

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Priyanshi dives into the intricate art of designing fusion sarees



NATIONAL | 7

India needs clear vision to produce new technology, not empty words: Rahul Gandhi



INTERNATIONAL | 8

German chancellor hits back at US at security conference as Trump administration upends norms

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BRIEFLY

J&K govt extends tenure of panel for OBC reservation in Panchayats/ULBs till Feb 28

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has extended the term of the Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission, which was constituted last year to work out reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies, up to February 28.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the J&K government has extended the term of the panel up to February 28. The Commission's term had expired on December 31, 2024. This is the first time the elected government has granted an extension to the panel headed by Justice (retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal, and comprising Raj Kumar Baghat (retired IAS officer) and Prof. (Dr.) Mohinder Singh Badwal (former Dean, SKUAST, Jammu).

"The commission is likely to submit its report by the end of this month," sources said. The submission of the report by the panel would set the ball rolling for conducting Panchayat and Municipal elections.

Arms and ammunition recovered during search operation in Kupwara



SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): Indian army on Saturday recovered arms and ammunition during search operation in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

"Acting on specific intelligence inputs, a joint search operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Bandi Mohalla, Chanpura Pain, Kupwara", said an army spokesman, in a post on X.

"During the search, security forces recovered two pistols, four pistol magazines, and ammunition. The operation is still ongoing", he added.

Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar Presides Over 10th Convocation Ceremony of SMVD University



KATRA, Feb 15 (Agencies): Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday attended the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) convocation here, emphasizing that national interest is bigger than any political or individual interest.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Educational Minister Sakeena Firdous also attended the 10th convocation at Matrika Auditorium of the SMVDU campus.

"We are Indians and

being Indian is our identity. Nationalism is our religion and it is our duty to keep nationalism at the highest level whatever the situation," the vice president said, addressing the convocation.

"No political or individual interest can be bigger than the national interest," he said, highlighting India's progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past 10 years.

He also termed the abrogation of Article

370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir by the BJP-led central government in August 2019 as "historic" and said the constitutional provision was temporary in nature. Jammu travel guide

In the academic year 2023-24, a total of 684 students of the SMVDU have qualified for the Bachelor's Degree in different disciplines; 147 students for Master's Degree; 34 students for Integrated Master's degree and 44 students for the award of Ph D

Degree.

A total of 26 medals, nine certificates of distinction and 10 Infosys foundation prize for excellence were presented to the selected students by the dignitaries, a university official said.

He said a total of 501 male and 408 female students were awarded the degrees.

Earlier, the Lt Governor who is also chancellor of the university, received the Vice President at Jammu airport.

Jammu Kashmir resident among 119 Indians to be deported from US

SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): A resident from Jammu and Kashmir is among the 119 Indians being deported from the United States as part of the latest mass deportation effort, reports said on Saturday.

This is the second such flight in less than two weeks, following the February 5 repatriation of 104 Indians from the US.

The second flight includes 67 deportees from Punjab, 33 from Haryana, 8 from Gujarat, 3 from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, and one each from Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

■ Turn to page 9

Kiren Rijiju reiterates Centre's resolve to restore Statehood to J&K in due course



SRINAGAR, Feb 15 (Agencies): Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have made it clear that statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be restored in due course of time.

However, Rijiju, who holds the parliamentary affairs and minority affairs portfolios, declined to give a timeline for the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory.

"The prime minister and the home minister made clear indications

in the past that in due course of time, statehood will be restored (to Jammu and Kashmir) and the powers and functions will be demarcated very clearly," Rijiju told reporters here.

The Lok Sabha MP from Arunachal West said he would not like to comment on the timeline for restoration of statehood or division of powers between the lieutenant governor and the elected chief minister at this time as his visit to Kashmir was confined to the Union Budget.

"Therefore, I would not

■ Turn to page 9

"Glad to welcome Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at SMVD University" : CM Omar Abdullah



JAMMU, Feb 15 (Agencies) : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on

Saturday welcomed the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at SMVD University.

In a post on X, CM-Jnk wrote, "Glad to welcome Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar at SMVD University, Katra where I am attending the 10th Convocation of the University."

"Looking forward to interacting with young minds and witnessing their passion for innovation and learning. The future of J&K shines bright with their talent"

■ Turn to page 9

CBI searches 11 locations in Delhi, Haryana in Crypto Fraud Case



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The CBI has conducted searches at 11 locations in Delhi and Haryana on alleged cyber criminals who were cheating people by impersonating as government officers resulting in seizure of Rs 1.08 crore cash, officials said Saturday.

The searches were conducted at nine locations in Delhi and two in Haryana's Hisar on Friday in connection with a two-year-old case, they said.

It was alleged that the accused were engaged in illegal activities by impersonating govern-

ment officials and committing crypto fraud, a CBI spokesperson said.

"They were also found cheating people in India and abroad, by offering fake technical support consultations and dishonestly inducing them to transfer money in the form of cryptocurrency. This money was then routed through multiple crypto wallets and converted into cash," the spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

The agency has already filed a charge sheet in the case against three accused. "During the searches, the CBI unearthed significant incriminating digital evidence and seized six laptops, eight mobile phones, and one iPad. The investigation also revealed the use of computer programs for making VoIP-based calls and accessing the

■ Turn to page 9

Three J&K Govt employees terminated over terror links

JAMMU, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir administration, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has ordered the termination of three government employees for their alleged involvement in terror-related activities. The employees—police constable Firdous Ahmad Bhat, teacher Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, and forest department orderly Nisar Ahmad Khan—are currently lodged in jail in separate cases.

Official sources said that the decision was taken under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution, which allows the government to dismiss employees without an inquiry in the interest of national

■ 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 Andra, Bada Mahal.

Grief Stricken:

- Smt. Sheela Devi (Wife)
- Mrs. & Mr. Anrudh Singh Slathia
- Mrs. & Mr. Basudev Singh Slathia
- Mrs. & Mr. Ram Sharm
- Late Sh. Balbir Singh Jammal (Son-in-Law)
- Smt. Anjali Jammal (Daughter)
- Bhabhis & Brothers**
- Mrs. & Mr. Nambur Singh
- Mrs. & Mr. Surinder Singh



SHRI BHUVNESHWAR SINGH SLATHIA

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, Trisai's, Kokiloo's Parivar



Vikas Kotru (Vicky)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Amit Koul (Shanu)** S/o Late Sh. Bedri Nath Koul originally resident of Ranbirpore (Kheriba) Anantnag and presently at H/No 1A Sharda Colony, Patli Bahmane, Jammu on 12-02-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 21-02-2025 (Friday) at Akhnoor Ghat. Assembly will be held at Patli Bahmane Ghat at 11:00 am.

- DEEPLY MOURNED BY**
Smt. Santosh Koul (Mother)
Smt. Aruna Tufchi Koul (Wife)
Sh. Romi Koul and Smt. Renu Koul (Bhai & Bhabhi)
Sh. Anku Koul (Bhai)
Smt. Dulari Koul (Chachi)
Sh. Krishan Ji Koul (Chacha)
Smt. Sheela Raina (Bua)
Smt. Phoolo Raina (Bua)
Sh. Mohan Lal Tikoo & Smt. Suman Ji Tikoo (Phoota & Bua)
Sh. Shubam Ji Kandoo and Smt. Pirkey Ji (Mousa & Massi)
Sh. Sheela Marwaha & Smt. Sweeny Ji (Mousa & Massi)
Sh. Ajay Raina & Smt. Anu Raina (Cousin)
Children: Mehu & Shriya
Samast Parivar Jan
9596758156, 7006949835, 9419148430, 8825051278



Sh. Amit Koul (Shanu)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Babli Sumbly**, wife of Sh. Satish Sumbly, originally a resident of Drabiyar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, and presently residing at D-201, Anusandhan Apartments, Plot No. 22, Sector 6, Dwarka, New Delhi.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 17th February 2025 (Monday) at 8:00 AM at Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar, Block T, Sector 109, Gurgaon, Haryana.

- Grief Stricken**
Sumbly's, Raina's, Koul's, Bhat's & Kaul's
For any further information please contact
Satish Sumbly +91 9818680373 Geeta Raina +91 9717712211 Adarsh Kaul +91 92665 96322



Babli Sumbly

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Baisahib (Shri Vijay Vashnavi)** S/o Lt Sh Amarnath Vashnavi & Lt Smt Jai Kishori Vashnavi of erstwhile Sheshyar Srinagar now at B30, Shanti Nagar, Gujjar Ki Thadi, Jaipur on 12.02.2025.

TENTH DAY will be held on Friday 21.02.2025 at Jaipur.

- GRIEF STRICKEN:**
Anita Vashnavi (Wife)
Rajni & Vinod Zutshi (Sister & Brother in Law)
Dalzy & Virender Thusoo (Sister & Brother in Law)
Tushar & Sneha (Son & Daughter in Law)
Lokesh & Priyanka (Son & Daughter in Law)
Aarav & Sheen (Grand Children)
CONTACT: 9314661212, 8072550658, 9871274509, 7891620787, 9650061203



Baisahib (Shri Vijay Vashnavi)

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. 23 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 (Wanpoo)
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

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH HEAVY HEART, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. SHEELA THUSOO (THATI)** W/O SH. KASHI NATH THUSOO OF GOTTINSOO KUPWARA (MARTHOM HANDWARA) WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 09-02-2025.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 18-02-2025 AT AKHNOOR GHAT. ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT BACK SIDE COMMUNITY HALL, LANE NO.4 AT 11:00 AM.

- GRIEF STRICKEN:**
SH. KASHI NATH THUSOO (HUSBAND)
SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SH. RAJ KUMAR THUSOO & SMT. POORNIMA THUSOO
DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
SMT. SONU & SH. DILEEP INDLE
SH. VIJAY KUMAR THUSOO LATE, JULIEE THUSOO
BROTHER IN LAW & SISTER-IN-LAW
SH. POSHIER NATH THUSOO
SMT. GHO TI THUSOO
SH. BUSHAN LAL THUSOO & SMT. GRIJA THUSOO
SH. ASHOK KUMAR THUSOO & SMT. DESHA THUSOO
BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
SH. MAHARAJ KRISHAN TIKOO & SMT. GUDI TIKOO
SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT. BASANTI RAJINA
SMT. RANU & SH. AWABHAR LAL BHAN
GRAND CHILDREN: YUSUF, VISHU, TANVIYA, VANSH, TANISH
MOB NO.: 8796263541, 6905802181, 9149461803, 880315588



SMT. SHEELA THUSOO (THATI)

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 Aashram 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
Phoolo 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/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Uma Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Prakash Sharma (Ex MLA Samba) R/o Ward No.8 Samba, who expired on 05-02-2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 14-02-2025 (Friday) at our residence at 10 AM.

KRIYA will be held on 15-02-2025 (Saturday).
UTHALA will be held on 17-02-2025 (Monday) at 3PM at our residence.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
(Daughter and Son in Law)
Mrs. Jyoti Sharma & Mr. Virender Sharma (Daughter in Law and Son)
Mrs. Vandana Sharma & Mr. Rajesh Sharma (Chairman Bhargava Group of Institutes, Samba)
Mrs. Dheeraj Bharti & Mr. Sanjeev Sharma (Daughter in Law and Son)
(MD Bhargava Group of Institutes & President District Congress Committee Samba)
Mrs. Meena & Rajeev Sharma (Daughter in law & Nephew)
Mrs. (Dr.) Mitali & Mohit Sharma (Granddaughter in Law and Grandson)
Dr. Akshita Sharma & Mr. Abhishek (Granddaughter and Grandson in Law)
Dr. Deepanshu, Vasundra & Dhara njay (Grand Children)
Mob: 7006640035, 9419183499



SMT. UMA SHARMA

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Shri Bharat Bhushan Sharma (Kalu)** S/o Late Sh. Vidya Nand Sharma R/o 134-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 07-02-2025 (Friday).

10TH DAY will be performed on 15-02-2025 (Saturday) at Shiv Mandir Near Govt Quarters Gandhi Nagar at 11:30 am to 12:00 Noon.

10TH (UTHALA) will also be performed on 17-02-2025 (Monday) Same at Shiv Mandir Near Govt Quarters at 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Smt. Swarn Lata -Wife
Miss Nidhi Sharma - Daughter
Mr. Kanhya Sharma - Son
Sisters & Brothers in Law
Smt. Chandar Mohini W/o Lt. Sh. Dharam Paul Sharma
Smt. Nirmai Sharma W/o Sh. Kuldeep Sharma
Brothers and Sister in Laws
Smt. Pushpata W/o Sh. Kewal Sharma
Smt. Chandrakala W/o Lt. Sh. Pushap Kamal (Babou)
Samast Baskota Parivar
MOBILE NO: 6905244440, 9419210017



SHRI BHARAT BHUSHAN SHARMA (KALU)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Our revered father **Sh Avtar Krishen Ganju** S/o Lt. Shri Isha Lal Ganju originally resident of Motiyar, Rainawari Srinagar presently 180 Sector 5 Channi Himmat, Jammu passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 09/02/2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Akhnoor on 17th of Feb 2025 at 8:00 A.M. and Assembly at Muthi Ghat at 11:00 A.M.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Susheela Pandita Ganju (Wife)
(Sons and Daughters-in-Law)
Tito Ganju and Monika Kohli
Sumit and Deepshikha Ganju
Isha, Syesha and Aauram (Grand children)
Telephone: 990628727



Sh Avtar Krishen Ganju

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

The Tenth Day Kriya of our beloved Father **Late Sh Hari Krishan Razdan** originally from Village Palhallan/Pattan Distt. Baramulla (Kashmir) at Present H.No 52: Vippan Garden, Sainik Enclave, Dwarka Mode, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi will be performed at Muradnagar, Chhota Haridwar and Assembly at home address as mentioned above around 12:30hrs on 19-02-2025 (Wednesday)

- GRIEF STRICKEN:-**
Smt. Kishnee Razdan (Wife)
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sanjay Razdan & Binla Razdan
Manoj Razdan & Pushpa Razdan
Nanajee Razdan & Soni Razdan
Surinder Razdan & Vineeta Razdan
Grand Children: Rahul and Muskan, Ajay, Sheen, Aryan
And All Razdan family
CONTACT NO.: 9810979376, 9899396344, 9818969508, 9312319164



LATE SH HARI KRISHAN RAZDAN

10TH DAY/ UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Uma Sharma** W/o Late Sh. Prakash Sharma (Ex MLA Samba) R/o Ward No.8 Samba, who expired on 05-02-2025.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 14-02-2025 (Friday) at our residence at 10 AM.

KRIYA will be held on 15-02-2025 (Saturday).
UTHALA will be held on 17-02-2025 (Monday) at 3PM at our residence.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
(Daughter and Son in Law)
Mrs. Jyoti Sharma & Mr. Virender Sharma (Daughter in Law and Son)
Mrs. Vandana Sharma & Mr. Rajesh Sharma (Chairman Bhargava Group of Institutes, Samba)
Mrs. Dheeraj Bharti & Mr. Sanjeev Sharma (Daughter in Law and Son)
(MD Bhargava Group of Institutes & President District Congress Committee Samba)
Mrs. Meena & Rajeev Sharma (Daughter in law & Nephew)
Mrs. (Dr.) Mitali & Mohit Sharma (Granddaughter in Law and Grandson)
Dr. Akshita Sharma & Mr. Abhishek (Granddaughter and Grandson in Law)
Dr. Deepanshu, Vasundra & Dhara njay (Grand Children)
Mob: 7006640035, 9419183499



SMT. UMA SHARMA

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Asha Bhat** W/o Late Sh. Moti Lal Bhat R/o Murrn Pulwama A/P Lane-4-A, Sub Lane-3, Laxmi Vihar Tomal Bohri on 11th Feb, 2025 (Tuesday).

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 20th Feb, 2025 (Thursday) at Akhnoor Ghat. The Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 10.30 AM.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Anil Bhat & Vishali Bhat - 7780941819
Sunil Bhat & Shreya Bhat - 6005863721
Raj Bhat & Monika Bhat - 7889514534
Avik, Samarth, Shawn & Kiansh - Grand Children
Samasth Bhat Parivar



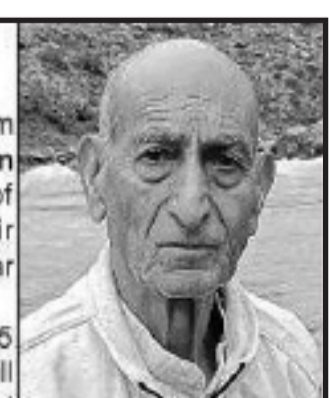
SMT. ASHA BHAT

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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow to inform the sad demise of **Lt Shri Dawarka Nath Pandita**, S/o Late Dina Nath Pandita R/o Nadi Marg District Shopian, presently at Gurha Karan Lane No. 11 House No. 2, Barnal 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

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 Gauri Shankar Mandir at Palm Vihar, New Delhi, Originally from Dadi Kadal, Tankipora, Srinagar Pouni Chak, Jammu at present House No. 290, DDA Flats, Sector 23 Pocket 1, Mahadev Apartments, Dwarka, New Delhi.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Gassi's, 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 (Shurty) erstwhile R/o 149 Kanikadal Habbakadal Srinagar presently at Lane 25 Block 158 Flat 18 on Jagt Township Nagrota who left for heavenly abode on Feb 08 2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on Feb 17th at Akhnoor Ghat and the Assembly will be held at lane number 22 back side near old JK Bank at 11:30 AM.

- GRIEF STRICKEN**
Mr. Rahul Raina (Husband) 6006053746
Father and Mother in law
Sh. Tony Raina & Smt. Neelam Raina (9906174981)
Razdan Family (9906350083)
Mahaldar Family (990669904)
Bhat Family (7780942022)



Mrs. Taniya Raina (TANU)

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JMC Commissioner inspects Surya Putri Tawi Arti Ghat

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr Devansh Yadav on Saturday conducted a comprehensive tour of the Surya Putri Tawi Arti Ghat to assess the area and plan for its development so that it could be developed as religious and tourist attraction.

During the visit, the Commissioner directed the concerned to formulate a detailed plan of development activities to be carried out by JMC on priority.

Among others, President of Tawi Bachao Andolan, Chander Mohan Sharma, Joint Commissioner (Revenue & Enforcement) Rakesh Gupta, and Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma accompanied



the Commissioner during the tour.

The inspection focused on improving the ghat's infrastructure, cleanliness, and overall beautification to enhance its cultural and environmental significance.

Highlighting the importance of the Tawi River and its conservation, Dr. Yadav emphasized that all necessary steps would be taken to develop the Arti Ghat as a prominent religious

and tourist attraction. He further instructed the officials to ensure the timely execution of development works while maintaining environmental sustainability. JMC remains committed to the beautification and preservation of public spaces in Jammu he said and added that this initiative aligns with its broader efforts to enhance urban infrastructure and promote eco-friendly development.

Akashvani Jammu celebrates Radio Kisan Divas at KVK Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 15: Akashvani Jammu, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Samba, celebrated Radio Kisan Divas at KVK Samba, witnessing enthusiastic participation from a large number of farmers, including women farmers from various remote villages of Samba district, J&K UT. The event served as a significant platform for knowledge-sharing, expert guidance, and discussions on modern agricultural practices and government welfare schemes.

Bachan Lal, Assistant Director (Programmes), Akashvani Jammu, welcomed all the farmers who traveled from remote areas to participate in the event. He emphasized the role of Akashvani Jammu in connecting farmers with experts and promoting awareness about innovative farming techniques and government initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Dr. Sanjay Khajuria from SKUAST Jammu expressed gratitude to Akashvani Jammu for facilitating the farmers' and experts' meet. He guided the farmers on Agroforestry for livelihood security of Kandi farmers and highlighted the crucial role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in agricultural development. Mukesh Sharma, Chief Horticulture Officer, Samba, urged the farmers to take full advantage of various government schemes designed for their welfare. He elaborated on different horticulture schemes and financial assistance programs that can help farmers enhance productivity and profitability.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Samba, Gopal Singh, in his address, delivered a lecture on "Agricultural Development through Various Government Schemes." He reassured the farming community that the Agriculture Department is committed to their upliftment and is continuously working to

introduce new policies and initiatives for their benefit.

The event also featured motivational talks by progressive farmers. Nisha Devi and Pritam Chand, renowned progressive farmers, shared their experiences and practical farming techniques, guiding fellow farmers on how to improve yield and productivity. An interactive session followed, where farmers engaged with experts, seeking answers to their queries related to crop cultivation, fruit farming, and government schemes.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Semi Firoz incharge music, appreciated the role of farmers for their participation in Radio Kisan Divas. He also thanked the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba for collaboration in organizing such an impactful event. Many farmers expressed their gratitude for this initiative, acknowledging its importance in enhancing their knowledge and agricultural practices.

This celebration of Radio Kisan Divas successfully served as a bridge between farmers and experts, reinforcing Akashvani Jammu's commitment to agricultural awareness, farmer empowerment, and rural development in the region.

Judicial Academy organises training prog on "Hardware & Software maintenance"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15 : Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan, guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy on Saturday organised one day training programme on "Hardware & Software maintenance, Data Replication, Data monitoring, VC equipment, LAN connections" (ECT_10_2024 and ECT_11_2024) for the technical staff, NIC coordinators, District System Administrator and System Officers of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

In the first technical session, Jagdish

Chhailkar, Scientist F, e-Courts Division NIC Pune, joined the session virtually. He explained the introduction to concept of CIS 4.0 and improvements in comparison to CIS 3.2. He discussed that CIS 4.0 is a giant move under the initiative of e-committee to make the Indian Judiciary more transparent and litigant friendly.

He also discussed the data center VMs, transfer of physical data centers into digital data centers (i.e., virtual) using a cloud software platform, enabling companies to remotely access information and applications.

The Resource Person explained the replication methodology which helps in creating and maintaining multiple copies of the same data to help ensure data availability, reliability and resilience. He also gave a hand on demonstration of various concepts.

The second technical session of the day was conducted by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer(IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh along with his team. They explained the process of Logical Replication, NJDG Intra, Establishment Tagging, json creation and json import/installation, Data Monitoring, etc. The Resource Person addressed the elaboration on networking concepts and VC equipment, Ubuntu OS maintenance in relation to e-Court Project. He elaborated on working of other portals viz. e-Summons, NSTEP, ICJS in tandem with CIS 4.0.

Director J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta, conducted the proceedings for the daylong training programme and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties besides discussing various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

MIET organizes blood donation camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: The NSS unit at Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET) in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society (JKTWS) organized the blood donation camp for Thalassemia children.

This camp was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Taseer and his dedicated team of medical professionals Erica Khajuria, Arti, Jaswinder Kour, Sunita, Surinder, Rafiq and Pawan from the SMGS Hospital Blood Centre. The medical team

worked diligently, overseeing the entire blood collection process and ensuring the well-being of the donors. Over 70 students and faculty members participated in the noble cause by donating blood.

Emphasizing the importance of holistic development, Prof. Ankur Gupta, Director MIET, encouraged students to proactively engage in endeavors that not only foster personal growth but also significantly contribute to the betterment of society, uplifting the lives of thousands. Prof. Gupta highlighted

the institution's commitment to extending complete support in efforts aimed at saving the lives of Thalassemia-afflicted children.

The camp was successfully conducted under the leadership of Er. Sudhir Sethi, President, J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, and his team. Their efforts and dedication played a pivotal role in making this noble initiative a success.

Sethi commended the donors, expressing appreciation for their enthusiastic involvement and unwavering commitment to the cause.

The Camp was well coordinated by Dr. Parveen Kumar, Assistant Professor, and Arushi Gupta, Assistant Professor along with the other members of the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of MIET.

15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Input Dealers concluded at KVK Kathua

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 15: Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Kathua on 15.02.2025 concluded 15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for Input dealers.

This programme was started on 28.01.2025 under the dynamic leadership Vice-Chancellor Dr. B.N. Tripathi, SKUAST-Jammu and guidance of Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, Directorate of Extension, SKUAST- Jammu. The main objective of this programme was to acquaint fertilizer dealers about integrated nutrient management and enable them to renew their license for fertilizer dealership. This course was attended 22 participants.

Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, Directorate of Extension, SKUAST- Jammu graced the valedictory function of this programme as Chief Guest. The programme was conducted under the guidance and directions of Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK- Kathua. At the outset, he



briefed about the KVK mandates and activities to participants. He elaborates the importance of this 15 days training programme for input dealers in near future. He explained the basic motto of this programme and introduced the participants.

This 15 days training programme was coordinated by Dr. Vishal Sharma, Scientist-Agronomy, KVK-Kathua. He gave a preface of training programme conducted for 15 days.

He told the house that different experts from SKUAST- Jammu, Department of Agriculture, Kathua, and resource persons from fertilizer companies gave their expertise to participants of this train

ing programme. Participants were also got an opportunity to visit soil lab and other units of Agriculture Department of Kathua and moreover one of the IFS farm of progressive farmers' of Kathua.

Dr Amrish Vaid, worthy Director Extension hoped that this course on INM fulfill the needs of participants and will have fruitful outcomes which will go a long way in enhancing the knowledge of participants on integrated nutrient management.

He emphasized on adoption of new technologies to increase the agriculture production and doubling of farmer income.

Dr Berjesh Ajrawat, Chief Scientist (Agril.

Extn.) acquainted the participants with his wisdom of knowledge about FPOs, self help groups, HADP project schemes and many more topics.

Dr. Anamika Jamwal, Chief Scientist (Plant Protection) also provided her expertise during this training programme.

She gave lectures on different aspects in plant protection and provide a lot of practical knowledge of IPM, trichoderma and the latest insecticides and fungicides used in modern agriculture to participants.

Dr. Ajay Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Neeraj Singh Sushant Sharma, Amit Kumar, Raj Kumar, Rishav Sharma and other staff of KVK-Kathua contributed in success of this programme.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir UT
Office of Area Marketing Officer
Department Horticulture Planning & Marketing
Fruit & Vegetable Mandi Complex, Phalayana, Rajouri

No. - DDHJ/e-tender/2024-25/29-32
Date - 11.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

SUBJECT:- OUTSOURCING OF SANITATION & CLEANLINESS FOR 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K Union Territory and Department of Horticulture (P&M), J&K Govt., Area Marketing Officer, Horticulture (P&M) Rajouri, invites tenders through e- tendering portal for **SANITATION & CLEANLINESS CONTRACT** at Fruit & Vegetable Market, Phalayana, Rajouri for the year **2025-26** (starting from 00:00 hrs of 01.04.2025 and shall terminate at 24:00 hrs of the intervening night of 31.03.2026) from the interested Approved/Registered Contractors/Firms/Organization/NGOs of good repute dealing in this work / Job .The Earnest Money shall be **Rs. 880/-** (Rupees Eight Hundred only).

Sl. No	Name of work	Maximum Reserve Bid per annum	Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/F DR	Cost of Tender document	Period of contract
1.	Sanitation & Cleanliness Contract at Fruit & Vegetable Market, Phalayana, Rajouri	Rs. 44 thousand per month excluding Gst + All others taxes as applicable in UT of J&K shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder.	Rs. 880.00	Rs.500/- (Non-Refundable)	12 months (w.e.f 01-04-2025 to 31-04-2026)

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12.02.2025 10:00 hrs to 04.03.2025 up-to 18:00hrs.
- The bid shall be deposited in the Electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 12.02.2025 hrs to 04.03.2025 up-to 18:00hrs.
- Technical bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of Deputy Director / Head MAC Narwal Jammu on 05.03.2025 at 12:00 hrs. If the office happens to be closed on date of opening as specified the same shall be opened on the next working day at same time and venue.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders, conditions and other details.
- The intending bidders are strongly advised to go through the details regarding terms and conditions of e- NIT before bidding.
- Bids must be accompanied by CDR/FDR and cost of tender document as specified in column No. 4 and 5 astabulated, pledged in favour of **Secretary APMC (Market Administrative Committee) Dept. of Horticulture (P&M) Rajouri**, payable at J&K Bank Ltd. Phalayana, Rajouri.
- CDR/FDR shall have to be valid for one year or more than one year after last date of receipt of bid. The cost of uploaded tender documents shall be in form of DD payable in favour of **Secretary APMC (Market Administrative Committee) Dept. of Horticulture (P&M) Rajouri**, payable at J&K Bank Ltd. Phalayana, Rajouri.
- Cost of tender document in the shape of DD should also be uploaded online.
- A copy of CDR/FDR pledged to the **Secretary APMC (Market Administrative Committee) Dept. of Horticulture (P&M) Rajouri**, should be uploaded by the bidder however Original CDR/FDR, DD, PAN No, GST No. shall be obtained from the tenderer before the allotment of the work.
- Bidder should get ready with the scanned copies of the cost of the documents and EMD as specified in the tender documents. The hard copies of the bids shall be submitted by the successful bidder who is declared as **L-1** after opening of the financial bid.
- The details of cost of documents EMD specified in the tender documents should be the same as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise will not be accepted.
- The guidelines for submission of the bids online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Member Secretary-MAC
Area Marketing Officer
Horticulture P&M
Rajouri

DIP/J-10143/24

EDITORIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, affecting every corner of the globe. Defined as long-term shifts in temperature, weather patterns, and environmental conditions, climate change is primarily driven by human activities, particularly the excessive burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions. These activities release greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), which trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming.

From extreme weather events to rising sea levels, the consequences of climate change are becoming more evident, threatening ecosystems, human health, food security, and economies. Understanding the causes, impacts, and solutions to climate change is crucial for ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

The combustion of coal, oil, and natural gas for energy and transportation releases vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Since the Industrial Revolution, CO₂ levels have increased significantly, intensifying the greenhouse effect.

Trees play a crucial role in absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, large-scale deforestation, primarily for agriculture, urbanization, and logging, reduces this natural carbon sink. Without forests, more CO₂ remains in the atmosphere, contributing to rising temperatures.

Agricultural practices, especially livestock farming, release large quantities of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Cattle digestion, rice paddies, and the excessive use of synthetic fertilizers contribute to GHG emissions, exacerbating climate change.

Factories, chemical production, and waste decomposition in landfills emit greenhouse gases, further intensifying global warming. Poor waste disposal and excessive plastic production also contribute to environmental degradation.

The rapid expansion of cities, increased vehicle usage, and reliance on fossil fuels for transportation significantly contribute to carbon emissions. The lack of efficient public transport systems in many areas leads to higher pollution levels.

Climate change has far-reaching consequences that threaten both natural ecosystems and human societies.

The Earth's average temperature has increased by over 1.1°C since pre-industrial times, leading to more frequent heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires. Heatwaves pose serious health risks, especially for vulnerable populations.

Climate change intensifies hurricanes, typhoons, floods, and cyclones, causing widespread destruction. Unpredictable weather patterns also disrupt agriculture and food production, leading to shortages and economic instability.

Polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at alarming rates, leading to rising sea levels. Coastal cities and small island nations face the threat of submersion, displacing millions of people and causing environmental disasters.

Rising temperatures and habitat destruction endanger numerous species, pushing many towards extinction. Coral reefs, which support marine life, are bleaching due to warming ocean waters, affecting marine biodiversity.

Droughts, erratic rainfall, and desertification reduce agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and increased hunger. Water sources are drying up, putting immense stress on communities that rely on freshwater lakes and rivers.

Climate change increases the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue as warmer temperatures create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. Additionally, air pollution exacerbates respiratory illnesses.

Many industries, particularly agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, suffer due to climate-related disasters. Climate-induced migration forces millions to relocate, leading to social conflicts and economic crises.

Addressing climate change requires collective action at global, national, and individual levels.

Shifting from fossil fuels to renewable sources like solar, wind, and hydropower can significantly reduce carbon emissions. Governments should invest in clean energy infrastructure and encourage green technologies.

Planting trees and restoring forests help absorb CO₂ and combat deforestation. Community-led afforestation projects can enhance biodiversity and improve environmental health.

Implementing eco-friendly farming practices, reducing methane emissions from livestock, and promoting organic farming can minimize agriculture's impact on the environment.

Encouraging energy-efficient appliances, smart grids, and sustainable architecture can reduce carbon footprints. Green building materials and insulation techniques enhance sustainability.

Expanding public transportation, promoting electric vehicles, and improving cycling infrastructure can help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and decrease air pollution.

Reducing single-use plastics, promoting recycling programs, and adopting zero-waste policies can minimize environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.

Governments must implement stricter environmental regulations, impose carbon taxes, and enforce the Paris Agreement commitments. International cooperation is essential to address climate change on a global scale.

Raising awareness about climate change, sustainability, and responsible consumer choices can empower individuals to contribute positively. Schools, media, and community programs play a vital role in education.

Climate change is an undeniable reality that threatens the very existence of life on Earth. While its impacts are severe, immediate and coordinated action can help mitigate its worst effects. Governments, industries, and individuals must work together to reduce carbon footprints, adopt sustainable practices, and transition to a greener future. The responsibility lies with all of us to preserve the planet for future generations. The time to act is now—before it is too late.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Prime minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to France and US to further strengthen and develop bilateral relations and friendship. In this connection Modi first visited France and then after wrapping his Paris tour he embarked on a two day visit to US. PM Modi's sixth visit to France was high on optics as it included wide-ranging engagements during his jam-packed two day trip. At the invitation of the president of the French Republic, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the prime minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to France on 10-12 February 2025. On 10 and 12 Feb 2025, France and India co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit, gathering the Heads of state and government, leaders of international organizations, small and large enterprises, representatives of academia, NGO's, artists, and members of civil society, in order to build on the important milestones reached during the previous meeting of 2023. Following the AI summit which Macron co-chaired with Modi, the bilateral part of the visit began with the two leaders jointly addressing the India-France CEO's forum. The forum brought together leading businesses from sectors such as aerospace, defense, innovation, energy, infrastructure, agro-processing, and consumer goods. Modi at the meeting encourage French companies to explore new opportunities particularly in defense, civil nuclear, insurance, and advanced manufacturing sectors. After the meet, the two leaders travelled together to Marseille in the French presidential aircraft, a rare occurrence. "It is emblematic not only of the deep personal trust between the two leaders but also of the remarkable confidence that they have in each other, and characterize the relationship as well," said Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. The prime minister and the president held discussions on board the aircraft. In fact India-France relations touched new heights. The discussions on various issues continued aboard the aircraft and continued upon landing in Marseille, where the two leaders were joined by their larger delegations.

These talks extended into a dinner hosted by president Macron in honor of prime minister Modi. The two leaders exchanged views on recent geopolitical developments in Europe, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific, and discussed issues of global and regional importance. Modi and Macron on Tuesday co-chaired the AI Action Summit in Paris. PM Modi began his itinerary with a visit to Mazargues War Cemetery on Wednesday where Modi and Macron honored the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the 1 and 11 world wars. Modi said that Marseille has special significance for India, as this is the city where Veer Savarkar attempted a courageous escape and the people of Marseille and French activists of those days demanded that he not to be handed to British custody. The two leaders also inaugurated the new Indian Consulate General in Marseille. The two leaders visited the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reader Facility, ITER, in Cadarache, together. The experimental campaign at ITER was vital for advancing fusion science and paving the way for the fusion power plants of the future. India-France focused on nuclear cooperation through joint development of small Modular Reactors—SMR's and Advanced Modular Reactors—AMR's and advancing safe, open and secure Artificial Intelligence collaboration. Modi and Macron also agreed to enhance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, with a joint declaration of intent for triangular development, aimed at providing solutions to support economic growth and development of the countries in the region. Misri said the demand for SMR's and AMR's has been identified as crucial, particularly as AI, as underlined by the International Energy Agency Director General Fatih Birol will require vast amounts of electricity. As far as the trilateral cooperation is concerned, India and France will look at delivering projects in a whole host of areas in third world countries. The bilateral roadmap on AI envisions that the norms reflect democratic values and promote human development. A commitment to safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems, advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, fostering international coop-

eration on AI capacity—building, respecting international law and human rights are at the core of India-France Declaration on AI. An extensive joint statement issued after the meet that the leaders mentioned that the leaders commended the progress in a collaboration in the construction of Scorpene submarines in India, including indigenization. On the bilateral front, the PM met with the president of Estonia, President Alar Karis, and also with the vice-president of the united states, His Excellency JD Vance. Joint declaration was also done and joint statement was issued which encapsulated all important things agreed upon. PM Modi wrapped up his France visit on 12 Feb, 2025 and President Macron attended a departure ceremony at Marseille Provence airport in Magriane and left for his second leg of visit to USA. PM Modi and president Donald Trump discussed key bilateral issues including trades, tariffs, extradition of 26/11 accused and Russia-Ukraine war, purchase of F-35 fighters and India's border dispute with China. Setting the tone of the 'MEGA partnership', PM Modi highlighted India and US's shared commitment to economic growth and global leadership. President Trump often talks about MAGA in India, we are working towards a Viksit Bharat, which in American context translates into MEGA. And together, the India-USA have a MEGA partnership for prosperity, Modi said. India and the US set a bilateral trade target of dollar 500 billion by 2030 in an effort to ensure joint development, joint production and transfer of technology. The terms of the agreement would be decided soon, said Modi. "The people of America are well aware of president Trump's motto MAGA—Make America Great Again". The people of India too are focusing on heritage and development as they move forward at a fast pace and with a firm resolve towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, Modi said. Making a significant boost to defense cooperation, Trump said that the US would sell F-35 stealth fighter jets to India, placing the country among an elite group operating the advanced aircraft. "Starting this year, we will be increasing military sales to India by many billions of dollars. We are also

paving the way to ultimately provide India with the F-35 stealth fighters," Trump said. PM Modi meets US president Trump at White House. In a significant boost to the energy sector, India is set to buy US energy of almost dollar 25 billion in the near future. The talks between the two leaders focused also on increasing energy purchases, which would pay a key role in balancing the trade deficit between India and US. US offers to mediate on India-China border dispute. The US president has offered to mediate in the India—China border dispute and has called for a de-escalation. PM Modi talked about the issue of illegal immigration and expressed India's readiness to take back those citizens living unlawfully in the US. Extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to India, making another key take away from the visit. PM Modi's visit to US did not have a significant impact on Donald Trump's recent move to impose 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from India. Rather Trump said that the states would prefer a "reciprocal approach" on tariffs. PM Modi reiterated India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine war and said that the country was in favor of establishing peace. PM Modi and US president Trump shared a warm moment with hugs and handshakes at the White House. Earlier Modi met US NSA Michael Waltz and discussed defense, technology and security. Trump gave freedom to Modi to act as he likes with Bangladesh. This is a big achievement for Modi and India. Finally Modi wrapped his second leg of visit to US and came back home. In short the tour of Modi to France and America remained most fruitful and paved way for friendly relations and bilateral ties between these countries and India.

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

Journalists should get a uniform pension across the country

By: Dr. Satyawan

Saurabh

To get a pension, you must be recognized by the Haryana government for a period of five years. Under this order, journalists working in this field for twenty years will get a pension. After reporting for a newspaper for 30 to 40 years, journalists who have not been recognized by the Haryana government for five years will not get any benefit. To ensure that all journalists get government recognition, the Haryana government should give journalist pensions to all journalists who reach the age of sixty. To do this, there should be a consensus on recognizing journalists at the tehsil level. Therefore, in relation to social security and pension, the government should form a national team. Which will research the policies of the states and the Center and provide a decent pension to all journalists instead of giving a piecemeal amount. Which will study the schemes of the Center and the states and give a respectable pension to all journalists instead of giving something to some in a piecemeal manner.

The government still considers pensions as its responsibility. It has not abolished pensions. It gives many types of pensions. Both MLAs and MPs get pensions. After becoming an MLA, MP, and Rajya Sabha member, you are entitled to get three types of pension. Some people get three types of pension, and some do not get any. In some states, award winners also get pensions. What kind of justice is this? The voice of the poor and oppressed people has been raised through journalists. These people have done many things with the power of their words. Now it is important that other public representatives and communities also raise their voices for journalists. They should raise the

issues of journalists and fight for fundamental rights to improve their standard of living. It is sad that our journalists advocate for the rights of the deprived. They risk their lives to do their work. They run from morning to evening to avoid the worries of their loved ones.

They do not stop working until they resolve a problem. However, they are unable to write about their issues. So far, the Labour Resources Department has not included journalists in the list of skilled workers. Specifically, there are three important issues facing journalists that need to be resolved. The rules regarding work experience for pensions should be relaxed to eliminate the need for government recognition. Also, the government should include blocks after district and subdivision in its gazette to recognize rural journalists. Journalists should also be part of the Labour Resources Department. The list of skilled workers includes skilled workers who prepare content. Journalists work round the clock in hot, cold, and rainy conditions. There is a working time for a worker, but the working hours of a journalist are not fixed. Both journalists and journalism are going through a transitional period.

The Government of India as well as the state governments should take steps to protect the interests of journalists. The government should formulate a plan to address journalist harassment, as it is a serious issue. All journalists working today urgently need medical facilities, security for journalists, pensions, and press accreditation for desk workers. Rural journalists should be recognized as journalists by the government. The Department of Labour Resources should publish a list outlining the status of skilled workers and amend its gazette. The journalist community should soon be able to avail itself of benefits such as insurance and other worker-provided facilities. Journalists are also competent professionals. They contribute content,

which is later converted into a newspaper. A newspaper is a product, and our journalists play a role in creating it as expert workers. Therefore, the government should consider it immediately. The Journalist Pension Scheme and Journalist Insurance Scheme are two important programs for the welfare of journalists that the government should also implement properly.

Some journalists get the benefit of the Journalist Pension Scheme. However, many journalists are not eligible for the pension scheme. For this, the rules of the Journalist Pension Scheme need to be relaxed. At present, different states have different conditions for those receiving journalist pensions. For example, in Haryana, apart from twenty years of work experience, five years of government recognition are required. A large number of senior journalists have to suffer the brunt of this. As a result, if this rule is relaxed, journalists should get pensions on the basis of affidavits like the Journalist Insurance Scheme. Pension eligibility should be based on the senior journalist's ten years of work experience, with an age limit of 60 years. According to the Journalist Pension Scheme, they should get a pension on the basis of their affidavit and sixty years of age. Regarding the work experience certificate, the government should provide a list from the District Information Public Relations Department of each district. Whenever journalists go to the election, they submit the identity card issued by the District Election Officer through the Election Commission.

Apart from this, journalists cover the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, and other major events. Various major political parties and district governments issue special identity cards during news coverage. As a result, the government keeps a record of news coverage and election-related work experience. Journalists should get a pension from

the government based on their performance. Apart from offering free transportation in government buses and insurance programs for journalists, media centers should be established in each district so that media persons can do their work without any hassle. The government runs many types of social security programs. Some federal and state-level programs are running. Some are giving 6,000 to farmers; some are giving 10,000. Some give unemployment allowance; some give something else. Some have an old age pension of one thousand, some two thousand. Some are organizing pilgrimages; some are organizing aarti.

Many senior journalists write that they are not able to earn a regular living. They will somehow control their expenses after retirement. If children are unable to help, then God is the only option. Not every child is able to earn enough money to support everyone. This results in family discord. Therefore, the government should form a national team for social security and pension. Which will research the schemes of the Center and the States and provide a good pension to all journalists instead of giving only a few to some journalists.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana)—127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

Remembering Valiant: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi leads tribute at Noida Shaheed Smarak



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi presided over the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Noida Shaheed Smarak on Saturday, 15 February 2025. The event was marked by the presence of the President AWWA, Sunita Dwivedi, as well as distinguished veterans, dignitaries, and members of the local community.

Built to honour the men and women of the Defence Services who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation, Noida Shaheed Smarak stands as a symbol of pride and reverence. Since its consecration on April 13, 2002, the memorial has showcased iconic military artefacts—vintage air defence guns, naval surface-to-air missiles, and a model of an active warship—underscoring its status as the first Tri-Service memorial raised

by a township to honour its war dead.

During the ceremony, the COAS addressed the gathering, acknowledging the sacrifices of the fallen and commending the efforts behind the Noida Shaheed Smarak. He expressed gratitude to the civil administration and local community for their unwavering support and highlighted the role of veterans as custodians of the nation's proud military legacy.

General Upendra Dwivedi reaffirmed the Army's commitment to veterans' welfare, urging continued recognition of their contributions and ensuring their voices are heard. He emphasised the importance of mentoring future generations and aligning collective efforts with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047.'

He also released the "Souvenir-2025," commemorating the Shaheeds and highlighting the rich history of the memorial.

Following the formal proceedings, the COAS interacted with the Next of Kin of the fallen heroes, offering heartfelt appreciation for their immense sacrifice. A wreath-laying procession and a two-minute silence further underscored the solemnity of the occasion.

The Noida Shaheed Smarak continues to be a focal point of national remembrance by hosting events such as the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, Dedication Day, and Vijay Divas, thereby preserving the legacy of those who laid down their lives in service to the nation.

GDC Thannamandi, Police Deptt hold awareness program on New Criminal Laws

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Feb 15: Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi, in collaboration with the Police Department, organized an awareness program on the newly introduced criminal laws under the patronage of principal of the college Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed. The event was organized as per the directions of Home Department.

The program aimed to educate students, faculty, and members of the local administration on recent legal reforms and their implications for law enforcement and society including Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS, BNSS & BSA).

Popkar Singh, SDPO Thannamandi, was the main speaker, providing an in-depth understanding of the BNS 2023, which has replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC).

He highlighted key changes, including stricter punishments for

organized crime, terrorism, and offenses against women, along with the introduction of community service as a penalty for petty offenses.

He also discussed new provisions that focus on the use of technology in criminal investigations, faster justice delivery, and victim-centric legal reforms.

Abid Hussain Shah, SDM Thannamandi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and emphasized the importance of legal awareness in ensuring a just and law-abiding society.

He spoke about the increased protection for women, children, and senior citizens under the new legal framework.

The proceedings were conducted by Qadeer Ahmed Charak, BDO Thannamandi, while Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Vice Principal of GDC Thannamandi, delivered a comprehensive talk on the subject, stressing the need for citizens, especially students, to

stay informed about their legal rights and responsibilities.

The event witnessed a massive turnout, with hundreds of attendees, including members of the tehsil administration, students from colleges and schools, and representatives from both private and government educational institutions.

The interactive session allowed participants to engage with experts, enhancing their understanding of the major legal transformations under BNS 2023, such as the revamped definition of sedition, improved provisions for cybercrime, and enhanced procedural efficiency in criminal trials.

The initiative reflects GDC Thannamandi's commitment to fostering legal literacy and active citizenship among students and the community. Entire faculty of the college witnessed the proceedings of the program.

Students of GDC R S Pura participate in marathon

Top News Report

R S PURA, Feb 15: Students from Government Degree College (GDC) R S Pura actively participated in a Marathon organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Police Department, as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (Drug-Free India Campaign) under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the college and coordination of Prof. Neelam Kumari, Convener Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch.

The event held on Saturday aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The marathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, educators, and community members, with the students of GDC R. S. Pura stands out in their commitment to the cause.



The event served as a platform to spread the message of a drug-free society, with students engaging in the race while advocating for the importance of physical fitness and mental well-being.

The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan initiative, launched by the Government of India, seeks to eliminate the menace of substance abuse across the nation.

By participating in this event, students not only displayed their athletic spirit but also played an active role in promoting the national campaign against drugs.

Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of GDC R. S. Pura praised the students for their proactive involvement in such an important cause and thanked the Jammu and Kashmir Police Department for organizing the event.

She emphasized the importance of such awareness programs in shaping a healthier, more responsible generation. The marathon concluded with a ceremony to honor the top performers, and participants were appreciated for their dedication to the cause of building a Nasha Mukht (drug-free) society.

Bhagwat Katha provides opportunity for young people to connect with their spiritual roots: Kesri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Shiv Sena Hindustan's Jammu and Kashmir President, Pt. Rajesh Kesri, in presence of Captain Goram and Rashpal Shastri ji, today initiated the Bhagwat Katha at village Jangwal. The Bhagwat Katha is a sacred Hindu scripture that narrates the story of Lord Krishna and his divine teachings will conclude on Feb 21st. Rashpal Shastri started the Katha by saying that by listening to the Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to a large extent.

Swamiji further said that our expressions only give birth to falsehood and ultimately make the world untrue ultimately.

To carry forward the story, Swamiji said that God is in all, but he is also the most different, he is with us every moment. The Bhagwat Saptah involves reading, preaching, interpretation and singing of verses of the Shrimad Bhagwat and it was filled with colours of devotion, laughter, tales of separation and union with almighty.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that this event is likely to be a significant spiritual gathering, bringing together locals and devotees to immerse themselves in the sacred teachings of the Bhagwat Purana.

Pt. Rajesh Kesri observed that SSH's efforts to organize this event demonstrate its commitment to promoting spiritual growth and community bonding in the region. Shiv Sena Hindustan's Jammu and Kashmir unit has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Shrimad Bhagwat Katha has begun today, mesmerizing devotees with its spiritual discourse. The event started with a kalash yatra, a traditional procession where devotees carry sacred pots filled with holy water, symbolizing the journey of the soul towards spiritual enlightenment, added Kesri.

Kesri further said that this sacred event is a significant part of Hindu culture, where devotees gather to listen to the recitation of the Bhagavata

Purana, an ancient Indian scripture that narrates the story of Lord Krishna's life and teachings.

The Katha is a spiritual journey that aims to enlighten devotees on the path of devotion, knowledge, and self-realization. The kalash yatra marks the beginning of this spiritual journey, where devotees seek the blessings of the divine and invoke the presence of Lord Krishna in their lives. Throughout the Katha, devotees will be immersed in the sacred stories, prayers, and devotional songs, creating an atmosphere of spiritual fervor and devotion, said Kesri.

Kesri maintained that attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha can be a profoundly enriching experience for young people. This ancient Indian scripture offers timeless wisdom, spiritual guidance, and valuable life lessons that can benefit individuals of all ages, especially the youth.

The Katha provides an opportunity for young people to connect with their spiritual roots, fostering a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. The stories and teachings of the Bhagavata Purana emphasize important moral values such as compassion, honesty, and self-discipline, which are essential for character development, added Kesri.

Kesri said that Katha offers practical wisdom on how to navigate life's challenges, making it an invaluable resource for young people as they transition into adulthood. Attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha allows young people to connect with their cultural heritage, appreciating the rich history and traditions of Hinduism.

The Katha's emphasis on self-reflection, self-awareness, and personal growth can help young people develop a stronger sense of purpose and direction in life.

By attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, young people can gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their culture, and their place in the world. Prominent among those who accompanied Kesri included Balveer Kumar, Captain Omprakash, Darshana Devi, Vijay Devi, Satpal Urfi.

GDC R S Pura organizes awareness program on Disaster Management



Top News Report

R S PURA, Feb 15: The Disaster Management Committee of Govt. Degree College, G.S. Pura, organized an "Awareness program on Disaster Management" under the supervision of Dr. Jugal Kishore, Convener, Disaster Management Committee, under the able guidance of Dr. Preetpal Kour, worthy principal of the college, being the chief guest.

The program was inaugurated by the Principal, Dr. Preetpal Kour, and the proceedings of the

program were initiated by Dr. Jugal Kishore, Disaster Management Committee/Cell, wherein he welcomed the chief guest and aware the august audience about the role and functions of the Disaster Management Committee/Cell of the college.

In the program, a documentary on the modus operandi to be observed during a disaster emergency was screened, followed by a drill on how to operate a fire extinguisher that was held in the presence of the college students and

staff members.

While addressing the occasion, the principal of the college made the students aware of the importance of such disaster management skills and encouraged the Disaster Management Committee/Cell of the college to organize such a program to keep the students equipped enough to deal with any unexpected emergencies.

The program was concluded with a formal vote of thanks to the principal, Dr. Preetpal Kour, chief guest on the occasion, by Prof. Rajinder Singh, a member of the Disaster Management Committee/Cell. Among others who were present on the occasion were Dr. Chanchal Angral, Dr. Shifali Abrol, Prof. Sankait Gupta, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Prof. Geetika Goswami, and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra.

Red Ribbon Club organizes poster competition on 'Fight Against AIDS' at GLDM Degree College Hiranagar



Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Feb 15: The Red Ribbon Club of Government GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar, successfully organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Fight Against AIDS."

The competition played a crucial role in promoting artistic expression and community involvement while spreading awareness about the disease.

The programme was initiated in collaboration with NACO, The J&K AIDS Control Society, and Higher

Education Institutions (HEIs). NACO operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is responsible for formulating policies and implementing programs to combat HIV/AIDS in the country.

Prof. Roopali Jamwal, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the vital role of the RRC in colleges. She commended the volunteers for their dedicated efforts in promoting awareness activities under the banner of RRC.

A total of 20 students

participated in the competition, creatively highlighting the causes, effects, and precautions necessary to prevent the spread of AIDS. Prof. Jamwal underscored that such initiatives are instrumental in shaping an informed and health-conscious youth, empowering them to contribute towards building a disease-free society.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of GLDM Degree College, applauded the Red Ribbon Club for its consistent efforts and initiatives in organizing meaningful awareness activities for the students.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Bharat Bhushan, a member of the RRC. He acknowledged the active participation of volunteers and appreciated the enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by the students in making the event a success.

GDC Chatroo celebrates 75 years of adoption of Constitution of India

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 15: In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India, Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo organized a special preamble recitation activity under the theme "The Preamble and Fundamental Rights: Explore Preamble and Fundamental Rights."

The event took place today at the college campus, bringing together staff and students to honor the historical significance of the Constitution.

The activity began with a brief introduction by Ram Krishan, Assistant Professor of Political Science, who explained the purpose and significance of the preamble to the Constitution.

Ram Krishan highlighted the role of the preamble in defining the values and principles



that guide the nation's governance and the fundamental rights it guarantees to all citizens.

Following the introduction, Ram Krishan led the recitation of the preamble, with all staff members and students of the college participating enthusiastically. The collective recitation symbolized the unity and commitment to upholding the Constitution's values.

The event was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Ved Kumar, the esteemed Principal of GDC Chatroo, who has been a

driving force behind the college's educational initiatives.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Athar Hussain, Associate Professor of Zoology, who expressed gratitude to all participants and attendees for making the event a resounding success.

This commemorative activity marked a meaningful contribution by GDC Chatroo in celebrating the legacy and enduring relevance of the Constitution of India in shaping the nation's democracy.

Filmmaker Amitabh Prashar's documentary *The Midwife's Confession* brings the audience face-to-face with the harrowing reality of female infanticide

The journalist in him puts out facts in great detail. The emotional human being that he is breaks down in his own documentary. And the passion of the filmmaker makes him pursue his story with dogged tenacity. National Award-winning filmmaker Amitabh Prashar brings to us the harrowing reality of female infanticide in his home state Bihar in his latest documentary *The Midwife's Confession*, a subject he followed for 28 long years.

And when he says 'I don't abandon my stories or my characters', his BBC documentary stands as testimony to the labour of passion and conviction. To those who believe the issue of missing girl child is no longer alive, he shares, "Days before the release, there were at least two incidents reported by mainstream media—of a father burying his twin daughters alive and the other of a mother strangulating her fifth female child." Hailing from Bihar, though he belonged to a family with progressive values, male child fixation and dowry deaths were something he had seen all around him.

Taking up a cause

As a young journalist back in 1995, he decided to follow a case where a father had strangled his 11-month-old daughter. It also brought him face-to-face with Anila, who runs an NGO in Katiyar and has been instrumental in saving many



lives and knew many midwives complicit in the crime. However, he also makes us see the silver lining amidst dark clouds. Empathy defines his approach in this BBC documentary, which brings to us one of the main characters, a midwife Siro. He states, "Confessions are not the story, but characters are." Incidentally, among the many characters in the film, he too stands tall. Acutely conscious of the camera gaze, he agreed to be part of the film for that was the BBC mandate. As you watch him getting emotional at more than one point in the film, he reveals, "Once I became a character in the film, I had to be who I am and could not fake my emotions." Actually, whenever and wherever the film has been shown viewers, including hardened journalists, have watched it with tears in their eyes.

Ironically and interestingly, the film is as heartrending as heart-

warming. Amitabh adds, "The dichotomy of India is that while there are still scores of parents ready to throw away their female new-borns, there are many out there ready to adopt them as well." The film brings to fore one such adopted girl, Monica's story. In fact, he was able to locate two such girls. While one family had hidden the truth of adoption from their daughter, Monica's family was more than willing to come on board. He says wistfully, "If Monica had said no and had I not met the adoptive parents of 11-month-old Medha, probably the film would not have ended on a hopeful note." But when intention is right, things do fall in place.

Overcoming challenges

Indeed, making midwives confess on camera too was an uphill task. But he recalls how with time he gained their trust. Today, he thinks that the qual-

ity of being able to earn the confidence of your characters is paramount for documentary filmmakers.

The same transparency with which he works also manifested in his earlier film on Bhagalpur blindings. *The Eyes of Darkness* also won him a National Award and which many, he laughs, 'consider my better film'. But as *The Midwife's Confession* is getting millions of views, he is overwhelmed by the response and can sense hope of a better tomorrow in the stream of comments for the film.

Prior to the release of his film, he was a tad apprehensive about social backlash against the midwives, whom he views more as victims than accused. But in the heartening responses of viewers online, many of whom are even vowing not to take dowry, prime reason for society's obsessive desire to have sons, he finds purpose and reasons to go on with a missionary zeal. "Life of documentary filmmakers," he asserts, "continues to be an obstacle race." Only he is ready to overcome the obstacles and run the long distance marathon.

In touch with many more characters he came across during the making of the film, expect more startling confessions and revelations that can make the world a better place. For now, watch his stirring requiem for the girl child. *The Midwife's Confession* is available on YouTube.

Priyanshi dives into the intricate art of designing fusion sarees



Budding TV star Priyanshi Yadav is setting new benchmarks in the

entertainment landscape. Garnering love for her role in Colors'

hit show *Doree* within a few days of its premiere, she has taken her commitment to authenticity a step further by diving into the intricate art of designing fusion sarees—a craft she is seen pulling off onscreen.

Priyanshi says, "Taking on *Doree's* role in the second season is a huge responsibility. To carry forward the legacy of a show that has touched so many lives is a challenge. I've always loved sarees; they're more than just fabric—it is the pride of our culture, an art form that has its history, emotions and beauty. With *Doree*, I found even more reasons to cherish this outfit.

The show gave me the rare chance to dive into the intricate art of designing fusion sarees, a process that blends traditional techniques with modern innovation. It brought me closer to embodying *Doree* in the most authentic way possible.

The overwhelming response from our audience has affirmed that every bit of effort was worth it."

'Aandhi' should be re-released: Javed Akhtar on 50 years of Gulzar's 1975 classic

Veteran lyricist-scriptwriter Javed Akhtar says Gulzar's 1975 "Aandhi", starring Sanjeev Kumar and Suchitra Sen, will do "extremely well" today if it is re-released in theatres.

The film, which turns 50 this week, is considered a modern classic and perhaps the best known film in lyricist-poet Gulzar's filmography as a director that also includes movies such as "Mausam", "Parichay", "Mere Apne", "Khushboo" and "Lekin" among others.

"It's a really nice film. It needs to be re-released today in multiplexes. There is a certain disadvantage to films that are subtle, intelligent and of an higher IQ. They perhaps don't get that kind of audience in big theatres. I think a film like 'Aandhi', if it re-releases, will do extremely well today," Akhtar told agency.

"Aandhi" had a great soundtrack by RD Burman with singers in Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar. Its songs "Tere Bina", "Tum Aa Gaye Ho" and "Iss Mod Se Jaate Hai" are popular even today.

The film, written by famous Hindi author Kamleshwar, revolved around a couple whose relationship suffers because of different ambitions. Sen played Aarti Devi, a woman from a political family, while Kumar essayed the role of JK, a hotel manager.

"Aandhi", which reportedly ran for just weeks in theatres, was banned during the Emergency as many believed Sen's character resembled the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. It was re-released later.

Not just Akhtar, the film



holds a special place in the heart of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, directors Sooraj Barjatya and Karan Johar, actor Pratik Gandhi and producer Harman Baweja. Bhatt, who has explored the many layers of man-woman relationship in films such as "Arth" and "Zakhm", said while people talk about politics when they speak about "Aandhi", he sees it as a film about "lost love".

"It's the irony of life that two human beings meet again to realise that some distances can never be crossed. It is a meditation on love and ambition. At that time for a woman to be ambitious was unheard of, very bold, and she paid the price for it. It's a deeply personal story. It was very brave of Gulzar sahab to have a character like that and go against the diktat that a woman must sacrifice."

"Also, 'Tere Bina Zinda Gi Se...' is RD Burman's

timeless song, and that captures the ache of what life could've been had they stayed together," Bhatt told agency.

"Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story" star Gandhi said "Aandhi" is among his all time favourite movies as it featured Sanjeev Kumar.

"His range and the way he's created comedy, intense performances and drama and everything. So he's my all time favourite actor and we happen to share the same city. He also comes from Surat," Gandhi told agency.

Johar said he remembers watching all of Gulzar's films on VHS cassettes.

"I was one of those old soul kids that wasn't reading comics, that wasn't watching, what the kids that age were watching. I was obsessed with the vintage magic of Guru Dutt, with the glory and social commentary of Raj Kapoor, with Gulzar Saab's ethos and

pathos in cinema," Johar told agency, adding that though one cannot match the masters, he is always inspired by Gulzar's body of work that he discovered at a young age.

Barjatya, known for his family dramas such as "Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!", "Hum Saath Saath Hain" and "Vivaah", said Gulzar is "all passion".

"Knowing how Gulzar sahab works, 'Aandhi' is pure passion, a pure creation. It is not about what sells and what works. Otherwise, it's impossible to create something free. I guess that's why they are masterpieces," he told agency.

Baweja said it was only recently that he kept listening to Gulzar's music while on a recce in Uttarakhand.

"And then we started talking about Gulzar sahib for a while because we were driving around and we had like 50 minutes to the next location. And the entire conversation was about the kind of work that he's done.

"It is amazing that 'Aandhi' is 50 years. It is important to celebrate him and everything that he's brought to literature and to the industry. And it's so wide. His impact is so beautiful," Baweja told agency.

Producer Boney Kapoor also remembers the songs of the film and how it has stayed with people even today.

"The relationship between a husband and wife is something that caught my attention. I love the songs of the film. My favourite song is 'Tum Aa Gaye Ho Noor Aa Gaya,'" he said.

Dipshikha Nagpal, Kamyra Punjabi together on screen



Television brings together many talented actors, but some friendships take years to translate into on-screen collaborations. *Ishq Jabariya* on Sun Neo is making this happen, as actress Dipshikha Nagpal joins the show as Devi

Sahay. What makes her entry even more special is that she will finally share screen space with Kamyra Punjabi, who plays Mohini. Despite knowing each other for over 15 years, this marks their first collaboration, making it an excit-

ing moment for both the actresses and their fans.

Dipshikha shared, "Kamyra is a fantastic actress with a strong personality. When we met on the set of *Ishq Jabariya*, we hugged, and now it's finally happening—we're working together! We've known each other for over 15 years but never had the chance to collaborate. Usually, when a role comes up, it's either Kamyra or me who gets selected, as we're often considered for similar characters. But for the first time, we're sharing the screen, and I couldn't be more excited."

She added, "Working with her is so much fun because when two strong personalities come together, it creates an exciting dynamic. She is not only a brilliant actress but also a wonderful person. I'm really looking forward to our scenes, and the few we've shot so far have been an absolute delight."

While responsibilities often take centrestage in a marriage, it is important to keep the spark alive, says actress Hansa Singh

While responsibilities often take centrestage in a marriage, it is important to keep the spark alive, believes actress Hansa Singh. Hansa, who is also a tarot card reader, healer and occultist, and has been part of projects like *Human*, *Criminal Justice 3*, as well as films *Goodbye* and *Despatch*, says marriage is a lot more than just staying together.

"Marriage is called an institution which encompasses all that matters, just not responsibilities. But, sadly, the meaning taken is just responsibility.

Love and compassion are crucial for anything in life. And romance, the one that resembles Mills & Boons, does take a backseat.



It lasts only a few first years then it's deemed rhetorical," she says, adding, "However, it is important to keep the spice alive. Don't take that fact that you are married for granted. When you take anything for granted it stops evolving."

Ask her what is the secret to a happy marriage or a relationship, and she says, "Space. In today's scenario it's very important.

And space comes with trust, love and understanding. Both the partners in a marriage should be happy with each other's success.

There should be no competition, no ego. Praise your partner. Go out for dinner etc, even when the kids are there. Find your me-time."

Future to be dramatic with far-reaching advances expected in AI: Prez

Says Centre is taking steps to integrate AI into higher education

RANCHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday asserted that with far-reaching advances in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, the future is going to be dramatic.

She said the Centre was taking steps to integrate AI into higher education, and it was a matter of pride that Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi was ahead of the curve with related courses launched in 2023.

"Future is going to be dramatic with far-reaching advances expected in artificial intelligence, machine learning. The government of India is taking steps to integrate AI into higher education. Technical



opportunities being created should be made available to marginalised communities too,

and the great transformation being brought about should benefit all," Murmu said while

addressing the platinum jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra.

She, however, cautioned innovators and entrepreneurs not to ignore the knowledge base of traditional communities, saying, "Often, problems do not need big technological interventions." The President inaugurated an exhibition showcasing science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, which included AI-enabled robots and self-driven cars.

President Murmu arrived on a two-day visit to Jharkhand on Friday and stayed overnight at Raj Bhavan. Security has been tightened in the Jharkhand capital in view of her visit.

India needs clear vision to produce new technology, not empty words: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said while India has the talent, it needs a strong production base, and not empty words, to build industrial prowess in new technology to give its youth jobs.

In a post on X, Gandhi highlighted how China has started producing drones which are revolutionising warfare across the world, saying India needs to develop a strategy to become competitive in this area.

"Drones have revolutionised warfare, combining batteries, motors

and optics to manoeuvre and communicate on the battlefield in unprecedented ways. But drones are not just one technology — they are bottom-up innovations produced by a strong industrial system.

"Unfortunately, PM Modi has failed to grasp this. While he delivers 'teleprompter' speeches on AI, our competitors are mastering new technologies. India needs a strong production base not empty words," he said in the post, taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has immense talent, scale and drive. We must have a clear vision and build real industrial prowess to give our youth jobs and lead India into the future," Mr. Gandhi added.

The Congress leader also tagged a nine-minute video on drone technology with the post, saying India has the talent and engineering skills to develop such technology for the future.

Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' to be probed over renovation of 'lavish' bungalow: BJP

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Central Vigilance Commission has directed the Public Works Department of Delhi Government to conduct a detailed probe into the alleged merger of properties to expand the 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow and the expenditures incurred on its interiors, BJP leader Vijender Gupta said on Saturday.

The bungalow labelled as "Sheesh Mahal" by the BJP for alleged corruption was occupied by Arvind Kejriwal as the chief minister of Delhi from 2015 till the first week of October last year.

No immediate reaction was available from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) or its convenor Kejriwal on the matter.

Gupta said the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) took cognisance of his two earlier complaints and sought factual reports from the Public Works Department



(PWD) based on which it has now directed to conduct a detailed probe.

In his first complaint to the CVC, the newly-elected BJP MLA from Rohini alleged that Kejriwal flouted building regulations to construct a lavish mansion covering 40,000 square yards (8 acres) of land.

Government properties, including plot Nos. 45 and 47 on Rajpur Road (previously housing senior officials and judges in Type-V flats) and two bungalows (8-A and 8-B, Flag Staff Road) were demolished

and merged into the new residence, violating ground coverage and floor area ratio norms and lacking proper layout plan approvals, Gupta alleged.

In his second complaint, Gupta alleged "extravagant spending" on the renovation and interior decoration of the bungalow on 6, Flag Staff Road.

He also claimed "massive financial irregularities" and expenditure of crores of rupees from the taxpayers' money on luxurious amenities in the bungalow.

Mamata Banerjee govt failed to stop atrocities against women: BJP leader Amit Malviya

KOLKATA, Feb 15 (Agencies): Senior BJP leader Amit Malviya on Saturday accused the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal of failing to prevent attacks and atrocities against women, citing the incidents in Sandeshkhali and RG Kar hospital as examples.

When reporters asked him about the state government not increasing the monthly amount under its flagship 'Lakshmir Bhandar' financial assistance scheme for women in the 2025-26 budget, the BJP IT cell head did not give a direct reply.

Instead, he chose to focus his attack on the "dichotomy between the TMC government's claim to support the cause of women through such projects and its aiding and abetting perpetrators of atrocities against women in the state".

"While the chief minister gloats in public about her government's monthly dole to women and claims to be concerned for their welfare, she looks the other way when horrific incidents



like the Sandeshkhali sexual abuses come to light. Instead, she and her party rushed to protect perpetrators like Shahjahan Sheikh," Malviya said at Asansol in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district.

Referring to the rape and murder of a woman medic of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, which sparked national outrage, Malviya accused the chief minister of shielding the culprits.

"Even after such a heinous crime shook the conscience of the entire nation, the woman CM tries to protect those responsible," he said.

This proves her concern for women's empowerment and bragging about their cause is

hollow, he alleged.

Speaking on the arrest of TMC leaders and ministers on graft charges, Malviya said, "The ruling party activists and leaders are becoming part of syndicates and mafias and the common man is reeling under their intimidation."

"Why are MPs and MLAs of the ruling party accused of taking cut money in state projects? TMC and cut money culture are synonymous in West Bengal. People in the state will vote out this corrupt regime and elect the BJP to power in 2026," he said.

Malviya said the BJP will usher in good governance, weed out corruption at all levels and ensure a safe, secure environment for women. He alleged around

4,000 industrial units both under public and private sectors have closed down in West Bengal, while 1.5 lakh migrant labourers have gone out of the state for employment opportunities elsewhere.

"This is not the Sonar Bangla we had dreamt about. The state government has failed to chart a road map for the revival of the 4,000 listed industrial units — both in private and central sectors — and present any plan to the Centre as the ruling TMC does not have any plan," he said.

This is reflected in the lack of any strategy or plan for industrial growth in Bengal in the state budget, Malviya claimed, adding the state's charge about discrimination in the Union budget is false as "this government itself failed to utilise central allocation and instead the money was siphoned by its party leaders".

Next year once BJP assumes power in the state, a conducive environment will be created for investment opportu-

nities with the improvement in law and order, he said.

Speaking on the issue of the Calcutta High Court on Friday granting conditional permission to RSS to hold a rally in Purba Bardhaman district on February 16, Malviya said, "Any programme, events of BJP, RSS and other organisations in West Bengal are facing hurdles under the Mamata Banerjee regime which necessitates the intervention of the HC."

"Mamata Banerjee is trying to curb the alternative space, which is required for the functioning of the opposition. Her brand of politics to stifle other voices will not be accepted any more. It is over," he said.

He also said the apprehension expressed by Banerjee over the inclusion of bogus names in electoral rolls is based on falsehood and "stems from her fear of losing the 2026 assembly polls as her rigging, strong-arm tactics will not be allowed by the Election Commission".

10 devotees on way to Maha Kumbh killed in car-bus collision



PRAYAGRAJ, Feb 15 (Agencies): Ten persons travelling in a Bolero car were killed in a head-on collision with a bus on a highway in the Meja police station area of Prayagraj late on Friday night, police said on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Vivek Chandra Yadav said devotees from Chhat-tisgarh's Korba district were heading to the Maha Kumbh to take a dip when the Bolero they were travelling in collided head-on with

a bus on the highway, reports agency.

All the 10 people travelling in the Bolero died in the accident, while those in the bus have suffered minor injuries, the DCP said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences to the bereaved families and directed officials to expedite relief efforts.

He also instructed authorities to ensure proper medical treatment for the injured and wished them a speedy recovery.

4 killed, 6 injured as van carrying pilgrims from Maha Kumbh rams into truck in Gujarat

DAHOD, Feb 15 (Agencies): Four persons were killed and six sustained injuries after a tourist van carrying pilgrims from the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj rammed into a stationary truck on a highway in Gujarat's Dahod district on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred around 2.15 am on the Indore-Ahmedabad highway near Limkhe-da, an official said.



said a tourist van carrying 10 pilgrims rammed into a truck parked on the side of the road.

The deceased, includ-

ing a woman, were residents of Ankleshwar in Bharuch district and Dholka in Ahmedabad district, he said.

The official said, "The pilgrims were returning from the Maha Kumbh. Four persons, including a woman, died on the spot, and six others were injured and taken to a hospital."

According to the police, the deceased were identified as Devraj Nakum (49) and his wife Jasuba (47), both from Ankleshwar, and Dholka residents Sidhraj Dabhi (32) and Ramesh Goswami (47).

MP: Two killed as dumper overturns on motorcycle; villagers set fire to buses, trucks in protest

SINGRAULI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Two persons were killed after a coal-laden dumper truck overturned on their motorcycle in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district, and angered by the accident, locals staged a road blockade and set fire to some buses and trucks in the area, police said on Saturday.

The accident occurred near Amilia Ghati under the Mada police station limits around 3 pm

on Friday.

Amilia Ghati is about 35 km from the district headquarters. Talking to reporters, Superintendent of Police Manish Khatri said a dumper associated with the Adani Group's mines overturned on a motorcycle, killing two riders.

He said the dumper was transporting coal from the Gajra Bahra yard when the accident occurred.

The official said angry villagers later protested in the Suhera,

Gada Khad and Amilia Ghati areas and torched five buses and three dumpers.

He said they tried to enter the factory area, but the police stopped them and dispersed them.

The deceased have been identified as Ram Lal Yadav and Ramsagar Prajapati.

Khatri said the situation is under control, and further legal steps will be taken.

President's rule in Manipur symbolic of PM, HM's collective failure: Gaurav Gogoi



NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi on Saturday termed the imposition of President's rule in Manipur "symbolic of the collective failure" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and the BJP's leadership in the Northeast.

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.

"The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur is symbolic of the collective failure of the Prime Minister and Home Minister and the party leadership in Northeast," Gogoi wrote on X.

The Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha also said that there is still no roadmap for sustainable peace and reconciliation in Manipur.

"Therefore, it can be said that the President's Rule is only there because the state BJP is in total disarray. People of Manipur and India deserve better," he said.

The ethnic violence, which began in May 2023, saw brutal clashes between the majority Meitei community in the Imphal Valley and the Kuki-Zo tribal groups in the surrounding hills, resulting in over 250 deaths besides displacing thousands of people.

3 hostages are with Israeli forces after Hamas released them to Red Cross in Gaza

Red Cross delivered three — Iair Horn, 46, dual citizen of Israel and Argentina; American-Israeli Sagui Dekel Chen, 36; and Russian-Israeli Alexander (Sasha) Troufanov, 29 — to Israeli military

KHAN YOUNIS, Feb 15 (Agencies): Hamas-led militants released three male Israeli hostages Saturday, parading them before a crowd in the southern Gaza Strip before handing them over to the Red Cross as part of a shaky ceasefire deal that requires Israel to release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange.

The Red Cross delivered the three — Iair Horn, 46, a dual citizen of Israel and Argentina; American-Israeli Sagui Dekel Chen, 36; and Russian-Israeli Alexander (Sasha) Troufanov, 29 — to the Israeli military, which said they were being taken for medical treatment and to be reunited with their relatives.

All were abducted in the October 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war. They appeared pale and worn, but seemed to be in better physical condition than the three men released last Saturday, who had emerged emaciated from 16 months of captivity.

The truce that began nearly four weeks ago had been jeopardised in recent days by a tense dispute that threatened to renew the fighting.

US President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to remove more than 2 million Palestinians from Gaza and settle them elsewhere in the region has cast even more doubt on the future of the ceasefire.

But Hamas said Thursday it would move ahead with the release of more hostages after talks with Egyptian and Qatari officials. The group said the mediators had pledged to "remove all hurdles" to ensure Israel would allow more tents, medical supplies and other



O Jerusalem, Bear Witness: We Are Your Soldiers

essentials into Gaza.

It is the sixth swap since the ceasefire took effect on January 19. So far, 21 hostages and over 730 Palestinian prisoners have been freed during the first phase of the truce.

As with previous exchanges, the hostage release was heavily choreographed, with the captives made to walk onto a stage and make remarks into microphones before the crowd. Dozens of masked, armed Hamas fighters lined up near the stage festooned with Palestinian flags and the banners of militant factions while music blared from loudspeakers.

In Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, a huge cheer went up as the hostages were transferred to the Red Cross. "Iair, Sagui, and Sasha are on their way home!" an announcer said.

Who are the hostages and prisoners being released?

The three hostages were abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz, one of the hardest-hit communities in southern Israel during the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attack that ignited the devastating war.

Horn was abducted along with his brother, Eitan Horn, who had been staying with him at the time. Eitan remains in captivity.

Dekel Chen had been working outside when militants stormed the

kibbutz. His wife hid in a safe room with their two daughters. She gave birth to their third daughter two months later.

Troufanov was taken hostage along with his grandmother, mother and girlfriend. The three women were released during a brief ceasefire in November 2023. Troufanov's father was killed in the October 7 attack.

The Hamas-linked Prisoners' Information Office said Friday that 369 Palestinians were set to be released from Israeli prisons on Saturday. It said 36 of those were serving life sentences.

Among the most prominent Palestinian prisoners set to be released is Ahmed Barghouti, 48, a close aide of Marwan Barghouti, a militant leader and iconic Palestinian political figure.

Israel sentenced Ahmed Barghouti to life on charges that he dispatched suicide bombers during the Second Intifada, or Palestinian uprising, in the early 2000s to carry out attacks that killed Israeli civilians. He was arrested alongside Marwan Barghouti in 2002.

Concerns are high about the remaining hostages' condition. Of the 251 people abducted, 73 remain in Gaza, around half of whom are believed to be dead. Nearly all the remaining hostages are men,

including Israeli soldiers.

Concern has been growing about the remaining hostages' condition, particularly after the release of three last Saturday, who emerged looking emaciated and frail.

One of them, 65-year-old Keith Siegel, said Friday in a video message addressed to Trump that his captors treated him worse as the 15-month war intensified, kicking him, spitting on him and holding him without water or light.

The truce remains very fragile

The ceasefire appeared dangerously close to collapse in recent days.

Hamas had said it would delay the release of the hostages after accusing Israel of not adhering to their agreement by not allowing in enough shelters, medical supplies, fuel and heavy equipment for clearing rubble. Israel said it would resume fighting Saturday unless hostages were freed.

While the immediate crisis may have been averted, the truce faces a much bigger challenge with the deal's first phase set to conclude in early March. There have not yet been substantive negotiations over the second phase, in which Hamas would release all remaining hostages in return for an end to the war.

At its height, the fight-

ing displaced 90 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million. Hundreds of thousands have since returned to their homes as the ceasefire took hold, though many found only rubble, buried human remains and unexploded ordnance.

The war has killed over 48,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Trump's plan increases uncertainty

Trump's proposal to remove some 2 million Palestinians from Gaza and settle them elsewhere in the region has thrown the truce's future into further doubt.

The idea has been welcomed by Israel's government. But it has been strongly rejected by Palestinians and Arab countries. Human rights groups say it could amount to a war crime under international law.

Trump has proposed that once the fighting ends, Israel would transfer control of Gaza to the United States, which would then redevelop it as the "Riviera of the Middle East." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right allies are already calling for a resumption of the war after the first phase with the goal of destroying Hamas and implementing Trump's plan. The militant group remains in control of the territory after surviving one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history.

Hamas may be unwilling to release any more hostages if it believes the war will resume. The captives are among the only bargaining chips it has left.

German chancellor hits back at US at security conference as Trump administration upends norms



MUNICH, Feb 15 (Agencies): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday shot back strongly in defense of his stance against the far-right and said his country won't accept people who "intervene in our democracy," a day after US Vice President JD Vance scolded European leaders over their approach to democracy.

The German leader spoke with just eight days before crucial elections in Germany, with polls showing the far-right Alternative for Germany party currently in second.

Vance said Friday at the Munich Security Conference that he fears free speech is "in retreat" across the continent.

"Germany is a very strong democracy, and as a strong democracy, we are absolutely clear that the extreme right should be out of political control and out of political decision making processes, and that there will be no cooperation with them," Scholz said. "We really reject any idea of cooperation between parties, other parties and this extreme right parties."

A day earlier, Vance said that many Americans saw in Europe "entrenched interests hiding behind ugly Soviet-era words like misinformation

and disinformation, who simply don't like the idea that somebody with an alternative viewpoint might express a different opinion or, God forbid, vote a different way, or even worse, win an election."

Scholz, shooting back, said "free speech in Europe means that you are not attacking others in ways that are against legislation and laws we have in our country."

He was alluding to rules in Germany that restrict hate speech.

The comments came as European leaders have been trying to make sense of a tough new line from Washington on issues including democracy and Ukraine's future, as the Trump administration continues to upend trans-Atlantic conventions that have been in place since after World War II.

US President Donald Trump held a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin this week in which he said the two leaders would likely meet soon to negotiate a peace deal over Ukraine. Trump later assured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he, too, would have a seat at the table. The war was sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine three years ago.

Already Friday, the

Ukrainian leader said that his country wants security guarantees before any talks with Russia. Shortly before meeting with Vance in Munich, Zelenskyy said he will only agree to meet in-person with Putin after a common plan is negotiated with Trump.

After a 40-minute meeting with Zelenskyy, Vance said the Trump administration wants the war to end.

Beforehand, Vance lectured European officials on free speech and illegal migration on the continent, warning that they risk losing public support if they don't quickly change course.

"The threat that I worry the most about vis-à-vis Europe is not Russia. It's not China. It's not any other external actor," Vance said in a speech that drew a tepid response. "What I worry about is the threat from within—the retreat of Europe from some of its most fundamental values, values shared with the United States of America."

On the sidelines of the event, Vance met with Alice Weidel, co-leader of the far-right and anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party, nine days before a German election.

Mainstream German parties say they won't work with the party—in a longstanding stance to shun the extreme right in a country scarred by Nazism.

Vance later headed back to Washington.

Among other speakers set to take the dais in Munich were NATO chief Mark Rutte and foreign ministers from countries including Canada, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia and from Syria's new government.

Iran's vice-president orders probe into killing of university student during a robbery

DUBAI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Iran's vice-president on Saturday ordered a probe into the killing of a university student after a protest gathering at Tehran University, state media reported.

A report by the official IRNA news agency said First Vice-president Mohammad Reza Aref ordered security officials to probe the case "immediately."

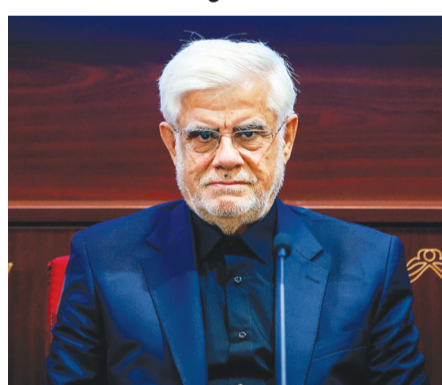
The move came a day after angry students gathered in protest at a Tehran University dormitory seeking more safety measures. The protest briefly turned violent and police deployed forces to the gate of the dorm, according to videos on social media. The Associated Press could not independently verify the footage.

Protesters, chanting "Shame on you," demanded more safety measures at the dorm and its neighborhood, complaining about occasional robberies.

On Wednesday, 19-year-old business administration student Amir Mohammad Khaleghi was stabbed by two unknown robbers who stole his backpack in front of the dorm. Khaleghi died in the hospital.

Peace returned to the dorm late Friday after authorities vowed to pursue the case with a "special" order.

Though the protest was not politically motivated, such events can ignite unrest as Iranian people under U.S. economic sanctions are dealing with the high price of meeting their daily needs, as well as widespread mismanagement.



Iranian universities have a history of protest over the past decades.

Most recently, in 2022, universities were major sites of protest over the death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, who died in police custody after she was detained by the morality police for allegedly not wearing the Muslim headscarf correctly.

The protests that followed Amini's death started first with the chant "Women, Life, Freedom." However, the protesters' cries soon grew into open calls of revolt against the incumbent theocracy. The monthslong nationwide protests, which shook the establishment, ended in early 2023 after a security crackdown during which more than 500 people were killed and over 22,000 detained.

In 1999, student protests in Tehran over the government's closing of a reformist newspaper and a subsequent security force crackdown saw several people killed, hundreds wounded and more arrested.

UAE launches landmark \$60 million initiative to expand accessible education for visually impaired students in Ethiopia

ABU DHABI, Feb 15 (Agencies): Under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE announced a new USD 60 million initiative from the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for the development of schools to support the educational needs of visually impaired students across Ethiopia.

This initiative will be led by the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, a portfolio entity of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, in collaboration with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It builds on the success of the Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak School for the Blind in Addis Ababa, which was inaugurated in May 2024.

The agreement was signed by Mohamed Haji AlKhoori, Director-General of the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, in the presence of Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, Minister of State and member of

the Board of Trustee of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, along with Zinash Tayachew, First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, among other dignitaries.

With an estimated 1.2 million visually impaired individuals in Ethiopia, including 332,000 classified as blind, this initiative directly addresses a pressing humanitarian need by reaching rural areas where educational and healthcare services remain limited. Ethiopia also has one of the highest global rates of trachoma, a preventable eye disease that disproportionately affects underserved communities. With the support of the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, the new schools will serve as centres of excellence, integrating cutting-edge assistive technologies, specialised curricula, and tailored vocational programmes to empower visually impaired students with the skills necessary for higher education and workforce

integration.

Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs, Chairman of the International Humanitarian and Philanthropic Council, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, said, "The UAE remains dedicated to supporting people of determination worldwide. A key element is ensuring that visually impaired students in Ethiopia can access inspiring and inclusive learning environments that meet their specialised needs, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential. This initiative represents the shared commitment by the UAE and Ethiopia to ensure that everyone, regardless of the challenges they may face, can thrive in an inclusive and equitable global society."

Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan said,

"The UAE has long recognised that sustainable development and strategic collaboration are the key drivers of lasting change. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to uplifting communities, creating economic opportunities, and expanding access to essential services. Our partnership furthers the vision of African states to invest in education as a catalyst for future prosperity, empowering youth to realise their full potential and drive sustainable growth."

First Lady Zinash Tayachew added, "We are grateful to the UAE for their continued partnership, which supports our goal of ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their abilities, has access to quality education. Together, our shared commitment will help to create a more inclusive society where every student has the opportunity to succeed." Mohamed Haji AlKhoori said, "Education is a fundamental right, and

every child deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment that supports their unique needs. By strengthening educational systems, we are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable future. This initiative reaffirms the power of global partnerships in driving lasting impact, ensuring that education remains a catalyst for opportunity and empowerment for generations to come."

Together with the Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak School for the Blind, the new schools announced today will create a network across Ethiopia to expand access to inclusive education.

The UAE's commitment to strengthening Ethiopia's educational infrastructure ensures that every visually impaired child, regardless of socioeconomic background, can thrive in a supportive learning environment that empowers them to contribute to society.

Dr Jitendra addresses 'World Diabetes Congress', calls for mass prevention campaign

Top News Report

AHMEDABAD, Feb 15: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today emphasized that Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is no longer just a medical challenge but a national responsibility because this is a nation of the youth whose energies need to be preserved for the higher task of building the Viksit Bharat of 2047 and therefore called for a mass prevention campaign in view of the rapidly increasing prevalence of Diabetes in the young, with the society and the private sector working in synergy with the government driven efforts. He urged an integrated, technology-driven approach to address the rising burden of the disease in India.

Delivering the inaugural address at the "World Diabetes Congress 2025" organised by "Diabetes India", the Minister highlighted the alarming prevalence of diabetes and pre-diabetes in the country, stressing that urgent, integrated action is needed to prevent a public health crisis.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the significance of the Ahmedabad Declaration, stating that much like Gujarat's pioneering role in setting up the country's first-ever Disaster Management Authority by the then chief minister Narendra Modi which had later prompted the setting up of the National Disaster Management Authority, the fight against diabetes could also be launched from Ahmedabad. "India has historically turned challenges into opportunities, and diabe-



tes should be no exception," he remarked.

The Minister called for breaking down silos between the public and private healthcare sectors, academia and biotechnology innovators to develop a holistic, science-driven approach to tackling diabetes. He noted that the era of working in isolation is over, and synergy between government institutions, private research bodies, and startups is essential in finding solutions for early detection, prevention, and treatment of diabetes.

Dr. Singh revealed that the Department of Space and the Department of Biotechnology have signed a formal MoU to study human physiology in space, opening new avenues for diabetes research. The collaboration is expected to yield critical insights into metabolic disorders and their behavior in zero-gravity conditions, which could further inform treatments and preventive strategies for diabetes on Earth.

Dr. Jitendra stressed that diabetes research and treatment must incorporate advance-

ments in biotechnology, AI-driven healthcare, and telemedicine. He highlighted India's recent success in gene therapy trials for hemophilia, conducted in collaboration with leading medical institutions, as an example of how cutting-edge research can revolutionize chronic disease management.

He also pointed out that diabetes is increasingly affecting younger populations, warning that India cannot afford to let its workforce suffer from metabolic disorders. With 70% of India's population under 40, diabetes prevention must become a national priority to safeguard economic productivity and the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Minister expressed concern over the rising influence of unregulated diet fads and self-styled health counselors, cautioning that disinformation could worsen India's health crisis. "More than a lack of information, it is the spread of disinformation that could harm public health. While traditional medicine and new-age therapies have their place, they must be backed by scientific valida-

tion," he said.

He also recalled how, during the COVID-19 pandemic, even medical skeptics turned to traditional Indian medicine and integrated healthcare systems, recognizing their value. "The lesson from COVID-19 is clear—our approach to healthcare has to be inclusive, integrating modern medicine with scientifically validated traditional practices," he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh asserted that India's success in combating diabetes will serve as a model for the world, just as its leadership in space technology, biotechnology, and disaster management has inspired other nations. He encouraged researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to take bold, future-oriented steps in diabetes management and public health strategies.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that India has the potential to transform its diabetes challenge into an opportunity for innovation and global leadership in healthcare. He urged all stakeholders to commit to a synergized, technology-driven, and evidence-based approach to prevent and manage diabetes, ensuring a healthier, more productive India by 2047.

President International Diabetes Federation Dr Peter Shwartz, Padmashri Dr Shankar Joshi, Dr Banshi Saboo who is also the Chief Organiser of the Conference and RSSDI President Dr Aravind were among the prominent Diabetes experts who spoke in the inaugural session.

CUJ organizes commemorative writing series celebrating female authors



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Under the dynamic leadership of the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Professor Sanjeev Jain, the Department of English at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized a commemorative writing series celebrating female authors and their literary contributions. This initiative aimed to recognize and reflect on the profound impact of women writers on literature and society, acknowledging their role in shaping intellectual and cultural discourse.

As part of this initiative, the department conducted a literary discussion-cum-per-

formance that explored the intersections of Western and Indian literary thought, with a particular focus on feminist writers. Faculty members and students actively engaged in the discussions, sharing their perspectives on the significance of women's literary contributions. Adding a creative dimension to the event, students also enacted a play that captivated the audience with its engaging narrative and compelling performances. Their enactment brought the themes of feminist literature to life, making the session both insightful and entertaining.

Dr. K. Rajesh, Head of the Department of English and Convenor of

the event, emphasized the importance of character building and time management in both life and academia. Faculty members, including Dr. Neena Gupta, Dr. Raj Thakur, Dr. Mirza Ahmed Afzal Farooq and Dr. Parveen, actively participated in the discussions, alongside enthusiastic student contributions that enriched the dialogue with fresh insights and creative expressions.

This event underscored the department's commitment to intellectual engagement and literary appreciation, reinforcing CUJ's dedication to fostering a deeper understanding of diverse literary traditions among both faculty and students.

Picano transforming education with innovative furniture, robotics solutions in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Picano, a leading brand in school, college, and university furniture, announced its growing presence in Jammu & Kashmir, contributing to the region's educational development.

With over 20 lakh children across 10,000+ institutions in India and Nepal already benefiting from Picano's high-quality furniture, the brand is now bringing its expertise to schools in Jammu & Kashmir.

Picano's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Greater Noida, equipped with automated plants and a dedicated workforce of over 120 employees, ensures the delivery of world-class furniture designed to enhance the learning environment. From ergonomic classroom furniture to durable laboratory setups, Picano has supplied furniture to some



of the best schools in the country.

In addition to furniture, Picano has set up over 2,000 science labs across India and Nepal, empowering students with hands-on learning experiences. The brand's innovative Robotics kits have further revolutionized skill development, enabling students to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) concepts and prepare for the future.

"We are excited to extend our offerings to Jammu & Kashmir, a

region with immense potential for educational growth," said Shekhar Pathak, Director at Picano. "Our mission is to create inspiring learning spaces and equip students with the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving world."

Picano's commitment to quality, innovation, and sustainability has made it a trusted partner for educational institutions. By combining functional design with cutting-edge technology, Picano is shaping the future of education, one classroom at a time.

Babu Rampaul reiterates demand for grant of statehood to J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Babu Rampaul, former Minister and President JKNC Central Zone (Jammu, Samba and Kathua) today reiterated his demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and urged the Prime Minister to fulfill his promise, which he made with the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing youths during a meeting, Rampaul said that statehood is not just a political necessity but a constitutional and moral obligation that must be fulfilled at the earliest. The time for delays and empty promises is over; the people demand action," he asserted.

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.

Former minister maintained that the Central Government must understand that without restoration of statehood, Development, peace and prosperity are not possible in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rampaul also raised serious concern over continuous growing crime activities in Jammu Division with people at large feeling insecurity to live peacefully in their homes.

He expressed his deep concern for rising criminal acts of broad daylight shooting and attacking houses for looting belongings without fear of law enforcement authorities.

Such acts of heinous crimes being perpetrated by criminals in and outside Jammu with impunity have been seen as unprecedented in the recent past, he bemoaned, adding that housewives, senior citizens children as well as ailing persons are finding themselves in deep shock and unsafe within the four walls of their homes. He pointed out that such a sorry state of affairs emanating from dual control, which reflects the crumbling law and order situation with police and other law enforcement agencies operating in Jammu seem clueless as to how to tighten screws on the crime operators com-

mitting unlawful activities uninterrupted.

Referring to reports of mental torture inflicted on Makhhan Din in police custody in Billaer, Distt Kathua leading to his suicide and killing of Waseem Ahmad Malla allegedly by the Army under mysterious circumstances, he apprehended that such untowards incidents are bound to create an avoidable sense of insecurity amongst people.

Hailing the Chief Minister for ordering enquiry to unearth the truth behind such unpleasant incidents, he said under dual control, in vogue, in JK Union Territory, it is difficult rather impossible for the elected Govt

to tackle such an unwarranted situation with iron hands.

Rampaul urged the JK administration to take urgent remedial measures to sternly handle such criminals hell bent to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu region, he stressed, adding the every effort needs to be made by the law enforcement authorities to restore dwindling confidence of the public to lead hassle free life and do their usual work without any iota of fear and uncertainty prevailing in their minds.

Prominent among those present on this occasion included Sham Lal Mehra, Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, S. Nirmal Singh, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Arvind Jamwal, B.D Dalotra (rtd. S.P.), S.Surjeet Singh Sasan, Prem Kumar Verma, Hemraj, Naved Raja, A.N Bhagat, Sat Paul, Manhor Lal, Baramanad, Harbans Lal, Jatinder Kumar, Sahil Kerni Secretary Jammu District YNC, Rahul Gupta, Sourab Bhagat and others.

FromPage No:1

Jammu Kashmir resident among 119 Indians to be deported from US

Another plane carrying more deportees is expected to arrive on February 16. Last week, 104 illegal Indian migrants were deported from the US.

Kiren Rijiju reiterates Centre's resolve to restore Statehood to J&K in due course

like to venture into the political and governance side... I can only say that Jammu and Kashmir is within the status of a Union Territory at this time. The lieutenant governor is the administrative head of the UT but we have also elected a government. We have a very successful government which was elected very recently," he said.

On the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Rijiju claimed that Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar were on board with the government's decision.

"The Waqf bill is for transparent management of properties for the benefit of Muslims. There is no way that anyone can snatch the properties," he said.

Asked if Naidu and Kumar were supportive of the bill, the minister

replied in the affirmative saying several Muslim MPs too have privately supported it.

"Several Muslim MPs have expressed support (for the bill) while thousands of Muslims, including women, have welcomed it," Rijiju said.

On the reduction in budgetary allocation for Jammu and Kashmir for the 2025-26 fiscal, Rijiju said the provisions have been made as per the spending capacity of the Union Territory in the current fiscal.

"The budgetary allocations are according to the Union Territory status. The finance minister has made it clear that the allocation is as per spending capacity. She also said whatever money is needed will be provided. It does not include the centrally-sponsored schemes. There is no dearth of resources,"

he said.

The minister also said that there was relief for horticulture farmers and handicraft artisans of Jammu and Kashmir in the Budget.

"J-K has a special situation. There is a lot of relief for horticulture and handicrafts. Special mission mode announcements have been made to enhance exports of handicrafts and Kashmiri art," Rijiju said.

After this Budget, small-scale and medium-scale industries will get a boost in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

"Glad to welcome Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at SMVD

University": CM Omar Abdullah

and determination!" the post reads.

CBI searches 11 locations in Delhi, Haryana in Crypto Fraud Case

darknet," it said. Additionally, the CBI seized cash amounting to Rs. 1.08 crore, foreign currency worth USD 1,000, and 252 grams of gold, it said.

Three J&K Govt employees

terminated over terror links

security. The move is part of the administration's ongoing crackdown on individuals within the government suspected of having links to terror groups.

Officials said the cases against them were based on credible intelligence inputs and ongoing investigations.

The administration has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism and any form of support to it. Over the past few years, several government employees have been dismissed on similar grounds, as authorities continue efforts to weed out elements posing a threat to national security.

Sat, Sunil, Dr. Narinder release poems based on Guru Ravidas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Sat Sharma, along with Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, UT General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, National Executive Member Priya Sethi, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and other leaders released a set of Hindi poems based on the teachings and thoughts of Guru Ravidas.

These poems have been written by BJP spokesperson and former chairperson Balbir Ram Rattan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said, "Guru Ravidas preached the message of equality, brotherhood, and



humanity in society. His teachings are still relevant today and guide us on the right path. These poems are a small but significant effort to honour his greatness."

Sat Sharma also appreciated Balbir Ram Rattan's literary contribution and said that these poems present Guru Ravidas' teachings in simple language and will serve as an inspiration for the younger generation.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said that these poems reflect Guru Ravidas' egalitarian thoughts, spirituality, and humanitarian vision. They have been written especially for BJP's Ravidas Jayanti programmes and will serve as an inspiration to society.

Dr. Narinder Singh stated that Guru Ravidas' compositions promote brotherhood and devotion to God.

He said that Guru Ravidas devoted his life for social equality.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted that Sant Ravidas' life symbolized social reform and spiritual wisdom. He opposed casteism and untouchability and preached the message of equality.

Priya Sethi remarked that Guru Ravidas taught love, devotion, and humanity. His writings encourage brotherhood and devotion to God.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that through these poems, he has tried to spread the message and teachings of Guru Ravidas to society.

Jaideep Sambyal, Ravinder Singh Birpuria, Dr. Makson Tikoo and others were also present on the occasion.

GDC Sidhra celebrates 75th years of adoption of Constitution of India



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Electoral Literacy Club in collaboration with NSS unit of GDC Sidhra organized "reading of Preamble" as a series of events to celebrate 75 years of adoption of Constitution of India.

All the faculty members and the students including NSS volun-

teers recited the Preamble and remembered the various objectives of the Preamble including Sovereignty, Secularism Democracy, Socialism Republic, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

The Preamble is an introduction to our Indian constitution and contains the key points that provide us with better understanding of

the Indian Constitution. Not just this, in case of ambiguity to understand any article the Preamble gives better and easier explanation.

The Preamble is a way to be aware of the basic fundamentals rights and raise their voice if they feel that one of their rights has been violated by someone else. This is where the importance of the objectives of Preamble comes into play.

The whole event was well organized by Dr. Meesha Bhagat, Convener Electoral Literacy Club and Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS Programme officer with their teams under the able guidance of Dr. GS Rakwal, Principal GDC Sidhra.

Natrang stages Dogri play 'Kahani Natya Shastre Di' at Vishwa Jan Rang

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: In connection with the completion of 25 years of 'Bhart Rang Mahotsav' (International Theatre Festival of India) National School of Drama organised an exclusive event entitled 'Vishwa Jan Rang' in which Natrang Jammu presented a Dogri play 'Kahani Natya Shashtra Di' at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. The play was translated into Dogri by Pawan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant.

The play 'Kahani Natya Shashtra Di' based on Pancham Ved Ka Natya Lekhan" revolves around a conversation between Bharata Muni and a group of sages, exploring the origins and significance of Natyashastra. It begins with Bharata instructing his disciples to practice their performance with precision. Before they begin, five sages arrive, seeking answers about Natyashastra.

One of the sages asks Bharata about the purpose behind its creation. Bharata explains that during Treta Yuga, as people became consumed by greed and immorality, Lord Indra requested Lord Brahma to create a medium that could guide humanity toward righteousness, prosperity, desires, and liberation. In response, Brahma devised Natyaveda, a "fifth Veda" combining elements of the four Vedas to serve as a tool for education



and moral upliftment through storytelling and performance.

Another sage questions why a new Veda was needed when the existing four already contained all knowledge. Bharata explains that Natyaveda was made for everyone, especially common people, providing them access to wisdom through an engaging and accessible medium. When asked about its composition, Bharata elaborates that its text and dialogue come from Rigveda, music from Samaveda, acting from Yajurveda, and emotions and aesthetics (Rasa) from Atharvaveda.

A sage then asks if Natyashastra was created solely for the gods. Bharata refutes this misconception, stating that theater is meant for all beings—gods, demons, and humans alike. It portrays both good and evil, offering reflection and solace to its audience. When another sage expresses concern about society's

failure to value the arts, Bharata acknowledges the issue, stating that while artists dedicate themselves to their craft, it is up to rulers and leaders to provide support. He emphasizes that theater is a mirror to society, transcending religious and geographical boundaries and uniting humanity.

At last, Bharata declares Natyashastra as the "Pancham Veda," a complete synthesis of knowledge and emotions. As the discussion ends, he invites the sages to witness a performance, reinforcing the significance of theater in human life.

The artists who performed in the play included Pawan Verma, Vishal Sharma, Kushal Bhat, Aadish Dhar, Adaksh Bagal, Aryan Sharma, Sanket Bhagat and Kartik Kumar. The lights of the play were executed by Mohd. Yaseen whereas the music of the play was scored by Kananpreet Kaur and composed by Brij Mohan.

Seven-day NSS special camp concluded at MIER

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: The NSS Special Camp at MIER College of Education, held from February 3 to 11, 2025, was a remarkable seven-day journey filled with service, learning, teamwork, and holistic development. The theme of the camp was "Youth for Digital Initiatives". The camp was organized by Dr Komal Sharma, NSS Programme Officer under the guidance of Principal Prof. Adit Gupta.

A total of 44 NSS Volunteers from SOE and SSSH enthusiastically participated in the camp.

Each day commenced with a morning prayer and yoga session, fostering a sense of inner peace, discipline, and unity among the volunteers.

The camp was officially inaugurated by Prof. Adit Gupta, Director & Principal of MIER College of Education, who delivered an inspiring address on the transformative impact of community service in shaping responsible and compassionate individuals.

The event was graced by senior faculty members, including the Head and Deputy Head of the School of Education and the Head of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Dr. Komal Sharma, NSS Programme Officer, played a pivotal role in guiding the volunteers, passionately orienting them about the objectives of the camp



and instilling in them the true spirit of selfless service and social responsibility.

Further adding to the inspiration, Nirbhay Khajuria (MA Psychology, Sem-I), an NSS volunteer, shared his enriching experiences from the Republic Day Camp, motivating fellow participants to embrace the ethos of community engagement wholeheartedly.

A significant milestone of the camp was the volunteers' registration on the 'My Bharat' portal, symbolizing the beginning of their dedicated journey in nation-building efforts.

The participants actively engaged in Shramdaan (voluntary labor), making meaningful contributions to community welfare and reinforcing the NSS ideology of giving back to society.

A poster-making competition on 'Digital Literacy and Safe Digital Practices' provided a creative platform for volunteers to express their understanding of responsible digital engagement.

The competition wit-

nessed fierce participation, with the winners being Shweta (B.Ed Special Sem 1) – 1st Prize, Janvi (B.Ed Sem 1) – 2nd Prize, Kritika (MA Psychology Sem 1) – 3rd Prize, and Arshia (MA Psychology Sem 1) – Consolation Prize. Judges commended the participants for their artistic brilliance and ability to convey compelling social messages.

The Nukkad Natak (street play) on 'Cyber Security', performed at Kabir Basti, captivated the local community, powerfully raising awareness about online safety through an engaging and thought-provoking performance. Expanding their outreach, the volunteers conducted awareness campaigns in Bhatyari and Domana villages, educating residents on digital literacy and secure digital payments.

The initiatives were met with overwhelming appreciation, with the Sarpanch, Surjit Singh, extending his support. To ensure a well-rounded experience, the camp balanced academic enrichment with

physical activities.

Sports events such as Badminton, Basketball, Kho Kho, and Tug of War energized the volunteers promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and camaraderie. An insightful lecture on Cyber Security and Online Banking Awareness, delivered by Ali Raza, Manager at PNB, MIER equipped volunteers with essential knowledge on safeguarding personal information in an increasingly digitalized world.

To further engage intellectual curiosity, a quiz competition on 'Digital India' was held, where Team C (Shiv Paul, Sneha Devi, Anannia Bhagat, Ridhima Sharma) emerged as the winners.

The grand valedictory ceremony, hosted by Kritika Choudhary and Bharti Khajuria (MA Psychology Sem-I) marked the culmination of the camp.

The event began with a formal welcome speech by Priyanshi (BA Psychology Sem-I) and was attended by distinguished guests, including Dr. Heema Gandotra, NSS Programme

Coordinator, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, alongside the Principal, Heads of Schools, faculty members, and students.

The stage came alive with a spectacular cultural showcase, featuring an NSS song, an intellectually stimulating skit, a mesmerizing Dogri dance, and a high-energy Punjabi performance, each capturing the vibrancy and essence of the NSS journey.

A particularly poignant moment was the detailed seven-day camp report meticulously presented by Dr. Komal Sharma, highlighting the dedication and hard work of the volunteers.

A defining highlight of the ceremony was the felicitation of Nirbhay Khajuria, whose prestigious selection for the Republic Day Camp was celebrated as a moment of immense pride and honour for the college.

The much-awaited certificate distribution ceremony recognized outstanding performances in the poster-making and quiz competitions, encouraging and appreciating the volunteers' efforts. Several volunteers shared heartfelt reflections, expressing their gratitude for the invaluable experiences, personal growth, and spirit of teamwork fostered during the camp. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sayma Niyaz (MA Psychology Sem-I), marking the end of an unforgettable journey.

International Childhood Cancer Day celebrated at SMGS Hospital

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: On International Childhood Cancer Day, the unwavering strength of children battling cancer, their families, and the dedicated healthcare professionals supporting them was honored at SMGS Hospital, Jammu. The event recognized the tireless efforts of doctors, nurses, caregivers, and NGOs who stand by young cancer warriors, offering them hope and a future filled with possibilities.

The event was graced by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta,

Principal Dean, GMC Jammu, as the chief guest. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Sanjeev Digra, highlighting the significance of the occasion and the need for continued efforts in childhood cancer care.

The event was organized by the Department of Pediatrics, Pediatric Oncology & Hematology, Indian Academy of Pediatrics (Jammu and Kashmir), in collaboration with NGO SUPPORT and Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation.

Children and cancer survivors showcased their incredible talent

through a cultural dance and singing performance, beautifully arranged by Cuddles Foundation and Can Kids. The program aimed to spread awareness about early signs and symptoms of childhood cancer, while also dispelling myths and taboos surrounding cancer treatment and survivorship.

Renowned philanthropist Kunwar Rani Ritu Singh and Dr. Navneet Kour, founder of NGO SUPPORT, hosted the event. They also distributed gifts and refreshments to cancer survivors and warriors, bring-



ing smiles to their faces. Medical Superintendent (MS) of SMGS Hospital, Dr. Dara Singh, extended his full support to the initiative and lauded the efforts

of the organizers. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, in his speech, emphasized the hospital's ongoing efforts in improving cancer care and overcoming challenges

faced by young patients. Adding a touch of melody to the event, renowned singer Deepak delivered a heartwarming performance, lifting the spir-

its of the children and attendees. Dr. Rajeev Gupta shared insights on enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients through advanced treatments, while MS Dr. Deepak commended the support extended by NGOs in aiding cancer patients.

A presentation by PG students shed light on ongoing research and advancements in pediatric oncology.

As a mark of appreciation, mementos were presented to distinguished guests, including Dr. Sanjeev Digra, Dr. Navneet Kour, Ms. Shagun from Mission

Shakti, Sh. Ashok Ji, and other attending doctors.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Navneet Kour, acknowledging the dedication of doctors, nurses, and caregivers who continue to stand as pillars of strength for young cancer fighters.

This International Childhood Cancer Day celebration served as a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility to support and uplift children battling cancer, ensuring they receive the care, love, and opportunities they deserve.

Cricket legends Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, among others rally for WCL Season 2 campaign

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): The cricket world is set for an extraordinary convergence of talent as five of the sport's most iconic players - Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Shahid Afridi, Chris Gayle, and AB de Villiers - confirm their participation in Season 2 of the World Championship of Legends (WCL).

In a groundbreaking initiative that goes beyond traditional cricket, these legends will also serve as mentors in an immersive fan experience program, as stated in a release from WCL.

World Championship of Legends (WCL), the only ECB-approved league in its category, has announced the launch of registrations for its groundbreaking fan engagement program, Live With The Legends (LWL). The initiative offers cricket enthusiasts worldwide a chance to secure a spot in an exclusive 16-day, all-expenses-paid UK tour, where 12



selected fans will share living quarters and experiences with cricket's greatest stars.

The Live With The Legends program represents an unprecedented level of access to the sport's elite, featuring exclusive travel and accommodation arrangements alongside cricket legends, behind-the-scenes access to team preparations and match-day activities, VIP access to official WCL events and post-match celebrations, one-on-one interactions with

players, professional photo sessions, and signed memorabilia from the teams.

The selection process will unfold across three carefully designed rounds. The first round, running from February 15 to March 15, will test participants through a 15-minute cricket knowledge assessment. Successful candidates will advance to the second round, held from March 16 to April 25, where they must submit a one-minute video showcasing their

passion for cricket.

The CEO and Founder of WCL, Harshit Tomar, said that the tournament will increase fan engagement to an unprecedented level. "Cricket has always been a game of passion and legacy. With Live With The Legends, we are taking fan engagement to an unprecedented level by giving them the chance to live the experience of a professional cricketer. This initiative is a testament to WCL's commitment to celebrating the sport and its greatest ambassadors." Harshit was quoted in a release from WCL as saying.

Registrations are open from February 7 to March 15 on the official WCL website. Cricket enthusiasts globally can apply for this historic opportunity to share space with cricket legends including Yuvraj Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Shahid Afridi, Brett Lee, Chris Gayle, Moeen Ali, AB de Villiers, and others who have defined the modern era of cricket.

Gukesh finishes last at Freestyle Chess Grand Slam, loses to Firouzja



HAMBURG, Feb 15 (Agencies): World champion D Gukesh ended the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam finishing last after losing to Iranian-French grandmaster Alireza Firouzja in their seventh-place playoff match.

After a drawn-battle on the first day, Gukesh had an opportunity to bounce back but lost in just 30 moves. A mid-game mistake forced him to give up on his queen, allowing Firouzja to take advantage and secure victory.

Gukesh's seventh-position meant that he concluded the tournament in Weissenhaus without a single win.

Meanwhile, Vincent Keymer emerged as a surprise winner, defeating Fabia-

no Caruana, despite being touted as a rookie at the start. The German's victory over several higher-ranked opponents was seen as a positive outcome for the event's sponsors.

Magnus Carlsen secured the third place defeating Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. Sindarov had earlier replaced Viswanathan Anand, however Carlsen stood strong giving him back-to-back defeats.

Hikaru Nakamura won against another Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov to end on the fifth spot.

FIDE, the world chess governing body, has been reluctant to endorse Chess 960- Fischer Random Chess, or the Freestyle Chess- but the tournament's success indicated a growing appeal.

Results: Vincent Keymer (Germany) beat Fabiano Caruana (USA) 1.5-0.5; Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan) lost to Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 0-2; Alireza Firouzja (France) beat D Gukesh (India) 1.5-0.5; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Norway) 0-2.

Final standings: 1. Vincent Keymer; 2. Fabiano Caruana; 3. Magnus Carlsen; 4. Javokhir Sindarov; 5. Hikaru Nakamura; 6. Nodirbek Abdusattorov; 7. Alireza Firouzja; 8. D Gukesh.

WPL 2025 season opener rewrites record books as RCB thrash Gujarat Giants

VADODARA, Feb 15 (Agencies): The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 season opener between Gujarat Giants Women and Royal Challengers Bengaluru rewrote record books as Smriti Mandhana's side clinched a six-wicket win over the Gujarat-based franchise.

A half-century by Ellyse Perry and audacious ball-striking in death overs by half-century Richa Ghosh and Kanika Ahuja helped defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) kickstart their Women's Premier League (WPL) campaign with a massive six-wicket win in Vadodara.

The chase of 202 runs by the Bengaluru-based franchise against the Giants was the highest target successfully chased in the WPL. Earlier, Mumbai Indians held the record when they chased a 191-run target against Gujarat in 2024.

The WPL 2025 season opener also had the highest match aggregate

in the tournament, with 403. Previously, the record was held by the match between Gujarat Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2023, with an aggregate of 391.

The unbeaten partnership of 93 runs between Kanika Ahujaa and Richa Ghosh also registered the third-highest for the Bengaluru-based franchise in WPL.

A total of 16 sixes were smashed in the game between RCB and GG in Vadodara, which is the second-most hit in a WPL match. Earlier, RCB's match against DC in 2024 held the second spot with 19 sixes.

Summarizing the match, RCB won the toss and elected to field first. After being put to bat first, GG's opening pair of Beth Mooney and Laura Wolvaardt took their time picking up speed, with Mooney hitting some boundaries. However, Laura was cleaned up by Renuka Thakur for 6 (10 balls, with one four) by Renuka Singh.

It was captain Ashleigh Gardner's unbeaten 79-run knock and Mooney's 56 runs from 42 balls, which powered the Gujarat-based franchise to 201/5 in the first inning.

Renuka was the pick of the bowlers, conceding just 25 runs and getting two wickets. Kanika, Wareham and Prerna got one wicket each.

During the run-chase of 202, RCB openers Mandhana and Danni Wyatt-Hodge started with three fours in the first over, but Gardner pushed them back by removing both the openers in the next over.

Later in the second inning, Ellyse Perry (57), Richa Ghosh (64*) and Kanika Ahuja (30*) played a stupendous knock and chased down the target in just 18.3 overs, helping RCB clinch a 6-wicket triumph on Friday.

Gardner led the Giants' bowling attack with her two wickets.

Richa Ghosh was named the 'Player of the Match' following her magnificent knock.

Axar Patel: How spinner's ability to counter spin with bat makes him valuable

NEW DELHI, Feb 15 (Agencies): As Team India gears up for the start of their ICC Champions Trophy campaign, one player that is really worth watching out is the spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel.

While his performances over the years and improvements in batting have been under the radar of many and he is just one of many options in a country that has no shortage of spin bowling all-rounders, a deep dive into his role can really help one understand that he is a rare specie as far as Indian cricket is concerned: A spinner, who bashes spin with his bat too!

In the 2020s, Axar's numbers with the bat across all formats have undergone a huge upgrade. In 99 matches and 81 innings, Axar has scored 1,606 runs at an average of 26.76, with eight half-centuries and best score of 84. With these numbers, he has been able to place himself as a serious competitor for a spot against premier all-rounders, Ravindra Jadeja and now-retired Ravichandran Ashwin.



During this decade, Axar also played several knocks during which he saved India from jaws of defeat, guiding his team out of troubled waters, with one well-timed drive at a time. These knocks often saw him take on world-class spin bowling really well. Being a practitioner of this art, he could read them really well.

Be it his 47 in 31 balls, which took India from 34/3 to 176/7 in T20 World Cup final against South Africa at Barbados, his 84 against Australia at Nagpur Test in 2023 that took India to 400 from 240/7 and 74 in the next Test in Delhi against Aussies during which he helped India reach within reach of Australia's first innings total of 262 from a troublesome scoreline of

135/6, these are some notable gems against world-class spinners like Keshav Maharaj, Nathan Lyon, Tabraiz Shami, Matthew Kuhnemann that prove "Baapu (Axar's nickname), thaari batting kamaal che!" (Baapu, your batting is great!)

Axar is among the best spin players in the current Indian set-up and his additional skills as a bowler and a solid fielder makes him a rare talent. Axar has an average of 40.38 since January 2021 in Tests and 525 runs. Only four more batters, Yashasvi Jaiswal (81.75), Rishabh Pant (55.15), Shreyas Iyer (41.84) and Shubman Gill (41.04) have more average against spin than Axar, as per Wisden.

Axar has batted every-

where from number four to nine across all formats, though he is not a very frequent player at two-down spot. His ability to counter-attack against spin, especially in Asian conditions, makes him valuable. In white-ball cricket, this ability makes him a valuable floater who can be used in various tactical match-ups against spinners.

Coming to ODIs, he averages 37.75 against spin and strikes at 101 against spin since January 2021. Six batters, Gill (80.00), KL Rahul (69.40), Shreyas Iyer (60.00), Virat Kohli (45.22), Ishan Kishan (45.09) and Rohit Sharma (45.07) have better average against spin. Only four of these batters strike at above 100 against spin, Rohit (117), Ishan (101.8), Axar himself and Iyer (100.6).

Except for Kishan, all of these batters are India's first choice ODI batters and Axar is putting up a fine fight against them. But the interesting thing is, none of these other batters bowl and only Rohit has a considerably

better strike rate against spin.

Coming to T20Is, Axar has a strike rate of 148.1 and an average of 40.00 against spin. His average against spin is bettered by Ruturaj Gaikwad (76.00), Shivam Dube (49.00) and Suryakumar Yadav (58.67), while Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma lag behind. Though his strike rate is bettered by Abhishek (208.7), Jaiswal (182.5), Samson (171.3), Gaikwad (159.4), Dube (150.5) and only Suryakumar lags behind with SR of 147.7, it is Axar's ability as a spinner that makes him a valuable asset.

Out of these batters, only Dube and Abhishek bowl part-time pace and spin respectively. As a bowler, he still averages below 20 in Tests and can run through teams on spin bowling friendly wickets. In white-ball cricket, he goes at an economy rate of 4.50 in ODIs and 7.30 in T20Is, making him a brilliant all-round option due to his striking abilities against spin and bowling greatness.

Mark Butcher questions England's 50-over experience ahead of Champions Trophy

LONDON, Feb 15 (Agencies): Former England cricketer Mark Butcher has raised concerns about whether England possess enough experience in the 50-over format to compete effectively in the upcoming Champions Trophy. His remarks came after England suffered a humiliating 3-0 series defeat against India, exposing significant weaknesses in their ODI setup.

Speaking on the Wisden Cricket Weekly podcast during England's third ODI loss in Ahmedabad, Butcher highlighted the lack of match experience among the squad. England fielded several inexperienced players in the series, including Jacob Bethell, who had played just 16 List A games before making his ODI debut last summer. Gus Atkinson, who made his

international debut in 2023 after featuring in only two List A matches, endured a difficult tour, conceding 139 runs across two ODIs. Following Bethell's injury, England recalled Tom Banton, who hadn't played a single 50-over match since his last ODI appearance in 2020.

"The first thing that sprung to my mind during the first two ODIs was just how naive most of our cricket is in the 50-over format," said Butcher, as quoted from Wisden.

"I thought 'why might that be?'. It's because we don't play any. There is a world of difference in terms of the tempo that the game needs to be played at. I don't mean that the tempo is a rigid graph that only goes up, the tempo needs to fluctuate in 50-over cricket in a way that it doesn't

need to in 20-over cricket. Having that skill and nous and game awareness to know when to put the foot down and when to ease off a little but, when to sit in and when to go hard, is something that only comes with playing lots of it," he added.

"I remember back in the 90s when England would play three Texaco Trophy matches during the course of the summer, the sum total of England's 50-over cricket would be three to six matches per summer. They'd be playing against Indian sides, or West Indian sides or Australian sides, the difference in number of caps between them and our players was three times more on the other team. We're kind of back in that situation now whereby the India players will out number the number of caps of

even someone like Jos Buttler for example, by at least two to one or three to one," he said.

"A lot of our guys will be a lot better for the run. Gus Atkinson has had a pretty chastening trip and that's not a bad thing. He's basically found the game far too easy up to this point and has run into the first road block. Being a very talented boy and somebody who has the hunger and desire to be the very best, he will be better for the experience of a flogging in India. But if you're talking about winning a Champions Trophy in a couple of weeks time, it's not likely is it? That our team and the make-up of it and the experience of it is going to have the skill and the nous and the know-how to win what is a very difficult form of cricket, 50-over cricket. It requires more than

just putting your foot to the floor and keeping it there," he noted.

In stark contrast, India's young players have considerably more experience in the format. Shubman Gill, at just 25, has already played 50 ODIs and over 100 List A matches. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who made his ODI debut in the second match of the series in Cuttack, has already featured in 30 List A games despite being in the early stages of his professional career.

England's campaign in the Champions Trophy will begin on February 22 in Lahore, where they will take on arch-rivals Australia. They will also face Afghanistan and South Africa in the group stage, hoping to overcome their recent struggles and make a strong impact in the tournament.

Aditi lies 20th at the Saudi Ladies golf



RIYADH, Feb 15 (Agencies): Aditi Ashok and Pranavi Urs, making their first appearance on the Ladies European Tour, got off to decent starts at PIF Saudi Ladies International. Aditi, who opened her season on the LPGA, shot 3-under 69 while Pranavi playing her first event of the new year, carded 2-under 70. Both had four birdies each but Aditi, placed T-20, dropped just one bogey, while Pranavi, placed T-32, had two, as per a release from

Ladies European Tour. It was a damp morning with rain falling at the start of the rounds at Riyadh Golf Club, but it dried up in the middle of the round before the rain started again towards the end of the day.

The other two Indians in the field were way behind as Tvesa Malik shot 73 and was T-75 and Diksha Dagar, one of the only two Indians to have tasted victory on the LET, shot 75 and was T-95.

Aditi, teeing off from

the tenth, had an early bogey on the 11th, but then birdied four times - on the 13th, 15th, first and second.

Pranavi opened with a birdie on the tenth but dropped shots on the 11th and 17th. She then picked birdies on second, fourth and the fifth.

It was not a great start for Tvesa, who had two birdies on the 17th and the ninth, after teeing off from the tenth. Diksha, two-time winner on the LET, had two birdies, one bogey and a quadruple bogey on the Par-3 eighth.

She leads the Individual after an opening round of 65 (-7).

In the individual competition, Korea's Somi Lee fired an opening round of 65 to lead the Individual competition by one stroke on the first day.

Movement Kalki delegation confronts JMC over non-functional street lights, demands immediate action



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: A delegation from Movement Kalki met with the Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today, raising strong objections over the non-functional street lights across Jammu city and the irresponsible attitude of nodal officers tasked with addressing the issue.

Led by Movement Kalki Board Member Pawan Sharma, the delegation included Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Monika Sharma, and Sanjeev Dubey, who expressed deep concern over the growing safety hazards and inconvenience faced by residents due to poorly maintained street lighting.

According to Movement Kalki, more than 25,000 street lights in Jammu city are non-functional, plunging entire neighborhoods into darkness and increasing risks for pedestrians, motorists, and especially women

at night. Despite multiple complaints, officials have failed to take corrective action, worsening public frustration.

Pawan Sharma, President of Ward No. 13 (Resham Ghar Colony) and an active Movement Kalki member, has repeatedly raised complaints about the situation. However, when he contacted Nodal Officer Darshan Kumar, he was met with an indifferent response.

Instead of addressing the issue, the officer dismissed the severity of the problem and advised Sharma to report only one or two faulty lights instead of all. Shockingly, he further suggested that either JMC should fix the lights or residents should hire private electricians to do so.

Movement Kalki has strongly condemned this irresponsible and insensitive approach and put forth the urgent demands.

They demanded Nodal officers must be instructed to conduct

night inspections in their respective wards to ensure street lights are operational, and private contractors responsible for street light maintenance should be held accountable and made to fulfill their contractual obligations. The organization also demanded strict action against officials who fail in their duties and ensure that negligence does not leave streets in darkness.

They said JMC employees must adopt a responsible and cooperative attitude while addressing public grievances and prioritize citizens' safety.

Movement Kalki has warned that if immediate corrective action is not taken, the organization will mobilize public protests and launch a large-scale agitation against the administration.

The delegation has urged the JMC Commissioner to take swift and decisive steps before public frustration escalates further.

IGP Jammu stresses proactive, tech-driven approach to enhance security, Crime prevention

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, led a high-level meeting with senior officers to discuss improvements in policing, intelligence gathering, and strengthening the Special Operations Group (SOG).

Held at the Zonal Police Headquarters, the meeting focused on using advanced technology to tackle security threats more effectively.

IGP stressed the need to adopt modern tools such as surveillance systems, data analytics, and artificial intelligence to improve intelligence gathering and response times.

He also highlighted plans to upgrade the SOG with better training and equipment to handle high-risk operations, and organized crime.

"Security challenges are evolving, and we must innovate to stay ahead," he said, emphasizing the need for proactive law enforcement.

The IGP called for stronger coordination between intelligence agencies and regular training programs for officers to stay updated on crime prevention and counterterrorism techniques.

Senior officers were assigned the task of creating a detailed plan for these initiatives, focusing on a tech-driven approach to improve security.

The meeting also covered strategies to boost community policing and public participation in maintaining law and order.

IGP urged officers to balance technology with human intelligence to create a safer environment for Jammu's residents.

Dimple leads protest against worsening traffic crisis in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a protest against the deteriorating traffic situation in Jammu city, alleging that the roads have become "death traps" due to increasing accidents and lack of government intervention. Addressing the protesters, Dimple criticized the administration for focusing on revenue collection through e-challans instead of implementing effective traffic management measures.

Dimple demanded that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah take immediate steps to address the crisis by constructing an exclusive four-way ring road and initiating a metro train project. He proposed a metro route from Amphalla Manda to Janipur High Court, Roop Nagar, Banta-

lab, and Akhnour as a long-term solution to ease congestion. Additionally, he stressed the need for a flyover at Rehari Chungi and Jewel Chowk to improve traffic flow.

"Jammu city roads have turned into accident-prone zones due to poor infrastructure. Instead of solving the traffic crisis, the administration is only busy issuing e-challans through photographs, harassing the public," Dimple stated.

He further alleged that traffic police officers are more focused on capturing vehicle images for challans rather than regulating traffic smoothly. The issue of VIP movement blockades was also highlighted, with Dimple claiming that during the visits of high-ranking officials, common citizens are forced to wait for long hours at major intersections.

Dimple also raised

concerns over the poor condition of city roads, citing open and broken sewerage manholes as a major cause of accidents. He demanded immediate blacktopping of roads and improvements to Jammu's drainage infrastructure.

In addition to traffic woes, he criticized the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for forcefully removing traders' establishments and seizing goods worth lakhs of rupees, calling it an unfair approach to solving congestion issues.

Dimple warned that if the government fails to take decisive action, an agitation will be launched against the authorities. The protest was attended by several prominent figures, including Bharat Bhushan Bhat, Ashok Kumar, Sameer Gupta, Narinder Sharma, Suresh Jamwal, Vinay Kumar, Vishal Kapoor, and others.

Kaith leads devotees to Bahu temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Social and political activist R.L.Kaith led a large number of devotees hailing from different corners, to Bahu temple, who after paying obeisance to Maa Kali, prayed for peace and prosperity of all human beings.

Kaith mentioned to devotees that Maa Kali is the fearful and ferocious form of the mother goddess. She assumed the form of a powerful goddess and became popular with the

composition of Mahatmya. Here she is depicted as having been born from the brow of goddess Durga during one of her battles with the evil forces.

As the legend goes, in the battle, Maa Kali was so much involved in the killing spree that she got carried away and began destroying everything in sight. To stop her, Lord Shiva threw Himself under her feet. Shocked at this sight, Maa Kali stuck out her tongue in astonishment, and put an end to her homicidal rampage, Kaith added.

KPs demand special permanent employment package for educated youth

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 15: Prominent Kashmiri Pandit (KP) activist Vinod Pandita has urged the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to address the issue of unemployment among displaced Kashmiri Pandit youth by creating and advertising at least 20,000 permanent government jobs exclusively for them.

Highlighting the community's long-standing grievances, Pandita pointed out that the forced migration of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990, due to threats from terrorists and anti-

social elements, led to the loss of over 20,000 government jobs that had been held by Pandits in the Kashmir Valley.

He alleged that these positions were later filled through a deliberate conspiracy by officials in power at the time, depriving the community of its rightful employment and livelihoods.

"This injustice needs a high-level probe. Our community was not only uprooted but also robbed of its economic security. The youth, born in exile, are growing increasingly frustrated due to rising unemployment and continued discrimination," Pandita

said in a statement.

In addition to seeking permanent employment opportunities, he also demanded that the jobs under the Prime Minister's Special Employment Package for Kashmiri Pandits be made permanent with all standard benefits, removing the status of supernumerary posts.

Furthermore, Pandita called for the urgent formulation of a concrete rehabilitation policy to ensure the safe and dignified return of over five lakh displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. He emphasized the need for secure resettlement zones to facilitate their return.

Army organises cleanliness drive in Leh



Top News Report

LEH, Feb 15: In an effort to promote cleanliness, hygiene and environmental sustainability, the Jetbusters of Fire and Fury organised a large-scale Cleanliness Drive on 15 February 2025 at Spituk, Leh. The initiative aimed to encourage community


participation in keeping public spaces clean while raising awareness about waste management and environmental conservation. The drive involved all ranks of the Jetbusters who joined hands to make the drive a grand success.

The event was based on the theme of Swachh

Bharat Mission (SBM) which is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India on 02 October 2014 to improve solid waste management and to create Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages.

The event also included interaction with the local populace in educating them on proper waste disposal, recycling and reducing plastic usage.

This drive was aimed to in-still a sense of responsibility in our community and to inspire more people to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. Together, we can create a cleaner, greener and healthier environment for future generations.



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