



Government of
Jammu & Kashmir



Viksit Bharat
Viksit Jammu & Kashmir



Inauguration of **6.4 km Sonamarg Tunnel**

worth over ₹2700 crore

- All-season, uninterrupted, year-round connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg boosting local trade and tourism.
- Creating unparalleled growth opportunities for local businesses such as hotels, transporters, and restaurants.
- Improved access to large markets for local agricultural produce like saffron, apples, walnuts, cherries, kehwa, etc.
- Includes an Escape Tunnel, ventilation tunnel, 6 km approach road and a 4 km creeper lane dedicated to heavy vehicle traffic.
- Strategically important project providing all weather connectivity to border areas throughout the year.

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Sonamarg, Ganderbal | January 13, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Live Telecast on DD News

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CONTINUATION
FROM PAGE ONE**CM Omar extends greetings on Lohri, Makar Sankranti**

Lohri bring, allowing people to come together and share moments of joy amidst their busy lives.

He expressed hope that these celebrations would usher in an era of peace, harmony and prosperity for the region.

“Lohri holds a special significance, symbolizing the vibrant culture and traditions of our land. May these celebrations strengthen bonds and spread warmth and happiness among everyone,” the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah conveyed his best wishes to all communities observing these festivals and prayed for a bright and prosperous future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Police Freezes Over 100**Bank Accounts Linked To Drug Trafficking**

trafficking networks.

Those apprehended have been involved in the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, posing a significant threat to the community, particularly the youth.

“Comprehensive investigations, conducted under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, have led to the freezing of these bank accounts containing substantial sums, prima-facie identified as proceeds of illegal narcotic trade”, they said.

“Furthermore , moveable and immovable properties valued at crores of rupees, found to be acquired through these illicit activities, have been attached under the applicable legal framework”, police added.

This action has been set into motion under Section 68F(2) of the NDPS Act.

Police have urged the public to join hands in this fight by providing any information related to drug peddling or drug abuse and requested the people to contact their nearest police station or dial 112 to report drug-related suspicious activities.

Five drug peddlers arrested by police in**Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla**

headed by SHO police station Chandoosa at a checkpoint established at Thanda kasi Chandoosa, intercepted one person. During the search, 56 grams of contraband Charas-like substances were recovered from his possession.”

The person was later identified as Mohd Shaban Maray of Dudbugh. He was subsequently arrested.

“Similarly, a police party of Police Station Boniyar headed by SHO police station Boniyar at a checkpoint established at Limber Boniyar intercepted two persons. During the search, 88 grams of contraband Charas-like substances were recovered from their possession,|” mentioned the statement.

They were later identified as Mehraj Ahmad of Limber and Shabir Ahmad Bakerwal of Babagail Limber. They were subsequently arrested.

“In addition to the above, a police party of Police Post Babareshi at a checkpoint established at Babareshi Crossing intercepted two persons. During the search, 85 grams of contraband Charas-like substances were recovered from their possession. They were later identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Magray and Dawood Ahmad Magray, sons of Gh Rasool Magray both residents of Dudbugh. They were subsequently arrested.”

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered at Police Station Chandoosa, Boniyar and Tangmarg, and investigations have been initiated.

“We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with the police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law,” the statement said. (Agencies)

Youth must transform ideas into reality for a**viksit bharat: Jitendra Singh**

initiatives in shaping India’s develop-

mental journey, the MoS called upon youth in the state to explore regional resources for livelihood and startup opportunities.

“The involvement of youth from these regions is a testament to their eagerness to contribute to India’s growth story. Your ideas and actions have the potential to bring about transformative changes not only for your communities but for the entire nation,” Singh said.

He also highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Science and Technology to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth.

Singh emphasised how these programmes have catalysed the growth of startups, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, where young entrepreneurs have ventured into fields like lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission.

The MoS urged the youth to explore opportunities in areas such as biotechnology, agritech, and renewable energy, while assuring the students that the Ministry of Science and Technology would provide them with full support.

“Focus on harnessing innovation and technology to address pressing challenges and use their participation in the festival as an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives from across the country,” the Minister said.

The “National Youth Festival 2025”, being held in New Delhi from January 10-12, celebrates the energy and potential of India’s youth. It serves as a vibrant forum for young leaders to voice their ideas, collaborate on solutions for national development, and align with India’s collective vision of progress.

PM to inaugurate Z-Morh tunnel: security forces intensify area domination exercise In Kashmir

now off-limits for the public.

Jammu and Kashmir Police, paramilitary forces and the Army are part of the security apparatus for Monday’s inauguration. Extensive area domination exercises, searches and patrols are being conducted for the smooth conduct of the event, the officials said.

The sharpshooters have been deployed at vulnerable points while aerial and technical surveillance, including through drones, is also being undertaken. The area is being monitored round-the-clock, they added.

Earlier on October 20 last year, seven people, including a local doctor, were killed in a terrorist attack near the tunnel site in the Gagangir area.

The authorities have closed the Srinagar-Leh national highway from Saturday to Monday “due to icy road conditions caused by inclement weather and to facilitate maintenance work by road maintenance agencies”.

However, it is widely perceived that the arterial road link between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has been shut for the prime minister’s visit.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,400 crore on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the strategic 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel will be a major step towards making the Ladakh region accessible by road throughout the year. The work on the project began in May 2015 and was completed last year.

The soft opening of the tunnel was done in February 2024.

The tunnel is vital in terms of the defence needs of the country in the Ladakh region and also connecting the youngest Union Territory to the rest of the country.

Situated at an altitude of 8,650 feet, the Z-Morh tunnel is a two-lane road tunnel equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre-wide escape passage for emergencies.

The tunnel ensures seamless connectivity between Gagangir and Sonamarg, and will ease summer travel to Ladakh.

Along with the under-construction Zojila tunnel, the Z-Morh tunnel will ensure uninterrupted connectivity to Baltal and Ladakh regions for civilian and military traffic.

The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), which oversees the project, has said the “engineering marvel” is a game changer for the region.

“The Sonamarg Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir is a game-changer for the re-

gion, offering more than just a connection between Gagangir and Sonamarg. This engineering marvel is poised to unlock the full potential of the region’s trade and tourism sectors,” the NHIDCL said on X.

It said the tunnel is equipped with cutting-edge technologies that provide real-time updates and seamless connectivity for users. This futuristic infrastructure will not only enhance the travel experience but also set a new standard for road connectivity in the region.

Along with the Zojila Tunnel, set for completion by 2028, it will reduce the route length from 49 km to 43 km and boost vehicle speed from 30 km/hr to 70 km/hr, ensuring seamless NH-1 connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh. This enhanced connectivity will boost defense logistics, drive economic growth and socio-cultural integration across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the officials said. (Agencies)

Satish Sharma calls on Union**Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of J&K.**

Satish Sharma, further added that, Jammu and Kashmir with its unique geographical and cultural diversity, has immense talent across various sports disciplines. There is a significant sports potential and aspirations of youth of the region to excel in sports, which require enhanced infrastructure and focused developmental initiatives. He emphasised the pressing need for state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and implementation of central schemes to nurture the talent effectively.

The Minister urged for establishing Khelo India centres and infrastructure support in the rural/border areas of J&K, SAI centres focussing on handball in Border/rural areas like Akhnoor, Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara, promotion of adventure and winter sports across the famous destinations to utilise J&K’s unique geography, augmentation of facilities at Gulmarg and other potential hubs like Sonamarg, Pahalgam and snowfall bound parts of Jammu province for winter sports to attract national and international events.

Satish Sharma also bought attention of Union Minister towards some important measures like high performance coaches to support football, wrestling, table tennis, water sports, hockey, implementation of scheme as given to north east for equipment under peace and development initiative, special focus on talent identification by conducting Khelo India Talent Identification Camps in remote areas to ensure inclusivity and tap into untapped potential, introducing skill development programs for coaches, trainers and sports administrators to ensure professional management to enhance the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister listened to all the issues and demands put forth by Satish Sharma and assured to consider them for prompt action.

He said that Centre government is committed to provide better sports infrastructure and modern facilities in the UT. He assured unwavering support from the Ministry for brighter future of the youth of J&K through sports.

Haridwar-based organisation to host lecture on ‘One Nation, One Election’ at Maha Kumbh

chayats. The first meeting of a parliamentary panel scrutinising the two bills on conducting simultaneous polls was held on January 8, with the opposition members criticising the concept as an attack on the basic fabric of the Constitution and federalism, and the BJP MPs hailing it as reflective of popular opinion.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were introduced in the Lok Sabha during the recent Winter Session and referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The official of Haridwar-based Divya Prem Seva Mission said the lecture series

is starting on January 12 and the topic for the first lecture is ‘Swami Vivekananda — Sanatan Dharm ki Vaishvik Drishti’.

“The second one will take place at our camp on January 17 and the title is — ‘Bharat ki Gaurav Gatha banam Atmahinta ki Bhavna’. And the third one will be on January 18 on ‘One Nation, One Election’, followed by four more lectures, the last one being on February 6,” he added.

The topics for other lectures are global terrorism, integrity of India and its challenges, gender equality and women empowerment in Indian context, and privacy and safety on social media from the perspective of youth.

Divya Prem Seva Mission was set up as a philanthropic organisation 29 years ago and it has participated in all Kumbh melas since 2001, the official said.

“We began our journey by lending service to the lepers, who were discarded by their families. Unfortunately, lepers are still facing ostracism from society and our Vande Mataram Kunj in Haridwar is a dedicated centre for their stay and care,” he added.

The Mission is raising awareness even at the ongoing camp in Prayagraj about this discrimination faced by a section of the society and the steps being taken to curb it.

“A video is played at our camp and before starting of lectures also we will play the video detailing about the work done by our organisation in these nearly three decades and particularly our work for those afflicted with leprosy and their dependents who also face ostracism largely,” the official said.

The main office of Divya Prem Seva Mission in Haridwar is called ‘Sewa Kunj’. (PTI)

EAM Jaishankar to represent India at donald trump’s inauguration

issues including tariff, climate change and overall foreign policy priorities against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

It is for the second time Trump will be the US President. He served as the 45th President of the US from January, 2017 to January 2021.

There have been concerns in many countries over the new Trump administration’s likely policy approach over a range of sensitive issues including tariff, climate change and overall foreign policy priorities against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia. (Agencies)

GDC Khansahib organises Webinar on National Youth Day

Responsibility.”

On the occasion, the NSS Programme Officer Dr. Sajad Padder, presented a detailed overview about the history, significance and spirit of observing the National Youth Day.

He highlighted the challenges and opportunities faced by youth in today’s digital age and emphasized on enhancing their cognitive and vocational skills.

The students were also sensitized about the fundamental duties as enshrined in Article 51A of Indian constitution.

The youth were urged to refrain from drug addiction and contribute in the promotion of a healthy and resilient society.

The program ended with a question-answer session.

Dy CM greets people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti

weather, moving towards spring. While hoping that these festivals will usher an era of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, Dy CM urged upon the people to consign to fire the hatred and work collectively for making our nation strong and prosperous

BRIEF

CM Omar extends greetings on Lohri, Makar Sankranti

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasions of Lohri and Makar Sankranti, wishing joy, peace and prosperity to all celebrating these festivals.

In his message, the Chief Minister emphasized the spirit of togetherness and happiness that festivals like

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Dy CM greets people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today extended greetings to people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Lohri and Makar Sankranti. In a felicitous message, the Dy CM maintained that the festivals are a tribute to the bounties of nature ushering a change in the

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GDC Khansahib organises Webinar on National Youth Day

The National Youth Day or Rashtriya Yuva Divas is celebrated annually on 12th January in commemoration of philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda.

His inspiring message to the youth is to nurture their dreams, unleash their energies, and shape a future worthy of his envisioned ideals.

To commemorate this day, the NSS unit of GDC Khansahib, under the patronage of college Principal Dr. Nargis Bano, organised a webinar on the theme “Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and

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J&K Police Freezes Over 100 Bank Accounts Linked To Drug Trafficking

In its intensified financial investigations into multiple narcotic smuggling cases, Jammu and Kashmir Police have frozen more than 100 bank accounts allegedly linked to drug trafficking in Srinagar, officials said. Jammu local businesses and Jammu and Kashmir tourism. The individuals holding these accounts have been arrested in connection with cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Srinagar District, police said on Sunday.

“These accounts collectively contain deposits amounting to several lakhs of rupees”, police said adding “All transactions associated with these accounts are under detailed scrutiny to trace the flow of illicit funds”.

The freezing of these accounts has effectively blocked access to financial resources used by drug

PM to inaugurate Z-Morh tunnel: security forces intensify area domination exercise In Kashmir

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

The security forces on Sunday intensified sanitization efforts and area domination exercise in Kashmir, a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the valley for inauguration of the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district, officials said.

The deployment of security personnel has been increased in the vulnerable areas and dozens of checkpoints have been set up at important intersections in various districts to ensure that anti-national elements are not able to move around freely, they said.

The officials said that random checking and



frisking of people and vehicles, including two-wheelers, has been intensified while patrolling is also taking place.

“Security has been tightened near the Z-

Morh tunnel. Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place and the PM’s security team, comprising the SPG personnel, has taken over the venue,” they said.

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Haridwar-based organisation to host lecture on ‘One Nation, One Election’ at Maha Kumbh

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

A Haridwar-based community welfare organisation has lined up a series of seven lectures on diverse themes, including one on the contentious subject of simultaneous polls, at its camp at the Maha Kumbh site in Uttar Pradesh’s Prayagraj on January 18.

The first in the series is slated to be held on January 18, a day ahead of the beginning of the mega festival that will run till February 26 in the holy city of Prayagraj.

“A total of seven lec-



tures will be hosted by us at our camp at the Maha Kumbh starting with a lecture on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12. The lecture scheduled

for January 18 is titled — ‘One Nation, One Election — Aarthik Rajnaitik Sudhar Evam Viksit Bharat ke Sandarb Mein’, an official of Di-

vyaprem Seva Mission

told PTL. The official claimed that an invitation has been sent to former president Ram Nath Kovind, with a request to visit the camp and deliver the lecture on January 18.

Earlier in September 2023, a high-level committee, led by Kovind, was set up with a mandate to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and pan

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Five drug peddlers arrested by police in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

At least five drug peddlers were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district, said officials on Sunday, adding that contraband substances have been recovered from them. Jammu local businesses

A statement issued by police said, “Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police has ar-



rested five drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their posses-

sion. A police party of Police Station Chandoosa

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Satish Sharma calls on Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

Minister for FCS & CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, called on Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, in New Delhi and discussed issues related to overall development of J&K, especially Youth Services and Sports.

The Minister expressed



heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the remarkable initiatives undertaken by the Ministry

of Youth Affairs and Sports, Gol.

Sharma said that proactive efforts, unwa-

vering commitment and consistent support being extended by the Ministry to Jammu and Kashmir has significantly bolstered the sports ecosystem in the region.

The Minister asserted that events/initiatives under various flagship programs like Khelo India have played a pivotal role in identifying and nurturing young talent. Besides, the projects to upgrade sports infrastructure have brought new hope and enthusiasm to the youth



Chinar corp celebrates 110th raising day in Srinagar

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava on Sunday laid a wreath at the Chinar War Memorial, Badami Bagh Cantonment Srinagar on the occasion of 110th Raising Day.

In a post on X, Chinar Corps said on the raising day GOC extended warm greetings to all ranks, their families, veterans, and civil employees.

“Chinar Warriors ho-



nour the indomitable spirit and courage of our Bravehearts and pay obeisance for their supreme sacrifice in service to the Nation, Army posted on X

“GOC, Chinar Corps, and All Ranks of the Chinar Corps laid wreath at the Chinar War Memorial, BB Cantt, Srinagar

on the occasion of 110th Raising Day. Today, we honour the Bravehearts who laid down their lives for our Nation. We remember their sacrifice, we revere their courage & we re-dedicate ourselves to serve with unwavering commitment,” another post of Chinar Corps said.

EAM Jaishankar to represent India at donald trump’s inauguration

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States on January 20.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Sunday that Jaishankar will also have meetings with representatives of the incoming Trump administration during his visit to the US.

Trump had defeated Vice President Kamala Harris in the presidential election held in November.

Last month, Jaishankar said Trump has had a posi-



tive political view of India and it is in a much more advantageous position than many other countries to build “deeper” relations with his administration and take the bilateral ties forward.

“On the invitation of the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent the Government of India at the swearing-In

ceremony of President-Elect Donald J Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America,” it said.

JD Vance will be the new US Vice President.

“During the visit, the external affairs minister will also have meetings with representatives of the incoming administration, as also some other dignitaries visiting the US on that occasion,” the MEA said in a statement.

There have been concerns in many countries over the Trump administration’s policy over a range of sensitive

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Youth must transform ideas into reality for a viksit bharat: Jitendra Singh

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

Youth must transform ideas into reality for Viksit Bharat, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Sunday.

He was speaking at a dinner hosted for a group of around 100 students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on the sidelines of the ongoing “National Youth Festival 2025”, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Jammu local



businesses and Jammu and Kashmir tourism

“Programmes like the National Youth Festival 2025 provide young individuals with an unparalleled national platform to

channel their creativity, aspirations, and energy into tangible contributions toward a developed India,” said Singh.

Underscoring the importance of youth-driven

Department of Tourism J&K Hosts Grand Lohri Celebrations at Raghunath Bazaar and Kala Kendra

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12
Under the able guidance of Ms. Yasha Mudgal, IAS, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, J&K, the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, organized grand Lohri celebrations at the historic Raghunath Bazaar and Kala Kendra, highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage and traditions. The events, held in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu and the Raghunath Bazaar Businessmen Association, witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and visitors alike. The festivities at Raghunath Bazaar began with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp by Hon'ble MLA Jammu East, Sh. Yudhvir Sethi, accompanied by Director Tourism Jammu, Sh. Vikas Gupta, JKAS, and Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Ms. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, JKAS. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble MLA Jammu East, Sh. Yudhvir Sethi, highlighted the significance of Lohri as a festival of unity, gratitude, and cultural pride. He remarked, Lohri embodies the spirit of togetherness and the cultural legacy of our region. Events like these preserve our traditions while elevating Jammu as a hub of cultural tourism. He commended the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Raghunath Bazar businessmen association for organizing such a grand celebration. Director Tourism Jammu, Sh. Vikas Gupta, JKAS, emphasized the importance of cultural festivals in promoting tourism. He stated, Lohri reflects the inclusive and diverse spirit of Jammu's culture. Such initiatives leave lasting impressions on visitors and foster pride in our traditions. The Tourism Department is committed to position Jammu as a pre-



mier destination for cultural tourism. Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Ms. Sunaina Sharma Mehta, JKAS, expressed her sincere gratitude for the public's enthusiastic participation. She highlighted that the Saptak Group, comprising talented local artists, was provided a platform to showcase their exceptional cultural intellect and skill. Their soulful Dogri songs enriched with traditional instruments and cultural knowledge, added a distinct cultural touch to the celebrations, resonating deeply with the audience and elevating the festive atmosphere. The cultural extravaganza featured mesmerizing live performances by the renowned Saptak Group, complemented by captivating instrumental music on the guitar, sarangi, soor, flute, and tabla and other instruments. These performances elevated the festive atmosphere, leaving the audience enthralled and creating an unforgettable experience. Also present on the occasion were Sh. Vivek Shekhar, S.P. North; Ms. Savita Chouhan, Dy. Director Tourism (Publicity); Ms. Sugandhi Banotra, ADT Jammu; Sh. Devender Bandral, D.S.P. City; Sh. Ashok Sharma, Secretary Dharmarth Trust, Retd. SSP; Sh. Arun Gupta,

President, Chamber of Commerce; Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer, Chamber of Commerce; Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce; Sh. Amit Gupta, Sr. VP, Chamber of Commerce; Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. VP, Chamber of Commerce; Sh. Rajesh Gupta, President, Tourism Federation Jammu; Sh. Raman Suri, Social Activist; and members of the Raghunath Bazaar Association, including Sh. Sanjay Gupta, President; Sh. Amit Goel, General Secretary; Sh. Sanjay Sethi, Sr. Vice President; Sh. Nitin Gupta, Secretary; Sh. Mohit Gupta, Joint Secretary; and Sh. Ankush Sethi, Treasurer. Also in attendance were former presidents, general secretaries, ex-office bearers, and senior members of the Raghunath Bazaar Association, along with representatives from all Old City Associations. Apart from this, the Lohri celebrations also took place at Kala Kendra, Jammu, featuring captivating cultural performances. Attendees had the opportunity to indulge in authentic Dogri cuisine, offering a true taste of the region's rich heritage. The grand Lohri celebrations of 2025 reaffirmed Jammu's position as a cultural tourism hub and created cherished memories for all attendees.

01 BOVINE SMUGGLER/DRUG PEDDLER/HABITUAL CRIMINAL BOOKED UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY ACT 1978 (PSA) .

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12
J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Sh. Shobhit Saksena IPS apprehended 01 Notorious/ Habitual Criminal who was involved in different cases at PS Hiranagar, PS Rajbagh, PS Ghagwal, & PS Nagrota and booked under Public Safety Act 1978(PSA). On dated 11/01/2025 Police team led by SHO P/S Hiranagar under the supervision of SDPO Border apprehended one habitual criminal/drug peddler/ Bovine Smuggler namely Maskeen Ali @Bantu S/o Lal Hussain R/o Ward No. 13 Rakh Sarkar Plahai Tehsil Hiranagar District Kathua who is habitual criminal involved in various bovine smuggling activities as well as other heinous Cases registered at PS Hiranagar vide FIR No's 34/2019 U/S 8/21/22/NDPS Act, FIR No. 188/2022 U/S 188/IPC 11PCA Act of PS Hiranagar, FIR No. 158/2019 U/S 323/341/382 IPC of PS Rajbagh, FIR No. 23/2021 U/S 188/IPC 11/PCA Act of PS Ghagwal, & FIR No. 398/2021 U/S 188/IPC, 11 PCA Act of PS Nagrota respectively. In order to prevent the illegal activities within the district, "Dossier" was prepared against the accused person and sent to the District Magistrate Kathua for his detention under Public Safety Act- 1978 (PSA). Accordingly District Magistrate Kathua issued a detention warrant against the



accused person under the Public Safety Act 1978. Accordingly, the warrant has been executed today and he has been lodged in Central Kot-

Bhalwal Jail Jammu to curtail his illegal activities. Locals of the Kathua district have appreciated this initiative of J&K Police Kathua.

Addi Kunj organises a special Tribute programme- for literary Saint Sham Talib at writers Club

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12
A well-known multi-lingual literary organization Addi Kunj J&K" organized a Tribute programme in the sweet memory of Jb. Sham Talib its founder president since 1975 in Writers Club Hall of J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages Jammu. This programme was presided over by a famous literary personality Jb. Aseer Kishtwari. In this programme Dr. Ashwani Joira was the chief guest and Jb. Suhail Kazmi and Jb. Zorawar Singh Jamwal were the Special Guests.

Aarsh Dalmotra the chairman was holding the stage. Ramesh raj kishtwari read the paper regarding a valuable life of Sh. Sham talib. Uncounted personalities paid their tribute to the departed soul of sh. Sham Talib who was a real literary saint in Jammu. Jb. Ashwani Joira explained various hidden and interested instances concerning the simplest life of Jb. Sham Talib. Jb. Suhail Kazmi told a literary angel to Jb Sham Talib in Jammu who played a special role in the literary field of J&K.

The programme was embellished with the heartily tribute paid by Jb. Zorawar Singh Jamwal who explained his in simple Dogri words for a very simple literary personality of jb. Sham Talib who devoted his whole of his life in his literary devotion. All the following very respected literary personalities also paid their tribute to the departed soul revealing the literary life of Talib Sahib. At the end of the programme, while thanking all the dignitaries who attended the program, a vote

NOTICE

I, Naresh Kumar, father of Kalpana Devi, resident of Jathelli, District Doda, hereby inform that the name of my daughter has been incorrectly recorded as "Kalapna Devi" instead of "Kalpana Devi" in my Army service record. My army number is 14932069K, and I am posted at 5 MECH INF (14 KUMAON) C/O 56 APO. I now wish to apply for the correction of my daughter's name to "Kalpana Devi." Any person having objections regarding this matter may convey the same to the concerned Army office within seven days.

Security forces on 'maximum alert' in J&K's Doda

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12
A police officer on Saturday said all security formations in Doda have been put on "maximum alert" ahead of Republic Day and in view of presence of two groups of terrorists noticed in the hilly district's higher reaches last year. Doda Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Mehta also said police have intensified their operations against anti-national elements, particularly over ground workers (OGWs) who have been aiding militants. Police have chargesheeted nine such individuals in the past two

weeks. Five security personnel and four terrorists were killed last year in Doda, which has seen an increased instances of militancy recently. "Doda borders several districts and the Himachal Pradesh so divulging exact numbers of terrorists operating in the district is not possible ... The heightened security measures have been put in place to combat militancy," the SSP told PTI. He said the past attacks confirmed the presence of two groups in the higher reaches last year. "All security checkpoints are on high alert, especially in view of the upcoming Republic Day. The formations in the

periphery of the district are on maximum alert and our focus is on anti-national elements to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem," Mehta said. Referring to the chargesheet filed against nine arrested OGWs, he said the focus is to cut off the logistical support to terrorists and weaken their capabilities. "This crackdown is part of a broader strategy to ensure the safety and security of the region's residents," he said. The SSP said all accused have overtly or covertly supported the terrorist groups in the district by giving them food and other logistics.


Amit holds exclusive talks with Satya Nadella team in Microsoft AI Tour Meet

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12
Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, Information & Communications Technology and Cooperation, Mizoram held exclusive talks with Microsoft Global team regarding new Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Solutions and several initiatives for Mizoram state in Microsoft AI Tour held in New Delhi this week which was led by none other than MS Global CEO Satya Nadella himself to interact & holding proactive engagements with all states of India. Amit Sharma, who is currently ICT & Cooperation Secretary of Mizoram and is well-known for leading several innovative IT reforms in his previous stints as IT Secretary Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, was invited as a Special Guest to hold exclusive talks with lead Microsoft team in Government Vertical wherein Abhishek Bose and Sumit Mukherjee agreed to provision Microsoft AI lead training and courses for select employees of Mizoram Government for AI Certification under CSR which is a peak need of the hour. IT Secretary Mizoram Amit Sharma further agreed to lead a Virtual Boardroom Meeting to be held from Mizoram soon wherein IT Secretaries and officers of all states and UTs shall be invited to participate and get orientation from top MS Experts on Artificial Intelligence related latest global technologies in-vogue, which can be implemented in their respective states/UTs in a customized manner. Apart from this, IT Secretary Mizoram happened to understand several offerings of Microsoft including Azure and other



cloud related solutions for several ongoing Projects here wherein possibilities of collaboration can be explored in future. Before leaving, ICT Secretary Amit Sharma thanked Team Microsoft for taking a lead in focusing towards

North Eastern States, especially keeping Mizoram amongst the top Indian potential states wherein they want to collaborate actively and contribute so as to make public IT and AI literate in times to come.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION
SURANKOTE
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 109 of 2024-25 Dated 10-01-2025
(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Work (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Road from Tranawali to Sanglani (Under Capex Budget Regular). 3rd Call.	20.00	860/-	40,000/-	02 Years	"B" "C" Class
2.	Construction/Upgradation of Road from Mohalla Hundi (W No 1) to H/O Mohd Rafiq (Capex Budget 2024-25 DDC Grants). (2nd Call)	04.99	200/-	9,980/-	60 Days	"D" Class

Position of AAA: -Accorded. Position of T.S:- Sanctioned. Position of funds:- Partially Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of the contract, and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per the below schedule:-

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	10-01-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-01-2025 to 18-01-2025, 1855 Hrs
4	Bid Submission Start Date	10-01-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	18-01-2025 upto 1855 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	20-01-2025 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Surankote.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after the technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of the Tender document in the shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly credited to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Surankote uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date. Moreover the Challan Must have Treasury and Bank Stamp) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Surankote as mentioned in the bidding documents.

DIP No: DIP/J-9111/24 Dt: 11-1-2025

Sd/=
Executive Engineer PWD (R&B)
Division Surankote

JKP successfully recovered & returned 35, lost & stolen smartphones

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

In a significant stride towards public service, the Jammu Kashmir Police, under the aegis of operation “Re-CONNECT” (launched by Jammu Police), Jammu Police successfully recovered 35 smartphones with an estimated worth of over 7 lakh rupees. The exercise, spanning over the past two months, has been a remarkable success, restoring not just devices but also emotional connections for the citizens of Jammu.

The specialized Tech team of Jammu Police’s Headquarter Zone, tirelessly traced, located, and recovered these lost 35 smartphones from various parts of J&K. These smartphones had been reported missing in different police stations and border police posts in the Headquarter Zone, Jammu.

The recovered devices were handed back to their rightful owners in a modest yet emotional ceremony held at the office premises of the SP headquarters Jammu. Present at the function were



SP Hqrs Jammu & SDPO RS Pura.

The event was marked by scenes of joy and relief as owners were reunited with their lost devices, which contained cherished memories, important personal information, and essential communication tools.

The grateful citizens expressed their heartfelt thanks to Jammu & Kashmir Police and praised the team for their relentless efforts.

The recovered phones were handed over only after thorough verification of identity documents and mobile bills, ensuring that the devices were returned to their lawful owners.

The owners were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude upon receiving their valuable devices, which had been missing for several months or even years.

Utilizing the occasion to educate the public, SP Hqrs Jammu advised on the importance of securing communication devices. He emphasized the need for strong passwords, updated software, remote tracking features, and two-factor authentication to safeguard personal information stored on smartphones. This advice aims to prevent future losses and enhance the security of personal data.

2-Day Live Painting Workshop concludes

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

IIT Jammu hosted a two-day Live Painting Workshop conducted by the acclaimed artist Sh. K.K. Gandhi on 9th and 10th January 2025. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members, offering them an immersive experience in the world of art.

Sh. K.K. Gandhi, a celebrated artist known for his exceptional contributions to the field of fine arts, guided the participants through the creative process of live painting. The workshop included interactive sessions where participants explored various techniques, mediums, and styles, all under the expert guidance of Sh. Gandhi.

The event aimed to foster creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for art among the IIT Jammu community. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gandhi expressed his delight at the enthusiasm shown by the participants and emphasized the importance of integrating art



into academic and professional environments to nurture holistic development.

The Director of IIT Jammu Prof. Manoj Gaur, in his address, appreciated Sh. Gandhi’s efforts in inspiring the participants and highlighted the institution’s commitment to encouraging

such multidisciplinary engagements.

The two-day workshop concluded with a display of the participants’ artwork, which received accolades from attendees. The event served as a testament to the power of art in bringing people together and sparking creativity in diverse ways.

Vinod put behind bars

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Janipur police led by SHO Insp Vikram Sharma continuing with zero tolerance to Drugs abuse* today arrested another drug habitual drug peddler Vinod Kumar @ Kuda S/O Joginder Pal R/O House No. 55 Dogra Hall,Jammu* when the suspected person was roaming over his scooty near Roop Nagar area and on seeing was police party tried to fled away from spot but alert troops apprehended him. On his search 5 gram approx. Heroin was found from him.

On further enquiry, it came to fore that the said accused is selling narcotics from last many years for undue profit generation in the local area. In this regard FIR No. 04/2025 stand registered at *Police Station Janipur* and investigation is in full swing.

Accused Vinod Kumar @ Kuda is part of *Drug syndicate* which is active in Jammu and are selling drugs to innocent youth of the area for gaining

undue profits from sale of narcotics and are responsible for overdose death due to drugs happening in the area. These peddlers have become *nightmare for the parents* of the vulnerable children who are out of their home either for tuitions or in hostels in Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that this is 04 FIR against Vinod Kumar @ Kuda under NDPS Act. The accused is hard core peddler and has no fear of law.

is 10th FIR in last 20 days after the launch of *Zero Tolerance policy against drug peddlers by SDPO City West Jammu*.

City West and SP City North *Sh Vivek Shekhar JKPS* under the overall supervision of Sh Joginder Singh JKPS SSP Jammu are personally supervising the investigation to dug out the backward and forward linkages of these Drug peddlers to dismantle the *whole ecosystem* of Drug menace developed by the Drug Syndicates of the area. His financial investigation is also going on to know about the property acquired by

these *Black Sheep* and to further *attach their illegitimate property* which is proceed of narcotics.

SgCt Mohd Mukhtiyar, SgCt. Parwaiz Khan along with two wives Nagris Bhat & Parveen Akhtar, Karamjeet @ Chamkor, Sandeep Nirala, Farzan Shah and Vikas Manni along with wife Tanu Mehra, Vishav Sharma @ Vishu’s and now Vinod Kumar@ Kuda’s arrest has proved that police is duty bound to save the innocent youth of this country from the menace of drug abuse with zero tolerance to peddlers who are doing this immoral trade which has resulted in many youth’s death due to overdose leading to *genetic death* of families.

Police’s swift action and apprehension of these black sheep of society has been appreciated by public.

Sub-Division City west team is working day and night to book all the drug peddlers to abstain them from this immoral trade and mend their ways.

ELITE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS INTER SCHOOL POWER POINT PRESENTATION COMPETITION

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Elite Public High School Udhewala hosts an Inter School Power Point Presentation Competition for class VIII students under the banner of Youth Talent Search a forum of 10 prestigious schools, here today.

The participants were very enthusiastic and well prepared.

The forum aims at exploring the talent in children and encourages them to

fight their dreams by organising different activities and competitions at different levels . In the competition host school, JK Montessori Public School, Talab Tillo,SD Tara Puri School, BHMP School Barnai, Humanity Public School Bari Brahmana,Alexander Memorial Public School participated.

The programme was adjudged by Mrs. Upma Sharma, Teacher Govt. Girls Higher Sec School, Nowabad

and Mrs. Sneh Rajput,Teacher Govt. Girls Higher Sec School, Nowabad.

Mrs. Mala Sharma Chairperson Mam& Mrs. Vasudha Mahajan, MDEPHS were present during the event.

In Power Point Presentation Competition Humanity Public School emerged as winner. The second position bagged by S. D. Tara Puri School. The third position grabbed by JK Montessori School.

Reffa Boules India Federation Hosts Exciting RAFFA Sports Camp at R.M PUBLIC SCHOOL,

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

The Reffa Boules India Federation organized an engaging raffa boules sports camp at R.M Public School Jammu bringing excitement and joy to students and staff alike.

The camp aimed to promote the unique sport of boules, a ball game that combines strategy and precision. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the school management, teachers, and students, who embraced the opportunity to try their hand at this lesser-known yet thrilling sport.

A highlight of the event was Director of School Rakshan Mangi , who actively participated in the game, showcasing remarkable interest and skill. Speaking on the occasion,



Dr Harvinder Kaur Vice Principal thanked Sunny Nanda, the General Secretary of the Reffa Boules Ind. Federation, for organizing the camp. She expressed her enthusiasm for the sport and stated, “We are inspired by this initiative and will soon start in-

corporating this wonderful sport into our school’s activities.”

The management of RMPS expressed gratitude for the initiative, highlighting how such events contribute to students’ overall development. “Sports like boules not only foster

physical fitness but also teach teamwork and focus,” said a school official.

The Reffa Boules India Federation plans to organize more such events in schools across the country to popularize the sport and encourage youth participation.

CB booked 10 persons for fake documentation

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Crime Branch (CB) has booked ten persons including three Ex/serving officials viz. Deputy Inspector of fisheries department, former Forestor and a Head Constable of IRP for using fake qualification certificates to get government jobs & promotional benefits and seven persons for using forged document before the L.d. court of law.

On the complaint of one Shokat Ali S/o Bashir Ahmed R/o Bani Disrict kathua, a

case has been registered against Ex-Deputy Inspector fisheries department Mohd. Farid R/o Kathua for using fake school leaving certificate of 8th class for getting job in fisheries department. On the communication of Divisional Forest Officer Jammu, on the basis of complaint submitted by Parveen Kumar S/o Pathu Ram R/o Thandi Choi, an FIR has been registered against Ex-Forestor Raghurib Singh R/o Akhnoor, District Jammu for using fake graduation mark-sheets to get promotion as Deputy Forester.

On the communication of commandant IR-15th battalion Jammu on the basis of grievance lodged by complainant Lal Hussain, case has been registered against IRP HC Mohd Munshi R/o Rajouri for using fake qualification certificate to get government job in J&K Police department. On the directions of L.d. Court of CJM Jammu issued on the complaint of one Mohd. Yasin R/o Tarha Morha Salli, Tehsil Dansal District Jammu, an FIR has been registered for preparing.

EDITORIAL

The Zojila Pass Tunnel often referred to as the Sonamarg Tunnel The Transformative Potential of the Zojila Pass Tunnel

The construction of the Zojila Pass Tunnel, a crucial infrastructure project in Jammu and Kashmir, holds immense strategic and socio-economic significance. This ambitious undertaking will revolutionize connectivity to Ladakh, a region previously cut off from the rest of the country for several months during harsh winters.

Firstly, the tunnel will ensure year-round all-weather connectivity to Ladakh, a critical lifeline for the region's defense, trade, and tourism. This will significantly enhance national security by providing swift and reliable access to the strategically important region.

Secondly, the tunnel will boost economic growth in Ladakh by facilitating easier movement of goods and people, promoting trade and tourism. This will create new economic opportunities for the local population, reduce their dependence on seasonal supplies, and improve their overall standard of living.

Thirdly, the tunnel will improve healthcare and emergency services in Ladakh by ensuring timely access to medical facilities and evacuation during emergencies. This will significantly enhance the quality of life for the people of Ladakh, particularly in remote areas.

In conclusion, the Zojila Pass Tunnel is a vital infrastructure project that will have a profound and transformative impact on Ladakh. It will not only enhance national security but also unlock the region's economic potential, improve social welfare, and strengthen its integration with the rest of India.

Disclaimer: This is a general editorial and may not reflect the specific views or opinions of any individual or organization.

Venkaiah Garu- life in service of Bharat

NARENDRA MODI

Today, India's former Vice President and respected statesman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines.

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated with each other for decades. We have worked together and I have also learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar because he was inspired by the vision of Nation First. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP.

When the Emergency was imposed almost 50 years ago, young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and that too for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-1980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect democratic principles.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming

even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR Tsunami swept the state, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for the BJP's growth across the state.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a work-smith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put in to legislative affairs and speaking for people of his constituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his Party but Venkaiah Garu refused to deviate from his core ideology. He went on to play a big role in strengthening the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, going across the villages and connecting with people from all walks of life. He led the Party on the floor of the Assembly and even became the AP BJP President.

It was in the 1990s that the BJP central leadership took note of Venkaiah Garu's efforts and thus in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appointed the Party's All India General Secretary. It was truly a remarkable moment for a man, who as a teenager would go around announcing the visits of Atal Ji and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the General Secretary, he was focused on how to bring our Party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the National President of the Party.

In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the government as a Minister, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone including Atal Ji

puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was being asked which portfolio he wants and his first choice was Rural Development. But, Venkaiah Garu was clear- he was a Kisan Putra, he had spent his early days in the villages and thus, if there was one area he wished to work, it was rural development. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.' Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban development for such an extensive period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national capital, having worked in Gujarat for the previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to Parliamentary norms and rules.

In 2017, our Alliance nominated him as our Vice-Presidential candidate. We faced a dilemma - we thought about how the big shoes of Venkaiah Garu would be impossible to fill, but at the same time, we also knew there was no better candidate for the Vice Presidency than him. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the Party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deep-rooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice President, he undertook various steps that also

enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and first time MPs get the opportunity to speak. He put great emphasis on attendance, making the Committees more effective and also raising the level of debate in the House.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, it was Venkaiah Garu who was on the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional moment for him- the young boy who was drawn to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India was on the Chair when this was finally achieved.

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer too. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also hosting people. But, off late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk.

Even after the Vice Presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about or on various developments that take place across the nation, he calls me and asks me about it. I met him most recently when our government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him once again on this milestone. I hope young Karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

Artificial General intelligence (AGI) has on our future reshaping sectors and stimulating creativity



VIJAY GARG

Consider a world in which machines can understand, learn, and reason as humans. Because of developments in Artificial General Intelligence, the future of AI will be here soon. AGI differs from conventional AI which excels at narrowly defined professions, as it attempts to mimic human intelligence capable of understanding, learning, and applying knowledge across wide domains. AGI is a significant advancement in artificial intelligence that has the potential to transform industrial settings, spur innovation, and redefine how we interact with technology.

AGI vs. Narrow AI: Unlike narrow AI, which has specialized single tasks, AGI seeks to perform any intellectual task that a human can. Narrow AI has been quite brilliant at its single tasks, while AGI seeks to learn and understand knowledge through the full range of functionality a human can.

Early Concepts and Theoretical Foundations: It was first proposed in the early 1900s to create a machine or a program that was capable of thinking and

acting more like a person. The Turing Test, designed by Alan Turing in 1950 to assess intelligence comparable to that of humans, established the scenario. There occurred many significant inventions after that to quantify the principle that is proposed. This principle underpins research and advancements in the field of human-computer interfaces.

Machine Learning Comes of Age: Machine learning emerged in the 1950s and 1960s as a result of statistical algorithms that could identify patterns in data and use them to make future decisions without external supervision. Frank Rosenblatt's Perceptron of 1957 is the simplest neural network model which showed that computers could learn from experience and that can be programmed and trained, was a crucial step towards general artificial intelligence. Perceptrons showed that computers could learn from their experiences and could be trained to recognize things in photographs.

Symbolic AI and Expert Systems: The Expert systems and symbolic AI centered on the encoding of knowledge and the application of rules

and symbols in human reasoning. AI has shown promise as a useful and effective solution in certain issue areas, as seen by expert systems such as MYCIN, which identified bacterial illnesses. These systems were static and rule-based, which made them restricted from all these.

Revival of Neural Networks: AI was given a major boost in the late 1980s and early 1990s with the advent of connectionism and neural networks, which were modelled after mimicking the human brain. Training multi-layer neural networks became possible because of backpropagation techniques, which helped the networks dominate tasks like image and speech recognition. This signaled the transition of AGI techniques from rule-based to learning-driven.

The Big Data Revolution: The Big Data revolution of the early 2000s gave AI researchers access to vast amounts of data for training ever more complex models. Large datasets became available, processing and storage power increased, and data-intensive learning methods like deep learning became feasible. This gave the way for advancements in a number of verticals, including computer vision and natural language processing.

The Emergence of Deep Learning: Deep learning, a subset of machine learning, has been a crucial breakthrough in the journey toward AGI. In tasks like speech and image recognition, Convolutional Neural Networks and Recurrent Neural Networks perform at a human-level of intelligence.

Current Status and Future Directions: At this moment, we are extremely near to witnessing the full potential of AGI. Reinforcement learning in large scale, unsupervised learning, and transfer learning are some of the primary fields that focus on making

machines capable of learning new tasks and interpreting functions and take decisions without human interventions.

Comparison to Narrow AI (ANI): While ANI is limited to specific tasks, AGI can manage a wide range of activities. AGI can operate fluently and autonomously on new tasks, but ANI needs explicit programming for each activity. In the future, artificial general intelligence (AGI) hopes to mimic human cognitive functions like learning, reasoning, problem-solving, and empathy.

Ethical and Societal Implications: Ensuring fairness and mitigating bias in AGI development is crucial. Other crucial factors to take into account are to include safeguarding user data and defending AGI systems against cyberattacks extensively. To further address the impact on employment, controlling job displacement and assisting with workforce transformation are essential. In order to guarantee ethical behaviors, responsible development of AGI requires cooperation between researchers, legislators, and society.

AGI research has produced numerous important results, ranging from theoretical foundations to deep learning advances. Even if AGI remains ideal, present AI research is pushing the envelope, imagining a time when AI would fundamentally revolutionize our way of life and work for the better. To ensure that AGI helps mankind as a whole, it will be necessary to address technical, ethical, and social issues.

Understanding these characteristics allows us to better appreciate the immense potential influence artificial general intelligence (AGI) has on our future reshaping sectors, stimulating creativity, and changing how we engage with technology.

Sabalenka sizzles on rain-hit day at Australian Open

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

Aryna Sabalenka opened her bid for a third straight Australian Open title with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Sloane Stephens on Sunday after rain had washed away a good chunk of play on the opening day at Melbourne Park.

The top seed did not have it all her own way against the 2017 US Open champion but wrapped up the win in little more than an hour on Rod Laver Arena, one of three courts where play continued under closed roofs during the deluge.

Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen, who lost to Sabalenka in last year's final, reached the second round indoors, while men's sixth seed Christian Ruud and former world number four Kei Nishikori dodged the wet weather to secure five-set victories.

It was another matter on the outside courts where play ended after less than an hour in the morning and did not resume until more than six hours later in the early evening.

Eight of the 32 scheduled singles matches were scratched and organisers will be giving thanks for the cushion of the extra day which was first added to the tournament last year.

One of the benefits of winning three Grand Slam titles is preferential scheduling and the roof of Rod Laver Arena was open again to the evening sun as Sabalenka took to court to face American Stephens.

Five breaks of serve, 20 winners and 21 unforced errors later and the Belarusian was leading the crowd in an im-



promptu dance, having secured a second-round clash with Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

"It's not like I played my best match, probably, but I was glad to close it out in straight sets," the 26-year-old said.

"I love playing here, it feels like home."

At the start of the day, the roofs of the showcourts were already closed before a violent thunderstorm brought the first rain and Zheng and Romanian qualifier Anca Todoni played out their baseline battle uninterrupted.

Fifth seed Zheng, who did not play a warm-up tournament, struggled against the tall Todoni in the first set, finally breaking for 4-3 only to be broken back.

The 22-year-old saved a set point before clinching the tiebreaker 7-3 and quickly raced to a 3-0 lead in the second while Todoni racked up unforced

errors as she fought to stay in the contest.

"The first match is never easy and I made some stupid mistakes," Zheng said after wrapping up her 7-6(3), 6-1 win in a shade under two hours.

Earlier, Mirra Andreieva was the first player to reach the second round when the 17-year-old Russian beat Czech Marie Bouzkova 6-3, 6-3 on John Cain Arena.

On Margaret Court Arena, Arthur Fils was the first man into second round when he came from a set down to beat unseeded Finn Otto Virtanen 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-4.

"It's pretty nice, man. First time in my life I'm playing on a good court," the 20th seeded Frenchman said.

"To be able to play a match and to finish a match with a roof, it's much more easy than to play, to stop with the rain."

Meet new BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

Devajit Saikia was unanimously elected as the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India during the board's Special General Meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

The 55-year-old replaces Jay Shah, who stepped down as BCCI secretary last month after being elected as the chairman of the International Cricket Council.

A former cricketer, Saikia represented Assam in four first-class matches during the 1990s before transitioning to cricket administration. He began his career in cricket administration as the general secretary of a cricket club in Assam under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma, the current chief minister of Assam.

Saikia was appointed as the advocate general (AG) of Assam in May 2021.

Last month, BCCI president Roger Binny named Saikia as the board's acting secretary, sparking a controversy.

Senior Assam Congress leader Debabrata Saikia, also the leader of the



Opposition (LoP)

In a letter to the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Debabrata Saikia stated that advocate general "has violated the privileges of the House by taking a secretarial position along with a position of director which has several pecuniary and financial benefits by a foreign organisation (ICC) and a non-governmental organisation (BCCI) in violation of the principles of 'office of profit'."

Debabrata Saikia also added that the

AG's appointment as BCCI secretary was violative of Rule 48 of the Bar Council of India Rules under Advocates Act, 1961, according to which "an advocate shall not be a managing director or a secretary of any company".

In response, Devajit Saikia denied any wrongdoing, as he stated that both the BCCI and ICC positions were honorary. "The basic thing is that the positions I am holding in BCCI and ICC are honorary posts. How does the question of 'office of profit' arise?"

Why Bumrah may lose out on Test captaincy

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

Jasprit Bumrah is the frontrunner to replace Rohit Sharma as India's Test captain going forward. However, the pace spearhead doesn't seem to be a long-term option given his nagging fitness concerns, the latest being a back spasm that has rendered him doubtful for next month's ICC Champions Trophy.

The national selection committee remains hopeful that Bumrah still might have some role in the Champions Trophy, given it's a swelling. But looking at the bigger picture, the question arises: Can he be deemed a permanent skipper in Tests, now that Rohit's days in Tests seem to be nearing their end?

If Bumrah is fit and ready to lead the Test side in England later this year, chief selector Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues need to identify a strong vice-captain. This is crucial to ensure the deputy can take charge in unforeseen circumstances.

Currently, in Tests, only two names are in the reckoning -- Rishabh Pant and Yashasvi Jaiswal -- with the former appearing the most suitable for the role.

It is understood that during BCCI's review meeting on Saturday with Agarkar, head coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit, Bumrah's issues with the lower back were discussed in detail.

Post the review, it appears unlikely that Rohit will travel to England for the five Tests and if all goes well, the 31-year-old Bumrah will lead India in the first Test at Headingley.

The pacer, with 443 international scalps across formats in just 204 games, recently led India at Perth and Sydney in the recently concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. He was the player of the series with 32 wickets -- the highest by an Indian on foreign soil. However, the back spasm in the fi-



nal Test proved to be his undoing as he could not bowl in the second innings of the

The injury raises concerns about Bumrah's ability to stay fit for extended periods given his workload as the pace spearhead in Tests. His presence is vital for ICC white-ball events, but managing his bowling workload is paramount.

There is no guarantee that Bumrah won't have more breakdowns during the next WTC cycle from June 2025 to June 2027, especially now that he is in his 30s. This scenario might prompt selectors to groom another strong captaincy candidate as vice-captain.

Former national selector Devang Gandhi backed Pant's credentials.

"For me, it is a very simple thing. You look at the data and find who is a sure-shot pick in Test cricket. Bumrah has played 45 Tests and Pant has 43 Tests. He (Pant) is 27 now and by the time he was only 23, he had single-handedly won India one of its greatest Tests at the Gabba. He is a match-winner, a good sounding board for bowlers and should be the vice-captain," he

said.

Another former India keeper Deep Dasgupta agreed that Bumrah cannot be a long-term solution as Test captain given his bowling workloads.

"It is not just the marquee series (England and Australia) that we are talking about. In between Test matches, there will be ICC events where Bumrah's presence is a must. Like this year, it is Champions Trophy and next year it will be the T20 World Cup. He is managing it well by not playing bilaterals but nearer to events, he would need to. Then the bowling workload becomes paramount. Don't forget two months of IPL," he explained.

"So even as Bumrah starts as the next Test captain, there is a need for a strong vice-captain, and yes Pant fits the bill."

Both Gandhi and Dasgupta agreed that Jaiswal should not be burdened with vice-captaincy yet. He is expected to spearhead India's batting challenge in the future, and the BCCI should wait before considering him for a leadership role.

Jemimah's maiden century powers India to series win

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

A collective batting performance headlined by Jemimah Rodrigues' maiden hundred formed the cornerstone of India's commanding 116-run win against Ireland in the second women's ODI in Rajkot on Sunday as the hosts took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

India scored a massive 370/5 in their 50 overs riding on three half-centuries and a ton before restricting Ireland to 254/7 in the stipulated 50 overs.

It was the elegant skipper Smriti Mandhana, who was first off the blocks with an attacking 73 off just 54 balls, while Rodrigues' first hundred (102 off 91 balls) ensured a smooth finish for the hosts.

Newcomer Pratika Rawal (67 off 61 balls) and seasoned Harleen Deol (89 off 84 balls) also made merry on a sub-par bowling attack.

Ireland batted steadily but never had the firepower to surpass a gigantic Indian total. Save Christina Coulter Reilly's 80, there wasn't much fight from the other batters as off-spinner Deepti Sharma emerged as the pick of the Indian bowlers with figures of 3 for 37. Seamer Titus Sadhu got 1 for 48 in 10 overs.

Earlier, India's total was based on



two big stands -- 156 off 19 overs between Mandhana and Rawal and 183 off 28 overs between Rodrigues and Deol.

In all, Indian batters smashed an astounding 44 boundaries and three sixes in 50 overs.

As far as Rodrigues was concerned, her record has been one that flattered to deceive with just six half-centuries across 40 games.

But once she got the boundary off medium pacer Arlene Kelly, the relief was palpable as she did a mock guitar-playing act with her willow.

"It has been a long wait to get this

hundred. Glad that the team gave me a role at No. 4 and I could deliver," Rodrigues told broadcasters Star Sports at the innings break. "Today, the important thing for me was to be till the 50th over. Getting runs is not a problem, I am good at that, but being till the end was important and glad I could do that." "Having Harleen there, initially we took time to assess the conditions. I know I can accelerate but while I took time, Harleen spoke to me to keep believing.

"We can't take any team lightly, we have followed domestic cricket here, 390 has been chased," she said.

Indian team for Champions Trophy to be picked on...

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

The Indian team for the ICC Champions Trophy will be picked on January 18 or 19, said BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla on Sunday.

The selectors had announced the squad for the five-match series against England on Saturday but did not name the squad for the following three ODIs against England as well as the Champions Trophy, starting on February 19.

India play their Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh on February 20. Under the hybrid model, India will all play their games in Dubai while the other league games will be played in host country Pakistan.

India were dealt a major bowl as pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is likely to miss the group stage of the ICC Champions Trophy due to swelling in his back.

Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively, unopposed at the BCCI's Special General Meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

They both were elected unopposed after being the only ones to file nomination for the posts vacated by Jay Shah and Ashish Shelar.

Shah had to leave the secretary's post after



becoming the ICC chairman last month while Shelar resigned after taking oath as a cabinet minister in the Maharashtra government.

Saikia hails from Assam and Bhatia from Chhattisgarh. Saikia was performing the additional duties of secretary after Shah took over as ICC chairman on December 1. He was the joint secretary and now that post lies vacant.

"The Two (02) Elective Posts of the Office Bearers - Secretary and Treasurer were Uncontested, and it was not necessary to conduct a Poll in respect of these Two (02) Posts," stated electoral officer A K Joti in his declaration of results.

Shah, who was felicitated by the BCCI on Saturday night, was also feted at the SGM.

Speaking to reporters after the SGM, Shukla said apart from the election nothing was tabled in the meeting.

"There was single point agenda (for the election of treasurer and secretary post). So nothing else was discussed at the SGM."

Following the SGM, Shukla was also part of the Women's Premier League Committee meeting.

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Two-Day Live Painting Workshop by Renowned Artist Sh. K.K. Gandhi Concludes at IIT Jammu

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

IIT Jammu hosted a two-day Live Painting Workshop conducted by the acclaimed artist Sh. K.K. Gandhi on 9th and 10th January 2025. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members, offering them an immersive experience in the world of art. Sh. K.K. Gandhi, a celebrated artist known for his exceptional contributions to the field of fine arts, guided the participants through the creative process of live painting. The workshop included interactive sessions where participants explored various techniques, mediums, and styles, all under the expert guidance of Sh. Gandhi. The event aimed to foster creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for art among the IIT Jammu community. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gandhi expressed his delight at the enthusiasm shown by the participants and emphasized the im-



portance of integrating art into academic and professional environments to nurture holistic development. The Director of IIT Jammu Prof. Manoj Gaur, in his address, appreciated Sh. Gandhi's efforts in inspiring the participants and highlighted the institution's commitment to encouraging such mul-

tidisciplinary engagements. The two-day workshop concluded with a display of the participants' artwork, which received accolades from attendees. The event served as a testament to the power of art in bringing people together and sparking creativity in diverse ways.

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Essay writing competition organized

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

Red Ribbon Club of SKC Govt. Degree College Poonch in Collaboration with J&K AIDS control society organized Essay writing competition on the eve of "National Youth Day" under the able guidance of Principal Dr. Jasbir Singh, the theme of which was "Youth for a Sustainable Future, Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility". Students of the college actively participated in the competition by putting thoughts and ideas in their writings. The National youth day is celebrated every year all over India on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the great Indian saint, spiritual leader, philosopher and one of the most influential figures in the history of modern India. The main aim behind celebrating the day is to ignite and unite the youth towards nation building. The celebration holds great significance as it aims to share the thoughts and principles of



swami Vivekanand among the youth of India. He believed that youth are the backbone of any nation. He famously said "Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is achieved" Nearly 30 students of SKC GDC Poonch Participated in the Essay writing Competition. First position was secured by Rasleen Kour of B.SC. Sem I, second position was secured by Shoaib Anjum

of Sem IV and third position was shared by Mohd Junaid and Mohd Rizwan of Sem IV. The competition was coordinated by Dr Loveleen Kaur and Dr Tabassum Naz (Convener, Red Ribbon Club). Trophies and certificates were distributed to all the participants and winners. The refreshment was also distributed to the students during the event.

Seminar on Immunity Boosters Through a Yogic Way of Life

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

Vichar Kranti Manch International organized an insightful seminar on enhancing immunity through adopting a yogic lifestyle. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, the State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, was the keynote speaker. He highlighted how a disciplined yogic routine, incorporating practices such as pranayama, meditation, and a sattvic diet, can significantly strengthen the body's immune system. Dr. Jain elaborated on the critical role of pranayama (breathing exercises) in improving oxygenation, enhancing lung capacity, and reducing stress, which directly impacts immunity. He stressed that regular practice of Anulom-Vilom, Bhastrika, and Kapalabhati pranayama helps purify the blood, improves circulation, and stimulates the lymphatic system, which is vital for fighting infections. Further, Dr. Jain emphasized the importance of Asanas (yogic postures) such as Surya Namaskar and Bhujangasana, which not only improve physical flexibility but also enhance the functioning of vital organs like the heart, lungs, and digestive system. He advocated that con-



sistent practice of such asanas strengthens the immune response by boosting metabolism and eliminating toxins. The chief guest, Mr. Vinod Mahajan, a reputed businessman, Sh Manohar Khajuria, Former Director planning, presided over, he praised the initiative and shared his views on how a balanced yogic way of life could mitigate modern lifestyle diseases and promote overall well-being. The seminar witnessed active participation from prominent members, including Mr. Narinder Wadhwa, a noted social activist, Mr. Manohar Khajuria, former Director of Planning, and Smt. Perna Nanda, Shelja, Ajay Jamwal, Sajan and

Vishal Kumar, who shared their insights on maintaining physical and mental health through yoga. During the event, members congratulated Mr. Nitish Mahajan on his appointment as Trikota Mandal President (BJP). In honor of the occasion, Dr. Jain presented a meticulously prepared life sketch of Mr. Nitish, acknowledging his contributions to society and the community. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers for making the event a grand success. The session inspired attendees to adopt a yogic lifestyle for a healthier and more resilient life.

World's First Robotic Cardiac Telesurgeries Performed Over a Distance of 286 Km Using Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, SSI Mantra

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

SS Innovations, the developer of India's first indigenous surgical robotic technology, has made history in global healthcare by successfully performing two world-first robotic cardiac telesurgeries in just two days, a feat that has never been accomplished before. This achievement, made possible by the SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System, involved connecting SS Innovations' headquarters in Gurugram with Manipal Hospital in Jaipur, Rajasthan, spanning a distance of 286 kilometres. This historic milestone paves the way for a future where advanced surgical technology becomes a key component of accessible and efficient global healthcare. The Telerobotic-assisted Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting procedure conducted remotely was successfully completed in just 58 minutes. Led by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of SS Innovations International, Inc., from the SSI Headquarters in Gurugram, and supported by Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, along with his expert team at the remote location in Jaipur, the surgery demonstrated exceptional precision with an incredibly low latency of just 35-40 milliseconds (1/20th of a second). This groundbreaking procedure was followed by another world-first, a Robotic Beating Heart Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB), a procedure known as one of the most complex Cardiac Surgical procedures; performed via telesurgery under the same collaboration, with an incredibly low latency of just 40 milliseconds. Both surgeries, connected Gurgugram to Jaipur, and showcased seamless teamwork across long distances, setting a new standard for remote surgical interventions. These achievements underscore the transformative potential of telesurgery in overcoming geographical barriers, enabling timely, high-quality medical care with unparalleled accuracy. The SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System is the only robotic system in the world to have received regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring. Approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), this validation opens the door to remote surgeries and medical education, enabling healthcare professionals to collaborate across distances. It highlights the transformative potential of technology in enhancing the accessibility and precision of healthcare, revolutionizing how surgeries are performed on a global scale. By bringing world-class medical expertise to even the most remote corners of the globe, it sets a groundbreaking precedent for the future of remote healthcare, reshaping



patient care. Expressing immense gratitude for this historic feat, SS Innovations Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, said, "We are extremely thrilled to have advanced the capabilities of surgery to benefit humanity, especially in areas that need it the most. By enabling telesurgery, we can bridge gaps in access to medical expertise and deliver the highest standard of care, regardless of geographical barriers. For a country like India, with its vast rural population and significant healthcare disparities, this innovation is transformative. Telesurgery brings world-class surgical expertise directly to underserved communities, eliminating the need for patients to travel long distances to urban centres for specialized care. It ensures timely interventions while reducing logistical and financial burdens on families. With the recent CDSCO approval for telesurgery using SSI Mantra, we have not just advanced technology; we have fulfilled our mission to democratize access to robotic surgery. Our goal has always been to make advanced surgical care affordable and accessible, and telesurgery now allows us to extend the reach of skilled surgeons to every corner of our nation, fundamentally changing the way healthcare is delivered." Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, said, "This groundbreaking inter-state robotic cardiac telesurgery marks a significant leap in enhancing patient care through innovation. The remote robotic-assisted CABG on an elderly patient from Jaipur exemplifies how technology is bridging geographical gaps to provide accurate and timely medical interventions. This achievement underscores our dedication to offering world-class healthcare and ensuring patients have access to the most advanced treatment options available." Commenting on this milestone, Dr. Fredric Moll, Father of Surgical Robotics, and Founder of Intuitive Surgical and SS Innovations International, Inc Vice-Chairman, said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Srivastava

and the entire SSI team on the successful achievement of performing the world's first robotic cardiac telesurgeries. It is delightful to see just how far we have come since the inception of surgical robotics more than 20 years ago. As many may recall, the original robotic system was designed to achieve two things, remote surgery and the ability to perform coronary bypass surgery in a complete closed chest approach. My approach was this, if you could perform beating heart bypass surgery with the robot, then all other procedures would be possible. Due to the bandwidth limitations at the time, the telesurgery goal was put on hold while we further broadened the applications of the robotic system across all specialties. I believe that SS Innovations has seized the opportunity, to not only develop the next generation of a surgical robotic system, but to also push the envelope of just what was dreamed more than 20 years ago, achieving a successful demonstration of telesurgery coupled along with a highly complex cardiac surgical procedure. With this achievement, I have no doubt that certainly more opportunities will present themselves as we have now entered into a new paradigm shift towards surgery and how we will soon approach it." This historic achievement marks a significant step forward in India's healthcare landscape, with SSI leading the charge in revolutionizing surgical care through both cutting-edge technology coupled with a humanitarian vision. The approval of Telesurgery and Tele proctoring capabilities for SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic Systems not only underscores the company's commitment to innovation but also opens up new possibilities for accessible, high-quality healthcare across India and beyond. As SS Innovations continues to push the boundaries of medical technology, it remains dedicated to transforming healthcare delivery, making advanced treatments more accessible, and ultimately improving the lives of patients worldwide.

Ramakrishna Mission Jammu celebrated National Youth Day with great enthusiasm and fervor on 12 January 2025 at Vivekananda Auditorium at Ashram premises.



JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, JAN 12

The National Youth Day on 12th January is celebrated every year in commemoration of Birth Day of Swami Vivekananda, whose unwavering belief in the potential of youth continues to resonate deeply with young citizens of the country. Ramakrishna Mission organised a program to pay tribute to Swami Vivekananda by speeches on his inspiring life, Drama and Music performances by the students

of the colleges Govt. Women College, Parade, Govt. Women College, Gandhinagar, Govt. MAM PG College, Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, SPMR Commerce College, Govt. Degree College, Paloura, Mishriwala and Institute of Music and Fine Arts. Overall 300 NCC and NSS students and coordinators from 7 colleges participated in the program. All were provided certificates, books and sumptuous lunch. Distinguished

guests including Swami Jaynadarhananda, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission, Dr. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal, Smt. Seema Sehgal graced the occasion by their presence. The chief guest Dr. KS. Chandrasekar encouraged youths to serve the nation in the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda. He said Swami Vivekananda's legacy extends far beyond his teachings. Guest of ho-

nour Squadron Leader Anil Sehgal inspired Youths to take pride in their cultural heritage and make Vivekananda their role model. Swami Jaynadarhananda gave benediction and thanked all the participants. For other information contact us on number 9682151997. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

Indian economy likely to be 'a little weaker' in 2025: IMF MD

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

The Indian economy is expected to be "a little weaker" in 2025 despite steady global growth, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva has said.

Georgieva also said she expects quite a lot of uncertainty in the world this year mainly around the trade policy of the US.

In her annual media roundtable with a group of reporters on Friday, she said global growth is expected to be steady in 2025, but with regional divergence.

Georgieva said she expects the Indian economy to be a little weaker in 2025.

The World Economy Outlook update week will have more details about it.

"The US is doing quite a bit better than we expected before, the EU is somewhat stalling, (and) India a little weaker," she said.

Brazil was facing somewhat higher inflation, she said.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was seeing deflationary pressure and ongoing challenges with domestic demand, she said.

"Low-income countries, despite all the efforts they are making, are in a position when any new shock can affect them quite negatively," Georgieva said.

"What we expect in 2025 is to have quite a lot of uncertainty, especially in terms of economic policies.

"Not surprisingly, given the size and role of the US economy, there is keen



interest globally in the policy directions of the incoming administration, in particular on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and government efficiency," Georgieva said.

"This uncertainty is particularly high around the path for trade policy going forward, adding to the headwinds facing the global economy, especially for countries and regions that are more integrated in global supply chains, medium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said.

That uncertainty is actually expressed globally through higher long-term interest rates, even though short-term interest rates have gone down, the IMF managing director said.

Donald Trump will be sworn in as

the 47th President of the United States on January 20, replacing Joe Biden at the White House.

Trump, 78, has announced plans to impose additional tariffs on countries like China, Canada and Mexico.

He has publicly announced the use of tariffs as a key policy tool.

On inflation, the IMF expects global disinflation to continue, Georgieva said. "As we all recognise, the higher interest rates that were necessary to fight inflation did not push the world economy into recession.

"They have delivered the desired results. Headline inflation is converging back to target sooner in advanced economies than in emerging markets," she said.

Life insurance Dec new biz premium falls 21.7% to Rs 30,218.71 crore

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

The new business premium (NBP) of life insurance companies dropped 21.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 30,218.71 crore in December 2024 on the back of a steep fall in business.

According to data published by the Life Insurance Council, LIC's premium dropped 41.15 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 13,523.87 crore while private insurers reported 7 per cent growth in NBP to Rs 16,694.85 crore as the industry absorbs the impact of the revised surrender value norms.

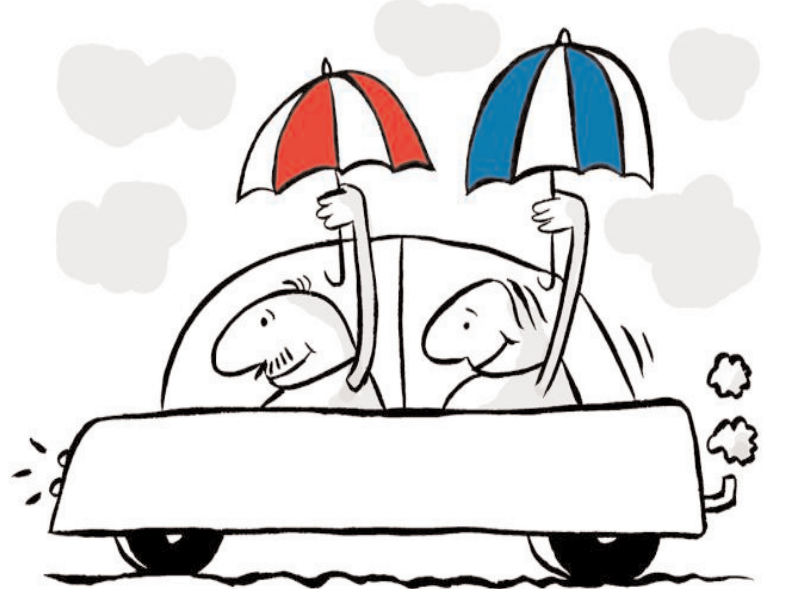
The fall in LIC's premium was due to a significant decline in its group single premium which halved to Rs 8,191.29 crore in December from Rs 17,601.97 crore last year.

Individual non-single premium dropped to Rs 2,628.74 crore from Rs 3,111.33 crore.

"The steep fall in LIC's group single premiums is largely due to a significant spike.

"Although it seems like a dramatic fall, compared to two years ago, this is normalization, showing slight growth over the years," said Saurabh Bhalariao, associate director, BFSI Research, CareEdge Ratings.

The largest private life insurer - SBI Life Insurance's - premium grew by 15.2 per cent to Rs 5,307.98 crore, while HDFC Life posted a 4.55 per



cent Y-o-Y drop to Rs 2,713.49 crore.

ICICI Prudential Life's premium inched up to Rs 3,221.56 crore.

Other major players like - Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance posted 9.7 per cent growth while Axis Max Life Insurance clocked 13.1 per cent drop, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the third quarter of FY25 (Q3FY25), the premium dropped by 6.55 per cent to Rs 85,872.87 crore.

LIC's premium dropped by 22.56 per cent to Rs 42,406.07 crore, while private insurers' recorded 17.05 per cent growth to Rs 43,466.81 crore.

In the April-December period, NBP of the life insurance industry improved by 9.9 per cent YoY to Rs 2.75 trillion, where LIC recorded 7.16 per cent YoY to Rs 1.58 trillion.

On the other hand, private life insurers posted 13.86 per cent Y-o-Y growth to Rs 1.17 trillion.

FPIs withdraw Rs 22,194 crore in Jan

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

Foreign investors have withdrawn Rs 22,194 crore from Indian equities this month, driven by expectations of a weak earnings season, a steady rise in the US dollar, and concerns over tariff war during Donald Trump's presidency.

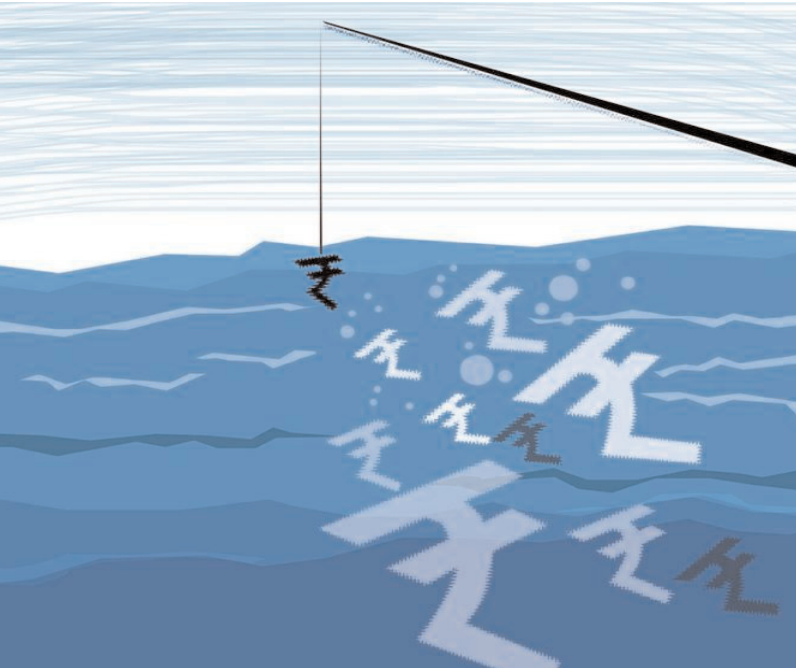
This came following an investment of Rs 15,446 crore in the month of December, data with the depositories showed.

Foreign investors have scaled back their investments in Indian equities significantly amid global and domestic headwinds.

"This exodus of foreign money from the Indian markets could be attributed to multitude of factors, such as expectation of yet another weak earning season, concerns over the tariff war under Trump's presidency, slowdown in GDP growth, still high inflation numbers and uncertainty over the commencement of the interest cut in India," Himanshu Srivastava, associate director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Additionally, record low level of Indian rupee, surge in US bond yields coupled with rich valuation of Indian markets also makes Indian equities relatively unattractive for foreign investors.

According to the data, Foreign



Portfolio Investors (FPIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 22,194 crore from Indian equities so far this month (till January 10).

FPIs have been sellers on all trading days except January 2.

"The single major reason for the relentless selling by the FPIs is the steady rise in the dollar index which is above 109 now.

"The surge in the 10-year bond yield to above 4.6 per cent is ensuring capital flows from emerging markets

like India," V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The overall trend indicates a cautious approach by foreign investors, who scaled back investments in Indian equities significantly in 2024, with net inflows of just Rs 427 crore.

This contrasts sharply with the massive Rs 1.71 lakh crore net inflows in 2023, driven by optimism over India's strong economic fundamentals.

Brokerages upbeat on TCS after Q3 miss

NEW DELHI, JAN 12

Most global as well as domestic brokerages are upbeat on India's largest IT services provider, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), despite its performance during the December quarter of FY25, when it missed Street estimates.

On the bourses, the TCS share price rallied as much as 6.44 per cent to hit an intraday high of Rs 4,296.80 apiece, before settling 5.67 per cent higher at Rs 4,265.55.

In comparison, the Sensex closed 0.31 per cent lower at 77,378.91 levels.

TCS reported revenue of Rs 63,973 crore for the quarter, reflecting a 5.6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth, or 4.5 per cent Y-o-Y growth in constant currency (CC) terms. Net profit stood at Rs 12,380 crore, reflecting a 5.5 per cent increase.

However, the company missed Bloomberg estimates, which had forecast revenue at Rs 64,748 crore and net profit at Rs 12,534 crore.

Operating profit margin for the quarter was 24.5 per cent, a decline of 50 basis points (bps) Y-o-Y but an improvement of 40 bps sequentially.

Growth was primarily driven by the consumer business group (up 1.1 per cent), energy, resources, and utilities (up 3.4 per cent), and regional markets (up 40.9 per cent).

The Dad Who Killed His Twin Sons: Investigating the crime that shook Singapore

Among geographies, growth markets performed robustly, with India leading at 70.2 per cent, followed by the Middle East & Africa (up 15.0 per cent), Latin America (up 7 per cent), and Asia Pacific (up 5.8 per cent).

Total contract value (TCV) for the quarter stood strong at \$10.2 billion, against \$8.6 billion in Q2.

The last 12 months IT services attrition rate was at 13 per cent.

K Krithivasan, chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD), said, "We are pleased with the excellent TCV performance in Q3. It was well-rounded across industries, geographies and service lines, lending good visibility to long-term growth."

TCS announced a dividend of Rs 76 per share, which includes a special dividend of Rs 66.

The record date for the dividend is January 17, 2025, with payment scheduled for February 3, 2025.

"In a quarter that saw significant cross-



currency volatility, TCS's strong execution, cost management and deft currency risk management helped deliver healthy margin improvement and free cash flows.

"Disciplined investments in talent and infrastructure should lend good support to long-term business growth," said Samir Seksaria, chief financial officer (CFO).

Brokerages had mixed views on TCS, following its Q3FY25 performance, with several brokerages highlighting the company's growth potential despite near-term challenges.

Hong Kong-based CLSA upgraded TCS to 'outperform,' raising its target price to Rs 4,546, citing strong growth prospects and improved demand, despite a challenging third quarter.

Jefferies reiterated a 'buy' rating with a target of Rs 4,760, highlighting management's optimistic outlook, margin improvement potential, and attractive valuation.

Similarly, Bern-stein maintained a 'outperform' rating, with a target price of Rs 4,700.

In contrast, Tokyo-based Nomura maintained a 'neutral' stance, slightly lowering its target to Rs 4,020 (Rs 4,050 earlier), pointing to mixed Q3 results and uncertain growth visibility for FY26.

According to reports, London-headquartered HSBC kept a 'hold' rating with a target of Rs 4,540, acknowledging optimism for CY25 while cautioning about downside risks in FY26, especially from European market pressures and the BSNL deal.

Domestic brokerages, too, highlighted strong deal flows and valuation. Emkay

sees a weaker-than-expected Q3 operating performance, with revenue declining 1.7 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q), though deal wins improved to \$10.2 billion.

The firm acknowledged early signs of revival in discretionary spending and retained an 'add' rating with a target price of Rs 4,500, citing attractive valuations post recent underperformance.

Key factors that will drive the markets this week

NEW DELHI, JAN 9

Investors will take cues from the December quarter corporate earnings, with blue-chips like Infosys, Reliance Industries scheduled to report their results this week, in addition, inflation data and trading activity of foreign investors will also be crucial in dictating market trends, analysts said.

Movement of crude oil prices and the dollar index will also be tracked by investors.

The strengthening of the US dollar, along with rising US bond yields, impacted investors' confidence last week.

"The Indian equity markets are poised for a volatile week ahead, as investors eagerly await the release of Q3 earning reports from major companies.

"Prominent names such as Infosys, Reliance Industries, HCL Technologies, HDFC AMC, HDFC Life Insurance Company, and Axis Bank are set to unveil their financial performance, which is likely to significantly impact market sentiment," Pravesh Gour, senior technical analyst, Swastika Invest-



mart Ltd, said.

Adding to the market's dynamic, a tug-of-war between Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) continues to unfold, he said.

"India's CPI release on Monday will be a key factor," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

WPI inflation data is scheduled to be announced on Tuesday.

Last week, the BSE benchmark slumped 1,844.2 points or 2.32 per cent, and the Nifty dropped 573.25 points or 2.38 per cent.

"The sharp decline in the market is attributed to multiple factors, including sustained foreign fund outflows, subdued expectations for Q3 earnings, continued weakness in the In-

dian rupee against the US dollar, and rising US 10-year bond yields.

"Additionally, a strengthening dollar index and a sharp rebound in crude oil prices, raising inflationary concerns, further dampened investor sentiment," Puneet Singhania, director at Master Trust Group, said.

India's industrial production (IIP) growth accelerated to a six-month high of 5.2 per cent year-on-year in November 2024, riding on the increased festive demand and pick up in the manufacturing sector, according to the official data released on Friday.

"Looking ahead, corporate earnings will be in the spotlight, with major companies, including IT giants, releasing their Q3 results.

"Macroeconomic data, such as India's inflation rate will also play a crucial role in shaping market direction.

"On the global front, updates on the US economy, particularly labour market data and inflation trends, may impact FII flows.

Don't want to be a wallflower in films or shows, says actor Kritika Kamra



Right from her television days, actor Kritika Kamra says she has been attracted to strong roles as she's not interested in playing "wallflower" like characters.

Known for her role of a reporter in "Bheed" and of a student activist in streaming

show "Tandav", Kamra began her acting career on the small screen with hit show "Kitni Mohabbat Hai", where she played an ambitious singer from a small town.

"I don't want to be a wallflower, that's just something I'm not interested in. I think

a lot has to be done in the service of female characters. I'm not a creator, writer or director, but I can try to play a character that's memorable or she is doing something besides being the love interest of the male lead or being the mother or sister," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Kamra, 35, said while she has nothing against the usual roles of a daughter-in-law or daughter, she just wants these characters to be a bit more well-rounded. She said she left television because such characters became increasingly difficult to find.

"When I did television, I was constantly drawn to these strong roles. At the time, there was kitchen politics at the centre of every story, but I didn't do any of those shows. Later, supernatural dramas started coming up, I didn't do that, I didn't become 'Naagin', I used to try to find an alternate but after a point I reached a dead end on TV.

"There's nothing wrong in playing a daughter or daughter-in-law, but I can have an identity beyond this, so I chose to play a doctor or a reporter because the moment the character had a work life, you were seeing that character as a person," she said.

Kamra, who currently stars in ZEE5 series "Gyaarah Gyaarah", a remake of hit South Korean drama "Signal", said it has become more stressful to be an artist in the age of social media where one has to walk the fine line of maintaining exclusivity while also being visible on social media.

"Acting is a craft and you

want to constantly keep getting better at it. That's work in progress and something I can work on. But the peripherals are getting increasingly stressful because it seems like the goalpost keeps shifting.

"Now, we're in this hyper-information age where the meaning of stardom or popularity or how you can get that has completely changed. It's very good because it has become democratic because of Instagram but the game has sort of changed for actors," she said.

Sometimes, according to Kamra, one is told to be exclusive and at other times the advice is to do "things that are populist but unique".

"...Nobody has the formula, and the industry keeps changing, the career management bit is very stressful," she added.

Next up for Kamra is Nagraj Manjule's debut OTT series "Matka King", and she is quite thrilled about working with the director, known for Marathi hits such as "Fandry", "Sairat" and Hindi film "Jhund" with Amitabh Bachchan.

"Matka King" marks Manjule's streaming debut.

"I had never thought I'd ever get to work with him (Manjule). Before 'Jhund', he was making more Marathi films, and I couldn't speak Marathi so it was not a thing that I thought would happen. But when I got this chance, I jumped at it because if he is doing something in Hindi, I want to be part of it," the actor said.

Christina Aguilera: I'm not here to be a programmed robot

Popstar Christina Aguilera has said that she doesn't pay attention to what people say about her music or her appearance.

Aguilera told Glamour magazine: "I have a maturity now where I just don't give a ... about your opinion. I'm not going to take it on. It must be your responsibility to take up your space. Other people's opinions of me are not my business."

The singer feels she's currently more "wide-awake and more aware" than she's ever been, reports female-first.co.uk.

The "Genie In A Bottle" hitmaker first found fame as a child, but she feels she's matured and evolved over time.

"This time in my life is about super-awareness. I know where I've been. I know what I've loved. I know what I haven't loved. And now, more than ever, I just feel more wide-awake and more aware and more understanding. I'm not here to be a programmed robot. I'm here as a human being first before being a celebrity."

Earlier this year, Aguilera said that women face "double



standards" in the entertainment industry.

She feels she's been consistently "shamed" for expressing her sexuality and "trying to empower other women" during the course of her career.

"This has been a very comfortable and natural space for me to enter because (sexuality) has been such a big

part of my life, my world, my music.

"I've experienced first-hand the double standards (put on women); and I've been shamed for being open, for expressing myself sexually and trying to own my body, and for trying to empower other women. People are afraid of that."

Elizabeth Banks says 'environmentalist' Mick Jagger was worried about dying bees



Hollywood star Elizabeth Banks shared that she met Rolling Stones legend Mick Jagger at a dinner party and discussed "dying bees on the planet".

Banks, on the Jimmy Fallon show, said: "I saw Mick on his 80th. It was his 80th birthday. My husband was especially excited because, you know, the Rolling Stones is everything. I mean he's unbelievable," she said.

Talking about Jagger, being an environmentalist, she said: "I sat

next to him at a dinner party once and he was talking to me about the bees that were dying. He's like an environmentalist. He was worried about the dying bees on the planet."

She was then asked by the host what Olympics event she saw.

A glimpse of the chat was shared on Instagram.

"The thing that I really wanted to see was beach volleyball because the stadium was under the Eiffel Tower and I went to Rio, the stadium was on Copacabana beach in Rio. And it is a party," she said.

Banks added: "You know how sometimes you go to something and they're like quiet... please you have to be quiet... 'No'. This is a DJ, they are playing music, the crowd is going crazy, they got everybody into it..."

"Talking about the French mascot, Banks said: "Did you see the French mascot? I guess he was a hat... He was supposed to be a hat apparently... He was there doing some dances. He is just a red triangle," she added.

Elizabeth's forthcoming film is 'Skincare', where she will be seen playing a "top aesthetician".

The trailer of the film was unveiled last month and is described as a fictional story inspired by a true story. In the trailer, the actress essays a top celebrity aesthetician named Hope Goldman and how her career is challenged after a rival aesthetician moves into her neighbourhood, reports people.com.

One morning, Banks's character realises that her e-mail has been hacked and the hacker has sent messages pretending to be her, begging for money.

When Anushka Sharma was given a reality check by this filmmaker

Actress Anushka Sharma, who has won the hearts of the audiences with her portrayal of a variety of roles on the big screen, has revealed how the filmmaker Aditya Chopra gave her a reality check for her 'arrogant' nature.

In a throwback video that is doing rounds on the internet, we can see Anushka revealing how she was snobbish and arrogant before she became an actress.

The video features Anushka, who is heard saying, "I used to be very arrogant before I became an actor, honestly. I didn't speak to too many people in schools and all that. I was really snobbish."

"I got a reality check, once I became an actor by Aditya Chopra. He said 'you are doing the film, but you know what? you are not the most good looking girl'. Till then I used to think I am the most good looking girl. He told me 'no', shared Anushka.

Anushka made her Bollywood debut in 2008 with romantic comedy film 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi', written and directed by Aditya Chopra and produced by his father Yash Chopra under their production banner of Yash Raj Films. The film starred Shah Rukh Khan as Surinder Sahni, while Anushka played the role of Taani. She then featured as Bulbul in 'Badmaash Company', Shruti in 'Band Baaja Baaraat', Simran in 'Patiala House', Ishika in 'Ladies vs Ricky Bahl', Akira in 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan', Bijlee in 'Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola'.



Anushka has appeared in other movies, like 'PK', 'NH10', 'Bombay Velvet', 'Dil Dhadakne Do', 'Sultan', 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil', 'Jab Harry Met Sejal', 'Sanju', 'Sui Dhaaga', and 'Zero'.

She is also the producer of the movies 'Pari', 'Phillauri', and 'Bulbbul'.

Anushka next has 'Chakda Xpress' in the kitty. The biographical sports drama film written by Abhishek Banerjee, directed by Prosit Roy and produced by Karnesh Sharma under the banner of Clean Slate Film, stars Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Renuka Shahane, Anshul Chauhan, Koushik Sen, Mahesh Thakur.

The film is a biopic of Jhulan Goswami, with Anushka playing the lead.

She is married to Indian cricketer Virat Kohli. The couple had tied the knot in Italy on December 11, 2017. They have a girl, Vamika, and a son named Akaay.

'Biggest joke in the world', when Saif Ali Khan slammed Bollywood award shows

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who is making his Telugu debut with the upcoming film 'Devara: Part 1', had once bashed Bollywood award shows for their sheer lack of any ethical grounds, and how they fool the audience sitting at home.

A resurfaced video of the actor shows him talking to Anupama Chopra, as he said, "I don't know why I've always done it. Honestly, if you ask me and if we take an ethical stand on it, there's no such thing as an award function."

He called it the "biggest joke in the world" as every channel has their own award show.

He continued, "They give these guys an award for turning up, and then they make amazing categories like 'Most Beautiful Smile' and 'Most Glamorous Diva'. You don't even remember who got the Best Actor (award) for what. We all turn up because let's face it — we are suckers. People turn up when they probably shouldn't. What really disturbs me is that it's a lie because the material is not funny."

He further mentioned, "Nobody is making a funny joke but they intercut it with everybody laughing. You make a bad joke and the audience at home say 'I don't know if that's funny' but everybody there is laughing. They are like what is it that except me, 30,000 people in the audience are laughing (except that they are not). So, it's a con."

"The only people being cheated are the audience. It's a disturbing thing deep down. It's completely false. There's not enough money spent on the humour. There's not enough money spent on entertainment. They spend money on the songs and the dances and everything that suits the sponsors," he added.

Bella Ramsey hasn't played 1st part of 'The Last of Us' video game

Actress Bella Ramsey, who is busy with the filming of the upcoming season of the American post-apocalyptic drama television series 'The Last of Us', has said that she hasn't played the first part of the game on which the series is based.

The actress spoke with Josh Horowitz about the show, and said, "I haven't played the first part of the game. I probably will play after this. The second part of the game, I played and loved it. It was really cool to see how the sets look exactly the same. Every day on the sets is challenging, I will say. It's a show about fungus, so it's not glamorous by any means".

She further mentioned how fear is one of the main emotions of the show and serves as the driving force of the narrative.

"It's hard topics and conversations, and fear is one of the main emotions that we experience throughout. I really hope Bella gets their flowers, they're working really hard, physically, mentally and emotionally. One thing I have really learnt is that you can really admire people who are younger to you, you can really look up to them," she added.

Based on the video game franchise developed by Naughty Dog, the series is set twenty years into a pandemic caused by a mass fungal infection, which causes its hosts to transform into zombie-like creatures and causes the collapse of society.

The first season of the show follows Joel (played by Pedro Pascal), a smuggler tasked with escorting the immune teenager Ellie (played by Bella Ramsey) across a post-apocalyptic United States.

For 'Freedom at Midnight' actor Sidhant Gupta, Independence is a feeling of courage



Actor Sidhant Gupta, who will be seen playing Jawaharlal Nehru in the upcoming streaming series 'Freedom at Midnight', shared on Thursday what Independence means to him.

The actor also shared a heartfelt memory, and the deep emotional impact his role as Nehru had on him.

"Independence for me is not just freedom but a feeling of courage. We are all Independent enough to own our dreams if we choose to," said Sidhant, for Independence Day now holds a deeper meaning.

He also recounted how a simple moment with the national flag became profound after he immersed himself in the character of the iconic leader.

The actor said, "After six intense months of shooting for 'Freedom at Midnight', I visited my hometown for a much-needed break just two weeks ago. My brother had bought a swanky new car, and we were out for a drive in the middle of the night. On the Jammu Tawi bridge, I saw this enormous Indian flag waving freely in the wind."

He added, "I said to my brother, 'I think I'm getting emotional looking at the flag'. He laughed and replied, 'I think you've been in the character for far too long'... I smiled to myself, thinking, 'I hope this feeling stays with me forever'."

'Freedom at Midnight' is based on the book by the same name written Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. The series delves into the motivations, conflicts, and sacrifices of key figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel.

girls decided to take the longer/harder waterfall route".

She further mentioned that her daughter Honor spotted a snake on their way. She continued, "Honor sobbed after seeing a snake and I almost fainted after looking down a few cliffs (#scared-ofheights) but we made it!! I never felt more like a city girl in my entire life -hence my dramatisation And sweet Cash in this video makes my heart swell – our guide Louis asked him to yodel and it was everything, he was such a good sport". She also spoke about her golfing experience, and shared that she played the sport at one of the most beautiful spots she has ever been to. "Our #golf morning was insanely gorgeous We went to Golfclub Wilder Kaiser in Ellmau which is one of the most beautiful spots I've ever played the views and course was bananas. Thank you to Maria and the @stanglwirt team for helping us plan the best, most memorable days", she added.

Rewriting our DNA: The potential of gene editing for blood disorders and beyond

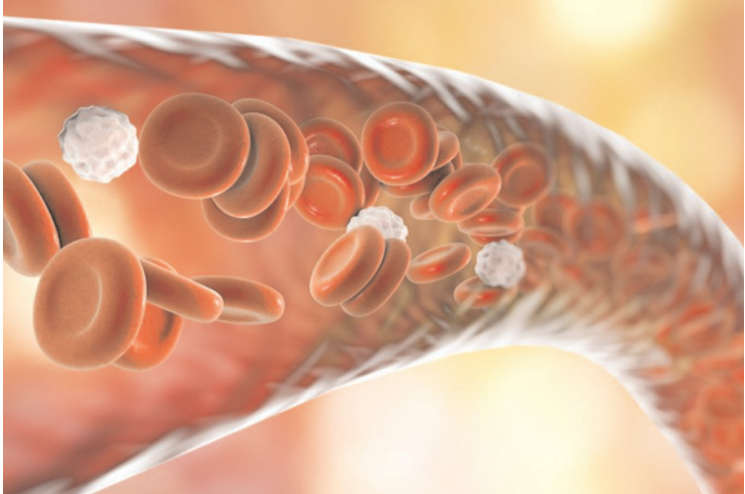
Gene editing, particularly with CRISPR-Cas9 technology, has shown potential to revolutionise medicine by offering cures for a range of genetic disorders, especially blood disorders such as sickle-cell anaemia.

Sickle-cell anaemia, a genetic blood disorder, causes chronic pain and life-threatening complications for millions of people in India and worldwide. In this disease, red blood cells become crescent or sickle-shaped, which not only reduces their oxygen-carrying capacity but also makes it difficult for them to pass through blood vessels. A patient suffering from sickle cell disease may suffer from severe anaemia, sudden pain crises, organ damage and an increased risk of infection.

In most cases, these patients are offered blood transfusions, pain management, and hydroxyurea as treatments, which provides some degree of relief. But it does not relieve them of the pain and various other associated complications. Bone Marrow Transplant has so far been the only curative treatment option.

But now gene editing, an innovative treatment in which we can repair or replace the defective gene that causes the disease, is a new hope for millions suffering from the disease. Sickle-cell anaemia is caused by a mutation in the HBB gene, which encodes the beta-globin subunit of haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells responsible for transporting oxygen throughout the body. The mutation leads to the production of abnormal haemoglobin, known as haemoglobin S (HbS). Under low oxygen conditions, HbS molecules tend to stick together, forming rigid rods that distort the shape of red blood cells into a sickle form. These deformed cells can block small blood vessels, causing painful episodes called vaso-occlusive crises and damaging organs due to restricted blood flow.

Gene editing, using the CRISPR-Cas9 technology, the new promising treatment for



genetic disorders , directly targets and corrects the underlying genetic defects. CRISPR, which stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, is a revolutionary tool that allows scientists to make precise, targeted changes to the DNA of living organisms. The Cas9 protein acts as molecular scissors, guided by RNA sequences that match the target gene, to introduce cuts at specific locations. Once the DNA is cut, the cell's natural repair mechanisms can be harnessed to correct or replace the faulty gene.

In the case of sickle-cell anaemia, researchers have employed gene editing to either correct the mutation in the HBB gene or reactivate fetalhemoglobin (HbF) production. Fetalhemoglobin, which is naturally produced during fetal development, prevents sickling of red blood cells. Normally, HbF production ceases shortly after birth, replaced by adult haemoglobin (HbA). However, reactivating HbF can compensate for the defective HbS, mitigating the symptoms of sickle-cell anaemia. Another promising approach involves editing the BCL11A gene, which suppresses HbF production. By disrupting this gene, researchers can restore HbF production in red blood cells, bypassing the effects of the sickle-cell mutation. Early clinical trials have shown that this method can significantly increase HbF levels, reducing the frequency

and severity of pain crises and improving overall patient health.

During a clinical trial, a patient named Victoria Gray, who was then 33 years old, was treated for sickle-cell anaemia using CRISPR-Cas9 at TriStar Centennial Medical Center in Nashville in the United States. During the treatment, Gray's bone marrow cells were harvested and then edited to disrupt the BCL11A gene. Edited cells were then reinfused back into her body. The results were remarkable – her HbF levels increased significantly, and she experienced a dramatic reduction in pain episodes and hospitalisations. Gray is not the only one, many other patients have been cured of this painful disease during the clinical trials. Another approach, developed by researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, involves directly correcting the sickle-cell mutation in the HBB gene using CRISPR. This method has shown promise in preclinical studies and is currently undergoing clinical trials. Early results indicate that edited cells can be engrafted in the bone marrow and produce healthy red blood cells, offering a potential one-time cure for the disease.

In the case of thalassemia, which occurs due to mutations in the genes responsible for haemoglobin production, CRISPR-Cas9 can be used to either correct the defective gene directly or induce the expression of foetal haemo-

globin in the gene, much like in the treatment for sickle cell anaemia. Early clinical trials have shown promising results.

While the initial focus of gene editing has been on blood disorders due to the relative accessibility of hematopoietic stem cells, it is now being explored to treat various other kinds of genetic defects such as cystic fibrosis, which is caused by mutations in the CFTR gene, leading to the production of thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive tract, muscular dystrophy, particularly Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), which is caused by mutations in the DMD gene, which encodes dystrophin, a protein essential for muscle function. While still in the early stages of research, gene editing could one day offer a cure for a neurodegenerative disorder such as Huntington's disease, which is caused by a mutation in the HTT gene, leading to the production of a toxic protein that damages brain cells.

Researchers across the world are exploring various strategies to treat or even cure many debilitating conditions with gene editing.

While gene editing has the potential to cure genetic blood disorders, the experience of treating sickle-cell anaemia has shown that there are several challenges that need to be addressed. One major challenge is the delivery of the gene-editing machinery to the target cells. Most current approaches involve ex vivo editing, where cells are removed from the patient, edited in the lab, and then reinfused. This process is complex, expensive, and requires specialised facilities, limiting its accessibility.

The second major challenge is the cost of therapy. For lower-middle-income countries like India, developing these tools and therapies indigenously is essential. Interestingly, India is at an advanced stage of launching its own gene-editing therapies. When available, these therapies will provide its people with an affordable and

Elderly who feel low may be at risk of mild cognitive impairment: Study



A decline in psychological well-being, particularly in areas like purpose in life and personal growth, in old age may precede the development of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) — a common precursor to dementia, according to new research.

The study, published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry, indicates that these aspects of well-being start deteriorating two to six years before an MCI diagnosis, even when no cognitive symptoms are evident, and this decline occurs regardless of whether the individual later develops dementia.

While much research has linked psychological well-being to brain ageing and dementia, it often focuses primarily on a sense of purpose, leaving out other important components such as self-acceptance, autonomy, environmental mastery, and meaningful relationships.

The study aimed to address these gaps by analysing changes in psychological well-being in 910 cognitively intact older adults.

The long-term study, which began in 1997, includes older adults from diverse living situations

AI in Indian healthcare market to reach \$1.6 billion by 2025: Report

Artificial intelligence (AI) in the Indian healthcare market is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40.6 per cent and is estimated to reach \$1.6 billion by 2025, a report showed on Tuesday.

Expected to reach \$650 billion by 2025, the overall healthcare sector in India has been growing at a CAGR of 22.5 per cent between 2016 to 2022 and is diversifying in terms of products, services, and markets, according to the report by Nasscom and Kantar.

AI technology promises a transformative leap for India's healthcare system by enhancing diagnostics, streamlining operations, and improving patient care nationwide, the report added.

"AI holds transformative potential in healthcare, from predictive analytics for disease outbreaks to precision medicine tailored to genetic profiles. To fully harness this, India must invest in AI infrastructure, skilled professionals, and adaptive regulatory frameworks," said Achyuta Ghosh, Senior Director and Head, Nasscom Insights.

As per a latest Nasscom AI healthcare survey, in verticals such as pharma and life science, 82 per cent of the surveyed organisations have adopted AI in small scale and intend to scale up in 2024, with 12 per cent having already integrated AI into their functional processes.



Among healthcare providers, AI adoption is relatively high at 68 per cent but most of the deployments (92 per cent) are in the proof of concept (PoC) phase.

According to the findings, large tech firms are adopting platform-based approaches and hybrid cloud solutions for scalable and compliant healthcare applications.

While there has been a growing interest and investment in Generative AI, its adoption in the healthcare segment is in its nascent stages, with 34 per cent of healthcare organisations in the country piloted at least 1-2 GenAI use cases in 2023.

"Ensuring data privacy, security, and ethical guidelines is crucial for maintaining public trust. By embracing AI, India can set a global standard for healthcare innovation, driving growth and enhancing the quality of life for millions," said

Indian hospitals deal with over 950 compliances in a year: Report



Hospitals in India face over 950 compliance issues in a year, according to a report on Tuesday.

The report by TeamLease Regtech, a regulatory tech-

nology (Regtech) solutions company, presents a peak into the complexities that have plagued the hospitals in the country.

The report noted that a

typical single-entity 50-bed hospital with a diagnostic centre, radiology, pathology lab, and pharmacy with a corporate office in a single state needs to deal with 623 unique compliances. Of these, 421 (67.5 per cent) are at the union level, 192 (31 per cent) are at the state level, and 10 (1.5 per cent) are at the municipal level. These compliances include at least 53 different types of licences, permissions, and registrations, the report said.

"The healthcare sector is a critical part of our daily lives with over a billion consultations performed every year across the country. The sector employs about 8 million people and the demand for healthcare professionals is expected to double by the end of the decade," said Rishi Agrawal, CEO, TeamLease RegTech.

The sector needs to expand and grow significantly to cater to the growing population.

"The country will have over 158 million people (15 per cent of the population) over the age of 65 by 2035. However, the complexities of compliance have restrained growth," he added.

Agrawal noted that "even a small hospital needs to deal with at least 967 instances of compliance every year".

"Without proper processes in place to ensure smooth compliance functioning, senior management cannot help but deal with the aftermath of ad-hoc, manual compliance operations. Transforming compliance operations by leveraging digital compliance solutions is the need of the hour. This report explores the underlying complexities that affect employer compliance in

Phase 3 clinical trial for dengue vaccine

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotech have initiated the phase 3 clinical trial for a vaccine to fight dengue. The trial will evaluate the efficacy of India's indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, DengiAll, developed by Panacea Biotech.

The first participant in this trial was vaccinated on Wednesday at Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak. Based on the results of this trial, the vaccine will be rolled out for public use. The phase 3 clinical trials will take place at 19 locations spanning 18 states and Union territories and will involve more than 10,335 healthy adult participants.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda said the trial marks a critical advancement in the fight against dengue. "It reflects our commitment to protecting our citizens from this pervasive disease and underscores India's capabilities in vaccine research



and development," Nadda said.

According to the statistics of the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVB-DC), India has recorded 19,447 cases of dengue and 16 deaths

till April 30, 2024. The data shows that Kerala and Tamil Nadu registered most number of cases. While Kerala recorded 4,412 cases and 14 deaths, the latter registered 4,204 cases

and two deaths. Since April, dengue cases has been on a steady rise in Karnataka with more than 12,000 cases and eight deaths reported till July 2024. The number of dengue

cases shot up from 6,187 on July 1 to 12,000 as of July 19 in Karnataka. In Delhi also, a total of 246 cases till June this year were the highest for the time period since 2019.

According to the health ministry, dengue is a major public health concern in India, ranking among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease. The dengue virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the Aedes Aegypti.

"Approximately 75-80 per cent of infections are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can still transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes. Among the 20-25 per cent of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality," according to the health ministry.

Currently, there is no antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine against dengue in India. The development of an effective

vaccine becomes all the more complex as all four serotypes of dengue virus are known to circulate or co-circulate in many regions of India.

A statement from the health ministry said the tetravalent dengue vaccine strain, originally developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, has shown promising results in pre-clinical and clinical trials worldwide. Panacea Biotech, one of three Indian companies to receive the strain, is at the most advanced stage of developing the vaccine. "The company has worked extensively on these strains to develop a full-fledged vaccine formulation and holds a process patent for this work. Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of the Indian vaccine formulation were completed in 2018-19, yielding promising results," the statement reads.

Equitable, holistic development; Govt' s top priority: Dy CM

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Endorsing people centric policy of present government, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that ensuring appreciable socio economic empowerment coupled with holistic development forms top priority of present dispensation.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organised by Jatt Sabha at R.S.Pura here today.

MLA Jammu East, Vikram Randhawa, former Ministers Manjit Singh, Choudhary Sukhanandan, Gharu Ram, DDC member TS Tony and senior office bearers of Jatt Sabha and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

While referring to the people centric initiatives been undertaken, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we are ensuring development on equitable basis with-



out any preferential basis.

"Instructions have already been passed to speed up the developmental initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. Regular monitoring is also being done so that the pace of work is speeded up on these," he added

While speaking on the occasion, the members of the Jatt Sabha expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for

giving representation to their community.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also participated in a function organised by Jatt Sabha in connection with the Lohri celebrations.

While interacting with people there, he exuded hope that lohri would usher peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

District Administration Rajouri celebrates National Youth Day

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

The District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), celebrated National Youth Day at Dak Bungalow here today. The event commemorated the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, focusing on inspiring youth to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while SSP, Gaurav Sikarwar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of different institutions who delivered thought-provoking speeches and actively engaged in discussions.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of the My Bharat Portal, recently launched by the Government of India, as a platform to channelize youth contributions. He highlighted how the portal can help young minds understand the implementation procedures of government schemes and assist in their effective execution.

The DC also elaborated on Mission Yuva, a government initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among youth. He encouraged the young participants to actively engage in the ongoing district-wide surveys to ensure the proper implementation of welfare schemes.

On the occasion of National Youth



Day, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the timeless message of Swami Vivekananda, advocating for communal harmony, brotherhood, and unity. "Our youth must draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda's teachings to contribute to the nation's progress," he remarked.

An interactive session followed, where the youth posed questions about career-building and development opportunities. The Deputy Commissioner patiently addressed their queries, providing valuable insights and guidance.

Nitin Hangloo, District Youth Officer, NYK, spoke about the initiatives undertaken by NYKS to develop lead-

ership and organizational skills among youth and encouraged them to participate in community development programs actively.

The event concluded with a pledge for Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India), reaffirming the district's commitment to eradicating drug abuse. Students who excelled in various activities during the program were felicitated for their efforts.

Prominent attendees included ACP Sheraz Ahmed, ACD Vijay Kumar Verma, ALC Pradyot Gupta, Principal HSS Rajouri, Muslim Wani, and other district and sectoral officers, along with teachers and students from different institutions.

GDC Marh celebrates National Youth Day

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda the Viksit Bharat Committee and NSS unit Government Degree College Marh, under the aegis of Higher education department, celebrated National Youth Day by organizing plethora of activities under the supervision Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul.

The Principal of the college, in his profound speech, said that Swami Vivekananda was a spiritual leader and youth icon. "This day serves as a call to action for young minds to embrace their potential and contribute to building a better future" he said and added "His timeless message will continue to inspire the youth to lead with courage and conviction."

To inculcate the sense of selfless service among the students, as Shramdaan Mahadhan is a noble endeavor that embodies the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, a cleanliness drive was organized on the campus in which NSS volunteers collected waste with proper segregation and disposal of the waste.

Meanwhile a movie was



screened for students by Anjana Chib (Convener Viksit Bharat Committee) showcasing the biography and indispensable teachings of Swami Vivekananda such as Compassion, Optimism, Faith, Humor, and Mindfulness which will help youth to inculcate the qualities such as self-reliance, self-discipline, courage and inner strength among the present youth so that they can achieve the greater goal.

Programme was also posted on "My Bharat Portal" by Sachin Kumar Bha-

gat (NSS PO&HOD Political science). My Bharat Portal is a vital initiative promoting patriotism, nationalism, and community service. It fosters national unity, community spirit, and civic engagement, empowering Youth to contribute to national development. By encouraging volunteerism and community service, the portal helps develop leadership skills, promotes civic awareness, and supports education, health, and environmental conservation. College has registered a to-

tal of 87 Volunteers on the portal.

Later, the students and faculty of the college attended the live streaming of the National Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025.

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Shakun Sharma (HOD Sociology).

Other faculty members present during the event was Prof. Asha Kumari (HOD Geography), Dr. Priya Sharma and Prof. Surbhi Gupta. The technical support was provided by Mohit Kalotra (MTS).

DC Poonch Visits Site for New Kendriya Vidyalaya in Poonch

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal along with Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid and other revenue officials visited the village Ajote today for inspecting the proposed site/ land for the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya. During the visit, the DC assessed the availability of land and reviewed the existing connectivity and other services in the area. The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the residents of Ajote on the incoming educational facility, highlighting its potential to significantly enhance the education sector in the region. He emphasized that the new Kendriya Vidyalaya would play a crucial role in boosting the career prospects of local youth and promoting overall educational development in the area. The initiative has been welcomed by the local community, who see it as a significant step towards improving access to quality education in the region.



DC Poonch visits Fruit and Vegetable Market to review progress of upcoming project

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal, conducted an on-site visit to inspect progress of work on ongoing developmental projects at the upcoming Fruit and Vegetable Market in Kankote today. The visit focused on the progress of several key initiatives, including the construction of an auction platform, shops, an organic composting unit, and a toilet block. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by officials from PWD, PHE and Revenue department. The Deputy Commissioner received a detailed briefing from AGMO Charan Kamal Singh on the planned facilities at the market. Following the review, the Deputy Commissioner expressed his appreciation for the advancements made and stressed the importance of completing the projects in a timely manner to improve the market's infrastructure and services for the community.



DIG, DC Rajouri and SSP visit Badhaal to assess ground situation

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Tejinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaurav Sikarwar, visited Badhaal today to assess the prevailing ground situation and ensure immediate support to the community.

As part of the relief measures, the DC Rajouri deployed ambulances, health teams and ASHA workers to provide essential medical assistance to the residents. Furthermore, other departments have been activated to ensure seamless coordination and cooperation with the general public.

Samples have been collected from ill patients and investigations have been initiated to determine the cause of the ailments. The administration is closely monitoring the situation and will take necessary action based on the outcome of the investigations. The general public is advised not to panic and to follow any advisories issued by the authorities.



It is pertinent to mention that, apart from health teams, the police has also started a fresh investigation in this matter. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals to understand their immediate concerns and emphasized the importance of timely intervention and joint departmental efforts to address their needs.

SSP Gaurav Sikarwar assured the residents of enhanced security measures and prompt action on any emergent issues. The district administration remains committed to ensuring the safety, health, and welfare of the residents of Badhaal. All necessary steps are being taken to address their concerns and provide comprehensive support.

Javed Dar visits Chijhama Rafiabab, offers condolences to Ramban victims' family

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, JAN 12

Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javed Ahmad Dar, today visited the bereaved family of Danish Imtiyaz Khan and Yaser Imtiyaz Khan, two siblings who tragically lost their lives in a road accident in Ramban.

The Minister visited the family's residence in Chijhama village, located in Rafiabab area of Baramulla district, to express his



heartfelt condolences and offer support during their time of grief.

Expressing profound sorrow over the untimely demise of Danish and Yaser, sons of Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan, the Minister ex-

tended his deepest sympathies to the family and acknowledged the immense pain caused by this irreparable loss. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength for the grieving

family to endure this tragedy.

The siblings lost their lives in a fatal accident on January 10, while traveling in a truck from Srinagar to Jammu. The vehicle reportedly skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in the Ramban area, resulting in their tragic deaths.

The Minister assured the family that all necessary assistance and support would be provided to them during this difficult time.