

TOP NEWS OF J&K



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Nicole Kidman emphasises the importance of supporting female directors



NATIONAL | 7

SP govt aided only its own people; we work for every UP resident: Adityanath

Daily Evening Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Indian-origin Vivek Ramaswamy announces candidature for Ohio Governor



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-55 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

CM Omar Abdullah greets Kashmiri Pandits on Herath

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday extended his good wishes to the Kashmiri Pandit community on Herath, the Kashmiri equivalent of Maha Shivaratri.

"Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Herath! May this sacred festival bring peace, prosperity, and divine blessings to every home. Herath Mubarak!" Abdullah posted on his official X account.

Herath is a Kashmiri festival that is celebrated on the 13th day of the dark half of the month of Phalguna, between February and March. It holds cultural and socio-religious importance for the Kashmiri Pandits, who have continued to celebrate the festival even after migrating due to the eruption of militancy in the valley.

Herath is also known as the night of Hara, or Shiva.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also extended Herath greetings to the community.

"Herath Mubarak to our Kashmiri Pandit brethren. May this occasion bring joy and happiness to all of you," she posted on X.

Police arrest Bihar resident from Anantnag for allegedly killing co-worker in Maharashtra

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): Police have arrested a 21-year-old man from south Kashmir's Anantnag for allegedly killing a co-worker at a powerloom factory in Maharashtra's Thane district.

Officials have said that police apprehended the accused from a bakery at Lal Chowk in Anantnag on Sunday and recovered from him a stolen mobile phone and Rs 29,000 in cash. The accused has been brought to Bhiwandi for further probe in the case.

As per officials accused, Sabir Rahamtullah Ansari, hailing from East Champaran in Bihar, and the victim, Neeraj Kumar Gopinath Vishwakarma (40), of Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, worked at the factory in Khoni gram panchayat

Turn to page 9

India should take lead in preserving glaciers: Sonam Wangchuk writes open letter to PM

NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Fresh from his tour to the US where he carried a piece of ice from a glacier in Ladakh to flag their fast melting, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that India should take a lead in addressing the issue.

Drawing attention to the gravity of the situation in the Himalayas, Wangchuk told a press conference in the capital that if steps are not taken to restore these glaciers which are the source of our perennial rivers, the next Maha Kumbh after 144 years may be held on sand as the rivers may dry up.

Wangchuk, who has been working on preserving Himalayan glaciers, travelled from Ladakh to Delhi, and then to the US with a piece of ice from a glacier in Khardung La. The ice was placed in a container wrapped in Ladakh's iconic Pashmina wool for insulation.

The ice was taken to the UN office in Delhi, before he flew to the US where it travelled along



with the climate activist to the Harvard Kennedy School, MIT, at Boston and to the UN headquarters in New York, before being immersed at the confluence of Hudson River and East River in New York on February 21, a month ahead of The World Day for Glaciers which will be observed on March 21.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.

Wangchuk, who sent out a message of reducing demands instead of finding new means of supply to manage climate change, delivered his talks with the glacial ice melting next to him, symbolising how gla-

ciers are receding as talks go on.

Back in India, the climate activist recounted how they had to trek a few kilometres to get the ice from the glacier at Khardung La, the highest motorable pass in the world at 5,359 metres in Leh district.

Wangchuk rued that over the years, glacial ice has been receding but action remains delayed.

In his open letter to the prime minister, Wangchuk stressed that India should take a lead in the year of glaciers, as the Himalayas have the third largest deposit of ice and snow on Earth after the Arctic and Antarctica, fetching it the name 'Third Pole'. "India

needs to take a lead in glacier preservation as we have the Himalayas, and our sacred rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna come out of them," Wangchuk said.

Stating that he is an admirer of the environment initiatives taken by Prime Minister Modi, especially the 'Mission LiFE' campaign, Wangchuk in his letter urged Modi to set up a commission to assess the state of Himalayan glaciers.

"As we all know, the glaciers of the Himalayas are melting very fast and if this and the accompanying deforestation continues at the current rate, in few decades our sacred rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra and Indus might become seasonal rivers. This may also mean that the next Maha Kumbh might only happen on the sandy remains of the sacred river," Wangchuk said.

There is very little awareness on the ground among the common people, he rued.

"Therefore, I believe it is

Turn to page 9

Centre extends concessions, incentives by 3 years for its employees working in Kashmir Valley

NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): The Centre has extended the package of concession and incentives for its employees working in the Kashmir Valley by three years, according to a personnel ministry order.

The Valley comprises 10 districts — Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Kulgam, Shopian, Ganderbal and Baniptora.

It has been decided by the competent authority to extend the package of concessions/incentives to Central government employees working in the Kashmir Valley for a further period of three years with effect from

August 1, 2024, the order issued by the ministry on Monday said.

The package of incentives is uniformly applicable to all ministries, departments and public sector undertakings under the government of India, and they should ensure strict adherence to the rates prescribed in the package, it said.

The employees posted in the Valley have an option to move their families to a selected place of their choice in India at government expense, and transport allowance for the families is allowed as admissible in permanent transfer inclusive of the composite transfer grant at

Turn to page 9

1 killed, another injured in Rajouri road accident

JAMMU, Feb 25 (Agencies): A tragic road accident took place at Thanamandi road resulting death of a one person and injury to another one in Rajouri district on Tuesday.

Officials said that a vehicle bearing registration number JK11G-6280 lost its control near Thanamandi road resulting in instant death of one person and injury to another one.

The deceased has been identified as Gulzar Hussain resident of Plangar Thanamandi and the injured has been identified as Mohib(3) son of Sikandar.

More details awaited....

PDP politicising issues rather than engaging in constructive opposition: Salman Sagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): National Conference (NC) senior leader and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar, criticized the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for "politicising issues" instead of engaging in constructive opposition.

He asserted that the NC would vigorously advocate for the concerns of the people in the upcoming budget session.

The elected government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdul-

lah, is set to present the budget in the session scheduled for March 3.

"NC will forcefully raise the people's issues. Everything outlined in our manifesto will be highlighted, and all promises

Turn to page 9

BJP leaders congratulate Omar on his nomination as fitness ambassador, urge him to organise 'Political Marathon'



JAMMU, Feb 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have congratulated Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his nomination by Prime Minister Modi in his campaign to fight against

obesity. Senior BJP leaders Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, and party spokesperson Altaf Thakur extended their best wishes to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for being nominated as

a Brand Ambassador in the fight against obesity.

Speaking during a press conference in Jammu, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary highlighted that Omar Abdullah is among the ten ambassadors selected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this crucial initiative. "Health is wealth, and the growing obesity levels in society are alarming. This nomination recognizes CM Omar Abdullah's commitment to fitness and a healthy lifestyle," he said, as per a press

Turn to page 9

Jammu and Kashmir braces for heavy rain, Snowfall for next 3 days

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir braced for heavy rain/snow as the MET department issued an advisory on Tuesday cautioning the authorities of inclement weather for three days.

An advisory sent to the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu divisions by the MET Department said, "A fresh active Western Disturbance (WD) is most likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from the evening of February 25 to February 28.

Under the influence

of this weather system, widespread moderate rain/snow/thunderstorm is expected at most places of Jammu and Kashmir. Light to moderate rain/snow would first commence over places of north and central Kashmir on (evening/night) of February 25 and thereafter gradual increase in intensity and distribution throughout Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

The advisory said the weather system may disrupt air and surface transportation.

In its warning, the MET office said, "Middle

and higher reaches of Kashmir and hilly areas Jammu most likely to receive moderate to heavy snowfall while few higher reaches of south Kashmir and Chenab Valley may receive heavy to very heavy snowfall, particularly on February 27 and 28.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural activity during this period. Landslides/shooting stones/mudslides at vulnerable places are possible. The minimum temperature was 4.9 in Srinagar, minus 1.3 in Gulmarg

Turn to page 9

GupShup

RESTAURANT

Where Hunger Meets Happiness

Are you a true desi chicken connoisseur? Look no further than Gupshup Restaurant, the only restaurant in Jammu and Kashmir to serve 100% Desi chicken (Jatka) cooked to perfection on a traditional Chullah.

Visit us at:
Ban Bantala, Old Nagrota Highway, Jammu (J&K)
+91-9086207123 | +91-9086072548

ORDER NOW

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **SH. DEEPEEP KUMAR DAFTARI**, fondly called as Betaji S/o Late Sh. Omkar Nath Daftari on 17th February 2025 at Medanta Medicity Hospital Gunigram, Original resident of Sathoo payen Srinagar, at present House No. 343, Lane No. 3A Lakshmi Vihar Tomal Bohri Jammu.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 26th Feb 2025 (Wednesday) at Akhnoor Ghat, Jammu.

Assembly will be held at our residence in Jammu at 11:30 AM IN GRIEF

Reeta Koul Daftari (Wife) (9103136605)
Mehul Daftari (Son) (9901574579)
Mr. Ashok Daftari & Mrs. Nalini Daftari (Brother and sister in law) (7780900474)
Mrs. Nani Shair & Mr. Surinder Sheik Tarjota (Sister and Brother in law) (9419197812)
Neeru and Vinod Daftari (Bhabhi and Brother)
Rohit, Chetna & Bhavini
Chetan, Shikha & Vihan



SH. DEEPEEP KUMAR DAFTARI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Sujeet Chiken** S/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Chiken, R/o H No. 66, Sec 4, Colonel's Colony, Bohri, Jammu, presently at, 408 A Shreeram Shivalay East, Lohegaon, Pune, Maharashtra, left for his heavenly abode on 18-02-2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 27-02-2025 at 11:30 a.m. at Alandi Ghat, Pune.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
CHIKEN'S, NAZIR'S, DHAR'S, BHAT'S
MOB: 9419225773, 6006898778, 8855008243.



Sh. Sujeet Chiken

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of **Mrs. Remi Gupta** (Teacher) W/o Sh. Rajesh Gupta R/o H.No. 350-1/P Extn. Khoo Wali Gali Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, who left for her heavenly abode on 17-02-2025.

10TH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 26th Feb at 11 AM at Laxmi Narayan Temple Gandhi Nagar (Back side).

KRIYA will be performed on Saturday 1st March 2025 at their residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Rajesh Gupta - Husband
Ranjay Gupta - Son
Rachel Gupta - Daughter
Brothers-in-law and Sisters-in-law
Sh. Ashok & Smt. Suman Gupta
Sh. Rajinder and Smt. Sunita Gupta
Sh. Navesh and Smt. Veena Gupta
Sh. Navesh Gupta - Brother-in-law
Smt. Santosh Gupta - Sister-in-law
Smt. Prem and Sh. Bishan Dass Gupta - Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Smt. Sharda Gupta - Mother
Smt. Rashmi & Sh. Inder Gupta - Sister and Brother-in-law
Smt. Ruchi & Sh. Vikram Gupta - do-
Sh. Anshul Gupta - Brother
Mithila, Akhil, Vaishavi - Nephew & Niece
Mob No: 9419194186, 7006355345, 7006062765, 9419369353, 9419149296



Mrs. Remi Gupta (Teacher)

10TH DAY/RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of this sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Om Parkash Chandok** who has left for his heavenly abode on 15. Feb 2025.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be held on 24, Feb 2025 at 11:00AM at our residence.

RASAM PAGRI will be held on 26 Feb., 2025 from 4-5 PM at our residence mentioned below.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Neelam Chandok - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Dr. Shanky Chandok & Dr. Astha Chandok
Son & Daughter-in-law
Dr. Shwet Chandok & Dr. Tania Chandok
Brother & Bhabhi
Sh. Satish Chandok & Smt. Sushma Chandok
Sister
Smt. Shama Nijhawan W/o Lt. Sh. Om Parkash Nijhawan
Smt. Neelam Nijhawan & Sh. Mohinder Nijhawan - Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Rits & Sh. Kamal Khullar - Bhabhi & Brother-in-law
Viraj Chandok - Grandson
Address : Sec-7 'Ext' Behind BSNL Qtrs, Channi Himmat, Jammu.
Mob: 7889785400, 7889426995, 9419165851



Sh. Om Parkash Chandok

10TH DAY /KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Late **Sh. Prithvi Raj Abrol** S/o Late Sh. Des Raj Abrol R/o H. No. 251A, Lane No. 10, Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

10TH DAY will be performed on 25th Feb 2025 (Tuesday) from 11 am at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on 28th Feb 2025 (Friday) at 12 Noon.

UTHALA will be performed on 3rd March 2025 (Friday) at 4 pm at Arya Smaj Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Opp. Relaxo Showroom.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter in law
Rakesh Abrol & Sapana Gupta
Neel Kamal & Satish Gandotra - Daughter & Son in Law
Neeru & Abdul Hafeez - Daughter & Son in Law
Grand Children: Bharat, Gautam, Sharay, Ayat
MOBILE NO 9419164484, 9419705350



Late Sh. Prithvi Raj Abrol

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Shobawati Raina** W/o. Lt. Sh. Sham Lal Raina erstwhile of Shodhani Nawa, Pulwama presently residing at Qtr. No. 20, Block No 3, Lane No 01 Jagti Township.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 2nd March 2025 at Bhadrakali Temple Thalwal Mandal Jammu and assembly will be held at Muthi Gath Near Directorate of School Education at 10:30am.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
Son's & Daughter in Law
Sh. Bushan Lal Raina & Smt. Tosha Raina (7006833945)
Smt. Babita Raina & Lt. Sh. Gopi Krishan Raina (7006038300)
Sh. Dwarika Nath Raina & Smt. Pinky Raina (7889918854)
Sh. Kuldeep Raina & Smt. Babita Raina (8082899141)
Daughters & Son in Law
Smt. Tosha Kachroo & Sh. S. L Kachroo
Smt. Basanti Bhat & Lt. Sh. Kaka Ji Bhat
Grand Childrens :
Amit, Ashish, Anshu, Aman & Jatin Raina
Sunil, Sandeep Kachroo & Ashwani Bhat



Smt. Shobawati Raina

Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Shri Dwarika Nath Dhar** of YK. Para, who left for his heavenly abode on 22nd February 2025 at his residence "House No. 23/3, Netar Kothian, Lower Bama, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday, 2nd March 2025, at Akhnoor, Jammu and "assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat, Near Directorate of Education, Jammu, at 11:30 AM."

Grief-stricken:
Smt. Pary Dhar (Wife)
Smt. Parmeshwan, Wife of Late Prem Nath Dhar (Sister-in-law)
Smt. Veena Ji & Brij Lal Dhar (Sister-in-law and Brother)
Smt. Ashu Ji & Bushan Lal Dhar (Sister-in-law and Brother) (Brother-in-law and Sister)
Shri P. K. Sapru & Smt. Phoolia Dhar (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Smt. Prana Dhar & Arter Krishan Dhar
Shri Ragandhar Dhar (Son)
Shri Shadi Lal Dhar & Shikha Dhar (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Archana Dhar & Rakesh Dhar (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Smt. Piche & M. K. Hengoo (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Smt. Kiran & Shri Nana Jee Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Mrs. Binny & Shri Sanjay Dhar (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Mrs. Renu & Shri Rakesh Pandita (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Mrs. Anita & Shri Sanjay Razdan (Daughter and Son-in-law)
Grandchildren:
Akhil, Ayush, Nikin, Nidhi, Riya, Arushi
Malun side mourning will be held at the above-mentioned address.

Contact:
9419929904, 7889983695, 9877365046



Shri Dwarika Nath Dhar

TENTH DAY /KRIYA / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tirath Ram Gupta (Retd. CAO)** S/o Lt. Sh. Gurun Dita Mal (Tounth Wale) R/o 160-B, Ram Vihar, Old Janipur, Jammu on 13/2/2025 (Thursday).

10th Day will be performed on 22/2/2025 (Saturday) at Pashlin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony from 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon.

The **Kriya** will be performed on 25/2/2025 (Tuesday) at our residence from 9.00 am onwards.

Uthala will be performed on 26/2/2025 (Wednesday) at Pashlin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Kanta Devi (Wife)
Smt. Surju Devi (Chachi Ji)
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Dr. Reeta Gupta (DD Animal Husbandary Dept) & Er. Ajay Gupta (A.E. REW Udhampur)
Smt. Payal Mahajan (Teacher) & Er. Amit Gupta (AEPDD)
Dr. Anita Kumari (SDH Ramnagar) & Dr. Rajesh Gupta (Ramnagar) - Daughter & Son-in-law
Lt. Smt. Gayatri Devi & Lt. Sh. Madan Lal Gupta - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Rani Gupta & Lt. Sh. O.P. Gupta - Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Neelam Gupta & Lt. Sh. Som Raj Gupta - Brother & Bhabhi
Grand Children
Dr. Akshita & Dr. Ankit
Annav, Rakshit, Alankrit, Advika
Great Grand Son : Aeraj Mahajan
Ph. Nos.: 9419157956, 9419118877, 9419214034



Sh. Tirath Ram Gupta (Retd. CAO)

MASVAR AND VAHARVAR 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

One year has passed since you left us for heavenly abode but your loving memories, will always remain with us. Physically you are not with us but we feel your presence in every movement of life.

Masvar & Vaharvar of our beloved Late **Smt. Indira Nagari** W/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Nagari (Principal. Rtd) R/o 2/55 Pomposh Colony Janipur Jammu will be performed on 25th of February (Tuesday) 2025 and 26th of February (Wednesday) 2025 at our residence **Late Smt. Indira Nagari** Janipur, Jammu.

Grief Stricken & Deeply Remembered By:
Sh. Kewal Krishan Nagari - Husband (Principal Rtd.)
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Shivani Nagari & Sh. Parul Nagari
Son
Sh. Kanav Nagari - **Son**
Smt. Savita Bakshi & Sh. G.L. Bakshi - **Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law**
Smt. Beena Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Ravinder Sharma - **Sister-in-law**
Master Divyendu Nagari - Grand Son
All Family Members, Friends and Relatives
Mob. No:- 9419342795, 9622238427, 9149850695



OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of **Hari Krishan Kaul** S/o Shri Shyam Lal Kaul, originally resident of Indra Bhawan, Sonwar Bagh, Srinagar and presently residing at F 5/3, BPTP Villas, F Block, Sector 68, Faridabad. He left for the heavenly abode on 20th February 2025. He has left behind memories which will be cherished forever. May he attain Moksha in Vaikuntha and continue to bless us forever.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on 28th February at Chota Haridwar, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad at 7 am, **Assembly** at our Faridabad residence at 11:30am

GRIEF STRICKEN
Khemlata Kaul : Wife
Monika & Gopal Kaul : Daughter-in-law & Son
Meenakshi & Yashvir Kaul : Daughter-in-law & Son
Anupurna & Deepak Kaul : Son-in-law & Daughter
Jawahar Lal Kaul : Brother
Meesa Kaul : Sister-in-law
Mohini & Jawahar Lal Bhat : Sister & Brother-in-law
Lalita Kaul : Sister
Tribawan Kaul : Brother
Ayush, Pujan, Vaibhav, Luv & Kush, Kartik : Grand Children
Contact Numbers : 9582214198, 9818162922



Hari Krishan Kaul

REMINISCENCE/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart, we inform the heavenly abode, a journey to celestial home, of our revered and beloved father **Sh. Poshkar Nath Zaroo** on 18th February 2025 at C-328, B-3, Shalimar Garden-II, Ghaziabad, UP.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** of the pious soul will be performed on 27th February 2025 at Murad Nagar Ghat, Ghaziabad at 9:30 am.

Remembered by:
Mr. Omkar Nath Zaroo (Brother)
Mrs. Geeta and Vijay Zaroo (Sister-in-Law and Brother).
Mrs. Rekha Sumbly and Mr. Neeraj Sumbly (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Mrs. Anamika Zaroo and Mr. Rajiv Zaroo (Daughter-in-Law and Son)
Samast Zaroo and Zutshi Parivar, Nephews, Nieces and Grandchildren.
MOBILE NO: 9958013489, 9419187076



SH. POSHKAR NATH ZAROO

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Bimla Huku**, W/o Ashok Huku, 72 C/3, Om Nagar, opposite Elite Public School, Udhaywala, Borhi (J&K) who left for heavenly abode on 19-02-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on Tuesday (28-02-2025) at Akhnoor, followed by an Assembly at Muthi Ghat at 11:00 am Sharp.

Grief Stricken:
Sh. Ashok Huku (Husband)
Sh. Ishan and Smt. Priya (Son and Daughter in law)
Smt. Esha Wali and Sh. Amit Wali (Daughter and Son in law)
Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Smt. Rita & Sh. Brij Nath Kaul
Smt. Urmila and Sh. P.K. Raina
Smt. Sunita and Sh. Rajiv Razdan
Grand Daughters
Aadya, Aahana, Nishtha & Krishna
Contact Numbers Ph:7006194209, 9419117629



Smt. Bimla Huku

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Madhu Bala** W/o Late Sh. Subhash Chander Gupta R/o H.No. 1135 Sec 8 Near R.N. Tagore High Sec. School Nanak Nagar Jammu.

Uthala will take place at 4 to 5 PM Shiv Mandir, Sector 1, Railway Road Nanak Nagar on 26 Feb. 2025

Grief Stricken
Mr. Avinash Gupta (90188 32697)
Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Mrs. Manjula and Mr. Parshotam
Mrs. Ashu and Mr. Sunny
Mrs. Arti and Mr. Amish
Brothers and Sisters-in-Law
Smt. Shobha and Sh. Devi Dass Gupta
Smt. Kamla and Late Sh. Brij Mohan Gupta
Smt. Anita and Sh. Rajinder Gupta
Sh. Rakesh Gupta
Smt. Abhilasha W/o Late Sh. Bansil Lal Gupta - Sister-in-Law



Smt. Madhu Bala

OBITUARY

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

The **10th Day Kriya** will be held at Akhnoor Ghat. Prayers and **Assembly** will be held at residence on 26-02-2025 at 9 am.

Grief Stricken:-
Smt. Sulekha Saraf - Wife
Navneet Mithu Saraf and Priyanka Saraf - Son & Daughter in law
Nidhi Meenu Saraf and Kartik Koul - Daughter & Son in law
And Saraf's, Krandu's, Koul's, Raina's, Munshi's, Wall's, Misri's and Koul's.
Phone No. 9796048545, 7006146776



Sh. Kuldeep Saraf

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Soma Devi** W/o Late Sh. Parkash Singh R/o H. No. 39 Chowgan Salathian, Panjriti, Jammu on 13-2-2025.

10th Day will be performed on 22-02-2025 (Saturday) at Rani Park 11 AM. The **Kriya** will be performed on 25-02-2025 (Tuesday) at our residence from 10 AM onwards. **Uthala** will be performed on 26-02-2025 (Wed) at our residence at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Son & Daughters-in-law
Narinder Singh (Papu) & Anju Jammal
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Anita Manhas W/o Sh. Joginder Singh Manhas
Smt. Aruna Salathia W/o Sh. Sohan Singh Salathia
Smt. Anita Bhau W/o Sh. Pawan Singh Bhau
Grand Daughters & Sons-in-law
Nikhil Jammal & Anuj Thakur
Twinkle & Manan
Sana & Rishav Jammal
Grand Children: Abhi, Manu, Yuvi, Ayush, Riya
And Jammal Family
Ph. 9906284769, 9622748771



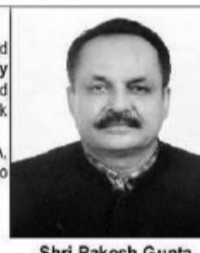
SMT. SOMA DEVI

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of **Shri Rakesh Gupta** (Food Safety Officer) S/o Late Shri. Vaishno Dutt Gupta (Retd. Excise Inspector) R/o H.No 578 Sector E, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

UTHALA will take place at Gunadwara Sector A, Sainik Colony near SBI Bank, Jammu from 4 PM to 5 PM on February 26, 2025 (Wednesday).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Ranu Gupta (Wife)
Mr. Ayush Mahajan (Son)
(Daughters)
Miss. Kanisha Mahajan and Miss. Prachi Mahajan
Smt. Parkash Gupta (Mother)
Brothers and Sisters-in-law
Mr. Arun Gupta and Romita Gupta
Mr. Rajeev Gupta and Anita Gupta
Brothers-in-law and Sisters
Mr. Kulbushan Gupta and Kanchan Gupta
Mr. Rakesh Kohli and Vandana Kohli
Contact No:- 9419201870, 9858226892, 8899032355



Shri Rakesh Gupta (Food Safety Officer)

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Soma Devi** W/o Late Sh. Parkash Singh R/o H. No. 39 Chowgan Salathian, Panjriti, Jammu on 13-2-2025.

10th Day will be performed on 22-02-2025 (Saturday) at Rani Park 11 AM. The **Kriya** will be performed on 25-02-2025 (Tuesday) at our residence from 10 AM onwards. **Uthala** will be performed on 26-02-2025 (Wed) at our residence at 10 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Son & Daughters-in-law
Narinder Singh (Papu) & Anju Jammal
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Anita Manhas W/o Sh. Joginder Singh Manhas
Smt. Aruna Salathia W/o Sh. Sohan Singh Salathia
Smt. Anita Bhau W/o Sh. Pawan Singh Bhau
Grand Daughters & Sons-in-law
Nikhil Jammal & Anuj Thakur
Twinkle & Manan
Sana & Rishav Jammal
Grand Children: Abhi, Manu, Yuvi, Ayush, Riya
And Jammal Family
Ph. 9906284769, 9622748771



SMT. SOMA DEVI

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Arjan Nath Koul** S/o Lt. Sarwanand Koul, R/o Damjan, Anantnag, A.P. Trikuta Lane No. 2, Sector -1 Near Krishna Palace Durga Nagar Jammu on 20/02/2025.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 01/03/2025 (Saturday) at Akhnoor Ghat and **Assembly** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Office at 11:00 AM on 01/03/2025 (Saturday).

GRIEF STRICKEN
Rajender Nath Koul and Kiran Koul (Son and Daughter in law)
Hira Lal Koul and Romi Koul (Son and Daughter in law)
Dileep Koul and Dolly Koul (Son in law and Daughter)
Rajender Kumar Bhat and Rousha Bhat (Son in law and Daughter)
Deeply Remembered by Grand Children :
Vishal, Rupesh, Sheenu, Chahat, Pranav and Parth .
Phone number: 9858688494, 7298033349 and 9419629614



SH. ARJAN NATH KOUL

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

India's Space economy to increase fivefold in next few years: Dr Jitendra



JAMMU/ NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): "India's Space economy is expected to increase more than fivefold from 8bn \$ to 44 \$ bn in next few years, making an important value addition to the country's overall economy towards 5 trillion goal".

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh while addressing the "Business Conclave" organised by the Times Network at Hotel Taj here.

The Minister highlighted the remarkable progress achieved by the Indian space sector, citing the increased space budget as a key factor driving this success. He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the space budget has almost tripled—from ₹5,615 crore in 2013-14 to ₹13,416 crore in 2025-2026, reflecting the government's commitment to fostering growth in the space sector.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to 2014 as a pivotal turning point for India's space journey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took an out-of-box decision to "unlock" India's Space sector, marking a proactive shift in government policies. He credited the enabling environment created by the Modi government, which had thrown open the gates of Sriharikota for the public and opened up the space sector for

private sector participation, bringing in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

This strategic approach, initiated with the personal intervention of PM Narendra Modi, is creating synergy between the government and non-government sectors through frameworks such as the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and In-SPaCe, boosting innovation and opportunities across the space industry. He added that first Generation space Startups have become successful enterprises.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about the historic milestones of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), such as becoming the first nation to successfully reach the South Pole of the Moon.

While ISRO's journey began when other nations had already sent humans to the moon, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted how India is now leading the way in space exploration with cost-effective and indigenous technologies. Citing the Chandrayaan mission, which was executed at just ₹600 crore—half the cost of similar missions by other countries—he emphasized India's rise as a global leader in space, science and technology.

The Minister underscored the transformative impact of space technology on various sectors. He drew attention to the Swamitva Scheme, which uses satellite mapping and drone technology for land record mapping, eliminating the reliance on revenue officials.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also discussed ISRO's role in improving communication and connectivity, reinforcing India's self-

reliance in space and satellite technology, and highlighted that 433 foreign satellites had been launched by ISRO which earned 292 million Euros and 172 million \$.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's efforts to foster an inclusive space ecosystem, with women playing a central role in key space projects like Chandrayaan and Aditya L1. He also spoke about India's growing prominence on the global stage, citing recent developments such as the US's invitation to send an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station and other future collaborations between India and international space agencies.

The Minister also pointed to India's untapped potential in its Himalayan, coastal, and marine resources, which are expected to drive further economic growth and innovation in the coming years. He emphasized how the space sector will play a key role in unlocking these resources for the benefit of the nation.

Dr. Singh also discussed the growing StartUp ecosystem in India, with Jammu & Kashmir emerging as a role model in agri-tech startups. He highlighted the success of the Aroma Mission: Purple Revolution, which featured in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" and showcased at the Republic Day Parade, empowering the youth in the region. The record number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir each season serves as a testament to the region's growing development and peace.

In closing, Dr Jitendra Singh affirmed that India is committed to leading the global space race with entirely indigenously developed technologies that are cost-effective, futuristic, and designed for sustainable growth. He concluded by reiterating that India's space sector will not only follow the global path but will also carve out its own leadership role on the world stage, marking a new era in space exploration.

LG Manoj Sinha greets people on Mahashivratri, Herath



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Mahashivratri, which will be celebrated tomorrow on February 26.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor

said: "On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, I convey my hearty greetings and felicitations to all and wish them health, happiness and prosperity.

The sacred festival, celebrated as 'Herath' by Kashmiri Pandit community, is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to a life of commitment, truth, brotherhood and compassion. It is a celebration of devotion, divinity and symbolises our inner journey to rise to higher levels of consciousness.

I pray to Lord Shiva to guide us on the path of righteousness and shower His blessings on all of us for years to come".

Div Com holds preliminary meeting for notification of flood basin areas

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): In a bid to demarcate & designate flood basin areas of River Jhelum, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today held a preliminary meeting to deliberate the modalities for notification of flood basin zones.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal besides Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control; Executive Engineers and officers of Wildlife and Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing departments. At the outset, the concerned officers of I&FC gave a detailed presentation wherein they gave an overview of inundation areas of September 2014 flood, affected areas viz land-use and flood zoning of area to regulate human activity besides overall status & mapping of flood basins including Hokersar Wetland, Nowgam Jheel, Higam Jheel, Narkara Numbal, Anchar Lake, Wullar Lake, Left side of River Jhelum from Sangam to Padshahbagh.

The meeting deliberated over the diverse range of issues to tackle and mitigate the impact of floods. The meeting discussed the classification of areas into prohibited zone, regulated zone and warning zone based on permissibility of human activities.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com impressed Deputy Commissioners to conduct meetings of members from Irrigation & Flood Control, Forest & Revenue departments to conduct comprehensive study & survey of flood basins and submit the tentative proposals for the notification of the areas.

Meanwhile, in view of the inclement weather forecast, Div Com directed DCs to remain vigilant and keep men & machinery in readiness mode to ensure smooth & uninterrupted operation of essential services across the valley to facilitate the general public.

We hope that Statehood will come back: Farooq Abdullah

AMRITSAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah visited and offered prayers at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Tuesday.

Later, speaking to the reporters, he emphasised the unity of the country and spoke on the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is very unfortunate. Bharat belongs to everyone. Be it Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian or Jain. And those who do not have any religion. The fire which has been set off is a political one. To win over the votes. It should not have happened. Bharat will be united as long as we remain united," Abdullah said.

"If any Bharatiya has to face any situation, we will unitedly deal with it. It has happened before and will also happen today," the NC Chief added.

He was asked about the problems being faced by minorities in



the country. The NC Chief also replied to a query on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir: "It is not a state. It has been downgraded to a UT. We hope that statehood will come back."

On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, he said, "You should come there and see yourself".

He also underlined that every state has its own problems

"...Every state has its own problems, but the central government does not understand it...If we want to keep India united, we have to understand the pains

of everyone. US President Donald Trump says America First. Why don't we say India First..." he added.

Notably, the restoration of Article 370, the reinstatement of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, and the implementation of the autonomy resolution were key promises in the National Conference's manifestos for the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

On August 2019, the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi repealed Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, effectively ending the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir.

Handwara Police Seize Properties Worth lakhs of Two Pakistan Based Terror Handlers



HANDWARA, Feb 25 (Agencies) : Police in Handwara after obtaining attachment order passed by Hon'ble Additional Sessions Court Handwara attached properties (3

Kanals, 12Marlas) land worth lacs belonging to terror handlers based in Pakistan namely : Tahir Ahmad Peer, S/O Shamus-ud-din peer, R/O Badrah Bala Qaziabad, Mohd Ramzan Ganie

, S/O Mohd Abdullah Ganie, R/O Ganapora Qaziabad.

The action was taken under sections of 88 CrPc (83 central) & are linked with case FIR No. 73/2011 U/S 2/3 EIMCO Act, 121 A RPC of Police station Kralgund

The property was identified belonging to absconders during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Police.

The operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the terror activities.

NC's Bijbehara MLA proposes bill to rationalise reservation in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 25 (Agencies): National Conference MLA from Bijbehara has proposed a bill for the upcoming session of Jammu Kashmir legislative assembly to rationalise reservation capping the reservation quotas at 40 per cent for reserved categories and 60 per cent for open merit.

Veeru reposted the post on X that said, "We are highly thankful to @DrVeeru for this approach! Need all members support for this Bill #reservationjk."



Reacting over the development, Open Merit Students Association J&K, said in a social media post, "Our bill has been taken to the floor by some MLAs from both the ruling and opposition parties,

despite stiff resistance from their high commands. We are grateful to them for taking a stand. We urge the legislators to stand firmly behind and support the people's bill by raising their voices on

this crucial governance issue—or be prepared to face the people's wrath in any future electoral exercise." Jammu and Kashmir travel guide

Veeru was quoted by some media organisations as saying that the bill was aimed to safeguard merit.

NC MLA has also proposed legislation to protect the Karewas from rampant soil extraction and to prohibit mining in Karewa zones which are "ecologically, geologically, and archaeologically significant."

'Long list of leaders from AAP and Congress who want to join BJP': BJP leader Tarun Chugh

JAMMU, Feb 25 (Agencies): BJP leader Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said that there is a long list of leaders from AAP and Congress who want to join the BJP over Pratap Singh Bajwa claims that 32 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs are in touch with him and ready to join the Congress.

Speaking to ANI, BJP leader Tarun Chugh said, "AAP-da and the Congress parties both have hurt Punjab a lot. They did not do anything to tackle the drug menace, empower women, provide employment to youth, increase the income of the farmers... There is a long list of leaders from AAP and Congress who want to join the BJP..."

He also slammed both the AAP and the Congress parties, saying they have hurt Punjab a lot. Chugh further mentioned that both parties did nothing to tackle the drug menace, empower women, provide employment to youth, or increase the



income of farmers. Earlier, on Monday, Punjab Congress leader Pratap Singh Bajwa made sensational claims, alleging that 32 AAP MLAs are in touch with him and ready to join Congress.

Bajwa likened the situation to the "Eknath Shinde episode" in Maharashtra, where Shiv Sena MLAs defected to form a new government. He further claimed that these MLAs are making 'advance bookings' just like people buy tickets for Diljit Dosanjh's show in advance.

"There will be an 'Eknath Shinde episode' in Punjab in the coming months. These MLAs are doing 'advance booking' to join the Congress, just like people buy tickets in advance for Diljit Dosanjh's show," Bajwa said while referring to the breakup of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Bajwa, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, stated that these MLAs are leaving AAP because they see no future with the party.

He emphasised that the Congress is not trying to destabilise the government; rather, the MLAs are coming to the party voluntarily. "Our program is not to destabilise the government. The (AAP MLAs) themselves are coming to Congress. They understand that they have no future. Once elections are called, we will call them," Bajwa told reporters, adding, "I am firm on my statement."

ENIT NO. 740F 2024-25 DATED 19-02-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR
SHORT TERM TENDER
E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/740F 2024-25 DATED 19-02-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of 250mm dia foot valve at pumping station Salmay stage-0 (Old) unit no. 4 alongwith allied works and providing / fitting of new copper cable from motor to panel.	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 2700.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 1350.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-02-2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20-02-2025 (15:30Hrs) to 27-02-2025 (3:00 PM).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 28-02-2025 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 & 6 of the table (and for DIC/SSI/MSME registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K govt.) payable at Udhampur pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR / BG of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of Treasury Challan / e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur payable at Udhampur.
- Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate.
 - Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year, should be at least 30% of this estimated cost.
 - Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 07 years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following:-
 - Three similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost
 - Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimate cost.
 - One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
 - Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid / tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact site conditions.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2024-25/3921-24
Dated:-19-02-2025

DIP/J-10516/24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division
Udhampur

EDITORIAL

Pathway to
Farmer Prosperity

Agriculture is the backbone of India's economy, providing livelihoods to over 50% of the population and contributing significantly to GDP. Recognizing its importance, the Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, outlines a visionary approach to empower farmers, enhance productivity, and ensure food security. With a focus on modernization, sustainability, and self-reliance, the budget introduces several key initiatives that aim to transform India's agrarian landscape.

A flagship initiative in this year's budget is the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, which targets 100 districts with low agricultural productivity and limited credit access. The program, designed in collaboration with state governments, aims to enhance Agricultural Productivity: Farmers will be equipped with advanced technologies, better seeds, and improved farming techniques. The initiative encourages moving beyond traditional crops to include high-value and climate-resilient varieties. Investments in warehouses and cold storage facilities will minimize post-harvest losses and stabilize prices. New irrigation projects and efficient water-use mechanisms will be promoted. Farmers will get access to affordable credit through institutional loans, reducing dependency on informal lenders. This program is a multi-pronged effort to uplift rural India, ensuring that farmers not only sustain but thrive.

India is one of the largest consumers of pulses, yet a significant portion is imported. To address this, the government has launched a six-year "Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses," with a special focus on tur, urad, and masoor. The key objectives include Increasing domestic production to reduce dependency on imports; Providing incentives to farmers for pulse cultivation; Strengthening procurement mechanisms to ensure fair prices; investing in research for high-yield, pest-resistant varieties.

By achieving self-reliance in pulses, India aims to secure its food supply while boosting farmers' incomes.

Technology is transforming agriculture, and the budget allocates substantial funds to integrate digital solutions into farming practices.

Expansion of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): A unified farmer database will enable better policy implementation, subsidy distribution, and credit access.

AI and Big Data in Farming: Advanced analytics will provide real-time insights on soil health, weather patterns, and market trends.

Drone-Based Farming: The use of drones for pesticide spraying, soil assessment, and precision farming will be expanded.

E-NAM 2.0: The national agricultural market (e-NAM) will be upgraded to enhance online trading of farm produce, ensuring better price realization for farmers.

The government's push for AgriTech will bridge the urban-rural divide and empower farmers with knowledge and efficiency.

Agriculture financing is crucial for growth. The government has increased the agriculture credit target to Rs 25 lakh crore, with a special focus on Dairy, fisheries, and animal husbandry sectors; Small and marginal farmers, ensuring they receive institutional credit at low interest rates; Expanding the reach of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to more farmers, including those engaged in allied activities.

By providing easier access to credit, the government aims to enhance productivity and reduce rural distress.

Cooperatives and FPOs play a crucial role in supporting small farmers by pooling resources and improving market access. The budget includes Tax incentives for cooperatives to enhance profitability; Strengthening of FPOs through financial and technical support; Encouragement for private-sector participation in cooperative-driven agri-processing and export initiatives.

These measures will empower farmers by ensuring they have greater control over their produce and earnings.

Climate change poses a significant threat to agriculture. This year's budget has a strong focus on climate-resilient farming, including Expansion of the PM-PRANAM scheme, which promotes chemical-free farming; Further support for the cultivation and export of millets, branded as "Shree Anna", given their climate resilience and nutritional value; Investments in projects that improve soil fertility and water conservation; Farmers adopting sustainable practices will be incentivized through green credits.

With these efforts, the government aims to balance productivity with environmental sustainability.

To make India a global leader in agricultural exports, the budget includes measures such as Increasing agri-export hubs and food processing units; Strengthening logistics and cold-chain infrastructure for perishable goods; Encouraging organic and value-added exports; Simplifying export regulations to help farmers access global markets.

These initiatives will not only boost farmer incomes but also enhance India's position as a key agricultural exporter.

Farmer welfare remains a priority, with continued support for PM-KISAN- The direct income support scheme providing Rs 6,000 annually to small and marginal farmers continues; Crop Insurance Under PMFBY- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana remains a crucial safety net, ensuring compensation for crop losses due to natural calamities.

These schemes provide financial security and stability to millions of farmers.

By: Vijay Garg

In every hand, there is often a concern about the culture of reading the book in the smartphone round. But the truth is that even today there is a huge number of people who love books and they also get the news of decorating the world of books, they get there. Even before and even today, the sense that is created by the collective sense in any context in the brain or by the accumulation of a place of people is derived only from celebrating religious or any cultural celebration. In this time of the race, the net meaning of such gathering is considered to be reconciled, but the matter is of books, then what to say- Books of the world or books reached to the people? can also say that the audience behind the books - the reader, organisers and publishers behind them. Where lovers of books of different languages mobilize, where readers join, publishers printing books- ganes gather and writers also have a gathering, book culture from similar places finds life. But ironically, only the propagated fair is known as the people primarily book fair, while the culture of reading books is a wide ocean, from where knowledge finds its life. The authors find pleasure in seeing the detail of the landscape of their books with their eyes that their

Corner of the Books

thoughts are reaching people. It is still, when it has not been time today, when ever books were read in a big way, the book - lovers knew it to the nearby neighbour whenever books were made to sit in their hands that it definitely reads somewhere. No matter how big the student children grow in hand instead of ideas, the little children live on. In school-college days, some children used to hide in their books and also do letters. It was definitely known in some form with them. Though his housemates used to be oblivious. Today's youths are open minded. Social media has converted time to watch than read. Change is not only strong, also for progress. So consider time as God. Today's progressionists also look at the sky before looking at the ground. In the starting days children cry often watching books. Those who publish books have different cries. that the books do not sell. In such a situation, the author also assumes the same. However in addition to this, what else is the solution they have. Patience is the real mother of his writing. Knowing so much, it is also brought to be a chance of economic account- book and profits rather than developing book and reading culture. Even if the government belongs to someone, every decision of it gets the value, it is the value

giver whether there is any side associated with reading. Everyone's eyes point to some justification. How many writers get the fruit of it, do not know, but bear the burden of all this to the reader. Detail of Interest Nonetheless, cohesiveness to books and is meant for a purpose- keeping the book-culture alive. Efforts are made on similar lines sometimes annually, such as organizing, So that the book reading trend is not reduced. The possibility of expanding this culture is created when a place of people with a similar interest is accumulated. But its parallels can usually be seen that people of other interests also step into the world of books because of socialism and after that their interest starts developing in books as well. In such places all sorts of people can be found. Even those who are socializing and also having thirty-six figures, very good books, so some books too, which are surprised to see. How much is found, this book can tell only those who love culture. path of cooperation According to the literacy figure in this country with a population of about one and a half hundred crores, how many people will be going to read books broadly? Book fairs taking place should also assume that ten crore viewers have shown their share, even then publishers remain happy. Tell what to say to

show. Books, the things of their writers getting raily etc. are so complicated and especially in the world of Hindi that talking on this issue is challenging in itself. Whose book should stop at what juncture, cannot be said. In such a world, Adab means walking with adab in the world of books. So in every situation being in limit is called wise. The requirement is that in the interest of publishers authors in the development and expansion of the book - culture if any concrete steps are taken at the level of government, first of all books are some concession for those delivering to people, so that as well as small publishers can make their place in this book world. Also the increased postal-charges of books are less, then all people will be good. Otherwise, in terms of access to books and their prices, distance from readers' books can be understood as a reason. And then many books can be divided into mere white, yellow, blue or green.

(Vijay Garg Retd
Principal
Educational
Columnist MALOUT
Punjab)

Bank Pensioners' worry

By: Vinod
Chandrashekhhar Dixit

Retired bank employees of public sector banks have expressed their strong disappointment and concern over the delay in implementing long pending crucial unresolved issues. As per the excerpt from the judgment given by late Justice Y V Chandrachud, then Chief Justice, Supreme Court, in the famous DK Nakara pension case on December 17, 1982, it is stated that "Pension is neither a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, and not an ex-gratia payment. It is a payment for the past services rendered and a social welfare measure rendering socio-economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age they would not be left in the lurch."

Being a retired Senior Officer from Bank, I would like to point out that public banks have played

a historically stellar role in financial inclusion and the development of the social sector. They have been the backbone of the government's socio-economic agenda and have made a transformative impact on the country's development landscape. But it is sad that the contribution of their employees has not been adequately recognized. The government has paid little heed to their worsening service conditions. Public banks have played a historically stellar role in financial inclusion and the development of the social sector. They have been the backbone of the government's socio-economic agenda and have made a transformative impact on the country's development landscape. But sadly, the contribution of their employees has not been adequately recognized. The government has paid little heed to their worsening service conditions. Most bankers are honest and above board and retire with the satisfaction that they have rendered honest service as the custodians of public money. Pensions in government are

typically inflation-indexed. This is not so in the case of bank employees. The pension of bank retirees is not revised/updated in line with the periodical revision of salaries as is done in the case of government employees where both salaries and pensions are simultaneously revised when the periodical Pay Commission's wage revision take effect.

The key demands includes Updation of Pension - a case of Gross Discrimination shown only to Bank Pensioners, Special Allowance not being reckoned for the purpose of calculation of Gratuity and computation of Pension for Retirees after 1st November, 2012 onwards, Medical Insurance at affordable cost, Disparity in payment of Dearness and they expect for creation of a formal consultative forum for periodical exchange of views and redressal of the grievances of Bank Pensioners and Retirees at IBA level

When the present Government believes in "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and SabkaPrayas", Bank Pensioners and Retirees should not be exclud-

ed and should be treated as an exception to this Avowed Objective.

It is really unfortunate that all possible ways were explored in the past the finance minister have not shown any real interest. Government must give top priority on the key issues of immediate pension updation, an increase in welfare fund allocation for retirees, improvements in health insurance benefits, and removal of GST on health insurance premiums. It is high time the government considered and conceded the reasonable demands of bank pensioners.

(Vinod
Chandrashekhhar
Dixit)
dixitpatrakar@yahoo.
in B-15 Jyoti-Kalash
Society,
Jodhpur Tekra
Satellite
Ahmedabad - 380 015

CUJ holds annual meeting of Advisory Committee for DBT-supported M.Sc Biotechnology Program



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: The Centre for Molecular Biology (CMB) at Central University of Jammu, established in 2016, recently hosted its annual meeting of the Advisory Committee for the DBT Government of India-supported M.Sc. Biotechnology program. This meeting was chaired by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

The M.Sc Biotechnology program, introduced by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, commenced in 2020 and has been running successfully with financial support until the academic year 2026-2027.

Admission to this program is based on the Graduate Aptitude Test (GAT-B) conducted annually by the National Testing Agency (NTA), and each selected student is granted a monthly fellowship of Rs 5000 for the entire two-year duration.

The meeting was attended by distinguished members, including Prof. Amitabha Bandopadhyay from the Department of Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Salgotra from the Department of Biotechnology, SKUAST Jammu; Anil Suri, President of the Industrial Organization, Bari Brahmna, Jammu; and all faculty members of CMB.

The session witnessed an insightful presentation of the annual report by Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, Project Investigator, who shared key updates on the program's progress.

In his report, Prof. Ahmed highlighted that DBT had extended the program until the academic session 2025-2027, following a positive evaluation of its performance over the past five years.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, while chairing the meeting, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated faculty of CMB in successfully running the program and in ensuring its continued growth and success.

GDC Samba wins Intra-District Volleyball Tournament

Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 25: A two day Intra-District Volleyball Tournament was hosted at SPPND GDC Samba. The event was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the College as Chief Guest.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from GDC Samba, GDC Vijaypur, GDC Ramgarh and GDC Ghagwal.

The Tournament commenced with an exciting final match between the semi-finalist teams from GDC Samba and GDC Ramgarh.

The match ended with a decisive 2-1 victory for GDC Samba with second and third positions being bagged by GDC Ramgarh and GDC Vijaypur respectively.

The Principal congratulated the winning team for their exceptional performance and appreciated the participants for their sportsmanship and encouraged them to continue pursuing excellence in sports alongside their academic endeavours.

She stressed the importance of sporting events in enhancing social connections, life skills and physical well being. The officials of the match who supervised the game were Abneet Sharma and Ashwani Kumar.

The whole event was coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pankaj Bandharia, Convener Sports Board and Pradeep, PTI.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Assoc. Prof. Meenakshi Thakur, Co-Convener Sports Board.

Red Ribbon Club of GDC Mahanpur organizes poster making contest



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Feb 25: Red Ribbon Club of GDC Mahanpur organised poster making on HIV/AIDS Awareness on Tuesday. In connection with this year AIDS Day theme "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!", the main motto of the event was to emphasize the value of human rights in ending the AIDS epidemic.

It was organized by Dr. Sapna Devi (Convener, Red Ribbon Club), under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of

the College. The goal of the HIV/AIDS Program was to prevent further spread of HIV and to improve health outcomes for those already living with HIV.

In this event prominently present were Anu Radha, Pooja Sambyal, Shivani Panoch, and Other non-teaching staff.

The participants in the competition presented their posters in front of the judges. Monika, Ajay, Preeti, and Sheikha participated in the Competition. The first three winners were awarded with certificates.

New Jersey Academy Pre-School celebrates Annual Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: New Jersey Academy Pre-School celebrated its much-awaited Annual Day function with great enthusiasm and joy.

The event saw the presence of Priya Sethi, former Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was Tarun Sharma, Actor, Director, Model, Writer, and President of Nat Manch, who is also a prominent social, sports, cultural, and political activist.

The event was graced by the presence of other dignitaries, including Payal Gupta, Principal of New Jersey Academy, members of the Academy, as well as parents and students.

The Annual Day function was a wonderful celebration of the academy's



commitment to holistic development, showcasing the talent and creativity of its young students.

The ceremony was marked with various performances, speeches, and cultural activities, all reflecting the hard work and dedication of the students and staff.

Priya Sethi and Tarun Sharma, in their addresses, commended the efforts of the academy in nurturing young minds and promoting a well-

rounded education.

The event was a resounding success, and it highlighted the academy's focus on providing an enriching educational experience to its students.

The support and presence of the distinguished guests, along with the enthusiasm of the students and parents, made this Annual Day celebration a memorable occasion. The programme culminated with the National Anthem.

SPPND GDC Samba signs MOU with GDC Kathua



Top News Report

SAMBA, Feb 25: SPPND GDC Samba has reached a significant milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government Degree College, Kathua.

This partnership is designed to strengthen collaboration in skill development, sports education, tournaments, training sessions, coaching clinics, and faculty exchange programs, ultimately benefitting the students

of both colleges.

The MoU was formalized during a ceremony at GDC Samba, attended by senior faculty members from both institutions.

The signatories included Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua and Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal, GDC Samba.

Dr. Twinkle Suri in her welcome address highlighted that this synergy between two regional colleges will reinforce institutional frameworks for sports, skill development, and holistic edu-

cation. She further emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry, noting that the partnership opens new horizons of experiential learning for students.

In her remarks, Prof. Seema Mir underscored the collaboration's potential to create fresh opportunities for both colleges by sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and fostering new learning avenues.

The event was coordinated by Assistant Professor Ms. Rubeena Kouser.

Valedictory function of 7-day long winter camp held at GDC Khour



Top News Report

KHOUR, Feb 26: Valedictory function of the seven-day long winter camp was organized by the NSS unit of Government Degree College Khour on Tuesday.

Prof. (Dr.) T.K Sharma, the most revered principal of the college was the chief guest. The event was witnessed by senior faculty members, teaching staff and NSS Volunteers of the college. The whole proceedings were taken over by dedicated and active volunteers who organized the valedictory function on the theme "Promoting Dogra Culture".

The event started with the traditional lightening of ceremonial lamp followed by recitation of NSS song.

Volunteers namely Bhavana, Shruti and sakshi recited inspiring and mesmerizing poems on dogra culture. Other volunteers namely Swati, Muskan and Taniya gave vibrant dance performance that was wonderful blend of grace and energy.

Kirandeep and Arti sung patriotic songs. Simran and Rakhi shared their experiences regarding winter camp. Senior NSS volunteers Diljit Singh and Mansi Sharma were presented with outstanding NSS Volunteer award.

The principal of the college appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and encouraged them to render community services in the interest of society.

The whole event was organized under the supervision of Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS PO.

He extended his gracious thanks to Prof. (Dr.) Hema Gandotra, respected NSS Coordinator, University of Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) T K Sharma, Principal and NSS volunteers of the college without whose support it was quite difficult to organize and channelize seven day long winter camp.

Group Commander Jammu Group JK&L NCC Directorate visits Kathua Campus

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 25: Brig. D. N. Pandey, Group Commander, Jammu Group, JK&L NCC Directorate, conducted a landmark visit to Kathua Campus, University of Jammu.

On arrival, he was received with full honors by Lt. Amit Sharma, ANO Kathua Campus alongside Lt. Col. Tajender Sharma, Adm Officer, 4 J&K Bn NCC, Jammu.

The ANO briefed the Group Commander on the achievements of the newly established NCC unit at Kathua Campus.

The visit featured a dynamic interaction with NCC cadets, providing them a rare opportunity to engage directly with the senior officer.



Addressing the cadets, Brig. Pandey reinforced the principles of discipline, teamwork, and unwavering dedication to duty.

He urged them to excel in their training and remain ever-ready to serve the nation with integrity and commitment. His motivational words left a profound impact on the young cadets, instilling in them a renewed sense of pur

pose. Rector, Kathua Campus, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, emphasized the significance of such high-level interactions in shaping the leadership qualities of cadets. NCC cadets from GDC Kathua and GDCW Kathua were also part of the session, benefiting from the valuable insights shared by the senior officer.

MIER College student shines at R-Day Parade Camp 2025



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: MIER College of Education proudly announces that Mr. Nirbhay Khajuria, M.A. Psychology (Semester-I) student, has represented Jammu & Kashmir at the prestigious NSS Republic Day Parade Camp 2025 in New Delhi (January 1-31).

Selected among the top 148 NSS volunteers

from 30 lakh nationwide, Nirbhay marched at Kartavya Path during India's 76th Republic Day, saluting the President of India. As the only NSS volunteer from J&K chosen for both the parade and cultural performances, he also performed cultural dances at the President's House and Prime Minister's House.

Additionally, Nirbhay was among just 3,000

youth selected to attend the National Youth Festival 2025 at Bharat Mandapam (January 11-12), which was graced by the Prime Minister of India and global youth icons.

MIER College congratulates Nirbhay for his exceptional achievements and inspiring representation at the national level, setting an exemplary standard for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Omar-led Govt is committed to development, progress of Border areas: Manhas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Addressing a meeting of Block Khour at Village Dhon Chack in Chamb Assembly Segment of District Jammu Rural A, Ragbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural "A" said Omar Abdullah Government is committed to development and progress of the Border areas. The meeting was organized by Mohinder Singh Block President Khour and his teams.

In the meeting, local leaders emphasized the need of giving priority to the Border youth in employment and for improvement for living conditions of the Border areas.

Ragbir Singh Manhas said that the problems



brought in the meeting shall be put before the concerned quarters in the government so that living conditions of the border areas could improve and he also endorsed the demand of the Border far giving special employment package.

Others who spoke on this occasion included Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Manga

Sharma Block President Samoa, Devinder Singh Block President Mathwar, Bishan Dass Block President Bhagat Block President Mandal, Devi Dyal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Kuldeep Khour District President Jammu Rural A Women Wing, Vishawjeet Singh District Vice President Jammu Rural A YNC, Veer Ji Bhat Secretary Minority Cell and others.

GDC Mahanpur celebrates 75 Years of adoption of Constitution of India

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Feb 25: NSS Unit and Department of Hindi of GDC Mahanpur celebrated 75 Years of adoption of Constitution of India and 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (February-March, 2025) on Tuesday.

Monika of 4th sem, Vishal Singh of 6th sem and Mosin Sheikh participated in panel discussion.

The theme of the discussion was "Constitution and Governance". It was organized by Dr. Sapna under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. The main motto of the programme was to raise awareness about the importance of constitution and governance.

More than 40 students participated in the programme. Everyone participated in the Programme with enthusiasm.

Conclave triumphs with Best Cast Ensemble, Shogun dominates TV categories

The 31st Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards celebrated exceptional talent across both film and television. Hosted by Kristen Bell, the ceremony held on Sunday night was streamed live on Netflix from the Shrine Auditorium and Expo Hall in Los Angeles. The ceremony saw a mix of newcomers and established stars taking home top honours, with Conclave sweeping the film categories and Shogun dominating television awards. In the film realm, Conclave took home the coveted Best Ensemble Cast award. Timothee Chalamet claimed the title of Best Actor in a Leading Role for his portrayal of Bob Dylan in *A Complete Unknown*, while Demi Moore received Best Actress in a Leading Role for her powerful performance in *The Substance*.

Kieran Culkin earned the award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *A Real Pain*, with Zoe Saldana winning Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *Emilia Perez*.

In the television categories, Shogun emerged as the night's biggest winner, clinching three awards, including Best Drama Series Ensemble.

Anna Sawai won Best Actress



in a Drama Series for her portrayal of Toda Mariko, and Hiroyuki Sanada took home Best Actor in a Drama Series for his role as Yoshii Toranaga.

Only Murders in the Building continued its awards season success, winning Best Comedy Series Ensemble, while Martin Short claimed Best Actor in a Comedy Series for his role as Oliver Putnam. Jean Smart was recognised with the Best Actress in a Comedy Series award for her role in *Hacks*.

Jessica Gunning received Best Actress in a TV Movie or Limited Series for her role in *Baby Reindeer*, while Colin Farrell was awarded Best Actor in

a TV Movie or Limited Series for his role in *The Penguin*. The Best Stunt Ensemble awards were announced during the pre-show, with *The Fall Guy* winning in film and Shogun triumphing in the TV category.

During the ceremony, acting legend Jane Fonda was honoured with the prestigious Life Achievement Award for her decades-long contribution to film and television.

Top slots Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role: Timothee Chalamet — *A Complete Unknown*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role:

Demi Moore — *The Substance*
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role: Kieran Culkin — *A Real Pain*
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role: Zoe Saldana — *Emilia Perez*

Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture: *Conclave*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series: Hiroyuki Sanada — *Shogun*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series: Anna Sawai — *Shogun*

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series: Martin Short — *Only Murders in the Building*

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series: Jean Smart — *Hacks*

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series: *Shogun*

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series: *Only Murders in the Building*

Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture: *The Fall Guy*

Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Television Series: *Shogun*

Banita Sandhu turned heads at the Screen Actors Guild Awards



Banita Sandhu turned heads at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, dressed in an avant-garde metallic gown. Joining the cast of *Bridgerton*, that was nominated for Out-

standing Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series, Banita stunned in an avant-garde metallic gown, accessorising it with drop earrings and a sleek ponytail.

The strapless long dress, cinched at the waist, and a cut at above naval, shone and shimmered in the lights. Aggarwal called the dress "a convergence of craftsmanship and innovation—where our signature textile morphs into paradoxical forms, embodying the fluidity of time itself." Banita, who debuted in Bollywood opposite Varun Dhawan with the film *October*, also took to social media to pen a note to gratitude. "@amitaggarwalofficial & team, thank you for designing my dream dress that is legit out-of-this-world. You are a visionary & this look was exactly everything I wanted and more than I could have ever imagined. I couldn't be prouder to wear Indian couture as a first-time SAG nominee. I'm still pinching myself. Thank you to my whole team for making this happen. I'm the luckiest girl in the world."

Nicole Kidman emphasises the importance of supporting female directors

Academy Award-winning actress Nicole Kidman has surpassed her goal of working with a female director every 18 months, collaborating with 19 female filmmakers on various projects since 2017.

In a recent interview, Kidman emphasised the importance of supporting female directors, particularly those making their debut. "It can be changed, but it can only be changed by actually being in the films of women," she said.

Kidman noted that first-time female directors often face undue pressure to 'be perfect' in their debut outings. Kidman's commitment to working with female directors began in 2017, when she publicly declared at the Cannes Film Festival that she would work with a woman director every 18 months.



However, she later revealed that she had silently amended her goal to work with a female director every six months to a year. "Realising it is just you've got to roll up your sleeves and do it," Kidman said. "And that requires not being precious and just going, 'OK, let's go, let's go, let's go.' And being consistent and determined to do it," she added.

Kidman's recent collaborations with female directors include working with Halina Reijn on the erotic thriller "Babygirl." She has also worked with Vicky Jensen and Jorge Blanco on the animated film "Spellbound," and Karyn Kusama on the thriller "Destroyer." Her upcoming project, "Holland," is directed by Mimi Cave and will premiere at SXSW next month.

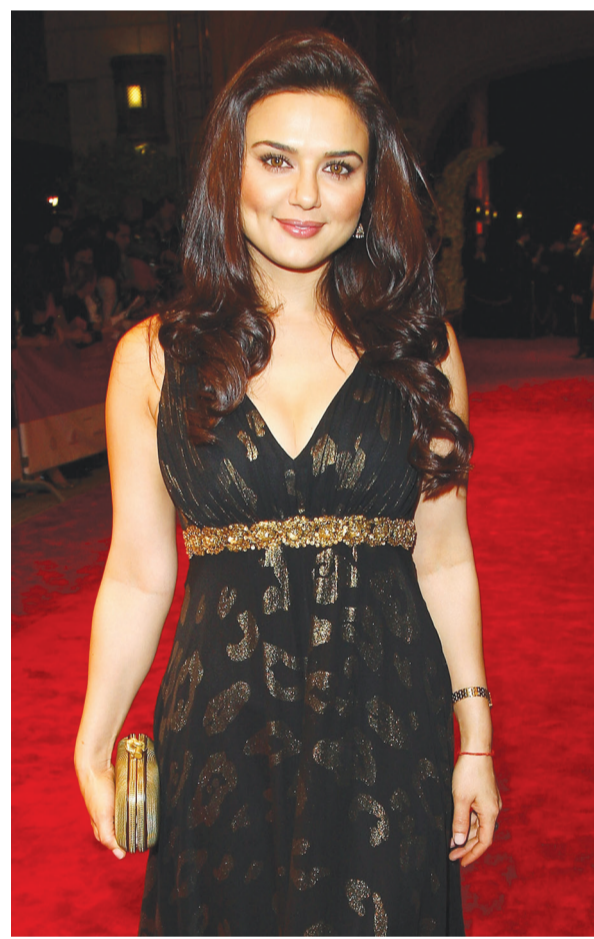
Preity Zinta denies Rs 18 crore loan write-off allegations; says 'not BJP, I operate my own account'

Bollywood actress Preity Zinta has refuted the allegations that an Rs 18 crore loan in her name was written off by the troubled New India Cooperative Bank Ltd. She has hit back at Indian National Congress' Kerala unit accusing them of cooking lies and putting them out in the public domain.

INC Kerala had earlier written on X, formerly Twitter, "She gave her social media accounts to BJP and got 18 Cr written off and the bank collapsed last week. Depositors are on the streets for their money".

In a strongly worded statement, the actor said the news is completely "fake".

The controversy hit headlines after a Moneylife report uncovered significant financial irregularities and alleged corruption within the



bank. Report revealed that corporate loans of up to Rs 25 crore were approved without informing branch managers, raising questions about internal oversight. Many of these loans reportedly became non-performing assets (NPAs) within a year, allegedly due to fund mismanagement and diversion, prompting the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take strict action against the bank's operations.

One of the most high-profile cases in the controversy involved Rs 18 crore loan to Preity Zinta. According to the report, the loan was supposedly "written off" without adhering to standard recovery procedures response, the actress issued a statement through her legal

team, saying, "More than 12 years ago, I had an overdraft facility with the New India Cooperative Bank. More than 10 years ago, I repaid in full the entire dues in respect of this overdraft facility, and the account stands closed."

Preity Zinta also wrote on X, "No I operate my social media accounts my self and shame on you for promoting FAKE NEWS! No one wrote off anything or any loan for me. I'm shocked that a political party or their representative is promoting fake news & indulging in vile gossip & click baits using my name & images. For the record a loan was taken and FULLY PAID BACK - over 10 years ago. Hope this clarifies and helps so there are no misunderstandings in the future."

Kartik Aaryan's 'Chandu Champion' bags 3 nominations at Indie Film Festival Awards

Kartik Aaryan delivered a blockbuster hit in the form of "Chandu Champion". Adding another feather to its cap, the film received not one, not two, but three nominations for the first edition of the Indie Film Festival Awards in New York.

"Chandu Champion" was nominated for Best Film, with Kabir Khan also making to the list for Best Director, and Kartik Aaryan for Best Actor.

Jointly produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan, "Chandu Champion" narrates the extraordinary tale of Paralympic gold medalist Murlikant Petkar, who faced one adversary after another with an undying spirit. His unwavering zeal and never-give-up attitude led to India's first individual gold medal in the Olympics.

Talking about the tech-

nical crew, the drama's cinematography was handled by Sudeep Chatterjee, with editing by Nitin Baid. Pritam provided the songs for the film, while Julius Packiam scored the background music.

"Chandu Champion" was released in theaters on June 14, 2024, and performed well at the box office.

The Hindi films nomination list for the first edition of the Indie Film Festival Awards also includes Kiran Rao's "Laapataa Ladies", starring Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, and Sparsh Shrivastava.

Directed by Kiran Rao, this comedy explores themes of identity, empowerment, and the complexities of modern relationships.

The acclaimed drama follows the journey of two women who embark on an unexpected adventure, lead-



ing to moments of self-discovery and humour. It is noteworthy that "Laapataa Ladies" is also India's official entry for the Oscars.

"Chandu Champion" and "Laapataa Ladies" will be competing in the Best Film category with

"Article 370", "Binny and Family", and "Stree 2".

As for Best Director, Kabir Khan has been nominated alongside Aditya Suhas Jambhale for "Article 370", Amar Kaushik for "Stree 2", and Siddharth Anand for "Fighter".

Diljit Dosanjh shares a leaf from his day as an 'English boi'

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, whose Dil-Luminati Tour has been a massive rage across the globe, is sharing what a normal routine looks like when the desi munda becomes an "English Boi".

The actor-singer took to his Instagram recently, and shared a video documenting his day.

The video starts with Diljit cooking up a storm in the kitchen as he indulges in making food with a commentary running in the background. He can be seen preparing an omelette and toasting the bread. He then drank a combination juice to gain some energy and lend a kick-start to the day.

Once he came out of his house, he was treated by strong wind currents, the superstar described it as a "windy windy day" as spoke in the British accent. He then did a photoshoot in



the woods.

Then he sat down to make some music, and after that we found the perfect spot on the staircase to get that perfectly sun-kissed picture. Diljit indulged in self-love as he said, "Woah, look at this beauty, I need my spoon right there".

Later, he had a meeting with the producers when he said that he is tired and done for the day. But still, Diljit gives a shot, and eventually packs up.

Earlier, the actor-singer had shared the first look from his upcoming movie 'Punjab '95'. He took to his Instagram, and shared an array of pictures in which he can be seen in his character from the film.

He wrote in the caption, "I Challenge the Darkness. Punjab 95".

The film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira. He was the director of a bank in the city of Amritsar in Punjab

during the militancy period in Punjab. Following Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, the police were empowered to detain suspects for any reason, ostensibly as suspected terrorists.

The police were accused of killing unarmed suspects in staged shootouts and burning thousands of dead bodies to cover up the murders. Khaira was investigating four major cases at one time and continued to collect evidence and witnesses.

The Central Board of Film Certification in India had proposed 120 cuts in the film to the makers. There was no certainty over the exhibition of the film given its sensitive subject matter. However, following Diljit's meteoric rise and global attention, it seems that the film will be finally able to see the light of day.

Need to develop more healthcare facilities in Bihar: President Droupadi Murmu

PATNA, Feb 25 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said there is a need to develop more inclusive healthcare facilities in Bihar.

Speaking at an event organised on the centenary celebrations of the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) at Babu Sabhagar here, she said the Bihar government has done a lot for the overall development of medical infrastructure in the state.

"There is a need to develop more inclusive healthcare facilities in the state. The PMCH should coordinate with other hospitals in the country for treatment and research of cancer and other serious ailments."



The Prince of Wales Medical College (now known as PMCH) was established on February 25, 1925.

The President arrived here on a two-day visit to Bihar on Tuesday. She landed at the Patna airport around 11.45 am and went straight to Babu Sabhagar near Gandhi Maidan to attend the

function. Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar received her at the airport.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the President's visit to Bihar.

The President will leave for Chhatarpur (Madhya Pradesh) on Wednesday.

Assam turning into start-up destination, to become manufacturing hub for NE soon: PM Modi

GUWAHATI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Assam is turning into a destination for start-ups and will soon become a hub of manufacturing in the northeast region.

Assam has emerged as a "land of limitless opportunities" with peace accords signed with insurgent groups and resolved border disputes, PM Modi said after inaugurating 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit' here.

"Assam is a land of limitless opportunities with peace accords and resolved border disputes. The state is moving fast towards development. Assam's natural resources and strategic location as a



gateway to South East Asia have made the state a preferred destination for investors," Modi said.

He added, "Assam is turning into a destination for start-up units and will become a manufacturing hub for the northeast

soon."

Modi also asserted that the value of Assam's economy has doubled to Rs 6 lakh crore during the BJP rule, and this is an effect of the 'double-engine' government.

"Amid global instability, there is certainty of India's economic growth," he said.

The hope for India's growth is primarily due to the youth who are getting skilled, the PM said.

"There is also hope in the new middle class, which has come out of poverty and has new aspirations that will take the country ahead in the path of development. Political stability, good governance along with reforms raised the world's hope for India", he added.

Three killed as Chhattisgarh BJP MP's convoy vehicle collides with bike



RAIPUR, Feb 25 (Agencies): Three persons riding a motorbike were killed after it was hit by a vehicle engaged in a convoy of the BJP member of parliament Bhojraj Nag at Podgaon, the police said on Tuesday.

The collision occurred late at night in Kanker district, about 180 km south of Raipur. Bhojraj Nag was returning home to Antargarh from Bhanupratapur in Kanker.

"An escort vehicle of the Kanker MP

hit a motorcycle while trying to evade stray cattle on the road. Three men on the bike sustained serious injuries and were taken to a local hospital. During the treatment all three succumbed to their injuries," Kanker district police chief Indira Kalyan Elesela told agency.

"The ill-fated bike was coming from the opposite direction. The MP was in another vehicle ahead of the SUV that hit the bike," the officer added.

The deceased were identified as Tameshwar Dehari, Girdhari Samrath and Kumehshwar Samrath, the local police said.

In Chhattisgarh, there seems no respite in road accidents and consequent fatalities owing to stray cattle venturing out on the traffic routes, main roads and state highways.

The Kanker police are probing into the incident to find out the situation that led to the accident.

SP govt aided only its own people; we work for every UP resident: Adityanath



LUCKNOW, Feb 25 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday targeted the Samajwadi Party, accusing it of selectively doling out financial help to SP-affiliated individuals during its reign and branding all welfare initiatives under the party name.

In contrast, the BJP government is working

sensitively for every resident of the state, Adityanath asserted.

Responding to opposition queries in the legislative council, he said, "It is no longer difficult for any poor person to receive medical treatment. Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the Chief Minister's Jan Arogya Yojana, 10 crore people in Uttar Pradesh receive health insurance

coverage of Rs 5 lakh per year." He added that all government employees are entitled to free healthcare under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Cashless Health Scheme. Furthermore, MLAs and MLCs have the authority to allocate funds from their annual budgets to financially assist those in need.

The chief minister highlighted that in the past seven-and-a-half years, funds from the CM's discretionary corpus have been allocated without discrimination. "There is no bias based on caste, region, or language. If the district magistrate submits a report within three days, the required funds are released immediately," he said.

Targeting the opposition, Adityanath accused

the previous SP government of selective assistance. "During their tenure, it was common knowledge that only SP-affiliated individuals received financial help, while others were ignored," he claimed.

He further slammed the erstwhile SP government for branding all welfare initiatives under its name.

"Every scheme was labelled 'Samajwadi.' Even bus services, despite being funded by the government, were called 'Samajwadi Bus Service.' Similarly, public funds were used for the 'Samajwadi Pension Scheme.' In their time, even government money became 'Samajwadi,'" he remarked.

In contrast, Adityanath asserted that his gov-

ernment ensures financial aid is distributed fairly and increases allocations when needed. He also highlighted the expansion of medical infrastructure, stating that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh had only 17 medical colleges, whereas today, every district has one.

Discussing improvements in healthcare, he noted that his government has appointed highly qualified medical professionals across various institutions and expanded facilities at the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Lucknow.

"Our administration has established eight new departments at SGPGI," he added.

US decision to 'allocate' funds for Pak's F-16 maintenance raises questions: Cong

NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): In the wake of US President Donald Trump reportedly allocating USD 397 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance, the Congress on Tuesday questioned the Modi government's diplomatic strategy and called for a reassessment of India's foreign policy priorities to safeguard national interests.

There was no immediate reaction from the government or the ruling BJP on the matter.

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said the recent decision by President Trump to allocate USD 397 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance raises critical questions about the Modi government's diplomatic efficacy.

This move, reminiscent of the 2022 Biden administration's USD 450 million package for the same purpose, highlights a pattern of US military support to Pakistan, he said in a post on X.

Such actions potentially compromise India's security interests, especially given the historical use of F-16s by Pakistan against India, Khera said. During the UPA years (2004-2014), India and the United States significantly deepened their strategic and defence cooperation across multiple domains, including military modernisation, technology transfer, nuclear energy, and counter-terrorism, he pointed out.

The robust diplomatic and strategic initiatives



taken during the UPA years deepened India-US relations, strengthening India's defence capabilities and global influence, Khera asserted.

Historically, the Congress has championed a balanced and proactive foreign policy, fostering non-alignment along with strategic autonomy, he said.

"Furthermore, recent

defense negotiations have raised concerns. The proposal to acquire F-35 fighter jets from the US has been met with criticism due to high costs and operational challenges. Elon Musk, for instance, has labelled the F-35 as 'junk', questioning its efficacy.

"Additionally, Russia has offered to produce its advanced Su-57 jets

in India, presenting a potentially more viable alternative," the Congress leader said.

In light of these developments, it is imperative to question the Modi government's diplomatic strategy, Khera said.

Is there a comprehensive plan to address the implications of US military aid to Pakistan, he asked.

How does the government intend to ensure that India's security concerns are not sidelined in the pursuit of high-value defense procurements, Khera further asked.

A reassessment of our foreign policy priorities, drawing from the Congress party's legacy of strategic foresight, is essential to safeguard national interests, Khera asserted.

Kharge slams govt over 'declining' scholarships for SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities



NEW DELHI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday alleged that the government has "snatched" the scholarships of the youth of SC, ST, OBC and minority communities, and claimed that its slogan of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" mocks the aspirations of the weaker sections.

Kharge asked how

will jobs for the youth be increased until the students of weaker sections of the country get opportunities and their skills are encouraged.

"Narendra Modi ji, Your government has snatched the scholarships of the youth of SC, ST, OBC and Minority categories in the country," Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

These shameful gov-

ernment statistics show that the Modi government has not only drastically reduced the beneficiaries in all scholarships, but has also spent 25 per cent less funds on an average year after year, he said sharing data of "declining" scholarships for SC, ST, OBC and minority students.

"Until the students of the weaker sections of the country get opportunities, their skills are not encouraged, how will we be able to increase jobs for the youth of our country?" he said.

"Your slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' mocks the aspirations of the weaker sections every day!" Kharge said.

Earthquake of magnitude 5.1 hits Bay of Bengal, tremors felt in Kolkata

According to National Center for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at 6.10 am at a depth of 91 kilometres

KOLKATA, Feb 25 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 5.1 on the Richter scale struck the Bay of Bengal early on Tuesday morning, with tremors being felt in Kolkata and several regions of West Bengal.

According to the National Center for Seismology (NCS), the

earthquake occurred at 6.10 am at a depth of 91 kilometres.

The NCS confirmed the details of the earthquake on social media platform X, stating, "EQ of M: 5.1, On: 25/02/2025 06:10:25 IST, Lat: 19.52 N, Long: 88.55 E, Depth: 91 Km, Location: Bay of Bengal."

Kolkata, which lies in

Seismic Zone III, is considered to have a moderate risk of earthquakes. While the city is not as prone to major seismic activity as regions like Northeast India, the Himalayas, or Gujarat, tremors are occasionally felt due to nearby seismic events, such as those in the Bay of Bengal, Nepal, or North-



East India. Shallow earthquakes, occurring at depths of five to ten kilometres, tend to cause more significant damage compared to those that

originate deeper within the Earth's crust.

The earthquake on Tuesday, though of moderate magnitude, was located at a deeper depth, which helped to

reduce the intensity of the tremors experienced on the surface.

The earthquake tremors caused momentary panic among the residents of the state. However, there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

This earthquake follows a similar event on January 8, when mild

tremors were felt in Kolkata following a powerful earthquake in Tibet and parts of Nepal. Similarly, North Bengal also experienced tremors but no significant damage was reported.

Earlier on February 17, an earthquake of magnitude 4.0 shook Delhi with stronger tremors experienced in the capi-

tal. Delhi's epicentre on February 17 caused more intense shaking there, as it was located closer to the national capital.

Authorities continue to monitor seismic activity in the region, and while there have been no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

“Israel willing to extend ceasefire for hostage release”: Foreign Minister tells EU counterparts

BRUSSELS, Feb 25 (Agencies): In Brussels, Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar informed his 20 European Union counterparts that Israel is open to extending the ceasefire if more hostages are released, according to a statement from his office quoted by The Times of Israel.

“It will not happen without the release of hostages,” Sa'ar said in his meetings with the Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Finnish, and Slovakian foreign ministers. “We are committed to the release of our hostages and to the war's objectives that we set,” as per Times of Israel.

Sa'ar also told them that it is time to enforce existing sanctions on Iran and impose new ones.

The hostage-release ceremonies



that Hamas has been holding throughout the first phase of the ceasefire have significantly harmed the terror group's chances to remain in power in Gaza, two international diplomats tell The Times of Israel. Hamas has sought to use the ceremonies to demonstrate

that it remains in control of the coastal enclave after over 15 months of war with Israel. Israel and others have rejected the displays as “humiliating” and demanded they stop before any more prisoners are released in exchange for hostages. A senior Arab diplomat and a

senior European Union diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity told The Times of Israel that the performances have led the Trump administration to massively ratchet up its pressure on its Arab allies to advance a plan for the post-war management of Gaza that sees Hamas removed from power.

“This was something that the Arab states wanted before but were resigned to the fact that it wasn't possible, given that Israel had tried to defeat Hamas for over a year and couldn't succeed,” the EU diplomat said.

“Hamas has been sending signals that it is prepared to give up ruling Gaza. Giving up its weapons will be far more difficult, but that is being discussed in the region in recent weeks,” the senior Arab diplomat added, as per The Times of Israel.

Dramatic video shows elevated parts of highway collapse in South Korea, 4 dead



SEOUL, Feb 25 (Agencies): Elevated parts of a highway under construction collapsed in South Korea on Tuesday, killing four workers and injuring six others, officials said.

Ten people were working on the site

near the city of Cheonan, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of Seoul. They fell when it collapsed and were trapped in the rubble, the National Fire Agency said.

One was found dead in the rubble. Eight injured workers were sent to

hospitals before two of them were declared dead there later. The 10th worker for hours was missing for hours was eventually discovered dead, according to fire agency officials.

The fire agency said in a statement that five remained in serious condition. The cause of the collapse wasn't immediately known.

Acting President Choi Sang-mok urged authorities to mobilise all available personnel and equipment to salvage the workers. About 50 fire trucks, three helicopters and some 150 personnel were mobilised for the rescue effort.

Poland scrambles military aircraft as Russian missiles target western Ukraine

WARSAW, Feb 25 (Agencies): Poland scrambled “military aviation” in its airspace early Tuesday morning in response to Russian missile strikes in western Ukraine, the country's Operational Command said.

“Due to the activity of long-range aviation of the Russian Federation carrying out strikes on objects located, among others, in western Ukraine, military aviation has begun operating in Polish airspace,” the command said in a statement posted to X.

The operational commander “activated all available forces and resources at his disposal, and ground-based air defence and radar reconnaissance systems reached a state of readiness,” the statement added.

“The steps taken are aimed at ensuring safety in areas bordering the threatened areas,” the command said. “The Operational Command of the Armed Forces is monitoring the

current situation, and its subordinate forces and resources remain in full readiness for immediate response.”

The command said that its forces were stood down after around four hours, with “no violation of the airspace of the Republic of Poland” observed.

The Polish military, it added, “is constantly monitoring the situation in the territory of Ukraine and remains in constant readiness to ensure the security of Polish airspace.”

All of western Ukraine -- and much of the rest of the country -- was placed under air raid alerts in the early hours of Tuesday. Nightly Russian drone, and often also missile, attacks have become the norm in Ukraine as the country begins a fourth year of its defensive war.

This weekend, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a statement to social media, “Every day, our people stand against aerial terror.”

On Saturday night, Russia launched its largest-ever drone strike, firing 267 UAVs into Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian air force.

Russian and Ukrainian projectiles have at times crossed into Polish and other NATO national airspace. In 2022, two people were killed in eastern Poland by what the Polish Prosecutor's Office said was a Ukrainian S-300 air defense missile that went off course during a Russian attack.

In at least two other instances, Warsaw has alleged that Russian cruise missiles briefly violated Polish airspace on their way to targets inside Ukraine. Poland summoned the Russian charge d'affaires to demand an explanation after one such incident in December 2023.

NATO allies Romania and Latvia have also reported airspace violations by Russian drones during Moscow's war on Ukraine.

Indian-origin Vivek Ramaswamy announces candidature for Ohio Governor

OHIO, Feb 25 (Agencies): Indian-origin entrepreneur and Republican leader Vivek Ramaswamy has announced his candidacy to serve as the next Governor of Ohio.

“I am honoured to announce my candidacy to serve as the next governor of the state of Ohio,” Ramaswamy said at a rally.

A staunch supporter of US President Donald Trump, Ramaswamy emphasised that Ohio's best days are yet to come.

“President Trump is reviving our conviction in America. We require a leader here at home who will revive our conviction in Ohio. And that is why today I am honored to announce that I am running to be the next governor of a great state at the heart of the greatest nation known to mankind, the state where I was born and raised, the state where Apurva and I raise our two sons today, a state whose best days are still ahead. I am honored to announce my candida-



cy to serve as the next Governor of the state of Ohio,” he said.

R a m a s w a m y expressed his vision to elevate Ohio as a leader in all sectors and ensure that its citizens feel empowered in a competitive world.

“I will lead Ohio to be the top state in the country to start and grow a new business. I will lead Ohio to be the top state in the country to raise a young family. I'll lead Ohio to be the top state in the country where our kids get a world-class education in math, reading, writing, critical thinking, and physical education. I will lead Ohio to be the top state in the country where we give

future from semiconductors to aerospace. Look at where we are today. How about this company, guys?” he said.

R a m a s w a m y expressed his intention to position Ohio as a top destination, attracting people who might have otherwise moved to states like Texas or Florida.

“Love this in the heart of Butler County, an aerospace company leading us to the future, all the way to AI and the other sectors of our future. I will lead Ohio to be the top state in the country, where patriots across America actually flock to instead of Florida and Texas. I will lead Ohio to be the state of excellence in America,” he said.

Ramaswamy, who was initially slated to co-head the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) alongside Elon Musk, pulled out of it. On January 23, as Ramaswamy pulled out of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), just 69 days after he was announced the co-head

of the team, a report revealed that it was the Tesla CEO who wanted Ramaswamy ‘out’ of the team.

Politico reported citing three people with Elon Musk's preference said the billionaire made it known that he wanted Ramaswamy out of DOGE in recent days.

Hours after Trump's inauguration as the 47th US President, Ramaswamy announced that he would not co-head DOGE.

According to the report, Ramaswamy's comments on X during a discussion of H-1B visas were the ‘main reason’ for some Republicans' getting frustrated with him.

In December last year, the Indian-origin leader criticised American culture, saying that tech companies hire foreign workers due to a culture that “venerates mediocrity over excellence.”

“They wanted him out before the tweet -- but kicked him to the curb when that came out,” a person familiar with his departure, told Politico.

UK announces largest sanction package against Russia since start of war against Ukraine

LONDON, Feb 25 (Agencies): The Labour Party-led United Kingdom government has announced the largest sanctions package of over 100 new sanctions against Russia after the completion of three years of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

“Three years on from President Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the UK has today imposed over 100 new sanctions directly targeting those who continue to aid the invasion. 107 new sanctions announced as the UK unleashes our largest sanctions package since the early days of the invasion”, the UK government said in a press release.

The UK Government said the “milestone package” targets Russian military supply chains, revenues fuelling Putin's illegal war, and Kleptocrats driving profits for the Kremlin.

“They also aim for strengthening Ukraine's hand will help to build a secure and prosper-

ous Europe and the UK - a foundation of the government's Plan for Change,” the statement read.

“Today's measures will target funds going into Putin's war chest and propping up Russia's Kleptocratic system,” it added.

The UK Prime Minister said last week that they are facing a “once-in-a-generation moment for the collective security” of their continent, adding that the UK is working with its allies in the best position to achieve peace through strength.

“The sanctions will also target Russia's military machine, entities in third countries who support it and the fragile supply networks that it relies on. The targets include: producers and suppliers of machine tools, electronics and dual-use goods for Russia's military, including microprocessors used in weapons systems. These are based in a range of third countries, including Central Asian states, Turkey, Thailand, India and China, which

are the largest suppliers of critical goods for Russia's military,” the statement read.

The 13 Russian targets include LLC Grant Trade, its owner Marat Mustafayev and his sister Dinara Mustafayeva, who have used the company to funnel advanced European technology into Russia to support its illegal war “For the first time, we are also using new powers to target foreign financial institutions supporting Russia's war machine. We are sanctioning the Kyrgyzstan-based OJSC Keremet Bank, disrupting Russia's use of the international financial system to support its war efforts,” the UK government further stated. It added, “Keeping the country safe is the Government's first priority and an integral part of the Prime Minister's Plan for Change. Sanctions against Russia's military machine and the revenues fuelling it will improve the chances of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, which will benefit security and prosperity in the UK.”

18 injured in bus accident in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Feb 25 (Agencies): Eighteen people were injured on Tuesday when a passenger bus overturned in Nepal's Bagmati province, according to a media report.

The accident occurred on the BP Highway in the Kavrepalanchok district when the bus travelling from Kathmandu to Ramechhap lost control and overturned, The Rising Nepal newspaper reported.

The bus was carrying 24 passengers at the time of the accident. Citing the police, the report said that 18 people including the driver and co-driver were injured in the accident. The injured are undergoing treatment at Dhulikhel Hospital. The conditions of seven people is moderate while others received minor injuries, said Police inspector Dinesh Kunwar. The identities of those injured is yet to be ascertained, he added.

Fire breaks out near hotel in West Jakarta: reports

JAKARTA, Feb 25 (Agencies): A fire erupted in a building next to a hotel on Tuesday in Glodok, an urban village in West Jakarta, with flames spreading to the hotel and forcing the evacuation of its guests, according to an official.

Ramli Prasetyo, spokesman for the Jakarta Search and Rescue Office, said that strong winds fueled the blaze, causing it to engulf parts of the hotel and fill the sky with thick smoke. The agency received a report of the fire at 9:13 a.m. Jakarta time and began firefighting operations at 9:21 a.m. A total of 100 personnel and 20 firefighting vehicles were dispatched to the scene, where they worked to bring the fire under control.

Desiana Kartika Bahari, head of the Jakarta Search and Rescue Office, confirmed that the fire had been extinguished and that the site was now in the cooling phase. “The fire in Glodok is currently in the cooling process,” she told Xinhua.

No casualties have been reported so far. However, Prasetyo added that a final inspection of the hotel would be conducted once the cooling phase is completed.

Taiwan investigating a Chinese-crewed ship believed to have severed an undersea cable

TAIPEI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Taiwanese authorities are investigating a Chinese-crewed ship suspected of severing an undersea communications cable in the latest such incident adding to tensions between Taipei and Beijing.

Taiwan's coast guard intercepted the Togolese-flagged cargo ship Hongtai in waters between its main island's west coast and the outlying Penghu Islands early Tuesday, according to a statement by the coast guard.

The coast guard had earlier been notified by telecommunications provider Chunghwa Telecom that one of its undersea cables had been severed 6 nautical miles (11 kilometers) northwest of Jianguan Fishing Harbor.

The Hongtai had been anchored in that same area since Saturday evening, the coast guard said. From Saturday until early Tuesday, authorities

in the nearby Anping Port in Tainan had sent signals to the vessel seven times but had received no response. After the Chunghwa Telecom cable damage report, the coast guard approached the ship, which had begun to sail northwestward, and escorted it to Anping Port.

Taiwanese authorities said the ship's entire eight-person crew were Chinese nationals and the case was being handled “in accordance with national security-level principles.”

“The cause of the undersea cable break, whether it was due to intentional sabotage or simply an accident, is still pending further investigation for clarification,” the coast guard said.

“The possibility of this being part of a gray-zone incursion by China cannot be ruled out,” it added.

Communications on the Penghu Islands were not disrupted because Chunghwa

Telecom had successfully activated a backup cable, the coast guard said.

This is the latest in a series of incidents in recent years in which undersea Taiwanese cables have been damaged — with Taipei in some instances blaming China. Earlier this year, a Chinese cargo ship was suspected of severing a link northeast of the island.

In February 2023, two undersea cables serving Taiwan's Matsu Islands were severed, disrupting communications for weeks.

Taipei fears China might damage its underwater communications cables as part of attempts to blockade or seize the island, which Beijing claims as its own.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said during a regular press briefing on Tuesday that he was not aware of the issue and it did not pertain to diplomacy.



Chanting Har Har Mahadev and Om Namah Shivaya, devotees taking out impressive Shiv Barat procession ahead of Maha Shivratri in Jammu. (Pic by Aman Sharma)

Grand Shiv Barat procession held in Jammu ahead of Maha Shivratri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: In a grand spiritual celebration, a Shiv Barat procession was taken out in Jammu ahead of the auspicious festival of Maha Shivratri. Devotees thronged the streets, chanting "Har Har Mahadev" and "Om Namah Shivaya," as the vibrant

procession made its way through the city. The Shiv Barat, symbolizing Lord Shiva's divine wedding procession, featured beautifully decorated chariots, traditional drummers, and devotees dressed as deities. The atmosphere was filled with religious fervor as people offered prayers, performed devotional dances, and showered flowers along the procession route.

Religious and community organizations actively participated in organizing the event, ensuring seamless arrangements and security for the devotees.

The procession also included performances by cultural troupes, adding to the festive spirit.

The Maha Shivratri festival, dedicated to Lord Shiva, holds immense significance in

Hindu traditions and is widely celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir. Devotees observe fasts, visit temples, and perform special prayers to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.

Authorities and local volunteers ensured smooth conduct of the event, with special arrangements for crowd management and traffic regulation. The procession concluded

with a grand aarti (prayer ceremony) at a prominent Shiva temple, marking the beginning of the Maha Shivratri celebrations in the region.

The Shiv Barat in Jammu continues to be a cherished tradition, bringing together thousands of devotees in devotion and celebration, reinforcing the spiritual and cultural heritage of the region.

FromPage No:1

India should take lead in preserving glaciers: Sonam Wangchuk writes open letter to PM

time that India, under your leadership, takes the lead as the nation with the most glaciers in the Himalayas," Wangchuk said.

The climate activist suggested setting up of a commission to assess the state of the Himalayas glaciers, declaring major glaciers like Gangotri and Yamunotri as national treasures, and framing special policies that protect the Himalayas glaciers.

He also sought an audience with the prime minister so that a group of community members from Ladakh can present a block of ice from one of Ladakh's fast melting glaciers to him as a message from the climate affected people of the region.

"In this year of glaciers, I plan to present a symbolic piece of glacier to all the world leaders. In fact, I just returned after presenting a similar glacier block at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to thank them for declaring 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. Wherever I go, I do not miss the opportunity to pro-

mote Mission LiFE as a message and gift from India to the world," Wangchuk said.

Centre extends concessions, Incentives by 3 years for its employees working in Kashmir Valley

the rate of 80 per cent of last month's basic pay, the order said.

Those employees who do not wish to move their families to a selected place of residence are paid per diem allowance of Rs 141 per day for each day of attendance to compensate for any additional expense in transportation to and from office etc., it said.

"The employees who opt to move their families to a selected place of their choice in the country shall not be eligible for per diem allowance since they avail the benefits of composite transfer grant at the rate of 80 per cent of the last month's basic pay," the order said.

Department arrangements will be made for stay, security and transportation to the place of work for the employees, it said.

"Messing allowance at par with rates of ration money allowance

given to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel, at present at Rs 142.75 per day, will be provided," the ministry said.

The pensioners in the Valley who are unable to draw their monthly pensions through either public sector banks or pay and accounts office or treasuries, from which they were receiving their pensions, shall be given pensions outside the Valley, where they have settled, in relaxation of the relevant provisions, the order said.

PDP politicising issues rather than engaging in constructive opposition: Salman Sagar

made to the people will be addressed," said Salman Sagar.

Taking a dig at the PDP, he accused the party of failing to fulfill its responsibilities while in power. "Late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed spoke about constructive opposition, but today, his party is merely politicizing issues. The PDP remained silent on these matters when they were in power. Now, they are making noise about NC having 50 MLAs, but I want to remind them that during the PDP-BJP coalition, they had 56 MLAs. At that time, the BJP was the most powerful party in New Delhi, yet

they failed to meet the expectations of the people," he said.

Sagar further said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given the NC a five-year mandate, and the party is committed to addressing all issues within the given time-frame.

BJP leaders congratulate Omar on his nomination as fitness ambassador, urge him to organise 'Political Marathon'

release.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia emphasized that the selection of Omar Abdullah, despite his affiliation with the National Conference, reflects the true spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. "His fitness and health-conscious lifestyle made him a deserving choice for this role. We must all work together to address the rising obesity crisis," he added.

Dr. Chowdhary also shed light on the increasing health challenges posed by unhealthy eating habits and junk food consumption. He urged people to adopt exercise and yoga as part of their daily routines to lead a healthier life. Additionally, Dr. Jasrotia pro-

posed that Omar Abdullah should organize a "Political Marathon" where MLAs and other political leaders would participate.

He suggested that such events be held in both Srinagar and Jammu to promote a culture of fitness among policymakers. He further recommended that, like the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister should ensure fair representation in selecting the remaining ambassadors for the campaign.

Responding to a media query on BJP's praise for Omar Abdullah, party spokesperson Altaf Thakur remarked, "If the National Conference does something good, I will be the first to appreciate it."

The BJP leaders reaffirmed their commitment to public health and fitness, expressing hope that this initiative would encourage people to embrace a healthier lifestyle.

Jammu and Kashmir braces for heavy rain, Snowfall for next 3 days

and minus 0.3 in Pahalgam. Jammu city had 13.5, Katra town 12.7, Batote 7.5, Banihal 3.7 and Bhandarwah 4 as minimum temperature today. Due to 80 per cent deficit rainfall in J&K during Janu-

ary and February, all the rivers are running at their lowest discharge level this time while many springs in Kashmir valley have dried up. Those still functional are running with very low discharge, thereby creating shortages of potable water in many places in Kashmir. Unless the higher reaches receive heavy snowfall before the end of the winter season, the prolonged dry spell threatens a thirsty summer for the locals.

Police arrest Bihar resident from Anantnag for allegedly killing co-worker in Maharashtra

area of Bhiwandi city. Earlier on February 4, the accused allegedly robbed the victim of his salary, and attacked with an iron hammer before fleeing and the victim was rushed to the KEM Hospital in neighbouring Mumbai where he succumbed to his injuries on February 18.

Police came to know that the accused had fled to Delhi and boarded a train to Jammu and Kashmir and "technical analysis of his mobile phone records led the police team to his location" in Anantnag.

GDC Kishtwar NCC Unit in collaboration with 7 Assam Rifles, organizes 'Join Indian Army' Awareness Program

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 25: The NCC unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, in collaboration with 7 Assam Rifles, successfully organized an awareness program titled 'Join Indian Army'. The event was held under the convenorship of ANO Prof. Prithvi Raj and CTO Dr. Tabassum Saleem, with the esteemed guidance of Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal.

The resource person for the program was Major Akashdeep.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Prithvi Raj and concluded with



a vote of thanks by Dr. Tabassum Saleem.

The program aimed to inspire and educate students about the opportunities, values, and responsibilities that come with serving in the Indian Army.

A total of 200 students actively participated, alongside faculty members Dr. Yasar Ahmed,

Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Parveen Kimar, and Inam.

Experts from the 7 Assam Rifles shared detailed insights into the selection process, eligibility criteria, and the diverse career opportunities in the Indian Army. The session also underscored the sig-

nificance of discipline, patriotism, and leadership skills, motivating students to consider a future in the armed forces.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal praised the efforts of the NCC unit and the 7 Assam Rifles for conducting such an informative and

engaging session.

He emphasized the importance of youth participation in national defense and applauded the enthusiasm demonstrated by the students.

The program concluded with an interactive session where students engaged with the officers, asking questions and seeking clarifications about various aspects of army recruitment.

The 'Join Indian Army' awareness program was a resounding success, reaffirming GDC Kishtwar's commitment to instilling a sense of duty, discipline, and national service in its students.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organizes documentary screening on India's New Criminal Laws



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar, successfully hosted a documentary screening aimed at raising awareness about India's newly implemented criminal laws: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all semesters, reflecting their keen interest in understanding the evolving legal landscape and its societal impact.

The initiative was held under the esteemed patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol,

who underscored the importance of legal literacy among young individuals.

In her address, she stated, "Understanding the laws that govern us is crucial for building an informed and responsible society. This initiative is a step toward empowering our students with knowledge that will help them become more aware and accountable citizens."

The Department of Sociology, the Department of Economics, and the Physical Training Instructor (PTI) unit meticulously coordinated the session, ensuring an engaging and informative experience for all attendees.

The event was spearheaded by Dr. Ashwinder Kour (Department of

Sociology), Prof. Goyal Giri (PTI), and Prof. Neeraj Sharma (Department of Economics), whose collective efforts contributed to the program's success.

The documentary provided an in-depth exploration of the newly enacted criminal laws, shedding light on their significance and implications for the justice system.

Following the screening, an interactive discussion session was held, where students actively engaged with faculty members, posing insightful questions and sharing their perspectives on the legal changes.

The program not only enhanced students' understanding of contemporary legal reforms but also encouraged critical thinking and civic responsibility.

The college remains steadfast in its commitment to organizing similar educational initiatives in the future, fostering a culture of legal awareness, social responsibility, and informed citizenship among its students.

GDC Neeli Nallah organizes HIV/AIDS awareness programme

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 26: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur with IQAC, organized HIV/AIDS awareness programme under Red Ribbon Club in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which a Poster making competition and a Debate Competition were organized.

The objective of the program was to educate students about the causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The event was conducted under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Prin-

icipal of the college. While addressing the students, the Principal praised the students for their active participation.

She focused on the importance of education and awareness campaigns to control the spread of misinformation and asked students to create awareness among the masses about this deadly disease.

A poster making competition was organized in which students depicted their ideas through their posters.

Nilakshi Devi, Sabia Akhter and Banshika Devi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respec-



tively. A debate competition was also organized in which different students participated.

In debate competition, students shared their views about the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Himanshi Sharma and Shreya Sharma and

Nilakshi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Certificates were also distributed among the students for their active participation.

In the end, the Principal lauded the efforts of the participants and congratulated the convenor of the events for

conducting such activities. The different activities were convened and organized by Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, Convenor of Red Ribbon Club.

The members of the organizing committee Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mohd Mubariq Mahire were also present.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme held at GDC Ramgarh

Top News Report

RAMGARH, Feb 25: The Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized an awareness programme on HIV/AIDS, with the aim of educating the community on HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of reducing stigma against those living with HIV.

The highlight of the event was the formation of a human chain in the shape of a crossed red ribbon symbol, where students held red balloons to symbolize unity in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

AIDS.

The event was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. Sandeep Kumari, the convenor of the Red Ribbon Club along with the support of other members including Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panjotra, Ms. Priya Sharma, Dr. Susheel Kumar, Dr. Neeraj and Mr. Darpan Malhotra.

The formation of the human chain was a powerful visual demonstration of solidarity, emphasizing the col-

lective effort needed to reduce the transmission of HIV, promote healthy lifestyles, and eliminate the stigma that continues to affect those living with the virus.

The crossed-shaped red ribbon symbol stood as a reminder of the ongoing global movement to raise awareness and support those affected by HIV/AIDS.

An interactive talk was also delivered by Prof. Sandeep Kumari, to educate the students about AIDS, its protective measures and the critical role that each individual plays in pro-



tecting themselves and others.

She encouraged the students to act as ambassadors to remove the stigmas related to

HIV/AIDS from the society.

The event concluded with the distribution of refreshment to all the participants.

2nd Snow Sky Championship held at Sonmarg

Top News Report

SONMARG, Feb 25: The J&K Skyrunning Association conducted the 2nd Sky Snow Championship at Nilgrath Sonmarg, which was a high-altitude running event on snow.

This championship saw the participation of 46 athletes from across J&K, who covered a total distance of 11 Km, including both upward and downward runs over snow-laden mountains.

The championship was a significant event, with athletes competing in a challenging terrain. The total distance covered by the athletes was 11 Km, which included both upward and downward runs over mountains laden with snow.

The event was organized by the J&K Skyrunning association, which is a constituent of the valley's revered athlete group, Foreshore Athletes.

The top three positions in the championship were bagged by Arif Narwari, Soleh Mustaqeem, and Ashiq Haji. These athletes



demonstrated exceptional endurance and skill in completing the challenging course.

The valedictory function was held later at Kullian Sonamarg, and was attended by Bashir Ahmad Wani, Secretary of the JK Skyrunning association, along with the president of Foreshore Athletes, Dr. Anwar Hussain Nagoo, and veteran athletes of the valley.

The J&K Skyrunning association has conducted two national Skyrunning Championships in the past, and the distinguished position holders were invited to par-

ticipate in international events as well. The association is affiliated with the International Skyrunning Federation via the Skyrunning Association of India

The 2nd Sky Snow Championship was a successful event that saw the participation of 46 athletes from across J&K. The event was a significant milestone in the world of skyrunning, and the association's affiliation with the International Skyrunning Federation via the Skyrunning Association of India is a testament to its credibility.

Smile Foundation steps forward to aid fire victims in Rathpora, Eidgah

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Feb 25: In a compassionate effort to support those affected by a devastating fire in Rathpora, Eidgah, Srinagar, Smile Foundation has extended its assistance to the displaced families. The tragic incident left many residents homeless, causing immense loss and hardship.

A team from Smile Foundation, led by Chairperson Masrat, visited the affected families to assess their needs and provide immediate relief. Expressing deep concern over the tragedy, she assured the victims of the foundation's unwavering support in rebuilding their lives.



Speaking at the gathering, Sajad Ahmad Sholla, President of Smile Foundation NGO, emphasized the urgency of collective efforts to aid those in distress. He called upon NGOs,

civil society, and local authorities to unite in providing essential assistance.

Political activist Manzur Bhat also addressed the affected families, urging the

government to expedite rehabilitation measures and implement preventive strategies to avoid such disasters in the future.

Prominent Kashmiri social worker Syed Aijaz Kashani stressed the importance of sustained support beyond immediate relief, highlighting the need for community-driven initiatives to help families regain stability.

In response to the crisis, Smile Foundation has pledged to provide essential relief materials, including food, clothing, and financial aid, to the victims. The organization also plans to coordinate with local authorities to ensure long-term rehabilitation and assistance for those affected.

Haven't seen a better ODI player than Kohli, he can be leading run-scorer: Ponting

Kohli (14085 runs) is still 4,341 runs behind Tendulkar (18426) and at 36, the champion batter has limited time in his hand to overhaul the latter's mark

DUBAI, Feb 25 (Agencies): Former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting said he has not seen a "better player" than Virat Kohli in ODIs, and backed the Indian batting star to go past legendary Sachin Tendulkar as the highest run-getter in the 50-over format.

Kohli made an exceptional unbeaten 100, his 51st in ODIs, to guide India to a six-wicket win over Pakistan in a Champions Trophy match here.

"I don't think I've ever seen a better 50-over player than Virat Kohli. Now that he's gone past me (in run-maker's list) and only two (batters) ahead of him, I'm sure he would want to give himself the best chance to be remembered as the all-time leading run scorer in the game," Ponting told ICC Review.

During the course of that hundred, Kohli went past the 14000-run mark in one-dayers, joining former Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara and Tendulkar in a rare club.

Kohli (14085 runs) is still 4,341 runs behind Tendulkar (18426) and at 36, the champion batter



has limited time in his hand to overhaul the latter's mark. But Ponting did not see it as an impossible task for Kohli. "Obviously physical-wise, he's probably as fit as he's ever been and works exceptionally hard on that side of his game. It's crazy when you think about it, isn't it? Just how good Virat's been over such a long period of time, yet he's still 4,000 runs behind Sachin."

"It just goes to show how good Sachin was, but also his longevity in the game. But with someone like Virat, you never write him off. If the hunger's still there, then I'm never going to write him off (to overtake Tendulkar)," he

added. Ponting said a match against Pakistan often brought the best in Kohli, and termed him as a big match player.

"Yeah, 2022 (T20 WC) and now, he stood up against the team that he would probably steel himself the most to play against. When Pakistan had batted first on a tricky wicket, it needed someone at the top of the order to play a match-winning innings like that."

"Once again, it was Kohli to get the job done. He's been a champion player for a long, long time. And particularly in the white-ball formats, where he's been an unbelievably good 50-over

player," said the Aussie.

Ponting said Kohli's hundred was the difference between India and Pakistan on that night.

"You look at the two scorecards, it's one, Virat making a 100, and lots of Pakistan starts without anyone going on and making a big score."

"I've said forever, in any format of the game, a 50 never wins you or your team anything. You have to get big scores. And so the individual big scores weren't there, but the big partnerships weren't there either," Ponting noted.

The Tasmanian said senior batters Babar Azam and Mohammed Rizwan were not able to serve Pakistan in a desired manner.

"They haven't been able to give their best back to their team. Those two guys had to stand up," Ponting said.

"They had to make big runs, and they haven't been able to do it in the first couple of games, and that might be the reason why Pakistan don't make it through to the semi-finals."

Champions Trophy: India have huge advantage playing at same ground, says Cummins



SYDNEY, Feb 25 (Agencies): Injured Australia captain Pat Cummins believes India have a "huge advantage" to be based in Dubai for the ongoing Champions Trophy while other sides criss-cross Pakistan for their group games in the tournament being held under a 'hybrid model'. Team India will play all its matches in Dubai and even the final will

be held there if the team goes the distance. This was done after India refused to travel to Pakistan, the original hosts of the event, citing security concerns.

"I think it's good in that the tournament can go on, but obviously it does give them (India) a huge advantage playing on the same ground. They already look very strong and they've got

that obvious benefit of playing all their games there," Cummins told 'Yahoo Australia'.

India have won both their games, against Bangladesh and Pakistan, comfortably so far and are through to the semifinal on March 4, to be held in Dubai.

Their last group match is on Sunday against New Zealand, a team that has so far played in Pakistan, also winning both its games against the home side and Bangladesh.

Cummins is watching the tournament from the sidelines owing to an ankle injury and is targeting a return to competitive cricket with the IPL next month. The break also coincided with the birth of his daughter.

"It's been nice to be at home with everything going on and the ankle rehab is tracking well, so I will start running and bowling this week," the 31-year-old said.

"Any Australian outfit that comes for ICC event; you don't take lightly": SA captain Temba Bavuma

RAWALPINDI, Feb 25 (Agencies): South Africa captain Temba Bavuma isn't expecting a walk in the park against a pace-depleted Australian side in their upcoming Champions Trophy fixture on Tuesday in Rawalpindi.

Australia entered the marquee event without its decorated pace trio featuring Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. Adding to that, the Baggy Greens were further impacted by Mitchell Marsh's injury and Marcus Stoinis taking a sudden retirement.

Bavuma is wary of Australia and discarded the possibility of taking them lightly despite its lack of 'heavy artillery' for the much-anticipated affair.

"I mean, any Australian outfit that comes together for an ICC event is always one that you don't take lightly. Yes, they don't have, I guess, their mainstay bowling attack, but I think they still have enough to be successful as a team, like you mentioned with

their batting. Maybe it could be a case of their batters maybe doing a little bit more than what they're accustomed to," Bavuma said in the pre-match press conference.

Despite missing its famed stars, Australia put on a show in Gaddafi Stadium against their arch-rival England. Australia's inexperienced bowling unit failed to constrain English batters and got hammered away for 351/8.

In reply, Josh Inglis spearheaded the attack with the bat and covered Lahore's sky with his fireworks. He produced a swashbuckling 120* to help Australia chase down a record-breaking 352-run total with a couple of overs to spare. While reaffirming his stance of not taking the opposition lightly, Bavuma sees Australia's callow bowling department as an area that they would like to exploit in Rawalpindi.

"So I think, like with any team, there are opportunities, and like

you rightfully said, probably within the bowling, there's opportunities, and I think if that presents itself on the day, we'll definitely be looking to make use of that opportunity. But in saying that, we definitely won't be taking them lightly," he added.

Australia: Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matthew Short, Adam Zampa. Travelling reserve: Cooper Connolly.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Corbin Bosch. Travelling reserve: Kwena Maphaka.

Champions, again: Mohun Bagan SG finally get the job done to defend the Shield

KOLKATA, Feb 25 (Agencies): Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) etched their name in Indian Super League (ISL) history by becoming the first team to successfully retain the League Shield.

In what was their penultimate home game of the league phase, the Mariners (MBSG) knew that a victory over Odisha FC would confirm their top spot with two more league matches to spare, as per the official ISL website.

The challenge was immense, the pressure palpable, but the reward of lifting the Shield in front of their home supporters was too great to ignore and the Mariners delivered in a night of trials and tribulations.

Their determination to seize the moment was evident from the opening whistle. Mohun Bagan SG came out with a sense of purpose, dominating possession and crafting chance after chance.

The star of the first half was Jamie Maclaren, the Australian striker finding himself at the end of several gilt-edged opportunities. Time and again, he tested Odisha FC's backline, his movement sharp, his intent clear. Yet, the ball refused to find the back of the net.

Odisha FC, to their credit, held firm. Their resilience frustrated



the hosts, as they dug deep to absorb the relentless waves of Mohun Bagan SG's attack. Goalkeeper Amrinder Singh put in a valiant shift between the posts, denying Maclaren and his teammates time and again. Despite the Mariners' superiority, the scoreboard remained unchanged heading into half-time, leaving the home crowd eager yet anxious.

The second half followed a similar script. Mohun Bagan SG continued to pile on the pressure, weaving intricate moves, launching precise crosses, and taking shots from distance. However, Odisha FC refused to break. It was a test of patience for the Mariners, one that demanded perseverance.

The frustration was evident on the faces of players and fans alike, as each missed opportunity seemed to push their wait

for the Shield just a little further out of reach.

Then came the moment of magic. Deep into injury time, when it seemed like Odisha FC had done just enough to snatch a point despite a late sending off for Mourtada Fall, substitute Dimitri Petratos rose to the occasion.

The Australian forward, introduced late in the game, made an instant impact. Finding himself with a sliver of space outside the box, Petratos unleashed a clinical finish past Amrinder Singh, finally breaking the deadlock. The explosion of joy was instantaneous. The home crowd erupted, the dugout leaped in celebration, and head coach Jose Molina, known for his calm demeanour, was seen punching the air with delight.

It was a heartbreaker for Odisha FC, who had defended

gallantly for 90 minutes. On another day, they might have deserved a share of the spoils, but there was no denying Mohun Bagan SG had been the better team on the night. They had created the chances, dictated the tempo, and kept knocking on the door until it finally swung open.

With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG wrapped up the League Shield after their 16th win in 22 games. An astonishing feat for a side that had undergone significant changes at the start of the season. New players, a new head coach, and the burden of expectation but none of it deterred them from their goal and they lost only twice all season.

What makes their achievement even more remarkable is how they have ground out results throughout the campaign. Ten of their 16 wins came by a margin of one or two goals, showcasing their ability to manage tight situations and deliver when it mattered most. That is what separates great teams from champions. It wasn't always about playing beautiful football; it was about getting the job done.

For now, it's party time in Kolkata. The Mariners have given their fans another night to remember, another Shield to cherish.

CT 2025: Rachin, Bracewell shine as NZ marches into semis; Pakistan out, India moves to SFs

RAWALPINDI, Feb 25 (Agencies): A top-notch century from all-rounder Rachin Ravindra and a half-century from Tom Latham helped New Zealand march into the semifinals of the ICC Champions Trophy with a five-wicket win over Bangladesh at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

With two wins in two matches, Kiwis have marched into the semifinals and so have India, who are also sitting with two wins in two matches. Bangladesh and Pakistan, who have lost both of their matches with one match left, are out of the competition.

In the run chase of 237, the Kiwis were off to a horror start as the pair of Taskin Ahmed and

Nahid Rana picked up Will Young (0) and Kane Williamson (5) early, reducing NZ to 15/2 in 3.3 overs.

Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway then stabilised the innings, with Conway collecting three successive fours against Nahid.

NZ touched the 50-run mark in 9.3 overs.

Mustafizur ended the 57-run partnership, cleaning up Devon Conway for 30 in 45 balls, with six fours. NZ was 72/3 in 15.4 overs.

Tom Latham joined Ravindra at the crease. Ravindra reached his half-century with an imperious shot down the ground, in 50 balls, with six fours.

NZ reached the 100-run mark in 21.3 overs.

Rachin kept collecting boundaries against spinners Mehidy Hasan, Najmul Shanto and Rishad Hossain effortlessly. NZ reached the 150-run mark in 29.5 overs.

Rachin raced to his century in 95 balls, with 11 fours and a six. He became the NZ batter with the most centuries in ICC tournaments, with four centuries across 50-over World Cups (3) and ICC Champions Trophy (1), scoring centuries on his World Cup and Champions Trophy debut.

NZ reached the 200-run mark in 38 overs.

Rishad broke the 129-run stand between Rachin and Latham, removing the former for 112 in 105 balls, with 12



fours and a six as he went for a big shot. NZ was 201/5 in 38.2 overs.

Latham was run out by Mahmudullah for 55 in 76 balls, with three fours. NZ was 214/5 in 41.4 overs.

Glenn Phillips (21* in 28 balls, with two fours and a six) and Michael Bracewell (11*) took NZ to a win, with five wickets and 23 balls left.

Earlier, after New Zealand won the toss and opted to bowl first, Tanzid Hasan and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto gave a fine start to Bangladesh, with both taking on well against Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson. Jamieson was smashed for three fours in the eighth over by Shanto.

Their promising stand

was cut short by Michael Bracewell, who removed Tanzid for 24 (in 24 balls, with a four and two sixes) after a fine catch by Kane Williamson. Bangladesh was 45/1 in 8.2 overs.

Bangladesh reached the 50-run mark in nine overs.

Bangladesh encountered another jolt as Will O'Rourke cleaned up Mehidy Hasan Miraz for 13, (Bangladesh: 64/2 in 12 overs) and while Shanto collected fours against pace, his partnership with Towhid Hridoy did not last long either, with a release shot going into hands of Williamson again, putting end to Towhid's disappointing knock of seven in 24 balls. Bangladesh was 97/3 in 20.3

overs. Bracewell got his second wicket.

Bangladesh reached their 100-run mark in 21.1 overs.

Shanto reached his half-century in 71 balls, with eight fours.

Bracewell continued to dig a hole into Bangladesh's batting lineup, with quick wickets of experienced Mushfiqur Rahim (2) and Mahmudullah (4). Bangladesh was 118/4 in 26.1 overs.

Shanto paired up with Jaker Ali, stitching a brief counter-attack and getting Bangladesh to 150-run mark in 35.1 overs.

Shanto's well-compiled knock was ended by Will O'Rourke, who cleaned him up for 77 in 110 balls, with nine fours. Bangladesh was 163/6

in 37.2 overs.

Brief partnerships of 33 runs between Rishad Hossain (26 in 25 balls, with two fours and a six) and Jaker (45 in 55 balls, with three fours and a six) and 35 runs between Jaker and Taskin Ahmed (10) pushed Bangladesh to 236/9 in their 50 overs.

Bracewell (4/26) in 10 overs was the top bowler for New Zealand. O'Rourke got two wickets, while Henry and Jamieson got two wickets.

Brief Scores: Bangladesh: 236/9 (Najmul Hossain Shanto 77, Jaker Ali 45, Michael Bracewell 4/26) vs New Zealand (Rachin Ravindra 112, Tom Latham 55, Nahid Rana 1/43).

YCET conducts placement drive for students

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: A placement drive by KK Constructions & Builders and Tech. Mahindra was conducted for the students of Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET).

KK Constructions & Builders, a company of Engineers and team of fully dedicated experts specialized in civil structures, interiors, plumbing/electrical works, housing complexes, institutional projects, development work including infrastructure with roads and bridges, industrial structures.

The company's philosophy is based on innovation, quality and team work which make them in leading position.

Tech. Mahindra is an Indian multinational information technology services and consulting company that offers technology consulting and digital solutions to global enterprises across industries, enabling transformative scale at unparalleled speed.

The Placement Cell of YCET played a pivotal role in organizing such event, which witnessed active participation from representatives of the participating com-



pany.

The college's focus on career counseling and industry-oriented skill development was evident, enabling students to excel during the placement process.

The representatives from the company and Yogananda College of Engineering and Technology were involved to properly drive the placement process.

The students at YCET put in a lot of preparation towards the placement drive. The placement started with the Pre placement talk followed by Group Discussion and ended up with personal interview.

In the first round 32 students were screened out, during the second round 14 students were shortlisted out of which finally 8 students got selected. Four students namely Aniket Rathore, Umar Fareed Jaral, Aryan Raina, Vinay Kumar Basson were from Civil Engineering whereas four students namely Vikrant Singh Aithmian, Sakshi Manhas, Komal Kumari, Sarthak Sharma were from Computer Science and Engineering.

The Session began with the welcome address given by Er. Rajnish Magotra, (HoD, Civil Engineering

Department). He said that company's are world to us because they provide professional path to our students. The bouquet was presented to Dheeraj Sharma Head HR KK Construction & Builders followed by Sanskar Aggarwal senior Executive HR, Ajeet Jain Executive HR, Swati Singh Executive HR, Seema Gupta Executive HR by Er. Dinesh Gupta (Dean Academics).

Before the commencement of Placement Drive Dheeraj Sharma gave pre placement talk during which he highlighted the projects undertaken by company at various locations, the working pattern of the company and job profile.

Jamwal Group of Educational Institutions (JGEI), Jammu Chairman Er. Vidhi S. Singh Jamwal, Vice-Chairman Th. Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal, Managing Director Er. Renu Bangroo, Director, YCET, Dr.(Prof.) Mukesh Kumar Rana, Dean Academics YCET, Dinesh Gupta and Chief Coordinator, YCET, B.R Verma congratulated the selected students. Vote of thanks was given by Er. Rajnish Magotra, (HoD, Civil Engineering Department).

GGM Science College celebrates outstanding achievements of NCC (SW) Cadets at National Competitions



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: GGM Science College is proud to honor the achievements of its five NCC (SW) cadets, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and talent in various national-level competitions.

These accomplished cadets represented the National Cadet Corps (NCC) at the prestigious Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2025 in New Delhi and showcased remarkable skills, patriotic spirit, and discipline.

The cadets of 2 JK Girls BN from the college participated in key events at RDC 2025, such as the Prime Minister's Rally, Group Singing, and Ballet.

Their performances brought immense pride to the institution and contributed to its growing reputation for excellence in fostering holistic student development.

Among the many stand-out performances, Cadet Shika Devi brought home a bronze medal for her exemplary performance in Group Dance and

Ballet at RDC 2025.

Cadet Mehul Verma and Cadet Archita Verma represented the college in the prestigious Prime Minister's Rally at the event. Cadet Shavnam Sharma was also recognized for her remarkable participation in the Thal Sainik Camp (TSC) 2024 in New Delhi, where she was honored with a Gold Medal from the Commanding Officer for her exceptional performance in Table Drill, in addition to receiving the DGNCC Appreciation Award.

Further showcasing the college's commitment to excellence, SUO Prity Manyotra was also acknowledged for representing the college at the Inter Directorate Sports Shooting Competition in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

In an official statement, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, expressed immense pride in the cadets' accomplishments. "These cadets have exemplified the values of excellence, discipline, and commitment to national ser-

vice. Their success is a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and the values instilled through NCC training. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and their dedication to making a difference."

The outstanding achievements of these cadets were made possible under the mentorship of Dr. Shafia Saleem, the Associate NCC Officer (ANO) at GGM Science College. Dr. Saleem's expert guidance and unwavering support were pivotal in preparing the cadets for these prestigious events.

Reflecting on their success, Dr. Shafia Saleem expressed her pride in the cadets' dedication and achievements, particularly highlighting the exceptional performance of the girl cadets.

With these achievements GGM Science College proves to foster an environment of holistic growth, leadership, and national service among its students through the NCC, empowering young women to become responsible, resilient, and future-ready leaders who will make meaningful contributions to society.

Former Mayor Rajendra Sharma extends support to Movement Kalki, strengthens ongoing protest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Movement Kalki's ongoing protest received a significant boost on Tuesday as former Mayor Rajendra Sharma visited Amphala Chowk, Jammu, to extend his support to the movement. His presence infused new energy and strength into the cause.

The protest has been continuously running for 129 days, advocating for cow protection and the preservation of Sanatan Dharma.

On this occasion, Movement Kalki's Advisor Pritam Sharma and several key office bearers and supporters were present. The meeting focused on discussing future strategies and upcoming plans for the movement.

Rajendra Sharma praised the efforts of Movement Kalki, stating that the organization



is playing a crucial role in protecting Sanatan Dharma, ensuring cow protection, and promoting social welfare. He formally announced his full support for the movement and urged the public to actively participate in it.

He stated, "This movement by Movement Kalki is not just for Jammu and Kashmir but serves as a message of social and religious awakening for all of India. It is a major step towards preserving Sanatan culture and creating

a corruption-free society."

Movement Kalki's Advisor Pritam Sharma emphasized that Rajendra Sharma's support has given new strength to the organization. He urged all Sanatanis to unite and become part of this sacred movement, raising their voices against evils like cow slaughter.

He also highlighted Rajendra Sharma's remarkable contributions during his tenure as Mayor, particularly in

fighting corruption and ensuring transparency in educational institutions and government departments. His efforts helped curb bribery and corruption in schools, colleges, and government offices.

"Movement Kalki shares the same vision of creating a corruption-free society while upholding religious and social values," said Pritam Sharma.

The event was attended by key members of Movement Kalki's Legal Advisory Board, including Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Board Members

Pawan Sharma, Anuradha Yogi, Sunita Kundal, Antu Kotwal, Monika Sharma, Sapna Hindu, Neha Malhotra, Mela Ram, and several other prominent figures.

Additionally, a large number of media representatives, social activists, and Movement Kalki supporters were present at the gathering.

Movement Kalki leaders emphasized that this support will further strengthen the organization, and they remain committed to relentlessly pursuing their goals.

AJBRCEAK delegation meets MLA Sham Lal, urges early transfer policy & safe accommodation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: A delegation from the All Jammu-Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK), led by its President, Anil Radha, met today with Hon'ble Sh. Sham Lal Sharma Ji, MLA of the Jammu North Constitu-

ency, to present their pressing demands.

During the meeting, Anil Radha emphasized the urgent need for the early notification of a Comprehensive Transfer Policy, for which an empowered committee has already been constituted.

Hemraj Lakhotra, Drafting Secretary of

AJBRCEAK, raised concerns regarding Jammu-based reserved category teachers who have been posted in remote areas like Uri and Julha zones in Baramulla district for the past 12 years without a transfer.

Additionally, Vijay Kumar, another member of the association, highlighted the need for safe and secure accommodation for all Jammu-based reserved category employees at the district level and called for their adjustment in safe zones or district headquarters within the Kashmir Valley.

Other members of the delegation included Ram Krishan Salgotra Ji and Anil Kumar Ji.

Vivek Bali greets people on Mahashivratri



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 25: Vivek Bali, prominent political leader on Tuesday greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, which is celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits as Hairath.

In his congratulatory message to the people, Bali said that this festival symbolizes the values of piety, devotion,

brotherhood and harmony, which are the hallmark of our glorious and cultural ethos.

Wishing the people a happy Mahashivratri, he hoped that the munificence of Shivratri would this year fulfill the wishes and aspirations of the people of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Other leaders Dilawar Singh, Raj kumar and Bashir Ahmed Shah while greeting the people on this holy occasion of Maha Shivratri said that observation and celebrations of holy occasions and festivals in collectively and togetherness adds colour to the joyful events.

"Hairath is the important part of Kashmiryat and denotes historical bonds of love and amity between Hindus and Muslims," they added.

These leaders also prayed for peace and betterment of the UT and the Country on the occasion.



Government Of India Certified Course

MASTER MATHEMATICS

with the Power of Vedic Maths

Enhance Your Child's Interest in Maths!

20+ years Experienced Trainer

100% LIVE

249 Days Course

Rs. 249/- Only

249 Days of Learning
79 LIVE Classes
3 Sessions Per Week

• Speedy Calculations
• Mental Maths for class 5th onwards
• Creative Problem-Solving
• Helpful for all entrance exams (UPSC/PCS/CLAT/Banking/JEE/Army etc.)

Book Your Spot:
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

Link in Description



SCAN QR CODE TO PAY