

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-44 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma promoted as MS GMC Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Health and Medical Education Department has promoted and regularized the services of Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma as the Medical Superintendent of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu. Dr Sharma, who was serving as the Incharge Medical Superintendent, will now hold the position on a regular basis.

### Srinagar Police seize 668 books linked to banned organisation

SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): Srinagar Police on Friday conducted a search following reports that the literature of a banned organisation was being distributed in the city, officials said.

"Based on credible intelligence regarding the clandestine sale and distribution of literature promoting the ideology of a banned organization, Police conducted a search in Srinagar, leading to the seizure of 668 books," said a spokesman of Srinagar police on X.

He said legal action has been initiated under Section 126 of the BNSS.

### Five houses damaged in late-night fire in Maloora, Shalteng

SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): A late-night fire damaged five single-story residential structures in the Maloora, Shalteng area of central Kashmir's Srinagar district on Thursday. Kashmir travel guide

Officials told that the fire broke out around 10:01 PM, engulfing five residential sheds in flames.

Upon receiving the information, fire and emergency service teams rushed to the spot and worked to control the fire.

According to officials, the blaze caused severe to partial damage to roofs, furniture, bedding, and household goods. Some belongings were completely destroyed.

Firefighters managed to bring the flames under control, preventing further damage. However, the cause of the fire remains unknown.

## Pulwama attack anniversary: PM, HM pay tribute to fallen soldiers



NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday led the nation in paying tributes to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in a terror attack on their convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on this day in 2019. Kashmir travel guide

"Homage to the courageous heroes we lost in Pulwama in 2019. The coming generations will never forget their sacrifice and their unwavering dedication to the

nation," PM Modi wrote in a post on X. Union Minister Amit Shah also paid a heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the 'cowardly terrorist attack in Pulwama'.

Taking this to social media platform X, HM Shah wrote in a post (in Hindi), "On behalf of the grateful nation, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pulwama on this day in the year 2019. Terror-

ism is the biggest enemy of the entire human race and the whole world has united against it. Be it a surgical strike or an air strike, the Modi government is determined to completely destroy the terrorists by running a campaign with a 'zero tolerance' policy against them."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid homage to the brave CRPF personnel who sacrificed their lives for the nation. "On this day in 2019,

India lost our brave CRPF personnel in a gruesome terrorist attack in Pulwama. Their sacrifice for the nation will never be forgotten. I pay homage to them and offer unwavering support to their families. India stands united in honouring their valor and we remain resolute in our fight against terrorism," the Defence Minister wrote in a post on X.

February 14, 2025 marks five years of the deadly Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel on duty.

In 2019, a suicide bomber targeted a convoy carrying soldiers on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The attack claimed the lives of 40 soldiers, and more than 35 were injured, making it one of the most gruesome terror attacks in

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## Sacrifices will forever be remembered: LG on Pulwama attack anniversary



SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today said that sacrifices in the service of motherland will forever be remembered.

Taking to micro-blogging site X (formerly Twitter) LG said: "Heartfelt tribute to the courageous martyrs of the heinous Pulwama attack of 2019. Their supreme sacrifice in the service of motherland will forever be remembered."

The courage & selfless commitment of our gallant heroes will continue to inspire generations".

On February 14, 2019, a suicide bomber targeted a convoy carrying soldiers at Lethpora Pulwama on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The attack claimed the lives of 40 soldiers, and more than 35 were injured, making it one of the most gruesome terror attacks in history of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Deputation of three IAS officers to Jammu and Kashmir extended by one year

SRINAGAR, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has extended the deputation of 3 IAS officers including that of Budgam, Pulwama and Kulgam Deputy Commissioners to Jammu and Kashmir by one-year.

Sources said the DOPT extension has been granted to Athar Aamir Khan, Basharat Qayoom, and Akshay Labroo. This follows the request from the J&K Government.

Athar is serving as DC Kulgam from 4 January 2024 and got allotment in the IAS in 2016. Akshay Labroo has been serving as Deputy Commissioner Budgam since April 29, 2023. Basharat Qayoom is serving as Deputy Commissioner Pulwama.

## Newly appointed BSF IG discusses border security with LG Manoj Sinha

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14 : Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, Shashank Anand called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Friday and discussed various issues of border security with him, a spokesperson said.

A Haryana cadre IPS officer, Anand took over as the new IG of BSF on February 7, replacing D K Boora who had held



the post from October 2021. Anand has been posted at the BSF headquarters in New Delhi.

During his meeting with Sinha, the new IG of the BSF briefed him on the

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## 6 Kgs suspected heroin seized near LoC in Rajouri

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Feb 14 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday seized six kg of narcotics, believed to be high-grade heroin worth over Rs 30 crore in the international market, from a village near the Line of

Control in Rajouri district, officials said.

The recovery from the forward village in Nowshera sector was made on the disclosure of two drug peddlers, who were arrested with a consignment of drugs a few weeks ago.

They said the consignment was smuggled from across the border and was found hidden at a secluded place.

The investigation of the case is going on and some more arrests and recoveries are expected in the coming days, the officials said.

## Owners of Jammu-Based Newspapers meet Director Information, Highlight Industry Concerns



Top News Report JAMMU, Feb 14: A del

egation of Jammu-based newspaper

owners met with Nitish Rajora, Director of Information yesterday to congratulate him on assuming charge and to discuss key challenges faced by the print media industry.

The delegation, comprising Pritam Singh Saini, Rajiv Chuni, Rajiv Mahajan, Amit Sawhney, Satish Poonchi and Abhishek, engaged in a detailed discussion on various pressing issues

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## EDITORIAL

REMEMBERING  
BRAVEHEARTS

Bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism are the hallmarks of those who dedicate their lives to protecting the nation. As we remember our bravehearts, we not only pay tribute to their selfless service but also acknowledge the unbreakable spirit that defines them. Their stories inspire generations, reminding us that freedom and peace come at a great cost.

Every soldier, police officer, and paramilitary personnel who lays down their life in service to the country does so with unwavering courage. The Pulwama attack of February 14, 2019, stands as a painful reminder of the sacrifices made by our armed forces. On that fateful day, 40 CRPF personnel were martyred when a suicide bomber targeted their convoy on the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Among them were Shaheed HC/GD Naseer Ahmed, Shaheed HC/DVR Jaimal Singh, Shaheed CT/GD Rohtash Lamba, Shaheed CT/GD Sukhjinder, and Shaheed CT/BUG Tilak Raj, who belonged to the 76 Bn CRPF. These brave soldiers stood as a shield between the nation and those who sought to disrupt its peace.

To honor their sacrifice, various Shradhanjali Programs have been organized across the country, where people come together to pay homage to these heroes. Their courage has not only strengthened the resolve of the armed forces but has also instilled a sense of duty among citizens. While the Pulwama attack was a tragic loss, it became a rallying cry for the nation to stand united against terrorism.

India has a long history of heroes who have displayed unparalleled valor. From Captain Vikram Batra in the Kargil War to Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, every martyr has left behind a legacy of bravery. These warriors do not fight for personal glory but for the honor and safety of the nation.

One of the most enduring examples of selflessness is Colonel Santosh Babu, who led his troops in the Galwan Valley clash against Chinese forces. Despite overwhelming odds, his leadership ensured that the enemy did not gain an upper hand. His sacrifice is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our armed forces.

Beyond the military, police officers and paramilitary personnel also play a crucial role in maintaining internal security. Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who laid down his life fighting terrorists in the 2008 Batla House encounter, is another shining example of heroism. The relentless efforts of our forces ensure that citizens can live in peace, free from fear.

While we remember our bravehearts, it is also essential to recognize the strength and resilience of their families. The loss of a loved one is an unimaginable pain, yet their families stand tall, knowing that their sacrifice was not in vain. Various government schemes and NGOs provide financial assistance, educational support, and employment opportunities to the families of martyrs.

Organizations like the Bharat Ke Veer initiative allow citizens to contribute directly to the families of fallen soldiers. Programs such as PM Scholarship Scheme for Defence Personnel and CRPF Welfare Fund ensure that the children of martyrs receive quality education and a secure future.

However, beyond financial support, these families deserve societal respect and emotional strength. Every citizen has a role to play in honoring the families of martyrs—whether by extending a helping hand, recognizing their sacrifice in public forums, or simply expressing gratitude.

Memorials, museums, and national days of remembrance play a significant role in ensuring that the sacrifices of our heroes are never forgotten. The National War Memorial in New Delhi stands as a grand tribute to every soldier who has laid down their life for the nation. Amar Jawan Jyoti, which once stood under the India Gate, has been an eternal flame of respect and honor for the fallen soldiers.

## Ah ! We are not Valentines

By: Omkar Dattatray

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Valentine's Day is celebrated in honor of Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr believed to have beheaded on February 14th. The day was then chosen to commemorate his death. It is said he was secretly marrying couples who were in love. It is thus the day of love. By the way it should be appreciated and accepted that we Indians are not valentinists. We have a glorious cultural history dating back to 5,000 years. Glorification of sex is alien to Indian culture and we should follow our cultural traditions, mores and customs and resist to be influenced by the western cultural onslaught. Alas! our youth both male and female are falling prey to foreign and western culture and our young people should adhere to Indian culture and spiritual traditions which is so grand, pristine as well as beautiful. It is our moral and ethical duty and responsibility not to be swayed by the western culture and should desist from imitating western culture. Our young people should take pride in our glorious past and its cultural beauty. It is very disturbing that while west is attracted towards our culture, heritage and spirituality. This attraction of foreigners especially the western people was in full swing as thousands of people from western countries visited Prayag Raj and took holy dip in sacred waters at the confluence of Saraswati, Yamuna and Ganga and many of them were seen wearing and adoring Indian attire and dress. It is really soothing to the eye to see the people from western countries taking a holy dip at sangam. Some were chanting Hari Om and Ram Ram. However it is very disturbing and unfortunate that our younger generation is attracted towards western culture and many young couples have got affinity towards foreign culture and are celebrat-

ing valentine's day. The valentine day has lately becoming popular in India and many young couples in big cities and metropolitan's are observing and celebrating valentine day and do not feel shy of openly going to outings, exchanging gifts and taking dinner at hotels and making show of love which is perhaps not approved in Indian culture. Valentine day celebration is viewed by majority of young Indian couples not conforming to our culture and thus they do not indulge in glorification of love and romance which in fact is alien to our culture. Many Indian's view the valentine day celebration with skepticism and it is taken as the symbol of westernization. Majority of people in India oppose its celebration. Many Hindu rightwing organizations forcefully object its celebration and even enter the hotels and disturb and stop functions of valentine day celebration. Opposition to celebration of Valentine Day is all right but to forcefully obstruct such functions is also not needed as moral policing has no place in a dynamic and liberal society. But that also does not mean that our young generation should blindly copy and imitate western fashion and western culture rather follow Indian culture in letter and spirit. It is not our culture to exchange gifts and celebrate and glorify love in restaurants and cafes. In spite of opposition, many young couples in India celebrate Valentine day and go for outings and exchange gifts and exhibit romance, love and take dinner in hotels and take pleasure in the demonstration of romance. However the celebration of valentine Day is confined to big cities and rural India is not afflicted with this western style of life and love. Many people oppose going to restaurants at evening to have dinner and exchange gifts and public display of affection linked with the day. It is seen that business houses take dividends of encouraging Valentine Day celebration and for the purpose offer special promotions and ideas which is very disturbing. The Valentine Day is becoming popular after

the liberalization of the economy. Some people in India feel it a privilege to adopt western culture and they boastfully celebrate valentine's day and many traditionalists and so called orthodox and conservative young people oppose Valentine's Day and some disturb valentine's Day celebrations openly. Many people criticize and oppose the celebration of valentine's day by our young couples and even disturb the valentine's day functions. All this is understandable, but at the same time it can be said that such cultural activists should desist from assuming the role of moral policing. Since we are living in a liberal democracy and the people here at liberty to do whatever they like but subject to public order and societal values. So the young people should realize and appreciate that they should not blindly imitate western culture and way of living, but take pride in indigenous cultural heritage and thus should conform to cultural, moral and societal norms. In this lies the good of the young men and women, society and country at large. Many political parties have criticized valentine's day as being the influence of western culture on India. The valentine's day celebrations are necessitates by the economic activities by the businesses in India as they produce those products like gift cards, coupons etc which are used in valentine's day celebrations. Thus for economic gain, the popularity of valentine's day is increasing day by day and it in fact poses a big danger to our age old culture and moral as well as societal values. Some organizations and people celebrate 14 February as cow hug day to counter the valentine day celebrations. Because of the immense benefits of cow, the Animal Welfare Board first proposed to celebrate cow hug day on February 14. The origin of valentine's day can be traced in Christianity and first a Christian martyr named Valentine was honored and later through folk traditions, it has become an important cultural, religious and a commercial celebration of romance and love in various parts

of the globe. It has spread to India as well as many young couples also celebrate valentine's day with gaiety. As the origin of Valentine's day can be found in 14th century, the holy Bible does not contain any thing about it, however it says a lot about love. Love is a central theme of the Bible and one learns much about God is love and loves humanity with a steadfast love that is forever. We should abide the faith, hope and love but the greatest of these three is love as per Bible. Indian people by and large being basically religious do not celebrate valentine's day and those who celebrate it say that the former are conservative and orthodox. The valentine's day is perhaps over showered by Saraswati Puja. Half of the people celebrating valentine's Day do not even know as to why they celebrate it. In India valentine's Day is more driven by fashion and less by emotion. Gift galleries, clubs, pubs, hotels etc. encash emotions and earn a moolah on this day, and couples express their "true love" on this day. But it can be said that love which is glorified on the occasion of valentine's Day is selfish love but love in context of Indian culture and religion should be selfless as marriages in Hindu culture is a festival pledging love for ever even in the next world. In brief our young couples and even bachelors and unmarried girls should not imitate western life styles rather take pride in their own culture, traditions and customs. Long live Indian culture.

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

## Master of great personality Dr. Farrukh Jamal.. The shining and rising star of humanity

By: Anurag Pathak

The Jamal (beauty) personality can make anyone farookh (auspicious). In current cut throat era where approximately every human being is running blindly to fulfill his ambitions without caring his values, but the kindness and values he is having despite being on prestigious post that is commendable. Dr. Farrukh Jamal is a distinguished academic and researcher in the field of biochemistry, currently serving as a Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry at Dr. Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University in Ayodhya. His areas of specialization include protein biochemistry, protease inhibitors, molecular biology, and bioremediation.

Excellence along with love can change our lives. Researchers have shown that good guidance encourage us to think

critically, reflect and learn across disciplines. These are all skills that can set us up for life.

As a teacher Dr. Jamal not merely someone who imparts knowledge, but a guiding force who inspires, motivates, and empowers students to reach their full potential, fostering a love of learning while catering to individual needs through patience, empathy, effective communication, and a commitment to fostering a positive learning environment.

Teachers are expected to teach, but great teachers also have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are eager to learn from their learners. They bring their cultural capital – what they have learned and experienced – to engagements with learners, colleagues and the community. In turn, they are altered by their connections with others and can positively affect those with whom they engage.

The most attractive quality of his personality is that Dr. Jamal has the courage to accept the various thoughts and aspects of life. He is having very sweet nature that's why his attractive politeness brings everyone close to him.

A good human being has qualities like kindness, empathy, and integrity. They also demonstrate moral values, are respectful, and try to make the world a better place. Mr. Jamal consist All these qualities.

Throughout his career, Dr. Jamal has been honored with several awards, including the "Bharat Shiksha Ratan" from the Global Society for Health and Educational Growth in New Delhi. He has also been acknowledged for his excellence in teaching and research, receiving accolades such as the "Excellence in Teaching Award" at the National Conference on Livelihood

and Food Security in 2018 and the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the International Conference on Advances in Agriculture and Applied Sciences for Promoting Food Security in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2017.

Being a good human being is not a destination but rather a continuous journey of growth and self-improvement. It requires conscious effort to cultivate kindness, integrity, and selflessness in our daily lives. As we strive to be good human beings, we contribute to a more harmonious and compassionate world. Let us remember that our actions, no matter how small, have the power to inspire and uplift others, and collectively, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those around us.

*(Anurag Pathak Lucknow)*





## Buddha's teachings of middle path, avoiding extremes solution to global challenges: PM Modi

*Praising Thailand's rich culture and heritage, the PM called it a prime example of Asia's shared philosophical and spiritual traditions.*

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that many of the world's conflicts are an outcome of taking extreme positions instead of a balanced approach, asserting that Buddha's teachings of following the middle path and avoiding extremes offer solutions to numerous global challenges.

In a video address to the fourth edition of Samvad, a global Hindu-Buddhist initiative for conflict avoidance, organised in Thailand, Modi said the shared traditions of Asia rooted in the principles of Dhamma provide answers to the environmental crisis plaguing the world.

Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, and other Asian traditions teach people to live in harmony with nature, he said, adding they do not see themselves as separate from nature but as a part of it.

According to a statement, Modi highlighted the concept of trusteeship, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and emphasised that when using natural resources for progress, one must also consider our responsibility to future generations.

This approach ensures that resources are used for growth, not greed, he added.

Noting that this edition of Samvad is hosting a religious roundtable, bringing together diverse religious leaders, He



expressed confidence that valuable insights will emerge from this platform, shaping a more harmonious world.

Praising the host country Thailand for its rich culture, history, and heritage, Modi stressed that it stands as a beautiful example of the shared philosophical and spiritual traditions of Asia.

Underlining the deep cultural ties shared by India and Thailand spanning over two thousand years, he said Ramayana and Ramakien connect the two nations and that their shared reverence for Lord Buddha unites them.

Citing Buddha, he said the principle of moderation remains relevant today, offering guidance in addressing global challenges.

He mentioned the vibrant partnership across multiple sectors between the two countries, and said India's 'Act East' policy

and Thailand's 'Act West' policy complement each other.

He said another cause of conflict is perceiving others as fundamentally different, adding that differences lead to distance, and distance can turn into discord. To counter this, he cited a verse from the Dhammapada, which states that everyone fears pain and death.

The prime minister noted that he hailed from Gujarat's Vadnagar and represented Varanasi in Parliament, and said it is a beautiful coincidence that places associated with Lord Buddha have shaped his journey.

He said, "Our reverence for Bhagwan Buddha is reflected in the policies of the Indian government."

India has developed tourism infrastructure to connect important Buddhist sites as part of the Buddhist Circuit, he said, while also highlighting the 'Buddha

Purnima Express' special train to facilitate travel on this circuit and the inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport to benefit pilgrims.

He also announced various development initiatives for Bodhi Gaya to enhance its infrastructure and invited pilgrims, scholars, and monks from around the world to visit India.

In his speech, Modi said the Nalanda Mahavihara was one of the greatest universities in history and destroyed centuries ago by the forces of conflict, adding that India has shown resilience by reviving it as a centre of learning and expressed confidence that Nalanda University will regain its former glory.

He highlighted the significant step taken to promote Pali, the language in which Bhagwan Buddha delivered his teachings, by declaring it a classical language to ensure the preservation of its literature.

Modi highlighted the collaboration with many nations over the past decade to promote the teachings of Lord Buddha.

He commended the distinguished institutions and individuals from India, Japan, and Thailand for making the event possible.

The prime minister took the opportunity to remember the late Japanese leader Shinzo Abe, with whom he enjoyed a close personal bond, noting that the idea of Samvad emerged from their conversations in 2015.

## PM maintains silence in country, says 'personal matter' abroad: Rahul on Adani



NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "covering up" the alleged corruption of businessman Gautam Adani.

In a post on X, he said, the PM maintains

silence when questions are asked in the country and terms it a personal matter when asked abroad.

"If you ask questions in the country, there is silence, If you ask abroad, it is a personal matter! "Even in America, Modi Ji covered up

Adani Ji's corruption!" Gandhi charged in his post in Hindi.

To a question on whether the issue relating to Adani figured in the talks, PM Modi at a joint media briefing in Washington said: "India is a democracy and our culture is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. We consider the whole world as one family. I believe every Indian is mine." Modi said such individual matters are not discussed in talks between two leaders. "Two prominent leaders of two countries never discuss such individual issues," he said.

## Constitutional crisis in Manipur forced imposition of President's rule: Congress

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said the imposition of President's rule in Manipur is a direct admission of the failure of the BJP governments at the Centre and the state, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apologise to the people there.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said there is a Constitutional crisis in Manipur that forced the imposition of President's rule.

"Narendra Modi ji, it is your party which has been ruling at the Centre for 11 years. It is your party which was ruling Manipur for 8 years. It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining Law & Order in the state.

"It is your government which is responsible for National Security and border patrol. The imposition of President's rule by YOU, suspending YOUR own party's government is a direct admission on how YOU failed the people of Manipur," Kharge said.

He said the government has imposed President's rule not because it wanted to, but because there is a Constitutional crisis in the state, as none of the



NDA MLAs are willing to accept the "baggage of your incompetence".

"Your 'Double Engine' ran over the lives of the innocent people of Manipur! High time you now step in Manipur and listen to the pain and trauma of the suffering people and apologise to them. Do you have the courage of conviction?" Kharge asked.

The Congress chief said the people of Manipur will not forgive Prime Minister Modi and his party.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday that the imposition of President's rule in Manipur is a belated admission by the BJP of their complete inability to govern in Manipur.

"Now, PM Modi can no longer deny his direct responsibility for Manipur," he said in a post on X.

"Has he finally made

up his mind to visit the state, and explain to the people of Manipur and India his plan to restore peace and normalcy?" Gandhi asked.

President's rule was imposed in strife-torn Manipur on Thursday and the state assembly put under suspended animation, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led to political uncertainty in the north-eastern state.

The Manipur assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far.

## Manipur Assembly can be revived in future based on ground situation, says BJP

IMPHAL, Feb 14 (Agencies): Reaffirming its commitment to maintaining Manipur's territorial integrity, the BJP on Friday said the state assembly, which was put in suspended animation following the imposition of the President's rule, could be revived on any future date depending on the ground situation.

Sambit Patra, the BJP's northeast region in-charge, told PTI that his party was committed to continuing efforts to maintain peace and normalcy in the state, which has been hit by months-long violence between Meiteis and Kukis and remains polarised along ethnic lines.

He noted that the assembly had not been dissolved but kept in suspended animation, meaning that the formation of a new state government remained a possibility.

The BJP continues to enjoy a comfortable majority in the assembly but the sharpening of ethnic differences meant the party's search for a consensus candidate to replace N Biren Singh, who resigned as chief minister a few days ago, remained futile.

"The assembly is not dissolved and can be revived on any future date, as deemed fit by the president of India, depending on the cir-

cumstances and the situation on the ground in Manipur," Patra said.

"I repeat, as far as the territorial integrity of Manipur is concerned, there will be no compromise with it," the Puri MP added.

With some Kuki groups demanding a separate state, Patra's reassertion of the BJP's stand against it will reassure the Meiteis, who are in a majority but have been raising concerns over a host of issues, including alleged demographic imbalance, and are vehemently opposed to any division of Manipur.

Patra also asserted the BJP's firm stand against illegal infiltration



from across the border and said any such effort would be stringently dealt with.

President's rule was imposed in Manipur on Thursday and the assembly kept in a suspended animation.

Singh, who was head-

ing the BJP government, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has so far claimed more than 250 lives.

The Manipur Assembly has a tenure till March 2027.

## MHA requests president for prosecution sanction against AAP leader Satyendar Jain

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Union home ministry has requested the president for granting sanction to prosecute AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money-laundering case being investigated by the ED, sources said on Friday.

The sanction against the 60-year-old politician has been sought under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, they said.

The ministry requested the sanction on the basis of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation and the presence of "adequate proof", they added.

The federal agency booked Jain in a mon-



ey-laundering case linked to alleged hawala dealings and arrested him in May 2022. He is currently out on bail and has been charge-sheeted by the ED.

The money-laundering case stems from an August 2017 FIR filed against Jain and others by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The CBI filed a chargesheet in December 2018, stating that the alleged disproportionate assets were to the tune of Rs 1.47 crore, about 217 per cent more than Jain's known sources of income during 2015-17.

## Courts can't direct legislature to enact law a particular way: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday said the courts could not direct the legislature to enact a law in a particular manner.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih made the observation while hearing a plea against a February 2024 order of the Delhi High Court which disposed of a PIL on the issue.

"The Parliament, after considering every aspect, has come out with a new enactment. In a writ jurisdiction, neither the high courts nor the Supreme Court can direct the legislature to enact a law in a particular manner," the bench said, while refusing to hear the plea.

The PIL sought direc-



tions to district courts for police to supply a copy of chargesheet to the complainant or victim free of cost.

The counsel appearing for the Centre referred to Section 230 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, saying the petition was infructuous.

The Centre's counsel

said Section 230 prescribes, in any case where a proceeding was instituted on a police report, the magistrate should furnish to the accused and victim, free of cost a copy of documents, including the police report and the first information report.

The petitioner's counsel said Section 230 of

the BNSS did not deal with the issue of the right of a complainant or victim to be heard and participate in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

The PIL also sought directions to all the district courts to issue notice to the complainants or victims at the time of taking of cognisance to enable them to exercise their right to be heard and participate in pre-trial criminal proceedings.

While referring to an apex court verdict and the Code of Criminal Procedure amendments, the high court said there were sufficient rights given to the victim or complainant to effectively participate in pre-trial and trial proceedings if they so elected.

It had also referred

to the Delhi High Court rules and said it was clear that a party to a criminal case was entitled to obtain copies of the record of the case upon filing of an application.

The union home ministry has already issued direction to all states and union territories in October 2020 for the implementation of a standard operating procedure (SOP) over sexual offences against women and children, it added.

"In the said SOP at paragraph 23 with respect to the submission of chargesheet, police has been directed to provide a copy of chargesheet to the victim/informant without any cost," said the high court.

## 11 killed after bomb blast at truck carrying coal miners in Pakistan

**The region's deputy commissioner, Hazrat Wali Agha, said 17 miners were in the truck when the bomb went off.**

QUETTA, Feb 14 (Agencies): A bomb targeting a vehicle carrying coal miners in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 11 people and wounded six others, local officials said on Friday.

The truck had brought the workers to a mine in the Hamai area of Balochistan province, where Pakistan is battling a separatist insurgency.

"An improvised explosive device was planted at the roadside which exploded when truck carting coal miners reached the site," a paramilitary official said.

The official, who declined to be identified,



added that it may have been a remote operated device.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The region's deputy commissioner, Hazrat Wali Agha, said 17 miners were in the truck when the bomb went off.

A doctor at the local

hospital said two of the wounded are in critical condition.

Mineral-rich Balochistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, has been the scene of a decade-old insurgency by separatist ethnic Baloch groups. Islamist militants also operate in the area.

## India not neutral, it is on side of peace: PM Modi on Russia-Ukraine conflict

**Modi also recalled his message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that it is not the era for war**

WASHINGTON, Feb 14 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed US President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine, insisting that a solution to the conflict cannot be found on the battlefield and that dialogue and diplomacy is the only way to bring peace.

After his wide-ranging talks with Trump at the White House on Thursday (Friday India time), Modi said India has not been neutral on the war and that it is on the side of peace.

"I have always been in close contact with Russia and Ukraine. I have met the leaders of both countries. The world somehow feels India has been neu-



tral, but I want to reiterate that India has not been neutral," he said at a joint media briefing with Trump.

"In fact, India has been on the side of peace," he said, adding "I support Donald Trump's efforts towards finding a possible solution to end the

found on the battlefield. They can only come when all parties sit at the table for dialogue," the prime minister said.

"India believes that the solution to the war can be found only when the issue is discussed in a forum where both countries (Russia and Ukraine) are in attendance."

On Wednesday, Trump said he held a lengthy and productive phone call with Putin and that they agreed to move forward towards negotiations to end the war.

The US president even said he and Putin "agreed to have our respective teams start negotiations immediately".

India has all along

been pressing for resolution of the Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

In his summit talks with Putin on July 9 last year in Moscow, Modi told the Russian leader that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace efforts do not succeed in the midst of bombs and bullets.

Weeks later he travelled to Ukraine.

In his talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Modi said both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region.

## Russian drone struck Chernobyl cover; no radiation increase: Ukraine leader Zelenskyy

**The International Atomic Energy Agency also reported an "explosion" at the site, and said "radiation levels inside and outside remain normal and stable."**

KYIV, Feb 14 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday that a Russian drone had struck a cover built to contain radiation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, adding that "radiation levels have not increased".

The Ukrainian air force said that Russia had launched more than 100 drones across the country overnight—including attack drones—targeting northern regions of the country where the Chernobyl power plant lies.

"Last night, a Rus-

sian attack drone with a high-explosive warhead struck the cover protecting the world from radiation at the destroyed 4th power unit of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant," Zelenskyy said in a social media post.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also reported an "explosion" at the site, and said "radiation levels inside and outside remain normal and stable."

The agency, which has had a team deployed on the site since the early stages of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, published images appar-



ently showing the drone on fire after crashing into the covering.

In 1986, a reactor at Chernobyl exploded during a botched safety test, resulting in the

world's worst nuclear accident that sent clouds of radiation across much of Europe and forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate.

Soviet authorities ini-

tially tried to cover up and then play down the disaster.

Eventually a massive concrete and steel cover called a sarcophagus was built over the reactor, to contain the radiation.

"The only country in the world that attacks such sites, occupies nuclear power plants, and wages war without any regard for the consequences is today's Russia," Zelenskyy added in his statement.

There was no immediate response from Russia.

## 6 Killed, 25 injured in fire at hotel construction site in South Korea



SEOUL, Feb 14 (Agencies): Six people were killed and more than two dozen were injured when a blaze ripped through a hotel construction site in the South Korean port city of Busan on Friday, the National Fire Agency said.

The fire started just before 11:00 am (0200 GMT) at the construc-

tion site of the Banyan Tree Hotel, authorities said. Around 100 workers were present when the blaze erupted, a National Fire Agency official told agency.

Twenty-five people were injured, a public health department official said, adding that most were minor injuries caused by smoke inhalation.

"The fire had already reached its peak by the time we arrived and thick black smoke was covering the scene," Busan Gijang Fire Station chief Hong Mun-sik told reporters.

"There were many flammable materials blocking the entrance," Hong said.

The fire broke out on the first floor of the building where workers had stored insulation materials, Hong said, and the fatalities occurred where the fire started.

"The exact cause and location of the fire need to be thoroughly investigated," Hong said.

The fire was brought under control around 1:30 pm.

## Taiwan pledges to communicate and invest more in the US after Trump tariff threats

TAIPEI, Feb 14 (Agencies): Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said Friday he would communicate more with the U.S. over President Donald Trump's concerns over the chip industry and invest more in the U.S., hours after Trump ordered reciprocal tariffs on trade partners.

Trump said on Thursday that Taiwan had taken away the U.S. chip business and said that he wanted it back in the country. Taiwan's TSMC is the world's largest chipmaker and produces chips for companies including Apple, Intel and Nvidia.

In a news briefing after holding a meeting of the National Security Council at the presidential office, Lai said that he was aware of Trump's concerns. He described Taiwan's semiconductor industry as well as the global semiconductor industry is part of an "ecosystem" in which countries specialize in different areas.

"The global semiconductor industry is an ecosystem, and it's a division of work," Lai said.

"In response to President Trump's latest



actions, Taiwan needs to respond calmly, and communicate well with the industries," Lai said.

"We hope to create a win-win scenario, not just to ensure benefit to the U.S. but also to ensure that Taiwan's industries has room for growth."

His comments came hours after Trump ordered reciprocal tariffs on trade partners that tax U.S. imports, a move that could threaten a global trade war.

The U.S. does not recognize Taiwan as a country, but is its strongest backer and biggest arms provider. But bilateral relations between the two are less certain amid Trump's seemingly transactional approach to geopolitical relations.

Lai said his government would propose a "global semiconductor democratic supply chain partnership initia-

tive" and said he would be willing to work with partners such as the U.S. to build a more resilient and diversified semiconductor supply chain.

Lai said that Taiwan will maintain communication with the U.S. to help the new government better understand that Taiwan is an "indispensable partner in the United States' process of rebuilding its manufacturing industry and consolidating its high-tech leadership."

Over the past two years, more than 40% of Taiwan's overseas investments are U.S. bound, Lai said, exceeding that of investments in China.

Lai also said Friday that he would propose a "special budget" to increase defense spending to over 3% of Taiwan's gross domestic product.

## Fourteen Gaza children flown to Italy for treatment

ROME, Feb 14 (Agencies): Fourteen Palestinian children, many with cancer, have been flown to Italy for medical treatment, the latest among dozens brought from Gaza following the Hamas-Israel war, the foreign ministry said Friday.

The children and their families, a total of 45 people, had on Wednesday crossed the Rafah border from Gaza into Egypt, where they underwent medical checks at the Italian hospital in Cairo, officials said.

They were flown to Italy on an Italian military plane, and greeted at Rome's Ciampino airport on Thursday evening by Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

Treating the children was part of Italy's efforts to promote peace and dialogue in the region, he said Friday, a "diplomacy made of solidarity, which restores hope to the most fragile and defenceless".

Some of the children were due to be treated in the capital, the others heading north for treatment in hospitals including in Turin and Milan, a ministry spokesman said.

Two of the children disembarked in Rome were headed for the Vatican's Bambino Gesù hospital, which treated nine other Palestinian children last year.

All those nine, ranging from one to 15 years old, have been discharged, a hospital spokesman told agency. Italy is among several European countries to treat children injured or suffering from disease in Gaza since the war began on October 7, 2023.

"Every child we bring to Italy is a sign of hope, a commitment to life and the future," Defence Secretary Guido Crosetto said.

The first 11 Palestinian children arrived in Italy in January 2024, followed by dozens more in the months that followed, some flown in and some transported on the Italian naval ship Vulcanco.



## Tennessee man sentenced to life in prison for murdering his wife during their Fiji honeymoon

**A man from Memphis, Tennessee, has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering his wife during their honeymoon in Fiji in 2022**

MELBOURNE, Feb 14 (Agencies): A man from Memphis, Tennessee, was sentenced to life in prison for murdering his wife during their honeymoon in Fiji in 2022, a court official said on Friday.

Bradley Robert Dawson, 40, will have to serve at least 18 years in prison before he can be considered for release, a Fiji High Court registry official in Lautoka said.

Dawson was convicted in December of murdering his wife, Christie Chen, who was then 36, at the exclusive Turtle Island resort in the Yasawa archipelago two days after the newlyweds arrived in the South Pacific nation. He then fled by kayak to a nearby island.

He was sentenced by Justice Riyaz Hamza. Hamza told Dawson he had shown disregard for Chen's right to life and her personal liberty.

"Your conduct after

the incident was appalling. Having inflicted serious and life-threatening injuries to the deceased you fled the scene of the crime, leaving the deceased alone and helpless," Hamza said, according to The Fiji Times newspaper.

Chen's body was discovered in the couple's room by resort staff with multiple blunt trauma wounds to her head after the couple was heard arguing and did not appear at breakfast or lunch the next day.

Dawson pleaded not guilty to the charge and was tried over eight days. His lawyer Anil Prasad told the court that prosecutors had failed to provide sufficient evidence to convict Dawson, the Fiji Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Prasad said that while the prosecution alleged that Dawson was planning to flee Fiji, authorities failed to acknowledge that

many of the couple's personal belongings remained at the resort.

Prasad also said Dawson had no injuries to suggest he had been involved in a physical altercation with his wife.

But the judge said he was satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Dawson and no one else had committed the crime.

Dawson worked in the information technology department at Youth Villages, a non-profit child welfare and support organization based in Memphis. An online records search showed no criminal arrests for Dawson in Shelby County, which includes Memphis.

The Turtle Island resort, where the pair stayed, is an exclusive and remote 500-acre island that accommodates only 14 couples at a time. Yasawa is a group of about 20 volcanic islands in the west of Fiji, a nation of 930,000 people.





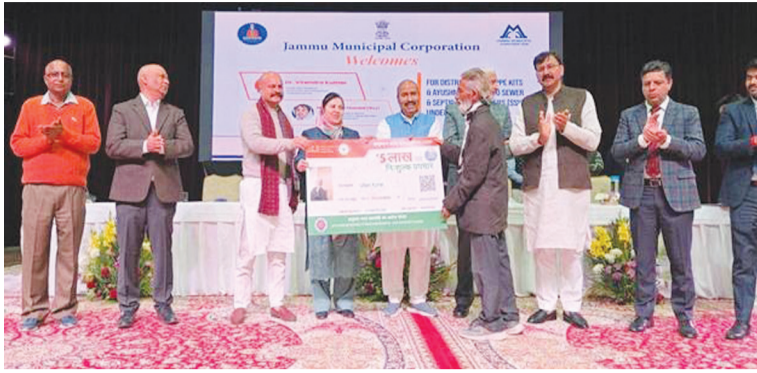
## Union Minister Dr. Virendra distributes PPE Kits, Ayushman Cards to Sewer, Septic Tank Workers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E), Dr. Virender Kumar, visited Jammu in connection with implementation of schemes of the Ministry, in the Union Territory. On the occasion, the Minister distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and Ayushman health cards to Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) (Safai Mitras), under the flagship scheme of National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

The Government has formulated the NAMASTE scheme with an objective to provide dignity to Safai Karamcharis and to empower them socially and economically. The scheme is to ensure safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India and enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to PPE Kits, safety devices and machines.

PPE kits consist of various protective garments and accessories designed to shield indi-



viduals from potential health hazards or infections. These kits typically include items such as masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns, and shoe covers. They are crucial for ensuring the safety of front-line workers, especially those who are exposed to hazardous environments or infectious diseases, such as sewer and septic tank workers.

The Ayushman health card is a form of identification issued under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), a government-sponsored health insurance scheme in India. It provides beneficiaries with access to cashless and paper-

less healthcare services at empaneled hospitals. The card contains essential information about the beneficiary, including their unique identification number and details of covered healthcare services.

During the visit, the Minister also visited the Outreach and Drop In Centre (ODIC), run by the NGO, 'JK Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses' at Jammu, under Scheme of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

The event witnessed the reaffirmation of the government's commitment to 'Vanchiton Ko Variyata', ensuring that those who have been historically underserved or overlooked are

given the attention and support they deserve. This dedication to prioritizing the marginalized reflects the government's broader vision of 'Viksit Bharat', where every individual has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from India's development journey. Through collaborative efforts and concerted initiatives, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment remains steadfast in its mission to leave no one behind and build a more equitable and empowered society.

The occasion was also attended by Sakina Masood (Itoo), Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare Department, Jammu & Kashmir; Sham Lal Sharma, MLA (Jammu North); Yudvir Sethi, MLA (Jammu East); Shri Arvind Gupta, MLA (Jammu West); Prabhat Kumar Singh, Managing Director, National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC), Devansh Yadav, Commissioner (Jammu Municipal Corporation).

## GGM Science College pays tribute to heroes of Pulwama



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: NCC Cadets of GGM Science College paid tribute to the fallen Heroes of Pulwama Attack. Under the supervision of Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma (ANO), Cadets paid tribute by organizing candle march, speech and various activities.

Also other dignitaries and College Staff were present. Dr. Vandana Khajuria (In charge Principal) remarked that we should never forget the supreme sacrifice of our heroes who laid their lives for our better

future.

Prof. G.M Bhat (Retd. Prof. University of Jammu) said that, we should pledge to support our armed forces, stand against terrorism and walk towards peace and secure future. Lt. Dr. Devinder Kumar Sharma (ANO) pledged that we should not forget our National Heroes and their supreme sacrifice. We also pledge that we would support the families of the heroes who laid lives protection valour and honour of Nation. Sergeant Aman-deep Singh remarked

that bravery of our soldiers reminds us that freedom comes at a cost, and it is our duty to honor and remember those who pay that price for us.

Cadets reflected the Patriotism, Nation building Character and Quality of valour. Cadets pledged that they would always keep integrity of Nation and would always help in the time of need for the country.

This 14th Feb., the Black Day of Indian history, would always be remembered and would inspire youth to contribute for Nation Building.

## Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan organizes Blood Donation Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan successfully organized their 2nd Blood Donation Camp today to pay tribute to the 44 CRPF jawans who lost their lives in the Pulwama attack in 2019.

The event saw 30 units of blood being donated, along with free screening for the volunteers.

Deepak Gupta, Head of the Organization, emphasized the importance of blood donation in overcoming the shortage of blood in hospitals.

He also highlighted the significance of the youth's willingness to donate blood as a tribute to the martyrs.

The event was attended by notable guests, including Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu, who felicitated the donors. Floral tributes were also paid to Shaheed Sid-



dharth Chib, who lost his life on duty last year.

Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan submitted a memorandum demanding a memorial in memory of Shaheed Siddharth Chib.

The organization also honored Retd. Prof. Harbans Singh Chib, head of the family of

Shaheed Siddharth, with a memento.

Dr. Niti, the program coordinator from GMC Bakshi Nagar Blood Bank, presented a certificate of appreciation to the volunteers of Navya Srijan Sewa Sansthan for organizing a well-managed blood donation camp.

## Program on "Discovery of Palaeoloxodon Fossil and antiquity of humans in Kashmir" held at GGM Science College

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: The PG Department of Geology, GGM Science College Jammu organised an awareness program on the recent discovery of Palaeoloxodon fossil and its implications for understanding the antiquity of human civilization in Kashmir.

The objectives of the program were to raise awareness among the students about the significance of the Palaeoloxodon fossil discovery in Kashmir and its implications for understanding early human settlements in the region.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 100 postgraduate and undergraduate students.

The event featured renowned geologist and researcher, Professor G M Bhat of Geology at the University of Jammu.



The programme commenced with a warm welcome address delivered by Dr. Mateen Hafiz, Head of the Department of Geology, who emphasized the significance of such discoveries in understanding prehistoric life in Kashmir. Special gratitude was extended to the host College Principal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta for his continuous support in facilitating such academic initiatives.

Prof. G M Bhat delivered an insightful lecture on the geological and paleontological

aspects of the Palaeoloxodon fossil discovery. He elaborated on the fossil's significance in reconstructing past environmental conditions and its implications for human history in the region.

Prof. Bhat discussed the discovery of the Palaeoloxodon fossil, which acts as a missing link between elephant species. He also highlighted that the stone tools found alongside the fossil provide insight into the possibility that this elephant species was butchered.

He emphasized that

these discoveries contribute to our understanding of human migration, adaptation, and interaction with prehistoric environments.

The interactive Q&A session that followed allowed attendees to engage directly with the experts, gaining deeper insights into the subject.

The members of the organising committee, viz. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Meenu Sharma, Dr. Shiv Pandey, Dr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Sumit Johar, Dr. Rouf Ahmed, Dr. Huny Sharma, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed enthusiastically

participated in the event.

Other faculty members of the college including Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Dr. Devinder Sharma, Dr. Nisha Slathia, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Neha Sharma, Reetika Rani, Dr. Jyotdeep Kour, Dr. Amit Bali also attended the event.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Arjun Singh Rathore, expressing gratitude to the distinguished speakers, the Principal, faculty members, organizing committee, and students for their active participation and making the event a resounding success.

This awareness programme has contributed significantly to academic discourse and has inspired students and researchers to explore further studies in palaeontology, geology, and human antiquity in Kashmir.

## Motor Parts Dealers Association highlights issues in Transport Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: A meeting was held on Friday under the chairmanship of Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of the Motor Parts Dealers Association (MPDA), Transport Nagar, Jammu, to discuss pressing concerns regarding illegal encroachments, sanitation, water supply, and drainage issues. The association has unanimously decided to raise these demands through print and electronic media, urging the civil administration, law enforcement agencies, and J&K UT authorities to take immediate action.

The association highlighted the growing problem of illegal encroachments at the entrance of Transport Nagar, particularly from the SDPO South Office to Yard No. 7 Main Road. Rental workshops, accessory shops, and scrap dealers have occupied

roads illegally, causing major obstructions in traffic movement. These violations have not only led to inconvenience for shopkeepers but also created congestion during peak business hours. MPDA has demanded weekly anti-encroachment drives by JDA, JMC, Traffic Police, and law enforcement agencies to clear the roads and impose heavy penalties on encroachers. They have also called for the confiscation of illegally parked vehicles and materials to discourage further violations.

Another major concern raised in the meeting was the lack of sanitation and increasing anti-social activities in the ISBT area. Shopkeepers pointed out that junked vehicles and unauthorized condom vending spots have turned the area into a nuisance, making cleanliness efforts difficult. The association suggested that JMC should provide a des-



igned shed for Safai Karamcharis, along with proper storage for tools and changing rooms for sanitation workers. Additionally, a dedicated garbage dumping site should be established for daily waste disposal, ensuring a cleaner and more organized ISBT.

The shortage of drinking water in Transport Nagar, especially in Yard No. 1, 4 & 6, was another key issue discussed during the meeting. Despite repeated complaints, the PHE department has not addressed the missing supply pipes, causing significant inconvenience to traders and workers. The MPDA urged the authorities to

take immediate action to restore proper water supply and ensure that all necessary repairs and upgrades are completed without further delay.

Drainage and waterlogging have also become a major challenge in Transport Nagar. While new deep drains and nallahs have been constructed as part of the area's upgradation, they require monthly desilting to prevent blockages and maintain sanitation. The MPDA observed that there is a lack of coordination between JMC's transport division, which has led to neglect in this area. The association strongly recommended

regular cleaning and maintenance to ensure the effective functioning of the drainage system.

During the meeting, several prominent members, including Sanjay Dogra, Sham Parshad Gupta, Mohinder Singh, Deepak Dattari, Jaswinder Singh, Naresh Gupta, Sudhir Bakshi, Raman Gupta, and Sham Singh Bhatt, along with a large gathering of shopkeepers, shared their concerns and experiences regarding these issues.

The MPDA Secretary urged the authorities to take immediate corrective measures to resolve the long-standing issues and ensure a hassle-free business environment for traders and commuters in Transport Nagar, Jammu. The association remains committed to working for the welfare of the business community and hopes that the administration will take necessary steps to address their concerns at the earliest.

## Gunsheen of DPS Jammu secures 1st position in J&K UT Senior Basketball C'ship-2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Gunsheen Kour (X-G), a

student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and her parents by secur-

ing 1st position in J&K UT Senior Basketball Championship 2024 organized by J&K Basketball Association held from 23-25 December, 2024 at M.A Stadium, Jammu.

She had participated in Senior Open Category. Gunsheen had also received a trophy and Certificate of Participation.

The esteemed management, DPS Jammu under the visionary leadership of President-RCT, Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Gunsheen, her parents and coach, Shaktish Kumar Chopra for the achievement. They also extended their best wishes to her for all her future competitions.



## Students of GDC Neeli Nallah receives Rajya Puraskar by LG

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 14: Students of GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur received Rajya Puraskar for J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Convention Centre, Jammu.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services and Sports; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Wg. Cdr MM Joshi, National Commissioner, Bharat Scouts & Guides; Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; Administrators, Guides & Captains were also present.



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 and lauded the exem-

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

He further said that "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. 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 dedi-

cated team of Scouts and Guides who lead the fight against drug abuse."

Prof. Dr. Seema Arora, the Principal of the college also attended the ceremony.

Ramneek Sharma, Sheetal Sharma and Vaishali Devi of Semester 6th received the Rajya Puraskar award.

The Principal congratulated the students and said that "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."

She also appreciated the efforts of Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, Convenor Bharat Scouts and Guides for her selfless services and dedication.

## Two days national seminar on "Roadmap for Revamping Higher Education through NEP-2020" organized



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Two days national seminar on "Roadmap for Revamping Higher Education through NEP-2020" organized by School of Teacher Education, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) in collaboration with Government College of Education (GCOE), Jammu on Friday. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, CLUJ, who was also the chief patron for the event and Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, CLUJ.

The Chief Guest of the occasion was Prof. N. Panchnadam, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Deemed to be University and Former Vice-Chancellor, Teacher Education University, Tamil Nadu.

Deans of Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. Naveen Anand, Dr. Satinder Kour,

Dr. Ranvijay Singh, Dr. Monika Sharma, Dr. Mohd. Zubair, Dr. Vishal Sharma and Dr. Jyoti Parihar were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

The occasion was further graced with the presence of principals of colleges of Jammu Division Prof. Anjali Mahajan, Prof. Manisha Kohli, Prof. Meeru Abrol, Prof. Anuradha Pandoh, Prof. Alka Sharma, Prof. Sangeeta Sudan, Prof. Seema Arora, Prof. Ashok Kumar, Prof. Rajni Bhagat, Prof. Archana Koul, Prof. Nirlape Kour, Prof. Ashu Varishit, Prof. Jai Paul Singh, Dr. Mohd. Azam, Dr. Jasbir Singh, Dr. Prit Paul Kour, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Meeru Abrol, Dr. Satinder Singh, Dr. Romesh Chander and Dr. P.K. Sharma.

While addressing the dignitaries and participants, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor discussed one of the most transformative educational reforms in the History of India: Nation

Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).

He added that NEP-2020 is a vision for a new India that focuses on holistic, flexible and multidisciplinary education.

The Chief Guest of the occasion, Prof. N. Panchnadam also explained briefly about the NEP-2020, and various reforms that are being undertaken to implement this policy successfully.

He also stressed on the significance of practical/experience-based learning and multidisciplinary for fostering innovation and long-term impact on the students. Lastly, a formal vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Vishal Sharma, Dean, SOSS.

The proceedings of the event were conducted efficiently by Dr. Shalini Rana, College of Education. Post inaugural, the participants presented their research papers in two parallel sessions (online and offline) covering NEP theme.

## Nation will forever remain indebted to Pulwama Martyrs: Kavinder

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Friday paid heartfelt tributes to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the cowardly terror attack in Pulwama on this day in 2019. Remembering their unparalleled valor, he said that the nation will forever remain indebted to their supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Speaking at the solemn event at Party Headquarters here

today, Kavinder Gupta emphasized that the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers will never be forgotten, and their courage continues to inspire generations. "The martyrdom of our jawans in Pulwama strengthens our resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms. Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has given a befitting response to those who dare to challenge our unity and peace," he stated.

Kavinder Gupta also highlighted the commitment of the BJP government towards national security, asserting that

decisive actions have been taken to dismantle terror networks and protect the lives of citizens. He reiterated that the entire nation stands in solidarity with the families of the martyrs, who displayed extraordinary resilience in the face of adversity.

Several BJP leaders and prominent personalities joined in paying tribute to the bravehearts, including Sanjay Baru, Vinay Gupta, Parduman Singh, Veenu Khanna, Anu Gupta, Sunil Prajapati, Lucky Puri, Ashok Naidu, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, and Kulbhushan Mahotra. The gathering

observed a moment of silence, offering prayers for the departed souls and reaffirming their commitment to upholding the values of patriotism and national integrity.

Kavinder Gupta urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to always

remember the sacrifices of security forces and support the government's mission to eliminate terrorism from the region. "Our soldiers are the backbone of our nation's security, and it is our duty to honor their bravery by working for a strong and united India,"

## NC leader Ajeet Bhagat demands investigation into CVPP violations

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 14: Senior National Conference leader and spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone, Ajeet Bhagat, has called for an investigation into the alleged viola-

tions in the Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP). He alleged large-scale irregularities, including the use of substandard materials in hydroelectric projects and instances of backdoor appointments. Bhagat highlighted the

rising unemployment in the districts of Kishtwar, Doda, and Ramban. He recalled that before 2014, numerous youth were employed in the Dul-Hasti and Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Projects. However, despite the execution of major

projects like Pakal-Dool, Kiru, Kawar, and Ratle by reputed companies, fewer job opportunities have been provided to local youth.

He accused the CVPP management of prioritizing profit over employment by

engaging minimal manpower and alleged that CVPP officials receive hefty commissions to overlook these misdeeds. Bhagat urged authorities to intervene and ensure fair employment practices in these power projects.

## Shiv Sena demands complete ban on liquor sale in J&K

Pays tribute to 40 CRPF jawans martyred in Pulwama attack



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 14: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit staged a demonstration demanding the implementation of complete prohibition of liquor sale in Jammu and Kashmir in the assembly session starting on March 3.

Led by party state chief Manish Sahni, demonstrators held placards with messages such as "Liquor sale should be banned on the Holy land of J&K" and "City of temples turned into a city of alcohol."

Sahni emphasized that the religious sanctity of J&K is being hurt by the increasing number of liquor shops, particularly near religious sites, schools, and colleges.

Sahni highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir, home to sacred places like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi's Darbar, Shri Amarnath Dham, and Hazratbal Dargah, should uphold its spiritual significance.

He further warned that liquor shops serve as a gateway to drug addiction, citing a 100-fold increase in individuals seeking de-addiction treatment over the past five years.

Sahni called upon Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to introduce and pass a bill on liquor prohibition in the upcoming assembly session, urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to give his consent.

Sahni also welcomed the claims of some NC,

PDP, and other party MLAs regarding a liquor ban proposal but questioned their intent, stating that private bills have historically been ineffective and lack party-level endorsement.

Sahni also urged BJP MLAs and leaders to clearly state their position on the liquor ban, questioning their commitment to religious and cultural values.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena UBT Jammu and Kashmir unit paid an emotional tribute to the 40 CRPF jawans martyred in the Pulwama attack on February 14, 2019.

Sahni remarked that the painful memory remains fresh in the hearts of all Indians and serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation's brave soldiers.

Prominent leaders present included General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Meenakshi Chhibber, Raj Singh, Ashu, Ashok Kumar, Saloni Sharma, Kajal, Yashpal, and Vishal.

## Shradhanjali Sabha held to pay tributes to Leel Kumar Bassa

### Top News Report


JAMMU, Feb 14: R.L.Kaith, Ex Subedar Karam Chand Bassa, Ex Subedar Baldev Chand Sandhu, Ex Subedar Karam Chand Bassa, Ex Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa, Ex Havildar Des Raj Kaith, Rashpal Bassa, Des Raj Mandi, Sat Pal Sargotra, Ram Dass Nandan, Jeet Raj Motan, Naresh

Kumar Kaith, Jagdish Raj Kaith and many others paid tributes to Leel Kumar Bassa in a Shradhanjali Sabha held at Channi Nanak here on Friday.

R.L.Kaith said, Leel Kumar Bassa was a man who consistently demonstrated kindness and consideration towards others, treated everyone with politeness regardless of their

social standing, always upheld his word and ethical principles, and gracefully navigated situations with a calm and composed demeanor, prioritised the well-being of those around him above his own personal gain.

Leel Kumar Bassa's absence has left a significant void, and we will all miss him dearly, his elder brother Tilak Raj Bassa said.



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