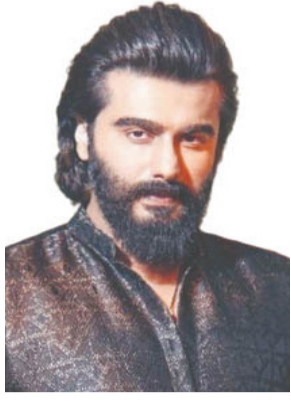


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BRIEFLY

Protest erupts at GMC Rajouri over pregnant woman's death

RAJOURI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The death of a pregnant woman at the GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri triggered a massive protest by her attendants, who alleged medical negligence by the hospital staff.

The deceased has been identified as Karin Devi (28), wife of Yash Pal, a resident of Mandir Gala, Rajouri.

According to the family, the seven-month-old fetus had died due to complications, and the woman was undergoing treatment at the hospital. However, despite being admitted, she allegedly passed away due to delayed medical intervention.

The attendants have accused the hospital staff of negligence, claiming that timely treatment could have saved her life. The protesters are demanding strict action against the doctors responsible for the alleged lapse.

They further alleged that neither the GMC Rajouri Principal nor the Medical Superintendent was present on duty, reflecting the hospital administration's apathy.

The protest brought hospital operations to a standstill, with the woman's relatives and attendants blocking the entrance and demanding justice.

The demonstration, which began at 4 AM, was still ongoing at the time of the last reports.

Rains wash away portion of footpath on Boulevard Road, raise safety concerns

SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): A portion of a footpath along Dal Lake near Ghat Number 17 on Boulevard Road in Srinagar has been washed away after a brief spell of rain.

The damage to the pathway has raised concerns over the quality of works carried out in Srinagar as part of the smart city infrastructure development while also posing risks to the pedestrians who are using the route.

In a post on X, NC chief spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, flagged the issue and urged Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to intervene in the matter.

"A critical issue has emerged near Ghat No 17, Boulevard road Srinagar, where the path and soil have been

Turn to page 9

Rekha Gupta sworn in as Delhi Chief Minister with PM Modi, NDA allies on stage



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party's Rekha Gupta was sworn in Thursday afternoon as Chief Minister of Delhi in a grand oath-taking ceremony at the city's Ramila Maidan.

Ms Gupta becomes the BJP's fourth Delhi Chief Minister and its second woman leader to hold the post. She is also the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi, following

from the BJP's Sushma Swaraj, the Congress' Sheila Dikshit, and the AAP's Atishi, her immediate predecessor.

Six of her party colleagues, including Parvesh Verma - who earned himself the 'giant-killer' moniker by defeating AAP boss Arvind Kejriwal for the New Delhi constituency, and was widely seen as a frontrunner for the Chief Minister's chair -

were inducted into the cabinet.

Mr Verma was sworn in second, after Ms Gupta, who took her oath with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadda looking on, as too were chief ministers from states ruled by the party and its allies, such as Andhra Pradesh's N Chandrababu Naidu.

Also featuring promi-

nently were senior members of the union cabinet, such as Rajnath Singh and Hardeep Singh Puri, and members of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Kapil Sharma, Manjinder Sirsa, Ashish Sood, Pankaj Kumar Singh, and Ravinder Indraj Singh were also sworn in to the new cabinet, which has room for three more ministers.

The BJP has also nominated former Leader of the Opposition, Vijender Gupta, as the new Speaker of the Delhi Assembly. Mr Gupta returns to the Assembly a decade after he was physically evicted by marshals amid a row with counterparts from the then-ruling AAP.

Ms Gupta, a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, a seat she wrested from the AAP's

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Punjab dismisses 52 cops for corruption, 42 are constables



CHANDIGARH, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Punjab Police have dismissed 52 personnel over the past 10 days for involvement in corruption, criminal activities or prolonged absenteeism, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Wednesday.

Addressing the media, the DGP said the action aligned...

The Punjab Police have dismissed 52 personnel over the past 10 days for involvement

in corruption, criminal activities or prolonged absenteeism, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Wednesday.

Addressing the media here, the DGP said the action aligned with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's directions for ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity in public service.

Of the 52 dismissed cops, one is inspector, 5 assistant sub-inspectors, four head-consta-

bles and 42 constables. Highest 7 dismissals are in Ludhiana, 5 in Patiala and 4 each in Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur.

The crackdown in Punjab follows ruling AAP's renewed focus on eradicating corruption after the party's poor show in Delhi Assembly poll.

Following the Aam Aadmi Party's poor performance in the Delhi Assembly elections, the Mann government in Punjab has intensified crackdown on corruption. The AAP had won the 2022 Assembly poll in Punjab on the promise of eradicating corruption, particularly among the "black sheep" in uniform. However, the latest dismissals are limited to officials up to the rank of inspector.

Yadav said the

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Dr. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate "National Startup Festival" at Jammu on 22nd February

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; MOS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, Vice President of CSIR, and Chief Guest of the function will inaugurate "National Startup Festival" being organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, on



Saturday, the 22nd February at the Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Giving details about the function, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, in a press meet, informed that as a

part of continued efforts towards promotion and fostering the startup ecosystem in the region, "National Startup Festival", in which a total of 50 startups drawn from all over India, will

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After nearly two months, rain & snow break prolonged dry spell in Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): After 50 days, the prolonged dry spell broke in Kashmir Valley on Thursday as rain lashed the plains and higher reaches recorded snowfall.

Scores of springs dried up and power generation from hydroelectric power projects dropped by 80 per cent due to the

dry spell. Authorities postponed the 'Khelo India 2025' winter games scheduled in the ski resort of Gulmarg due to scant snowfall.

MET Department Director Mukhtar Ahmad told IANS: "Today's rain/snow has broken the extended dry spell. This will lead to increased

discharge in rivers and streams in the coming days. If the present weather model holds, Jammu and Kashmir will have more rain and snow between February 26 to February 28. The present model indicates the forecast to have a strong probability." Kashmir travel guide

Locals have been praying for rainfall and expecting it would restore the perennial springs that had dried up and help those witnessing very low water discharge.

Srinagar recorded 4.4 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, Gulmarg minus 2.8 degrees

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CUJ organizes 'Sankalp Divas' in collaboration with J&K Study Centre



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Office of Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu, under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC), successfully organized 'Sankalp Divas' at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu, who extended her greetings to all dignitaries, participants, and speakers.

The key speakers for the event were Suresh Jain, Rashtriya Sangathan Mantri, Bharat Vikas Parishad, and Sunil Dutt Vashishth, Prant Pracharak of

JKSC and a renowned social worker. The distinguished speakers were honored with mementos presented by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

During his address, Sunil Dutt Vashishth elaborated on the significance of PoJK and PoTL, enhancing awareness among attendees.

He extended his appreciation to Prof. Sanjeev Jain, HVC for organizing this crucial event and encouraged faculty and students to contribute towards preserving the unity and integrity of the nation.

Suresh Jain, the Chief Guest of the event, shared his perspectives on the vision of Akhand Bharat, emphasizing its rich traditions, global and political aspects, and the role of students in nation-building.

In his Presidential

Address, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu, lauded the speakers for their insightful reflections and congratulated the Office of Dean Students' Welfare and JKSC for successfully organizing an event of national relevance. He further emphasized the university's initiatives towards promoting the idea of Akhand Bharat and motivating students to actively engage in national development.

A special exhibition was also set up at the university, showcasing reflections on the culture and traditions of PoJK and PoTL, enhancing awareness among attendees.

The event was seamlessly moderated by Dr. Bharti Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of TTM, while the vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from JKSC members, faculty members, research scholars, and students of Central University of Jammu, marking a successful and enlightening observance of 'Sankalp Divas.'

GGM Science College celebrates 75 years of Adoption of Indian Constitution

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Literary Club, in collaboration with the NSS Unit of GGM Science College, organized a series of activities pertaining to the Celebration of 75 years of Adoption of Indian Constitution.

Under the aegis of principal Dr Prof Romesh Kumar Gupta and guidance of the Convener Dr Jatinder Kour and the faculty members of the Literary Club on Thursday as per the list of activities forwarded by the Department of Higher Education.

The Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta in his address emphasized the need to organize such activities which aim at making students aware of the basics of our Constitution and Preamble, thus inculcating the feelings of nationalism among them.

The Event started with the recitation of prayer followed by the formal Inauguration of the Literary Club activities where in the student members led by the Club secretaries Chakshu and Sumeet Kumar conducted the entire programme.

Tanya Gupta and Manmeet kour recited the Preamble, which was solemnly recited by the student members.

This was followed by Panel Discussion on Understanding the Preamble wherein the student volunteers like Ishit Kour, Ujjwal Thakur, Merryleen Kour, Tanya, Gupta Dhruv, Manvi, Gauri, Gurpreet (PG Deptt. English) Bharath Makotra presented their points of view.

The panel discussion was moderated by Sumeet Kumar, followed by a vote of thanks. The event ended with the singing of National Anthem.

Army organizes free medical camp at Khanpur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: A free medical camp was organized by Indian Army under Operation Sadbhavana in coordination with Sarpanches, Block Medical Officer and Ayush medicines at Khanpur, Nagrota.

A Large number of people of all age groups including old aged citizens, ladies and children were provided free medical care and specialist medical treatment by one of the best doctors of Army, civil hospital and Ayush medicines.

During the camp, health of the villagers was examined and they were given health advice and medicines.

Block medical officer and civil doctors assisted in the conduct of medical camp. In the camp, patients were



examined and given specific medical advice.

After completion of the investigation, medicines mentioned on the medical slips were also distributed. Sarpanch and other civil functionaries were also present during the camp.

The doctors who conducted the camp were felicitated. At the same time, people appreciated this event.

They said that along with the security of the country, the Indian Army is also working for

public welfare by organizing such free medical camps for the people. People expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and requested the Indian Army to organize more such camps in future.

During this, Army health experts made the citizens present in the program aware about the need for good health and different types of lifestyle diseases and laid emphasis on prevention of infectious and environmental disease.

BLSKS conducts workshop on "Prevention of HIV/AIDS" through folk performances



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: In an effort to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and promote the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) organized a rehearsal cum workshop featuring folk performances.

The event included the 481st Regular Series Musical Play, "HIV Vishanu Hai," in collaboration with the J&K State AIDS Control Society, Department of Health and Medical Education (J&K Government), and Sangam Tru Art Production.

The workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity, Government of India. Other distinguished guests included J.K. Raina (Freelancer Producer Director Films), Mukesh Singh (Media Person, J&K), Dr. Tara Singh Charak (Former Deputy Director, Health Department, J&K Government), and Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra (Health Department, J&K Government).

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Sh. V.K. Magotra emphasized the importance of raising public awareness about AIDS (Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome), a global pandemic caused by the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV). He urged people to support those living with HIV/AIDS and treat them with compassion and dignity. He also commended BLSKS for utilizing folk theatre, skits, and musical plays to educate the masses about social issues, calling them effective tools of communication.

BLSKS also announced that it will conduct six additional HIV/AIDS awareness programs in Kot Bhalwal, Jammu District, as part of a one-week awareness campaign in February. The program was recorded and uploaded on social media to extend its reach.

The short skit "HIV Vishanu Hai", written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra (Chairman, BLSKS), emphasized for encouraging people to know their HIV status through testing, treatment, and health-care services And Urging

governments to promote a 'Health for All' approach for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

The play also highlighted strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention.

J.K. Raina explained the role of Integrated Counseling and Testing Centers (ICTCs) in ensuring early detection, treatment, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. He emphasized that ICTCs are essential in high-risk populations, including pregnant women, STI patients, TB patients, and symptomatic individuals.

Welcoming the guests, Smt. K.K. Joshi, Troupe Leader, BLSKS, explained that HIV/AIDS, a global pandemic, is not just a disease but a social issue. She emphasized that HIV/AIDS is preventable and treatable, and if left untreated, it can progress to AIDS.

The event featured performances by talented artists, including Zulekha Bano, K.K. Joshi, M.C. Kotwal, Kuldeep Raj, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Sant Dass, Naiya Digra and Renu Bala.

A large audience, including students, teachers, youth, and members of the general public, attended the event.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Master Deepak Kumar, who appreciated the efforts of BLSKS and its collaborators for successfully conducting the program and spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention.

AJKGRS appeals for participation in membership drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Er. Darshan Kumar Kalsotra, Chairman of the Election Board, All Jammu & Kashmir Guru Ravidass Sabha (AJKGRS), Krishna Nagar, Jammu, extended a significant appeal to all Branch Sabhas, Village and Mohalla Committees, as well as members of the Ravidassia/Ramdasia Biradari of Jammu & Kashmir, to actively participate in the ongoing membership drive of the Guru Ravidass Sabha.

The Election Board has officially commenced the distribution of membership booklets today.

The first five booklets (containing 100 leaflets each) have been issued to the Convenor of Guru Ravidass Sabha, Krishna Nagar (Head Office).

All Branch Sabhas,



Village and Mohalla Committees, along with community members, are kindly requested to visit the Election Board office at All Jammu & Kashmir Guru Ravidass Sabha, Krishna Nagar, Jammu, to collect their membership booklets and actively participate in this membership drive.

Any Biradari member who wishes to obtain membership through the Head Office at Krishna Nagar, Jammu, particularly in areas where no branch sabhas, village, or mohalla committees exist, can do so through the Office of the Convenor of the Sabha.

This membership drive is an essential initiative aimed at strengthening the unity and connection within our community. Your active participation and coordination are crucial in ensuring that every eligible member has access to their membership booklet. We urge all members of their respective sabhas and committees to spread awareness and encourage participation in registering as a voter of the Sabha.

We are fully committed to the success of this important drive and look forward to wholehearted participation from the community.

Residents of Laxmipuram urge immediate intervention from Dy CM, MLA Jammu North

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The residents of Laxmipuram, Sector-B-2, JMC Ward No. 62, are facing severe hardships due to water accumulation in their area. The issue has been highlighted by social and political activist, Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, who, in a press statement, urged authorities to take immediate action.

According to Rao, large amounts of water have stagnated in the area, particularly near the Chowk between the residence of Om Parkash Kotwal to Chinore-Pattian Road via the residence of Joginder Pal Thapa. He stressed the urgent need for infrastructural improvements to ensure better connectivity and relief for daily commuters.

The residents now await swift action from the authorities to resolve the long-pending issue before it escalates further.

to Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, and the concerned MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, to personally intervene.

He urged them to direct the concerned authorities to visit the site, assess the situation, and implement immediate remedial measures to alleviate the distress of local residents.

Furthermore, Rao also demanded urgent repairs for the road stretching from the residence of Om Parkash Kotwal to Chinore-Pattian Road via the residence of Joginder Pal Thapa. He stressed the urgent need for infrastructural improvements to ensure better connectivity and relief for daily commuters.

The residents now await swift action from the authorities to resolve the long-pending issue before it escalates further.



Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad J&K honours MLA Sham Lal Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad (RPP) J&K honored Senior BJP leader and MLA Sham Lal Sharma with a memento as a mark of blessings from Bhagwan Parshuram Ji and apprised him of the organization's activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the event, RPP President Jeeva Nand Sharma, an IIT Bombay engineer and expert in Vedic science, briefed Sham Lal Sharma about the objectives, mandate, and ongoing initiatives of RPP in the region. He highlighted the RPP Mahashivr at Prayagraj, which has been a major spiritual gathering since the beginning of the Mahakumbh. He shared that millions of devotees have sought Bhagwan Parshuram Ji's blessings, with special prayers being offered for peace, prosperity, and national well-



being, alongside Brahm Bhoj rituals. Pandit Sunil Bharala, a renowned senior BJP leader and founder of RPP, is leading efforts across the country to strengthen Sanatan Dharma. Sham Lal Sharma reaffirmed his commitment to the RPP's vision, which is rooted in the theme of "Ek Rashtra, Ek Bharat." Pradesh Mantri RPP, Chandan Datta, sought Sham Lal Sharma's support in promoting the welfare of all communities and furthering RPP's objectives in the upcoming assembly

session. He emphasized the need to inculcate Vedic science and culture among the youth and called for the establishment of Gurukul-style education in all districts. According to Datta, this initiative will help channelize the energy of J&K's youth into nation-building activities and combat the growing drug menace in the region.

MLA Sham Lal Sharma expressed his full support for RPP's mission, appreciating its inclusive approach that unites people irrespective of religion under the values

of Sanatan Dharma. He reiterated that Bhagwan Parshuram Ji is a revered figure for all Hindus and lauded RPP's dedication to preserving India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

The event was attended by several distinguished members of RPP, including Rajiv Khajuria (recognized activist), Opinder Sharma (General Secretary, RPP), Pawan Sharma (Secretary, RPP), Sanjay Gupta, Rajesh Pradhan, Pawar Sharma (Senior Functionary, RPP), Rajinder Singh, Prabhanshu Joshi, Ramesh Chander Ball, Rohit Sharma, Lalit Sharma, and several other RPP members from Jammu and Kashmir.

This gathering marked a significant step towards strengthening Sanatan Dharma, promoting Vedic education, and ensuring social welfare in Jammu and Kashmir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
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Subject:- Conduct of type test of Eligible Class-IVth (MTS) employees of School Education Department in respect of District Reasi.

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that the type test of eligible Class-IVth employee of School Education Department in respect of District Reasi in terms of SRO-240 (Service Recruitment rules 1979) is scheduled to be conducted in 1st week of March, 2025 at Govt. ITI, Geeta Nagar, Reasi.

In this context, the eligible Class-IVth employees who are desirous to appear in the type test are hereby directed to report to the office of the undersigned with complete service particulars as per format detailed below duly attested by their respective DDO's during working hours on or before 24.02.2025, so that the list of Class-IVth employees may be submitted to the Superintendent I.T.I/ Polytechnic College for the conduct of type test which is likely to be held in the 1st week of March, 2025.

S.No.	Name of Employee	Place of Posting	Designation	DOB	Date of 1 st appointment	category	Signature of Class-IV th Employees
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Seal and signature of DDO concerned

Chief Education Officer Reasi

DIP/J-10345/24

No:-CEO/RSI/Esstt-3/28346-55
Dated:-18/02/2025

EDITORIAL

AI BREAKTHROUGH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing industries worldwide, and India is emerging as a major player in this technological shift. With a booming digital economy, a thriving startup ecosystem, and strong governmental support, India's AI breakthrough is paving the way for innovation, economic growth, and societal transformation. From healthcare and agriculture to finance and education, AI is reshaping multiple sectors, making India a global leader in artificial intelligence.

India's AI revolution is not a coincidence but the result of strategic government policies and initiatives. The Government of India has recognized AI as a crucial component of its vision for a digitally empowered society. One of the major steps in this direction was the launch of the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence by NITI Aayog, which aims to position India as an AI powerhouse by fostering research, innovation, and implementation.

Key initiatives such as AI for All, the Digital India Programme, and Make in India have significantly contributed to the growth of AI. The government has also established the IndiaAI Mission, which focuses on building AI infrastructure, developing AI-driven applications, and training talent to meet the increasing demand for AI professionals. Moreover, the creation of AI Centers of Excellence (CoEs) across the country is promoting AI research and collaboration between academia and industries.

India's healthcare system is leveraging AI to enhance diagnostics, treatment, and patient care. AI-powered solutions are helping doctors detect diseases like cancer at an early stage, analyze medical images with precision, and even predict outbreaks of infectious diseases. Startups like Niramai are using AI to develop non-invasive breast cancer screening, while companies like Qure.ai are revolutionizing medical imaging and diagnostics.

Agriculture, the backbone of India's economy, is benefiting immensely from AI. Precision farming, crop monitoring, and pest control are being optimized using AI-powered tools. AI-driven drones and sensors are assisting farmers in making data-driven decisions, improving productivity, and reducing resource wastage. Companies like CropIn are utilizing AI to provide real-time data on soil health, weather patterns, and crop conditions.

The financial sector in India is witnessing a transformation with AI-driven solutions enhancing fraud detection, risk assessment, and customer service. Chatbots, robo-advisors, and AI-powered trading platforms are becoming increasingly common. RBI and major banks are leveraging AI to detect suspicious transactions and improve financial inclusion by offering AI-driven banking solutions to rural areas.

AI is revolutionizing education by making learning more personalized and accessible. AI-powered edtech platforms like Byju's, Unacademy, and Vedantu are using machine learning algorithms to offer personalized learning experiences. AI is also helping automate administrative tasks, allowing teachers to focus more on quality education.

India is integrating AI into governance through initiatives like AI-powered chatbots for citizen services, predictive analytics for policymaking, and AI-driven crime detection systems. AI is helping cities become smarter by managing traffic, improving waste management, and enhancing security through facial recognition and surveillance systems.

India is home to a rapidly growing AI startup ecosystem, with numerous companies working on cutting-edge AI solutions across various domains. AI startups are attracting significant investments, and India has become one of the top destinations for AI-related funding.

Startups like SigTuple, Haptik, and Mad Street Den are making waves in AI-driven healthcare, customer engagement, and computer vision. AI unicorns like Fractal Analytics and Innovaccer are putting India on the global AI map. The combination of government support, venture capital investments, and a growing pool of AI talent is fueling the AI startup boom in the country.

India is also making remarkable progress in AI research and talent development. Premier institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are leading AI research, publishing groundbreaking papers, and collaborating with global tech giants.

Additionally, companies like Google, Microsoft, and IBM have set up AI research labs in India, further strengthening the country's AI capabilities. The rise of AI-focused online courses, government-backed skill development programs, and industry-academia collaborations is producing a skilled AI workforce to meet the growing demands of the industry.

Dishonoring Sanatan Dharma-Unfortunate cum unacceptable

By: Omkar Dattatray

Opposition parties in India including Congress, Samajwadi Party, TMC, Communist parties such as CPI-M, CPI and others are busy in denouncing Sanatan Dharma for appeasement and vote bank politics. TMC chief and the West Bengal chief minister Mamta Banerjee has given a shocking and unwarranted as well as untenable statement and that too in the session of the legislative assembly of the state in which she called Maha Kumbh as 'Mrityu Kumbh' for the stampede deaths at Prayagraj and as per her for the lack of planning and mismanagement in this event. Congress, SP, TMC and other opposition parties are habitual of insulting Sanatan Dharma/Hinduism. TMC Supremo & chief minister Mamata Banerjee has gone a step further and has equated Mahakumbh with 'Mrityu Kumbh' which amounts to dishonor of Sanatan Dharma and its tenets and principles. She should abstain from politicking over Mahakumbh and the unfortunate deaths there because of crowd hysteria and she should rather appreciate and acknowledge the reality that it is not so easy to manage, regulate and control one of the world's largest gathering, but to manage such a huge religio-cultural event is a herculean and daunting task as managing a sea of humanity numbering 55 crore as of now is really a challenging job for any government. The UP government of Yogi is doing a marvelous job of managing such a largest event. But there still remain certain limitations and loopholes which are humanly very difficult to plug. The pseudo secular parties whose dearth is not there in the country time and again heap insults on Sanatan Dharma and they take pleasure in denouncing, insulting, dishonoring and demeaning everything associated with the grand and scientific Sanatan Dharma. This

time Mamta Banerjee has thought it fit to term Mahakumbh as Mrityu Kumbh. This absurd and unwarranted remark is nothing short of insult to Sanatan Dharma and she deserves strongest condemnation from one and all for such mean remark which is no less than the insult the Sanatan Dharma and its followers. It seems that she is morally bankrupt and under frustration has stooped too low and uttered such a remark. However Sanatan Dharma as the name implies is without beginning and end. It is ever fresh, lively and comes stronger after every attack, onslaught, insult and rebuke. There is intrinsic beauty and greatness in Sanatan Dharma that it becomes resilient and stronger after every attack and dishonor. There is in fact intrinsic vitality and power in both Sanatan Dharma and Bharat—that is India that they are immortal, perennial and it was the reason that Alama Iqbal the great poet wrote many years ago "Kutch Baat Hai Ke Hasti Mithati Nahi Hamari, Sadhyoun raha Hai Dushman Dauri Zama Hamara. If we see deeply Sanatan dharma or Hinduism cannot be demeaned, denounced and dishonored by the absurd remarks of the pseudo secularists and such parties only with the eye on elections. Mamata Banerjee has given untenable and uncalled for remark against Mahakumbh which has got much importance for all Sanatanis as per the religious texts. She is perhaps anticipating her defeat in 2026 west Bengal state assembly polls and thus has she stooped abysmal low and ridiculed Mahakumbh. Her unwarranted remark of Mrityu Kumbh is an insult and dishonor to 110 crore Sanatan Dharmies of India besides to the crores of Hindus settled abroad. Hindu should not be considered so meek by Mamta and her likes and her insult to Sanatan Dharma will definitely find eco in the assembly elections of 2026 and she will face the debacle in the

polls for having used absurd and offensive language about Sanatan Dharma. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee criticized the UP government on Tuesday for lack of planning at the Maha Kumbh, saying the spiritual gathering in Prayagraj has turned into 'Mrityu Kumbh.' Rightly the BJP brushed aside the criticism, claiming she is nervous about her fate in the 2026 assembly polls after seeing Arvind Kejriwal's complete decimation in Delhi polls. Banerjee launched a broadside against the BJP in the ongoing assembly session over various issues but reserved the Kumbh arrangements for special attention. She said, "This is 'Mrityu Kumbh.' I respect Maha Kumbh, and I respect the holy Ganga Maa. But there is no planning. How many people have been recovered? There are no arrangements for the poor, and a stampede—like situation arose in Kumbh Mela." The BJP in West Bengal reacted sharply to Mamata's remark, party leader Suwendu Adhikari appealed to the Hindu and saint community to strongly protest the CM's statement. In new Delhi, Amit Malviya, co-in charge of West Bengal BJP and head of BJP's IT cell, condemned her "uncalled—for attack." He described her remark as a 'sign of her imminent defeat' in the 2026 assembly polls. She is nervous after Kejriwal's complete decimation in Delhi. Last time like Kejriwal, she lost her elections in Nandigram and in 2026 polls she will be wiped out from chief ministers post and his TMC will lose elections. She also claimed that Jan 29 stampede death toll was much higher than the official figure. Allying mismanagement at Maha Kumbh, she said there was lack of planning prior to organizing such a big event. The uncalled for remark of Banerjee will boomerang on her and it will be counterproductive. The silence of the whole so called secular brigade over the remark against Sanatan Dharma is very

unfortunate and it thus construes that whole opposition is on same page with CM Mamata Banerjee on the Remark of 'Mrityu Kumbh' and the sane people of the country will show these pseudo secular parties their place in elections. In a sharp political retort, the Akhil Bhartiya sant Samiti chief issued a stern warning to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee over her controversial 'mrityu kumbh' remark on the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in UP's Prayagraj. Her remark snowballed into a massive row sparking significant backlash, especially from the BJP and religious groups. Condemning Mamata Banerjee's remark on sacred Maha Kumbh, ABSS chief Swami Jitendranand Saraswati warned her that the upcoming West Bengal elections will prove to be 'Mrityu Kumbh' for her political ambitions. BJP MLA's in West Bengal protested against TMC supremo calling her an "anti-Hindi chief minister" over her "Mrityu Kumbh" remark about the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela. This uncalled for and unwarranted remark by Mamata Banerjee exposed her and showed her hatred and hate for Sanatan Dharama and Hinduism. By her remark she has played with the sentiments of 110 crore Hindu's. Mamata Banerjee should tender an unconditional apology over the controversial remark. She has talked humbug, nonsense and rubbish and her absurd remark needs to be condemned by one and all. The political leaders should think twice before opening their mouth otherwise they will have to later repent. Same will be the case with Mamata Banerjee and she will have to heavily pay for her anti-Hindu remark as the people of this country are watching her. She will have to pay for her sins and anti-Sanatan remark.

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

Birds Population Declines due to Climate change

By: Vijay Garg

Birds are one of the most soft and beautiful creatures of our planet. These are not only an important part of our ecosystem, but also have a special place in human life and culture. In India, birds are considered to be very important from religious, cultural and ecological terms. Looking at beautiful birds with beautiful feathers and melodious sounds is a different pleasure, which makes us experience the unmatched beauty of nature. Of flowers from the 'Humming Bird', which blows around thousands of feet in a height of thousands of feet in the air, every bird seems unique, which mold themselves in the vast environment from the desert to the rain forest and extraordinary to survive. Show capacity. Some birds decide thousands of miles throughout the year, some create complex nests and create creative strategies to find some food. This incredible diversity and adaptability of birds remind us of the vast prosperity of life on earth. Birds these are an important part of the series, which act as natural pesticides and play a big role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. They play an important role in pollination and spreading seeds, which maintains biodiversity. Different types of birds live in different types of housing and they make the ecosystem rich. Birds are often used as a 'biondicator', which means their health and their population reflect environmental status. In bird species the decline often indicates that ecosystems are under stress due to factors such as pollution, housing shortage or climate change. As a result, the

world around us is becoming calm. There is a strange silence in nature. More than ten thousand species of birds are found in the world, out of which more than thirteen hundred species of birds are found in India. The reason for concern is that cars of deforest erosion, urbanization and agricultural extension. Natural habitat of birds rapidly destroyed. Apart from this, there has also been a drastic decline in the number of waterfowl due to the drying up of the reservoirs and the 'wetlands' (wetlands). Due to urbanization, industrial development and agricultural extension, forests, wetlands, grasslands and other natural habitats are turning into cities, roads and agricultural lands. As birds' natural habitats shrink, birds lose the location of the essential nests, food sources and migration corridors, leading to a decline in their population. Climate change. The reason is also adversely affecting the breeding and food availability of birds. Air and water pollution is becoming a serious threat to the health of birds. Increased temperature, increase in sea level and extreme seasonal events are also affecting the life cycle of birds. The poaching of many birds is also converting their species into an endange species. Some birds are hunted for their bright wings or other parts of the body, causing decrease in their population. Many species of birds Human health plays an important role for human health, such as bees helping in pollination these species Extracts can adversely affect human health. *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) According to the 'Red List', more than fourteen hundred bird species in the world are in crisis. In

India too, about a hundred species have been placed in the threatened category. According to the latest report of 'Bird Life International', the population of 48 percent species of birds in the world declined. The situation in India is also worrying, where the population of many common bird species has seen a decrease of up to 80 percent. In the 'IUCN Red List', many birds of India have been listed in the endangered or reversed threatened category. According to the Carnel Lab of Ananthology, the sparrow population has decreased by more than 20 percent in the last decade, which may be due to urbanization and excessive use of pesticides. General species like sparrow, which. Which was earlier common in our gardens and homes, now it is becoming negligible. Behind this Excessive use of urbanization and humidity and insecticides can be the main reason. The number of Indian vultures has decreased by up to 95 percent in the last two decades. The 'Great Indian Bustard' species reached the serious threatened category. The migratory bird Siberian cranes are now almost extinct in India. However, efforts are made to conserve birds by implementing several schemes. Many bird species have been protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 New 'national by central government Bird Conservation Scheme' has also been launched. The National Biodiversity Action Scheme makes special provisions for the preservation of birds. In India, Keoladeo National Park, Chilka Lake and not prominent in India established more than a hundred bird sanctuaries. The Jalpriots have been taken, in which the initiative of Bharat Sundarban Bio-

mandal Protection is being taken. Poinking of birds and trade, migratory birds obstructing the route, plastic pollution, pesticides and chemicals despite the efforts for the protection of these efforts There are major challenges in the path of conservation of birds etc. The decline in the population of birds is a serious environmental concern, which can severely affect the balance of the ecosystem and if necessary steps are not taken in time, many bird species may be extinct. Therefore, we should not only support government efforts for the conservation of birds, but also try to conserve birds at the individual level. Arrangement of water and food for birds around the houses, Plantation It is a great demand for time today to promote and spread awareness for the conservation of birds. If we want our future generations to enjoy the tweet of birds, then we have to take concrete steps. For this, we can also put small 'bird feeders' in our homes. Its can be kept in it, food items, seeds, fruits and jaggery. In summer, water bowls can be kept and more and more trees to quench the thirst of innocent birds. If we did not become aware in time The day is not far when our morning will be completely deprived of the sweet chirping of birds. Are.

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

Ibrahim Ali Khan's debut film 'Nadaaniyan' set for March 7 release on Netflix

Directed by Shauna Gautam, the film which also stars Khushi Kapoor, follows a South Delhi diva, a middle-class overachiever boy and one outrageous plan

"Nadaaniyan", the debut film of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh's son Ibrahim Ali Khan, will premiere on Netflix on March 7, the streamer announced on Thursday.

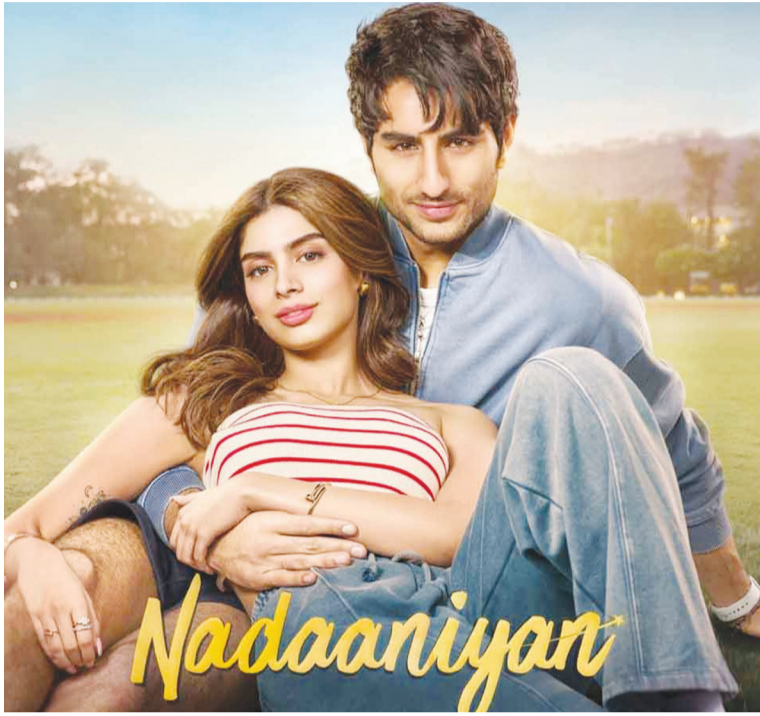
Also starring Khushi Kapoor, the romantic drama film is backed by Dharmatic Entertainment, the digital arm of filmmaker Karan Johar's banner Dharma Productions.

The streamer shared the news in a post on Instagram along with a promotional video.

"Kuch Kuch Hota Hai aisi Nadaaniyan dekh kar. Watch 'Nadaaniyan', out 7 March, only on Netflix," Netflix said.

In the movie, Ibrahim essays the role of Arjun Mehta and Khushi stars as Pia Jai Singh.

Directed by Shauna Gautam, "Nadaaniyan" follows a South Delhi diva, a middle-class overachiever boy, and one out-



geous plan.

"Hire him as her fake boyfriend to save her squad. But when real feelings crash their party, can they handle the mess of falling in love?" read the official synopsis of the film.

The film's cast also includes Mahima Chaudhary, Suniel Shetty, Dia Mirza and Jugal Hansraj. Johar serves as a producer alongside Apoorva Mehta and Somen Mishra.

Ibrahim earlier served as an assistant on Karan Johar's 2023 directorial "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani".

Khushi, daughter of late star Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor, made her acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's Netflix movie "The Archies", co-starring Suhana Khan and Agastya Nanda. She was most recently seen in "Loveyapa", opposite Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan.

Comedy is an important genre for family audience, says Arjun Kapoor



Actor Arjun Kapoor, who will next feature in comedy film Mere Husband Ki Biwi, says the genre is important for family audiences. The actor was in the national capital on Tuesday for the promotion of the upcoming film, directed by Mudassar Aziz. "Comedy is a genre which we all as audiences like to go to theatres and watch a lot. It is an important genre for the family audience. If you can make the people laugh together there is no better feeling. I have done action, drama, some comedies, even rom-coms. I am looking forward to doing more comedies after this film," he added.

Kapoor was accompanied by his co-stars Rakul Preet Singh, Bhumi Pednekar and Harsh Gujral.

Karan Aujla, OneRepublic announce new single 'Tell Me'

Punjabi star Karan Aujla, who rocked the nation with his viral hit Tauba Tauba, has announced a new collaborative track with the Grammy-nominated American band OneRepublic in the form of Tell Me.

The track is produced by pre-eminent South Asian producer Ikky, and is set for release on February 27.

Karan shared, "Working with OneRepublic has been a dream of mine for years, so this collaboration is a big deal.

It's exciting to finally share this news, and I know fans are going to love the song. And returning to Warner to release this music feels like coming home. We made my last album the biggest of my career, and I'm ready to make my return even bigger with more surprises in store."



Need my characters to have agency: Bhumi Pednekar

Mumbai, Actor Bhumi Pednekar, who is completing a decade in the industry this year, says she is happy that she has built her career on playing women with agency, right from her debut with 2015's "Dum Laga Ke Haisha".

Bhumi, known for films such "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha", "Bala", "Bheed", and "Bhakhshak", said it is a surreal feeling that she gets to live her dream of being an actor everyday through movies.

"I realised I wanted to be an actor when I was 12 so I am grateful that even after 10 years I am doing what I love so deeply. I constantly seek agency in my characters. If they don't have agency, I wouldn't do them because I just wouldn't enjoy being a part of that process. I am lucky that I had the opportunity to play such diverse women," the actor told agency in an interview.

Bhumi will next be seen in "Mere Husband Ki Biwi", which also features Rakul Preet Singh and Arjun Kapoor.

The 35-year-old actor said "Mere Husband Ki Biwi" is a fitting role to conclude her first decade in the industry.

"Mere Husband Ki Biwi" has a very special place in my life because when I read the script, I felt, I have never played such a character of Prableen, she is a little off in a nice way... There is so much comedy in her unpredictability, and I have never played such a character before. I've played this part with a lot of dedication, so, it's a very special film for me," she said.

The comedy film celebrates the quirks and complexities of romantic relationships. It is



directed by Mudassar Aziz of "Khel Khel Mein" fame.

The actor said co-star Kapoor's humor and friendship helped create a comfortable atmosphere on set while Singh was just like a sister.

"Arjun has a gift for comedy; he can do it well because he thinks like that. Rakul is a sister to me. When you are doing comedy, you need to be in a secure space... Until there is fun, trust and friendship, especially among the actors of a comedy film, you won't be able to make the audience laugh," she said.

The actor credited Aziz for steering her toward the world of comedy once again after working with him on the 2019 rom-com "Pati

Patni Aur Woh".

"The backbone of it is the writing. The biggest thing I learnt from Mudassar sir in this film is that comedy is of different styles. Like, the dialogues are written in a specific metre, and as an actor, you need to deliver in that metre, or else the punch won't land," she said.

Underscoring his love for films that evoke laughter, Aziz — who has helmed movies such as "Happy Bhag Jayegi", and "Pati Patni Aur Woh", said within the comedy genre he will continue to innovate and explore the complexities of relationships.

"I've always liked this kind of cinema, I've laughed a lot, enjoyed watching it a lot with friends or family. So, my mind automatically goes towards those kinds of movies while writing. I've stayed within a genre, and turned the stories in the right direction, or you can discover the newness or discover the newness of that relationship," he said.

"This is the only relationship in the world, which seems to be on a contract and demands more investment in terms of time and hardwork, you cannot take this for granted. So, there will never be a shortage of problems while exploring this relationship onscreen. It is a breeding ground for a lot of comedy ideas," the director, who admires filmmakers like Hrishikesh Mukherjee, David Dhawan and Raj Kanwar, said.

"Mere Husband Ki Biwi", produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani, and Deepshikha Deshmukh through the banner Pooja Entertainment, will be released in theatres on February 21.

Piyush Mishra says his love for 'Delhi is Unwavering' ahead of his performance in Gurugram

For acclaimed actor, poet, and musician Piyush Mishra, every visit to the capital region is more than just a show—it is a homecoming. With his band, Ballimaaraan, Mishra has crafted a distinct musical identity, deeply intertwined with the essence of Delhi, the city that shaped him as an artist.

"Performing in Delhi has always been a special experience for me. My roots are deeply connected to this city, and its audiences have been with me since the beginning. Many people here have seen me perform in plays, some of whom I deeply respect. There are those who knew me as students back then, and they have been a witness to my journey from those days to now," he says.

Ahead of the 60-year-old's performance in Gurugram on Saturday (Feb 22), Mishra talks about the City's impact on not just his music, but even the name of the band too!

"The band was originally named Inquilab when we started in

2016. But later, I wanted to create a deeper connection with Delhi—to remember the city in everything I do. I couldn't find a better name than Ballimaaraan, inspired by Mirza Ghalib's residence in Old Delhi's Delhi-6 area. The name had a certain rhythm to it; phonetically, it felt just right. I loved how it sounded and found it to be an apt choice. This name not only allows us to pay tribute to Mirza Ghalib but also keeps the essence of Delhi alive in my music," he says.

His connection to Delhi runs deep, having spent his formative years in the city's thriving theatre circuit. "The city gives me a different kind of joy because I have lived here and have deep connections with it. When I was in Delhi, I never really looked beyond Mandi House—it was my entire world. Every corner of that place holds a memory for me; there isn't a single spot where I haven't rehearsed. Mandi House wasn't just a location—it was where



I lived and breathed theatre, where I discovered myself as an artist." Those experiences, he says, continue to shape his work.

"Delhi gave me perspective, sharpened my storytelling, and taught me to express raw human emotions through my art. Even now, when I perform, there's an essence of those Mandi House days in my work. The energy, the restlessness, the pursuit of artistic truth—it all comes from my time in Delhi."

Even off-stage, Mishra finds himself drawn to the city's streets and its people. "I also have this habit—I can't just stay in my hotel; I need to go out and interact with people.

I don't think I'm that big a star that people mob, all they do is ask for selfies, and I oblige happily. That connection keeps me grounded. My love for Delhi is unwavering, and I will always continue to create for this city."

As anticipation builds for his upcoming performance, Mishra teases a few surprises for the audience. "There will be a couple of new songs that we have added to the set which people of Delhi haven't heard yet. Delhi holds a special place in my heart, so it's always exciting for me to meet my audience in this city. Performing new songs in Delhi carries a unique significance," he concludes.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu embraces silence, says she loves her own company

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu spoke about loving her own company and that she can spend time in silence without her phone.

Samantha took to her Instagram stories, where she shared that she has gone for a "Silence sadhna". She posted a picture of a card, which read "Silence". Alongside the image, she wrote: "Three days in silence. No phone. No communication. Just me for company."

"Somehow being alone with ourselves has become one of the scariest things. Would I do it again? A million times, yes. Would I recommend you try it? A million times, yes."

She also took a poll for her fans, from which around 88 percent said that they would like to try it as well.

Last month, the actress talked about the importance of meditation in her everyday life and says that for her it has become "her anchor."

Samantha took to Instagram, where she shared a video of her meditating.



For the caption, she wrote: "Meditation. If there's one thing I wish all of you would try, it's this. Just 15 minutes of meditation every day — in whatever way works for you. Sit in silence, focus on your breath, or follow a guided meditation on YouTube. There's no right or wrong way, nothing formal — just the simple act of tuning in."

"For me, meditation has become my anchor — a way to return to the ocean of calm and peace that's always within."

She added that no matter how chaotic the world gets, I know that quiet spot inside her is "always there, waiting."

"When you learn to find your way home to yourself, the noise outside loses its grip. Try it. Just for today. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and see what happens. PS: Don't bother about the chatter in your mind. The trick is to simply watch your thoughts and let them pass. Don't get entangled with them. PPS: Don't forget to tell me how it goes. Let's do this!!"

Confident Rekha Gupta will work for Delhi's development with full vigour: PM Modi

Says 'she has risen from grassroots, being active in campus politics, state organisation, municipal administration and now MLA as well as CM'

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Congratulating Rekha Gupta on taking oath as Delhi's chief minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said she has risen from the grassroots and expressed confidence that she will work for the city's development with full vigour.

A first-time BJP MLA, Gupta was sworn in as Delhi chief minister in a grand show of strength by the party which returned to power in the city after more than 26 years.

Soon after the swearing-in ceremony of the new Delhi government, Modi said in a congratulatory message,



"She has risen from the grassroots, being active in campus politics, state organisation, municipal administration and now MLA as well as Chief Minister." He added, "I am confident she will work for Delhi's development with full vigour. My best wishes to her for a fruitful tenure."

Along with Gupta,

Parvesh Verma, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Kapil Mishra, Ravinder Indraj Singh, Kapil Mishra and Pankaj Singh were also administered the oath of office by Lt Governor V K Saxena.

Besides Modi, senior leaders of the BJP and its allies were present at the event in Ramlila Maidan.

SC stays Lokpal order to entertain complaints against sitting HC judge, says its 'very disturbing'

NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Lokpal order entertaining complaints against a sitting high court judge, terming it "something very, very disturbing" and concerning the independence of the judiciary.

A special bench headed by Justice B R Gavai issued notice and sought responses from the Centre, the Lokpal registrar and the person who has filed complaints against the sitting high court judge.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said a high court judge would never fall within the ambit of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Abhay S Oka, issued an injunction to prevent the complainant from disclosing the name of the judge and directed him to keep the complaint filed by him



confidential.

The apex court was dealing with a suo motu proceedings initiated over the January 27 order passed by the Lokpal.

"Issue notice to the Union of India, the registrar of Lokpal and the complainant. The registrar (judicial) is directed to mask the identity of the complainant and serve him through the registrar (judicial) of the high court where the complainant resides," it said.

"In the meantime, there shall be stay to the impugned order," the bench said.

As soon as the special bench assembled, Jus-

tice Gavai told Mehta, "We propose to issue notice to the Union of India." Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who also appeared in the matter, said he would like to assist the bench in dealing with the matter.

"Something very very disturbing," Justice Gavai remarked. It is fraught with danger, Sibal said while seeking a stay on the Lokpal's order.

He said, "I think a law should be laid down." The bench said the matter would be heard again on March 18, subject to directions of the chief justice of India.

The bench noted that Sibal and another senior

advocate had offered to assist the court "since the matter is of a great significance concerning the independence of judiciary".

"Once the finding that the Lokpal has a jurisdiction stands stayed, I think they are aware what are the ramifications of this order. If they don't understand this, then we are here," Justice Gavai observed.

The Lokpal passed the order on two complaints filed against a sitting additional judge of the high court. The complaints alleged that he influenced an additional district judge in the state and a judge of the same high court who had to deal with the suit filed against the complainant by a private company to favour that firm.

It was alleged that the private company was earlier a client of the named high court judge while he was practising as an advocate at the Bar.

In its order, the Lokpal

directed the complaints and relevant materials received in its registry in two matters be forwarded to the office of the CJI for his kind consideration.

"Awaiting the guidance of the Chief Justice of India, consideration of these complaints, for the time being, is deferred until four weeks from today, keeping in mind the statutory time frame to dispose of the complaint in terms of Section 20 (4) of the Act of 2013.

"We make it amply clear that by this order we have decided a singular issue finally — as to whether the judges of the high court established by an Act of Parliament come within the ambit of Section 14 of the Act of 2013, in the affirmative. No more and no less. In that, we have not looked into or examined the merits of the allegations at all," the Lokpal bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said on January 27.

Frontier Highway game changer for Arunachal's border development: Rijiju

ITANAGAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday asserted that the multi-crore Frontier Highway project will be a game changer for the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

Speaking at the 39th Statehood Day celebrations here, Rijiju said this is the "highest allocation ever made by the Centre for a single project" in the country.

"The Frontier Highway is going to be the largest road project in the history of India. It is going to be around 1,400 kilo-

metres long, and close to Rs 42,000 crore will be invested. It is going to transform the border areas of the state," he said.

The Union Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Minister, however, expressed concern over potential hurdles due to compensation issues. "My appeal to the people is, please don't try to inflate bills to claim compensation. Don't create obstructions. If a land issue comes up, it will delay projects," he said. He cited the East-West



Corridor, also known as the Industrial Corridor, which is "facing delays due to compensation and forest clearance issues". Rijiju said that prior to

2014, securing allocations for a single project was difficult, but after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office, the situation changed. "The prime minister's

focus is on the development of the northeast, and he instructed all ministers to visit northeastern states every 15 days to understand their problems and act accordingly," he said.

"Arunachal Pradesh is the most resourceful state in the country, but for development, peace is a prerequisite," the minister said.

Reflecting on its journey from a Union Territory to a full-fledged state, Rijiju credited all former chief ministers for their contribution in making it possible.

Need more professional regulation of financial markets; SEBI needs total overhaul: Cong



NEW DELHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Congress on Thursday stressed the need for professional regulation of financial markets with a "total overhaul" of SEBI and called for a relentless focus on global manufacturing ecosystems across the technology spectrum to carve out niches for India.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared a media report on X which quoted founder and director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak, as saying that over-financialisation can hurt the Indian economy as

investors move their savings into equities without understanding valuations.

He made the remarks while expressing concern on over-financialisation.

"India's stock market capitalization currently stands at approximately 140 percent of its GDP. On September 2nd, 2024, the Chief Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance had warned that the growing profitability of the financial sector and high levels of market capitalization require closer scrutiny," Ramesh said on X.

"When the market becomes bigger than

the economy, it is natural, but not necessarily reasonable, that the market's considerations dominate public discourse and influence policy," Ramesh quoted the CEA as having said.

Now comes a similar opinion from one of the most respected names of India's financial world, Uday Kotak, the Congress leader said.

"He (Kotak) has warned that over-financialisation can hurt the Indian economy as investors move their savings into equities without understanding valuations," Ramesh said.

"We need more professional regulation of our financial markets. SEBI needs a total overhaul," he said.

"We also need a relentless focus on global manufacturing ecosystems across the technology spectrum to carve out niches for India. It is still not too late," Ramesh added.

Rahul Gandhi targets Modi government over inflation

RAEBARELI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the BJP government at the Centre of diverting attention from real issues and promoting capitalists.

Gandhi, who is on a two-day visit to his Parliamentary constituency, first visited the Hanuman temple at Churuva border. After spending some time at the temple, he proceeded towards Bachhrawan.

At Bachhrawan, the former Congress president addressed a party workers' conference and urged them to maintain a stronghold

at the booth level. "Inflation has risen significantly, and the BJP government is only promoting capitalists," he alleged.

Meanwhile, some BJP workers claimed they have been placed under house arrest during Gandhi's visit.

BJP mandal president Pravesh Verma alleged, "Along with 25 workers, we have been confined to the nagar panchayat office. It is the MP's responsibility to stay here, listen to the problems of the people, and resolve them because the people of Raebareli elected him as their representative.



"Rahul Gandhi is not paying attention to the public," he charged. However, there was no confirmation from the police about the house arrest.

Akhilesh Yadav calls UP budget 'second last' of Yogi govt, says no link with BJP manifesto

Criticising the government's approach, Yadav claimed that none of its budgets, including the latest one, had a clear vision or direction for Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW, Feb 20 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday dismissed the Uttar Pradesh budget presented by the Yogi Adityanath-led government, calling it the "second last budget" of the BJP in the state.

Criticising the government's approach, Yadav claimed that none of its budgets, including the latest one, had a clear vision or direction for Uttar Pradesh.

"This is the ninth budget of this government, and it is their second last," the SP chief said.

After this, the final budget will be presented, and then the people will get a chance to choose a new government, he said, adding that the budget has

no connection with the promises made in the BJP's manifesto.

"The government has presented budgets without any roadmap on how to take the state forward. There is no clarity on how the needs of the common people will be addressed," he stated.

He also took a dig at the BJP's repeated claims of presenting the "biggest budget", saying that every new budget is naturally larger than the previous one.

"Every time they present a budget, they say it's the biggest one. This statement can be made by any government because every budget is bound to be bigger than the last," he remarked.

Yadav described the budget as hollow, claiming it was all noise with nothing substantial



inside. "This is not a budget, it's an empty drum that makes a lot of noise but has nothing inside. The people feel like no real budget has been presented, just sermons, while they keep wondering when the actual budget will come," he said.

The former UP chief minister further alleged that the budget has left besides sections of

society disappointed.

"Farmers' hopes have dried up, women are even more worried about managing household expenses, the unemployed see nothing but darkness ahead, and traders are feeling the deepening impact of economic slowdown.

Even BJP ministers and MLAs who were thumping desks in the Assembly are now anxious because they will

have to face the anger of people in their constituencies over inflation and unemployment," he said.

Taking a swipe at the government's treatment of artisans, the Lok Sabha MP from Kannauj said, "The weavers' looms have fallen silent. The people are now asking how much budget has been allocated for the 'Jumla Ministry'."

He also took potshots at Adityanath's speech in the Assembly, noting that while the BJP opposed Urdu, the CM himself used several Urdu words in his address.

"Some people even oppose Urdu in Urdu itself," he quipped.

Listing several words used by the CM, including 'badnaam,' 'bakhsha,' 'gunehgar,'

'haseen,' and 'duniya,' he asked whether these were not Urdu words and extended his argument by questioning the Hindi equivalents of words like 'rail,' 'engine,' 'steering,' 'clutch,' and 'platform.'

Referring to a book on the Kumbh Mela study by Harvard University, Yadav said he had previously sent an English version of the book to Adityanath for decoration purposes and was now sending a Hindi version so that he could actually read it.

On the BJP's election promises, the SP chief alleged that the government had failed to deliver on its commitments.

"The BJP manifesto promised free electricity for farmers' irrigation needs over the next five years. Nine

budgets have passed, but has this promise been fulfilled? They also pledged to set up a Rs 25,000 crore agro-infrastructure mission in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, but what happened to that?" Yadav asked.

They announced a Rs 1,000 crore Bhama Shah Price Stabilization Fund for crops like potatoes, tomatoes, and onions, yet nothing has materialised, he said.

Yadav accused the BJP of failing to support farmers despite promising Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantees.

"They promised to provide MSP to farmers, but where is it? We had built mandis to ensure fair prices for farmers, and this government has destroyed them. Not a single new mandi has

been built under the BJP rule," he claimed.

He further pointed out that the BJP had assured sugarcane farmers that their dues would be paid within 14 days, failing which they would receive interest.

"The government only talks about the amount it has paid so far, but never discloses the outstanding dues. It also never tells farmers how much the price of sugarcane has increased," he said.

Yadav said that the BJP's budget had left people disillusioned.

"After nine budgets, the government still has no answers for the unemployed, struggling farmers, or common citizens. The countdown for a new government has begun," he said.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te warns universities of risks in engaging with China

Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te cautioned universities about the risks of engaging with China, emphasizing the need to protect Taiwan's democracy and academic independence. His remarks came as officials blacklisted two Chinese universities and warned of CCP influence on Taiwanese students.

YILAN, Feb 20 (Agencies): Taiwan President William Lai Ching-te on Thursday highlighted the importance of safeguarding Taiwan's democracy and academic independence, urging universities to be vigilant when engaging in exchanges with China, Taipei Times reported.

Speaking at the 2025 National Conference for the University Presidents of Taiwan, Lai emphasised the need to protect the nation's higher education institutions from external influence.

His remarks came during a week when Taiwanese officials raised concerns over efforts by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to exert influence on Taiwanese students.

Authorities recently blacklisted two Chinese universities—Huaqiao University in Xiamen and Quanzhou, along with Jinan University in Guangzhou—citing national security reports that found these institutions operate under the CCP's political warfare bureau.



Additionally, concerns were raised over a recent eight-day educational program in China's Sichuan Province, where Taiwanese students were reportedly exposed to political messaging. During the trip, China's Taiwan Affairs Office Deputy Director Wu Xi urged participants to oppose Taiwanese independence and work toward the broader interests of the Chinese people.

A government official, speak-

ing anonymously, described such initiatives as part of the CCP's "united front" strategy to influence young minds., reported Taipei Times.

At the conference, Lai outlined four key objectives for Taiwan's educational sector: ensuring no student is left behind, fostering collaboration among universities, encouraging academic innovation, and strengthening government support for institutions.

He stressed the importance of equal opportunities for students across all regions, interdisciplinary education, and expanding international experiences. The Taiwan Global Pathfinders Initiative, a NTD 10 billion (USD 306 million) government-funded program, was highlighted as a key effort to provide Taiwanese youth with overseas learning opportunities.

Lai also emphasised the importance of national defence awareness, noting that the Presidential Office had established the Whole-of-Society Defence Resilience Committee to bolster preparedness. Regarding China, he reiterated the need for academic institutions to recognise potential risks and collaborate with the government in safeguarding key technologies, research, and Taiwan's competitive edge., Taipei Times reported.

Taiwan's democratic values and freedoms are "precious" assets that must be protected, Lai said.

Australia begins euthanising dolphins after mass stranding

Bad weather and the isolated location hampered efforts to push them back into the waters, the Australian authorities said



SYDNEY, Feb 20 (Agencies): Dozens of "false killer whales" stranded on a remote beach in the Australian state of Tasmania will be euthanised after bad weather and the isolated location hampered efforts to push them back into the waters, the Australian authorities said on Thursday.

More than 150 endangered dolphins, known commonly as

false killer whales due to their resemblance to killer whales, were found stranded this week in the island state's northwest coast near Arthur River, about 400 km (250 miles) from Tasmania's state capital, Hobart.

"The conditions that the team faced yesterday in attempts to refloat the whales proved very challenging and in fact, dangerous to our staff," Tas-

mania Parks and Wildlife Service Brendon Clark said in a media briefing.

A total of 27 animals were euthanised on Thursday morning while 38 were still alive, Clark said.

The euthanasia process is expected to finish later on Thursday.

Officials have said the stranding response would be complex due to the inaccessibility of the site, ocean conditions and the challenges of getting specialist equipment to the remote area.

The animals can grow up to 20 feet (6.1 m) long and weigh up to 3,000 lbs (1,361 kg). They are found in all tropical and subtropical oceans, generally in deep offshore waters, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

AI-powered defence innovations unveiled at IDEX 2025

ABU DHABI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) 2025 spotlighted cutting-edge AI-driven technologies redefining modern warfare. Defence firms unveiled advanced systems designed to enhance targeting precision and communication efficiency, equipping armed forces with smarter tools to address evolving challenges.

Peter Ayre, Vice President of Business Development EMEA at Genasys, introduced LRAD, a next-generation long-range audible device capable of transmitting voice commands up to 5,000 metres. This innovation enables seamless communication with individuals lacking traditional radio or mobile access, making it a vital asset in military operations.

AI is at the core of LRAD, analysing environmental data to identify targets and optimise sound transmission. Machine learning allows the system to adapt to operational conditions, ensuring superior audio clarity. Widely adopted in naval operations, the device is mounted on warships for long-distance communication and integrates with Ethernet networks for remote control and smart connectivity.

Asad Kamal, CEO of Global Industrial Defence Solutions (GIDS), a state-owned Pakistani defence conglomerate, showcased the company's latest long-range defence solutions, including air-launched cruise missiles with a 290-kilometre range and a Multiple Launch Rocket System

(MLRS) boasting a 140-kilometre reach with pinpoint accuracy.

The company is advancing naval cruise missile technology using AI and topographic mapping for precision targeting in maritime missions. Kamal also highlighted the "Shahpar-III" drone, which employs AI for enhanced targeting and combat data analysis. It is capable of flying 35,000 feet into the air and can carry a payload of 500 kilograms, including up to eight weapons. In loitering munitions, AI-powered drones are designed to identify and track moving targets, such as soldiers and armoured vehicles, by processing real-time data. Equipped with advanced optics, these drones distinguish between friend and foe, detect potential threats, and execute high-precision strikes with minimal collateral damage.

Richard Hecht, Marketing Director at CONTROP Precision Technologies Ltd, said the company develops and manufactures electro-optical, precision motion control systems for surveillance, defence, para-military and homeland security missions. These AI-powered systems provide high-resolution imagery in all lighting conditions and can track and identify objects—whether personnel, vehicles, or aircraft—while compensating for harsh weather conditions. By integrating AI analytics, they deliver precise target tracking and improved situational awareness for military forces.

China tightens exit restrictions; Uyghurs and Tibetans face passport hurdles

BEIJING, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Chinese government has increasingly imposed arbitrary restrictions on people's internationally protected right to leave the country.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), Chinese authorities need people from areas they generally deem to be at high risk of online fraud or "illegal" emigration to provide extra documentation and receive approval from many government offices when applying for a passport. Passports are frequently refused to those who don't meet these onerous conditions. In regions where the majority population consists of Tibetans and Uyghurs, the government has long prohibited citizens from obtaining passports.

"While many Chinese



citizens enjoy international travel, the right to leave China appears to be restricted for growing categories of people throughout the country," said Maya Wang, Associate China Director at Human Rights Watch.

"The authorities are going beyond existing restrictions on Tibetans

and Uyghurs to limit the travel of people throughout China under the guise of anti-crime campaigns," HRW quoted Maya Wang as saying.

HRW report highlighted that to streamline the passport application procedure, the Ministry of Public Security's Entry and Exit Administra-

tion, which is in charge of passport issuance, implemented a new "on-demand" system in late 2002. This system has been extended to the vast majority of areas in China. However, Xinjiang, Tibet, and the 13 Tibetan or Hui autonomous prefectures in Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces were never allowed to use the expedited passport application process.

In comparison to other regions of China, applicants from these regions must provide significantly more comprehensive documentation with their passport applications, and they frequently have lengthy wait times, often years before their applications are granted or are routinely turned down for no valid reason, according to HRW report.

The HRW report

revealed that Xinjiang authorities also confiscated all previously granted passports in 2016. According to Human Rights Watch, Chinese laws that permit the government to impose extensive restrictions on citizens' freedom to leave the country based on nebulous national security justifications do not adhere to these principles.

"Growing restrictions on the right to obtain passports have raised anxiety that Xi Jinping's government is restoring practices from when few people could travel abroad," Wang said. "Chinese authorities should drop these arbitrary and discriminatory practices so that everyone has the equal right to leave the country," HRW quoted Wang as saying.

EAM Jaishankar meets counterparts from Singapore, Brazil on sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg

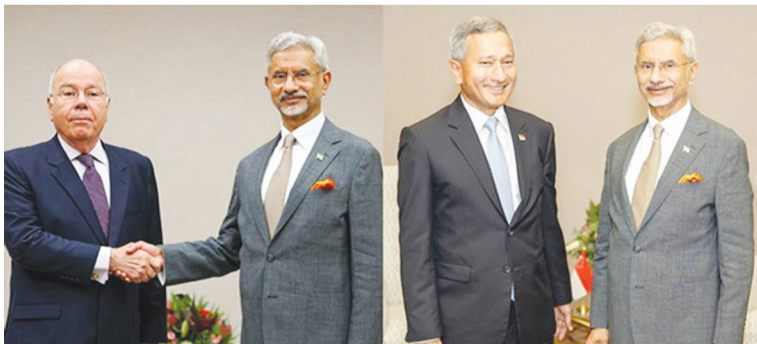
Jaishankar and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan discussed their work in furthering bilateral ties. They also spoke about the state of the world.

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 20 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a meeting with his counterparts from Singapore and Brazil on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in South Africa's Johannesburg on Thursday.

Jaishankar and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan discussed their work in furthering bilateral ties. They also spoke about the state of the world.

In a post on X, he stated, "Always a good conversation with FM @VivianBala of Singapore, this time in Johannesburg on the sidelines of G20 FMM. Discussed the state of the world and our work in furthering bilateral ties."

Jaishankar also met his Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira in Johannesburg. The two leaders discussed bilateral ties, global developments and the work of two nations in the G20 and Brazil's BRICS Presidency.



"Delighted to meet FM Mauro Vieira of Brazil today in Johannesburg. Discussed bilateral ties, global developments, our work in the G20 and Brazil's BRICS Presidency," Jaishankar posted on X.

Jaishankar is on a two-day visit to South Africa to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) at the invitation of South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola.

In a press release, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "EAM's participation in the G20

FMM will strengthen India's engagement with G20 countries and bolster the voice of the Global South in this important forum. EAM is expected to hold few bilateral meetings in the margins of the FMM."

South Africa assumed the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2024 through to November 2025. The theme for South Africa's G20 Presidency is Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability. The theme guides the priorities of the Working Groups in both Sherpa and Finance Tracks and informs the High-Level Deliverables of

South Africa's G20 Presidency, according to the official statement. The G20 is an international forum of both developing and developed countries which seeks to find solutions to global economic and financial issues. The G20 members include the world's major economies, representing 85 per cent of global Gross Domestic Product, over 75 per cent of international trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The G20 comprises 19 countries including: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, the US and two regional bodies, namely the European Union and the African Union. The G20 does not have a permanent secretary or staff. Instead, the G20 Presidency rotates annually among the members.

Trudeau reaffirms support for Ukraine amid Trump's criticism of war efforts

OTTAWA, Feb 20 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reaffirmed Canada's commitment to Ukraine, emphasising the broader implications of the war and the importance of defending global stability. Sharing a speech on X (formerly Twitter) with the caption, "Canada will always stand up for Ukraine," Trudeau underscored that Ukraine's struggle extends beyond its own borders.

"Ukrainians have been fighting and dying not just to protect their sovereignty, their territorial integrity. They're also fighting to protect the rules-based order that keeps us all safe around the world, and has, for close to eighty years now," Trudeau stated.

He stressed that international stability depends on upholding fundamental principles, adding, "This period of peace, stability, prosperity for the world happens because we had rules around borders, around not invading your neighbours that Russia chose deliberately to violate a number of years ago."

Trudeau reaffirmed Canada's alignment with its allies, saying, "That is why Canada and our allies are unequivocal on standing up against Vladimir Putin's illegal, immoral, unjust violations of the international order, and why I'm looking forward to sitting down with my Euro-

pean partners in a couple of hours to talk about how we will continue to stand unequivocally in defence of Ukraine, but also in defence of the rules that keep us all safe."

Trudeau's statement comes amid renewed scrutiny of international financial support for Ukraine, following remarks by US President Donald Trump questioning the level of American investment in the war. Trump recently claimed that the United States has spent USD 200 billion more than Europe while receiving no financial return, contrasting this with what he described as Europe's "guaranteed" contributions. He accused Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of persuading the US to spend massive sums on a war that "couldn't be won" and "never had to start."

In a post on Truth Social, Trump criticised Zelenskyy's leadership, writing, "Think of it, a modestly successful comedian, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, talked the United States of America into spending USD 350 billion dollars, to go into a war that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a war that he, without the US and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle." Trump also labelled Zelenskyy a "dictator without elections," highlighting concerns over governance and accountability in Ukraine.

GDC Udhampur felicitates NCC Cadets for their Unprecedented Performance at RD Parade

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 20: Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur organized a grand felicitation ceremony to honour the NCC cadets who proudly represented the institution at the Republic Day (RD) Parades in New Delhi.

The dedicated cadets from 2 J&K Girls Bn and 2 J&K Boys Bn participated and brought laurels to the institution, their respective NCC Units, NCC Group Headquarters Jammu, and JK&L Directorate.

The event was held at the conference hall of the college and was attended by faculty members and students who gathered to celebrate the mesmerizing achievements of the cadets.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome by the Principal of GDC Udhampur, who expressed immense pride in the cadets for their dedication, discipline, and commitment. In his address, he commended the cadets who have gone through the rigorous training and perseverance required to qualify for the prestigious RD Parade.



He also appreciated the Associate NCC Officer, Capt Shivani Sharma, and CTO Dr Vijay Kumar for their unwavering support, motivation and mentorship in preparing the cadets for the event.

Nine cadets from the college participated in the RD Parade, showcasing the high standards of training and discipline instilled by NCC.

Among their notable accomplishments, Cadet Aryan Khajuria was awarded the DG Medalion and 2nd runner-up trophy for the Ballet Competition.

He was also the flag area bearer, where the team bagged 6th position at the national level. He was also the best cadet

from the JK&L Directorate and was selected for YEP (Youth Exchange Programme). Cadet Utkarash received the ADG Appreciation for his outstanding performance at cultural events.

He participated in all cultural events and won the Bronze Medal in the Group Dance and Ballet Competition. He also participated in the Group Song and was selected for YEP.

Cadet Vinesh got the ADG Appreciation for marching on the Kartavya Path. Cadet Rohit and SUO Kriti participated in PM Rally Contingent.

Cadet Pranav participated and led the PM Rally Contingent of JK&L Directorate as the commander.

District Doda launches special NCD Screening Campaign under national initiative

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 20: In line with the ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, aimed at achieving 100% screening of individuals aged 30 years and above for prevalent Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, hypertension, and three common cancers—oral, breast, and cervical, a special NCD Screening Campaign has been launched in District Doda on Thursday.

Under the directions

of the Mission Director NHM J&K Nazim Zai Khan, Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rakesh Magotra, and Chief Medical Officer, Doda Dr Om Kumar, the campaign commenced today and will run until March 31, 2025.

At the block level, Block Medical Officers (BMOs) are leading the campaign, ensuring effective supervision and monitoring of its successful implementation. They are overseeing the organization of screening camps at all healthcare facilities, ensuring that individuals receive necessary health screenings and

follow-up care.

With a strong focus on early detection and timely management of chronic conditions, this campaign aims to enhance health awareness and reduce disease burden in the district.

Healthcare staff across all facilities are actively conducting screenings, ensuring that individuals receive necessary medical attention.

The Health Department urges all individuals aged 30 and above to visit their nearest government healthcare facility for free screening.



Army holds awareness lecture on Road Safety

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 20: In an effort to promote road safety and responsible driving, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture on "Road Safety" at Kalsa Moh, Sindrah in District Poonch. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to foster awareness and instill civic responsibility in the region's residents.

The session aimed to educate the public on the importance of adhering to traffic rules, reducing road accidents, and saving lives.

Key points discussed included the significance of wearing helmets, adhering to speed limits, and following all



road safety regulations. The lecture was well-received by the local Residents, including students, youth, and teenagers, who appreciated the Indian Army's proactive efforts in this regard. Local residents expressed a desire for more such initiatives to be held, emphasizing that they would be beneficial in nurturing a culture of road safety and civic responsibility.

Indian Army officials encouraged attendees to share the message

with others and contribute to building safer roads for the community.

The event culminated in a pledge by all present to comply with traffic regulations and spread awareness for the well-being of society.

The local community commended the Indian Army for its ongoing contributions to important social causes like road safety, strengthening the resolve to create a safer, more responsible society.

Army organises women personality development including IT training at Thanamandi

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 20: Indian Army as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', is conducting Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training at Thanamandi, Rajouri district.

This skill development initiative is aimed to improve their communication skills, Information Technology skills and build confidence in achieving greater success in their personal and professional lives. The course is scheduled with effect from February 18 to March 20, 2025, which witnessed active participation of twenty women from local communities.

The Indian Army has always been a pillar of support in guiding and empowering local youth by providing skill development opportunities.



Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training program is a holistic initiative designed to empower women with all necessary infrastructure and training which will build solid foundation in Information Technology skills.

By combining Personality Development and Information Technology skills, this workshop provides opportunity for women to enhance their com-

munication abilities, build confidence and develop a more positive as well as Information Technology training modules on computer programming, data analysis, digital literacy and cyber security.

This training provides a unique opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, build their professional portfolios and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to start

their own businesses or pursue leadership roles in their chosen fields.

Each participant's progress is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these youth. As a token of recognition, certificates for participation and gifts will be awarded to all participants on closing day.

Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training is yet another remarkable chapter in this ongoing journey.

Indian Army remains committed to empowering local communities through such initiatives, believing that a stronger, more self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between Army and the people of this region.

GDC Thannamandi organizes awareness program on Child Labour and Fundamental Rights

Top News Report

THANNAMANDI, Feb 20: Department of Political Science in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi organized awareness program on child labour and fundamental rights as part of the 75th Celebration of the Indian Constitution here today.

On this occasion a thought-provoking skit on child labour and fundamental rights organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College. Dr. Zubair Ahmed, HoD- Political Science co-ordinated the program aimed to raise awareness about the issue of child labour and its violation as fundamental right enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

The skit was performed by students who skilfully depicted the harsh realities of child exploitation, the socio-economic conditions that force children into labour, and the legal provisions that seek to protect and uplift under-



privileged children.

The performance emphasized the importance of Right to Education (Article 21A), Right Against Exploitation (Article 23 & 24), and the Directive Principles of State Policy, which advocate for the protection and welfare of children.

The students, through their dramatic presentation, successfully conveyed the urgent need to eradicate child labour and highlighted the role of society and government in ensuring the fundamental rights and dignity of every child.

Their performance left a lasting impact on the audience, reinforcing the constitutional commitment to child welfare.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Farooq Ahmed applauded the initiative taken by the

Department of Political Science and IQAC in sensitizing students about such a crucial issue.

He appreciated the college drama club for its efforts in using creative performances as a medium to address social issues. He further emphasized that education plays a pivotal role in eliminating child labour and ensuring a better future for children.

As a token of appreciation, he felicitated the student performers and encouraged them to continue participating in such awareness programs.

The event witnessed active participation from faculty members, students, and NCC cadets, who were deeply moved by the performance.

Earlier, Dr. Mohd Zabir

introduced the audience about the program and highlighted the importance of constitutional provisions in safeguarding children's rights.

Dr. Mudasar Ahmed Gori presented the formal vote of thanks while expressing gratitude to all attendees, faculty members, and student performers for making the event successful.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Ashaq Malik, Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Rummy Dar, Dr. Nagina Kouser, Prof. Rizwana Kousar, Dr. Atiq Ul Rehman and Dr. Showkat Ahmed and Dr. Mohd Shakoor.

Chai Pe Charcha organised with Sarpanch, Panch at Parat, Sarsoti

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 20: In the ongoing efforts to connect with the locals and discussing the critical issues being faced by the villagers, Indian Army organised Chai Pe Charcha with Sarpanchs and Panchs along with few locals at Government Higher Secondary School, Parat and Sarsoti.

The program was attended by all Sarpanchs and Panchs along with few locals of the area. All members paid keen interest and participated in the discussion. The aim of the meet was to bring out critical issues faced by local villagers through meaningful discussions



and enhancing relations with the Indian Army.

The event encouraged open and constructive discussions on various topics including community development, enhancing socio-economic status, progress of villages and the role of local governance in shaping the future of the community.

Discussions in this meeting revolved around key issues such as infrastructure development, healthcare services, mental hygiene, education and sustainable community initiatives.

In an effort to enhance the development and security of local villagers, an important step is being taken to strengthen

the relationship between Indian army and village Sarpanchs, Panchs & local Residents.

A total of 54 (Sarpanch 09 & Panch 45) attended the event and expressed their gratitude for the continuous support rendered by the Indian Army for motivating and guiding the locals for better social & economic status.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' organized

Top News Report

POONCH, Feb 20: The Indian Army organized a massive cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative in various locations across Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi District, including Salani, Khanetar, Sindrah, Haribudha Loran, Gambhir, Hasplot, Sakri, Kalali.

The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of 04 offi-

cers, 06 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), 97 Other Ranks (OR), 217 civilians, 20 teachers, and 195 students.

The collective effort aimed to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation in the region, while also spreading awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

The Indian Army's initiative is a testament to its commitment to serving the nation and supporting

local communities.

By organizing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Army aims to contribute to the government's mission of creating a clean and healthy India.

The event has helped to foster a sense of community and social responsibility among the participants, while also promoting a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

'Bowls only one variety to us, what weapons he has only he knows': Rohit on Varun Chakaravathy

On the eve of India's Champions Trophy opening clash against Bangladesh, captain Rohit Sharma revealed mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy bowls only one variety to batters during the training session and keeps his weapons to himself.

DUBAI, Feb 20 (Agencies): On the eve of India's Champions Trophy opening clash against Bangladesh, captain Rohit Sharma revealed mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy bowls only one variety to batters during the training session and keeps his weapons to himself.

Chakaravathy was a late admission in India's 15-player squad for the marquee event. The mystery spinner made his way into the team in place of young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal. With Chakaravathy's inclusion, India now boasts five spin bowling options in its star-studded squad.

Before India's clash against Bangladesh, Chakaravathy participated in the training session and continued to fine-tune his craft and mastery of spin. Rohit opened up about facing the in-form ball twerker in the nets and revealed that Chakaravathy resorts to bowling just one kind of variety to the Indian batters.

"Varun Chakaravathy doesn't



bowl a lot of variations to us. He bowls only one kind of variety to us, so maybe he keeps it for the match, which is good for us. What weapons he has only he knows," Rohit said in the pre-match press conference before the clash against Bangladesh on Thursday in Dubai.

After enjoying a fruitful run in the T20Is, Chakaravathy earned his maiden ODI cap for India against England in Cuttack. He kept a lid on England's scoring rate in the middle overs and

returned with figures of 1/54 in his 10-over spell.

In the five home T20Is against England, Chakaravathy truly left everyone mesmerised. He finished the five T20Is as the leading wicket-taker across both teams, scything 14 scalps at a staggering average of 9.86, including a five-wicket haul.

After the conclusion of the ODI series against England in Ahmedabad, head coach Gautam Gambhir revealed the reason behind Chakaravathy's

inclusion.

"Look, the only reason was because we wanted another wicket-taking option in the middle. We know what Varun brings to the table and know that Varun can be a massive threat to a lot of teams who haven't played him. He could be an X-factor as well," Gambhir had said in the post-match press conference.

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

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

I wondered if I could play again, a 14-month break can pull you down: Mohammad Shami



DUBAI, Feb 20 (Agencies): Hitting the nets, wearing a knee cap and extra layer of protection around his ankle, Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami revealed there were times when he thought his international career was over and he would never get another opportunity to represent his country. Shami injured his ankle during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023 and was sidelined for almost a year as he battled with self-doubt and a strict rehabilitation process in an attempt to prolong his already distinguished career.

The 34-year-old did make a successful return when featuring in four white-ball fixtures

for India against England across the last month and is now set to push his comeback even further when he turns out for his country in their ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener against Bangladesh in Dubai, on Thursday.

"From being in great form during the World Cup to suddenly finding myself on the operating table - from that form to being injured was really tough," Shami told the ICC, during an interview.

"My first question to the doctor was 'how many days until I can be back on the field?' I always wondered when I would be able to put my feet on the ground again. Someone who is used to running on the field constantly was now

in crutches," he added. Shami paid tribute to the role his family played during his rehabilitation and said the BCCI had been very supportive of him throughout the process.

"It was the desire to once again represent India on the big stage that drove Shami during the tough times and gave him the strength to push through the pain barrier," he said.

He further added, "After 60 days when they asked me to put my feet on the ground, you won't believe me, but I have never been more scared to put my foot on the ground."

While making his comeback valid, he added: "Courage and passion to play for the country are the biggest motivators, and the desire to wear the India badge on my chest kept me going. You endure the pain and take it one step at a time without complaints or bitterness. The passion for representing my country has brought me this far."

"Want to win games as a bowler": KKR's Ramandeep Singh eyes bigger role in IPL 2025

KOLKATA, Feb 20 (Agencies): Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) all-rounder from their title-winning Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season, Ramandeep Singh has set his sights on making a mark in the 18th edition of the tournament, this time as a bowler. In a heartfelt conversation on Knight Live Adda, the promising all-rounder - who made his debut for India in November 2024 - opened up about his journey and aspirations, as per a release from KKR.

Fresh from an impressive showing in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, where he scalped 5 wickets at an economy rate of 8.10 in the seven matches that he played for Punjab, Ramandeep is eager to showcase his bowling prowess alongside his batting capabilities.

"The conversation from IPL 2024 was that coaching staff have the same expectations from my bowling as they

had from my batting. A couple of impactful overs in the middle of the bowling innings will be very important for the team. So, I am working on the same. I want to win games as a bowler," shared the 27-year-old all-rounder, as quoted from a release by KKR. His retention by KKR in the mega auction speaks volumes about the faith the franchise has placed in his abilities.

Building on his IPL 2024 performance, where he scored 125 runs at a strike rate of 201.61, Ramandeep proved his worth as an aggressive batter in the middle order for the defending champions. This performance put him in the reckoning for a Team India debut, which eventually came during India's T20I series against South Africa at the end of 2024.

"I am extremely grateful to have made my debut for India. I have worked hard to reach

this position in my career, and now, I am reaping the fruits of my hard work. It is a dream come true to get retained in a mega auction. Looking forward, my attempt will be to give my 100% to the team once again," he said, while talking about his breakthrough in IPL 2024.

The Punjab-born cricketer's connection with Eden Gardens and its passionate fans runs deep. "We have the most wonderful fans at the Eden Gardens. Their support and their chants ensure that I have a very special connection with them. I am looking forward to entertaining the fans and making them proud once again," he expressed.

As KKR prepares to kick off their IPL 2025 campaign against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at home on March 22, Ramandeep's evolution as a dual-threat player could prove crucial to the team's aspirations to retain the trophy.

Champions trophy: Pakistan have a poor start to Champions Trophy, go down to New Zealand by 60 runs

KARACHI, Feb 20 (Agencies): The comeback of a major ICC event after almost three decades remained unpleasant for the hosts Pakistan as they faced a blunt 60-run defeat against New Zealand to start their Champions Trophy campaign on a heart-rending note in front of the home crowd, at Karachi's National Stadium.

Top notched centuries by New Zealanders Will Young and Tom Latham - topped with a stunning cameo by Glenn Phillips and a fine performance by the Kiwi bowlers - was enough to shock the hosts and defending champions in the tournament opener.

In all four Champions Trophy face offs, New Zealand now stands undefeated against Pakistan. The defending champions failed to chase down the 321-run target and were packed at 260 to leave the field with gloomy faces.

Young, who replaced injured Rachin Ravindra, posted a stunning 107 off 113 balls, studded with 12 boundaries and one six, Latham ensured to contribute an unbeaten 118 off 104 balls, with 10 boundaries and three sixes. The 118-run partnership for the 4th wicket was further nourished by Phillips, who came up with a



stunning 61 off 39 balls innings. He was involved in a 125-run partnership with Latham to ensure a smooth run for the Kiwi's innings.

Earlier, down to 73/3 in 16 overs, the Kiwis innings was bolstered by Young, who looked at ease in the middle by marking boundaries at regular intervals to ease down the pressure. The opener's innings came to an end as Naseem Shah induced a miscued shot and substitute fielder Faheem Ashraf latched onto the catch. Following his wicket, Latham went on to combine for a strong fifth-wicket

stand alongside Phillips. Earlier, Abrar Ahmed had handed the hosts early advantage with three breakthroughs inside the first 16 overs. With Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan opting to bowl first, spinner Abrar Ahmed broke the deadlock in the eighth over of the power play, cleaning up Devon Conway (10) with a ripper of a delivery. In the very next over, pacer Naseem Shah got rid of Kane Williamson (1), who lasted for only two deliveries before edging one behind to Rizwan. Haris Rauf, who made a comeback to the team after an injury that had kept him out

of the recently-held tri-series, got into the act and removed Daryl Mitchell (10) with a clever change in pace as the New Zealand right-hander miscued the ball straight to the fielder at mid-on.

The 'chase' by Pakistan's top order was never aggressive as half the side was back to the pavilion at 128 in 31 overs. Babar Azam did contribute 64, but he took 90 balls to achieve this milestone. Fakhar Zaman, who faced 41 balls, managed 24 on the scoreboard. However, the innings witnessed a major push, when Khushdil Shah (69 off 49 balls, with 10 boundaries and one six) and Salman Agha (42 of 28 balls, with six boundaries and one six) pumped up some action and put all their strength. Earlier, Pakistan was off to a poor start as Saud Shakeel (6) fell to Will O'Rourke 6 off a thick edge to Matt Henry, who was standing at the third man. In no time, skipper Rizwan (3) was left shocked as Phillips took a stunner off Rourke. Zaman and Babar, thereafter helped Pakistan reach the 50-run mark in 15.2 overs. However, William O'Rourke (3/47), Mitchell Santer (3/66) and Matt Henry (2/25) stood out with the ball for the Kiwis.

Consistency vital for Indian Men's Hockey Team as it gear up to face Ireland in FIH Pro League 2024-25

BHUBANESWAR, Feb 20 (Agencies): The Indian Men's Hockey Team will be aiming for consistency as it prepares to take on Ireland in their next set of matches in the FIH Pro League 2024-25. After a mixed start to their campaign, India are looking to build momentum and climb the points table with solid performances in the upcoming games, as per Hockey India press release.

The hosts opened the tournament with a 3-1 loss against Spain but quickly bounced back with a commanding 2-0 victory against the same opponents in the second game. However, their search for winning momentum faltered

when they were outplayed 4-1 by Germany in their third match. India managed to recover in the fourth game, securing a narrow 1-0 win over the Germans, thanks to the return of Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Vice Captain Hardik Singh, both of whom missed the first leg against Germany due to injury.

Currently placed seventh in the standings with six points from four games, India will be looking to fix their penalty corner conversion issues, which have been a persistent challenge in the tournament. Despite earning 14 penalty corners across their four matches, the Indian team has yet to convert

any of these opportunities into goals.

On the other hand, Ireland have struggled in the tournament so far and is currently at the bottom of the points table with just one point from four games. They have lost three matches in regulation time and one in a shootout, making them eager for a turnaround in form.

Historically, India have had the upper hand in this matchup, having won seven out of the nine encounters between the two teams since 2013. Ireland has managed just one win, while one match ended in a draw.

With India's focus on maintaining consistency and Ireland seeking their

first victory, the upcoming matches promise to be crucial for both teams.

Speaking ahead of the matches against Ireland, India captain Harmanpreet Singh stated as quoted by Hockey India press release, "These upcoming matches are vital for us as we look to find consistency and build momentum in the FIH Pro League. Every game is an opportunity to improve and gather crucial points, and we know Ireland will present a tough challenge. Even though they are lower in the standings, they're a team that fights hard and can surprise any opponent, so we can't afford to take them

lightly."

"Our main focus will be on improving our penalty corner conversions, which have been an area we've struggled with. We've been creating opportunities, but we need to be more clinical in executing them. The team has been working hard in training to address these issues, and we're confident that we'll show progress in the next matches. We're ready to give it our all, and we hope to carry forward the momentum from our last win and keep improving as we move forward in the league," he added

India will face Ireland on February 21 and 22 at 7:30 PM IST.

Champions Trophy: India faces key test against Bangladesh today

DUBAI, Feb 20 (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 yet.

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.

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.

BJP's activists, supporters congratulate Rekha Gupta on becoming new Delhi CM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: BJP's activists and supporters at their special meeting in Surya Vihar, congratulated Rekha Gupta on her ascension as the new Chief Minister of Delhi.

Speaking during the course of meeting, BJP Karyakarta R.L.Kaith said that her esteemed leadership is poised to usher in a new era of progress and development for the capital. This significant occasion further reinforces the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering



commitment to women's empowerment.

While BJP's Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria said, we are confident that Rekha Gupta would work with dedication towards fulfilling the resolve made

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Delhi one of the top capitals of the world.

All present in the meeting wished Gupta great success and a future filled with impactful achievements.

Kashmiri youth dies in Saudi Arabia; JKSA writes to EAM Jaishankar for repatriation of mortal remains

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Thursday has written to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, urging him to facilitate the return of the mortal remains of Khalid Saifullah Malik, a 25-year-old resident of Pallpora, Dailgam, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, who tragically passed away in Abha, Saudi Arabia, under uncertain circumstances.

In an official communication to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the association said that Khalid had traveled to Saudi Arabia nearly two months ago for employment at a rehabilitation center. On February 19, 2025, his family received the devastating news of his untimely demise, leaving them in deep anguish. The cause of death remains unknown so far, further adding to the family's distress.

The association has emphasized that the grieving family requires immediate assistance in bringing back the young student's mortal

remains so that they can perform his last rites in accordance with religious and cultural traditions.

National Convenor of Association Nasir Khuehami has urged the External Affairs Minister to facilitate the repatriation of the deceased student's remains at the earliest. He also requested the Ministry of External Affairs to take immediate steps, in coordination with the Saudi authorities, to expedite the process and bring the body home for the last rites in his ancestral village.

The association has called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Khalid's untimely demise, ensuring that the family receives much-needed clarity and justice.

Recognizing the MEA's consistent efforts in assisting distressed Indian citizens abroad, the association expressed hope for a swift response. It also hoped that both Indian and Saudi authorities would work together to ensure a smooth and prompt resolution of the matter.

Dimple demands plebiscite in POK, Gilgit-Baltistan; rejects Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir

Top News Report



JAMMU, Feb 20: Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, has demanded that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hold a plebiscite in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit, and Baltistan, asserting that these regions are part of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Addressing media persons at Harisingh Park, Jammu, Dimple strongly rejected the resolution passed by Pakistan's Minister Amir Muqam seeking a plebiscite in Kashmir. He emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have already made their choice by participating in democratic elections for the assembly and parliament every five years.

Dimple asserted that

the real dispute lies in POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan, where people seek freedom from Pakistan and want to be integrated into Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that Maharaja Hari Singh's accession agreement with India had already made Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan an integral part of India.

He extended full support for the liberation of POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan from Pakistan's control and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps to integrate these regions with Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple strongly protested against the delay in restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for not implementing the special status resolutions submitted to the Prime Minister

and President of India.

He urged political parties, including National Conference (NC), Congress, PDP, Apni Party, and People's Conference, to unite on one platform to protect the identity, culture, history, and demography of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple demanded immediate elections for five Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir and the nomination of a Dogra leader to represent the region in Parliament. He stressed that a Dogra Rajya Sabha member should fight for the restoration of statehood, special status, and Articles 370 and 35-A.

He also urged Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to debate in the J&K Assembly on issues, including the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. The Instrument of Accession conditions set by Maharaja Hari Singh, the unification of Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan with Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple reaffirmed that Mission Statehood will continue its struggle for the reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35-A, the state subject system, and the cancellation of outsider domiciles.

Adv Purnima highlights BJP's commitment to women empowerment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Adv Purnima Sharma, in a press conference, highlighting party's commitment to women empowerment, cited the election of Rekha Gupta as the Chief Minister of Delhi, as latest example in this regard.

She was accompanied by party Spokesperson Rajni Sethi and BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretary Neha Mahajan.

Purnima Sharma commended the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whom the BJP secured victory in Delhi's local elections after 27 years. She emphasized that this win is a testament to the party's policies, governance, and unwavering commitment to the people.

She underscored that the BJP has consistently worked toward empowering women across all sectors. The nomination of Rekha Gupta as Chief



Minister is yet another step in this direction, reinforcing the party's dedication to promoting women in leadership roles.

She highlighted Rekha Gupta's journey from being a student leader at Delhi University in 1992 to being elected as MLA and Chief Minister. This reflects BJP's focus on nurturing local leaders based on merit and dedication, she added.

Purnima Sharma recalled that the BJP has a strong track record of placing women in prominent positions, as seen in the leadership of Sushma Swaraj, Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani, and other women leaders.

She stated that Gup-

ta's nomination is a continuation of this tradition, reflecting the party's trust and respect for women's leadership.

Purnima expressed hope that under the chief ministership of Rekha Gupta, key issues of Delhi, including air and river pollution, infrastructural improvements, and governance reforms will be taken care.

Rekha Gupta's leadership will bring positive change and fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Rajni Sethi, while addressing this press conference, said that it is a milestone for women's representation in politics. BJP continues to encourage women's active participation in governance and policy making. BJP has always championed equal representation for women in politics, ensuring that capable women receive leadership opportunities at all levels. Rekha Gupta's nomination is a significant step in this direction.

Vijay Garg's Book "NEET UG Turbocharge 24 Hours Revision Capsule" released



Top News Report

JAMMU /MALOUT, Feb 20: In a significant contribution to NEET UG exam preparation, renowned educationist and retired principal Vijay Garg has launched his latest book, "NEET UG Turbocharge 24 Hours Revision Capsule."

The book was officially released by Principal Hemlata Kapoor of GTB Khalsa Public Senior Secondary School, Malout, in the presence of senior teacher Gurpreet Singh.

Designed as a quick refresher, the book aims to help NEET aspirants revise the entire syllabus in just 24 hours.

It includes concise notes, essential formulae, tables, and diagrams for Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, allowing students to cover all key topics efficiently.

Speaking at the book launch, Principal Kapoor praised Vijay Garg's immense contributions to the field of education, emphasizing that this book would be an invaluable resource for students appearing in NEET UG.

She highlighted its structured approach, which ensures maximum retention in minimal time, making it a crucial tool for last-minute revision.

Author Vijay Garg

explained that the book features an essential glossary and serves as a comprehensive guide for competitive exam preparation.

He emphasized the importance of quality study materials, stating, "Good books play a crucial role in exam success. They offer structured content, exam-aligned practice questions, and detailed explanations to strengthen concepts and boost confidence."

The book is particularly beneficial for students looking for a quick yet thorough revision before the examination. Garg reiterated that while various books help in NEET preparation, NCERT textbooks remain the foundation, as a significant portion of the exam is based on them.

With NEET being one of the most competitive medical entrance exams, "NEET UG Turbocharge 24 Hours Revision Capsule" is expected to be a game-changer for aspirants striving for success.

Folks music presents first-ever Dogri/Kashmiri fusion song

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: PCI Folks Music presented the first-ever Dogri/Kashmiri fusion song, "Sohna Jammu Kashmir," a mesmerizing blend of music, culture, and unity.

This soul-stirring song celebrates the beauty, integrity, and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, beautifully rendered by singers Ashh K and Javed Jahanzai, with music direction by Ashh K.

The song featuring Ashraf Shera Malik promises to take everyone on a musical journey through the heart of Jammu

and Kashmir.

The song's release event was graced by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. However, Satish Sharma, Minister for Transport and Sports was present as Guest of Honour.

"We are thrilled to present this unique fusion song that celebrates the spirit of Jammu Kashmir," said Amit Mahajan, Director, PCI Folks Music & Soulmate Event.

"We look forward to sharing this musical experience with you and celebrating the beauty and unity of our state."

JKTF constitutes Chassana Zonal Body

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 20: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers federation (AISTF) headed by State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh has constituted its zonal body for Chassana Zone of District Reasi,

nominating Mujeeb ul Rehman Wani as Zonal President, Shabir Ahmed Jagjit Singh as Sr Vice President, Shah Din General Secretary, Hari Ram Secretary, Mohd Rafiq Joint Secretary, Harnam Singh organizing Secretary, Mohd Ajaz Bagi Chief Spokesperson and Ghulam Mohi


ul Din as Spokesperson, Mohd Afzal Master as Advisor, Tasveer Singh as finance secretary, Onkar Singh Publicity Secretary, Rajinder Singh chief coordinator and Ghulam Mustafa as Coordinator, Tanveer Malik, Kavir Khan, Fiaz Ahmed, Dalier Singh Baland Khan. Rakesh

Singh Bashir Ahmed, Jai Singh, Daleep Singh, Shabir Ahmed, Rafiq Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmed, Gulial Singh, Baldev Singh, Mohd Qayoom as Zonal Executive Members.

The zonal body was constituted by District President Teachers Forum Reasi Rail Singh

with the overall guidance of UT President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh.

Meanwhile UT President Teachers Forum Mohd Ashraf Sheikh congratulated the newly nominated office bearers, expressing hope that the new leadership will work towards the betterment of the teaching and student community.



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