

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Fire erupts in residential houses at Rajbagh Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): A fire broke out in Kursu Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Monday.

As per an official, the fire broke out in one of the houses and engulfed multiple residential structures in the area.

The official from the Fire and Emergency department said, "We received the fire call at around 11:44 am and soon rushed multiple fire tenders to douse off the flames. The operation to control the fire is on as we speak."

The official said that the cause of the fire is under investigation. He said that as per initial reports two to four houses are involved in fire and Fire and Emergency units are working to bring the fire under control.

J-K parts to receive snow from Feb 25 evening onwards, says MeT

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar today predicted a shift in weather patterns across the region from February 25 onwards till March 1, with rain and snow expected over both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

An official of Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the weather conditions on February 23 and 24 will remain dry. However, from February 25 evening onwards, to February 28 late night, the region will likely to witness generally cloudy skies with light to moderate rain and snowfall at most places.

The MeT official warned of temporary disruptions in road transportation, particularly over key mountain passes, including Sadhna Pass, Razdan Pass, Sonmarg-Zojila-Gumri Axis, Mughal Road, Sinthan Pass, and other hilly routes.

Moreover, a significant drop in daytime temperatures is anticipated, which could impact travel and daily activities for locals and tourists.

This wet spell is expected to continue until late on February 28, bringing precipitation across the Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The official said the weather conditions will remain generally cloudy with light rain/snow at scattered to fairly

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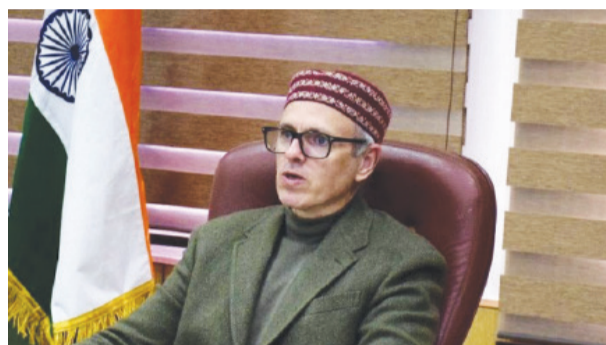
Happy to join campaign against obesity: CM Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he was happy to join the campaign against obesity launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I'm very happy to join the campaign against obesity launched by PM @narendramodiji," Abdullah posted on his X handle.

The chief minister nominated 10 persons to the join the PM's campaign.

"Obesity causes a number of lifestyle related health issues



like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, strokes & breathing problems not to mention mental health conditions like anxiety & depression. Today I'm nominating these 10 people to join the PM's campaign against obesity

and requesting them to nominate a further 10 people each to take this fight forward," he said.

Among those nominated by Abdullah were Biocon Managing Director Kiran Mazumdar Shaw,

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Women killed, 12 injured as vehicle plunges into gorge in Ramban

RAMBAN, Feb 24 (Agencies) : In an accident on Mehad - Neera-Kanthe link road in Ramban tehsil, one woman died while 12 persons sustained injuries on Monday.

Police sources said a TaTa Sumo bearing registration no JK19A-1331 on its way to Ramban from Chabba skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near Galli area of Upper Neera.

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J&K Dy CM hits out at Mehbooba: 'Why was alcohol not banned during PDP rule?'



JAMMU, Feb 24 (Agencies): Deputy Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today lashed out at former chief minister Mehbooba

Mufti for failing to impose ban on alcohol when the PDP was in power after 2014.

He claimed whatever is being taken up in the

name of alcohol ban by PDP is all "deceit" and an attempt to play with the emotions of people.

"The PDP was in power in Jammu & Kashmir after 2014. The bill to impose a ban on alcohol was also introduced at that time, but why did the then chief minister Mehbooba Mufti fail to address this grave issue? Why was the ban not imposed then?," Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary as per Greater Kashmir told reporters in Jammu.

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IGP Jammu reviews security situation along border in Jammu's Akhnoor sector

JAMMU, Feb 24 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Bhim Sen Tuti has reviewed the security situation in Akhnoor sector, directing officers and jawans to maintain heightened vigilance to counter threats from across the border.

Accompanied by Deputy Inspector General of police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shiv Kumar Sharma and Superintendent of police, Jammu rural, Brijesh Sharma, the IGP visited sub-division



Akhnoor on Sunday and reviewed security and law enforcement measures, a police spokesperson said on Monday. The Jammu police chief also held a detailed discussion with the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's 10th Division, Akhnoor, focusing on security

cooperation and strategic planning.

Security arrangements on the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) were checked to ensure robust border management, the spokesperson said.

The official said the IGP was provided a comprehensive briefing on the crime situation and security framework by police officers.

"The visit reinforced the commitment of law enforcement to maintain security, enhance coordination, and

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J&K Gears Up for Panchayat Polls, SEC Initiates Preparations

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): After a gap of seven years, Jammu and Kashmir is set to hold panchayat elections in April-May this year, marking a crucial development in the J&K's grassroots democracy, sources said. The final electoral rolls for the polls were published on January 20. Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

In a key step toward conducting the elections, the State Election Commission (SEC) of the Union



Territory has initiated the procurement of essential election materials. The SEC is in the process

of acquiring nearly 40,000 voting compartments and 64 other required items. The deadline for finalizing the procurement contract is March 11, with the supply expected within a month thereafter.

"J&K currently has a total of 38,800 polling stations, with 18,700 located in the Jammu division and 20,100 in the Kashmir division. The last panchayat elections in J&K were held in 2018, and with the previous

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J&K Police pay tributes to Late DySP Aman Kumar Thakur

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police paid rich tributes to the late Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Aman Kumar Thakur who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in 2019.

DySP Thakur laid down his life in the line of duty during an anti-terrorist operation in Turigam Kulgam district of south Kashmir on February 24, 2019.

On the occasion, the commemoration parade was held at District Police Lines Bandipora, and floral wreaths were laid at the Martyrs



memorial as a mark of respect for his supreme sacrifice and for safeguarding the integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora Harmeet Singh Mehta along with other officers of Bandipora

police paid their homage by placing floral wreaths at the Martyr Memorial.

SSP Bandipora on behalf of Bandipora police lauded the commitment and devotion of DySP Thakur towards his professional obligations and shall always be remembered, a police statement said.

"Today, we honour and remember the ultimate sacrifice made by DySP Aman Thakur—a brave heart who gave his life in the line of duty", Kashmir Zone police posted on X.

"His unwavering commitment, selflessness,

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PDP voices concern over delay in release of rules of procedure of J&K Assembly

SRINAGAR, Feb 24 (Agencies): The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has voiced its concern over delay in release of rules of procedure of J&K Assembly.

The party also said that it will introduce three bills including one on regularisation of casual labourers.

In a post on X, the Youth wing of the PDP

said, "Would've happily read the rules of procedure & conduct of business in J&K assembly but the speaker is yet to release it, even to the elected MLAs."

In another tweet the party said that it would introduce three bills in the Assembly. Besides the one on regularisation of casual labourers, the party said that it will also

move a bill on alcohol ban and land ownership to landless people.

The party is particularly vocal about the bill on alcohol ban. Party leader Iltija Mufti earlier said that alcohol and drugs are wrecking lives and families in J&K and "we must come together to put an end to it before it's too late."

A bill proposed by PDP

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EDITORIAL

Skill-Based Learning

In the rapidly evolving world of the 21st century, traditional education models are undergoing a significant transformation. The increasing demand for practical knowledge and employability has led to the rise of skill-based learning, a model that prioritizes hands-on experience and real-world applications over rote memorization and theoretical instruction. As industries evolve and technology advances at an unprecedented pace, the emphasis on skill development has become more critical than ever.

Skill-based learning focuses on practical, competency-driven education that prepares individuals for real-world challenges. Unlike conventional education systems, which emphasize theoretical knowledge and examination-based assessments, skill-based learning fosters problem-solving abilities, creativity, adaptability, and critical thinking. It enables learners to develop expertise in specific fields, making them job-ready and improving their overall career prospects.

This form of education extends across various domains, from vocational training and technical education to soft skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership. It is highly adaptable and caters to different learning styles, ensuring that students acquire market-relevant skills that align with industry needs.

The transition from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge-based economy has shifted the focus toward skills that enhance employability and innovation. Several factors highlight the need for skill-based learning.

There is a growing mismatch between traditional education and industry requirements. Employers often find that graduates lack the necessary skills to meet workplace demands. Skill-based learning addresses this gap by equipping students with practical expertise.

With automation and artificial intelligence reshaping job markets, technical and soft skills are crucial for career sustainability. Skills such as coding, data analysis, digital marketing, and problem-solving are in high demand.

Skill-based education fosters creativity and innovation, enabling individuals to become entrepreneurs rather than job seekers. It promotes self-employment and economic independence.

Nations that prioritize skill-based learning enhance their workforce's global competitiveness. Countries like Germany and Finland have implemented vocational and skill-based education systems successfully, contributing to their economic growth.

Hands-on experience through internships, apprenticeships, and project-based assignments helps students understand practical applications. Combining multiple disciplines enables learners to tackle complex problems creatively and efficiently. Adapting teaching methods to individual needs ensures that students grasp concepts effectively. Partnerships between educational institutions and industries facilitate real-world exposure and job-oriented learning. Given the fast pace of technological advancements, continuous learning ensures individuals stay relevant in their careers.

The future of education lies in a hybrid model that blends traditional education with skill-based learning. With advancements in technology, online platforms and e-learning modules are making skill acquisition more accessible. Courses on platforms like Coursera, Udemy, and LinkedIn Learning offer specialized training in fields such as programming, digital marketing, and financial management.

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) are also revolutionizing skill-based education by providing immersive learning experiences. For instance, medical students can practice surgeries through simulations, and engineers can work on real-time prototypes in a virtual space.

Skill-based learning is not just an alternative but a necessity for the future. It equips individuals with practical abilities, enhances employability, and fosters a culture of innovation. Governments, educational institutions, and industries must collaborate to make skill development an integral part of learning. By embracing a skill-oriented education system, we can build a workforce that is not only job-ready but also future-ready. Investing in skills today will pave the way for a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous tomorrow.

Special importance of school timetable

By: Avnish Longowal

The school timetable is a special and important part of the education sector, the educational aspect of the school, the environment, studies are helpful in achieving the goals of school education through the timetable, through the school timetable period time, fixed work, subject-wise distribution, education as well as sports, entertainment, practical knowledge, education awareness, discipline etc. educational goals can be achieved, in addition to the timetable in charge of teaching methods, It is also important to have knowledge of curriculum methods, lesson plan, importance of subjects. It is very important to prepare a time table keeping in mind some key points, let's talk about some key points of the time table.

Periods for Important Subjects:

The distribution of peri-

ods in the time table has a lot of effect first, second, third period, fourth period, sixth period after half vacation should be reserved for difficult subjects, because the student can acquire good knowledge in a comfortable environment because most of the students are mentally refreshed in these periods.

10 minutes overtime for first period:

In the first period, the subject teacher has to do many tasks as a class in-charge along with the subject, such as discipline, attendance, instructions important things etc., but in the first period the subject is affected, because the class in-charge is sometimes with a simple subject, the periods with difficult subjects go back because it becomes necessary to give the first period as a class in-charge.

Less changes in the timetable should be made during the session: The

change in the timetable should be reduced so that the students continue to get information continuously, but in the education department there is a change due to modern scheme, teacher transfer, promotion, but for other reasons it is good if it is reduced.

Simple time table Distribution of periods: Such that the subjects related to the board examination like English, Social Science, Science, Mathematics, etc. are taken first.

Periods associated with mental, physical development:

Physical Education, Drawing, N.F.S. Q, computer periods are interesting because they are practical, so these periods should be kept in other subjects, 8 period subjects, two periods at the end is now very good.

Availability of Time Table: The time table should be kept in the school head office, with every class teacher, in the

class so that the students have complete information about which teacher's period they have and can start the work related to that subject.

It can be said that the timetable is the heart of the school, all the activities revolve around it, it plays an important role to make the education effective, preparing the timetable is a very difficult task, can knowledgeable teachers complete this task successfully, so the task of the timetable is very important, it is completed in a very good way, the goals of education can be achieved.

Jai Hind
(Avnish Longowal
State Awardee
Punjab
District Barnala
7888346465)

Advanced Technology and Future Cultivation

By: Vijay Garg

The increasing use and impact of Artificial intelligence i.e.

AI and its impact today is the famous issue. Had called. There is no doubt that AI will change our way of working. The World Economic Forum estimates that AI will abolish eight million thirty million jobs globally by 2027. According to the report of AIMF, about 40 percent of jobs will be affected worldwide due to AI. If we talk in the context of India, then our country, which is associated with agricultural traditions, today stands on the verge of technical revolution India is facing unique challenges due to its huge population and diverse economy. If properly managed, AI has immense potential to fight these challenges while increasing productivity, efficiency and employment. At a time when the most discussed manufacturing and service sector Focus on the influence of automation and AI on the regions, then the agricultural sector has a technical change not only to produce productivity, but also to create employment opportunities. India is the only country that has the ability to get the whole world out of the food crisis, despite being lower than other countries. Pollutants need to take care here. The future of employment in India is not dependent only on reducing the disruptive effects of technology, but from strategic development To create avenues, it is dependent on using its power in important areas like agriculture. For generations, the Indian

agricultural economy has been the backbone, which provides employment to a large part of the population. However, it is an area that suffers from many challenges. For example, unexpected monsoon fragmented win and prices fluctuations These issues have contributed to migration in urban areas 1 in search of agrarian crisis and better opportunities. AI starts in this scenario to solve these challenges, Increase productivity and in this process presents a unique opportunity to create a new generation for agricultural work. It is natural that automation will eliminate large-scale jobs, but, in the context of Indian agriculture, AI is more likely to increase human capacity, not if considering the possibility of completely changing them completely, then the AI-AI-Operated sensors can monitor soil health, predict the weather with greater accuracy and adapt the time of irrigation, increasing the yield and waste of resources There may be a decrease in AI drones can survey huge fields and identify areas affected by pests or diseases. Even targeted treatment can be given, which reduces the requirement of comprehensive pesticide application. These technologies do not eliminate the need for human participation, but change the nature of the work. Integration of AI in agriculture will create a demand for skilled professionals in various fields. We need agricultural engineers, which AI-Interested Machinery and Irrigation Design and maintain e -systems. We

need data scientists, who can adjective the huge data generated by these systems. We also need agricultural workers, who can bridge the gap between technology and farmers, convert complex data into practical advice. We need a software developer, who can create an AI app for specific agricultural needs. We need drone pilots that can operate and maintain these important equipment. The possibilities are huge and diverse. ItsIn addition, the application of AI in agriculture can encourage the development of supporting industries, which can further expand employment opportunities. The development of AI-operated stage chain management and new roles in e-commerce to connect farmers directly to markets can cause logistics, supply. However, this | In order to realize the capacity, all the stakeholders are required to make concerted efforts to make a competent environment. Is the role. , In this, farmers in research and development in agriculture AI Providing subsidy and incentive to adopt techniques and developing training programs equipped with necessary skills to the workforce. The private sector will also have to play a role in 'Agritech' companies. 'Agri- There is a need to develop affordable and accessible AI solutions to suit the needs of small farmers. They need to work together with farmers and universities to ensure that these technologies need user friendly and effective to ensure that many farmers, especiallyIn rural areas, there is a lack

of access to internet and digital literacy. It is necessary to ensure that the AI benefits in agriculture reach all farmers. This involves not only providing access to technology, but also trained farmers about how to use it effectively. Beyond the technical aspects, the social and economic social to mil of this change It is also important to address. It is necessary to ensure that small marginal farmers do not lag behind in this technical revolution. Supporting collective farming, providing access to loans and insurance and promoting market relations. Policies giving can help small farmers benefit from AI-operated agriculture. In addition, it is necessary for those to create a social security trap that can go marginalized due to AI, even if we create new jobs. The future of artificial intelligence in Indian agriculture from robots to farmers It is not about changing, rather it is about empowering them with devices and knowledge that they need to flourish in a rapidly changing world. By adopting AI and investing in our workforce skills, we can turn Indian agriculture into a more productive, sustainable and justified field. Can create a new generation in agriculture. Food security for all can ensure. This change is not just about growing crops, it is about a bright future cultivation for India.

(Vijay Garg retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Street kour
Chand MHR MALOUT)

National Level FIP inaugurated at UGC-MMTTC Centre, SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 24: Four-week long Faculty Induction Program (FIP) inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, the event is being organized by the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre-SMVDU.

The program aims to enhance teaching and academic skills among faculty members across a variety of disciplines. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Asok De, Bharti Arian Chair, School of ECE, SMVDU, who emphasized the importance of such programs in shaping the future of higher education. Prof. De highlighted how faculty induction initiatives contribute to professional growth, effective pedagogy, and research

excellence. Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Director, UGC-MMTTC, SMVDU, addressed the gathering and provided insights into the objectives of the Faculty Induction Program.

He elaborated on the various aspects covered in the training and its significance in aligning with the UGC's vision for faculty development.

Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Associate Professor, School of ECE, and Coordinator of the program, briefed the participants about the schedule, key topics, and expected learning outcomes.

The program will feature expert sessions from resource persons of diverse academic and industry backgrounds. The vote of thanks was delivered by

Dr. Kamaldeep, Asstt. Prof, and Dr. Surender Singh, Associate Prof expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and organizers for their support.

The coordinators expressed sincere appreciation to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU for his continuous encouragement and support in organizing such impactful faculty development programs.

Participating faculty members from 20 states and multiple institutions have registered for this prestigious training program, reflecting its wide reach and significance.

The training sessions in this four week long mammoth and ambitious event will be conducted by renowned resource persons from various academic and industry domains, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for all participants.

This second Faculty Induction Program in this year marks another milestone in SMVDU's commitment to fostering excellence in higher education and faculty development.

Restore statehood, special status of J&K: Sohaib Zargar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 24: National Conference Students Union (NCSU) District President Kishtwar Sohaib Zargar has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah fulfill their election promises, restore the state of Jammu and Kashmir and hold elections to the four Rajya Sabha seats.

Zargar has called on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian Home Minister Amit Shah to fulfill their election promises and

the Supreme Court's directions to revive the state of Jammu and Kashmir and hold elections to the four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir immediately.

Suhaib Zargar demanded the Prime Minister, the Chief Election Commission and the Chief Minister to announce the election dates for the four Rajya Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir.

He demanded the government to nominate the Chenab Valley zone as a Rajya Sabha seat.

UCC will ensure justice, welfare for Muslim women, society: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member, Raman Suri, has voiced strong support for the statement made by RSS leader Indresh Kumar regarding the implementation of a Unified Civil Code (UCC) for all citizens of the country stating that the decision will ensure that there is justice and equality for all communities, especially Muslim women, in India.

He said that the principle of "one country, one constitution, and one justice system" must also extend to a single civil code.

He emphasized that this will ensure justice and respect, particularly for Muslim women, who have long suffered due to discriminatory practices within their own community. He was supporting the statement of Indresh Kumar who made a statement during the All India Executive Meeting of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) held at Rajghat in the union capital.

Condemning the practices such as triple talaq, halala, and polygamy, which he called harmful to the progress of the Muslim society, Raman Suri said that these practices, as also stated by RSS leader, distort the true message of Islam, which is rooted in peace, humanity, and brotherhood.

The BJP leader added that the time has come for India to move for-

ward on the path of reform. It is essential to discard practices that hinder the development of society and embrace a more just and equal approach. Raman Suri strongly aligned with Indresh Kumar's vision, noting that the implementation of a single civil code is the right step toward creating a more inclusive society.

He expressed that a Unified Civil Code (UCC) is crucial for the unity of the nation, as it would provide equal rights and opportunities to all citizens, regardless of their religion or caste.

Suri further emphasized that laws should be designed in a manner that protects and uplifts marginalized groups, especially women. Raman Suri said that India is progressing and can't afford to have different laws for different people. He reiterated the need to focus on unity, justice, and harmony to build a stronger and more prosperous India for all where youth can build their future and also contribute in nation building.

Raman Suri said that this call for a single civil code aligns with a broader vision of national unity, equal justice for all citizens, and social reform for the welfare of marginalized communities. These reforms, he added, will bring about a society that stands for justice, humanity, and progress for all, regardless of religion or background.

Army organises road safety & traffic awareness campaign at Khellani

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 24: The Sohanda Battalion of the Delta Force organized a Joint Traffic Awareness Campaign at Khellani, District Doda.

This initiative was crucial due to the region's narrow roads, which are particularly prone to traffic accidents. Consequently, there has been a rise in road traffic accidents, leading to numerous avoidable fatalities and serious injuries.

The campaign aimed to educate the audience on the importance of road safety and measures to avoid accidents. Attendees were also briefed on the benefits of wearing helmets and seat belts while traveling including safety tools and features given in vehicles for the same. The speaker urged drivers and civilians to obey traffic rules, avoid drinking and driving and refrain from

using mobile phones while driving.

The event witnessed a total of 41 attendees, including officials from Police Post, Khellani, Representatives from Traffic Police & National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL). The local population expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in raising awareness about such critical issues.

CRPF organises medical camp at Madwan



Top News Report

BANDIPORA, Feb 24: Under its Civic Action Programme free medical camp was organised by 45 Battalion of CRPF at Madwan area of Hajin village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Monday.

The camp was inaugurated by commandant of

45th Battalion Apoorwa in presence of Dharmendra Singh Yadav, SHO Hajin Sarjan Ahmad, Abdul Raheem, Vijay Singh, Man Singh Meena of CRPF and Principal Govt Higher Secondary School Madwan Abdul Majeed and other officers and local eminent personalities were present during

the camp.

During the camp besides free medical checkup, consultation medicines were distributed by CRPF and civil doctors. Around one thousand patients has taken benefits of the said medical camp.

Commandant Apoorwa said that earlier 45 Bn CRPF assured the local public that CRPF has always been helping the Kashmiri people and putting all out efforts for peace, prosperity and development of the society.

He added that they will continue to conduct such a civic programme for the benefit of the local public in future.

GDC Kathua felicitates students for outstanding cultural performances at Madhopur



Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 24: The Principal of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua, Prof. Seema Mir felicitated the students who represented the college at the 66th Raising day of 126 Infantry Battalion (TA) JAK RIF in Madhopur.

Prof. Mir congratulated the students on their outstanding performance, saying, "We are proud of our students' achievements, which demonstrate their dedication, discipline, and passion. This recognition is a testament to the college's commitment to nurturing talented indi-

viduals."

This achievement underscores strong emphasis on holistic education, combining academic excellence with extracurricular pursuits.

On this occasion, students performed one group song and two group dances. Group song was performed by Bharat Attri, Manu Sharma, Rajan Bhagat, Umesh Samyal, Shivika Rajput, Ankush Majotra, Gunjan Gupta and Lakshay Janotra while Dogri and Punjabi Folk dance was performed by Shivika Rajput, Rekha Kumari, Muska Bhat, Diksha Devi, Riya

Thakur, Danisha Devi, Shakshi Devi, Gurleen Kour, Unnati Sharma, Sneha Sharma, Sania Basotra and Manu Slathia.

The felicitated students received certificates of appreciation, gifts and cash prize of Rs. 12,000 from Col Manoj Sharma, Commanding Officer, 126 Infantry Battalion (TA) JAK RIF.

The performances were held under the guidance of the Principal and under the supervision of Prof. Yash Paul, HOD Urdu, Dr. Pinkey, CTO Girls NCC Wing, Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram and Lecturer Deepshikha of Computer Sciences.

NSS Unit of GDC Khour conducts Shramdaan

Top News Report

KHOUR, Feb 24: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Khour organized Shramdaan at NSS Park and various other locations of the College campus on the Sixth day of the ongoing 07 days NSS special Winter Camp.

The drive was con-

ducted under the able leadership of Prof. (Dr.) T.K Sharma, Principal of the College and under the supervision of Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, Program Officer of NSS Unit of the College.

About 40 NSS volunteers of the College participated in the three hour long beautification drive of the College campus.

They painted the tree

stump in white colour and decorated stones with multicolour to enhance the ambiance of the campus.

The Principal appreciated the efforts put in by the NSS volunteers and motivated them to actively contribute Shramdaan in the beautification of the College campus making its environment clean and eco friendly.

Awareness lecture on Cervical Cancer held at MIER College of Education

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The Smt. Shanti Gupta Centre for Women's Studies (SSGCWS), MIER organized an awareness lecture on "Cervical Cancer" to educate and sensitize faculty members from MIER College of Education and Model Academy School, along with students from the School of Education.

The resource persons for the session were Dr. Reetika Menia and Dr. Shivani Gandhi, both serving as Assistant Professors in the Department of Pathology at AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu.

The event commenced with a warm welcome note by Jyoti Sharma, a member of SSGCWS, who also introduced the distin-

guished speakers. She highlighted that Dr. Reetika Menia, an MBBS and DNB holder in Pathology, has previously served as a Senior Resident at ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad, Haryana, and has contributed significantly to pathology through various publications. Dr. Shivani Gandhi, holding an MBBS and MD in Pathology, brings over six years of experience with extensive research, having presented and published her work in numerous national and international journals.

During their presentations, the experts elaborated on the causes, symptoms, risk factors, early detection, and treatment options for cervical cancer. They

explained that the disease is primarily caused by persistent infection with high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is transmitted through sexual contact.

They discussed common symptoms, such as abnormal vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain, and discomfort during intercourse, which often remain unnoticed in the early stages.

The doctors emphasized significant risk factors, including early sexual activity, multiple sexual partners, smoking, and a weakened immune system. Stressing the importance of early detection, they recommended routine Pap smear tests and HPV DNA testing to identify precancerous changes

before they progress into cervical cancer. They also highlighted the effectiveness of HPV vaccination for young girls and boys as a vital preventive measure.

The session concluded with an interactive open-house discussion, where attendees actively engaged with the experts, seeking clarifications on various aspects of cervical cancer. To gauge the audience's understanding, a general awareness questionnaire was also distributed.

The event concluded with Rupa Gupta, Director of the Centre, presenting mementos to the esteemed resource persons as a token of appreciation for their valuable insights and contributions.

There should be a separate universe for mothers' guilt, says Kalki Koechlin

She identifies as an Indian, is named after the 10th avatar of Vishnu, doesn't reject her French origins and has a strong connect with The Eiffel Tower. The beautiful and talented actress Kalki Koechlin, however, is very much her own person, with a mind that is razor-sharp. Full of beans, wit and humour permeate most of her responses, be it on the stage or interacting with the media. Indeed, her great grandfather worked as the chief engineer during the making of the Eiffel Tower, but she laughs, "It doesn't mean I get a discount when I visit the iconic place."

Speaking the Unspeakable... perhaps few literary sessions have a more befitting title. But dressed to the nines as she arrived for Chitkara Literature Festival, she was as unplugged and candid as the writing in her debut book is. Her book, *Elephant in the Womb*, a clever spin on the expression elephant in the room, addresses issues post childbirth, which rarely get talked about. And one elephant, the film industry, she feels must acknowledge is, "How large majority of the films are not working and there is hardly any money."

Of course, Kalki has been a part of many blockbusters like *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* and *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani*. As the demand for sequels to much loved films never dies down, she is not sure whether sequels really work. Besides she says, "Isn't this question better answered by directors Zoya Akhtar and Ayan Mukerji?" Having worked with the very best filmmakers, there are many



like Nitya Mehra and Dibakar Banerjee, who are on her 'my favourites' list... You bet her ex-husband Anurag Kashyap figures prominently too, not on the top though. Working with him in *Sacred Games Season 2* was as comfortable as being part of his *Dev D* for, "much time had lapsed since our breakup."

For someone, who wears her relationships up her sleeve, she agrees there is always a danger of the media blowing up things out of proportion. Only she understands, "That is the nature of the beast, it's all about hogging the headlines." Why even her PR team tells her to be in the limelight every two weeks. But she would rather not fall prey to this click-bait and is not afraid to disappear either, "for it's important to be yourself and rejuvenate."

This might mean the pace of work for the National Award winning actress slackens every now and then. But she strongly believes, "I am going to be around till I am 90."

OTT has anyway changed the

rules of the entertainment game and "women can be the heroes of the show." Of course, her upcoming web-series *Bhay* is not woman-centric but about the mystery around Gaurav Tiwari, a paranormal investigator, who died by suicide. Playing a journalist (in the series), who is a non-believer, in real life too Kalki is more of an agnostic. Yet, she does not discount otherworldly experiences which others have had and she may not have been privy to. Among her many experiences, roller-coaster [j]of motherhood is right now one that has changed her perspectives like no other. Like all working moms, indeed she suffers from mother's guilt and quips, "There should be a separate universe for mothers' guilt."

One advice she would like to give her daughter is, "Be the best version of yourself. Wear your own shoes and do not take the beauty market too seriously."

Ready with her stand-up show *I Am Ok*, actually about not being ok, inspired by her book on motherhood, the Ranveer

Allahbadia controversy has not dented her belief system. And she upholds freedom of speech above all. But then Kalki who was once quizzed about 'having a baby out of wedlock,' is not the one to not speak her mind.

Box

Hot & happening!

Lisa Ray might proclaim to be an introvert but sure knows how to charm her audiences. In Chandigarh for Chitkara Literature Festival looking stunning in a white and gold saree, she spoke of how *City Beautiful* is 'very close to her heart.'

After all, it was here that the Oscar nominated film *Water* actress trained with her director Deepa Mehta's best friend Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry's theatre group. In her words "still hot at 52", however, she shares how being called pretty can often be a cage. She says, "One needs to move on and work on one's inner-self and find meaning in things other than success."

Calling herself 'an accidental actress' she spoke about how she trumped life-threatening cancer and decided to go public about her disease. "The idea of secrecy is tied to shame and I saw no reason to keep it a secret." Author of memoir *Close to the Bone*, she also shared how when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a part of her said "I am going to be ok."

Today, the multicultural half-Polish half-Bengali model, actress, author and activist, who just had a spiritual experience at Mahakumbh, believes in JOMO (joy of missing out) rather than FOMO (fear of missing out).

Diljit Dosanjh shares his hilarious mantra to 'Move On' in life



Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh, known for his charismatic personality and entertaining social media presence, has revealed his unique mantra for moving on in life. Talking to Instagram, the star shared a series of pictures, dressed in all-black sweatpants, a jacket, and an Ushanka hat, posing against a scenic backdrop of a long, narrow pathway lined with tall, leafless

trees.

Captioning the post, Diljit wrote, "Life is Too Short to Explain... Just Say 'TENSION MITRAN NU HAI NI' And MOVE ON" (Life is too short to explain... Just say 'Friend, doesn't feel tension' and move on). The humorous yet relatable mantra resonated with fans, who flooded the comments section with laughter and appreciation.

Diljit also expressed his love for coffee in a hilarious social media post. The video showcased him enjoying a smoothie bowl, mashed potatoes with scrambled eggs, and bread at a café before sipping on a steaming cup of coffee. He used his song "Water" as the background score and captioned it, "Lokaan ne Ki Kehna? P.S - I am in LOVE With The Coffee."

Diljit is also preparing for the release of his much-awaited film *Punjab 95*. The movie is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira, who exposed enforced disappearances and police excesses in Punjab during the turbulent 1980s and 90s.

In addition to *Punjab 95*, Diljit is set to star in *Border 2*, the sequel to the iconic war film *Border*. The makers announced Diljit's role with a motion poster, hyping up the anticipation for the war drama. "The battlefield grows mightier with Diljit Dosanjh stepping in alongside Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan on the frontline of Bhusan Kumar and JP Dutta's *Border 2* for the Anurag Singh directorial! #Border2 hits the theatres on January 23, 2026."

Saba Azad, who plays a journalist in the series Crime Beat, is a foodie who says 'aloo parantha runs in my veins'

Invariably, stars share a love-hate relationship with journalists. But not Saba Azad. Thus, as she plays a journalist in Zee5 series *Crime Beat*, it is not her role that has made her understand the journalistic fraternity better. She has always known, "How difficult it is to be a journalist and more importantly to stand by the truth if they choose to do so." Even in her childhood days, she observed them closely as many with a distinct socialistic bent of mind were her parents' friends. Of course, today as she steps into the shoes of Maya, she does not have any one particular journalist in mind and certainly none from the popular media.

Indeed, her Maya is righteous, whose 'moral compass is very centred'. Niece of legendary theatre-person Safdar Hashmi, art for Saba comes loaded with responsibility of representation. Like her mamu (maternal uncle) whom she remembers very fondly as a 'dynamo of creative energy' she doesn't see, 'one's world view as divorced from what one's art is saying'. Part of Hashmi's legacy, she states, "Art should reflect and comment upon the times we live in. I will never do a film that propagates hate, false narratives, divisive politics or a propaganda film."

But is it possible to say the right thing in a crime series, whose prime purpose is to thrill and chill? She nods in the affirmative and shares how one of the many takeaways of the series is the long ardu-



ous journey between the crime happening and it making headlines. Besides, she observes, "It's also about who sells the news and who buys it." Effusive about her director Sudhir Mishra, show-runner and co-director of the series, she says, "He is like an energiser, has endless energy almost of a first-timer, doesn't carry the burden of being a legend. From the very onset, he makes it a collaborative effort which cinema anyway is."

Acting is collaboration. She is equally upbeat about her co-star Saqib Saleem, with whom she reunited after a gap of 14 years. Back in 2011,

she made her debut alongside him in *Mujhse Fraaandship Karoge*. No wonder it was incredibly easy to pick up threads with him and adds, "When you are young and work together you not only keep in touch but also wish each other well." Even otherwise, she feels that acting is not competition but collaboration and equation with co-actors is a simple, 'you succeed I succeed'. Precisely why she loves working in an ensemble cast, as headlining a show like *Who's Your Gynac* whose second season is around the corner. Being the face of the show, she admits, "You have

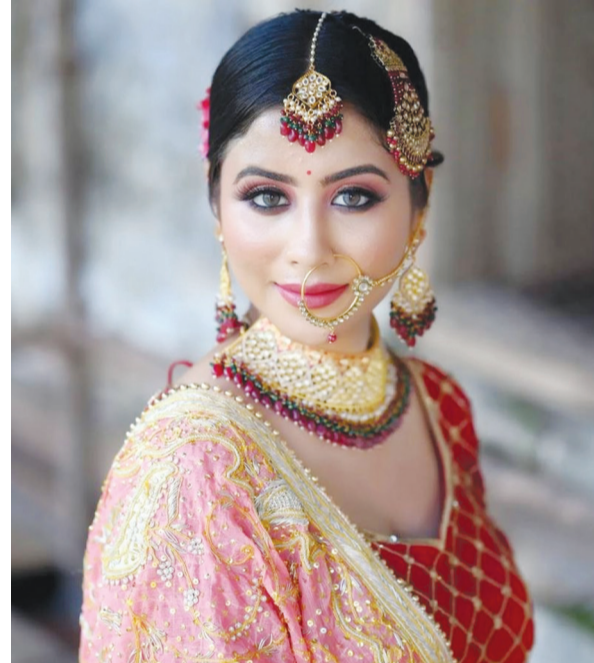
to carry the weight of its success or failure, but its happy pressure." However, if you think Saba, who has been around in tinsel town for a while, is waiting for her dream role, well, every role is a dream come true for her. Most certainly, ones that are awaited as well.

Ease of being

Apart from an Anurag Kashyap film, she will be seen in the biopic of the first female singer of Kashmir. Born to a Kashmiri mother and a Punjabi father, she is proud to be a melting pot of both cultures. Her petite frame might defy her claim 'aloo parantha runs in my veins', she confesses to being a foodie and needless to add, a proud Punjabi. She gushes, "Punjabis have this ease of being; they are extremely happy and earnest people of the soil. We are all about makhana and ghee." And also being forthright. If her character in *Crime Beat* is a woman trying to find her place in the world of journalism, in real life too she admits, "Women have to work twice as hard and even then we are not paid as much as a man for the same job."

So, all of you who only see her as this superstar's girlfriend, remember Saba is a gifted woman in her own right, a musician, theatre-person and an actor all rolled into one. And though 'I am hardly qualified to pontificate', her relationship advice is simple and profound, "Stay true to yourself, let nothing compromise your sense of self."

Aarti Bhagat stands for what's right!



Aarti Bhagat, who plays Manjiri in *Jamai No. 1*, is receiving immense love from the audience for her powerful portrayal of a strong, independent woman. As television storytelling continues to evolve, characters like Manjiri reflect a shift towards women who are not just supportive figures but also have their own voice and opinions.

Talking about her character's evolution, Aarti shares, "Manjiri is someone who always stands for what is right, no matter the situation. She loves her family deeply, especially her

brother Neel, and their bond is unbreakable. However, when she learns that Neel is going to be a 'ghar jamai', she strongly opposes it.

She believes in values and traditions and isn't afraid to voice her concerns." Despite her simple dressing and calm nature, Manjiri is not someone to be underestimated. "She may appear soft-spoken, but when faced with injustice, she speaks up. That's what I love about her. Her strength comes from her principles, and she isn't afraid to question things," Aarti adds.

Waseem Mushtaq likes to essay challenging characters



Waseem Mushtaq, who plays the character of Jagdish in Colors's show *Ram Bhavan*, has been lauded for his ability to bring naturalism to his roles. "For me, the biggest challenge has always been to make my performance look effortless. I come from a school of thought where acting should not feel like acting," he

shares, reflecting on his approach to the craft. Waseem speaks highly of the realistic setup, particularly the haveli, which plays a crucial role in the narrative. "The art direction team has done an outstanding job in creating a set that feels authentic."

The worn-out haveli adds depth to the story and reflects the family's struggles."

As Jagdish, Waseem plays a man navigating the challenges of familial responsibilities and his wife's hidden agenda. "My character is good-hearted and believes he and his wife are doing their best for the family."

However, he is unaware of her true intentions. Once the truth is revealed, his journey takes a pivotal turn," he adds.

Poulomi Das to play lead in *Dulhaniya Beediwali*



ALTT is set to bring yet another gripping tale to its audience with *Dulhaniya Beediwali*, featuring the talented Poulomi Das in the lead role. This spine-chilling drama blends mystery, tradition and supernatural elements, promising an intense viewing experience. She was last seen in ALTT's one of the most loved project *Nagvadh - Ek Zehreeli Kahani*

With Poulomi Das, who is playing the character of Champa at the forefront and ALTT's signature storytelling, *Dulhaniya Beediwali* promises a thrilling mix of suspense, drama, and folklore.

Essential to induct more women in UN peacekeeping missions, says President Murmu

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): It is essential to induct more women in UN peacekeeping missions as they are better equipped to address gender-based violence, build trust and promote dialogue, President Droupadi Murmu said on Monday.

Addressing a group of women peacekeepers who had called on the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan, she said the presence of women in a peacekeeping mission made it more diverse and inclusive.

"Women peacekeepers often have greater access to local communities and can serve as role models for women and children. They are better equipped to address gender-based violence, build trust and promote dialogue," Murmu said.

The president said peacekeeping missions with a higher percentage of women personnel had been more effective in



reducing violence and achieving long-lasting peace agreements.

"It is, therefore, essential that we induct more women in UN peacekeeping missions," she said.

The president recalled India's proud history of contribution to UN peacekeeping, with more than 2,90,000 (2.90 lakh) peacekeepers having served in more than 50 missions.

"Today, there are over 5,000

Indian peacekeepers in nine active missions, deployed in often-hostile conditions, for the cause of international peace and security," Murmu said.

She expressed her happiness, noting that Indian women peacekeepers had been at the forefront of the call of duty.

"Today, there are over 154 Indian women peacekeepers deployed in six ongoing

UN missions. Right from the 1960s in Congo, to policing in Liberia in 2007, our women peacekeepers have exhibited the highest traditions of professionalism and conduct," Murmu said.

The women peacekeepers are in the national capital to participate in a conference on the theme "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective", being organised by the external affairs ministry, in partnership with the defence ministry and the Centre for UN Peacekeeping, New Delhi, according to a statement issued by the President's Office.

The conference aims to bring together women officials from the Global South to discuss issues of contemporary relevance to peacekeeping and the various challenges being faced by peacekeeping mis-

Farm sector has grown at fast pace under his govt: PM Modi



NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that nearly Rs 3.5

lakh crore has been credited to the bank accounts of farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme, asserting this

government efforts has given them respect, prosperity and new strength.

In posts on X to mark the initiative's six years, he said the farm sector has developed at a fast pace due to the efforts of his government in the last 10 years.

Financial help to millions of small farmers have boosted their access to the market, he said, adding the cost incurred by them has come down while income has increased.

Seven killed as speeding truck hits auto-rickshaw in Patna

PATNA, Feb 24 (Agencies): At least seven people were killed and several others injured when their auto-rickshaw was hit by a speeding truck near Dhanichak Mor on Masaurhi-Naubatpur road in Bihar's Patna district on Sunday evening.

The deceased had been identified as Matendra Bind (25),

Vinay Bind (30), Umesh Bind (38), Ramesh Bind (52), Umesh Bind (30), Suraj Thakur (20) and auto driver Sushil Kumar (35).

All six persons were natives of Doripar, while Sushil Kumar was from Hansadih village.

According to police, the incident occurred when six labourers were travelling home in an auto after work. Due

to the impact of the collision, both vehicles fell into a roadside water-filled ditch.

The bodies of the deceased were later retrieved from the debris using a JCB machine

Marhaurhi police station SHO Vijay Yadvendu said that prima facie, the accident appeared to have occurred when the truck driver lost control of his vehicle after its



axle broke, causing it to hit the auto-rickshaw. He

added that further investigation is underway

6 killed, 2 injured as jeep hits bus in MP's Jabalpur

JABALPUR, Feb 24 (Agencies): Six persons were killed and two others injured when a speeding jeep on way from Prayagraj hit a private bus in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Monday morning, an official said.

The incident took place near Pahreva village under Khitola police station limits when the Karnataka-registered jeep was returning from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Jabalpur Collector Deepak Saxena said.

The jeep driver lost control over the wheels. As a result, the vehicle first hit a tree on the road divider, then jumped over to the other



side of a highway and hit a bus coming from the opposite direction, he said.

Six persons died on the spot. Two others suffered injuries and they were referred to Jabalpur medical college after initial treatment at a medical facility in Sihora town, the official said.

The victims were returning from Prayagraj

and heading towards Karnataka via Jabalpur, he said.

After stopping for a while, the bus driver left from the spot along with his vehicle, an official said, adding that efforts were on to trace the bus.

The collector and the superintendent of police reached the spot soon after getting information about the accident.

VIP darshan suspended at Kashi Vishwanath temple from Feb 25-27 due to Mahashivratri rush

VARANASI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Anticipating a heavy rush of devotees during Mahashivratri, authorities have decided to suspend the VIP 'darshan' facility at the Kashi Vishwanath temple here from February 25 to 27.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple's Chief Executive Officer, Vishw Bhushan Mishra said on Monday that the number of visitors to the temple has significantly increased due to the return flow of devotees from the ongoing Maha Kumbh in nearby Prayagraj.

With Mahashivratri falling on February 26 this year alongside the Kumbh Mela, pilgrims from across the country, along with saints from various akharas, including Naga sadhus, are expected to arrive in large numbers to offer prayers, he noted.

"On this occasion, the Naga akharas will also take out a grand procession, which will temporarily block general access through gate number 4 of the temple. This is likely to increase the waiting time for regular devotees.

Given the hot and humid weather conditions, prolonged waiting could pose health risks, especially for children, women, and elderly visitors.

Keeping this in mind, authorities have decided to completely suspend VIP darshan for the three-day period," he said.

Mishra noted that last year,

around 12 lakh devotees visited Kashi Vishwanath Dham on Mahashivratri. However, given that this is a Maha Kumbh year, the number is expected to be even higher.

Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma emphasised the significance of Mahashivratri for Kashi, saying currently, 6 to 9 lakh people are visiting the Kashi Vishwanath temple daily during the Maha Kumbh.

On Mahashivratri, the number is expected to reach 10 to 12 lakh. To manage the massive crowd, the number of queues at all four temple gates has been increased, and specific timings have been allocated for akharas and Naga sadhus, while the remaining time slots are reserved for general devotees, Sharma said.

Additional arrangements have been made within the temple premises, including drinking water stations, ORS and glucose supplies, shaded waiting areas, medical facilities, and ambulances, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Kashi Zone) Gaurav Banswal said that for crowd management and security, police have identified 55 locations in the city where barricading will be enforced.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple premises have been divided into zones and sectors, with 13 sectors assigned to dedicated police

forces. The area from Godowlia to Maidagin intersection has been declared a no-vehicle zone, and barricading will be strengthened up to Dashashwamedh Ghat, he said.

To ensure smooth traffic flow, eight traffic inspectors, 24 traffic sub-inspectors, 164 head constables, and over 300 home guards will be deployed across the city, he added.

According to information available on the Kashi Vishwanath Temple's website, on Mahashivratri, the 'Mangala Aarti' would be performed at 2.15 am while the midday 'Bhog Aarti' will be held at 11.35 am.

However, there will be no Saptarishi Aarti (6.15 pm), Shringar-Bhog Aarti (8 pm) and Shayan Aarti (10.30 pm) on February 26, it showed.

"The temple doors will not be closed on the day of Mahashivratri and four-hour aarti will be performed from 11 pm to 6.30 am the next day. Mangala aarti will not be performed the next day of Mahashivratri," stated the message on the website attributed to the temple's trust.

The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj which began on January 13 also culminates on February 26. The mega Hindu fair has so far recorded a footfall of over 62 crore pilgrims, according to the Uttar Pradesh government.

Wayanad MP Priyanka writes to PM Modi, seeks conversion of relief package into grant

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, apprising him about the hardships being faced by the people of Wayanad while trying to rebuild their lives after the devastating landslides last year and urging him to convert the government's relief package into a grant.

In a letter to Modi, the Congress general secretary said she believes that the people of Wayanad deserve every possible assistance and support to pull themselves out of the terrible misfortune that has befallen them.

"As the MP for Wayanad Lok Sabha, I felt it my duty to apprise you of the plight of the people of Chooralmala and Mundakkai in my constituency. It is indeed heartbreaking that even six months after a horrific tragedy destroyed their lives and livelihoods, they are facing unimaginable hardships while trying to rebuild their lives," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Noting that a devastating landslide took place on July 30, 2024, in and around these two habitations of Wayanad district, she said in the aftermath of this disaster, 298 people were found dead, 231 bodies were recovered along with 223 body parts and 32 persons were reported missing and declared dead.

She said 17 families with members totalling 58 persons were completely wiped out and 1,685 buildings damaged.

"These were houses,



schools, village offices, dispensaries, anganwadis, shops, religious centres and government buildings," she said.

The Congress leader said educational institutions, namely, the government vocational Higher Secondary School Vellarmala and the government lower primary school Mundakkai were completely wrecked by the landslide.

"Permanent rehabilitation of these two institutions at which 658 students were previously enrolled is still awaited," she said.

The Congress leader pointed out that 110 acre of agricultural land was destroyed by the landslide.

"Tea, coffee and cardamom were the main crops of this area. Many people who earned their livelihood from these crops and from tourism activities in this region found themselves without any means to earn a living. Jeep and autorickshaw drivers, shop owners, homestay owners and tourist guides were some of those deprived of a livelihood in the aftermath of the disaster," she said.

In ward numbers 10, 11 and 12 of Meppadi gram panchayats there are many small scale industry owners who are

display a shocking lack of sensitivity towards the people of Chooralmala and Mundakkai who have suffered such shattering losses," Priyanka Gandhi said.

Pointing out that Prime Minister Modi had visited the affected areas in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy, she said his visit raised expectations of considerable financial assistance from the central government.

"Unfortunately, those expectations have not been fulfilled. Moreover, the central government's refusal to declare the disaster as a national disaster came as a shock to the victims. Many months later, after sustained pressure from the MPs from Kerala, the declaration of the disaster as a 'Disaster of Severe Nature' appeared to be a step in the right direction," she said.

However, the announcement of this inadequate and conditional relief package is extremely disappointing, Priyanka Gandhi said.

"I believe that the people of Wayanad deserve every possible assistance and support to pull themselves out of the terrible misfortune that has befallen them. I urge you to consider their plight with compassion.

"It is my earnest request to you to convert the relief package into a grant and extend the time period for its implementation. This will help them to begin rebuilding their lives. It will also reassure them that the future holds some measure of promise and hope," the Congress leader said.

Five-year-old boy dies after 16-hour rescue operation in Rajasthan borewell accident

KOTA, Feb 24 (Agencies): The five-year-old boy who fell into a borewell in the Jhalawar district of Rajasthan on Sunday and was stuck at 32-feet depth was brought out dead on early Monday morning after around 16-hour-long operation by the NDRF and SDRF.

The rescue squads of the National Disaster Response Force

(NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) pulled out the body at around 4 am on Monday, Gangadhar SDM Chhatrapal Choudhary said. The medical team present on the spot declared the boy dead after examination, he added.

The rescue operation with available means was started around an hour after the boy had

accidentally slipped into the borewell on Sunday, and was later joined by the NDRF and SDRF, the SDM said.

The boy was supplied oxygen through a pipe, DSP Jaiprakash Atal said, adding that the post-mortem was underway.

The boy's parents have submitted a complaint of accident in the

matter and accordingly a case will be registered for further investigation, the DSP added.

The boy, identified as Prahalad's son Kalulal Bagariya, a resident of the Paraliya village under the Dug police station, fell into the borewell in the field while his parents were busy on other side of the field.

If Ukraine does not join NATO, we will have to create NATO within Ukraine: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

NATO is the most cost-effective option for preventing another war. It is the simplest and most logical solution.

KYIV, Feb 24 (Agencies): US and Russian diplomats are likely to meet next week in a follow up to the Riyadh talks between the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and the US secretary of State Marco Rubio, reported Russian News agency.

Ahead of the meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made another passionate appeal to become a part of NATO saying that if Ukraine does not join NATO they would have to create NATO within Ukraine. This comes after he indicated that he was ready to quit as Ukraine's president if it meant Kyiv would be admitted to the NATO alliance.

"NATO is the most cost-effective option for preventing another war. It is the simplest and most logical solution. If Ukraine does not join NATO, we will have to create NATO within Ukraine, which means maintaining an army strong



enough to repel aggression, financing it, producing and storing enough of our own weapons, and negotiating with our partners about their participation to deter Russia from starting another war. That's why we are talking about a comprehensive system of security guarantees--military, economic, and political. We need to weigh everything--what is cheaper, what is more

realistic, and what can be done faster. I am grateful to everyone who supports Ukraine in our work toward real security." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took to X and wrote.

He added in another post that "Security guarantees are also about economic agreements. There is a lot of media talk about this. About our work with the Americans to reach such an

agreement. We all need peace-long-lasting and reliable one. And we want a good economic deal that will be part of a true security guarantee system for Ukraine and the free world. Our teams are working every day and we are making great progress. Ukraine wants a strong agreement--one that guarantees security and lays a solid foundation for our economic partnership with the United States for decades to come. Fair terms produce strong results."

"We must all remember - Ukraine stands strong because of the heroic efforts of our soldiers and everyone supporting the front. Thank you! Ukrainians are a very strong people, and we have proven this, he concluded.

Zelensky and Trump have sparked a war of words since the Riyadh meeting. Trump had branded Zelenskyy a dictator and claimed that Ukraine had started the war.

1 killed in attack on Bangladesh air force base



DHAKA, Feb 24 (Agencies): At least one person was killed as "some criminals" launched an attack on an air force base in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district on Monday, the military has confirmed. As per sources, the victim, who was identified as a 30-year-old local trader Shihab Kabir, was reportedly shot dead.

In a brief statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the public relations division of the Bangladesh Armed

Forces, said, "Some criminals from Samity Para, adjacent to the Cox's Bazar Air Force base, launched an attack on the Cox's Bazar Air Force base. The Bangladesh Air Force is taking the necessary measures in this regard."

As per information, the attack took place hours after a land dispute broke out earlier on the day which led to a confrontation between Air Force personnel and local residents.

The confrontation, however, turned violent as the locals threw

stones, leading to injuries on both sides. However, authorities have not specified the exact number.

Meanwhile, officials said the deaths may increase.

Medical sources said the victim sustained gunshot injuries during the confrontation and was "brought dead" to Cox's Bazar District Sader Hospital.

The sources added said he suffered deep injuries to the back of his head.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salahuddin stated that an investigation would be conducted to determine what led to the confrontation, adding that action would be initiated against the perpetrators.

Security measures have been intensified in the area as authorities work to assess the situation and prevent further escalation.

Israel "ready to return at any moment" to fight, Netanyahu says

TEL AVIV, Feb 24 (Agencies): Speaking to cadets graduating from the IDF Ground Forces combat officers course, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns that Israel is "ready to return at any moment to intensive combat. The operational plans are ready," The Times of Israel reported.

During his speech, Netanyahu vowed total victory, stating, "All of our hostages, without exception, will return home," he says. " Hamas won't rule Gaza. Gaza will be demilitarized, and its fighting force will be dismantled," The Times of Israel quoted Netanyahu as saying.

Netanyahu entered the stage amid cheers and boos, and when he held up a photo of Shiri, Ariel and Kfir Bibas, the Israeli slain hostages, some in the crowd yell out in protest. Netanyahu says the image "says it all... So that we will always remember, what we are fighting for, and who we are fighting against."

He stresses that the



Bibas family was murdered in cold blood in the early days of the war. "They strangled the tender boys with their bare hands," he says. "We must defeat those monsters, and we will defeat them."

"Victory, victory and only victory," says Netanyahu. The victory "can be achieved in negotiations," he says. "It can be achieved in another way."

As per The Times of Israel, Netanyahu thanked Trump for his commitment to send crucial weapons to Israel. "The new defensive and offensive weapons will help us greatly in achieving total victory."

Trump sees "eye-

to-eye" with Israel on Gaza, he added.

"We support President Trump's groundbreaking plan to enable the freedom to leave for Gazans and the creation of a different Gaza," says Netanyahu of the president's proposal to relocate the entire Gaza population and have the US take over and rebuild the war-torn Strip, as per The Times of Israel.

Netanyahu added that in the West Bank, IDF troops will stay in cities as long as it takes. The tank platoon that Israel introduced into the West Bank means that Israel is fighting terrorism "with all means and in all places," he says, as per The Times of Israel.

Japan, Philippines agree to deepen defence ties amid mutual alarm over Chinese aggression

MANILA, Feb 24 (Agencies): Japan and the Philippines agreed on Monday to further deepen their defense collaboration and talk about protecting shared military information in the face of mutual alarm over China's increasingly aggressive actions in the region.

Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, forged the agreements in a meeting in Manila where their concern over China's actions in the disputed South China Sea and East China Sea was high in the agenda.

Japan and the Philippines are treaty allies of the United States, and the three have been among the most vocal critics of China's assertive actions in the region, including in the contested waters.

At the opening of his meeting with Nakatani, Teodoro said, "Philippines was looking forward to boost defence relations with Japan against unilateral attempts by China and other countries to change the international order and the narrative".

Nakatani said after the meeting that he agreed with Teodoro to strengthen operational cooperation, including joint and multinational defense trainings, port calls and information-sharing.

"We also agreed to commence discussion between defense



authorities on military information protection mechanism," Nakatani said.

The Philippines signed an agreement with the United States, its longtime treaty ally, last year to better secure the exchange of highly confidential military intelligence and technology in key weapons to allow the sale of such weaponry by the US to the Philippines.

Then-Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Teodoro signed the legally binding General Security of Military Information Agreement in Manila at a time when the US and the Philippines were boosting their defense and military engagements, including large-scale joint combat drills, largely in response to China's increasingly aggressive actions in Asia.

Nakatani said that he and Teodoro firmly concurred that the

security environment surrounding us is becoming increasingly severe and that it is necessary for the two countries as strategic partners to further enhance defence cooperation and collaboration in order to maintain peace and stability in Indo-Pacific.

Japan has had a longstanding territorial dispute with China over islands in the East China Sea.

Chinese and Philippine coast guard and navy ships, meanwhile, have been involved in a series of increasingly hostile confrontations in the South China Sea in the last two years.

Also high in the agenda of Nakatani and Teodoro, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press, was the expansion of bilateral cooperation, especially in the context of the Reciprocal Access Agreement".

Last year, Japan and the Philippines signed the agreement allowing the deployment of Japanese and Philippine forces for joint military and combat drills in each other's territory.

The Philippine Senate has ratified the agreement, and its expected ratification by Japan's legislature would allow the agreement to take effect.

The agreement with the Philippines, which includes live-fire drills, is the first to be forged by Japan in Asia.

Japan signed similar accords with Australia in 2022 and with Britain in 2023.

Japan has taken steps to boost its security and defensive firepower, including a counter-strike capability that breaks from the country's postwar principle of focusing only on self-defence.

Its doubling defence spending in a five-year period to 2027 to bolster its military power.

Many of Japan's Asian neighbours, including the Philippines, came under Japanese aggression until its defeat in World War II, and Tokyo's efforts to strengthen its military role and spending could be a sensitive issue.

Japan and the Philippines, however, have steadily deepened defence and security ties largely due to concerns over Chinese aggression in the region.

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists rejects amendments to Peca law, calls it threat to independent media

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 (Agencies): The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has rejected the recently passed controversial amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), terming it as a threat to freedom of expression, independent media and people's right to know, and democracy, Dawn reported.

It called for the immediate withdrawal of the Peca law which it believes was passed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in haste and termed it as "martial law for media."

The PFUJ's statement comes after the conclusion of its three-day Biannual Delegates Meeting (BDM) in Islamabad, where it passed several resolutions addressing the draconian law and voiced concerns over the safety of journalists and retrenchment of media personnel.

The PFUJ criticised Pakistani

authorities for using government advertisements as a tool to put pressure on media houses. It termed the Peca law as the worst martial law for the media in Pakistan, which threatens not only freedom of the press, freedom of expressions, people's right to know but also democracy, a statement, referring to the draft of resolutions passed at the meeting, according to Dawn report.

The statement reads, "The PFUJ demands immediate withdrawal of the controversial Peca law, which it believes was passed in haste by the present coalition government led by PML-N and declared it as martial law for the media. The PFUJ resolved that it would take up all these issues in a meeting of the Joint Action Committee of Media stakeholders to draw a line of action."

The resolution rejected the government's claim that the law was introduced to curb the

menace of "fake news" and disinformation, stressing that this law in the past eight years had only targeted critical and dissenting voices.

It further said, "The worst part is that Peca is the continuation of black laws like Press and Publication Ordinance, 1963 and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, PEMRA, 2001."

One of the PFUJ resolutions criticised the government over its decision to stop advertisements of daily Dawn due to its "professional and critical approach in reporting and editorials." The PFUJ also related the relationship between the media and government to the protection and safety of journalists.

According to PFUJ statement, journalists had not only been killed in Pakistan in record numbers last year but also booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act, blasphemy law and drug charg-

es. It also cited the case against Matiullah Jan in Islamabad due to his criticism of the government.

It also stated that PFUJ and other media stakeholders had requested the government to share the draft of the law. However, it appears that some 'hidden hands' stopped the government from sharing such a draft and passed the law, Dawn reported.

In another resolution, the PFUJ expressed concern over the failures of the government to implement measures to ensure the safety and protection of journalists. Since 2024, PFUJ stated that 10 journalists had been killed but police has not been able to arrest the assailants. It also slammed the Balochistan government's decision to shut the Quetta Press Club and stop it from hosting a programme despite having prior permission.

Foreign leaders arrive in Kyiv to mark third anniversary of Russia's invasion

In a post on X, von der Leyen wrote that Europe was in Kyiv "because Ukraine is in Europe."



KYIV, Feb 24 (Agencies): A dozen leaders from Europe and Canada arrived in Ukraine's capital by train Monday morning to mark the third anniversary of Russia's invasion.

The visitors were

greeted at the station by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybaha and the president's chief of staff Andrii Yermak. Among them were European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau.

In a post on X, von der Leyen wrote that Europe was in Kyiv "because Ukraine is in Europe."

"In this fight for survival, it is not only the destiny of Ukraine that is at stake. It's Europe's destiny," she wrote.

The guests, also including European Council President Antonio Costa as well as the prime ministers of Northern European countries and Spain, were set to attend events dedicated to the anniversary and discuss supporting Ukraine amid a recent U.S. policy shift under President Donald Trump.

PoJK DPs Front holds rally to highlight long-pending issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The PoJK DPs (Displaced Persons) Front held a rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park under the leadership of President Capt. (Retd.) Yudhvir Singh Chib, along with General Secretary J.P. Sharma and Secretary K.S. Chib to draw attention to the six-decade-long grievances of the displaced persons from PoJK (non-camp) 1971.

Holding placards and banners, the protestors attempted to march towards the Secretariat but were stopped by a police contingent near Dogra Chowk. The DPs Front blamed the Nehru-led government in 1947 and Indira Gandhi's policies in 1971 for their displacement, alleging that they were left without adequate rehabilitation. Despite efforts over the years, successive governments have failed to resolve their issues.

The Joint Parliamentary Com-



mittee (JPC) had recommended a compensation package of Rs. 30 lakhs per DP family, but only Rs. 5.5 lakh per family was released under PM Narendra Modi's government, leaving Rs. 24.5 lakhs still pending. The protestors urged PM Modi to release the remaining compensation.

Key Demands of PoJK DPs (Non-Camp) 1971 include allotment of evacuated enemy properties (agricultural and housing lands) retrieved by the state to DPs, as per Cabinet Order No. 578-C of 1954; Minimum 10 Marla residential plots for each DP family and Rs. 2.5 lakh assistance under

PM Awas Yojana for housing; Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to enable reservations in government jobs and education; Increase in Assembly representation from one to at least twelve seats, ensuring fair political representation; Immediate release of pending Rs. 5.5 lakh compensation for 4,000-4,500 DP families, whose files have been stuck with MHA since March 2022; and Equal benefits as Kashmiri migrants, including free rations and housing.

BJP MLA Dr. Narender Singh Raina addressed the rally, assuring that some demands are under consideration and will be taken up with the central government.

Other attendees included Kuldeep Singh Chib, Sukhdev Singh Chib, Sakandya Devi, Kehar Singh Chib, Master Raghunath Singh, Ch. Rattan Lal, Thoru Ram Chib, Sham Singh Chib, Kamal Sharma, and Ranjit Singh Chib.

RBI launches Financial Literacy Week 2025 focused on women's prosperity



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday inaugurated the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025 with a special focus on women's economic empowerment. This annual initiative, which aims to promote financial awareness among citizens, will run from February 24 to 28, 2025. The theme of this year's campaign is "Financial Literacy - Women's Prosperity."

In line with the national event, FLW was also launched in Jammu and attended by government and banking officials including Additional Chief Secretary, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu; General Manager, RBI Jammu Neeraj Kumar; Regional Director, RBI Jammu Chandrashekhar Azad; Executive Director, J&K Bank Sudhir Gupta and General Manager, NABARD Vikas Mittal.

In his address, Shantmanu emphasized the critical role financial literacy plays in personal and community prosperity. He said that every citizen should understand the broader economic contours of the country and added that financial literacy begins at home and it greatly enhances finan-

cial management skills to handle economic challenges. Highlighting the inclusion of women and children in financial matters, he said, "as women's participation in the workforce increases, it's time to understand and apply essential money management skills. Additionally, educating young minds about financial matters is key to ensuring they make better financial decisions in the future."

General Manager RBI Jammu, Neeraj Kumar, highlighted the significance of financial literacy for overall inclusion. He said that RBI's efforts over the last decade in promoting financial awareness have continued to achieve new milestones each year, which has a positive impact on awareness about financial stability and sustainability.

Regional Director RBI Jammu, Chandrashekhar Azad, discussed the importance of women's financial planning, particularly for long-term savings. He said that it's crucial to encourage women to focus not only on consumption but also on financial planning for the future. He added that there are 2406 Centers for Financial Literacy across India, with 109 centers in Jammu & Kashmir

and Ladakh providing a valuable opportunity to learn about financial matters. He said that the financial literacy week is also vital for working women and female entrepreneurs.

General Manager NABARD, Vikas Mittal congratulated the RBI for organizing the Financial Literacy Week and praised its dedication to enhancing financial literacy. "RBI's initiatives, such as training women on asset management, saving, and risk management, are instrumental in building financial awareness. We look forward to furthering this campaign and its positive effects on women's financial inclusion," he said.

The event was also attended by Executive Director Jammu Kashmir Bank, Sudhir Gupta; DGM, PNB, Anil Kumar Sharma; Assistant General Manager RBI, Meteesha Sharma, stakeholders from SIDBI, UTLBC conveyor banks, RRBs nodal officers of various banks and representatives of Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL).

The Financial Literacy Week engages various organizations to improve financial literacy across the country in line with the national agenda of inclusive growth and financial well-being. This year's campaign aims to equip women with the tools and knowledge necessary to take control of their financial futures, contributing to their prosperity and the development of the broader economy.

10th J&K UT Handball Championship concludes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The 3-day 10th J&K UT Handball Championship Concluded today here at Playing field Shastri Nagar Jammu for senior men and women sections. The championship is being organized by J&K Handball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East was the chief Guest on the valedictory function, who gave away the winners and runners-up trophies and also other individual prizes, while Abishek Mahajan M.D Rakesh Jewellers Jammu was the guest of honor.

While speaking, Yudhvir Sethi said the J&K is rich in sports talent and sportsmen from the J&K have proven their mettle at different national and international championships. He added that proper nurturing

by JKHA will go a long way in promoting the talent at different levels. He appreciated the enthusiasm amongst the players depicting sports personality and congratulated the winner and runners up and other teams for participating in the tournament. And hailing the sportsmanship exhibited by the players during the final match.

Earlier Organizing Secretary of the tournament, Ashwani Kumar Raina (President JKHA) welcomed the distinguished guests and presented a brief note on the championship and highlighted the activities of the J&K Handball Association and extended thanks to J&K Sports Council Officers, Coaches and Officials of the Health Department and media for support

The final match in women's section was played between District Jammu and District Udhampur in which District Jammu emerged winner by 7-



2 goals. The main scorer for District Jammu was Harman Kour who netted 4 goals, while Taniya Mehra also scored 3 goals.

In men's section, the final match was played between District Jammu and J&K Police in which J&K Police emerged winner by 24- 15 goals. The main scorer for JKP was Harmik Singh who netted 8 goals, while

Gautam Sharma also scored 6 goals.

Among others who were present on the occasion were Rajesh Chandan General Secretary JKHA, Sanjeev Jamwal Treasurer JKHA, and Rajesh Kapoor Vice President JKHA, Ravi Singh Coach, Vinay Sharma Senior Handball Coach, Ajay Verma President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu.

Kaiths, many others participate in Bhandara at Chanu Chack

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: A Bhandara was organized at Chanu Chack today, under the supervision of Jeet Raj Kaith, in which hundreds of devotees hailing from various corners participated with great enthusiasm and religious fervour.

The festivity started with performing of havan, puja and singing hymns in praise of deities.

The religious teachers said, by participating in such programmes, the people get enlightened and follow the path that leads them to the righteousness.

After paying obeisance, the devotees partook Parhsad.



Among those who participated in the Bhandara included Messers R.L. Kaith, TSO Retired Rachpal Kaith, Subedar Major Retired Ram Pal Lakhotra, Naib Subedar Raman Kaith, Havildar Retired Ram Saran, Section Officer Retired Thoru Ram Tugga, Kamal Singh Kaith, Madan Lal Kaith, Jallu Ram, Kartar Chand Tugga and Mohinder Lal.

Rekha Mahajan congratulate Rekha Gupta on being elected New Delhi CM

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Former District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan on Monday extended heartfelt congratulations to Rekha Gupta on being elected as new Delhi chief minister at her residence on the first day of Delhi assembly session in New Delhi.

Rekha Mahajan expressing confidence that she will work to fulfill the resolve made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the city one of the top capitals in the world. This milestone marks a significant triumph for women's empowerment in India, and Rekha Mahajan's message resonates with the sentiment.



Rekha Gupta, first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, was chosen as the Leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly at the BJP legislature party meeting here, setting stage

for her to become the fourth woman chief minister of Delhi. She said PM Modi has made this time a golden period for women empowerment.

Rekha emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured Delhiites that the new government will prioritize development, transparency, and effective governance.

The BJP's commitment to women's empowerment and leadership is evident in Rekha Gupta's election, As Rekha Gupta begins her tenure as Delhi's Chief Minister, the nation looks forward to witnessing her vision and leadership in action. Her appointment is a beacon of hope for women's empowerment and inclusive governance in India Rekha Mahajan, added.

FromPage No:1

Happy to join campaign against obesity: CM Omar Abdullah

businessman Sajjan Jindal, actor Deepika Padukone, former tennis player Sania Mirza, former cricketer Irfan Pathan, MP Supriya Sule and former Wushu player Kuldeep Handoo.

Making a strong pitch for fighting obesity, PM Modi had in his 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast on Sunday urged people to use less oil in food and also pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake by 10 per cent to 10 others.

Women killed, 12 injured as vehicle plunges into gorge in Ramban

A woman died whereas 12 passengers including the driver sustained injuries.

Police said all the injured were rushed to District Hospital Ramban for treatment.

Police identified the deceased

woman as Sankesha Devi, 33, wife of Raghbeer Singh resident of Chabba, Ramban.

More details are awaited.

J&K Dy CM hits out at Mehbooba: 'Why was alcohol not banned during PDP rule?'

He accused PDP of destroying the structure of Jammu and Kashmir, and paving the way to turn J&K into union territory. "It is the PDP which is solely responsible for the crisis the people of J&K are stuck in. Mehbooba Mufti is shedding crocodile tears over the situation which she should stop. She cannot be fool people for long. Not only alcohol, drugs have become a major challenge for us. Besides, Jammu has been gripped under social crimes and murders for quite some time which should be addressed without any wait. Why is the PDP silent over it? Today Mehbooba and her daughter are giving lectures to the government on what to do and what not, but we know efficiently how to work for the betterment of our people," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said that the National Conference (NC) knows how to strengthen the party, Jammu & Kashmir and the country, and those lecturing us should introspect what they committed in the past.

He added that PDP in absence of tangible issues is trying to "incite" people against the National Conference-led government in Jammu & Kashmir.

When asked about few former members of banned Jama'at-e-Islami have floated a new political outfit - Justice and Development Front (JDF) - the Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary said it is a welcome step and whatever they expressed in public assembly in southern Kulgam, should be practiced in letter and spirit.

"If they (JDF) have decided to launch a political party, it is better late than never. We hope they will live up to peoples' expectations," he said.

He continued that from the times of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to Omar Abdullah, NC has always tried to strengthen democracy at grassroots level in J&K. He held that it is our effort from a very long time to ensure the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley in a dignified way. Earlier, he addressed a gather-

ing at party office Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu to commemorate the 10th death anniversary of senior party leader Late Sheikh Nazir Ahmad.

IGP Jammu reviews security situation along border in Jammu's Akhnoor sector

implement new legal frameworks effectively in the region. The functioning of the crime and criminal tracking network and systems (CCTNS) was also reviewed," the spokesperson said.

The IGP instructed officers and jawans to maintain heightened vigilance and ensure full activation of police infrastructure within their areas of responsibility.

Village Defence Groups, Quick Reaction Teams, and Border Police Posts were directed to stay on high alert, while close coordination with BSF and Army was emphasised to strengthen border security, the police said.

J&K Gears Up for Panchayat Polls,

SEC Initiates Preparations

panchayat bodies having completed their tenure in 2023," an official told KDC.

This election holds particular significance as it will be the first panchayat poll in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, he said.

J&K Police pay tributes to Late DySP Aman Kumar Thakur

and bravery will never be forgotten. We stand united in gratitude, respect, and remembrance," they added.

PDP voices concern over delay in release of rules of procedure of J&K Assembly

MLA from Kupwara, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, has sought a complete

ban on the advertisement, sale, purchase, consumption, and manufacture of alcoholic beverages in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PDP's criticism over delay in rules also comes a day Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, expressed displeasure over some MLAs giving publicity to notices submitted by them to the Legislative Assembly.

A communique issued here in this regard by the Legislative Assembly, said the Speaker has observed that, "according to parliamentary practice, usage and established convention and prevalent rules of this House, it is improper to give unwarranted publicity to the notices of questions, bills, resolutions and other similar matters connected with Business of the House".

J-K parts to receive snow from Feb 25 evening onwards, says MeT

widespread places on March 1 & 2. The official advised tourists, travelers and transporters to plan their travel accordingly and follow advisories from administration and traffic department for updates.

Shopkeepers' Association of General Bus Stand Jammu meets LG to address long-pending grievances

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: A meeting was held between the Shopkeepers' Association of General Bus Stand, Jammu, and Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of J&K, to discuss the long-pending issues faced by shopkeepers. The association members highlighted concerns regarding the declining footfall in the new bus stand complex, affecting their livelihoods.

The members apprised the LG of the historic significance of the General Bus Stand, which had served as the city's primary boarding and deboarding point since 1971. Previously, passengers arriving at the bus stand would visit prominent tourist and religious sites such as Raghunath Temple, Bawe Wali Mandir, Ranbireswar Mandir, Peerkho Mandir, Ram Mandir, Mubarak Mandi Fort, and local markets, contributing to tourism and business growth. However, due to mul-



multiple boarding points scattered across the city, passengers now board buses from isolated locations, rarely engaging with Jammu's commercial and cultural hotspots.

The members also raised concerns about the New Bus Stand cum Multi-Tier Parking Complex, inaugurated on February 11, 2021, by the LG himself. Despite the inauguration, the complex faced severe infrastructure deficiencies, including no electricity for 1.5 years and the absence of ATM and cloakroom facilities for 2.5 years. Additionally, several ticket counters

remain non-functional to date.

Due to inactive platforms, many shops located within the corridors and corners of the complex receive minimal footfall, leading to low business revenue. The association suggested that the bus stand's design should be modified to ensure that all parts of the complex remain lively and operational, thereby maximizing state revenue and benefiting shopkeepers. Additionally, members requested that shop rents be remitted until all platforms become fully operational.

Concerns over rent

disparities were also raised. Before the renovation, the shop rent was Rs. 3 per sq. ft., but now some shops are being charged Rs. 12.5 per sq. ft. (on lease) while others pay Rs. 25 per sq. ft. (on rent deed). The association demanded that rents be rolled back to Rs. 3 per sq. ft. until normal business operations resume. Additionally, the members highlighted that in 2008, all shopkeepers had applied for shop leases, but only a few were granted leases, while others were left out due to the transfer of the then Vice Chairman of JDA, caus-

ing injustice to many.

Despite multiple meetings with VC JDA, DC Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Principal Secretary Urban & Housing, RTO Jammu, and Transport Commissioner Jammu, no significant action had been taken, leaving shopkeepers disheartened.

After discussing these grievances in detail, LG Manoj Sinha assured the delegation that all concerns would be addressed at the earliest and that he would personally oversee the resolution of these issues.

The meeting was attended by association members, including President Vishal Mahajan, Chairman Ashwani Sharma, Senior Vice President Sanjay Dutta, General Secretary Sumit, Vice Presidents Gulshan and Sumeer, Advisors Hanif Khan and Janak Raj, Secretaries Sanjay, Vishal, and Nitin, and Cashier Sohail Khan.

Army felicitates skilled women of Kunan Poshpora



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Feb 24: Empowering women is a crucial process that enables them to claim their rights, access equal opportunities in economic, cultural, social, and political spheres, and realize their full potential. True empowerment not only enhances individual freedom but also fosters societal change from the grassroots level rather than through top-down strategies.

Aligned with this ideology, the Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers has been actively working to empower the women of Kupwara, enabling them to assess their situations and drive positive transformations in their communities.

On February 24,

2025, the Indian Army felicitated 20 skilled women from the villages of Kunan Poshpora, who have stitched and embroidered more than 11,000 National Flags over the past two years on the special occasions of Republic Day and Independence Day. The felicitation ceremony took place at BHS Kunan, where the contributions of these talented women were recognized. In addition to these artisans, young athletes from the Kupwara Women's Football Team and Wushu Academy Kupwara were also honored for their dedication and achievements.

The event was graced by the Commanding Officer of the Kupwara Terriers as the Chief Guest, along with other officers, villagers,

children, and approximately 120 women from Kunan Poshpora village. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of women's empowerment in the modern era, stating that women are not only equal to men but, in many aspects, are more significant contributors to society. He assured the women present at the event that the Indian Army remains committed to providing them with every possible support in their journey toward self-reliance and growth.

The villagers and women expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for its invaluable support and hoped for continued encouragement in the future.

Dimple meets Javed Rana, demands scrapping of Indus Water Treaty, restoration of J&K Statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, met with Javed Rana, Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet Minister for PHE, Jal Shakti, Forest, and Tribal Affairs, to discuss several pressing issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, which lasted for half an hour, was attended by several MLAs and focused on critical demands related to water supply, employment, and statehood restoration.

During the discussion, Dimple strongly advocated for the scrapping of the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, citing severe shortages of drinking water and electricity, particularly during Ramzan and Shivratri. He emphasized that people should not suffer due to inadequate resources and urged the government to immediately start work on the Akhnoor-Chenab water supply project to ensure a consistent water supply for Jammu. He also alleged that the PHE department lacks its own water supply tankers, which further aggravates the crisis.

Another key demand raised by Dimple was the ban on liquor sales in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for the introduction of a bill in the assembly to prohibit liquor sales, emphasizing the need for social reforms in the region.

Dimple also pressed for the revival of the traditional Darbar Move in April, a practice that was halted after the abrogation of Article 370. Additionally, he demanded 200 units of free electricity per household, 12 LPG gas cylinders per year, and double rations to provide relief to the people



of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those facing economic hardships.

Regarding statehood and Article 370, Dimple urged the alliance government to hold a debate on the restoration of special status in the March assembly session. He reiterated that the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is crucial and demanded the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions laid down by Maharaja Hari Singh. He alleged that after the abrogation of Article 370, the region has regressed by 50 years, causing immense suffering, particularly among the youth.

Addressing the rising unemployment crisis, Dimple demanded that the government fulfill its promise of creating one lakh jobs annually. He highlighted the plight of various temporary and contractual employees, including seasonal teachers, vocational trainers, cluster resource coordinators, SPOs, Rehbar-e-Khel workers, agricultural and health workers, NYC employees under SRO-43, CPW workers, land donors, and fire emergency personnel. He also called for the permanent regularization of Ayushman Bharat Gold Card employees and the daily wagers from PHE, PDD, and PWD departments.

Dimple also raised concerns over the deteriorating healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that emergency equipment, including CT scan machines in GMC Jammu and other hospitals, is non-functional. He further claimed that severe staff shortages in GMC Jammu, Rajouri, and other medical colleges are causing suffering for patients who are unable to receive timely medical care.

Responding to these concerns, Minister Javed Rana assured Dimple that the government is actively working to address the issues raised. He reaffirmed that job creation and employment generation remain a top priority for the Omar Abdullah-led administration. He also emphasized the government's commitment to restoring statehood and safeguarding the special status guarantees of Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, Rana assured that the demand to scrap the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan is under discussion at the government level.

As the meeting concluded, Dimple reiterated that the fight against the Union Government's alleged injustices toward Jammu and Kashmir will continue, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and addressed.

Border Area Youth Exchange programme; students from five states visit AGS Wayne

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Feb 24: In a significant step towards fostering national integration and cultural exchange, 25 students from five different states under Border Area Youth Exchange Programme organized by Nehru Yuva Kalyan Sansthan, Kupwara visited Army Goodwill School Wayne, Kupwara run by Indian Army's 160 Inf Bn (TA) (H&H) JAK RIF under the aegis of Vajr Division.

The initiative aimed to provide students with first hand exposure to the region's rich heritage, military history,



and the unwavering spirit of its people.

The students had earlier toured the border districts of Teethwal and Karnah, where they learned about the heroic sacrifices of the Armed Forces in various wars. The visit helped them to understand the deep-rooted traditions and historical significance

of Kupwara, a region known for its resilience and unity.

At the AGS Wayne, the students were introduced to the Indian Army's initiatives in improving educational infrastructure and empowering the youth of border areas. They interacted with the students from Kupwara

who gave them their perspectives about the region. They witnessed the Army's dedication to fostering education, skill development, and community welfare in the region. The students were felicitated by Commanding Officer, 160 Infantry Battalion TA who was also the Chief Guest for the event.

The students expressed their gratitude for this enriching experience. They emphasized how the visit broadened their understanding of life in the valley and instilled a deep sense of patriotism and admiration for the resilience of the local communities.

The Border Area Youth Exchange Programme has once again proven to be a powerful initiative, strengthening the bonds between the youth and the nation's frontline regions. It continues to inspire young minds, fostering unity, awareness, and a shared vision of progress.

GDC Bani organizes awareness week on 'Constitution of India and Citizens rights'

Top News Report

BANI, Feb 24: The Department of Political Science of Government Degree College Bani Organized awareness week Program on the Citizens right enshrined in the Constitution of India, as part of the Celebration of the 75th year of adaptation of the Indian Constitution here today.

The Awareness Program focuses on engaging students

in understanding the importance of Constitutional provisions and the role of Citizens in shaping a democratic Society while enjoying their rights.

The Program commented with the detailed lecture on the Fundamental rights and Fundamental duties, and message of constitution of Indian in its brief through the Preamble of the Constitution while upholding the spirit of social Justice, liberty,

equality and Fraternity enshrined in the constitution of India, delivered by Dr. Jahnu Kumar Heer, Head Department of Political Science.

As the Constitution of India has to do deep in our daily life and knowing the rights become essential for every citizens of country which guides the nation's legal, social and Political systems.

The lecture was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Manohar

lal Principal of the College, who expressed his support for initiatives' Understanding the Values enshrined in the Constitutions of India and how the students can play active role in the nation building along with fostering Scientific and Critical thinking on the various issues surrounding them while developing leadership and decision making capabilities in them.

The Awareness Program was participated

by the College student with great enthusiasm along the presence of teaching and non-teaching staff.

The Program ended with the pledge to the Preamble of the Constitution and to follow the values enshrined in it.

The Program was supported by the Prof. Naseeb Kumar Bhagat, Prof. Akash Zutshi, Prof. Nuratuel Islam, Sajad Hussain, Anil Singh, Farooq Ahmad Kumar and Mehnaz Rafiq.

Balbir emphasizes Vajpayee's vision on peace with neighbours

Top News Report

JAMMU Feb 24: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, underscored the significance of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of peace and diplomacy with neighbouring countries. He was discussing the birth centenary programmes with party's senior activists.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that Vajpayee's legacy of fostering amicable relations with neighbouring nations remains relevant in today's geopolitical landscape.

Balbir highlighted how Vajpayee, during his tenure as PM, believed in constructive engagement and dialogue as a means to resolve conflicts and promote stability in the region. He recalled the historic initiatives undertaken by the former Prime Minister, including the Lahore Bus Service and efforts to de-escalate tensions through diplomatic channels.

"Atal ji firmly believed that peace with neighbours is not just a diplomatic necessity but also a moral and strategic imperative," Balbir said.

Balbir further said that it is crucial to remember Atal ji's wisdom—that strong nations seek peace, not war. His leadership showed that dialogue and cooperation yield far greater results than hostility," he added.

He encouraged party activists to engage with the public and spread awareness about Vajpayee's contributions to India's diplomatic achievements. He mentioned that Vajpayee's leadership demonstrated a fine balance between national security and peaceful coexistence, setting an exam-

ple for future generations of leaders.

Vajpayee's diplomatic philosophy was not just about maintaining peace but also about ensuring India's progress through cooperation and mutual respect, he said, adding that we must carry forward his legacy and work towards a peaceful, prosperous, and strong India.

DDC Member Pt. Suresh Sharma, senior leaders Sanjay Baru, Praduman Singh, and Parmod Kapahi, Hans Raj Loria, Sanjay Kumar, took part in this discussion.

Kohli at 39: Can he be the anchor for India's 2027 World Cup dream?

Sachin was 38, Imran was 39 when they world cup; Kohli would be 39 by then

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): The India-Pakistan Champions Trophy clash in Dubai on Sunday night raised hopes that Virat Kohli – backed by his impeccable fitness – needs to be cajoled, even persuaded, to play in the cricket World Cup scheduled in South Africa in October-November 2027.

Kohli, who was born in November 1988, would be 39 years of age by the time the World Cup is played in 2027.

So would he be too old for the game? Not really.

Kohli – who was part of the Indian World Cup winning side in 2011 – is still hungry for success.

The team needs him in 2027, and not the other way around. The Delhi batter thrives on his fitness. Yesterday in Dubai, he ran an amazing 23 meters to take a diving catch to dismiss Naseem Shah. Kohli's sprint to take that catch could be the envy of players ten years younger than him.

While batting, Kohli was shown by TV broadcasters to be running the first run faster than his mates, and at one point he



was running at a speed of 28+ km per hour for the run. Also, the one-day international (ODI) cricket format has not changed its pattern of play, and Kohli can adjust to the demands of the game.

Kohli, who averages 89 while chasing in ODI cricket, would be an ideal sheet anchor in the 50-over game. This is not to discredit the ability of young batters like Shubman Gill or Yashasvi Jaiswal. Both are very good, but having Kohli – who has a monk-

like composure when batting – would aid the two.

In the past, greats Sachin Tendulkar and Imran Khan have played in World Cups at the age Kohli would be in 2027. In the case of Tendulkar and Khan – both greats of their own eras – there was a common factor: they had never been part of a World Cup-winning side, and that probably egged on the two.

Tendulkar was 38 years of age when he played the World Cup in 2011 for India, and the side

won the final beating Sri Lanka at Mumbai. Pakistani all-rounder Imran Khan was six months short of his 40th birthday when he led his side to a famous win over England at Melbourne in March 1992 to lift the World Cup. Tendulkar was the second highest overall run-getter of the tournament in 2011.

He scored 485 runs in nine innings of that campaign at an average of 53.55. Khan batted at number 3 and scored 72 runs in the final, the highest for his team. Javed Miandad, Inzamam-ul-Haq, and Saleem Malik – all top-class batters – had batted after Khan. The present Indian team coach, Gautam Gambhir, in July 2024 gave a hint about the future of Kohli and Rohit Sharma, saying “both of those guys have a lot of cricket left in them. And more importantly, the Champions Trophy is coming up, and a big tour of Australia, they will be motivated enough. And then hopefully, if they can keep their fitness, the 2027 World Cup is there”.

Rohit would be 40 years old by the time the World Cup is played. Will he be fit? With Kohli, fitness cannot be questioned.

No one knows what to do: Akhtar blasts Pakistan's 'brainless and clueless management'



DUBAI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Pace legend Shoaib Akhtar didn't pull any punches as he blasted Pakistan's “brainless, and clueless” team management following the six-wicket loss to India in the Champions Trophy, saying the side entered the tournament without any “clear direction”.

Pakistan suffered their second consecutive loss in the event

on Sunday. They had lost to New Zealand in the opener and their chances of advancing are now hanging by a thread.

“I am not disappointed at all (by the defeat to India) because I knew what would happen,” Akhtar said in a short video on his X account.

“You can't select five bowlers? The whole world is playing six bowlers... you go with

two all-rounders, this is just brainless and clueless management.”

The former quick blamed the management for selecting a side that lacked the necessary skills and understanding to compete at the highest level.

“I am really disappointed. We can't blame the kids (Pakistan players); The players are just as clueless as the team management is! They don't know what to do.

The former pacer also questioned the Pakistan players' intent and skills.

“Intent is another matter, they don't have the skill-set like Rohit, Virat, and Shubman. Neither the players know anything, nor the management. They have just gone to play without any clear direction.

“No one knows what they should do.”

“Had mostly hit the Chinaman”: Kuldeep Yadav on his bowling performance against Pakistan in Champions Trophy

DUBAI, Feb 24 (Agencies): After clinching a six-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in the ongoing Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Stadium, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav shared insights on his exceptional bowling performance in the clash.

On Sunday, Kuldeep rewrote the history books during his exploits in the Champions Trophy blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan in Dubai. Kuldeep spun Pakistan batters inside out to turn the tides in favour of India. He returned with splendid figures of 3/40 in his nine-over spell. With this spell, the “Chinaman” spinner joined an exclusive club after becoming just the fifth spinner for India to take 300-plus international wickets.

After enjoying a fruitful spell, he joined India's decorated spinners - Anil Kumble (953), Ravichandran Ashwin (765), Harbhajan Singh (707) and Ravindra Jadeja (604), who boast 300-plus international wick-



ets. Overall, he is the 13th Indian player to go past the 300-wicket mark in the international circuit.

“There was no such plan. In the first spell, I had mostly hit the Chinaman. I have a variation on the wrong one. I also hit the top spin with the wrong one. The first wicket of Salman was a normal Chinaman. The second wicket was a first ball Shaheen. I was targeting the wicket. I thought it was a better option to hit the wrong one. I have to see which wicket I can hit the batsman. I have to think about which delivery I can hit.

The incoming deliveries are difficult if it is a slow track. This was my plan,” Kuldeep Yadav told the media after the match.

Further, the 30-year-old player spoke about the plan which he used against Pakistani batters in the match and also spoke about what Team India skipper Rohit Sharma expected from him

“The plan was very simple. Especially in a wicket like this, you tend to become the first choice in bowling the last 10 overs. Even the captain felt that it is very difficult to hit against spinners when you have variations. Luckily, it was good for me. The wicket was slow. I was trying to mix with the pace and wrong ones. Or top spin. If you get one or two wickets in the middle, the batsmen tend to block you. That's what they did in the last 10 overs. The captain told me straight away, I want a wicket. If you can get me a couple of wickets, that would be good,” Kuldeep Yadav added.

Former Indian cricketers hails team's performance in Champions Trophy clash against Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketers lauded the national team and its stalwart batter, Virat Kohli, following their exceptional performance over arch-rivals Pakistan in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

In a thrilling match at the ongoing marquee event, Indian legend Virat Kohli stole the show with a brilliant century, leading Men in Blue to a four-wicket victory over Pakistan.

With this hundred, Kohli completed 14,000 runs in ODI cricket, becoming only the third cricketer to do so, during the ICC Champions Trophy match against arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

Kohli's unbeaten 100 off 111 balls, laced with seven fours, was a treat to watch. His knock came at a strike rate of 90.09, helping India easily chase down Pakistan's total of 241. This was Kohli's sixth century in ICC ODI events and his first in the ICC Champions Trophy.

He is the third batter after Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs in 463 ODIs) and Kumar Sangakkara (14,234 runs in 404 matches) to reach the landmark. In 299 ODIs, Kohli has scored 14,085 runs at an average of



58.20, with 51 centuries and 73 fifties.

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh said that he predicted that India will win and Virat Kohli will score a hundred.

“Predicted Virat will score 100 Today and India will Win,” Harbhajan Singh wrote on X.

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh hailed the performance of Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav in the match.

“Come the hour come the man! King Kohli at his best @imVkohli #goat great 100 well played @ShreyasIyer15 @ShubmanGill looked like a one-sided game for well bowled bowling unit specially @hardikpandya7 &

@imkuldeep18,” Yuvraj Singh wrote in his post on X.

India's former right-hand batter Sanjay Manjrekar congratulated Virat Kohli for his brilliant performance.

“Virat is the epitome of someone who gives himself the best chance to succeed by controlling what he can by way of extreme fitness & amazing application. And that's the best a human being can do, isn't it?” Sanjay Manjrekar wrote on X.

India's former left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan said that Team India is way ahead than Men in Green in terms of skills

“Banters a side, in one day cricket Indian team is wayyy ahead of Pakistan in terms of

skill, fitness and ability to pro-long pressure. Well done team India,” Irfan Pathan wrote in a post on X.

At the India-Pakistan Champions Trophy clash, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat first. Pakistan was off to a fine start, with Babar Azam (23 in 26 balls, with five fours) unleashing some fine drives in the 41-run opening partnership. After two quick wickets, Pakistan was 47/2.

Skipper Mohammed Rizwan (46 in 77 balls, with three fours) and Saud Shakeel (62 in 76 balls, with five fours) had a 104-run partnership, but they took up a lot of deliveries. After the end of this partnership, Khushdil Shah (38 in 39 balls, with two sixes) did put up a fight with Salman Agha (19) and Naseem Shah (14), but they were bundled out for 241 runs in 49.4 overs.

Chasing 242 runs, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma (20 in 15 balls, with three fours and a six) early. Then the 69-run stand between Shubman Gill (46 in 52 balls, with seven fours) and Virat Kohli (100* in 111 balls, with seven fours) and a 114-run stand between Virat and Iyer (56 in 67 balls, with five fours and a six) helped India secure an easy four-wicket win with six wickets and 45 balls to spare.

Champions Trophy 2025: New Zealand eye semi-final spot as they face struggling Bangladesh at Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI, Feb 24 (Agencies): Mitchell Santner-led New Zealand will lock horns with Bangladesh Cricket Team in their second Group A clash of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium today, as per the ICC.

The Nazmul Hossain Shanto-led side enter a must-win mode for the rest of the tournament after dropping their opening game to India. Meanwhile, for the Black Caps, semi-finals qualification beckons.

Recent form: Bangladesh: The Tigers' loss to India to start their Champions Trophy campaign is the only ODI they've played since December last year. Against the West Indies at the back end of 2024, Bangladesh won

all three T20Is but lost all three One-Day Internationals. That, combined with their six-wicket loss to powerhouse India, doesn't bode overly well.

New Zealand: The Kiwis have played seven ODIs this calendar year and won six of them. The only loss came against Sri Lanka in January, in a series they prevailed 2-1. Since then, they haven't put a foot wrong, winning all three lead-up One-Dayers to claim the Tri-Nation Series over Pakistan and South Africa. New Zealand then followed up that fine form with a 60-run win over tournament hosts Pakistan in the Champions Trophy opener.

Players in focus: Bangladesh: Nazmul Hossain Shanto The Tigers' captain missed out against



India, removed for a second-ball duck. And while it's stating the obvious, Bangladesh will need to score big runs to threaten the Kiwis, off the back of strong, early foundations with the bat, whether it's in the first or second innings.

Nazmul Hossain Shanto is Bangladesh's top-ranked ODI batter, at 26th, off the back of some productive scores in 2024. He'll be desperate to put together a strong innings.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner

The Black Caps skipper will have an important job with the ball, coming off his 3/66 against Pakistan the other day.

The quality of New Zealand's batting was on full display in the Champions Trophy opener, with two hitters reaching three figures and Glenn Phillips belting 61 off 39 balls. On top of that, there's Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, so there's immense depth in the lineup.

The Kiwis' path to victory is bowling well and

Santner will play a crucial role both with his field placings and then when he comes in to take pace off the ball.

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

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy.

Pakistan fans react following their side's loss against India in Champions Trophy

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24 (Agencies): Following the defeat against arch-rivals India in the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Stadium, fans of the Pakistan Cricket Team expressed disappointment following their team's loss.

In a thrilling match at the ongoing marquee event, Indian legend Virat Kohli stole the show with a brilliant century, leading Men in Blue to a four-wicket victory over Pakistan.

“We had a lot of hopes from our team that they will play well. We thought that they would reach a score of at least 315, but they did not even reach 250. Even if we lost, they should have at least stopped Kohli's century. If they could not bat well, they could have saved the match by bowling properly. I request the PCB to give a chance to new faces so that our team may improve...” a fan said.

Another Pakistani fan said that the team should train better to improve their fielding.

“The performance was very poor even in fielding. They should undergo better training, and there should be some accountability for playing with the sentiments of the people...” another fan

said.

At the India-Pakistan Champions Trophy clash, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat first. Pakistan was off to a fine start, with Babar Azam (23 in 26 balls, with five fours) unleashing some fine drives in the 41-run opening partnership. After two quick wickets, Pakistan was 47/2.

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Modi Govt's visionary reforms empowering women like never before: Kavinder

Urges women to take full advantage of welfare schemes initiated by Modi Govt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, lauded the Modi Government for ushering in a new era of women empowerment through revolutionary policies and structural reforms.

Speaking at a gathering of BJP women leaders here today, the BJP stalwart asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance has not only transformed India's economy but has also placed women at the center of the nation's development. He emphasized that the past decade under Modi's leadership has been marked by historic initiatives that have empowered women socially, economically, and politically, ensuring their rightful place in nation-building.

The senior BJP leader highlighted that India's economy is now the fastest-growing among all major global economies, a testament to the success of Modi Government's visionary approach. He noted that the transformative work undertaken in the past two terms has created an environment where



women are no longer seen as beneficiaries but as equal partners in progress. The Union Budget further reinforces this commitment by introducing landmark initiatives focused on women's financial independence, entrepreneurship, and welfare, he added.

Kavinder mentioned that the Modi Government has taken decisive steps to support women entrepreneurs, including the introduction of 'Customized Credit Cards' with a ₹5 lakh limit for micro-enterprises, enabling financial inclusion at an unprecedented scale, in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Additionally, the creation of a ₹10,000 crore Fund of Funds for startups will provide immense opportunities for women-led businesses to flourish. To further promote inclusivity, the Modi government has also launched a special scheme for 5 lakh first-time women entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ensuring that empowerment reaches the grassroots level, he added.

Kavinder also lauded the Central Government's unwavering focus on the well-being of women and children through initiatives like Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, which

provide essential nutritional support to over 8 crore children, 1 crore pregnant and lactating mothers, and 20 lakh adolescent girls across the country. He hailed these measures as a significant step towards securing the health and future of India's next generation.

Praising PM Modi's commitment to recognizing women's achievements, Kavinder stated that on March 8, International Women's Day, inspiring stories of women changemakers will be showcased through the Prime Minister's social media platforms, further motivating millions of young women to strive for excellence.

Kavinder asserted that today's women are unstoppable, breaking barriers in every field and proving their capabilities beyond doubt. He appealed to the women of Jammu and Kashmir to come forward and take full advantage of the welfare schemes initiated by the Modi Government, emphasizing that these initiatives are designed to empower them economically, socially, and politically, ensuring a brighter and more self-reliant future.

KPs seek high level probe in tempering of Migrant land Record after 1990 in Valley

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Kashmiri Pandits who bore the maximum brunt of forceful migration from Kashmir Valley in 1990 left behind their immovable Property in crores most of which was either illegally grabbed by land grabbers or their land records were deliberately tampered/changed by way of illegal methods like mutations section 4 and 8 etc to facilitate and regularise illegal occupation which involves many politicians, revenue officials and bureaucrats who remained at the helm of affairs at that time. Hence in this way a huge loss worth crores has been caused to this displaced community and there is a great variations in many land records now and before 1990 that needs a high probe to unearth this scam.

In Joint Statement issued today by the leaders of KP advisory committee comprising of prominent socio political activists/leaders Vinod Pandita, Bharat Kachroo, Sanjay Dhar (President KDP Wing DPAP), Vijay Raina, Kuldeep Kashmiri, Sunil Bhat(President Migrant cell PDP) and others have expressed grave concern and anguish over the way the land records at many places in Migrant lands in Kashmir have been mindfully and deliberately tampered/changed fastly for last many years after 1990 i.e. post exodus period of Kash-

miri Pandits to facilitate and benefit land grabbers and anti social elements under a well thought out plan and conspiracy. Hence caused irreparable mental and financial losses to the poor migrants in their absence.

These leaders in one voice has strongly appealed Lt.Governor J&K to declare officially all such illegal changes in the revenue records after 1990 or changes made by way of any settlement without any knowledge of the real land owners and at their back as null and void.

They also appealed LG to direct all the Dy.Commissioners, the sole custodian to rectify the illegal entries forthwith and maintain the land record in all such cases that of 1990 which is envisaged in immovable migrant act 1997 also .

They further advocated for initiating a high level probe in these grave irregularities to unearth this big scam so that the culprits are brought to justice as per the land of the land who took the advantage of our forceful migration. They also appealed to Lt. Governor and Chief Minister J&K to implement the migrant property act 1997 in letter and spirit as well reactivate defunct migrant grievance portal on priority to provide solace to the aggrieved migrants running from pillar to post in revenue offices in Kashmir for want of disposal of their land problems but all in vain.

Vishav Deep Sharma qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 24: Vishav Deep Sharma, son of Inder Paul Sharma and Rekha Rani, a Research Scholar at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has qualified for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics.

He carried his research titled as, "Spectral and Electronic Studies of Some Rare Earth Doped Alkali Zirconium Phosphates," under the guidance of Dr. Ram



Prakash, Associate Professor at the School of Physics, SMVDU. During his Ph.D., Sharma published his findings in prestigious SCIE and Scopus-indexed international journals and presented

his work at various national and international conferences.

He extends his heartfelt gratitude to the School of Physics, SMVDU, for providing essential resources and unwavering support during his research journey. Additionally, he acknowledges UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Indore, for providing experimental facilities and financial assistance under the CRS project no. CRS-328.

Deepika Dhawan qualifies Ph.D

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 24: Deepika Dhawan, a research scholar from the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Management under the guidance of Dr. Sushil Kumar Mehta, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU. Dhawan conducted an empirical analysis on "Performance of Banking Sector in the Basel Regime: A



Case of Select Countries". Her research has been pub-

lished in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the B category based on the ABCD indexing and under the SCOPUS indexing.

Additionally, Deepika Dhawan has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences.

Currently, She is working as an Assistant Professor (Management) at Rayat Bahra University, Mohali.

She extends her heartfelt grati-

tude to the School of Business, SMVDU for essential resources and unwavering support throughout her research journey.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU; Professor (Dr.) Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management; Professor (Dr.) Jyoti Sharma, Head, School of Business; and other committee members congratulated Deepika Dhawan and wished her a bright future.

JKNPP (Bhim) holds meeting to finalize Candidate for Nagrota Assembly Constituency

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: The J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) held meeting under the chairmanship of its State President, Vialkshan Singh Advocate, to discuss and finalize the party candidate for the Nagrota Assembly Constituency in the upcoming By-elections.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held to evaluate potential candidates, and it was unanimously decided that the name of the party's official candidate would be announced within the next couple of days.

The party reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, with a special focus on safeguarding the rights and interests of the Dogras. It resolved to work tirelessly for the upliftment and development of the

region, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and addressed.

Furthermore, the J&K National Panthers Party (Bhim) pledged to carry forward the fight for "Haq-Insaf," which remains the core agenda of the party's founder, Prof. Bhim Singh. The leadership emphasized that the party will continue its struggle for justice, equality, and democratic rights, in line with the vision set by Prof. Singh.

The party remains steadfast in its mission to uphold the aspirations of the people and will soon announce further details regarding its candidate and election strategy.

Others present in the meeting were Balwan Singh, Naresh Chib, Ravinder Singh, Sanju Bhagat, Rakesh Kumar, Rajan Jamwal and others.

HIV AIDS Awareness lecture-cum-rally held at GDC Sidhra



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 24: Red Ribbon Club along with NSS Unit of GDC Sidhra in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized an awareness lecture as well as a rally to educate the students of the college regarding HIV/AIDS.

Dr Mussarat chowdhary, convener, Red Ribbon Club in her address to the students informed them that HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed an estimated 42.3 million lives to date. There were an estimated 39.9 mil

lion people living with HIV at the end of 2023. There is no cure for HIV infection. However, with access to effective HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, including for opportunistic infections, HIV infection has become a manageable chronic health condition, enabling people living with HIV to lead long and healthy lives. WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS all have global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

Students of the college took out a rally and generate awareness

among the local population informing them the signs, symptoms and transmission of HIV/AIDS, as well as risk factor, diagnosis and prevention. WHO's programmes call to reach the people most affected and most at risk for each disease, and to address inequities. Under a framework of universal health coverage and primary health care, WHO's programmes contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event was organised by Dr Mussarat Chowdhary, Convener RRC, Dr. Purvaiya Hans, NSS Program Officer under the able guidance of Principal of the College, Dr. G.S Rakwal. Dr. Harpreet Kour, Prof. Deepa Kak, Prof. Shonima Malhotra, Prof. Pooja Sharma, Dr Mansoor Ali, Dr. Aamir Malik and others were present during the event.



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