

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Mandy Takhar talks about her upcoming talk show Spotlight With Mandy



NATIONAL | 7

'Timeless lifeline': PM Modi greets people on World Radio Day

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Elon Musk calls for US government to 'delete entire agencies'



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BRIEFLY

ED seizes Rs 170-Cr worth bank deposits in probe against 'Fraud' Forex trading platform

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has frozen bank deposits worth Rs 170 crore following recent searches against promoters of an alleged fraudulent forex trading and deposit scheme.

The federal agency said in a statement that raids were launched on February 11 at various premises in Delhi, Noida and Shamli in Uttar Pradesh and Rohtak in Haryana as part of a probe against QFX Trade Ltd. and its directors named Rajendra Sood, Vineet Kumar and Santosh Kumar apart from one of the "mastermind" Nawab Ali alias Lavish Chaudhary.

The money laundering probe stems from multiple FIRs filed by the Himachal Pradesh Police against QFX company that is alleged to have cheated many investors through a "fraud" forex trading scheme.

QFX company and its directors were running an "unregulated" deposit scheme, promising high returns on investments to the investors, the ED alleged.

The agents of QFX group of companies ran a MLM (multi-level marketing) scheme under the name of QFX investment plan and created websites, apps and social media ads etc. to attract investors promising higher rate of return in the name of forex trading, as per the agency.

After the police FIRs were filed, the ED found, the name of the QFX scheme was changed to YFX (Yorker Fx) with same modus operandi "duping innocent investors by luring high rate of returns under the guise of forex trading." "In addition to QFX more fraudulent investment schemes are being run and controlled by Nawab Ali alias Lavish Chaudhary such as BotBro, TLC Coin, Yorker FX projecting them as forex trading apps/websites," it said.

The ED found various events were organised in India and Dubai to lure more customers.

Probe found that multiple bank accounts of NPay Box Private Limited, Capter Money

Turn to page 9

Will relook at relationship with Centre if it fails to deliver on promises: J&K CM

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, has said that he would relook at the relationship with the Centre if it fails to deliver on its promises.

In an interview to the BBC, he however said that he has not given up the fight on restoration of Article 370.

To a question about being seen to be soft towards the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, Omar said, "At least in the opening few months of my government I owe it to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to try and establish a good working relationship with the Government of India. If that fails to deliver on the promises that the Government of India has made to us, we would relook at it."

The CM said that till the time Narendra Modi is Prime Minister, it was



not possible to see that Article 370 was restored. He however said that he has not given up on restoration of Article 370 fight and if that was the case, "We would not have passed a resolution in the Assembly asking for the special status of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored and constitutional guarantees be brought back as well."

Omar also said that

maintaining good relations with the Centre should not be seen as an alliance with the BJP. "Working in a congenial relationship is not something that should be mistaken for friendship or alliance," he said.

On being asked about whether he was advising the Government of India to establish a working relationship with Pakistan, he said, "At the moment there is

no scope and that is not there as the way security forces have been attacked in Jammu and Kashmir."

On the developmental front, he said that he has got the mandate from the people of Jammu and Kashmir to serve them, while noting that the Jammu and Kashmir government was working on ensuring development in the Union

Turn to page 9

High-level security meet chaired by LG Sinha begins in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 13 (Agencies): A day after high-level security meeting in Kashmir, another meeting is underway in Jammu to assess the security situation in the region. The meeting is chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, sources said.

Sources told news agency, that the meeting is being attended by top Police, Army, CRPF officials, and various other security agencies

in Jammu. They said that the focus of the meeting is to assess law and order, security situation, infiltration along the Line of Control among other issues.

On Wednesday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a similar security review meeting at the Police Control Room in Srinagar to assess the security situation in the Kashmir

Turn to page 9

Indian Army refutes ceasefire violation reports, says LoC situation stable

JAMMU, Feb 13 (Agencies): The Indian Army on Thursday dismissed reports of a ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC), stating that the truce remains intact and is being upheld according to the understanding between

the Indian and Pakistani armies.

In a statement on Thursday, the Indian Army said that the ceasefire on the LoC is intact. The Army also acknowledged recent incidents, including stray

Turn to page 9

New criminal laws ensure transparency, accountability: SSP Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Senior superintendent of police, Srinagar, Imtiaz Husain Mir on Thursday said that the criminal justice system will be people-centric and that these new laws ensure transparency and accountability.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of an awareness programme, the SSP, said that the aim of programme was to make people aware and educate them about the transition of criminal laws from a colonial legacy to a democratic legacy.

He said that previously, India had the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which has now been replaced with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "The shift from 'penal' to 'Nyaya' represents a

Turn to page 9

Supreme Court grants bail to NCB Officer accused in a narco-terror case

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): The Supreme Court has granted bail to an officer of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recently, who has been in custody since March 1, 2021, facing serious charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A bench of Justice Abhay S. Oka & Justice Ujjwal Bhuyan observed that the trial has made minimal progress, with only six witnesses examined to date. The court noted that the trial is unlikely to conclude within a reasonable timeframe.

Furthermore, no prior criminal antecedents of

the appellant were presented by the prosecution.

The appellant's legal team, comprising Sr. Adv. Shadan Farasat, Adv. Umair A. Andrabi, Adv. Tanisha, both from Jammu and Kashmir, and others argued that the evidence against their client was insufficient to justify continued incarceration.

The Supreme Court also expressed concerns over the investigative methods, particularly the reliance on a photo identification memo where witnesses were shown photographs of the appellant rather than participating in a proper Test Identification Parade (TIP). The bench remarked that this was a "very strange and doubtful procedure," though it refrained from

making final findings to avoid influencing the ongoing trial.

The prosecution's claim of recovering ₹91 lakh from the appellant was also scrutinized, with the court noting that no evidence was presented to link the money directly to the alleged offences.

Applying the legal principles established in the judgment of the Supreme Court in K.A. Najeeb, the court concluded that the prolonged trial and lack of compelling evidence warranted the appellant's release on bail. The court directed that the appellant be produced before the trial court within a week to finalize the bail conditions.

Earlier also in the same

Turn to page 9

Property seized in South Kashmir for alleged Militant shelter

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Police in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have seized the residential house of Safdar Ali Dar in Modergam village for allegedly providing shelter to militants. The house was completely damaged during an encounter on 6 July 2024, in which a para commando and two militants were killed.

A joint security operation was carried out last year in Modergam village, leading to an intense gunfight that resulted in the death of

Para Commando Lance Naik Pradeep Nain, as well as militants Adil Hussain Wani of Kutipora, Shopian, and Faisal Bashir Lone of Kanipora, Shopian. Both militants were reportedly hiding in the said house when the encounter broke out.

Police reached the spot today and officially seized the damaged house. A signboard was installed at the site, which reads: "This is to inform the general public that the fully damaged residential house constructed over land under

survey number 214, khasra number 360, registered in the name of Safdar Ali Dar of Modergam, Kulgam, has been frozen or seized under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967."

The notice further warns that no one is permitted to purchase the property, while the owner is prohibited from selling or leasing it.

This is the second such property seizure in Kulgam following encounters on the same

Turn to page 9

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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 Andrar, 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 Jammwal (Son-in-Law)
Smt. Anjali Jammwal (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

FIFTH DAY

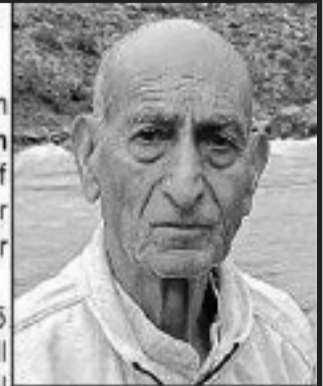
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sister **SMT KOMAL SAREEN** W/o Shiv Sareen R/o Gole Pully, Talab Tillo, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on Monday 10th Feb 2025.
FIFTH DAY shall be performed on Friday 14th of Feb 2025 at 11 am at Shri Radha Krishan Mandir Adjacent to Devans Modern Breweries Ltd Bohri, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Pinki Sawhney & Sh. Madan Murari Sawhney
Smt Malka Sawhney & Sh. Brij Mohan Sawhney
Smt Madhu Sawhney & Sh. Rakesh Sawhney
Smt Preeti Sawhney & Sh. Suresh Sawhney
CONTACT: 9419130177, 9622161856, 9419161856, 7006094077



SMT KOMAL SAREEN

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 -Bhabi & Brother
Shri Ramesh Kotru & Usha Kotru -Uncle & Aunt
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 Udhma 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 Sarder Parveen Singh Raina (Brother) (Govt. Contractor)
Sdn. and Sarder Harjinder Singh Raina (Brother)
Sdn. and Sarder 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 RITUALS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **S TARLOK SINGH SR** ADVOCATE J&K HIGH COURT LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 9-02-2025.
AS PER RITUALS THE AKHAND PATH SAHIB SHALL BE COMMENCED ON 14-02-2025 AT 9.00AM AT HOME WARD NO 3 NOWSHERA AND BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB WILL BE ON 16-02-25 SUNDAY AT 9 AM AT HOME AND KIRTAN DARBAR AND FINAL ARDAS WILL BE PERFORMED FROM 10:30 TO 12:30 PM AT GURDWARA CHIHATI PATSHAHI NOWSHERA FOLLOWED BY GURU KAATOOT LANGAR.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
SMT SWARNI KOUR (WIFE)
DOCTOR RAJARAMAN/R SINGH (SON)
DAUGHTERS AND SONS - IN-LAW
HARPREET KOUR AND S AMRIK SINGH
MANPREET KOUR AND DOCTOR B S DUTTAJAMER
BROTHERS AND SISTERS-IN-LAWS
SH. CHELA RAM SHARMA AND LATE VEDDOWANTI
COMPRITAM SINGH AND LATE SMT RAJINDER KOUR
S UJJAGAR SINGH AND SMT PREM KOUR
SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAWS
SMT PAIRMEHWAR KOUR AND S JACVIR SINGH
SMT AMRIT KOUR AND S BALWANT SINGH
SMT KULWANT KOUR AND SUBEDAR JEET SINGH
THAKAR KULDIP SINGH RTD PRINCIPAL SESSION JUDGE
SMT RITA KUNDAL AND SH RAMESH KUNDAL SESSION JUDGE
S. KULWANT SINGH RTD SCHOOL EDUCATION OFFICER.



S TARLOK SINGH

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 Karren Lane No. 11 House No. 2, Barnai Bantalab 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

FIFTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sister **SMT KOMAL SAREEN** W/o Shiv Sareen R/o Gole Pully, Talab Tillo, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on Monday 10th Feb 2025.
FIFTH DAY shall be performed on Friday 14th of Feb 2025 at 11 am at Shri Radha Krishan Mandir Adjacent to Devans Modern Breweries Ltd Bohri, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Pinki Sawhney & Sh. Madan Murari Sawhney
Smt Malka Sawhney & Sh. Brij Mohan Sawhney
Smt Madhu Sawhney & Sh. Rakesh Sawhney
Smt Preeti Sawhney & Sh. Suresh Sawhney
CONTACT: 9419130177, 9622161856, 9419161856, 7006094077



SMT KOMAL SAREEN

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. Ankitia 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 Sagan, Kolarnag presently residing at Parku Camp, Jammu has joined the lotus feet of Almighty on 08 Feb 25.
Tenth Day Kriya Karam will be performed on 15 Feb 25 (Sat) at Akhnoor Ghat, Jammu at 0800hrs. **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 Bimla 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 J Raina
Grandsons 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 J, Anku J, Anshu J, Gugi J and Lily J
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Samaya, Mahi, Arav, Vivan, Rohitvie, Shivon, Shival and Pa
Contact Nos. 959630321, 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
Mobile : 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, Paltoo 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, Paltoo Road, Jammu. **Uthala** will be performed on Saturday, dated 15th Feb 2025 from 04:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Trikuta Yatri Bhawan, Ambhalla, Jammu.
Grief Stricken:
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Yudhvir Singh Sambhal & Smt. Vishali Thakur
Smt. Yasho Rajya 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**
Stephens: 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, Dwaraka, New Delhi.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Gassi's, Ambaradar'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 (9906699904)
Bhat Family (7780942022)



Mrs. Taniya Raina (TANU)

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'Eidgah construction to be completed before Eid'

Allowing Eid prayers depend on situation, weather: Dr Darakhshan

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 13: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, on Thursday directed that the ongoing construction work at Eidgah Srinagar be completed before Eid ul Fitr.

She said that holding Eid prayers at the venue would depend on the situation and weather conditions in the Valley. While overseeing the construction work at Eidgah, Dr. Andrabi

said there was a need for a well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing prayer ground.

"We have already instructed the concerned authorities to complete the construction before Eid.

We want to see Eidgah in a beautiful condition, ensuring that people can offer prayers without any inconvenience," she told reporters.

When asked about the possibility of Eid prayers being held at Eidgah, she responded, "It

all depends on the situation and weather on that day."

She also provided updates on the ongoing renovation works at various shrines, including Hazratbal, Dastgeer Sahib, and Makhdoom Sahib.

She assured that all necessary arrangements were being made to facilitate devotees during Shab-e-Baraat.

"There are several government agencies responsible for maintaining hygiene around shrines, and efforts are being

made to ensure that devotees do not face any difficulties," she said.

However, she declined to comment on the Waqf Amendment Bill being introduced in Parliament, stating, "I will comment only when we know what amendments are being made."

On the recent High Court ruling that families of militants cannot be denied passports, Dr. Andrabi said the order should be implemented.

HDFC Bank launches 'Anmol Salary Account' for PSU employees

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, today launched India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Salary Account with a cyber fraud cover - 'Anmol Savings Account'.

HDFC Bank has been continuously innovating its Savings Account product.

As a part of the 'Speciale' suite of savings account targeted at varied customer segments with diverse

needs - senior citizens, working professionals, women, HDFC Bank offers a cyber fraud cover up to Rs 1.5 lakhs to senior citizens while the cyber fraud cover varies from Rs 25,000-50,000 for professionals.

Similarly, 'Speciale Gold Women' account gives a cancer cover of up to Rs 5 lakhs for women.

The salient features of Anmol Savings Account are: Cyber Fraud Cover - protects customers against cyber frauds up to Rs 25,000 Family Benefits - Zero Balance

Salary Family Account for up to 5 family members and locker benefits Insurance Cover - Customers will have the benefit of comprehensive health cover with OPD coverage, top up plans of up to Rs 30 lakhs and zero cost accident insurance cover worth over Rs 15 lakhs Exclusive Offers - Free Platinum Debit Card with Exclusive Offers and with up to 8 complimentary domestic airport lounge access every year Supplementary / Additional home loan over and above the company

limits for Maharatna PSU employees "We are pleased to introduce the country's first cyber cover integrated salary account for PSU employees. The feature is particularly relevant as customers' banking journeys are increasingly digital," said Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Liability Products, Consumer Finance & Marketing, HDFC Bank.

"With the launch of the 'Anmol Savings Account', HDFC Bank reinforces its focus on customer centric innovations. This is a novel

savings account product bundled with a wide range of benefits for PSU employees as well as for their family members such as preferential loan rates, increased salary overdraft limit, health cover," he added.

The Bank has introduced a dynamic product that not only offers benefits of traditional savings account but also brings in a host of advantages such as free locker benefits for the first year, Zero Balance Salary Account, unlimited ATM transactions and free demand drafts amongst others.

No significant weather activity expected until February 18: MeT

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Night cold returned to Kashmir valley, with all weather stations recording temperatures below the freezing point on Thursday, officials said.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast mainly dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir for the next 48 hours.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and

Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of -2.4°C, and it was -2.6°C below the average during this period of the season, the MeT office said.

The bright sun appeared during the day, presenting summer-like weather conditions in Kashmir.

Over the past 24 hours, day temperatures have risen by 3-4°C in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The night temperatures have dropped by

1-2°C in scattered areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of -7.5°C, while Pahalgam in south Kashmir dipped to -3.6°C. Sonamarg, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, registered the lowest temperature at -8.8°C during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

MeT said there is no significant forecast till February 18.

Bhagat, Kaith, others highlight Guru Ravidas teachings



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Former J&K Social Welfare Director Guldev Raj

Bhagat, IAS, Former JU Officer R.L.Kaith, Senior Auditor retired from CDA Hans Raj Loria, Master Naresh

Kumar, Kirpal Chand, Jagdish Raj, and many others on Tuesday, paid obeisance to Guru Ravidas and said, "We must follow his path of humanity and brotherhood to build a harmonious and strong society."

They further emphasized that Guru Ravidas was a revered saint who preached love, compassion, harmony, mutual tolerance, equality and oneness of mankind. He spent his life advocating social reform and uplifting society.

Chief Secretary awards medals at Anant Khel 2025 in CUJ

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The Annual Sports Meet Anant-Khel 2025 of Central University of Jammu was held with participation of 600 Students and 100 Faculty and Staff across 19 sports and games events in the University Campus, Bagla Suchani.

The sports extravaganza concluded with the much awaited Medal Ceremony graced by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo as Chief Guest on 13th February 2025 in the University campus.

In his address, Dulloo appreciated the emergence of the Central University of Jammu as an institution of excellence and underscored the attributes of University life for the students. Dulloo highlighted the significance of the spirit of sportsmanship which makes a nation great.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma



was the guest of honour on the occasion.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain shared his vision of making the students of the Central University of Jammu physically fit, morally upright and a great asset for the nation. Further, the Vice Chancellor advised the students to imbibe the true spirit of sportsmanship.

In her welcome address, Prof. Vandana Sharma, Director, DPE, shared the vision and spirit of Anant-Khel at Central University of Jammu where every participant of CUJ dem-

onstrated team spirit, mutual respect, ethical behaviour and modesty in true sense.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar Central University of Jammu delivered the formal vote of thanks and highlighted the achievements of the University.

In the ceremony, 51 gold medals, 50 silver medals and 30 bronze medals were awarded by the Chief Guest in the individual and team events such as Cricket, Football, Badminton, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabbadi, Javelin, discus throw, shot put. Long jump, high

jump, aesthetics, table tennis, carrom, chess, Marathon etc. The total number of students and employees who were awarded medals by the chief guest was over 400.

The spectacular feature of the Sports Meet was the newly introduced Vice-Chancellor's trophy for the overall best performance for a school of study for the best performance during the Anant-Khel-2025.

The Vice-Chancellor trophy in Anant Khel-2025 was won by the School of Education of the University

INDIAWOOD 2025 to start from March 6-9 at IEML Greater Noida

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Celebrating 25 years of industry advancements, INDIAWOOD 2025, the leading trade fair for woodworking and furniture manufacturing, will take place from March 6-9, 2025, at India Expo Mart & Centre (IEM), Greater Noida, Delhi NCR.

As part of Nuernberg-Messe's global woodworking portfolio, this milestone edition highlights India's emergence as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

Since its inception, INDIAWOOD has shaped the industry's growth by bringing together manufacturers, suppliers, and technology leaders. India ranks among the top five global furniture producers and aims to grow its furniture exports by 20% annually. "Valued at USD 25.75 billion in 2025, the Indian furniture market is projected to reach USD 37.18 billion by 2030," says

Sonia Prashar, Managing Director, Nuernberg-Messe India. With wood accounting for 62% of furniture production, the industry is evolving through innovation and sustainability, largely driven by opportunities at INDIAWOOD.

Frederik Meyer, President of Eumabois, emphasized India's growth in the woodworking sector: "INDIAWOOD 2025 is a key platform for knowledge sharing, cutting-edge technologies, and strategic partnerships. European companies are eager to collaborate with Indian firms, offering high standards of quality, efficiency, and sustainability."

This landmark edition will feature a dynamic mix of technology, product launches, and knowledge-sharing forums, including:

INDIAWOOD 2025 will feature a range of specialized industry events designed to engage professionals across the woodworking and

furniture manufacturing spectrum. Surface in Motion, scheduled for March 5, will offer a comprehensive exploration of surface technology and design trends, spotlighting. The India Mattresstech Expo, co-located with INDIAWOOD, will showcase innovations in mattress manufacturing and upholstery. Wood+ in Architecture & Design on March 7 brings together experts to discuss wood's role in modern architecture. Seminars & Forums in which Industry professionals gain insights into new materials, machinery, and sustainable practices besides exhibitors from leading domestic and international brands will showcase advancements in Advanced Technology & Innovation with High-performance woodworking machinery enhancing precision and speed and Premium Materials & Hardware with innovations like fire-resistant

panels and advanced hardware for durability and Smart Manufacturing Solutions with AI-driven automation and precision CNC systems optimizing efficiency.

With India's economy projected to grow at 6.7% in FY26-27, the woodworking and furniture industry is set to become a top global player. Spanning over 50,000 SqMs with 600+ brands from 30+ countries, INDIAWOOD 2025 will be the largest edition in North India, fostering global collaborations and business opportunities.

Sivakumar Venugopal, Group Director, NuernbergMesse India, remarked, "INDIAWOOD has driven industry transformation for 25 years. As we celebrate this milestone, we remain committed to providing future-ready solutions, fostering global partnerships, and driving growth."

For more details, visit www.indiawood.com.

NSS volunteers of GDC R S Pura visit Bal Ashram for social services during 6th day of Winter Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) R. S. Pura organized a visit to the Bal Ashram, R. S. Pura, a prominent social welfare organization dedicated to the care and support of orphaned and underprivileged children.

This initiative was part of the NSS unit's ongoing commitment to community service and social responsibility.

The team of enthusiastic NSS volunteers engaged in a variety

of activities aimed at uplifting the lives of the children under the able guidance and supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO.

Distribution of essential items, such as educational supplies, alongside interactive sessions that encouraged the children's educational and personal growth was done.

The volunteers also spent quality time with the children, offering mentorship, guidance, and emotional support, helping to create a joyful and enriching atmosphere for all participants.



The visit to the Ashram also highlighted the importance of empathy and compassion, as the volunteers worked together to better understand the challenges faced by marginalized communities.

Through this experience, the NSS unit emphasized the significance of social respon-

sibility in building a more inclusive and caring society.

The Principal of GDC R. S. Pura, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, applauded the efforts of the NSS volunteers, encouraging them to continue their outreach efforts in service to the community.

The event was lauded by the Ashram's

management, who expressed their gratitude for the support extended by the students.

The committee members who were present during the event were Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) R.S.PURA
E-mail: senndrps@gmail.com

Sh. Sunil Choudhary
S/o Sh. Romesh Choudhary
R/o 107-Extn., New Rehari,
Jammu

No: EE/DRSP/SS44-18
Dated: 16/2/2025

Admonitory Notice (Final)

Subject: Non-Submission of Performance Security in the Shape of CDR/TDR/FDR/irrevocable Bank Guarantee for the work for :
Macadamization of road from Fatima Covent School to Paer Baba Bishnah.

(Advertised Amount: Its 35.34 Lacs)
(Time of Completion: One(1) Month)

Reference: This office e-Nit No: DRSP/62 of 2023-24 Dated: 03/02/2024 followed by this office LOA No: Divn/RSP/4503-04 Dated : 23/03/2024 .

Whereas, for the Work cited in the subject above you had to submit Performance Security and extra performance Security in the shape of CDR/TDR/FDR/irrevocable Bank Guarantee and for that you have already been served upon with notice vide this office No: Divn/RSP/205-02 dated 12/04/2024 and Divn/RSP/1129-20 dated 28/06/2024. Whereas, thereafter Last & Final Notice vide this office: No: EE/DRSP/1576-90 Dt:15-07-2024 was also issued wherein you were admonished and given final opportunity to submit the above said documents but despite our repeated appeals, you have not turned up for doing the needful which is a violation of the terms and conditions of the NIT/SBD and may result in cancellation of the Tender.

Now in the interest of the work and to save wastage of time in floating fresh tender at the lag end of the current Financial year. You are hereby given the one more opportunity to submit the above said document of specified amount within next three(03) days falling which it will be presumed that you have lost interest in the work and thus action under rules shall be initiated against you. This is without any prejudice to the terms and the conditions of the NIT/SBD.

DIP/J-10068/24

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
R.S.Pura

EDITORIAL

VITAL NEED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Natural resources are the foundation of life on Earth, providing essential materials and services that sustain human society and the environment. These resources include water, air, soil, minerals, forests, and biodiversity, which are crucial for economic development, agriculture, industry, and human well-being. However, rapid industrialization, urbanization, and population growth have led to the overexploitation and degradation of these resources, posing severe threats to ecological balance and future generations. Protecting natural resources is not just a responsibility but a necessity to ensure sustainable development and environmental stability.

Biodiversity is vital for maintaining ecosystems and ensuring the survival of countless species, including humans. Forests, wetlands, and oceans support a diverse range of plant and animal life, playing a crucial role in ecological balance. Overexploitation of natural habitats through deforestation, mining, and industrialization leads to habitat destruction, threatening numerous species with extinction. Conservation efforts such as afforestation, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks help protect biodiversity and restore ecological harmony.

Water is one of the most critical natural resources for life. However, freshwater sources are under immense pressure due to pollution, overuse, and climate change. Industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and plastic pollution have severely affected water bodies, making water unsafe for consumption and harming aquatic life. Water conservation strategies such as rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, and responsible water usage in agriculture and industries are essential to ensure a sustainable water supply.

The burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions contribute to greenhouse gas accumulation, leading to global warming and climate change. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and melting glaciers pose severe threats to ecosystems and human livelihoods. Transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, along with reforestation and carbon sequestration initiatives, can help mitigate climate change and protect natural resources.

Soil is a fundamental resource for food production, but unsustainable farming practices, deforestation, and industrial pollution have led to soil degradation, erosion, and loss of fertility. Excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides further depletes soil health, affecting crop yields and food security. Adopting organic farming, crop rotation, and soil conservation techniques such as terracing and agroforestry can help maintain soil fertility and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

Pollution, whether in the form of air, water, or land contamination, significantly impacts human health and natural ecosystems. Industrial waste, plastic pollution, and chemical runoff degrade natural resources and disrupt ecological balance. Implementing strict environmental regulations, promoting sustainable waste management practices like recycling and composting, and encouraging the use of biodegradable materials can reduce pollution and safeguard the environment.

Governments, businesses, and communities must adopt sustainable practices in resource management. This includes responsible mining, sustainable forestry, and efficient energy consumption. Encouraging industries to use eco-friendly production methods and adopting circular economy principles can help reduce resource depletion and environmental impact.

Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is essential for reducing carbon emissions and protecting non-renewable resources. Solar, wind, and hydroelectric power offer clean and sustainable alternatives to traditional energy sources, reducing environmental degradation and promoting long-term energy security.

Raising awareness about the importance of protecting natural resources is crucial for fostering a culture of sustainability. Educational institutions, media, and community programs should emphasize environmental conservation, encouraging individuals to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting sustainable products.

Governments play a pivotal role in natural resource protection through legislation and enforcement. Policies such as the Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and Clean Air and Water Acts are necessary to regulate resource use and prevent exploitation. Strengthening environmental governance and ensuring strict compliance with regulations can enhance conservation efforts.

Local communities are often the most affected by environmental degradation and can play a vital role in conservation efforts. Grassroots movements, NGOs, and citizen-led initiatives can promote sustainable resource use, protect indigenous lands, and advocate for stronger environmental policies. Participatory conservation programs, such as community-managed forests and watershed projects, empower local populations to take responsibility for resource protection.

The protection of natural resources is essential for maintaining ecological balance, ensuring economic stability, and securing the well-being of future generations. Unsustainable exploitation has already caused significant environmental damage, but through conscious efforts, sustainable practices, and collective responsibility, we can restore and preserve our natural wealth. Governments, industries, communities, and individuals must work together to implement conservation strategies, reduce pollution, promote renewable energy, and enforce environmental policies. By prioritizing the protection of natural resources, we can build a sustainable future where nature and humanity thrive together.

INDIA Bloc a Strange Alliance with Fissures

By: Omkar Dattatray

INDIA alliance and opposition bloc has taken birth before 2024 general elections with the negative politics as its aim that was to defeat Modi in the Lok Sabha elections of that year. But the INDI bloc miserably failed to checkmate and defeat Modi juggernaut. This INDI alliance has no policy and no strategy except to defeat Modi and his BJP. INDIA bloc has turned into a very strange alliance where its partners are busy in opposing and fighting each other as was obviously seen in the recently held Delhi polls. Both Congress and AAP are the partners in INDIA bloc but they fought the crucial Delhi polls separately which is the negation of alliance dharma. Congress decided to go alone in Delhi elections and fielded its candidates against AAP contestants with the result AAP's share of votes decreased and it failed to defeat mighty BJP and in the just concluded Delhi polls BJP was successful with flying colors and it won significant 48 assembly seats and AAP had to content with mere 22 seats which is much short of the magic figure of 36 seats which are needed to form government. In fact Congress could not even open its score and it won zero seats which is big humiliation for the grand old party. AAP failed to win good number of assembly seats as congress has divided the votes of AAP and Arvind Kejriwal and other leaders of the AAP are openly saying that their defeat in polls is squarely due to the division of their vote share and this distribution of votes helped BJP to win maximum of seats. The election results and the message of Delhi struck the INDIA alliance as the partners which are at war and friction with each other, now aggressively showed the fissures in the INDIA alliance. In Punjab there are intense infighting between the two constituents of the INDIA bloc as the Congress, MLA's are in touch with the grand party and they are about

to desert AAP in Punjab. Thus the existence and survival of the AAP government of Bagwant Maan is at stake. There are fissures from Delhi to Punjab and Punjab to Maharashtra and to West Bengal in INDIA alliance and all this suggests that the ship of INDIA alliance is about to sink. INDIA bloc will sink under its own weight as is obvious from the widening fissures in INDIA bloc at pan India level and this is very sad for the future of INDIA as this opportunistic, selfish and negative alliance will soon or later disintegrate and such a day will be doomsday for the whole opposition. In fact amid fissures in INDIA bloc unity, congress leaders speak in different voices which is not good for the health of the opposition alliance. In west Bengal the chief minister Mamata Banerjee talks in different way which shows that all is not well for the INDIA bloc. The defeat of the two INDIA bloc partners which is demoralizing has led to the open contradictions among the congress leaders who seem not on the same page so far as the its alliance strategies is concerned. Some of the leaders of congress defended the party's position and were of the opinion that AAP was unwilling to forge an alliance in the assembly polls, while a good number of its leaders differed with the view calling for introspection and coherent political strategy. Congress leaders openly asserted that the INDIA bloc was constituted especially for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024 and in the different state elections, there are state specific issues and so alliance in state elections is neither needed nor feasible and so the alliance partners can go all alone in the state assembly polls. Congress MP and whip in the LoK Sabha Manickam Tagore said that INDIA bloc was formed for general elections 2024. In different states, different strategies were evolved in those polls also. The AAP and congress had an alliance in past but not in recent Delhi polls, but there was no such alliance in Punjab. INDIA bloc's future is in balance as Delhi

assembly results expose deep fissures in the opposition alliance. PM Modi criticized AAP's collapse as congress failed to win even one single seat. He questioned the opposition unity ahead of Bihar polls. It is pertinent to mention that entire INDIA alliance leaders landed in Delhi, while they stopped congress, they could not save APP.SP and TMC leaders campaigned for AAP candidates and not for congress. Congress won no seats, but AAP's tally was far less than it won in 2020 Delhi polls. AAP won only 22 assembly seats. It led to consternation in the INDIA bloc, especially because the congress spoilt AAP's chances in 12 states. J&K chief minister of NC which is a partners of the INDIA bloc has rightly exclaimed 'Aur lado aapas mein!!!. D Raja of communist party said that the Delhi election results is a wakeup call to the constituents' of INDIA bloc especially for congress and dominant regional parties in various states. He further asserted that unity between the alliance partners should be both ideological as well as practical. Sanjay Rawt of the Shiv Sena -UBT said had the AAP and congress fought the polls jointly, the results would have been completely different. Bihar is going to polls in November 2025, and it will be seen how the constituents' of grand alliance such as Left Front, Congress and RJD will behave in those elections as in all likelihood RJD which is a dominant force in Bihar will go for bargaining with congress and will like to contest from many more seats and leave less seats for congress. In all probability perhaps they cannot checkmate JD-U and NDA alliance in Bihar polls all this because there seems no unity between the various constituents of the Mahaghatbandhan. The Delhi poll results can influence the parliamentary behavior of the opposition parties as SP and TMC had indicated that they would not follow the congress strategy in parliament and will act as an independent pressure group of regional parties. TMC recently did not cooperate with the opposition

alliance created pandemonium in parliament as it wanted to raise the issues of West Bengal in parliament, but the continuous blockage of the parliamentary proceedings because of the obdurate attitude of the opposition alliance has not allowed Mamta's TMC MP's to raise the pressing issues of the West Bengal in parliament. This clearly shows the widening rift between the various constituents of opposition alliance. Mamata Banerjee -led party wanted the parliament to function so as it can raise the issues of the people of the West Bengal. But that did not happen and the stalemate in the parliament continued. The debacle of the three constituents of INDIA bloc in recently held assembly elections has thrown the groping into survival crisis. In fact the impatience with the congress among alliance partners of INDIA is growing with many pointing fingers at the largest opposition constituent of the grand alliance for contributing to the BJP's triumph in Delhi polls. The AAP defeat and the congress' humiliating debacle in Delhi assembly polls has given birth to further challenges for the already -faltering INDIA bloc. All the above implies that all is not well with the INDIA bloc and there are deepening fissures and confrontations between various constituents of the opposition alliance and the ship of INDIA bloc may sink in future unless its constituents take appropriate remedial measures. INDIA alliance leaders should put their own combined house in order than negatively criticizing the NDA/BJP.

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

Increased pollution due to satellite launch

By: Vijay Garg

Space exploration in the field of science and technology is an important step. This has brought mankind to new heights. Sending satellites and other equipment into space through rocket projection has become the need of today's era. Whether it is for communication, the study of weather is the discovery of life on the planets. Rocket projection has introduced humanity to new possibilities. However, this process also causes serious problems for the environment. Problems like atmospheric pollution, ozone layer erosion, noise pollution, water and soil pollution and debris in space are now coming out during the launch. It is necessary to understand and solve them, so that balance can be established between technological progress and environmental protection. Very powerful fuel is used to send rocket into space. If this fuel burns, large amounts of gases and particles are emitted. These include carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. Solid fuel irritation Carbon and nitrogen oxides are emitted on the area, which cause pollution. Rockets using liquid hydrogen and oxygen are less pollution, but are not completely clean yet. The ozone layer absorbs harmful ultraviolet rays (UV) coming from the Sun, which are fatal to human, animals and plants and plants. This is known as the Earth's safety shield, because it is, our planet protects the planet from natural disasters and biological damage. Solid during rocket launch Chlorine-based compounds used in 'propellants' damage the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere. Chlorine molecules break

the ozone molecules and allow ultraviolet rays to reach the earth, which and health and. And is harmful to the ecosystem. Nitrogen oxide gases are produced during rocket projection, which react with ozone and destroy it. These gases can remain in the atmosphere for many years for many years. The gases released during the launch direct the upper atmosphere, where the ozone layer does not get time to rebuild itself. Repeated projection further increases this problem. Burning of solid and liquid fuels produce soot and black carbon particles, which prevent the renewal of the layer of ozone layer. The number of rocket projections is increasing rapidly due to an increase in space research. It is a long-term threat to the ozone layer, 1, because the accumulation of pollution is increasing. The sound levels generated during rocket projection are high, which is harmful to both human and wildlife. The local environment has a profound impact and disrupts the natural habitat of wildlife. The animals and birds around the projection site are frightened by the rapid sound, which has a negative effect on their behavior and reproduction. The intensity of sound waves can also cause damage to the surrounding trees and flora. Excessive sound is harmful. This can harm the hearing ability. People present at the launch site may face mental stress, insomnia and other physical troubles. Extremely acute sound waves can damage the surrounding buildings and structures. When the rocket fly, its engine emits too much heat and gas, which contains harmful chemicals and heavy metals. These chemicals fall on the ground and join the soil. Which causes damage to its natural qual-

ity. The harmful chemicals present in rocket fuel (eg, hydrochloric acid and heavy metals) change the soil structure. Due to these chemicals, the pH level of the soil can be unbalanced, so that there Farming and growth of plants are affected. Difficulty surviving micro-organisms and insects in polluted soils. It occurs, which affects the local ecosystem. The effect of these chemicals can remain on the soil for a long time, which reduces the fertile capacity of the ground. At the same time, the formation of space debris by projection is a major problem when a rocket is sent to space, then different parts like Buster like booster and other equipment carrying satellite into space, after completing their workC are Some of these fall back to Earth, but many pieces move in space. Old and passive satellites begin to break over time, making small pieces. When two satellites or debris collide, make their pieces and more debris. "International rules and guidelines have been made for sending rockets and satellites to control the problem of debris. Sound inhibitors can be made around the launch site. Use of water vapor during rocket launch soundTo reduce the intensity of waves. This method adopts NASA and other agencies. Replace chlorine based solid fuels from nitrogen-based compounds is a major step for the protection of the ozone layer. Scientists made many innovations. Whose purpose is to reduce the environmental impact of projection. Pollution can be reduced to a great extent by the development and use of green fuel. Fuels like bio fuel, liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen are not only less toxic, but their burning causes minimal pollution, Rocket launch sites

should be established areas where the environment has minimal impact, such as near the beach. Launch sites should be kept away from sensitive ecosystem and densely populated areas. Organizations such as SpaceX have developed reusable rockets, such as Falcon 9, this technique eliminates the need for a new rocket for every launch. Nearly rocket projection is the backbone of modern science and space exploration, but its environmental impact cannot be ignored. Controlling pollution caused by projection is not a simple task, but it is not impossible either. We need technological innovation, policy formulation and global female cooperation to deal with problems like atmospheric pollution, ozone layer erosion, water and soil pollution and space debris. New technologies, such as: usable rockets and 'green propellants' and revolutionary steps to reduce environmental damage. SpaceX, NASA, and other space agencies are constantly trying in this direction, Following international cooperation and rules will ensure that all countries understand and comply with the importance of environmental protection. It should be our priority to maintain balance between technology and environment in the coming time. This is important not only for the present generation, but also for future generations.

(Vijay Garg retired principal Educational columnist Gali Kaur Chand MHR Malout Punjab)

Shiv Sena demands to promote Dogri films, dialect, broadcast 24X7 Duggar channel

Showing Dogri films should be made compulsory

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded to keep alive and promote Dogra dialect, art and cultural identity.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the step-motherly treatment towards Dogri language, art and identity that started during the rule of Kashmiri rulers in the Dogra state of Jammu and Kashmir is continuing even today.

Despite being a favorite destination for filmmakers, the local film industry is not able to get wings of success.

The first Dogri film "Gallan Hoi-



yaan Beetiyan" was released in September 1966, in the journey of 59 years, only a dozen Dogri films have been released on the big screen so far.

The biggest problem in the Dogri film industry is the lack of financial support and decades.

At the same time, Dogri film makers often regret not getting cinema halls. Along with this, the broadcast of Jammu Door-darshan, which is considered the easiest and most important medium to keep the local art and culture alive and encourage

regional artists, is continuously decreasing.

Sahni has demanded the broadcast of the 24X7 Duggar channel, special financial assistance for Dogri films, relaxation in the conditions of subsidy for local languages in the film policy and instructions to cinema halls to show at least one show for two weeks on the release of a Dogri film.

Along with this, demand to make Dogri a compulsory subject in schools was also raised.

Appeal was made to the local people to communicate in Dogri at home and business offices. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Sr. Vice president Sanjeev Kohli and Ashok Kumar were present.

GDC Paloura organizes seminar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Career Counselling Cell in collaboration with Department of Sociology and Department of Chemistry of GDC Paloura organised a seminar followed by an interaction session.

The seminar was conducted by the resource persons Shoaib Farid, CEO, Wings Ek Udaan Private Limited and Shubham Sardhalia,

Centre head, Sunya IAS.

The programme was particularly focused on the outgoing students, who are presently in VIth Semester from varied subjects. It aimed at creating awareness among the students regarding career opportunities in both Government and private sector and also motivated them to follow their aspirations.

The students were apprised with upcoming examinations of JKSSB and other State level as well as National level exams. Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the team and emphasised on the significance of such programmes for the counselling of students.

She advised the students to stay focused and dedicated towards their goal and not to fall prey to social media and other distractions.

The programme was coordinated by Prof Pooja Sharma, Con- verner, Career Counselling Cell along with Department of Sociology and Chemistry.

The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks.

Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K appoints new leadership

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The Ju-Jitsu Association of Jammu & Kashmir announced the appointment of Tarun Uppal as the new President and Bhupesh as the Chairman of the Association.

This pivotal decision was unveiled during a significant meeting held at Hotel Radisson Blu, Jammu, which brought together key stakeholders and passionate sports enthusiasts dedicated to advancing the sport of Ju-Jitsu in the region.

In his acceptance speech, Tarun Uppal stated, "I am deeply honored to take on this responsibility. My commitment is to uplift Ju-Jitsu in the Union Territory, ensuring that our athletes have the opportunity to shine on national and international platforms." His vision emphasizes a collaborative approach to nurturing talent, alongside a dedication to promoting Ju-Jitsu as both a competitive sport and a means of self-defense.

Bhupesh echoed this sentiment, highlighting the critical need for structured training programs and robust infrastructure to support aspiring athletes.



"It's essential that we provide our young talent with the resources they need to excel. Our focus will be on creating a supportive environment where every individual can thrive," he shared.

The Ju-Jitsu Association of Jammu & Kashmir is gearing up for a transformative era under the new leadership. With a renewed focus on fostering young talent, enhancing training opportunities, and promoting the martial art as a disciplined competitive sport, the Association is poised to elevate Ju-Jitsu's presence across the region.

As the association steps into this new chapter, it invites all enthusiasts, athletes, and supporters to join in its mission to cultivate a vibrant Ju-Jitsu community in Jammu & Kashmir.

YCET conducts workshop on Virtual Labs in association with IIT Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET), in association with IIT Delhi, conducted a workshop on Virtual Labs for the students and the faculty members of YCET.

This initiative provided an opportunity for all students of 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th semester to understand and perform online laboratory experimentation free of cost.

The aim was to provide high quality laboratory access in Science and Engineering discipline for students and teachers.

The lab hosts virtual experiments for the students of all branches enabling them hands-on training whenever and



wherever needed.

The Workshop Commenced with formal Welcome address by Er. Rajnish Magotra, Head Civil Engineering Department.

Shani Kumar Senior field Engineer and Er. Ubaid Mushtaq field Engineer from Virtual Labs, IIT Delhi was the resource persons for the workshop.

They gave a brief intro-

duction on the virtual lab and enlightened the audience with the benefits of the virtual labs in the current scenario.

They introduced the audience with the procedure of using virtual labs. They apprised everyone with the basic steps including website: www.vlab.co.in, three basic requisites: Smartphone, laptop and internet connection, etc.

They added that Virtual lab is free of cost; there are 11 participating institutes in virtual labs and over 1300 nodal centers.

The event was summed up with a vote of thanks delivered by Er. Loveneesh Talwar Head Electrical Engineering Department).

Jamwal Group of Educational Institutions (JGEI), Jammu

Chairman Er. Vidhi S. Singh Jamwal, Vice-Chairman Th. Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal, Managing Director Er. Renu Bangroo, Dr. (Prof.) Mukesh Kumar Rana, Director YCET, Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics, YCET and Chief Coordinator Er. B R Verma appreciated the initiative taken by YCET to organize such a workshop.

Pertinent to mention that Virtual lab is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India under NME-ICT, which provides an opportunity for all students to use virtual labs free of cost. This aims to provide high quality remote laboratory access in Science and Engineering disciplines.

NSF celebrates 146th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu who laid his life for the country.

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Ankush Abrol Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while Dr Vikas Sharma

Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC, Presided over the function. TR Sharma KAS (Retd) was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol threw light on the life history of Sarojini Naidu and appreciated the efforts of NSF and appealed to the youth to come forward to eliminate all evils from the society.

He also said that every year on February 13, India celebrates the birth anniversary of Sarojini

Naidu, a renowned poet and political activist, as National Women's Day. This year marks her 146th birth anniversary. Known as the Nightingale of India for her inspiring poetry, Naidu was one of the most influential women of the 20th century. Born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879, she played a pivotal role in India's freedom movement and remains a symbol of strength and eloquence. On this occasion, Zonal Secretary JKNC

Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Sarojini Naidu". Sharma said that the real tributes to Sarojini Naidu would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction.

Dr Vikas also said that Sarojini Naidu was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and played a significant role in the Indian National Movement, which aimed to achieve indepen-

dence for the nation. After independence, she also became the first governor of Uttar Pradesh. Above all, she is a pioneering figure in Indian English poetry. TR Sharma KAS (Retd) also addressed this occasion.

Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit delivered the welcome address, Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman was delivering the vote of thanks.

One-year-old wins over life-threatening heart condition at Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: In a significant medical achievement, a one-year-old child with congenital heart disease was successfully treated at Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital, Jammu. The child, diagnosed with Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)--a heart defect that occurs when the ductus arteriosus doesn't close after birth, underwent a life-saving PDA device closure procedure, marking a significant milestone in pediatric cardiac care in the region. The minimally invasive procedure helped the infant survive the life-threatening condition, that he/she was suffering since birth.

The procedure was done by a specialized team led jointly by Dr. Radhika Uppal, Con-

sultant Pediatric Cardiologist, and Dr. Najmus Saqib, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist. PDA can cause heart failure and many other serious health conditions if left untreated. While performing the procedure, the team of doctors used the least invasive techniques possible and avoided major surgery for a successful outcome.

Commenting on the case, Dr. Najmus Saqib, said, "The PDA device closure was performed without major surgery, using a catheter inserted through the leg to deploy a specialized non-surgical device known as a ductus occluder. The minimally invasive procedure, which lasted just 30-45 minutes, effectively closed the hole in the child's heart, stopping the abnormal shunting of blood. The procedure

was a crucial intervention, as leaving the defect untreated would have led to the child's condition deteriorating beyond the scope of surgical correction."

Dr. Radhika Uppal expressed: "Earlier, people had to go to bigger cities to get treatment for this congenital heart disease where these holes were closed with the help of buttons. However, now this facility is available at Ujala Cygnus Medcity Hospital in Jammu where me and my team will be able to easily treat this complex condition. So, now families of these infants also need not stay at the hospital for more than one or two days and the treatment is available at cost-effective rates."

Previously, pediatric patients with congenital heart defects had to travel outside Jammu for cardiac care, leading to increased financial and emotional strain on families. With the availability of such advanced procedures locally, Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital is setting new standards in accessible, high-quality healthcare in the region.

ALLEN Career Institute Jammu excels in JEE Main 2025 results

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: ALLEN Career Institute, Jammu, has once again demonstrated its academic excellence in the JEE Main 2024 (January Attempt), producing the highest number of top-ranking students from a single institute in the region.

Prakhar Gupta emerged as the J&K Topper, securing an outstanding 99.61 percentile. Other remarkable achievers from ALLEN

Jammu included: Tanmay Saraf - 99.22 percentile, Saksham Raj Mittal - 98.50 percentile, Kartavya Verma - 98.28 percentile, Eklavya Singh Bhau - 97.184 percentile and Rutkar Bakshi - 96.83 percentile.

Additionally, 12 students from ALLEN Jammu have secured scores above 95.9 percentile, further establishing the institute's dominance in engineering entrance exams.

Sadanand Wani, Zonal



Head of ALLEN Tri-City Campuses and Senior Chemistry Faculty, praised the students' dedication, stating, "All

our students have been sincere and committed, and their hard work has translated into exceptional results. At ALLEN,

we strive to deliver quality education through structured academics and continuous support from parents."

He also acknowledged the trust and unwavering support of parents, which plays a crucial role in the students' success.

With its consistent track record of producing top ranks, ALLEN Jammu continues to be the premier institute for engineering aspirants in the Northern Region.

AR Rahman seemingly pokes fun at Ranveer Allahbadia: What all happens when the mouth opens

But trouble for Allahbadia and Raina is far from over

Composer AR Rahman subtly addressed the controversy surrounding influencer Ranveer Allahbadia, saying the past week has been all about "what happens when the mouth opens" when he indirectly shared his thoughts after he was asked to describe his music using emojis at the audio launch of Vicky Kaushal-starrer "Chhaava".

Rahman, who has composed music for "Chhaava", took the stage with the actor.

Kaushal asked the music director to describe his music using "just three emojis".

"You want me (to) keep my mouth closed," Rahman said after some contemplation, referring to the emoji.

"I think in the past week we have seen what all happens when mouth opens," he added, eliciting a roaring laughter from both Kaushal and the audience.

To which Kaushal, who plays Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in the period drama, replied: "Talk about roasting." Rahman is the latest celebrity to have joined the growing discourse around Allahbadia's comment, which many have deemed "vulgar" and "irresponsible" on comic Samay Raina's YouTube show "India's Got Latent".

On Wednesday night, Raina said he has removed all episodes of "India's Got Latent" from his YouTube channel in the wake of the controversy.

In his first response since the fracas ensued earlier this week, Raina said he will fully cooper-



ate with all the investigating agencies in their probe.

In an apology video on X on Monday, Allahbadia admitted that his comment was not only inappropriate, but also not funny.

A day later, the controversial episode was removed by YouTube following orders from the central government. "India's Got Latent", which premiered in June 2024, had aired 18 episodes.

But trouble for Allahbadia and Raina is far from over.

Besides widespread criticism, police complaints have been filed against both Allahbadia and Raina in cities, including

Mumbai, Guwahati, and Indore.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked Allahbadia, Raina, and other panelists Apoorva Mukhija, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, as well as the show's producers Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra to appear before it on February 17 in New Delhi.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) claimed Raina's upcoming stand-up shows in Gujarat have been cancelled following the outrage.

The Maharashtra Cyber Department has also registered a First Information Report under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act against

the show. More than 40 people, including Allahbadia and Raina, have been summoned to join the probe.

Earlier this week, Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske raised the issue in Parliament as he called for a law to regulate social media.

Allahbadia, who has interviewed guests ranging from the biggest names in Bollywood to ministers like S Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Smriti Irani, also suffered a setback for his show as singer B Praak called off an appearance on the influencer's podcast.

Previously, actor and stand-up comedian Vir Das shared his opinion on the controversy, criticising TV media's endless coverage on Allahbadia without naming the influencer.

In an Instagram Story, actor Akansha Ranjan Kapoor asked authorities to get their priorities straight.

"Guys I think I'm losing my mind.. so marital rape is ok? Any and all rape is ok? Killing us with hazardous air quality is fine. People literally falling into potholes and dying is fine. Pay inequality / bribery/caste system/taxes that are killing the middle class is all MAST! But apne moral standing par koi kaise dhabba dal sakta hai? (sic)" Kapoor wrote.

Then there were also some like fashion influencer Uorfi Javed and actor Rakhi Sawant who voiced their support for Allahbadia and Raina.

Mandy Takhar talks about her upcoming talk show Spotlight With Mandy



Punjabi actress Mandy Takhar was in Chandigarh for the launch of her upcoming talk show, Spotlight with Mandy. She also talked about how to strike the right balance between her personal and professional life. The show premieres on Zee Punjabi on February 16.

Donning traditional attire, Takhar spoke in soft Punjabi-British accent about her journey in the Indian cinema industry. With her

roots in England, now 37, Takhar began her career with Ekam—Son of Soil, bringing her into limelight in the Punjabi heartland. Along the way, she has learned and grown with the ever-changing Indian cinema, while making Punjab her new home.

An expert in English, Punjabi, Hindi and, surprisingly, Tamil, Takhar resonates most with her mother tongue, Punjabi. She shared, "It's good to be on the other side, as usually I'm the one being interviewed. It's nice to be in the hot seat and ask the questions, driving the conversation and getting to know the guests better."

Inspired by her favourites like The Kapil Sharma Show, Takhar is looking forward to bringing the journey of familiar Punjabi personalities, such as Simar Kaur, Kartar Cheema, Hardeep Grewal, Himanshi Khurana, Aveera Singh Masson, Jasmin Bajwa, Kanwar Grewal, and many more, during the first season of the talk show. She added, "Putting them in the spotlight, learning about everything they have faced, good or bad, is an eye opener."

Donning traditional attire, Takhar spoke in soft Punjabi-British accent about her journey in the Indian cinema industry. With her

Singer-composer Vivek Hariharan, who made a mark with songs like Roohdaari from Fateh, looks towards the future with much hope

Pursuing one's passion can lead to miraculous results and singer-composer Vivek Hariharan is a living example of that. The man who crooned Challa in Uri: The Surgical Strike; Current Laga Re in Cirkus; Dum Dum in Phillauri and Ghere in An Action Hero, recently turned composer with Sonu Sood-starrer Fateh.

It was an experience that has left him excited and ecstatic. To record the song Nindiya, he went to Belgium to get the real opera feel. But before that, let's know Vivek, the man who ditched a career at a management consulting firm to pursue his passion in music.

Growing up with multiple influences at home—father from Chennai, mother Bengali and native place at Tamil Nadu-Kerala border, Vivek grew up in Mumbai, learning Bharatnatyam from the age of seven. With a keen interest in music, he pursued different art forms while making a career in the management field. It was in 2014 that he took a leap of faith and bid goodbye to his lucrative profession to pursue art. "I was doing very well in the professional space, but the love for music tugged at my heartstrings and it needed undivided attention," shares Vivek, who started with ad jingles, graduating to playback singing soon enough.

Step by step Challa ...Main Lad Jaana gave him the big break and as much as he is grateful for Challa and Dum Dum, he is equally thankful to each ad jingle that kept him motivated to pursue



music full-time.

As he set up his studio to make his kind of music, he came up with the song Roohdaari, a romantic ballad sung by Jubin Nautiyal, blending pop, Indian classical and qawwali influences. The song was just a scratch when it found its taker!

Vivek spills the beans. "The first song that I ever composed was Roohdari and as I played it for my friends, it reached Sonu Sood, who was working on Fateh. He liked it, we had a meeting and on day four of Roohdaari being composed, it went into shoot."

Writer, director and lead actor of Fateh, Sonu Sood, wanted another

song with an opera feel and thus was born Nindiya, which Vivek likes to call a death lullaby. He says, "Nindiya is a blend of opera, the first-of-its-kind in Bollywood, and orchestral hip-hop, topped with a lullaby melody rooted in the emotional context of death." Nindiya is played during a high-octane action sequence in which Sonu Sood takes down the antagonist's gunmen. Vivek went all the way to Belgium to record the song in a remote chapel near Antwerp to achieve the authentic room dynamics and natural verb that the chapel provided. The opera segments for this song were recorded

in Belgium with Tineke, a skilled opera singer. The arrangement was orchestrated by Kris, an opera vocal arranger who frequently collaborates with Hans Zimmer. The production also features Yevheniia, a talented Ukrainian violinist whose Western classical expertise enriches the song's layered composition.

"Complementing the grandeur of the opera is the delicate Indian vocals lent by Hamsika Iyer, known for her hits like Chammak Challo and Chanda Re," shares Vivek.

Chandigarh calling When not composing or recording, Vivek gives live performances, which have given him a chance to meet and greet music lovers, something that he immensely enjoys. In fact, he is looking forward to a chance to play in Chandigarh. "People not just have a taste in music, but love to enjoy life and their high energy is infectious. I am hoping to perform there soon." Singing, composing has given Vivek wings to put his dreams into melody and he is loving every minute of it!

On his favourites' list Singer: Arijit Singh, he is one of the most honest singers.

Composer: AR Rahman, there is nobody like him. He's been a huge influence on a generation of musicians.

Concert: Adele in August 2024 in Munich, Germany. She was incredible that night. With the sheer power of her voice, she can transport one to the surreal world.

In Chandigarh, sitar exponent Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan says art takes time and effort



Indian classical sitar maestro Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, who represents the seventh generation of the Etawah Gharana, isn't

weighed down by the burden of his legacy. His focus has been on his own musical course from the very beginning. Padma Shri recipient

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan enthralled the audience with his spell-binding performance at Bhargava Auditorium, PGI, Chandigarh, in an event organised by SPIC MACAY on Tuesday. He says, "My father Ustad Aziz Khan, much against my grandfather Ustad Wahid Khan's wishes, became a Bollywood music director. So my grandfather insisted that at least I follow the Hindustani classical path."

It was a journey that he has followed like sadhana! Getting his first sitar at the age of four from his father, it has stayed Ustad Parvez's steady companion ever since.

His musical tastes, however, are very open. He loves listening to ghazals, qawwalis, classical music and also Bollywood songs. He insists, "It's not like good music is not being created these days, just that its percentage is very less. Now even abuses are being served in the name of music, yet there remains a dedicated few pursuing and making good music." All for youngsters and their talent, he insists on the value of hard work. "Everything that is of any value takes its due time, and youngsters must be ready to put in that much time and effort," he highlights.

Vir Das targets mainstream media after controversy involving Ranveer Allahbadia

Actor and stand-up comedian Vir Das said while there should be a debate on what is good comedy, there should also be a discussion on what constitutes good journalism.

Das, in his post on Instagram, criticised television media's endless coverage on Ranveer Allahbadia without naming the influencer. Allahbadia has been facing backlash for his comments on parents and sex on YouTube comedy show 'India's Got Latent'.

The comedian, who has faced his share of controversies for his stand-up acts, termed the TV news coverage around the issue as "a bunch of irrelevant mainstream media anchors bordering extinction coming together to take down



new media that gets million more views".

"Whether you like the new media or not is irrelevant. That's ALSO what's happening here. And while we debate what good comedy is, please debate what good journalism is, and the news that they SHOULD be doing, the questions they SHOULD be asking, and who they should be asking them to (sic)," the comedian said.

Das said the audience is always welcome to debate what good comedy is.

"A good artist will take their feedback head down, mouth shut, and maybe evolve. Either way, the consequences of your comedy on your career and audience are pretty instant. That's a natural process," he added.

Essential for govt departments to modernise to cater to ever-rising public expectation: President

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): It is essential for government departments to modernise their systems by making the best use of emerging technologies to cater to the ever-rising expectations of the public for efficiency in service delivery, President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday.

Addressing a group of probationers from different government services, she asked them to keep abreast of advanced technologies, skills and strive to create more citizen-centric, efficient and transparent governance systems.

The probationers from the Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Post and Telecommunication (Finance and Accounts) Service, Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts) and the Indian Postal Service had called on the president at the Rashtrapati



Bhavan.

There is an ever-rising expectation among the public for greater speed and efficiency in service delivery, along with increased transparency and accountability, the president said.

"To cater to these requirements, it is essential for government departments to modernise and digitise their systems by making the best use of emerging technologies," Murmu said.

Such technologies include machine learn-

ing, data analytics, blockchain technology and artificial intelligence, she added.

Addressing the probationers from the Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Post and Telecommunication (Finance and Accounts) Service and the Indian Railway Management Service (Accounts), the president said a strong public financial management system was the foundation of good governance.

"Keeping pace with the fast-changing

technology is another area of challenge. You have to take measures to make accounting and payment systems smooth and effective," she said.

Their role goes beyond optimising the use of financial resources and "involves analysing the impact of policies and suggesting inputs to improve governance systems, including the financial management systems", she added.

Speaking to the probationers from the Indian Postal Service,

she appreciated the efforts of India Post Payments Bank for financial inclusion, particularly for rural and under-served populations.

"You have the unique opportunity to make the postal department and services more customer-centric, innovative, digitised, inclusive and sustainable. You have to ensure that the postal network continues to serve as a big uniting factor in a vast and diverse nation as ours," Murmu said.

"You should remember that you will be able to play a vital role in empowering citizens, especially the less privileged, through enhanced connectivity and financial inclusion," she added.

She expressed hope that the officers would make all efforts not only to excel in their individual careers but contribute to effective delivery of government services.

'Timeless lifeline': PM Modi greets people on World Radio Day



NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted people on the World Radio Day, describing the medium as a "timeless lifeline" that connects people worldwide.

In a post on X, he said, "Happy World Radio Day! Radio has been a timeless lifeline for several people, informing, inspiring and connecting people.

From news and culture to music and sto-

rytelling, it is a powerful medium that celebrates creativity."

Complimenting all those associated with the world of radio, he urged people to share their ideas and inputs for this month's 'Mann Ki Baat', scheduled for February 23.

World Radio Day, declared by UNESCO Member States in 2011 and later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, is celebrated every year on February 13 to recognize radio's vital role in providing information, fostering culture, and facilitating public dialogue.

Prayagraj: Over 1.47 million devotees take holy dip at Mahakumbh

PRAYAGRAJ, Feb 13 (Agencies): More than 1.47 million devotees have taken a holy dip at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati on Thursday, according to Uttar Pradesh government officials.

Among them, 5 lakh are Kalpavasis, while 9.79 lakh are pilgrims participating in the ongoing Mahakumbh, which continues to attract devotees from across the globe for one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

As of February 12, the total number of devotees who have taken a dip in the Triveni waters has exceeded 482.9 million, marking a significant milestone in the grand event.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

Vishnu Deo Sai along with the Council of Ministers, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Governor, MPs, and MLAs left for Prayagraj on Thursday to take a holy dip at Maha Kumbh 2025.

Before his departure, CM Sai while speaking to reporters, expressed gratitude to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Speaker of the UP legislative assembly for inviting him to attend the Mahakumbh.

"Our Council of Ministers, Speaker of our Legislative Assembly, the Governor, Members of Parliament and MLAs — all are going to Prayagraj to take a holy dip in Maha Kumbh. I am thankful to UP CM Yogi Adityanath and the speaker of the UP



assembly for inviting us..." said CM Sai.

Meanwhile, the 'snan' for Magh Purnima concluded successfully on Wednesday, according to the administration.

Urban Development Department Secretary Anuj Jha said that the conclusion of the 'snan' was a major milestone.

"The snan of Magh Purnima has concluded successfully. It is a huge milestone for us. Lakhs of Kalpavasis and crores of pilgrims have visited here in the last month. Urban Development was the nodal department, and all the arrangements were made efficiently..." Jha

said. Mahakumbh 2025, which commenced on Paus Purnima (January 13, 2025), is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. The grand event will continue till Mahashivratri on February 26.

New Income Tax Bill more complicated than previous one: Congress MP Manish Tewari

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Congress MP Manish Tewari on Thursday criticized the new Income Tax Bill, arguing that, contrary to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's claims, the proposed legislation is more complex than the existing one.

"The Union Finance Minister had said that the new Income Tax Bill will be simpler than the previous bill. In the previous Bill, there were 296 sections. In the new Bill, there are more than 500 sections. In the previous Bill, there were 5 schedules. In the new Bill, there are 14 schedules," Tewari told agency.

"The bill, which should have been more simple than the previous one, is more complicated," he added.

The new Income Tax Bill is set to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Centre is keen on detailed consultations, and the bill is expected to be referred to a Select Committee for further examination.

The Union Cabinet last week cleared the new Income Tax Bill.

Sitharaman had indicated earlier that the bill would be sent to a parliamentary committee for scrutiny. "The process is the committee gives its recommendations, it comes back, and then the government, through the Cabinet, takes a call whether these amendments are to be taken in," she had said.

In the July 2024 Budget, the gov-



ernment proposed a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, of 1961. The purpose was to make the Act concise and lucid and reduce disputes and litigation.

Sitharaman had said in her budget speech on February 1 that the bill will be soon introduced in Parliament.

"Over the past 10 years, our Government has implemented several reforms for the convenience of taxpayers, such as (1) faceless assessment, (2) taxpayers charter, (3) faster returns, (4) almost 99 per cent returns being on self-assessment, and (5) Vivad se Vishwas scheme. Continuing these efforts, I reaffirm the commitment of the tax department to trust first, scrutinize later. I also propose to introduce the new income-tax bill next week," she said in the budget speech.

Four labourers dead, 16 injured as van overturns in UP's Shahjahanpur

SHAHJAHANPUR, Feb 13 (Agencies): Four labourers died and 16 others got injured when their van overturned after being hit by an unidentified vehicle, police said on Thursday.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Manoj Kumar Awasthi said the accident occurred late Wednesday night near Vichola village.

The van, carrying labourers and their families, was en route to Haryana.

It overturned after being hit by the unidentified vehicle, resulting in the immediate deaths of two passengers - Shyamwati (60) and Samila (26).

The police rescued others and rushed them to Farukhabad district hospital, where Ram Kumari (35) and Lavkush (30) succumbed to injuries during treatment, Awasthi said.

The official further stated that 16 people sustained severe injuries are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital. Those killed were residents of Sitapur district and were travelling to Haryana for labour work in a hired van.

Efforts are on to trace the unidentified vehicle involved in the accident, Awasthi added.



Madhya Pradesh businessman's 6-year-old son kidnapped by bike-borne miscreants in broad daylight

BHOPAL, Feb 13 (Agencies): The son of a local businessman was abducted in broad daylight by unidentified bike-borne men in Morar town of Gwalior district in Madhya Pradesh.

The six-year-old boy, studying UKG, accompanied by his mother Arti Gupta was waiting for school van around 8.10 am on Thursday near their house in CP Colony locality when the incident took place.

According to sources, two unidentified men emerged out of nowhere on a motorcycle, stopped close to the mother and child. Subsequently, one of them approached the mother, threw chili powder in Arti Gupta's eyes, snatched the boy from the mother's hands and fled with his accomplice on the motorbike. "We were waiting for the school van. Sudden-

ly a man approached me, threw chili powder in my eyes, pushed me down and kidnapped my son," Arti Gupta said.

"I tried to chase the motorcycle, but they sped away," she added.

The entire incident was captured in the CCTV camera installed close to the spot of the crime.

Shocked by the incident, the local traders have called for a shut down in Morar town as a mark of protest against the abduction.

Rahul Gupta, father of the abducted child, is a member of the Madhya Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MPCCI), the office bearers of the traders' body met with the Gupta family and expressed concern over the incident.

Rahul Gupta said he had no enmity with anyone. The police have formed multiple teams

to track and rescue the boy.

A reward of Rs 30,000 has been announced by the IG-Gwalior Range, Arvind Saxena for getting clinching information about those involved in the broad daylight crime.

"Multiple police teams have been constituted and Rs 30,000 bounty has been declared from my level on arresting the unidentified accused. Our teams are analyzing the inward and outward movements of the two men who were involved in the kidnapping. Our priority is to recover the kidnapped minor safely as soon as possible. We're also checking for any possible linkage between the Thursday morning kidnapping in Gwalior and a similar crime in the past in adjoining Morena district," Saxena said, after meeting the family of the boy.

Four dead, seven injured in Taiwan department store blast

Video posted on social media and verified by agency showed the moment of the explosion, with cladding and other debris flying off the building and dust billowing from inside.

TAIPEI, Feb 13 (Agencies): An explosion in a Taiwan department store on Thursday killed four people and left another "without vital signs", authorities said, with videos showing large pieces of debris raining on the street.

Seven people were injured in the blast in the food court on the 12th floor of the Shin Kong Mitsukoshi department store in the city of Taichung, the National Fire Agency said.

The floor was believed to be closed for construction work at the time of the incident, the agency said.

Video posted on social media and verified by agency showed the moment of the explosion, with cladding and other debris flying off the building and dust billowing from inside.

Liao Yu-fu, 26, told agency he was woken from a nap by the sound of the explosion and thought it was a "plane hitting a house".

"There was a vibration and



even my bed was shaking," said Liao, who can see the department store from his home.

"The sound lasted for a long time and I was scared."

A woman, who had been on the sixth floor of the store at the time, said there was a "very loud vibration" and then debris began falling.

"At first, we thought it's an earthquake," the woman told local broadcaster TVBS.

"When I walked down the

stairs, there was broken glass on every floor at the elevator entrance. Every floor is affected."

Taichung Mayor Lu Shioh-yen told reporters she had been working in the city government building next to Shin Kong Mitsukoshi when she felt a "vibration" at around 11:30 am.

"The explosion is very serious and the rescue is ongoing," Lu said.

The fire department dispatched 56 vehicles, 136 people, a dog

and a drone to carry out search and rescue efforts, the National Fire Agency said.

It is not yet known what caused the blast.

The fire agency urged people to stay away from the disaster site.

Lu said the explosion had affected a wide area and at least one passerby was among the victims.

"There are many office buildings and homes in this area and we ask everyone to cooperate with the restrictions for your safety," Lu said.

Video posted on social media showed what appeared to be large pieces of metal, cladding and debris scattered over the footpath outside the department store and nearby streets.

At least two people could be seen lying on the ground while another appeared to receive treatment from rescuers.

Another video showed extensive damage near a set of elevators inside the department store.

Elon Musk calls for US government to 'delete entire agencies'



DUBAI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Elon Musk called Thursday to "delete entire agencies" from the United States' federal government as part of his push under President Donald Trump to radically cut spending and restructure its priorities.

Musk offered a wide-ranging survey via a video call to the World Governments Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, of what he described as the priorities of the Trump administration interspersed with multiple references to "thermonuclear warfare" and the possible dangers of artificial intelligence.

"We really have here rule of the bureaucracy as opposed to rule of the people - democracy," Musk said, wearing a black T-shirt that read: "Tech Support."

He also joked that he was the "White House's tech support," borrowing from his profile on the social platform X, which he owns.

"I think we do need to delete entire agencies as opposed to leave a lot of them behind," Musk said. "If we don't remove the roots of the weed, then it's easy for the weed to grow back."

While Musk has spoken to the summit in the past, his appearance Thursday comes

as he has consolidated control over large swaths of the government with Trump's blessing since assuming leadership of the Department of Government Efficiency.

That's included sidelining career officials, gaining access to sensitive databases and inviting a constitutional clash over the limits of presidential authority.

Musk's new role imbued his comments with more weight beyond being the world's wealthiest person through his investments in SpaceX and electric carmaker Tesla.

His remarks also offered a more-isolationist view of American power in the Middle East, where the U.S. has fought wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq since the September 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"A lot of attention has been on USAID for example," Musk said, referring to Trump's dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development. "There's like the National Endowment for Democracy. But I'm like, 'Okay, well, how much democracy have they achieved lately?'"

He added that the U.S. under Trump is "less interested in interfering with the affairs of other coun-

tries."

There are "times the United States has been kind of pushy in international affairs, which may resonate with some members of the audience," Musk said, speaking to the crowd in the UAE, an autocratically ruled nation of seven sheikhdoms.

He also noted the Trump administration's focus on eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion work, at one point linking it to AI.

"If hypothetically, AI is designed for DEI, you know, diversity at all costs, it could decide that there's too many men in power and execute them," Musk said.

On AI, Musk said he believed X's newly updated AI chatbot, Grok 3, would be ready in about two weeks, calling it at one point "kind of scary." He criticised Sam Altman's management of OpenAI, which Musk just led a USD 97.4 billion takeover bid for, describing it as akin to a nonprofit aimed at saving the Amazon rainforest becoming a "lumber company that chops down the trees."

Musk also announced plans for a "Dubai Loop" project in line with his work in the Boring Company - which is digging tunnels in Las Vegas to speed transit. However, he and the Emirati government official speaking with him offered no immediate details of the plan.

"It's going to be like a wormhole," Musk promised. "You just wormhole from one part of the city - boom - and you're out in another part of the city."

Taiwan detects 6 Chinese aircraft, 8 vessels operating near its waters

TAIPEI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Taiwan on Thursday detected six sorties of People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, eight People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels, and one official ship operating around the island as of 6 am (UTC+8).

According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND), four of the six aircraft sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

In a post on X, MND wrote, "6 sorties of PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 1 official ship operating around Taiwan were detected up until

6 a.m. (UTC+8) today." It added, "4 out of 6 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

On Wednesday, 30 PLA aircraft, seven PLAN vessels, and one official ship were detected around Taiwan's territory. Of the 30 aircraft, 23 crossed the median line into Taiwan's northern, southwestern, and eastern ADIZ.

Additionally, the MND said that two US naval vessels sailed through the Taiwan Strait from north to south on February 10.

On Tuesday, MND had detected 32 aircraft from

the PLA, eight vessels from PLAN, and one official ship operating nearby its shores as of 6 am (UTC+8). The MND noted that 22 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. It also detected two balloons from China.

In recent weeks, China had visibly increased its capacity to conduct amphibious assaults on Taiwan's beaches with new naval equipment. This included the formal launch of an advanced landing helicopter assault (LHA) vessel, unique in the world, and the mass production of floating bridge docks to aid ship unloading



during beach landings.

The Taiwan-China conflict remained a longstanding geopolitical issue centred on Taiwan's sovereignty. While Taiwan functioned as a de facto independent state with its own government, military, and economy, Beijing considered it a breakaway province under the "One

China" policy.

Since the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949), when the Republic of China government retreated to Taiwan, China had used diplomatic, economic, and military measures to pressure Taiwan, which continued to assert its independence with strong domestic support.

Pakistan: HRFP demands justice for blasphemy accused Farhan Masih, others

FAISALABAD, Feb 13 (Agencies): Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) on Thursday condemned the ongoing violations of minority rights in Pakistan, where religious minorities, particularly Christians and Hindus, face severe persecution and discrimination.

The HRFP said that the communities are subjected to forced conversions, abductions, and physical violence, with the abuse of blasphemy laws intensifying their vulnerability.

"Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) strongly condemns the violations of minority rights across Pakistan, where religious minorities continue to face severe persecution and discrimination," HRFP said in a statement.

It added, "Religious minorities are routinely subjected to forced conversions, especially targeting young women and girls belonging to Christian and Hindu families, while the misuse of blasphemy laws has created an atmosphere of fear and vulnerability as there is an addition of recent case of Christian youth Farhan Masih who has been accused on 26 January 2025 by local



Islamic cleric Muhammad Bilal Khan with another man Tasleem Khan in district Sahiwal." HRFP further said that a FIR was registered at the local police station on the same day, stating by the complainant that Farhan Masih had used desecrated against Muslims and Islam under the charges of 295A/298A and 7-ATA of PPC.

Section 295 A calls for imprisonment of up to 10 years for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs; and 298 A with a punishment of up to 10 years in prison for disrespecting and companions of the prophet of Islam; and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, includes a clause related to causing civil commotion or unrest and is punishable by a minimum five years

jail term, HRFP further elaborated.

"While through Fact Findings mission trip, the HRFP team found that Farhan Masih, a resident of Chak # 134/9L Sahiwa, had been working in a hospital and accused of blasphemy because the accuser Muhammad Bilal Khan was mocking and Farhan asked them to stop as both have also a history to know each other's and the small conflict directed by the personal grudge to accusing of blasphemy by the complainant, HRFP team founds the facts," HRFP said.

Farhan Masih's family members shared with the HRFP team that he quit the job by force from some people alleging he was addicted to drugs. HRFP team met Farhan's family and assured them of every possible support until justice.

Naveed Walter, president of Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) said minorities often suffer physical violence, property loss, and social exclusion, and have limited access to justice, especially when they become accused of blasphemy and victims forcefully conversions.

He said the abductions, forced conversions and forced marriage of young Christian and Hindu girls, the blasphemy charges, false theft allegations, discriminations at workplaces, attacks on individuals and communities, murders and rising-up abuses has exposed the law enforcements of claiming to protect minorities.

Naveed Walter said that the situation is further exacerbated by institutional discrimination in education, careers and employment as well. He said despite some of the constitutional guarantees the violations against religious freedom and equal rights, the practical reality for Pakistan's minorities remains their marginalization and puts them constantly under threats, away from their basic human rights, he added.

Israel likely to attack Iran by midyear, US intel reports point to strike: Report



WASHINGTON, Feb 13 (Agencies): US intelligence warns that Israel is likely to launch a pre-emptive attack on Iran's nuclear programme by midyear, the Washington Post reported, citing multiple intelligence reports.

Such an attack would set back Iran's nuclear programme by weeks or months while escalating tension in the region and risking a wider conflict, according to multiple intelligence reports from the end of the Biden administration and start of the Trump administration, the newspaper reported.

Agency could not immediately confirm

the report. The White House declined to comment. The Post said the Israeli government, CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency and Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined to comment.

Brian Hughes, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, told the Post that President Donald Trump "will not permit Iran to get a nuclear weapon." "While he prefers negotiating a resolution to American's long-standing issues with the Iranian regime peacefully, he will not wait indefinitely if Iran isn't willing to deal, and soon," Hughes told The

Post.

The most comprehensive of the intelligence reports came in early January and was produced by the intelligence directorate of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Post said.

It warned that Israel was likely to attempt an attack on Iran's Fordow and Natanz nuclear facilities.

Current and former US officials familiar with the intelligence said Israel has determined its bombing of Iran in October degraded Iran's air defenses and left the country exposed to a follow-on assault, said the Post, which did not name the officials.

Iran and Israel engaged in tit-for-tat strikes last year amid wider tensions over Israel's war in Gaza.

The intelligence reports envisioned two potential strike options that each would involve the United States providing aerial refuelling support and intelligence, the Post said.

Trump told Fox News in an interview that he would prefer to make

a deal with Iran to prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon, saying he also believed Iran would prefer a deal over an armed conflict.

"Everyone thinks Israel, with our help or our approval, will go in and bomb the hell out of them. I would prefer that not happen," Trump said.

The United States under President Barack Obama and European allies negotiated an agreement with Iran to halt its nuclear program, but Trump in his first term in office, encouraged by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, withdrew the United States from the landmark accord and ordered sanctions reimposed on Tehran in 2018.

Iran has since restarted its nuclear programme and is enriching uranium, according to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran, Britain, France and Germany have met in Geneva to search for a way to resume nuclear talks, Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told Iran's state TV.

Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli visits Kashmir Region, interacts with cadets

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General (ADG) of the NCC Directorate Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (JK&L), undertook a three-day visit to the Kashmir Region to review NCC activities and interact with cadets, instructors, and civil staff.

His visit included engagements at the NCC Group Headquarters, Srinagar, and the three NCC Battalions, namely 1 J&K Battalion, 1 J&K (Girls) Battalion, and 1 J&K Naval Unit, based in the city.

Additionally, he visited educational institutions with NCC programs, including Army Public School, BB Cantt and Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 in Srinagar, where he met with the respective Principals.

The General Officer was accorded a warm welcome and



received a ceremonial Guard of Honour from the NCC cadets.

He was briefed by the Group Commander, NCC Srinagar, and the Commanding Officers of the three NCC units regarding the current operations and the ongoing expansion of NCC in the region.

The briefing highlighted key issues, future prospects, and the vital role of the NCC in shaping and mentoring the youth of

Jammu & Kashmir.

Maj Gen Bevli praised the unwavering dedication of NCC officers and staff in positively channelizing the energy and enthusiasm of Kashmiri youth towards nation-building.

He lauded the efforts of NCC cadets in fostering discipline, leadership, and a spirit of service within their communities.

Addressing NCC personnel, including Permanent Instruc-

tors and Civilian staff, the ADG encouraged them to continue their mission with renewed vigour and teamwork.

He emphasized that dedication and collective effort would be crucial for the sustained growth and success of NCC in the region.

During his visit, Maj Gen Bevli also met with the Corps Commander, Chinar Corps, to discuss various aspects of NCC expansion and initiatives aimed at engaging and empowering the youth of the Valley.

The General Officer provided valuable guidance on training and operational matters, inspiring all ranks to continue their dedicated efforts toward a brighter future for the youth of Kashmir.

This visit reaffirmed the commitment of the NCC Directorate JK&L to strengthening its role in youth development and national integration.

Northern Command Investiture Ceremony held



Top News Report

MATHURA, Feb 13: Northern Command Investiture Ceremony was held at Mathura on 12 February 2025 with the aim to honour individual outstanding acts of gallantry and distinguished services as well as to appreciate the efforts of units for displaying exceptional gallantry in the Northern Theatre.

On this occasion, Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar, Northern Command, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) conferred Gallantry and Vishisht Seva Medals to Army officers and soldiers for their acts of bravery beyond the call of duty and distinguished services to the nation.

A total of 38 Army Medals (Gallantry), 05 Army Medals (Distinguished), 02 Yudd Seva Medals and 10 Vishisht Seva Medals were awarded.

The General Officer also presented GOC-in-C Unit Commendations to the units for their exceptional professionalism and unparalleled achievements in operations, maintenance and communications while deployed in Northern Theatre under adverse terrain and challenging security situation.

During his address, GOC-in-C Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar appreciated the efforts of the awardees for gallantry and distinguished service medallists and the units for their collective exceptional performance.

He emphasised that the efforts and contribution of the medallists have strengthened the Northern Army. GOC-in-C expressed condolences to the Veer Naris and assured them of Army's commitment to assist them in their rehabilitation in the society. GOC-in-C also congratulated the family members of the awardees and exhorted all ranks to remain ever vigilant and prepared for any security challenges.

The awardees included officers, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and jawans who have displayed exceptional courage, valour and sacrifice in the line of duty. Major Prasan Pandey of Ladakh Scouts, exhibiting the highest standards of bravery and selflessness, risked his life to rescue a medical evacuation team under attack during a UN peacekeeping mission.

Major Laldingnaghta of the Madras Regiment displayed leadership and presence of mind despite being seriously injured, thereby foiling an infiltration attempt and Captain Rohan Ravindra Hanagi, an officer of the Corps of Electrical Mechanical Engineers (EME), displayed bravery in the face of extremely adverse conditions at Siachen Glacier, leading to his safe evacuation.

Similarly, Sepoy Tarachand Ranwa of Rashtriya Rifles displayed quick thinking and raw courage in neutralizing a terrorist from a very close range in an intense gunfight with a terrorist in Jammu & Kashmir and Sepoy Mutu Sappuri of Rashtriya Rifles displayed quick thinking and raw courage in killing a terrorist from a very close range again in a village in Jammu & Kashmir, exemplifying Indian Army's commitment to safeguarding human lives and maintaining the highest standards of military professionalism.

Both the Sepoys were awarded the Army Medal for Gallantry for their courageous actions. In another notable effort, Naik Lalhmangaisanga Chinzah of Assam Regiment displayed camaraderie under challenging circumstances to rescue his critically ill Post Commander thereby saving his life.

The Northern Command Investiture Ceremony is a solemn reminder of the valour and sacrifices of the troops and units in maintaining the security of the country's northern borders. Northern Command with its ethos 'Always in Combat', is the most active Command of the Indian Army dealing with two adversaries and also countering the threat of terrorism in the hinterland. The Command also provides assistance to civil authorities when required while ensuring peace and security in the region.

Northern Command Investiture Ceremony - 2025 at Mathura Cantt was organised in an eco-friendly manner under the theme 'Go Green', with major initiatives like using recycled material and CNG and electric vehicles as mode of transport, exemplifying Indian Army's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Architecture students win award at National Regional Conference

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 13: The students of 2nd year of the Bachelor of Architecture, a UG Degree programme running at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) have won second prize in the prestigious LIVE Fashion Show competition conducted by the Punjab Chapter of Indian Institute of Architects (the National Society of Indian Architects) during National Regional Conference (NRC) titled "SANJH" at INTEX EXPO 2025 Ludhiana.

The theme of the competition was "Fusion of Architecture and Emotions: Where Fashion

Meets Architectural Expressions". The Schools of Architecture from Northern region of the country had participated in the competition.

The School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD) of SMVD University had been given the theme "Fluidity & Dynamism" to showcase the architectural expressions through the attire design.

The team of ten students, namely Partha (Lead), Ayushman (Show Stopper), Murchana, Dhairya, Mamita, Aastha, Taniya, Yashaswi, Abhilasha, Anshika have walked the Live ramp with respective



unique couture concepts connecting the thread of fluidity & dynamism in architecture.

The team presentation was titled as "Couture Conquerors". The participation by the students had been done under the mentorship & coordination of Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, FISOLA, Associate

Professor, along with faculty co-coordinator, Ar. Satyanshu Kumar, Assistant Professor, SoALD, SMVD University.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVD University congratulated the remarkable curricular achievement of the SoALD. Ar. Abhinay Gupta, I/c Head and

the faculty members of SoALD extended the warm praise to the faculty coordinators & the awarded students for bringing the laurels to the school.

It is pertinent to mention that SoALD has achieved the latest 31st NIRF ranking among the schools of architecture across the country.

Swift action needed on rural and urban infrastructure in Jammu East: Sawhney

Meets JMC Commissioner, raises issues of Urban Development in Jammu East

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Senior Congress leader and former J&K Minister Yogesh Sawhney met with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner to address various pressing issues concerning urban local bodies in multiple wards of Jammu City, particularly

focusing on the Jammu East constituency.

During the meeting, Sawhney highlighted a range of problems faced by the residents, emphasizing the need for immediate attention and resolution to improve living conditions in the area.

Among the major concerns raised were the repair of street lights, the poor condition of

drainage systems, waste management challenges, and inadequate transport connectivity.

Sawhney pointed out that faulty street lighting has affected several areas, while the deteriorating drainage infrastructure has been causing waterlogging and sanitation issues. Waste management,

too, remains a persistent problem, with several localities suffering from irregular garbage collection and disposal.

Sawhney also brought to the Commissioner's notice the need for better infrastructure in the city, particularly in Jammu East.

He stressed that improving transport connectivity and upgrading

public amenities are crucial for the overall development of the constituency.

He said, residents have been facing immense inconvenience due to a lack of proper road maintenance, insufficient parking spaces, and inadequate transport options. He requested the municipality to take

necessary measures to resolve these long-standing issues.

The JMC Commissioner, after listening to the concerns, assured that necessary steps would be taken to address the highlighted problems.

He further informed Sawhney that these developmental works would be given priority and are expected to

be implemented in the upcoming municipal budget.

The Commissioner emphasized the JMC's commitment to improving civic infrastructure and providing better services to the people of Jammu.

Speaking after the meeting, Sawhney stated that he was grateful to the commissioner

for listening to their concerns and hoped that the administration would fulfill their promise of resolving these issues at the earliest.

He reiterated that the matters discussed today will be taken up by the authorities, and people will hopefully soon see the implementation of these projects, he added.

From Page No:1

Will relook at relationship with Centre if it fails to deliver on promises: J&K CM

Territory. Omar said that the government is working on a new industrial policy and tourism policy while referring to his visit outside the UT for promotion of tourism.

About a disquiet within the party on key issues and the divergent position of NC MP, Aga Ruhuallah, Omar however said that, "I believe a political party must give space for differences of opinion," while stressing that in democracy people also have a choice to choose a better leader.

High-level security meet chaired by LG Sinha begins in

Jammu

region. The meeting comes in the backdrop of similar back-to-back meetings chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi last week.

New criminal laws ensure transparency, accountability: SSP Srinagar

transition from punishment to justice, making the system more citizen-centric," he added. He also said that after every 15 days, a programme will be conducted to educate people.

Indian Army refutes ceasefire violation reports, says LoC situation

stable

cross-LoC firing and a suspected IED blast near one of its posts along the LoC, adding that these incidents were being addressed through the established communication mechanism.

"The ceasefire on the Line of Control is intact and continues to be observed as per the understanding between both the armies (of India and Pakistan).

Tension due to some stray incidents of cross-LoC firing and a suspected IED blast on one of our PTLs on the LoC is being dealt with through the established mechanism. No exchange of fire of heavy-calibre weapons has taken place," the statement further read.

Additionally, the Army stated that minor incidents along the Line of Control are not uncommon and that concerns have been raised with the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level. The Army assured that the situation remains stable, is being closely monitored, and that Indian forces maintain a

high state of alertness while maintaining dominance over the LoC.

"Minor incidents are not unprecedented along the Line of Control. Concerns have been raised to the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level. The situation remains stable and being closely monitored. Indian Army maintains high state of alertness and is dominating the Line of Control," the statement further read.

Supreme Court grants bail to NCB Officer accused in a narco-terror case

case in November 2024, the Supreme Court had expressed concern over the trend of High Courts denying bail while at the same time giving directions to trial courts to speed up trial as a consolation to the accused.

The bench had described this situation as "shocking." This practice has led to situations where

accused individuals remain in custody for extended periods, the Court lamented.

"There is new practice going on by High courts where they deny bail but give solace to lawyer by directing trial be completed expeditiously. Accused is behind for three years and seven months. These are shocking affairs going on," Court had orally observed.

Property seized in South Kashmir for alleged Militant shelter

day last year. Another encounter took place on the same day at Chinnigam Frisal village in Kulgam, where five militants and a soldier were killed. The property involved in that encounter was also recently seized by the police under similar provisions.

ED seizes Rs 170-Cr

worth bank deposits in probe against 'Fraud' Forex trading platform

Solutions Private Limited and Tiger Digital Services Private Limited are being used for "collection of funds" from investors.

The agency claimed these were "shell" or dummy companies which were being "used" by the masterminds of QFX/YFX scheme for receiving deposits from public for investment in forex trading.

Funds worth Rs 170 crore kept in about 30 bank accounts have been frozen as the directors of the company could not explain the source of funds, the ED said.

Cash of about Rs 90 lakh was separately seized following searches against an agent of QFX/YFX, it said.

Lieutenant Governor presents J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Rajya Puraskar Certificates to Scouts & Guides, Rovers and Rangers



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the Rajya Puraskar Ceremony of J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides at Convention Centre, today.

The Lieutenant Governor presented J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Rajya Puraskar Certificates to Scouts & Guides, Rovers and Rangers and extended his felicitations to all the recipients. He said these certificates are recognition of their dedication, selfless service, hard work, and discipline.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the exem-

plary contribution of everyone associated with the Bharat Scouts and Guides movement towards community services and nation building.

"J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides is on the mission to ensure that service to others is a motto of society before the self. With this vision J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides are doing commendable work in fostering the spirit of national integration and working selflessly for betterment of society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the Scouts & Guides to

act as the 'Agents of Change' at the grassroots level and inspire the youth to dedicate themselves towards constructive transformation of the society and the nation.

"Youth is the only power that we have today to develop a progressive society and a prosperous nation. Through youth we can ignite the flame of transformation.

It is important to task Scouts and Guides to tackle socio-economic challenges because they have the potential to provide innovative solutions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further asked the J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides to create awareness among the people on various socio-economic issues and also work towards preservation and protection of natural resources and environment.

"I want J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides to create a network of youth leaders in different sectors, connect the youth with the cultural heritage and traditions, and build a dedicated team of Scouts and Guides who lead the fight against drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Army conducts lecture on join armed forces at Gurmul COB



Top News Report

DODA, Feb 13: With an aim to increase the participation of the local youth in Indian Armed forces in the officer cadre and provide a platform to the young aspiring minds, a lecture cum workshop including a series of impactful sessions was conducted at Gurmul COB.

The lecture was delivered by the Company Commander and he motivated the young boys and girls to join the Indian Armed Forces and enlightened them about various entry schemes.

A total of 40 boys, 35 girls, 15 locals and 20 VDGs attended the said lecture. The gathering was also informed about the latest vacancies for enrolment into Residential APSs and AGPS, Pahalgam and their corresponding entrance exam dates.

With the announcement of the Agnipath scheme, a new attractive recruitment scheme for Indian youth was introduced, to serve in the Armed Forces and a window of opportunities has been opened for the youth to serve their nation for a period of four years. On completion of the four years period, Agniveers will go back to the society

as disciplined, dynamic, motivated and skilled work force for employment through the scheme and will be called as Agniveer.

To motivate the local youth of Gurmul for enrolment through this excellent scheme, Indian Army organized a motivational lecture at Gurmul COB for the young aspirants for enrolment through Agnipath Scheme and addressed various queries of the youth on recruitment procedures and Agnipath scheme.

The lecture including a series of impactful sessions delivered, was organized under the regularly conducted motivational series for youth by the Indian Army. The purpose of organized lecture was to motivate youth to join Indian Army as officer as well as to enroll through Agnipath scheme launched by the Indian Government. Handouts, info leaflets & publicity posters also distributed to the school students as mark of motivation.

The motivation lecture was a noble undertaking by the Indian Army to motivate the youth of Gurmul, further strengthening the bond between the Army and the people. The participants had glowing reviews and feedback for the even with many hoping such an undertaking to be conducted regularly.

Babu Rampaul advocates for job creation & industrial growth in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The President of National Conference (NC) Central Zone and former Minister, Babu Rampaul have strongly advocated for a special economic and employment package for Jammu and Kashmir in light of the rising unemployment and the deteriorating economic situation, particularly in Jammu.

The meeting was organised by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary of the Central Zone of JKNC and graced by Babu Rampaul, President of JKNC Central Zone, as the Chief Guest, while Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing youths during a meeting, Babu Rampaul said that the past ten years have witnessed a sharp increase in joblessness, with youth struggling to find employment opportunities, while businesses and industries are facing an unprecedented economic downturn.

He highlighted that Jammu's economy has been severely affected by multiple factors, including lack of industrial growth, slow infrastructural development, and declining trade activities. Small and medium businesses, as well as traditional sectors like tourism, handicrafts, and agriculture, have suffered immensely, leading to a significant rise in economic distress among the

people, he said, adding that the popular government under Jenab Omar Abdullah has rekindled hope among them for ending the decade long miseries.

"Jammu and Kashmir needs a comprehensive economic and employment revival plan that includes incentives for industries, promotion of self-employment schemes, and government-backed job opportunities to absorb the growing number of unemployed educated youth," Rampaul asserted, adding that this will not be a charity but matter of right for the people who have been subjected to enormous suffering during the past ten years misgovernance.

He stressed that the restoration of statehood is crucial in addressing these pressing issues. Full statehood will pave the way for a stronger governance structure, enabling better policy-making, economic planning, and job creation initiatives tailored to the unique needs of the region, he said.

"A full-fledged state government will have greater autonomy to formulate policies aimed at boosting the local economy, creating employment, and ensuring the effective implementation of welfare schemes," he added.

Ankush Abrol, in his address, underscored the importance of youth participation in political discourse and called for a united effort to address pressing regional

issues. He urged the gathering to work collectively for the welfare of the people and uphold the principles of justice and development championed by JKNC. He reiterated the National Conference's commitment to fighting for the restoration of statehood and ensuring that Jammu and Kashmir receives its due share of economic assistance and employment opportunities. He urged the Central Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

Dr Vikas Sharma also addressed the meeting stating that the existence of National Conference is due to its secular credentials and the cherished slogan of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah "Hindu Muslim, Sikh, Christian Unity" will always remain the guiding force for the party.

He also exhorted the youths to strengthen the hands of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to steer Jammu and Kashmir toward progress, a new era of peace, progress and stability.

Prominent among those present on this occasion included Adv. Rajinder Chamyal Zonal Vice-President, Rahul Mahajan Zonal Vice-President, Sham Lal Mehra Zonal Vice-President, BD Dalotra Zonal Secretary, Bharat Bushan Zonal Secretary, Dr. Gourav Bharat Zonal Secretary, Sahil Kerni Secretary Jammu District YNC, Rahul Gupta, Sourab Bhagat, and others.

Divya Kala Mela 2025-A grand showcase of Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs to begin tomorrow

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) [DEPWD], under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, is set to host the 'Divya Kala Mela' from February 14 to 24, 2025, in Vadodra, Gujarat.

Organized through the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), this event will bring together talented Divyang (PwD) entrepreneurs and artisans from across India, offering a vibrant platform to showcase their craftsmanship and products.

The event will feature an extensive range of handcrafted and skillfully curated products, including handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery works, home décor, clothing, stationery, eco-friendly items, packaged



food, toys, jewelry, and personal accessories.

Artisans and entrepreneurs from around 20 states and Union Territories will participate, making it a unique experience that promotes 'Vocal for Local' and empowers Divyang artisans with economic opportunities.

The Divya Kala Mela 2025 marks the 23rd edition in a series that

began in 2022. Previous editions have been successfully held in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Guwahati, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai, Patna, Surat, Nagpur, Agartala, Bhubaneswar, and Raipur, among others.

This initiative has been instrumental in promoting financial independence and market exposure for Divyang

artisans.

The 11-day event in Jammu will operate from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily, offering visitors an exciting mix of cultural performances, culinary delights from across India, and interactive experience zones that highlight assistive devices and technological advancements for persons with disabilities.

A special cultural

showcase, 'Divya Kala Shakti', will be performed on February 24, 2025, featuring talented Divyang artists from different parts of the country.

The event will be inaugurated on February 14, 2025, at 4:00 PM by the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI, along with other distinguished dignitaries.

The government aims to expand the Divya Kala Mela initiative further, making it a nationwide movement that fosters inclusivity, entrepreneurship, and recognition for Divyang talent.

This grand celebration of skill and creativity is not just an exhibition but a testament to the determination and resilience of Divyang entrepreneurs, offering them a bigger stage for growth, collaboration, and recognition.

GDCW Kathua celebrates Safer Internet Day-2025 with cyber awareness workshop

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 11: In line with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project, Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua successfully organized an awareness workshop on Safer Internet Day-2025 under the theme "Together for a Better Internet."

The event aimed to educate students and faculty on safe online practices, cyber hygiene, and responsible internet usage in an era of increasing cyber threats.

The session began with an address highlighting the importance of Safer Internet Day



and the need for cyber hygiene to protect personal and financial data.

Sachinjeet Singh, HOD Computer Applications, provided insights into cyber security threats such as phishing attacks, fake applications, investment frauds, and the significance of strong password protection with two-factor authentication.

Prof. Surbhi Gupta, Cyber Jagrookta Nodal

Officer, emphasized responsible digital behaviour, online fraud prevention, secure browsing techniques, and social media safety, using real-world examples and case studies.

Key takeaways included best practices for password security, safe online transactions, and the importance of regularly updating software and applications.

Live demonstrations

and video clippings of real-life cyber fraud cases enhanced the session's impact.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Seema Jolly, Incharge Principal, and attended by senior faculty members, including Dr. Inderjeet Kour, Dr. Rachna Devi, and Prof. Romika Bassin, who appreciated the initiative and stressed the importance of cyberse-

curity awareness programs.

Prof. Seema Jolly encouraged students to adopt safe browsing habits and remain vigilant against online frauds, stating, "The internet is an integral part of our lives, and it is our responsibility to use it wisely. Awareness and preventive measures are key to ensuring a secure online experience."

Faculty members and students actively participated, sharing experiences and engaging in discussions.

The Safer Internet Day workshop at GDCW Kathua successfully promoted cyber hygiene and digital literacy, reinforcing the college's commitment to ensuring a safer online environment.

Players to look out for in Women's Premier League that begins on Friday

Get set to see a vibrant line-up of budding talent and seasoned professionals from across the world put their best foot forward on the mega platform

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Smriti Mandhana's poetic cover drives, Harmanpreet Kaur's swagger and cold aggression, the muscular power of Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh, the shrewdness of Deepti Sharma and Alana King, along with the expertise of cricket superstars Ellyse Perry, Meg Lanning, and Annabel Sutherland, will all be up for display at the third edition of the Women's Premier League that kicks off at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodra, Gujarat, on Friday.

The premier platform for showcasing both budding talent and seasoned professionals will also see teenagers N Prasad, the captain of the Under-19 World Cup winning Indian team, and wicket-keeper batter G Kamalini fighting for space in one of the biggest tournaments in women's cricket.

The Captains: Pillars of Poise and Precision

Smriti Mandhana (RCB): A maestro of cover drives, Smriti Mandhana paints the cricketing canvas with her elegant strokes. The silky drives are poetry in motion, reminding one of England player David Gower's slicing of the off-field.

Her leadership is the heartbeat of the RCB, as the women's team won the trophy last time, a feat the men's team led by Virat Kohli has failed to achieve.

Meg Lanning (DC): With an unerring eye and impeccable technique, Lanning is the pivot around which Delhi Capitals rotate. Her strategic acumen and fierce determination make her a formidable adversary.

Harmanpreet Kaur (MI): The stalwart of Mumbai Indians, Harmanpreet's aggressive style and knack for big hits injects dynamism into the game. Her spirited leadership often leads to thrilling comebacks.

Ashleigh Gardner (GG): Gardner's versatility is a treasure trove for Gujarat Giants. Her prowess with both bat and ball, coupled with an astute cricketing brain, ensures GG remain a force to reckon with.

Deepti Sharma (UPW): The guile and wisdom Deepti brings to the field is unrivalled. Her off-spinning deliveries often leave batters in a quandary, making her a pivotal player for UP Warriorz.

Shining Bright on the Horizon Shafali Verma (DC): The



embodiment of raw power, Shafali's batting is a spectacle of brute strength. Her fearlessness at the crease is a constant thrill for fans and a nightmare for bowlers.

Richa Ghosh (RCB): Known for her muscular power and finishing abilities, Richa's explosive batting lower down the order is a game-changer for RCB.

Jemimah Rodrigues (DC): A live wire on the field, Jemimah's athleticism and agility make her an asset in all three departments — batting, bowling, and fielding. Her vivacity is contagious.

Hayley Matthews (MI): The Windies wonder, Matthews' all-round abilities bring a balanced edge to Mumbai Indians. Her quick runs and sharp off-breaks add depth to the team.

Sophie Ecclestone (UPW): The world's top-ranked bowler, Ecclestone's left-arm spin is a conundrum that often leaves batters bamboozled. Her consistency and precision are unmatched.

The Rising Talents

The WPL-2025 is not just about established stars but also a platform for nurturing the next generation of cricketing talent.

G Kamalini (MI): This young prodigy is already making headlines with her wicketkeeping skills and aggressive batting. At just 16, Kamalini is a beacon of hope for the future of Indian

cricket.

Niki Prasad (DC): Leading India's U-19 T20 World Cup-winning team, Prasad's all-round capabilities are expected to shine through in the WPL. Her maturity and skill set her apart.

Prema Rawat (RCB): She is a leg-spinning all-rounder with a penchant for taking crucial wickets and scoring important runs. Rawat's domestic performances have earmarked her as the one to watch out for.

Shweta Sehrawat (UPW): Consistent and reliable, Sehrawat's batting prowess makes her a strong contender for stardom in this year's WPL.

Foreign players who enjoy a celebrity status worldwide:-

These foreign stars bring a wealth of experience, skill and excitement to the WPL 2025. Their performances will be pivotal in determining the fortunes of their respective teams. They are:-

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)

Ellyse Perry: The Australian all-rounder is a cricketing legend. Her ability to contribute with both bat and ball makes her an invaluable asset to RCB.

Danni Wyatt: Known for her aggressive batting, Wyatt's explosive starts can set the tone for RCB's innings.

Georgia Wareham: A leg-spinner with a knack for taking

crucial wickets, Wareham adds depth to RCB's bowling attack.

Delhi Capitals (DC)

Meg Lanning: The Australian captain brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the team. Her consistent performances at the top of the order are crucial for DC.

Marizanne Kapp: The South African all-rounder is known for her powerful hitting and accurate bowling. Kapp's versatility makes her a key player for DC.

Alice Capsey: A young and dynamic all-rounder from England, Capsey's energy and skill set make her a player to watch out for.

Mumbai Indians (MI)

Hayley Matthews: The West Indian all-rounder is a force to be reckoned with. Her explosive batting and effective off-spin make her a match-winner.

Natalie Sciver-Brunt: The English all-rounder is known for her powerful hitting and reliable medium-pace bowling. Sciver-Brunt's experience is invaluable to MI.

Amelia Kerr: The New Zealand leg-spinner is a wicket-taking machine. Her ability to turn the ball sharply makes her a threat to any batting lineup.

Gujarat Giants (GG)

Ashleigh Gardner: The Australian all-rounder leads the team with her aggressive batting and effective off-spin. Gardner's leadership and skills are crucial for GG.

Beth Mooney: The Australian wicketkeeper-batter is known for her consistency and ability to anchor the innings. Mooney's experience adds stability to GG's batting lineup.

Deandra Dottin: The West Indian all-rounder is a powerhouse with both bat and ball. Dottin's explosive style can change the course of a match in an instant.

UP Warriorz (UPW)

Sophie Ecclestone: The English left-arm spinner is the world's top-ranked bowler. Her precision and consistency make her a key player for the UPW.

Tahlia McGrath: The Australian all-rounder is known for her powerful hitting and effective medium-paced bowling. McGrath's versatility is a major asset for UPW.

Chamari Athapaththu: The Sri Lankan captain is a dynamic batter with the ability to score quickly. Athapaththu's aggressive style adds firepower to UPW's batting lineup.

Rajat Patidar takes helm as RCB's new captain for IPL 2025



BENGALURU, Feb 13 (Agencies): Rajat Patidar has been appointed as the new captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, marking a new era for the franchise.

Patidar, known for his solid batting, now shoulders the responsibility of leading RCB in their pursuit of IPL glory.

His appointment continues the rich legacy of leadership at the club, following in the footsteps of cricketing greats such as Rahul Dravid, Kevin Pietersen, Anil Kumble, Daniel Vettori, Virat Kohli, and Faf du Plessis.

RCB has long been home to some of the most influential leaders in the game, and Patidar's elevation to the role reflects the team's faith in his abilities.

With his tactical awareness and fearless approach, he will look to guide the team to success and cement his place among the franchise's iconic captains. Fans are eager to see how he embraces this challenge and leads RCB in

their quest for a maiden IPL title.

Rajat Patidar has captained experience as a part of Madhya Pradesh (MP) team across all formats. In last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, he led MP to the finals and played a crucial role in their campaign with 428 runs in 10 matches at an average of 61.14, strike rate of over 186 and five fifties, ending as second-highest run-getter in the tournament.

Patidar's game against spin and ability to tonk sixes against them has been a standout feature of his game.

He has been one of RCB's standout Indian talents since 2022, scoring 799 runs in 24 innings at an average of 34.73 and a strike rate of 158.84, with a century and seven fifties. His century against LSG during 2022 IPL eliminator is a standout knock, making him first uncapped player with a century in IPL playoffs.

Last season for RCB, he scored 395 runs in 13 matches at an average of over 30 and strike rate above 177, with five fifties. His fiery knocks were crucial in RCB's late surge into playoffs after just one win in first eight games.

He has also played an ODI and three Tests for India, having made his international debut against South Africa in 2023-end, playing a fiery 22-run knock.

In Tests, he struggled against England at home last year, with just 63 runs across six innings and best score of 32.

World Championship silver-medallist boxer Amit Panghal turns professional

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): India's lone male boxer to win a world championship silver medal, Amit Panghal, has become the latest from the country to turn professional.

One of India's most accomplished male boxers, the 29-year-old has signed with US-based talent management company Critical Sports and Entertainment.

"Critical Sports and Entertainment is proud to announce the signing of world-renowned Olympian boxer Amit Panghal," the agency wrote in an Instagram post.

"As he shifts once again to the professional ranks, Amit brings a wealth of experience, skill, and a champion's mentality. We alongside co-manager Connor Burke are honored to welcome him to the Critical Sports and Entertainment family and look forward to guiding him on this exciting next chapter of his career." The Haryana boxer, who competes in the 51kg category in the amateur circuit, is yet to be allocated his maiden professional fight.

The development comes just a month after world championship bronze-medallist Nishant Dev also made the switch to professional boxing.

A former world number one, Panghal has won medals in all major international competitions except the Olympics.



Panghal once dominated the sport with gold medals at the Asian Games and Asian Championships, along with a historic silver at the 2019 World Championships.

However, his international appearances have been limited in the past four years. After an early exit from the Tokyo Olympics, Panghal lost his place in the Indian team.

He later won a gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games before qualifying for the Paris Olympics, where he was eliminated in the pre-quarterfinals by Zambia's Patrick Chinyemba.

With this move, Panghal follows in the footsteps of 2008 Olympic bronze-medallist Vijender Singh, Vikas Krishan, Mandeep Jangra, and Neeraj Goyat, who also moved to professional boxing after a good run in the amateur circuit.

Mumbai Titans keep up winning streak with 85-70 win over Chennai Heat

NEW DELHI, Feb 13 (Agencies): Mumbai Titans secured their second consecutive win with an 85-70 victory over Chennai Heat in the InBL Pro U25 at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

Elijah Puna made up for Lamar Patterson's absence with 18 points and 15 rebounds while Durrell McDonald, who flew in just last night, made his first appearance for the Titans and contributed with 11 points and 5 assists off the bench, as per a release from InBL.

Pranav Prince came out with intensity for the Titans, attacking the rim at every opportunity, while Elijah Puna provided consistent scoring with close-range finishes. The Heat struggled to find their rhythm offensively, with Keith Kiner managing just six points. Jaideep Rathore made his presence felt later in the quarter, draining a three to extend the Titans' lead and dishing out key assists to his teammates. And, Panopio knocked down an open three at the buzzer, capping off a strong start for the Titans and pushing their advantage to 29-17.

The Heat tightened up their defence and controlled the boards in the second quarter, allowing Tad Dufelmeier and Jaideep Rathore to chip away at the deficit.

However, Jaideep Rathore remained a steady playmaker,



delivering pinpoint assists and knocking down a three-pointer to keep the Titans in front. The Titans' up-tempo, run-and-gun style paid off later in the quarter, fueled by their defensive pressure and dominance on the glass. Their relentless energy helped them maintain control, heading into halftime with a 13-point lead.

The Heat came alive in the third quarter, capitalizing on second-chance opportunities to spark a comeback. Jack Stanwix knocked down a pair of clutch three-pointers, while Arvinder Singh took control in the paint on both ends of the floor. Meanwhile, Arvind Kumar's lockdown defence on Pranav Prince helped stifle the Titans'

offense, allowing the Heat to chip away at the lead.

With momentum shifting, the Titans' once-comfortable advantage shrank to just six points heading into the final quarter, setting up a thrilling finish.

Arvind Kumar and the Heat's early foul trouble in the fourth gave the Titans a five-point edge, but Kumar quickly returned and completed a three-point play to tie the game. Panopio and Gurwinder Singh responded with back-to-back threes, while Liam Judd added a three-point play and a thunderous dunk in transition. As the Heat faded late, the Titans surged ahead, rebuilding their lead to 12 and closing out the game.

Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hossain Shanto confident of historic ICC Champions Trophy triumph

DHAKA, Feb 13 (Agencies): Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hossain Shanto has sent a strong message to rival teams ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy, asserting that his squad is entering the tournament with the belief that they can pull off a major upset and secure their first-ever ICC title, according to ICC.

The Asian side won just two matches at the ICC Cricket World Cup in India in 2023 and been victorious in just one bilateral ODI series since when they defeated Sri Lanka 2-1 on home soil in March last year.

But Shanto thinks belief is growing within the Bangladesh side and is confident his team can surprise during the eight-team tournament that will be held in Pakistan and the UAE from February 19.

"We are going to the Champions Trophy to become champions,"



Shanto said was quoted by ICC as saying.

"All eight teams deserve to be champions in this tournament. They are all quality teams. I believe our team has the ability. No one will feel extra pressure. Everyone genuinely wants (to become champions), and believes in their capabilities," he added.

"We don't know what Allah has written in our fate. We are working hard and doing our best. I believe we can achieve our goal," Shanto said.

Bangladesh are drawn

in Group A at this year's Champions Trophy and will face India first-up in Dubai on February 20, before matches in Rawalpindi against New Zealand (February 24) and Pakistan (February 27) ahead of a potential spot in the knockout stages of the event.

While there is no spot in Bangladesh's squad for former skipper Shakib Al Hasan, Shanto believes his 15-player group is well balanced with a good mix of youth and experience.

"I am very happy and

confident with the 15 players in the squad," Shanto was quoted as saying ICC.

"Anyone who plays has the ability to win a match single-handedly," he added.

"Not too long ago, we didn't have quality pace bowlers, but now we have a strong pace bowling unit," Shanto noted.

"We didn't have wrist spinners before, but now we do. Overall, we have a balanced team. If everyone fulfills their responsibilities properly, we can defeat any team at any time," he said.

Bangladesh squad: Nazmul Hossain Shanto (c), Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, MD Mahmud Ullah, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nasum Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana.

Training Programme on Geo-Spatial Techniques for Soil Survey & Mapping concludes at Kisan Kendra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Three-Day Officers Training Programme on Geo-Spatial Techniques for Soil Survey & Mapping Concluded on Thursday at Kisan Kendra, Jammu. Director of Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, presided over the valedictory session of the three-day training programme. The programme, conducted by the Soil & Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI), New Delhi, aimed to equip 20 officers from the Soil Survey and Soil Testing wings of the Agriculture Department with advanced technical expertise in modern soil mapping methodologies. The Divisional Soil Survey Scheme, Directorate of Agriculture



Jammu, led by Suresh Kumar Khajuria (DSSO Jammu), organized the programme. The initiative focused on aligning with the latest technological advancements while emphasizing the critical role of geo-spatial techniques in achieving precision in soil survey and land-use planning. During the valedictory function, Direc-

tor Agriculture Jammu honoured Dr. Khazan Singh, the octogenarian founding father of the Divisional Soil Survey Scheme, Jammu, and former Divisional Soil Survey Officer (born in 1940 AD). He commended Dr. Singh's invaluable contributions in establishing a strong foundation for future agricultural endeavours in Jammu.

Speaking at the event, Director Agriculture Jammu highlighted that this capacity-building initiative would help develop soil survey maps on a 1:10,000 scale, thereby enabling more precise planning at the Panchayat and village levels. The three-day programme featured expert-led sessions by distinguished profes-

sions from SLUSI, New Delhi, including Dr. A.K. Yadav, Dr. Saumen Saha, N.S. Gahalod (ASSO, SLUSI New Delhi), and Mahendra Singh (ASSO, SLUSI Noida).

The training combined theoretical knowledge with practical demonstrations, covering various aspects of geo-spatial applications in soil survey, mapping, and soil profile study for sustainable agricultural planning.

The programme concluded with the recognition of resource persons from the Soil and Land Use Survey of India and the distribution of certificates to 20 participating officers from across the Jammu Division. Rajeev Katoch, Programme Officer from the office of JDAE, conducted the proceedings of the programme.

J&K's youth advancing and excelling in every field: LG Manoj Sinha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday praised the youth of Jammu and Kashmir for their remarkable progress and achievements across various fields, making the region proud.

LG Sinha made these remarks while attending the Rajya Puraskar Rally of J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides in Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the positive transformation among J&K's youth and acknowledged the collective efforts dedicated to their growth and development.

"Jammu and Kashmir's youth are advancing in every field, and the credit goes to everyone working tirelessly for their bright future," LG Sinha said.

Emphasizing the role of mindset in achieving success, he advised the youth, "A positive and progressive mindset is the key to success. We stand

with you in your journey of growth and development."

Reflecting on the past five years, LG Sinha noted that the government has launched several schemes and programs focused on youth development. "At the grassroots level, significant progress has been made, and the results are evident. The youth have risen to the occasion and are making Jammu and Kashmir proud in every domain," he stated.

He further urged the Scouts and Guides to actively contribute further to the fight against drug abuse. "You must work towards eradicating drug addiction and help connect the youth with India's rich culture and traditions," he advised.

Commending the role of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, LG Sinha remarked, "This initiative is playing a vital role in youth empowerment. I am confident that you will continue to contribute towards building a developed India (Viksit Bharat)."

Cambridge International School shines at 12th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Students of Cambridge International School showcased remarkable talent and sportsmanship at the 12th J&K UT

Rope Skipping Championship 2024-25. The event, organized by the Rope Skipping Association of J&K, witnessed the participation of over 200 athletes from 20 prestigious schools

across the UT.

Displaying exceptional skill and determination, eight students from Cambridge International School clinched a total of 10 medals, adding another feather to the school's cap. The medal tally includes 3 Gold, 5 Silver, and 2 Bronze.

Gold: Shivya, Pahal, Garesh. Silver: Shivya, Pahal, Mishti, Maanvika, Musira. Bronze: Aavya, Govind Bhal.

The Management of Cambridge International School lauded the students for their dedication and hard work.

Exhibit on Best out of Waste Practices held at GDC Nagrota

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Feb 13: Under the aegis of IQAC, Eco Club in collaboration with IIC (Institution Innovation Council) of GDC Nagrota organized an inspiring exhibit of items made out of waste.

This event aimed to promote creativity, sustainability, and environmental awareness among students and the local community.

The exhibit showcased a variety of innovative items created from everyday waste materials. Students participated enthusiastically, presenting their unique creations.

The items ranged from decorative pieces to functional objects, all crafted with the goal of reducing waste and promoting recycling.

The Eco Club also organized awareness campaigns alongside the exhibit, educating visitors about the importance of

waste management and recycling.

The exhibit was a resounding success, drawing attention to the importance of waste reduction and recycling.

It not only showcased the creativity of the students but also highlighted the potential of waste materials to be transformed into valuable resources.

The Eco Club's efforts in organizing this event were commendable, and it is hoped that such initiatives will continue to

inspire and educate the community.

The event was graced by the presence of the Principal of the College Prof. Anjali Mahajan, who addressed the students and emphasized the importance of environmental responsibility and creativity in waste management.

The principal commended the students for their efforts and encouraged them to continue finding innovative ways to contribute to a sustainable future.

Rakshant from GCET Jammu awarded VC's Commendation Certificate

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 13: Rakshant Balotra, senior and a dedicated NSS volunteer from Govt. College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Jammu, has been awarded the Vice Chancellor's Commendation Certificate for Social Service & Excellence for the academic year 2023-24.

This prestigious honor, given annually, acknowledges NSS volunteers who go above and beyond in contributing to social causes, making a significant impact beyond their regular NSS responsibilities.

Prof. Sameru Sharma, the Principal of GCET Jammu, congratulated Rakshant and Programme Officer Dr. Raman Gupta on this remarkable accomplishment.

The award marks a first in the college's history, as Rakshant is the first NSS volunteer to receive this esteemed recognition.

Prof. Sharma expressed hope that his success would inspire future volunteers to follow his example, thus continuing the tradition of meaningful service at GCET Jammu.

Rakshant Balotra has showcased remarkable dedication through his active participation in a range of national-level NSS camps, including the National Integration Camp and the National



Adventure Camp.

His involvement in local community service initiatives such as cleanliness drives, anti-drug campaigns, and blood donation drives has also been outstanding, earning him well-deserved recognition for his contributions to the community.


Under the leadership of Dr. Raman Gupta, the NSS unit at GCET Jammu has flourished, engaging in numerous impactful social initiatives.

The collective efforts of the volunteers and their mentors have been key to this success. In addition to regular activities, many of NSS volunteers of GCET have participated in special camps, awareness programs, and social drives, creating a lasting positive

impact.

Dr. Raman Gupta, Programme Officer of NSS, expressed his pride, stating, this is an extraordinary moment for GCET Jammu. Rakshant has set a new precedent as the first NSS volunteer from our college to receive this prestigious award. His dedication to social causes will serve as an inspiration for future generations of volunteers, encouraging them to actively contribute to society's development.

Dr. Gupta further stated that this recognition highlights the continuous efforts of NSS unit of GCET Jammu to foster a culture of social responsibility, empowering students to become active contributors to their communities and society at large.



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