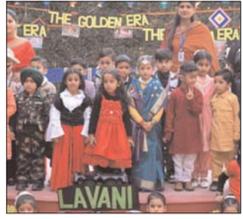


JAMMU RISING

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Shri Ram School organised a flagship event- "All About India"



Playbe Higher Secondary School Pauni Chakk



Sakeena Itoo flags off 250 EWS students for cultural tour under 'Watan ko Jaano'



Wholesale price inflation eases to 2.31% in Jan



ISL: Chennaiyin escape with narrow win

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BRIEF NEWS

Bodies Of Two People Found In Jammu And Kashmir's Kathua

Two people were found dead in a remote village in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, a police officer said.

Bodies of Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were retrieved from the banks of a stream at village Batheri, station house officer of Billawar police station Jitender Singh

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Young Advocates Must Volunteer To Assist Poor Litigants: Supreme Cour

Young advocates must volunteer to assist the litigants who cannot engage the services of a counsel due to lack of means or awareness, the Supreme Court has said. Expressing appreciation

■Turn to page 2
PDP Legislator To Move Bill For Proprietary Rights Of House Owners Living On State Land In J&K

Senior PDP legislator is going to introduce a private members bill in the Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly next month to seek proprietary rights for the owners of houses constructed on public land in the Union Territory. Jammu travel guide

PDP MLA from Pulwama Waheed ur Rehman Parra submitted the bill titled "The Jammu and

■Turn to page 2
Omar Should Refrain From Endorsing Centre's Abrogation Of Articles 370, 35A: Mehbooba

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to refrain from endorsing the Centre's abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in the formulation of business rules for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Jammu travel guide

The former chief minister warned that such a move would legitimise the "illegal and unconstitutional" actions taken by the BJP-led central government to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A.

In a strongly worded statement, the PDP president said despite the Supreme Court's ruling in favour of the Centre's decision, several legal experts believe that Article 370 cannot be abrogated by any authority, including

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Change of guard ceremony now in new format, Prez Murmu attends inaugural show

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The change of guard ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan will now be held in a new format, featuring an elaborate visual and musical performance against the backdrop of the presidential palace, an official statement said on Sunday.

The new format includes military drills by troops and horses of the President's Bodyguard, along with personnel from the Ceremonial Guard Battalion and the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. The display will be spread over a larger area, the statement added.

President Droupadi



Murmu witnessed the inaugural ceremony in its new format on Sunday at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, according to the statement issued by her office.

The ceremony will be open to a larger number of visitors from February 22, the statement said.

Change of guard, a time-honoured military tradition, was introduced as a ceremonial event in 2007 at Rashtrapati Bhavan allowing a fresh group of the President's Bodyguard to take charge.

In 2012 the ceremony was made a public event

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Society's speedy and inclusive development largely depends on productivity of its Youth: LG Sinha

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, FEB 16

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 6th Annual Day Celebration of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC), Gurha Slathia at Samba, today. Jammu travel guide

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of volunteers and everyone associated with the Guidance and Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development in imparting skill development and coaching to the youth to ensure their brighter future.

"This unique youth organisation is a role model for the nation. GCC has



adopted a futuristic approach for the youth-centric initiatives to enhance the quality of their pursuits and enabling them to pursue their dreams. The focused effort to study, understand, develop and conserve cultural and intellectual heritage is truly inspiring,"

the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the way GCC has designed its entire programs clearly reflects the youth's desire to adopt a futuristic approach.

"I want youth of J&K to be daring, adventurous and strong. I want our

youth to be unshakably strong in their morals and ideals. I firmly believe that our youth must show the way to the world by carrying age-old traditional values in one hand and modern scientific tools in the other," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the speedy and inclusive development of society largely depends on productivity of its youth.

To realize the progress that we have envisaged for J&K, we need to secure the health and well-being of our youth at local level. GCC is working with administration to achieve

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CM Omar Abdullah holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives of Jammu district

Uplifting marginalized communities is our duty: CM

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, FEB 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized that uplifting marginalized communities like Gujjar-Bakerwal is not an act of favour but a fundamental duty of his government.

The Chief Minister said that despite the limitations in ministerial appointments after last year's elections, he en-



sured representation for the Gujjar community by appointing Javed Ahmed Rana as a minister in his cabinet.

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who also addressed the event, was in attendance. Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the

CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Patron Chief GDCT Abdul Hamid Choudhary and Chairman GDCT Arshid Ali Choudhary also spoke at the event.

"After the election, we had to think about the cabinet ministers. However, there was very little scope. I requested Mr. Javed Rana to join the cabinet. Not only would he serve Jammu and

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RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat emphasises unity of hindu society, calls it responsible society of country

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday stressed the importance of uniting Hindu society, describing it as the "responsible" community in the country that sees unity as an embodiment of diversity.

Addressing an RSS programme at SAI Ground in Bardhaman, he said, "People often ask why we focus only on Hindu society, and my answer is that the country's responsible society is Hindu society."

"Today is not a special event. Those unaware of

the Sangh often wonder what it wants. If I had to answer, I would say the Sangh seeks to organise Hindu society because it is the responsible society of the country," Bhagwat said.

He also stressed the importance of accepting the world's diversity.

"Bharatvarsha is not just a geographical entity; its size may expand or shrink over time. It is called Bharatvarsha when it embodies a unique nature. Bharat has its intrinsic character. Those who

felt they could not live in harmony with this nature created their own separate countries," he said.

"Naturally, those who remained wanted Bharat's essence to endure. And what is this essence? It is much older than August 15, 1947. It is Hindu society, which flourishes by embracing the world's diversity. This nature accepts and moves forward with the world's diversities. There is one eternal truth that never changes," he added.

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Over 29,500 Registered Drones In India: Official Data

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, FEB 16

More than 29,500 drones are registered in India, with the national capital having the maximum number at 4,882, according to official data.

After the national capital, the highest numbers of registered drones are in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra at 4,588 and 4,132, respectively.

The data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) updated till January 29 showed



that there were 29,501 registered drones.

Other states that have a high number of registered drones include Haryana (3,689), Karnataka (2,516), Telangana (1,928), Gujarat (1,338) and Kerala (1,318), as per the data shared by the civil aviation ministry

with the Rajya Sabha this week.

So far, the regulator has issued 96 Type Certificates to different Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) models or drones, and out of them, 65 models are for agriculture purpose.

Each registered drone is issued a Unique Identification Number (UIN) from the Digital Sky Platform, which is operated by the DGCA. DGCA-au

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Ski resort of Gulmarg, now a tobacco free zone in Kashmir

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, FEB 16

In view of the forthcoming Khelo India Winter games, the authorities have declared the ski resort of Gulmarg and the tourist spot of Tangmarg as "Tobacco Free Zone and Smoke Free Tourist Areas" in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, an official said.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla has issued an order in this regard stating that "in the interest of

public health/ Khelo India at Gulmarg 2025 and with a view to keep entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg clean during the event, the entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg area is declared "Tobacco free Zone/ Smoke Free Tourist areas".

As such the smoking and spitting of tobacco in the entire Gulmarg and Tangmarg areas are prohibited and is a punishable offence, the order reads.

It has also directed the senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg and chief Medical Officer along with local administration to ensure strict implementation.

The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 are scheduled to take place from January 23 to Feb

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Man Killed as car crashes with truck on Jammu-Srinagar national highway

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, FEB 16

A man on Sunday died on the spot when his car crashed with a truck on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Chenani in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu travel guide

Police said that a man died after car crashed with truck on Jammu-

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Sunisar Lake Shrinks

R.C.BHAT

Concerning department why ignoring Jammu region God knows but it's fact huge money is utilizing same department for Dal Lake Srinagar for its more beautification and other lakes in Vally but step mother's act why with Jammu region.

Once a vast and shimmering oasis, Sunisar Lake had been the heart of the region for centuries. It nurtured life, provided water to nearby villages, and was home to diverse flora and fauna. But in recent years, an alarming trend had begun—the lake was shrinking, and no one knew how to stop it.

Rahul, a young environmental researcher, arrived in the region to in-

vestigate. As he walked along the lake's receding shoreline, he saw cracked earth where water once flowed. The villagers, especially the elders, spoke with sorrow. "The lake was once full, even during the dry seasons," said Dadaji, an 80-year-old man who had lived by Sunisar all his life. "Now, we see land where there should be water."

Rahul's research pointed to multiple causes—climate change had reduced rainfall, excessive groundwater extraction had drained underground reserves, and deforestation in the surrounding hills had disrupted the natural flow of water into the lake. Industrial pollution from a nearby factory had further worsened the situa-

tion. The villagers, dependent on the lake for farming and fishing, faced severe hardships. Wells ran dry, crops failed, and fish populations dwindled. Migratory birds that once flocked to the lake had found new homes elsewhere. Determined to make a change, Rahul organized a community meeting. He urged them to take action—plant trees around the lake to restore the ecosystem, reduce water wastage, and protest against illegal industrial dumping. Some were skeptical, but others, especially the younger generation, were eager to help.

Within months, small changes began to show results. Villagers dug trenches to channel rainwater back into the

lake, and a campaign to reduce groundwater use gained momentum. The factory, under legal pressure, installed a proper waste treatment facility. Trees planted along the shore held the soil in place, preventing further erosion.

A year later, the transformation was evident. While Sunisar Lake had not fully recovered, its decline had slowed. The villagers, once resigned to their fate, now had hope. Rahul, standing by the water's edge, smiled. "It's not too late," he said, watching the lake shimmer under the golden sunset.

The battle to save Sunisar was far from over, but for the first time in years, the lake had a future.

FROM PAGE ONE

Bodies Of Two People Found In Jammu And Kashmir's Kathua

told PTL. He said preliminary information revealed that the deceased had been strangled by unknown persons.

The exact cause of the death will be known only after the postmortem, the officer said, adding police have started investigations after registering a murder case.

Official sources said a terror angle cannot be ruled out yet.

Last year, several parts of Kathua, including Billawar, witnessed terror activities including an attack on an army patrol that left five soldiers dead.

Young Advocates Must Volunteer To Assist Poor Litigants: Supreme Court

for a young advocate who rendered legal aid to a party-in-person, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma said lawyers should render best legal assistance to the litigant without any expectation in return for their professional services.

“Young advocates joining the bar must volunteer to assist the litigants who cannot engage the services of a counsel due to lack of means or awareness whenever an opportunity presents itself. Moreover, they should render the best legal assistance to the litigant without any expectation in return for their professional services.

“By these gestures of volunteering to represent indigent litigants, advocates can collectively make a statement to the society at large that the legal profession stands for the right to have access to justice and equality before law, not just in theory but in practice too,” the bench said.

The top court said such efforts of advocates, though in an individual capacity but acting towards a common objective of bringing an amicable quietus to the litigation, would send out a message that counsels are not hinderances in the process of parties reaching a mutually agreeable settlement, particularly in labour and matrimonial matters.

“They can also effectively play their parts in helping the parties end their disputes, and add positively to the alternate dispute mechanisms like mediation and conciliation.

“These are opportunities to make meaningful contributions to the society, and as a result the legal profession as a whole would gain the goodwill of the society in general and indigent litigants in particular,” the bench said.

Referring to the case, the bench said the counsel, advocate Sanchar Anand, appeared 14 times before this court to represent the petitioner in two years.

The petitioner, admittedly being a man of limited means, has not been able to pay a penny to the counsel for his services, it said.

“The counsel is not even an advocate on the panel of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, so as to receive some reasonable remuneration for his time and expenses. Yet, the counsel dedicatedly appeared before this court during these two years to not just represent the petitioner, but also to assist this court in reaching a just and proper conclusion to this case,” the bench said.

The apex court said access to justice before the highest court of the country is not bound by the shackles of lack of financial resources.

The bench said persons from all classes, etc., who wish to approach this court with their grievance, must be provided with necessary assistance by the responsible members of the bar, without increasing the cost of litigation for the party or unnecessarily delaying the process.

“This is a welcome change from the trend being witnessed in our court rooms, where the litigants located in far corners of this country have to shell out humungous sums of money in the name of professional fees for engagement of top echelons of the legal profession, particularly when the matters do not progress on a particular day.

“In lieu of their expectations for the constitutionally guaranteed right to justice at the hands of this court, they are often handed over a document that reads on top as ‘Record of Proceedings’ and which acts as a means of justifying the professional fees, without there being any substantial relief for the party concerned,” the bench said.

“The message that eventually spreads among the litigant public is that a hearing in this court is available only to those who have the wherewithal and can withstand the financial pressure arising from their litigation apart from the uncertainty of the result, and that the doors of justice may be inaccessible for others who can ill-afford to pay such high fees to lawyers.

“We must reiterate that this misconception is required to be broken. The duty to provide ease of access to justice rests upon every member of the legal profession and the requisite message needs to be disseminated from the portals and corridors of this court in the first instance in both letter and spirit,” the court said. (Agencies)

Omar Should Refrain From Endorsing Centre's Abrogation Of Articles 370, 35A: Mehbooba

Parliament.

“While the BJP may not restore these rights, it is likely that India, as a nation, will have to do

so sooner or later. Any endorsement by the J&K government would weaken this claim and diminish the state's position. We have to keep the argument and narrative alive,” she said.

Mufti also reminded the BJP-led Union government of the understanding it showed during the peak of unrest in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Thousands of FIRs of stone pelters were quashed and Ramazan ceasefire was declared. A high-powered delegation was sent to engage with the people of J&K, including separatists, who unfortunately declined the offer,” she said.

“At the time, separatists believed that stone-pelting, burning schools and hospitals, and attacking army camps and police stations would resolve the Kashmir issue. However, things only worsened,” she added.

The PDP president urged the BJP to come down from its “high horse” and acknowledge that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not as normal as it appears.

“The façade of normalcy has been created by the force of agencies and the imposition of draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

“But this will not last forever. The government must reconsider its approach, reach out to the people, and build on the confidence-building measures initiated during my tenure,” she said. Jammu travel guide

Mufti also stressed the need to reopen key trade routes, such as Uri-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot, to boost the region's economy.

“As Jammu is increasingly sidelined, the Jammu-Sialkot route should also be revived to provide a market for Jammu's products,” she said and urged the government to take inspiration from her vision document and the Agenda of Alliance, which underlined dialogue and economic development.

The PDP president claimed that little had changed even after Jammu and Kashmir elected a government in October last year.

“What's the difference between LG rule and the NC government? The same crackdowns, property attachments, and persecution of the Jamaat-e-Islami continue. Employees are still being terminated, youth are arrested under UAPA, and the misuse of PSA remains unchecked. Kashmiri youth continue to languish in jails outside J&K with no relief,” she said.

“Unemployment has skyrocketed, plunging youth into despair. Bureaucratic hurdles have made everyday life miserable. The Reorganization Act is being solidified, further eroding J&K's autonomy,” she added.

She also criticised the government's misplaced priorities, such as opposing the ban on alcohol while ignoring critical issues like the dilution of the resolution on Article 370 and the hollow promise of statehood. (Agencies)

Ski resort of Gulmarg, now a tobacco free zone in Kashmir

February 25, 2025 in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg.

“Whereas spitting of tobacco, etc. leads to the spread of swine flu, tuberculosis and pneumonia and gastrointestinal diseases”, the order further reads and states, “TB bacilli can survive in spit for an entire day, which causes health problems to the public or nuisance to the people in general”.

“Whereas section 270 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) stipulates that a person is guilty of a public nuisance who does any act or is guilty of an illegal omission which causes any common injury, danger or annoyance to the public or to the people in general who dwell or occupy property in the vicinity, or which must necessarily cause injury, obstruction, danger or annoyance to persons who may have occasion to use a public right”, the order further reads.

Change of guard ceremony now in new format, Prez Murmu attends inaugural show

giving citizens an opportunity to attend the event, officials said.

Previously held between Jaipur Column and gate number 1, it has now been shifted to the forecourt, expanding the capacity to over a thousand spectators, they said.

Conducted weekly, this ceremony marks formal handover of duties between the outgoing and incoming guards.

The ceremony attended by Murmu on Sunday showcased synchronised movements by the Ceremonial Battalion, precision drills by the President's Bodyguard (PBG) and performance by the Ceremonial Band, reflecting the discipline, heritage, and pride of the Indian armed forces.

Raised in 1773, the President's Bodyguard (PBG) is the senior-most regiment of the Indian Army, tasked with ceremonial duties for the president. PBG personnel are skilled horsemen, tank operators, and paratroopers.

Visitors can reserve their slots at <https://visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in>

Uplifting marginalized communities is our duty: CM

Kashmir, but he will also be responsible for representing the community, being your voice, and addressing all your issues,” the Chief Minister stated at a felicitation ceremony held by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in his honor following his election as Chief Minister of J&K. Omar Abdullah further stated that by inducting Javed Rana into the cabinet, he aimed to ensure that the Gujjar community's concerns were heard and addressed within the government.

On the demand for a Tribal University, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that with the dedication of the trust and its people, this vision would be

come a reality soon.

“You should prepare a project. You should prepare a plan. I will sit with your trust when your plan is ready we will definitely do our part,” he assured.

Reflecting on his previous visit to Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) as Chief Minister, he acknowledged the changes over time—some positive, some challenging.

“After a long time, I have again had the opportunity to attend a function of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust. If my recollection is correct, perhaps when I came here for the last time, I was a Chief Minister. A lot has changed since then” he said.

Paying tribute to Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, the visionary founder of GDCT, the Chief Minister praised his legacy and contributions.

“But unfortunately, the person who planted this seed, whose dream was Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, who laid its foundation, is no longer with us. If I begin my speech without remembering Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, it would be an injustice,” he remarked.

The Chief Minister also expressed his emotional connection to the trust, recalling the close relationship his grandmother, Madri-e-Meharban, had with it.

“I want this trust to grow stronger. My grandmother had a deep bond with it. Though she is no longer with us, her name is etched here. You have honored her memory by dedicating a library in her name. I consider it my responsibility to ensure that wherever possible, the government supports this trust in fulfilling its mission,” he said.

Assuring continued government support, Omar Abdullah pledged: “I assure you that on my behalf, on behalf of all ministers, advisor, and the government—wherever you need assistance, you will always find us standing with you.”

Later, Chief Minister also visited the library block established by GDCT for research on the Gujjar-Bakkerwal community.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired pre-budget consultations with public representatives from Jammu district at a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat.

The session was attended by Minister Satish Sharma, Chairman District Development Council (DDC), Members of Legislative Assembly from District Jammu, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta and Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya; with some of the MLA's attending the meeting virtually through video conference.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of engaging with elected representatives in the budget-making process to ensure that the aspirations and needs of the people are adequately reflected.

“We could have drafted the budget in our offices, but we are consulting elected representatives so that the people's needs and aspirations are taken into account,” the Chief Minister stated.

Tourism development was another key focus, with suggestions to promote local attractions, improve tourist amenities, and create new tourism circuits to boost the local economy.

The public representatives thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for initiating the pre-budget consultations, stating that it was for the first time that they were being actively involved in the budget formulation process.

They expressed appreciation for the government's inclusive approach, which allowed them to voice their constituency needs directly. They also expressed optimism that their concerns and demands would be taken into account while drafting the budget.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Jammu presented a detailed sector-wise proposal based on inputs from MLAs. The proposals covered various development sectors, including rural and urban development, public works, irrigation, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

Special attention was given to flood protection measures, groundwater conservation, and strengthening the Jal Shakti department to address water scarcity.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat emphasises unity of hindu society, calls it responsible society of country

“We say ‘unity in diversity,’ but Hindu society understands that diversity itself is unity,” the RSS chief added.

Bhagwat said in India, no one remembers the emperors and maharajas, but instead remembers a king who went into exile for 14 years to fulfil his father's promise — an apparent reference to Lord Ram, and the person who placed his brother's sandals on the throne, and who handed over the kingdom upon his return.

“These characteristics define India. Those who follow these values are Hindus and they keep the diversity of the entire country united,” he explained.

Reiterating the need for Hindu unity, Bhagwat said even in good times, challenges will always arise. “The nature of the problem is irrelevant; what matters is how prepared we are to face them,” he added.

The rally was held after the Calcutta High Court approved it after the Bengal Police initially refused permission.

Speaking on historical invasions dating back to Alexander, Bhagwat noted that “a handful of barbarians, who were not superior in virtue, ruled over India,” attributing it to internal betrayal within society”.

The RSS chief emphasised that societal participation is necessary to change the destiny of a nation.

He also emphasised that India was not created by the British and argued that the notion of India being disunited was instilled in people by the British.

He remarked, “Even Mahatma Gandhi had said it was the British who tried to teach us that they created India, and he had said that this was wrong. India has existed for centuries — diverse, yet united. All those who live in this country believe in this idea of unity in diversity. Today, if we talk about this, we are accused of talking about Hindutva.”

Referring to misconceptions about the organisation, he noted, “If you look from the outside, you may have misunderstandings about the Sangh. We have thousands of branches (Shakas), and we want to expand them. Why? Not for ourselves. Because if people unite, it will be beneficial for the country and the world.”

Speaking on the intentions of the RSS in uniting Hindu society, he said, “We do not seek to gain anything. We just want to work for the development of the country. History and the present tell us that India maintains friendly relations with everyone, even with those who wish us harm. Others think of interests but we think of relations.” (Agencies)

Society's speedy and inclusive development largely depends on productivity of its Youth: IG Sinha

this goal through infrastructure and coaching, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the steps taken by the government under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, empowering the youth to lead the development journey of Jammu Kashmir and the nation. Jammu travel guide

“Future-oriented and progressive policies in sectors like education, industries, skill development, sports, agriculture, infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship, and transparent and merit-based recruitments have kindled brighter hope for our talented youth,” the Lieutenant Governor further added.

He also appreciated the endeavours of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development aimed at women empowerment and initiatives like mass campaign against drug abuse, competitive exams preparations, leadership-personality development, interview preparations, and sports related activities.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the Army Bravehearts, Freedom Fighters and other great personalities of Gurha Slathia and recalled their contribution to the nation.

Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba; Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba; Sudarshan Singh Slathia DDC Member; senior officials; members of Guidance and Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC) and youth in large number were present.

Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia; Lieutenant General (Retd.) Anoop Singh Jamwal and various prominent personalities from diverse fields were also present.

PDP Legislator To Move Bill For Proprietary Rights Of House Owners Living On State Land In J&K

Kashmir (Regularisation and Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Public Land) Bill, 2025” to the assembly secretariat.

In a major anti-encroachment drive in 2023, the Lt Governor-led Jammu and Kashmir administration retrieved thousands of hectares of state land including Roshni and Kahcharai (grazing) land.

On November 1, 2020, the Union Territory administration cancelled all land transfers that took place under the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 — also known as the Roshni Act.

The act initially envisaged the conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh kanals (1,02,750 hectares) to the occupants of which only 15.85 per cent of land was approved for vesting of ownership rights.

The scheme, which was declared “unconstitutional” by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 2020, was finally repealed by former governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28, 2018.

Over 29,500 Registered Drones In India: Official Data

thorised Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) have issued 22,466 Remote Pilot Certificates (RPCs).

Sharing the data as part of a written reply, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol also said the central government has taken various steps to increase the usage of drone technology across various sectors. Among other measures, the ministry amended norms in August last year whereby the requirement of passport for the registration and de-registration/transfer of a drone was scrapped.

Since then, voter ID, ration card or driving licence can be used for registration and de-registration or transfer of drones. There is a drone airspace map, which is divided into three zones — green, yellow and red.

There is no need for prior permission to operate drones in the green zone while the Air Traffic Control (ATC) concerned has to approve operations of drones in the yellow zone.

For flying drones in the red zone, permission has to be granted by the central government. (Agencies)

Man Killed as car crashes with truck on Jammu-Srinagar national highway

Srinagar National Highway. “The body was taken to the Government Medical College, Udhampur, for post-mortem,” said police.

The deceased was identified as Ashkhor, 27, son of Raj Ali, resident of Samroli, Udhampur.

Police said that a case has been registered, and investigation is underway.

DC reviews achievements of Fisheries Department in Poonch

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today reviewed the achievements of the Fisheries department here at a meeting held in the conference hall of DC Office Complex. The meeting discussed fishery department schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). At the outset, AD Fisheries Bharat Bushan presented an overview of scheme-wise progress, highlighting key initiatives such as the construction of low-cost houses for fishermen, the establishment of trout raceways, and the provision of three-wheeler autos to support fishermen's livelihoods during lean periods. The discussion also included the issuance of fishing licenses. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to enhance expenditure and increase the number of licenses issued to fishermen. The AD informed that the department's successful achievement in constructing low-cost houses and trout raceways in the district. Furthermore,



Deputy Commissioner urged the AD Fisheries to be actively aware the public about the available schemes, ensuring that fishermen can fully benefit from the initiatives aimed at improving their livelihoods and nutrition.



To day a meeting of retired police personnel of district Poonch held under the chairmanship of s. surjeet singh sudan District president retired police personnel welfare league Poonch. They appeal to the worthy DGP Jammu and Kashmir UT that held Darbar of the retired police personnel and the family members of myrted police personnel 2. All retired police personnel request to worthy DGP Jammu and Kashmir kindly engaged the childrens of retired police personnel as spo in this regard files of Mubarak Hussain son of retired si nasser khan resident of naka manjari mdr2. Pavneet pal singh resident of ward no 8 poonch The files of the above person has been submitted by the worthy IGP jammu to the worthy DGP office kindly look into the matter 3 . Kindly A 10+2 acadamy established in poonch 4. All retired police personnel requested kindly permanent the SPO as constable .District president retired police personnel thanks the SSP Poonch for issuing the some articles of future for the MESS of retired police personnel for the welfare of retired police personnel



JKTA hold Press Conference, Demanded Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) and other demands

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Association (JKTA) held a press conference at the Press Club of Jammu, highlighting issues concerning the teaching community. Led by UT President Bhupinder Singh, the association strongly demanded rationalization of staff, the initiation of the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD), the formulation of a transfer policy for teachers appointed under the Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme, and the immediate filling of vacant posts at various levels, including Teachers, Masters, Lecturers, Headmasters, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), Zonal Education Planning Officers (ZEPOs), Principals, and Ministerial Staff.

During the press conference, several notable trade union leaders joined JKTA, further strengthening its movement. Senior trade union leader Mushtaq Ahmed Malik, Nisar Ahmed from Anantnag, Rafiq Anjum from Ramban, Narain Dutt from Doda, Tahir Nawaz, and Reyaz Ahmed Batt were among those who extended their support to the association's cause.

The JKTA also emphasized five key areas of focus that define its vision and objectives. Character building remains at the core of their agenda, ensuring that students are nurtured with strong moral and ethical values. Environmental awareness is another crucial aspect, promoting sustainable practices in schools. Management education is a priority to enhance leadership and governance in

the education sector. Teacher education is vital for professional development and skill enhancement to ensure quality teaching. Lastly, the association is committed to the promotion of indigenous languages, including Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Pogali, Bhalessi, Padri, and Kashali, which are an integral part of the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The association urged the School Education Department to take immediate action on these issues. Delays in rationalization, transfers, and recruitment are significantly affecting the education system, impacting students' learning and teachers' professional growth. JKTA reaffirmed its dedication to safeguarding teachers' rights and working towards the betterment.

Shri Ram School organised a flagship event- "All About India"

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Shri Ram Universal School proudly hosted their flagship event, "All About India," a vibrant celebration of the country's rich cultural diversity. The event transformed the school campus into a magnificent representation of India's various states, offering an immersive experience for students, parents, and guests alike. This annual event, a signature initiative across Shri Ram Schools nationwide, aims to empower students with knowledge about India's heritage, traditions, and regional diversity. Each corner of the school was meticulously adorned with student-created artwork, decorations, mascots and delicacies guided by dedicated teachers, to showcase the uniqueness of each state. The enthusiastic participation of parents further amplified the spirit of collaboration and community engagement. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of DIG Jammu, Mr. Shiv Kumar, as the chief guest. He commended the students and staff for their dedication and creativity in curating an educational and visually captivating experience. Other distinguished guests included Mr. Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu; Ms. Ekshu Sharma, Assistant



Director Handicraft Samba; Mr. Kewal Krishan, CEO Samba; Ms. Shilpa Dubey, DDC Member Vijaypur; Dr. Dinesh Rao, HOD Forensic Medicine AIIMS; and Dr. Rajan Badyal, PRO Central University. One of the key highlights of the event was the Skit of Maha Kumbh, which beautifully depicted the historical and cultural significance of the Kumbh Mela. Additionally, mesmerizing live stage performances showcased traditional dance forms from different states, captivating the audience and celebrating the nation's artistic legacy along with a thought provoking natak on drug free India spreading awareness. Parents and guests lauded the efforts of the students and faculty, expressing their appreciation for the meticulous planning and hard work invested in the event. They acknowledged the school's commitment to fostering cultural awareness and unity among students. "All About India" not only celebrated India's vibrant heritage but also instilled a deep sense of national pride and belonging among the school community. Shri Ram Schools continue to uphold their mission of holistic education by blending knowledge with experiential learning, making such events a memorable and enriching experience for all.

Grand Felicitation Ceremony" Honouring Jb. Omar Abdullah Sb, Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K at Gurjar Desh Charitable

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

On 16th of February 2025, Grand Felicitation Ceremony in Honour of Jb. Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir was organized by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Jammu with great enthusiasm and fervour. The event witnessed the presence of Jenab Javed Ahmed Rana, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest-Ecology, Environment & Tribal Affairs Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir as Guest of Honour along with Sh. Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology & Youth Services & Sports ARI & Training & Jb. Nasir Aslam Wani Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister as the Special Guests. Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC also graced the occasion. The Honourable Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir Jb. Omar Abdullah was warmly welcomed by the Patron-in-chief GDCT Haji Abdul Hamid Choudhary, Chairman GDCT Mr. Arshad Ali Choudhary, General Secretary Er. Mohammad Sadiq Azad, Sr. Vice Chairman Dr. Shoket Mehmood Chowdhary, Vice Chairman Er. Arafat Masud, Jenab Bashir Ahmed Noon Financial Advisor, Ch. Ifikhar Hussain Chouhan JKAS (Director K. B. Public School), Jb. Asif Khaliq Poswal Secretary, Senior Trustees, Jenab Allah Rahim Chechi Patron GDCT, Master Hasham Ali Former Chairman & Patron GDCT, Adv. Shah Mohamamd Chowdhary Former Chairman, Ch. Mohammad Hanief Chouhan, Ch. Farooq Alam, Ch. Mohammad Aslam Gheghi, Ch. Mohammad Yousuf Khepar, Adv. Aslam Khan, Jb. Mohammad Sharief Chouhan Ex-General Secretary, Ch. Shouket Javed, Ch. Rafiq Kohli, Ch. Bashir Ahmed Khatana, Ch. Khalil Ahmed Poswal SSP, Ch. Salam Ud Din Bajard, Er. Gulam Rasool, Dr. Ambreen Choudhary, Prof. Ruk-sana Kousar, Ms Naseem Akhter, Master Mushtaq Ahmed, Mr. Arsalan Choud-



hary, Dr. Mohammad Saleem, Jb. Saleem Choudhary Retd. DC, Jb. Tariq Abrar, Trustees, Principal BKBPS Ms. Nehreer Khan, Staff & Students. Various distinguished guests were present to grace the event. The Ceremony started with the Tilawat-e-Quran Pak by Master Mushtaq Ahmed Trustee. As a mark of respect, the dignitaries were presented with bouquets and traditional Gojri Pagri (Dastarbandi). Patron-in-Chief GDCT Haji Abdul Hamid Choudhary presented a Bouquet to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Jb. Omar Abdullah, Ch. Allah Rahim Chechi Former Chairman GDCT presented a Bouquet to the Guest of Honour Jb. Javed Ahmed Rana, Hon'ble Minister, Ch. Mohammad Hanief Chouhan Patron GDCT presented a Bouquet to the Special Guest Sh. Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Minister & Adv. Aslam Khan Trustee presented a Bouquet to Jb. Nasir Aslam Wani Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister, followed by the Dastarbandi of Jb. Omar Abdullah, by Chairman Arshad Ali Choudhary, Guest of Honour Jb. Javed Ahmed Rana, Hon'ble Minister by Ch. Mohammad Aslam Gheghi Trustee, Special Guest, Sh. Satish Sharma Hon'ble Minister by Er. Ghulam Rasool, Special Guest, Jb. Nasir Aslam Wani Advisor to Hon'ble CM by Jb. Shouket Javed & Sh. Rattan Lal Gupta Ji by Jb. Bashir Ahmed Noon. The Chairman Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust warmly welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, & Special Guests along with all other dignitaries, Staff and students of KBPS. In his Welcome Address, he also highlighted the aims, objectives & achievements of GDCT over the past 32 years, followed by a display of documentary edited & presented by Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary/Chief Editor, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu, which was displayed & appreciated with loud clapping by the audience. The Patron-in-Chief, Jenab Haji Abdul Hamid Choudhary recalled the achievements of Baba-e-Qoum Late Dr. Masud Ahmed Choudhary.

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'1500 tickets were sold every hour': What caused the stampede at Delhi Railway Station

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Eighteen people were killed and many others injured after a stampede broke out at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday late at night. The incident happened at platforms 14 and 15 of the New Delhi Railway Station, where people thronged to take the train bound for Prayagraj - where the Mahakumbh is underway.

Delhi acting Chief Minister Atishi told reporters that 18 people had been brought dead at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital of central Delhi, of which three were children.

Eyewitnesses claim the station witnessed an unprecedented crowd on Saturday evening, especially at the 14th and 15th platforms. Though the administration and the NDRF personnel tried to control the crowd from swelling, it was unmanageable.

Local media reports claim that the Express train to Prayagraj was stationed at platform number 14, where a huge crowd waited. Around the same time, the Swatantrata Senani Express, heading to Jainagar in Bihar, and the Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express too were stationed at 12 and 13 platforms. Both trains were late for their departure, resulting in their passengers thronging the station.

According to passengers, some trains were delayed, causing the crowd to swell. Around 1,500 tickets were sold by the Railways



around the time, Jansatta quoted local TV channels. "We were 12 people going to Mahakumbh. We hadn't even reached the platform but were at the stairs. My family, including my sister, were stuck in the crowd. We found her after half an hour, and by the time she was dead," an eyewitness told ANI. There are also reports that a lot of passengers from platform 12 were heading to 16 after the announcement that a train has been rescheduled from 12 to 16 triggered a rush. "It was announced that the train coming on platform number 12 would come on platform number 16. So the crowd from 16 collided with those from other platforms. This caused a stampede," the passenger told reporters. "I had a sleeper ticket for Purushottam Express. But, even those with confirmed tickets could not get anywhere near the trains. There was a

lot of pushing and shoving. We decided to stay outside which saved our lives," Pramod Chaurasia, a passenger was quoted by Jansatta.

However, DCP Railway KPS Malhotra told ANI that the authorities had anticipated a huge crowd but things went out of control in a matter of few minutes. "We expected the crowd, but it all happened in a fraction of time. The fact-finding will be done by the Railways. After inquiry, we will get to know the reason behind the incident," he told ANI.

A two-member high-level committee had been formed by the Railway Board to investigate the matter. "The situation is under control, and the passengers have been sent by special train. Train movement at the railway station is normal now," Dilip Kumar, Executive Director of Information & Publicity (ED/IP), Railway Board.

Stalin slams Union Min Dharmendra Pradhan over NEP 'blackmail' for funds; 'Tamils will not tolerate', says DMK CM

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin lashed out at Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for "blackmailing" funds will not be provided for the southern state until it implemented the National Education Policy in its entirety.

Slamming the Union minister, Stalin said the minister's comments were unacceptable and condemnable. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader said Tamils will not tolerate such "blackmails". "The state sought its due, from the Centre which is its right and if the Central minister spoke arrogantly as if the state claimed his personal wealth, then, in that case, Delhi would have to witness the trait of the Tamil people," Stalin said in his post on X.

'Would you at least acknowledge Dalit atrocities are happening in Tamil Nadu?' Director Pa. Ranjith slams Stalin

Erode East bypoll: DMK makes an easy win with barely any opposition

Seizing journalists' mobile phones is an assault on the press: Madras HC raps SIT probing Anna University sexual assault case

Quoting Pradhan's comments that



"They have to come to the terms of the Indian Constitution", Stalin asked the Union minister to specify the constitutional provision under which the three-language policy of English, the respective regional language and Hindi is mandatory. Stalin said that education is on the concurrent list of the Constitution and the Union government cannot claim it to be their exclusive domain.

Addressing at Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi on Saturday, Pradhan said funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhyan scheme will not be released to Tamil Nadu until it implemented NEP

in its entirety. Responding to a question on the non-release of the funds, Pradhan had said, "They are politically motivated and not acting for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu. They cannot think they are above the Constitution. They must accept the NEP in letter and spirit," The New Indian Express reported quoting Pradhan.

However, Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on Saturday urged the Union minister to release ₹2,152 crore to the state and not to "play" politics over it.

Yogi Adityanath compares Mahakumbh criticism to ignorance towards climate change

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

We must not wait for another disaster to play our role in stemming climate change, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaking at the inauguration of conference on Climate Change at the Mahakumbh today.

This is the first time ever that a conclave on the dangers that the environment is facing has been held at the gathering. The venue is Sector 25 of the Mahakumbh nagar.

This, as Chandra Bhushan, the president and CEO of the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) said, was necessary because science and academics were unable to reach the general public. Thus, the onus fell on faith to bring about changes in our behaviour. iFOREST is the organising partner of the one-day event which is being held in association with the state's department of forests.

Adityanath drew parallels between criticisms of the Mahakumbh with how we overlook our own responsi-

bility as regards to the environment. The CM said that as people did want to walk even 100 metres to go to the Triveni sangam and thus parked their vehicles anywhere and then criticised the mela organisation, similarly we did not reflect on our own behaviour shunning even simple changes such as giving up single-use plastic and planting a tree.

Swami Chidanand Saraswati, the president of the Parmarth Niketan Ashram, said that if we did not pay attention immediately, we would soon narrate stories that began with: "There was a river called Ganga.... There was a river called Yamuna...."

The challenge we will face in the future is a very big one. The health of our future is the health of our nature. The future of our nature is the nature of our future. That is why we have worshipped the creator for so long - thus our faith in the Mahakumbh. Let us not forget the creation, Saraswati said.

He called upon saints to come forward and take it upon themselves to lead the change. This is not something

new. In 2012, the Global Interfaith WASH alliance, which brings together leaders from all faiths was formed.

Adityanath said it was time we realised that rivers were like veins in the human body. We must think, if these veins carry no blood or become polluted, what would happen to us. The same was applicable to the environment. He also recounted his government's efforts to increase the forest cover in the state. Of the 210 crore trees planted in the last eight years, 70-80 percent of those planted by the forest department and 60-70 percent of those planted by others had survived. Saraswati said that it was time to show the world that India can do it and India has done it.

The conference will include sessions on Sacred Rivers, Water Security and Climate Change; the role of Government in Faith-Based climate action; Promoting Sustaining Lifestyles; religious Organisations in Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Relief among others.

Maharashtra 'love jihad' law: Interfaith unions fine but marriage through lie, fake identity spreading, says Chief Minister

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Two days after the Maharashtra government formed a seven-member committee under the leadership of the state's Director General of Police to take action against "love jihad", Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said there was nothing wrong with interfaith marriages, but steps are needed to be taken against matrimonial alliances through fraud and false identity.

The trend of abandoning women after marriage and childbirth is spreading in society which needs to be stopped. In these cases, lying cheating by creating false identities and fraud are involved and the government can't stand and watch, CM Fadnavis said.

Chief Minister Fadnavis had recently promised to soon enact a law to prevent forced conversions, especially "love jihad." "It is a reality, and in Maharashtra, incidents of being duped into marriage and then abandoned once children are born are on the rise. It is not right to deliberately lie. Therefore, whatever action is required in this regard will be taken by the state government," the BJP leader told reporters



in Nagpur.

Coldplay concert ticket row: Maharashtra cyber wing issues fresh directions to BookMyShow, Zomato to curb black marketing

Fadnavis claimed that the Supreme Court and Kerala High Court have made observations about the reality of "love jihad" -- a term used by right-wing outfits to allege a conspiracy by Muslim men to convert Hindu women to Islam through marriage.

The state government has issued a

Government Resolution (GR) stating that a committee headed by the state director general of police (DGP) will suggest steps to tackle the complaints of "love jihad" and forced conversions. It will also look at legal aspects and the laws framed in other states and recommend legislation to prevent such instances. It was also announced that the state government have issued instructions regarding who will be the members of the committee and how exactly will it function.

Andhra crime: Prakasam man chopped into pieces by mother for trying to rape his aunts

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The Andhra Pradesh Police have launched a manhunt for a mother who is on the run after murdering and dismembering the body of her son with the help of other family members, reports said. The 57-year-old woman, identified as K. Lakshmi Devi, is accused of killing her son with an axe or a similar heavy weapon and chopping it into five pieces ahead of dumping it in a water body.

Fake seals, false suppliers...how did 3 dairies supply adulterated ghee to Tirupurati Venkateswara temple

According to the police, Lakshmi Devi of Andhra's Prakasam district decided to take matters into her own hands after her son K. Shyam Prasad (35), a sanitary worker, crossed all limits. A man known for his abusive behaviour, he tried to take advantage of her. The police found that the entire family loathed Shyam who had earlier attempted to rape his maternal aunts who lived in Narasaraopeta and Hyderabad, news agency PTI reported. This is believed to be the



reason why other members of the family came forward to help Lakshmi Devi in the crime. The Andhra Police found out that the crime took place on February 13, Thursday.

The middle-aged woman and others murdered her son and cut his body into pieces so that it could be hidden in sacks. The five pieces of the victim's body were stuffed into three sacks and dumped in the

Nakalagandi canal in Cumbum village. A known "pervert", Shyam Prasad's unspeakable habits and way of life were the reason for the crime, Prakasam Superintendent of Police, A R Damodar told the news agency. All the accused remained untraced during the time of filing this report but have been booked under BNS Sections 103(1) and 238.

Mahakumbh mela: Another weekend of 300km long traffic? MP police note increase in Prayagraj-bound vehicles



NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Madhya Pradesh police and Prayagraj administration in Uttar Pradesh are on alert as authorities note a significant increase in inbound traffic to the city hosting Mahakumbh Mela. The increase comes as a spike in crowd heading to Mahakumbh led to a stampede at New Delhi railway station.

According to authorities, the number of inbound traffic in Rewa has increased in the past 24 hours. Rewa in Madhya Pradesh borders with Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh. According to officials, while 1,000 vehicles were crossing the Chakghat border every hour and heading towards Prayagraj, only close to 800 vehicles were returning from there. The Chakghat border is located 45km away from Prayagraj.

Saket Prakash Pandey, Inspector General, Rewa, said, "The number of Prayagraj-bound vehicles on National Highway No 30 has increased in the past 24 hours. In addition, a large number of people were also returning from Prayagraj, resulting in the increase in number of vehicles on the road," PTI reported. Pandey added the administration is on alert mode considering the increase in vehicles and as of now, they are not stopping vehicles at important points like we are not stopping the vehicles at Bela, Gangev and Chakghat.

Mahakumbh: Over 50 crore take holy dip so far; Akhilesh Yadav demands Mela extension

Mishra, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police said there is an increase in the

number of vehicles and arrangements have been made at holding areas for pilgrims. Pilgrim holding areas have also been established in Madhya Pradesh as well.

Pilgrims heading to Mahakumbh had to reportedly spent close to 48 hours in long traffic jams during the weekend earlier this month. Reportedly, 300-km long traffic was noted on Uttar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh border during the previous weekend.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav had slammed the Yogi Adityanath government over poor traffic arrangements for Mahakumbh and said the severe traffic jam even affected the supply of essential goods to Prayagraj.

J&K POLICE DISTRICT KISHTWAR, IN COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZED AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CRIMINAL LAWS AT CHATROO



JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

On the directions of the senior formations, J&K Police District Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Civil Administration Kishtwar, organized an awareness programme on the implementa-

tion of new criminal laws at the Conference Hall, R&B Building, Chatroo. The event was led by SHO PS Chatroo Insp. Vikram Singh. The programme witnessed the participation of SDM Chatroo, Tehsildar Chatroo, Tehsildar Mughal Maidan, BDO Chatroo, TSO

Chatroo, Naib Tehsildars, administrative staff members, and respected persons from the Chatroo area, along with the general public. During the session, participants were briefed on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). Special emphasis was laid on the use of digital tools to facilitate transparent investigations and speedy justice delivery to the common people. Additionally, attendees were sensitized about special provisions related to women's safety and offences under the new laws. The programme also focused on educating citizens about their rights and duties as outlined in the updated legal framework. This initiative by J&K Police District Kishtwar, in coordination with the District Administration Kishtwar, reflects a strong commitment to enhancing public awareness and ensuring the effective implementation of the new criminal laws for the betterment of society.

MASSIVE SEARCH OPERATIONS IN DRUG HOTSPOTS AREA IN BARI BRAHMANA, 22 BIKES RECOVERED

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

Samba Police has conducted a series of raids and search operations in drug hotspots at Balole Khad and Kikri Morh areas of Bari Brahmana and recovered 22 two-wheelers suspected to be stolen from different districts of J&K UT. During the investigation of backward linkages in NDPS cases, Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana under the supervision of ASP SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba have conducted several raids cum search operations in the areas known for drug related activity specifically Balole Khad and Kikri Morh in Bari Brahmana. A total of 22 bikes and scooties, suspected to have been stolen from various districts in J&K UT, were recovered during these raids. All the said bikes/scooties have been seized u/s 106 BNSS and are lying in the premises of Police Station Bari Brahmana. The details of recovered/seized vehicles are as under:- 1. Royal Enfield (Himalyan) without No. plate, Chassis No. ME324ASF1KFO180392. Super Splendor without No. plate, Chassis No. MBLJAR0389E003103. Splendor Hero bearing registration No. JK02BQ-23514. Scooty Activa 125, Chassis No. ME4JF493KF80682675. Motorcycle Honda CBR, Chassis No. ME4MG45DGJ80007006. Motorcycle Hero Splendor bearing registration



No. Jk21k 02937. Motorcycle Platina bearing registration No. JK21 C1732, Chassis No MD2A18AZ0FPK158548. Motorcycle Hero Splendor bearing registration No JK02DF-21039. Motorcycle Hero Splendor, Chassis No MBLHAR088HHC9067510. Motorcycle Super Splendor bearing registration No JK14J-322611. Motorcycle Pulsar 150 without registration No, Chassis No. MD2A11CX8LRB0873512. Motorcycle Hero Splendor plus bearing registration No JK02DJ-236513. Motorcycle Pulsar 150 without registration No, Chassis No MD2DHD-

HZZR661230914. Scooty Activa bearing registration. No JK02CE-322415. Scooty Activa bearing registration No. JK02CA-215616. Scooty Suzuki Swish, Chassis No MB8CF4CBMD814003917. Scooty Destiny bearing registration No. JK02CP-2404 18. Motorcycle Super Splendor bearing registration no. JK02BQ-573919. Scooty Destiny 125, bearing registration No. 758720. Motorcycle Pulsar 220 F, Chassis No. MD2A13 EY6JCF7420021. Scooty Activa bearing No. JK02BK-571022. Motorcycle Pulsar 125 bearing registration No. JK02CS-0309

'Faaltu hai kumbh': Lalu Yadav slams Rlys' crowd mismanagement

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

Former Union railway minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, on Sunday, said that the Railway's mismanagement led to the stampede at the New Delhi railway station that claimed the lives of at least 18 people.

"The incident is very unfortunate and I offer my condolences to the victims. This is a mismanagement by the Railways that led to the loss of so many lives. The railway minister should take responsibility," the RJD chief told ANI.

When asked about his suggestion regarding crowd management for the Mahakumbh, he said, "Kumbh ka kahan koi matlab hai. Faaltu hai kumbh (Kumbh has no meaning. Kumbh is useless)."

The stampede happened around 10 pm when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh 2025 festival, causing severe overcrowding at the station.

According to deputy commissioner of police, railway, KPS Malhotra, the incident occurred when a large number of passengers gathered on platform no. 14, where the Prayagraj Express was stationed.

Additionally, delays in the departures of the Swatantrata Senani Express and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani led



to further congestion at platforms 12, 13, and 14.

An eyewitness described the chaos, stating that the crowd came from both sides after an announcement about a train platform change, leading to the stampede.

"There was no one to control the crowd... It was announced that the train coming on platform number 12 would now arrive on platform number 16. So, the crowd came from both sides, and a stampede occurred... some people were taken to the hospital..." he said.

Delays in train departures and the sale of around 1,500 general tickets exacerbated the situation and contributed to the overwhelming crowd.

Another eyewitness recounted the horror, saying that the crowd was beyond control. People from the administration and even NDRF personnel were there, but when the crowd exceeded the limit, it was impossible to manage them.

"The crowd was beyond control; people were gathered at the foot over the bridge... Such a huge crowd wasn't expected. I have never seen such a massive crowd at the railway station, even during festivals. People from the administration and even NDRF personnel were there, but when the crowd exceeded the limit, it wasn't possible to control them," he said.



Playbe Higher Secondary School Pauni Chakk also spent children with bronze, silver and gold medal for performing well in inter-school sports competition, Chief Guest Mr. Rajendra Singh Chib Ji (Bharatiya Janata Party District Jammu Border on this occasion In-charge and former district president), Mr. Harpeet ji (Seva Bharati Organization General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir), Shri Manohar Lal Bhagat ji (former Councilor Municipal Committee Ghao Manhasan), Shri Arun Ji (MD of Playbe School) and Mrs. Anita Devi (Principal Playbe School) School staff and children were present, on this occasion, Mr. Rajendra Singh Chib Ji asked all the children to participate in sports and next time to perform better, interested in sports along with studies Keeping your health will be good, you will get an opportunity to get a government job when you get a medal and certificate in good performance and the biggest thing is that nowadays you can avoid the addiction that is being added to the young children.

Railways answers: What caused stampede at Delhi station

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Chief Public Relations Officer of Northern Railway, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay on Sunday said that a passenger coming towards platforms 14-15 slipped and fell on the stairs, and many passengers standing behind him were hit, leading to the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station.

The CPRO also said that the matter is being investigated by a high-level committee.

Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, stated, "When this tragic incident took place yesterday, at that time, Magadh Express going towards Patna was standing on platform number 14 of New Delhi Railway Station and Uttar Sampark Kranti going towards Jammu was standing on platform number 15. During this, a passenger coming towards platforms 14-15 slipped and fell on the stairs, and many passengers standing behind him were hit, and this tragic incident took place. This is being investigated by a high-level committee."

He CPRO further said no train services were affected, and a high-level committee is investigating the matter.

"No train was cancelled, nor was there any change in platform... The incident is being investigated, so let the committee submit their report and findings. The situation at the platform is normal now. All trains are running at their usual time..."

On Saturday, there was a stampede



at the New Delhi Railway Station that claimed the lives of 18 people.

The tragedy occurred at 10 pm, as lakhs of devotees were heading to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh 2025 festival, causing significant overcrowding at the station.

The deceased were identified as Aaha Devi, 79, Pinky Devi, 41, Sheela Devi, 50, Vyom, 25, Poonam Devi, 40, Lalita Devi, 35, Suruchi, 11, Krishna Devi, 40, Vijay Sah, 15, Neeraj, 12, Shanti Devi, 40, Pooja Kumar, 8, Sangeeta Malik, Poonam both aged 34, Mamta Jha, 40, Riya Singh, 7, Baby Kumari, 24, and Manoj, 47.

Reports indicate that around 1,500 general tickets were sold, leading to an overwhelming crowd. The situation worsened near platform no. 14 and the

escalator at platform no. 1.

NDRF Commandant Daulat Ram Chaudhary confirmed that the situation was now under control.

"...The situation is under control now. The injured have been evacuated... We received information about a stampede at platform no. 14 at the station... We are carrying out the rescue operations..."

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Railway, KPS Malhotra, the incident occurred when a large number of passengers gathered on platform no. 14, where the Prayagraj Express was stationed. Additionally, delays in the departures of the Swatantrata Senani Express and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani led to further congestion at platforms 12, 13, and 14.

Shoes, torn bags....: Horrific remains of Delhi stampede cleared

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Hours after a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station claimed at least 18 lives, railway staff worked through the night to clear the horrific remains of the tragic incident.

Shoes, torn bags, scattered clothes, and abandoned food lay across platforms 14 and 15 -- serving as grim reminder of the chaos that unfolded just hours earlier.

By Sunday morning, workers were seen sweeping away the debris, collecting personal belongings, to restore normalcy at the busy station, but the tragedy left scars that could not be so easily erased.

A railway staffer, who spent hours clearing the wreckage, described the scene as "one of the worst" he ever witnessed.

"There were belongings everywhere" - slippers without their pairs, half-eaten food, and even a child's school bag. People had no time to pick up their things; they just ran for their lives," he said.

The eerie sight of personal items scattered across the platforms was a painful reminder of the lives lost and the ones disrupted.

The stampede occurred around 9:55 pm on Saturday night when thousands of passengers, mostly Maha Kumbh pilgrims, crowded the station to board trains to Prayagraj.

The Prayagraj Express was stationed at platform 14, while the Swatantrata Senani Express and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express were delayed, causing an overwhelming surge of people on platforms 12, 13, and 14.

The situation worsened when a last-minute platform change was announced.



Confused and panicked, the passengers rushed towards platform 16, where an escalator became a choking point.

Security personnel tried to intervene, but the crowd was too large to control. Some passengers attempted to climb railings to escape, while others were crushed underfoot.

When the chaos subsided, 18 people including 11 women and five children had lost their lives, while more than a dozen others suffered injuries.

As dawn broke, railway staff began the grim task of cleaning up. Videos shared by news agency PTI showed workers sweeping debris off the platform roof and clearing the tracks. Bags and clothing were collected in piles, while officials searched for any remaining personal belongings.

At the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, grieving families gathered to identify their loved ones.

A father, searching desperately for his missing son, broke down upon seeing a familiar blue backpack among the items recovered from the station.

"He was just 12. He was supposed to board the train with me," he sobbed.

The government has announced Rs 10 lakh compensation for the families of the deceased.

Expressing his condolences on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Distressed by the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured have a speedy recovery."

Railway authorities have admitted that overcrowding was a major factor for the disaster. Every hour, 1,500 general tickets were being sold, leading to a surge in passengers that became impossible to manage.

EDITORIAL

Interior roads of Jammu city being in poor condition, it's a significant issue affecting the daily lives of residents. Several areas in Jammu face challenges like.

Potholes and Cracks: Many roads are riddled with potholes, making travel uncomfortable and dangerous.

Waterlogging: Poor drainage systems lead to frequent waterlogging during rains, further damaging roads.

Traffic Congestion: Narrow and poorly maintained roads often lead to traffic bottlenecks.

Dust and Pollution: Damaged roads contribute to dust and air pollution, which can impact public health.

Inadequate Lighting: Many interior roads lack proper streetlights, making navigation at night hazardous.

Regular Maintenance: Timely repair and resurfacing of roads.

Improved Drainage: Upgrading drainage systems to prevent waterlogging.

Public-Private Partnerships: Engaging private players to expedite road construction and maintenance.

Smart City Integration: As Jammu is part of the Smart Cities Mission, interior roads could be prioritized for modernization.

This issue can be raised with local municipal bodies and urban development authorities to ensure action is taken. If you'd like, I can help draft a complaint or an appeal letter to the concerned authorities.

IIT has a digital human brain atlas ready

VIJAY GARG

By creating the world's most detailed digital human brain atlas, the researchers at IIT Madras are embarking on a journey that could fundamentally change how we approach both medicine and AI.

The complexity of the human brain has always presented one of the greatest challenges in science. Neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and epilepsy affect millions of people worldwide, yet we still know relatively little about their underlying causes. Existing treatments are often expensive, difficult to access, and only modestly effective. This leaves millions of patients and families facing daunting uncertainty, as well as health care systems strained by the burden of care.

At the same time, the rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming industries and creating new opportunities, yet AI still pales in comparison to the efficiency, adaptability, and learning capacity of the human brain. Despite its ability to process massive datasets and perform specific tasks at superhuman speeds, AI systems remain energy-intensive and lack the flexibility that comes naturally to human cognition. If we could better understand how the brain works — its adaptability, efficiency, and ability to process information — we could revolutionise not only the treatment of neurological diseases but also the future of AI.

This is where the work being done at IIT Madras comes in. By creating the world's most detailed digital human brain atlas, the researchers at IIT Madras are embarking on a journey that could fundamentally

change how we approach both medicine and AI. This digital brain atlas will map the human brain at an unprecedented level of detail, providing insights into its structure, connectivity, and the underlying mechanisms that make human cognition so unique.

The brain is estimated to be made up of approximately 80 billion neurons, with trillions of connections forming a network of incomprehensible complexity. Mapping this network has long been a dream of neuroscientists, but existing tools have been limited in their ability to provide a clear, detailed picture of how the brain is structured and how its different regions communicate with one another. The team at IIT Madras, however, is changing that. Their project involves slicing human brains into ultra-thin sections — 10,000 slices per brain — each captured at tens of gigapixels resolution, resulting in a 3D, fully digital model of the whole brain. This process generates three petabytes of data per brain, creating a dataset that offers unprecedented insights into the inner workings of this most complex organ.

In an exciting new development, the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre at IIT Madras has released DHARANI, the first-ever 3D high-resolution imaging dataset of the human foetal brain. Featuring over 5,000 sections at cellular resolution, this groundbreaking dataset offers researchers a detailed view of early brain development. Remarkably, the team achieved this at less than one-tenth the cost of similar projects in the West. This achievement, led by Sivaprakasam, professor in department of electrical engineering at IIT Madras

and head of the Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC), a joint initiative of IIT Madras and department of biotechnology (DBT), ministry of science and technology, sets the stage for major advancements in neuroscience and foetal medicine, with potential applications ranging from early diagnosis of developmental disorders to understanding the origins of neurological diseases.

The potential applications of this research are vast. By studying the brain at this level of detail, scientists will gain new insights into how neurological diseases develop, what biomarkers signal their onset, and how various treatments affect brain function over time. The digital brain atlas could help researchers identify early indicators of diseases like Alzheimer's, enabling earlier diagnosis and more effective interventions before symptoms become severe. This is particularly important in countries like India, where access to expensive diagnostic tools is limited and millions of people go undiagnosed until it is too late for treatment to make a meaningful difference. The affordability aspect is central to the project's mission, with the team focused on making their tools and insights available at a fraction of the cost, democratising access to this critical information and ensuring it benefits patients everywhere.

The brain atlas also represents a new model for innovation in India, where affordability and scalability are essential. For years, much of the cutting-edge research in fields like neuroscience and AI has been concentrated in the West. IIT Madras is proving that India has the talent and creativity to not only partic-

ipate in but lead the next wave of breakthroughs. International collaborations with institutions like the University of California underscore the global significance of this work. India's ability to innovate at lower costs gives it a unique advantage in addressing global problems.

If solutions can work in India, where resources are often stretched thin, they will be effective everywhere. This democratisation of science and technology is central to the mission of the brain atlas project.

Transformative work like this is made possible by visionary donors like Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys, who has dedicated his post-corporate career to supporting research with global impact. His investment in the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre reflects a belief that India can lead the world in creating affordable, scalable solutions for some of humanity's greatest challenges.

Witnessing the groundbreaking work at IIT Madras firsthand early this year also inspired me to collaborate with them and relocate my company, Vionix Biosciences' R&D to India, leveraging their expertise to develop advanced diagnostic technologies. Their commitment to making cutting-edge science accessible to all aligns perfectly with the mission of democratising innovation. These are shining examples of how grand visions, rooted in affordability and global collaboration, can transform industries and improve lives.

**Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Street kour
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Punjab**

Trump effect: The power of noun and verb

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Power is not a means; it is an end... The object of power is power." Donald J Trump has imbibed George Orwell's immortal observation and embodies the idea in letter and spirit.

The inauguration of the 47th US president is more than a month away. Yet, for all intents and purposes, Trump is in power, calling the shots. Mar-a-Lago, his 1927-built, antique-studded mansion with over 128 rooms spread over 20 acres and towered over by a 70-foot pole flying the US flag, is a destination of political pilgrimage. The pilgrims include Keir Starmer, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Javier Milei and Justin Trudeau, while others like Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum call him. Previously, sceptical tsars such as Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, Tim Cook of Apple, who paid obeisance, and Jeff Bezos of Amazon, slated to meet Trump next week, are all contributing to the inaugural.

The analogies triggered in the wake of worthies seeking his audience range from gestures last seen in 18th and 19th century royal courts or in Francis Ford Coppola's cinematic rendition of lesser dons kissing the ring of 'The Godfather' to show fealty. Trump sees himself not just as the commander in chief, but as the chief diplomat, the chief trade negotiator and an arbiter of geopolitics and issues that matter.

Trump has no time for the niceties of protocol. His declarations stream on Truth Social and are reposted on X (formerly Twitter). China is already in his crosshairs, with tariffs of 50-plus percent threatened. In recent weeks, he has threatened Mexico and Canada, members of the US-Canada trade treaty, over illegal immigration and drugs. He has warned BRICS countries to not try to replace the "mighty US dollar or face 100 percent tariffs", adding for effect, "They can go find another 'sucker'!"

The US markets are experiencing a stupendous post-election rally—forecasts for the S&P500 are at new highs, NASDAQ at 20,000 hit a record high, and Bitcoin shot



up to over USD 101,000. On Thursday, Trump trooped into the NYSE to ring the bell. Beyond the bonhomie, there is no disputing the nervousness as currencies flounder. Across markets from Osaka to Mumbai to New York, investors are struggling to map post-January 20 scenarios. The term Trump punctuates discourse at global meets, in governments and company C-suites.

While the lame-duck Biden regime is still in office, Trump is at work projecting the power of the noun and the verb—his persona and the fusillade of intimidating intent expressed in the choice of his team. Consider two of the nominees. Marco Rubio, the nominated secretary of state, is a known China hawk and author of the Patriotic Investments Act designed to prevent the US tax code from rewarding investments in China. The pick for commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, is known to favour higher tariffs across the board. Loyalty to the goal is paramount.

The quest is to constrain all inflows—particularly goods and immigrants—and allow only FDI. The instrument of mass disruption is tariff, along with the promise of lighter regulation and smaller government by the proposed Elon Musk-led department of government efficiency, and tax breaks for investments in the US. Trump appears more

prepared than before. His power stems from the size of the US economy and the promise underlying 'Make America Great Again'.

Trump wants to rewire the US Economy. After the 1970s, American companies developed a tripartite franchise model where they designed products, retained the patents for technology and outsourced manufacturing and labour. The capture of policy led to the export of investments, manufacturing jobs, incomes and growth. This created a zone of high incomes in society and hollowed investment and employment out of the US economy, pushing masses out of the income and consumption square.

Trumponomics is, essentially, a promise to restore past glory and upend existing arrangements. Although experts are arguing against the high tariff wall and forced deportation of undocumented immigrants—both of which can push up inflation—Trump is steadfast. The feared collateral damage, to the US economy and relationship with allies, is not deemed consequential.

The optimists theorise that Trump is transactional and the tariff threat is an instrument of negotiation. That may be true. But in an unequal world—remember, the dollar is the biggest reserve currency and the US is the largest

importer—the terms of endearment will be reset and will entail compromises. It would seem the threats are yielding results. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde advised the EU to buy American (arms and liquid natural gas) and avoid the Trump trade war. NATO members, who wouldn't ramp up their defence spending to 2 percent of GDP earlier, are now considering hiking it to 3 percent.

This column had observed well before the results that unlike in 2016, when the world wondered whether to take Trump literally or seriously, it is now taking him literally and seriously. To appreciate the concern across the world, try looking up a search trend on Google—for the past seven days, the terms 'tariff' and 'Donald Trump' have been in perfect sync.

Trump's victory triggered tremors of shock and awe as his party sealed the domination over the quadfecta of the presidency, the two Houses and an ideologically-aligned judiciary. His ascent to power has left the world in a cul-de-sac of chaos and consternation, angst and uncertainty. Trump is playing a risky gambit. Two big questions remain: in a world of interdependencies, will the gamble pay off, and is the world prepared for it?

Marmoush's 'trick' stuns Newcastle; Arsenal ride on Merino's brace

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Manchester City newcomer Marmoush makes emphatic statement in first start since arriving at the club last month.

Omar Marmoush celebrates scoring Manchester City's third goal to complete a hat-trick during the Premier League match against Newcastle United at Etihad Stadium, Manchester, on Saturday.

Manchester City's new signing Omar Marmoush bagged a hat-trick in 13 first-half minutes in a 4-0 rout of Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday, making an emphatic statement in his first start since arriving at the club last month.

James McAtee added a late strike for Pep Guardiola's side who climbed to fourth place in the standings on 44 points, while Newcastle slipped to seventh on 41.

The 26-year-old Marmoush gave the hosts the lead in the 19th minute when City goalkeeper Ederson launched a long pass that defender Kieran Trippier misjudged and the Egyptian lobbed the ball over the onrushing Martin Dubravka.

Marmoush doubled his tally five minutes later when he latched onto a pass from Ilkay Gundogan before firing in a low shot that took a slight deflection off Trippier.

The striker completed his hat-trick in the 33rd when Savinho found him with acres of space for a blistering shot from 12 yards out.

Midfielder Mikel Merino scored two late goals to keep Arsenal's Premier League title hopes alive with a 2-0 victory at Leicester City, after the Spaniard was thrust into a makeshift centre-forward role by his club's injury crisis up front.

Arsenal moved to 53 points from 25 matches, four behind leaders Liverpool, having played a game more, while Leicester remain in the relegation zone with 17 points from their 25 fixtures this season.

Substitute Merino rose to head in teenager Ethan Nwaneri's cross from the right in the 81st minute, before tapping home unmarked at the back post when Leandro Trossard's inviting ball picked him out six minutes later.

"(Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta) told me I would come on as a striker and to make sure I play to my strengths. It is the first time in my career that I played in that position," Merino told TNT.

"Today was a tough game, we knew coming to play this team battling relegation it would be. But games like today are really good for the squad."

Merino said his goals have helped him save some face at home.

"I forgot to get my wife something for Valentine's Day, so this (brace) goes to her... I think she will appreciate this more than a rose or some chocolates," he added.

Arsenal are unbeaten in 15 league games, winning 10 of those, their best run since they went 16 without a defeat in the 2010-11 campaign when Arsene Wenger was in charge.

Leicester have now gone 17 league games since they last kept a clean sheet and there were muted fan protests in the 14th minute of the game, and outside the stadium beforehand, that appeared to be aimed at director of football Jon Rudkin.

Chances were few and far between in the first half, and two of the best fell to Leicester midfielder Wilfred Ndidi.

His volley from the edge of the area was straight at Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya, before he flashed a header just wide of the post as the half drew to a close.

Arsenal dominated possession at the start of the second half and began to have more touches in the Leicester box. The excellent Nwaneri saw his shot from the edge of the penalty area skim off the top of the crossbar.

With the scoreline still at 0-0, Leicester's Bobby De Cordova-Reid looked to have a tap-in at the back post from Jordan Ayew's low cross, but Myles Lewis-Skelly got a vital touch in the nick of time.

Arsenal's frustrating afternoon continued when Rice fed Nwaneri, who drove into the box and unleashed a



powerful shot that cannoned back off the post.

But they finally found their winning goals from Merino, who may find himself in the striker role much more often by the end of the season with Gabriel Martinelli, Gabriel Jesus, Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka all long-term injury absentees.

10-man Ipswich hang on for draw with Aston Villa

Liam Delap celebrates putting Ipswich Town ahead against Aston Villa at Villa Park, Birmingham.

IMAGE: Liam Delap celebrates putting Ipswich Town ahead against Aston Villa at Villa Park, Birmingham. Photograph: Andrew Boyers/Reuters

A Liam Delap goal helped Ipswich Town overcome a red card for Axel Tuanzebe as they grabbed a 1-1 Premier League draw away to Aston Villa, with Ollie Watkins netting a 69th-minute equaliser for the home side.

With keeper Alex Palmer putting in a brilliant performance between the posts, the point leaves Ipswich still in the relegation zone in 18th place on 17 points, two behind Wolverhampton Wanderers, while Villa slip to ninth on 38 points.

Both sides were forced into early changes as Aston Villa defender Boubacar Kamara was replaced by Tyrone Mings and Ipswich lost winger Julio Enciso, with Jack Clarke coming on to take his place.

It took until the 25th minute before Ipswich's Kalvin Phillips registered the game's first shot in target.

Ollie Watkins celebrates with teammates after finding the equaliser for Aston Villa.

Villa looked the more dangerous of the two sides and they should have gone ahead when Ollie Watkins got in behind the defence in the 34th minute, but under pressure from Dara O'Shea he dragged his left-foot shot wide of the far post.

Ipswich defender Tuanzebe saw red six minutes later when he picked up his second yellow card for dragging down Youri Tielemans just outside the box, seemingly leaving his teammates with a mountain to climb.

However, the muscular Delap tore up that script and scored with a deft first-time finish from Omari Hutchinson's cross 11 minutes into the second half to give the Tractor Boys a shock lead.

Marcus Rashford, who came off the bench at half-time, smacked a powerful free-kick off the crossbar and Watkins did superbly to react quickest and steer the ball into the net.

That was the only blemish on the performance of Palmer in the Ipswich goal, and he proceeded to pull off a string of brilliant saves to ensure that his side left Villa Park with a point.

Bournemouth go fifth after beating struggling Southampton
Dango Ouattara scores Bournemouth's first goal against Southampton at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton.

Dango Ouattara, Ryan Christie and Marcus Tavernier were all on the score-sheet as Bournemouth comfortably beat relegation-threatened Southampton 3-1 at St Mary's Stadium.

Bournemouth moved up to fifth in the standings with 43 points from 25 matches, while Southampton remain bottom with nine points. Bournemouth are just one point behind champions Manchester City, who are fourth.

Bournemouth hit Southampton with two rapid-fire goals, with Ouattara opening the scoring in the 14th minute and two minutes later Christie doubled

their lead.

Bournemouth's opener came when Christie delivered a quality cross from the left for Ouattara, who got enough power on his glancing header to send it past Saints goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale into the bottom corner.

Marcus Tavernier celebrates scoring Bournemouth's third goal.

Burkina Faso international Ouattara, 23, has now scored seven goals in the Premier League this season, having netted a hat-trick in his side's 5-0 thrashing of fellow surprise package Nottingham Forest in January.

Southampton quickly found themselves 2-0 down as Christie, assisted by the in-form Dutch forward Justin Kluivert, sent a powerful strike from 20 yards.

Just as the visitors took their foot off the gas after the break, Kamaldeen Sulemana pulled one back for Southampton in the 72nd minute as the Ghanaian forward buried the ball into the bottom corner to score his first goal of the Premier League season.

But substitute Tavernier netted in the 83rd minute to seal all three points for Bournemouth.

Bournemouth, who beat the Saints 3-1 win at the Vitality Stadium in September, have now completed the league double over Southampton for the first time.

Schade's early goal gives Brentford win at West Ham

Kevin Schade scores Brentford's only goal of the match against West Ham United at London Stadium.

Kevin Schade's early goal gave Brentford a 1-0 victory at West Ham United after the hosts recovered from a woeful first half but were unable to find an equaliser.

Brentford took the lead inside four minutes after Schade's shot was stopped and clawed away by West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola, who blocked the German winger's follow-up but from behind the line.

The Bees were rampant and played through West Ham with ease, with Bryan Buemo drawing a good save from Areola after the Hammers gave away possession in midfield.

Yoane Wissa twice thought he had doubled Brentford's lead only for VAR to rule out his efforts, either side of Schade thudding a shot against the post, as the Bees thoroughly dominated.

Bowen wanted a penalty with just over 15 minutes left after going down in the box under contact from Keane Lewis-Potter, but his appeals were waved away.

Brentford were relatively comfortable in holding on for a third straight away league win, which kept them 11th in the standings with 34 points from 25 games.

West Ham - who have now lost four of six games under Potter in all competitions - are 16th with 27 points, 10 above the relegation zone.

Forest suffer top-four blow as Basse

Forest's Premier League top-four aspirations as defender Calvin Bassey's first goal of the season sealed a deserved 2-1 home win for the London club.

Bassey's only other Fulham goal came almost a year ago but the Nigeria international produced a well-directed header in the 62nd minute to leave Forest empty-handed despite Chris Wood scoring his 18th league goal of the season for the visitors.

ISL: Chennaiyin escape with narrow win

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Chennaiyin FC rode on a late strike from Daniel Chima Chukwu to edge past Punjab FC 2-1 in the Indian Super League in Chennai on Saturday.

Wilmar Jordan Gil gave the hosts an 18th minute lead from a spot kick before Punjab's Luka Majcen equalised in the 48th minute.

But it was Chukwu who broke Punjab hearts in the 84th minute scoring the winner.

Punjab remain on ninth position in the table with 24 points from 20 matches, while Chennaiyin are one place below with the same points from 21 matches.

Melroy Assisi conceded a penalty as the ball struck the defender's hand inside the box while trying to shield Jordan.

The Colombian striker made no mistake converting the resulting penalty.

Filip Mrzljak had a couple of chances to find the equaliser but the midfielder could not find the target before he was replaced after getting injured.

Asmir Suljic found Pulga Vidal at the end of the box and the Argentinian found Luka with a pinpoint pass inside the box which the Slovenian buried it past the goalkeeper.

Punjab kept on creating pressure on the home side but the final output was missing with the team unable to convert the chances.

The visitors were punished for those misses as Chennaiyin took the lead six minutes from time.

Substitutes Lukas Brambilla and Daniel Chima Chukwu combined as the former found Chukwu completely free inside the six-yard box which the striker poked inside the net.

Punjab pushed hard for the equaliser in the final minutes and the injury time but were thwarted twice by the goalkeeper.

There was also a goal line clearance from the Chennaiyin defence from a



right footed effort by Vidal.

In the end, Chennaiyin somehow held on to the slender lead to earn three crucial points.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant register 3-0 win over Kerala Blasters

Jamie Maclaren struck twice as Mohun Bagan Super Giant strengthened their hold on the title with a clinical 3-0 win over Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi.

Maclaren's (28' 40') two goals came in the first half, while Alberto Rodriguez (66') added another in the second half as the Mariners showed remarkable efficiency upfront to convert three out of their four on-target shots into goals.

MBSG thus continued to be placed atop the standings with 49 points from 21 games, 10 more than the second-positioned FC Goa, who have 39 points from 20 encounters.

Maclaren found the first breakthrough of the match with a slick finish from close range. Liston Colaco's precisely squared-up delivery met the striker on the left side of the six-yard box and he comfortably hammered it into the high centre of the net in the 28th minute.

Twelve minutes later, Maclaren's striking partner Jason Cummings

turned provider as the visitors moved forward with purpose.

Instead of opting to overpower Kerala Blasters FC within their box, Cummings chose to lay up a pass for Maclaren, who was at the top of his game again as his smooth pickup and eventual placement of the ball from distance into the centre of the goal doubled his team's lead.

Cummings thus became the third player to record an assist in three or more consecutive games for the Mariners after Dimitrios Petratos and Roy Krishna.

Manvir Singh then earned a free-kick in the 65th minute on the right flank and the Mariners produced a flurry of chances in the set-piece that followed.

Cummings tried a left-footed shot from distance but it was blocked, before Deepak Tangri and Alberto Rodriguez pounced upon the loose balls to muster up concrete efforts.

Eventually, Rodriguez latched the ball on the left side and slotted it into the centre of the net to find his team's third goal of the night, and seal three points in their favour.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant will next play against Odisha FC on February 23, whereas Kerala Blasters FC meet FC Goa on February 22.

Southee backs inexperienced Kiwi bowlers to deliver in Champions Trophy

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Former New Zealand fast-bowling great Tim Southee is confident that the Black Caps' inexperienced bowling attack will do a wonderful job at the upcoming Champions Trophy after watching them perform impressively in the recently-concluded tri-series in Pakistan.

The 36-year-old Southee, who has 776 international wickets for New Zealand across three formats, was an integral part of his country's team until his retirement in 2024.

With Trent Boult also not there and Lockie Ferguson looking highly unlikely, it will be Will O'Rourke, Jacob Duffy, Nathan Smith and Matt Henry, who will share the pace-bowling load at the marquee ICC event.

"It's something different not having Trent (Boult) and myself at an ICC event, but, at the same time, it's exciting. These events are great to be a part of and it's in front of these guys now, I'm very excited to see how they go."

"The way the team has played, different guys have stepped up. It's a good mix between some experienced guys and some exciting young guys with a lot of potential," Southee was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"The experience of this Tri-Nation Series is only going to stand them in good stead for the tournament. So, taking some momentum into the tournament and being accustomed to those conditions, it's only going to be a good thing," Southee said.

Southee, who has 221 ODI wickets, feels O'Rourke has the potential to become the backbone of the New Zealand attack in the coming days.

"Will O'Rourke, in the Test game we've seen what he can do. He's still so young but he's got all the attributes that are going to set him up to have a lot of success in international cricket. I'm looking forward to watching him in his first ICC event."



"Will is a man of few words but certainly listens and wants to get better. We know he's got the pace and bounce, he's got great skills. He just keeps growing, we've seen that in the Test game and he's continued to get better."

"His game is far from finished but I'm sure he'll be a massive asset to New Zealand cricket across all three formats for a long time to come."

He also reserved some praise for Nathan Smith.

"Nathan Smith has a real confidence about him, and believes in himself which I think you need at this level."

He is also happy that veteran Kane Williamson is in fine nick, which will boost New Zealand's chances.

"Kane is in good form; it's nice to see him with a couple of scores, he's obviously class. He's not played a lot of one-day cricket for the last few years but to see him come back and have two significant contributions is what we're used to seeing."

"But it's also pleasing for me now as a fan of the Black Caps. When he (Williamson) is in the middle, it comes with experience and the way he plays, he just looks in control the whole time."

Backbone of New Zealand's batting

Williamson, Devon Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell and Glenn

Phillips form the backbone of New Zealand batting and Southee believes that the five are better judges of how to pace their innings in 50-over format.

"That is what sets those four or five batters apart from the rest. They are able to sum up conditions, sum up moments in games and more times than not, they come out on the right side of things. He (Williamson) brings a calmness to the group."

He praised left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner's leadership skills.

"Mitch has done a great job as captain. It's still reasonably new to him but I experienced a bit of his captaincy towards the end of my career. He's very calm, you see that in the way he plays his cricket."

"He thinks about the game well and I think he looks to lead with his performances across all three areas. He's one of best fielders, an unbelievably skillful bowler and a more-than-useful batter. So, I'm sure he'll be looking to lead in all those three areas."

So, can New Zealand go all the way and follow in the footsteps of the 2000 vintage? Southee certainly thinks so.

"If you look at the track record of New Zealand in ICC events, they are always there or thereabouts. In a tournament like the Champions Trophy, if you get on a bit of a roll, anything can happen. I'd love to see the Black Caps there and hopefully lifting the trophy at the end."

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Relentless FII selling hits market sentiments; Sensex down 200 points

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their downward trend to eighth day in a row on Friday as investors' sentiments were plagued due to persistent foreign fund outflows.

Markets began the day on an optimistic note but soon gave up initial gains and fell in the negative territory.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 199.76 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 75,939.21.

During the day, it tanked 699.33 points or 0.91 per cent to 75,439.64.

The NSE Nifty declined 102.15 points or 0.44 per cent to 22,929.25.

In eight trading days, the BSE benchmark has tumbled 2,644.6 points or 3.36 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 810 points or 3.41 per cent.

Among the losers, Adani Ports dropped over 4 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, NTPC and Tata Steel were also among the laggards.

Nestle, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech were among the gainers.

"The risk-averse sentiment continues to rule investors' minds as corporate earnings are significantly lower than the market expectations during the start of the year, especially for mid and small caps.

"Muted earnings trend, INR depreciation along with external factors like tariffs are expected to keep the sentiments weak in the near term, which could further push FIIs outflows.

"Volatility is expected to stay elevated until there is clarity on tariffs and



Intra-day on February 14 Change ▼ -199.76 (-0.26%)



a recovery in corporate earnings," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher while Tokyo ended lower.

India and the US have resolved to more than double the two-way trade to \$500 billion by 2030 and begin talks for a bilateral trade agreement with a view to bringing down duties and increase market access.

According to a joint statement issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump in Washington, the two leaders have also pledged the bilateral trade relationship to promote growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation."To this end, the leaders set a bold new goal for bilateral trade - Mission 500 - aiming to more than double total bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

Trump's reciprocal tariffs and WTO rules: An explainer

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

American President Donald Trump has announced imposing reciprocal tariffs on its major trading partners including China that levy higher import duties on goods shipped from the United States.

He has already announced a 25 per cent duty on steel and aluminium imports, which will come into effect from March 12.

While announcing the new tariff policy, the president has also spoken about how India is "right at the top of the pack" when it comes to tariffs.

With all these countries being members of the global trade body World Trade Organisation (WTO), the decisions of the US may challenge the WTO principles.

A list of Q & As (questions and answers) to explain the wider implications of the US move:

The 166-member Geneva-based WTO is a multilateral body which formulates rules for global trade and adjudicates disputes between the countries.

Its main objective is to promote smooth, predictable and free flow of goods.

Both India and the US have been members since 1995.

The nations have signed multiple agreements governing trade in goods, services, and intellectual property.

These pacts set rules and guidelines for international trade.

What are tariff commitments under WTO?

One of the key principles of the WTO is tariff binding, which ensures predictability and stability in global trade.

Bound tariffs are the maximum tariff rates that a WTO member commits to under its Schedule of Concessions.

These commitments are legally binding, meaning a country cannot impose tariffs above this level without renegotiation.

Applied tariffs are the actual tariff rates a country levies on imports.

These can be lower than the bound rate but cannot exceed it without violating WTO rules.

What if a country imposes higher tariffs than the bound duties?

If a member country imposes a tariff higher than its bound commitment, it violates Article II of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) 1994, which says that members must not impose duties or charges exceeding those listed in their schedules and they cannot impose any other duties or charges that are not specified in their schedules.

Affected countries can file a complaint with the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) against high duties.

The first step to resolve the dispute under DSB rules are bilateral consultations.



If consultations fail, the complainant country may be allowed to impose retaliatory tariffs or other trade countermeasures after receiving approval from the WTO.

Can a WTO member increase its bound tariff rates?

Yes. But only by negotiating that with affected countries under GATT Article XXVIII (Modification of Schedules), where it must offer compensatory concessions or by invoking emergency provisions like safeguards, or national security exceptions in specific cases.

The US under the previous Trump regime, had introduced additional tariffs of 25 per cent on steel and 10 per cent on aluminium products, on grounds of 'national security' under section 232 of its Trade Act.

It had cited threats to domestic steel production capacity. However, the WTO has ruled against this measure in multiple cases.

India had also imposed retaliatory duties on 28 American goods.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that the WTO dispute panel stated that national security exceptions cannot be used arbitrarily and must be linked to real security concerns during war or emergencies.

What did the US do in response?

According to the GTRI, America refused to comply with the WTO ruling, arguing that it has the sovereign right to determine its national security policies. It has also blocked the WTO Appellate Body, preventing an appeal resolution.

Why countries like India have high import duties and developed countries like the US have low tariffs?

Developing countries like India maintain high import duties primarily to protect domestic industries, generate revenue, and support economic development.

These nations often rely on tariffs to shield their emerging sectors from foreign competition, promote self-sufficiency, and manage trade imbalances.

On the other hand, developed countries like the US have lower tariffs because their industries are already globally competitive, and they benefit

from open markets that allow their businesses to access foreign consumers with minimal trade barriers.

Historically, according to the GTRI, when the WTO was established in 1995, developed nations agreed to let developing countries retain higher tariffs in exchange for commitments on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), services trade liberalization, and agricultural rules that primarily favoured wealthier nations.

What is the special and differential treatment under WTO?

The WTO agreements contain special provisions which give developing countries special rights and allow other members to treat them more favourably.

For example, developing countries like India can take more time to reduce its tariffs and export subsidies than more rich nations.

Does India have a right to fight the 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium and the threat of reciprocal tariffs at the WTO?

Yes, according to RV Anuradha, Partner, Clarus Law Associates.

Will India initiate a dispute in the WTO against the duties on steel and aluminium?

Anuradha said given the current negotiations between India and US governments towards a trade deal, it is practically "unlikely" that India would want a protracted fight at the WTO.

"But my advice would be to not expect a bilateral deal to work magic and be firm on what will be truly beneficial for us.

"At a minimum, pending the conclusion of bilateral trade negotiations, there should be suspension of the enhanced steel and aluminium tariffs, and the reciprocal tariffs. If we do not get this, then we need to seriously consider retaliatory tariffs, and also keep the option of a WTO dispute open," she said. Anuradha suggested that India needs to work with other WTO members towards ensuring the continued relevance of the organisation - which is increasingly beleaguered due to lack of an enforceable dispute resolution mechanism.

Wholesale price inflation eases to 2.31% in Jan

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Wholesale price inflation moderated marginally to 2.31 per cent in January due to the decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released on Friday showed.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 2.37 per cent in December 2024. It was 0.33 per cent in January 2024.

As per the data, inflation in food items eased to 5.88 per cent in January, as against 8.47 per cent in December 2024.

Inflation in vegetables came down significantly to 8.35 per cent, as against 28.65 per cent in December 2024.

Woman strangles blackmailer neighbour to death during sex

In the eggs, meat and fish category inflation declined to 3.56 per cent as against 5.43 per cent last month.

Within vegetables, tomato prices declined to 18.9 per cent while inflation in potato continued to be high at 74.28 per cent, and in onion it spiked to 28.33 per cent in January.

The fuel and power category witnessed a deflation of 2.78 per cent in January, against a deflation of 3.79 per cent in December.

In manufactured items, inflation was 2.51 per cent as compared to 2.14 per cent in December 2024.

Retail inflation data released on Wednesday showed that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation eased to a 5-month low of 4.31 per cent in January on easing prices of food items.

ICRA senior economist Rahul Agrawal said, "We project the WPI to



average at 2.4 per cent in FY2025 and inch up further to 3 per cent in FY2026, despite expectations of a cooling in the prints for the food segment".

According to CARE Ratings Chief Economist Rajani Sinha, food prices are likely to ease in the coming months driven by seasonal correction in prices.

However, there are headwinds as far as global commodity prices are concerned. Their prices have been hardening amid growing uncertainty around the impact of the US protectionist trade policies.

This would exert an upward pressure on the WPI non-food component.

Going ahead, Sinha said it is crucial to monitor geopolitical developments and global trade uncertainties closely, as these could significantly influence global commodity markets

and supply chains.

Besides, rupee depreciation would make imports costlier raising the risk of imported inflation.

The rupee has depreciated about 4 per cent against the US dollar so far in the second half of the current financial year.

Earlier this month, RBI slashed the policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent in a bid to promote consumption.

The rate cut happened after a gap of 5 years. RBI had last reduced the rate in May 2022.

The monetary policy action in April 2025 monetary policy is dependent on factors, including currency movement and liquidity in the system. Paras Jasrai, Senior Economist Analyst India Ratings and Research said.

'India can emerge as key player in global supply chain'

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

As President Donald Trump rolls out his Make in America plans, India's Essar Group is finalising an additional \$650 million investment in its plant in the state of Minnesota. It had invested \$1.7 billion earlier.

Prashant Ruia, director of Essar Group, in a telephone interview from the World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland, told Dev Chatterjee/Business Standard that his company is bullish on the American and Indian markets.

With a new US administration in place, will the Essar Group consider increasing its investment in the United States?

The US is a crucial market for us, and our investments reflect our long-term commitment to the region.

In Northern Minnesota, we are building a 7 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) iron ore mining and pelletisation facility, with 1.3 billion tonnes high-grade iron ore reserve.

This initiative is central to the US steel industry's transition toward more sustainable, low-carbon production.

With \$1.7 billion invested so far, and an additional \$650 million planned, we are creating more than 700 direct jobs in the US and making a significant contribution to local economic development.

Black Box, our technology arm, provides cutting-edge digitalisation, network infrastructure for data centres,



and cybersecurity solutions to Fortune 500 companies in the US.

With a workforce of 2,200 employees, the market accounts for 75 per cent of Black Box's total revenue.

We are aiming to achieve \$2 billion in revenue for Black Box over the next four years.

India aims to become a \$5 trillion economy. What role do you see the Essar Group playing?

India's growth story is truly impressive and the opportunities ahead are even greater.

India has the potential not only to meet its substantial domestic consumption demand but also to emerge as a key player in the global supply chain.

It can position itself as a China Plus One solution, fulfilling the demands of

developed economies.

We intend to play a significant role in this transformation by focusing on sectors such as energy, metals and mining, infrastructure and technology.

The Essar Group is investing billions of dollars in green energy in the United Kingdom and India. What are you doing to reduce the group's environmental footprint?

We are committed to building a sustainable future by investing in transformative green ecosystems.

Our focus spans industrial decarbonisation through hydrogen and hydrogen-powered plants, advancing green mobility solutions to decarbonise heavy-duty trucking, driving innovation in second-generation bio-fuel production, and pioneering the manufacturing of green steel.

JioHotstar is here! Subscription starts at Rs 149

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

JioStar, the newly formed joint venture by the merger of Viacom18 and Star India, on Friday announced the launch of JioHotstar by bringing together JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar streaming platforms.

With close to 3 lakh hours of entertainment, live sports coverage, and more than 50 crore users, JioHotstar provides compelling subscription plans tailored to diverse audience needs, starting at Rs 149, the company said in a statement.

Wow! Akanksha Sharma Is Just... Existing JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar subscribers will be able to seamlessly transition and set up their JioHotstar subscriptions, it added.

"At the core of JioHotstar is a powerful vision -- to make premium entertainment truly accessible to all Indians.

"Our promise of 'Infinite Possibilities' ensures that entertainment is no longer a privilege, but a shared experience for all," JioStar CEO -? Digital, Kiran Mani said.

Mani further said, "By integrating AI-driven recommendations and offering streaming in over 19 languages, we are personalising content like never before."

JioHotstar will offer the best of Hollywood, with Disney, NBCUniversal Peacock, Warner Bros. Discovery HBO, and Paramount - all on the same platform, the company said.

It will also stream premier tournaments like ICC events, IPL, and WPL, while also spotlighting grassroots cricket with the Indian Street

Premier League and events from BCCI, ICC, and state associations, other sporting events including the Premier League and Wimbledon, and domestic leagues such as Pro Kabaddi and ISL.

"Sports in India is more than just a game -- it's passion, pride, and a shared experience that unites millions. JioHotstar is revolutionising how fans experience live sports, combining the best of technology, access, and innovation," JioStar CEO - Sports, Sanjog Gupta said.

JioHotstar will offer ultra-HD 4K streaming, AI-powered insights, real-time stats overlays, multi-angle viewing and range of 'culture' and 'special interest' feeds to ensure fans enjoy deeper, more immersive access to the sports they love, the statement said.

'External interference?' BJP reacts to Elon Musk's DOGE cutting \$21M aid to boost voter turnout in India

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The newly created United States Department of Government Efficiency, which is led by billionaire Elon Musk, has cancelled a \$21 million grant to boost the voter turnout in Indian elections.

The USAID grant approved by the previous administration led by former US President Joe Biden is funded by American taxpayers. It is part of a \$486 million budget allocated to the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening. USAID is an American government agency providing funds to promote global development, economic growth and humanitarian aid.

However, the BJP alleged that the USAID funding was an external interference in India's elections. "Who gains from this? Not the ruling party for sure!" posted BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya.

Malviya also raised concerns about the 2012 MoU inked by the Election Commission of India and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems, which is linked to George Soros-led Open Society Foundation. He said the previous UPA government led by the



Congress let foreign entities infiltrate into Indian institutions and weaken the country.

On February 11, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey alleged that the USAID collaborated with Soros and the Congress to destabilise India. This was regarding an earlier revelation regarding Rs 5,000 crore being given as USAID to the Soros foundation. He asked whether the foundation gave money to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and Rajiv Gandhi

Charitable Trust.

The remaining funds were granted for other countries in Asia, Africa and eastern Europe. These included \$29M to "strengthen political landscape" in Bangladesh and \$20M for "fiscal federalism" and \$19M for "biodiversity conversation" in Nepal.

Dubey had also alleged that USAID was behind fall of a Hindu republic in Nepal and the current crisis in Bangladesh.

Sunny Singh and Pradeep Singh: Punjab police arrest 2 US deportees for murder as 116 illegal migrants land in Amritsar

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

With 119 Indian illegal immigrants deported by the US landing in Amritsar on Saturday, Punjab police have arrested two of them in connection with a murder case.

The US military aircraft C-17 landed in Amritsar at 11.35 pm on Saturday. These included 67 people from Punjab, 33 from Haryana, eight from Gujarat, three from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Goa, one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Who are Sunny Singh and Pradeep Singh?

Sandeep "Sunny" Singh and Pradeep Singh were wanted in connection with a murder case registered in 2023, according to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Nanak Singh.

Sunny and Pradeep are cousins. In order to escape police, the duo fled to



the US through "dunki" route, which in Punjabi, refers to illegally migrating from one place to another illegally. They spent around ₹1.2 crore for their travel, according to their families.

Initially, Sandeep and four others were charged with murder in June 2023. Later, Pradeep's name was in-

cluded in the FIR in the course of the probe.

The duo was arrested by a team led by the Rajpura SHO.

This comes as the third batch of 157 Indian illegal immigrants are set to arrive in Amritsar on Sunday evening. Most of them are from Haryana.

Who are Elon Musk's 13 children and their 4 mothers? X Æ A-12, triplets, two sets of twins and more

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Billionaire Elon Musk often brings his children to his workplace and they even accompany him to exclusive venues where only tech moguls and world leaders have access. Recently, some of them were spotted in Washington DC, where their father heads the Department of Government Efficiency.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Musk and his girlfriend Shivon Zilis. They were accompanied by Musk's son with Grimes, X, and the twins he shares with Zilis, Azure and Strider.

Who are Elon Musk's 13 children?

Justine Wilson: 6 children
Elon Musk welcomed his first son, Nevada Alexander, in 2002 with his former wife Justine Wilson. The Canadian author had five more children with Musk, including twins Vivian and Griffin and triplets Kai, Saxon and Damian.

Nevada Alexander
Musk's first-born Nevada Alexander passed away when he was 10 weeks old due to infant death syndrome (IDS). According to his mother, Wilson, Nevada was sleeping on his back as usual but stopped breathing after a while. Though the paramedics tried to resuscitate him, he was deprived of oxygen for a long time and was declared brain-dead. After spending three days on ventilator, the parents decided to take him off life support.

Vivian Jenna Wilson and Griffin
Within two months after losing their first child, Wilson and Musk visited an IVF clinic and decided to get pregnant as early as possible. Following this, she gave birth to twins Vivian and Griffin in 2004.

Vivian, who was named Xavier Alexander Musk by her parents, legally changed her gender to woman following her 18th birthday in 2022 and changed



her name to Vivian Jenna Wilson. She filed a petition, saying she does not wish to be "related to her biological father".

In 2024, Musk said his "son is dead" and was "tricked" into allowing her to undergo gender-affirming treatments.

Kai, Saxon and Damian
In 2006, Wilson gave birth to Kai, Saxon and Damian via IVF. Damian is a prodigy in classical music and has excelled in maths and physics.

Grimes: 3 children
X Æ A-12

Musk and Grimes had their first child on May 4, 2020. The couple shocked the world as they revealed his name as X Æ A-12, which was later changed to X Æ A-Xii.

Known by his nickname X, the four-year-old was recently seen at the Oval Office with his father as US President Donald Trump signed an executive order giving more power to the Department of Government Efficiency.

Exa Dark Sideræl
A month after Strider and Azure were born, Grimes welcomed a baby girl via surrogate in December 2021. This happened three months after Musk and Grimes broke up.

Later, the girl's name was revealed as

Exa Dark Sideræl.

Techno Mechanicus
Musk's third child with Grimes, Techno Mechanicus, nicknamed Tau, was born in June 2022.

Shivon Zilis: 3 children
Strider and Azure

In November 2021, Musk went on to have another set of twins, son Strider and daughter Azure, who he secretly welcomed with their mother, Shivon Zilis. The children's name and gender were revealed to the public only in September 2023.

Musk's 12th child
Musk in June last year revealed that he had a third child with Shivon Zilis. The baby's name and gender are yet to be revealed.

Ashley St Clair and Musk's 13th child

On February 14, author Ashley St Clair claimed that she gave birth to Musk's youngest and 13th child five months ago. READ MORE on Ashley St Clair HERE.

"Elon Musk is the father. I have not previously disclosed this to protect our child's privacy and safety, but in recent days it has become clear that tabloid media intends to do so, regardless of the harm it will cause," she wrote on X.

Iconic 'Change of guard' ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan gets a new format: Here are the changes

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The change of guard is a long-standing military tradition conducted weekly at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The 30-minute ceremony will end with an equestrian display by President's Bodyguard By The Week News Desk Updated: February 16, 2025 16:28 IST

Droupadi Murmu
President Droupadi Murmu witnesses the inaugural show of the 'Change of guard' ceremony in a new format at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan | PTI

The iconic change of guard ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan has got a new format and the common public will be able to witness the ceremony in large numbers from next weekend, an official statement from the president's office said.

According to authorities at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the new format features elaborate visual and musical performance spread over a large area at the forecourt of the presidential palace. President Droupadi Murmu witnessed the inaugural ceremony as per the new format at Rashtrapati Bhavan's forecourt on Sunday.

According to authorities, the change of guard is a long-standing military tradition conducted weekly to allow a fresh group of the president's bodyguards to take charge. The President's Bodyguard (PBG), raised in 1773, is the senior most regiment of the Indian Army. The regiment is responsible for carrying out ceremonial duties for the president.



Authorities said, the new format includes military drills by troops and horses of the President's Bodyguard, along with personnel from the Ceremonial Guard Battalion and the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. An equestrian display by the Presidents' Bodyguard has been added to the ceremony as per the new format.

'One Nation One Poll' can promote consistency in governance, reduce financial burden: President Murmu

When is National Voters' Day in India? 2025 marks 75 years of election commission

"An equestrian display by the Presidents' Bodyguard in their ceremonial regalia has been added. The thirty-minute ceremony commences with the PBG troops, astride their caparisoned, powerful and well-groomed steeds ad-

vancing from behind the Jaipur Column to the tunes played by the Army Brass Band," it said.

"Thereafter the parade commander marches in, on whose 'word of command' the guard of the first battalion the fifth Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force), marches in. After inspection, the new guard takes position along the old guard and both the guards exchange the national salute. Thereafter the new guard takes over the duties of guards and sentries. The ceremony ends with an equestrian display by the PBG and playing of the national anthem," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The public can reserve tickets to view the ceremony by visiting the link <https://visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in>. Visitors would have to pay a registration fee of Rs 50.

Who was Muhsin Hendricks? World's first openly gay imam fatally shot in South Africa

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Muhsin Hendricks, 58, was shot dead by masked suspects who blocked his car when he came to attend a wedding near Cape Town. The Week News Desk By The Week News Desk Updated: February 16, 2025 12:28 IST

World's first openly gay imam was fatally shot near Cape Town, South Africa, on Saturday in a targeted killing.

Identified as Muhsin Hendricks, the imam was attending a wedding in Bethelsdorp, Gqeberha, on Saturday when he was shot dead.

He was seated at the back of a car when another vehicle blocked it and two unidentified masked suspects opened fire.

Who was Muhsin Hendricks?

Muhsin Hendricks, 58, was an Islamic scholar who advocated for the inclusion of LGBT people in the religion. He was running the Al-Ghurbaah mosque at Wynberg where gay and marginalised Muslims were given a safe haven.



Born in 1967 in Cape Town, Hendricks was the grandson of an Islamic cleric and studied at the University of Islamic Studies in Pakistan. His ancestors were from Indonesia and India who were forcibly brought to Cape Town by Dutch colonialists as prisoners.

He had worked as an Arabic teacher and a fashion designer in the past. He tied knot with a woman in 1991 and they had three children. They got divorced in 1996, the same year he came

out as gay at the age of 29.

Hendricks was in relationship with a Hindu man since 2006

Denouncing Hendricks' killing, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association said, "The ILGA World family is in deep shock at the news of the murder of Muhsin Hendricks, and calls on authorities to thoroughly investigate what we fear may be a hate crime."

Police said the motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained.

14 US states file lawsuit against Elon Musk's role as DOGE head, calls him 'agent of chaos'

NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Criticising the role of Tesla CEO Elon Musk as the head of the new Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE, 14 US states have filed a federal lawsuit.

Among those who filed the federal lawsuit include two governors from the US President Donald Trump's Republican Party.

Musk was accused of being a "designated agent of chaos" whose "sweeping authority" as the DOGE head is in violation of the Constitution of the United States, ABC News reported.

"Musk's seemingly limitless and unchecked power to strip the government of its workforce and eliminate entire departments with the stroke of a pen, or a click of a mouse, would have been shocking to those who won this country's independence," read the complaint.

Who are Elon Musk's 13 children and their 4 mothers? X Æ A-12, triplets, two sets of twins and more
Major US arms deliveries to Indian Air Force you should know about! C-130 Hercules, C-17 Globemaster and more!

Who is Ashley St Clair? Elon Musk is her baby's father, reveals US anti-trans writer
Transgender people officially banned from joining US Army

The lawsuit also added that there is no greater threat to democracy than the accumulation of state power in the hands of a single unelected individual.

The governors pointed out that the Appointments Clause of the Constitution calls for someone with significant and expansive authority to head the department.

Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and

Maryland were among the states which filed the lawsuit.

This is not the first time a federal lawsuit has been filed against Musk. Earlier, the Maryland federal court made a similar constitutional claim.

The Constitution prevents the US president from "overriding existing laws concerning the structure of the Executive Branch and federal spending."

Calling Musk 'far more than an adviser to the White House,' the states have claimed that DOGE has 'inserted itself into at least 17 agencies, and called for 'Musk's officer-level governmental actions to date' to be declared 'unlawful.'

Repeatedly, Trump and Musk have said that DOGE is a department for rooting out vast government waste and potentially even criminal corruption within the agencies.

Newlywed Sobhita Dhulipala pays Banjara tribute to her 'backpacking days'

Newlywed Sobhita Dhulipala has recently paid a Banjara-themed tribute to her "backpacking days", which played a key role in shaping her identity.

On Tuesday, the actress shared a series of her photos from one of her pre-wedding rituals where she is seen wearing a Sabyasachi lehenga. In the photos, the actress exudes elegance in a hand-crafted bagru multi-panel 'chotu lehenga' inspired from the archives of Sabyasachi. The skirt is embellished with antique zardozi and hand-painted mirror borders, paired with a hand-woven cotton dupatta and the brand's classic blouse.

Alongside the photos, Sobhita wrote, "Pictures from a blurry night in Vizag (We called it Young people's party / YPP. Lol) A Banjara themed homage to my backpacking days that have shaped the very core of who I am. Archival Sabya for the bohemian soul I felt seen. Beheld."

The celebrity designer Sabyasachi also shared photos of Sobhita, along with details of her outfit.

For the caption, he wrote, "For her wedding celebration, Sobhita Dhulipala wears a hand crafted bagru multi-panel 'chotu lehenga' inspired from the archives of Sabyasachi. The skirt is



adorned with antiqued zardozi and hand painted mirror borders, paired with a hand woven cotton dupatta and the house classic "Kanthi" blouse. The ensemble is accentuated with a parandi and The East of

Bengal Chandbalis crafted in 22k gold from Sabyasachi Heritage Jewellery. Paired with embellished hand crafted bellies from Sabyasachi Accessories."

For her wedding, Sobhita opted for a traditional saree paired with matching jewelry. The groom, Naga Chaitanya, wore a pancha (a traditional dhoti drape) for the ceremony.

Naga and Sobhita tied the knot on December 4 in a beautiful ceremony at Annapurna Studios, surrounded by their family and loved ones.

The wedding took place at Annapurna Studios, a venue that holds significant meaning for Naga Chaitanya's family. Established in 1976 by his iconic grandfather, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, this 22-acre property in Banjara Hills has long stood as a symbol of cinematic excellence and family legacy.

Nagarjuna was the first to share official photos from the wedding. In a heartfelt note, the 'Ghost' actor wrote, "Watching Sobhita and Chay begin this beautiful chapter together has been a special and emotional moment for me. Congratulations to my beloved Chay, and welcome to the family dear Sobhita—you've already brought so much happiness into our lives."

Ahsaas Channa on 'Mismatched 3': Never played a character like this who is so complex



Actress Ahsaas Channa has talked about her character in 'Mismatched 3' and revealed that she has "never played a character like this who is so complex."

"My character in Mismatched was introduced last season, but it's only in this season that you find out more about her. You get a backstory about her life and what her interests are, and who she is as a person," she said.

"Of course, you get to see more of Anmol and Vinny as a couple and they are in a romantic relationship because at the core of it, mismatched is about romantic relationships of these young adults," Ahsaas added.

Asked how different it is from her earlier characters, she said: "It's definitely something different to what I have played in the past. She's not a very super confident person who has her life together, at the same time, she is very woke and knows right from wrong, and has a very strong sense of morals."

"I have never played a character like this who is so complex."

When asked if she feels that the web series has fallen into a pattern and needs to reinvent itself, the actress said that she is "too young to answer this question".

Ahsaas said: "Yes, I have done too many young adult subjects on OTT, but each one of them have been so diverse from each other and have diverged in different topics."

"Honestly, I don't see a pattern right now, but then again. What do I know? I am too young to comment on this. I have a long way to go and a lot more to do."

Do actors in web-series receive the same level of recognition as their film and TV counterparts?

Ahsaas said: "I mean, I have not given it too much of a thought. Our film actors and TV actors are more popular. Yes, they are, but that is also because they have a larger following. OTT as a platform is a lot newer than the other two. But that being said, I don't feel like there is any clear distinction between any medium right now. Film actors are doing OTT content. OTT actors are doing film content."

However, she sees that the "lines are blurring."

"The main thing is that we should all be aiming towards the same goal, which is developing good content, the audience. The recognition will follow, regardless of the medium. If the content is good and the performances are amazing."

Bhagyashree turns fitness coach, talks about benefits of 'crab walk'

Veteran actress and fitness enthusiast Bhagyashree on Tuesday gave out tips on "crab walk", a form of workout, which she says "improves the core" and helps in strengthening the arms.

Crab walk is a form of animal flow, a ground-based, bodyweight movement that blends yoga, gymnastics, and animal-inspired movements to create a workout.

The actress took to Instagram, where she shared a reel video of her doing crab walk and talking about the benefits of the workout.

In the clip, she is heard saying: "Everyone knows that a crab cannot walk straight. But it is also true that a crab does not have a fat stomach. Crab walk increases core strength and arm strength. But it also strengthens the glutes. So let's learn crab walk in Tuesday Tips."

She added: "Today's Tuesday tip is a simple exercise which will keep your hamstrings flexible. It not only strengthens the core but also strengthens the glutes and arms. Balance and coordination is also very important."

Tagging it as a "full body" workout, the 55-year-old actress said: "This is a full body exercise. And this is a perfect warm-up for those who do regular exercise. Tuesday Tips for today."

Bhagyashree captioned the clip: "Animal Flow : Try the crab walk today... it a full body workout. Tighten your core, lift your body into an inverted table position and walk. It works to improve core and arm strength obviously as seen .. but also helps in activating your hamstrings and glute muscles."

She suggested: "Do it under instructions of your trainer, as you shouldn't hurt yourself."

On the acting front, the actress was last seen in the 2023 film titled "Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video", a mystery film directed by Mikhil Musale. It also stars Nimrat Kaur, Radhika Madan, and Subodh Bhawe.

Mohammed Mustafa acknowledges the people who made "Mura" a success

Filmmaker Mohammed Mustafa has recently acknowledged the key individuals who played a pivotal role in the success of "Mura."

He thanked the team behind the project, highlighting the collective efforts that made "Mura" a success. While speaking exclusively to IANS, Mohammed Mustafa stated, "Mura would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our cast and crew. I'm honoured to have worked with such a talented team, and I'm grateful for the love and support our film has received."

The Malayalam film "Mura" has reached a significant milestone, successfully completing 50 days in theatres. The film features a stellar ensemble cast, including Hridhu Haroon, Suraj Venjaramoodu, and Mala Parvathy. The movie's supporting cast includes Kani Kusruthi, Kannan Nair, Krish Hassan, and Sibi Joseph. Produced by Riya Shibu under the banner of HR Pictures, the film has Rony Zakaria as its executive producer.

Written by Suresh Babu, the film marked Hridhu Haroon's Malayalam debut. Haroon is widely known for his roles in the Cannes-winning film "All We Imagine As Light," the Amazon web series "Crash Course," the Hindi film "Mumbaikar," and the Tamil film "Thugs." His portrayal of Ananthu has garnered praise from both audiences and critics.

The technical crew behind "Mura" includes Fazil Nasser (Cinematography), Chaman Chacko (Editing), Christy Joby (Music Direction), Sreenu Kalleil (Art Direction), Ronex Xavier (Makeup), Nisar Rahmat (Costume Design), P.C. Stunds (Action), and Jimith Pirappancode (Production Controller) Marketing and public relations efforts were managed by Pratheesh Sekhar.

"Mura" which released in theatres on November 8, is set to release on Amazon Prime Video this Christmas in four languages: Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

When Raveena Tandon told reporters, 'You let me off too cheap'



An old video of actress Raveena Tandon playfully bantering with the paparazzi and quipping, "Bhut saste mai chor diya meko," has recently resurfaced online.

In a throwback interview, the 'Mohra' actress, while addressing the media, shared her thoughts on what drives her as an actor.

In a clip currently making rounds on social media, Raveena can be heard saying to the media persons, "Bhaiya, please hold this for him. Thank you, Sir. No, let everyone roll first. Everyone is standing still; no one is rolling. Sir, are you ready? Okay, everyone is rolling."

When asked about her roles, she revealed, "You've asked me 50 times about my role in different films, and every time I say the same thing—I can't reveal the role. But one thing I can share is that nowadays, I've started taking on roles that challenge me as an actor. I look for roles that genuinely excites me."

Despite her professional insight, she maintained her trademark

humour, joking, "By the way, you could have asked me to say Happy Diwali, Happy New Year, or Merry Christmas... Nahi, are saste mein chhod diya tumne mujhe!"

On the work front, the National Award-winning actress rose to prominence as the leading lady in blockbuster action films such as "Dilwale," "Mohra," "Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi," and "Ziddi."

She teamed up with Govinda for several hit comedies, including, "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan," "Dulhe Raja," and "Anari No.1." Venturing beyond her comedic roles, Tandon delivered impactful performances in the crime dramas "Ghulam-E-Mustafa" and "Shool." After a hiatus, Raveena made a comeback in 2017 with the thriller "Maatr," earning acclaim for her performance. She further impressed audiences with her lead role in the Netflix crime thriller series "Aranyak." In 2022, she appeared in her highest-grossing film to date, Yash starrer "K.G.F: Chapter 2."

On her birthday, Pratibha Ranta prays for 'Laapataa Ladies' to find a spot in Oscars' top 15 shortlist



Actress Pratibha Ranta, who is known for her work in 'Laapataa Ladies', is celebrating her birthday on Tuesday. As the actress turned a year older, she said that she is praying for 'Laapataa Ladies' to find a place in the Oscars' top 15 shortlist which might be announced on Tuesday.

'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official entry for the upcoming edition of the Oscars. The actress expressed gratitude, and revealed how she'd like to spend the day, and her excitement for the Oscars shortlist.

Pratibha told IANS, "This year has been the most thankful year of my life, and I'm really looking forward for the coming years ahead. I would like to start my 24th birthday by visiting the temple because I think that God has been really kind to me, and I just want to go and thank him for all the blessings that He's given me. I'm going to pray for everyone around me because the kind of support I've received from

audiences around me has been magical and beautiful. So, I just want to go and thank God for what has happened in my life. I am very grateful."

Opening up about the Oscars shortlist, Pratibha shared, "When I got to know that Oscars' top 15 shortlist might be out on my birthday, I was praying for that to happen, and if that happens, I think that will be the biggest birthday gift for me. Fingers crossed, I'm praying every day and night for the Oscars shortlist. I hope it happens on my birthday."

Pratibha Ranta has been making waves in the entertainment industry with her exceptional performances, highlighting her mettle as a power-packed performer. Her ability to pull off complex and emotionally heavy roles has garnered her praise and appreciation from the masses and critics and has left them eagerly waiting to see more of her.

Spinal cord injuries have become more common than ever, say experts



Spinal cord injury, one of the most devastating injuries to the human body, is becoming more common than ever, said experts on Thursday.

Spinal Cord Injury Day is celebrated each year on September 5 to bring about awareness about the spinal cord.

The spine is the backbone of the human body and maintaining its health is crucial for overall well-being, said the health experts.

"With the increasing prevalence of sedentary lifestyles, poor posture habits, and the rise of technology use, spinal issues have become more common than ever," Dr Arvind Kulkarni, Head - Spinal Surgeon, Mumbai Spine

Scoliosis and Disc Replacement Centre, told IANS.

The incidence of spinal cord injury in India is estimated to be around 20 per million with 2,500 fresh cases added every year. The condition is no longer limited to older adults but is increasingly affecting younger groups.

"Spinal issues have significantly increased as a result of sedentary lifestyles brought on by longer screen times and more desk jobs. The prevalence of chronic back pain and neck problems, commonly known as 'tech neck,' has increased as more people develop bad postural patterns when using mobile devices or working at computers," Kulkarni said.

"There is a concerning trend

of spine problems among young people as a result of improper posture and excessive usage of laptops, tablets, and mobiles, highlighting the need for early intervention and education on proper spinal care," the doctor added.

Minimally invasive techniques are becoming more common due to breakthroughs in spinal surgery. Compared to traditional operations, these methods have shorter recovery times, fewer risks, and less discomfort after surgery, which makes them a popular choice for many patients. However, high costs remain a concern.

"While there are several new treatments for the spinal cord injury management including spinal cord stimulator, diaphragmatic stimulation and also experimental medicines, affordability is a major concern for patients in India," Dr. Bibhudendu Mohapatra, Associate Director, Spine Services, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi.

"I would like to see a day where all these technologies are available in our country at an affordable rate so that more and more patients can use it and get a better outcome from the spinal cord injury," he added.

To maintain good spinal health, the experts suggested awareness of the right posture, regular exercise, healthy weight management, mindful movement, and hydration and nutrition.

When mice with Alzheimer's inhaled menthol, their cognitive abilities improved



Imagine a future where the smell of menthol could alleviate some of the worst symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. This might sound like science fiction, but innovative new research is making it a potential reality.

Scientists have discovered that when mice with Alzheimer's inhaled menthol, their cognitive abilities improved. This unexpected finding highlights a potential new avenue for treating this debilitating condition.

Alzheimer's disease is a serious neurodegenerative disorder that gets worse over time. It is characterised by changes in the brain that result in loss of neurons and connections.

It affects everyone differently, but the most common symptoms include a gradual decline in memory, thinking and social skills, and frequent mood changes. This can affect a person's ability to learn new things, carry out daily tasks, recognise family and friends and, eventually, live independently.

Recent figures show that 55 million people worldwide are living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. With the populations of many countries ageing rapidly, this number is only expected to rise.

There are 10 million new cases of Alzheimer's and dementia each year a new case every 3.2 seconds. This has led experts to estimate that over 150 million people will have the disease by 2050. At any rate,

Alzheimer's is one of the biggest challenges facing public health in the 21st century.

Fortunately, scientists are now working on so-called disease-modifying drugs that can slow or potentially cure Alzheimer's. Most current treatments just manage symptoms.

Of mice and menthol In the new study mentioned above, researchers set out to examine the interactions between the olfactory, immune and central nervous systems. In their previous study they found that repeated exposure to menthol enhanced the immune response in mice. Here, the team focused on whether it could improve their cognitive abilities as well.

During this study, mice that were genetically modified to exhibit Alzheimer's were repeatedly exposed to menthol for six months. The researchers analysed their immune response and cognitive capacity and compared them with healthy mice. Surprisingly, mice with Alzheimer's showed a significant improvement following short exposures to the minty-smelling substance.

Specifically, menthol helped to regulate the immune system, prevent cognitive deterioration, and improved memory and learning capabilities.

Researchers found that it lowered levels of interleukin-1 beta, a protein linked to memory problems in Alzheimer's disease. This protein, or cytokine causes inflammation in the

brain, which can harm cognitive function. Lowering interleukin-1 beta can help reduce this inflammation and prevent further cognitive decline.

Menthol was also found to mimic the effects of artificially reducing T-regulatory cells immune cells that help control inflammation and keep the immune system balanced.

This finding suggests a possible treatment pathway for conditions like Alzheimer's and highlights the potential for particular smells to be used as therapies.

Previous research has established links between smells and our immune and nervous systems, and we already know that smells can influence our cognition. For example, by triggering emotions and memories.

In addition, it is now known that certain diseases related to the central nervous system for example, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and schizophrenia sometimes come with a loss of smell.

While the complexities of these relationships remain unclear, this new research adds some promising data that will help us better understand them.

These results are based on initial observations of lab mice and so can't be generalised to human Alzheimer's patients. Not only are our brains wired differently from mice, but it is not clear how our olfactory systems or perception of odours may differ.

However, until the effects of menthol are studied using a human sample, this is a crucial first step towards developing a greater understanding of how to treat the disease.

Further research is needed to investigate the link between Alzheimer's and smell, and this could lead to some interesting techniques. For example, using smell training as a treatment for managing, or even delaying the onset of Alzheimer's.

For now, though, this piece of research provides us with some interesting findings concerning the relationship between the immune system and brain function, and hope for those affected by this disease.

Study shows kidney drug can boost treatment outcomes for heart attack patients

An international team of researchers, led by one of Indian origin, has demonstrated that a drug used to treat kidney diseases can be safely administered to patients who are hospitalised for acute myocardial infarction — heart attack.

The team led by Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital demonstrated that the drug empagliflozin can reliably lower heart failure episodes in individuals who have had a heart attack, regardless of the patient's pre-existing renal function.

Acute heart attack patients are particularly vulnerable to acute renal injury because of prolonged exposure to kidney stressors, such as diuretics or contrast agents used during cardiac catheterisation.

Because of this danger, doctors are hesitant to start empagliflozin soon after a heart attack because there is little data regarding this class of drug's safety in this particular clinical setting. The drug can block the sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 protein that aids in the kidneys' ability to reabsorb glucose from the blood.

Deepak L. Bhatt, Director of the Hospital said the finding will contribute to closing a significant knowledge gap on the clinical application of



Empagliflozin in heart attack survivors.

The trial randomised 6,522 patients with acute heart attack and increased heart failure risk to empagliflozin or placebo. Empagliflozin reduced hospitalisation and adverse events of heart failure, with consistent risk reductions across baseline kidney function.

Adverse event rates were similar in both groups within 30 days after drug intake, regardless of baseline kidney function, systolic blood pres-

sure, or other medical therapies.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally, and heart attacks are a major contributor to this.

The team noted that the study has significant implications for treating a very vulnerable population of patients with cardiovascular disease globally by reassuring doctors of the safety and effectiveness of empagliflozin early after a heart attack.

The results were presented

No link between sports concussions and cognitive problems: Study

Sports-related concussions (SRC) may not be linked to long-term cognitive problems for non-professional players, according to a study on Wednesday.

The research, published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry (JNNP), showed that people who reported having any SRC in their lives performed marginally better cognitively than those with no concussion history.

In fact, participants who had sustained SRC actually performed better cognitively in some domains than those who had never had a concussion, suggesting that sports activity may have preventive effects.

Led by researchers from the University of New South Wales, Australia, an international team from the US, and the UK analysed data from over 15,000 participants aged 50 to 90. The research aimed to comprehend cognitive decline and ageing of the brain. "We hypothesise that there may be physical, social, and long-term behavioural effects of sports that may make for healthier adults in late life," said lead author Dr. Matt Lennon, from UNSW's Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHEBA).

While people with one SRC had better working memory and reasoning capacity, participants with three or more SRCs

had worse processing speed and attention. They also had a declining trajectory of verbal reasoning with age.

The study suggests that there could be long-term benefits from sport that could outweigh any negative effects of concussions, which could have important implications for policy decisions around contact sport participation. "While these results do not indicate the safety of any sport in particular, they do indicate that overall sports may have greater beneficial effects for long-term cognitive health than the damage it causes, even in those who have experienced concussion.

National Nutrition Week: From gut health to folate deficiency, here are tips to make your daily diet nutritious

In the backdrop of the ongoing National Nutrition Week observed from September 1 to 7 organised by the central government to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition, THE WEEK speaks to Dr Arti Singh, Consultant Nutritionist and Dietitian, Motherhood Hospitals, Kharghar, Mumbai, about what constitutes ideal nutrition on a day-to-day basis, and more.

Tell us how can one best manage one's gut health?

Managing gut health also involves understanding the intricate mind-gut connection. It is a known fact that stress tends to affect the gut flora. Mindfulness techniques such as meditation or yoga help to de-stress and improve the gut. Contaminated food and water can upset the gut and one will experience symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, bloating and cramping. Incorporating fermented food can boost your gut health. Kimchi, sauerkraut, yogurt and kombucha are rich in probi-



otics. Moreover, fibre-rich food such as whole grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables nurture good bacteria in your gut. Follow these vital strategies for a healthy gut.

We in India are terribly low on iron leading to ever increasing cases of anaemia? What is the scientific explanation for this?

Iron deficiency and the surge in anaemia cases

can be linked to factors such as dietary habits and environmental factors. Currently, a large number of people are eating processed food that lacks essential nutrients and avoid opting for iron-rich ingredients like leafy greens, and legumes. Hence, it is difficult for one to meet the recommended iron requirements. Conditions such as celiac disease or inflammatory

bowel disease can take a toll on the body's capacity to absorb iron and other important vitamins and minerals and one can get detected with anaemia. Too much blood loss during menstruation or pregnancy can impact iron levels and cause anaemia. Unfortunately, cancer, chronic kidney disease, ulcerative colitis, and rheumatoid arthritis can cause anaemia. Certain

medications interfere with the iron absorption in the body leading to anaemia.

Indian women are found to have very low levels of D3. How can we correct this?

Not getting sunlight or enough vitamin D from the diet, having liver or kidney failure that can interfere with the body's ability to absorb or convert vitamin D are some of the reasons behind vitamin D deficiency in women. Women should get enough sunlight every day for at least 20 minutes, exercise daily, eat fatty fish like salmon, mackerel and egg yolks.

Ideally how often should one consume non-vegetarian food and in what measure?

One can have non-vegetarian food once or twice a week in the quantity recommended by an expert. However, the consumption should be not more than 100 gms when it comes to chicken, for fish it should be about 70 gms. Follow the guidelines given by the expert when it comes to eating non-veg food and don't exceed the quantity.

Lancet study highlights a high level of folate defi-

ciency in India. What do you think might be the reasons for the same?

The recent Lancet study revealed a worrisome prevalence of folate deficiency in India. One of the reasons for this deficiency could be dietary patterns as many people eat a lot of rice and wheat, which often lack adequate levels of essential nutrients, including folate. Even opting for processed food that lacks nutrition can cause folate deficiency. Good sources of folate include broccoli, Brussels sprouts, asparagus, peas, and chickpeas which should be a part of your diet. Furthermore, too much alcohol consumption, genetics, pregnancy, or celiac disease can also induce folate deficiency.

What is the most ideal morning routine to be followed from an ideal nutrition perspective?

The ideal morning routine includes a glass of drinking water on waking up, having nuts like almonds and walnuts to get some energy, and eating a protein-rich breakfast that is poached eggs

with broccoli, tomatoes, poha, upma, chia pudding, oats, milk or vegetable smoothie, avocado toast, tofu scramble, sprout salad, moong dal chilla, quinoa upma, paneer paratha and fruits. Avoid eating fried food, vada, samosa, namkeens, baked food, and desserts for breakfast. Give a healthy start to your day with a healthy breakfast.

Do you recommend protein powders for children? Please be detailed.

Children can meet their nutritional needs through fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, legumes, and nuts as these things can provide enough protein along with essential vitamins and minerals. Avoid giving protein powder to children as they contain added sugar that can cause weight gain, liver damage, nutritional imbalance, bloating, diarrhoea or even dehydration. So, be careful while giving protein powder to children. It is a good idea to include protein rich food in the diet instead of giving protein powder to children.

Sakeena Itoo flags off 250 EWS students for cultural tour under 'Watan ko Jaano'

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today flagged off a group of 250 school children for cultural tour to Delhi, Jaipur and Ajmer under 'Watan ko Jaano' Youth Exchange programme.

The 13 day tour is being organised by the Social Welfare department in collaboration with Union Ministry for Home Affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that this Youth Exchange programme will provide an exposure of social and cultural diversity of country to these young students.

"This exposure tour is a unique opportunity for EWS students from government schools of remote regions to learn and experience new things, which will benefit them throughout their lives," Sakeena stated.

She underlined that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed



to provide quality education for students of all backgrounds and regions. "Our government is determined to broaden the horizons of education for students of backward classes as well as of remote and rural areas", the Minister maintained.

She further emphasized on the importance of such educational tours in broadening students knowledge as

well as fostering holistic development. She also encouraged the students to document their experiences throughout the trip.

After the flag-off ceremony, the Minister also inspected the buses and assessed facilities available for the students. She also interacted with the students and asked them to take maximum benefit from this exposure tour.

It is information for all that J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

It is information for all that J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association is conducting 8th J&K UT Level Soft Tennis Championship for Boys/Girls, Men/Women in all categories w.e.f. 22-02-2025 to 24-02-2025 at Gindun Sports Stadium Rajbagh Srinagar for which all the district President/Secretaries of all affiliated district units had already been informed to send/depute the players of their re-

spective districts for participation in the above said UT Level championship. The registration of the players is open upto 20-02-2025. All the district Presidents/Secretaries once again requested to initiate the process of registration of their players and send the name of players upto 20-02-2025. After the expiry of the last date no any player/players shall be considered. Also it is information for all the district Presidents/Secretaries of affiliated district units of J&K Amateur

Soft Tennis Association that the selection of players for participation in 18th Sub-Junior National Soft Tennis Championship to be held at Ludhiana Punjab w.e.f 27-03-2025 to 31-03-2025 shall also be completed in the above said 8th J&K UT Level Soft Tennis Championship for which the sports officer (K), J&K Sports Council Srinagar has already been requested vide Association office communication No.:- JKASTA/2024-25/434-38, dated:-10-02-2025.

Dir Animal Husbandry reviews HADP scheme at Anantnag

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

In a significant move to enhance the livestock sector in the region, Dr. Parvinder Singh Sudan, Director of the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Kashmir, conducted a comprehensive review of the Holistic Animal Development Program (HADP) scheme in a meeting at Anantnag.

The meeting aimed to assess the

progress and implementation of various initiatives under the HADP, which is designed to improve animal health, productivity, and overall livelihoods for farmers.

The review meeting included discussions on challenges faced in implementing the HADP scheme and strategies for overcoming these obstacles.

On the occasion, Dir appreciated

the exemplary work of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Anantnag, Dr. Javed Zarger & his team in the district

Dr. Sudan emphasized that continuous monitoring and evaluation are crucial for achieving desired outcomes from such schemes. He encouraged all stakeholders involved to remain committed to their roles in fostering sustainable development within animal husbandry.

Power Shutdown

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

According to CE KPDCL that in order to carry out shifting of 132 KV CT's / LA's in Delina Pattan Ckt-II, the power supply of 33kv feeders including Pattan, HMT, Markandal, Gulmarg and areas including Magam, Mirgund, Markandal, Sumbal, Tangmarg, Hamray, Palhallan, Singhpora, Hanjiwera shall remain affected on February 17 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

To carry out erection at Tr. Line Tower between Tower No. 76 and Tower No. 77 of 220 KV Wagoora Zainakote Line for increasing of verti-

cal clearance between 132 KV Budgam-IRCON line and 220 KV Wagoora Zainakote Tr. Line, the power supply of 33kv feeders including Laar /Tullamulla, Kurhama/Dab, Safapora/Wangipora, Army/Hakbara, Ajas /Nadihal, Aloosa /Panzigaam, Ajar Bandipora, Gurez, Wassun, Kangan, Sarfaraw/Gagangeer, Power House/ Manigaam, Nagbal /Tulbagh, Gulabagh/ Ahmad Nagar, BAMK, Zakoora, Lalbazaar, Habak line, Ilahibagh and feeding areas including Nagbal, Darend, Busserbug, Gulababad, Zukura, Beehama, Duderhama, Harran, Armpora, Manigaam, Gutlibagh, Nuner, Baderkund, Arm-

pora, Waheedpora, Saloora, Bambloora, Arch, Wayil, Gadoora, Fathpora, Shalabugh, Chundina, Tulbagh, Kuraq, Kachan shall remain affected on February 22 & 23 from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

While power supply of 33kv feeders including Kremshore, Budgam, Ichgam, Watrillah, Chadoora, Charisharief and feeding areas including Kremshore, Ichgam, Budgam, Watrillah, Chadoora, Brenwar, Khansahab, Hanjoora, Nagam, Hanjoora, Barwah Hafroo, Wathoora, Charisharief and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 24 & 25 from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

MD KPDCL reviews Power Senario in Pulwama, Shopian

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

MD KPDCL Mahmood Ahmad Shah conducted review of the power scenario and progress on various projects in Pulwama and Shopian.

He also reviewed buffer stock of repaired transformers and the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes like PM Surya Ghar.

While assessing power situation, he emphasized maintaining smooth power supply to both urban and rural areas & stressed on ensuring a stock of repaired transformers in view of ensuing Ramadan. Officers were directed to swiftly restore power in case of weather-related damages and to replace



transformers promptly.

MD also discussed the PM

Surya Ghar scheme, which provides free electricity connections to consumers. A total of 1101 applications have been received, with 68 units installed so far. Shah instructed officers to complete installations by March 2025 and continue raising awareness to maximize benefits for consumers.

He also inspected key infrastructure, including the 250 MVA Grid Station in Shopian and several receiving stations and feeders. He reviewed ongoing RDSS distribution works, especially for LTAB cabling, which would enable the installation of smart meters and ensure a more reliable power supply.

Awareness cum Training prog on New Criminal Laws, Drug Abuse held at Shopian

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

In an ongoing effort to combat the growing issue of drug abuse among the youth through multi pronged strategy and creating awareness on New Criminal laws, District Administration Shopian on Saturday organised an enlightening awareness programme for the general public at Government Degree College, Shopian.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The event aimed to educate the public and students about the dangers of drug abuse, prevention strategies, and appropriate responses in case of encountering drug-related situations along with popularising the new criminal laws.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appealed for strengthening the collaborative approach of all stakeholders including government departments, agencies, communities and families in order to tackle the drug addiction among the vulnerable sections of the society.

DC said that drug addiction is a severe problem and has disastrous social and economic consequences.

To eradicate drug abuse, a combination of awareness, legal actions, rehabilitation measures and social support is essential, he said.

A collective effort from the Govern-



ment, communities and individuals can help in creating a drug-free society, DC stated.

Deputy Commissioner also stressed for maintaining cleanliness around surroundings and called for public cooperation in eradicating the menace of non biodegradables.

Legal professionals while speaking said that rehabilitation should be prioritised over punishment for addicts and laws and regulations should be enforced strictly to control drug trafficking in the district.

Experts from the Police and legal professionals also delivered engaging lectures, empowering gathering with essential knowledge of new criminal laws in vogue.

Later, a rally was conducted which originated from GDC and passed through the bazaars of Shopian town and culminated at Clock Tower, Shopian with themes of Plastic Free Society and Drug Free Shopian.

On the occasion, other speakers highlighted the main features of New Criminal laws and deliberated on handling of non-biodegradable material also.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Fayaz, CEO, CMO, ACP, Tehsildar Shopian, College Faculty, youth and students of various educational institutions participated in the awareness and training programme along with other stakeholders and public.

DC B'pora Chairs Meeting on Waste Management Action Plan for Wular Lake

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today convened a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to review the ongoing progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The meeting focused on evaluating various ongoing schemes under JJM to ensure their timely completion.

The meeting discussed the status of JJM schemes in the Sumbal Sub-Division, where 11 out of 29 schemes have been completed. Additionally, the civil work of 18 schemes has been finalized, with mechanical work currently underway.

DC directed the officers to bring any issues or challenges to the attention of the district administration for their prompt resolution, ensuring that the schemes are completed on time.

Reviewing the progress of Gurez Sub-Division, DC was informed that



90% of the work on all JJM schemes has been completed besides the meeting also reviewed the progress and discussed various issues concerning the implementation of JJM schemes in the Bandipora Division.

DC reiterated the need for collective efforts to expedite the completion of these essential water supply

projects to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to every household under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, ACD Irfan Bahadur, CPO Mohammad Maqbool, Ex-En PHE, District Officers of various departments and other concerned officials

Commissioner JMC launches Garbage Hotspot challenge ahead of Swachh sarvekshan 2024



JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, FEB 16

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive tour of various wards under JMC's jurisdiction to assess the sanitation situation and ensure cleanliness across the city.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav directed municipal officers to expedite the removal of accumulated garbage, emphasizing the need for prompt and efficient waste disposal. Addressing concerns over improper waste disposal by certain hotels and restaurants in Greater Kailash, he instructed au-

thorities to impose fines of up to ₹50,000 on establishments found dumping garbage into drains.

The Commissioner also visited several localities, including Gangyal Digiana, Dashmesh Nagar, Kunjwani, Channi Himmat, Deeli, Narwal, Janipur, and Paloura Top, where he interacted with sanitation workers and officials. In light of the upcoming Swachh Sarvekshan 2025, he stressed the importance of maintaining high sanitation standards and instructed staff to work in double shifts to ensure comprehensive cleanliness.

Dr. Yadav further urged residents to actively participate in maintaining

cleanliness in their respective wards and support JMC's efforts in making Jammu a cleaner and healthier city.

He also announced that citizens can report garbage hotspots in their areas, and JMC will ensure their removal within 24 hours. To facilitate this, JMC has provided a helpline number and an online portal for easy reporting. can lodge complaint on garbage hotspots in their wards on www.myjammu.in or My Jammu android app", he said and added that within 24 hours of the online complaint JMC will clean the said garbage hotspot and engage swachta volunteers to prevent further dumping in said hotspots.