



# Indian Railways Fostering New Regional Growth Hubs for **Viksit Bharat**



## Inauguration of New Jammu Railway Division of Northern Railway

## & Charlapalli New Terminal Station in the twin cities of Secunderabad and Hyderabad

## and Foundation stone laying for

## Rayagada Rail Division Building in Odisha

# By Narendra Modi

Prime Minister  
(Through Video Conferencing)

On January 6, 2025 | Time 11:00 AM

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Jammu Railway Division

- Links major cities and towns across India to the Jammu & Kashmir region, fulfilling the long-pending demand of its people.
- Acts as a game-changer by promoting trade, tourism and economic opportunities in the region.
- Seamlessly connects regions of Jammu & Kashmir viz. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and Leh & Ladakh to major destinations across India strengthening unity and development.

#### Rayagada Divisional Office Building

- Features a Divisional Control Office, eco-friendly staff residences and modern amenities, enhancing railway operations in Koraput, Rayagada and Kalahandi.
- Streamlines railway management and boosts operational efficiency across Odisha.
- Strengthens connectivity, accelerates development and fosters economic progress in tribal belt of South Odisha for Viksit Bharat.

#### Charlapalli New Railway Terminal in Telangana

- A world-class, eco-friendly terminal that offers top-tier facilities at Charlapalli in the Twin Cities.
- Relieves pressure on existing terminals in Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda.
- Facilitates the operation of new trains and enhances connectivity for the people of Telangana and nearby regions.

#### In the august presence of

#### Ashwini Vaishnav

Union Minister of Railways,  
Information & Broadcasting and  
Electronics & Information Technology

#### Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor,  
Jammu & Kashmir

#### Omar Abdullah

Chief Minister,  
Jammu & Kashmir

#### Dr. Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State for Science &  
Technology (I/C), Earth Sciences (I/C), PMO,  
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic  
Energy & Department of Space

#### V. Somanna

Union Minister of  
State for Railways  
and Jal Shakti

#### Ravneet Singh

Union Minister of  
State for Railways and  
Food Processing Industries

#### Satish Sharma

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies &  
Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science  
& Technology, Information Technology,  
Youth Services & Sports and ARI &  
Trainings Departments, Govt. of J&K

#### Gulam Ali Khatana

Member of Parilement

#### Jugal Kishore

Member of Parilement

Watch the live programme on



## Yudhvir Sethi organises First-Ever Rozgar Mela in East Constituency

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering the youth, Yudhvir Sethi, BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, today organized the first-ever Rozgar Mela in East Constituency.

The event witnessed the participation of representatives from various multinational companies, marking a significant step towards addressing the employment concerns of the constituency's youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for young people and equipping them with the tools to achieve self-reliance. "This Rozgar Mela is a testament to our commitment to ensuring that the youth of East Constituency have access to meaningful employment opportunities. We are



determined to bridge the gap between job seekers and potential employers, fostering a brighter future for our younger generation," he stated.

Sethi lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership, highlighting how the Central Government's initiatives have been instrumental in creating a conducive environment for employment generation.

Yudhvir Sethi also urged the youth to actively participate in and benefit from the plethora of centrally sponsored schemes

designed to enhance skill development, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

"The Central Government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched transformative programs like Skill India, Startup India, and the PM Mudra Yojana. I urge the youth of East Constituency to come forward and take full advantage of these schemes to realize their potential and contribute to nation-building," he added.

Sethi further assured

the gathering of his unwavering commitment to addressing local concerns. He promised to continue working tirelessly to bring similar employment-oriented initiatives to the constituency. "This Rozgar Mela is just the beginning. We are planning to organize more such events and workshops to equip our youth with the skills and opportunities they need to excel in today's competitive world," he affirmed.

The event concluded with participating companies shortlisting several candidates for various roles, giving a direct impetus to the employment drive.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi's initiative was widely appreciated by attendees, who expressed their gratitude for this much-needed effort to address unemployment in the constituency.

## Congress remembers Pt. Trilochan Dutt

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JAN 5

A function was held at PCC Headquarters Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu today to remember the tallest leader of the party in Jammu Pt. Trilochan Dutt on his Death Anniversary, today.

JKPCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra Presided over the function to pay rich tributes to Pt. Trilochan Dutt, a veteran leader of the party who was the tallest leader of Congress of his times in Jammu, who played an important role in Jammu & Kashmir.

Several prominent leaders of the party attended the function and paid floral tributes to the great leader and remembered his contributions to the society.

Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Ex-MP

Ch. Lal Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Ghulam Haider Sheikh, Haji Abdul Rashid-MLA, Sdr. Surinder Singh Channi, Smt. Indu Pawan, Nisaar Mando, Naresh Gupta, Yash Paul Kundal, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Shah Mohammad Choudhary, Rajnish Sharma, Th. Manmohan



Singh-President DCC Jammu, Shashi Sharma, Narinder Sharma, T.S.Tony, Bhushan Dogra, Suresh Dogra, Smt. Zahida Khan, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Rajiv Saraf, Sanjeev Panda, Sahil Sharma, Advocate Bhavishya Sudan, Rajesh Sharma, Ricky Dalotra, Ajay Lakhotra-President NSUI, Ch. Hussain Ali Wafa, Abdul Rashid-President DCC Kulgam, Nisaar Ahmed, Rashid Azam Inqalabi, Surrinder Kumar, Vijayant Pathania, Advocate Tehseena and others attended.

Paying rich tributes JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra described him the tallest leader of his time who rubbed shoulder with Mahatam Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan prior to 1947. He was a co-founder of the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir alongwith Shri

G. M. Sadiq, Mir Qasim, Mohd. Shafi Qureshi and other such great leaders of his time. He recalled the contributions of Pt. Ji for the party and people.

Mr. Karra said that Congress has launched a mission to go to the roots and remember of all those leaders of the party who have played their role in life for the party in the past. He said it was one of the recommendations of the fact finding committee constituted by the party to suggest strengthening of Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir.

Karra said that those who played historical role in the history should be remembered for educating future generations to know about the history of Congress party in the country in strengthening the unity in diversity. He said that Congress will remain steadfast on its principles of secularism,

democracy and strengthening of the constitutional values especially when there are attempts to distort the history and weaken the constitution.

He also referred to the popular demand for restoration of statehood which is being denied by the centre and said that Congress will leave no stone unturned to fight for the same. He also said that the important priority issues of the people will be highlighted by the party forcefully in the days to come for their redressal.

Raman Bhalla paid floral tributes to Pt. Trilochan Dutt and described him as iron man of Jammu. He termed Pandit Ji as the tallest leaders of Congress in Jammu, who played a significant role in public life.

Bhalla said that people still remember and respect him for his qualities of leadership. He also said that he had the privilege to work under his leadership as young leader of the party.

Several Senior leaders of the party paid floral tributes to Pt. Trilochan Dutt and recalled his services to the people and his remarkable achievements in public life.

## Crime Branch submitted challans against 17 accused including three bank officers

JAMMU, JAN 5

Crime Branch (CB) has submitted challans against seventeen accused including three Bank officers for criminal breach of trust, misappropriation of huge money, frauds and forgery.

CB completed investigation and proved offence of criminal breach of trust & misappropriation

of big amount against main accused the then Branch Manager Citizens' Co-operative Bank Vijaypur Rajiv Bali of Jammu & two more Managers of the same Bank and resubmitted challan against them as per Hon'ble court directions. Among other accused against whom investigations were completed in different cases and challans filed includ-

ed two property dealers of Jammu namely Mohd Ramzan & Mohd Sadiq, former ASI of IRP, former government school Teacher, Punjab Armed Police official Sukhwinder Singh of Raja Sansi Amritsar.

Seven separate challans against seventeen accused have been produced in Ld. courts of law in Jammu, Poonch and Kathua.

The accused belong to

Punjab, Haryana, U.P, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Samba.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh said that challans of cases FIR No. 25/2015, FIR No.12/ 2019, FIR No. 43/ 2020, FIR No 31/2021, FIR No.24/2023, FIR No. 28/2023, and 92/2023 have been produced in the courts of law for judicial determination.

## "Do Kalakaar" highlights struggles of creative souls

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Do Kalakaar, a play in Hindi written by Bhagwati Charan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Though coated with a thick layer of comedy, the play had a very relevant message to share with the audience which was revealed very artistically.

In the play, 'Churamani' and 'Martand' are two friends, both are artists (one poet and another painter) they had once aspired to rule the Bollywood with their respective creative strengths. The poet had dreamt of becoming the top Hindi Film lyricist and the painter had set a goal for himself to become the most sought after art director of the tinsel town. But destiny lands them in a situation where both are forced to use their creative energies in creating situations and cooking stories just to escape the harassment of their landlord who has not been paid the rentals of a



dingy room for the last six months. The playwright has beautifully portrayed the tragic fate of the creative people who are expected to create magic and electrifying artistic experience through their unlimited creative energies are shown wasting their creativity just to ensure survival. The play opens at a situation where both the poet and the painter have locked themselves in a room which is being visited by the landlord to collect the rent from them. The landlord forcefully makes his entry despite all-out unsuccessful efforts to hold him back are made

by them. When caught at the corner both take shelter of their creative mind and start cooking highly logical excuses to impress the landlord so he allows them to continue till they are able to realize their unfulfilled dreams.

Both sell him the dreams to the extent that the room rented out to them will once become a museum which once hosted the great genius of the world of poetry and painting. Finding the distance beyond measurement between their dreams and reality, the landlord refuses to buy their arguments and throws them out of the

room to face further rejection and dejection of the society. Both the poet and the painter get this realization at this point of the time that despite having a civilization of thousand years at our back this world is not meant for creative people.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Mihir Gujral, Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal and Akrit Sharma. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the presentations were done by Manvi Devi. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Heart Health in Aging, Managing Cardiovascular Disease in Elderly Home-Aged Patients-Strenuous task: Dr Sushil

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Keeping on alive the practice of serving all sections of society with utmost dedication and care Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Home for the aged and Infirm Ambphalla, Jammu so as to screen elderly at high risk, educate them about cardiac friendly lifestyle and provide them with necessary medications.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major health concern among elderly individuals, particularly those residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The aging process, combined with the high prevalence of comorbidities in this population, significantly increases the risk of developing CVD. Managing these conditions in elderly home-aged patients requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach tailored to their unique needs and vulnerabilities. The most common forms of cardiovascular disease in the elderly include coronary artery disease (CAD), heart failure, arrhythmias, hypertension, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and valvular heart disease. These conditions are often driven by a combination



of non-modifiable risk factors, such as age and genetic predisposition, and modifiable factors, including smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol levels. He elaborated that the aging process itself contributes to cardiovascular risk through structural and functional changes in the heart and blood vessels. For example, arterial stiffness and endothelial dysfunction increase with age, promoting atherosclerosis and hypertension. In addition, the presence of comorbid conditions such as chronic kidney disease or diabetes exacerbates the burden of cardiovascular disease in this population. Caring for elderly home-aged patients with cardiovascular disease presents unique challenges. One significant issue is poly pharmacy, as these individuals often require multiple medications to manage not only CVD but also other chronic conditions. This increases the risk of drug interactions, side effects, and medication non-adherence. Furthermore, frailty,

characterized by reduced physiological reserves and increased vulnerability to stressors, complicates disease management and heightens the risk of adverse outcomes. Elderly patients often present with atypical symptoms of CVD. For instance, instead of experiencing classic chest pain during a myocardial infarction, they may report fatigue, confusion, or shortness of breath. Cognitive impairment, common in nursing home residents, further complicates diagnosis and treatment by limiting the patient's ability to communicate symptoms or adhere to prescribed therapies.

He added that Effective management of cardiovascular disease in elderly home-aged patients requires a holistic and patient-centered approach. Lifestyle modifications, such as a heart-healthy diet, moderate physical activity, and smoking cessation, should be encouraged within the patient's physical and cognitive capabilities. Pharmacological treatment is often essen-

tial for controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose levels. Anti hypertensives, statins, and anticoagulants are commonly prescribed, but their use must be carefully monitored to minimize side effects. For patients with heart failure, medications such as diuretics and beta-blockers can improve symptoms and quality of life. Regular monitoring is crucial for early detection of disease progression or complications. Blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and symptoms such as edema or breathlessness should be routinely evaluated. Additionally, vaccinations against influenza and pneumococcal infections are recommended to prevent illnesses that can exacerbate CVD, He Said

Management Committee of the Home I D Soni, Vijay Bhagotra, R C Vaid, Vijay Gupta and Satpal Gupta appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting Cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their premises and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this Camp includes Dr Arvind Kohli (Vascular Surgeon) and Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor. Paramedics and volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Rajkumar, Makhn Sharma, Jatin Bhasin, Arun Singh, Akshay Kumar, Gourav Sharma, Nirvair Singh, Paramveer Singh, Shubham Sharma, Amish Jamwal and Vikas Kumar.

## PDP distributes blankets in loving memory of former J&K CM Mufti Mohd Sayeed

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RS PURA, JAN 5

PDP incharge RS Pura Jammu South Narinder Sharma and PDP incharge Suchetgarh constituency Karan Singh Sunday distributed blankets at Kotli Shah Doula, RS Pura in loving memory of former J&K Chief Minister Late Mufti Mohd Sayeed. On the occasion Narinder and Karan Singh also appealed cadre of RS Pura and Suchetgarh constituencies to participate in tribute programme at party head-

quarter in Jammu on 7th January 2025 to pay tributes to late J&K Chief Minister Mufti Mohd Sayeed on his death anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, they said that as winter chill turns harsh with each passing day, they decided to spread warmth among the less privileged people of the society by carrying on blanket distribution drive to protect them from severe cold during night. Blankets, a fundamental necessity during cold weather, become a source

of solace and protection for those who may not have access to adequate shelter or heating. The objective of the initiative was to provide immediate help by way of giving some relief to the needy people to protect themselves from this extreme cold wave, particularly during night hours. These initiatives not only address immediate needs but also contribute to the overall well-being of the community by promoting compas-



sion, solidarity, and humanitarian values, they added. Speaking on the occasion, Narinder said Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, had an illustrious political career, that culminated when he became the Chief Minister of the state for the first time in 2002. He was sworn in for the second time as Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir on March 01, 2015. Mufti Sayeed had also earlier served as Union Home and Tourism Minister.

One of the last politicians in Jammu & Kashmir, who had grown into the mould of an upright and unblemished statesman, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed represented courage of conviction and a lifelong political struggle spanning over five decades. His vision for the state of Jammu & Kashmir as a distinct feature of the idea of India is complemented by the clear-cut democratic construct of his political thought, an inclusive polity and ingenious development, added Narinder.

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Orchitis
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## PM Modi to virtually inaugurate Jammu Railway Division

**AGENCIES**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly created Jammu railway division through virtual mode on Monday, paving the way for efficient management of train services in the northern-most region of India.

With the establishment of the new railway division in Jammu, a long-standing demand of people of the region has been fulfilled. This milestone event comes ahead of the much-awaited inauguration of train services to Kashmir from Katra, with the final trial run scheduled for Tuesday.

“The Prime Minister will inaugurate the Jammu railway

division through virtual mode from New Delhi tomorrow,” an official said.

In Jammu, the event will be attended and addressed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is also expected to participate.

Headquartered in Jammu, the newly created division will involve the reorganization of the Firozpur Division. It will include the following sections under its jurisdiction, including Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (423 route km), Bhogpur-Sirwal-Pathankot (87.21 route km), Batala (excluding)-Pathankot (68.17



route km) and Pathankot-Joginder Nagar (narrow gauge section, 163.72 route km). The total length of these sections will be 742.1 kilometres. Presently, the Indian Railways operates 17 zones with 68 divisions across the country.

The Railway officials said the final jurisdiction will be determined based on the Detailed Project Report.

The division will feature modern, hi-tech facilities, leveraging the full potential of Information Technology (IT), they said.

With the creation of this division, the Indian Railways will now have 70 divisions under its 17 zones.

The newly established division will oversee operations on India's iconic rail projects, including the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge and the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River at Kauri.

The Chenab Rail Bridge, located in Reasi district, stands 359 metres (1,178 feet) above the riverbed, making it 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The Jammu division will also manage the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, which is now nearing completion.

The Anji Khad Bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, including a 120-metre viaduct and a 94.25-metre central embankment.

Currently, the railway services in Jammu and Kashmir are managed by the Firozpur Division of Northern Railways. Regarding the inauguration of train services to Kashmir from Delhi, the Commissioner of Railway Safety will conduct statutory inspections and final trials on January 7 and 8.

With the phased commissioning of train services, the Railways is expected to complete 255 km of the 272-kilometre USBRL project, leaving only a small stretch between Katra and Reasi to be finished by December.

### CM extends greetings on Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Jayanti

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and all those celebrating the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister highlighted the life and teachings of Guru

## Four killed, two missing after vehicle falls into river in Kishtwar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Four people were killed after their vehicle skidded off the road, rolled down a hill and fell into a river in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir

on Sunday, police said. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Two persons, including the driver, are missing and a rescue operation is underway. The accident took place in the Paddar area, a police official said.

Police did not immediately identify the vehicle.

Udhampur MP and Union minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

“Saddened to learn just

### CM condoles tragic loss of lives in Kishtwar accident

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of four individuals in an accident at Sanyas, Paddar area of Kishtwar district. Terming the incident as a great loss of precious human lives, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He prayed for strength and fortitude for them during this hour of immense grief.

The Chief Minister assured that his office

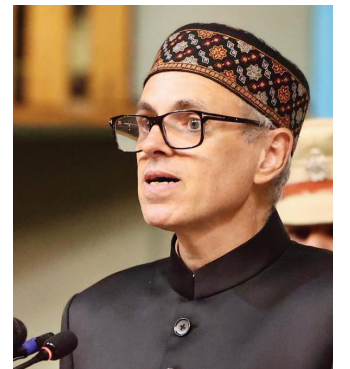
## CM secures approval of housing aid to fire-affected families in Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

The Government of India (GoI) has approved a special project under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to provide housing assistance to the fire victims of Mularwan village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

A devastating fire on October 15 last year destroyed numerous houses, leaving several families homeless in the hamlet located in the Warwan valley.

“Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who assumed office on October 16, promptly visited the affected area the following day and assured the victims of long-term rehabilitation. He also pledged to secure assistance from the Central government to help the families rebuild their homes and



restore their lives,” an official spokesperson said.

The approval for this special housing package follows Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's appeal to the Central government, requesting additional financial assistance for the long-term rehabilitation of the affected families, the spokesperson added.

The chief minister emphasized the urgency of

### NIA arrests PFI cadre for channelising funds from Dubai

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

The NIA has arrested a cadre of the Popular Front of India (PFI) for channelising funds from Dubai for the banned outfit to further its unlawful activities in

## Night temperature dips in Kashmir Valley, Kokernag coldest at minus 8.1 degrees celsius

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JAN 5

The night temperature in the valley dipped sharply, with Kokernag town in south Kashmir freezing at minus 8.1 degrees Celsius, officials said on Sunday. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, the Met said.

Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, registered a minimum temperature of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a

## CS assesses grievance disposal quality on 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo convened a meeting of all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners to assess the quality of disposal of grievances by different departments and offices of Deputy Commissioners on 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had live demonstration of the 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal to view certain grievances registered



by the citizens. He took this occasion to assess the timeline by which the grievances had been resolved besides the quality of responses given by the concerned departments.

He enjoined upon the administrative heads

## Dr Jitendra announces first indigenously developed 'paracetamol' drug for fever, pain

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

Addressing the 40th Foundation Day of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Dr Ambedkar International Centre here, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), MoS PMO, DoPT Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy, Space, announced the first indigenously developed “Paracetamol” drug, commonly used in fever, pain etc, by the Council of Scientific



and Industrial Research (CSIR) which is affiliated to the Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India.

The Minister elaborated that CSIR has developed indigenously technology to produce paracetamol, a widely used pain reliever and fever

reducer. This innovation aims to make India self-reliant in paracetamol manufacturing by reducing dependence on imported ingredients, he added.

Karnataka-based Satya Deeptha Pharmaceuticals Ltd will utilize this breakthrough to produce affordable paracetamol domestically. Currently, India imports the key raw materials for paracetamol from various countries. Thus the CSIR initiative not only addresses this dependency but also aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's “Atmanirbhar Bharat” (self-reliant India) vision.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his address, traced back the history of DSIR and its contribution for the past decade and recalled its mandate to focus on synergizing collaboration with industry partners to scale up innovation and foster technological growth. He also remembered the birth of CSIR which is a much older organization aimed at India's scientific and industrial progress through research.

Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated the team of DSIR on their 40th Foundation Day.

The DSIR Foundation Day marked 16 more

## Army pay tributes to four soldiers killed in road accident in Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JAN 5

Army on Sunday paid rich tributes to the four soldiers, who lost their lives in a road accident in Jammu Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

General Officer Commanding of Srinagar based sensitive Chinar Corps, officers of Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) paid homage to four soldiers during a ceremony held in



Srinagar on Sunday.

Havildar Hari Ram Rewar, Lance Havildar Pawan Kumar, Lance Naik Jitendra Kumar

Yadav and Lance Naik Nitish Kumar lost their lives in the line of duty at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Commissioner JMC takes stock of civic amenities in Rehari Colony

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted a surprise visit to ward no. 25 (Rehari Colony) to take stock of the provision of sanitation and civic amenities in the area. He also checked the attendance of sanitation staff in the ward and directed the health wing to maintain proper sanitation in every nook and corner of the ward.

The Commissioner interacted with the residents of the ward and urged for public participation and cooperation to maintain better sanitation



in the city. He appealed to the people not to throw the garbage/refuse in the lanes and drains.

The Commissioner also instructed the Health and Sanitation wing of JMC to regularly verify the attendance of sanitation workers through the designated App for efficient services

delivery, adding that any lapses in maintaining sanitation would not be tolerated. He directed the sanitation staff to clean lanes and drains on a regular basis to avoid accumulation of refuse in the wards so that the rank of the Jammu City is improved in respect of Swachhta Sarvekshan.

## Prescribing textbooks against norms: DSEK calls urgent meetings with stakeholders

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 5

School Education Department has taken a strong notice of the complaints regarding the textbooks prescribed by some private schools against the norms.

This was stated by Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G N Itoo today after a series of meetings with the private school heads, parents and officers of the Department.

Itoo stressed upon all the private schools to adhere to the rules and regulations laid down by the department regarding the prescription of textbooks in letter and spirit and to upload the

details of textbooks within three days on their websites.

It is pertinent to mention that in light of the complaints received from various quarters regarding the increase in tuition fee beyond the approval of FFRC and prescription of textbooks against the norms of the department by some schools, DSEK called series of meetings with some private school heads and parents.

He directed all the private school heads to adhere to the guidelines already in vogue and to ensure the receipt of fee as per the approval from FFRC.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of

these directions, Itoo called separate meeting of senior officers of the department in which district-wise monitoring committees for the implementation of these guidelines were constituted.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Elementary Education Mohammad Mushtaq, Chief Education Officer Srinagar Shabina Kyser and other officers of the department.

DSEK directed all the Chief Education Officers of the Kashmir Division to ensure the implementation of rules and regulations already in vogue and were asked to get the reports from monitoring committees on a daily basis.

## Javed Dar conducts 2 day tour of Rafiabad constituency

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JANUARY 05

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, began a comprehensive two day tour of Rafiabad constituency in Baramulla district, aimed at strengthening public outreach, reviewing developmental works and addressing aspirations of the local population.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with several delegations comprising farmers, youth and community representatives, who highlighted pressing issues such as road connectivity, irrigation, rural infrastructure and healthcare services.

The Minister assured the delegations of government's commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner, emphasising inclusive and sustainable development.

The Minister inspected ongoing developmental projects including road construction, irriga-



tion canals and housing schemes. He reviewed progress on these works and directed the officials to ensure their timely completion with adherence to quality standards. Stressing accountability, he called for active monitoring of all developmental activities to maximize their impact on public welfare.

Javed Dar emphasized the importance of empowering Panchayati Raj institutions for grassroots governance and effective implementation of welfare schemes. He urged the local representatives to play a proactive role in developmental planning and execution to ensure that benefits reach every household.

Highlighting Rafiabad's

agricultural potential, the Minister encouraged farmers to adopt modern farming techniques and make use of government initiatives designed to boost productivity and incomes. He reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting the farmers through sustainable agricultural practices and targeted interventions. The Minister's tour is set to continue tomorrow, with further engagements and on-site inspections aimed at accelerating developmental initiatives and addressing local needs. This visit underscores the government's unwavering focus on strengthening rural infrastructure and promoting grassroots development.

## Jammu Tawi Golf Club organises Golfing Day Out Women Putting Competition 2025

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC), Sidhra in association with Directorate of Tourism Jammu organized "Golfing Day Out Women Putting Com-

petition" today to inculcate competitive spirit among the lady golfers in Jammu.

A good number of Women Players Minakshi Kour Slathia, Dr. Farhat, Diksha Thakur, Ritu Slathia, Smridhi, Karuna,

Ankita Shetty, Ria Arora, Shafiq Banoo, Mamta Wahi, Renu Sharma, Tanvi Gupta, Dhanvi Dube, Pratima Sharma, Widhana Khan & Shridha Gupta participated in the competition with great enthusiasm and zeal.

## Jammu Tawi Golf Club organises Golfers day out New Year 2025 Golf Tournament

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

The Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu organized a Golfers day Out, New Year 2025 Golf Tournament at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra. Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Park & Garden, tee off the first ball of the event. He was accompanied by Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course Manav Gupta.

As many as 96 players participated during the day-long tournament, who were divided into 24 foursomes.

Shailendra Kumar and Pawan Parihar were adjudged as the overall winner and Runner up respectively of the tournament. S.M Yasin bagged the award for the straight drive (1 foot, 10 inches) at Hole No.6 and Shafat Sultan on the line at Hole no.14. The longest drive award went to Farooq Yasir (250mtr), Arindham Sudan (260Mtr) and Youisif Choudhary (250mtr.) at Hole no. 5, 8 & 10 respectively.

While, Closest to the pin went to Ankush Hans, Shabir Malik, Rohit Bhalla, Rajan Sharm at Hole No.7,13,17 & 2 respectively. While 2nd shot to closest to pin went to Shailendra Kumar, Danish Khan and Arindham Sudan at Hole no. 4 & 11. While Monster Putt went to Gurpreet Singh. Col. Basharat Bhat,

Yousif Choudhary, Shailendra Kumar, Shafat Sultan, Omair Nisar Ganai and Pawan Parihar at Hole no. 18 and 9. While bull's eye went to Rakesh Gupta.

While in category of best in four ball are Shailendra Kumar, Aijaz Qaiser, Sanjay Mahajan, Mubasshir Latifi, Hafiz Gillani, Yashvir Sudan, Rohit Bhalla, Azhar Majid, Adhar Rishi, Firdous Ahmed Masoodi, Shafat Sultan, Jaideep Singh Manocha, Aridam Sudan, Ankush Hans, Jaipal Singh, S.S Pathania, Pawan Parihar, Lt. Gen. Shamsheer Singh, Er. S.S Jamwal, Umesh Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Joginder Singh, Gurdeep Singh.

Congratulating the winners, Shailendra Kumar stressed the need for inculcating golfing culture among the younger generation. Appreciating Secretary, JTGC Manav Gupta and management of JTGC for successfully conducting the event, he said that such tournaments should be organized on a regular basis.

Later, Shailendra Kumar, Manav Gupta and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta presented trophies and mementoes to the winners, runner-ups and other players, who were adjudged best in different categories.

Manav Gupta thanked all the Golfers for participating in the tournament with great enthusiasm and zeal. He also thanked the staff and Management of Jammu Tawi Golf Course for making the event a big Success.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### Four killed, two missing...

now that 4 of the passengers travelling in the vehicle have been found dead on the spot. Two other persons, including the driver, are not traced as yet. My sincere condolences to the bereaved families," he said in a post on X.

The minister said he contacted Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan immediately after receiving the report about the accident.

"Rescue teams have been put into action. I am regularly receiving the updates," he said.

#### CM condoles...

is in constant touch with the district administration, which is making all possible efforts to trace the two individuals still missing following the accident.

#### CM secures approval...

housing aid under PMAY-G to help the families rebuild their homes and return to normalcy.

In this regard, the Ministry of Rural Development has formally communicated its approval to the secretary of the Rural Development Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said.

According to the communication, up to 85 houses (including seven earlier PMAY-G beneficiaries) have been allocated under the special project for the financial year 2024-25.

#### Night temperature...

minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius while Konibal in Pampore town recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a night temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 8.1 degrees and was the coldest place on record in the valley.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' - the harshest period of winter - that began on December 21. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30. It is followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd (small cold)' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha (baby cold)'.

#### CS assesses grievance...

to appoint Nodal officers not below the rank of Deputy Secretaries to monitor the quality of disposal of grievances against their departments. He called for seeking clarifications from the citizens instead of prematurely closing the grievances, in case the material of grievances is not satisfactory for taking further action.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the district administration to increase the traction of 'JK Samadhan' portal among the residents so that grievance registration is eased for them.

He further asked them to increase the registration of citizens besides uploading all the grievances on the portal, including grievances received in physical mode.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the Depart-

ment of Public Grievances to give super access to the Administrative heads and DCs to analytical dashboard pertaining to their respective departments and districts. He enjoined upon them to be ready with the AI based updated version of the portal by February this year.

On the occasion Secretary, Public Grievances, Aijaz Asad gave the demonstration of the public grievances portal to the Chief Secretary. He revealed that a more comprehensive AI based version 'JK Samadhan 2.0' is currently under development through BISAG-N which is going to be ready by February this year.

Regarding the action taken report on directions given earlier by the Chief Secretary, he made out that an analytical dashboard was created and its demonstration of was also made in the meeting. He also gave out that DCs had also been given access to view all grievances registered in their districts for their monitoring and quick disposal.

It was added that the capacity building programmes were held for Master trainers and nodal officers as per the previous directives. Moreover the offline training sessions in districts to enhance the capacity of officers and officials is going on through the resource persons of this Department.

#### Dr Jitendra announces...

technology transfers: 9 CSIR-CSIO Chennai and 6 from CSIR-CEERI, Pilani the technology transfer between CSIR and MSME units registered under LAGHU UDYOG BHARATI under the campaign 100 days 100 technology program. LAGHU UDYOG BHARATI is a registered all India organization of MSME in India since 1994 with more than 60,000 registered members. So far 57 CSIR technologies have been transferred under this campaign and today 16 more are transferred.

The technologies transferred by CSIO are in the area of design and development of scientific and industrial instruments with IoT enabled technologies, while transfers by CEERI are in the area of healthcare and societal implications. One MoU is signed between CSIO and ELCIA, Bengaluru towards mutual collaboration in development of sensors.

The Science and Technology Minister also called this as a moment of celebration for NRDC and CEL. He said our significant work many times remains inside the four walls despite having potential to become a successful enterprise as we often lack the marketing part of it.

Speaking on the pace of technological prowess achieved by India in the past decade, Dr. Jitendra Singh credited the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has been a champion of technological development and utilizing its potential for the benefit of the Country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored that even before we had the scientific acumen what lacked was the prioritization of innovation and entrepreneurship. After 2014 the taboo was broken and Government and non-government sectors collaborated on a large scale. The success in the Space sector is the evidence of it with now Startups launching satellites from Sriharikota.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also lauded ISRO for the recent SPADEX (Space Docking exercise) mission which is a landmark making India leaders among few nations to have developed the capability.

Recalling the Success achieved in 2024 and more specifically the third Term Of the government popularly called as MODI.3.0, He said there has been a series of indigenous development naming India's 1st Indigenously developed Antibiotic- Nafithromycin to treat both atypical and typical drug-resistant bacteria. Going further he also mentioned that Isr ever successful trial of Gene therapy for treating the Blood disorder Haemophilia.

Highlighting the achievements of CSIR, Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the efforts of CSIR and enumerated the development of 108 petal Lotus, hydrogen bus, Biofuels, the success of Aroma Mission i.e. Lavender cultivation which got featured in Republic Day Tableau and lauded by the Prime Minister himself. And recent progress on indigenously developed paracetamol.

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, all the arms of Government should work in synergy and called for a Whole of Government and Whole of Science Approach. He recalled the initiatives One week One Theme (OWOT) And One week One Lab (OWOL) of CSIR which were the brainchild of the Science and Technology Minister. He also mentioned that PM Modi believes in Women-led development and thus women scientists and Start-Ups are being all necessary help by the government, he said.

Towards the conclusion of his speech, Dr. Singh emphasized that it is high time for us to look beyond government resources for innovation and we should start exploring non-government funds along Knowledge partnership and resource sharing. He underlined that Anusandhan NRF is the Step in the same direction where 60% of the funds will be raised by non-government sectors. He reaffirmed the scientific community that 2025 will also be a power packed year for science and technology with innumerable ventures coming up.

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary DSIR, DG CSIR in her remarks recalled the signing of the Guwahati science declaration by the members which aimed at becoming a global economic hub in 2047.

Prof. A.K. Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government of India emphasized on making our country a product-based economy and a good part of our country should come from tech related products. he also gave us an example of the USA, where 9% of their economic growth is based on the tech sector. He also attributed that we have to become a product economy from a service economy and this product economy should be based on our own design. Senior Scientists from DSIR and industry leaders, MSME's were present in large numbers during the celebration.

#### Army pay tributes...

Bandipora when a vehicle in which they were travelling skidded off the road and rolled down to a deep gorge on Saturday. Two soldiers were also injured in the accident.

"Chinar Warriors salute the valour and sacrifice of the brave hearts and express deep gratitude to our brothers from S K Payeen, District Bandipora for extending help in rescue and recovery", Army Chinar Corps posted on X.

"We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families and are committed to their well-being," they added.

#### CM extends greetings...

Gobind Singh Ji, who exemplified truth, honesty and loyalty to his people.

He remarked that the Guru's ideals and values continue to inspire people across the world and will be cherished by generations to come.

On this auspicious occasion, the Chief Minister prayed for peace, prosperity and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir, hoping that the spirit of the day would foster harmony and unity among all communities.

#### NIA arrests PFI cadre...

India, an official statement issued on Sunday said.

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Mohammad Sajjad Alam of East Champaran district, Bihar, on Saturday as soon as he landed at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here from Dubai, UAE, it said.

An arrest warrant had been issued against Alam, a trained cadre of the PFI, by a special NIA court. A lookout circular (LOC) had also been issued against him, the statement said.

According to the NIA, the accused was involved in channelising illegal funds from Dubai to PFI cadres in Bihar through a UAE, Karnataka and Kerala-based syndicate.

The funds were used for promoting the banned outfit's criminal and unlawful activities, the NIA said.

The case, which was initially registered by Phulwari Sharif police in Bihar in July 2022, relates to PFI cadres' involvement in unlawful and anti-national activities.

The cadres conspired to create an atmosphere of terror and spread religious enmity between members of different religions and groups through activities prejudicial to the maintenance of peace and harmony in the country, the statement said.

Aimed at disrupting public tranquillity and causing disaffection against India, their activities involved the use of criminal force to advance the PFI ideology of establishing Islamic rule in India as envisaged in the organisation's vision document, "India 2047: Towards Rule of Islam in India, Internal Document: Not for circulation", the probe agency said.

The NIA, which took over the case days after it was registered by police, has charge-sheeted 17 accused in the case. Alam is the 18th accused to be arrested in the case. (Agencies)

#### Amit Kumar from erstwhile...

(IPS) officers, including Amit Kumar from the erstwhile J&K cadre, to hold the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP) at the Centre.

Amit Kumar, a 2006 batch IPS officer, has previously served in Jammu and Kashmir, holding key positions during his tenure and he is currently on a central deputation, Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The other officers empaneled are Pushpendra Kumar, Vikramjit Singh, and Jatin Narwal, all from the 2006 batch.

## 120th General Council Meeting of Dogra Sadar Sabha held in Jammu

**JINews SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

The 120th General Council meeting of Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) was convened today at the Sabha premises in Jammu. Representatives from across the Union Territory participated in the General Council meeting.

During the meeting, elections for the posts of President and office bearers of the Sabha were conducted under the supervision of Returning Officer Brig MS Jamwal (Retd.) assisted by Sh. G A Khwaja Retd. DC. The General Council unanimously re-elected Shri Gulchain Singh Charak as the President and Adv. H C Jalmaria as Gen. Secretary of DSS, reaffirming their leadership and dedication.

The President and Gen. Secretary also nominated other office bearers for various positions to strengthen the Sabha's functioning which include Col. Karan Singh Jamwal, Adv. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, G.A. Khwaja, Narinder Singh Jamwal, S. Arvinder Singh Amn, Dr Naseeb Singh Manhas, Amanat Ali Shah, Khajur Singh, Brig. Vijay Sagar



Dheman, Jagdeep Singh, Master Chhankar Singh, Maj. Gen. Sunita Kapoor VSM, Prof. Dr. Anita Billawaria, Mrs. Uma Katal, Adv. Ahtsham, and Master Davinder Singh.

In his address, Shri Gulchain Singh Charak expressed heartfelt gratitude to the members of the Sabha for reposing their trust in him and reiterated his commitment to working tirelessly for the welfare of the Dogra community and the preservation of its rich heritage.

The former Minister highlighted the Sabha's ongoing efforts to address key regional issues and promote unity among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the Sabha was constituted during the time of Maharajas in 1904 with Lala Hans Raj Mahajan as its founder Gen. Secretary. The other

executive members of the Sabha were Mian Jawala Singh, Wakil Hazarat Shah and Daya Krishan Gardish later S. Budh Singh also. It was the only organization in the State that time which was recognized by the then rulers. It worked for the brotherhood, amity and welfare of the society. Since then it is continuing its work for the Dogra cause, whether it is cultural heritage, promotion of language, historical places and over all development of the region.

The General Council meeting adopted several significant resolutions aimed at addressing key issues and preserving the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. The resolutions included a strong demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and measures to combat the smuggling and

peddling of narcotics in all forms. The Sabha emphasized the need for a comprehensive conservation plan to revive and restore the Mubarak Mandi Complex, a historic symbol of Dogra heritage.

Additionally, the General Council of the Sabha proposed the development and beautification of lesser-known lakes such as Surinsar, Mansar, and Kotoriasar to boost tourism and preserve natural heritage. It also called for the declaration of Ranbir Canal as a State Heritage Monument, the removal of restrictions on Gen N.C. Vij Road for public convenience, establishment of a Duggar Satellite Channel to promote and preserve Dogra culture and traditions, etc.

Capt. Sardar Singh and Raj Kumar representing the Numberdar Asso-

ciation voiced concerns about the unwarranted dismissal of some Numberdars and called for the reversal of those orders. Neeraj Anand representing trader's federation expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, acknowledging that under Mr. Charak's leadership, the traders Association is committed to work for the betterment of the state while supporting all resolutions passed.

In an effort to promote communal harmony and unity, the nominated office bearers were entrusted with the responsibility of organizing a conference titled "Message of Humanity." This initiative reflects the Sabha's commitment to fostering inclusivity and shared values.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Col. Karan Singh and reaffirmation of the Sabha's mission to preserve Dogra culture and heritage while addressing pressing social and developmental concerns in the region. The function was attended by prominent personalities including Maj. Gen. G S Jamwal, Anil Suri, Dr. Samar Dev Singh, Dinesh Gupta and others.

## Day 3 of Building Material Exhibition BME25 being held from 3rd to 6th of January

**JINews SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

This is 11th Building Material Exhibition with latest building materials from all over the country under one roof. The event was visited by many prominent as well as general masses in very good numbers. People associated with construction thronged the venue enthusiastically.

Among various prominent personalities were Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu Constituency and Sh. Chander Prakash Ganga, MLA Vijaypur Constituency Jammu along with their staff graced the occasion. The day also witnessed very innovative and creative works done by students of Architecture and technical presentations by different companies.

valedictory func-



tion will be held on 6th Jan 2025 and Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma MP of Jammu constituency will be the chief guest for the event. The Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has a functioning Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) J&K Chapter comprising a

dedicated team having Ar. Vikas Dubey - Chairman, Ar. Vishal Abrol - Vice Chairman, Ar. Anil Verma Jt. Hon. Secretary, Ar. Harbinder Pal Singh - Jt. Hon. Secy, Ar. Sanjeev Mahajan Hon. Treasurer, with nine executive members and two co-opted members.

## Conman arrested by police in Srinagar for fraudulent promise of police favour

**JINews SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JAN 5

Police Station Nowhatta received a written complaint from an individual namely Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, son of Bakhtawar Sheikh, resident of Zahid Pora, Hawal, alleging therein that a conman, identified as Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, son of Mohd Sultan Sheikh, resident of Sheikh Colony, Makhdoom Sahib, had fraudulently taken Rs 30,000 from him to secure the release of Showkat's brother namely Sajad Sheikh, from the custody of Police in connection with Case FIR No. 55/2024 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act. It is pertinent to mention here that Sajad Sheikh, son of Bakhtawar Sheikh, resident of Sheikh Colony, Hawal, was lawfully arrested by Police Station Nowhatta in the aforementioned case. However, the accused person namely Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, exploited the situation by falsely claiming influence to arrange the release of complainant's brother from custody, thereby, fraudulently taking Rs 30,000 from the complainant. Taking cognizance of the complaint, Police Station Nowhatta registered case FIR No. 01/2025 under Section 318 of BNS. During investigation, Police successfully recovered the entire amount from the accused person. Further investigation into the case is going on.

## Movement Kalki's 77th Day Awareness Campaign for Declaring the Cow as 'National Mother Cow'

**JINews SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Jammu witnessed a massive rally today organized by Movement Kalki, which began from Shakti Nagar, Guda Bakshi Nagar, and culminated at the ISKCON Temple. The event saw significant participation from prominent BJP leaders, RSS workers, ISKCON members, and other dignitaries. The rally was led by Anuradha Yogi, Kamal Kishore, Neha Malhotra, and Sushma Sharma, who emphasized the importance of protecting Sanatan Dharma and cow welfare.

The event brought together a host of political and social leaders, including Surinder Singh Choudhary, former Councillor of Ward 29, Brahm Jyoti Salathi, Senior BJP Leader and In-charge of Zorawar Singh, Sanjay Verma, Mandal President of OBC Morcha, and Renu Choudhary, Senior BJP Leader. Other notable participants



included Hira Lal Sharma, Shakti Kendra Pramukh, along with Anuradha Yogi, Sushma Sharma, Arju Sharma, and other senior leaders.

As the rally reached the ISKCON Temple, devotees participated with enthusiasm, underscoring the unity and devotion of the gathering. Movement Kalki used the platform to highlight the urgent need to recognize the cow as "National Mother Cow" and advocated the establishment of a 'Sanatan Board' to safeguard tem-

ples and religious sites. Pritam Sharma, the advisor of Movement Kalki, expressed gratitude to all the participants and reiterated the organization's mission to protect cows and temples. He stated, "Our goal is not only to ensure the safety of cows but also to form a robust 'Sanatan Board' to protect Sanatan temples and religious sites."

Senior BJP leader Surinder Singh Choudhary emphasized the need for strict laws to safeguard cows, asserting that declar-

ing the cow as "National Mother Cow" would help eradicate practices like cow slaughter across India. Anuradha Yogi expressed deep concern about the lack of cow protection laws in Jammu and Kashmir, which she noted were previously in place before the abrogation of Article 370. She urged the central government to introduce new legislation to address this pressing issue, saying, "We can no longer tolerate the atrocities against cows. Though the Modi government has taken significant

steps, the absence of cow protection laws in Jammu and Kashmir is a grave concern."

The rally also saw participation from other notable figures, including Sapna Hindu, Neha Malhotra, Sapna Kohli, Sunita Kundal, Rahul Pradhan, Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Suresh Kumar, Pawan Narang, Sanjeev Dubey, Sunny Kapi, Ajit Jogi, Pawan Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Saurabh Sharma, Ajay Kumar, and many others.

Movement Kalki announced plans to continue organizing awareness campaigns and rallies across the city until the cow is declared "National Mother Cow" and comprehensive protection laws are enacted. Additionally, the organization is committed to forming a 'Sanatan Board' to ensure the safety and sanctity of Sanatan temples and religious sites, marking a continued effort to uphold the values of Sanatan Dharma.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/**  
**DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMISSIONER/DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, DODA**  
**E-mail: dcdod-jk@nic.in Tele No. 1996-233230**

**Subject:** Verification of beneficiaries enrolled in the PDS database - reg.

### ORDER

Whereas, Vide Govt. Order No. 2129-JK (GAD) of 2024, dated: 24/12/2024, sanction has been accorded to the constitution of District Level Committee comprising of the following, for verification of beneficiaries enrolled in the PDS database:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| i. Deputy Commissioner.                 | Chairperson      |
| ii. Assistant Commissioner, Revenue     | Member           |
| iii. Assistant Commissioner Development | Member           |
| iv. District Social Welfare Officer     | Member           |
| v. Assistant Director FCS&CA.           | Member Secretary |

Whereas, vide this Office Order No.: DCD/PA-2/23/934-1034, dated: 19/12/2023, a pan-district exercise of weeding out of the ineligible households from the list of AAY/Priority/Non-priority/Exclusion category and incorporating of the eligible households in the list of AAY/Priority/Non-priority/Exclusion category under NFSA, 2013 has been carried out recently by Tehsil Level and Village Level Committees.

Now, for proper reverification of beneficiaries enrolled in the PDS database, the following committees are reconstituted with immediate effect:

#### A. Tehsil Level Committee:

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| i. Tehsildar.                       | Chairman         |
| ii. Block Development Officer*.     | Member           |
| iii. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer. | Member           |
| iv. Tehsil Supply Officer, CAPD.    | Member Secretary |
- (\* Executive Officer in Municipal Areas)

#### B. Village Level Committee:

- Patwari.
- Secretary Panchayat.
- Lumberdar.
- Chowkidar.
- FP Shop Dealer/Salesman.

The Tehsil Level Committees and Village Level Committees constituted above are directed to verify the work done earlier by the committees and ensure:

- Weeding out of ineligible beneficiaries from the database,
- Inclusion of left-out eligible beneficiaries, if any identified, in appropriate categories,
- Completion of eKYC of all pending beneficiaries.

The Committees shall submit a report in this regard within a period of two weeks to this Office. However, the committees shall ensure that the targets/ceilings assigned to the district for inclusion of families/beneficiaries under different categories are taken care of and in no circumstances exceeded. Further, no splitting of existing ration cards should be done.

Pertinently, vide SO 389 (J&K Food Security Rules, 2021), dated: 16/11/2021, criteria for identification of Priority, Non-Priority & Exclusion category households under NFSA is as:

#### A): Criteria for Inclusion:

##### i) Urban Areas:

- All Antyodaya Anna Yojana families;
- Households without shelter;
- Households with destitute person who is living on alms;
- Household headed by a widow or a single woman (unmarried/separated/deserted);
- Households headed by differently-abled persons or Individual having disability of above forty percent or terminally ill;
- Transgender person;
- A household headed by Minor or orphan;
- Households dependent on daily wage labour;
- Household with old persons, aged sixty years or above with no regular income, support or no assured means of subsistence;
- If all earning adult members in a household are irregular wagers, then that household shall be included; and
- Other vulnerable households such as slum dwellers, rag pickers, unskilled Workers, Shikara walas, Pony walas, domestic workers, Sweepers, etc.

##### ii) For Rural Areas:

- All Antyodaya Anna Yojana families;
- Households without shelter;
- Households with destitute person who is living on alms;
- Household headed by a widow or a single woman (unmarried/separated/deserted);
- Households headed by differently-abled persons or Individual having disability of above forty percent or terminally ill;

##### (f) Transgender person;

- A household headed by Minor or orphan;
- Household with old persons, aged sixty years or above with no regular income, support or no assured means of subsistence;
- Households dependent on agricultural labourers;
- Tribal Households with no regular source of income; and
- Other vulnerable households such as Shikara walas, Pony walas, potters, cobblers, domestic workers, Sweepers, etc.

#### B): Criteria for Exclusion:

- Households with at least one member as income or professional tax payer,
- Businessmen having business turnover of Rs. 25 lacs per year,
- Persons having land holding above 10 kanals in case of individuals and 20 kanals in case of joint family in urban areas. In rural areas the same shall be 30 kanals & 50 kanals respectively (All based on self-declarations);
- All gazetted officers or equivalent rank in corporations, boards, PSUs etc;
- All persons holding constitutional authority/positions; and
- Any household having annual family income of more than Five lacs.

All the households, who are not included in either of the above criteria groups, shall be included in Non-Priority Category.

Additional Deputy Commissioners Doda/Bhaderwah and Sub-Divisional Magistrates Assar, Thathri and Gandoh shall ensure the implementation and monitoring of the verifying process in their respective jurisdictions. Additional District Development Commissioner, Doda and in his absence, Additional Dy. Commissioner, Doda shall be Nodal Officer for the above verification process.

**No: DCD/PA-02/24/**  
**Dated: 02-01-2025**

**DIP/J-8952/24**  
**Date: 4-1-25**

**Sd/-**  
**(Harvinder Singh), IAS**  
**District Development Commissioner**  
**Doda**

## EDITORIAL

## Celebrating Guru Gobind Singh's Prakash Parav—A Beacon of Courage, Equality, and Spiritual Wisdom

Every year, the Prakash Parav of Guru Gobind Singh Ji provides an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of one of Sikhism's most profound spiritual leaders. The tenth Guru of the Sikhs, born on January 5, 1666, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was not merely a religious figure but also a warrior, poet, and philosopher who reshaped the Sikh faith and sowed the seeds of egalitarianism and courage in society.

Guru Gobind Singh's establishment of the Khalsa Panth in 1699 was a watershed moment in history. By creating a community of baptized Sikhs bound by principles of equality, service, and valor, he transcended societal barriers of caste, creed, and gender. The initiation of the Panj Pyare (the Five Beloved Ones) symbolized a radical reimagining of social structure where humility and selflessness reigned supreme.

In his wisdom, Guru Gobind Singh also institutionalized the principles of leadership and equality by bestowing the Sikh Guruship to the Guru Granth Sahib, emphasizing that divine guidance resides in scripture and community rather than in individuals. This act safeguarded the spiritual foundation of Sikhism while fostering collective responsibility.

Guru Gobind Singh's life was a testament to resilience and sacrifice. At a time when oppression and tyranny were rampant, he stood unwavering against injustice. His battles were not mere conflicts of arms but campaigns to protect human rights, dignity, and freedom of religion. His teachings remain a powerful reminder that spiritual depth must coexist with moral courage and activism.

The Guru's life was also marked by profound personal sacrifices. He lost all four of his sons and his mother to Mughal persecution, yet his spirit remained unbroken. Instead of succumbing to despair, he channeled his grief into reinforcing his mission for justice and universal brotherhood.

Beyond his martial prowess, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a literary genius. He composed inspiring works like the Jaap Sahib and Zafarnama, blending spiritual wisdom with an unyielding commitment to truth and righteousness. His writings continue to inspire millions, bridging the temporal and the eternal, urging individuals to rise above petty divisions and embrace a higher purpose.

The teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji resonate profoundly in today's world, where divisions based on race, religion, and social status still persist. His vision of a harmonious, inclusive society—one where the sword is wielded only in the defense of the oppressed—is as relevant now as it was in his time. In an age of materialism and moral ambiguity, his life serves as a guiding light, emphasizing the importance of righteousness, service, and spiritual discipline.

As we celebrate the Prakash Parav, let us not merely commemorate the life of Guru Gobind Singh Ji but also imbibe his teachings in our daily lives. Let us pledge to uphold the ideals of justice, equality, and compassion, and strive for a world that mirrors his vision of universal brotherhood.

In the words of the Guru himself: "When all means of redressing a wrong fail, it is righteous to raise the sword." This call to action is not just a call to arms but a deeper reminder that we must be active participants in the fight for truth and justice.

May the light of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's teachings continue to guide us towards a brighter, more equitable future.



OMKAR DATATRAY

The 358th Prakash Utsav of the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji is being celebrated on 6th January 2025 with great devotion, dedication, pomp and show and enthusiasm by the Sikh community in particular and others in general. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti marks the auspicious day where Sikhs celebrate the birthday of the 10th Guru -Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti also spelled as Govind Singh Jayanti is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs. It is a religious celebration in which prayers for prosperity are offered. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. Guru Gobind Singh is the founder and creator of Khalsa. The day is celebrated on the month of January or December. Guru

Gobind Singh's birthday is being observed on 17th January 2024, Wednesday. There is great significance of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti. Guru Gobind Singh is best known for rising against the Mughal rulers and safeguarding the interests of people from invaders. He was a benevolent man who preached justice, peace, and equality for all. He lived the life of a saint and inspired millions of Sikhs with his writings that depict the way he led his life. He had strict principles, which he and his followers followed and still follow religiously. The basic norms included not obliging to the prevalent caste system and superstitions, they believed in one God and they followed the 5K's-Kangha (comb), Kesh (uncut hair), Kacchera (undergarment), Kara (bracelet) and Karpan (sword). Before his passing, Guru asked Sikhs to consider Guru Granth as the primary text. His teachings and preaching inspired many. His lifelong battle against the plundering Mughals ensured the survival of Sikhism. The day is celebrated all over India, predominantly within the Sikh community. On this auspicious occasion people pray for the prosperity and well being of fellow people. Reading and listening

sessions of Guru Gobind's poetry is a common practice on this day. Discussions on Guru Gobind's life also take place in Sikh communities spread all over the world. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on saptamithi of shuklapaksha in Pausha month. It will be the 358th birth anniversary of the great guru. People celebrate this day and greet each other, spread his teachings and message to all. The devotees visit Gurudwaras and all Gurudwaras are decorated with illuminations of lights, candles and diyas. As per Hindu calendar Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on SaptmīTithi of ShkulaPaksha 1723 Samvat in the month of Pausha. According to the Julian Calendar, he was born on December 22, 1666 in Bihar Patna. The Julian Calendar is obsolete and no one uses it at the present time. Guru Gobind Singh's father was Guru TeghBahadur who was killed by Aurangzeb. Guru Gobind Singh's mother's name was Mata Gujri. Aurangzeb beheaded his father, Guru TeghBahadur for not accepting Islam in the year 1675. In 1676, Guru Gobind Singh was declared the tenth Guru of Sikhs on the day of Baisakhi when he was only nine years old. The place where Guru Gobind Singh was born is

now TakhatShriHarminder Ji Patna Sahib. In 1670, his family again moved to Punjab. In March 1672, his family moved to a place called ChakNanaki, located in the Shivalik Hills of the Himalayas. ChakNanaki is now called Anandpur Sahib where he took his education. He took Persian, Sanskrit lessons and learned military skills to become a warrior. Later, Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the KhalsaPanth. Khalsa strictly followed a spiritual discipline under the supervision and guidance of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. People fearlessly fought against Mughal rulers. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a great poet and writer who has written several literature. He announced the Guru Granth Sahib as the permanent Sikh Guru prior to his death in the year 1708 and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is a holy scripture of Sikhs. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is celebrated across the world where Sikh community people lives. Not only Sikhs but everyone celebrates this day by visiting Gurudwaras and spread his teachings to everyone. People extend their greetings to each other. Distribute Langars to all. All Gurudwaras are decorated with lights and candles. Guru Nanak Vani is also

narrated at some places. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is an auspicious day among the Sikh community and is celebrated every year with great fanfare and enthusiasm. The auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is also known as the PrakashParv of the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It is the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and falls every year in December or January. On this day, devotees from all over the world send best wishes to one another and vow to follow the teachings and path of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The day is observed in honor and remembrance of the great warrior, poet, philosopher, and above all a spiritual master. According to DrikPanchang, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on PaushSkuklaSaptami. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, born as GobindRai, was the tenth Sikh Guru, a spiritual leader, warrior, poet and a philosopher. He formally became the leader and protector of the Sikhs at the tender age of nine after his father, Guru TeghBahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was killed by Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a great warrior. He was known for his inclination towards poetry and his philosophies and writings he stood

by. He refused to answer the Mughal invaders and fought alongside the Khalsa to protect his people. Under his guidance, his followers adhered to a strict code. His philosophies, writings and poetry inspire people to this day. To celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Sikhs around the world visit Gurudwaras, where prayer meetings take place in honor of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. People participate in processions organized by the Gurudwaras, hold kirtans, and also do seva—a significant part of Sikh religion—for the community. Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding a Sikh warrior community called Khalsa in 1699 and introducing the five K's, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear all times. Guru Gobind Singh is credited with Dasam-Granth whose hymns are a sacred part of Sikh prayers and Khalsa rituals. To conclude it can be said that millions of people across the world are inspired by the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his birth anniversary is celebrated with gaiety all over the world where Sikh community lives and also by others.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist and freelancer

## Fading Culture of Reading Books In School Library



BY MOOL RAJ

Let me start this with beautiful couplet of Francis Beacon that "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. Reading books broadens the mental horizon of an individual. Reading provides you with an abundance of knowledge about past, solutions for present and ideas for future. It develops and enlightens thinking, reasoning and cognitive powers. Reading helps to know the reality of a thing. No one can rule out the importance of reading which actually shows us the right path. Reading is good because it improves ones focus and memory. It can also develop vocabulary and communication. Reading books,

magazines, newspapers journals etc develops memory and knowledge. Reading can allows you to learn new things and develop relationship.

Reading books can reduce stress and improves mental health. The most important benefit of reading books is learning. It has been observed that reading books can stimulate the network of circuits and signals of the brain. Books provide some of the most engaging entertainment on this planet. The another benefit of reading books is that they can improve our ability to empathise with others.

Reading books whether in schools, colleges and universities has been fading with each passing day. Its importance is gradually reducing due to the technological advancement. Technology have completely eliminated the culture of reading books. However there are profound benefits of reading books, storybooks, novels, poetry etc. Looking in the schools and colleges stu-

dents hardly spent their leisure time in school library to enhance their knowledge. If we take an example of school across the state there may hardly be few schools where students may spend their time in reading books, but the majority of the schools either don't have library or most students don't want spend time in reading books. Reading books have immense benefits in terms of its psychological and intellectual. Every book you read offers you the endless opportunities of exploring new ideas.

In the contemporary times we have seen the fading culture of reading books especially among adults, they spent much time in browsing and video games rather than reading books. In schools and colleges the students took much time in playing games and sports and thin number of students enter into the school library to avail the benefits of reading books, magazines and newspapers. We must set a type of environment in our

school where student visit to the libraries. It is actually the prime responsibility of the stakeholders to prepare a system for reading, discussing at every school level, so that the students come to know the benefit. Those who frequently visit the school library will definitely avail the lot of benefit. It is the responsibility of stakeholders to upgrade their school libraries so that students may get the habit of reading it. Science and technology has eliminated everything, reading books for hours has been an obsolete act. There are so many reasons that could be held responsible for declining reading culture amongst the youth would be phone addiction.

Reading, no doubt is a wonderful habit improves language and increases knowledge, critical thinking, Imagination, clear perspective etc. However we are living in an era which is described as an age of science and technology, internet, an era electronic and technological gadgets. It has been observed that

people or students prefer to watch videos, lectures, online classes rather than turning the pages of a book. Earlier the book lovers would be holding the book in the hand now it is mobile which is in the hand once you scroll you would get bluck of information. Present age is the age of internet and smartphones and excessive use of this has greatly impacted on book reading.

In Schools the students don't even get time to visit the library because of their heavy and leisure less timetable. Those at the helm of affairs must look into it. They feel it very troublesome, they should have been given the separate time to visit the library and learn the stories, study novels, poetry etc. beyond their prescribed syllabus. The habit of reading which was once considered as a source of great enjoyment has now been considered as an obsolete as media and entertainment industry has come up with various shows that have glued the audience with

screen. There are also some schools where the school library is not available, and some schools don't have space to keep their books for reading purposes. Finally we can say that reading books is now a days decreasing with an increasing rate. Schools must create an atmosphere among the students to visit school library, discuss the issues, problems they face while during the course. Those who spend much time in the library can definitely achieve his or her goal. But it also the responsibility of the stakeholders to update their school libraries to meet the demands of the students. The school plays a major role in developing interest among students for reading. Children should be encouraged to take library classes seriously and it should be made sure that they are reading not passing time in gossips with their friends.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

## Dalal Street ends 2024 on a bearish note: Rs 9.65 trillion investor wealth eroded

HIMA BINDU KOTA

The absence of new year cheer was evident as Dalal Street continued crashing in the last week of December leading to 2025, in the process eroding investors' wealth to the tune of Rs 9.65 trillion as Sensex tanked by 2,915 points. The bear run at a time when the market was already grappling with thin year-end volumes was made worse by a weakening rupee as it slid towards the 86-per-dollar mark. This further dampened the appeal of Indian equities for foreign institutional investors (FIIs) leading to robust FII outflows.

The prevalence of this phenomenon was worldwide with Japan's Nikkei 225, China's Shanghai Composite, Australia's ASX 200, Germany's DAX, France's CAC 40 and NASDAQ Composite showing similar bearish senti-

ments. The current stock market meltdown is influenced by several factors.

Not only in India, but global markets are witnessing this trend particularly due to profit-taking, and tax-loss harvesting focussing on year-end tax strategies, giving a miss to the traditional 'Santa Claus rally'. Institutional and retail investors alike booked profits and rebalanced their portfolios, particularly in large-cap stocks which posted strong growth in 2024, leading to selling pressure across the board and a broad-based correction.

As economic interlinkages of India with the world have deepened, so has the integration with global stock markets. The uncertain global economic conditions, particularly in countries like the United States, coupled with fears of a global recession fuelled by weak manufacturing data from China,

have dampened investor sentiment both worldwide and in India.

A decline in the demand for Indian exports, mainly in the IT and manufacturing sectors further led to the market's downward spiral. Geopolitical tensions including regional wars, ambiguous crude oil prices and subsequent disruptions in supply chains have impacted the markets and sector-specific tragedies like the Jeju Air crash in South Korea contributed to the overall bearish sentiment.

Weaker than expected third quarterly results, particularly in the banking and consumer goods sector, dampened the confidence displayed by the markets due to the resilient first two quarters showed by the Indian economy. This reduced the conviction further as the banking and consumer goods sectors were considered growth engines since



the beginning of the year. Stock market valuations in India and around the globe were elevated in 2024. In India, the higher valuations were fuelled by strong domestic economic growth and robust corporate earnings, leading to sustained investor confidence.

Several companies ranging across industries were trading at premium P/E ratios, like Infosys (28-30x); HUL (55x); Bajaj Finance (40x); and Zomato (10-12x) to name a few. However, since the question of sustaining the overvalued stocks in the backdrop of weak quarterly earnings is difficult, it

led to the year-end market corrections that we are experiencing at the end of December 2024.

Although the aggressive monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India was able to combat inflation during the year, high interest rates negatively affected the borrowing costs of businesses and

retail investors.

This led to increased interest in investments in fixed-income securities instead of finding equity markets attractive. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) who were attracted to the Indian growth story and wanted to be its integral part also turned into net sellers in December 2024. A risk-averse stance and a strong USD value made emerging nations like India less attractive during the year-end, leading to capital outflows, which in turn led to a weakening rupee again. Overall, the bearish stock market sentiment in December 2024 was a combination of year-end profit-taking strategies, global economic outlook, high stock valuation concerns, weak sectoral performance and outlook and several international events. However, all is not bleak. These fluctuations are a part of the larger eco-

nomical cycle and the markets will see an upward cycle with a long-term focus on the fundamentals and relevant steps at the policy level. The resilient Indian economy and its economic growth will be the key driver for renewed opportunities for growth and investment in 2025.

This economic growth will be supported by increased investments in infrastructure, boosting the manufacturing environment to improve the industrial output, a burgeoning middle class and a revival of the rural economy may increase the demand for automobiles, FMCG and consumer durables in 2025. In addition, India's rapidly growing digital economy will continue to support new-age companies and sectors.

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal)

## Govt hospitals in rural areas lack sanitation, medical facilities: Rajesh Kesri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ARNIA, JAN 5

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri Sunday claimed that lack of basic medical facilities and poor sanitation conditions in the government hospitals across J&K have added to the adversities of ailing patients during party leaders meeting in Arnia today. He particularly highlighted lack of facilities in Arnia Block, there are nearly 100 villages and only hospital in Arnia Block lacks facilities to care these villages patients when hospital has only four patient rooms.

Highlighting challenges, Kesri said that this hospital lacks specialized departments and equipment, making it difficult for patients to receive timely and appropriate care. He said outdated or insufficient infrastructure, such as old buildings, inadequate lighting, and insufficient sanitation facilities, compromise patient care and safety. The hospital struggles to attract and retain medical professionals, leading to staffing shortages and increased workload for



remaining staff and also lacks advanced diagnostic equipment, such as MRI or CT scanners, making it difficult to accurately diagnose and treat patients besides no emergency services, including ambulance services, emergency rooms and trauma care, added Kesri.

Kesri said on the other hand, patients and attendants have to bear the brunt of lack of basic medical facilities and sanitation. J&K faces a severe shortage of hospitals, particularly in rural areas, with only 0.9 hospital beds per 1,000 people—and just 30% of these beds are in rural regions. The quality of care varies widely, with inadequate regulation leading to substandard care in some private facilities, added Kesri.

To revitalize healthcare

in JK, Kesri demanded immediate upgrade of existing healthcare facilities is critical. NTPHCs should be upgraded to Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) and equipped with modern medical technology, including MRI scanners, mammography units, CT scanners, cardiac monitors, laparoscopic surgery setups, neonatal incubators, dialysis machines, physiotherapy centers, and blood bank refrigerators, said Kesri.

Kesri further said that existing Sub-District Hospitals should be strengthened to manage more complex medical cases, ensuring timely and effective treatment for the local population. SDHs should be equipped with round the clock consultant facilities in medicine and surgery to effectively manage

emergencies. Ensuring 24/7 availability of specialized care at these hospitals is essential for timely and efficient treatment, especially in critical situations.

Establishing mobile health clinics can provide essential services, including vaccinations, health screenings, and basic medical care, to remote areas. Implementing programs to train and retain healthcare professionals in rural areas can help address staffing shortages, said Kesri. These are just a few potential solutions to address the lack of facilities in the main hospital in Arnia Block.

A comprehensive approach that involves government support, community engagement, and innovative solutions can help improve access to quality healthcare in rural areas, remarked Kesri. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Saini, Rajkumar Baba, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Bhushan Kumar, Rajendra Kumar, Dakshin Devi, Geeta Devi, Pooja Devi, Anita Devi besides others.

## Day 3: NSS Camp celebrates wellness, creativity, and cultural unity

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

NSS National Integration Camp continued its vibrant journey on day 3, showcasing a blend of wellness, sports, creativity and cultural exchange. The day began with a refreshing morning yoga session on the theme 'Finding inner peace and harmony' where participants engage in mindfulness and physical well-being under the able guidance of Dr. Vijendra Kumar, HOD Sanskrit and Zumba Session conducted by Zumba instructor Ms. Kritika Sharma. This session was not just about fitness but also aimed to promote mental clarity and relaxation among the contingents at GCW Gandhinagar. Following the invigorating yoga, participants gathered for a hearty breakfast, fueling them for the exciting activities ahead.

In the sports arena at GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu, the NSS camp burst with energy as participants showcased their skills in Badminton and Table-Tennis. These games not only promoted physical fitness but also fostered teamwork, sportsmanship and healthy competition bringing together participants from diverse background. In Badminton 8 contingents successfully qualified for the quarterfinals and in Table Tennis competition



4 contingents qualified for the semifinals. The final matches will be held tomorrow

The creative spirit of the camp shown through in the Poetry writing on 'Her story, Her glory (uski kahani, uski shaan)' and Essay writing competition on 'Wings of Freedom-A Women's Journey' held later in the day. Participants were encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings which displayed a remarkable depth of creativity and emotional resonance, reflecting the participant's experiences and aspiration. PO's from Delhi, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Ladhak and Uttarakhand were the Jury members.

In this competition victorious contingent were awarded with certificates.

The afternoon was dedicated to enriching academic sessions. In the first academic session, Dr. Gurpreet Kour, NSS Program Officer, GCW Parade, Jammu was the resource person. She awarded the contingents about various features of 'My Bharat portal'. The second academic session was led by Dr. Amita Gupta renowned gynaecologist. She focused on health and menstrual hygiene as critical aspects for women's overall well-being, as they are overlooked in public health discussions. By prioritizing menstrual hygiene and providing comprehensive

health education, society can help to improve the health outcomes for women and girls. As dusk approached, the cultural evening at GCW Gandhinagar, Jammu where contingents of jk04, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mizoram embraced the stage with traditional dances, music and theatrical performances.

Day 3 of the NSS NIC camp was not just a series of events but a journey of connection, learning and celebration of multiculturalism. The NSS continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing the spirit of service, unity and understanding among India's youth.

## 132nd Birth Anniversary of Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda celebrated at Yogoda Satsanga Dhyana Kendra, Udheywala



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

The celebrations of the 132nd Birth Anniversary of Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda (1893-1952), author of the spiritual classic "Autobiography of a Yogi", and the centenary of the Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS) took place on 5th Jan at Yogoda Satsanga Dhyana Kendra, Paramahansa Yogananda Path Udheywala Jammu. A capacity audience of 500 attended the event.

He began with a short slide introduction on the life history of Paramahansa Yogananda, including founding YSS and his world mission. Paramahansa Yogananda had founded YSS in 1917, in a humble hut in Dihika, West Bengal. Today it has grown to a worldwide organization with thriving monastic communities and a vibrant worldwide network of practitioners of Yogananda's teachings. In India alone, YSS has over 200 meditation centers and 4 ashrams. Swamiji then gave an inspiring talk on 'Kriya Yoga - An ancient science for the modern age', which explained that exists a higher reality beyond the world of the senses, if we but know how to tune into it.

Our ordinary consciousness, which is engrossed with the world of matter, lends it a seeming realism. However, this higher reality of God as the Self can be experienced through the practice of scientific techniques of meditation. He said Yogananda brought to the world various techniques; such as those for recharging the body battery with Cosmic

life force, to calm the restless breath and mind, to expand one's consciousness by Kriya Yoga. Kriya Yoga, he mentioned, is an ancient science of calming the sensory tumult of the lungs and heart (amongst other benefits) to enable the practitioner to experience the transcendental reality.

This technique is also referred to by Bhagavan Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita and came from India's higher age. Swamiji then stressed the need to make time for meditation all the while performing our duties and obligations in the world. By making time to meditate and feeling God's infinite succour, one feels confident and enthusiastic to deal with life's experiences and thereby live to one's fullest potential. Guided meditation followed the talk in which Swamiji explained simple methods to calm the restless breath and mind. He then led a specific service with the audience to pray for their loved ones and world brotherhood. The audience participated enthusiastically and several members of the public mentioned they felt the beneficial after effects of the meditation and prayers.

Dear Gurudev Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda often used to say that the highest aim of human life is to find God. Everything else can wait but not the search for God. Yoganandaji was born on 5 January 1893 in Gorakhpur to devout Bengali parents Gyanprabha and Bhagwati Charan Ghosh. His childhood name was Mukunda Lal Ghosh. When Gyanprabha went to her Guru

Lahiri Mahasaya with the infant Mukunda in her lap, the great saint blessed her and said, "Little mother, your son will be a yogi. Like a spiritual engine he will carry many souls into the Kingdom of God." In time this sacred prophecy proved to be true.

In childhood, Mukund used to pray and meditate deeply to Mother Kali. On one such occasion, he fell into a deep day-dream and a bright light flashed before his vision. They were astonished to see this divine light and asked, "What is this wonderful light?" He received a divine answer to this question, "I am God. I am light." Yoganandaji has described this supernatural experience in his book "Yogi Kathamrita", "That divine joy gradually diminished but I received from it a permanent inheritance of inspiration to search for Brahma."

In 1910, at the age of seventeen, he began his spiritual journey in search of God. This search took him to his revered Gurudev Swami Shri Yukteswarji. Under the loving but strict guidance of his guru, he embraced sacred sannyasa within the Swami tradition. He became famous by his monastic name Paramahansa Yogananda, which symbolizes the attainment of supreme bliss through union with God. He founded the Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS) in Ranchi in 1917 and the Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF) in Los Angeles in 1920. The primary objective of both these organizations is to spread the ancient spiritual science of "Kriya Yoga" meditation tech-

niques to realize the ultimate goal of life—that is, the unity of the soul with God. Aspiring practitioners can obtain these sacred teachings given by the great Gurudev himself in the form of home-study courses by requesting the Yogoda Satsang Ashrams.

While living in America, Yoganandaji made tireless efforts to spread the knowledge of the above mentioned Indian spiritual practices, which was highly welcomed and appreciated. Driven by his desire to share his discovery of God with everyone, he decided to write the most famous and excellent spiritual book, "Yogi Kathamrita", which has deeply influenced countless people all over the world and the book has been published in more than 50 Has been translated into languages.

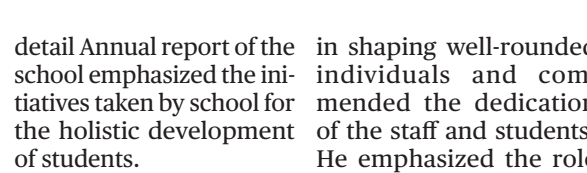
His overarching teachings have deeply influenced millions of people. His teachings cover a wide range of subjects and focus especially on the following: (1) "Kriyayoga" meditative science, which is an advanced technique of Rajayoga for raising human consciousness to higher levels of realization; (2) the profound unity existing in all true religions; and (3) ways to live a balanced life taking into account physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Pujya Jagadguru is now counted among the most influential messengers of ancient Indian teachings throughout the world. His life and teachings are an eternal source of inspiration and enthusiasm for people from all walks of life and from all races, cultures, and faiths.

## SHRD Public School Hosts 8th Annual day Function

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

SHRD Public School celebrated its 8th Annual Function with great fervor and excitement on January 4, 2025, at its campus in Mandal, Jammu. The event was marked by vibrant performances and enthusiastic participation from students, showcasing their diverse talents and creativity under the guidance and supervision of Chairman SHRD school, Sant Sri Hare Ram Das ji Maharaj who dedicated his life for the upliftment of weaker section.

The program began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing wisdom and prosperity, followed by a devotional invocation. Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta presented a



detail Annual report of the school emphasized the initiatives taken by school for the holistic development of students.

The Chief Guest, Shri Jugal Kishore Ji, Honorable Member of Parliament, lauded the school's efforts

graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries: Shri Vikram Randhawa Ji, (MLA Bahu Block); Shri Surinder Bhagat Ji, (MLA Marh Block); Shri Sat Sharma Ji, ( State President BJP); Shri Gangadhar Maharaj Ji; and Advocate Shri Abhinav Sharma Ji, (former president of BAR Association). Their encouraging words added great value to the occasion.

All dignitaries expressed their heartfelt appreciation to our Chairman Sant Sri Hare Ram Das ji Maharaj for revitalizing the heritage and significance of Sanskrit. They also extended their warm regards, commending the remarkable efforts of all the members of Sri Shiv Mandir Nyas Trust in spreading education while nurturing moral values in the lives of young learners.

## Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda partners with NDA to Provide Holistic Healthcare Services

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JAN 5

Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda Channi Himmat, Jammu a renowned wellness center in Jammu, has partnered with the Nations Development Association (NDA) in a strategic collaboration aimed at offering premium Ayurvedic healthcare services to NDA members and employees. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 05 Jan 2025 marking the beginning of this health-focused initiative that seeks to improve the overall well-being of the NDA community.

Representing Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda, Dr. Aishwarya Sawhney, Managing Director, along with Sushil Singh Charak, Founder & Chief Functionary of NDA, officially agreed on the terms of



the partnership. This collaboration aims to provide holistic health solutions through a range of Ayurvedic treatments and wellness programs tailored for NDA members and their volunteers.

Healthcare Access: NDA members will receive priority access to indoor and outdoor treatments, health check-ups, and emergency assistance at Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda. Dedicated Support: A

dedicated officer from Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda will be available to guide and support NDA members through the healthcare services offered.

Special Packages: NDA members and their volunteers will benefit from specially designed health check-up packages for Bones and Joints, Diabetes, Skin Diseases and Female Associated Diseases at discounted rates. This will be the first

The MoU was signed in the presence of Mukesh Gupta and Er. Ashu Kumar, prominent members of the NDA at Dr Aishwarya's Ayurveda Clinic Channi Himmat, who expressed their gratitude for this partnership that promises to bring long-term health benefits to the NDA community.

# PM Modi guarantees continuation of free welfare schemes in Delhi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

No existing public welfare scheme in Delhi will be withdrawn after BJP comes to power in Delhi, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, virtually guaranteeing the continuation of free water, power and bus travel for women offered by the current AAP government.

Addressing a rally after inaugurating a new section of a Metro corridor from Janakpuri West station, PM Modi slammed the ruling AAP for "spreading lies" about the future of the existing welfare schemes if the BJP comes to power in Delhi.

"When BJP comes to power in Delhi, no public welfare scheme will be withdrawn. Additionally, the corrupt middlemen and beneficiaries will be uprooted," said PM Modi, likening the AAP government and its rule to a disaster - 'AAPada'.

In the build-up to a high-voltage BJP-AAP fight in Assembly elections, PM Modi listed the



reasons why Delhi needs a BJP Chief Minister and assured voters of higher income, bigger savings, better schemes for women to help them run households with ease and better education and security for girls.

"I am confident Delhi residents will show the door to 'AAPada' people and allow the BJP to build a modern National Capital in the 21st Century," said PM Modi.

Encouraging the audience to repeat with him his new slogan, "Aapda nahin sahenge, badalke

rahenge", PM Modi was at his combative best as he pointed to a news report on CAG findings that confirmed corruption in the renovation of "Sheesh Mahal" or official residence of former CM Arvind Kejriwal.

"The biggest shocker is that when people were suffering from COVID-19, they were planning to indulge in wasteful expenditure and increase the budget for 'Sheesh Mahal' by three times," he said.

He lamented how public money was wasted in "Sheesh Mahal" for buying

a silk carpet for Rs 16 lakh, TV console for Rs 20 lakh and kitchen equipment for Rs 39 lakh.

The PM accused the AAP government of having doubtful "niyat" (intention) and lacking "nishtha" (devotion) towards people and said the time has come to remove the corrupt and elect BJP's honest candidates.

"AAPada people are fuming ever since I exposed them," he said, adding that Sheesh Mahal is an example of their dishonesty.

"Look at the level of decay they have pushed Delhi into. All seasons in Delhi have become 'AAPada-kaal' (disaster) for the people. In summer, there is a shortage of drinking water, during monsoon there is waterlogging and during winter people are left gasping for breath due to air pollution," he said.

Accusing the AAPada government of destroying the city's transport system, PM Modi said the Centre is trying to improve e-mobility by giving 1,200 e-buses but they have destroyed

the system due to poor maintenance.

"They also created hurdles in the distribution of 30,000 houses to the poor. We are regularising unauthorised colonies but they have failed to supply water and power to them," he said, adding that the Centre's attempts to introduce Ayushman Bharat Pradhanmantri Jan Arogya Yojana were also blocked by the AAP government.

With just a month left for polls in Delhi, PM Modi seems to be gearing up to shoulder the load of BJP's campaign in the city where the party has not won an Assembly election for 27 years.

Through his public rallies, PM Modi has constantly tried to expose the falsehood being spread by the ruling AAP, claiming that the AAPada people have been creating hurdles for the BJP in serving citizens. Delhi BJP sources indicated that more such rallies of PM Modi were lined up ahead of the Assembly elections for 70 seats scheduled around February.

# Cong should apologise to Hema Malini first: Bidhuri defends 'road like Priyanka's cheeks' remarks

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

Ramesh Bidhuri, the BJP candidate from Kalkaji Assembly constituency, who stoked controversy with his 'road like Priyanka's cheeks' remarks, issued a clarification on Sunday, stating that his intention was not to hurt anyone's feelings or sentiments. He however rejected Cong's demands for apology and sought to turn the tables on the Opposition by stating that it was they who first need to apologize for Lalu Yadav's comparison of Bihar's roads to Hema Malini's cheeks.

Defending his statement, Bidhuri pointed out that Lalu Yadav had made a similar comment about BJP leader Hema Malini years ago.

"Congress and AAP should first demand an apology from their INDIA bloc ally, Lalu Yadav, for his derogatory remarks against Hema Malini. Just because Priyanka Gandhi comes from a VIP family, she is treated differently.



Hema Malini, who comes from a general family, is no less deserving of respect," Bidhuri told reporters.

He further accused the Congress of hypocrisy and favouritism, stating, "Congress never speaks up for Hema Malini because she doesn't belong to a privileged family. They are only interested in dramatics to secure votes. The Nehru family has ruined the country over 70 years, and people now see through their tactics."

Reacting to Bidhuri's remarks, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete slammed the BJP, calling it an "anti-woman party" and labelling his comments as

"shameful" and a reflection of an "ugly mindset." She demanded that the BJP leader issues an apology to Priyanka Gandhi.

The controversy erupted over Bidhuri's recent comments about Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, where he said he would make the "roads of the constituency as smooth as Priyanka Gandhi's cheeks" if he won the upcoming Assembly elections.

Bidhuri has faced Opposition's criticism for his controversial remarks, earlier also. In 2023, he made communal comments against former BSP MP Danish Ali in Parliament, which led to widespread outrage from the Opposition. Though the remarks were later expunged, Bidhuri expressed regret over the incident.

The bitter verbal exchange between Congress and BJP over his fresh remarks, highlights the heightened tensions as campaigning intensifies ahead of the Assembly elections

# CM Stalin announces \$1 million prize for deciphering Indus Valley civilisation

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JAN 5

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has announced a prize of one million US dollars for archaeologists who can decipher and provide a coherent understanding of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

This announcement was made during the inaugural ceremony of the International Seminar on the Centenary of the Discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation, held at the Government Museum in Egmore on Sunday.

The three-day seminar has brought together renowned archaeologists, historians, and scholars from across the globe to discuss the civilisation's

significance and its connections with Tamil Nadu. In his keynote address, Chief Minister Stalin highlighted that approximately 60 per cent of the symbols found on Indus Valley pottery are identical to those discovered on artefacts unearthed during excavations in Tamil Nadu.

He emphasised that this striking similarity has sparked immense interest among scholars and could potentially unlock the mysteries of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

To further promote research in this field, the Chief Minister also announced a grant of Rs 2 crore to establish a research chair in the name of renowned archaeologist Iravatham Mahadevan.

This chair will facilitate in-depth studies on the Indus Valley Civilisation, with a particular focus on its ties to Tamil Nadu.

It may be noted that recent archaeological findings from Sivakalai in Tuticorin have brought researchers closer to establishing a definitive connection between Tamil Nadu and the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Dating of these finds places them between 2500 BCE and 3000 BCE.

Interestingly, the finds from Tamil Nadu suggest the presence of an Iron Age civilisation that ran parallel to the Indus Valley Civilisation, which spanned from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.

# Chhattisgarh CM shares update on Bastar encounter, vows action in journalist's murder

AGENCIES  
RAIPUR, JAN 5

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday praised the bravery of security forces in the ongoing battle against Maoists in the Bastar region, reacting to an encounter that led to the death of four Naxalites and one soldier.

"Our soldiers are fighting with great strength. Four Naxalites have been killed in this encounter, and we salute our soldiers for their bravery. Unfortunately, one of our soldiers has also been martyred in this operation. Our deepest condolences are with his family, and we pray to God to grant peace to his soul," the Chief Minister told newsmen.

"So far, 4 Naxalites have been reported killed in an



encounter between security forces and Naxalites in South Abujmad area bordering Narayanpur and Dantewada districts. Sad news has also been received about the martyrdom of DRG jawan, head constable Sannu Karam in the encounter. His sacrifice will not go in vain, the security forces are fighting very strongly against

Naxalims and this fight will continue," he wrote on X.

The Chief Minister also condemned the alleged murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar, whose body was discovered in a septic tank in Bastar on Friday.

The 32-year-old independent journalist went missing since New Year's Day, and his brother filed a

missing complaint the following day. Police investigations led to the recovery of his body from a shed owned by a contractor in Chhatan Para Basti, near his home in Bijapur.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai promised stern action against the culprits, stating, "The murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar is a very condemnable crime. The state government is taking all possible actions to investigate this heinous act. An SIT (Special Investigation Team) has been formed, and we will leave no stone unturned in this case."

He also reacted to accusations that one of the culprits, Suresh Chandrakar, a contractor, was closely associated with Deepak Bajji, the state Congress President.

"The contractor

involved is a Congress worker. We are continuously observing that hate goods are being sold in Congress's 'Mohabbat Ki Dukan' in the state. You will see that in many of the incidents in the past, such as in Baloda Bazar and Surajpur, someone from Congress has been involved," he said.

As of now, three individuals, including two relatives of Mukesh Chandrakar, have been arrested.

Ritesh Chandrakar, Mukesh's cousin, was apprehended at Raipur airport on Saturday. Mahendra Ramteke, a supervisor, and Dinesh Chandrakar, another relative, were also taken into custody from Bijapur. The alleged mastermind behind the murder, contractor Suresh Chandrakar, remains on the run.

# FAIRPOINT: PM MODI'S 'AAPDA' JIBE SHAKES DELHI POLITICS, MORE FOR KEJRIWAL'S AAP

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

No one could have believed that the word 'AAPda' (disaster) could create ripples in political circles. The word is only about destruction and sadness and has nothing to do with politics. But, suddenly in the election campaign for the Delhi Assembly polls, the word has assumed significance. AAPda may as well turn the tables in favour of one political entity and destroy others.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi, without directly naming the Aam Aadmi Party, criticised the AAP government in Delhi, vowing to remove AAPda, he set the stage and the tone for the BJP's election fight against Arvind Kejriwal's party. On January 3, during an event in the national capital, he said that over the last 10 years, an AAPda had befallen Delhi and the people have made up their minds to vote for the BJP in the Assembly polls so that this AAPda could be removed.



Politicians often use catchphrases or buzzwords, especially during election time to run down the opponent. And, in the Delhi Assembly election, which has to be conducted before February 15 when the current Assembly tenure ends, the AAPda seems to have created the right buzz for the BJP and taken a lead over others' ideas. The word has everything the BJP needs to sharply attack AAP and its national convener, former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. As per the BJP, the word rightly describes the situation that has been created by Kejriwal's politics in the national capital - that of AAPda for the people of Delhi.

PM Modi also offered justifications for using

the AAPda jibe, listing the AAP's "failed" promises and the ongoing corruption cases.

Taking a dig at the Delhi CM, PM Modi said, "I, too, could have built a 'sheesh Mahal' (glass palace) for myself, but my dream was to provide 'pucca' (concrete) houses to my fellow countrymen."

Kejriwal has been criticised for spending lavishly on refurbishing his official residence when he was the CM.

The Prime Minister first used the word, AAPda, while speaking at an event where he handed over the keys of newly constructed flats to the dwellers of clusters under the in-situ slum rehabilitation project at Swabhiman Apartments in Delhi's Ashok Vihar.

Without taking Kejriwal's name, PM Modi said that by keeping Anna Hazare on the front, some allegedly "kattar beimaan (staunchly dishonest)" people have pushed the national capital towards the AAPda.

The AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, quickly responded to PM Modi as soon as he ended his speech. Kejriwal said that for 39 minutes in his 43-minute speech, the PM "abused Delhi people and the government elected by them with a massive mandate". On the AAPda remark, Kejriwal said, "BJP is faced with 'aapda' as it has no CM face, narrative, issue for Delhi polls".

Though Kejriwal did react quickly, somehow it seemed less in intensity against the BJP's newest attack strategy.

The fact is that Kejriwal, who started his political career riding the wave created by Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, is an accused in graft cases. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI and has been on bail. The cases are going

on in the courts currently. Several of his cabinet colleagues, AAP MLAs and leaders have also landed in jail on various charges.

Apart from the corruption and crime cases, the Delhi AAP government has also been accused of not doing enough developmental work in the capital city and only indulging in fights and bickering with the Centre.

Kejriwal has also failed to deliver on most of the promises he made during his three stints as Delhi CM - whether it was about providing 24x7 drinking water supply for all, cleaning the Yamuna River, or establishing new colleges or universities among many others.

And the latest promises that he made have only added to his embarrassment. It was a bizarre situation where a Chief Minister announced schemes, and the government termed them "fraud". Kejriwal announced the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana' and 'Sanjeevani Yojana', the registration for which was to begin on December 23.

# Centre to roll out Rs 50 crore worth fisheries sector schemes for Northeast states tomorrow

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JAN 5

The Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh will inaugurate and lay the foundation for key projects amounting to about Rs 50 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) as part of the Centre's plan to promote a self-sustained fisheries sector in the Northeastern Region, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.

Certificates will be distributed, at the event to be held in Guwahati on Monday, to fisheries beneficiaries of the Northeast Region, including NFDP registration certificates, KCC cards, and awards for the Best FFPOs and Fisheries Startups.

The Centre's Department of Fisheries will also notify the Organic Fisheries Cluster in the Soreng district of Sikkim for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the State.

The organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim would offer a range of economic, environmental and social benefits and can position itself as a leader in sustainable aquaculture.

The meeting to review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana will be chaired by Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. The Ministers of Fisheries of the Northeast states and senior officials will participate in the meeting.

The event will include a technical session on "Issues and Challenges in Fisheries & Aquaculture in the Northeastern Region (NER)," presented by Dr J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General, ICAR (Fisheries). The session will focus on the specific challenges faced by the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the region, such as resource management, infrastructure limitations, market access issues, and

the impact of climate change. Dr Jena will also highlight potential solutions and innovative approaches suited to the region's unique ecological and socio-economic conditions, providing practical strategies to support the sustainable development and growth of these important sectors.

The meeting will serve as a crucial platform to accelerate the growth of fisheries and aquaculture in the Northeastern Region (NER).

It will also provide an opportunity to address regional challenges, share innovative solutions, and promote sustainable practices tailored to the region's unique aquatic resources.

The meet will enhance infrastructure, encourage advanced techniques, and strengthen market linkages, ultimately boosting productivity, creating employment, and driving economic growth in the region.

# At least 184 killed in Israeli airstrikes, shelling on Gaza in three days: Hamas

AGENCIES  
GAZA, JAN 5

The Hamas-run Gaza media office said that the Israeli army carried out 94 airstrikes and shelling on the Gaza Strip over the past 72 hours, killing 184 people.

In its statement, the office on Saturday described the escalation as "dangerous and brutal," targeting unarmed civilians and residential areas, particularly in Gaza City.

It added that many of the victims, either killed or injured, remained trapped under rubble, with damaged infrastructure obstructing their recovery and access to hospitals, Xinhua news



agency reported.

Palestinian Civil Defence officials in Gaza confirmed that Israeli airstrikes had intensified violently over the past three days, which local residents have described as an extraordinarily difficult period.

The statement held the Israeli army fully respon-

sible for these "horrific crimes" and also criticised the US administration for providing Israel with weapons and political support.

It called on the international community and the UN Security Council to uphold their legal and moral obligations by dispatching indepen-

dent investigative teams to document these "heinous crimes" and ensure accountability for the perpetrators.

The intensified Israeli airstrikes on Gaza began Thursday morning after Defence Minister Israel Katz warned on Wednesday of using "unprecedented force" if Hamas did not release hostages and cease firing rockets at Israel.

Negotiations mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the US are stalled over key issues, including the continuation of the ceasefire, Xinhua news agency reported.

Hamas seeks to prolong the truce, while Israel insists on the right to resume military action if it

perceives a security threat. Another point of contention is Hamas's demand for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, which Israel opposes, asserting the need for a continued military presence to maintain security control.

Since the outbreak of hostilities on October 7, 2023, Israel has been engaged in a large-scale military campaign against Hamas in Gaza, which, according to Gaza's health authorities, has resulted in over 45,000 Palestinian deaths.

The war was triggered by a Hamas attack on southern Israel that killed over 1,200 Israelis and led to the abduction of roughly 250 hostages.

# New York imposes first ever congestion pricing plan in US

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, JAN 5

A congestion pricing plan covering Lower and Midtown Manhattan took effect on Sunday, making New York City the first US city to implement such a plan.

Vehicles will be tolled to enter the congestion relief zone with the amount depending on the type of vehicle, time of day, whether any crossing credits apply, and the method of payment with discounts and exemptions applicable to certain drivers or vehicles, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) said.

Passenger and small commercial vehicles, trucks, buses, and motorcycles entering the con-

gestion relief zone will be charged once per day while passengers of taxis and for-hire vehicles will be charged for each trip to, from, within, or through the congestion relief zone.

The tolls would be adjusted upward in 2028 and 2031 as regulators phase out 40 per cent of discounts offered at the beginning.

It's estimated that the congestion pricing plan would drive down the number of vehicles entering the congestion relief zone and vehicle miles in the zone by 10 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

The MTA is expected to add \$1 billion of revenues each year to fund its capital spending plan of as

much as \$15 billion.

Controversy around the congestion plan has led to multiple lawsuits in New York and New Jersey, but opponents failed to block the implementation, Xinhua news agency reported.

The concept gained traction in New York for a brief period in 2007 when then-Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg introduced a congestion-pricing initiative, which ultimately failed to advance in the State Legislature.

A decade later, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo revisited the proposal in response to a crisis affecting subway services.

The tolling plan was ultimately approved as part of the state budget in 2019.

# Heavy snow blankets South Korea's wider Seoul, eastern region

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, JAN 5

Thick snow hit South Korea's wider Seoul area and the eastern region of Gangwon on Sunday, prompting authorities to raise the weather alert and brace for possible disruptions, officials said, but no major damage was reported.

Seoul had received around 6 centimetres of snow in some areas as of noon, with some 5,245 personnel and 1,439 pieces of equipment mobilised to clear roads, according to the Seoul metropolitan government.

The city government, however, said no major damage has occurred. A heavy snow alert was lifted at 12.30 p.m.

In Gyeonggi Province, which surrounds Seoul, some northern cities received around 10 cm of snow, with the border town of Paju receiving some 12 cm of snow as of 3 p.m. Heavy snow alerts in the province were lifted after 1 p.m.

In Gangwon Province, officials cordoned off the entrance of some 25 trekking routes at national parks for visitor safety, while a morning flight from Wonju to the southern resort island of Jeju was cancelled.

As of 3.30 p.m., most heavy snow alerts had been lifted across the nation, excluding the mountain areas of Jeju, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA).

The KMA earlier forecast Seoul to receive up to 8 centimetres of snow through Monday, with Gyeonggi and Gangwon provinces to see as much as 10 cm in the same period, Yonhap news agency reported.

The Ministry of Interior and Safety said it had activated the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters at Level 1 and raised the crisis alert to "caution" from "attention" as of 8 a.m.

Acting Interior Minister Ko Ki-dong instructed relevant agencies to mobilise all personnel and equipment to minimize damage from heavy snowfall and implement measures to reduce public inconvenience, such as traffic congestion.

# South Korea: Yoon seeks probe into CIO chief, police officers over attempt to execute warrant for his detention

AGENCIES  
SEOUL, JAN 5

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol's lawyer said on Sunday that he will file a complaint with the prosecution this week seeking an investigation into the chief of South Korea's anti-corruption agency handling Yoon's martial law case and other police officers for attempting to execute a warrant to detain Yoon.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) unsuccessfully attempted to execute the court warrant for Yoon's detention on Friday, engaging in a standoff with the Presidential Security Service that ended after six hours as the CIO decided to with-



draw its officials, citing safety concerns.

Yun Gap-geun, Yoon's defence attorney, said in a statement to the media that his team will lodge the complaint Monday against some 150 law enforcement officials, including CIO chief Oh Dong-woon, Yonhap news agency reported.

"They will be looking at

charges of obstruction of justice, illegal entry into buildings and violations of military facility protection laws," Yun said.

The 150 individuals include senior prosecutors at the CIO, acting National Police Agency Commissioner-General Lee Ho-young and acting Defence Minister Kim Seon-ho.

Yoon's legal team accused them of mobilising police special forces to execute the court warrant, although they do not have the legal authority to control police.

Some staff members of the Presidential Security Service were injured while preventing the investigation team from entering the military security facility by breaking through the main gate of Yoon's residence, it said.

Yoon's side also argued that the police and defence ministry neglected their duties by defying the requests from the presidential security and acting President Choi Sang-mok to ramp up security around Yoon's residence compound.

"Failure to comply with orders is a serious matter that undermines the foundation of the presidential security system vital to national security," it said. "We seek to hold those who committed illegal acts fully accountable under the relevant laws."

Investigators were expected to make another attempt to carry out the court warrant to detain the impeached president as early as Sunday afternoon.

The CIO has only until the end of Monday to execute the warrant, based on which it can either decide to file a court warrant for Yoon's formal arrest or release him.

Yoon has not complied with the investigation, arguing the CIO lacks legal authority to investigate the case.

# Ethiopia earns over \$216 million from horticulture exports

AGENCIES  
ADDIS ABABA, JAN 5

Ethiopia has earned more than \$216 million from exports of horticultural commodities during the first five months of the current fiscal year, the country's Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration has disclosed.

The East African country exported 39,225 tonnes of flowers to the international market, earning over \$186 million during the first five months of the current Ethiopian 2024/2025 fiscal year, which started on July 8. Flower exports secured the largest share of the total revenue generated from the export of horticultural commodities during the reported period, the ministry disclosed in a statement issued on Friday.



The country also exported 71,305 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to the international market, generating more than \$30 million.

The ministry said the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom are the top three destinations for vegetable exports.

According to recent data from the ministry, Ethiopia has generated some \$2.63 billion in export revenue during the first five months of the current fiscal year amid strong performance in major agricultural export commodities, Xinhua news agency reported.

Horticulture is a field

of agriculture that encompasses the science and technology of production, improvement and consumption of crops, which includes vegetables, fruits, spices, condiments, herbs, aromatic and ornamental plants.

To obtain desirable agricultural outputs, these crops require immense care, attention and protection at various stages of planting, growing, harvesting, packaging, storing and processing. Plants are affected by various types of diseases such as viral, bacterial and fungal, which are responsible for massive losses and reductions in agricultural production.

As fruits and vegetables furnish us with essential nutrients to fulfil our daily energy requirements, control and management

of plant nutrition and diseases have been a subject of great interest for many years. To reduce and avoid huge economic losses, control of pathogens and improvement of new varieties of crops that are resistant to diseases have been vastly undertaken through the application of genetic engineering techniques, chemical pesticides and insecticides.

These are needed to boost growth, and immunity and prevent ailments among horticultural crops. These agrochemicals are low-cost, have a broad spectrum of action, and are easy to apply. This has led to improved plant defences and a drastic reduction of endemic diseases, resulting in the generation of higher yields contributing to economic development.

# Egypt, Lebanon urge non-interference in Syria's transition

AGENCIES  
CAIRO, JAN 5

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held phone talks with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib, during which they urged a political transition in Syria free from foreign interference.

The two ministers emphasised the importance of supporting the will of the Syrian people, preserving Syria's resources, unity, and territorial integrity, as well as the necessity of a purely Syrian-led political transition process "without foreign dictations," said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in a statement.

In the phone talks, the two sides also discussed



the need for presidential elections in Lebanon, a country that has been without a president since early November 2022 due to political division in the parliament, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the Egyptian ministry.

Abdelatty stressed the importance of reaching a national consensus to end the presidential vacuum in Lebanon "without any foreign interference," it said.

The phone talks came hours after Egypt dispatched its first relief

plane to Syria after the fall of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government in early December 2024. Earlier Egypt dispatched a relief plane to Syria's capital Damascus, the first since the fall of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government early last month.

The EgyptAir civilian plane carried 15 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, including food and medicine, provided by the Egyptian Red Crescent to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, according to a statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The charge d'affaires of the Egyptian embassy in Damascus received the aid at the airport, the statement added.

# AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR TO RESIGN AFTER COALITION TALKS COLLAPSE

AGENCIES  
VIENNA, JAN 5

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said that he would step down in the coming days after coalition talks between his People's Party and the Social Democrats collapsed earlier that day.

He will also resign as the leader of the People's Party.

Nehammer on Saturday said on X that his party has ended the negotiations with the Social Democratic Party to form a new government due to disagree-

ment over key issues, Xinhua news agency reported.

His surprise move came just one day after the NEOS party pulled out of the coalition negotiations to form an unprecedented three-party government. Following the NEOS' withdrawal, the People's Party and the Social Democratic Party confirmed late on Friday to continue their two-party coalition talks.

Negotiations between the three parties had dragged on since mid-November following Austrian President Alexander

Van der Bellen's decision in October to task the People's Party with forming a government.

In September's parliamentary election, the far-right Freedom Party came first with around 29 per cent of the vote, followed by the People's Party and the Social Democratic Party with 26.3 per cent and 21.1 per cent respectively. While the Freedom Party won the parliamentary presidency, it has so far been unable to find coalition partners to form a government.

Austrian news agency

APA said on Saturday that the path to forming a new government remains unclear. The agency said the business wing of the People's Party might now consider a coalition with the Freedom Party following the resignation of Nehammer, who has repeatedly ruled out the possibility of a coalition with the far-right party under its leader Herbert Kickl.

A snap election is also possible, but analysts say the Freedom Party stands to gain the most if one is called.

# UN agency warns of impending disruption in services for Palestinian refugees

AGENCIES  
GAZA, JAN 5

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned that its operation could be crippled as an impending Israeli ban on it is expected to take effect by the end of January.

In a brief statement, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on Saturday said, "Time is running out for a possible ban on the agency that would prevent it from providing services to millions of Palestinian

refugees," Xinhua news agency reported.

The statement added that the United Nations "does not plan to replace the agency, and the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, must reverse its decision to ban it."

On October 28, 2024, the Israeli parliament approved two laws -- one bars UNRWA from operating in Israel, set to take effect in three months, while the other ends all Israeli dealings with the UN agency, nullifying all previously signed agreements.

The UN has expressed grave concern over the adoption of the laws, calling on the Israeli government to continue to allow UNRWA to operate and to respect Israel's obligations under international law.

Earlier, UN humanitarian aid workers said that Israelis have ordered more relocations in besieged North Gaza because of impending attacks in retaliation for rocket fire into Israel.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the latest directive was for civilians in the Al-Bureij

area of Deir al Balah governorate to move west, Xinhua news agency reported.

OCHA said the newest evacuation order came as Israeli authorities continued to deny United Nations' attempts to coordinate the safe movement of humanitarian workers.

Most people across the Gaza Strip, already displaced multiple times, are often forced to flee amid intense bombardment with almost none of their belongings into unsafe areas that lack the basics for human survival.

# Centre to launch PLI scheme 1.1 for boosting steel manufacturing tomorrow

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 5

Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy will launch 'PLI scheme 1.1' for the steel industry and call for applications at an event scheduled to be held at Vigyan Bhavan in the national capital on Monday.

Launched in November 2020, the Steel Ministry's PLI scheme has attracted a commitment in investment of Rs 27,106 crore, direct employment of 14,760 and estimated production of 7.9 million tonnes of 'Specialty Steel' used in the aerospace, defence power and automotive sectors. As of November 2024, companies have already invested Rs 18,300 crore and generated over 8,660 in employment.

"The Ministry of Steel has been interacting regularly with the participating companies and based on feedback, it was felt that there was a scope to notify the scheme again to attract more participation," according to an official statement issued on



Sunday.

The concept of Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) was conceived during the global lockdowns of 2020, emphasising the need to boost domestic manufacturing. Initially launched for three sectors, the PLI scheme was later extended to include steel in November 2020.

The Ministry of Steel is also preparing the 'Green Steel Mission' with an estimated cost of Rs 15,000 crore for helping the steel industry to reduce carbon emissions and progress

towards the Net Zero Target.

The mission includes a PLI Scheme for Green Steel, incentives for the use of renewable energy and mandates for government agencies to buy green steel to enhance the industry's environmental sustainability.

The National Green Hydrogen Mission, spearheaded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, integrates the steel sector into the broader goal of producing and using green hydrogen,

contributing to the decarbonisation of steel production.

A report on 'Greening the Steel Sector in India on the basis of the recommendations of 14 Task Forces constituted by the Ministry of Steel on various key levers of decarbonisation of the steel sector, was released in September this year. This was followed by the release of the Taxonomy of Green Steel for India earlier this month which defines the star rating for green steel. The Steel Scrap Recycling Policy fur-

ther complements these efforts by increasing the availability of domestically generated scrap, thus promoting resource efficiency, the review states.

The Ministry released the Taxonomy for Green Steel on December 12, 2024, to provide standards for defining and categorizing the low emission steel, facilitating the green transition of the steel industry. It provides a framework for the production of green steel, the creation of a market for green steel and seeking financial support.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission for green hydrogen production and usage. The steel sector is also a stakeholder in the Mission and has been allocated budgetary support of Rs 455 crore for the implementation of pilot projects in the iron & steel sector under the Mission up to the Financial Year 2029-30.

Under this mission, the Ministry of Steel has awarded two Pilot Projects to produce Direct Reduced

Iron (DRI) using 100 per cent Hydrogen in the vertical shaft and one Pilot Project to use hydrogen in the existing Blast Furnace to reduce coal/coke consumption in September this year.

Pilot projects for the injection of Green Hydrogen in existing vertical shaft-based DRI-making units to partially substitute the natural gas are also being explored.

The government is also formulating a comprehensive global strategy to position India as a leader in the steel industry, capable of meeting domestic needs while also becoming a significant exporter. A Working Group has been constituted to formulate India's Steel Global Outlook Strategy with a focus on the four strategic areas for collaboration viz. Raw Materials, Investments, Technologies, and Steel Exports. After extensive consultations with the stakeholders, a Strategy Paper will be formulated identifying focused areas of cooperation and action plans for priority countries.

## Market Outlook: Q3 results, FII and economic data key triggers for next week

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, JAN 5

The market outlook for next week will be guided by Q3 results, crude oil price, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and domestic economic data, according to experts on Sunday.

Quarterly results for the October-December period (Q3) will start at the beginning of next week. IT giants such as TCS and Tata Elxsi will announce their results on January 9, 2025.

Meanwhile, the government will release the first advance estimates of GDP for the financial year (FY) 2024-25 on Tuesday.

Last week, the Indian stock market witnessed a sharp rally. Nifty rose 191 points or 0.80 per cent to close at 24,004 and Sensex rose 524 points or 0.67 per cent to close at 79,223. During this period, the performance of smallcap and midcap stocks was better than largecap stocks. This shows that the bullish stance is maintained in the stock market on the occasion of the New Year.

In the sectoral perfor-

mance, Nifty Auto led the gains with a 4 per cent weekly rise, while Nifty Realty emerged as the top laggard. Global market activity remained muted due to Christmas and year-end holidays, with no significant economic data releases.

With the Christmas and New Year holiday season coming to an end, market activity is expected to normalize next week. Full participation from institutional and retail investors could amplify market movements, making it a crucial period for traders and investors alike, Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart, said.

In the trading session from December 30 to January 3, FIIs sold shares worth Rs 11,041 crore in the cash market. Whereas, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) invested Rs 9,253 crore. Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said: "Nifty has formed a strong base in the 23,500-23,700 zone, consolidating there for 10 sessions, signalling a potential bottom formation and hinting at a reversal."

# THE THIRD EYE: A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE BUSINESS WORLD

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Digital India' call provided a timely push to business transactions by encouraging corporates to switch over to online work, use computerisation for speedy delivery and facilitate an outreach to customers that was not so easy to achieve earlier.

An ultimate advance of Information Technology symbolised by Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now sweeping the business world in a manner that makes it necessary to administer a word of caution to all concerned against presuming that AI is the quick-time panacea for all their problems - big and small.

The important point here is that India on its way to becoming the third largest economy in the world in the foreseeable future, was benefitting a great deal from the strategic initiative of speeding up with "digitisation". This policy flowed right from the top and gave this country a significant competitive advantage in today's globalised world enabling it to move ahead of others in the "knowledge economy".

India was a leading power and a storehouse

of talent so far as IT was concerned and it will not be presumptuous to conclude that it will guide the world in the area of AI applications, too. These applications will expedite growth, improve efficiency and also take care of the issues of security that 'digitisation' would create for all stakeholders. There cannot be a one-fit for all, however a progressive understanding of the specific needs of an organisation will go a long way in giving that particular business a competitive advantage.

Artificial Intelligence will never replace human jobs completely. It can free human hands of routine tasks that do not bank on creativity, strategic thinking and leadership qualities. A company that makes its employees do their jobs better or "more swiftly" than earlier, is adding to their "efficiency" by improving the output per unit of "time": time being a recognised "resource" now. This does not necessarily entail laying down any part of the workforce - the new requirement is to make the existing manpower more productive.

This is not all that easy to achieve since it calls for deep planning for "customising" the AI applications

to the employees' tasks and duties. AI is adopted for creating business value and this has to be done in an innovative and ethical way to win customers' confidence.

Human intelligence and imagination are needed while planning for an AI application- it can be said, therefore, that AI is a "product" not a "substitute" for the human mind. AI aims at enhancing operational efficiency and has to be built into the concerned "processes". Its validation takes time and cannot be fixed in a moment.

AI applications also get linked to a possible organisational resetting, training regimen and investment of time because they worked for long-term advantage - often altering the decision-making protocols.

It is advisable to start with AI applications for small management projects and make them a part of the evolution of the larger organisational growth. It has to be understood that AI lays the path of steady progress and cannot be "ordered" to produce instant results except in the area of 'data analytics' where algorithms can be devised to read the "patterns" for further deductions and "machine learning" introduced to help a



certain degree of "automation".

AI is important but there is something unnatural about the way every business is feeling pressurised to embrace it like a blind spot for success in terms of achieving an immediate enhancement of "productivity" and "return on investment". When the Information Technology revolution appeared on the scene in 1991, the world transformed from the Industrial Age to the Information Age and a new level of globalisation set in because of instant communications that could be made across geographical frontiers and the advent of a level of competitiveness that had not been encountered earlier.

Businesses got new opportunities for reaching out to customers and prospects of diversifica-

tion, mergers and acquisitions multiplied. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), it became possible to analyse a large amount of data that was humanly impossible to examine earlier. Also, "machine learning" could be used for improving "processes" and making transactions cost-effective in terms of time utilisation, which would boost "productivity" and consequently enhance "profitability".

There is literally a transformation of the Age of Information into the Age of Intelligence because AI does add to the ability of business houses to have a peep into the future and read the 'risks and opportunities' ahead of others.

Analysis of what was available in the public domain always helped to produce "intelligence" that could provide this insight. Analy-

sis is the instrument that allowed for the advantage of human imagination and far-sight to be built into AI applications.

Digitisation in general and AI in particular has produced a new socio-economic atmosphere that gave intensive for launching start-ups and innovating "products" and "services". On the other hand, in the strategic sphere, it has allowed "proxy wars" to replace open military attacks- social media emerging as a particularly powerful instrument of combat. Misinformation, "deepfakes" and indoctrination are used for narrative building against a regime. They were affecting people's lives by exposing them to newer kinds of cyber fraud and also creating a new risk profile for businesses. Just as Information Technology fundamentally altered the lifestyle of people, AI is likely to impact the cultural outlook of society- creating new normals for businesses, interpersonal interactions and even social values to an extent.

The Information Age had mandated that being well-informed was the key to success in any field and Artificial Intelligence has further added to the importance of being aware

of what was happening within the society and also in the world outside.

Business-customer relations, people's approach to the ruling elite and life in the universities are all impacted by AI offerings. "Writing assistants" are helping the "cost-effective" management of organisations. What has gained in importance is the discipline of accepting and acting only on reliable information. One should not run into the erroneous belief that whatever appeared on the internet is trustworthy. There are both promises and perils associated with AI and this is a sobering thought for all well-informed people.

It is interesting to recall that the awardees of the Nobel Prize in Physics this year are two pioneers of Information Technology-

John Hopfield of Princeton University and Geoffrey Hinton of the University of Toronto. Hinton warned that AI - which he compared with "another Industrial Revolution" - could produce unforeseen consequences creating a situation where 'things could get out of control'.

Hopfield was even more forthright in declaring at a university Conclave that "AI could create an apocalypse". Hinton

praised GPT4-an AI offering- saying that "if I want to know the answer to anything I would just ask it", but added with a twist that "I do not totally trust it because it can hallucinate".

AI is subject to the fundamental principle of 'garbage in garbage out' that did not apply to human intelligence because the latter could invoke 'logic', 'power of recall' and 'imagination' which were not available to the former while absorbing information. AI applications are situation-specific, anchored on processes and meant to produce a long-term gain for the organisation. They are used after deep consideration and planning and have a strategic perspective- there is nothing tactical about them.

In the times ahead, successful CEOs would be the ones who were well-versed in AI and the personnel working for them would be individuals who had been up-skilled about AI applications- even though they might not be "technologists" themselves. The new-age businesses would be different from the traditional-looking ones in as much as they would be far more competent and aggressive about exploring the 'opportunities' and averting the 'risks'.

## CES 2025: Samsung Display to unveil foldable, OLED screens for IT devices, cars

AGENCIES

SEOUL, JAN 5

Samsung Display, a screen-making subsidiary of Samsung Electronics, said on Sunday it will unveil a versatile lineup of foldable and organic light-emitting diode (OLED) displays at the upcoming CES 2025, aiming to expand its presence beyond smartphones into the IT and automotive sectors.

The company's flagship foldable panels for IT devices and cutting-edge display solutions for vehicles will be featured at its showroom during the annual US tech show, which starts from Tuesday for a four-day run in

Las Vegas, reports Yonhap news agency.

Building on its expertise as the supplier of foldable screens for Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Z Flip and Fold series, Samsung Display is spotlighting its advancements in automotive and artificial intelligence applications.

A key highlight of the exhibit will be the world's first 18.1-inch foldable monitor, alongside new products, such as slidable and multi-foldable displays.

The 18.1-inch foldable panel for IT devices offers the screen size of two tablets when unfolded.

When folded, it becomes a 13.1-inch laptop display with touch screen

functionality.

Visitors will also see OLED-enabled tablets and laptops, which boast lower power consumption and superior colour reproduction, making them ideal for outdoor use.

Beyond IT devices, Samsung Display is also targeting the automotive sector with an array of innovative products designed to enhance driver assistance features, functionality and the visual appeal of vehicle interiors.

A notable addition is the demo cockpits equipped with under-panel camera (UPC) technology, which integrates the camera beneath the display for a seamless design.

## Digital data protection rules to empower citizens, curb harms: Govt

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 5

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) rules aim to safeguard citizens' rights for the protection of their personal data and also address specific challenges like unauthorised commercial use of data and digital harms, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said on Sunday.

The rules empower citizens by giving them greater control over their data with provisions for informed consent, the right to erasure and grievance redressal. Parents and guardians are empowered to ensure online safety for their children, the official statement

explains.

The rules are designed to empower citizens in a rapidly growing digital economy, while achieving the right balance between regulation and innovation, so that the benefits of India's growing innovation ecosystem are available to all citizens and India's digital economy, the statement said.

The rules place citizens at the heart of the data protection framework. Data Fiduciaries must provide clear and accessible information about how personal data is processed, enabling informed consent, it added.

The statement highlights that India's model strikes a unique balance between fostering inno-

vation and regulation to protect personal data. Unlike restrictive global frameworks, these rules encourage economic growth while prioritizing citizen welfare.

Stakeholders view this as a new global template for data governance.

The framework envisages lesser compliance burden for smaller businesses and startups. An adequate period would be provided so that all stakeholders, from small enterprises to large corporates, may transition smoothly to achieve compliance with the new law, the statement said.

The rules embrace a "digital by design" philosophy. Consent mechanisms, grievance redressal

and the functioning of the Data Protection Board are all aimed at ensuring Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business.

The Board will function as a digital office, with a digital platform and app to enable citizens to approach it digitally and to have their complaints adjudicated without their physical presence being required, the statement explained.

From processing complaints to interacting with Data Fiduciaries, workflows are optimised to ensure speed and transparency. This reflects India's forward-looking approach to governance and builds trust between citizens and Data Fiduciaries, the statement said.

It also highlights that graded responsibilities stipulated in the rules cater to startups and MSMEs with lower compliance burden, while Significant Data Fiduciaries have higher obligations.

Sector-specific data protection measures can complement the core personal data protection framework created by the Act and the rules.

The Data Protection Board's digital office approach would ensure quick and transparent resolution of complaints.

The Board is required to take into consideration factors such as the nature and gravity of default, efforts made to mitigate impact, etc., while imposing penalties for defaults.

# 5th Test: Australia beat India by 6 wickets to claim Border-Gavaskar Trophy after a decade

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, JAN 5

After 2014/15, Australia were winless in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on their home soil. But the tables turned under bright sunshine at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday, as the hosts beat India to win the fifth Test by six wickets and clinch the series 3-1.

In the morning, resuming from 141/6, India could add only 16 runs to its overnight total before their second innings ended in the first 45 minutes of day three.

With the pitch having enough help and movement for seamers, Scott Boland and Pat Cummins picked two wickets each in an accurate bowling performance to end India's innings quickly and set themselves up for a chase of 162.

The figures of 6-45 coming in 16.5 overs is also Boland's first five-wicket haul in Tests since his iconic 6/7 on debut against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2021 Ashes, as the seamer got a match haul of ten wickets,



with the Sydney crowd in pink cheering for him with full energy.

In reply, with no Jasprit Bumrah to bowl due to a back spasm, Australia completed the chase in 27 overs, with Usman Khawaja (41), Beau Webster (39 not out) and Travis Head (34 not out) being the chief contributors.

Despite Prasidh Krishna taking three wickets, it wasn't enough for India, who had a horrid bowling display, as Cummins & Co. finally got the trophy win they were desperate to seek for a long time, especially after being defeated by 295 runs in the opening game in Perth.

The win also means Australia, the 2023 World

Championship winners, have qualified for the all-important final, where they will face South Africa at Lord's in June.

For India, who lost control of the trophy after ten years, they have a lot of thinking to do in all aspects of the game, as well as in leadership duties and tactical planning.

In the morning, Ravindra Jadeja seemed to have got his attacking mojo by slicing a short and wide ball from Cummins for four, taking India's lead past 150. But two balls later, Cummins got a fuller ball to angle in, then seam away and take the thin outside edge of Jadeja's bat to Alex Carey and fall for 13 off 45 balls.

In his next over, Cummins got one to angle in from wide of the crease and seam in to castle Washington Sundar him through the gate for 12 off 43 balls. Boland got his six-fer by having Siraj edge to first slip and rattling Bumrah's leg-stump, to end India's innings a ball before 40 overs.

India's start of defending 162 wasn't ideal as Prasidh and Mohammed Siraj were all over the place in their lines and lengths to concede 35 runs in the first three overs, including eight wides and four leg-byes, apart from Sam Konstas hitting three quick boundaries.

But Prasidh finally got his lengths right and

removed Konstas, who went for an almighty slog, but holed out to mid-off for 22. Shortly after Australia brought up their fifty, Prasidh struck again by having Marnus Labuschagne steer to gully for six.

Steve Smith crawled to 9,999 Test runs, and was one run short of reaching the 10,000 Test runs club. But Prasidh had other ideas, as he bowled a length ball that bounced sharply and took the outside edge of Smith's bat and was caught by forward-diving gully.

Khawaja and Head hanged around till lunch came and ensured Australia didn't lose another wicket in the first session. Post lunch, Khawaja got five quick boundaries off Prasidh and Siraj, as India conceded 33 runs in the first five overs.

Just when it seemed that Khawaja would get his second fifty of the series, he bottom-edged a pull shot behind to Rishabh Pant off Siraj and fell for 41 off 45 balls, giving the pacer his 100th Test wicket.

Webster, coming off an impressive 57 in the first innings, sparkled with his backfoot punch and leaning drives fetching him boundaries, while Head sliced Nitish Kumar Reddy for his third boundary and elegantly flicked Siraj for four more.

Webster's assured backfoot play shined more when he pulled Siraj for four, sliced Nitish handsomely through gully and dished out a square drive off Washington Sundar for two fours.

He fittingly lofted Washington over mid-off for the winning four to get Australia home and win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade, as Webster ended his Test debut with scores of 57 and 39 not out, apart from taking a wicket and grabbing two sharp catches.

Brief Scores: India 185 and 157 in 39.5 overs (Rishabh Pant 61; Scott Boland 6-45) lost to Australia 181 and 162/4 in 27 overs (Usman Khawaja 41, Beau Webster 39 not out; Prasidh Krishna 3-65, Mohammed Siraj 1-69) by six wickets

## Lucy Hamilton named Australia captain for U19 Women's T20 WC

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, JAN 5



Pace-bowling all-rounder Lucy Hamilton has been named as Australia's captain for the upcoming ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup, starting in Malaysia on January 18. Leg-spinner Hasrat Gill has been appointed as vice-captain for the 16-team tournament. Lucy will be playing in her second consecutive U19 World Cup after earning selection as a 16-year-old for the 2023 edition in South Africa. The all-rounder made her maiden WNCL appearance for the Queensland Fire in 2022 aged 15, becoming the state's second youngest debutant, ahead of a WBBL debut at 16.

Lucy, who bowls left-arm pace, became the youngest cricketer in WBBL history to take a five-wicket haul when she claimed 5-8 from four overs for the Brisbane Heat against the Melbourne Stars at Drummoyne Oval in November last year.

"It is a huge honour to be named captain of Australia for the Under 19 World Cup, I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to lead our team. We are fortunate to have strong leaders in our group, and I

know I have fantastic support around me."

"I'm thrilled to be playing for Australia again, the World Cup is the ultimate under-age carnival and as a squad we are excited to embrace the opportunity that's in front of us," said Lucy in a statement issued by Cricket Australia (CA).

The all-rounder finished as the joint seventh highest wicket taker in this season's WBBL with 12 wickets. "Lucy is a wonderful talent and a strong character who has thoroughly earned the opportunity to lead her country at the World Cup."

"She has already displayed her ability on the world stage and we're excited for what she can bring to the group both on and off the field at this year's tournament. Lucy will captain our squad and has unanimous support from our group, but there will certainly be opportunities for all players to develop leadership qualities over the course of the tournament," said Kristen Beams, Australia U19 coach.

## Sabalenka holds off Kudermetova to win first Brisbane title

AGENCIES  
BRISBANE, JAN 5

Aryna Sabalenka won her second Brisbane International title to enjoy a perfect start to her 2025 WTA Tour season. This was her fourth trophy Down Under since 2023.

Sabalenka came back from a set down to defeat the 21-year-old qualifier Polina Kudermetova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the women's singles final to secure her 18th career title. The Belarusian won her first Brisbane title in 2023, when the event was held in Adelaide. In that final, she beat another qualifier, Linda Noskova.

Kudermetova was chasing her eighth straight win at the Queensland Tennis Centre, having earlier taken down seeds Liudmila Samsonova and Daria Kasatkina en route, but found arguably her finest in the first set of her first encounter with a World No.1.

"I want to congrats Polina on an impressive week from the qualifiers all the way to the final, so I'm



pretty sure many more to come. You guys are definitely doing the right things. Honestly, I really want to know every speed of our shots today. I think it's going beat the record for sure. That was a pretty aggressive game...

"Always a fun time in Brisbane. Thank you Brisbane for having me. All the fias, thank you guys for supporting me. I felt all of the support from the very beginning of the week till the very last point. I really appreciate it and that's why I love playing in Australia and in Brisbane. Just overall in Australia because you guys are

amazing," Sabalenka said.

Kudermetova came through qualifying and navigated a difficult draw just to make her first WTA final. She notched the first Top 10 win of her career this week when she rallied to beat World No.9 Daria Kasatkina 1-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the Round of 16. She defeated Wang Xinyu, Liudmila Samsonova, Ashlyn Krueger, and Anhelina Kalinina to win five consecutive matches for the first time in her career.

The 26-year-old Sabalenka has now claimed 16 of her 18 titles on hard court, including two at Melbourne Park, one at Adelaide and Sunday's Brisbane decider. Last year, she fell just short to Elena Rybakina in the final.

Sabalenka will next play in Melbourne, where she is the two-time Australian Open defending champion. She is bidding to become the first woman to win three consecutive Australian Opens since Martina Hingis dominated the event from 1997 to 1999.

## Whatever Kohli, Rohit plan, it will be for best interest of Indian cricket: Gambhir

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, JAN 5

Questions have risen over the international futures of regular captain Rohit Sharma and talismanic Virat Kohli after India lost the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1, but head coach Gautam Gambhir said he was optimistic that whatever the senior duo plans would be in the best interest of the country.

In five Tests, Kohli managed to make only 190 runs, and was dismissed eight times while chasing balls outside off-stump. Rohit, on the other hand, missed the Perth Test because of the birth of his second child, but managed only 31 runs in three Tests, before standing himself down from playing the fifth Test in Sydney, which India lost by six wickets on Sunday and be out of reckoning for a spot in the 2025 World Test Championship final.

"I can't talk about the future of any player. It is up to them as well. But yes, what I can say is that



they still have the hunger and passion, they are tough people. Hopefully they can continue to take Indian cricket forward. But ultimately, as we all know, that whatever they plan, it will be for the best interest of Indian cricket," said Gambhir to reporters at the end of the series.

He also showed appreciation towards Rohit's decision to opt out of Sydney Test owing to poor form, which came after tons of speculation over unrest in dressing room. "I would like to say that so many reports have been written and so many things have been said. At least, we can

be a little more sensible in that regard.

"If a captain, not even a captain, if a leader has taken this decision ahead of his team, then I don't think there is anything wrong with that. So, a lot of things have been said on it. Ultimately, the individuals are sitting there, but the most important thing is the team and the most important thing is the country.

"So, I believe that the rest of the people, whether they are starting from me or other players, everyone should keep the team ahead as compared to their individual inter-

ests, and Rohit Sharma has shown that. We were talking about accountability, and that starts from the top and Rohit Sharma started that in the last match."

With India's next international assignment being a five-match T20I series against England, starting on January 22 in Kolkata, there is a slight opening for players not part of the set-up in the shortest format to play the final two Ranji Trophy league rounds. Rohit and Kohli retired from T20Is after 2024 T20 World Cup win, while someone like KL Rahul hasn't been a part of the set-up for two years. "I would always like everyone to play domestic cricket. That is how much importance domestic cricket needs to be given, and not only one game.

"If they are available, and they have the commitment to play red ball cricket, everyone should play domestic cricket. It's as simple as it can get. If you don't give importance to domestic cricket, you

will never get the desired players, and what you want in Test cricket," added Gambhir.

The series defeat in Australia comes on the back of India losing 3-0 in New Zealand at home, making the long-awaited transition in the team imminent. Gambhir signed off by saying it's too early to talk about the transition, considering the series against Australia just now got over.

"Look, it is too early to talk about it. The series has just got over. I think we still have five more months to plan where we want to head towards. But it is not the right moment for me to talk about it. Where are we going to be after five months? A lot of things change in sport.

"Form, people and attitude changes; everything changes in sport. We all know that five months is a long time. So let's see before the England series that what is going to happen. But whatever will happen, will happen for the best interest of Indian cricket."

## We need players like Jaiswal, Reddy who protect their wicket like life: Gavaskar

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, JAN 5

After India's defeat in the final Test match and their inability to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar has accessed the team's performance and opined that young players like Yashasvi Jaiswal and Nitish Reddy, who are "hungry to earn a name for India" are needed in the team.

Jaiswal has amassed 391 runs in five Tests, out of which 161 came in his brilliant second innings knock in the series opener in Perth, where India won by 295 runs. However, he had a brief period of struggle before scoring 82 and 84 in the Melbourne Test.

On the other hand, Reddy scored 298 runs in nine innings across five



matches. He started off with handy knocks of 41, 38 not out on his Test debut. He further scored 42, 42 before bettering it with a maiden Test century in Melbourne, providing a much-needed contribution from the lower order. "If we talk about the macro picture, like we saw with Nitish Kumar Reddy and Yashasvi Jaiswal - they are hungry. They are

hungry to earn a name for India. They are hungry to earn a name for themselves. Such players are needed. You need such players who will protect their wicket like their life. You need such players. You can play with them on stroke. But the commitment I want to see.

"That's why I'm interested that on January 23, in the Ranji Trophy matches, who

will play? I want to see that. Because at that time, there will be T20 matches against England. But those who are not playing T20, will they play Ranji Trophy matches or not?" said Gavaskar to Star Sports.

Further speaking on India's batting shortcomings in the series, Gavaskar highlighted, "How many Indian players have scored centuries? Except for the first Test match with two centuries, there is only the century of Nitish Kumar Reddy. How many players made half-centuries?"

"You can say it is not easy to make a century, but how many players made half-centuries and tried to turn the match? It did not happen because the application that is required in Test cricket - the application and determination - was

very low."

India's Border-Gavaskar Trophy series loss followed the home series 3-0 defeat to New Zealand. The veteran shared his thoughts on what Team India can do after their poor performance in Test matches over the last few months.

"What I saw were technical deficiencies. If you have been making the same mistakes, and I am not just talking about this series - I am talking about the New Zealand series as well - what did you do against New Zealand in India? And that's why, now, because the next cycle will start in June, we have not qualified for the World Test Championship. From now on, we should be ready for it. If we have to take tough decisions, then we will have to take them," he said.

## 'I might struggle to get over there', says Cummins on his availability for Sri Lanka tour

AGENCIES  
SYDNEY, JAN 5

Australian captain Pat Cummins has admitted that it's unlikely he'll be part of his side's tour of Sri Lanka later this month as he is expecting the birth of his second child.

Australia will tour Sri Lanka to play the two-match Test series from January 29. The schedule coincides with the expected delivery dates of Cummins's second child with his wife, Becky.

"In terms of Sri Lanka, we'll wait and see. Becky's hanging on at the moment, so we'll play it by ear. But most likely, I might struggle to get over there. They (the partners) do sacrifice a lot... so sharing moments like today with them makes it extra special," Cummins told reporters after the Border Gavaskar Trophy



triumph on Sunday.

Cummins' absence from the Sri Lanka tour may pave the way for Steve Smith to captain Australia. Smith last captained the Test side in 2023 when Cummins returned home from India after his mother's passing.

"You always talk about it (a succession plan). We've obviously got two vice captains in the team; we've had three debutants this series. You're always balancing between the here and now... they're conversations that we always have," he continued.

"Once this Test match

finishes, going back to being a full-time dad and husband (and do) an even better job than being a Test captain. I love it and feel really lucky," Cummins added. The two-match series in Sri Lanka will act as preparation for Australia in the lead-up to their World Test Championship Final against South Africa, locking in their second straight appearance with their six-wicket win in Sydney over India.

"We talk about the World Test Championship a lot, it's a trophy we're really proud to hold so we want to go back and defend it. I think it's a great tournament in that you've got to play well consistently and across all different conditions against different teams. It's great to be there again, and I can't wait to get over there," Cummins said.

## Deputy Chief Minister conducts surprise inspection of SDH Sunderbani



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SUNDERBANI, JANUARY 5

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a surprise inspection of Sub District Hospital Sunderbani, and assessed the status of healthcare services being extended to the patients in the institute.

He emphasised the importance of quality healthcare and patient satisfaction while asking

the medicos and paramedics to perform their duty with utmost care and concern.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister toured various wards of the hospital and interacted with the patients seeking their feedback on healthcare facilities there. He assured them of the government's commitment towards further enhancing healthcare services and addressing their needs effectively. Express-



ing displeasure over the sanitation conditions in the hospital, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Block Medical Officer (BMO) to take immediate measures to ensure cleanliness in all areas of the facility. "Cleanliness is a basic requirement and must be prioritized to create a safe and healthy environment for patients and staff alike," he stated.

The Deputy Chief Minister also instructed the hospital authorities to

ensure proper treatment for patients and maintain high standards of hygiene.

While reviewing the progress on the ongoing construction work at the hospital, Surinder Choudhary set a clear deadline for its completion. He directed the concerned authorities to complete all construction works by or before 31st March 2025, ensuring that the upgraded infrastructure is made available to the public without delay.

## Secretary RDD inspects progress on Yatri Niwas at Kheerbhawani Temple, Tullamulla

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, JANUARY 5

Secretary Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Aijaz Asad, today visited the construction site of Yatri Niwas at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tullamulla Ganderbal inspecting the progress on the project.

The Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, Executive Engineer REW, Hamid Iqbal, ACD, Dr. Bashir Ahmad, AEE REW, Ilyaz Mirza, BDO, Gowhar Arzoo and other officials of the department.

The Secretary, while seeking all the details about the project, was informed that the upcoming Yatri Niwas will be a G+2 framed structure



which will solve the issue of space requirements for the yatris during Mela Kheerbhawani to a great extent. The building will accommodate about 900 to 1000 yatris at a time and is being constructed at an allotted cost of Rs 2.80 crore.

Aijaz Asad exhorted

upon the Executive Engineer to redouble efforts for ensuring timely completion of the project. He also directed him to bring any issues with regard to clearances, if any, required from the trust with Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, so that the project can be completed

at an earliest.

The Secretary asked the officials to maintain strict adherence to timelines to avoid any further delays. He stressed the importance of completing the project within the approved timeframe to provide improved facilities for the pilgrims.

## DDC Chairperson Kulgam inspects Mechanical Division to assess snow clearance preparation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, JAN 5

The District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson of Kulgam Mohammad Afzal Parry, conducted an inspection of the Mechanical Division of Kulgam to assess the operational readiness for snow clearance ahead of forecasted snowfall & timely restoration of road connectivity.

On the occasion, he was briefed regarding the deployment strategies and maintenance schedules to ensure smooth operations during snow emergencies.

Meanwhile, he issued clear instructions to ensure that all snow clearance machines remain opera-



tional and ready for immediate deployment.

It was given that 24x7 control room has already been established in the district to facilitate timely operations and address public concerns.

He emphasized the importance of coordination with other departments to prioritize critical routes, including highways, hospitals, religious places and educational institutions.

Officials from the Mechanical Division assured the Chairperson of their commitment to minimizing disruptions, maintaining public safety, and ensuring the continuity of essential services during winter.

## LMD books Petrol Pump at Anantnag Highway for short delivery

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 5

A team of the Enforcement unit of Legal Metrology Anantnag today booked a Petrol Pump located on National Highway Anantnag for delivering deficit fuel to the consumers.

During the surprise inspection using the standard verified measure, it was found that a Nozzle of the Petrol Pump was delivering fuel by 30 ml short against every 5 Litres.

The display boards showing the quantity delivered to consumers was not matching with the actual delivery as a result the nozzle was seized on spot and the prosecution as warranted under relevant sections of Legal Metrology Act has been initiated against the offender.

It is pertinent to mention that accuracy in the quantity of goods or the fuel is the basic right of consumers and any under-delivery of goods and services is a serious offence in terms of Legal Metrology Act 2009.

The consumers have been given the power to check the delivery on their own by using the verified 5 Litre conical measure which must be kept visible by the owners of every petrol pump and it is the duty of every Petrol pump owner to facilitate the checking of fuel delivery to the best satisfaction of consumer.

The inspection and the subsequent action was lauded by the Consumers in the area who were also apprised about their consumer rights. In case of any such complaints, consumers are asked to lodge complaints with the department on the Toll Free Number 18001807114.

## MVD organizes Eye Checkup camp for drivers at Anantnag

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, JANUARY 05

The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), in collaboration with the Health Department of Anantnag, organized a Medical and Eye Checkup Camp for drivers at the Sumo Stand in Bijbehara. The event, conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, was part of the ongoing Road Safety Month 2025 campaign.

The primary objective of the camp was to ensure the physical fitness of drivers, with a special focus on eye health.

A team of experienced medical professionals and paramedics provided free eye checkups and basic health diagnostics to drivers, ensuring they are fit to operate vehicles safely.

This initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to enhance road safety awareness and reduce the incidence of road accidents. With a growing focus on improving driver health, the camp aimed to educate drivers on the importance of maintaining good physical health, particularly vision, to prevent accidents caused by impaired



judgment or reaction times.

The medical team also offered advice on maintaining general well-being, emphasizing the role of healthy practices in reducing accidents and fostering a safer driving environment.

Local drivers expressed their gratitude for the initiative, with many hailing the camp as a positive step toward improving road safety. Several drivers voiced their support for holding such camps regularly in the future to help maintain their health and ensure safer roads.

The ARTO Anantnag, Dr. Showket reiterated their commitment to organizing more such camps, contributing to a broader campaign aimed at bringing about a significant change in road safety practices and reducing traffic-related accidents in the region.

This initiative is expected to have a lasting impact on the safety of both drivers and passengers, highlighting the importance of health and safety in preventing accidents and fostering a culture of road safety across Anantnag district.

## DC inspects progress of work on Bhimber Gali- Poonch stretch of NH 144-A

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JANUARY 5

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal inspected progress of work on Bhimber Gali to Poonch stretch of National Highway NH144-A (Jammu to Poonch).

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the land acquisition cases related to the highway's alignment and evaluated the progress at key sites, including the tunnel site, culvert constructions, and the construction of retaining and breast walls.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on the project, emphasizing the importance of adhering to prescribed specifications



and maintaining the highest engineering standards.

"The upgradation of this National Highway is crucial as it will significantly reduce travel time, enhance connectivity, and provide all-weather accessibility, particularly to challenging terrains and during adverse weather conditions," stated DC Vikas Kundal.

This inspection aimed to assess both the progress and quality of infrastructure projects that are vital for enhancing connectivity and fostering regional development. It also underscores the administration's commitment to infrastructure development and community welfare as the NH-144A project moves forward.

## DC Kishtwar holds public outreach cum awareness camp at Paddar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JANUARY 05

District Development Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today held a mega public outreach Cum Awareness camp in Paddar area of the District. The main purpose was to educate the public about government policies, especially the YUVA mission and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Scheme besides listening to their grievances.

The event saw active participation from residents of Massu, Chisoti, Kundal Karthie, Ligri, Sole and nearby areas.

Speaking at the awareness camp, the DC encouraged locals to avail benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Scheme, Skill Development scheme, HADP benefits and water conservation initiatives.

The DC emphasized the need to promote Paddar's renowned Kala Zeera, the cultivation of millets, and organic farming as part of broader agricultural development efforts.

He also laid special focus on key schemes like Mission Yuva and the Apprenticeship Training Program, urging youth aged 18-39 to register on a large scale in the ongoing survey to benefit from these initiatives in future.

District and Sectoral officers also imparted awareness to locals about the schemes of respective departments. Multiple departments set up stalls to promote their schemes,



providing awareness, and offered on-the-spot assistance to the public.

The ACD provided detailed insights into ongoing Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes and encouraged the public to identify areas for constructing kuhls to enhance irrigation facilities.

The Chief Agriculture Officer also offered detailed insights into the agricultural schemes being implemented in the district.

Additionally, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department highlighted ongoing schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission and progress achieved so far besides assuring the public of all possible assistance.

The DC also distributed Baby Care Kits, Agriculture equipments, Prosthetic aids (Wheelchairs and Sticks) among the beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, a number of local issues were also raised, discussed and addressed during the session.

The grievances present-

ed by the public covered a range of sectors, including the Jal Shakti Department (R&B), Education, Power Development Department (PDD), Agriculture and others.

Majority of the grievances were redressed in the camp in consultation with concerned Officers. Necessary directions were given to the concerned officers for immediate resolution of the remaining grievances.

SDM Paddar Amit Kumar apprised the DC about the status of various ongoing projects and schemes in the Block Paddar. Concerned Tehsildar and BDO besides the district officers attended the Camp.

Earlier, the DC visited the road accident site in the Massu area in which 4 persons lost their lives while 2 persons were missing till last reports. He assessed the situation and assured the necessary assistance to the victim's families.

A Two minute silence was also observed for the departed souls.

## DC Rajouri reviews physical, financial progress under District Capex Budget 2024-25, HADP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, JANUARY 5

To take review of the progress achieved under the District Capex Budget 2024-25 and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma convened a virtual meeting with district officers, here today.

The DDC emphasized the need to expedite the financial and physical progress of ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He directed officers to identify and address bottlenecks hampering the implementation of developmental works under both District Capex Budget and HADP.

Highlighting the need for uninterrupted services during the winter season, the DDC issued specific directions to ensure a steady electricity supply in all areas. He also instructed the concerned departments to promptly clear snow in the DKG and Kotran-ka regions to minimize inconvenience to the public.

The DDC further urged all officers to maintain a close watch on field-level implementation and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to achieve set targets.