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BRIEFLY

Security Forces detect IED placed on roadside in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR, Feb 21 (Agencies): Security forces on Saturday detected an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, officials said.

The IED was kept inside a bag and placed on the roadside at Gulab Sheikh Mohalla near Kohestan Colony in the district's Safapora area, they said.

Officials said a bomb disposal squad has been called to the spot.

Further details are awaited.

Seven CRPF personnel injured in road accident in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Feb 21 (Agencies): Seven personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured in a road accident in the Dagpora area of Srinagar on Saturday, officials said.

Officials said that the accident occurred at Umar Hair, Dagpora Road in Ahmad Nagar when the driver of a BP bunker vehicle lost control, causing the vehicle to skid off the road and plunge into a water canal.

They said injured personnel were shifted to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura for treatment.

The injured have been identified as Naginder Singh (36), Ajit Kumar Ram (36), Raj Kishore Rai (40), Amit Kumar Yadav (38), Rajdhan Ram (55), Mankar Kumar (40) and Neeraj Kumar (45).

All the injured personnel are stated to be stable and have sustained multiple injuries, they added.

Five injured in Road Accident on Banihal Highway

SRINAGAR, Feb 21 (Agencies): Five persons sustained injuries after a private car met with an accident near Railway Chowk in Banihal area of Ramban district on Saturday.

Sources said the vehicle bearing registration number UP20CY5823 was travelling from Jammu towards Srinagar when the driver reportedly lost control near the busy highway junction, leading to the

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Shantmanu takes Oath as Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21 : Former bureaucrat Shantmanu was sworn in as the State Election Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

Lt Gov Manoj Sinha administered the oath of office to the retired IAS officer at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan here.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with his cabinet colleagues, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat were also present.

On February 17, Sinha appointed Shantmanu as the new state election commissioner for a period of five years or



until he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Shantmanu, a 1991-batch officer of the AGMUT cadre who recently retired as additional chief secretary and financial commissioner in Jammu and Kashmir, replaced B R Sharma who completed his tenure in April 2024.

Shantmanu's appointment is expected to clear the way for panchayat and local body elections in the Union Territory.

While the tenure of municipalities ended in October-November 2023, the panchayats and block development councils completed their five-year term on

January 9, 2024. With the tenures of district development councils ending on February 24, there will be no elected local bodies functioning in the Union Territory.

According to officials, elections to local bodies could not be held on time due to multiple factors, including the delimitation

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86 Nations, Two Int'l Organisations sign AI Impact Summit declaration: IT Min Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (Agencies): As many as 86 countries and two international organisations have signed the AI Impact Summit declaration, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said, adding that the US, UK, Canada, China, Denmark, and Germany are among the signatories.

The strong global backing for the declaration comes at the conclusion of the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

Vaishnaw told reporters that nations across the world have formalised and upheld principles of 'welfare of all, and happiness of all'.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's human-centric AI vision been accepted by the world. Democratising Artificial Intelligence resources so AI facilities, services and technology can reach everyone in



society has been accepted by all," the minister said.

Balancing economic growth with social good has been prioritised, he added.

"Not just economic growth, even social harmony has to be kept in mind. Safety and trust are at the centre, they have been brought among the main points," Vaishnaw said, adding that a secure, trustworthy and robust AI framework has been focused on.

Other major areas of thrust include innovations and development of human capital, he noted.

"For all these areas, all countries that participated, including the US, the UK, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Indonesia, and Germany... everyone has participated," the minister said.

The mega AI Impact Summit secured investment commitments of

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Post-370 Cleanup: Obsolete Law books to be auctioned in Jammu Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 21 (Agencies): In the wake of the constitutional reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, a substantial stock of printed legal and administrative material has been declared obsolete and is now being processed for auction, the government informed the Assembly.

Kashmir history books The development follows the repeal of Article 370 and the conversion of the erstwhile State into a Union Territory, which led to sweeping legal and administrative changes. Several statutes were repealed, modified, or replaced, rendering a range of official publications outdated.

In a written reply placed before the House, the government detailed the quantum of obsolete printed material identified over the past five years. The items include 16 copies of the

Jail Manual, 47 copies of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir (Volume D), 159 copies of the Law Supplement 2010, and 784 copies of the Law Supplement 2011.

Additionally, 32 copies of the old version of the Budget Manual have been declared obsolete. A significant number of Law Volumes (6th Edition, Volumes I to X) have also been listed, with 1,689 copies each reported as outdated.

Officials indicated that many of these publications became redundant following the application of central laws to the Union Territory and the repeal or modification of earlier state-specific legislation. The discontinuation of the separate Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, in particular, rendered related volumes obsolete.

The government stated that an Auction Committee has been constituted

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BJP Yuva Morcha protests in Jammu, Seeks Rahul's apology for 'Shirtless Protest' at AI Summit



JAMMU, Feb 21 (Agencies): The BJP Yuva Morcha members on Saturday held a demonstration in Jammu to counter the "shirtless protest" by Congress' youth wing workers at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi a day ago.

Led by Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) president Arun Prabhat, several dozen protesters gathered at Kachi Chawni Chowk,

raised slogans against the Congress, burnt an effigy of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and demanded an apology from him for allegedly hurting the "honour, dignity and reputation" of the country.

A group of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers on Friday staged a dramatic "shirtless protest" at an AI Impact Summit exhibition hall, holding T-shirts with slogans

against the government and the India-US trade deal printed on them, before being whisked away by security personnel.

Four IYC leaders were arrested and a case was also registered in the incident.

J-K BJYM president Prabhat said the Congress activists attempted to disrupt the AI Summit attended by dignitaries from across the world, thereby hurting

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Policeman critically injured after being hit by car during naka duty in Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 21 (Agencies): A police constable was critically injured after being struck by a speeding car while performing naka duty in the Miran Sahib area of Jammu on Saturday afternoon.

Officials identified the injured as Harnam Singh, 47, son of Janak Singh, a resident of Hunder village of Reasi district. He was on routine checking duty when a Swift car reportedly hit

him, leaving him seriously wounded.

He was immediately rushed to the Government Medical College Jammu for initial treatment. Given the seriousness of his condition, he was later referred to the Command Hospital Udhampur for specialized medical care, where he is currently undergoing treatment.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident, and further proceedings are underway.

Women Empowerment Top Priority: Satwant Kour Dogra

JAMMU, Feb 21: A meeting of Women Workers of the 79-Jammu North Assembly Constituency (14 Wards) of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference was convened today at the party office in Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sandeep Singh Manhas, Incharge Jammu Municipal Corporation Wards.

Addressing the gathering, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Former Minister and Additional General Secretary, called upon women workers to

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Rising cyber offences demand technical and legal preparedness: IGP Jammu

JAMMU, Feb 21 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti on Saturday underscored the growing importance of cyber investigation amid the rapid rise in technology-driven crimes.

Addressing officers at a training programme in Jammu, the IGP said cyber-enabled offences are increasing at a fast pace and require investi-



gating officers to remain technically updated and legally well-versed. He stressed that proper handling of digital evi-

dence, adherence to legal safeguards and maintaining the chain of custody are crucial for ensuring successful prosecution in cyber-crime cases.

He highlighted the need for specialised knowledge in conducting digital seizures and preparing seizure memos in accordance with established

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LoP Sunil Sharma dares NC to prove 'Special Status' claim, Questions Govt in Assembly

SRINAGAR, Feb 21 (Agencies): Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Saturday accused the ruling National Conference (NC) of confusing people with misleading constitutional terminology and challenged the government to substantiate its claims regarding "special status" for Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at the BJP's



Mega Joining Programme at SKICC, Srinagar, Sharma said he had openly challenged

the government in the Assembly to show where the term "special status" is mentioned in the Constitution in the manner it is being projected.

He reiterated that Article 370 "is history" and said there is no possibility of its restoration. Referring to the 2024 Assembly elections, Sharma alleged that the NC had sought votes in the name of restor-

ing Article 370 but later stated it could not expect support from the BJP at the Centre.

"The people must ask what exactly is being promised under the term special status," he said, adding that constitutional positions cannot be altered through political slogans.

The LoP also accused the NC leadership of adopting contradictory

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OBITUARY & 10TH DAY KRIYA

With heavy hearts, we inform that our revered mother **Smt Vijay Laxmi Dhar** W/o Lt Sh. Badrinath Dhar originally resident of Babapora, Habbakadal, Srinagar, presently residing at J-3183 7th Avenue, Gaur City 1, Greater Noida West UP has attained Nirvana on 14-02-2026. The **Tenth Day** shall be performed on 23-02-2026 at Muradnagar Ganga Ghat, UP at 10 AM.



Smt Vijay Laxmi Dhar

Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Ravi Kumar & Indira Dhar
Satish Kumar & Manju Dhar
Grandchildren
Monika & Ashish Dhar
Akshay Dhar & Simmy TM,
Shalika & Vineet Dhar
Danish Tiku
Ishan Dhar

Daughters & Son-in-laws
Anita & G L Wakhloo
Sunita & Pawan Tiku
Great Grand Children
Aarav & Saasha

TENTH DAY/KRIYA RASAM PAGRI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Jasbir Singh Manhas** S/o Lt Major Balwan Singh Manhas R/o 26 Karan Nagar, Jammu, Lane No. 6, Opp Ved Mandir Amphalla.



Sh Jasbir Singh Manhas

TENTH DAY will be performed at Ved Mandir on 21-02-2026 (Saturday) at 11 am and **Kriya** will be performed on 24-02-2026, (Tuesday) at our residence at 12 pm **Rasam Pagri /Uthala** will be performed at **Trikuta Bhawan, Amphalla** at 5 pm on 04-03-2026 (Wednesday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Mohini Manhas (Wife)
Aarav Manhas
Smt Neelam and Lt Sh Kuldeep Singh Manhas (Bhabhi & Brother)
Smt Anita and Sh Randeep Singh Manhas (Bhabhi & Brother)
Smt Shikha and Sh Bhupinder Singh Jamwal (Daughter & Son in law)
Smt Neha and Sh Bhanu Pratap Singh Chib (Daughter and Son -in-law)
Grand children
Kairav Jamwal, Anaisa Singh, Anaya Singh and Avantika Singh
9419108085

10TH DAY/13TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Devi** W/o Sh. Lehan Singh originally R/o Laloor Dessa, Doda at present H.No. - 8, Lane No.1, Sec. B/2 Laxmpuram Chinore Bantala, who left for heavenly abode on Wednesday 11th of Feb. 2026.



Smt. Raj Devi

10th Day will be performed on 20 Feb 2026 (Friday) at home at Laxmpuram Chinore.

13th Day Kriya will be held on 23 Feb 2026, (Monday) at our residence at Laxmpuram Chinore.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Lehan Singh - Husband
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Gurdai & Sh. Brij Lal
Smt. Sushma Devi & Sh. Jagar Nath
Smt. Kausalya Devi & Sh. Jia Lal
Smt. Rakha Devi & Agya Ram
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Siima Devi & Sarban Singh
Smt. Sangeeta Devi & Rattan Singh

All Grand & Great Grand Children
Mob:- 7006084714,
9596615029, 9906275661

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **10th Day Kriya** of our beloved **Papaji, Late Sh Prem Nath Raina** of Turagam Debug, residing at 58, Durga Nagar Enclave Phase 1, will be performed at Chenab Ghat Akhnoor from 6 am onwards on Monday, 23 Feb 26; followed by Assembly at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 1030 am. With prayers for eternal peace to the departed soul.



Late Sh Prem Nath Raina

Grief Stricken

MK Raina
Soni & PL Bakshi
Sunita & Ashok Raina
Sunita & Maj Gen (R) RK Raina
Yashodhra & Veenji Raina

Kanta & SN Koul
Tita & TK Bhat
Shanta Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Naresh Kumar (Tanti)** S/o Lt. Sh. Kasturi Lal Gorka, Resident of 37 New Company Bagh Canal Road, Jammu on Friday, 13/02/2026.



SH. NARESH KUMAR (TANTI)

The **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed on Sunday, 22nd of Feb. 2026 at Guri Rawdass Mandir Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

Programme:
Satsang from 12 Noon to 1 PM.
Followed by **Guru Ka Langar.**
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Dhruv(Gugli)(Son) & Anika (Daughter-in-law)
Rudra (Muli)(Son)
Sisters & Bro-in-law
Sunita & Chaman
Anita & Shekhar
Suman & Dajit
Bhabhi & Brother
Mrs. Surjan & Rajesh Kumar
Samast Gorka & Monia Parivar.
Mob Nos: 9419124451, 600622904

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Chuni Lal Pandita** S/o Late Sh Jagar Nath Pandita from Sofi Hamam Sopore Kashmir A/P Lane No. 24 Block No. 156, Flat No. 11 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 24th Feb. 2026 (Tuesday) at Akhnoor Ghat at 8 AM while as Assembly shall be held Community Hall Lane No. 23 (near Radha Krishan Mandir) Jagti at 12 Noon.



Sh Chuni Lal Pandita

Grief Stricken

Smt Jyoti Pandita -Wife
Daughters
Miss Shalini Pandita
Miss Rubita Pandita
Sh Kiran Ji & Smt Babli Pandita -Brother & Bhabhi
Sister & Jija
Smt Santosh Pandit & Sh Billu Ji Pandit
Smt Meena Raina & Sh Satish Raina
Smt Veena Bhat & Sh Sushil Bhat
Mob Nos. 7006378782, 9797362298

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Father Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul** (Dulloo) S/o Lt. J.L. Koul (Dulloo) of Shaiba Kadal Srinagar at present Lane No.- 9, Block No. 49, Flat No. 8, Jagti Colony, Nagrota, Jammu.



SH. ASHOK KUMAR KOUL (DULLOO)

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on Sunday 22nd Feb. 2026 at Sainik School Ghat, Nagrota (Jmu) at 9.30 am. The **Assembly** shall be held at Lane No. - 9, Community Hall near Ration Deptt. Jagti 11.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sangeeta Koul - Wife
Smt. Krishna Koul W/o Lt. Sh. S.N. Koul - Sister
Smt. Usha Dulloo W/o Lt. Sh. S.N. Dulloo - Sister-in-law
Smt. Sonia Koul & Ankit Koul - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Archana Koul & Rohit Koul - Daughter-in-law & Son
Kanishk, Anaya, Trisha - Grand Childrens
Deeply Remembered By:
Kaul's, Ganjoo's, Dulloo's, Sudan's
Contact No:- 9682674266, 6005351491

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that our beloved mother **Smt. Prabha Devi Kaw** W/o Late Hirdey Nath kaw originally from Kursoo Raj Bagh, Srinagar A/P S-31A/31 DLF Ph-3 Gurgaon attained Nirvana on 14th Feb 2026.



Prabha Devi Kaw

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar Gurgaon at 8A.M on Monday 23th Feb 2026.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Kaw's and Gadroo's
PH: 7011893700

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we hereby regret the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Mrs Kalpana Koul** W/o Mr Rakesh Koul (Surnel) R/o R N Mandir Habba Kadal, Sgr and presently at R/o 82- Patoli Mangotriani, Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 17-02-2026.



Mrs Kalpana Koul

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 26-02-2026 at 6 AM. The Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education Jammu at 10.30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Rakesh Koul- Husband (9906165500)
Rohan Koul- Son
Mrs Anita & Suinder Maghbo - Sister & Brother in law (986205441)
Shmt. Shanta & Sh C N Koul (9870262457)
Shmt. Asha Koul
Shmt. Veena & Sh Ashwani Koul
Shmt. Vijay & Sh Ravinder Koul
Shmt. Renu & Sh Sanjay Tickoo
Shmt. Shanta & Sh O P Bangroo
Shmt. Ranju & Sh Ajay Koul
Mr Nikhil Maghlo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Smt. Khema Koul** D/o Late Sh. Tara Chand Koul and W/o Sh O.N. Bakaya of Mallapora Habba Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir at present B-177, Sector 3, Patwar Greater Noida West. (U.P)



Smt. Khema Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on Sunday 22nd Feb, 2026 at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar. The **ASSEMBLY** shall be held at our residence at 11.30 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Omkar Nath Bakaya - Husband (Ex. J&K Bank)
Sunil & Jyoti Warikoo - Son & Daughter in law
Sundeep & Suezana Warikoo - Son & Daughter in law
Rahul & Ishita Warikoo - Son & Daughter in law
Rohit & Mona Warikoo - Son & Daughter in law
Archana & Vineet Razdan - Daughter & Son in law
GRAND CHILDREN:
Nimish, Sheen, Verinda, Cheshta, Harshi, Dharmi, Riaan, Rishaan, Savya.
CONTACT DETAILS: 97178 33442, 99104 38949, 97277 70065

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Master Jai Krishan Raina (Maktoom)**, originally of Chowgam, Kashmir, and presently residing at H. No. 451, Lane No. 9, Gurah Keran, Barnal Road, Jammu, on 14-02-2026.



Master Jai Krishan Raina (Maktoom)

The **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Akhnoor Ghat at 8.00 A.M. on 23-02-2026. The condolence assembly shall thereafter be held at the residence: House No. 451, Lane No. 9, Gurah Keran, Barnal Road, Jammu at 10:30 am.

GRIEF-STRICKEN

Yena Ji Raina (Wife)
Soni Raina and Pooja Raina (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Deepak Raina and Neenu Raina (Son and Daughter-in-law)
Basanti Raina (Bhabhi)
Mohini & Dr. P. N. Koul (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Renu Raina & A. K. Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Kaka Kamlesh & Avinash Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Lucky & Vinod Bakshi (Daughter & Son-in-law)
All Nears & Dears
Mobile No. 9419245710, 8713037000

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Tripan Kumar Sharma** S/o Late Sh. Mahant. Ram Lubhaya R/O- House no-80 Ward no-2 Bari Brahmana Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on Thursday 12th February 2026. He will always be remembered for his love, strength and values. Will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Tripan Kumar Sharma

10th Day will be held at our residence Bari Brahmana 12 noon on 21-Feb-2026 (Saturday)

KRIYA will be held at our residence House no 80 Ward no 2 Bari Brahmana at 12:00 noon on 22 February 2026 (Sunday)

UTHALA will be held at Raghunath Mandir Bari Brahmana. From 4:00 pm -5:00 pm on 23 February 2026 (Monday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Gunmala Sharma -Wife
Adv. Jatinder Kumar & Adv. Itee Sharma (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Dr. Rahul Gaddipati & Dr. Radhika Sharma (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Narinder Sharma & Priyanka Sharma (Son & Daughter- in-law)
Sh. Ramesh Kumar Sharma & Smt. Nisha Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)
Sh. Satish Kumar Sharma & Smt. Sneh Sharma (Brother & Bhabhi)
Divyaansh, Kairav, Bnti, Divit, Pavika & saavi (Grand Children)
Contact 9086333333, 9797402222, 9797761617, 9086036046

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day Kriya** of our beloved **Reeta Ji** W/o Sh. Rattan Lal Zutshi (Bob Lal) originally resident of Mehand, Tehsil Bijbehara, District Anantnag, Kashmir A/P House No 16/C, Om Nagar, Lane no 1, Udaiwala Bohri, Jammu who attained Nirvana on 18-02-2026, shall be performed on 27-02-2026 at Akhnoor Ghat.



Reeta Ji

The **Assembly** shall be held at our residence at 11:30 A.M.

IN GRIEF:

Zutshi's Parivar and all nears and dears
Mobile No: 7006500269, 8716090857

TENTH DAY KRIYA

"Days have passed but the ache remains. Your memory is a light that will never fade."



Smt Uma Shori

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Uma Shori** of Patwara, District Budgam Kashmir presently residing at H.No. 116, Lane 4, Anand Nagar Bohri who left us for her heavenly abode on the morning of 14th February, 2026.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 22/02/2026 (Sunday) at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly prayer will be held at Muthi Ghat at 10:15 am same day.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Rangji and Sasa Koul - Son and Daughter in Law
O.N. Shor - Son
Rita Lal Koul and Kiran Koul - Son and Daughter in Law
Mohini and M.K.Koul - Daughter and Son in Law
Ajai and Rav Khor - Daughter and Son in Law
Ashish Bhat and Anam Pandit (Bhat) - Grandson and Granddaughter in Law
Grand Daughters:
Anita, Babbi, Shikha, Meenakshi, Shipa, Aarti, Priya,
Contact: 9148804144, 9419115657, 959650840

TENTH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH HEAVY HEARTS AND PROFOUND GRIEF WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SHRI PREM KUMAR KAPOOR** S/O SH LATE DINA NATH KAPOOR R/O LATTER MASJID, SAFA KADAL SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT H.NO.40, LANE NO.3 CHANDAN VIHAR NEAR DIRECTOR EDUCATION OFFICE MUTHI JAMMU WHO COMPLETED HIS EARTHLY JOURNEY AND ATTAINED HEAVENLY ABODE ON WEDNESDAY MIDNIGHT.



SHRI PREM KUMAR KAPOOR

THE **TENTH DAY** WILL BE OBSERVED ON 22/2/2026 AT AKHNOOR GHAT AND ASSEMBLY AT MUTHI GHAT AT 11 AM. **KRIYA** WILL BE HELD ON 02/03/26 AND UTHALA ON 04/03/26 AT 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

SARLA KAPOOR - WIFE
SMT AND SH SHIVAMA KAPOOR & M K KAPOOR - BHABHI AND BROTHER
KOMAL KAPOOR & VINOD KUMAR KAPOOR - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON
RAKSHANDA BHARDWAJ & KAMAL KAPOOR - DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON
DAUGHTER
RAW JEE AND NEERU - SON-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER
ANJALI KAPOOR - DAUGHTER
DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY
KAPOOR, KHATRI AND KHEERA PARIVAR
MOBILE NO: 9796512532, 9492260336, 9419644048, 9419644041

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AI tools can help eliminate subjectivity in medical diagnosis: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Feb 21: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that AI-developed tools are set to eliminate subjectivity in medical diagnosis, ensuring more precise and specific treatment for patients.

Delivering the inaugural address at the at the "Medllumina 2026: International Multi Speciality Medical Conference", the Minister explained that, for example, while a pathologist examining a cancer patient's biopsy slide with naked eye may inadvertently miss a minute but crucial cluster of affected cells, an AI-enabled system can guide him directly to the precise location, minimising human error. Similarly, in clinical examina-



tion, AI tools analysing comprehensive patient data can flag findings that may otherwise be overlooked, thereby strengthening diagnostic accuracy and improving treatment outcomes.

Highlighting the importance of integrated medical dialogue, Dr Jitendra Singh said that with increasing super-specialisation, opportunities for cross-disciplinary deliberation often get limited. A multi-speciality academic platform organised by a diagnostics institution represents a forward-looking approach, especially at a time when medicine is

becoming deeply interdisciplinary, integrating MedTech, engineering and advanced data sciences.

Tracing the evolution of medical science over the past few decades, Dr Jitendra Singh referred to the transition from an era dominated by classical clinical learning to one driven by imaging and molecular tools, ultrasound, CT scan, MRI and now genomics.

He said that the dictum of the day has shifted: where earlier medical mastery depended solely on extensive reading, today AI-enabled systems com-

plement and enhance clinical judgement. He also shared that AI-powered language tools are breaking communication barriers in healthcare delivery, enabling wider outreach, including through mobile clinics and digital platforms.

The Minister spoke at length about the changing spectrum of diseases in India. Conditions once region-specific, such as diabetes in southern India or thyroid disorders in Himalayan regions, are now prevalent across the country, reflecting lifestyle changes and the breakdown of rural-urban

divides. Increased life expectancy has brought age-related diseases to the forefront, while lifestyle disorders are appearing at younger ages. In this context, early and precise diagnostics have become indispensable to distinguish between closely overlapping clinical entities and to prevent inappropriate treatment protocols.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that India is entering a new era of genomics and gene therapy. Under the Department of Biotechnology, large-scale genome sequencing initiatives are underway, with an initial target of sequencing one million individuals. He referred to successful clinical research in gene therapy for haemophilia conducted in collaboration with premier medical institutions, describing it as a major scientific achievement. He also mentioned the development of India's first indigenous antibiotic, Nafthromycin, as evidence of the country's growing life sciences capabilities.

Shiv Sena launches 'Apno Ko Kaam' Campaign; Submits memorandum to JMC Commissioner



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: The Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has called for enhanced self-employment opportunities for local youth and stricter regulation of street vending in Jammu city. A delegation led by State President Manish Sahni met Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS) and submitted a detailed memorandum under the party's "Apno Ko Kaam" campaign.

Addressing media persons at the party's state office, Manish Sahni expressed concern over growing unemployment among youth, stating that while young people possess skills and talent, they lack

adequate space and resources to establish self-employment ventures. He demanded that small shops or kiosks be constructed at the ward level and allotted to local unemployed youth at nominal rent through a transparent process. He also called for priority for local youth in development projects and contracts.

The delegation further urged the JMC to introduce photo identity cards for registered street vendors and make their display mandatory. According to Sahni, such measures would help regulate street vending, ensure accountability, and allow customers to clearly identify authorised vendors. He also called for action against uniden-

tified vendors, raising concerns related to regulation and security, while emphasizing the need for proper verification systems.

Sahni stated that Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav listened to the suggestions attentively and assured the delegation of appropriate consideration and positive action.

During the programme, several young individuals joined the party, expressing support for its policies and ideology. They were welcomed by Sahni through the traditional "Shiv Bandhan" ceremony. Among those present on the occasion were Vikas Bakshi, General Secretary, and Sanjeev Kohli, Working President of the party unit.

Chinar Primary School students bring joy to residents at Vridh Ashram

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: The Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, was filled with vibrant energy and heartfelt emotions as thirty-three students of the Primary Wing of Chinar Primary School, located within the Sainik School Nagrota campus, visited the Home under the gracious supervision of Mrs. Meena Sharma and other esteemed staff members.

The young students presented a colourful and captivating cultural programme that included lively dance performances, devotional renditions, and melodious songs celebrating cultural and spiritual values. Their innocent enthusiasm and artistic expressions created an atmosphere of warmth and joy, deeply touching the hearts of the residents. In a beautiful display of intergenerational bonding, the inmates of the Home also actively participated in the programme. Several residents joined the children in dancing and sang religious hymns, transforming the event into a shared celebration of love, respect, and togetherness.

The gathering commenced with a warm welcome address delivered by Sat Pal Sharma, Member, Managing Committee of the Home.



Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary of the Home in his address, elaborated on the complete functioning of the institution, highlighting its mission, day-to-day working, and the various facilities and care services being provided to the elderly residents. He also appealed to the teaching fraternity to act as ambassadors of the Home by spreading awareness about its noble cause and assisting in identifying and facilitating deserving admissions to the institution. Shri Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary also attended the programme.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks presented by Sr. Rajinder Singh,

Member, Managing Committee, who expressed deep appreciation to the school management, teachers, and students for their thoughtful gesture and commendable performance.

He remarked that such visits strengthen emotional well-being among the elderly and foster a spirit of compassion and social responsibility among young minds.

The Management of the Home extended its sincere gratitude to Chinar Primary School for organizing this meaningful visit and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting community engagement that enhances the dignity, happiness, and quality of life of its residents.

Tourist surge data presented in Assembly evidence of restored Peace: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan has termed the latest tourism figures placed before the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly as strong evidence of restored peace and a stable environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the statement made by Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Omar Abdullah in the House, Balbir said that the unprecedented surge in tourist arrivals reflects growing national and international confidence in the Union Territory.

According to the data shared in the Assembly, over 7.85 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir between 2023 and 2025, compared to 4.76 crore during

2016-2018. Describing this increase as historic, Balbir Ram Rattan said the figures are not merely statistical achievements but indicators of a transformed ground reality.

"Tourism thrives only in an atmosphere of safety and stability. The remarkable rise in footfall clearly shows that a sense of security now prevails across Jammu and Kashmir," he stated. He added that after 2019, sustained efforts were made to strengthen governance, improve security mechanisms, and ensure inclusive development, all of which have contributed to restoring normalcy.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that the tourism revival has had a direct and positive impact on the local economy. Thousands of families associated with

hotels, guest houses, houseboats, transport services, handicrafts, and small businesses have witnessed renewed opportunities. The surge will also encouraged fresh investments in hospitality infrastructure and allied sectors, creating employment avenues for youth.

He further noted that the growing number of visitors signifies a renewed trust in the region's peaceful environment. Pilgrimage tourism, adventure activities, winter sports are attracting diverse groups of travelers, strengthening social and economic integration.

Balbir said that the data presented on the floor of the House is proof that Jammu and Kashmir is steadily moving forward on the path of development and prosperity. He maintained that



improved connectivity, upgraded infrastructure, and better public amenities have further enhanced the visitor experience.

Calling the tourism boom a milestone in the Union Territory's progress, Balbir Ram Rattan expressed confidence that this positive trajectory will continue. He said the sustained influx of tourists stands as a testament to restored peace, a stable environment, and a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180016 Website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>, Jammu: 0191-2566533

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Subject: Facility of Scribe and Compensatory Time for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBDs)- regarding.

It is hereby notified for information of the Persons with Disability (PwD) candidates appearing in the Written Examinations for the posts of Medical Officer Ayurvedic and Medical Officer Homeopathy in the Health & Medical Education Department and Scientific Officer (Chemistry & Toxicology) in the J&K Forensic Science Laboratory in Home Department are scheduled to be held on 08.03.2026, that the facility of compensatory time and/or Scribe shall be allowed as per the following details:

The facility of compensatory time and/or Scribe shall be allowed to any person with benchmark disability as defined under section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016 and has limitation in writing including that of speed if so desired by him/her.

In case of persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBD) in the category of Blindness, Locomotor disability (both arms affected-BA) and Cerebral Palsy, the facility of scribe is provided, if desired by the candidate.

Compensatory time of 20 minutes per hour of examination shall be provided for eligible persons with benchmark disabilities [certified by the Standing Medical Board or a Medical Board constituted by the Government for the purpose, as per rule 17 of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022].

In case of remaining categories of persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBD), the facility of scribe and compensatory time will be provided on production of a certificate to the effect that the person concerned has physical limitation to write, and scribe is essential to write examination on his behalf, from the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Medical Superintendent of a Government Health Care Institution as per proforma as Annexure-A.

Documents which are required to be submitted to the Controller of Examination by or before 03.03.2026.

- i. Application on plain paper.
- ii. Persons with Disability Certificate (Self-attested).
- iii. Certificate regarding physical limitation to write (Annexure-A).
- iv. Letter of Undertaking for Using Scribe, the same shall be provided by the Commission.
- v. Admit Card/Roll Number and Contact Number.

Note: The candidature of such candidates shall remain provisional till the veracity of the relevant document/s is verified. Candidates shall be debarred from the examination in case of fraudulent claim of PwD status.

Encl:- Annexure "A"

DIP/J-11863
Dated: 20-2-2026

Sd/-
(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS,
Controller of Examinations,
Public Service Commission

Annexure - 'A' Certificate regarding physical limitation in an examinee to write

This is to certify that, I have examined Mr/Miss/Mrs _____ (Name of the candidate with disability), a person with _____ (nature and percentage of disability as mentioned in the certificate of disability), S/o / D/o _____ a resident of Village/District and to state that He/ She has physical limitation which hampers his/her writing capabilities owing to his/ her disability.

Signature
Chief Medical Officer/ Civil Surgeon/ Medical Superintendent
of a Government Health Care institution
Name and designation
Name of the Government Hospital/ Health Care Centre with seal

Place:

Date:

Note : Certificate should be given by a specialist of the relevant stream / disability (e.g. visual impairment- Ophthalmologist, Locomotor disability-Orthopaedic specialist / PMH).

EDITORIAL

Identity Through Language

International Mother Language Day, observed every year on 21 February, is a powerful reminder of the importance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. Languages are not merely tools of communication; they are living expressions of identity, history, and collective memory. In a rapidly globalising world, where dominant languages often overshadow smaller ones, this day encourages societies to reflect on the value of preserving and promoting mother tongues.

The significance of mother languages extends far beyond tradition. They play a crucial role in shaping a person's early learning and emotional development. Studies have consistently shown that children grasp concepts more effectively when educated in their native language during the foundational years. When students feel connected to their linguistic roots, they develop confidence, creativity, and a stronger sense of belonging. Therefore, promoting mother languages in education is not only a cultural responsibility but also an educational necessity.

International Mother Language Day traces its origins to the historic language movement of 1952, when students in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) protested for the recognition of their mother tongue. Their sacrifice highlighted the deep emotional and cultural bond people share with their language. Today, the observance stands as a global tribute to linguistic rights and diversity, encouraging nations to protect endangered languages and respect multilingual identities.

India, known for its vast cultural mosaic, offers a strong example of linguistic richness. With hundreds of languages and dialects spoken across regions, the country reflects how diversity can coexist with unity. However, many regional and indigenous languages face the threat of decline due to migration, urbanisation, and the dominance of global languages in media and education. The loss of a language means the loss of unique knowledge systems, oral traditions, and cultural expressions. Hence, collective efforts are required from institutions, educators, and communities to preserve linguistic heritage.

Educational institutions play a vital role in promoting mother languages through cultural programmes, literary activities, and regional language courses. Encouraging students to read, write, and create in their native languages helps sustain literary traditions while fostering innovation. Digital platforms and technology can also be powerful tools for language preservation. Online archives, podcasts, and regional content creation can make indigenous languages more accessible to younger generations, ensuring that they remain relevant in modern society.

Governments and policymakers also have an important responsibility. Supportive policies that encourage multilingual education, translation of knowledge resources, and documentation of endangered languages can help maintain linguistic diversity. Media outlets, writers, and artists contribute by producing meaningful content in regional languages, thereby strengthening cultural narratives and promoting inclusivity.

International Mother Language Day ultimately reminds us that every language carries a worldview shaped by generations of experience. Respecting linguistic diversity encourages mutual understanding, tolerance, and social harmony. When communities celebrate their languages, they celebrate their identity and heritage.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the challenge lies in balancing global communication with local cultural preservation. Embracing multilingualism allows individuals to engage with the world while staying rooted in their traditions. By valuing mother languages in education, literature, and daily life, societies can ensure that future generations inherit not only words but also the wisdom, stories, and values embedded within them.

Mother Language Day is more than a symbolic observance; it is a call to action. Preserving languages means preserving humanity's shared cultural legacy, ensuring that the voices of every community continue to be heard and celebrated for generations to come.

Peer Kho Cave Temple: A Spiritual Treasure in Jammu

By: Omkar Dattatray

Jammu city has rightly the distinction of being called the city of temples as the temples, shrines and other religious places are situated in every nook and corner of Jammu. These religious places are the symbols of mutual brotherhood and communal harmony and are visited by the people of various faiths. One of the oldest and famous Shiv temples is the cave shrine of Peerkho situated in the city of Jammu near Panjthri and visited by a large number of the devotees speciously on Purnimashi, Amavasya, Eakadashis, Soomwars (Mondays) to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva and seek his blessings. This cave temple is the pilgrim spot of great attraction and thus frequented by a large number of people. It is believed that the wishes of the devotees are fulfilled by paying visit to this cave and by propitiating Lord Shiva whose natural Idol is housed in this temple. It is one of the oldest temples in the city and witnesses a huge rush on the auspicious days. In addition, the temple shrine is thronged by a numerous devotees during the time of some of the prime festivals of Jammu namely, Shivratri, Raksha Bandhan, ShravanPurnimashi. This cave temple is mainly a Shiva temple, and the Shiva lingam is placed inside a moderately seized cave and is a very peaceful place. It is etched in white marble on a rectangular platform. The black stone lingam is ornamented with copper snake or Naga, as termed in Hindi and a sheet of silver covers the Jallari or Yoni, with an overtop cropper vessel, placed in a hanging position to be able to continuously pour water on the lingam. There is some evidence that this temple was built during the dominion of the Dogra rulers as the lower portion of the lingam and some of the other characteristics bear a close resemblance to the ones of Purnimashi, which was also built during Dogra rule.

The Peer Mitha and the peer kho temple are the medieval period jewels of the city of

Jammu. As per some of the historical records, the temple was built in the 15th century AD, during the ruling regime of Raja AjhaibDev, for the then peer, Saint Siddha Ghareeb Nath. These caves are built underground and at an heart wrenching depth of twenty to thirty feet. The peer Kho cave is positioned on the banks of Suriputri river Tawi and it is widely believed that a character named Jamvant, who was famously worshipped as the bear god had meditated in this cave. This temple is based in the vicinity of the Panchbaskhtar temple and the Ranbireswar temple which are also temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and all placed along the river Tawi. Also known as the Jawvantcave, these caves are located on an altar of igneous rocks, laced with sedimentary deposits from the river and are placed on the edges of a circular road in the Northeast of Jammu city and are surrounded by the acacia jungle. The peer Kho temple has a large sized courtyard with an ensemble of three Shikharas, with two placed on the left hand side and a single on the right. The Shikharas have a mix of modern and ancient design. The stairs that lead to the temple have an arched gateway which is tall in height and pink in color. The stairs have marble flooring and beautiful railings on its periphery. The temple has a long verandah with marble and mosaic flooring and another entrance which has an entry from pacca Danga via the Jullaka Mohalla. The dome of the temple is an inverted louts and is a modern structure made of stone. This dome serves as an entrance to the cave and is ornamented with beautiful paintings on the ceilings which resemble a strong and stark Mughal and Dogra influence with floral motifs at the entrance of the dome.

The paintings bear a close resemblance to the designs of paintings of the Ram Nagar palace complex, which is situated in the Udampur district of the Jammu province. There is also a temple dedicated to Devi built on one of the corners of the courtyard within the premises of the temple. It has a white

marble miniature temple shrine decorated with good looking and beautiful images of a goddess placed in a glass casing. The temple's courtyard has a Tusli Plant on a pedestal in its premises, which also brings in reminiscences of the architectural style of the Dogras spotted in the zorawar Singh residence cum palace complex and the Ram Nagar palace. There is a continuous smoke emitting shrine at the centre of the temple, which is very unique feature of this temple. The entire temple is built on an artificial and elevated platform to safeguard it from the disaster of floods from river Tawi. There is a small opening to a low level passage from the round dome entrance which leads to the Amarnath cave or Guffa. There is also a temple of Lord Shiva in this cave. Another opening leads to the Nav Durga shrine, which has a temple that is populated with life size idols of Lord Vishnu, Lord Rama, Sita and other gods and goddesses. There is also a Peer Kho Mohalla or locality which has a memorial of ancient Peer named Peer Shiv Nath located opposite to it. There is also a small temple of Shani Devta located on the right side of the peer kho temple. Kho means cave in the local dialect. He came to be known as peer Kho and thus with the passage of time the cave got the name Peer Kho. According to the some historical records, the Peer Mitha and peer Kho temples were built for the Peer Saint Siddha Ghareeb Nath in 18th century AD during the ruling reign of Raja Ajaib Dev. There is a culture of huge celebration during festivals amidst togetherness and reverence for each other and the feeling of brotherhood and love is eminent across the devotees of the temple in their conduct and their mannerisms. In short the people should visit this cave temple, pay obeisance and seek blessings from lord Shiva.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist)

Vulgar entertainment in educational institutions: A growing national question about education and dignity

By: Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Schools form the soul of any nation. They are the places where society's direction is determined, shaping the thoughts, values, and behaviors of future generations. A civilized society is defined by its schools, for it is here that children are taught not only literacy but also discipline, morality, sensitivity, and responsibility. Therefore, if indecent dances, vulgar entertainment, and indecent performances are witnessed on school campuses, it is not merely the fault of a single institution, but a serious warning to the entire nation's education system.

In recent years, scenes have emerged from various parts of the country where cultural programs in schools have featured songs and dances that have no connection to education and values. These incidents force us to wonder whether we are surrendering our schools to the same commercial culture that has placed entertainment above decorum? Are we unwittingly subjecting the innocent psyche of children to influences that could have long-term effects on their character and thinking?

Today, it's true that DJ culture, social media, and the race for instant popularity have impacted every segment of society. The language of songs and entertainment has changed, the level of presentation has evolved, and the race to go viral has overtaken discretion. But school is not a public forum or a place of entertainment. It is the place where children should be taught what is appropriate and inappropriate, what is acceptable and what is not. If schools themselves begin to erase these distinctions, how will children develop an understanding of moral boundaries?

Another aspect of this whole question is that sometimes such events involve the involvement of outside DJs or organizers. It's possible that such music was played in a school without prior planning, or that children, in their excitement, chose an inappropriate song. But in every such scenario, the greatest responsibility lies with the school administration and teachers. Teachers aren't just textbook teachers; they are living examples of ideals, discipline, and dignity. Their silence or indifference becomes tacit approval for the children.

The purpose of cultural programs in schools is to channel children's creativity in a positive direction. Dance, music, and drama boost children's self-confidence, provide a platform for their talents, and connect them to their culture. But when this platform becomes a medium for vulgarity, its very purpose is defeated. Folk dances, patriotic songs, classical or light music, and inspirational plays—these not only entertain but also connect children to their roots. In contrast, vulgar performances may garner momentary applause but do not enrich children's personalities in any way.

Equally important is the role of society and parents. Today, parents often expect only results and competition from schools, while relatively little attention is paid to value-based education. If such incidents occur in a school, it is not enough to simply blame the teachers or the administration. Society must also decide what kind of environment it wants to provide for its children. Do we want schools to adopt the same culture that is being served on TV and mobile screens, or do we expect something better, something more responsible from them?

On the other hand, it's also essential that each incident be

responded to with a balanced approach. Putting the entire teaching community on trial or demanding harsh punishment based on a single lapse is not a permanent solution to the problem. Teachers are human and can make mistakes. If an incident occurs for the first time and is not malicious, corrective warnings, clear guidelines, and sensitive training may be more effective. However, if such incidents occur repeatedly, or if the decorum is deliberately violated, strict action is equally necessary to maintain discipline.

Today, there is a need for clear and consistent guidelines for school cultural programs across the country. These guidelines should not remain confined to paper, but should be scrupulously followed. Clear rules should be in place regarding prior approval of programs, review of songs and performances, costume decorum, and stage management responsibilities. Regular training for teachers is also essential so that they can understand changing social influences and provide appropriate guidance to children.

It's also worth noting that morality and culture don't mean rigidity or the suppression of creativity. Cutting children off from modernity isn't the solution; rather, teaching them to embrace modernity with discretion is more important. Schools should create an environment where children can freely showcase their talents, while also understanding that every platform has its own limits. A balance of freedom and discipline is the hallmark of a healthy education system.

Looking at it from a broader perspective, this issue isn't limited to schools. It's a reflection of the social direction we're moving in. When vulgarity becomes normalized in society, it impacts institutions as well. Therefore, the solution to this problem

lies not just in regulations, but also in social awareness. The media, the entertainment industry, and digital platforms all have a responsibility to present responsible content for children and youth.

In a country as diverse and rich in cultural heritage as India, the role of schools becomes even more crucial. The education system here is not only a vehicle for employment generation, but also a vehicle for social unity, cultural continuity, and democratic values. If decorum and values begin to weaken within schools, the impact will not be limited to a few programs but will gradually affect the very fabric of society.

Ultimately, it's essential that we neither exaggerate nor take this issue lightly. This is a time for introspection—for teachers, administration, parents, and society. Schools must be re-established as places where knowledge is imparted as well as values. Where there is entertainment, but with dignity; where there is freedom, but with responsibility.

Schools are truly temples—temples where future generations are shaped. Maintaining the dignity of these temples is not the responsibility of any one group, but of the entire society as a whole. Only if we fulfill this responsibility honestly will we be able to develop future generations into balanced, cultured, and responsible citizens.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker)

Sunny Nanda honoured with Sports Personality Award 2026



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: Renowned sports promoter Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the Raffa Boules India Federation, was honoured with the Sports Personality Award 2026 by Samvedna Society at a prestigious ceremony held at CRIS Jammu.

The award function was attended by several distinguished dignitaries. SSP Brijesh Sharma, JKAS, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Deepak Dubey, JKAS, Joint Director of the Information Department (Jammu), attended as the Guest of Honour. Mr. Harpreet Anand, Chairman of JSS, was also present at the ceremony, which was hosted

by Mr. Keshav Chopra, Chairman of Samvedna Society.

During the event, speakers highlighted Sunny Nanda's remarkable contribution to the promotion of sports, particularly his role in encouraging new and emerging disciplines at the national level.

He has been widely recognised for developing and popularising sports such as Bocce Ball (Raffa Boules), Speed Ball, and the mind sport Go Game across various states of India through structured training programmes and competitions.

Sunny Nanda is actively associated with Special Olympics Bharat (Jammu & Kashmir) and also runs a sports NGO affiliated with the

Government of India. His efforts have been instrumental in introducing Raffa Boules, a Bocce Ball discipline originating from Italy, under the CBI framework to different parts of the country, thereby creating new opportunities for athletes and promoting inclusive sports culture.

Expressing gratitude at the conclusion of the ceremony, Sunny Nanda thanked the dignitaries, organisers, and guests for recognising his work and honouring him with the prestigious award.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continuing efforts towards the growth of innovative sports and expanding opportunities for young talent across the nation.

Annual Mail of Largan Brahman Birdari on February 23

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb. 21: Annual Mail of Largan Brahman Birdari is going to be held on 23rd of February 2026 at Kuldevi Sathan with religious fervour.

This decision was taken at a meeting of Birdari which was held on Saturday in the premises of Kuldevi Sathan Village Largan under the chairmanship of Birdari President Om Parkash Sharma.

According to Sharma disclosed the function will be start with Kuldevi Punjan beside Hawan will be start from 9 AM. After Puran Ahoi/Satsang will also be organized on the occasion Preeti Bhoj will also be served to the devotees. Sharma further appealed to Largan Brahman Birdari to take part in the Mail with families' members and seek to blessing of Kuldevi.

Rohiin Chandan condemns Congress' 'Shirtless' shame at India AI Impact Summit

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Media Secretary District Jammu South, Rohiin Chandan today strongly condemned the Indian National Congress and its youth wing for orchestrating a shameful and indecent 'shirtless' protest at the prestigious India AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The protest, staged by members of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), disrupted a landmark global event that showcased India's technological advancements and ambitions in artificial intelligence.

Describing the incident as a "national shame," Rohiin Chandan criticized the Congress party's leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, for endorsing such an act that tarnished India's image on the international stage. "This topless protest was not an expression of dissent but a deliberate attempt to embarrass India in front of the world," he said.

The demonstration took place inside the exhibition hall where the summit was underway, with Youth Congress activists entering the venue using QR codes and passes. They removed their shirts, shouted slogans opposing the prime minister, and wore printed t-shirts with derogatory messages. Their disruptive behavior necessitated immediate security intervention, resulting in the detention of several protesters. Authorities are now investigating a larger conspiracy involving attempts to bypass facial recognition and security protocols.

Rohiin Chandan condemned the protest as a "new low in the Congress's politics of desperation and shamelessness." He added, "While India is emerging as a global leader in AI innovation, the Congress chooses to stage a brainless and indecent spectacle. This is hooliganism that seeks to undermine the hard work and progress made by millions of Indians striving to build a developed and proud Bharat."

He further accused the Congress of hypocrisy, noting, "The same people who claim to support youth empowerment are the ones who send their youth wing to disrespect an event designed to provide opportunities to young innovators. Congress has consistently disrupted national progress, whether through protests against reforms or now through acts of indecency like this."

Highlighting the significance of the India AI Impact Summit, Rohiin Chandan noted that the event brought together global technology leaders and showcased India's commitment to leveraging AI for public good. "Instead of celebrating this achievement, Congress chose to disrupt and disgrace it. Their 'shirtless' stunt reveals their frustration, ideological bankruptcy, and blatant disregard for India's culture, decorum, and national pride."

He called on the Congress high command, including Rahul Gandhi, to take responsibility and hold those involved accountable. Rohiin Chandan urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire nation to reject the divisive and indecent politics of Congress. "Under BJP's leadership, our country and region are witnessing unprecedented development and investment. Our youth deserve opportunities in technology and innovation, not disgraceful theatrics from a discredited party."

Medical check-up camp organised by NSS Unit during winter special camp



Top News Report

BASOHLI, Feb 21: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College, Basohli organized a Medical Check-Up Camp for its NSS volunteers in the college premises on 21 February 2026. The camp was conducted as part of the ongoing 7-Day Winter Special Camp being held under the theme "Nasha Mukht Bharat for Viksit Bharat."

The programme aimed to promote health awareness, preventive healthcare, and personal hygiene among the volunteers.

The medical camp was organized under the guidance of the worthy Principal, Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma, who appreciated the initia-

tive and highlighted the importance of regular health check-ups for young students. In her address, she emphasized that a healthy youth is the foundation of a strong and developed nation.

A team of medical staff from Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Basohli, led by Rimmi Salgotra (MLHP), along with Sushma Devi (JSN), Sudeer Sharma (FW), and Shobit Tana (FW), conducted general health examinations of the NSS volunteers. The check-up included blood pressure monitoring and other basic health screening parameters. The medical experts also provided valuable guidance on balanced diet, mental well-being, personal hygiene, and

prevention of seasonal diseases.

The Programme Officer of the NSS Unit, Dr. Roshan Lal, expressed gratitude to the medical team for their dedicated service and encouraged the volunteers to adopt healthy lifestyles in their daily routine. The volunteers actively participated in the camp and pledged to spread awareness about health and hygiene in their communities.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Vishal Sharma (HOD History), who acknowledged the support and cooperation of the college faculty members, medical staff, and NSS volunteers in making the event successful.

GDC R.S. Pura organises Screening of Dogri Play "Baba Jitto" to mark International Mother Language Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: The Department of Dogri, Government Degree College (GDC) R.S. Pura, organised a special screening of the acclaimed Dogri play "Baba Jitto" to commemorate International Mother Language Day, with the objective of promoting linguistic diversity and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Dogri language.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, who highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting regional languages as essential carriers of culture, tradition, and identity. Faculty members and students of the Dogri Department attended the screening with great enthusiasm and participation.

The play "Baba Jitto," based on the life and sacrifice of the revered Dogra folk hero Baba Jitto, portrays his struggle against injustice and exploitation. Through its compelling narrative and emotive

performances, the production reflected the socio-cultural ethos of the Duggar region and reinforced the significance of safeguarding linguistic and cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of the Department of Dogri, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, stated that International Mother Language Day serves as an important reminder of the collective responsibility to preserve indigenous languages and pass them on to future generations. The screening was followed by an interactive session during which

students expressed their views on the role of mother tongues in shaping personal identity as well as collective cultural consciousness.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jyoti Thappa, who reiterated the department's commitment to promoting Dogri language and literature through such meaningful academic and cultural initiatives. Among the faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Deepali Bhagat, Dr. Aparna Bharti, Dr. Meenu Chib, Dr. Ruchi, and Dr. Kamakshi Sharma.

SBI Kupwara Branch constructs fully equipped bathroom for girl students under CSR

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Feb 21: In a laudable initiative under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, State Bank of India (SBI), Branch Kupwara has constructed a fully equipped bathroom facility exclusively for girl students at Government Upper Primary School Gundkamal, Zone Langate.

The school has more than 100 girl students enrolled, and the

absence of a proper sanitation facility had been a major concern for a long time. Keeping in view the needs of adolescent girls, SBI has ensured that the newly constructed bathroom is provided with all modern facilities, including a geyser for hot water, water taps, water storage tank, and other essential fittings to maintain hygiene and comfort.

The initiative will go a long way in ensuring privacy, safety, and digni-

ty for girl students and is expected to have a positive impact on their attendance and overall well-being.

The school administration, parents, and local community have highly appreciated this best initiative by State Bank of India, expressing gratitude for addressing a critical infrastructural need.

This CSR effort once again reflects SBI's strong commitment towards girls' education, health, and community development.

J&K Handball Association felicitates Anuj Langer

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: Jammu & Kashmir's talented handball player Anuj Langer has once again made the region proud with his outstanding performance at the Handball Pro League, Nagpur.

Earlier, Anuj was selected to participate in the prestigious Handball Pro League (HPL) 2026 South Asia's biggest and India's first professional handball league where he represented the Bhilai Battalion team.

His selection was based on performance, trials, and official auction, marking a significant milestone in his sporting career.

Continuing his excellent form, Anuj recently participated in the Handball Pro League, Nagpur, where players from different states and



regions came together, forming teams and competing at a professional level. Representing Bhilai Battalion, Anuj played a crucial role as the team secured Second Position, proudly winning the Silver Medal.

This achievement highlights not only Anuj's dedication and hard work but also the grow-

ing presence of Jammu & Kashmir athletes on national platforms.

The Jammu & Kashmir Handball Association (JKHA) felicitated Anuj Langer for his remarkable achievement and for bringing pride to the Union Territory. His success serves as an inspiration to young sportspersons across the region.

Friends Welfare Society hails Vicky Kaith on receiving 'Duggar De Rattan Award 2026'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: The Friends Welfare Society proudly extended its heartfelt congratulations to Vicky Kaith and felicitated him with honorary chunre on being conferred with the esteemed 'Duggar De Rattan Award 2026'.

The honour was presented by Samvedna Society at a grand ceremony held at CSIR-IIIM (Old RRL), Canal Road, Jammu, in the presence of eminent dignitaries, social leaders, and community members.

The event celebrated Vicky Kaith's remarkable contributions to society and his unwavering commitment to community welfare, which have set a benchmark for others to follow. His dedication to social service, youth empowerment, and cultural promotion has earned him this well-deserved recognition.

BJP leader R.L. Kaith, who graced the occasion as a special guest, lauded Vicky Kaith's achievements and highlighted his role as a youth icon inspiring

others to work for the betterment of society. He remarked, "Vicky Kaith's dedication and service to the people of Jammu and Kashmir make him a true role model."

This award is a testament to his tireless efforts and vision for a stronger, united community."

R.L. Kaith further extended his best wishes to Vicky Kaith for his future endeavors, expressing confidence that he will continue to serve with the same zeal and dedication.

Cinema bets on true stories

From war heroes to sports icons, 2026 sees Hindi cinema double down on real-life dramas with high stakes and heartfelt storytelling

You know what's interesting? Lately, Bollywood isn't just telling stories — it's living them on screen. From gripping war dramas to high-octane espionage thrillers and patriotic sagas, 2026 has kicked off with a wave of films based on or inspired by real-life events and audiences are eating it up.

It all started with 'Dhurandhar', which stormed cinemas in late 2025 and carried its momentum well into early January. This espionage thriller, inspired by real-world intelligence operations, mixed pulse-pounding action with grounded tension, giving viewers that rare thrill of "this could almost happen." And the excitement hasn't died down — 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', set to release on March 19, promises bigger stakes, a pan-India rollout and enough buzz to make the next few weeks feel like a cinematic countdown. Fans are eagerly speculating about returning characters, new adversaries and whether this sequel might even surpass its predecessor in sheer spectacle.

Just as theaters were still buzzing with 'Dhurandhar', 'Ikki's' arrived on January 1, a stirring war biopic about Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, India's youngest Param Vir Chakra awardee. Directed by Sriram Raghavan and featuring Agastya Nanda alongside Dharmendra in a memorable cameo, it's a film that does not just showcase battles, it explores



courage, sacrifice and the personal cost of heroism. Audiences have responded strongly, drawn to the emotional depth as much as the action sequences.

And if that wasn't enough, 'Border 2' followed shortly after, bringing a patriotic punch to theaters during Republic Day weekend. With a star-studded cast including Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan and Diljit Dosanjh, the sequel to the beloved 1997 classic hits all the right notes: high-octane action, heartfelt camaraderie and stirring visuals that make you almost feel like you're on the front lines. Its success proves audiences are still hungry for films that celebrate bravery and national pride, especially when wrapped in an epic cinematic package.

Raja Shivaji
Set to release on May 1, this historical drama by Riteish Deshmukh explores the early life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maha-

raj. With supporting roles from heavyweights such as Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt, it's shaping up to be a grand, heartfelt look at one of India's most inspiring figures. Fans are eager for a film that balances heritage storytelling with blockbuster spectacle and early buzz suggests it might just deliver both.

Battle of Galwan
From history to modern conflict, this one zeroes in on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops. With Salman Khan leading the cast under director Apoorva Lakhia, it captures the tension, patriotism and personal stories behind a recent conflict. Audiences seem ready for a cinematic take on events that feel so fresh, proving contemporary real-life stories are just as compelling as historical ones.

Cricket Biopics
Cricket and cinema have always had a special relation-

ship in India and 2026 is doubling down. Rajkumar Rao is preparing for the 'Sourav Ganguly biopic', exploring one of India's most charismatic captains, while Anushka Sharma headlines 'Chakda Xpress', inspired by the journey of Jhulan Goswami, India's legendary women's cricketer. Both films highlight perseverance, triumph and the emotional highs and lows of real sporting heroes, proving cricket biopics remain a winning formula.

Hollywood to join the party
If you thought this trend was only in Bollywood, think again. Globally, filmmakers are pulling truth into drama with big projects such as 'Michael', directed by Antoine Fuqua, chronicling the life of Michael Jackson and Roosevelt, Martin Scorsese's long-awaited project featuring Leonardo DiCaprio as US President Theodore Roosevelt. Across continents, filmmakers are embracing real stories, whether historical, cultural or personal, and audiences are showing up in droves.

So here's the thing: 2026 isn't just another year for cinema. It's shaping up to be a celebration of courage, heroism and real-life narratives that stick with you. From spies to soldiers to sports legends, these films aren't just stories on screen, they're mirrors reflecting our history, our pride and our fascination with the human spirit. And honestly? That's a trend worth watching.

Farhan Akhtar 'honoured and grateful' to play Ravi Shankar in Sam Mendes' Beatles films



Actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar said he is "honoured and grateful" to be part of the legacy of The Beatles and sitar maestro Ravi Shankar as he prepares to portray the Indian music icon in filmmaker Sam Mendes' upcoming four-part cinematic event on the legendary British band.

Sony Pictures had last week announced that Akhtar will star as Ravi Shankar in "The Beatles - A Four-Film Cinematic Event", directed by Mendes, the Oscar-winning filmmaker known for "American Beauty", "1917" and James Bond hits "Skyfall" and "Spectre".

The ambitious project will chronicle the story of the iconic band through four separate films, each told from the perspective of one of its

members. In a post on Instagram, Akhtar thanked Mendes and called the opportunity "the stuff dreams are made of".

"Honoured and grateful to be part of the ever expanding legacy of @thebeatles and of Pandit Ravi Shankar ji. Their creative genius is a rite of passage for generation after generation of listeners. Thank you Sam Mendes...been an ardent admirer of all your work and to be directed by you in this film, is the stuff dreams are made of," the actor wrote.

"The Beatles - A Four-Film Cinematic Event" will feature Paul Mescal as Paul McCartney, Harris Dickinson as John Lennon, Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr and Joseph Quinn as George Harrison.

Formed in 1960 by Lennon, McCartney, Harrison and Starr, The Beatles became one of the most influential bands in music history with songs such as "Hey Jude", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "Yesterday" and "Penny Lane", before breaking up in 1970.

Ravi Shankar's music had a profound influence on the band, particularly Harrison, who learned the sitar from the Indian maestro. The Beatles incorporated Indian instruments into several of their songs, including "Norwegian Wood", "Within You Without You" and "Love You To".

Shankar and Harrison remained close friends and collaborated at the Concert for Bangladesh in August 1971.

Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and the families of the late John Lennon and George Harrison have granted Mendes full life story and music rights for the films, which are slated to release in theatres in April 2028.

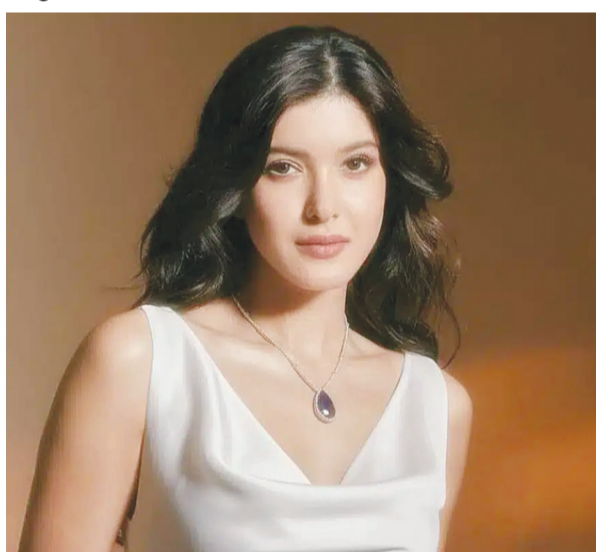
Akhtar was last seen in the war drama "120 Bahadur" and has also appeared in the Marvel Studios series "Ms. Marvel".

Actor Shanaya Kapoor says shelved Bedhadak shaped her journey

Bedhadak, the much-hyped Dharma Productions film, was meant to mark Shanaya Kapoor's debut, but the film was shelved. While many assumed it would be a crushing blow for the young actor, she told SCREEN the experience "made me who I am today". In a candid reflection, she admits the film's abrupt halt — along with other stalled opportunities — forced her to grow faster than she expected.

Shanaya, who was set to star opposite Lakshya and Gurfateh Pirzada in Bedhadak, believes the setback came with a hidden lesson. "Everything happens for a reason," she has said, adding that the pause pushed her to work harder on her craft during the months she wasn't facing the camera. Rather than sulk, she trained.

Announced with much fanfare, Bedhadak was meant to be Shanaya's grand launch. However, the project was eventually shelved, leaving her without the debut many had predicted



would catapult her into the spotlight. For a newcomer, that uncertainty can be brutal. Shanaya now calls it formative.

Support came from home. Her father, actor Sanjay Kapoor, urged her to stay focused on the work rather than the noise. If there was no set to perform on, he told her to create her own stage. Keep rehearsing, keep showing up, control what you can and ignore the rest — that was his advice.

Shanaya eventually made her big-screen debut with Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan opposite

Vikrant Massey. The film didn't set the box office afire, but she considers it a necessary chapter. Before acting, she had also assisted on Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, which helped her observe the mechanics of filmmaking.

Her latest release, Tu Yaa Main, directed by Bejoy Nambiar and co-starring Adarsh Gourav, marks another step in her evolving journey. Though reviews have been mixed, Shanaya sounds steadier than ever. Setbacks, she insists, didn't derail her — they refine her.

Musician AR Rahman agrees in Supreme Court to give credit for song 'Veera Raja Veera' to Junior Dagar Brothers

Noted music composer AR Rahman agreed before the Supreme Court to acknowledge the 'Shiva Stuti' performance of Junior Dagar Brothers in the 'Veera Raja Veera' song of Tamil film 'Ponniyin Selvan 2'.

Senior counsel AM Singhvi told a bench led by CJI Surya Kant on behalf of Rahman that the music maestro and the producers of the film have agreed, as an interim arrangement, to acknowledge the performance of the late Ustad N Faiyazuddin Dagar and Ustad N Zahiruddin Dagar — popularly known as Junior Dagar Brothers.

The song will now carry the following line depicting credits: "Composition inspired from Dagarwani tradition Dhrupad, first recorded by Late Ustad M Faiyazuddin Dagar and his nephew."

The top court gave five weeks for the modification in the song credits to be reflected in all social media and OTT platforms.

The bench made it



clear that the concession has been made without prejudice to copyright infringement issues raised in a suit filed by the successor of the Dagar brothers, Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar, against Rahman and the makers of the film.

The concession follows an intervention on the part of the Supreme Court which had on February 13 asked Rahman and the makers of the film 'Ponniyin Selvan 2' to have "some acknowledgement" of the Dagarwani tradition's contribution in the film's song 'Veera Raja Veera'. Ideally the dispute should have been resolved across the table in the

larger interest of music, it had said.

"See, there should be some acknowledgement. This is not a fight between professionals. Your client (Rahman) is a professional musician. They (Dagars) have been traditional worshippers of classical music. They are not in the competitive field. They just want some respect and recognition," the bench had told Singhvi.

"If these gharanas had not contributed to the shastriya sangeet, do you think these modern singers would have managed?" it said.

The order came on a petition filed by Dhrupad vocalist Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar against the

Delhi High Court's decision to quash an order that had given him interim relief in a copyright dispute with music composer AR Rahman over Veera Raja Veera song from Tamil film 'Ponniyin Selvan 2'.

The Dhrupad vocalist has challenged the September 2025 order of the high court that said there was no prima facie evidence of Junior Dagar Brothers being the authors of a classical rendition of 'Shiv Stuti'.

Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar, the son of Faiyazuddin Dagar and nephew of Zahiruddin Dagar, had submitted before the high court that he held the copyright in all original compositions of Junior Dagar Brothers, including 'Shiv Stuti'. He alleged that the composition has been unlawfully infringed upon.

The bench had, however, noted that while Dagar made out a case on originality, the question of authorship would require independent evidence. "First performance does not nec-

essarily mean authorship," it had told Dagar's lawyer.

Earlier, a single judge of the Delhi High Court had directed credit for the song to be shared with Junior Dagar Brothers. It had also ordered Rahman and the production entities to deposit Rs 2 crore with the high court. However, a division bench reversed the order, saying no sufficient prima facie case of exclusive authorship was made out at the interim stage.

The top court had revived the single judge's order to Rahman to deposit Rs 2 crore pending disposal of the suit.

The case relates to the use of a classical Dhrupad composition 'Shiva Stuti' in the Tamil film song 'Veera Raja Veera' composed by Rahman for 'Ponniyin Selvan 2' released on April 28, 2023. Dagar alleged that a composition attributed to the late Junior Dagar Brothers had been included into the song without authorisation.

KH X RK: Rajinikanth-Kamal Haasan recreate retro vibes in gangster themed promo

The announcement video of actor Rajinikanth's new film, tentatively titled, KH X RK was released on February 21, 2026. This film marks his reunion with Kamal Haasan as the duo was last seen together in the 1979 fantasy film Allauddinum Albhutha Vilakkum.

The first announcement video shows a fun banter among director Nelson, composer Anirudh Ravichander, Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. In the video, Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan are seen second-guessing about their attire. As their look is revealed, both actors are seen twinning in retro appearances.

Kamal Haasan, while sharing the announcement video on his X handle, wrote, "A Special reunion

with my friend

@Rajinikanth. Every great journey deserves another chapter! My best to @NelsonDilpkumar and @AnirudhOfficial - and to @RedGiantMovies for powering this collaboration. #KHxRK #RedGiant17...."

The film is produced by Red Giant Movies. Sharing their thoughts, a spokesperson from Red Giant Movies said: "Bringing together Kamal Haasan sir and Rajinikanth sir for this film is truly a dream come true for all of us at Red Giant Movies. We feel deeply honoured, grateful, and incredibly excited to facilitate this reunion after 47 years. This is a historic and emotional moment for Indian cinema, and we embark on this journey with immense gratitude



and responsibility. We are committed to creating a cinematic experience that celebrates their legacy in the most powerful way."

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Indian cinema, and we embark on this journey with immense gratitude and responsibility. We are committed to creating a cinematic experience that celebrates their legacy in the most powerful way."

Red Giant Movies had earlier shared a statement on its X handle, which read, "History rarely repeats itself...But when it does, it becomes a celebration for generations. The reunion of two towering legends is a moment of immense pride and emotion for Red Giant Movies (sic)."

"#KHxRK will be a celebration of the legends we've adored and grown up watching on screen. A special word of gratitude to director Nelson, whose conviction and craft have made this historic moment

possible and who better than our own Rockstar Anirudh to fire up this celebration. Today's the day. The time is 12:07 PM. #RedGiant17...(sic)." The production company captioned the post as, "All set to unfold in a few hours..."

Just a day before the announcement promo, a retro-poster of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan was also shared. Nelson previously collaborated with Rajinikanth on Jailer and is currently working on Jailer 2. The music for the film is expected to be composed by Anirudh Ravichander. The film is set to release in three languages — Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

The release date and the final title announcement of KH x RK are awaited.

PM Modi wishes CM Sai on birthday, hails efforts to boost Chhattisgarh's progress

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday wished Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on his birthday and hailed his efforts to drive the state's progress.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai was born on February 21, 1964, in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh in a family of farmers. He currently represents the Kunkuri Assembly constituency.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Warm birthday wishes to CM of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai. His efforts to boost Chhattisgarh's progress are admirable and are having a transformative impact on people's lives. Praying for his long life and good health."

Home Minister Amit Shah, taking to social media, extended warm birthday wishes to the Chhattisgarh CM.

"Heartfelt birthday wishes to



the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai ji. Under your leadership, Chhattisgarh is witnessing a beautiful era of peace, security, and the welfare of every section of society. I pray to Maa Danteshwari for your excellent health and a long life," HM Shah said in a

post on X.

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari also took to X and prayed for CM Vishnu Deo Sai's long and healthy life.

"Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai ji, heartfelt birthday wishes to you. I pray to

God for your excellent health, long life and a blessed life," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, extending birthday wishes to the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, said, "I pray to Maa Danteshwari ji that you be blessed with excellent health, long life, and continuous energy and glory for the service of the state."

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also wished CM Vishnu Deo Sai and said, "Heartfelt birthday greetings and best wishes to the Honourable Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Dev Sai Ji."

"Under your able leadership, the state is reaching new heights in development, good governance, and public welfare. I pray to Maa Danteshwari for your good health and long life," she said in a post on X.

Naxalism to be eliminated from India by March 31: Home Minister Amit Shah



GUWAHATI, Feb 21 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by the March 31 deadline set by the government.

Addressing the 87th CRPF Day Parade here, the first ever in the northeast, Shah said the force played an important role in Jammu and Kashmir, where the number of stone-pelting incidents has dropped to zero, besides being deployed to handle ethnic violence in Manipur and breaking the back of Maoists in only three years.

"I can rely on the CRPF and say with confidence that we will eliminate the Naxal problem from the country by March 31, 2026," he said.

The home minister praised the force for the 21-day Operation Black forest in the Karreguta Hills on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, in which 31 Naxals were killed in April-May 2025.

Operating under a temperature of 46 degrees Celsius, when 15 litres of water were lost daily in sweat, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel braved scorching stones to free the mountain from the grip of Naxals, demolishing their stronghold.

Shah said 10-11 years ago, there were three big hotspots in the country — terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Naxalism and insurgency in the northeast — "festering wounds" that are now hubs of peace and progress.

"These three areas, once known for scenes of bombings, bullets, blockades and destruction, are part of the country's development today. By becoming a

growth engine, they are working to drive the development of the entire country," he said.

The home minister said such peace would not have been possible without the contributions of the CRPF.

He noted that 700 CRPF personnel were killed in the northeast, 780 in Naxal areas and 540 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Without these sacrifices, it would have been impossible to take these three hotspots on the path of development today. If I talk about Assam, 79 jawans have done their best to establish peace in Assam," he said.

Shah pointed out that for the first time in the CRPF's 86-year history, its foundation-day parade was being held in the northeast, in "our Assam".

"This is a matter of pride for all of us, for the entire northeast," he said.

"In 86 years, the CRPF has not only performed excellently but has also delivered solid results by becoming a strong pillar of the country's security. In the process, 2,270 jawans have made the supreme sacrifice. I thank all of them and pay my tributes to them," Shah said.

He said after the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, not a single bullet was needed to be fired in Jammu and Kashmir, with the CRPF playing an important role in ensuring that.

The home minister also conferred Gallantry medals on 15 CRPF personnel on the occasion, while six were honoured with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the best-performing

battalions were handed trophies.

Earlier, CRPF Director General (DG) G P Singh said Operation Black Forest "broke the back" of Naxals.

He asserted that Naxalism would be eliminated from the country by the March 31 deadline given by the government.

Eight CRPF contingents, drawn from formations across the country, staged a ceremonial parade at the meticulously-groomed Sarusajai Stadium here on Saturday, a first ever in the region in the 86-year history of the 3.25 lakh-strong paramilitary force.

Resplendent in colourful headgear and marching to the cadence of reverberating drumbeats, the march past drew a sustained applause from the large crowd gathered at the venue to witness the pageantry.

The parade was led by Commandant Deepak Dhoundiyal of the 225th Battalion.

The marching units represented the Northern Sector, comprising women personnel, as well as contingents from the North Western sector, Jharkhand, Odisha, the Rapid Action Force (RAF), the CoBRA unit and the Western and North Eastern sectors.

The ceremony concluded with a series of precision displays and tactical demonstrations. Women personnel executed an intricate rifle drill, commandos simulated a high-risk hostage-rescue operation and CoBRA commandos staged a jungle-warfare exercise, depicting an anti-Naxal operation.

The CRPF's first battalion was raised in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police (CRP) under the British rule.

Post Independence, in 1949, it was re-christened as the Central Reserve Police Force under the Indian Union by the first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Protest at AI Summit a well thought out conspiracy against India: Rijiju slams Congress

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (Agencies): Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the Congress, alleging that the party has committed a "big sin" against the country by deploying its youth wing workers to hold a protest at India AI Impact Summit.

Terming the protest as "shameful", Rijiju alleged that Congress youth wing's protest was not a mistake but a well thought out conspiracy

by the party to attack India.

The Congress committed a "big sin against the country" by deploying its youth wing to hold a protest at the AI Summit, he said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

"Congress using youths to defame the country, there could be nothing more shameful than this," he said.

Rijiju said while the entire country is condemning what the Con-

gress did at the summit, the party and its leaders remain unapologetic.

"When India progresses, Rahul Gandhi and Congress become sad. Congress leaders and workers keep hatching conspiracy round the clock to defame India," the BJP leader said.

"I want to ask Congress when will you stop indulging in anti-national acts," he added.

A group of India Youth Congress (IYC) workers



staged a brief protest on Friday at an exhibition hall of Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the AI Impact Summit,

raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, before being whisked away by security personnel.

Uttarakhand CM Dharam Singh wishes success to students appearing in board exams

DEHRADUN, Feb 21 (Agencies): Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dharam Singh on Saturday extended his heartfelt wishes to all students appearing for the board examinations of the Uttarakhand Board of School Education, which began today, a release from the Chief Minister's office stated.

"The Uttarakhand School Education Board examinations are starting today. On this important occasion, heartfelt best wishes to all the students..." he wrote on X.

The Chief Minister told students that they have studied with hard work, discipline, and dedication throughout the year. Now is the time to showcase their talent with confidence and a positive mindset.

He said that examinations are not the ultimate measure of success in life, but an important step toward a bright future.

"You have studied throughout the year with hard work, discipline, and dedication. Now is the time to showcase your talent with con-



confidence and positive thinking. The examination is not the final test of success in life, but rather an important step towards your bright future..." he added.

Further, he advised students to take their

their success and a bright future.

Meanwhile, he attended the Maa Chandika Mahavanyath Devara Yatra held at village Biron Deval in Agastya-muni block of Rudraprayag district.

During the visit, the Chief Minister offered prayers at the Maa Chandika temple, participated in the Maha Yagya, and performed rituals amid Vedic chanting, seeking the blessings of Maa Chandika and praying for the prosperity and well-being of the state.

Four of family, including toddler, killed as van carrying 11 plunges into pond in Kanpur

KANPUR, Feb 21 (Agencies): Four members of a family, including a two-year-old child, were killed after their van veered off the road and plunged into a pond in Kanpur Dehat district on Friday evening, police said today.

The Auraiya-based family was returning from a function at a relative's house in Kalyanpur when the accident took place near Savai village in Shivli, about 40 km from the district headquarters.

Eleven people were in the van when it fell. About half a dozen survived and are under treatment after being rescued from the pond by police. The driver has not been traced yet, they said.

According to officials, the vehicle went out of control and fell into a roadside pond, gradually sinking into deep water. The doors reportedly jammed, trapping passengers inside.

Locals, alerted by screams, rushed to the spot and informed the police.

A team led by Shivli Station House Officer Amarendra Kumar Singh launched a rescue operation. With the help of a JCB machine and local divers, the van was pulled out and its doors were forced open to rescue the



occupants.

All the victims were taken to the Community Health Centre in Shivli, where doctors declared four persons brought dead. The injured were later referred to Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital for further treatment.

Rajkishore Agnihotri (60), his wife Snehlata Agnihotri (55), their daughter Himanshi Agnihotri (30), and his two-year-old grandson Shiv Agnihotri died in the accident.

Superintendent of Police Shradha Narendra Pandey said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem and the cause of the accident is being investigated.

The driver, Rajkumar, remains untraceable and search operations are underway, she added.

2.51 lakh UP farmers receive Rs 285 Cr compensation: Yogi Adityanath

LUCKNOW, Feb 21 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday provided Rs 285 crore as crop compensation to over 2.51 lakh farmers, asserting that the government is ensuring their protection from natural calamities.

Addressing a programme for the distribution of assistance under the Pradhan Mantri



Fasal Bima Yojana and the Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana, the chief minister said that farmers who insure their crops are entitled to financial aid in case of losses caused by disasters.

"The amount of Rs 285 crore has been provided as crop loss compensation to 2.51 lakh farmer families in the state.

Crop insurance ensures that farmers receive economic assistance in times of adversity. This amount is a support to our 'annadata', Adityanath said.

Adityanath, while distributing cheques to beneficiaries, reiterated the state government's commitment to safeguard the farmers' interests.

5 of family killed, 6 hurt as minivan crashes into road divider in Gujarat

The family was returning to Ahmedabad after attending a wedding ceremony in Rajasthan

MEHSANA, Feb 21 (Agencies): Five members of a family were killed and six others were injured on Saturday after their minivan crashed into a divider on Unjha-Mehsana highway in Gujarat, police said.

The family was returning to

Ahmedabad after attending a wedding ceremony in their native place in Pali district of Rajasthan when the incident occurred near Unava village in the morning hours. "The driver of the minivan lost control at the wheel on the highway stretch between

Unjha and Mehsana, resulting in the crash," said Unava police inspector P.D Darji. Four individuals, identified as Ramlal Kumawat, Komal Kumawat, Kailashbhai Kumawat, and Ayush Kumawat (4), died on the spot. Of the seven injured

passengers who were rushed to Mehsana Civil Hospital, an elderly woman, identified as Mathuradevi Kumawat, succumbed to her injuries.

The injured persons are currently undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital.

Trump signs order for global 10 per cent tariff on all countries

WASHINGTON DC, Feb 21 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump signed an order making 10 per cent global tariff on all countries, effective "almost immediately".

Sharing the announcement in a post on Truth Social, the US President said, "It is my Great Honor to have just signed, from the Oval Office, a Global 10% Tariff on all Countries, which will be effective almost immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter! PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP"

A White House official stated that this new tariff will remain in place until another authority is invoked, emphasising the expectation that trade partners abide by US trade deals.

The official also advised all the trade partners to abide by the trade deals. The new 10% global tariff is part of Trump's protectionist trade agenda, aimed at addressing balance-of-payments issues and unfair trade practices.

US President Donald Trump announced 10 per cent global tariffs "effective immediately," following a major legal defeat at the US Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Trump administration exceeded its legal authority by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose broad-based import tariffs.

Terming SC's ruling as a "terrible decision", Trump announced he would sign an executive order for a 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of



1974. This authority allows for a temporary import surcharge (up to 15%) for 150 days to address balance-of-payments deficits.

"Effective immediately, all the national security tariffs under Section 232 and existing Section 301 tariffs remain in place..."

Today, I will sign an order to impose a 10% global tariff under Section 122 over and above our normal tariffs already being charged," he said.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by Justices Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, and the three liberal justices, held that the IEEPA does not explicitly authorise the president to levy duties—a power the Constitution assigns to Congress.

Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and Brett Kavanaugh dissented, supporting the administration's broader interpretation of emergency powers.

The ruling invalidated billions of dollars in "reciprocal" and emergency tariffs, potentially requiring the government to refund approximately \$130-\$175 billion in collected rev-

enue.

US Supreme Court has held that the US President did not possess the authority under IEEPA to impose extensive import duties on goods from nearly all US trading partners.

Trump has already stated that "alternatives will be used" to replace the tariffs that the court has "incorrectly rejected."

"Other alternatives will now be used to replace the ones that the court incorrectly rejected. We have alternatives. Could be more money, we will take in more money... We have taken in hundreds of billions of dollars. We will continue to do so," he said.

Trump, referring to the decision as "ludicrous", added that this decision benefits other countries but not the US. He further alleged that the courts are "swayed by foreign interests."

"Foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years are ecstatic. They are dancing in the streets, but they won't be dancing for long... Those justices are a disgrace to our nation..."

The court has been swayed by foreign interests and a political movement that is far smaller than people would ever think," he said.

Trump specifically noted that "The India deal is on," suggesting that recent bilateral trade agreements—including the reduction of reciprocal tariffs to 18%—would be maintained through these new legal pathways.

The ruling is expected to have wide-ranging consequences for global trade, businesses, consumers, inflation trends and household finances across the country.

The financial implications of the ruling are substantial. The tariffs in question cover trillions of dollars in trade, and the US government collected nearly USD 134 billion in levies through December 14 under the contested authority, The Washington Post reported.

US stock indexes rose following the ruling, as investors anticipated a reduction in inflationary pressure, though gains were tempered by Trump's immediate vow to reimpose new levies.

The administration also launched new investigations into "unfair trade practices" under Section 301, which could lead to more permanent, targeted duties.

Trump emphasised that tariffs previously imposed under Section 232 (National Security) and existing Section 301 (Unfair Trade) remain "in full force and effect," as they were not affected by the IEEPA ruling.

"Trump's tariffs are illegal. The money must be returned," says US Senator Chuck Schumer



WASHINGTON DC, Feb 21 (Agencies): US Senator Chuck Schumer has called US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs "illegal" and has also said that the "money must be returned."

"First, the Supreme Court did what everyone knew was the right thing. Everyone knew that if the court was ruling correctly, it would throw it out. But it has thrown America into chaos. All of the promises Trump made that he is growing to bring back manufacturing jobs, they're lower. The prices will fall, they've gone higher. The number one thing people in America care about is prices tariffs have caused them.

Trump didn't mention prices in his whole speech. He was like a ten-year-old: name calling, foot stomping, berating Supreme Court Justices. He is like a baby," he said

On being asked what he thought about Trump belittling Supreme Court Justices, Schumer said, "I think it is outrageous. What he should have done since the tariffs have been such a disaster. He should have said, hey, okay, the Supreme Court ruled, I'm getting rid of them. But he can't, so he's coming with another plan to impose the same tariffs that are going to keep the price up, lose more and more manufacturing jobs, increase inflation, increase the trade deficit. All these bad things he is going to try again."

When Schumer was asked what happens when they don't return the money, he said, "See you in court. They will be back in court. If the tariffs are illegal,

the money must be returned. And Trump keeps trying ignore the law, break the law, flaunt the law. But in many cases, including this one, the courts have held him responsible. And in about two-thirds of cases, that we have gone to sue Trump on, not just the senate, people who care about him breaking the law, he's lost. Two judges voted against him."

The US Supreme Court on 20 February 2026 delivered a major legal blow to President Donald Trump's trade agenda, ruling 6-3 that his sweeping global tariffs were unlawful because he exceeded his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and that Congress, not the president, holds tariff powers.

Trump vehemently criticized the decision, calling it a "disgrace," and quickly signed a temporary 10% global tariff under a different statute to maintain import levies while exploring legal alternatives.

The ruling has sparked mixed reactions from lawmakers and raised questions about refunds, trade policy and constitutional limits on executive power.

Bangladesh pays heartfelt tribute to the language martyrs of 1952

DHAKA, Feb 21 (Agencies): Bangladesh has paid deep respect and homage to the immortal martyrs of the Language Movement. On this day in 1952, February 21, young students took to the streets of Dhaka and shed their blood to establish the dignity of their mother tongue, Bengali.

The West Pakistani regime had declared Urdu as the sole state language of Pakistan. In protest, students in Dhaka rose up, and the regime opened fire on the demonstrators. However, the movement continued to grow, and eventually the West Pakistani authorities were forced to recognize Bengali as a state language.

In 1999, UNESCO declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day. Like people around the world, Bangladesh appropriately pays tribute to the immortal martyrs of the Language Movement and expresses profound respect for them.

In the early hours of the day, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman paid floral tributes at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka to mark the occasion. Later, people gathered at the Shaheed Minar and sang the immortal song- "Amar bhaier rokte rangano Ekushey February, ami ki bhulite pari?" ("My brother's blood-stained 21st February -- can I ever forget?")

Thousands of barefoot people offered floral tributes. Men and women from all walks of life -- representing various political parties, social organizations, and cultural groups -- paid their respects at the Cen-



tral Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, expressing profound reverence for the martyrs of the Language Movement.

"This unjust attempt to suppress the mother tongue awakened a profound national resolve, as students and citizens of erstwhile East Pakistan, today's Bangladesh, rose in solemn defiance. Through supreme sacrifice, they secured the right to their mother tongue, giving birth to our distinct national consciousness," President Shahabuddin said in a message.

"In 1999, Martyrs' Day was accorded international recognition as International Mother Language Day, a moment of profound pride for our nation. Today, the spirit of Ekushey continues to serve as a constant source of inspiration for people across the world in safeguarding their own languages and cultures," he added.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman also remembered the language heroes.

The Language Movement not only established the right to our mother tongue but also laid a strong foundation for the essence of national sovereignty based on a unifying language, democratic aspirations, and cultural identity," he said in a separate message.

Speaking exclusively to agency, Sunzida Sultan, Additional Executive Director of Karmojibi Nari, said, "On International Mother Language Day, I would like to say that our leaders led this movement to ensure that Bangla would be recognized as our mother language. During the Pakistan period, the government tried to impose Urdu on our people, but we did not agree. We carried out a massive movement for our mother language, Bangla. Although political and socio-political conditions change and sometimes slow progress, we, the Bengali people, believe we will succeed and uphold the vision of the Language Movement."

Tajwar Mahmud, a private employee, told agency, "In 1952, students and ordinary people gathered here to protest against the language oppression of the then Pakistani government. They sacrificed their lives to uphold the Bengali language and the culture and heritage of Bangladesh. Even after 74 years, people of all ages from across the country continue to come to this sacred place to pay tribute to the language martyrs."

"There are still areas where we can improve in upholding our culture, heritage, and the Bengali language. We should take pride in our

mother tongue rather than relying excessively on international languages, especially English. Although efforts are being made by the government and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to promote Bengali language and culture, more can be done," he said further.

"February 21 is no longer just a single day; it has become a symbol of respect for all languages and cultures around the globe. The sacrifices made by the people of Bangladesh have come to represent the equal dignity and pride of all mother languages worldwide. No language should dominate another -- all languages and cultures deserve equal respect. This is what February 21 teaches us," he concluded.

Manidra Kumar Nath, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, also spoke to agency. He said, "Today, along with our affiliated organizations, we have come to pay respect on Language Martyrs' Day. On this occasion, we hope for equality, justice, and fair treatment for all communities in Bangladesh. If equality and justice are ensured, the country will progress properly."

"For a long time, minority communities have suffered in various ways and faced many attacks and atrocities. After the formation of the present government and the recent elections, we hope that all communities -- Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Adivasis, and others -- will receive equal treatment and their rightful protections," he added further.

'Our trade deals covering over half of world's population remain in full effect': US Trade Rep Jamieson Greer



WASHINGTON DC, Feb 21 (Agencies): US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said that the trade deals signed by the United States with countries from across the world would continue to remain in place despite the Supreme Court ruling and listed several other tools which might be used to implement the trade deals, noting that while the tools may change, the policy remains the same.

He made the remarks in an interview to Fox News. Sharing the details in a post on X, Greer said, "Our trade deals covering over half of the world's population remain in full effect."

On the tariffs he noted that trade deals have opened up market access and cover more than half of the global population, adding that he expects the partner countries to "honour

tariffs on that basis if we need to... We have existing national security tariffs on autos, steel, aluminum etc. So the tools may change but the policy remains the same."

When asked about the existing trade agreements, Greer said, "Those agreements hold. They remain, we will honour them and we expect our trading partners to honour them."

His remarks come as US President Donald Trump announced 10 per cent global tariffs "effective immediately," following a major legal defeat at the US Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Trump administration exceeded its legal authority by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose broad-based import tariffs.

Terming the SC's ruling as a "terrible decision", Trump announced he would sign an executive order for a 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. This authority allows for a temporary import surcharge (up to 15%) for 150 days to address balance-of-payments deficits.

"Effective immediately, all the national security tariffs under Section 232 and existing Section 301 tariffs remain in place... Today, I will sign an order to impose a 10% global tariff under Section 122 over and above our normal tariffs already being charged," he said.

Chief Justice John

Roberts, joined by Justices Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, and the three liberal justices, held that the IEEPA does not explicitly authorise the president to levy duties—a power the Constitution assigns to Congress.

Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, and Brett Kavanaugh dissented, supporting the administration's broader interpretation of emergency powers.

The ruling invalidated billions of dollars in "reciprocal" and emergency tariffs, potentially requiring the government to refund approximately \$130-\$175 billion in collected revenue.

US Supreme Court has held that the US President did not possess the authority under IEEPA to impose extensive import duties on goods from nearly all US trading partners.

Trump has already stated that "alternatives will be used" to replace the tariffs that the court has "incorrectly rejected."

"Other alternatives will now be used to replace the ones that the court incorrectly rejected. We have alternatives. Could be more money, we will take in more money... We have taken in hundreds of billions of dollars. We will continue to do so," he said.

Trump, referring to the decision as "ludicrous", added that this decision benefits other countries but not the US. He further alleged that the courts are "swayed by foreign interests."

Dooru Entrepreneurship Mela unites men and women in drive toward self-reliance and opportunity



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Feb 21: In a significant step towards promoting women entrepreneurship and self-reliance, the Directorate of Employment through the District Employment & Counselling Centre Anantnag organized a Potential Entrepreneurship Mela at Model Higher Secondary School Dooru.

The primary objective of the mela was to celebrate and promote women entrepreneurship by creating awareness about various self-employment schemes and support mechanisms available through different government departments. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly women, who explored opportunities to start and expand their own ventures.

Several departments set up informative stalls to provide guidance on employment schemes, skill development programs, financial assistance, and startup support. Officials offered on-the-spot counselling and detailed insights into government initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

SDM Dooru, Parvaiz Rahim, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

District Employment Officer Rayees Ahmad and District Career Counselling Officer Shazila Qureshi were also present, along with other sectoral officers from the sub-divisional level. The dignitaries emphasized the importance of empowering women economically and encouraged participants to take advantage of the available schemes and training programs.

A highlight of the event was the distribution of sanction letters among selected beneficiaries under various employment and self-employment schemes, marking a concrete step toward turning their entrepreneurial aspirations into reality.

The mela served as a vibrant platform for awareness, interaction, and encouragement, reinforcing the administration's commitment to strengthening women-led enterprises and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the region.

While speaking to the media, Parvaiz Rahim, said that a large mela was organized today as fewer applications had been received from the block earlier. The event was organized by the Director of Employment to provide a common platform where unemployed youth, line departments, the public,

and banks could come together. He said that proper counselling was provided regarding skill development and entrepreneurship, and on-the-spot registrations were also done. Banks explained their important role, including how loans are sanctioned and how youth can avail financial assistance. He appealed to the youth to actively participate in such programs and take full advantage of these opportunities to secure and brighten their future.

While District career counselling officer Shazila Qureshi said, the main objective of this mela was to facilitate all unemployed youth who have not yet registered themselves under Mission YUVA. Another important purpose was to guide and support those who are unaware of the programme and its benefits.

Additionally, we aimed to mobilize women associated with NRLM who are already registered under the scheme, encouraging their active participation in Mission YUVA and motivating them to take advantage of entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities.

Memorandum submitted seeking strengthening of Village Defence Guards in Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 21: A memorandum has been submitted to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir raising security concerns in Doda district and urging immediate measures to strengthen village-level defence systems across the region.

The representation highlights that residents of the hilly and remote areas of the Chenab Valley continue to live under fear and anxiety due to ongoing security challenges. It calls for the urgent formation of new Village Defence Guards (VDGs) and the reinforcement of existing units to enhance the safety and protection of civilians.

According to the memorandum, Village Defence Guards have previously played an important role in coordination with the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in countering militancy and maintaining peace in the area. The signatories stressed that strengthening these units would help improve local security mechanisms and restore a sense of confidence among residents of vulnerable villages.

The appeal urges the administration to take swift and effective action to ensure public safety and reinforce grassroots-level security arrangements in the district.



External Assessment conducted at District Hospital Kishtwar & SDH Atholi under Kayakalp Programme



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Feb 21: Under the directions of Baseer ul Haq Choudhary (IAS), Mission Director NHM J&K, and the guidance of Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, Director Health Services Jammu, a three-member team of assessors visited District Hospital Kishtwar and SDH Atholi (Padder) on 20th & 21st February 2026 to conduct the External Assessment under the Kayakalp Programme for the financial year 2025-26.

The team was headed by Dr. Arun Sharma (External Assessor) and comprised Jahangir Mehta and Faizan A. Trambo as Internal Assessors.

The team carried out a comprehensive evaluation of various sections of the hospitals as per Kayakalp guidelines, focusing on sanitation, hygiene, infection control practices, waste management, and overall quality of healthcare services.

At District Hospital Kishtwar, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, was present on the occasion.

He warmly welcomed and facilitated the visiting team and briefed them about the functioning of the hospital and the range of healthcare services being provided to patients.

On the second day, the team visited SDH Atholi (Padder), where

BMO Padder, Dr. Krishan Singh Katoch, welcomed the assessors and apprised them of the services and overall functioning of the hospital.

During the visits, the assessors inspected various departments, reviewed records, and interacted with staff members to assess compliance with the prescribed standards under the Kayakalp initiative.

The assessment aims to promote cleanliness, strengthen infection control practices, and encourage healthy competition among public health facilities to improve the overall patient care environment.

GCW Udampur organizes geography field study tour to Kainth Gali

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Feb 21: The Department of Geography, Government College for Women (GCW) Udampur, organised an educational field study tour to Kainth Gali under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania. The initiative aimed to provide students with practical exposure to forest resources, biodiversity, and real-world geographical observations.

Appreciating the

department's efforts, Principal Prof. Nalini Pathania highlighted that such experiential learning activities play a crucial role in nurturing scientific temperament and ensuring the holistic development of students. She emphasized that field-based studies strengthen academic understanding by connecting theoretical knowledge with practical experiences.

The tour was conducted for 49 students of B.A. Semester IV (Major-2 Practical), enabling

them to study forest ecosystems and regional biodiversity firsthand. During the visit, students explored the ecological significance of forests, which function as the Earth's biological "lungs and thermostat" by supporting carbon storage, oxygen production, and climate regulation.

The educational expedition was led by Prof. Pooja Bharti, Head of the Department of Geography, along with faculty members Dr. Poonam Bharti, Dr. Sanjana Sharma, and Divya

Sharma.

The team provided on-site academic demonstrations and supervised data collection, helping students understand the socio-economic importance of local natural resources and identify various forest types.

Logistical arrangements were supported by non-teaching staff member Balbir Singh, while transportation and navigation were managed by Sanjay Kumar and Subash Chander. The field study tour successfully bridged the



gap between classroom learning and practical geographical under-

standing, reinforcing the importance of fieldwork in higher education.

From Page No: 1

Shantmanu takes Oath as Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner

exercise and the reservation of wards for Other Backward Classes.

Recently, the chief minister had said that his government was making necessary arrangements to hold these elections at the earliest, but the vacancy of the SEC was a hurdle.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act and relevant Municipal Acts, the State Election Commission holds the authority for the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of local elections.

86 Nations, Two Int'l Organisations sign AI Impact Summit declaration: IT Min Vaishnav

over USD 250 billion in infrastructure alone, with Vaishnav on Friday terming it a "grand success".

Vaishnav had said participation at the summit crossed five lakh visitors, reflecting strong domestic and global engagement with India's AI push.

The India AI Impact Summit brought together global policymakers, industry leaders and technology experts, positioning India as a key player in shaping international AI governance and infrastructure development.

"More than five lakh visitors participated in the exhibition, learnt a lot, and interacted with many experts from around the world. We had practically every major AI player in the world participating in large numbers. We had so many startups getting the opportunity to showcase their work. Overall, the quality of the discussion was phenomenal," he had said.

Be it the ministerial dialogue, the leaders' plenary, the main inauguration function, or the Summit overall, the quality of participation and dialogue was phenomenal, Vaishnav had pointed out.

The investment pledges have crossed USD 250 billion for infra-related capital and around USD 20 billion on

VC/deep tech investments.

Vaishnav had said that the Summit reflected the world's confidence in India's role in the new AI age.

Delhi played host to a lineup of global tech heavyweights this week - Google's Sundar Pichai, OpenAI's Sam Altman, Microsoft's Brad Smith and Anthropic's Dario Amodei - as discussions spanned most intensely debated global topics in the tech universe, from AI's opportunities and risks, all the way to AGI, governance and the future of jobs.

Post-370 Cleanup: Obsolete Law books to be auctioned in Jammu Kashmir

to dispose of the outdated records, including damaged and superseded books, in accordance with prescribed rules and procedures. The process, it said, is being undertaken after due verification and compliance with financial and administrative norms governing disposal of government property.

The move is part of a broader administrative transition triggered by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which replaced the state's distinct legal framework with a system aligned to central statutes. As departments update their reference materials to reflect current laws and regulations, legacy publications are being systematically weeded out.

While the auction is a routine administrative exercise, it symbolically marks the end of an era in the region's legislative history, as printed records tied to the former state's constitutional and legal identity are formally retired from official use.

BJP Yuva Morcha protests in Jammu, Seeks Rahul's apology for 'Shirtless Protest' at AI Summit

the "honour, dignity and reputation" of the country's 140 crore people.

He accused Rahul Gandhi of repeatedly insulting the nation at national and international forums and claimed that the Congress leader showed "sympathy" towards Pakistan and China.

"Such actions are unacceptable. Gandhi should apologise to the people of the country," he said, adding that the BJP would not forgive the Congress for what it termed an affront to the nation's honour.

The BJYM protest briefly disrupted traffic movement on the main road.

Women Empowerment Top Priority: Satwant Kour Dogra

strengthen the party at the grassroots level and work with dedication to defeat divisive forces attempting to spread hatred among communities. He emphasized that only a strong secular fabric can ensure the unity and strength of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Satwant Kour Dogra, Provincial President Jammu Women Wing, reiterated that the government headed by Omar Abdullah is committed to the empowerment of women. She highlighted key welfare initiatives, including 200 units of free electricity for AAY families and free e-bus services for women and specially-abled persons. She said the government is working vigorously to fulfill the promises made in the party manifesto.

She urged women workers to take the policies and programmes of the National Conference to every doorstep and ensure greater public participation in development initiatives.

During the meeting, participants emphasized the urgent need for improvement of lanes and drains in all wards to enhance civic amenities and overall living standards.

Among those who attended the meeting were Ayesha Gupta, Anju Bala, Shailu Sharma, Manjit Kour, Madhu Saini, Seema Bhat, Sharita Razdan, Nitu Kumari, Sonia Dogra and Reena Bandryal.

Rising cyber offences demand technical and legal prepared-

ness: IGP Jammu

procedures so that electronic evidence can withstand judicial scrutiny. The IGP also emphasised understanding the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, particularly those dealing with admissibility and evidentiary value of electronic records.

The three-day training programme on Cyber Investigation and Mobile Forensics commenced at the Conference Hall of District Police Lines Jammu and was inaugurated by the IGP Jammu Zone in the presence of senior officers and trainees drawn from across the Jammu Zone.

LoP Sunil Sharma dares NC to prove 'Special Status' claim, Questions Govt in Assembly

stands over the years, alleging that while it publicly criticises the BJP, it has in the past aligned with it politically.

Sharma further said that legislative proceedings are now being closely watched by the public, adding that transparency has increased due to digital access to Assembly debates.

During his address, he also criticised the government over employment and electricity-related commitments, alleging that several promises require greater clarity and accountability.

He urged party workers to take constitutional and governance-related issues to the grassroots level and said the BJP would continue to question the government inside and outside the Assembly.

Five injured in Road Accident on Banihal Highway

mishap. Soon after the incident, locals and police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured occupants to a nearby hospital for treatment. The condition of all the injured is stated to be stable.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated necessary proceedings.

Army & Civil Administration Nowshera observe World Day of Social Justice



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 21: On the occasion of World Day of Social Justice, the Indian Army in collaboration with the Civil Administration of Nowshera organized an awareness program at Sariya Middle School to promote the values of equality, inclusivity and social harmony among young students.

The event aimed to sensitise students about the importance of justice, equal opportunity and respect for diversity in building a strong and progressive society. Officers from the Indian Army and

representatives from the Civil Administration addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of social responsibility and the role of youth in shaping a fair and inclusive nation.

Interactive sessions, discussions and motivational talks encouraged students to uphold the principles of dignity, unity and mutual respect in their daily lives.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering awareness and positive social change. This joint initiative reaffirmed the

Indian Army's continued dedication not only to safeguarding the nation's borders but also to contributing to community development and nation-building efforts.

The Civil Administration of Nowshera emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in nurturing responsible citizens and strengthening the foundations of justice and equality at the grassroots level.

The event concluded with a collective pledge by students to uphold the values of fairness, compassion and inclusivity in their communities.

Army extends healthcare services to remote villages in Rajouri



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Feb 21: The Indian Army, through its mobile medical patrol, has extended vital healthcare services to the remote areas of Rajouri district, covering the villages of Ranjiphara, Kadma, Parat and Rugga.

These regions, inhabited by Gujjars and Bakkarwals, often face difficulties in accessing mainstream healthcare

due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain.

The mobile patrol, equipped with essential medical supplies, provided on-the-spot medical check-ups, treatment for common ailments and necessary medications.

The initiative also focused on preventive healthcare, offering immunizations and educating the local population about hygiene,

nutrition and disease prevention.

A total of 22 individuals, including 7 men, 10 women and 5 children, benefited from this initiative.

The local community expressed immense gratitude for the Indian Army efforts, highlighting the positive impact on women's healthcare and strengthening the relationship between the Indian Army and the local population.

Former District President Doda voices concern over administrative inefficiencies at GMC Doda

Top News Report

DODA, Feb 21: During his recent visits, he observed that despite the availability of infrastructure, equipment and adequate medical staff the institution suffers from weak supervision and poor administrative control. The issue he stressed, is not the lack of resources but the absence of accountability and disciplined management, which is directly affecting patient care.

The condition of the main Emergency entrance is deeply disturbing. The unhygienic and poorly maintained surroundings reflect administrative neglect that is unacceptable for a premier medical institution serving the people of the district.

Shahab urged the authorities and the Principal to immediately restore administra-

tive discipline, ensure proper sanitation and strengthen monitoring mechanisms within the hospital.

He also strongly demanded the installation of an MRI facility at GMC Doda. With a large section of the population belonging to economically weaker backgrounds, referring patients outside the district for MRI scans imposes unnecessary financial hardship. The facility is an urgent and justified requirement.

Expressing further concern he noted

that more than a year has passed since the present Government assumed office, yet no Minister has visited this key institution, despite its continued relevance in public discourse. Such absence signals a disconnect from the district's ground realities.

He reiterated that his remarks are made purely in public interest and called for immediate corrective action to ensure that GMC Doda functions with efficiency, dignity and accountability befitting a Government Medical College.



IIM Jammu conducts Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs at GCET Jammu and GDC Hiranagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: Strengthening its commitment to fostering grassroots entrepreneurship and innovation-driven career pathways, the Indian Institute of Management Jammu conducted its 4th and 5th Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) at Government College of Engineering and Technology Jammu and Government Degree College Hiranagar on 20th and 21st Feb 2026 under its ongoing five-program outreach initiative supported and funded by DC-MSME, Govt of India.

The initiative reflects the Ministry's sustained national effort to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen MSME ecosystems, and encourage self-employment opportunities across emerging and semi-urban regions to boost the regional & national economy, which will lead to the vision of Viksit Bharat@ 2047.

The outreach series is designed to introduce students to structured entrepreneurial pathways and inspire them to translate innovative ideas into viable enterprises.

The EAP series was designed to introduce young minds to the fundamentals of entrepreneur-

ship, business creation, and emerging opportunities within the MSME ecosystem.

By bringing structured entrepreneurial exposure directly to colleges, the initiative aimed to encourage innovation, self-employment, and enterprise-led regional development.

The fourth EAP at GCET, Jammu witnessed participation from students and faculty members across different streams. The program created a platform for students to understand how ideas can evolve into viable ventures and how government support systems can assist in this journey.

The fifth and concluding EAP at Government Degree College, Hiranagar, district Kathua, brought together students from Government Degree College for Boys Kathua, Government Degree College for Women Kathua, Government Degree College Marheen, Government Degree College Billawar, Government Degree College Mahanpur, Government Degree College Basohli, and Government Degree College Ramkot.

The strong participation reflected the growing interest among youth in entrepreneurship and startup creation.

Chairman DLSA Jammu presides over meeting with Mediators of District Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: The Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Jammu, R. N. Watal today presided over a meeting with mediators of District Jammu at his Office Chambers. Key discussions centered on the campaign's core objectives: promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, alleviating court pendency, and equipping citizens with swift, cost-effective tools for amicable conflict resolution. Mediators contributed valuable insights on outreach initiatives, virtual mediation platforms, and seamless integra-

tion with local legal aid programs. The Chairman underscored the campaign's pivotal role in cultivating a mediation-friendly culture, remarking, "Mediation for the Nation Campaign 2.0 represents a transformative advancement in justice delivery—swift, voluntary, and amicable. DLSA Jammu remains steadfast in empowering our mediators and extending these services to every corner of the district."

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to collaborative efforts involving mediators, bar associations, and community stakeholders to amplify the campaign's reach and efficacy.

Rattan Lal meets workers in Billawar for upcoming ULB, Panchayat Elections

Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Feb 21: Senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, today called upon party workers to gear up for the forthcoming ULB and Panchayat elections and intensify outreach efforts at the grassroots level.

Addressing a meeting of party functionaries of Bani, Basholi & Billawar of District Billawar (Org), chaired by District President Tirath Ram, attended by representatives from Bani, Basohli and Billawar, Gupta emphasized the need to translate organizational strength into electoral success. He reflected the concerns raised by local leaders that the region had remained neglected on the development front since 2014 under successive governments.

Gupta stated that the present elected government led by Omar Abdullah has renewed focus on far-flung areas such as Bani, Basholi and Billawar and is committed to balanced regional development. He highlighted that the recent budgets presented under Omar Abdullah's leadership accord priority to road connectivity, welfare initiatives, employment generation and strengthening of essential public utilities, particularly in remote areas.

Criticizing the BJP, Gupta alleged that during its direct and indirect rule, Bani, Basholi and Billawar areas saw



neither tangible development nor meaningful recruitment opportunities for local youth. He asserted that the present government led by CM Omar sahib is firmly committed to ensuring fair and adequate representation of locals in Jal Shakti Mission and other developmental projects being implemented in the region.

He further assured that the upgradation of schools, health institutions and other public infrastructure in Bani, Basholi and Billawar and adjoining areas would be undertaken on priority and that staff shortages would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Gupta urged party cadre to disseminate information about the government's initiatives to every household and work collectively to secure a decisive mandate in the upcoming local body elections.

Senior leaders Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone also

addressed the meeting and stressed coordinated efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, local functionaries highlighted issues including the establishment of an industrial area and prioritizing employment for locals in Jal Shakti Mission projects. Gupta assured that these matters would be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal.

Among others who were present in the meeting included : Dewan Chand District President SC Cell, Aman Gupta District President YNC, Jia Lal Gupta Vice President District Billawar, Zakar Ali Block President Lohai- Malhar, Sanjay Singh Block President Bani, Jagdev Singh Block President Billawar, Sanjeev Badwal Block President Mahanpur- Basholi, Shiv Ram Block Secretary, Alam Gir Block President Baggan, Bashir Ahmad Rtd Inspector, Mohd Ramzan Rtd Lecturer, Gian Chand and other party functionaries.

MLA Rajiv Jasrotia lays foundation stone for road construction in Kalyari worth Rs 71 lakh

Top News Report

JASROTA, Feb 21: In a significant step towards improving infrastructure and connectivity in the region, MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia today laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Link Road in Kalyari, along with a culvert under the Road Sector (UT) Capex. The project, with an allocated amount of ₹71 lakh, aims to boost connectivity and provide better access to the residents of Kalyari and surrounding areas.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Jasrotia emphasized the importance of road infrastructure in fostering regional development. He stated, "Roads are the lifeline of any region, and this project is a testament to the government's commitment to ensuring better connectivity for our people. The construction of this link road will not only ease transportation but also pave the way for economic opportunities and growth for the local popula-



tion." Jasrotia further assured the residents that the project would be completed in a time-bound manner with adherence to quality standards.

The event saw the participation of several prominent figures, including Mandal Pardhan Jasrotia Balwant Singh, Sarpanch Shiv Dev Singh, Surjit Singh, Dinanath, Randeep Pappi, Chain Singh, Naib Sarpanch Mohan Singh, and other local leaders and officials. Their presence highlighted the collective

effort and cooperation between the government and local representatives in addressing the needs of the people.

MLA Jasrotia also highlighted the government's focus on rural development and its commitment to bridging the gap between urban and rural areas. He added, "The development of rural infrastructure, especially roads, is critical for uplifting the standard of living in villages. Projects like these ensure that even the remotest areas are

connected and receive the benefits of development. The government is dedicated to bringing equitable growth across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir."

The residents of Kalyari expressed their gratitude to MLA Jasrotia for addressing their long-pending demand for better road connectivity. They appreciated the efforts of the government in prioritizing infrastructure projects that directly impact their daily lives. Jasrotia encouraged the local community to actively support and monitor the progress of the project to ensure its successful completion.

The foundation stone ceremony was attended by various government officials along with key local figures such as Panch Vinod Kumar, Trishla Devi, Gandharb Singh, Satish, Gorkhu, Neetan Dogra, Sanjay, Sunit Singh, Mukesh, Balbir Singh, Chamal Lal, Panku, and Akash, who pledged their support for the development initiatives in the region.

Super 8s: Tilak and Surya's guarded batting approach to face its first real test vs South Africa

Opening Super Eight match of the T20 World Cup takes place at 7 pm on Sunday

AHMEDABAD, Feb 21 (Agencies): Skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma's rejigged philosophy of dropping anchor rather than going for big strokes will be tested by a quality South African side that seems ready to find chinks in the Indian armour during their opening Super Eight match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

The Proteas team boasts of a formidable bowling line-up comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj and Aiden Markram and the defending champions will be mindful of the challenge.

The two teams would be playing for the sixth time in the last two months and it remains to be seen for which side the familiarity works better on Sunday night.

India have not exactly been asked probing questions at the group league stage but the home favourites are well aware that their batting has left a lot to be desired.

Save for opener Ishan Kishan (two fifties and Strike Rate of 202), the other three batters in the top four haven't exactly set the stage on fire till now.

Abhishek Sharma is literally out of runs with three ducks and as much as Suryakumar and Tilak justify playing an anchor role, the Mumbai Indians colleagues have looked far from smooth on tracks where the ball is gripping.

India's run-scoring has needed brute power that Hardik Pandya (Strike Rate of 155) and Shivam Dube (Strike Rate of 178) are



providing at the back-end.

With Abhishek falling to off-spinners twice in a row, it will be interesting to see whether skipper Markram decides to bowl off-breaks in the Powerplay.

While Abhishek's form remains a concern, Tilak's scratchy batting throughout the first leg cannot be brushed under the carpet.

Against Pakistan, he scored 25 off 24 balls while against Namibia it was 25 off 21 and versus Netherlands, it was a painstaking 31 off 27 balls.

His strike rate in the tournament is just above 120, which is significantly less than his career average of 141.

Save his match-winning 84 not out off 49 balls against a US attack, which lost two of its bowlers to hamstring strain, Suryakumar hasn't displayed a lot of smoothness in his batting either against Pakistan or Netherlands.

His tournament strike rate of 136 plus is way below his career

strike rate of 163 plus.

An Indian team that plays with eight batters and believes in going all out irrespective of opposition and surface, cannot afford to have two batters who are not able to score freely on tacky surfaces.

In tournaments like the T20 World Cup, discretion isn't always the better part of valour.

The overall quality of this team is undeniable which is the reason that good teams score 200 on their good days and this Indian team conjures near 200 on its average days.

But what makes India a scary proposition and still a runaway favourite is the bowling attack with Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy bowling those eight out of 20 overs.

In the initial round, none of the four teams, including a second-rate Pakistan side, could negotiate the duo.

Chakravarthy, with nine wickets in four games, has bowled at a stunning economy rate of 5.16

and Bumrah, miserly as ever in his three games, has gone for only six runs per over.

But against an in-form batting line-up, which has freaks like Quinton de Kock, Markram, Dewald Brevis, Tristan Stubbs, Ryan Rickleton, David Miller and Marco Jansen in its top seven, the entire bowling unit will need to come good.

The South Africa match will be an indicator of how this Indian team's campaign at the business end of the tournament will pan out.

As far as changes are concerned, India are expected to play Kuldeep Yadav in place of Arshdeep Singh, and Axar Patel will be back after a one match rest to replace Washington Sundar.

As far as South Africa is concerned, Jansen, Ngidi and Maharaj, all of whom were rested against the UAE, will be making a comeback.

Squads:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Ishan Kishan (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Sanju Samson (wk), Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Ryan Rickleton, Dewald Brevis, Tristan Stubbs, David Miller, Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Keshav Maharaj, Corbin Bosch, Anrich Nortje, Kwena Maphaka, George Linde, Jason Smith.

Match Starts: 7 pm.

"Enjoying my cricket, opportunities will come," says Yash Dhull following strong domestic season



NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (Agencies): For young batter Yash Dhull, the past year has been a defining chapter of resilience, perspective, and renewed passion for the game. After undergoing heart surgery, Dhull has not only returned to competitive cricket but has done so with performances that underline both character and composure.

His return to the Ranji Trophy proved highly impactful, finishing as Delhi's second-highest run-scorer in the 2024-25 season with 444 runs from ten innings at an impressive average of 49.33. He also carried this strong form into the recently concluded domestic season.

Speaking about his surgery, Dhull told

agency, "I didn't have a second option. So, I immediately decided to have the surgery, because health comes first, and everything else comes second. So, I didn't think much about it. Within two days, I had the surgery, and it was the right time. After surgery, I was on bed rest for a month, but I started preparing for the Ranji Trophy."

"It was a bit of a setback, because things change suddenly. I mean, you never thought this could happen. But these things also teach a lot about life: you can prepare and understand yourself more," he added.

Earlier in 2025, Dhull marked a strong comeback in the Delhi Premier League (DPL),

where he emerged as one of the standout performers for Central Delhi Kings. He also carried his form into the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Despite these performances, Dhull was not picked by any franchise for the Indian Premier League 2026 season.

"Look, everyone has a stage in their life. Look, all these things come automatically when you're working hard and doing everything well and performing well, and the opportunities you get, and for me, that's simply it," said the Under-19 World Cup-winning captain.

"Ever since the surgery, I've been enjoying my cricket and not thinking so much about what's happening in life. I'm playing, and what's more important than that? I just think that what I'm playing is an opportunity for me. I'll perform in it, and the rest is fate. Whatever God has written, it will happen," he added.

More importantly, Dhull says the surgery reshaped his mindset, and the young batter remains committed to making the most of every opportunity as he looks forward to playing in the upcoming DY Patil T20 Tournament.

Neymar hints at possible retirement in 2026, eyes FIFA World Cup return

SANTOS, Feb 21 (Agencies): Brazil star Neymar has admitted that he could retire from professional football at the end of 2026, as he battles persistent injury challenges while keeping his sights on representing his country at the FIFA World Cup later this year.

The 34-year-old, who returned to his roots with Santos after spells at Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain, is enjoying football again following surgery on a long-standing knee issue in December 2025. He previously missed an entire season due to anterior cruciate ligament damage. Neymar's contract with the Brazilian club has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

Neymar said, "I don't know what the future holds for me. It's possible that in December I'll want to retire. I'm living day by day. This year is crucial, not only for Santos, but also for the Brazilian national team and for me," as quoted by goal.com.

He added on his efforts to regain full fitness and said, "I wanted to come back at 100% this season, which is why



I was rested for some matches. I know a lot of people are saying all sorts of things and don't understand the day-to-day reality, but I have to face it.

"Santos has put an excellent plan in place regarding this. Of course, I wanted to come back to help my team, but in the end, I preferred to rest myself so I could come back at 100%, pain-free, fear-free, and in top form."

"I managed to come back well in the last match. I'm happy and relieved to be back a little stronger than before. Obviously, I need to get back into my rhythm, but with perseverance, I'll reach 100%. I'm taking it step by step. I don't know what the future holds; my instincts will decide.

One day at a time."

Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 goals in 128 appearances, has not featured for the Selecao since October 2023. Securing a recall for the World Cup remains a top priority for the mercurial forward, with national coach Carlo Ancelotti reportedly monitoring his progress closely.

Brazil, drawn in Group C at the 2026 World Cup, will kick off their campaign against Morocco at MetLife Stadium on June 13, before taking on Haiti and Scotland in Philadelphia and Miami, respectively.

With the World Cup looming, Neymar's focus remains firmly on fitness and performance, while his long-term career plans remain undecided.

Battle for spin bowling supremacy on cards as England take on Lanka in Super 8s

PALLEKELE, Feb 21 (Agencies): A battle for spin-bowling supremacy is on the cards as England look to draw inspiration from their recent series whitewash of Sri Lanka when the two sides clash in a Super Eight match of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

England had beaten Sri Lanka 3-0 in their T20I series here earlier this month and they would be happy to return to the island nation for the Super Eight match, having played all their group games in India.

The two-time champions are, however, yet to convince at this T20 World Cup, with three nervy victories against associate nations and a loss at the hands of former champions West Indies.

Co-hosts Sri Lanka began with wins over Ireland and Oman, and were at their best against Australia, whom they beat by eight wickets while chasing 182 here. The Lankans, however, lost their momentum, losing to giant-killers Zimbabwe in their last group match



in Colombo on Thursday.

It will be a fresh start for both the sides with Sri Lanka looking to cash in on the home advantage while England would be looking to pick up steam in the tournament at a place where they had done well less than a month back.

For Sri Lanka, Pathum Nissanka would be looking to continue his top form at the venue where he had hit 100 not out in the win against Australia. He is among the three centurions in this T20 World Cup and is at the second spot among highest run getters so far.

Kusal Mendis has also

been in good touch with three half centuries in four matches and he would be one of the key Sri Lankan batters the England bowlers would want to target.

England batters, meanwhile, have been struggling so far with Jacob Bethell the best among them with 143 runs from four matches with one half century. The form of captain Harry Brook and senior player Jos Buttler will be crucial for England's success.

In the bowling department, off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana has been the best Sri Lankan bowler with six wickets from four matches.

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Ellyse Perry becomes first Australian woman cricketer to play 350 international matches

ADELAIDE, Feb 21 (Agencies): Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry became the first player to play 350 international cricket matches for Australia across formats. She achieved this feat during the third T20I match against India at Adelaide on Saturday.

The 35-year-old Perry's international career is an inspiration for all.

She became the youngest player to play for Australia at the age of 16 when she made her debut against New Zealand in July 2007, despite never playing a domestic match at the senior level.

She is only behind India's Harmanpreet Kaur (357) and New Zealand's Suzie Bates (355) in the list of the

most capped players in women's international matches.

Perry has also represented Australia in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 and became the first woman to represent her country in World Cups of two different sports.

Perry made headlines early in her career with her unbeaten 29 and



four wickets on her T20I debut against England

at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In the women's T20 World Cup 2010, she was Australia's leading wicket taker.

Starting her career as a pacer, Perry used to bat at no. 9 in her early days.

But she worked on her batting in the coming years and managed to become a permanent no. 3 or 4 for the Australian side.

Her contribution to various successful teams at the international and domestic level across cricket's primary formats has led to winning eight world championships with Australia, eleven WNCL championships with New South Wales, two WBBL titles with the Sydney Sixers, and one WPL title with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

She has made 930 runs in 14 women's Test including a double ton, with an average of 58. She has also made 4505 runs in 165 WODIs with an average of 48. In 171 WT20Is, she has made 2200 runs and has also picked 126 wickets in the shortest format.

She has taken 39 wickets in Tests and 166 wickets in ODIs.

Detention of IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib by Delhi Police is undemocratic & baseless: Sawhney

Youth Congress will step to the streets across the nation against undemocratic detention of IYC President Uday Bhanu Chib: Sawhney
Peaceful protest is our constitutional right, not a crime



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: In a strong statement, Anirudh Sawhney, State General Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress, has strongly condemned the detention of Uday Bhanu Chib by the Delhi Police for questioning over an incident at the AI Summit, terming the action as "completely baseless, politically motivated, and undemocratic." Sawhney said that Youth Congress members had peacefully gone to the AI Summit to raise slogans highlighting the concerns of India's unemployed youth and farmers, particularly in context of the recent US Trade Deal.

"Raising slogans such as 'PM is compromised' reflects the anger of millions of young Indians who are struggling

with unemployment and uncertain futures. To detain a national youth leader who was not even present at the incident is an attack on constitutional freedoms," he asserted. He also added that voicing democratic dissent is not a crime.

Sawhney further stated that the protest was neither violent nor unlawful, but a legitimate expression of dissent in a democratic setup.

"Our country is a democracy, and peaceful protest is not a crime. It is our fundamental right. When Youth Congress members questioned a trade deal with the United States that they believe will harm Indian farmers and benefit only America, they were speaking on behalf of the common people. Instead of addressing the concerns of youth and farmers, the authorities chose intimidation

and suppression," he said. He emphasized that silencing opposition voices will only deepen public resentment.

Calling the detention an example of misuse of power, Sawhney said that targeting a national youth leader sends a dangerous message about shrinking democratic space in the country. "If questioning government policies leads to detention, then what remains of democracy? The anger seen at the AI Summit is not limited to Youth Congress workers; it is the collective voice of every unemployed young Indian who feels betrayed. Suppression will not erase that anger — it will only strengthen it," he remarked.

Issuing a strong warning, Sawhney declared that if such behaviour continues, the Youth Congress across the country will be forced to intensify its democratic agitation.

"If this undemocratic and baseless targeting of our leadership does not stop poori desh ki IYC sadko par aa jayegi to fight this injustice.

We will not be intimidated. We will continue to raise our voice for unemployed youth, farmers, and the future of this country. Democracy cannot be crushed through detentions and fear," he concluded.

Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh' to receive Jai Vijay Writing Award – 2025



Top News Report

HISAR / AGRA / BHIWANI, Feb 21: Renowned author Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh' has been selected for the prestigious "Jai Vijay Rachnakar Samman – 2025" in the writing category. The announcement was made during the preparations for the 12th annual Rachnakar Samman ceremony organized by Jai Vijay, a literary organization registered in Agra. The award recognizes his sustained literary contribution, including two decades of regular editorial writing and the publication of fifteen books across multiple genres.

The organization stated that the selection was based on works published in Jai Vijay magazine during 2025. Three writers were nominated in each literary genre after careful consideration of the number of publications, quality of writing, and overall literary impact. The nominations were listed alphabetically and did not indicate any ranking. In keeping with the institution's transparent and democratic tradition, associated authors participated in a voting process, with each member casting a single vote. Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh' secured the highest number of votes in the essay category.

Notably, the same

honour in the article category was conferred last year upon his literary life partner, Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, reflecting the organization's emphasis on merit-based and transparent selection procedures.

Editor of the organization, Dr. Vijay Kumar Singhal, highlighted that Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh' is known for his people-centric and thought-provoking writing. His literary work spans poetry, essays, children's literature, short stories, and Haryana poetry, with contributions in both Hindi and English.

Born in 1989, Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabh' holds a doctorate in political science, along with a diploma in veterinary medicine, an Urdu diploma, and a postgraduate diploma in journalism. He currently serves as a veterinary inspector with the Haryana government and is also engaged in teaching activities. Over the years, his writings have appeared in thousands of newspapers and magazines in India and abroad, and he has been a regular contributor to broadcasts on All India Radio and Door-darshan. He has also been associated with editing the fortnightly magazine Prayas.

The author has received several national and international recognitions, including the Pandit Pratap Narayan Mishra National Young Literary Award (2023) and the Sahityanchal National Award (2025). Jai Vijay Sanstha described this latest honour as a meaningful acknowledgment of his long-standing literary, social, and intellectual contributions.

J&K's First Ever Self-Sustained 'RRR' Centre opens in Shiv Nagar

Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, launches unique initiative by Inner Wheel Club Jammu Sampark



Top News Report

JAMMU, Feb 21: Jammu has marked a historic milestone in urban waste management with the inauguration of Jammu & Kashmir's first-ever RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Centre at JDA Park, Shiv Nagar. This landmark facility, developed under the strategic guidance of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), was officially launched today by Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, State Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U).

What sets this project apart is its pioneering self-sustained and community-led model. In a standout example of civic leadership, the Inner Wheel Club (IWC) Jammu Sampark (Distt. No. 307) has taken full ownership of the development and setup of the centre. Moving beyond the traditional top-down approach, this facility operates on a volunteer-driven basis, fueled by the spirit of a sensible society. It is a space where the commu-

nity takes charge of its own resources, ensuring they are circulated directly between citizens in a cycle of mutual care and sustainability.

The centre serves as a practical hub for a Circular Economy. Residents are encouraged to donate usable household items, clothes and books, which are then made available to those in need. This ensures that valuable goods are reused rather than discarded, significantly reducing the city's waste footprint through a sustainable, peer-to-peer exchange.

The project was brought to life through the vision and personal dedication of IWC Jammu Sampark leadership, including Ratan Prabha (President), Reva Raina (Charter President), Anila Mengi (Past President), Shyama Anand, Sapna Gupta, Kamlesh Shoor, Anuradha Minhas, and Sonia, along with the club's tireless warrior members.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, commended

the Inner Wheel Club for creating a blueprint for the entire Union Territory. He highlighted that this is the first RRR centre in J&K to be fully established through private community funding while remaining under the professional guidance of the JMC. He noted that this model of "financial independence coupled with community service" is the ideal future for the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban.

The event was also attended by senior officials from the JMC and the IEC Team, who assisted in the ground-level coordination. The inauguration was further graced by the presence of senior citizens from the Shiv Nagar colony, who lauded the club for transforming the local park into a beacon of sustainability.

By launching J&K's first self-sustained RRR centre, the Inner Wheel Club Jammu Sampark has proven that when citizens take the operational ownership, they can create lasting, positive change for the environment.

Three LSCS Procedures successfully performed in a single day at CHC Sankoo

Top News Report

KARGIL, Feb 21: In a significant achievement for healthcare services in the region, the Department of Gynaecology at Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo successfully carried out three elective Lower Segment Caesarean Section (LSCS) procedures in a single day, marking an important milestone for the institution and highlighting the strengthening of medical facilities in remote areas.

The healthcare sector in the region has witnessed steady progress with improved infrastructure, increased availability of specialists, and the expansion of medical services at peripheral health institutions. As part of its ongoing commitment to maternal and gynaecological care, CHC Sankoo has now made elective LSCS surgeries a routine component of its services.

The surgeries were performed by Dr. Rubiya Banoo, Consultant Gynaecologist, with anaesthesia support from Dr. Asif Hussain, Consultant Anaesthetist from District Hospital Kargil, and Dr. Amina Khatoun (Anaesthetist), along with the dedicated operation theatre staff. All procedures were conducted successfully, and the newborns were declared healthy following delivery.

In addition to the surgeries, specialized



guidance on newborn care was provided to the nursing staff, further strengthening neonatal management practices at the centre. Timely assistance from the Blood Storage Unit, supervised by Laboratory Technician Ahmad Ali, ensured patient safety and contributed to smooth surgical outcomes.

Block Medical Officer Dr. Zahida Khatun appreciated the coordinated efforts of the medical team and emphasized that such achievements reflect the Health Department's commitment to delivering quality healthcare services at the grassroots level, particularly in remote and underserved regions.

Since becoming operational on July 1, 2022, the Operation Theatre at CHC Sankoo has played a crucial role in

improving maternal and child health outcomes. The availability of routine LSCS services at the block level has significantly reduced the need for patients to travel long distances, making essential maternal care more accessible for women from far-flung areas.

Apart from surgical procedures, the centre continues to provide fully functional routine Gynaecology OPD services. These include antenatal and postnatal care, family planning services, and management of common gynaecological conditions. The ongoing developments at CHC Sankoo underline the steady progress in healthcare delivery and the government's sustained efforts to ensure accessible, reliable, and quality medical services across the region.

SAE Club SMVDU conducts series of technical events for freshers

Top News Report

KATRA, Feb 21: The SAE Club of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a vibrant series of activities for first-year students, introducing them to the field of automotive engineering while providing valuable hands-on technical exposure. The initiative aimed to familiarize freshers with the club's vision, technical achievements, and participation in prestigious national-level competitions such as BAJA SAE India and SUPRA SAE India.

The programme began with an introductory session in which senior members shared insights into the club's journey, major milestones, and the collaborative process involved in designing and building a competitive SAE vehicle. Students were introduced to various technical domains including design, fabrication, testing, and teamwork, encouraging them to explore engineering learning beyond the classroom.

Continuing the engagement, the club conducted an interactive hands-on session on 13 February 2026 centred on the team's previous SAE All-Terrain



Vehicle. Freshers were given an opportunity to closely examine key components such as the chassis, suspension system, braking mechanisms, and powertrain. Core team members explained the design methodology, material selection, safety considerations, and challenges encountered during manufacturing and testing. The practical demonstration helped students connect theoretical concepts with real-world engineering applications. It is noteworthy that SMVDU participated in BAJA SAE India 2025 held in Hyderabad, where the team gained significant technical exposure and

valuable field experience. Students were encouraged to carry forward the legacy and actively prepare for upcoming national-level SAE events.

Student coordinators Kamal Thawani and Romil Ghurayya, along with faculty coordinators Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq and Dr. Ankush Raina, expressed their gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, for his continued support towards experiential and innovation-driven learning. They emphasized that such initiatives strengthen technical capabilities, foster creativity, and prepare students for future engineering challenges.

Dogri Department of WDC Kathua celebrates International Mother Language Day

Top News Report

KATHUA, Feb 21: The Department of Dogri, Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua celebrated International Mother Language Day with great enthusiasm to highlight the importance of mother languages in preserving culture and identity.

On the occasion, Dr. Gopal Sharma, Assistant Professor in Sanskrit, expressed his views on the significance of mother language and emphasized its vital role in human life, cultural develop-



ment, and effective communication.

Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma, Head of the Department of Dogri, interacted with the students and elaborated on the importance and history of International Mother Language Day.

He also highlighted the relevance of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, appreciating its emphasis on promoting regional languages in academics and strengthening linguistic diversity.

Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, Assistant Professor in Dogri, was also present on the occasion and encouraged students to respect and promote their native language.

The entire programme was organized under the patronage of Prof. Jaipal Singh, Principal of the college, and under the supervision of

Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma. The event concluded with active participation from students and faculty, reinforcing the importance of preserving and promoting mother languages for future generations.