indian Army Captain and a Naik, who lost their lives in an IED blast planted by terrorists on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor. Several others were injured in the attack.

During the rally, protestors burned effigies of Pakistan, Pakistani flags, and ISI symbols to express their outrage against the repeated terrorist activities emanating from across the border. The demonstration saw the participation of many nationalist leaders and activists who voiced their anger over the continued bloodshed of Indian soldiers.

Addressing the rally, Sunil Dimple expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of Captain Bakshi and Naik Mukesh Manhas, who were martyred while on patrol duty. He revealed that both soldiers were soon to be married in April, making their loss even more painful for their families and the nation. Dimple raised serious concerns over how terrorists managed to cross the border and plant an IED on Indian soil, highlighting a possi-

ble security lapse along the LoC.

In a strong appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Dimple demanded immediate military action against Pakistan. He urged the government to declare full-scale war on Pakistan and launch aggressive operations to destroy terrorist training camps operating in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Additionally, he called for the inclusion of the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister in high-level security meetings to ensure better coordination between the state and central governments in tackling terrorism.

Dimple further pressed Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to give a fitting response to Pakistan and China for their repeated violations along the LoC. He expressed frustration that, despite multiple high-level security meetings, terror attacks, infiltration, and targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir continue to rise. He stressed the urgent need for surgical strikes on Pakistan to dismantle terrorist infrastructure and liberate PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan from Pakistani occupation.

Expressing serious concerns, Dimple alleged that due to the

weak policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Pakistan-trained Special Operations Group (SOG) commandos and Border Action Team (BAT) units have infiltrated deep into Kashmir, Pir Panjal, Chenab Valley, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur, Basohli, and other regions of Jammu. He claimed that in the last 60 days, around 50 security personnel and civilians have been martyred due to terror attacks in the region.

Dimple also condemned Pakistan's internal persecution of Hindus, Sikhs, and Shia Muslims, alleging that the Pakistani Army continues to commit human rights violations, including forced religious conversions and violent atrocities. He stated that Pakistan's continued aggression against India should not go unanswered and called for immediate retaliation.

The rally saw participation from several prominent leaders, including Sawarn Singh, Mohan Lal, Rajinder Gupta, S. Kala Singh, Vijay Virdi, Arun, Vikas, Lohari Shaha, Akash, and many others. Their collective voices echoed the demand for decisive military action to safeguard national security and honor the sacrifices of India's brave soldiers.

External Assessment conducted at SDH Atholi, DH Kishtwar under Kayakalp Program



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 12: On the directions of the Mission Director, NHM J&K Sh Nazim Zai Khan (IAS), a three-member team conducted an external assessment of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Atholi Padder and District Hospital Kishtwar under the Kayakalp Program for the FY 2024-25 w.e.f 10-02-2025 to 11-02-2025.

The assessment team was led by Dr. Rajesh Kotwal (External Assessor), accompanied by Mr. Umar Anayat and Mr. C.K. Shan (Internal Assessors). During

the visit, the team thoroughly evaluated various aspects of hospital cleanliness, infection control, bio-medical waste management, patient safety, and overall hygiene standards as per the Kayakalp guidelines.

The assessment aimed to reinforce the commitment to providing quality healthcare services and ensuring that public health facilities maintain high standards of hygiene and sanitation. The visiting team appreciated the efforts of hospital staff and suggested further improvements to enhance patient care

and hospital management.

The Kayakalp Initiative, launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, aims to recognize and incentivize public health facilities for their outstanding performance in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, ultimately improving healthcare service delivery.

The assessment findings will contribute to further strengthening healthcare facilities in Kishtwar district, ensuring a cleaner and safer hospital environment for patients and healthcare providers alike.

Filmmaker Arati Kadav's Mrs has struck a universal chord with the audience

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach—how we have all grown up on romantic notions of this idiom. Yet, what this pursuit does to women, well, watch Arati Kadav's Mrs. With her latest movie, the engineer-turned-filmmaker has not only exposed deeply rooted patriarchal value system that defines and deters women, but also achieved another near impossible feat.

As a rule, remakes come under a lot of flak, but she has breathed a new flavour and cultural context to the cult Malayalam film The Great Indian Kitchen. She has not only escaped unfair comparisons, but is also winning rave reviews.

When the film came to her, she herself was aghast. "Why on earth should we remake a film which has such a lovely relationship with its viewers?" But her producer Harman Baweja, who himself had been so impressed by the original, told her, "After watching The Great Indian Kitchen, I felt even asking my wife for a glass of water was not done. I want North Indian men also to take home similar truths." Now that the film is streaming on Zee5, it has expectedly struck a universal chord with women across the spectrum.

Changing beliefs
However, male viewers too are rethinking and relooking at their so called progressive beliefs. One such viewer told her, "I thought I was quite woke in letting my wife work and also took much comfort and pride in the



fact that she has a cook and all. Now, after watching Mrs, I have realised I am not doing her any favour. This is her right."

Of course, amidst the torrent of positive reviews also stands one odd negative appraisal, casting aspersions on the relevance of the film in the 21st century, the age of Gen Z. Kadav just can't believe that there are people, may be living under a rock, who believe that the concerns raised in the film are not relatable or not all pervasive. In fact, why she said yes to the film was how it resonated with her at a personal level too. She avers, "We have all seen our mothers, aunts and cousins go through this grind. Young women we spoke to had similar tales to tell." Why even though she is married to her class-fellow, she felt a gender shift after marriage. She adds, "Marriage in India is like transference of ownership. However privileged we might

be, the world is seen through gender lens."

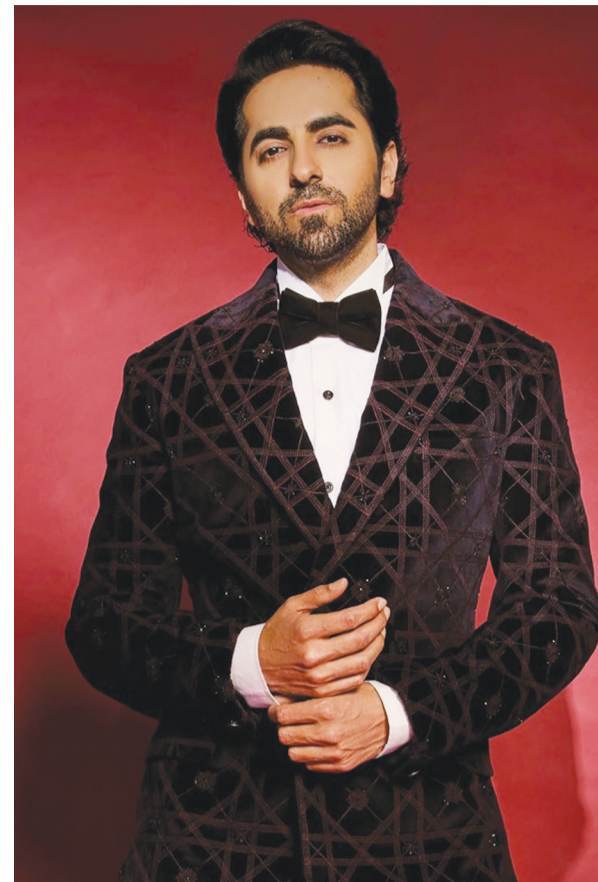
Fight for parity
If patriarchy is deeply entrenched, even normalised, in our society, she admits, "Things are not much different in the film industry either. The change has begun only recently. Even then the work that my male counterparts get doesn't come to me as easily." Perhaps, that is the reason she wanted a 50 per cent crew for her film. She states, "At times you have to fight for parity." But for Mrs, she also wanted a female gaze that would look into minor details like tea cups, etchings on the mirror, extra lace on the furnishings et al. Interestingly, while the film bares the drudgery of household work, it also paints vivid pictures of preparation of food, like an art form. She admits juxtaposing the two was a tough call, "But I wanted to bring both the joys and horrors of cooking."

Shining Sanya

Having a consummate actress like Sanya Malhotra on board made it even easier to navigate. If usually actors go to town about how proficient their directors are, Kadav can't stop extolling Sanya's sterling qualities, both as a person and an actor. Net result is a nuanced portrayal of Mrs, whose tell-all title is as revealing as the film. She shares, "For the longest time, we went with the working title of The Great Indian Kitchen. But, then someone suggested Mrs and it struck and stuck. For isn't it true that while men are always Mr, women become Mrs after marriage."

In future, Kadav, whose first love is sci-fi genre, and has made films like Cargo and several shorts around the subject, would want to marry science fiction with character-driven drama. As a child, like most Indians, she grew up watching classic Bollywood films, KJo cinema most certainly. Precisely, why the great Bollywood festival, karwa chauth had to figure prominently in her film! "There was no way I was not going to include it in the film, for isn't there inherent patriarchy underlying this fast too." There are other ways in which she intends to knock down a few more sexist norms; a hundred per cent all-woman crew for one, which would actually be akin to a party. A soft-spoken woman, if direction is Kadav's superpower, cinema is the only activism she knows. More power to her.

Ayushmann Khurrana shares tips on how children can stay safe on the Internet



On the occasion of Safer Internet Day, Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has joined hands with UNICEF India to raise awareness about online safety. Taking to his Instagram handle, the Bala actor shared a video wherein he is seen interacting with a group of children to better understand the online world. The actor is also seen playing educative and

engaging games with children on the topic of digital safety, raising awareness for Internet safety for children.

Sharing the clip, Ayushmann wrote, "It's #SaferInternetDay, and I teamed up with UNICEF India to meet with this amazing group of children to learn more about the online world. Let's see what they have to say..."
About a safer Inter-

net world, Khurrana said, "In today's world, people of all ages, right from children aged 5-6 years to elder people, are using the Internet. In such situations, it is very important to educate first-time users about the Internet, that is children, about the perils of the Internet as well as ways to stay safe online. This year on the occasion of Safer Internet Day, I visited an NGO called PRATyE with UNICEF where along with the children, even I learnt about some important safety rules of the Internet."

"On this Safer Internet Day, along with UNICEF, I want to raise awareness about online safety and responsible digital behaviour. It is very important to equip young people with the tools to report when they feel discomfort or threatened. It can empower them to protect themselves and others online, and parents should also have open communication with their child to understand in case they are facing any troubles. Together, only by engaging safely on the Internet, we can transform this platform into one that empowers everyone," he added.

'Legally Blonde' prequel series nears casting decision for Elle Woods

Amazon MGM Studios and Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine are reportedly closing in on their choice for the lead role in the highly anticipated 'Legally Blonde' prequel series.

According to Deadline, sources close to the production, actresses Madison Wolfe and Lexi Minetree have tested for the iconic role of Elle Woods, a part that made Reese Witherspoon a household name in the early 2000s.

However, no official decision has been made yet, though one is expected soon.

Both actresses have made a strong impression in an extensive casting search that attracted numerous young actresses vying for the role, as per what sources told to Deadline.

In an ongoing search for the perfect young Elle Woods, Witherspoon, who will also executive produce the series, has been deeply involved in the process.

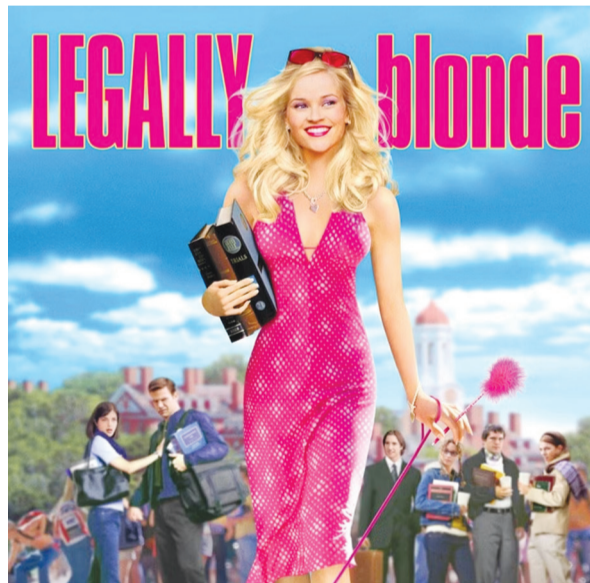
During a recent appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, she shared that the audition process had been going on for months and that she had reviewed many audition tapes.

"I just love them all so much and they're doing such a good job," Witherspoon said during her appearance at The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

Witherspoon was inspired to pursue a 'Legally Blonde' prequel

after watching Netflix's 'Wednesday', hoping to explore Elle Woods' life before college and law school.

The prequel series, created by Laura Kittrell, will follow Elle in high school, showcasing the formative experiences that led her to become the confident and beloved character portrayed by Witherspoon in the 2001 romantic comedy 'Legally Blonde' and its 2003 sequel 'Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde'.



In women-oriented television shows, how do the male actors make a mark? Celebs share their take



Be innovative Sumit Kaul

Since a large part of the audience constitutes women, it is understandable that most TV shows revolve around the female protagonist. That means generally the male characters may not have as much a role to play. Therefore, it becomes imperative that the actor takes whatever is given to him in the script and be innovative in its presentation. I have had directors wanting to take my close-in scenes where I was not even part of the main drama because they wanted a peek into what I, as the character, was thinking and doing.

Prioritise depth
Aadesh Chaudhary

In a women-oriented TV show, I prioritise depth over screen time. Rather than focusing on visibility, I aim to develop a character with a rich back story, complex emotions and meaningful relationships. This ensures my character resonates with the audience, even in smaller scenes. I also work on creating unique traits and quirks that set my character apart, whether it's a sense of humour, hidden talent or an intriguing flaw. For performances, I lean toward subtlety, conveying emotions through expressions, body language and tone rather than dramatics. Collaboration with the writers is essential.

Lasting impact Ishaan Singh Manhas

TV shows predominantly focus on female-centric narratives because the target audience largely consists of female viewers. This trend doesn't diminish the significance of male characters; instead, it offers a unique space to leave a lasting impact. As an actor, I believe that crafting a memorable performance is about understanding the layers of your character and how it fits into the broader story. Even in shows marketed as female-centric, male roles often provide critical support and drive pivotal story arcs.

Build a connect
Srikant Dwivedi

Many TV shows portray women as decision-makers, taking on family responsibilities and leading with strength. This is a refreshing change from big cinema, which is often male-oriented. When it comes to television, it creates a necessary balance, highlighting women's roles in a progressive manner. Now, coming to how I approach my performance in such shows and how I make it impactful—I'd like to say that I've primarily worked in mythological dramas. As an actor, I don't believe in doing anything 'extra' to make a character stand out. Acting, to me, is about embodying the character as written. If I over-

think my performance or focus solely on making it impactful, I feel it takes away from the authenticity of acting. True acting is about give and take—connecting naturally with your co-actors and the story.

Embracing the reality
Aditya Deshmukh
Ultimately, it's about embracing the reality of television storytelling. While some shows offer a different pattern, like my Army-based series, the essence of daily soaps remains women-centered. As actors, our task is to make our performances impactful within these frameworks, understanding that the audience's engagement is the ultimate reward.

Why Rakhi Sawant, Urfi Javed want fans to forgive Ranveer Allahbadia?

Ranveer had earlier issued a public apology, taking full responsibility for his inappropriate comment

The controversy surrounding influencer and podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, popularly known as BeerBiceps, has taken an unexpected turn as celebrities like Rakhi Sawant and Urfi Javed have come forward to urge people to forgive him.

Ranveer has been facing backlash for his inappropriate remarks on Samay Raina's show, "India's Got Latent," which led to a police complaint being filed against him and other

co-judges, including Ashish Chanchlani, Jasprit Singh, and Apoorva Makhija.

Rakhi recently took to her social media handle to ask people to move on from the issue. In her message, she wrote, "Forgive him, yaar. It's okay, it happens sometimes. Forgive him. I know he did wrong, but forgive him."

Interestingly, Rakhi has also appeared on "India's Got Latent" in the past.

Urfi also stepped in



to defend Ranveer and fellow comedian Samay Raina.

While she did not support their comments, she lashed out at those demanding jail for them.

In an Instagram story, Urfi wrote, "You don't like certain people, you don't like the things that they do or say, but demanding for them to go to jail for that? Are you serious? Ummmm! I don't know. Samay is a friend, I have his back but even the rest of the people on the panel, what they said

was distasteful, yes, but I don't think they deserve to go to jail for that."

Ranveer had earlier issued a public apology, taking full responsibility for his inappropriate comment. In his video statement, he admitted, "My comment wasn't just inappropriate, it wasn't even funny. Comedy is not my forte. I am just here to say sorry. Many of you asked if this is how I wish to use my platform, and obviously, this is not how I wish to use it."

Maha Kumbh: Nearly 1.60 crore people take 'snan' at Sangam on Maghi Purnima

The sacred bath began early Wednesday and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been monitoring the event from Lucknow

PRAYAGRAJ, Feb 12 (Agencies): Amid elaborate arrangements, nearly 1.60 crore people took a dip at the Sangam till noon on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima during the Maha Kumbh mela here, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

The sacred bath began early Wednesday and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been monitoring the event from Lucknow.

With the Maghi Purnima bath, the month-long Kalpavas will also end and around 10 lakh 'Kalpvasis' will start leaving the Maha Kumbh. The administration has requested them to follow traffic rules and use only authorised parking spaces.

While lakhs of devotees are headed to the Sangam Nose to take a dip, the Uttar Pradesh government in a statement said that by 12 pm, 1.59 crore people had taken the ritual dip at the Triveni Sangam and other ghats.

Flower petals were also showered on devotees from helicopters. CM Adityanath has been monitoring the Maghi Purnima Snan since 4 am at the war room in his official residence in Lucknow, the statement said.

Cricket legend Anil Kumble took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam along with his wife Chaitna Ramtirtha.

After arriving in Prayagraj on Tuesday, Kumble chose to partake in the holy dip on Magh Purnima, a day



when no VIP protocols are observed. He joined the devotees as a regular pilgrim, taking a boat to the confluence with his wife for the ritual.

Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad and officials of CM Secretariat are also present at the war room, it said.

Maha Kumbh Mela DIG Vaibhav Krishna says, "Today is Maghi Purnima, and more than one crore people have taken the dip.

Our arrangements are quite good and police deployment is there at all places. The crowd is moving comfortably.

Our SOPs are being followed." Kumbh SSP Rajesh Dwivedi said, "The movement of devotees is going on smoothly and we are taking care of all (crowd) pressure points."

"We have made elaborate arrangements during the previous 'snan' on Basant Panchami too. Our arrangements have been further augmented

at this time, he said. Talking about security arrangements in place for today's snan, the SSP said that more deployment has been done at all the pressure points. Along with that, we are briefing people to ensure a smooth movement."

The Uttar Pradesh government also launched "Operation Chaturbhuj" at the Maha Kumbh to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.

According to a statement, the initiative has strengthened security with advanced surveillance by the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), which monitored the event using 2,750 high-tech cameras, drones, and an anti-drone system for round-the-clock vigilance.

Mahakumbh Nagar SSP Rajesh Dwivedi said aerial surveillance and strict anti-drone measures have been put in place to ensure safety.

Meanwhile, Adityanath greeted everyone on the holy bathing festival. "Heartiest greet-

ings to all the revered saints, religious leaders, Kalpvasis, and devotees who have come for the holy bath at the sacred Triveni in Maha Kumbh-2025, Prayagraj.

May everyone's life be filled with happiness, prosperity, and good fortune by the grace of Lord Shri Hari. May Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna, and Maa Saraswati fulfill everyone's wishes," he said in the post.

According to officials, the fair area has been declared a 'no vehicle zone' from 4 am on Tuesday, while the entire city will become a no-vehicle zone from 5 pm onwards, with an exemption for emergency and essential services.

To avoid traffic chaos, designated parking lots have been marked for public and private vehicles.

Prayagraj ADG Bhanu Bhaskar said special police forces have been deployed at all places where crowd management becomes challenging.

The special traffic plan will remain in

force till the completion of the ritual to ensure the safe evacuation of devotees from the fair area in case of any emergency.

Bhaskar said real-time data is being collected from toll plazas and officials of neighbouring districts so that the number of vehicles coming and the routes can be monitored and regulated.

Srinivas, who has come from Andhra Pradesh to take a dip, said, "It feels good. The UP government has made good arrangements. Many thanks to Yogi Adityanath and PM Narendra Modi."

Another devotee, Gayatri, said, "I am very happy to be here at the Kumbh Mela on this auspicious occasion. The UP government has created a good atmosphere here. Being a Hindu, this is the first time I have felt like an Indian. People have shown their religiousness and unity has been promoted."

The state transport department has arranged 1,200 additional shuttle buses, which will be available for the devotees every 10 minutes, the officials said.

The Maha Kumbh will conclude on February 26 with the final Amrit Snan' on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

A stampede during the Manui Amaswya 'Amrit Snan' on January 29 had left, according to the Uttar Pradesh government, 30 dead and 60 injured.

Andhra Pradesh planning to promote 'work from home' in a big way: CM Chandrababu Naidu



BENGALURU, Feb 12 (Agencies): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that the state government was planning to promote 'work from home' in a big way, especially for women.

In a post on X, he said, "Andhra Pradesh is planning 'work from home' in a big way, especially for women."

"... As we know, the work landscape underwent a shift during the COVID-19 pandemic. With technology readily available to scale, 'work from home' gained prominence. Concepts such as remote work, coworking spaces (CWS) and neighbourhood workspaces (NWS) can empower businesses and employees alike to create flexible, productive work environments," he said.

He further said that such initiatives could help to strike a better work-life balance as well. "We plan to harness these trends to drive meaningful change in AP. The Andhra Pradesh IT & GCC Policy 4.0 is a game-changing step in that direction. We're offering incentives for developers to create

IT office spaces in every city/town/mandal and supporting IT/GCC firms to generate employment at the grass-roots," said the Andhra CM.

"I'm confident these initiatives will foster greater workforce participation, especially of women professionals, who will benefit through flexible remote/hybrid work options," he further added.

Earlier, CM Naidu opined that educated women should not remain housewives and that they should be provided good employment opportunities.

According to a release, CM Chandrababu told the officials to impart proper training to all those educated women living in rural and semi-urban areas in the state and provide employment opportunities to them. Chandrababu Naidu said that educated women should not confine themselves to their houses as concepts like work from home and coworking centres can provide massive employment opportunities to them.

He expressed serious concern that several educated women still remained at home. He said they would be willing to work if the work-from-home provision is given to them. "Women are very efficient and talented but are confining themselves to their homes due to certain family issues and responsibilities," the Chief Minister said.

If proper opportunities are provided to such women economic activity would grow, he added.

Modi must raise '2Ts – tariffs and traumatic deportation' in meeting with Trump: Kharge

NEW DELHI, Feb 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi must raise the issue of "2Ts — tariffs and traumatic deportation" during his talks with US President Donald Trump, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday ahead of the meeting between the two leaders.

Modi will be visiting the White House for a bilateral meeting with Trump on Thursday.

"When our PM Narendra Modi meets his American counterpart, President Trump, he must raise the 2Ts which are of immense concern for all Indians," Kharge said in a post on X.

"Tariffs: A 25% tariff on aluminium and steel imports with 'no exemptions, no exceptions' for any country, has serious repercussions for



India's manufacturing. We must build closer trade ties for both countries with mutually beneficial framework, given that the US is one of our biggest trading partner," he added.

Flagging the issue of "traumatic deportation", Kharge said the "deportation of Indian immigrants — handcuffed, legs chained — has naturally raised strong concerns among all Indians".

PM Modi must stress that any Indian national

must not be humiliated and must be treated with utmost dignity, the Congress president said.

"Even as these pressing bilateral issues take centre stage, all Indians recognise the valuable comprehensive global strategic partnership with the United States. We must do more to strengthen each other and further cement the relationship between both the Democracies in the interest of our people," Kharge said.

Young man killed in wild elephant attack in Kerala's Wayanad

WAYANAD, Feb 12 (Agencies): A 27-year-old man has been killed in a suspected wild elephant attack in this hill district, police said here on Wednesday.

The incident was reported from a tribal

settlement in Attamala that comes under the Meppadi police station limits, they said.

The victim has been identified as Balakrishnan, a member of the tribal community, police said.

The incident is believed to have occurred on Tuesday night and his body was found on Wednesday, they added.

Officials from the police and forest departments have reached the

locality.

The incident was reported a day after a 45-year-old man was killed in a wild elephant attack in a forest-fringe area in Noolpuzha village on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in this dis-

trict.

Following that incident, locals staged protests on Tuesday alleging that they were unable to step out of their homes due to the constant threat of attacks by wild animals including elephants.

Kerala nursing students 'forced to stand naked', 'wounded with compasses' during ragging

KOTTAYAM, Feb 12 (Agencies): Five third-year nursing students have been arrested for allegedly ragging first-year students at Government Nursing College in Kottayam, Kerala, the police said here on Wednesday.

The police have registered a case after three first-year students lodged a complaint alleging that the ragging had been going on for nearly three months at the institute.

According to the complaint, the ragging began last November.

The students alleged that they were forced to stand naked and were subjected to brutal acts using dumbbells meant for weightlifting.

Further allegations



include injuries inflicted using compasses and similar objects followed by the application of lotion on the wounds.

Additionally, they were "forced to have cream applied to their faces, heads and mouths".

The complaint also states that senior stu-

dents regularly extorted money from juniors on Sundays to buy alcohol and frequently assaulted them.

Unable to bear the harassment any longer, three students finally lodged the complaint with the Kottayam Gandhinagar police.

Ayodhya Ram temple head priest Mahant Satyendra Das dies at 85

LUCKNOW, Feb 12 (Agencies): Mahant Satyendra Das, the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, died at a hospital here on Wednesday.

The 85-year-old was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) earlier this month after he suffered a brain stroke.

"Satendra Das ji, chief Priest of Ram Mandir Ayodhya, breathed his last today. He was admitted in HDU (High Dependency Unit) of neurology ward on February 3 with stroke in critical condition," the hospital said.

Condoling his demise, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said it was an irreparable loss to the spiritual world.



"The demise of great Ram bhakt and chief priest of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Shri Ayodhya Dham Acharya Shri Satyendra Kumar Das Ji Maharaj, is extremely sad and an irreparable loss to the spiritual world. Humble tributes! I pray to Lord Shri Ram to give a place to the departed soul in his feet and give strength to the bereaved

disciples and followers to bear this immense loss."

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said he "prays to God to give courage to his followers to bear the huge loss."

Das, who took 'sanyas' at the age of 20, was serving as priest during the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992. Later when

the government took control of the premises, he was made chief priest of the makeshift temple.

While talking to agency in 2022, Das had said he joined as the priest of the makeshift Ram Lalla temple in 1992, the year the Babri mosque was demolished.

When asked if he was present when the mosque was demolished, Das had said, "I was there. It happened before me. I was witness to it. Out of three domes, north and south domes were demolished by 'kar sewaks'. I took Ram Lalla with its throne in my hand."

"The demolition was over by 5 pm. Later, 'kar sewaks' pitched a tent and levelled the place and by 7 pm, I kept Ram Lalla there," he had said.

While paying tributes

to Das, Ram Temple Trust president Champat Rai recalled that Das took only Rs 100 as remuneration when he was made the chief priest.

Hailing from the Nirvani Akhara, Das was among the most accessible saints of Ayodhya and the go-to person for many media persons from across the country wanting information on Ayodhya and Ram temple developments.

Vishva Hindu Parishad's Ayodhya-based spokesman Sharad Sharma condoled the demise of Das.

"He was a widely respected figure and among those who knew the history of the Ayodhya movement by heart. We condole his death," he said.

Future of Work Forum forecasts economic shifts, outlines AI opportunities, impact on labour market

DUBAI, Feb 12 (Agencies): The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the World Governments Summit Organisation, organised the second edition of the Future of Work Forum, as part of the World Governments Summit 2025, with the attendance and participation of Ministers of Labour and Human Resources, policy-makers, economic experts, and business leaders from various countries.

The agenda featured six sessions where participants exchanged ideas and visions for shaping a future work environment driven by innovation and sustainability.

Discussions covered various approaches to wage policy formulation, exploring their impact on growth and productivity, as well as the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on productivity, work patterns, and economic trends.

Participants also explored the role of academic institutions in supplying labour markets with skilled professionals, among other topics.

In his opening remarks at the forum, Dr Abdulrahman Al Awar, Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization and Acting Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, stated that the Future of Work Forum serves as a vital platform within the World Governments Summit framework to analyse and anticipate major shifts in global labour markets amid rapid economic transformation and technological advancements.

"The forum enables participants to exchange experiences, address challenges, and explore promising opportunities to meet the future needs of labour market," he said.

Dr. Al Awar offered an overview of UAE labour market policies and the preparations being made for the future, noting that the Emirates is guided by a bold vision centred on embracing digital breakthroughs and solutions, working at an accelerated pace, and establishing a diversified, knowledge-based and technology-driven economy, all in line with the forward-thinking directives of the UAE's leader-



ship.

The UAE's business environment is experiencing remarkable growth, HE Al Awar asserted, revealing that private sector establishments have recorded a 17% growth by the end of 2024, while the workforce grew by 12% and skilled labour by 13%.

These developments were facilitated by the UAE's efforts to modernise labour regulations and create an empowering and secure work environment, he explained, citing key initiatives like the new visa programmes designed to attract global talent, as well as the enhanced social protection programmes, such as the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, Savings Scheme, expanded health insurance coverage to cover all categories of workers, and the expansion of the Wage Protection System (WPS) to include domestic workers.

"These initiatives reinforce the UAE's commitment to enhancing the wellbeing and quality of life of the diverse workforce living and working in the country, which includes a wide range of nationalities", HE Al Awar noted, adding that "due to progressive labour policies and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the UAE labour market now ranks first globally in nine competitiveness indicators, including labour force participation, employment rate, talent attraction, and work flexibility".

"People are at the core of the UAE's development and growth strategy," he stated. "The UAE is committed to leveraging all resources and capabilities to promote sustainable education, drive innovation and attract top talent. To achieve these goals, we have launched comprehensive initiatives in collaboration with the public and private sectors, including specialised training programmes, digital learn-

ing platforms focused on future skills and an ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship in this vital sector."

Dr Al Awar highlighted the efforts of higher education institutions to bridge the skills gap and align educational output with labour market needs, which is a key priority in training and empowering generations of graduates with the knowledge and capabilities to contribute effectively to economic and social sectors.

He noted that over the past five years, the number of accredited vocational education and training institutes has surged by 280%, increasing from 16 institutions in 2019 to 61 in 2024, reflecting ongoing efforts to develop academic programmes that better align with labour market demands.

Dr Al Awar further emphasised the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research's commitment to fostering strong partnerships with both the public and private sectors, noting that these collaborations are expected to include more than 50 entities by 2025, notably expanding employment opportunities for graduates.

He also highlighted that the UAE improved its global ranking from 12th in 2019 to seventh in 2023 on the Link Between the Education System and the Economy metric of the Global Talent Competitiveness Index by INSEAD, a key measure of how well education systems align with labour market needs.

The Future of Work Forum featured six sessions that sought to forecast the future of labour, led by decision makers, researchers, and academic experts specialising in labour market dynamics.

The first session focused on 'Minimum Wage Legislations and Their Economic Impact',

organised in collaboration with the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour in the GCC, where participants presented pioneering experiences in that regard from the UAE, Qatar, Singapore, and Germany.

Meanwhile, the second session, titled 'Economic Impacts and the Future of Wages: A View into the Labour Market', examined the impact of wage policies on business environment competitiveness and included a dynamic analysis of the interaction between inflation and wages.

Next on the agenda, the forum hosted the third session titled 'Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Labour-Intensive Sectors', explored the role of AI and advanced technologies in shaping a more innovative and agile government framework focused on customers' needs. It also examined the future of various economic sectors amid rapid technological expansion and the growing need for businesses to adapt to these trends.

The fourth session, titled 'The Future of Work Models and Frameworks of the Future', featured extensive discussions on how AI is reshaping labour markets, the increasing shift towards freelancing and part-time work over traditional employment, and the role of governments in regulating these emerging sectors. The discussion emphasised the importance of balancing economic flexibility with social protection.

The programme continued with a fifth session, which addressed 'University Partnerships and Their Role in Building a Knowledge-Based Economy and Driving Sustainable Development', focusing on ways to enhance education and employment outcomes, in addition to strengthening collaboration between higher education institutions and the private sector to develop academic programmes and improve job opportunities for graduates. The session also discussed the importance of swift intervention from educational institutions in emerging sectors as a means to meet labour market demands.

Finally, the sixth session of the Future of Work Forum featured a dialogue focusing on labour market flexibility.

Putin 'not preparing for peace,' Zelenskyy says after deadly ballistic missile strike

At least one person was killed in the capital Kyiv, Zelenskyy said.



KYIV, Feb 12 (Agencies): President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine called on Western partners to apply more pressure to Russia after an overnight ballistic missile and drone strike killed at least one person and set multiple fires in the capital Kyiv.

"Apartment buildings, office buildings and civilian infrastructure were damaged," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. "All our services are working on the ground, helping people and eliminating the consequences of this terror."

"Unfortunately, as of now, one person has died in Kyiv," he added. "Four more were injured, including a child. My condolences to the family and friends."

Ukraine's air force reported downing six out of seven ballistic missiles fired at Kyiv and the central city of Kryvyi Rih -- Zelenskyy's home town. The air force said Russia also launched 123 strike drones into Ukraine, of which 71 were shot down and 40 were lost in flight.

Viacheslav Chaus, the governor of Ukraine's Chernihiv Oblast, said two people were injured in a Russian drone

strike on a critical infrastructure facility. Serhiy Lysak, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Military Administration, said the missile attack on Kryvyi Rih damaged infrastructure, high-rise residential, administrative and educational buildings.

Zelenskyy called on Western partners to apply greater pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin in response to the latest round of strikes, which came as both sides maneuver for an expected revival in peace talks after almost three years of full-scale war.

"This Russian terror against Ukraine will not stop on its own," Zelenskyy wrote. "Putin is not preparing for peace -- he continues to kill Ukrainians and destroy cities."

"Only strong steps and pressure on Russia can stop this terror," the Ukrainian leader said. "Right now, we need unity and support from all our partners in the fight for a just end to this war."

The latest barrage came only hours after Steve Witkoff -- President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy -- flew to Moscow to facilitate the release of jailed American Mark Fogel. Fogel, 63, had been

serving a 14-year prison sentence in a Russian prison colony after being arrested in 2021 on drug charges.

Trump later told reporters he thought Fogel's return could advance negotiations to end Russia's war on Ukraine. "I want to get the war ended," Trump said.

Moscow has continued nightly drone and missile attacks ahead of potentially pivotal meetings between U.S. and Ukrainian officials this week.

Trump's Russia-Ukraine envoy Keith Kellogg is due in Ukraine this week, while Vice President JD Vance is set to travel to the Munich Security Conference next weekend where Zelenskyy will lead Ukraine's delegation.

Andriy Kovalenko, the head of the Counter-Disinformation Center operating as part of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said on Telegram that "every public statement by the West about 'progress' in the movement towards peace is accompanied by missile strikes by the Russian Federation."

Kovalenko suggested Putin would continue to employ such tactics through 2025. "These are methods of diplomacy that are closely intertwined with the front," he wrote.

Ukraine is also continuing its long-range strike campaign into Russia. The Defense Ministry in Moscow said on Telegram on Wednesday that it downed seven Ukrainian drones over the western Belgorod and Kursk regions during the previous 24 hours.

Elon Musk slams judge's decision on gender ideology web pages, calls it "absurd"

WASHINGTON DC, Feb 12 (Agencies): After a federal judge ordered the restoration of web pages removed under President Trump's executive order on gender ideology, US Senator from Utah, Mike Lee criticised the decision, calling it an "unprecedented assault on legitimate presidential authority" and labelling it "absurd" for judges to dictate which government web pages should exist.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk also responded to the senator's post, calling the development "truly absurd."

"These judges are waging an unprecedented assault on legitimate presidential authority, all the way down to dictating what webpages the government has. This is absurd," Lee's post read.

Responding to Lee's post, Musk wrote, "Truly absurd. Judges as website editors!? We should at least ATTEMPT to fire this junky jurist. The notion of having a judge job for life, no matter how bad the judgments, is ridiculous! Enough is enough."

This comes after US



District Judge John Bates agreed to grant a temporary restraining order sought by the group, Doctors for America, which argued that its members used the websites when treating patients and conducting research. The nonprofit organization said that the removal of the webpages by the Department of Health and Human Services and its components violated federal law, CBS News reported.

Bates determined that the challengers were likely to prevail in their argument that the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, and FDA violated the law by removing medical information from public websites.

On his first day in office, President Trump signed an executive order declaring that the

United States recognises only two sexes, male and female, and directing federal agencies to remove any materials that promote or support gender ideology.

Days after the president issued his order, the Office of Personnel Management issued a memorandum ordering all agencies by 5 pm on January 31 to take down all websites, social media accounts and other public-facing media "that inculcate or promote gender ideology."

In response to the memo, the CDC and FDA took offline numerous webpages and data sets, including recommendations on how physicians should treat sexually transmitted infections and adult immunization guidance, CBC News reported.

Philippines file criminal complaints against VP over assassination threats

MANILA, Feb 12 (Agencies): Philippine government investigators filed criminal complaints, including sedition, against Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday over her public threat to have the president assassinated if she herself was killed in an escalating political storm.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Jaime Santiago said at a news conference that the complaints of inciting to sedition and grave threats against Duterte were filed at the Department of Justice, which would decide whether to dismiss the complaints outright or elevate them to court.

The vice president, a lawyer and daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, reacted briefly by saying that she had expected the move by the NBI. She has accused her political rivals of taking steps to prevent her from seeking the presidency when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s term ends in 2028.

The vice president's father himself, whose presidential term ended in 2022, is facing legal troubles. The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread



killings under a brutal anti-drug crackdown he oversaw while in office as a possible crime against humanity.

Sara Duterte ran as Marcos' vice presidential running mate in 2022. Their whirlwind political alliance, however, quickly frayed and deteriorated into a bitter feud in an Asian democracy that has long been hamstrung by clashing political clans.

Last week, the vice president was impeached by the House of Representatives on a range of accusations that included her threat to have Marcos, his wife and House

Russia says it rescues all 139 fishermen stranded on ice floe in Western Pacific sea

SAKHALIN, Feb 12 (Agencies): Russia's emergency services said on Wednesday that it had rescued all 139 fishermen stranded on an ice floe drifting in the Sea of Okhotsk in the Western Pacific.

Earlier, the ministry said that about 300 were stranded and that some of them refused "to leave without a catch under any

circumstances".

The ministry posted several videos from the rescue operation, including one showing fishermen walking on snowy ice away from the rescuers.

But later the ministry said on the Telegram messaging service that a rescue operation involving helicopters and vessels had brought all 139 stranded people

ashore.

It was unclear why so many fishermen had gathered at the location in Russia's Sakhalin region.

Traditionally, the Sakhalin winter fishing season begins in early February with a period of active biting until April.

About a 10 metre (33 feet) ice crack formed from the Russian

village of Malki to the mouth of the Dolinka River in the Sakhalin region, setting the fishermen adrift in the Sea of Okhotsk, the ministry said earlier.

Winters in the Sakhalin region in Russia's Far East, which comprises the Sakhalin Island and the chain of the Kuril Islands, are cold, snowy and long, often lasting more than five months.

Sainik Samaj Party demands separate Jammu State or UT instead of Statehood restoration



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: The Sainik Samaj Party (SSP), J&K UT, has called upon the Union Government and the Lieutenant Governor to consider the aspirations of the people of Jammu and grant them a separate Union Territory (UT).

Addressing the media, Col SS Pathania, Chief Convener and President of SSP, emphasized that restoring statehood, as demanded by the National Conference (NC)-led opposition, would not serve the interests of Jammu's people.

Col Pathania stated that the restoration of statehood would shift power from the Lieutenant Governor to a Chief Minister, leading to increased political domination from Kashmir-centric leadership.

He argued that this would do little for Jammu's development while creating more ministerial positions and legislative council seats, ultimately reinforcing the existing political imbalance.

Highlighting the prolonged discrimination faced by the Jammu region for over 70 years, he pointed to issues like political marginalization, lack of development, and demographic concerns.

He asserted that with a population of over 70 lakh and an area of 26,000 square kilometers, Jammu qualifies for statehood, citing the example of Goa, which was granted statehood despite having a much smaller population of 17 lakh and an area of just 3,500 square kilometers.

Managing the entire 42,000 square kilometers of Jammu & Kashmir as a single UT is not a pragmatic governance model, he argued. Additionally, he called for the implementation of Article 371 provisions in Jammu to safeguard local jobs, land ownership, and cultural heritage.

The SSP reiterated its demand for a separate Jammu state or UT, ensuring the region's independent development and addressing long-standing grievances of its people.

Addressing the media, Col SS Pathania, Chief Convener and President of SSP, emphasized that restoring statehood, as demanded by the National Conference (NC)-led opposition, would not serve the interests of Jammu's people.

Airtel awards contracts to Nokia to expand 5G Fixed Wireless Access devices, powering high-speed internet connectivity

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Bharti Airtel has awarded a contract to Nokia, and Qualcomm focusing on the expansion of 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi solutions to facilitate high-speed internet access to millions across India.

As part of the arrangement, Nokia will supply Airtel with its 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) outdoor gateway receiver and Wi-Fi 6 Access Point, utilizing Qualcomm® Modem-RF and Wi-Fi 6 chipsets. This initiative will enable Airtel to provide superior broadband services in areas where fiber connectivity is either scarce or challenging to implement. The deployment of fixed wireless broadband access via 5G networks stands out as a significant application of 5G technology, especially in India, which faces low fiber penetration and a high demand for digital services.

Airtel will leverage Nokia's FastMile 5G outdoor receivers, which are tailored for multi-dwelling units and capable of serving two households concurrently, thus facilitating a reduction in connection expenses. These receivers feature high-gain antennas that enhance broadband access over extended distances while efficiently managing radio resources. Furthermore, the FastMile 5G outdoor receiver utilizes Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) technology, enabling simple installation on various surfaces such as walls, balconies, or poles.

Airtel will implement Nokia's Wi-Fi 6 access point within residences to enhance the in-home experience. This solution offers intelligent mesh capabilities and self-optimizing network features, ensuring that customers can enjoy an exceptional broadband experience throughout their homes.

Nokia's 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi 6 access point devices

will be produced in India and packaged in fully recyclable materials.

Randeep Sekhon, CTO of Bharti Airtel, said: "This collaboration with Nokia and Qualcomm underscores our dedication to delivering an exceptional network experience for our customers. We are confident that Nokia's 5G Fixed Wireless Access and Wi-Fi 6 Access Point solutions will help provide high-speed internet to underserved areas and fulfill the need of a superior and uninterrupted broadband experience."

Sandy Motley, President of Fixed Networks, Nokia, said: "India's vast size and population density presents unique challenges for broadband connectivity. In those communities where fiber is difficult to deploy, FWA can be used to provide reliable wireless broadband connectivity. With our 5G FWA and Wi-Fi 6 solutions built in collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies, Bharti Airtel will be able to provide customers with fiber-like speeds which are becoming essential in today's digital economy. We look forward to supporting Bharti Airtel in its vision to connect more communities to high-speed broadband access."

"We are excited to be part of this new generation of products by Bharti Airtel and Nokia which are designed to deliver optimized performance, coverage, and user experiences. 5G FWA combined with Wi-Fi 6 access point is ideal for connecting the unconnected, making it an extremely versatile solution for Indian homes and businesses," said Rahul Patel, Group General Manager, Connectivity, Broadband & Networking, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

Nokia has been a trusted partner by Airtel for providing all network equipment. Recently, they also got an extension on the deal for deploying 4G and 5G equipment across key Indian cities and states.

Mahan Gurmat Samagam on Feb 16 at Gurdwara Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: A press conference was held on Wednesday by Dera Sant Pura Danna, where Manjit Singh, spokesperson of the trust, shared details about the upcoming Mahan Gurmat Samagam. The event, being organized in memory of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Danna, will take place on Sunday, February 16, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Gurdwara Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji, Domana.

The Samagam will feature soul-stirring Kiran recitations by renowned Hazuri Ragi Bhai Ravinder Singh and Hazuri Ragi Bhai Simranjit Singh from Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar. In addition, prominent Kiran Jathas and Par

charaks from Jammu & Kashmir will deliver Gurbani recitations, Katha Vichar, and insights into Sikh history.

The Sikh Sangat from across Jammu is cordially invited to attend and pay tribute to Sant Gurbaksh Singh Danna, a revered spiritual leader and guiding force for many. The Samagam will be held under the patronage of Sant Tejwant Singh, the present Dera Mukhi of Dera Sant Pura Danna.

To ensure a smooth experience for devotees, adequate transport arrangements have been made to ferry Sangat from different parts of Jammu to the venue. A special contingent of devotees from Sri Ganganagar is also expected to join the

Samagam.

A Guru Ka Langar will be served to all attendees, with Langar Seva being organized by S. Joginder Singh Bali, Udesh Kaur Bali, and their family from Hong Kong.

The press conference was attended by several prominent personalities, including Manjit Singh, Tejinder Singh, T.P. Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Tejinder Singh Kaku, Amrik Singh, Bhai Jagir Singh, Piyara Singh, Jagjit Singh, Sandeep Singh, and others.

The organizers urge the entire Sikh community to participate in this sacred gathering and seek spiritual blessings while paying homage to the great legacy of Sant Gurbaksh Singh Danna.

NZ Inter-University Cricket 2024-25 JU outplays Technical University Uttarakhand by 115 runs



being dismissed by

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: In a spectacular display of cricket, Jammu University secured their second victory in the North Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament 2024-25, defeating Technical University Uttarakhand by a massive margin. Batting first, Jammu University posted a challenging total of 192/7 in their 20 overs, thanks to the standout performances from their top order.

Govind was the top scorer for Jammu University, accumulating an impressive 72 runs, while Ishan Bali contributed with a solid 62 runs. Their efforts guided the team to a formidable score, which proved to be more than enough against a struggling Uttarakhand bowling attack. Aditya and Deepak Joshi were

the pick of the bowlers for Uttarakhand, both claiming 2 wickets each, but their efforts were not enough to stop the strong batting lineup from Jammu University.

In response, Uttarakhand's chase faltered badly as they were bowled out for just 77 runs in 16.3 overs. The Jammu University bowlers dominated, with Govind shining once again. He was sensational with the ball, claiming 3 wickets for just 18 runs in his 4 overs. Captain Vikshay Vashist also played a crucial role, taking 2 wickets for 16 runs from his 4 overs. The duo's disciplined bowling effort dismantled the Uttarakhand batting lineup.

The top performers from Uttarakhand were Yash Parthak, who scored 32 runs before

captain Vikshay Vashist, and Vicky Kumar, who managed to score 19 runs. However, the rest of the Uttarakhand side struggled against the tight bowling attack of Jammu University.

After the match, Jammu University's captain, Vikshay Vashist, expressed confidence in his team's abilities, stating, "We have a very strong team, and we are working hard to improve with every match. We will continue to give our best in the upcoming games."

Jammu University's all-around performance has firmly established them as one of the top contenders in this year's tournament, and with their momentum building, they will be looking to extend their winning streak in the coming

Family in mourning after soldier son martyred in IED attack 2 months before marriage

A pall of gloom descended on his Bri Kamila village in the border district of Samba, with villagers remembering him as an enthusiastic cricketer, extrovert and always ready to extend a helping hand to the needy.

"He served the Army for more than nine years and a half, performing his duties in (Siachen) glacier (in Ladakh), Kashmir and Punjab, before moving to Jammu's Akhnoor recently. He returned to his unit on January 28 after a two-week leave from duty for his ring ceremony," his father Chagatar Singh, a retired police personnel,

told reporters.

Manhas, whose younger brother is also serving in the Army, was supposed to get married around April 20-21, the grieving father said, as his relatives and neighbours made a beeline in front of the house to convey their condolences.

Chagatar Singh said his son joined the Army at a very young age to fulfil his desire to serve the country.

"His two sisters, one elder to him and another younger, are married. He was a cricket lover and made extraordinary efforts during his recent stay in the village to prepare a cricket pitch for youngsters," Mahesh, a childhood friend of the slain soldier, said.

Chuni Lal, another resident of the village, said Manhas was full of energy and was always motivating youngsters to get involved in sporting activities.

"We have lost a true gem in a cowardly terror attack. The enemy has no courage to face our brave soldiers and is undertaking such types of actions. We believe our forces will take appropriate action to ensure justice for the martyrs," he said.

Men and women who assembled at the house were seen in tears as they waited for the mortal remains of the deceased.

Officials said the body of Manhas will be taken to his village and his funeral will be held with full military hours later in the day.

Statehood won't end terrorism in J&K, need people's support: Farooq Abdullah

(AAP) and the Congress could

have brought different results in the Delhi Assembly elections.

"The spirit of INDIA bloc is still same. But some mistakes have been done in the Delhi. Had there been proper understanding between the AAP and Congress, the results could have been different. We have to meet and these issues need to be discussed," he said.

Congress supports alcohol ban in J&K as PDP, NC MLAs push for legislation

Pardesi has also submitted a private member's bill seeking a ban on alcohol in Kashmir and other Muslim-majority regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Pardesi highlighted that the consumption of alcohol

contradicts the region's sufi-reshi traditions and undermines its cultural and religious values.

Theft accused dies after suffering severe chest, abdomen pain in Jammu hospital

hospital on Wednesday, the police said.

"Police remain committed to a fair inquiry and at the same time steadfast in holding to the rule of law while discharging its duties," the police said.

Quoting the mother of the deceased, the police said the accused who was in his 20's was a drug addict and had also been admitted to a drug de-addiction

centre in the past.

During the investigation of a burglary case, the police said several stolen household items including an LED, cylinder and fridge were recovered at the disclosure of the accused.

"Throughout his police remand, the medical checkup of the accused was conducted regularly (five times) as per the SOP," it said.

16 sheep killed in leopard attack in Budgam village

intervene urgently and capture the leopard to prevent further attacks. They stress the need for immediate action to safeguard both the community and wildlife.

"This is not the first such incident, and we fear for our safety," said a concerned local to the news agency KNT.

From Page No:1

Army conducts Skill Development Program for women at Akhnoor Military Station

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Feb 12: The Crossed Swords Division of the Indian Army successfully concluded a 45-day Skill Development Course (Hairstylist & Beautician) under Operation Sadbhavana at Akhnoor Military Station. This initiative aimed to uplift underprivileged sections of society by fostering self-reliance and



sustainable livelihoods. The program provided participants with hands-on training and mentorship, equipping them

with essential skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

To mark the culmination of the course,

a grand closing ceremony was organized, where participants were awarded skill certificates in recognition

of their achievements. The event was graced by dignitaries from both the Indian Army and civil administration, who commended the initiative for its role in empowering communities. Through such programs, the Indian Army continues to contribute beyond the battlefield, strengthening communities and promoting self-sufficiency across the nation.

Army conducts lecture on National Pulses Day at Moriyan

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 12: On the occasion of National Pulses Day, which has been celebrated every year in India since its announcement by the Indian government in 2016 to promote the cultivation and consumption of pulses, Indian Army took this opportunity to interact with students and locals, thereby contributing to

the cause by spreading awareness through a lecture delivered at Govt Middle School, Moriyan.

The lecture aimed to raise awareness about the importance of pulses in our diet, encourage farmers to grow more pulses to meet the increasing demand, and promote research and development in pulse production.

The local farmers and women engaged in open



dialogues, showing their enthusiasm and interest in pulse farming, which was humbly reciprocated and encouraged.

The event concluded

with a closing address by Mukhtiar Ahmad, thanking the Indian Army for this awareness lecture, followed by a group photograph

and new learnings for the attendees, thus fostering harmony and respect between civilians and the Indian Army.

Bageshwar Dham Parivar organizes grand Hanuman Chalisa in Ambedkar Basti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: To mark the formation of the BJP government with a massive majority in the Delhi Assembly, Bageshwar Dham Parivar, with the support of BJP Scheduled Caste Front's Senior Vice President Devi Deepika Chandel, organized a grand Hanuman Chalisa recitation in Ambedkar Basti.

The event witnessed the participation of hundreds of Hanuman devotees, including members from Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Gau Raksha Dal, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and other Hindu organizations.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including Municipal Councillor Preeti Gupta, BJP MLA candidate from Seelampur Anil



Gaur, Guruji Raju Chandel, Aju Chaudhary, Ghoda Block President Raghav, Awadhesh Singh, Thakur Deepak Chauhan, Harish Pal, Aman Rai, Sudesh Sharma, Asha Karoti, Chhotelal Gaurav, Brijwasi Gaurav Goyal, Gaurav Gupta, ST Morcha District President Prithviraj Vineet, Deepak Chandel, Mahant Guru Shivam Nath of Hindu Jagran Manch, Vineet Tyagi,

and several others. Addressing the gathering, BJP Seelampur MLA candidate Anil Gaur described the event as an unprecedented celebration of Sanatan Dharma, where devotees, overwhelmed with devotion, danced and chanted slogans of "Jai Sanatan Dharma."

He emphasized that faith in Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman has been rekindled, and

Hindus have awakened to their cultural and religious roots.

He expressed confidence that the country is moving toward a stronger Sanatan identity and a unified Hindu nation.

Municipal Councillor Preeti Gupta, who played a key role in organizing the event, worked tirelessly with her team to ensure smooth arrangements. She highlighted that

the event was a testament to unwavering faith in Sanatan Dharma and expressed her gratitude towards Devi Deepika Chandel for bringing the community together.

She announced that Hanuman Chalisa recitations will now be held every Tuesday in the area to spread the message of devotion and knowledge, fostering spiritual and social progress.

The event concluded with loud chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman," reflecting the growing resonance of Sanatan Dharma in the region.

Devotees expressed their enthusiasm and vowed to continue such gatherings, believing that the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa brings positivity, prosperity, and progress to the community.

Army conducts awareness talk on career opportunities for students at Kundal

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 12: Indian Army remains dedicated to empowering women by guiding them towards career opportunities and self-reliance. In line with this objective, an awareness session was conducted at High School, Kundal to educate students about various career prospects and employment avenues.

The session aimed to inspire young girls to explore different fields

and equip them with the knowledge of right career choices. The session provided valuable insights into various job opportunities in government and private sectors, emphasising the importance of education and skill development.

Students were encouraged to focus on their studies and briefed on advantages of available career paths, including professional training programs and self-employment initiatives.

The interactive discussion allowed students to ask questions and gain clarity on different career options suited to their interests and abilities. A total of 30 Girls and 06 Teachers attended the session.

The students and teachers of High School, Kundal, expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for organising the session and their sustained efforts to empower the women.

This will go a long way in empowering the women of the region and will help them understand the importance of education and employment. These endeavours by the Indian Army will not only aid the women in achieving economic independence but also ensure preservation of hard earned peace and tranquility in the region.

GD Goenka Public School hosts 'Nature's Wonders' Exhibition



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: The Grade 1 students of GD Goenka Public School, Jammu, governed by Om Prakash Bansal Charitable Trust, showcased their enthusiasm and creativity in a spectacular exhibition titled 'Nature's Wonders'—a celebration of the elements of nature.

The event was inaugurated by the esteemed Director, Ms. Sanya Bansal, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The exhibition revolved around the essential elements of nature—air, water, soil, forests, flora, and fauna—with each student actively participating.

The young learners

confidently presented their assigned elements with detailed explanations, enthusiasm, and creative displays.

Classrooms were transformed into themed spaces, enhancing the immersive experience. The students, dressed in vibrant costumes, captivated the audience with their engaging performances.

Teachers played a crucial role in guiding and supporting the students, ensuring the success of the event.

A major attraction was the selfie corner, designed by the talented Art Department, where parents and students captured precious memories of the day.

The proud smiles of parents as they watched

their children perform with confidence and enthusiasm added to the event's charm.

Sanya Bansal lauded the brilliant presentations by the students and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the teaching staff. Dean Academics, Sushmita Roy Choudhury, also commended the students for their confidence and creativity.

'Nature's Wonders' was not just an exhibition but a celebration of learning, creativity, and environmental awareness. The active participation and zest of the students made the event a grand success, leaving everyone inspired by the beauty and importance of nature.

38th Convocation of IGNOU to be held on March 5

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: The 38th Convocation ceremony of IGNOU will be held on 5th March, 2025. The Convocation ceremony would be organised at selective Regional Centres across the Country including the Regional Centre Jammu.

The main function will be held at New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU in which Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Govt. of India will be the Chief Guest.

The learners who have completed their respective programmes of study in the Term End Examinations held in June 2024 and December 2023 are eligible to apply for receiving the Degree/Diploma in the 38th Convocation.

The Online portal for registration and remitting the requisite fee



has been thrown open and can be accessed following the link <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/> on IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in under the Register Online drop down menu.

The fee per certificate is Rs. 600 which can be paid online following the same link. The online portal for registration and remitting the requisite fee will remain open till February, 25, 2025 only.

A total of 11,293 learners from Regional Centre Jammu have

been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates under the 38th Convocation which includes 4988 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 5852 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 316 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 137 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes, said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha's Sub Office inaugurated at Bhagwati Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: On the auspicious occasion of Shree Vishwakarma Prakat Divas, celebrated on Magh Shukla Triodashi, Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha (PVS), J&K UT, inaugurated its newly constructed Sub Office at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, within the Vishwakarma Temple Complex.

The inauguration was conducted by Puran Chargoitra, former President of the Sabha, in the presence of Shashi Verma, President of the Sabha, and other distinguished members of the Vishwakarma community.

A conference was also organized under the chairmanship of Shashi Verma, with Puran Chargoitra as the chief guest.



Addressing the gathering, Chargoitra expressed his joy over the completion of the Sabha Hall, a long-cherished dream of his, built solely through public donations. He lauded the efforts of Shashi Verma for his key role in bringing this project to fruition.

Speakers at the event acknowledged the sig-

nificant contribution of the Vishwakarma community to the national initiatives of "Viksit Bharat" and "Make in India."

They also paid homage to Bhagwan Vishwakarma, the divine architect who, according to mythology, created the universe through his immense scientific and artistic wisdom.

In his address, Shashi Verma emphasized the Sabha's commitment to supporting the elected government, as per its constitution.

He appealed to the government to declare a Gazetted Holiday on Vishwakarma Jayanti, allowing employees from the community to celebrate the occasion with devotion.

He also reiterated the demand for the restoration of scholarships for OBC students to prevent disruptions in their education.

Prominent speakers at the conference included R.L. Chargoitra (Chairman PVS), Vijay Kumar (Gen Secretary), Labha Ram Gandhi (West Pak Refugees Leader), Kuljit Rai, R.C. Angotra (Ex-President), H.R. Chargoitra, Sham Chargoitra (Cashier), Joginder Angotra, Balwant Kataria, Vinod Jatra, Mangal Dass Verma, Jagdish Kargotra, and presidents of various units.

The event marked a significant milestone for the Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha, reinforcing its commitment to the welfare of the community and its continued efforts towards cultural and social development.

India adopt high-risk-high-reward approach in Champions Trophy squad selection, will it pay?

Selection risks start with the drafting in of five spinners

BENGALURU, Feb 12 (Agencies): It aligns with head coach Gautam Gambhir's high-risk-high-reward approach but can India's Champions Trophy squad, having lost its game-changing pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah to injury, deliver the goods at the ODI showpiece?

The answer to that question is not particularly straightforward given the audacious calls taken to decide the final 15.

The selection risks start with the drafting in of five spinners. The Dubai-bound flight will feature Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy in a spin-heavy bowling attack.

Harshit Rana has replaced Bumrah with the more experienced Mohammed Siraj relegated to the group of non-travelling reserves alongside young batter Yashasvi Jaiswal and all-rounder Shivam Dube.

India's matches will be held in Dubai, a venue where pacers have found more success traditionally in the 50-over format.

Available data shows that the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, where India will play all their matches, has hosted 58 ODIs since 2009, and pacers have taken 466 wickets here at an average of 28.6 and economy of 4.8.

The spinners have combined to take 334 wickets till now at the DICS, and their average goes up to 30 but with a slightly better economy of 4.2

"The Dubai surface has a bit more carry than say in Sharjah, and the pacers here have found some good success and that's why Pakistan has picked more pacers in their squad, though they are supposed to play only a couple of matches here," a former national selector told agency.

"If you use the new ball well, then you can have a good purchase there. I am not faulting



the selection of Varun. He is in good form, but I would have liked to see one more experienced pacer in that side, someone like Siraj," he added.

Spinners' role in Dubai From outside, having five spinners looks like an over-estimation of the conditions. But the management took a chance with Chakravarthy because of his excellent recent form.

Chakravarthy has been trusted to deliver in a multi-nation tournament, after his failure to do so in the T20 World Cup 2021 at the same venue.

What might have tilted the scales in his favour is the fact that none of India's league stage opposition in the Champions Trophy -- Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand -- have played him before.

The way he managed to trouble England in the ongoing home series on account of being an unknown entity for the visitors also worked to his advantage.

But on the flip side, it leaves Kuldeep Yadav in peril. With Jadeja and Axar being the first-choice spinners considering their batting prowess, the fight for the third spinner's slot will be between Kuldeep and Chakravarthy.

If India follows the template of the recent second ODI against England at Cuttack, Chakravarthy can pip the left-arm

wrist spinner, at least in the initial stages of the Champions Trophy.

Why Siraj was overlooked Another selection paradox is placing Rana ahead of Siraj as Bumrah's replacement for a tournament in which teams will have to do the tight-rope walk of three matches in the league phase.

Conventional thinking says that experience more than explosiveness matters in such events, but the wise men went ahead with Rana.

According to skipper Rohit Sharma, ineffectiveness with the old ball led to Siraj's omission from the marquee event.

On that count, Rana has already given them two examples of his ability to strike when the white ball loses its luster.

In his T20 debut, Rana was the sixth bowler, a much-debated concussion substitute for Shivam Dube, and walked away with game-changing figures of 3 for 33.

In ODIs, Rana went for a few runs, but showed the gumption to bowl across three spells in three various passages of the match.

The risk that the management has taken is to trust Rana to grow in his role quickly and deliver in a high-pressure tournament as and when he is called for.

Why was Jaiswal dropped

A common line of thinking can be that the selectors wanted a bowler with some mystery element about him in the squad once Bumrah was ruled out with a lower back injury.

So, they picked an in-form Chakravarthy. Fair call. But why select him in place of Jaiswal, an opener?

Should they have replaced a spinner for him? Perhaps Washington Sundar could have been the one to be omitted to accommodate Chakravarthy.

However, in one shot, the selectors have also avoided the opening conundrum that haunted them in the first ODI against England at Nagpur.

It was tough to accommodate Jaiswal and Shreyas Iyer in the same eleven but an injury to Virat Kohli gave them a temporary relief.

Once Kohli came back, Jaiswal missed out in the second match, and the big wigs did not want an encore in Dubai.

India is now placing confidence in Rohit, who made a hundred at Cuttack, and Shubman Gill, who scored two fifties in as many ODIs against England, to deliver at the top consistently in the Champions Trophy.

They are hoping that Kohli will find a way to return to his imperious scoring ways and will not put pressure on the rest of the middle-order.

The management has taken the risk of believing that the top five will be in fine fettle throughout the tournament.

They have also risked the traditionally iffy fitness of Hardik Pandya and his ability to plug the gap as the third seamer behind Mohammed Shami and Arshdeep Singh or Harshit Rana.

Looking at the squad, India seem to have taken one risk too many. Will they get the desired high reward? Or will they falter?

For now, it's the charming uncertainty of a risk-ridden path.

Mitchell Starc withdraws from Champions Trophy; Australia names squad led by Steven Smith



MELBOURNE, Feb 12 (Agencies): Mitchell Starc has withdrawn from the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy citing personal reasons, as Australia reshuffled their 15-player squad under the leadership of Steven Smith.

Australia was already dealing with significant setbacks following the injuries to Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, and Mitchell Marsh. Starc's withdrawal further depletes their frontline pace attack for the tournament, which begins on February 19 in Pakistan and the UAE.

The left-arm pacer, who has requested privacy regarding his decision, showed signs of discomfort during the latter stages of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

"We understand and respect Mitch's decision," chair of selectors George Bailey said, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"Mitch [Starc] is deeply respected for his commitment to international cricket and the priority he places on performing for Australia," he added.

"His well documented ability to play through pain and adversity, as well as forgoing oppor-

tunities in other parts of his career to put his country first should be applauded. His loss is of course a blow for the Champions Trophy campaign but does provide an opportunity to someone else to make a mark on the tournament," he said.

Smith, who recently captained Australia to a 2-0 Test series victory in Sri Lanka, will step in as skipper in the absence of Cummins and Marsh.

To bolster the squad, Australia has brought in Sean Abbott, Ben Dwarshuis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Spencer Johnson, and Tanveer Sangha. Additionally, Cooper Connolly will travel as a reserve player.

Fraser-McGurk, who has a modest ODI average of 17.40 from five matches but impressed with a 95 off 46 balls in the Big Bash League (BBL) for Melbourne Renegades, adds depth to the top order following Marsh's absence.

Johnson, a left-arm pacer, offers a like-for-like replacement for Starc, though he is yet to take a wicket in his two ODI appearances.

Meanwhile, leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha, who was already with the Test

squad in Sri Lanka as a development player, will partner with Adam Zampa as the team's second frontline spinner.

"The squad has changed significantly over the past month on the back of some untimely injuries and the retirement of Marcus Stoinis," Bailey said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"The upside of that is that we have been able to call on players who have had international exposure and success over the past 12 months," he added.

"A strong core of some of our most experienced players will provide a strong foundation in our attempt to win this edition of the Champions Trophy. We have a range of options to shape the playing XI within the tournament depending on the opposition and conditions we face," he said.

Australia will fine-tune their preparations with two ODIs against Sri Lanka in Colombo on February 12 and 14 before opening their Champions Trophy campaign against England on February 22. They will then face South Africa on February 25 and Afghanistan on February 28.

Australia Champions Trophy squad: Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa.

ESFI hails Government's decision as game-changer for grassroots Esports, boosting talent identification, growth

NEW DELHI, Feb 12 (Agencies): The Esports Federation of India (ESFI) has hailed the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' decision to include esports medal winners and their coaches under its Cash Incentive Program as a revolutionary step for the industry.

Announced under the leadership of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, this move aligns esports with traditional sports, opening doors for millions of gamers to represent India on the global stage. The recognition brings new opportunities for esports athletes and strengthens India's position as a growing powerhouse in competitive gaming.

With India boasting over 500 million gamers and 1.5 million active Esports athletes as per industry reports, this initiative is set to fuel unprecedented growth for the sector. This inclusion will also motivate and inspire more and more esports athletes to compete nationally and aspire to play for the country, earn medalists at global tournaments.

Additionally, to have coaches of esports players also being eligible for incentives will foster a whole new ecosystem of structured training and professional development of technical and coaching staff dedicated



to esports which currently is a biggest missing link for the country.

Lokesh Suji, Director of ESFI & VP-Asian Esports Federation, emphasized the significance of this initiative, stating, "This is a landmark moment for Indian Esports. The government's recognition of Esports medalists & their coaches with financial incentives is a defining step for our sports. India is already a force to reckon with in Esports, and this initiative will inspire more young talents to compete on the international stage. We foresee an exponential rise in grassroots participation and the development of India's Esports ecosystem," as quoted from a release by Esports Federation of India.

Suji, who is also the Member of Membership Committee of International Esports Federation, further highlighted, "This is a great start and eventually we will see this incentive scheme extended to Asian Level

Esports Championships also. We would request all the states to also include our esports medalist in the state level cash incentive schemes."

The sportspersons eligible as per guidelines of the above said scheme shall submit their applications for themselves and their coaches only through DBT-MIS Portal of Department of Sports within six months from the conclusion of the respective event.

Previously ESFI had facilitated the cash prizes given by the Maharashtra Govt to the esports athletes (Rs 10 lacs each) of the state who participated in Asian Games held at Hangzhou 2023.

Indian Esports has already made significant strides on the global stage, with players like Wasfi Bilal, Pavan Kampella, Tirth Mehta, and DOTA2 Team bringing laurels to the country. Wasfi's Silver (Tekken), Pavan's bronze (eFootball). Tirth Mehta, India's first Esports medalist at

the Asian Games 2018, and DOTA2 Team at the Commonwealth Esports Championships, have set a strong foundation for future athletes. The inclusion of Esports in the government's incentive scheme is expected to inspire a new generation of gamers to follow in their footsteps, emphasizing more grassroots interest to unearth and develop esports talents in the country.

This initiative signifies a historic turning point for Indian Esports, reinforcing India's ambition to become a global Esports powerhouse. ESFI, which has been organizing multiple national level championships such as the National Esports Championship (NESC), winners of which have represented India at various international events and brought medals for the country.

ESFI has also partnered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) for World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (May 2025) and organizing Waves Esports Championship. Such structured support will encourage greater participation, attract investment, and further solidify India's reputation as a dominant force in global Esports.

Maharani of Vadodara supports Gujarat Giants ahead of WPL home debut; Team captain presents her with special jersey

Ahead of their much-anticipated home debut in the Women's Premier League (WPL), Gujarat Giants captain Ashleigh Gardner, along with teammates Kashvee Gautam, Phoebe Litchfield, and Deandra Dottin, enjoyed a memorable outing with Maharani of Baroda, Radhikaraje Gaekwad at the iconic Laxmi Vilas Palace, according to a release from Gujarat Giants.



VADODARA, Feb 12 (Agencies): Ahead of their much-anticipated home debut in the Women's Premier League (WPL), Gujarat Giants captain Ashleigh Gardner, along with teammates Kashvee Gautam, Phoebe Litchfield, and Deandra Dottin, enjoyed a memorable outing with Maharani of Baroda, Radhikaraje Gaekwad at the iconic Laxmi Vilas

Palace. As the third season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) approaches, the Gujarat Giants are gearing up for their home debut at a new venue in Vadodara. Maharani Radhikaraje, a strong advocate for women's empowerment, extended her support to the team and shared insights on her initiatives and the

legacy of Vadodara's cricket culture as per a release by Gujarat Giants.

The players, joined by bowling coach Pravin Tambe and Sanjay Adesara, Chief Business Officer of Adani Sportsline, also visited Gazra Cafe, an initiative by Shri Maharani Chimanabai Stree Udyogalaya (MCSU). Founded in 1914 by Maharani Chimanabai II, MCSU focuses on empowering women through education, vocational training, and skill development, particularly in handicrafts and embroidery. The cafe is run by members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The visit featured an engaging interactive session between the players and Maharani Radhikaraje, who shares a deep-rooted connection with cricket. As a gesture of appreciation, captain Ashleigh Gardner presented her with a special Gujarat Giants jersey. In return, Maharani extended her best wishes to the team ahead of the new season, reaffirming her support to the home team, women's cricket and its growing impact

in India.

The WPL 2025 is set to begin on February 14 and will be played across multiple venues, including Vadodara, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

Gujarat Giants will take on the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the WPL 2025 opener on February 14, 2025, at BCA Stadium in Vadodara.

Gujarat Giants has appointed Australian all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner as the team captain for the upcoming season of the Women's Premier League (WPL). Gardner, a key figure in Australian cricket, made her debut in 2017.

The all-rounder is a two-time Belinda Clark Award winner and she played a significant role in Australia's 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal success. She was the Player of the Tournament at the T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023.

Gardner has been an integral part of Gujarat Giants since the league's inception. Over the last two seasons of WPL, she has scored 324 runs and bagged 17 wickets.

APSJC students shine in India Quiz at 'Zee News'

Top News Report

JAMMU Feb 12: A triumph of talent and teamwork has put Army Public School Jammu Cantt (APSJC) in the spotlight, as two of its brightest students, Priyanshu Kumar Yadav and Vaibhav Yadav of Class VIII, have emerged victorious at the prestigious unveiling India Quiz under the banner of Zee News, Delhi.

APSJC whirled from the rush and rumbles of the capital city, through the relentless hustles of the perplexing questionnaire, and finally to the Top!

Competing against a staggering bunch of 17,000 students from schools across the country, Priyanshu and Vaibhav dazzled with their sharp minds and quick wit, swooping in to clinch first place after a thrilling series of intense rounds. The finale, a high-stakes showdown, featuring the top 8 teams out of 32 semi-finalists, became an electrifying battleground, with every question met by a buzz of anticipation. Irrevocably, our dynamic duo was rewarded with a massive cash prize of Rs 3 Lakhs for their outstanding success, leaving everyone in awe of their brilliance!



Their victory was a powerful testament to their talent, tenacity and teamwork. The Unveiling India Quiz, which spanned a broad spectrum of subjects, demanded not only knowledge but the ability to think critically and react swiftly under pressure. At APSJC, the focus on child-centric learning plays a pivotal role in shaping students' abilities to navigate such challenges, thus, developing critical thinking, strategic problem-solving, and teamwork—skills essential for any robust competition.

"The quiz tested more than just knowledge; it was about adaptability and strategy," said Srestha Katal, PGT History, who mentored the students alongside Richa Gupta, TGT Science. "It was a true battle of the brains,

and our students showed that intellect, combined with the teamwork and values nurtured at APSJC," they added.

"We are absolutely thrilled by their achievement," shared Puneet Kaur, Principal of APS JC. "Priyanshu and Vaibhav have not only excelled in the quiz but have also embodied the qualities of hard work, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity that we strive to cultivate in all our students. Their success is a beacon of pride for the entire school, shining brightly as a powerful reminder that excellence is not an accident, but the result of relentless dedication and determination. Like a well-tended flame, their passion for learning has sparked this incredible achievement and

will continue to inspire others to reach their own heights".

Reflecting on their children's triumph, their parents expressed immense pride and joy. "We are over the moon with their achievement," said the proud parents. "This victory is a reflection of not only their hard work but also the values instilled in them by APS JC. Watching them grow into confident, driven individuals has been the greatest gift, and this accomplishment is the cherry on top," they continued having a word with the esteemed Chairman Brig Harjot Singh, who assured an unwavering support to such brilliant brains all through.

This incentivising victory stands as a midnight oil for all students at APS JC, proving that with the right mind set and motivation, anything is possible—the thoughtful horses running to the horizons beyond.

In the words of Vaibhav himself, "This win is not just ours, but a reflection of all the support we've received – from our teachers, families, and each other. It proves that when we work together and stay focused, we can touch the infinite."

PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar starts short-term Training Program on "Retail Management"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: Department of Commerce and Department of Computer Sciences, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, has commenced a specialized Retail Management Training Program in collaboration with ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation.

This initiative aims to equip students with essential skills and industry knowledge to excel in the dynamic retail sector. The inaugural ceremony of the program was held today, witnessed the esteemed presence of distinguished speakers, educators and professionals in the field.

Ajay Yousuf, ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation, officially started the program, focuses on enhancing employability by providing hands-on training in retail operations, customer service, sales strategies, and business management. He highlights the program designed that bridge the gap between

academic learning and industry expectations, ensuring students are well-prepared for opportunities in the retail industry.

Further, Prof. S.P. Saraswat, Principal, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev, GCW, Gandhi Nagar Jammu, applauded and congratulated the efforts of entire team for organizing such useful programmes for the benefit of students.

Lovetesh Kumar, Senior Manager, ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation, emphasized the significance of such skill-based programs in fostering career readiness. He laid stress on how this training program will enable students to secure promising job opportunities in retail and related sectors.

Prof. Arjun Kotwal, Head of the Department, Computer Science, and Dr. Asha Devi, Head of the Department, Commerce, were the also the keynote speakers at the event.

Both dignitaries emphasized the importance of industry-aligned training and assured

their full support in ensuring the successful execution of the Retail Management Training Program. They highlighted how such initiatives empower students with practical knowledge and professional skills, making them competitive in the job market.

The trainer of the program, Suraj, also introduced the participants to the course structure, learning objectives, and key industry insights that would be covered during the training. She emphasized the importance of practical exposure and interactive learning in mastering retail management concepts. Her session provided a clear roadmap for students to develop essential skills for careers in the retail sector.

The event also welcomed Prof. Liaquat Jafri, HOD (Department of Urdu), Dr. Himani Arora (Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce) and Prof. Parmjeet Singh (Assistant Professor, Department of Computer science), whose presence further enriched the inaugural ceremony.

Inter-District Bocce Ball Championship Concludes

May Fair International School emerges overall champion



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 12: In a remarkable display of teamwork, perseverance, and inclusivity, Cradle2Crayons School successfully hosted the Inter-District Level Bocce Ball Championship, organized by the Refa Boules India Federation. The championship witnessed participation from over 100 players representing various schools, including May Fair International School, Dogra Hr. Sec School, Crescent Public School, Shiksha Niketan High School, JK Bocce Ball Team, and Cradle2Crayons School.

The event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest, Arvind Karwani (J&K Administrative Service, Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation), whose distinguished participation elevated the significance of the occasion. Other notable invitees included Dr. Ashwani Jojra (Founder of Sahyog India and Area Director of Special Olympics Bharat, J&K), Rajiv Tomer (Advisor, Special Olympics Bharat), Dr. Ramma Mattoo (Vice President, J&K Sports Speed Ball Association), Aastha Nanda (Director, Refa Boules India Federation), and Munish Gupta (Vice-President, J&K Sports Speedball Association). The event was hosted by Sunny Nanda, General Sec

retary of Refa Boules India Federation.

The championship commenced with a warm welcome address by P.K. Tikku, Chairman of Cradle2Crayons School, setting an uplifting tone for the event. In an intense and thrilling competition, May Fair International School emerged as the overall champion, followed by Cradle2Crayons School as the 1st Runner-Up and Crescent Public School as the 2nd Runner-Up.

A major highlight of the event was the gold and silver medal distribution ceremony, where the Chief Guest and distinguished members of the Refa Boules India Federation honored the winners for their outstanding performances. Addressing the participants, Sh. Arvind Karwani praised their dedication and perseverance, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in both sports and life. He also applauded the efforts of Refa Boules India Federation for organizing such a remarkable and pioneering championship in Jammu & Kashmir.

Anila Kenu, Principal of Cradle2Crayons School, commended the relentless efforts of the staff and students in organizing an event that fosters discipline, unity, and resilience among young minds. The championship was conducted

under the banner of Refa Boules India Federation (Approved by NITI Aayog, Government of India) and was coordinated by Archana Koul (Coordinator, Cradle2Crayons School).

Championship Results Girls' Category: Under-8 Years: Tanishika (C2C), gold, Aalia (C2C), silver, and Ashani (C2C), bronze. Under-10 Years: Tamanya (MFS), gold, Hetanishi (C2C), silver, and Aniya (C2C), bronze. Under-12 Years: Garima Shan (CPS), gold, Purvi (MFS), silver, and Toufioa (CPS), bronze. Under-14 Years: Divyanshi (MFS), gold, Jiya (MFS), silver, and Sareshta Sharma (SNS), bronze.

Boys' Category: Under-8 Years (Group A): Zufi Shan (CPS), gold, Aditya Luthra (C2C), silver, and Jaivardhan (CPS), bronze. Under-8 Years (Group B): Vanshaj Rana (C2C), gold, Himanshu (CPS), silver, and Rahab (C2C), bronze. Under-10 Years (Group A): Advik Abrol (CPS), gold, Rudra Dev (C2C), silver, and Divyam Mathur (CPS), bronze. Under-12 Years (Group A): Gourav Shan (CPS), gold, Vinayak (CPS), silver, and Nishant (MFS), bronze. Under-12 Years (Group B): Laksh Mehra (DHSS), gold, Arnav Gandotra (MFS), silver, and Aarav Gupta (DHSS), bronze.

Under-14 Years (Group A): Devashish (DHSS), gold, Chetanya (MFS), silver, and Ragav (MFS), bronze. Under-14 Years (Group B): Balbir (DHSS), gold, Rehan Sen (MFS), silver, and Aryan Thappa (DHSS), bronze. Special Category (Special Child – Boys): Krish Mehra, gold and Ankit, silver.

The championship concluded on a high note, with participants and spectators leaving with a sense of achievement and inspiration. The event not only promoted sportsmanship but also reinforced the spirit of inclusivity and excellence in Jammu & Kashmir's sporting landscape.

High-level security meet, Chaired by LG Manoj Sinha, begins in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 12 (Agencies): A high-level security review meeting is underway at Police Control Room (PCR) in Srinagar, sources said. The meeting is chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.


Sources said the meeting is being attended by top Army, Police, and CRPF officers, and various security agencies. The meeting will assess

the security situation in the Kashmir Zone, while a separate meeting will be held to assess the security situation in Jammu Zone tomorrow, they said.

The meeting comes a week after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired back-to-back security review meetings regarding Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi.

Today's meeting, sources said, will focus on key security issues, including counter terror operations, infiltration attempts, and the increasing challenge of drug abuse in Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP, all police officers of Kashmir zone, top Army officials, and officials of various security agencies are present in the meeting.



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