# TOP NEWS OF J&K



#### JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

ENTERTAINMENT

**Rasha Thadani on** diminishing stardom in social media world

16

**NATIONAL** 

Daily Evening Newspaper **INTERNATIONAL** 

> **President Donald Trump** signs executive order to expand access to IVF

> > contact with Pakistan

Intelligence Operatives

(PIOs) through social

As per NIA investiga-

tions, they were sharing

sensitive information

about Indian defence

establishments at

Karwar Naval Base and

Kochi Naval Base and

were receiving money

from PIOs in exchange

A total of eight people

have been arrested so

far in the case, including

these three, the state-

NIA has so far

chargesheeted five

persons, including two

absconding Pakistani

operatives, in the case

that was originally reg-

istered by the Counter

Intelligence Cell, Andhra

Pradesh in January

NIA investigations

for the information.

ment said.

2021

media, it said.



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

As J&K stares at water crisis, Omar Abdullah

Regd. No. JK-435

Fadnavis hails Shivaii

Maharaj as management

guru and able administrator

17

Pages-12 Rs.-2/-Vol.-16 Issue-49

8

## BRIEFLY

#### Theft accused dies in police custody at **CHC Batote**, inquiry ordered

BANIHAL/JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): A 27-year-old man, who was picked up by police for his alleged involvement in several theft cases, died at a health centre after falling sick in custody in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

Ramban District Magistrate Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary ordered a magisterial inquiry following the death of Mohd Abid, a resident of Thopal village of Batote, and its completion within a week's time.

Abid, said to be a drug addict, was picked up by police some days back and complained uneasiness in the lockup on Tuesday, the officials said, adding he was shifted to Community Health Centre (CHC), Batote, where he breathed his last.

The body of the deceased is lying at the health centre and will be handed over to his family for last rites after completion of postmortem and other legal formalities shortly, they

calls for a collective approach JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a water crisis this year, the state's Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday. The CM said he is also reviewing various measures the state's Jal Shakti department intends to take to

deal with the crisis. "J&K is staring at a water crisis this year. It's not a recent phenomenon. Actually, it's been building up for a few years now. While the government will have to adopt a more proactive approach for water management & conservation, it can't

just be a government



centric approach," read an X post by the CM.

J&K is staring at a water crisis this year. It's not a recent phenomenon, actually it's been building up for a few years now. While the government will

have to adopt a more

proactive approach for water management & conservation, it can't just be a government centric approach. All... — Omar Abdullah (@

OmarAbdullah) February 19, 2025

with a disproportionate

assets case against

Kumar Rajeev Ranjan,

secretary of labour and

employment depart-

ment, officials said.

Ranjan has allegedly

amassed assets which

he could not satisfactori-

ly account for, they said.

The agency has reg-

Jammu travel guide

He further urged the people of the union territory to "change the way we take water for granted," and that he would "All of us residents of

Dept intends to take to deal with the developing crisis & I'll also be talking to the people of J&K over the next few months about what we

can do collectively," his post read.

#### NIA arrests 3 men for leaking sensitive **Defence Information to** Pakistani Intelligence **Operatives**

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The NIA has arrested three men for leaking sensitive information to Pakistanbased intelligence operatives, the anti-terror federal agency said on

Wednesday. They were sharing sensitive information about Indian defence establishments at Karwar Naval Base and Kochi Naval Base, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said in a statement.

While Vethan Laxman Tandel and Akshay Ravi Naik were picked up from Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka, Abhilash PA was arrested from Kochi in Kerala, the agency said.

All three accused persons arrested on Tuesday with the assistance of local police were found to have been in

#### Army opens fire on seeing suspicious movement along LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): Alert Army troops early morning on Wednesday opened fire on seeing a suspicious movement along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Troops deployed in the forward areas resorted to a brief firing on seeing a suspicious movement in the Sunderbani sector," said official sources.

"Terrorists movement is apprehended close to the border but troops are keeping a close watch and surveillance," they said.

#### FIR against J&K Labour Dept Secy for 'Disproportionate Assets', CBI conducts searches at 7 places



NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The CBI on Wednesday conducted

searches at seven locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection

#### Civil society members in J&K demand

istered a case against Ranjan after analysing his assets during its investigation into gun Turn to page 9



be talking with various constituents on the next steps for water saving and conservation. J&K will have to change the way we take water for granted. I'll be reviewing the measures the Jal Shakti (PHE)

#### said. The district magistrate appointed Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rizwan Asgar as an inquiry officer to conduct the discrete inquiry into the matter leading to Abid's death.

"The inquiry officer shall look into the cause and circumstances that lead to the death of the individual and shall fix the responsibility of the same. He shall submit his report within a week's time positively from the date of issue of this order," Choudhary said in an order issued on Tuesday evening.

#### J&K to receive light rain or snow at many places from tonight till feb 20 : MeT

SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted a fresh spell of rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir from February 19-20.

According to the forecast, higher reaches of Chenab Valley and South Kashmir can expect moderate snowfall of 7-12 inches, while North and Central Kashmir can look forward to 4-8 inches of snowfall. Plains of Jammu may receive light to moderate rain/thunder with gusty winds at few

Turn to page 9

#### CBI probe into Billawar youth's death

JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): Civil society members Tuesday condemned the tragic death of 26-year-old Makhan Din, a Gujjar youth and criticised the administration for its inaction, weeks after his demise. "Despite widespread outrage, neither a judicial inquiry has been ordered nor any compensation provided to the bereaved family, raising serious con-



diate release of compensation and a government job to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the victim. In response to the cerns about justice and arowing demand for jusaccountability," they tice, a candlelight rued, demanding imme

protest and dharna were organised at Mecca Dharna, Bathindi, calling for a CBI probe into Makhan Din's case. The protest was led

## **H&ME orders transfer and** posting of doctors in J&K

Yasmeen Kangoo, I/C

Assistant Director (RS)

Directorate of Health

Services, Kashmir, is

transferred and posted

as I/C Dy. Director

(Schemes), Director-

ate of Health Services,

Kashmir.

## Directorate of Health

## TRANSFERS AND POSTINGS

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, Feb 19 (Agencies): In the interest of administration and patient care, the Health and Medical **Education Department** on Wednesday ordered transfer and posting of doctors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Mehmooda Jan, I/C The following 22 BMO Soibugh, is transferred and posted as I/C transfers and postings have been ordered. Dr. Assistant Director (TB), Services, Kashmir. Dr. B.S. Tulla, I/C Controller of Stores, DHSK, is transferred and posted as Principal **RFPTC Kangan**.

Dr. Sameena Gul, Medical Officer, SSO Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as I/C DNO, Kashmir against an available vacancy.

Dr. Andleeb Bashir, I/C BMO Ganderbal, is transferred and posted as I/C Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, against an available vacancy. Dr. Bushra Yousuf, I/C **Turn to page 9** 

ORDER NOW

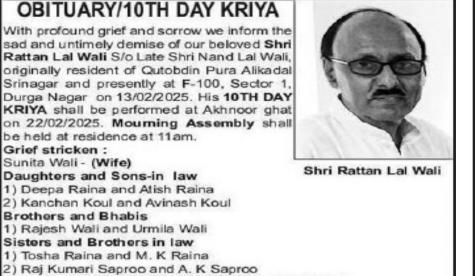
### Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 108% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Ban Bantalab, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K) +91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548

## **OBITUARIES**

Top News of J&K Jammu, Wednesday, February 19, 2025



Phone nos. 9419383230, 9643731032, 6005665251

#### **10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. SURINDER KUMAR GUPTA (S.K. GUPTA/ BITTU / CONTRACTOR) S/O JAGDISH RAJ GUPTA JI MANDI WALE & LT.SMT SHAKUNTLA DEVI JI R/O H.NO 871 JULLAKA MOHALLA JAMMU ON 11.02.2025.

10TH DAY WILL PE PERFORMED AT RAM TALA MANDIR JULLAKA MOHALLA JAMMU ON 20.2.25 AT 11:00 AM (THURSDAY).

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 23.2.25 (SUNDAY) AT 11.30 AM AT RAM TALAJ MANDIR JULLAKA MOHALLA SH. SURINDER KUMAR JAMMU. GUPTA UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 24.2.25 (MONDAY )

AT 4.00 PM TO 5.00PM AT MAHAJAN HALL SHALAMAR JAMMU GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT.VEENA GUPTA (WIFE)

SH.RAJAN GUPTA & KONICA GUPTA (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) SH.RAJ KUMAR GUPTA (BROTHER) SMT. ANJU & SH ASHWANI GUPTA (BHABHI & BROTHER) AKASH & SONIA (SON IN LAW & DAUGHTER) Contact No. 7006 153 115, 9419023815, 7006107569

#### **10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Late Sh. Ram Krishna Abrol S/o Late Sh. Parshotam Lal Abrol R/o H. No 68/I Ganga Nagar, Bantalab Jammu. 10TH DAY will be performed on 17th Feb 2025 (Monday) from 11 AM at our resident.

KRIYA will be performed on 20th Feb 2025 (Thursday) at 10 AM UTHALA will be performed on 21st Feb 2025 (Friday)

at 4 PM at our resident Ganga Nagar Bantalab

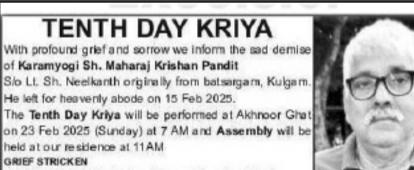
GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Santosh Abro - Wife

Sh. Ashish Abrol-Son

Late Sh. Rajesh Abrol & Suman Abrol- Brother & Sister in Law Sh. Pawan Abrol & Sonia Abrol- Brother & Sister in Law

Sh. Rohit & Reetika Abro - Daughter & Son in Law

Sh. Vikas & Neha-Daughter & Son in Law MOBILE NO 8052029831.9797339528



urai Pandita and Chitra Lubana (Son and Dauchter in Jaw)



TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** Smt. Asha Tingloo -Wife

Sh. M.L Tingloo -Brother Smt Chuni Pandita -Sister



Sh. Sandeep Tingloo and Smt. Kaplana -Son & Daughter-In-law Smt. Kusum and Sh. D.K Bhat -Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Kiran -Daughter Smt Urmila and Sh Manchar Raina -Daughter and Son-in-law Smt Anshu and Sh. Vinod Raina -Daughter and Son-in-law

Grand Children: Deepshikha, Himani, Sameeksha, Romil, Mansi, Shiv and Pranvi

Ph: 9837620256/ 9596872005/ 9596865849/ 9469161985

## 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 Vashravi (Wife)

Raini & Vinod Zutshi (Sister & Brother in Law)

Daizy & Virender Thusco (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



They walk beside us in every step, Unseen, yet felt in every moment, Forever loved, forever missed. TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on Feb 20, 2025 at Alandi, Pune at 8:00 am. DEEPLY MOURNED BY: Sh. Ramesh Kumar Wanchoo- Loving Husband

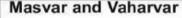
Sisters-in-law and Brothers-in-law: Smt. Ratna Wo Lt. Sh. Avtar Krishan Wanchoo Smt. Renu and Sh. Surinder Wanchoo Daughter and Son-in-law: Namrita and Sachin Raina, Nidhima and Alok Wall Rajesh- Son Sons and Daughters-in-law



SMT. SUSHMA WANCHOO (CHUNNI)

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Sh. B.L Chata Ho Lt. Smt Sushila, Lt. Sh. Somnath Chatta H/o Smt. Suman Chatta, Sh. P.L.Chatta H/o Smt. Veena Chatta





One year has passed since you left for heav enly abode but your memories, are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere. We devotedly pray to Almighty God to grant eternal peace to your noble soul in Heaven. OM SHANTI

Masvar and Vaharvar of our beloved mother Late Smt Shanta Koul W/o Late Shri Lassa Koul, resident of H.No. 32, Mohinder Nagar, Canal Road, Jammu will be performed on 19th & 20th February 2025 at our residence. Deeply Remembered By: Daughter & Son-in-law Kalpana Koul & Raman Koul Babu (9419204254, 9419133561)



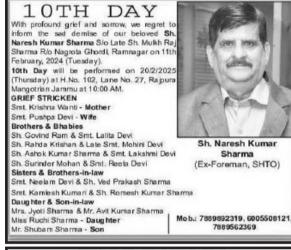
Sons & Daughters-in-law Sanjay Koul & Vijay Lakshmi Raina (9419204254, 9419204527) Dileep Koul & Purnima Raina Koul (6006821590, 9419103799) Grand Children: Kashyap, Vasu and Vasucha



With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Kuldeep Saraf S/o Lt. Sh. Brij Nath Saraf originally from Mallapur, Bana mohalla Srinagar and presently residing at 47A, Lane No 1A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu ,left for his heavenly abode on 17-02-2025. The 10th Day Kriya will be held at Akhnoor Ghat, Prayers and

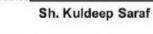


Navneet Mithu Saraf and Priyanka Saraf - Son & Daughter In law Nidhi Meenu Saraf and Kartik Koul - Daughter & Son In law And Saraf's, Krandu's, Koul's, Raina's, Munshi's, Wali's, Misri's and Koul's.





Assembly will be held at residence on 26-02-2025 at 9 am.



Grief Stricken:-Smt. Sulekha Saraf- Wife Phone No. 9796048545, 7006146776







TENTH DAY KRIYA









## 63, Lane 5 Ext. Buta Nagar Jammu.

Akhnoor Ghat on 24-02-2025. Assembly will be held at 11:00 AM at our residence. H No. 63, Lane 5 Buta Nagar Ext. Jammu.

mt Sheela Raina (Buwa) Smt Phoola Raina (Buwa)

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Amit Kou** (**Shanu**) S/o Late Sh Badri Nath Koul originally resi dent of Ranbirpora (Kheribal) Anantnag and presently at H/No 1 A Shardha Cobny, Patali Brahmana, Jermm on 12-02-2025. Teeth Day Kriba will be performed on 21-02-2027 Finday) at Akhnoor Ghat. Assembly will be held at atoli Brahamana Ghat at 11:00 am. DEEPLY MOURNED BY

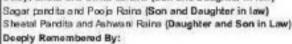
TENTH DAY KRIYA





Baisahib (Shri Vijav Vashnavi)





Suchit, Devanshi

Yonit and Tashwin (Grandchildren)

Fotedar, Pandita, Bhats, Luhana's & Raina's

Address: Swaran Vihar, Gumpul Purkhoo Domana, near Mahindra showroom, after Kamal Resort. Phone. No.: 9429431992, 9596895020, 8050006690

## TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Karamyogi Sh Chooni Lal Kachroo S/o Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Kachroo original resident of Sangrampora Sopore Kashmir at present H.No. 142, Lane No. 4, Anand Nagar, Bohri Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 16th of February 2025. The Tenth Day will be performed on 25th of

February 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat & Assembly Karamyogi Sh will be held at Muthi Ghat Jammu at 10 AM. Chooni Lal Kachroo Grief Stricken

Kachroo's, Tikoo's, Bhat's, Pandita's & Raina's M.Nos. 9469376543, 9086003249, 8494041654, 9906175273

#### 10TH DAY

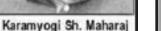
With Profound Grief and Sorrow, We inform the sad demise of our beloved Son Late Sh. Vishal Dogra S/o Lt Sh. Ramesh Chander Dogra R/o H. No. 550-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 21 February 2025 (Friday) at our Residence H.No. 550-A Gandhi Nagar Jammu at 11.00 am on 21-2-2025. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Bharti Dogra (Mother)

Late Sh. Vishal Dogra

Neha Sodi and Vedansh Dogra (Wife & Son) Ajay Kumar & Neha Dogra (Brother in Law & Sister) Akhil & Diksha (Brother in Law & Sister) DOGRA FAMILY (9596962180, 9797308820, 7006678125)



Krishan Pandit

Sisters and Brother-in-laws: Smt. Asha Dhar Wo Sh. A.K. Dhat,

Rahul and Yasha,

Rohlt and Shikha

Nidhi, Megha- Nephew and Niece Grand childrens: Ashanya, Medhansh, Maya, Myra, Meeta, Minnie Smt. Veena Khazanchi W/o Lt. Sh. J.L. Khazanchi Address: F-604, Park Ivory, Park Street, Walad, Purie Smt. Ratni W/o Sh. M.L. Gupta

Phone: 9850709709, 9921388999

#### **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 Murran 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 & Klansh - Grand Children Samasth Bhat Parivar



No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye, you were gone before we knew it and only God knows why." The Tenth Day of Sh. Gopal Dass (Rtd. Teacher) (Ward No. 4, Ramnagar) will take place at 11 a mon 20th Feb, 2025 at Uchampur

near Trikuta los Factory and Kriya will be performed on 21-02-2025 at Devika Ghat from 11 am onwards.

Regards

Smt. Satya Devi - Wife

Sh. Kuldeep Bhushan - Brother

Sh. Surinder Kumar & Smt. Neelam Devi - Brother & Sister-in-law

Sh. Ravinder Sadhotra & Smt. Sarita - Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Devinder Sadhotra & Smt. Sakshi - Son & Daughter-in-law

Smt. Rekha & Sh. Vrinder Khajuria - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Rajani & Sh. Kuldeep Khajuria - Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt. Santosh & Sh. Vinod Kemi - Daughter & Son-in-law

Mb: 9419158101, 9469139554



SMT. ASHA BHAT

emise of our beloved **Sh. Shadi Lal Mawa**, Sko Lt h Dina Nath Mawa onginalah Rib Bohmikada Daziyan ja Present House No 393 Lane No 14 C lear Peer Baba Kabir Colony (Poonch House)

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnohat on 25th Feb 2025. ASSEMBLY will be held ur Residence 12.00 pm. GRIEF STRICKEN



GRIEF STRICKEN Sunta Mawa (Wife) (Son and Daughter in law) Mr Suraj Mawa and Mrs Priya Mawa (Daughter and Son in law) Mrs Sa kahi Mawa and Mr Rajat Kath Smt and Sh. Jai Kristran Mawa (Brother & Bhabi) Smt and Sh. Pyare Lai Mawa (Brother & Bhabi) Smt Indra Mawa and LL Sh Pran Nath Mawa (Brother & Bhabi) Smt and Mrs Sumit Mawa Sh. Shadi Lal Mawa mi and Sh. Rajkumar Mawa (Brother & Bhabi) Smt and Sh. Naresh Mattoo Smt and Sh. Naresh Mattoo imt and Sh. Dilip Ji Mattoo (Sister and Brother-in-law) Grand Children rishiv Kath & Khyansh Mawa



With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to form the untimely demise of our beloved **Sm** Komal Sareen W/o Sh Shiv Sareen R/o H N/ 57, Shyam Vihar, Lane No. 3 Golpulli, Talab Tillo Tenth Day will be performed on 19-02-2021



Smt Komal (Renu) Sareen D/o Late Sh. Ram Parkash Sawhney, Ramban Wale

Tenth Day will be performed on 19-02-202 (Wednesday) at 11 AM at our residence. Kriya will be held on 22-02-2025 (Saturday) a 12 noon at our residence. Uthala will be held on 22-02-2025 (Saturday) a GRUEF STRICKEN Sh Shiv Sareen (Husband) Simmeran & Lalit Sareen (Sons) Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law Sh Ashutosh Sareen (GMJK Bank) & Smt Samidhi Sareen mt Samridhi Sare Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law Smt Pinky Sareen Smt Namrata Gupta & Sh. Hardesh Gupta Dr. Sindhu Sareen & Prof AK Sarial (Ex VC) Sawhneys', Suris' & Nayyars' 9797660960 & 9419105577

#### TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demised of our beloved son Mr. Neeraj Singh Manhas S/o Late Sh. Gopal Singh Manhas R/o House No. 88 Ward No. 60 Dhok Paloura, Jammu on 11 Feb 2025 TENTH DAY will be held on Thursday 20-02-2025 at our residence House no. 88 Dhok Paloura from 11:00 am to 12:00 Noon.

KRIYA will be held on Sunday 23-02-2025 at our res idence at 12:00 Noon. **GRIEF STRICKEN** 

Mr. Neeraj Singh Manhas (Pimma)

Smt. Champa Devi (Mother) Mr. Raghu and Raghav (Son) Vandana and Rahul (Brother and Bhabhi) Priya and Sonu Chib (Sister and Brother in law) Mob:- 7051055145, 7889756988, 9103004571

Smt. Nisha Rani (Wife)



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Sh. Gopal Dass

## LOCAL/ ADVT

## India is no longer just a follower; it is now leading the way in multiple fields: Dr. Jitendra

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU /NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Dr. Jitendra Singh has asserted that India is no longer just a follower but is now setting global benchmarks, offering leadership and pioneering innovations across sectors. He highlighted the remarkable advancements India has made in recent years, in the fields of space, biotechnology, and nuclear energy etc positioning itself as a key player on the world stage.

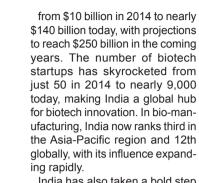
Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that India's space sector has witnessed an unprecedented transformation, with a surge in ambitious missions and international collaborations. The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) is a testament to India's technological progress, paving the way for future space missions, including Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, India's upcoming international space station.

India has also emerged as a preferred destination for satellite launches, earning global credibility. The nation has successfully launched 433 foreign satellites,



of which 396 were deployed in the last decade alone, generating \$157 million and €260 million in revenue from 2014-2023. The historic success of Chandrayaan-3, which made India the first country to land near the Moon's south pole, has positioned ISRO at the forefront of lunar exploration. The world's leading space agencies, including NASA, are now awaiting India's findings from the Moon's southern pole, a milestone that underscores the nation's rising dominance in space research.

The Minister also highlighted India's pioneering role in biotechnology and bioeconomy. India became the first country to develop a DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, demonstrating its leadership in vaccine research and development. Furthermore, India has introduced the first herpesvirus vaccine for cervical cancer, reinforcing its position as a leader in preventive healthcare. India's bioeconomy has surged



India has also taken a bold step into space biology, laying the foundation for human survival beyond Earth. ISRO and the Department of Biotechnology have signed an MoU to advance space biotechnology research, focusing on growing plants in space to sustain long-term space missions. The study of space medicine and human physiology in extraterrestrial environments is becoming a critical area of research, and India is now setting global standards instead of just following them. once met with scepticism, is now recognized for its peaceful and sustainable ambitions. The country has set an ambitious target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 50%, a commitment that is influencing global climate strategies. The world has now acknowledged India's nuclear policy, which was envisioned by Homi Bhabha for peaceful purposes, as a model for responsible energy development.

India's scientific output is gaining global recognition, with the country now ranked fourth worldwide in scientific publications. Projections suggest that by 2030, India could surpass the United States to become the world's top-ranked country in scientific research. India's space economy is set

to grow 5 to 10 times in the next decade, further solidifying its leadership. The nation's rapid economic ascent is evident in its global rankings, including its 12th position in bio-manufacturing and fourth place in scientific research publications.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by emphasizing that India's rise is no longer just about catching up but about setting the agenda for the world. "The clock has turned 360 degrees. Earlier, we learned from others; now, the world is looking up to us. The traffic is both ways," he remarked.

#### Dr. Parneesh calls for expedited implementation of reformed Criminal Laws in J&K

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: BJP J&K's Department of Training Convenor, Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, has urged the J&K administration to ensure the timely implementation of the newly introduced criminal laws, in accordance with Home Minister Amit Shah's directive.

In a press release issued here today, the senior BJP leader emphasized that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam are pivotal in reshaping India's legal system. "The outdated laws, inherited from the colonial era, failed to serve the needs of a modern India. The new legal framework will introduce greater efficiency, fairness, and technological integration in criminal proceedings," he said. He underscored the

need for rigorous train-

ing and awareness

campaigns to familiar-

rt ize police personnel, judicial officers, and the general public with the changes. "Effective implementation requires a well-informed legal fraternity and public. The administration must act swiftly to bridge this knowledge gap," he

stated. Dr. Parneesh also pointed out that the new laws emphasize victim protection, stricter punishments for heinous crimes, and the use of digital evidence to ensure faster and fairer trials. "This is a significant step toward justice reform and will play a critical role in maintaining law and order in J&K " he added Appreciating the Modi government's commitment to progressive governance, Dr. Parneesh affirmed that these reforms are in line with India's aspirations of becoming a global leader in justice and governance. "J&K must be at the forefront of adopting these changes to ensure justice for all," he added.

## BJP compiling Vajpayee ji's memories in J&K: Kavinder

commitment to national

integrity. His policies on

governance, economic

reforms, and national

security remain a bench-

mark for good gover-

Kavinder informed

that the BJP is compil-

ing historical accounts,

speeches, and personal

memories of Vajpayee's

interactions in Jammu

& Kashmir to inspire the

present and future gen-

erations. "Atal Ji had a

deep emotional connect

with J&K. His doctrine of

'Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat,

and Kashmiriyat' remains

a guiding principle for

peace and development

in the region. The party

is working on collecting

anecdotes, photographs,

and documents that

nance.'



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today remembered the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth centenary, recalling his immense contribution to the nation and Jammu & Kashmir in particular.

Addressing a meeting of senior party leaders and intellectuals, the BJP stalwart highlighted Vajpayee's visionary leadership, which laid the foundation for a strong, self-reliant, and progressive India. He said, "Atal Ji was not just a leader but a statesman who guided the country with his wisdom, eloquence, and unwavering showcase his vision for J&K," he stated.

Reflecting on Vajpayee's significant contributions, the senior BJP leader lauded his role in the 1998 nuclear tests, infrastructure revolution, and initiatives like the Golden Quadrilateral project, which modernized India's road network. "His legacy is not just about politics but about nationbuilding. His speeches in Parliament and his decisions continue to inspire every Indian." he added. Kavinder called upon BJP workers to take Vajpayee's message to every household and ensure that his ideals remain alive in public discourse. "We must emulate his dedication and commitment to national service. His centenary year is an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to work for a strong and united India," he urged. The meeting concluded

with a pledge to uphold Vajpayee's principles and continue working towards realizing his dream of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

#### NCC Cadets of GDC Paloura distribute study material under Social Service Programme

aware about the impor-

tance of education and

advised them to enrol

their children in schools.

part of NCC's Social

Service and Commu-

nity development pro-

gramme under which

NCC Cadets perform

various Social Services

like blood donation, tree

plantation, adult educa-

tion and awareness

The event was the

Top News Report During their visit the cadets also made them

JAMMU, Feb 19: NCC Cadets of 2 J&K Bn. (Boys), GDC Paloura distributed study material to the poor children in the nearby areas of the college. Under this event NCC Cadets of GDC Paloura visited the nearby Gujar dwellings and distributed pen, pencils, books, copies and other study material to the children.

Man climbs mobile tower in Thanamandi, threatens suicide

RAJOURI, Feb 19 (Agencies): In a bizzare incident, a young man from Thanamandi in Rajouri district of Jammu campaigns on social issues.

All the programmes are aimed at fostering social responsibility and to contribute to the welfare of their local communities.

The programme was organised by Prof(Lt.) Arun Sharma NCC officer of the college under the able guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kaur, Principal GDC Paloura.

#### ESTENDER NOTICE

ScDEN-UF2F acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders [E-Tenders] against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-11.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/tevised bids up to dooing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money depost, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in documentsection on the portal.

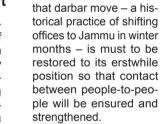
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## Darbar move restoration essential for strong bonding between communities: Advisor to CM



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19 (Agencies): Advisor to chief minister J&K, Nasir Aslam Wani said on Wednesday that government is working upon strengthening bond between communities dwelling in Jammu



push trade and other social activities to new heights. So darbar moves' restoration is essential to build strong connections between people of different communities," Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani as per Greater Kashmir said. He said the efforts are being made in this regard and meetings with people

have been restarted in this direction. About return of Kashmiri Pandits to valley, he said chief minister Omar Abdullah has already taken up this issue. "The

peoples' bonding strong.

Besides, such exercises

s now setting global standards othe nstead of just following them. up to India's nuclear energy program, he re **Dr. Parneesh cal** 

and Kashmir, and stated the restoration of historical darbar move is essential in this direction.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a folk event held in Jammu, Advisor to chief minister J&K said that Omar Abdullah-led government is taking concrete efforts in strengthening relations between different communities living in Jammu "It is our belief that restoration of darbar move is must to restore peoples' contact. The chief minister J&K has already expressed this wish many times in recent past. In this winter you have seen Jammu has witnessed good footfall of people from different areas after a pause of several years, who come here to live together and share their

CM has taken a decision to reconstitute apex committee to ensure return of Kashmiri pandits back to valley. The government wants their return and dwelling like they were living in past with their brethren," he said.

"The government is working to restore pristine glory of J&K and make the region an example for the world," he added.

people's mandate is hon-

ored with a solemn com-

mitment to progress and

Taking a dig at the

opposition, Bali Bhagat

asserted that for the first

time in India's history,

even before the Chief

Minister takes the oath

of his office, the govern-

ment has already started

working on its promises.

He cited the cleaning of

the Yamuna as a prime

example of the BJP's

'Modi Guarantee'-a

guarantee that promises

will not just be made but

fulfilled with determination

take a lesson from this.

While they are busy

making hollow promises,

the BJP has set a new

precedent by initiating

action even before the

swearing-in ceremony.

This is what sets the BJP

apart-the party of gover-

nance, commitment, and

results," he stated.

"The opposition should

and speed

development.

#### GCW Kathua student Shakura Begum wins silver medal in JK UT Kabaddi Championship



#### **Top News Report**

KATHUA, Feb 19: Government College for Women (GCW), Kathua, announced that Shakura Begum, a student of the college, has brought laurels by securing a silver medal in the JK UT Kabaddi Championship.

The championship was recently organized by the JK UT Kabaddi Association and hosted by the administration of Poonch district. In-charge Principal, Prof. Seema Jolly, praised PTI Sanjeev Jamwal for his dedication and efforts in promoting the sports culture on the college campus. She emphasized the

importance of sports in shaping students' overall development and encouraged more students to participate in such competitions. Dr. Rachna, Prof. Yas-

hpal (Sports Convener), Prof. Manjot Singh, and Saurabh Dutta were present at the occasion and extended their heartfelt congratulations to Shakura Begum for her outstanding achievement. The college administration applauds her dedication and hard work, hoping this accomplichment will

tion and hard work, hoping this accomplishment will inspire other students to actively participate in sports and bring more accolades to the institution. and Kashmir climbed over a mobile tower at sub division headquarter today morning, threatening to commit suicide. Authorities have failed to motivate the man to come down from this tower, despite efforts that are going on for the last several hours.

The man identified as Javid Chowdhury from Thanamandi sub division of Rajouri district, who runs a shop in the main town, reportedly climbed over a mobile tower today morning. This caused panic in the area. The man, locals said, has been on the top of this mobile tower since morning and is also live on his Facebook account.

"He is leveling serious allegations against authorities and is raising various issues," locals said, adding that senior officers of civil administration and police are at the site making best possible efforts for the man to come down. However all the efforts have proven futile so far.

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any configendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:: 315, 316-2024-25-ADEN-JRC & 317-2024-25-ADEN-LDH Date: 17.02.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 53974

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU KASHMIR IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No. II Jammu E-Mail: itcimuxenid2@gmail.com, TeVFax: 0191-2457756

> No:JID/II/2024-25/8276-8312 Dated:17-02-2025

#### <u>Corrigendum</u>

Subject: Cancellation of contract of hired private vehicle.

Reference: This office allotment No. JID/II/2024-25/396-406 dated 29-04-2024.

The existing contract with Smt. Rimpi Sharma, W/o Sh. Suresh Kumar, R/o Karwal, Tehsil Hiranagar, District Kathuaowner of hired private vehicle by this Division bearing registration No. **JK08N-4997** is hereby cancelled with immediate effect w.e.f. 17-02-2025 due to non-providing of services of the vehicle.

DIP/J-10271/24

#### Under Modi regime, Delhi witnesses a transformative change in coming years: Bali Bhagat

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today reaffirmed that under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the BJP will continue to uphold its commitment to good governance and people-centric policies, ensuring that Delhi witnesses a transformative change in the coming years.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting with senior party leaders at New Delhi today. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, BJP Delhi State President Virendra Sachdeva, and senior BJP leader RP Singh for the party's historic victory in the Delhi Assembly elections. He lauded the tireless efforts of BJP leadership and karyakartas in securing a decisive mandate, marking a new era of governance in the national capital.

While expressing his admiration for the party's commitment to the people of Delhi, Bali Bhagat emphasized that this victory reflects the unwavering trust of citizens in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat.' He remarked that the BJP's governance model is based on action and accountability, which has once again resonated with the electorate.

with the electorate. The former minister also discussed the meticulous preparations underway for the grand oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Chief Minister at Ramleela Ground in Delhi on February 20. He highlighted that this event is not just a political milestone but a celebration of democracy, where the

of demo

## **OP-ED**

## EDITORIAL

## **EFFICIENCY OF TOLL PAYMENTS**

In a significant move to enhance the efficiency and security of toll payments across India's national highways, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced new guidelines for FASTag users, effective from August 1, 2024. These changes are designed to streamline toll plaza operations, reduce congestion, and ensure seamless travel for motorists. This comprehensive overview delves into the key aspects of the new FASTag rules, their implications for users, and the steps required to comply with the updated regulations.

One of the cornerstone changes is the emphasis on the Know Your Customer (KYC) process. Users possessing FASTags issued between three to five years ago are required to update their KYC information by October 31, 2024. This measure ensures that user data remains current, bolstering the security and reliability of transactions. Failure to comply with this directive may result in the deactivation of the FASTag, leading to potential inconveniences at toll plazas.

Additionally, FASTags that have been in use for over five years must be replaced. This initiative aims to phase out older tags that may have deteriorated or become obsolete, thereby maintaining the system's overall efficiency. Users are advised to check the issuance date of their FASTags and, if necessary, approach their respective issuers to obtain replacements promptly.

To prevent misuse and ensure that each FASTag is uniquely associated with a specific vehicle, the new guidelines mandate the linking of the FASTag to the vehicle's registration number and chassis number. This association facilitates accurate toll deductions and minimizes errors during transactions.

For owners of new vehicles, it is imperative to update the vehicle registration number within 90 days of purchase. This timeframe allows for the completion of registration formalities and ensures that the FASTag system reflects accurate vehicle details. Non-compliance within this period may lead to the FASTag being hotlisted, rendering it inactive until the necessary infor-

## Aastha Apar Mahakumbh Main Sankhya Beshumar

#### **By: Omkar Dattatray**

here is in fact the there is the Astha of Sunami descending Prayagraj for participation in Maha Kumbh and the sea of humanity gathering at Maha Kumbh clearly testifies that there is some intrinsic beauty and greatness in Sanatan Dhrama as such a largest number of people from all corners of India and even abroad are visiting Prayagraj for having a holy dip in sacred confluence called Trivini which is the Sangam of river Yamuna, Ganga and mystical Saraswati which is hidden ,but the Hindu's believe that all the three rivers flow at Prayagraj and people take a holy bath and purify their sins and believe by having a holy dip they will be freed from the cycle of birth and death. Mahakumbh Mela 2025 has broken all previous records of more than century and history as more than 55 crore devotees approximately took part in this grand spiritual ,cultural as well as economic and scientific gathering which is one of the largest in the world. The Mahakumbh 2025 has set a new milestone as one of the largest religiocultural gathering in history with over 47 crore devotees attending the sacred event as on 12 the February the occasion of Magi Purnima since the start of the Mahakumbh on January 13. The UP government has expected that at the end of the Kumbhmela on 26th February there would be 45 crore devotees having attended the mela but to their and every one's surprise this mela has witnessed more than 47 crore devotees on 12th of February that is 15 days before the culmination of the grand mela. The amrit sanan has passed successfully as the UP government had made elaborate arrangements for today's festival. It was predicted that in the Mahakumbh at least 40 crore people in all will take part from 13th January 2025 Poush pournima to 26th of February 2025 that is up to Mahashivratri festival when this mela will culminate and come to close .It is now expected that the Mahalumbh mela will witness nearly 60 crore up to its culmination on 26th February. Mahakumbh Mela is the aastha of faith ,divin-

ity, cultural diversity, unity ,economic as well as scientific extravaganza. Mahakumbh Mela surpassed all records and it witnessed surge of humanity and witnessed a gathering of more than 47 crore on the eve of Magi purnima .On the occasion of the auspicious Maghi Purnima over two crore devotees had a holy dip in the sacred waters of the sangam of Yamuna, Ganga and saraswati .Amid heightened security at least 2 crore people performed Amrit Sann on the occasion of Magi Purnima. It was a great and grand spectacle to see the sea of humanity taking the holy bath at and around trivani and it was very soothing to the eye and for the first time such a large gathering has assembled at this spiritual cum cultural spot which has no parallels in history. Mahakumbh mela basically being a festival of faith, divinity, spirituality ,cultural diversity ,human unity has become a festival of pursuing economic activity as many stakeholders were seen busy in eking not only livelihood but in making their economic fortunes as well .Therefore Mahakunmbh has become an economic extravaganza as thousands of people were seen involving in economic activities as they were selling the goods and services which were needed by the devotees. It is not easy to manage ,regulate and control such a largest gathering ,as it is a very challenging and daunting job, but the Yogi government of UP has shown its mettle and has successfully managed one of the world's largest gathering. UP is a state with 25 crore population but its government has managed 47 crore of devotees and tourists since the start of the Mahakumbh and it is really commendable and Yogi deserves a pat at his back for managing well one of the world's largest spiritual cum cultural gathering. The state government had anticipated reaching this number by the end of 45 days ,but more than the target was achieved within just one month ,with 12 days still remaining for the Kumbh to conclude. Now it seems that by the end of the Mahakumbh the figure of the pilgrims including tourists will go up to a record 55 crore and this will be the

biggest achievement of the Yogi government of the UP. This Mahakumbh has become the remarkable blend of spirituality ,grand rituals, and modern technologies and innovations ,setting new records and standards for crowd management ,sanitation and digital facilitation. Now the footfall has crossed 47 crore ,ensuring smooth crowd management has been a key priority .It is worth appreciating that the Amrit Sanan on 12 February coinciding with Magi Purnima holds great significance and it has come to end successfully adding a feather in the cap of Yogi government as this event of Mahakumbh has passed peacefully and successfully. The chief minister Yogi was monitoring all the arrangements and crowd management in the war room established in his official residence from the early 4 am of 12th February 2025 and it shows how much is the Chief minister Yogi concerned with the Mahakumbh Mela .In fact we can say that the political stature of Modi-Yogi has increased considerably and if general elections and UP elections are held now ,they will definitely go in favor of the Modi-Yogi duo and the BJP .The fact is that Mahakumbh 2025 has witnessed a record -breaking footfall of more than 47 crore as on 12th February the festival of Magh Purnima and this is no ordinary thing but is extra -ordinary .It is no mean development but a breakthrough that on Magh Purnima that is on 12th February Mashakumbh breaks record with 450 million devotees ,over 7.03 million took holy dip at the confluence of Saraswati, Yamuna and Ganga. This means that Mahakumbh 2025 has etched its name in history as more than 2 crore people took holy bath on the auspicious occasion of magh Purnima. Notably mela area was designated a 'no vehicle Zone' from 11th February ensuring the safety and smooth movement of pilgrims. A digital token system has been introduced for streamlined access to bathing ghats, easing congestion .Special arrangements were made for the elderly people and the differently -abled devotees .The Mahakumbh has seen the participation of President Droupadi Murmu ,who took a holy dip

at the Triveni Sangam on February 10 and several dignitaries ,including prime minister Narendra Modi ,Home minister Amit Shah ,Defense minister Rajnath Singh has also visited Pthrayagraj and took holy dip in sangam . The tradition of Kalpavas, a period of ascetic discipline ,has been observed by 10 lakh devotees ,culminating on Magh Purnima. These devotees are leaving Kummb Mela and authorities had appealed them to follow rules of crowd management and leave cautiously and carefully Although the Mahakumbh witnessed the unfortunate tragedy -stampede on January 29th ,the spirit of the devotees is still very high as the pilgrims continued to visit Mahakumbh site undeterred by the stampede .UP state government used new techniques of crowd management and this resulted in the safe and smooth pilgrimage at Prayagraj on the occasion of Mahakumbh after the sad incident and in fact it was the mob frenzy more than the laxity of the administration which was responsible for the tragedy. The entire team of officials ,security forces, state police under the direction of the state government is working towards better experience for devotees in terms of crowd management ,sanitation ,amenities and devotees are being provided the best of the facilities irrespective of the numbers that arrive in Maha Kumbh and all this has ensured safe, secure and smooth pilgrimage after the unfortunate stampede. In short Mahakumbh 2025 will be written in the golden letters in the history and for this Modi-Yogi duo and the UP state government should get the credit and rest the Kumbh mela has surpassed all previous records as far as the number of devotees arriving to the site of Mahakumbh is concerned.

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

## **Effective Methods for Facial Hair Removal**

By: Shahnaz Husain

essential to get information about the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods. Temporary hair removal, as the term suggests, requires repeat treatments, as and when there is regrowth. Methods such as depilation, shaving, tweezing, threading, waxing, epilation, come under the temporary category. Several hair removal creams are available, which contain chemical ingredients to dissolve hair. However, chemical hair removal creams can sometimes cause skin discolouration (dark patches) and should preferably be avoided on the face, especially on the "upper lip" area, which is particularly sensitive. Needless to say, a hair removing cream should be patchtested before use. This is done by applying it on the inner arm. If there is a reaction within 10 to 15 minutes, it should not be used. Home remedies do not remove hair, but may lessen growth over a period of time. Make a thick paste of sugar, lemon juice and water and apply it in the direction of hair growth. Wash off when it dries. Apply it once or twice a week. Or, 3 teaspoons of powdered barley can be mixed with one teaspoon cold milk and 2 to 3 teaspoons lemon juice. Apply and leave on for 20 minutes and then rinse off with water. Do this two to three times a week. It is said to discourage hair growth over a period of time.

overnight) to a smooth paste. Add all the ingredients and apply the mixture for about 20 minutes on the affected area. Wash it off once it is completely dry. This paste makes a thin crust that helps in hair removal. Plus, potatoes help in bleaching the hair, making them less visible. An effective and common facial hair removal method is threading. It is useful for shaping the eyebrows and also for removal of facial hair on areas like the upper lip and chin. There may be slight redness after threading, which reduces in a day. It is a popular method of hair removal. Tweezing is another method, where one hair is removed at a time. It is a suitable method for shaping the eyebrows, or to remove solitary hairs from the chin area, or eyebrows. However, a word of caution – hair from a mole must not be removed without consulting a doctor. Waxing can also be used for facial hair removal. Soft, strip waxing is useful. Roll on waxing kits are also available. It is said to be a breakthrough technology that may be used for facial hair. It is becoming popular as it is easy to use and also more hygienic. The results are also said to be longer lasting. This relatively new method has a roll-on applicator, which is placed in a device that heats the product, but at a low temperature. It is then rolled on the area and removed with a strip. It is said to be useful in removal of short facial hair. Hair removal by laser is becoming increasingly popular as a permanent method. Laser produces an intense beam of light, which is absorbed by the hair follicles. The laser disables the hair follicle's ability to produce hair. The heat produced by the laser light is controlled by the operator. A strong laser light leads to more heat. That is why cooling devices are used to prevent damage to the rest of the skin. The advantage of a laser is that the laser light can scan broader areas. Therefore, fewer sessions may be required. It should be done under supervision of a doctor. The temporary known side effects are redness, swelling and itching. The main risk in laser treatment is the possibility of skin burns, due to excessive heat of the laser light. Regrowth occurs in some cases, but is slower and scantier. It is very important to find a good laser clinic. So, before choosing the clinic, it is essential to find out its reputation, by making enquiries and talking to people who have been through the treatment. It is an expensive procedure and one should also discuss the approximate number of sessions that may be needed. Laser can be used to remove hair from the entire face, or from particular areas, like upper lips, chin or cheeks. The time taken for the actual treatment is not much. As re-growth may occur, one may have to repeat the treatment after four or five months.

mation is provided.

Service providers are now obligated to undertake rigorous verification processes to maintain the integrity of the FASTag system. This includes uploading clear photographs of the vehicle's front and side profiles, aiding in visual identification and reducing instances of tag misuse. Moreover, each FASTag must be linked to the user's mobile number, ensuring that communications, updates, and alerts are efficiently conveyed to the rightful owner.

The introduction of these guidelines signifies a proactive approach by the NPCI to modernize toll collection mechanisms, aligning with global best practices. For users, adherence to these rules is crucial to avoid disruptions in service. An active and properly linked FASTag not only facilitates swift passage through toll plazas but also contributes to a reduction in cash transactions, promoting a more transparent and accountable system.

Users are encouraged to engage with their FASTag issuers or authorized service providers to complete the necessary KYC updates and, if applicable, replace outdated tags. Timely compliance will ensure uninterrupted service and contribute to the overarching goal of a seamless, efficient toll collection infrastructure across the nation.

The revised FASTag regulations introduced by the NPCI mark a significant stride towards enhancing the efficiency, security, and user experience of toll payments in India. By mandating KYC updates, enforcing the replacement of outdated tags, and ensuring accurate linking of vehicle details, these measures aim to create a robust and reliable toll collection system. Users are urged to proactively comply with these guidelines to enjoy uninterrupted services and contribute to the nation's infrastructural advancement. All women have light coloured body and facial hair, but some of it is thicker and grows faster than others.

Generally, around 10% of women battle the problem of extensive, coarse and dark facial hair growth . The unwanted hair growth in females is mainly caused due to hormonal or genetic disorder, stress, prescription drugs ,higher than normal levels of male hormones in the body or a combination of various such factors .

Every woman wants to look beautiful, soft and smooth without any dark hair on face or other parts of body skin. The various products available in the market to get rid of thick facial hair can be expensive and irritate skin due to harsh chemicals . There are many easy and safe methods to remove facial hairs though it may take some time to show results . Natural treatments are best remedies in removing unwanted facial hairs. Coarse and thick growth of hair, especially on the face, presents quite a problem, where beauty is concerned. All women are troubled by it, because it detracts from femininity.

Where removal of facial hair is concerned, it falls into two categories – temporary and permanent. The method should be chosen according to the quantity or thickness of hair, its location and rate of growth. It is also

Mix a tablespoon of honey, lemon juice each with five tablespoons of potato juice. Meanwhile, grind the lentils (soaked

## LOCAL

## Shiv Sena open memorandum to CM. asking for focus on 'Local First'

Seeks separate funds for 'Dogra heritage', tourist places



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) has issued an open memorandum addressing the Chief Minister, emphasizing the aspirations of the people ahead of the upcoming budget session.

Highlighting the significance of a budget that caters to public interests, the party commended the Chief Minister's initiative of seeking suggestions from the public and their representatives.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jammu Press Club, state chief Manish Sahni stated that, in continuation of this commitment, the Shiv Sena is presenting an open memorandum based on the expectations and demands of the people. A key demand of the memorandum is the implementation of the 'Local First' policy, which seeks to prioritize the interests of the local

population.

tural preservation.

The memorandum also

reinforced the need to

address essential public

welfare commitments,

including the provision

of free electricity, along

with improvements in

education, healthcare,

and road infrastructure.

Sahni made a strong

appeal to BJP MLAs,

who often position

themselves as well-

wishers of Jammu and

the Dogra community,

urging them to take up

these demands in the

upcoming budget ses-

The party emphasized

that this is a crucial

opportunity to ensure

that the voices of Jam-

mu's people are heard

and their aspirations

reflected in the gover-

Accompanying Sahni

at the press conference

were General Secretary

Vikas Bakshi and Senior

Vice President Sanjeev

Kohli, who echoed the

sentiments of the mem-

orandum and reinforced

the party's commitment

to the welfare of the

region.

nance of the state.

sion.

Sahni urged the government to issue strict directives reserving 80 percent of jobs in industries and private sectors for local youth. Additionally, he stressed the need for special financial assistance to promote small

local industries, ensuring their growth and sustainability.

He pointed out that under Article 16(4) of the Constitution, the state government has the authority to provide reservations for local employment, making this demand both feasible and necessary. Furthermore, the Shiv Sena (UBT) has called

for a dedicated financial package and a separate budget allocation for the development of Dogra heritage sites and tourism in the Jammu division.

The party also insisted on fulfilling the longstanding promise of developing Kesar Park in Kishtwar, which would boost tourism and cul

#### Raman Suri urges swift implementation of CCTV installation in Jammu to combat rising crime

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Feb 19: In light of the increasing incidents of thefts and other criminal activities in Jammu city, Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member Raman Suri has strongly emphasized that the police's decision to install CCTV cameras must be implemented on the ground. While acknowledging the administration's good initiative, he stressed that it should not remain confined to paper but should be carried out with full commitment. Suri remarked, "The increasing crime rate in Jammu, including murders, robberies, and thefts in broad daylight, highlights the urgent need for surveillance. Installing CCTV cameras in key locations such as public spaces, business establishments, banks, places of worship, and other vital areas is crucial to curb-

ing these activities." He pointed out that previous plans, including those by the Jammu Municipal Corporation to install CCTV cameras, had remained only on paper and had not

translated into action. "While the government has issued instructions many times in the past, the willpower to implement these decisions was lacking. The rising crime rate clearly indicates that stronger

measures are needed to address this issue," Suri added. In light of Jammu and

Kashmir's security concerns, Suri emphasized the importance of CCTV systems in creating a secure environment for both locals and visitors. "Surveillance will

act as a deterrent to criminals and assist in the quick identification and apprehension of offenders. However, the success of such initiatives also depends on increased police vigilance. The people of Jammu deserve to feel safe in their own city, and the police and administration must work together to eliminate the fear created by rising crime.' Suri also urged business owners and resi-

dents to cooperate fully in the effort to install CCTV cameras outside their shops and homes. "This is not just for the safety of individuals but for the safety of the entire city. Cooperation from the people of Jammu is crucial for the success of this initia-

tive." He concluded by stressing that it is essential for the authorities to ensure that the CCTV installation is completed within the stipulated time frame, sending a strong message to criminals that Jammu is committed to ensuring the safety of its citizens.

## All communities to live in peace, harmony: APSCC



in every community and

as such it is imperative

that such people are

exposed. Once these

elements are exposed

then the people will

become aware about

them and the extremist

elements will be isolat-

ed. The onus lies more

on minorities since they

look upon their brothers

in the majority communi-

ty to solve the problems

being faced by them,"

The APSCC Chair-

man lamented that the

extremist elements are

hell bent to defame the

country and disturb the

secular fabric so that

their own interests are

served. He said the

beauty of India lies in

co-existence adding

that people irrespective

of their faith and religion

should be given due

"It is highly unfortunate

that some politicians are

exploiting the situation

for their ulterior benefits.

India has always been a

pluralistic society where

the people belonging

to different faiths and

religions practise their

religion without any

respect in the society.

said Raina.

#### **Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Feb 19: All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Chairman, Jagmohan Singh Raina has asked the members of both the majority and minority communities to live in peace and harmony so that the extremist elements are exposed and are prevented from fomenting trouble among the different communities.

In a statement issued after a joint meeting of Committee members of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, Raina said that minority committee members should live in harmony with the members of the majority community.

He said that any problem being faced by any member of any minority committee can be solved only when the majority community is taken into confidence adding that the same cannot be done in isolation.

"There is no denying the fact that extremist elements are present interference. The politicians should stop playing politics of hatred and instead they should try to unite the people of different faiths," said Raina.

The APSCC Chairman expressed disappointment that Sikhs have not been recognized as a minority in Jammu & Kashmir despite fulfilling the laid down procedures. He said that like the previous stint chief minister Omar Abdullah in his second stint continues to ignore the Sikh community and the problems faced by the community

Raina said that the Punjabi language should be given its due recognition since the same got lost in oblivion following the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by senior APSCC leaders like Ajeet Singh Mastana, Jaipal Singh, Sardar Rajinder Singh, Sardar Gurdev Singh, Jagjit Singh Sudan, Navtej Singh, Dr. Rekhi, Davinder Singh and Lakhvinder Singh.

## SMVDU VC flags off team for SAE BAJA 2025

#### **Top News Report**

KATRA, Feb 19: The Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Prof. Pragati Kumar, flagged off a team of 21 engineering students from School of Mechanical Engineering and School of Electrical Engineering to represent the university at the prestigious SAE BAJA 2025 competition in Hyderabad. The event, scheduled from 20th - 25th Feb, 25 will witness the participation of universities from across the nation in the challenging motorsport event. Pertinently SAE BAJA 2025 is an event hosted by Society of Automotive Engineers, India.

The SMVDU team "Crawlers", has successfully designed and fabricated an electric All-Terrain Vehicle on campus, showcasing the skills and knowledge gained through their coursework and



Professor, SME) and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Prof. SME) informed that SMVDU team is the only team from the UT to J&K to participate in the event.

Chandan Sharma and Kewal from central workshop, SMVDU assisted the

off and lauded the efforts of the students.

The university community from all the departments and sections were present at the event and extended their best wishes to the team

alumnus Dhanajya Singh), T.V. Super Filter Industries, Jammu, and Nature Fab (a start-up founded by SMVDU alumnus Piyush Singla).

Pertinently, the SAE BAJA competition is one of the most sought-after motorsport events for engineering students, where teams design, build, and test offroad vehicles that can withstand challenging terrains and demanding tasks. The vehicle, a culmination of months of research, design, and teamwork, is expected to compete in various technical and endurance challenges at the competition.

hands-on experience Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, Prof. Pragati Kumar praised the team for their dedication and hard work, emphasizing the importance of such competitions in enhancing practical skills and fostering creativity.

"This is a proud moment for SMVDU. The team has put in an immense amount of effort,

and I have full confidence in their ability to excel at SAE BAJA 2025. It's an opportunity for them to showcase their talent on a national platform and gain valuable industry insights." as per the faculty advisors of the event. The faculty coordinators Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant fabrication of the ATV.

Prof. K.R. Jha (Dean Faculty of Engineering and Head School of Electrical Engineering), Prof. Balbir Singh (Dean Academic Affairs), Prof. R. K. Mishra (Dean Students Welfare), Dr. Yatheshth Anand (Head, SME), Er. Deepak Bvotra (Workshop Superintendent) were present during the flag

ing journey and represent SMVDU on a prestigious platform.

as they embark on this excit-

The team, led by captains Divyansh Kale and Amod Kumar, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the university administration and all event sponsors for their unwavering support.

The event was proudly sponsored by Frameinn (a start-up founded by SMVDU

## International Conference on ETBCT-2025 concludes at SMVDU

#### **Top News Report**

KATRA, Feb 19: The two-day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology (ETBCT-2025) held at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, J&K, concluded successfully, offering a platform for cross-disciplinary discussions, knowledge-sharing, and global collaboration. The event attracted over 200 participants, including distinguished researchers, academicians, and industry professionals from across the world. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Satish Sharma, Minister of Department of

Science & Technology, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Training, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Dignitaries included Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Dr. Yash-

pal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence, who joined as the Special Invitee. The highlight of

ETBCT-2025 was its exceptional lineup of international experts, whose plenary sessions and invited talks covered diverse and cutting-edge topics in the fields of Health Sciences, Molecular Biology, Microbial Biotechnology, Nano-



ing success.

technology, and more. Dr. Indu Bhushan, the Convenor of the conference, played an instrumental role in bringing together over 25 internationally renowned

speakers and securing vital funding, making the conference an outstand-His relentless dedication and exceptional networking capabilities and tireless efforts

were pivotal in attracting top-tier experts and ensuring the participation of researchers from across the globe. Dr. Bhushan's vision ensured the conference provided an inclusive platform where academia and industry could interact, fostering opportunities for collaboration and research exchange.

He successfully facilitated the involvement of key stakeholders and partners that ensured a rich scientific program and hands-on workshops, which allowed participants to gain practical experience in advanced bioscience applications such as sequencing, real-time PCR, and mass array analysis.

In his address, Dr. Bhushan emphasized the need for global collaboration in addressing the challenges of biosciences and chemical technology, urging participants to work together toward innovative solutions that can impact global sustainability and health.

The two-day event also featured sessions on environmental sustainability, bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, and more, offering researchers a chance to present their findings through oral and poster presentations. The conference's con-

current Workshop on Skills in Biosciences provided participants with practical, hands-on experience, enhancing their technical skills for future advancements in biosciences.

The success of

ETBCT-2025 would

not have been possible

of Biotechnology. Their collaboration and hard work ensured the seamless execution of this prestigious event. The conference has created a lasting impact, paving the way for future research initiatives and fostering a strong net-

without the support and

efforts of the organizing

committee, led by Dr.

Bhushan, Dr. Shafaq

Rasool, Dr. P.S. Slathia,

and Prof. Ratna Chan-

dra, Head of the School

work of global experts in the fields of biosciences and chemical technology.

As the event concludes, participants expressed their enthusiasm for future collaborations and knowledge exchange in this everevolving domain.

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#### 6

## From Alia Bhatt to Richa Chadha, here are actresses who are making waves with their own fashion labels



Bollywood actresses are not just ruling the silver screen, but are also making a mark in the world of fashion with their own labels. Balancing their successful acting careers with entrepreneurial ventures, these stars are redefining style and flair. Here's a look at some leading ladies who are proud owners of their own brands. From sustainable-wear to high-end fashion, they've got it all covered. Island-inspired aesthetics Manushi Chiller,

Dweep Dweep is a sustainable fashion brand co-founded by former Miss World

fashion brand co-founded by former Miss World and actor Manushi

Chhillar, alongside renowned stylist Sheefa J Gilani, Rooted in their shared passion for art, oceans and clothing, Dweep embodies a harmonious blend of island-inspired aesthetics and environmentally conscious practices. The journey of Dweep began in 2016, during Manushi's tenure as a Miss India contestant. Heartfelt mission Kritika Kamra, Cinnabar

bar F Actress Kritika Kamra lak has embarked on a Ali heartfelt mission to support and revive local arts ho and artisan communities bra in Madhya Pradesh. rat Alongside her mother, he Kritika has launched Eh Cinnabar, a fashion ini-

tiative aimed at empowering artisans from her hometown of Chanderi, a region renowned for its exquisite handloom craftsmanship. The initiative not only promotes traditional Chanderi handloom work, but also provides a platform for local weavers to showcase their exceptional skills. Empowering local arti-

Empowering local artisans Richa Chadha, Ehaab

Richa Chadha, in collaboration with husband Ali Fazal, co-founded Ehaab, a distinctive s homegrown fashion s brand. Drawing inspin. ration from the cultural r, heritage of Lucknow, d Ehaab is devoted to i- celebrating India's rich handcrafted traditions and empowering local artisans. More than just a fashion label, Ehaab embodies a mission to preserve and promote the artistry of craftsmen who have safeguarded India's cultural legacy for generations. Passion for sustain-

ability Alia Bhatt, Ed-a-Mam-

ma Alia Bhatt shared that during her pregnancy, she struggled to find stylish maternity clothing in India, which inspired her to launch Ed-a-Mamma. Combining her passion for sustainability and children, Alia envisioned a brand that nurtures young minds while sharing meaning-

ful stories. Meanwhile, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd signed a joint venture with Ed-a-Mam-

venture with Ed-a-Mamma in 2023. Timeless elegance Soha Ali Khan, House Of Pataudi

House of Pataudi is an ethnic-wear clothing brand co-owned by Soha Ali Khan and Saif Ali Khan, inspired by the rich cultural heritage and legacy of the Pataudi family. The brand encapsulates the essence of royalty with its exquisite designs, intricate embroidery and luxurious fabrics. Offering a wide range of traditional attire and sarees, House of Pataudi blends timeless elegance with modern aesthetics

### Rasha Thadani on diminishing stardom in social media world

be temporary and every-

one is easily accessible.

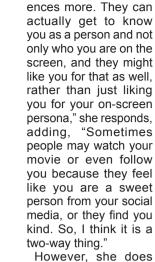
but for the positives, you

can communicate and

interact with the audi-

Rasha Thadani made her debut last month with Azaad, and being a part of the social media generation, the actor admits that it can be tricky managing its pros and cons. Rasha Thadani has seen the stardom of her mother, actor Raveena Tandon at a time when there was no social media. But with the advent of the virtual world, the stars have become more accessible.

Does she feel the value of stardom has reduced due to that and it has become more temporary like a 15 second reel? "There's positives and negatives to that. The negatives may be that the recognition may



admit to seeing the

value of stardom chang-

"At the end of the day, it is completely true. If you see either Prabhas sir or Allu Arjun sir, they walk in, and people are falling for them. It's a completely different world and that's because they are not available anywhere else but except the movie screen. If they post a single thing, the internet breaks because of the rarity of it."

ing due to social media:

Due to the pressure of being on social media, sometimes celebrities might put out a personality different from theirs online. Rasha agrees to that, but says, "People know superficiality and if you are trying to be fake, they get to know it. The minute you actually try to be yourself and be authentic, it will be appreciated. The audience is smart."

The actor gives a poignant example to make her point. "Why is Shraddha Kapoor ma'am loved so much on social media? It's because she is actually such a genuine, humble, kind and pure person, and that reflects. If you see her social media, she has very less done up or make-up pictures, she actually tries to post more of who she is. And that works so well for her. It makes even me appreciate her more,' she ends.

#### Jacqueline Fernandez: 'Resilience is the most important lesson that I have learnt over the years'

Before making her debut in Bollywood in 2009, Jacqueline Fernandez walked into the glamour industry as a model. And she loves every chance that takes her back to the ramp. The actor admits that she has found a lot about herself in the past 15 years.

In an interview with agency, Jacqueline got candid about going back to the ramp as a showstopper for designer Kanika Goyal at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour in Chandigarh recently, finding her voice through fashion and her Bollywood career.



## Reema Kagti's directorial Superboys of Malegaon ready for its India release

Passion drives cinema. Only with Reema Kagti's new directorial Superboys of Malegaon, it's not just the makers of the film whose ardour is evident but also those whose story she is telling. Based on the life of Nasir Shaikh and other amateur filmmakers in the Indian city of Malegaon, it is indeed an aspirational story of an underdog's triumph. After the film's world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival last year, where it moved audiences to tears, the makers are now



words, "The film is not a by the numbers biopic, but one where emotional dimension was easy to tap into." While etching out even the smallest of characters, he had the blockbuster Sholay in mind, where each small cameo was memorable. Incidentally, among the many hit movies that Nasir made was Malegaon Ke Sholay too.

Indefatigable spirit Cinema of the people for the people of his town... whoever heard of such novel ideas? Precisely the reason why earlier his remarkable journey leapt into a documentary Supermen of Malegaon, and now has been frozen in the movie Superboys of Malegaon. In fact, Reema found many parallels, similar influences in her and Nasir's story. As she puts it, "It was heartening to know his trials and tribulations. While I moved from a small town to Bombay to make my dreams come true, he achieved it all living in the same town and even made spoofs which were relevant to his milieu." Zoya sums up Nasir's indefatigable spirit thus, "Grabbing any opportunity with both hands rather than waiting for others to show the way is the real essence of his zeal for making films." Come February 28, watch how Nasir and his friends' enthusiasm captured the magic of cinema with limited resources.

On going back to the ramp Earlier this month, Jacqueline walked the ramp for designer Kanika Goyal at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour in Chandigarh. The event was organised in collaboration with the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI).

"It feels really great to be back. It is almost like home ground - walking on the ramp. I can see so many familiar faces. And of course, I feel very privileged to be part of the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour. There are so many iconic moments that they have created, and it feels so special. It is amazing to see how this platform brings together celebrated designers like Kanika, style icons, and creative visionaries to create an immersive fashion experience," Jacqueline tells us about walking the ramp.

The actor also revealed that she would love to have a "preshow ritual to be honest, but so much happens on that day that it's very difficult to follow it". "Also, that you do show so frequently that anxiety, the nervousness, it doesn't, really, affect you anymore," she shares. On her fashion journey

For Jacqueline, who originally hails from Sri Lanka, her personal style journey has undergone a significant transformation over the years. Reflecting on her earlier days, she recalls being more experimental with her fashion choices. However, as time has passed, Jacqueline's priorities have shifted, and she now places comfort above all else when it comes to her style.

"I used to experiment a lot with my own personal style, my own personal fashion before. And I think now I feel comfortable being in something which is basic yet comfortable. Earlier, it was about experimenting more. Now it's, I truly understand what my sense of style is," she confesses.

Ask her if fashion can be used as a form of self-expression and empowerment, Jacqueline quickly notes, "We are all unique in our personalities, and I think if you're able to express that through fashion, that's what creates something very beautiful to see. Also, because the fact that you know that no one is alike, I think that that is when you can bring it out through your fashion, that for me is something very stylish".

On promoting positive body image As the adage goes, "with great power comes great responsibility", and Jacqueline firmly believes that this maxim holds especially true for actors. As influencers in the public eye, Jacqueline feels that actors bear a significant responsibility to promote positive body image and self-acceptance.

"I think by being as authentic to themselves as possible. And being honest as well about their bodies since they're public figures and they're role models to many. Their honesty affects a lot of people. So yeah, a lot more honesty and a lot more authenticity is definitely encouraged," says the actor, who was last seen in Fateh.

On her Bollywood journey

She made her debut in the Indian film industry with 2009 film Aladin opposite actor Riteish Deshmukh. The film turned out to be a dud at the box office, but Jacqueline got noticed. She went on to do films such as Housefull 2, Murder 2, Kick, Brothers, Dishoom, Judwaa 2 and Mrs Serial Killer.

What's the most important lesson you've learned about yourself and your capabilities over the years?

"I think, resilience for me, it has always been something I have been very capable of. That's my discovery," she shares. In terms of upcoming projects and roles, Jacqueline is working on "two comedy movies coming up this year which is Houseful and Welcome".

"And another is also a web show which I did, which I shot last year and is going to be released this year. I'm really excited about it because it is my first show and it's all about like dance and music. So that would be something new to the table this year," she ends. ready for its India release.

At the virtual launch of the trailer, Reema shares how filmmaking is only a backdrop, and Superboys of Malegaon is more importantly about friendship. Indeed, as she herself hails from small town, inspirational tales of hinterland do have an extra allure for her. She states, "Small town is my comfort zone. However, if I feel a connection to a story, whatever be the odds, I will go ahead and find means to make it."

Being authentic

Zoya Akhtar, whose Tiger Baby, along with brother Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, has produced the film, observes that they don't go out of the way to make their films raw and real. She adds, "Rather authenticity is inbuilt in our cinema for it comes from a truth. We only make it cinematic, may be add a lie to it." Of course, Nasir can only see truth in this celluloid adaptation of his life and is more than happy with BAFTA nominee



actor Adarsh Gourav's portrayal of him. Nasir says, "Adarsh has gone far beyond my expectations. Even before I could add anything to how he should play me, he would get it right as if he was reading my mind." For Adarsh having Nasir around was a blessing, not because he wanted to imitate him, but hoped to understand the space from which Nasir's dreams emanated and how he realised them.

Writer 'baap hota hai'

While spending time with Nasir, Adarsh even asked his real character to make a film which Adarsh produced. Adarsh laughs, "A lot of meta things were happening around us." Adarsh might be playing the main protagonist, however, he is not the only talented actor aboard the cast of the film. Vineet Kumar Singh, Shashank Arora and Anuj Singh Duhan play significant parts in this film written by Varun Grover. Some of the film's dialogues like 'writer baap hota hai' drive home the importance of writers in the art of movie-making.

In answer to a query, Varun remarks tongue-in cheek, "I have always felt that writer's role in cinema is very important, it is the first time I have verbalised it in so many words." Talking about his writing process, Varun shares, "Even when characters are imaginary, as in a film like Masaan, we try to find reality in them. But here the big plus was having access to Nasir's archives of his own life. He has preserved every small detail from press clippings to success parties of his films." Hence in his

## Ameesha Patel-Hrithik Roshan's reunion ignites fans' wishes for Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai 2

Actors Hrithik Roshan and Ameesha Patel's recent reunion sparked a wave of excitement among fans on social media The duo, which shared screen space in the iconic Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai, has left fans eagerly hoping for a sequel. As photos and videos from their reunion went viral, many are now demanding Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai 2. Ameesha also took to her Instagram handle and shared a heart-warming photo of herself posing with Hrithik, adding their popular song Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai to the post

Pyaar Hai to the post. For the caption, the Gadar actress wrote, "About last night lovely evening with Sonia's Rohit — for me, you'll always be my Duggu Brosnan first and then @hrithikroshan the superstar later." Notably, fans were quick to react, with many demanding Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai 2. Echoing similar sentiments, one fan commented, "Really looking forward to watching them together as a lead pair opposite each other! Really wish a producer-director is reading this!! Big fan of @ameeshapatel9 & @ hrithikroshan." Another

said, "Vote for Kaho Naa
Pyaar Hai 2." Directed and produced by Rakesh Roshan, Kaho
Naa Pyaar Hai marked the Bollywood debut of both Hrithik and Ameesha.
Meanwhile, at the starstudded success bash of Netflix's The Roshans, Hrithik shared a heart-

warming moment with Ameesha. The glitzy

event was attended by

an array of celebrities, including Rekha, Neetu Kapoor, Ameesha Patel, Anu Malik, Saba Azad, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Bhushan Kumar, Sam Kaushal, Mallika Sherawat, Pashmina Roshan, Jeetendra, Alka Yagnik, Jackie and Tiger Shroff, Anupam Kher, Vaani Kapoor, Siddharth Anand, Udit Narayan, and David Dhawan, among many others.

## **NATIONAL**

## **PM Modi pays homage** to Shivaji

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Maratha empire founder Chhatrapati Shivaji on his birth anniversary on Wednesday.

Modi said on X, "His valour and visionary leadership laid the foundation for Swarajya, inspiring generations to uphold the values of courage and justice. He inspires us in building a strong, self-reliant and prosperous India."

Born in 1630 in



Maharashtra, Shivaji combined military genius and political dexterity to challenge the Muslim sultans in the south and Mughals ish defeated it.

in the north to expand his kingdom, which went on to become India's most powerful empire before the Brit-

### Centre sanctions Rs 1554.99 cr to five states hit by floods, landslides, cyclones

al central assistance

of Rs 1554.99 crore

to Andhra Pradesh,

Nagaland, Odisha,

Telangana, and Tripu-

ra under the NDR fund.

This is in addition to the

Rs. 18,322.80 crore

released by the Centre

to 27 states under the

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): A committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved Rs 1554.99 crore of additional central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five states affected by floods, flash floods, landslides and cvclonic storms during 2024.

Out of the total amount of Rs 1554.99 crore, Rs 608.08 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 170.99 crore for Nagaland, Rs 255.24 crore for Odisha, Rs 231.75 crore for Telangana



and Rs 288.93 crore for Tripura, according to an official statement. In a post on X, Shah said, "The Modi government stands like a rock in support of the disaster-affected people. Today, the MHA approved an additionSDR fund".

The high level committee approved central assistance of Rs 1554.99 crore to five states from the NDRF, subject to an adjustment of 50 per cent of the opening balance for the year available in the SDRF.

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states. During the financial

year 2024-25, the Centre has released Rs 18,322.80 crore to 27 states in SDRF and Rs 4,808.30 crore from NDRF to 18 states, Rs 2208.55 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 14 states and Rs 719.72 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to eight states.

The Centre had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these states, immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of formal memorandums, the statement said.

## Fadnavis hails Shivaji Maharaj as management guru and able administrator

PUNE, Feb 19 (Agencies): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis paid tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his birth anniversary on Wednesday, hailing him as a management guru and an able administrator who set an example of running a welfare state. Shivaji Maharaj not only established 'Swara-

jya', but also ignited a sense of national pride, Fadnavis said while paying homage to the Maratha king at Shivneri Fort in Pune

The legendary warrior king was born on February 19, 1630 in Shivneri in the district's Junnar tehsil.

Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar attended various programmes to mark Shivaji Maharaj's birth anniversary, including the 'cradle ceremony' at the Shivneri Fort.

A large number of followers of the Maratha king also gathered at the fort to take part in his 395th birth anniversary event.

Addressing the gathering there, Fadnavis said Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was not just a warrior, but also an able administrator who set an example of running a welfare state.

"He was a management guru in the truest sense," the chief minister added.

Fadnavis said that setting foot on the land of Shivneri evokes the inspiration of 'Swarajya', and it is this very spirit that draws people to this place time and again.

"When many kings and kingdoms accepted Mughal rule, Mata Jijau envisioned Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as the leader who would end the exploitation and tyranny, quiding the people towards Swarajya," he



temples.

СМ

also

"With the determina-"We are working tiretion and values instilled lessly to ensure the by his mother, Shivaji conservation of these forts by removing bar-Maharaj united people from all communities, riers. A task force has wielded his sword, and been created to clear built an army of Mavaencroachments from all las. He not only estabthese sites. Come what lished 'Swarajya', but may, these encroachalso ignited a sense of ments will be removed," national pride," the CM he asserted. The

Fadnavis stressed the announced that 12 forts from Maharashtra have importance of preserving Shivaji Maharaj's been nominated for the forts, saving they hold a UNESCO's World Herigreater significance than tage Site status under an initiative taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In the coming days, a team of the Maharashtra government, led by minister Ashish Shelar, will make a presentation highlighting these forts as exemplary architectural marvels at the UNESCO event in Paris," he said. On the occasion, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

said special attention was being given to the restoration work of Shivneri, the birthplace of the Maratha king. "All these forts in the state are places of inspi-

ration and we derive power and energy from them, and the state government is giving special attention to their restoration," he said.

Shinde said there are many ideals for youth, but Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will be the greatest ideal for generations to come.

#### 3 Women, including a teenager, found dead with slit wrists at home in Kolkata

questioned the neigh-

bours whether they

noticed any unnatural

behaviour on the part

of the victim individuals

during the last couple of

The police recovered

the bodies in the morn-

ing after they reached

the residence in con-

nection with an inves-

tigation of a road acci-

It is learnt that the

husband of one of the

two women met with

an accident near Ruby

Crossing on the Eastern

Metropolitan Bypass

early Wednesday morn-

ing. From the identity

cards of the husband,

the cops attached to

the traffic department

days.

dent.



KOLKATA, Feb 19 (Agencies): The bodies of three members of a family with their wrists slit were found under mysterious circumstances at their residence in the Tangra area of eastern Kolkata on Wednesday. The victims included two women and a girl in her teens

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem purposes and after the autopsy report is available it would be clear whether this was a case of suicide or murder, said the officials here. The cops of the local police station have started an investigation into the case. They of the city police came to know of the address at Tangra. Accordingly, the cops

reached the residence at Tangra soon after the accident without being aware that a bigger shock was waiting for them there. On entering the house they found the bodies of the three females with their wrists slit.

Considering the sensitivity of the matter, a team of cops from the homicide department of the city police reached the spot. Even the joint commissioner (crime) also arrived at the spot soon.

On being questioned by the cops, sources from the city police said, the neighbours so far have informed that they did not notice anything unnatural in the behaviour of the victims during the last couple of days. More details were awaited as the probe was on.

Modi has already declared Adani issue personal matter, will he

Ltd in connection with

a September 2021

debt offering by Adani

In a parallel action, the

US Attorney's Office

for the Eastern District

of New York unsealed

criminal charges

against Gautam and

Sagar Adani, among

other individuals con-

nected to Adani Green

Adani is being indicted

by the US Department

of Justice for his role in

an alleged years-long

scheme to pay USD 250

million bribes to Indian

officials in exchange for

favourable solar power

The Adani group has

denied the allegations

by the Department of

Justice and the SEC

and said they are "base-

contracts.

less".

and Azure Power.

Green".

said

said

You will be accountable for poll results: Kharge to top office-bearers

### oblige US SEC: Cong

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already declared the Adani issue to be a personal matter and asked whether he would oblige the US Securities and Exchanges Commission's (SEC) request in the ongoing probe against the business group.

The opposition party's assertion came after the SEC told a federal judge in New York that its efforts to serve its complaint on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani in the alleged bribery scheme are "ongoing". This included a request for assistance to the Indian authorities.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the SEC has just informed a New York district court that it has sought the assistance of the Modi government to serve complaints on the violations of US laws by Gautam Adani and some of his colleagues.

"The PM has already declared the Modani issue to be a personal matter. Will he oblige the SEC?" Ramesh said on X.

To a question on whether the issue relating to Adani figured in the talks, Modi said at a



joint media briefing with Donald Trump in Washington last week: "India is a democracy and our culture is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. We consider the whole world as one family. I believe every Indian is mine." "Two prominent lead-

ers of two countries never discuss such individual issues," he said. The SEC submitted

a status update Tuesday to Judge Nicholas Garaufis at the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, regarding its efforts to serve its complaint on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani.

It said both "are located in India, and the SEC's efforts to serve them there are ongoing, including through a request for assistance to the Indian authorities to effect service under the Hague Service Convention for Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.' The SEC said its complaint dated November

NEW DELHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Days after a major organisational rejig in the party, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday did some plain-speaking with top office-bearers, stressing that they will be held accountable for future election results in states under their charge and asking them to be wary of ideologically weak turncoats.

Addressing general secretaries and incharges, including those appointed last week, at a meeting held at the party's headquarters at Indira Bhawan here, Kharge emphasised the importance of promoting those people who are committed to the ideology of the Congress and stand with us like a rock even in adverse circumstances.

Kharge also hinted at some more changes in the organisation, saying some changes have already taken place and some more are in the offing.

"I want to talk to you about the most important thing of accountability. You all will be held accountable for revamping the organisations in states and for all future election results," he told the office-bearers.

The party recently brought in new office bearers in the revamped organisation.

Among those who attended the meeting were former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, senior leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh, and all general secretaries and in-charges in various states.

At the meeting, Kharge also flagged the issue of alleged "voter list manipulation" and claimed that it is happening on a large scale in elections.

He noted that Rahul Gandhi also raised a question about this in the Lok Sabha.

"All of you will realise that these days the names of our supporters are deleted from the voters list. Or the name is removed and added to the adjacent booth. New names are added by the BJP just before the election. This rigging has to be stopped at all costs," the Congress chief asserted.

Kharge pointed out that earlier the Chief Justice was also included in the selection committee of Chief Election Commission (CEC) by the order of the Supreme Court



but the CJI was removed from the panel by the Modi government.

"The government does not even trust the impartiality of the Chief Justice of the country. This matter was to be heard in the Supreme Court, but the government announced the new CEC before that. Rahul Ji also said that what is the use of such a selection committee, where you are using Leader of Opposition only for certification?" he said.

Kharge also raised the issues of inflation and unemployment, alleging the Modi government has completely failed on that front. He urged the office-bearers to strengthen the organisation.

"It is your responsibility to strengthen the organisation from state headquarters to booth as soon as possible. You will have to go to the booth yourself for this work, work hard, interact with the workers. Our Frontals - Cells will have to be involved. I especially want to say about the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), that they are an important part of us, involve them too in organisation building," Kharge said.

"If you yourself go to the booth, division, block, district, state level at the grassroots level, then you will be able to add new people there. You will be able to bring trustworthy and ideologically strong people with you. You can bring forward those people who can be very useful for the party but did not get a chance," he said.

Kharge called for promoting those people who are committed to the ideology of the Congress and "stand with us like a rock even in adverse circumstances".

Many times, to strengthen the party, people are inducted in a hurry, he said, adding that they could be weak in ideology and run away

#### in difficult times.

Using a Hindi proverb, he advised the office-bearers to be wary of choosing "imitations over original".

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Kharge said Delhi voted for change and lauded the efforts of the state leadership in putting up a good fight despite lack of resources.

The B JP returned to power in Delhi after more than 26 years, winning 48 of the 70 assembly seats. The AAP won 22 seats while the Congress drew a blank in the polls held on February 5.

The Congress chief said the party leaders must raise issues of public interest in the next five years and strive to make the organisation emerge as the principal opposition party in Delhi.

Hitting out at the government, he said the prime minister failed to stop the insult of Indians deported from the USA.

"Despite Modi ji's visit, America is sending back Indian citizens handcuffed as before. Vegetarians were given non-vegetarian food. Our government also failed to protest this insult properly," Kharge alleged.

"America is also hurting us deeply in economic matters. They imposed reverse tariff on us, but the prime minister did not even protest against it. They are forcibly imposing a loss-making deal on us, which our government is silently accepting. This is clearly an insult to India and the people of India," the Congress chief claimed.

Noting that the "Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" programme will continue for the next one year, Kharge said under this, activities such as padyatra, dialogue, corner meetings can be conducted.

"But the aim of every such program should be the empowerment of the organisation," he said.

In a major organisational revamp, the Congress on Friday appointed former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel as general secretary in-charge of Punjab and Rajya Sabha MP Syed Naseer Hussain as general secretary for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

20 last year alleges that Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani violated the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws by "knowingly or recklessly making false and misleading representations concerning Adani Green Energy

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## President Donald Trump signs executive order to expand access to IVF

WASHINGTON DC, Feb 19 (Agencies): President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at expanding access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) for Americans, with a focus on reducing the high costs associated with the treatment.

The White House in a factsheet titled 'President Donald J. Trump Expands Access to In Vitro Fertilization (IVF),' said, "Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order expanding access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) for Americans.

The Order directs policy recommendations to protect IVF access and aggressively reduce out-of-pocket and health plan costs for such treatments.

The recommendations will focus on how to ensure reliable access to IVF."

It added, "Priority will also be



placed on addressing any current policies, including those that require legislation, that exacerbate the cost of IVF treatments.

The Order recognises the importance of family formation and that our Nation's public policy must make it easier for loving and longing mothers and fathers to have children." The factsheet further stated that the cost of IVF treatments can range from USD 12,000 to USD 25,000 per cycle and multiple cycles may be needed to

KUALA LUMPUR,

Feb 19 (Agencies):

The 13th meeting of

Malaysia-India Defence

Cooperation Commit-

tee (MIDCOM) took

place in Kuala Lumpur

on Wednesday and was

co-chaired by Defence

Secretary Rajesh Kumar

Singh and Secretary

General of Ministry of

Defence of Malaysia,

Lokman Hakim Bin Ali,

the Ministry of Defence

Both of the sides

expressed happiness

at the growing bilateral

defence cooperation

with regular engage-

ments between the two

Armed Forces in recent

As per the Ministry of

Defence, the two sides

held wide-ranging dis-

cussions on effective

& practical initiatives to

further expand bilateral

defence engagements

and regional & global

issues. Both chairs

noted.

vears.

get pregnant. "Department of Health and Human Services data reports that more than 85,000 infants were born as a result of IVF in 2021.

The general US fertility rate is at another historic low. The

rate dropped 3 per cent in 2023 from 2022. From 2014-2020, the rate consistently decreased by 2 per cent annually," White House factsheet added.

Meanwhile, Karoline Leavitt, White House Press Secretary praised the President's signing of the executive order aimed at making IVF more accessible, and said that the order directs policy recommendations to reduce out-of-pocket costs and improve health plan coverage for those seeking fertility treatments

In a post on X, she wrote, "PROMISES MADE. PROM-ISES KEPT: President Trump just signed an Executive Order to Expand Access to IVF! The Order directs policy recommendations to protect IVF access and aggressively reduce out-ofpocket and health plan costs for such treatments."

## Pakistan: Gunmen kill 7 passengers in Balochistan

district of the prov-

ince, where around

11 armed assailants

stopped a passenger

bus, police sources

from the district told

The passengers were

traveling from the pro-

vincial capital city of

Quetta to Faisalabad

district of eastern

establishment of Su-30

forum as an outcome of

MIDCOM. Su-30 Forum

will enable closer coop-

eration between the two

Air Forces in exchang-

ing expertise and best

practices in Su-30 main-

According to the

Defence Ministry, the

Defence Secretary

highlighted the capabil-

ity of the Indian defence

industry, particularly

its potential to collabo-

rate with the Malaysian

companies and the

Armed Forces in their

tenance

Punjab province.

Xinhua.



ISLAMABAD, Feb 19 (Agencies): At least seven passengers were killed by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, an officials confirmed on Wednesday.

The attack occurred at 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday (1845 GMT) at a highway in the Barkhan "The gunmen appeared to have specific intelligence about their targets, as they only stopped this particular vehicle and selectively killed the victims," the sources added.

The assailants fled the scene before security forces arrived.

Barkhan is a bordering district between Punjab and Balochistan, making it a key transit route for travelers between the two provinces, the sources added.

Following the incident, law enforcement agencies launched a search operation in the area to track down the perpetrators.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

#### Taiwan records increased Chinese military activity around its territory

TAIPEI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Taiwan recorded 36 sorties of People's Liberation Army aircraft and seven naval vessels operating near its territory till 6 am (local time) on Wednesday, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND).

As per the Taiwan Defence Ministry, 33 out of 36 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, eastern and southwestern ADIZ.

"36 sorties of PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 33 out of 36 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, eastern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly", Taiwan's

MND posted on X. On Tuesday, Taiwan recorded 8 sorties of People's Liberation Army aircraft, 9 naval vessels and one official ship operating near its territory till 6 am (local time). In recent weeks, China has visibly increased

has visibly increased its capacity to conduct amphibious assaults on Taiwan's beaches with new naval equipment. This includes the formal launch of a unique advanced landing helicopter assault (LHA) vessel and the mass production of floating bridge docks to aid ship unloading during beach

landings. On Tuesday, the Ministry of National Defence (MND) had strongly asserted that the Taiwan Strait is not under the sovereignty of China, emphasising that the freedom of navigation exercised by like-minded countries proves its legal status.

legal status. The MND further criticised China's military actions against Taiwan and its neighbouring countries, saying that these actions only highlight China's role as the greatest threat to regional peace and stability. Sharing a post on X on Monday, MND said, "The Taiwan Strait is by

no means under PRC sovereignty! Like-minded countries' freedom of navigation proves its legal status. #PLA military actions against #Taiwan and its neighbors only reaffirm that the PRC is the greatest threat to regional peace and stability."

The Taiwan-China conflict remained a longstanding geopolitical issue centred on Taiwan's sovereignty. While Taiwan functioned as a de facto independent state with its own government, military, and economy, Beijing considered it a breakaway province under the "One China" policy. Since the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949), when

War (1945-1949), when the Republic of China's government retreated to Taiwan, China had used diplomatic, economic, and military measures to pressure Taiwan, which continued to assert

## Malaysia: Defence Secretary co-chairs 13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee



such as cyber security and AI. They also identified ways to deepen the existing collaboration, particularly in the defence industry, maritime security, and multilateral engagements and agreed to form a joint focus group to address non-traditional maritime security threats.

India and Malaysia reaffirmed their commitment towards fully implementing the new initiatives under the defence pillar of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, as envisioned by Prime Anwar Ibrahim during the latter's visit to India in August 2024.

The Defence Ministry noted that India and Malaysia also exchanged the finalised Terms of Reference (ToR) on the establishment of Strategic Affairs Working Group. This forum will act as a consultative mechanism intermediate between the MIDCOM and the two sub-committees to progress all aspects of bilateral defence cooperation.

In a significant devel

manship of ASEAN and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and wished MoD, Malaysia the best for conduct of ADMM Plus and ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting meetings this year.

India supports ASEAN centrality and unity, which is a crucial element of India's Indo-Pacific Vision. The Defence Secretary reiterated India's support to Malaysia's endeavours as ASEAN chair in promoting a stronger, unified, and prosperous ASEAN that plays a central role in shaping the evolving dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.

Indo-Pacific region. India considers Malaysia as an important partner in the Indo-Pacific as Malaysia lies at the confluence of three key foreign policy visions i.e. Act East Policy, SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

and its independence with strong domestic supn X port. identified steps to further enhance cooperation in emerging areas Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Dato' Seri opment, both sides also exchanged the finalised ToR on the

capability enhancement
 and modernisation. He
 congratulated Malaysia
 on assuming the chair-

#### UK government cracks down on online knife sales after spate of high-profile crimes

LONDON, Feb 19 (Agencies): A new law introduced after a spate of high-profile knife crimes will make it harder for young people to purchase knives online, the UK government announced Wednesday.

The stricter regulation follows several fatal knife crimes involving young people, including the 2024 murder of three girls by teenager Axel Rudakubana, who was able to purchase the blade he used on Amazon, bypassing age verification rules.

"Ronan's Law", named after a 16-year-old murdered in 2022, will require retailers to report "suspicious" and bulk blade purchases to authorities, as well as bolster age verification checks.

The jail terms for retailers who sell knives to under-18s will also be increased from six months to up to two years under the new law. The punishment "could apply to an individual who has processed the sale or a CEO of the company", according to a Home Office press release.

"It is horrifying how easy it is for young people to get hold of knives online even though children's lives are being lost, and families and communities are left devastated as a result," interior minister Yvette Cooper said in a statement.

The current law states that retailers must verify the age of the customer before selling a knife and, for those bought online, at the point of collection or delivery.

Under the new rules, online sellers will be required to verify photo identities and ages at the point of sale and delivery.

UK PM Keir Starmer's administration has pledged to halve knife crime in the next decade and has banned zombie-style knives and machetes. While Britain has some of the strictest gun controls in the world, rampant knife crime has been branded a "national crisis" by Starmer.

In the year leading up to March 2024, there were 262 murders in England and Wales using a knife or sharp instrument, according to the Ben Kinsella Trust, an anti-knife crime charity.

Of those murdered, 57 were under the age of 25.

The new law is named after Ronan Kanda, who was killed three years ago by teenagers who bought knives online and collected them from a post office, without having their identities or ages checked.

The government is also considering a registration scheme that would allow "responsible" online retailers to sell knives.

## No point in changing Panama Canal toll system – Vice President

PANAMA CITY, Feb 19 (Agencies): The system of collecting toll from ships in the Panama Canal has proven its effectiveness for 25 years of work, and there is no point in changing it now, Boris Moreno, vice president for operations at the Panama Canal, told Sputnik.

"We see no need in changing the system because it has been working well for 25 years," Moreno said.

The system of setting a price for passing through the canal based on a vessel's load capacities is confirmed by its authorities and the Panamanian government after a public hearing, he said, adding that all potential clients may attend the hearing and express their worries and disagreements, which "are being taken into account."

Only two countries have the benefit of free transit through the Panama Canal. Apart from the US, Colombian military vessels also have a right of free passage, the executive also said, adding that "apart from those two exemptions, all countries pay the same."

### Hong Kong and Uyghur communities in Ireland urge govt to address Chinese transnational repression with Wang Yi

DUBLIN, Feb 19 (Agencies): Members of the Hong Kong and Uyghur communities in Ireland have urged the government to bring up the issue of transnational persecution during their scheduled meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dublin.

According to a report by The Irish Times, Wang, who is also a member of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo, attended the Munich Security Conference and spoke with top European leaders over the weekend before flying to Dublin to meet with Taoiseach Micheal Martin and Tanaiste Simon Harris. "Demand concrete actions concerning acts of transnational repression, genocide,

and politically moti-

vated imprisonment

perpetrated by the Peo-

ple's Republic of China

[PRC]," said a statement

from organizations that

represent Uyghurs and

Hongkongers residing in Ireland as quoted by The Irish Times. They stated that they wished to bring Chinese governmental surveillance and harassment of diaspora populations in Ireland to the attention of the government, The

Irish Times reported. "It is a matter of Ireland's security as much as it is about the security of [the] person and freedoms of speech, of thought, of assembly being impeded on Irish soil when it comes to dissidents of the Chinese state. We do not feel we can openly exercise our right to protest, for fear of retribution by the regime to our family members back home or within Ireland itself, or to lose our chance to visit our homelands, if the Government's failure to address clandestine activities by the PRC means that individual dissidents and their families could be identified and harassed by the Chinese state," quoted a

The Irish Times report. They claimed that the European Union has acknowledged China's use of transnational repression against members of the Tibetan, Taiwanese, Hongkonger, and Uyghur minorities, Irish Times reported.

"Just this past week, the Hong Kong authorities detained the aunt and uncle of an exiled Hongkonger activist for interrogation, to punish her for taking part in a community-wide, legal protest in London the previous Saturday," the statement said, as quoted by The Irish Times.

According to the report, incidents such as these have caused a chilling impact on diasporic Hongkongers residing in Ireland and other countries. The European Hong Kong Diaspora Alliance, the Irish Uyghur Cultural Association, and Stand With Hong Kong released a statement urging the Taoiseach and Tanaiste to bring up issues of repression and human rights with Wang.

"Diplomatic ties and economic growth should be predicated upon a commitment to protect the security of residents in Ireland and to stand up for subjugated communities," they said. "People in Ireland have a right to live free from fear," as quoted by The Irish Times.

Wang is the second top-level Chinese political figure to visit Ireland in just over a year, following a trip by Premier Li Qiang in January 2024, The Irish Times reported.

"Ireland is China's strategic partner for mutually beneficial cooperation. Over recent years, bilateral relations have enjoyed a sound growth momentum," the Chinese foreign ministry said last week when announcing the visit, which is taking place at the request of the Chinese government.

## LOCAL/CONTD....

## VC JU lays foundation for High Mast HID Lights at University's Cricket Stadium

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: In a major boost to sports infrastructure at the University of Jammu, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai today laid the foundation for the installation of High Mast HID Lights at the Cricket Stadium, Main Campus. With an approved budget of Rs 305 lakhs, the project aims to modernize the stadium, facilitating day-night matches and extended training hours, while reinforcing the University's commitment to sports excellence

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Rai emphasized the University's commitment to equipping students with world-class sports infrastructure. He remarked, "This facility will not only benefit our students but also establish the University Cricket Stadium as a premier venue for high-profile tourna-



ments, encouraging a stronger sports culture on campus". The Cricket Ground

of the University holds the prestigious distinction of being the only BCCI-recognized cricket ground in Jammu and Kashmir. Over the years, it has hosted several national-level tournaments, including Under-23 matches, under the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Former Indian fast bowler and General Manager, BCCI, Abey Kuruvilla, has already endorsed the ground as one of the best-suited venues for hosting BCCI and JKCA matches, further strengthening its reputation as a key sporting hub. During his visit, Prof. Rai also inspected the ongoing construction

of the state-of-theart 10-metre shooting range, which is set to become a premier facility for aspiring shooters. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year, adding another feather to the University's growing sports infrastructure.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, who was present at the event, applauded the initiative as a significant milestone in the University's efforts to elevate sports at both regional and national levels.

hide its internal failures.

Instead of making false

claims about Kashmir,

Pakistan should focus

on addressing the grave

human rights violations

in Pakistan-occupied

Jammu & Kashmir

(PoJK) and Gilgit-

Baltistan, where people are continuously denied

basic rights. He further

added that Pakistan is

globally known as the

epicenter of militancy,

with groups like Lash-

kar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-

e-Mohammed (JeM),

and Hizbul Mujahideen,

operating freely from

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director, Sports and Physical Education, highlighted the project's transformative impact. "This facility will not only enhance training opportunities for our students but will also place the University of Jammu among the top institutions with world-class sports infrastructure," he stated.

The project is expected to be completed within six months, paving the way for the stadium to emerge as a premier venue for national and inter-university tournaments. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Prof.

Rajiv Rattan, Director CDC, Dr. Jatinder Khajuria, Finance Officer, Xen, Akash Bhola AEE ; Vimal Kishore, Irfan Goni, Dr. Vijay Saigal, along with sports coaches and staff. Sr. Sec. School celebrates Annual Day

**Manjushree, Presentation Convent** 

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: The much awaited Annual Day of Manjushree students at Presentation Convent Sr. Sec. School, Gandhi Nagar, centred around the theme 'Canvas of Dreams', was celebrated amidst mirth and cheer on 19 February 2025.

Geetanjali Mahajan, an alumna of the School and a distinguished educationist, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by Sr. Miriam, the School Manager, Sr. Amelina Rodrigues, the Principal, esteemed members of the Management and parents.

The event was a vibrant display of talent, creativity and exuberance. The young performers lit up the stage with their synchronized and energetic performances. The audience was captivated by a variety of performances including Friendship and Flower Dance, Rajasthani Dance, Dogri Dance and a Zumba performance.

A thought-provoking skit on Rainbow Fairies, highlighting the power of unity in overcoming challenges, was also staged. Through the Five Elements Dance the students honoured air, water, earth, fire and sky, thus, delivering a powerful message on environmental conservation. The school auditorium resonated with applause as all witnessed their children perform with confidence and enthusiasm.

The highlight of the event was the Prize Distribution Ceremony where students were awarded certificates and medals in recognition of their excellence in academics and co-scholastic activities.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Geetanjali Mahajan lauded the School's commitment to holistic education nurturing both, intellect and creativity in young minds.

The event concluded with the students singing the School Song in unison.

#### J-K: Seven houses gutted in devastating fire in Banihal's Chamalwas



BANIHAL, Feb 19 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out in the Chamalwas area of Banihal, completely reducing seven residential houses to ashes and causing property damage worth lakhs of rupees.

The fire erupted around midnight in Sayed Pora hamlet of Chamalwas, Ramban district, and quickly spread across the area.

As soon as the news spread, Banihal Police, fire services, and volunteers from NGO Banihal Volunteers rushed to the spot. With the help of local residents, they worked tirelessly to control the flames and prevented the fire from engulfing more houses.

The families affected by the fire, all belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, have been identified as Mohammad Yousaf Shah, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Gulzar Ahmed Shah, Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, Shahi, Abmed Shah, Japat Ali Shah, and Chulam

## BJP strongly condemns Pakistan's baseless propaganda on Kashmir

## Top News ReportGaurav Gupta said<br/>that at a time when Pak-<br/>istan is struggling with<br/>severe political and eco-<br/>nomic crises, it is once<br/>again using Kashmir as<br/>a diversionary tactic to

condemned and rejected the recent resolution passed by Pakistan's Parliament unanimously regarding Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a desperate attempt to mislead the international community.

He was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with BJP spokespersons Purnima Sharma and Balbir Ram Rattan. Gourav Gupta asserted that Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India, and no propaganda or baseless resolution can change this reality. to face persecution and discrimination, yet the country dares to lecture India on human rights. He said that the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019, was a historic decision that paved the way for unprecedented development in Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, the region has seen remarkable progress, with rapid infrastructure growth, increased investments. record-breaking tourism, and greater democratic participation. He also highlighted that global events like

that global events like the G20 Summit held in Srinagar clearly demonstrate how the international community has recognized the peace and development hap-

cessful hosting of such a prestigious event in the Valley is a testament to the fact that the world acknowledges J&K's transformation and rejects Pakistan's baseless claims. The international community not only participated in the G20 event but also appreciated the Government of India for successfully hosting it in Kashmir, recognizing the region's growing stability, prosperity, and global integration.

Gaurav Gupta further stated that the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and J&K Assembly elections were held in an extremely peaceful manner, which proves that the people of

opment. The large voter turnout and enthusiastic participation clearly reflect that the residents of J&K have completely rejected Pakistan's false narrative and are actively contributing to India's democratic process. This is a strong message to the world that Jammu & Kashmir is on a path of progress, and its people are looking forward to a brighter future under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He further urged Pakistan to stop spreading lies, end state-sponsored terrorism, and focus on solving its internal problems. He reiterated that India remains committed to the peace, prosperregion have chosen democracy and progress over Pakistan's propaganda.

Gaurav Gupta concluded by stating that Pakistan's repeated attempts to mislead the world will fail, just as they have in the past. He reaffirmed that Jammu & Kashmir is, and will always remain, an integral part of India.

## NOTICE

I, Sunny Kumar Nanda S/o Late Sh. Tilak Raj Nanda R/o House No. 211, Sector No.9, Nanak Nagar, Jammu, pin 180004, has changed my name from Sunny Kumar Nanda to Sunny Nanda. I do hereby assume

Shabir Ahmed Shah, Jamat Ali Shah, and Ghulam Nabi Shah. All are residents of Sayed Pora, Chamalwas, Banihal. its soil. Additionally, he pointed out that minorities in Pakistan continue revocation of Article 370 and 35A. The suc-

FromPage No:1

Jammu and Kashmir stand firmly with peace, democracy, and devel-

ity, and development of Jammu and Kashmir, and the people of the

from this date of name/ surname Sunny Nanda.

#### NIA arrests 3 men for leaking sensitive Defence Information to Pakistani Intelligence Operatives

have revealed that Pakistan national Meer Balaj Khan and one Akash Solanki — who has been arrested — were involved in the espionage racket related to leaking of sensitive vital information about the Indian Navy as part of an anti-India conspiracy, it said.

Another absconding PIO, Alven, and two others — Manmohan Surendra Panda and Amaan Salim Shaikh — have also been chargesheeted by the NIA. The agency took over the case in June 2023.

The anti-terror agency will continue its probe in the case to unravel the espionage conspiracy by Pakbased and other anti-national elements, the statement said.

#### FIR against J&K Labour Dept Secy for 'Disproportionate Assets', CBI conducts searches at 7 places

license cases, they said. Sources said the searches also took place in civil secretariat in Sri-

#### nagar where his office is located. **Civil Society members in J&K demand CBI probe into Billawar youth's death**

by prominent civil society members, including advocate Sheikh Shakeel, senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony, Mohd Anwar Choudhary, advocates Supriya Singh Chouhan and Uzma Abbas; Naresh Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Tahir, Balwinder Singh Rinku; president of Guru Ravi Dass Samaj, Shamsher Chand along with Panchs, Sarpanchs, ward presidents, and concerned residents of Bathindi, Sunjwan, Chatha, and Bagh-e-Bahu areas.

Addressing the media persons, Sheikh Shakeel reiterated that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha time and again expressed his commitment to upholding the rule of law. However, he appealed to LG to fulfill his commitment.

He emphasised that systemic failures should not result in the loss of innocent lives and called for immediate corrective measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony made a fervent appeal to the Lieutenant Governor to initiate a CBI inquiry into the matter at the earliest.

He underscored the importance

of an impartial and transparent investigation, stating that the affected families deserve justice without any delay.

"If the authorities fail to take necessary action, we will take up the matter directly with LG Manoj Sinha and the Chief Minister to ensure justice is served," he asserted.

Tony further stated that every innocent citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their background, had an equal right to justice. He condemned any form of discrimination or delay in addressing grievances, urging the administration to act swiftly.

He also urged LG Manoj Sinha to provide adequate compensation to the affected family and ensure a government job for the next of kin. Emphasising the need for immediate relief, he stated that such measures would help the family cope with their irreparable loss and reaffirm the administration's commitment to justice and welfare.

The civil society members expressed their strong resolve to continue their struggle until justice was delivered. They collectively demanded immediate intervention from the authorities, warning that any further delay would only deepen public distrust in the system.

#### H&ME orders transfer and posting of doctors in J&K

DIO Ganderbal, shall look after

the charge of BMO Ganderbal in addition to her own duties.

Dr. Rehana Kousar, Consultant MCH SDH Kangan, is deputed to GMC Srinagar on the standard terms and conditions of deputation. Dr. Mohd. Yousuf, I/C BMO Chogul, is transferred and posted as I/C DHO Kulgam.

Dr. Arshad Rafi, Principal RFPTC Kangan, is transferred and posted as I/C Controller of Stores, DHSK. Dr. Mohd. Ashraf Wani, I/C BMO Kangan, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Khag.

Dr. Shamima Bano, Medical Officer, SDH Khansahib, is transferred and posted as DTO Budgam, relieving Dr. Adfar Yaseen (STO) of the additional charge.

Dr. Irshad Ahmad, Medical Officer Block Khansahib, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Soibugh.

Dr. Syed Idrees, I/C BMO Hajin, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Chogul.

Dr. Musadiq Khan, I/C Dy. Medical Superintendent, Govt. SSH, Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Medical Officer, Rehbar-i-Sehat, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.

Dr. Arshid Rasool Baba, I/C BMO Khag, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Kangan.

Dr. Javed Ahmad Bhat, I/C DHO Pulwama, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Hajin.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, awaiting orders of posting, is transferred and posted as I/C Dy. Medical Superintendent, MCH Anantnag. Dr. Gul Afroz Akhter, Medical Officer, Block Beerwah, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Chattergam. Dr. Tahira, I/C BMO Gurez, is transferred and posted as I/C DHO Bandipora.

Dr. Bashir Ahmad Awan, Medical Officer, Block Shangus, is transferred and posted as I/C Dy. CMO Kulgam.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Ganai, awaiting orders of posting at Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as I/C Dy. CMO Bandipora.

Dr. Faroz Iqbal Lone, Consultant Anesthesia, CHC Gurez, shall temporarily look after the charge of BMO Gurez till a suitable arrangement is made.

Similarly, in another order, the Health and Medical Education Department has ordered transfer & posting of nine doctors.

Dr. Kiran Kailu, who was awaiting orders of posting at the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, is transferred and posted as I/C State Veneriologist, Jammu.

Dr. Arun Sharma, I/C Medical Superintendent, MCH Gandhi Nagar, shall report to the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, for further duties.

Dr. lqbal Malik, I/C BMO Nowshera, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Kalakote.

Dr. Gurdeep Singh, Medical Officer, TH Mahanpur, is transferred and posted as Medical Officer, NIDDCP, Jammu.

Dr. Sham Lal, I/C BMO Kalakote, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Nowshera.

Dr. Sat Lal Manhas, I/C BMO Kishtwar, is transferred and posted as I/C Dy. CMO Doda, relieving Dr. Om Kumar (I/C CMO Doda) of the charge of Dy. CMO Doda. Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, I/C BMO Padder, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Kishtwar.

Dr. Krishan Singh Katoch, I/C BMO Dachhan, is transferred and posted as I/C BMO Padder.

Dr. Sajad Hussain, Dental Surgeon, PHC Keeru, shall look after the charge of I/C BMO Dachhan till a suitable arrangement is made.

The orders said that the above assignment in respect of the doctors is made on a temporary basis and is subject to the outcome of any writ petition(s), if any, pending before the court(s) of law. This shall not confer any right(s) upon the officer(s) to claim preferential treatment at the time of regularization/promotion, which shall be made strictly in accordance with the rules. Given the emergent nature of health services, the transferees shall be deemed to have been relieved and shall join their respective places of posting forthwith and without fail.

#### J&K to receive light rain or snow at many places from tonight till feb 20 : MeT

places, while scattered places can expect light rain/snow on February 24-25. MeT also predicted Generally cloudy weather with Light to moderate rain/snow at many places of Jammu and Kashmir. The weather department has advised tourists, travelers, and transporters to follow administrative and traffic advisories.

## LOCAL

## GDC Kathua organises lecture on "Stress Management Through Spirituality in Younger Generation"

#### **Top News Report**

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KATHUA, Feb 19: The Department of Computer Science at Govt. Degree College Kathua organised an expert lecture on "Stress Management through Spirituality in the Younger Generation" on Wednesday.

The distinguished speaker was Colonel Manoj Sharma, Commanding Officer of the 126 TA Battalion at Madhopur.

Col. Manoj Sharma, whose career includes service along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, the western borders of Punjab, and with the United Nations Peacekeeping force in Congo and as part of Mobile Training Team in Myanmar to train the Myanmarese Army for the UN mission, shared invaluable insights and practical guidance on navigating the challenges of stress in today's world. Drawing from his extensive real-life experiences, he emphasized the importance of integrating spirituality into



daily life as a powerful tool for stress management and mental well-being. His anecdotes and wisdom resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring a holistic approach to wellness.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal of Govt. Degree College Kathua, emphasized the importance of creating a supportive environment for students to address mental health concerns and encouraged future events of this nature.healtShe noted that the lectureTheprovided a platform for mean-ed bingful dialogue and reflectionDeeon stress management amongandyoung people, highlighting theAlsoimportance of acknowledgingultythese challenges for holisticSanjdevelopment.Kaur

Prof. Mir stated that by fostering conversations about spirituality and mental health, the college aims to empower students to lead balanced and fulfilling lives.

Prof. Shiv Kumar, Head of the Department of Computer Science, delivered the vote of thanks.

He emphasized the role of such motivational lectures in guiding students on the profound impact of spirituality in navigating modern life.

He reiterated the college's commitment to providing students with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in all aspects of their lives, recognizing the importance of mental health and holistic well-being. The program was coordinat-

ed by Dr. Gotam Singh, Prof. Deepak Gupta, Prof. Bharat and Dr. Deepshikha Jamwal. Also present were senior faculty members including Prof. Sanjay Karlupia, Prof. Ravinder Kaur, Dr. Ram Singh, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, NCC ANO's Dr. Pinky, Prof. Ajay Sharma and NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Kulbir Singh.

#### GDC Ramgarh commemorates 75 Years of Adoption of Indian Constitution

the Department of Soci-

ology, began the event

with a brief introduction,

highlighting India's con-

stitutional journey and

the significance of Con-

She emphasized the

key features of the

Indian Constitution,

describing it as the

bedrock of the nation's

The panel discussion

focused on the funda-

mental duties enshrined

in the Indian Constitu-

tion, with distinguished

speakers shedding light

on their importance in

stitution Day.

democracy.



#### **Top News Report**

RAMGARH, Feb 19: To commemorate the 75 years of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the Department of Sociology at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a Panel Discussion on "Fundamental Duties" to the Constitution.

The event was held under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

Priya Sharma, Head of

fostering a sense of responsibility and civic duty among citizens. The panelists (students) including Alisha Menia, Abiseik Bhagat, Amit Kumar, Kamini Chib, Tamana Attri, Aruna Kumari, Taniya Kumari, Vanshika Sharma, Ruhi Devi, Guljar Bibi, Neeru Bala and Rahul Kumar deliberated on various aspects of fundamental duties, including their relevance in contemporary society and the role they play in upholding the values and principles of the Constitution. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Priya Sharma, expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their contributions, which made the celebration a

resounding success.

### Mission Director JJM, Khurshid Shah takes comprehensive review of JJM in Kulgam

**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Feb 19: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah along today reviewed the implementation of JJM in district Kulgam through virtual mode. The chair was appraised about the various components under execution through a power point presentation.

As per the figures 143 schemes are in different phases of execution in the district out of which 102 schemes have been completed so far. 337 civil works which include Dug wells, bore wells, Rapid sand filtration plants, Slow Sand Filtration plants, Over Head Tanks and laying of pipe networks have been allotted out of



completed.

benefitted.

The chair took a comprehensive review of all a components and directed the concerned officers to give a new impetus to the works stalled due to harsh weather conditions. The Mission director emphasized the need to complete the schemes on time so that the beneficiaries a of these schemes are **BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital launches Ortho Spine Surgery OPD Services in Jammu** 

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, today announced the launch of its dedicated Ortho Spine Surgery Services OPD services, in partnership with the citybased Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital. The OPD launch is yet another patient-centric step taken by the hospital to empower patients with accessibility and quality healthcare services without the inconvenience of travelling to another city.

The OPD Services were launched in the presence of Dr Puneet Girdhar, Principal Director & Head, Ortho Spine Surgery, at BLK-Max Hospital along with Dr Harmeet Singh Kapoor – Managing and Medical Director, Group Director – Emergency & Trauma, Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital, Jammu. Dr Puneet Girdhar will be available for OPD at Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital, Jammu on 2nd Wednesday of every month from 11 am to 1 pm



During the OPD launch Dr Puneet Girdhar, Principal Director & Head, Ortho Spine Surgery, at BLK-Max Hospital said "The launch of this OPD reflects our mission to improve healthcare access and outcomes for residents in Jammu and surrounding areas. From non-surgical management to minimally invasive surgical techniques, the OPD will offer a full spectrum of treatments to address various ortho and spinal disorders. By bringing specialized orthopaedic and spinal care to the local community, we aim to enhance the quality of life for need for long-distance travel to receive top-tier medical attention."

The new Orthopaedic Spine Surgery OPD is part of BLK-Max Hospital ongoing commitment to providing exceptional medical services and addressing the growing needs of the community. It will offer a comprehensive range of services, including advanced diagnostic tools, personalized treatment plans, and innovative surgical procedures.

Dr Harmeet Singh Kapoor – Managing and Medical Director, Group Director – Emer-

JK Medicity Hospital, Jammu said "We are really happy to have collaborated with one of the best Orthopedic and Spine Surgery Centres in the country and strive to raise awareness about the related issues. The newly launched OPDs will offer consultation and encourage people to lead a healthy lifestyle as well as provide access to the best of technology. This OPD is going to be a valuable addition to the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu by providing world-class treatment solutions to patients in the city right at their doorsteps. Our services will include all consultations and investigations and provide end to end services for the treatment"

BLK-Max Hospital is dedicated to raising public awareness about important health issues and providing accessible solutions to promote healthier, happier lives. The hospital emphasizes a preventive approach to healthcare, with a strong focus on combating obesity and its

related risks

Certification of reported villages within 10 days, as per the guidelines of National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of

India. The meeting was attended by top Jal Shakti Officials of the district, Consultant JJM, and Project Manager DPMU besides representatives of Third Party Monitoring Agency (TPIA) also

process of Har Ghar attended

attended the meeting.

for primary consultations.

our patients and reduce the

**Top News Report** 

SAMBA, Feb 19: A two days Intra-District Volleyball Tournament was organised at SPPND GDC Samba. The event was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the College as Chief Guest. The welcome address was given by Dr. Pankaj Bandhoria, Convener, Sports Board, GDC Samba.

The participating col-

leges included GDC Samba, GDC Vijaypur, GDC Ramgarh and GDC Ghagwal. The Tournament commenced with an excit-

The Chair directed all

officers to speed up the

ing match between GDC Samba and GDC Ghagwal followed by second match between GDC Vijaypur and GDC Ramgarh. The matches ended with a decisive 2-0 victory for GDC Samba and GDC Ramgarh.

The Principal con-



gratulated the winning teams for their exceptional performance and exhorted that the sports tional performance and exhorted that the sports channelizing the energy of our young students towards fostering physical fitness and mental well-being.

Assoc. Prof. Narayan Dutt, HOD Physics and Dr. Banpreet Kour, IQAC Coordinator were also present on the occasion. The whole event was coordinated by Prof. Meenakshi Thakur, Co-Convener Sports Board and Pradeep, PTI.

## **Speedball Camp organized at Divine Light Convent School**

**Top News Report** 

R S PURA, Feb 19: Divine Light Convent School hosted an engaging and energetic Speedball Camp, bringing a new wave of enthusiasm among students.

The camp was conducted by Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the J&K Sports Speedball Association, and witnessed an overwhelming response from students eager to learn and participate in this fast-paced sport. The event was graced



by the esteemed presence of Chairman Engineer Vivek Gupta, Principal Dr. Anita Sharma, and the school's sports faculty, who actively encouraged students to embrace this emerging sport. The Speedball session introduced students to the fundamentals of the game, enhancing their agility, coordination, and reflexes.

Expressing their gratitude to Sunny Nanda for his valuable guidance and support, the school administration announced its intent to introduce Speedball into the school curriculum under the CBSE framework from April onwards.

This step aims to provide students with an excellent opportunity for skill development, physical fitness, and engagement in modern sports. The successful execu-

tion of the Speedball Camp reaffirmed Divine Light Convent School's commitment to holistic education, promoting sports excellence alongside academic achievements. GDC Marheen organizes awareness programme on 'New Criminal Laws'



#### **Top News Report**

MARHEEN, Feb 19: Jammu & Kashmir Police Department in collaboration with IQAC, GDC Marheen organized awareness programme on the theme "New Criminal Laws". The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Anshuman Dubey (CPO) and Special Guests were Nitish Sharma (DySP), Ajay Chib (SHO, Rajbagh).

The whole programme was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

The programme covered the three topics such as Cyber Crime and Digital Safety, Women's Safety and Empowerment and Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation.

The programme started with the lighting of the lamp along with the recitation of Saraswati Vandana by the students. In the event students and police officials raising awareness regarding Zero FIRs/ E-FIRs, online Protecting Privacy, safeguarding personal information, online scams and exploitation, cyber bullying.

Further, they also highlighted the current state of women's safety in India, the initiatives taken by the government, the challenges faced, and the role of technology in enhancing safety measures. Moreover, they also discussed Juvenile Justice System in India, Current Legal Framework, Operational Aspects and Challenges and Important sections of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Students actively participated and clear their doubts by highlighting a number of questions after their discussion.

The event was managed by Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha Devi and Prof. Manu Saini. The other members presented in the event were Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Prof Diksha Sharma, Prof Suman, Dr Meenu Sharma, Prof Naresh Kumari, Prof Naresh Kumari, Prof Saquib and Prof Arpana.

## **SPORTS**

## India look to rise above selection challenges, past turbulence against Bangladesh in their CT opener

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Kohli, Rohit and even head coach Gautam Gambhir are living on borrowed time because shockwaves created by setbacks against New Zealand and Australia have not subsided yet

DUBAI, Feb 19 (Agencies): A turbulent recent cricketing past has made a resonant effort mandatory for India in the Champions Trophy, and their opening match against a tricky Bangladesh here on Thursday will be the first point in assuaging a set of existential questions surrounding this team.

They are vexing even for a pre-tournament favourite like India.

Can this Indian bowling unit tide over the absence of injured pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah? Can Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma summon their glory days back? Can young names like Shubman Gill ace the pressure of a multi-nation competition to deliver consistently?

In that context, the ICC showpiece is a godsend because ODI is the comfort zone of those icons and young tyros in this Indian line-up, and they will be genuinely eyeing a strong outing here.

It's imperative that they do so -- from a team and individual perspective.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Kohli, Rohit and even head coach Gautam Gambhir, although only six months into his tenure, are living on borrowed time because the shockwaves created by the setbacks against New Zealand and Australia have not subsided vet.

Some bright signs are there though. Skipper Rohit made a century a few days back against England and Kohli a fifty, while Gambhir masterminded the dominant 4-1 and 3-0 victories in T20Is and ODIs respectively.



one-dayer.

ation here.

Bumrah.

of pitches.

ing all-rounder.

In all likelihood, the team man-

agement could remain fluid and

take a call as per the game situ-

However, finding the right bal-

ance in bowling poses a bigger

challenge, partly because of

the injury-enforced absence of

It will be a toss up between

Arshdeep Singh and Harshit

Rana as the new-ball partner of

lead pacer Mohammed Shami,

who will have to lift his game by

Rana might have been impres-

sive so far in his outings, and

he has the ability to hustle the

batters with sheer pace and

bounce even on the most docile

But, at this moment, Arshdeep

is the frontrunner to share the

newball duties because of the

left-arm angle and the variety he

Other than that, India is likely

to go with three spinners with

Hardik Pandya as the fast bowl-

possesses in his bowling.

a few notches here.

Gill was exceptional while emerging as the player of the series, cracking two fifties and a hundred in three ODIs against England.

But the challenge India face in the Champions Trophy is vastly different from a rather cosy home series

Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand, their opponents in Group A, are far more motivated than the seemingly disinterested England whom they faced recently, and even one defeat can change the whole league stage equation quite dramatically.

The selection riddles

Athough India are playing a strong brand of 50-over cricket of late, they have some selection riddles to solve before they face Bangladesh

It starts with KL Rahul's batting position. Will he bat at No. 5, his most productive slot, or at No. 6 with Axar Patel coming one place above him?

The wicketkeeper batter had batted at No. 6 in the first two matches against England before

But herein too, India will have to ponder over who is the third spinner behind primary choices Ravindra Jadeja and Axar.

They have a tough selection to make between left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy

If the recent form is the yardstick then 'mystery spinner' Chakravarthy should get the nod, but Kuldeep showed his readiness while outwitting some reputed batters in the nets here on Tuesday.

But India can take consolation from the fact that Bangladesh are going through turmoil of their own, weakened by the absence of stars like Shakib Al Hasan.

However, India will not like to leave anything to chance as Bangladesh has proved to be the proverbial banana peel for them in the past in global events.

Teams

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas lyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarthy.

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

#### Formula 1 delivers incredible 75th anniversary celebration and 2025 season launch at The O2



LONDON, Feb 19 (Agencies): Formula 1 made history at The O2 in London tonight with its first-ever season launch event, bringing together all 10 teams, 20 drivers, and Team Principals for an unforgettable night of motorsport and entertainment, as per F1 press release.

The sold-out event hosted more than 15,000 fans and marked the official start of the 2025 season while celebrating the sport's 75th anniversary in spectacular fashion.

The evening featured the highly anticipated unveiling of the 2025 liveries from Alpine, Aston Martin, Ferrari, Haas, Kick Sauber, McLaren, Mercedes, Racing Bulls, Red Bull, and Williams. Fans were treated to exclusive interviews with the biggest names in the sport, as Team Principals and drivers took to the stage to share their excitement for the upcoming season.

Adding to the theatre of the show, acclaimed comedian and actor Jack Whitehall hosted the event, keeping the crowd entertained with his signature wit and energy. Multi-platinum recording artist Machine Gun Kelly delivered a show-stopping performance, while country music star Kane Brown brought his distinct sound to the celebration. The night concluded with an electrifying performance by legendary British band Take That, who closed the show with their iconic hits Greatest Day and Rule The World.

Formula 1 is known for pushing the boundaries of innovation, and the show was no different, as the largest LED screen ever used at The O2 stretched across the width of the venue, while hidden beneath it was a garage-style door, which opened to introduce each team's drivers for the 2025 season. The cars were suspended up to eight metres in the air, and above that a flying LED screen, embedded with dynamic lighting effects, moved fluidly throughout the night telling each team's story and revealing each one in turn in an unforgettable sequence.

11

This world premiere event was brought to life by creative visionary Brian Burke of BrianBurkeCreative, alongside Stufish Entertainment Architects, DX7 Design, and production company 1826. Burke and his world-renowned team, who previously delivered the groundbreaking opening and closing ceremonies for the inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix, ensured the night was nothing short of spectacular.

Celebrities flocked to attend the unique event, with Idris Elba, Gordon Ramsay, and Jerry Bruckheimer spotted on the red carpet. They were joined by a host of other high-profile figures from the worlds of sport, entertainment, and fashion, all eager to witness the thrilling fusion of motorsport and live entertainment.

With the 2025 season launched, all eyes now turn to the first Grand Prix of the year in Australia between 14-16 March, where the battle for the championship begins. If last night's energy was anything to go by, fans are in for an unforgettable season ahead.

Stefano Domenicali, President & CEO of Formula 1, said, as quoted by an F1 press release, "Tonight was an amazing event and a huge success. As a sport we did something together that has never been done in the history of F1 before. We are always celebrating and respecting our incredible history while looking to the future to engage new fans around the globe. We had a packed O2 arena, passionate fans sharing their love and excitement for the sport here in person and watching around the world. We saw all the drivers and team principals on stage alongside great music and entertainment. We are now excited for the season ahead and what is set to be a great battle in the track for the ultimate prize in motorsport. Thanks to all our fans and the teams."

## Former Mumbai captain and selector Milind Rege dies at 76

MUMBAI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Former Mumbai captain and selector Milind Rege, a highly respected figure in domestic cricket, died after suffering a heart attack on Wednesday, just days after turning 76.

Rege, who turned 76 last Sunday, was



## Hitaashee, Vani and Amandeep for Leg 3 of **Women's Pro Golf Tour**

PUNE, Feb 19 (Agencies): Hitaashee Bakshi, winner of the Order of Merit on the Women's Pro Golf Tour last year, makes her first appearance in the new seasor on the home circuit as she tees up in the third leg of the Tour at the Poona Club Golf Course, as per a WPGT press release. The winners of the first two events of the Tour in 2025, Rhea Purvi Sarvanan and Sneha Singh, are also in the field, which has 38 players, including India's star amateur, Mannat Brar.



mine Shekar, Seher Atwal and Neha Tripathi add to the strength of the field. Apart from Mannat, the other amateurs are

4. 8:30 AM: Geetika Ahuja, Seher Atwal, Kriti Chowhan. 5. 8:40 AM: Rhea

Purvi Saravanan, Ana-

hita Singh, Anisha Agar-

walia

admitted in the intensive care unit of the Breach Candy Hospital here and passed away around 6am on Wednesday morning. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

The all-rounder had suffered a heart attack at the age of 26 but returned to the cricket field and even captained Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy.

He played 52 First-Class matches between 1966-67 and 1977-78, taking 126 wickets with his right-arm off-break bowling. He also contributed with the bat, scoring 1,532 runs at an average of 23.56

A childhood friend of former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, Rege attended the same school and college as Gavaskar and played alongside him at the Dadar Union Sporting Club.

As one of the most revered figures in Mumbai as well as domestic cricket, Rege held several roles through his

career and was also associated with the Mumbai Cricket Association as a cricket advisor

The Mumbai cricket team, which is currently playing their Ranji Trophy semifinal against Vidarbha in Nagpur, took the field on the third day wearing black armbands to honour Rege.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Milind Rege Sir. A stalwart of Mumbai cricket, his contributions as a player, selector, and mentor were invaluable," said MCA president Ajinkya Naik in a statement.

"His guidance shaped generations of cricketers, and his legacy will forever be cherished. May his soul rest in peace. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones," he added.

As the season gets into flow, some of the established players like Hitaashee, Vani Kapoor and Amandeep Drall, among others, are teeing up to test their form and get ready for international events in

the season.

In the past few years, the PWGT schedule has been drawn so that Indian players can play a few home events before going to internationals. Vidhatri Urs, a multiple winner on the PWGT last year and Ananya Garg, who plans to play some events on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in South Africa, are also in the

field. The trio plans to play at the Jabra Ladies Classic and SuperSport Ladies Challenge, which was won by India's In addition, Rhea Purvi and Karishma Govind will also play a few events like the Platinum invitational in South Past winners like Jas-

Saanvi Somu, who was the runner-up in the opening leg last month, Keerthana Rajiv, Ketaki Sood, and Mayara Sharma.

The current Order of Merit leaders are Sneha Singh and Rhea Purvi Saravanan, the press release added. Tee times for Round 1

of Leg 3 of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at Poona Golf Club, Pune: 1. 8:00 AM: Yashita Raghav, Jasmine

Shekar. 2.8:10 AM: Amandeep Drall, Ananya Garg, Karishma Govind. 3. 8:20 AM: Ketaki Sood (A), Keerthana Rajeev (A), Khushi Khanijau.

6. 8:55 AM: Lavanya Jadon, Disha Kavery, Neha Tripathi. 7. 9:05 AM: Rhea Jha, Saanvi Somu (A), Yaalisai Verma. 8. 9:15 AM: Ravjot K

singh, Vrinda Yadav. 9. 9:25 AM: Shagun Narain, Sneha Singh, Chitrangada Singh. 10.9:40 AM: Hitaashee Bakshi, Oviya Reddi, Snigdha Goswami. 11. 9:50 AM: Anaggha

Dosanjh, Shweta Man-

Venkatesh, Vidhatri Urs, Vani Kapoor. 12. 10:00 AM: Mayara Sharma (A), Agrima Manral, Gauri Karhade. 13. 10:10 AM: Ananya Datar. Mannat Brar (A). Durga Nittur.

## Champions Trophy 2025: Cricket fever returns to Pakistan

KARACHI, Feb 19 (Agencies): Not for its mouthwatering cuisine, funny memes or strained ties with India — this time, Pakistan will be the cynosure of all eyes for the next 19 days as it gets set to host its first major cricket event in almost three decades.

The preparations are finally done and the wait is all but over as the Champions Trophy — the first major International Cricket Council (ICC) event hosted by Pakistan since 1996 — begins on Wednesday.

The 'new era' of cricket in the country, which once boasted of an enviable lineup of international stars, will begin with New Zealand facing hosts Pakistan in the opening game at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi. For the younger generation of Pakistani fans, it will be their first experience of watching their favourite international stars play live.

The last time Pakistan hosted a major international cricket tournament was the 1996 World Cup, with India and Sri Lanka as co-hosts. Pakistan's exile from international cricket began after the March 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lanka squad in Lahore. The shocking incident made other international teams avoid tours to Pakistan for almost a decade. However, things went back to normal as Test cricket



returned to Pakistan in 2019, with teams such as Australia, England, New Zealand and South Africa touring the country. In 2019, Sri Lanka were the first to play a Test series in Pakistan. Hosting a major event after

decades came with its share of troubles for Pakistan. Their tussle with India, who refused to play in the country, dragged out for months. After the threat of the tournament being moved out of the country loomed over Pakistan, the

matter was finally resolved when the neighbouring countries and ICC agreed upon a hybrid model of India playing their games in Dubai.

There were also reports about ill-equipped infrastructure and security concerns, which put the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) under immense pressure.

However, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan is "fully prepared" for the Champions Trophy. "Pakistan is fully prepared for the Champions Trophy. The comeback of the tournament in Pakistan, after 29 years, is a matter of pride," said Naqvi, who confirmed that Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari will be the chief guest for the opening game.

The eight-nation 50-over tournament is returning after a gap of eight years. In 2017. Pakistan beat India in the final in England. The eight participating teams this time were selected on

the basis of rankings after the 2023 World Cup in India, with Pakistan qualifying automatically as hosts. India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Bangladesh are in Group A, while England, South Africa, Australia and Afghanistan are in Group B. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi will host three matches each of the group stage. Dubai will host all three of India's group games, including their blockbuster meeting with Pakistan on February 23. The semifinals will be played in Lahore and Dubai. Dubai will also host the final if India qualify, otherwise it will be played in Lahore.

Tvesa Malik last year. Ladies and ABSA Ladies Africa.

## LOCAL/ADVT

## Awareness Lecture on 'Career Prospects in Biotechnology, **Biochemistry, Microbiology' held at GGM Science College**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: The department of Biotechnology and NSS unit of Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, successfully organized an Awareness Lecture on 'Career Prospects in Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Bioinformatics' in the college's Conference Hall.

The event, aimed at guiding students about emerging career opportunities in these dynamic fields, was well-attended by faculty members and students from various disciplines.

The lecture featured two distinguished speakers, Dr. Ankit Mahajan, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu and Dr. S. Bharathiraja, Assistant professor, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu who provided deep insights into the latest advancements, research opportunities, and career pathways in Biotechnology, Bio



futures.

opportunities.

of the program.

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He expressed gratitude to the

resource person for their valu-

able contribution and encour-

aged students to explore these

fields for promising career

Prof. Kiran Bala, Head of

the Department, Biotechnol-

ogy coordinated the event and

ensured the smooth execution

Prof. Neha Sharma, NSS Pro-

chemistry, Microbiology, and Bioinformatics.

The session was highly interactive, with students and NSS volunteers actively engaging in discussions and seeking guidance on academic and professional growth.

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta appreciated the initiative, emphasizing the importance of such awareness programs in shaping students'

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Nancy Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology. Other faculty members present during the event were Prof. Gourav Gupta, Prof. Neha Sharma, Prof. Arti Heer, Prof. Suram Singh, Prof. Asha Shar-

mal and Dr. Richa Sharma. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Neha Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology acknowledging the efforts of the organizing team and the enthusiastic participation of students. GGM Science College contin-

gram officer made significant

contributions in coordinating

the event and facilitating student

participation. Her dedication

and efforts were instrumental in

making the program a success.

ues to be committed to providing its students with exposure to the latest career trends and educational opportunities in science and technology.

## **NMOPS Ramban announces key leadership** Changes

#### **Top News Report**

RAMBAN, Feb 19: The District Executive Committee meeting of National Movement For Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) Ramban convened on Wednesday through virtual mode.

This significant gathering witnessed pivotal decisions, including the elevation of Vijay Singh, District President, to the esteemed State Executive Council Furthermore, Mohd

Irfan Shan was unanimously elected as the new District President of NMOPS Ramban. The meeting drew an impressive atten-

leaders, including UT Convenor Jalil Ahmed Sheikh, Senior Leader Nasir ul Haq Bhat, UT Vice President Ajeet Singh, Ashraf Hussain ,Vijay Singh, Rafiq bhat

Nasir Ahmed Mir. Mohd Iqbal Mugal, Mohd Amin Dev, Shabir Ahmed bhat, Zakir Hussain, Mustafa Kamal, Wasim Sajad Wani, Farooq bhat, Atta ul Rehman, Mahinder Chib, Satinder Singh, Vagur Shaan, Asif Iqbal, Farooq Mir, Maqsood Naik, Muktar bhat, Mushtaq Ahmed Dar, Fareed Ahmed, Iqbal Sheikh, Azar ul haq, Manzoor Ahmed, Altaf Hussain, Shabir Bhat, Akib Muneer, Zakir Hussain, and several others.

This strategic move is anticipated to bring fresh momentum to the organization. The team eagerly looks forward to working under the guidance of the new leadership.

UT Convenor & Prabhari Ramban, Jalil Ahmed, congratulated Irfan Shan on his elected as District President Ramban and Vijay Singh on his elevation to the State Executive Council JKUT.

## **ABDPSS organizes Shri** Ramstuti, Hanuman Chalisa



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: Akhil Bhartiya dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti (ABDPSS) organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The event was led by Vinay Sharma Social Worker and Aayushmaan Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Coordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence alongwith Swami Mahesh diwedi.

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras, Prarthna "Hey Prabhu Ananad-data Gyan Humko Dijiye" and thereafter Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees participated alongwith family members. Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to

its significance. After the path, the speakers highlighted the devotion of Lord Hanumanji, his incredible contribution towards society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama. They emphasized how

Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult circumstances continue to inspire society and remain relevant today. After the completion of Shri Ram stuti and the Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa, a Satsang session was held where devotees gained spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the Acharya Manoj Kumar coming from Ayodhya. The gathering provided the attendees with an opportunity to engage deeply in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ramji and Hanumanii. Sunil Sharma informed that over the years,

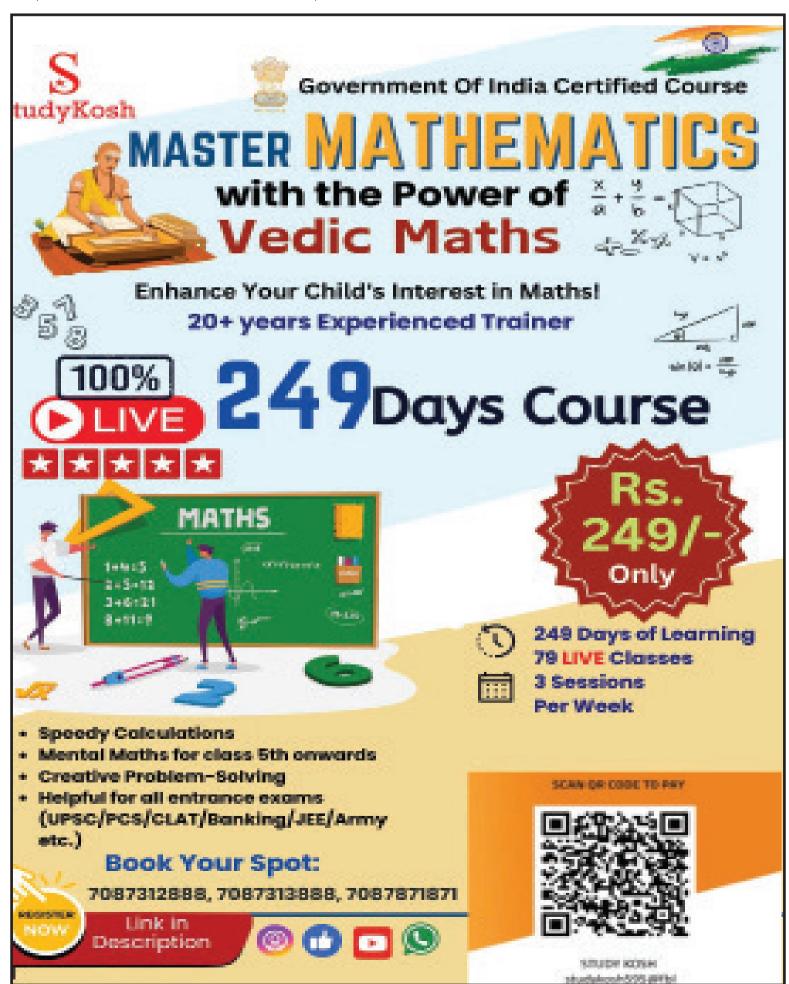
many initiatives have

been launched by

Samiti to expand the

knowledge of the sacred

scripture- Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in every body. For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth ( not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmqvani Guruji. The event saw active participation from key figures such as Kewal Krishan Sharma Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aavushman Sharma. Rohit verma, Sanjeev Sharma, Prateek Kumar, Sandeep kumar Sounanya, Om parkash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, rahul yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema jamwal, Sonia Kumari, shalini devi, Sawitri Sharma, vimal kumar, srinjan devi whose active contributions were pivotal in making the event a grand success.



All MLAs shall hold deliberation on growing Drug Menace, pass resolution of death penalty to drug mafia in J&K: Team Jammu

dance of esteemed



on those "black sheep" in administration who are taking sensitive issue of drug menace lightly, Zorawar Singh Jamwal pointed out that "Despite years of law enforcement efforts, the drug mafia remains deeply entrenched in Jammu and Kashmir. Why authori-

ties have been unable

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#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Feb 19: Making a fervent appeal to all the elected Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to cut their party lines and unanimously hold serious deliberation on increasing Drug menace and number of unreported deaths of youth due to suspected drug overdose, here in Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Wednesday demanded death penalty for those who are proved guilty for smuggling and selling Narcotics and ruining lives of future generation.

Addressing a press conference at Press Club Jammu, here today, Team Jammu chief along with Dr Ashish Gupta and Rajesh Kapoor today voiced their serious concern over increasing drug menace and despite number of initiatives taken by J&K Police and other allied agencies.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal urged J&K administration to fulfil its commitment of dealing drug peddlers with iron hands.

Team Jammu chief observed that ahead of the upcoming Assembly Budget Session in Jammu and Kashmir, a fierce debate is unfolding over the proposed liquor ban.

Several MLAs from the PDP and National Conference are preparing to introduce a private member's bill advocating for a state-wide prohibition on liquor.

Żorawar Singh Jamwal

who is heading an organization that has been fighting against drug abuse for over a decade, stated that if the government introduces a clear policy on liquor prohibition, Team Jammu will welcome it.

He appealed to all the MLAs, though, from different political parties to hold series debate on Drug Menace in Assembly and unanimously pass a resolution that includes death penalty for those who are proved guilty for smuggling and selling Narcotics and ruining lives of future generation. However, Team Jammu has also raised serious concerns about the

government's stance on the rising drug abuse in Jammu. He pointed out that hundreds of young lives have been lost due to drug addiction, and the crime rate has surged as a result of the increasing prevalence of drugs in the

region. Team Jammu has urged the government to address both liquor prohibition and the worsening drug crisis simultaneously. They demanded that authorities identify and take strict action against those responsible for the spread of drug abuse. Expressing concern over the growing addiction among youth, Chairman. Team Jammu. Zorawar Singh Jamwal, emphasized the need for constant police surveillance at known drugselling hotspots in Jammu and called for a comprehensive crackdown on drug smugglers. Coming down heavily to completely dismantle drug networks and urged the government to ensure transparency by maintaining accurate records of drug-related deaths. We call for concrete measures to break the supply chain and intensify antinarcotics operations".

A key issue highlighted during the press conference was the lack of reliable data on youth affected by drug addiction. Many cases go unreported due to social stigma, while drug-related deaths are often misclassified under other causes, such as accidents or health conditions.

Furthermore, inadequate coordination between law enforcement, healthcare institutions, and social agencies makes it difficult to assess the true extent of the crisis. Without a dedicated tracking system, policymaking remains ineffective.

Team Jammu also emphasized the international dimension of the crisis, asserting that Pakistan has hatched a deep rooted conspiracy in fueling Narco-Terrorism in J&K.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal urged the government to take a firm and proactive stance against crossborder drug smuggling, which directly contributes to the rising tide of drugrelated violence. He further said that "direct fall out of this conspiracy is that "hundreds of young lives have been lost due to drug addiction, and the crime rate has surged as a result of the increasing prevalence of drugs in the region".