

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Infiltration bid foiled in Akhnoor: Army

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Army on Saturday said to have foiled an infiltration bid along the International Border in the Akhnoor area of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X, an army spokesman said the suspected move of four terrorists was noticed last night in the Khowr area of Akhnoor in Jammu. After effective, he said, the terrorists were seen dragging one body back across the border.

"Infiltration bid foiled in IB sector of #Khour, #Akhnoor. Suspected move of four terrorists seen through own surveillance devices on the night of 22/23 Dec 23. Effective fire brought down. Terrorists seen dragging one body back across the IB," he said.

Sgr-Leh highway closed after light snowfall at Zojila Pass

GANDERBAL, Dec 23 (Agencies): Higher reaches of Kashmir and Ladakh on Saturday witnessed light snowfall which led to closure of the Srinagar-Leh highway.

Reports said that Zojila Pass along the Srinagar-Leh highway witnessed light snowfall while a health resort Sonamarg in Ganderbal district witnessed light to moderate snowfall on Saturday. They said that about 2-3 inches of snow accumulated at Zojila Pass, draping the scenic destination in white.

Due to fresh snowfall the traffic movement on Zojila Pass was suspended in view of slippery road conditions. Officials said that the traffic will be allowed after clearance from BRO.

Meanwhile, an official of MeT Centre Leh said that light snowfall occurred at some places of Kargil, Zanskar, Minamarg etc.

Man Dies of Suffocation in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): A non-local driver was found dead due to alleged suffocation in Pattan area of Baramulla district.

An official said that one Suraish Kumar, a resident of Punjab, was found dead at his rented accommodation at Hanjiweera near Gopal Nali Pattan.

"The person was a professional JCB driver," the official said. "As per initial reports, it is believed that the person died due to suffocation."

Mobile internet suspended in Poonch, Rajouri amid massive Anti-Terrorist Op

POONCH/RAJOURI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Mobile Internet services were suspended in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts early Saturday as security forces continued their massive search operation to track down terrorists behind the recent ambush on two Army vehicles that left five soldiers dead, officials said.

The suspension of the mobile Internet services in the twin border districts followed mysterious death of three persons after being allegedly picked up by the Army for questioning, and widespread resentment among people after the circulation of videos purportedly showing torture



of the suspects.

While both Army and civil authorities are tight-lipped on the ground situation, official sources said mobile Internet services were suspended both in Poonch and Rajouri districts as a precautionary measure to check rumour-mongering and prevent miscreants from creating any law and order problem. Senior Army, police

and civil officers are monitoring the situation, the sources said, adding additional police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in sensitive pockets of the districts to maintain peace.

Three to four heavily-armed terrorists targeted an army gypsy and a truck at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Bufliaz under the jurisdiction of Surankote

police station in Poonch late Thursday afternoon, killing five soldiers and injuring two others.

After the attack, the terrorists reportedly mutilated the bodies of at least two soldiers and took weapons of some of them.

A massive search operation was launched immediately after the attack in the densely forested areas, also covering nearby Thanamandi in Rajouri but there was no fresh contact with the fleeing terrorists so far, the officials said.

Three persons, who were among those detained for questioning by Army in connection with Thursday's attack, died mysteriously on Saturday.

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752 new Covid cases, 4 deaths reported in 24 hours

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): India saw a single-day rise of 752 coronavirus infections, the highest since May 21, 2023, while the active cases have increased to 3,420, according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday. The death toll was recorded at 5,33,332

with four new deaths, two from Kerala, one each in Rajasthan and Karnataka, reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The country's Covid case tally stood at 4.50 crore (4,50,07,964).

The number of people recuperated from the

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2 civilian workers die in Army Camp fire in Doda

JAMMU, Dec 23 (Agencies): Two civilian workers were charred to death in a fire inside an Army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Saturday, police said.

Parshotam (55) of Samba and Som Raj (45) of Kathua were running a tailor shop in the Armoda Gatt Army camp and were caught in the fire caused due to some snag in a kerosene heater, a police official said.

The fire was reported at around 2.30 am, the official said, adding that the charred bodies of both the workers were recovered from the

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Fire damages three residential houses in Solina Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Fire broke out in Solina locality of Srinagar on Saturday morning, damaging at least three residential houses, reports said.

Quoting a F&ES Department official, news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that a fire

broke out at around 4:30 AM in Solina Srinagar Soon after receiving the information, men and machinery were dispatched to the site to douse off the flames, he said.

"The fire was brought under control after persistent efforts by the

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Government orders compensation, Inquiry into death of three civilians in Poonch

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced compensation and jobs to the NoKs of three deceased persons in the Poonch district.

The government has also ordered an inquiry into the matter, DIPR said on X.

"The death of three civilians was reported yesterday in Baffliaz of Poonch District. The medico-legal formalities were conducted and legal action in this matter has been initiated by the appropriate authority. The government has announced

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Forged document case: Crime Branch Kashmir files chargesheet against a person for fraudulently obtaining job

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): Special Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday filed charge sheet in court against a person for getting a job fraudulently by forging documents

In a handout, the Crime branch Kashmir said that its Special Crime Wing (Crime Branch) Srinagar produced charge sheet of case FIR No. 17/2023 before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Ganderbal today against accused namely Shahid-ul-Islam son of Ghulam Nabi Mir resident of Prang, Kangan, Ganderbal U/S for his involvement in commission of offences punishable under section 420, 465, 468, 471, 201 RPC. The accused person had used fake/ forged 10+2 certificate for obtaining admission

in BUMS course and even had managed to get the government job, to which he was not entitled.

The spokesman further said that the said case was registered in Police Station Special Crime Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) on a complaint lodged by Dr. Zaffar Shaheen son of Ghulam Mohammad Teeli resident of Manigam, Ganderbal, alleging therein that Shahid-ul-Islam has obtained admission in BUMS Course, session-2014 at Institute of Asian Medical Sciences, through the University of Kashmir, on the basis of a fake and forged 10+2 marks certificate. It was also alleged that the said accused has applied for issuance of a "Provisional Registration Certificate" to the Registrar, Board of Ayurvedic/

Unani System of Medicine, on the basis of said fake & forged 10+2 marks certificate.

Accordingly an enquiry under Reg. No. ME: 01/2022 was initiated at Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir, Srinagar, which turned into registration of the instant case, he said.

During course of investigation, the records having bearing on the subject matter were obtained and seized as per procedure. The statements of the persons familiar with the facts and circumstance of case were recorded. The investigation has revealed that the said accused has produced fake 10+2 marks certificate at the Institute of Asian Medical Sciences through the University of Kashmir

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Barring Gulmarg, night temperatures rise above freezing point

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): All the MeT stations in Kashmir, barring Gulmarg, reported temperatures above freezing point amid an overnight cloud cover, officials said on Saturday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, that the minimum temperature in Srinagar was 1.2°C against minus 3.3°C on the previous night and it was above 2.0°C normal for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 1.4°C against minus 3.3°C on the previous night, he said. The minimum temperature was 3.4°C above normal for the gateway town of

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Govt tightens noose against private schools over collection of donation for kindergarten admissions

SRINAGAR, Dec 23 (Agencies): The J&K School Education Department (SED) tightened its noose against the recognised private schools over collection of capitation fees and subjecting kids to screening test at the

time of admissions in kindergarten classes.

In a latest move, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has warned the private schools to desist from charging the capitation fee and other non-notified fee besides

doing away with conducting screening procedures of children for admission.

"In case of deviance from any school in this matter, action under rules shall be initiated to the extent of cancellation of registration of the

said school," the DSEK circular reads.

The circular instructions have come days after the Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) in its order warned the private schools of CBI probe for

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ED arrests three more in money laundering case against Vivo-India, others

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has made three fresh arrests in connection with its money laundering probe against Chinese smartphone-maker Vivo and some others, official sources

said on December 23.

The three have been taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The identity of the three people was not known immediately. The federal agency

had earlier made four arrests in the case which included mobile company Lava International's MD Hari Om Rai, Chinese national Guangwen alias Andrew Kuang and chartered accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik. They

are in judicial custody at present.

A chargesheet was also filed by the Enforcement Directorate against these people recently before a special PMLA court in Delhi and the court took its cognisance recently.

Jai sai ji 🙏 Jai baba lal ji

Nails classes start

Prop. : Shivani Mahajan Mob. : 6005746425

Nail Art BY SHIVANI MAHAJAN

- Rainbow waves nailart
- Cat eye nailart
- Animal print nailart
- Matte nailart
- Bubble nailart
- Marble Nailart

Come on girls ❤️

Any one join me

Nail kit free

me time

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

IN LOVING MEMORY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA of **Smt Raj Dulari Chaku**, wife of Late Shri Moti Lal Chaku, born in Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, breathed her last on December 18th, 2023, in Prayagraj, UP. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren. All who knew her, were touched by the lovingness and generosity, and her legacy will continue to live on in those left behind.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed in Haridwar on December 27th, 2023.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Indu & V.B. Pandita Mob: 9811818647
Sunila & Vinod Chaku Mob: 9899472450
Surekha & Anud Koul Mob: 8879797439
Radhika & Vineet Pandita with Tarrush and Tallin
Shaila & Deptanshu Chaku
Megha & Abhinav Koul
Sweene & Raghav Taplu
Ojasvi Chaku
With Chakus, Kouls, Razdans, Mirzas & Wangnues



SMT RAJ DULARI CHAKU
(1934 - 2023)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Devi Rani Sharma** W/o Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma R/o Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu.

10th Day shall be performed on 23rd December 2023 (Saturday) at 10.00 am at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu.

Kriya shall be performed on 24th December, 2023 (Sunday) at our residence 253-A, Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony, from 1.00 pm onwards.

Uthala shall be performed on 25th December 2023 (Monday) at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu at 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Bodh Raj Sharma (Husband)

Sh. Om Parkash Sharma (Devar)

Daughter-in-law & Son

Nidhi Sharma & Neeraj Sharma (Manager, J&K Bank)

Ranjana & Amit Choudhary (Karnal) - Daughter & Son-in-law

Rachna & Amit Sharma (Katra) - Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children : Arsh, Aahana, Arshia, Anaya, Kavyansh, Pavani Sharma Family

Mobile : 9419129273, 6280109450, 7006639951



Smt. Devi Rani Sharma

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh Rattan Lal Pandita** S/o Late Sh. Rughnath Pandita, originally resident of Waterkhani Kupwara at present H No. 138, Lane No. 04, Dream City Muthi, Jammu on 16th Dec. 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate Education office on 25th Dec. 2023 at 9:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Kausalya Pandita (Mother)

Smt Dali Pandita (Wife)

Brother and Bhabhi

Sh. Veerji Pandita and Mrs. Jeeta Pandita

Sh. Tej Krishna Pandita and Mrs. Sunita Pandita

Sister and Brother-in-law

Mrs. Vijay and Sh. Piyari Lal Pandita

Son and Daughter-in-law

Mr. Anoop Pandita and Bhavna Bhat

Rudra Pandita

Daughter and Son-in-law

Mrs. Upasana and Mr. Ankush Koul

Children :

Anshul, Aryan, Sehaj, Vikas, Vishal

and Tapasya

Mobile No. 7006739274,

7006324341, 9878982847



Sh Rattan Lal Pandita

10TH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SODAGER LAL S/O SH KAKA RAM R/O VILLAGE HALQA TEH. MARH JAMMU WHO LEFT US FOR THE HEAVENLY ABODE ON 16-12-2023.**

MAY THE LORD GRANT THE PEACE TO HIS DIVINE SOUL.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 25-12-2023 (MONDAY) AT 10 AM AT OUR RESIDENCE.

GRIEF STRICKEN

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

MOB. NO. 8800462329, 9796265047



SH SODAGER LAL

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Smt Sharika Bhat** W/o Sh. Makhn Lal Bhat of Khah Bazar Anantnag presently residing at Pooja Colony Lower Thather (near park) Bantalab Jammu on 18th of December 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed at Akhnor Ghat on 27th December 2023 (Wednesday). Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.00 AM.

Grief Stricken

Sh. Makhn Lal Bhat - Husband

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Behari Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat

Sanjay Bhat & Bubita Bhat

Dilip Bhatti & Priya Bhat

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sunita Dhar & Sanjay Dhar

Grand Children: Aryan, Angel, Krishna, Shriya, Saieesh

M.No. 7006455913, 7006434467, 9999250504



Smt Sharika Bhat

It has been one year since our beloved **Late Smt. Sangeeta Bhat** W/o Shri Daleep Kumar Bhat, left for her heavenly abode on 6th of December-2022 at Jammu. The void created by her unfortunate departure can never be filled. Living with her sweet and cherished memories and praying for eternal peace to the exalted soul.

MASVAR/VAHARVAR: 23rd Dec. (Saturday) & 24th Dec. (Sunday) 2023 at H.No. 140/10 Sec-5 Shankar Colony Gangyal Jammu Behind Police Station Gangyal Jammu

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY
Shri Daleep Kumar Bhat (Husband)
Mrs. Shashi Bhat (Daughter)
Mr. Satish Kumar (Brother)

Shri. Lt. H.N BHAT and Smt. Pushpa Devi (Brother and Bhabhi)

Shri S.S Bhat and Smt. Vijay Devi (Brother and Bhabhi)

All Nears & Dears

Contact No.'s: -9596904697, 7889861763



Late Smt. Sangeeta Bhat

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Lt. Smt. Chanchal Mengi** W/o Lt. Sh. Narinder Kumar Mengi R/o Ward No.10, Reasi. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 23-12-2023 (Saturday) at our residence Ward No. 10, Reasi between 11.00 AM to 12 Noon. **Kriya** will be performed at our residence on 26-12-2023 (Tuesday). **Uthala** will be performed at Hindu Ashram, Reasi on 27-12-2023 (Wednesday) from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Preeti & Rahul Mengi (Rocky)

Sh. Rajiv Sadotra H/o Lt. Smt. Shaveta

Grand Sons: Aniket, Ayush, Vedant, Sidhant

Ph.No: 9906036310, 9622253964



LT. SMT. CHANCHAL MENGI

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Gurbachan Singh** S/o Late S. Faqir Singh R/o 6-New Plot Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 18-12-2023.

Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 22-12-2023 Friday at 10.00 am at our residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 24-12-2023 at 10.00 am at our residence.

Kirtan and Antim Ardas shall be performed at Gurudwara Kalgidhar Sahib Rehari on 24-12-2023 Sunday from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm followed by Guru Ka Langer.

Grief Stricken

Sardarni Iqbal Kour- Wife

Sartaj Singh & Pardeep Kour- **Son & Daughter-in-Law**

Kamaldeep Kour and Gurbinder Singh- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**

Neetu Singh & Sukhdeep Singh- **Daughter & Son-in-Law**

Nanak Singh and Manjeet Kour- **Brother & Bhabhi**

Paramjit Kour & Gurdev Singh SE Retd. (Australia)- **Brother-in-Law**

MOB.: 9419769755, 8493818276



S. Gurbachan Singh

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Chuni Devi** W/o Lt. Sh. Thakur Dass of Nahama Handwara, Distt. Kupwara A/P: Block - 119, Flat - 15, Lane - 20, Jagti Colony, Nagrota.

The 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 26-12-2023 Tuesday at 8:30 A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Beena Pandita (Daughter -In- Law) 9796852297

Vishal Pandita (Grandson) 7051196598

(Grand Daughter and Grand Son-in-law)

Priyanka Bhat and Sahil Bhat 9149475967



Chuni Devi

OBITUARY & TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Tushar Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Kiran Raina & Smt. Sunita Raina R/o Patoli Mangotrian Jammu on 17-12-2023.

TENTH DAY will be held on 26-12-2023 at Muthi Ghat at 9 AM.

DEEPLY MISSED BY

Smt. Sunita Raina- **Mother**

Ms. Mehak Raina- **Sister**

SAMAST PARIVAR

RAINA'S & RAZDAN'S

MOB: 7780893485



MR. TUSHAR RAINA (MOHIT)
(2000-2023)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Satya Paul Khajuria** S/o Lt. Sh. Budha Ram Lakshmi Dass Khajuria R/o H.No. D-97, Lane No. 6, Upper Shiv Nagar Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on 24-12-2023 (Sunday) at 11 AM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Rajesh Khajuria & Renu Khajuria

Sanjeev Khajuria & Neena Khajuria

Rakesh Khajuria & Reecha Khajuria

Anubhav Khajuria & Nupur Khajuria - **Grand Son & Daughter-in-law**

Grand Children : Parth, Abhiraaj, Anubhuti, Akanksha, Shriya, Akshita

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Sh. Satya Paul Khajuria

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you that our beloved mother **Smt. Susheela Pandit (Saba Ji)** wife of Sh. Soom Nath Pandit originally resident of Rahmoo Pulwama Kashmir at present Kathyala, New Jail Road Udhampur breathed her last on Wednesday, 20/12/2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed **Smt. Susheela Pandit** at DEVIKA GHAT Shiv Nagar (Saba Ji)

Udhampur on Friday, 29/12/ 2023 at 9 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Soom Nath Pandit (Husband)

Smt. Nirmala & Sh. Srinath Suman (Daughter and Son in Law)

Smt. Pushpa & Sh. M K Pandita (Daughter and Son in Law)

Sh. Siddharth & Smt. Rohini Pandit (Son & Daughter in Law)

MOB: 9419606551/ 9419166580/9419703731



Smt. Susheela Pandit (Saba Ji)

OBITUARY

We all deeply mourn the loss of our beloved father **Mr. Rattan Lal Kaul** S/o Late Mr. Sat Lal Kaul, originally resident of Sekidaffar Safa Kadal, Srinagar, who left for heavenly abode on 20th December 2023.

CREMATION was performed on 21st December in Hyderabad.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 29-12-2023 (Friday) at Hyderabad.

IN DEEP GRIEF AND AGONY:

Rakesh Kaul & Nirija Kaul (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Kiran Tiku & King Tiku (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Sanjay Kaul & Nancy Kaul (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Grandchildren: Sourabh, Kavya & Priyanka

MOBILE NUMBER: 9618874251, 9985801842, 9963679343



Mr. Rattan Lal Kaul

OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY KRIYA

Our mother and Matriarch of the Raina/ Bhan extended family, **Smt. Chuni Devi Raina** W/o Late Sh. Padam Nath Raina breathed her last at Noida on 19th December 2023.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Murad Nagar Ganga Ghat, Upper Ganga Canal Rd, Muradnagar (UP) on 27th December 2023 at 9:00 AM.

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Virendra (Son)

Jharna Raina (Daughter-in Law)

Indira Kaul (Daughter)

Reeta (Daughter), Vinod Kaul (Son-in-Law)

Sangeeta (Daughter), Rajender Bhat (Son-in-Law)

Shashi (Son), Kavita Raina (Daughter-in-Law)

Brothers & Sisters

Krishna Bhan, Raj Dulari Trakru, Rajni Bhan, Nirja & Dr. S. N. Pandit

All her loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.

RSVP: Virendra Raina 9313694211, 9871165845

Shashi Raina: +14165220039



CHUNI DEVI RAINA
13.08.1933 - 19.12.2023

MASWAR & VAHARVAR

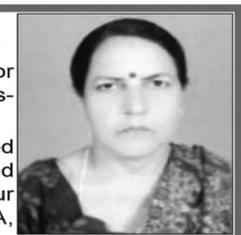
One year have passed, since you left for heavenly abode, but your love and blessings still surround us.

The Maswar & Vaharvar of our beloved **Late Smt Bimla Kaw** will be performed on 24th & 25th December 2023 at our residence House No. 3, Lane 5A, Aadarsh Nagar Bantalab Jammu.

Deeply Remembered By :

All Family Members

Contact: 7006469793, 9906386497, 7889951739



Late Smt Bimla Kaw

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

It has been one year since our beloved **Late Smt. Sangeeta Bhat** W/o Shri Daleep Kumar Bhat, left for her heavenly abode on 6th of December-2022 at Jammu. The void created by her unfortunate departure can never be filled. Living with her sweet and cherished memories and praying for eternal peace to the exalted soul.

MASVAR/VAHARVAR: 23rd Dec. (Saturday) & 24th Dec. (Sunday) 2023 at H.No. 140/10 Sec-5 Shankar Colony Gangyal Jammu Behind Police Station Gangyal Jammu

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Shri Daleep Kumar Bhat (Husband)
Mrs. Shashi Bhat (Daughter)
Mr. Satish Kumar (Brother)

Shri. Lt. H.N BHAT and Smt. Pushpa Devi (Brother and Bhabhi)

Shri S.S Bhat and Smt. Vijay Devi (Brother and Bhabhi)

All Nears & Dears

Contact No.'s: -9596904697, 7889861763



Late Smt. Sangeeta Bhat

BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Mohinder Chowdhary** W/o Lt. Hans Raj Chowdhary (ACD Retd) R/o H No. 214 Rouski Bakshi Nagar Jammu (Salamey Chak Waley) left us for her heavenly abode on 16th Dec. 2023.

JCMS remembers Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan on 134th birth anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: In an impressive and largely attended function, Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS) celebrated 134th birth anniversary of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan in the premises of Mahajan Bhawan, Shalamar Road, Jammu.

The function commenced with the chanting of Gayatri Mantra, with enthusiasm and offering floral tributes at the portrait of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan. Romesh Chander Gupta, president of the Sabha, while speaking on the occasion, showered praises on Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan for his splendid achievements and role in bringing reforms in the society.

He said that it was the untiring efforts and hard work which took this person of the community to the highest chair in Jammu and Kashmir and got the distinction of becoming first Prime Minister of this state in the year 1947. His active role in the accession of J&K State to India had



been widely appreciated.

The president of the sabha further said that Justice Sahib was appointed member of RIN Rehabilitation Boundary Commission. He was a social worker, a noted Judicial figure of his times. He is often credited as architect of J&K princely State's accession to India. Due to the foresightedness of Justice ji, Gurdaspur is a part India, it became possible for India to make road and rail link connecting Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India. He had exemplary contribution of motivating students to participate in co-curriculum activities.

He was 3rd Chief Justice of India in 1954. Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan was the only judge in Indian history who became a Prime Minister of J&K and occupied other prestigious positions and offices in India. His life will continue to inspire the generations to come, said Romesh Chander Gupta.

Shiv Partap Gupta, Zonal President J&K Zone, (ABMSS) spoke on the major social welfare steps of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan particularly for the upliftment of people of J&K belonging to the poor and the downtrodden families. Yash Paul Gupta, Chief Patron, Rattan Lal Gupta (Ex

MLC) Patron, Chander Mohan Gupta (Ex Mayor JMC) and Advisory Committee Member of ABMSS also highlighted the various achievements of Justice Sahib.

Arun Gupta, President of CCI, Jammu, said that Justice Mahajan had also a strong inclination towards education and educational institutions. The President of India knowing his ability designated him as nominee of Executive Council of the University of Delhi and in the absence of the Vice Chlarance.

Ravi Rohmetra and Subash Gupta also spoke on the life of Justice Mehr Chand Gupta said that his famous writings were "Preserv-

ing Unity of India", How to increase Food Production, and Kashmir's Accession of India". They exhibit his patriotic bent of mind. He was fervently nationalist.

The statues of Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan installed at High Court Chowk, Janipur, and in Lala Hans Raj Mahajan Park (Sunder Singh Gurdawara Road in Jammu) were also garlanded as a Mark of respect by the JCMS president and his team.

The function proceedings were conducted by Sanjay Mahajan, Gen. Secretary and attended by prominent persons of the Sabha-Shiv Partap Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Dr Mohan Lal Gupta (Cashier), Prabhu Shah, Subash Gupta, Surinder Gupta, Balbir Gupta, Atul Gupta, Ramesh Gupta, Dr Bimal Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Sunita Gupta, Arun Khanna, Subash Sharma, Yash Paul (Ex Corporators), Master Ashok Gupta, Adv. Chander Mohan Sharma, Yash Pal Yash, Rajesh Choudhary, Bhuvnesh Gupta, Satish Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Darshan Gupta (Marriage Bureau) team members of CCI and others.



JJ Traders organise Exhibition cum Sale and Launching of New Refrigerator of IFB in Jammu and Srinagar at Mansar Hotel, Jammu.

Pic by: Aman Sharma

Gau Gopal Mahayagya enters day 6 at Sohanjana



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: The long queue of people to have Darshan of the ongoing Gau Gopal Mahayagya at Sohanjana, the holy Samadhi of Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri Ji, is continuing on the 6th day.

Lakhs of gentlemen took the ultimate benefit of life by taking sacred food offerings along with Yagya parikrama, listening to satsang nectar with having Samadhi darshan.

Today, on the occasion of Geeta Jayanti, revered Shri Gangadhar, the great son of the great saint Dwarika Nath Shastri, explained to the listeners in depth and detail the importance, necessity and utility of Bhagavad Gita in human life.

On the other hand, in the Yagya Shala also, Acharya Dr. Rakesh Shastri recited the verses of Bhagwat Gita, the divine voice that appeared from the mouth of Lord Shri Krishna five thousand years ago, and hundreds of guests offered thousands of offerings in the fire pits.

To ensure that lakhs of devotees coming in the next three days do not face any trouble, Yagya

Sanjoyak Shri Gangadhar ji, while continuing the nectar of knowledge from the stage, requested to car drivers etc. to cooperate with the sevadars.

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Among those who enriched the nectar of knowledge and devotion in today's Bhagwat Satsang were the young saint Revered Gangadhar Ji along with Ramayani of Punjab, Janak Mahatma of Radhakund Brindavan, Kuldeep Shastri, Shri Yogacharya Vijay Parashar, Gautam Pandit, Bhajan singer Swami Bua-ditta, Swami Shri Narendra Das of Siddha Shri Hanuman Dham.

Advocate Abhinav Sharma, Principal of Jammu Advocates Association also shared the memory of Shastri Maharaj on Bhagwat Saptah at

Parade Ground Jammu 40 years ago.

In the daily activities today, former Minister Sham Choudhary along with Yagya Director Gangadhar hoisted the National Flag and paid emotional tribute to the brave soldiers of the army who were recently martyred in the Poonch sector and prayed collectively for their immortality done and hoped that in future there would be no such meaningless martyrdom of the army.

On this occasion, along with stage director Girdhari Lal Sharma, hardworking workers Vijay Sharma and Ganesh Sharma were also present.

Today, on the occasion of Geeta Jayanti, revered Gangadhar, the great son of the great saint Dwarika Nath Shastri explained to the audience the importance, necessity and utility of Bhagavad Gita in human life while discussing in depth and in detail. On the other hand, in the Yagya Shala also, Acharya Dr. Rakesh Shastri ji recited the verses of Bhagwat Gita, the divine voice that appeared from the mouth of Lord Shri Krishna five thousand years ago, and hundreds of guests offered thousands of offerings in the fire pits.

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Mahajan Sewa Sangh Charitable Trust pays tributes to Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Neeraj Gupta President Mahajan Sewa Sangh along with the members of MSS organized a programme at Court Road, Janipur to pay tribute to the First Prime Minister of J&K Mehr Chand Mahajan on his birth anniversary.

The people who were present on the occasion was senior and respectable members from various sections of society, women and children were also present on the occasion.

Gupta said that Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan was born on December 23rd, 1889, in Kangra, Punjab (now Himachal Pradesh).

He was the first prime minister of Jammu & Kashmir during 15 October 1947 - 5 March 1942 (142 days) the reign of Maharaja Hari Singh and played a key role in the accession of J&K to India.

He was also the third

Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India and also a social activist and writer who work for the welfare of people of India.

He played a key role in the Kashmir accession to India. He had written three famous books titled "Preserving Unity of India", "Increase Food Production", "Kashmir's Accession to India".

Gupta said that it is very unfortunate that we have no time to remember our heroes who had sacrificed and contributed their life for the welfare of the people and the country.

He said that Govt. should declare holiday on the birth anniversary of the first prime minister of J&K.

The people who were present on the occasion included R. K Gupta Gen Secretary MSS, Krishna Gupta, Advocate Monika Gupta President Women Wing MSS, Rakesh Gupta, etc.

Panun Kashmir asks GoI to recast its views about internal security in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Paying our heartfelt condolences to the braveheart security Army personnel martyred during a terrorist attack in Rajouri Poonch area on December 21, Panun Kashmir Chairman Dr. Ajay Chrungoo has asked GoI to recast its views about internal security in Jammu and Kashmir so that it is based on the factual situation on the ground as well as underground arenas.

The gruesome terrorist attack happened almost on the same day when the UT government declared that J&K was poised as the major tourist destination in the country. The suicidal naivety of winning the war against terrorism entrenched deep and wide in the social arena by tourist campaigns has been once again on display, Dr. Ajay Chrungoo said adding that this latest Rajouri Poonch attack has also shown that it was a successful terrorist ambush or entrapment operation.

The message underlying the mutilation of the martyred soldiers has to be understood. If the number of terrorists was smaller than the casualties suffered by the security personnel speaks volumes about both the intensity as well as militarisation of the terrorist operation.

He also added that Chamber firmly believes that people of Jammu and Kashmir shall not get trapped in their nefarious designs and will firmly uphold the credentials of secularism.

Arun Gupta demanded that the terrorists work their over ground work-



Who will understand the underlying message in a political atmosphere of self patting which we see almost daily?

The sophisticated and highly militarised operations in Jammu and Kashmir have happened at a time when pan Islamic militarised activity is rearing its head globally.

"We are baffled why our best security personnel suddenly appear not properly equipped mentally as well as physically to meet the new challenges. Is it because the political authorities at the highest level are unrealistically over eager to declare victory over terrorism? Has Normalcy Delusion become a pathological political obsession? Dr. Ajay Chrungoo said.

To pretend normalcy requires not maintaining highest security alerts and preparedness require abandoning the Normalcy posture.

The assurances of the Union Home Minister recently that no argu-

ments to save terrorism will be entertained will have meaning and impact only if GoI accepts publicly that the Terrorism unleashed is driven by an ideology which the practitioners of terrorism openly declare to be emanating from their understanding of religion. So far GoI has responded to terrorism delinking it from its aetiology. Doesn't such an approach essentially save terrorism?

GoI also doesn't recognise that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is Genocidal in its content and totalitarian in its approach and is just one arm of the bigger War Form described by its practitioners as Jihad.

We want GoI to apprise us how it perceives the threat to the lives of Hindus living in Kashmir and vulnerable areas of Jammu as well as the tourists in the light of the terrorist assaults in Jammu and Kashmir? Does GoI factor in the grim reality that if Terrorists can attack military targets they can attack civilian soft targets with much more ease.

ers as well as supports be eliminated.

He also requested the International Community to raise their voice against the terrorism of all kinds and urged World Community to sensor Pakistan who openly supports and promotes terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The other office bearers present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

CCI condemns terrorist attack on Army Vehicle

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: In a meeting of office bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) held today at Chamber House Arun Gupta, President CCI strongly condemned the terrorist attack on an Army Vehicle at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buzfiyaz under hucidation of Surankot Police Station in Poonch District in which five Army soldiers were martyred and two others were injured.

The meeting saluted



the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives while defending the motherland and also prayed for the speedy recovery of injured and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families.

A two minutes silence was observed to pay

homage to the departed Souls.

Arun Gupta said that fundamentalists of all hues are worried with the peace, tranquility and brotherhood between different communities and want to destabilize the brotherhood.

He also added that Chamber firmly believes that people of Jammu and Kashmir shall not get trapped in their nefarious designs and will firmly uphold the credentials of secularism.

Arun Gupta demanded that the terrorists work their over ground work-

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC JAMMU
Notice INVITING TENDER

e- NIT MD/J/RTIC/57 of 2023-24 Dated 21-12-2023

For and on behalf of the "Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir", The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu, invites online bids by e tendering mode from eligible bidders/ tenderers /firms dealing with electromechanical /electrical works.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money	Validity of Rates
Replacement of worn-out components of 914 mm dia. Reflux valve and Sluice valve installed at Rising Main No. 02 at Tawi pump House RTIC Jammu	Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	500.00 (Rs. 250/- for PMT DIC/SSI Registered Firms) (Non-Refundable) In the shape of treasury Challan only in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu payable at Jammu	Rs.9000/= (Rs 4500 for DIC/SSI Registered Firms) In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

Position of Funds Available

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 22-12-2023 (10:00 A.M) and uploaded upto 11-01-2024 (1:00 P.M). The tender shall be opened on 12-01-2024 (1:00 P.M).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and bid security/ earnest money as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table. The cost of tender documents should be in the form of Treasury Challan only in favour of **Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu**.
- Furnishing of Hard copies of documents pertaining to e bids immediately after submission of e tenders have been dispensed with as per Govt Order No. O.M. no. A/24(2017-651) dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of Financial Bids.
- The hard copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money including other relevant documents must be delivered by L-1 to the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division RTIC Jammu within 03 days of opening of tender.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of **Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu on 12-01-2024 at 1:00 P.M**
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, RTIC, Jammu** during office hours on a convenient day.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: MD/J/RTIC/1586-89
Dated 21-12-2023 **DIP/J-12955/23**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
RTIC, Jammu

EDITORIAL

ANNUAL
FINANCIAL
STATEMENT

The expenditure of the works done by the Central Government and the State Government is estimated through the budget. Information about what work will be done in the coming financial year is passed across the country in the form of budget every year on 1st February.

The country's budget is passed every year on 1 February across the country. In which what work was done last year is also assessed and what work will be done in the coming year? And what will be the cost of the development work that will be done? This is also determined.

Passing the report of the proposed expenditure to be incurred by the government in the coming financial year is called budget. The first budget of India was passed on 26 November 1947.

After India got independence, the first budget of India was presented by RK Shanmugham Chetty on 26 November 1947. Earlier, Wilson had presented the first budget of India in 1860 by the British government. The word budget was derived from the English word baget which means a bag made of leather or bad.

According to Article 122 of the Indian Constitution, the annual financial statement is presented by the President to both the Houses of Parliament during the financial year. Under which the government gives information about the income and achievements of the last year and what will be spent in the coming year.

According to the Constitution, the budget is written to estimate the expenses of the Government of India for the coming year and also how to recoup those expenses.

When the budget is prepared by the government, it is prepared in different stages. The process of budget preparation is started 5 to 6 months in advance by the Finance Ministry and Administrative Ministry. Local authorities are entrusted with the task of estimating the actual figures for the previous year by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Administration. After that the revised estimate for the current year is prepared.

After this assessment is done by the officers, the entire department presents the report of that work to the administrative ministry. Which the Administrative Ministry investigates as per its general policy and presents it to the Finance Ministry.

After scrutiny by the Finance Ministry, the expenditure report for the new financial year is prepared. Many types of plans and expenses for new work are planned for the new financial year.

The budget chart is prepared by the Finance Ministry. It is considered the final decision of the cabinet. Apart from this, the budget is prepared by the Finance Ministry. In that budget, the help of Duty Department and Excise Department as well as Income Tax Department is also taken.

After the budget is completely prepared, that budget is presented before the Cabinet and after getting approval from the Cabinet, the budget is presented before the Parliament. After getting complete approval, the budget for the coming financial year is passed every year on 1st February.

The expenditure that will be incurred by the government in the coming financial year after presenting the budget. A report chart is prepared and presented to the public. The main objective of the government is to increase the rate of economic growth through the budget and this is considered to be a primary advantage of the budget.

Will MPs' suspensions jolt INDIA into anti-BJP unity?

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The make-or-break moment unexpectedly presented itself to the INDIA collective days before the scheduled meeting of 28 political parties earlier this week, on December 19. The smoke bombs released by two intruders were a dramatic breach of security in the Lok Sabha; what followed was equally theatrical.

Altogether 146 Members of Parliament from the INDIA Opposition were punished with suspension for demanding a statement and protesting about the absence of home minister Amit Shah in a peeved and petulant reaction by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party majority.

Effectively emptying Parliament of all critics had the unintended consequence of transforming the hypothetical imperative of an Opposition alliance into a categorical imperative for the Congress and the regional and smaller parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 general election.

The message of the suspensions was spelt out by the BJP, the empty seats would be filled with its cadres in 2024, fulfilling the vision of its leader of "One Nation, One Party". The compulsion to work together for all Opposition parties has become urgent so that the loosely strung collective transforms into a battle-ready combat force.

The chronically fractious parties in the Opposition are victims of an even worse problem -- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The solidarity evident in the protests, including the march to New Delhi's Vijay Chowk led by Mallikarjun Kharge, can vaporise once the allies head back to their home turfs, wrecking the strategy of building a firm coalition to fight collectively against the BJP in 2024. Should the allies squander the

new-found synergy created by the punitive suspensions by relapsing into old habits of hostility and mistrust, it would be suicidal.

INDIA as an alliance has two problems. The Congress and its internal factional frictions; and the regional parties that have multiple audiences and what is said in formal exchanges in New Delhi undergoes a metamorphosis on home turf. The Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and the Janata Dal (United)'s Nitish Kumar sound gung-ho about the INDIA collective fighting together in New Delhi. They sound different when they get back to their bases. Proxies and provocateurs from within the regional parties with grudges and axes get to work, sowing dissension and igniting discord.

The Congress factions and frictions cost the party in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The failure to reach seat-sharing arrangements with INDIA partners in these three states helped the BJP to suck up the votes the regional and smaller parties haemorrhaged. By replacing Kamal Nath with Jitu Patwari, Mr Kharge has acted fast, but too late to save the situation.

By proposing Mr Kharge's name as a potential Prime Minister and the natural choice as convenor of the INDIA collective, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee made a pre-emptive strike to contain the slacking off inevitable after the first shock pulled the Opposition parties together. The Congress is a past master at procrastination. It is also filled with false pride, giving itself an inflated sense of self-importance.

It will be Mr Kharge's task, if the Congress confirms his name as the convenor and lead face of the INDIA collective fight, to ensure that his party engages with its

former competitors in a spirit of cooperation to achieve the objective of fighting hard to defeat or diminish the BJP's brute majority. If he and the Congress fail, the role of the Opposition in Parliament and politics would dwindle to a token presence that checks all the boxes prescribed for a functioning democracy.

The logic of Mamata Banerjee's intervention, which followed her consultations with Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena and Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party and probably others off camera, is easily understood. Parties of the INDIA collective have been pushed together by the BJP's offensive in Parliament and the time was right to end the interminable consultations and get down to brass tacks, like seat sharing and a nationwide campaign to launch INDIA as the alternative.

The push to name Mr Kharge worked. It delivered a message to the BJP, diverted the political discourse away from the dangerous narrative of there is no alternative to Narendra Modi. Having named Mr Kharge as the challenger, the message also said he cannot be dismissed as a privileged scion of a political dynasty. How the man of the masses, by caste a Dalit and by faith a Congressman, performs or is allowed to perform by his own party remains to be seen.

If the INDIA collective aspires to win, it is essential that the states outside the BJP fold deliver in 2024, which means the Congress has to work the hardest because it will contest the maximum number of seats. There are inherent difficulties of resolving seat spats. Mr Kharge has listed Punjab and Delhi as problem states; he has also named Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as less contentious locations. Like Barkis in David Copperfield, Mamata Banerjee says she is willing to

join forces with the Congress and her avowed enemy, the CPI(M)-led Left Front.

Mr Kharge, groomed in the Congress culture of consensus building, is a natural for the job of convenor of the INDIA collective and the Congress needs to make sure it happens. It is Mr Kharge's advantage that he embodies the North-South difference; below the Vindhyas is BJP-mukt Bharat; the Gangetic Plain and the Doaba are mostly saffron with patches in other colours, in Bihar, in Punjab and in Delhi.

By naming a National Alliance Committee and holding a Congress Working Committee meeting in sync with the INDIA collective discussions, the Congress seems more business-like about getting started for the 2024 test. A Bharat Jodo Yatra 2.0 would be an expensive distraction for the cash-strapped party.

The focus in the limited time left before the general election is called is to present INDIA as the alternative and capture the popular imagination by appearing trustworthy. The effort could be useful in mobilising voter support essential to make the seat sharing idea electorally successful.

Coalitions of competing parties with sharp ideological differences and histories of hostility have been successful, the best example being the 34-year-Left Front in West Bengal led by Jyoti Basu and his successor Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. The Left Front survives even after its devastating defeat by Mamata Banerjee. The National Democratic Alliance has endured. On-off alliances have been less successful.

Forging an alliance is difficult. Mr Kharge is among the country's seniormost politicians. The question is: can he work like a leader of a complicated coalition that keeps pulling in different directions?

How effective is Cryogenics?



By: Vijay Garg

This news of about two years ago has once again come into discussion these days because in the US state of Arizona. The Scottsdale-based Alcor firm has begun to position itself as a leading company in the field of cryonics. It is being claimed that frozen dead bodies can be brought back to life. The number of people in America is increasing who are freez-

ing the bodies of their loved ones after their death through this technology. The company was first activated in 2021, but between This matter slowed down. The company has charged a fee of more than 2 lakh dollars for freezing the entire body. Cryogenic technology can be referred to as 'hybrid', with temperatures ranging from minus 0 degrees to minus 150 degrees Celsius. Immediately after death, the body is cooled with the help of external ice packs and transported to the preservation centre. The dead body is cooled and frozen as soon as possible after death, so that its cells, especially the brain cells, do not break down and get destroyed due to lack of oxygen. Initiative for this- The body is cooled with ice. After reaching the conservation center, blood is taken out from the body and to prevent freezing of body parts, anti-

freezing fluid is poured into the arteries and small holes are made in the skull. After this, blood is removed from the body and chemicals are added in its place, which are called 'cryo-protectant' liquid. Ice does not form in its organs. This is important because if ice freezes it will take up more space and the cell wall will break. After this, the body is put in a sleeping bag and the fluid is kept in nitrogen at a temperature of minus 196 degrees Celsius. In 2021, the company had frozen the bodies of 184 patients. Now it is being claimed that different companies in America have frozen the dead bodies of more than 900 people. And 3000 persons have made reservations to freeze their bodies. But is it possible? Actually, cryogenic technology is the product of science fiction, in which the body is preserved in the hope of res-

urrection. Current science is not yet developed enough to understand these glacial processes. Can revive the bodies. In 1964, scientist and writer Robert Ettinger introduced the cryogenics concept to the world. Research continued continuously. Supporters of this technique say that there are some organisms which revive on their own after freezing. These creatures include ground squirrels of the Arctic region, some species of turtles and tardigrades. Scientists supporting Robert Attinagar' concept say there is hope. Patients freeze their bodies in the hope that future medical science By reversing their death, it will give them another chance to live.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

FICCI FLO JKL Chapter provides nearly 4000 sanitary napkins

Ritika reaches out to women with free sanitary pad distribution drive



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: FICCI FLO JKL Chapter in a significant initiative focused on menstrual hygiene awareness on Saturday handed over nearly 4000 sanitary napkins to Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan in an impressive function organized here for the distribution of the same among marginalized and weaker women.

Ritika expressed gratitude to Varuna Anand, Chairperson of FICCI FLO JKL, along with the core team members, Ruchika Gupta, Aarti Chowdhary, Pooja Gandotra Chandni Kapoor, Monika Saraf, Sona Mehta & all the FICCI members for this noble initiative.

She also lauded the optimistic efforts of FICCI FLO JKL to stimulate the awareness campaign among the general public in slums areas.

Earlier Team FICCI FLO appreciated Ritika for undertaking various kinds of social works and making consistent efforts to reach out marginalized and vulnerable sections of society both financially and socially also.

Ritika said at a time when there is a debate going on about freebies offered by political parties to lure voters, the campaign is more to bring a behavioural change in women and to inculcate in them the habit of adopting hygienic practices.

She said, after the Ujjwala scheme, which provided free LPG connections to women across the country and became one of the potent reasons for the popularity of BJP, free distribution of sanitary pads could be another such move.

She said menstruation was still taboo for many women, who forget about going to the market to buy sanitary pads.

"A teenage daughter in a family

may be willing to use sanitary pads, but whom should she talk to," that's where the BJP campaign would help them," Ritika added.

Ritika stressed there are many girls, who enter the age of adolescence and yet are not aware of menstruation. Out of fear, they even do not tell about this to their families.

"When we will distribute napkins, the girls will use them.. It will become a source of education on menstrual health too," and this is part of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's Swachha Bharat (Clean India) campaign" she said.

She briefed about various myths and taboos about Menstruation cycle and she made aware them about scientific and hygiene among them.

She said that with menstrual hygiene, a woman can have a healthy life. Menstrual hygiene must never be underestimated

or ignored. Menstrual hygiene is a must for every girl and woman.

Ritika further said that menstruation is nothing but a very normal biological phenomenon, and adolescent girls and women should understand that they have the power of procreation only because of this virtue.

She said BJP believes that woman's health and welfare is of prime importance and conducts menstrual hygiene camps with an aim to create awareness on adopting hygienic practices amongst women.

She said in India even mere mention of the menstruation topic has been a taboo in the past and even to this date the cultural and social influences appear to be a hurdle for advancement of knowledge on the subject. Culturally in many parts of India, menstruation is still considered to be dirty and impure.

Army should be given free hand to eliminate terrorists, their facilitators: Goyal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Social activist Rajkumar Goyal expressed anger over the attack on two army vehicles by terrorists in Surankote area of Poonch district. He said that Taking a lesson from the attacks on security forces and common people, the government needs to take serious steps. He said that this year terrorists have targeted military convoys and killed many innocent people. The aim of these



attacks is to disturb communal harmony and derail law and order. Security forces should conduct major search operations in these areas and bring the terrorists to their end. It should also be investigated from where the terrorists are infiltrating

in both the districts and from where they got the weapons made in America.

Apart from this, action should be taken against the over ground workers of terrorists and the people who provide them shelter. Many brave army soldiers have lost their lives in the recent terrorist attacks in these two districts. Now enough is enough, the army should be given free hand and the terrorists and their helpers should be brought to their end.

GDC Akhnoor celebrates Gita Jayanti



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 23: GDC Akhnoor on Saturday celebrated Gita Jayanti under the theme "Gita Samaroh" under the aegis of Viksit Bharat @2047 highlighting the importance of our rich culture and heritage inculcating the ethical values among the youth under the patronage of Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat and supervision of Prof. Sandhya Rani, HOD Dept. of Sanskrit and Dr. Deepali Mahajan, Coordinator Viksit

Bharat.

Cultural awareness helps us break down cultural barriers, build cultural bridges, and learn how to appreciate those different from us. The programme started with the lighting of lamp followed by the Saraswati Vandana.

Prof. Pooja Devi Department of Botany welcomed all the faculty members and students present on the occasion.

She threw light on origin and significance of Bhagwat Gita in modern times and high-

lighted the importance of Bhagavad Gita in the life of people. She described how Bhagavad Gita has become inspirational book for the entire world and addressed the students on this eve.

The program was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Pushvinder Sharma Dept. of Sanskrit.

Prof. Deep, Prof. Sourav, Dr. Sunil, Prof. Amit, Prof. Slony, Prof. Nidhi Jarngal, Prof. Sandeep, Prof. Rahul, Prof. Pankaj, Ankush graced the occasion.

GDC R S Pura organizes sports event under Viksit Bharat @2047

Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 23: As part of the series of events being organised under "Viksit Bharat@2047 Abhiyan" a Sports Event under Viksit Bharat 2047 was organised by Dept. of Dogri, NCC and Physical Education and Sports department of GDC R. S. Pura.

The initiative aimed at fostering students engagement and promoting the spirit of sportsmanship among youth.

The event witnessed an array of dynamic sports activities that engaged and enthralled participants and spectators alike.

Pushups and Ouching, being perennial favorites, showcased the athletic prowess and teamwork of the participants.



These sporting events served as platforms for fostering camaraderie, instilling values of sportsmanship, and encouraging a healthy lifestyle among the students of the college.

Additionally, the initiative aimed at identifying and nurturing local talent, paving the way for potential future athletes.

The Department of Physical Education and Sports extends its grati-

tude to all participants, and staff members for their enthusiastic involvement and support in making this event a grand success.

Such initiatives will continue to be an integral part of our commitment to promoting sports at the grassroots level.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, esteemed Principal of the Col-

lege. While speaking on the event, she said that taking part in sports activities is important for the youth as it reduces stress, enhances their mood and keeps them away from anti-social activities.

She further stated that sports build healthy bones and muscles, increase fitness, improves sleep, and helps them socialize. It also improves their cooperation skills,

boosts self-confidence.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat and coordinated by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, ANO NCC Boys wing, Dr. Shaveta Choudhary ANO, NCC Girls wing and Kajal Premi, PTI of the college.

The special presence of Prof. B B Anand, Principal GDC Sidhra added additional stars to the event.

VBSY Van visits GDC Kishtwar, spreads awareness on Government Schemes



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 23: The Govt Degree College Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, hosted an interactive program to raise awareness about various flagship schemes launched by the honorable Prime Minister of India. The event featured the maiden visit of the Viksit

Bharat IEC Van, which captured the attention of over 400 students and staff members.

The program commenced with a warm welcome extended by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of GDC Kishtwar, who emphasized the significance of student participation in nation-building and encouraged them to share their ideas on the Idea Viksit

Bharat Mission@2047 portal.

Prof. Prithvi Raj, convener of ViksitBharat@2047cell, delivered a motivating speech, urging students to contribute their best towards the success of the Viksit Bharat mission. The event also featured informative videos displayed on the LED screen of the Viksit Bharat Van, showcasing

government policies aimed at transforming Bharat into a developed nation. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sehrish Gazal, who expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Information and CBC for sending the ViksitBharat Sankalp Yatra Van to GDC Kishtwar. The program concluded with a collective pledge by all attendees to make

Bharat a developed country by 2047.

As part of the event, IEC materials were distributed among the students, which will play a crucial role in raising awareness about government schemes. Additionally, health camps addressed the community's health needs by conducting screenings for diseases such as TB, Sickle Cell, and various non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the students.

Prominent attendees at the event included Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Prof. Falak, Prof. Swami Raj, Prof. Prithvi Raj, Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Prof. Vikram, Prof. Vijay Kumar, and many others.

NC ready for upcoming elections: Ajeet

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 23: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Sr. Leader Ajeet Bhagat has urged the party workers to get ready for the upcoming elections, especially with full coordination and chart-out with the party's foot soldiers. He urged to work together. Ward-wise election campaign should be prepared under a carefully planned result-oriented strategy.

The senior leader of the National Conference said that the victory of the J&K National Conference is the only solution to solve all the problems faced by the common people.

Bhagat lamented that in the absence of a popular government elected by holding timely assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir,

the sufferings of the people are increasing with each passing day. Lt Governor's administration is completely unable to control rising prices of essential commodities, unemployment problems of daily wage earners, scams in recruitment agencies etc.

The senior leader of the National Conference termed the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference as a people's movement which has fully stood for the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and strives for the development and progress of the state with a sense of determination.

Reflecting on the current problems of Jammu and Kashmir, Bhagat expressed disappointment with the Lt Governor's administration's lofty claims of development. He urged the youth of Chenab Valley

Zone to support the National Conference for Equitable Development of Chenab Valley Zone in ensuring elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He also asked the party workers to get ready for the upcoming elections and ensure the victory of the party in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhagat requested the party workers to hold meetings in all the wards and plan election campaign in all the wards of Chenab Valley zone.

He asked the party workers to be present among the people to solve their problems. Expressing full faith in the work of the party soldiers, he urged the party workers to leave no stone unturned to ensure unprecedented victory in the upcoming Parliament, Assembly, ULB and Panchayat elections.

Workshop on Computer Skills concluded at GDC Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Dec 23: 3-days workshop on Computer Skills which was organised by Employment Information cum Advisory Bureau (EIAB), Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL), University of Jammu at Govt. Degree College, Ramban concluded here today.

The workshop was organised under the guidance of Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, DLL and was coordinated by Dr.

Rewa Khajuria, Counsellor, EIAB, DLL.

Surjeet Kumar was the resource person of the workshop.

The themes which were covered during these 3 days were introduction to MS word, creating, editing and formatting a document, powerpoint presentation, introduction to network and internet, introduction to MS Excel, worksheet creation, formulas, graphs and charts etc.

The valedictory func-

tion was attended by Prof. Archana Kaul, Principal of the college along with senior faculty members. In her address, Dr. Archana Kaul highlighted the importance of learning computer skills in this digital era. She also expressed her gratitude towards the organisers for teaching these important skills to the students.

About 30 students while giving feedback really appreciated the workshop.

Shruti Chaudhary, who essays the lead role in Mera Balam Thanedaar, says the show highlights the issue of underage marriage in Rajasthan

Shruti Chaudhary and Shagun Pandey are all set to captivate audiences with their new fictional show Mera Balam Thanedaar, a love story to release on Colors. The series, set against the backdrop of underage marriage in Rajasthan, explores the journey of two individuals with contrasting personalities who defy all odds.

Shruti Chaudhary, the lead actress of the show, shares her excitement about playing the character of Bulbul. Describing Bulbul as 'vivacious', Shruti reveals a unique aspect of her character, "She is 16 but is made to believe that she is 18 because her parents hide her true age from her." Delving into Bulbul's mindset, Shruti shares, "Another characteristic about Bulbul is that she justifies white lies if they contribute to someone's well-being." The storyline takes a turn when Bulbul gets married to Veer, played by Shagun, who staunchly opposes underage marriages. Bulbul's age becomes a central conflict and the show is about how they navigate their differences.

Total passion

Reflecting on her commitment to the role, Shruti says, "It's been one month of shooting the show and I have been eating,



drinking, sleeping, and thinking like Bulbul. I live the character even off the set."

Shruti's journey in the enter-

tainment industry began at 12 and within three years, she has transitioned from secondary roles to a lead character. She

credits the director's conviction in her for the newfound responsibility, stating, "Initially, I was in disbelief. I couldn't believe I will be able to play the lead."

Despite the initial challenges, Shruti says she is passionate for acting. Talking about her early days, she says, "I had no clue about the process. What's a character, which camera to look at, how there is someone for makeup, someone else for hair, there is a spot boy for little things like getting a glass of water...it was all so new for me. And it took me a while to become a part of it."

Balancing act

Balancing studies and acting, Shruti acknowledges the support she receives, saying, "Everyone is very helpful, plus my mother is always by my side. So, even if I shoot for 12 hours every day, I make sure to give an hour to my studies, and my mother helps me clear all the doubts."

As Shruti wraps up the conversation, she shares her inspirations, saying, "Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt are my inspiration," while revealing her dream role, "Deepika's Mastani from Bajirao Mastani and Alia's Gangubai."

Tanuja Chandra says 'Wedding.con' is a tale of women who fell victim to matrimonial fraud



Director Tanuja Chandra is coming up with a true-crime docuseries 'Wedding.con'. The director has shared that the series is a tale of women who were victims of matrimonial fraud.

The series follows the stories of 5 women as they embark on the journey to fulfil their dream of a happy marriage. However, their search

for the perfect life partner takes a dark turn as they fall victim to financial and emotional exploitation by con men. The imposters, assuming fake identities and posing as suitable grooms on online platforms, betray the women.

Talking about the series, the director said: "In India and other South Asian cultures,

it's widely believed that marriage is the most significant milestone in a woman's life, and the pressure to 'settle down' keeps mounting as she grows older.

In fact, by the time she's 35, she's told the ship has long sailed. 'Wedding.con' is the tale of five women who were victims of matrimonial fraud, but are now survivors and have shown tremendous courage in recounting their experience, to expose these scams."

She further mentioned: "When BBC Studios brought this project to me, it was an eye-opener and I am grateful to these incredible women and Prime Video for passionately supporting my vision to bring this docuseries to life. It makes me very hopeful that this series reaching out to a wide audience across the world, will help in saving women from being duped in the future."

A BBC Studios India Production, the series will drop on Prime Video on December 29.

Naqiyah Haji: Being my debut, bagging the lead role fills me with immense joy

Star Bharat has released a new show titled Shaitani Rasmain, which promises a unique blend of mystery, romance, thrill and emotion.

What adds to the allure is the stellar cast, with the exceptionally talented Naqiyah Haji making her debut.

Naqiyah Haji says, "Being my debut, bagging the lead role fills me with immense joy. I'm very thankful to the makers of the show who provided valuable guidance on Nicki's character and cast me, acknowledging my potential and giving me this wonderful opportunity."

She adds, "My character in the show, Nicki, despite her innocence and simplicity, displays remarkable courage. I hope the character strikes a chord with the audience."



Prabhas trying to turn things around with Salaar after the debacle of Adipurush and Shah Rukh Khan looking forward to score a hat-trick with Dunki, after Pathaan and Jawan

After Akshay Kumar's OMG 2 and Sunny Deol's Gadar 2 clashed during Independence Day weekend, now it's the Badshah of Bollywood versus Baahubali of the South! In other words, Shah Rukh Khan's Dunki and Prabhas' Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire, both mega-budget films, are releasing in the same week. While we find out which movie is likely to draw more audience, it's no doubt a win-win situation for the film industry!

Game on

Prabhas must be looking forward to turn things around with Salaar after his last film, Adipurush, tanked at the box-office. On the other hand, 2023 has been SRK's year with two of his films, Jawan (Rs 1148.32 crore in gross worldwide collection) and Pathaan (Rs 1050.3 crore), already at number one and two positions in the list of highest grossing films of 2023.

SRK has collaborated with Raj Kumar Hirani — who has a record of directing only hit films till date, including Sanju, PK, 3 Idiots, Munna Bhai MBBS and Lage Raho Munna Bhai — for the first time. Salaar's director Prashanth Neel is also known



for quality work. He has directed three Kannada films till date, Ugramm, KGF: Chapter 1 and KGF: Chapter 2; all of them minted money at the box-office. For the record, KGF: Chapter 2, released in 2022, is still ahead of Jawan and Pathaan in box-office numbers with worldwide collection of Rs 1200-1250 crore.

With no big films preceding the release of Dunki and Salaar until Republic Day 2024 release Fighter, starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, it would be interesting to see which film sustains longer in theatres. If SRK fans can't be ignored, the craze for Prabhas is no less. Moreover, with Salaar being a two-part film, like Baahubali and KGF, its chances look bright. Not to forget, a Telugu and Kannada

film this time, Salaar is available in three other languages — Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi — expanding the target audience. And for good luck charm, Oscar-winning director SS Rajamouli bought the first ticket of Salaar! Preparation in advance

Makers of Dunki, who refrained from sharing the release date in the teaser or promotional events, is releasing today, a day prior, while Salaar will hit the screens on December 22. It would give Dunki a headstart over Salaar in capitalising on the long Christmas weekend, especially overseas. Salaar team has also adopted an aggressive approach by releasing it across 1,979 locations in North America!

According to reports, on Tuesday, Dunki was ahead of

Salaar in advance bookings with approximately Rs 1 crore difference in money collected against the number of tickets sold. But on Wednesday, Salaar made around Rs 13 crore in advance bookings whereas Dunki only sold tickets worth Rs 10 crore in India.

Excited and how!

Prithviraj Sukumaran, who plays the parallel lead alongside Prabhas, said, "It's holiday season and we are all film-lovers, we're getting to see a Rajkumar Hirani-SRK's film and a Prashanth Neel-Prabhas film; we all should be celebrating. I am so excited, I am going to watch both films on the first day. What a fantastic sign-off for a grand 2023 it would be if both the films go on to become blockbusters. I am looking forward to it."

Helmed by KGF 2 director Prashanth Neel, Salaar Part 1-Ceasefire also stars Prabhas, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, Tinnu Anand and Jagapathi Babu. Whereas, Hirani's Dunki stars Taapsee Pannu, Boman Irani, Vikram Kochhar and Anil Grover, alongside SRK. It also offers a cameo appearance by Vicky Kaushal.

Big-budget script, TV serial treatment

"Two friends in a fictional war-torn city and some unforeseeable circumstances draw a divide between them" — that's probably one of the most worked upon loglines ever for any film. But trust Prashanth Neel, who delivered 'KGF Chapter 2', the second-highest grossing film of 2022, to work around this theme. 'Salaar', however, is a letdown by the director on many fronts. Only the lead actors, Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, do the heavy lifting.

Just like in 'KGF', here too one finds unabashed violence, hooliganism, high-octane action sequences, and some suspense. The screenplay and dubbed dialogues are weak and do not touch an emotional chord. The non-linear pattern of storytelling has not been used to its advantage. For a two-hour, 51-minute movie, to have a weak first half spells 'failure'. If it were not for the review, or die-hard fans of Prabhas, I wonder if one would even stay for the climax.

While the first half leaves you clueless and you feel as if you've missed 'Part Zero' or a preview



to the main film, the second half answers the whys. For a two-part 'Salaar' (Salaar: Part 2 — Shouryanga Parvam, releasing soon as unveiled in the climax) Neel might have tried to build a strong foundation but it seems all the budget went into bringing big names — actors, cinematographer (Bhuvan Gowda) and action directors Anbumani and Arivumani. Had he given more thought to the screenplay, dialogues and background score, it would have turned out to be a better product. Even the cliffhanger isn't 20 per cent of

"Kattapa ne Baahubali ko kyun maara?" This time, Neel gave a TV serial treatment to a big-budget script.

The camaraderie or bromance between Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran is the saving grace. Prabhas as Deva/Salaar delivers more with his action. Prabhas pulls off violence with innocence as every time he unleashes havoc on the enemy, he endearingly says, 'Sorry Yaar'. Sukumaran as Vardha is also a likeable character and holds promising potential for an upcoming Part 2. As you

are time and again taken back to 'KGF', the director seems to be in a hurry to create his own crime universe with Yash, the lead actor of 'KGF', and Prabhas at the centre stage. The reference to mining, oppression of the labour class and the game of power are Neel's favourite themes. But most importantly, the so-called democratic system, with leaders, police and the military all acting like cowards or fans of these violent heroes, is still incomprehensible.

Just one advice, while creating a dystopian place with an autocratic rule, why not keep geography out of it and keep the names fictional, and not confuse the audience.

An applause for Neel for taking 'KGF' feedback seriously and bringing in more women characters. Except for the lead heroine, Shruti Haasan, every other female character is well etched. Neel has left too much work for the second part.

Watch at your own risk because it's something that can't be fixed with a 'Sorry Yaar' from Prabhas.

Sayli Salunkhe is all set to sizzle on stage



Sayli Salunkhe, who plays the role of Vandana in the Star Plus show Baatein Kuch Ankahee Si, is set to groove on the stage of the 23rd Indian Television Academy Awards. She will be performing on the hit songs of Bollywood diva Rani Mukherjee, including Kudi Kavari, Piya Piya and Koi Mil Gaya.

Sayli says, "I am really looking forward to these awards, as this is my first year when I will be a part of it all."

To top it off, I am performing also, so am very excited about it. I quite love dancing and excited about my performance."

The Indian Television Academy Awards will air on Star Plus at 7.30 pm on December 31.

'Not in mood to turn other cheek': Jaishankar on countering cross-border terrorism

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said the nation does not want to turn the other cheek and stressed the need for a proactive response and imposing costs on those indulging in cross-border terrorism.

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said India was not in the mood to turn the other cheek when countering cross-border terrorism.

Jaishankar also said that terrorism in the country started as soon as our nation gained independence.

"Terrorism started at the moment of our independence when so-called raiders came from across Pakistan. From Day 1, we have faced terrorism and it is something about which we must have absolute clarity," the External Affairs Minister said, addressing the media.

"What has changed in this country today... I think Mumbai 26/11, to me, was the tipping point. A lot of people were very confused till they saw the true graphic impactful phase of terrorism of 26/11," he said.



"Now, what we need to do first is we need to counter. I know there are people who said, oh, we had a very smart strategy of turning the other cheek. I don't think that's just the mood of the nation. I don't think it makes sense. I don't think it makes

strategic sense. If somebody is practising cross-border terrorism, you must respond, you must extract, impose a cost out there," Jaishankar said.

"Terrorism must be outside what is allowed in legitimate competition. At the end of the day, there are rules of the game,

and if somebody clearly violates the rules of the game, it cannot be okay," he said.

The External Affairs Minister's remarks come nearly two days after an ambush by terrorists on Army vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district left four soldiers dead on Thursday.

The incident happened after three to four heavily-armed terrorists targeted a Maruti Gypsy and a truck of the Army.

Following the attack, the terrorists reportedly mutilated the bodies of at least two soldiers and took away the weapons of some of them.

Pakistan is trying to revive terrorism in the region by engineering these incidents, security expert Captain (retired) Anil Gaur was quoted by news agency as saying.

BJP MLA Ramdular Gond disqualified as UP legislator after he gets 25 years in jail in rape case



LUCKNOW, Dec 23 (Agencies): BJP MLA Ramdular Gond, who was recently sentenced to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a girl nine years ago, has been disqualified as a member of the Uttar Pradesh assembly, official sources said on Saturday.

According to the Representation of the People Act, a lawmaker sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for

another six years after serving time.

Ahsan Ullah Khan, additional district and sessions judge of the MP-MLA court in Sonbhadra, had also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Gond.

The sum would be given to the rape survivor, who is now married and the mother of an eight-year-old girl.

Special Public Prosecutor Satyaprakash Tripathi said the court held the MLA from Duddhi seat -- reserved for Scheduled Tribes -- guilty on December

12 and announced the quantum of punishment three days later.

The rape incident took place in 2014 and a case was registered against Gond under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the IPC as well as under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on the complaint of the rape survivor's brother.

Gond was not an MLA at that time while his wife was a gram pradhan, Tripathi said.

The trial in the case started under the POCSO Act, but was later transferred to the MP-MLA court when Gond was elected as a legislator. Uttar Pradesh has seen disqualification of several lawmakers after their conviction in various cases.

After 6 years without footwear, BJP functionary in MP wears shoes after his wish to see party at helm is fulfilled

BHOPAL, Dec 23 (Agencies): The BJP's Anuppur district unit chief in Madhya Pradesh, who had vowed in 2017 not to wear footwear till the party forms a government in the state, started wearing it again on Saturday, days after the saffron party registered a resounding victory in the assembly polls.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Anuppur district president Ramdas Puri started wearing shoes again after a gap of six years. He did so in the presence of former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Chouhan said that Puri stopped wearing footwear in 2017 and decided that till the BJP comes to power in the state, he will not wear it.

The BJP failed to form a government after the 2018 assembly elections. But even after the party came back to power in 2020 (after the Kamal Nath-led Congress government collapsed), Puri did not start wearing shoes, Chouhan said in a video posted on his official X account.

"Puri ji is a hardworking and dedicated



party worker, who had given up wearing shoes and slippers since 2017. For six years, he remained barefoot in every season - summer, winter or rain. His resolution has been fulfilled. We all requested that now the resolution has been fulfilled and you should start wearing shoes," he said.

In the last month's assembly elections, the BJP registered a landslide victory by bagging 163 of the 230 assembly seats, and retained power in the central state. The opposition Congress was relegated to a distant second spot as it could win 66 assembly segments, while one seat was clinched by the Bharat Adivasi Party.

"Spare Children From Dirty Politics": BJP On Lifting Hijab Ban In Karnataka

BENGALURU, Dec 23 (Agencies): The BJP on Saturday strongly reacted to the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw the ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions in the state, saying the ruling Congress is carrying forward the British policy of 'divide and rule'. The BJP also stated that the move raises concerns about the "secular nature" of educational spaces.

The reaction comes a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said that he ordered lifting of the restrictions on wearing hijab, while observing that choice of dress and food is personal.

Addressing reporters in New Delhi, BJP Karnataka chief, Vijayendra accused Mr Siddaramaiah of 'vitiating' the academic atmosphere.



Condemning the Congress government's decision, he said, "The Chief Minister made an irresponsible statement that he will revoke the ban on Hijab. This way, he has spoilt the educational atmosphere in the state. At least, he should

have spared children from his dirty politics." The BJP state president alleged that while Congress wants to lift the ban on hijab, on the other hand Hindu women who went to appear for an exam were forced to remove their 'mangal sutra' and toe rings.

Accusing the Congress of indulging in 'appeasement politics' ahead of Lok Sabha elections, Mr Vijayendra claimed, "even after so many years of independence, the literacy and employment rate among minorities is still 50 per cent. Congress never tried to elevate the condition of minorities." "Congress believes in the divide and rule policy which the British rulers had adopted. It amounts to carrying forward the British legacy," he added.

Earlier in a post on 'X', Mr Vijayendra charged the state government with 'dividing' young minds along religious lines.

"CM Siddaramaiah's decision to withdraw the Hijab ban in educational institutions raises concerns about the secular nature of our educational spaces," the Shikaripura MLA said.

"By allowing religious attire in educational institutions Siddaramaiah government is dividing young minds along religious lines, potentially hindering the inclusive learning environment."

The BJP state chief stressed that it was crucial to prioritise education over divisive practices and foster an environment where students can focus on academics without the influence of religious practices.

In 2022, the previous BJP government banned wearing of hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka.

As air in Delhi reaches 'severe' category, various curbs become effective in national capital

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday asked all departments concerned to reactivate their teams for effective implementation of curbs under Stage-3 of the Centre's air pollution control plan.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said the air quality in Delhi deteriorated from very poor to the severe category on Friday due to low temperatures and calm winds.

"In view of worsening air quality, the Com-

mission for Air Quality Management re-invoked curbs under Stage-3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). This means a ban on non-essential construction work and plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi-NCR," he said.

On Saturday morning, the air quality index in Delhi was recorded at 447, which comes under the 'severe' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The minister said the government had alerted all 28 departments involved in pollution con-



control efforts. "They have been asked to reactivate their teams to manage the situation at the earliest," he said.

Rai said non-essential

construction work, stone crushing and mining would remain banned in Delhi until further orders. Construction work related to national secu-

rity or defence, projects of national importance, health care, railways, metro rail, airports, interstate bus terminals, highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, sanitation and water supply are exempted from the ban.

Under Stage-3, plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in the national capital will also be restricted.

The GRAP is the Centre's air pollution control plan implemented in the region during the winter season.

Land-for-jobs case: Fresh ED summons to Tejashwi Yadav, asked to appear on January 5



NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday issued a fresh summons to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in a railway land-for-jobs scam case, asking him to appear

on January 5, official sources said.

He was earlier called to appear on December 22 but the 34-year-old skipped the summons. He had called the ED notice a routine affair.

His father and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav has been asked to depose on December 27 in the case at the ED headquarters in Delhi.

The alleged scam pertains to the period when Prasad was the railway minister in the UPA-1 government.

It is alleged that from 2004 to 2009, several people were handed out Group "D" category jobs in various railway zones after they transferred land to the family members of the then railway minister Prasad and a linked company named AK Infosystems Private Limited.

Motivational speaker Vivek Bindra accused of beating up wife hours after marriage

NOIDA, Dec 23 (Agencies): Entrepreneur and motivational speaker Vivek Bindra has been booked for allegedly assaulting his wife in Noida, police officials said on Saturday.

The police said they were investigating the allegations and would take action after the probe.

Bindra could not be contacted for comment.

The FIR was lodged at the Sector 126 police station on December 14 after a complaint by Vaibhav Kwatra, brother of Bindra's wife Yanika.

Bindra and Yanika got married on December 6 and were living in a posh society in Sector 94 here, he said.

"On the morning of December 7, my brother-in-law Vivek Bindra was



arguing with his mother Prabha ji. When my sister Yanika intervened, my brother-in-law locked the room, abused her and beat her a lot, due to which she has wounds all over her body, is unable to hear, and her

hairs were also torn out," Kwatra claimed.

"Due to the head wound, she was feeling quite dizzy. She was being treated at Kailash Deepak Hospital in Delhi," he claimed.

Kwatra alleged that during the fight Bindra broke his sister's mobile phone. He urged the police to take strict action in the case.

A police officer said that on the basis of the complaint, an FIR has been lodged under Sections 323 (causing hurt), 504 (insult to provoke breach of peace), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), and 427 (mischief) of the IPC.

"We have launched an investigation to ascertain the facts. Necessary action will be taken," Assistant Commissioner of Police Rajneesh Verma said.

Authorickshaw driver kills drunk cousin for demanding money in Maharashtra



THANE, Dec 23 (Agencies): An autorickshaw driver allegedly killed his 32-year-old cousin after the latter kept demanding money

from him in an inebriated condition in Raigad district of Maharashtra, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred at Chikhale village near

Panvel on Friday morning and the accused, Bharat Pandurang Patil, 42, was arrested hours later, they said.

"When the accused was driving his autorickshaw, the victim Anand Dhanaji Patil waylaid him.

He was in an inebriated condition and demanded money from the accused to drink liquor. Annoyed with his demand, the accused attacked him with a chopper, in which the

victim died on the spot," an official of Panvel Taluka police station said.

There was a long-running dispute between the two cousins over some issue, he said.

The victim's body was later sent to a government-run hospital for post-mortem, the official said, adding that a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 302 (murder) was registered and the accused was arrested at night.

President Joe Biden signs \$886 billion US defense policy bill into law

WASHINGTON, Dec 23 (Agencies): President Joe Biden signed into law the U.S. defense policy bill that authorises a record \$886 billion in annual military spending and policies such as aid for Ukraine and push-back against China in the Indo-Pacific.

The National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, passed Congress last week. The Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate approved the legislation with a strong bipartisan majority of 87 to 13 while the House of Representatives voted in favor 310 to 118.

The bill, one of the few major pieces of legislation Congress passes every year, governs everything from pay raises for service members and purchases of ships and aircraft to policies such as support for foreign



partners like Taiwan.

The act, nearly 3,100 pages long, called for a 5.2% pay raise for service members and increased the nation's total national security budget by about 3% to \$886 billion. It also lists certain Chinese battery companies that it says are ineli-

gible for Defense Department procurement.

The fiscal 2024 NDAA also includes a four-month extension of a disputed domestic surveillance authority, giving lawmakers more time to either reform or keep the program, known as Section 702 of the Foreign Intel-

ligence Surveillance Act.

That provision faced objections in both the Senate and House, but not enough to derail the bill.

The bill extends one measure to help Ukraine, the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, through the end of 2026, authorizing \$300 million for the program in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024, and the next one.

However, that figure is small compared to the \$61 billion that Biden had asked Congress to approve to help Kyiv combat a Russian invasion that began in February 2022.

Republicans had refused to approve assistance for Ukraine without Democrats agreeing to a significant toughening of immigration law.

Wanted Pakistani Taliban commander killed in shootout with security forces

LAHORE, Dec 23 (Agencies): Pakistani security forces on Saturday killed a key commander of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) who was involved in several terror plots, including a deadly attack on an ISI building in Punjab province.

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in a statement said that it received a tip-off that some terrorists were hiding in the Chiniot area, some 200 km from Lahore, the provincial capital.

The CTD along with police raided their hideout in the early hours of Saturday.

"When the police surrounded the hideout the terrorists opened fire on them. The fire was returned and during the shootout, two terrorists were killed," the CTD said.

One of the terrorists has been identified as Ghazanfar Nadim alias Khalid

Habib, who was carrying a bounty of Rupees five million.

It said Nadim was the mastermind of a bomb attack on the ISI building in Faisalabad city, some 130 km from Lahore.

In 2011, a car-borne improvised explosive device exploded outside the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) building in Faisalabad, killing 25 people and injuring over 100.

"Nadim was a key commander of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the Punjab province. He was also involved in 11 major terror activities, including attacks on Shia Muslims in the country in which 50 people were killed," the CTD said and added he had been absconding since 2011.

The CTD said that explosives and weapons in a large quantity have also been recovered from the terrorist's hideouts.

Japan okays record \$56 billion military budget amid China, North Korea tensions

TOKYO, Dec 23 (Agencies): Japan's Cabinet approved a hefty 16 per cent increase in military spending next year and eased its postwar ban on lethal weapons exports, underscoring a shift away from the country's self-defence-only principle.

The moves came as Japan accelerates the deployment of long-range cruise missiles that can hit targets in China or North Korea while Japanese troops increasingly work with allies and take on more offensive roles.

In the latest step under a new security strategy that Japan adopted a year ago, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government also allowed the export of weapons and components made in Japan under foreign licences to the licencing nations. The controversial move is the first major revision of Japan's arms export ban since an earlier easing in 2014.

"In taking the action, we hope to contribute to defend a free and open international order based on the rule of law and to achieve peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region," Kishida told reporters. "There is no change to our principle as a pacifist nation."

The government quickly approved the first export shipment under the change, agreeing to send to the US surface-to-air Patriot guided missiles produced in Japan under an American licence. Officials said it would complement US stock, raising speculation that Japanese-produced Patriots may be sent to Ukraine.

The easing also paves the way for future possible exports to the US, the UK and six European licencing nations involving dozens of lethal weapons and components, including F-15s and fighter jet engines.

"The scope, scale, and speed of Japan's security reforms have been unprecedented," US Ambassador Rahm Emanuel said in a statement on X. He praised the easing of the defence equipment and transfer policy as historic and "a significant example of Japan's shared commitment to deterrence".

The ban on the export of lethal weapons has

limited the scope of Japan's efforts to develop arms technology and equipment. The easing would help strengthen Japan's feeble defence industry and broaden the country's new official military aid designed for like-minded nations in the Indo-Pacific region in countering Chinese assertiveness, experts say.

Japan is spending more than 70 billion yen (\$490 million) in 2024 for the development of a next-generation fighter jet with the UK and Italy, and the project hinges on a further easing of restrictions to allow the export of jointly developed lethal weapons to third countries — a change Kishida wants by the end of February.

The 7.95 trillion-yen (\$56 billion) defence budget for the 2024 fiscal year that begins in March marks the second year of the five-year military buildup programme. The spending plan is part of a 112.7 trillion-yen (\$794 billion) national budget and still needs approval by Parliament.

The reinforcement of strike capability envisioned under the strategy is a major break from Japan's postwar principle of limiting its use of force to self-defence.

The budget adopted by the Cabinet also will further fortify the military with F-35 stealth combat jets and other American weapons.

Japan plans to spend 43 trillion yen (\$300 billion) through 2027 to bolster its military power and to nearly double its annual spending to around 10 trillion yen (\$68 billion), which would make Japan the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China.

The budget would boost Japan's arms spending for the 12th year. Last year, the government budgeted 6.8 trillion yen (about \$48 billion).

The centrepiece of Japan's 2024 military budget is an early deployment of "stand-off" missiles that officials say are needed to reinforce air defences, especially to protect Japan's southwestern islands in case a conflict erupts between China and Taiwan.

Some 734 billion yen (\$5.15 billion) is earmarked for Type-12

cruise missiles and US-made Tomahawks as well as the development of next-generation long-range missiles. Japan will also spend more than 80 billion yen (\$562 million) for the development of hypersonic guided missiles with a range of 3,000 kilometres.

Defence Minister Minoru Kihara announced earlier this month a decision to bring forward deployment of some Tomahawks and Type-12s by the end of March 2026, a year before the original target. Officials said the step was a result of Japan facing its "severest" security environment in the postwar era that has also led it to increase joint operations with the US, Australia, Britain and other friendly nations.

Funding the surge in military spending as well as securing necessary personnel is not easy for Japan, a country with a rapidly ageing and shrinking population.

Defence Ministry officials said the budget addressed the cost impacts of a weaker yen and price increases through measures such as bulk purchases and long-term contracts. It calls for spending 90 billion yen (\$632 million) on subsidies to strengthen Japan's feeble defence industry and allow more foreign arms sales.

The budget also includes 1.25 trillion yen (\$8.78 billion) to bolster Japan's missile defence systems, including the construction of two Aegis-equipped warships for deployment in 2027-2028 at a cost of 373 billion yen (\$2.62 billion).

The warships are to have Lockheed Martin SPY-7 radar that officials say could locate harder-to-detect missile launches, including those on a high-arch trajectory that North Korea has often used to test-fire missiles, including an intercontinental ballistic missile launched this week.

Japan plans to spend 75.5 billion yen (\$530 million) to develop glide-phase interceptors with the US that are expected to be deployed around 2030 and designed to counter hypersonic missiles being developed by China, North Korea and Russia.

Prague university shooting: Czech Republic holds a national day of mourning for the victims

PRAGUE, Dec 23 (Agencies): National flags on public buildings were at half-staff and people across the Czech Republic are set to observe a minute of silence as the country holds a day of national mourning on Saturday to honour the victims of the worst mass killing in Czech history.

The shooting inside a university building at the heart of the Czech capital on Thursday left 14 dead and dozens injured.

Police and prosecutors said they have evidence the 24-year-old shooter also killed his father earlier in the day and a man and a baby in Prague last week.

Bells will toll at churches at noon and a Mass at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, the biggest in the country, will be celebrated for the victims. President Petr Pavel is scheduled to attend the service that is open to everyone.

Similar religious services will be held in other cities and towns,



while Christmas markets in a number of places were closed or reduced their programs amid boosted security measures.

Authorities said that 13 people died at the scene in the Faculty of Arts of Charles University and one died later in a hospital. A total of 25 people were wounded, including three foreign nationals.

Milos Vystrcil, speaker of Parliament's upper house, the Senate, was among many who

have been coming together to light candles at an impromptu memorial for the victims created in front of the university headquarters.

"It's been a horrible experience for us all but it still can't be compared with what the victims had to experience at the time of the attack and what their dear ones have to experience now," Vystrcil said.

"I think that to help them at this point we express our sup-

UN clears 'toned-down' Gaza aid

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 23 (Agencies): The United Nations Security Council approved a toned-down bid to boost humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and called for urgent steps "to create the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities" after a week of vote delays and intense negotiations to avoid a veto by the United States.

Amid global outrage over a rising Gaza death toll in 11 weeks of war between Israel and Hamas and a worsening humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian enclave, the US abstained to allow the 15-member council to adopt a resolution drafted by the United Arab Emirates.

The remaining council members voted for the resolution except for Russia which also abstained.

Following high-level negotiations to win over Washington, the resolution no longer dilutes Israel's control over all aid deliveries to 2.3 million people in Gaza. Israel monitors the limited aid deliveries to Gaza via the Rafah

crossing from Egypt and the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing.

But a weakening of language on a cessation of hostilities frustrated several council members — including veto power Russia — and Arab and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation states, some of which, diplomats said, view it as approval for Israel to further act against Hamas for a deadly October 7 attack.

The adopted resolution "calls for urgent steps to immediately allow safe, unhindered, and expanded humanitarian access and to create the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities." The initial draft had called for "an urgent and sustainable cessation of hostilities" to allow aid access.

"By signing off on this, the council would essentially be giving the Israeli armed forces complete freedom of movement for further clearing of the Gaza Strip," Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the council before the vote.

Trump Pressured Michigan Officials Not To Certify Biden's 2020 Win: Report



WASHINGTON, Dec 23 (Agencies): Donald Trump urged two Michigan election officials not to certify Democrat Joe Biden's victory in the state following the 2020 presidential election, personally calling them in a pressure campaign reminiscent of his Georgia tactics, the Detroit News reported.

In a Nov. 17, 2020, phone call, the then-president told two fellow Republicans on the Wayne County Board of Canvassers not to sign the state election's certification, saying they would look "terrible" and must "fight for our country," according to recordings of the call reviewed by the Michigan news outlet.

Wayne County is the Midwestern state's most populous county and includes Detroit, a Democratic city with a significant Black majority population. In the audio, Trump says Republicans were "cheated on this election" and "everybody knows Detroit is crooked as hell," according to the report.

News of the recording comes as Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican 2024 nomination, faces federal and state criminal charges over allegations he conspired to overturn the 2020 presidential election in an effort that culminated in a violent attack on Congress.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and blasted the charges as a political witch hunt aimed at thwarting his campaign while also continuing to spread

false claims of widespread voting fraud in 2020.

Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung, asked about the Michigan report, said, "Trump's actions were taken in furtherance of his duty as President of the United States to faithfully take care of the laws and ensure election integrity, including investigating the rigged and stolen 2020 Presidential Election."

In Georgia, Trump faces charges over his efforts to overturn his loss to Biden, including a personal phone call to Georgia's Republican secretary of state to "find" enough votes to reverse his defeat in that state, which the official declined to do.

Michigan authorities have filed felony charges against 16 Republican state residents for their role in an alleged false electors scheme following the 2020 presidential election. They have not charged Trump.

"My office will continue to support the efforts of state and federal law enforcement to investigate and hold those involved accountable for every crime committed in the attempt to overturn the will of Michigan voters," Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said in a statement, adding that she had been unaware of the recordings until report.

"We must recognize the direct line between these recordings and the tragedy that occurred at our U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021," Benson added, referring to Trump supporters' attack as lawmakers met to certify Biden's 2020 election win.

A representatives for Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, like Benson a Democrat, did not respond to a request for comment.

Representatives for Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, who was reported to have been on the Michigan call, also did not respond to a request for comment.

McDaniel told the Detroit News she stood by her request to the county board "that there was ample evidence that warranted an audit." Both McDaniel and Trump offered to get lawyers for the board members, the report added.



Dr. Jain addresses workshop on 'Preventive Vigilance'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Power Grid Corporation (A Government of India Enterprise), Northern Region Transmission System-II Jammu, organized a workshop on Preventive Vigilance for Junior Engineer/ Supervisors at Hotel Radisson Blu, here on Saturday.

Vimal Koul, Chief Manger HR, invited Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner & State Chairman Indian Yoga Association to deliver a lecture on Moral, Ethical & Spiritual values.

Dr Jain explained in details the need of Morality in day to day life. Ethical conduct has never been more important than now, not only for business but also for personal relationships and for society at large.

Ethics plays a crucial role in shaping the way people interact with each other and the world around them. Ethics are the moral principles that guide people's behavior, decisions and actions. These principles are based on the concept of right & wrong, good & bad, fairness, and justice.

Religion is not to put Tilak on forehead or wearing Januo (made up of cotton threads) on the body or paying Namaj or to bow before Guru Granth Sahib, these all may be symptoms of Religion. Religion in fact is to know thyself. The essence of all religious books is to know who am 'I' ? It is only possible to adopt three ways: Trirattan-



'Samyak Darshan, Samyak Gyan & Samyak Charitra. Samyak Darshan is real faith on our ownself that I am is a Soul not Body. Samyak Gyan is Real Knowledge of Body & Soul, Body is perishable, Nash-waan, full of ailments, sinfully acts & all evils, where as Soul is Pious, immortal, Unborn, Fire cannot burn it, wind cannot blow it away, & water can't melt it.

Then Samyak Charitra is to be always in Soul, whatever human is doing, that is all being done by Body not by Soul, Soul is not doing anything.

By having continuous faith on all these three, one can attain salvation, Mukti or Moksha can make oneself free from Birth & Death. Further 10 symptoms of Religion were detailed as Uttam Kchhma (Forgiveness), Uttam Mardav (Not to be arrogant), Uttam Arjva (Simplicity), Uttam Satya (Truth), Uttam Sauch (Cleanliness), Uttam Sanyam (Control on our senses),

Uttam Tapa (Tenacity), Uttam Tyag (Sacrifice), Uttam Aakinchan (Drawing from outside to inward), Uttam Brahmcharya (Celibacy) by practicing all this one can attain God's grace and can get deep knowledge of happiness & misery.

I am none of these either - places of pilgrimage, Scriptures or Yajnas (Sacrifice). I am not the food, the consumer of food or the process of eating. I am Atman, the very embodiment of Divinity. In this world, there is nothing live merit or sin, Happiness sorrow, Mantras, Yajnas and yagas are mere rituals. God alone pervades everything. You are the very form of Divine. True humanness lies in understanding the significance of truth & righteousness, putting them in practice.

Dr Jain, in his concluding session, said with advancements in technology, we have more power to act, which means that we need to make choices which

we didn't have in the past. There is availability and ease of access to more information than ever before and what will guide us to right and wrong in our Moral compass.

Dr Jain was felicitated by Dharmender Madan, Chief Vigilance officer from Corporate Gurgaon, Vinod Baxla General Manager JK Unit, Abhay Kumar, CGM Assistant Management, and Anil Shawney CGM Projects JK UT.

Vimal koul, CM HR conducted the proceedings of the programme in a simple & impressive manner and Vote of thanks was presented.

Mohinder Rana, President Padar welfare Front, S/D Atholi, champion Mata Machail, and Yash Pal Sharma, Co-Convenor International Naturopathy Organization, Life Coach & Certified Yoga trainer also graced the occasion by their presence.

Swami Vjeshananda, I/C Medical Unit Rama Krishna Mission was another speaker on the subject.

Govt Polytechnic for Women conducts technical visit for students at SMVDU Katra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Government Polytechnic for Women, Jammu, organized a one-day technical visit for the 3rd & 5th-semester students at SMVDU, Katra.

The students had an insightful visit to SMVDU's Network Center.

From hands-on networking to a captivating university documentary in the auditorium, it was a day of learning and discovery.

Rajnish Pawar, Network Coordinator, and Dinesh Sharma, Computer Maintenance Coordinator at SMVDU, explained



the university's network mesh.

Avdhes Gupta, Jr. Asstt, NSS, coordinated the visit to different labs and the university auditorium.

Visit was organized under the guidance of

Er. Suket Gupta, Principal, Govt. Polytechnic for Women, Jammu and the students were accompanied by faculty members Er. Hameed Malik, Er. Deepika Sharma, Er. RajniBalla, Er. Neha Dhar and Er. Pritima Gandotra.

Shivani Charak wins silver medal in 27th IMF Sport Climbing Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Shivani Charak, an international sport climber of J&K, opened the account for J&K by winning a silver medal in Lead climbing in women's category on the first day of the 27th IMF Sport Climbing Championship being organized by General Thim-mayya National Academy of Adventure at Yavanika, Bengaluru. Anisha Verma, an international climber from Jharkhand won the Gold medal.

In fact, in the final round, both Shivani and Anisha topped the 50ft high climbing wall and the result had



to be determined on the basis of ranking in the semifinal in which Anisha had secured the top rank against Shivani's third place. Accordingly, Anisha Verma was declared the winner and Shivani Charak had to be content with the Second place. Saniya

Farooque Sheikh, another international climber from Maharashtra, secured the third place.

In Boulder competition also Shivani has entered the final round by securing the third place among the six finalists in the Women's category. Final round shall be played in the evening.

Meanwhile, another strong climber of J&K Arun Deep Singh narrowly missed to qualify for the final round in Lead Climbing as well as Boulder securing the 9th and seventh place respectively in which the first 8 and 6 climbers qualified for the final round.

Purnima, Khajuria distribute Bhandara at Tirupati Temple



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: A Bhandara was organized on the occasion of Vaikuntha Ekadashi at Tirupati Temple in Jammu. The Bhandara was started by former Deputy Mayor

Purnima Sharma. During this, Jammu and Kashmir BJP State Executive Member Somnath Khajuria was also present.

Former Dy Mayor Purnima Sharma and BJP leader Somnath Khajuria bowed his head at Tiru-

pati temple and offered prayers for the welfare and peace of Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, temple superintendent Subramanyu, Inspector Sai Krishna was also present. On the occasion, Purnima Sharma said that

Regarding Vaikuntha Ekadashi (Mukkotika Ekadashi), it is believed that on this day the doors of Vaikuntha Dwaram (Uttaradwaram), the inner sanctum of God, are opened. Uttardwaram remains open once in a year and the devotees who pass through here attain supreme salvation.

Sainik School Nagrota hosts SSB Workshop by Col BS Sambyal

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Dec 23: Sainik School Nagrota, Jammu, demonstrated its commitment to the holistic development and success of its cadets by hosting a two-day workshop on Services Selection Board (SSB) procedures.

The workshop, organised by Colonel BS Sambyal (School No 617), a qualified assessor himself with rich experience of assessment, was specifically tailored for cadets who have qualified the UPSC NDA written examination and are gearing up for their SSB attempts.

He provided the cadets



with valuable exposure to the intricacies of the SSB procedure, and guided them to be well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

Recognising the significance of proper guidance in the SSB preparation process, Colonel BS Sambyal took the initiative to impart

instructions to the cadets.

His commitment to ensuring the success of Sainik School Nagrota's cadets in their SSB attempts reflects his deep connection to the school and its traditions.

The workshop witnessed active participation from the current cadets of Sainik

School Nagrota, highlighting the school's dedication to providing comprehensive support to its students.

Additionally, ex-cadets from previously graduated batches attended the workshop, emphasizing the enduring bond between the school and its alumni.

Colonel BS Sambyal's workshop not only served as a platform for imparting essential knowledge but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and shared experience among the attendees.

The event exemplifies Sainik School Nagrota's commitment to producing well-prepared, confident, and successful individuals ready to embark on careers in defense services.

The school extends its gratitude to Colonel BS Sambyal for his invaluable contribution and looks forward to continuing such initiatives that empower its cadets for future challenges.

FROM PAGE 1

Mobile internet suspended in Poonch, Rajouri amid massive Anti-Terrorist Op

Friday. The sources said their bodies have been handed over to their families for last rites as investigation in continues in their deaths.

The deceased were identified as Safer Hussain (43), Mohd Showket (27) and Shabir Ahmad (32) of Topa Peer village of Buzliaz but the cause of their death was not known immediately.

752 new Covid cases, 4 deaths reported in 24 hours

disease has increased to 4,44,71,212, and the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry's website. The fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent.

The ministry's website stated that 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far.

Fire damages three residential houses in Solina Srinagar

F&ES Department and the local volunteers", the official said.

"In the incident, three residential houses received direct and indirect damage", the official added.

2 civilian workers die in Army Camp fire in Doda

scene and are being handed over to their next of kin for last rites.

Government orders compensation, Inquiry

into death of three civilians in Poonch

compensation for each of the deceased. Further Government has also announced compassionate appointments to the next of kin of each deceased, the government said in a tweet.

Forged document case: Crime Branch Kashmir files chargesheet against a person for fraudulently obtaining job

for getting admission in BUMS programme Session-2014. The investigation has also found that after completion of the said course, the accused submitted an application before the Registrar Board of Ayurvedic "Unani System of Medicines" for issuance of Provisional Registration Certificate. On the basis of degree certificate of BUMS and fake 10+2 marks certificate, the accused was selected as Medical Officer (AYUSH) vide order No. 08 DRHSG of 2014 dated 20.01.2014 issued by Director Rural Health Mission, J&K. The accused submitted his joining report on 20.01.2014. However, the accused was terminated from the government services vide Govt. order No. 178 of 2022 dated 12.12.2022, issued by the Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, J&K.

On the basis of facts and circumstances that emerged during the course of investigation, the case has been charge sheeted against the said accused person before the Hon'ble court of CJM Ganderbal, where from he has been sent to judicial custody, reads the statement.

Barring Gulmarg, night temperatures rise above

freezing point

Kashmir, the MeT official said. Pahalgam recorded a low of 0.2°C against minus 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 5.2°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 1.2°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 1.2°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 1.3°C against minus 3.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.9°C above normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 1.5°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night and the temperature was 4.3°C above normal for the world-famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 10.5°C against 8.5°C on the previous night, and it was below normal by 2.0°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded 6.6°C, Batote 8.5°C and Baderwah 7.4°C, he said.

Kashmir valley is under 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh period of winter. While 'Chillai-Kalan' will end on January 30, it does not mean an end to the winter. It is followed by a 20-day-long period called 'Chillai-Khurd' that occurs between January 30 and February 19 and a 10-day-long period 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) which is from February 20 to March 1.

From December 24-26, the weather is expected to be generally dry, the MeT official said. "Generally cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of light snow over isolated higher reaches on December 27.

Generally dry weather is expected from December 28-31". "Overall there is no significant weather activity till December ending".

Govt tightens noose against private schools over collection of

donation for kindergarten admissions

collecting admission fee from parents without receipt at the time of kindergarten admission.

The DSEK has stated that some recognised private schools charge a capitation fee at the time of admission and subject the students and their parents or guardians to screening tests.

"The section 13 of Right to Education Act 2009 clarifies that no school or person shall, while admitting a child, collect any capitation fee and subject the child or his or her parents or guardian to any screening procedure," the circular reads.

The DSEK has warned that any school or person in contravention of the provisions of subsection (a) receives a capitation fee, shall be punishable with fine that may extend to ten times the capitation fee charged.

"If the school management subjects a child to screening procedure, it shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs 25000 for the first contravention and Rs 50000 for each subsequent contravention," the DSEK circular reads.

"Capitation fee means any kind of donation, admission fee or contribution or payment other than the fee notified by the school," it reads.

The DSEK has said that the objective of the provisions of section 13(1) read with section 2(o) is to ensure that schools adopt nondiscriminatory, rational and transparent admission procedures.

"Schools should not subject children and their parents to admission tests and interviews to decide whether they will admit a child or not," it reads.

The DSEK has said that tests and other screening procedures can only reveal differences in nurturing, rather than any intrinsic differences of the potential to learn.

"In such a situation it is the obligation of the State and society to provide for better nurturing through good schools for children from poor and disadvantaged sections of society," the DSEK circular reads.

The DSEK has stated that the availability of equal opportunities for children belonging to different social and economic backgrounds will reinforce the idea of equality enshrined in the Constitution and ensure that children are not discriminated against on the basis of their social and economic background.

"The Guidelines also emphasise the importance of moving towards composite classrooms with children from diverse backgrounds, rather than homogenous and exclusivist schools: heterogeneity and diversity in classrooms lead to greater inter-learning, respect for differences, tolerance and creativity," it reads.

The DSEK has however said that various complaints from parents and civil society are pouring in regarding the demand of admission fee by private schools which is "totally against the law of the land and a punishable offence."

The repeated warnings have been issued as the private schools are readying for the admission process for the kindergarten classes.

"Due to change in the academic session in J&K UT in conformity with the academic calendar of the entire nation as per NEP-2020, the admission time in schools should begin in the month of March and many schools are flouting this norm as well," DSEK circular reads.

The DSEK has appointed all the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) as nodal officers in their respective jurisdiction to ensure implementation of these circular instructions in letter and spirit.

"Also all Joint Directors, Cluster Heads and Zonal Education Officers shall monitor the implementation of these circular instructions in their respective jurisdictions as well," the DSEK circular reads.

A copy of the DSEK circular has been sent to all the school heads to "strictly follow" the above-mentioned instructions.

Man Dies of Suffocation in Baramulla

suffocation", the official added.

CenturyPly unveils India's largest integrated wood panel manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh

The plant was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the presence of CenturyPly Chairman Sajjan Bhajanka and other senior officials.

KOLKATA, Dec 23 (Agencies): Century Plyboards (India) Ltd on Saturday inaugurated India's largest integrated wood panel manufacturing plant at Badvel in Andhra Pradesh.

Spread across 100 acres, the plant will have a total investment of Rs 1,000 crore in the second phase and is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for 2,000 people over the next 5 years, the country's largest manufacturer of wood panels said in a statement.

The first phase saw an investment of Rs 950 crore.

The plant was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the presence of CenturyPly Chairman Sajjan Bhajanka and other senior officials.

"YSR Kadapa district holds an important place on the industrial map of Andhra Pradesh for its valuable repository of resources.

"As the government has earmarked this region as a potential



agro-industry hub, this initiative of CenturyPly marks the beginning of a series of investments of other industrial entities that will follow, leading eventually to making it a significant hub of furniture for the entire country," Bhajanka said in the statement.

The plant comprises two large-size laminate presses, which are already operational.

The MDF (Medium Density Fibre) and PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) units are in the advanced stages of commissioning.

"We have invested Rs 700 crore in MDF and Rs 250 crore in laminates and PVC in the

first phase.

The new unit will increase our production capacity in MDF by a 950-meter cube, which will double our footprint in this segment.

The second phase will see an investment of Rs 1,000 crore in expansion plans," Bhajanka said.

The Andhra Pradesh government has also expressed its commitment to supporting the growth of the wood panel industry in the state.

The Kolkata-based company also has 8,55,000 laminate sheets, 3,13,500 CBM in MDF and 15,000 tonne in PVC at the Andhra Pradesh site.

'Urban mining' offers green solution to old solar panels

Urban mining recovers silver, copper, aluminium, glass and silicone -- all commodities that have a value on the open market.

YUMA, Dec 23 (Agencies): As the world pivots from planet-warming fossil fuels to renewable energy, a new pollution problem is rearing its head: What to do with old or worn-out solar panels?

Thousands of photovoltaic slabs are being installed across the United States every day, particularly in the sunny west and south of the country, as states like California race to towards greener energy production.

But with an expected lifespan of around 30 years, the first wave of solar installations is now coming to the end of its usefulness, sparking a rush to recycle things that might otherwise end up in the landfills.

"What is about to happen is a tsunami of solar panels coming back into the supply chain," said Adam Saghei, chief executive of Arizona-based We Recycle Solar.

"One of the challenges with any industry is, there hasn't been that much planning for a circular economy.

"(Solar) is a sustainable form of energy; there needs to be a plan for the retirement of those assets."

Saghei's plan involves, among other things, reusing panels.

Anywhere up to five percent of panels either have a minor production defect or get damaged during transport or installation. These still-working panels can be refurbished and diverted to other markets, often abroad,



Saghei says.

But for the panels that no longer function -- either because they're decrepit, or because they were damaged beyond use during installation, or smashed by hailstones -- there's treasure to be found.

"We're doing what's called urban mining," says Saghei, referring to a process that took his engineers three years to perfect.

That mining recovers silver, copper, aluminium, glass and silicone -- all commodities that have a value on the open market.

While the uses for the metals might be obvious, what to do with silicone and glass is less so, but nonetheless intriguing.

"You can use it for sand traps on golf courses, you can refine it for sandblast mix, you can also use it for the stones or the glass mix that you get for outdoor fireplaces," says Saghei.

With the capacity to process up to 7,500 panels every day at

the plant in Yuma, a surprisingly small amount goes to waste.

Depending on the make and model of the panels... we're able to get up to 99 per cent recovery rate."

Logistics

For Meng Tao, who specialises in sustainable energy infrastructure at Arizona State University, developing an efficient lifecycle for solar panels is a pressing issue.

With the United States among countries committed to weaning itself off fossil fuels following a landmark COP28 climate agreement, solar panel installation looks set to increase to a peak two decades from now.

"Once it matures, then the annual installation and the decommissioning will be about the same," said.

"But for the next 20 years... at least for the next 10 years... we'll just have more installations than retirements."

The problem with recycling, he says, is not just that the value

of recovered materials from panels can be relatively low, but also the logistics.

With panels distributed to thousands of sometimes far-flung rooftops, it can cost a lot of money just to get them to a recycling centre.

And unlike some jurisdictions, the United States imposes the cost of removal and recycling on the end user -- making it more attractive for households just to dump their old units at the local landfill.

"There has to be some policy support" to plug the gap between what consumers will pay and the total lifecycle cost of the panels, says Tao.

Growing market

For Saghei, as for any business leader, profitability is important.

"You don't see too many getting into the business because recycling has a cost. It's not free. It's labour intensive. It's energy-intensive," he says.

But he does see a way forward.

Recovering materials from old solar panels that can be put back into new solar panels is -- he is convinced -- a winning proposition.

"These are markets that are growing," he says.

"Right through this process we are able, once the industry scales to even larger figures, to put those raw commodities back into the supply chain.

"What's exciting is we're at the forefront."

US court rules 'X' breached contract over failure to pay bonuses

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 23 (Agencies): A US federal court ruled that social media company Twitter, now branded X, violated contracts by failing to pay annual performance bonuses it orally promised its workers.

The breach-of-contract lawsuit was brought by former employer Mark Schobinger in June.

The lawsuit said Twitter had promised workers a 2022 performance bonus if they stayed with the company through the final possible payout date, which was the first

quarter of this year.

The court threw out Twitter's attempts to have the case dismissed, ruling that Schobinger's claim of breach of contract under California law was valid.

"Schobinger has plausibly stated a breach of contract claim under California law. He alleges that Twitter orally promised to pay each employee a portion of the bonus contemplated," wrote US District Judge Vince Chhabria.

"And by allegedly refusing to pay Schobinger his promised bonus,



Twitter violated that contract," said the judge.

X can still appeal the court's decision.

The social network now owned by Elon Musk, is currently facing multiple headwinds, including an EU probe under a law designed to combat disinformation and hate, criticism of the

platform's response to recent rioting in Dublin, and an exodus of big-name advertisers.

The company is now worth less than half of the \$44 billion he paid for it in October 2022, according to internal documents sent to tech and reported by staff publication The Verge.

Volkswagen India extends service support to flood-hit customers in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI, Dec 23 (Agencies): European automaker Volkswagen India has extended its enhanced service support to affected customers in Tamil Nadu following the impact of heavy rains and flooding in the state, the company said on Saturday.

The initiative, with effect from December 22, would offer service support to flood-affected car owners including Roadside Assistance, special benefits on parts, labour costs and car care treatment among others.

"Extended service support across regions



such as Chennai, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin cities.

In addition, the warranty and extended warranty coverage for flood-affected vehicles at these locations are

extended until January 31, 2024," a company statement here said.

The benefit can be availed by customers opting for insurance or cash claims.

In collaboration with

insurance companies, Volkswagen India said it was also ensuring swift settlement of claims, facilitating a streamlined process for affected customers.

Affected customers can directly contact Volkswagen Roadside Assistance at its toll-free number 1800 102 1155 or 1800 419 1155.

Across its dealer networks in Chennai, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, Volkswagen India said it is implementing special support measures with the objective of ensuring a quick and quality service offering to its customers.

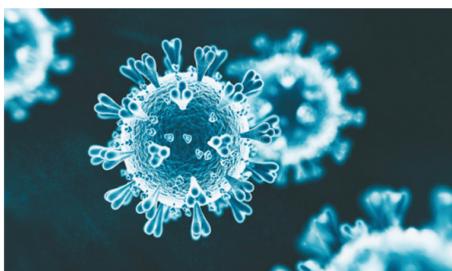
Evidence of brain injury present even months after acute Covid infection, study finds

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): Markers of brain injury developed due to COVID-19 were found in patients even months after the infection and despite blood tests measuring inflammation returning normal results, according to a new research.

Researchers from universities in the UK explained that during the acute phase of the viral infection, when symptoms develop quickly, key inflammatory proteins and brain injury markers are produced.

They analysed over 800 hospitalised patients' samples from across England and Wales.

Surprisingly, even months after being discharged from the hospital, there is ongoing robust biomarker evidence of brain injury developed due to COVID-19, the researchers said in their study published in



a journal, Nature Communications.

The biomarker evidence was more prominently seen in patients experiencing neurological dysfunction during the acute illness, and continued in the recovery phase in patients suffering acute neurological complications, the researchers said.

"While some neurological 'symptoms' were often mild (headache and muscle aches [myalgia]), it became clear that more significant and potentially life-changing new neurological 'complications' were occurring, including encephalitis (brain

inflammation), seizures, and stroke," said Benedict Michael, Principal Investigator and Director of the Infection Neuroscience Laboratory, University of Liverpool. The inflammatory markers, associated with abnormal immune responses in the acute phase of the disease, suggest the possibility of ongoing inflammation and brain injury that may not be detected by blood tests measuring inflammation, the researchers said.

They suggested that these biomarkers could represent therapy targets for COVID-19 and other infections causing

acute brain dysfunction.

"Our study shows that markers of brain injury are present in the blood months after COVID-19, and particularly in those who have had a COVID-19-induced brain complication (e.g. inflammation, or stroke), despite resolution of the inflammatory response in the blood.

"This suggests the possibility of ongoing inflammation and injury inside the brain itself which may not be detected by blood tests for inflammation," said Michael.

Michael's team is now working to understand what the findings means for cognitive function, independence and recovery in those affected.

The research team also said that their work helps set the stage for discerning possible underlying mechanisms of these neurological complications.

New Covid-19 variant, flu, RSV cases rise: How to stay healthy this season



NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agencies): As the holiday season approaches, health experts raise alarms about the simultaneous spread of respiratory illnesses, including the JN.1 strain of coronavirus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and influenza.

With these viruses circulating, taking proactive steps to protect yourself is crucial.

Not just the cold weather, but the high level of air pollution is another reason why

hospitalisations for the flu and RSV are also climbing.

Dr Akshay Budhbraja, Senior Consultant, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Aakash Healthcare, told agency, "With such a high level of air pollution which is already causing respiratory problems like throat irritation, cough, sputum, breathlessness, nasal irritation, several viruses are causing respiratory infections like influenza, RSV and Covid which causes

similar symptoms."

The only way to stay healthy is to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, suggested the expert.

Vaccination remains a cornerstone of prevention. Wearing high-quality masks or respirators, such as N95s, can provide additional protection, especially for those at high risk of severe illness from Covid-19.

"People should wear N95 when moving in a crowded place, hospitals or outdoors. N95 will protect from harmful effects of pollution as well the respiratory viral infections," said Dr Akshay Budhbraja.

Good hand hygiene is another critical measure.

Regularly washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds can significantly reduce the risk of infection.

Improving airflow and ventilation in indoor spaces can also help reduce the concentration of airborne viruses. Options include opening windows, using air purifiers, and turning on exhaust fans.

"Drink plenty of fluids, sleep for at least 7 to 8 hours a day, eat healthy food, avoid crowded places, exercise regularly, keep indoor air quality as clean as possible, and get the annual flu shot and Covid-19 booster dose. Stay updated with the latest guidelines for keeping yourself safe. And the most important thing, do not panic about fake forwards on social media regarding Covid," suggested Dr Budhbraja.

If you develop symptoms of any respiratory illness, it's important to stay home, get tested and seek treatment promptly.

“It’s A Different Feeling...”: Virat Kohli’s 1st Interview After World Cup Final Loss Has Him Talking About ‘Job Satisfaction’ In Tests

It has been reported that Virat Kohli has returned home due to a family emergency, just days before the start of the first Test against South Africa.

CENTURION, Dec 23 (Agence): All eyes will be on Virat Kohli as India take on South Africa in a two-match Test series. Kohli will return to action after being out of action for more than a month, following India’s World Cup final loss to Australia on November 19. India have not won a Test series in the Rainbow Nation, but came close to doing so during their last tour under Kohli’s leadership. India won the first Test, but conceded the series 1-2 against the Proteas, with Kohli missing the second Test due to a back injury. With wounds of India’s World Cup final loss yet to be healed, Kohli and Team India, under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, will look to create history by winning the Test series. Ahead of the series, Kohli shed light on his Test journey so far, and how the format gives him immense “job satisfaction”. “Test cricket for me is the foundation of the game. It’s history. It’s culture. It’s heritage. It’s everything. You come



out on the otherside after four-five days, it’s a different feeling from anything else that you’ve experienced. As an individual, as a team, the job satisfaction of having played a long innings and winning your team a Test match is a special feeling. I am a traditionalist so playing in whites, playing Test cricket is everything. Really honoured to play more than 100 Tests for the country and pursue my dream of becoming a Test cricketer,” Kohli said in a video uploaded

by Star Sports. Test cricket is the toughest & most demanding but the best form of cricket! It’s pure, rich in history & heritage, say legends. This is Kohli’s first interview after the World Cup final loss. It has been reported that Kohli has returned home due to a family emergency, just days before the start of the first Test against South Africa. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sources, however, have confirmed that the

iconic batter will be back in time for the first Test, which begins on December 26, against the Proteas in Centurion. The Test series is set to mark the return of Kohli, along with skipper Rohit Sharma, pacer Jasprit Bumrah and a few other members of India’s ODI World Cup squad. Since India’s heart-breaking defeat against Australia in the World Cup final, Kohli, Rohit and some other senior members of the Indian team have been away from cricket. Virat had missed India’s T20I series against South Africa as well as the white-ball assignments against South Africa. However, he made himself available for the Test series from the start. It isn’t yet known what the ‘family emergency’ is that prompted Virat to return home just 4 days before the start of the Test series. But, the emergency doesn’t seem to be a complicated one as Kohli has assured the BCCI of his return to the team before the Test series begins.

“Ladai Meri Sirf...”: Gautam Gambhir’s Interesting Response On Equation With Virat Kohli



NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agence): The on-field spat between star India batter Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir during the IPL 2023 left everyone stunned. The incident took place on May 1 in Lucknow during the match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants, where Kohli got indulged into a war of words with LSG pacer Naveen-ul-Haq. After the match ended, the things got heated up and Gambhir, who was the mentor of LSG, intervened in the support of Naveen, which led to an intense drama. However, this was not the time first time that these two players got

involved into a fight. Earlier in IPL 2013, both of them had a verbal spat during a match. Gambhir is widely known for his blunt remarks but the former India batter won many hearts with his recent statement regarding Kohli’s 50th ODI ton. Kohli scored his record-breaking 50th ODI hundred against New Zealand during the semi-final match of the ODI World Cup 2023. Recently, ahead of the 3rd ODI match between India and South Africa, Gambhir was asked a question on Star Sports that on which bowler’s over, did Kohli achieve the phenomenal feat. Gambhir said, “Lockie

Ferguson. Ye aap baar baar dikhana, mujhe sab kuch yaad rehta hai. Ladai meri sirf on the field hai(Please show this clip again and again, I remember everything. My fight is only on the field)” This answer by the two-time IPL champion left everyone, including his fellow cricket expert Piyush Chawla, utterly impressed. Gambhir has been appointed as the mentor for Kolkata Knight Riders for the upcoming season. As KKR bought pacer Mitchell Starc at a whopping price of Rs 24.75 crore, Gambhir stated that the Aussie quick will be the X-factor and the leader of the bowling pack. “He (Starc) is an X-factor, there is no doubt about that. Someone who can bowl with the new ball, bowl in the death overs and more importantly, someone who can lead the attack,” Gambhir, who was present at the auction, said.

Suryakumar Yadav out of Afghanistan series with ankle injury, Hardik Pandya unlikely to play as well

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (Agence): Suryakumar Yadav is all set to miss the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan starting January 11 due to an ankle injury sustained during the recent series against South Africa. The 31-year-old twisted his ankle while fielding against South Africa in Johannesburg and there could be a suspected tear that could take six weeks to heal. “Surya has reported to NCA for rehab work and the Medical Science team as of now has ruled him injured. He won’t be able to play against Afghanistan which starts in three weeks time. Since he is unlikely to be selected for Tests, he will possibly play for Mumbai in Ranji Trophy in February to check his fitness before playing in the IPL,” a BCCI source told agency on condition of anonymity. It has also been known that chances of Hardik Pandya recovering from his ankle injury looks unlikely at the moment. “There is no update on Hardik’s fitness status as of now and one can say there remains a big question mark of him being available before the end of IPL,” the source added. With Surya or Hardik unavailable, the selectors might need to ask Rohit Sharma to lead the side unless they



want to look forward and appoint Ravindra Jadeja, the stop gap leader for a series. But Jadeja will play all five Tests against England and will need to take care of his workload management. Even Asian Games skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has broken his finger and will be out for the series. Jitesh Sharma to keep wickets vs AFG Ishan Kishan recently pulled out of the South Africa Tests due to “personal reasons” and there are reports of keeper-batter prioritising mental health after being on the road for past one year. There are talks that he might not be available for Afghanistan and Jitesh Sharma will keep wickets. “The BCCI respects a player’s privacy and no one will ask Kishan the reason why he decided to skip the Tests. May be once Rahul was announced as a keeper in Tests, he didn’t want to hang around. It does take a toll, if you are not picked consistently.”

Bangladesh Coast To Historic Win In Third ODI Against New Zealand

NAPIER, Dec 23 (Agence): Bangladesh’s pace attack shredded New Zealand’s batting on a green Napier pitch to record a historic nine-wicket win in the third and final one-day international on Saturday. Having been well beaten in the first two matches to cede the series, Bangladesh produced a remarkable form reversal at McLean Park to dismiss the hosts for just 98 in 34.1 overs. The run chase was a procession, with captain Najmul Hossain Shanto scoring an unbeaten half-century as they coasted to 99-1 in 15.1 overs. It was Bangladesh’s first ODI win over the Black Caps on New Zealand soil, where they had lost the 18 previous fixtures since their first attempt in 1990. Shanto said victory would be a source of pride and was just reward for the improvements he believes his eighth-ranked team are making. “Really proud of the boys playing in this match,” he said. “Before we started this series we really believed that we could win the series. “The last couple of matches we played well but we couldn’t finish. Today the boys played



some good cricket and we got the result.” Shanto’s contribution began with him winning the toss and inserting the Black Caps on a lush, bouncy surface which also offered sideways movement -- and his seamers responded. Three of them picked up three wickets as New Zealand were skittled for their lowest total in 45 ODIs between the teams. Tanzim Hasan Sakib (3-14) and Soumya Sarkar (3-18) both bagged career-best figures while Shoriful Islam’s 3-22 included the scalp of top-scoring Will Young, caught in the gully for 26.

Sakib said his methods were simple. “I tried to bowl wicket to wicket and I tried to bowl line and length. The wicket did the rest of the work. It really helped me.” Young has been in superb touch in the series, scoring 105 and 89 in the wins in Dunedin and Nelson respectively. Captain Tom Latham (21) put on 36 with Young for the third wicket but his dismissal -- clean bowled by Islam -- sparked a collapse which saw the last eight wickets fall for 40 runs, many of them to wayward shots. There was an early blemish in the run chase when open-

ing batter Sarkar -- who scored 169 in a losing cause in Napier on Wednesday -- was forced to retire hurt for four because of an eye problem. Loose New Zealand bowling meant there were few problems from that point, with Shanto (51 not out) putting on 69 with opener Anamul Haque, who was the only batsman dismissed when edging pacerman William O’Rourke on 37. O’Rourke had earlier been struck for four successive boundaries by the free-hitting Shanto in the 11th over of the innings. New Zealand had rested a number of senior players for the series and Latham said some of his newer squad members will have learned a lot. “Obviously it was a very below-par performance,” he said. “Bangladesh found a way to bowl on that surface and managed to get plenty out of it. We weren’t able to build any sort of pressure and put it back on them so it’s pretty disappointing.” The teams will prepare for a three-match T20 international series, starting in Napier on Wednesday.

Hardik Pandya, New Mumbai Indians Captain, May Miss IPL 2024 Due To Injury: Sources

Hardik Pandya could miss the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to an ankle injury

MUMBAI, Dec 23 (Agence): Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya could miss the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to an ankle injury, agency sources confirmed on Saturday. This comes after Hardik was traded to Mumbai Indians from Gujarat Titans ahead of the IPL players auction. The players was initially named in the retention list by GT, but was traded to MI ahead of the auction as part of an all-cash deal. Agency sources have confirmed that Hardik will miss the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan, while his participation in the upcoming season of IPL remains a doubt. Hardik has been out of action since injuring his ankle during a World Cup match against Bangladesh in Pune. Soon after announcing Hardik’s trade from GT, MI announced that the all-rounder will lead the franchise in the upcoming season of IPL, replacing long-serving captain Rohit Sharma.

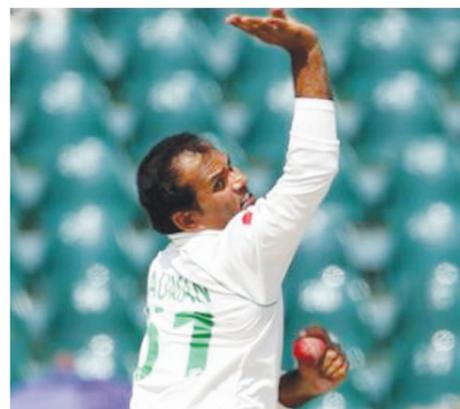


Pandya had played seven seasons of IPL for Mumbai before being released prior to the 2022 season. After joining Gujarat Titans, Pandya led the side to back-to-back IPL finals, including earning them the trophy in their debut season. Hardik missed the recently concluded white-ball leg of the South Africa tour, as well as the T20I series against Australia. In

his absence, Suryakumar led India to a 4-1 series win over Australia, while the T20I series ended in a draw. During the IPL auction, MI bought South Africa pacer Gerald Coetzee as their first buy. Coetzee, who had a base price of Rs 2 crore, went to MI for Rs 5 crore after bidding wars with RCB and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

MI further strengthened their pace battery with the addition of Sri Lankan pacers Dilshan Madushanka and Nuwan Thushara. MI also waited until the accelerator wound to rope in Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi at his base price. MI Retained players Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, N. Tilak Varma, Tim David, Vishnu Vinod, Arjun Tendulkar, Shams Mulani, Nehal Wadhwa, Jasprit Bumrah, Kumar Kartikeya, Piyush Chawla, Akash Madhwal, Jason Behrendorff, Romario Shephard (from LSG), Hardik Pandya (C). MI players bought at IPL 2024 auction Gerald Coetzee (Rs. 5 crore), Dilshan Madushanka (Rs. 4.60 crore), Shreyas Gopal (Rs. 20 lakh), Nuwan Thushara (Rs. 4.80 crore), Naman Dhir (Rs. 20 lakh), Anshul Kamboj (Rs. 20 lakh), Mohammad Nabi (Rs. 1.5 crore), Shivalik Sharma (Rs. 20 lakh).

Pakistan’s injury woes continue with spinner Noman Ali out for remainder of Australia series



SYDNEY, Dec 23 (Agence): Pakistan spinner Noman Ali has become the second player in two days to withdraw from the touring squad for the remainder of the Australia three-test series due to illness and injury. Ali, who didn’t play in the 360-run defeat in the first test at Perth last week, underwent surgery for appendicitis in

Melbourne on Saturday. “Noman Ali complained of sudden and severe abdominal pain yesterday, leading to examinations and scans in emergency that confirmed a diagnosis of acute appendicitis,” a Pakistan team statement read. “Post-surgery he is stable and doing fine. He will be discharged later (on Saturday).”

The latest blow for the tourists comes after fast bowler Khurram Shahzad, who took match figures of 5-128 in his impressive test debut in Perth, was ruled out for the remainder of the series with a rib stress fracture and muscle tear on Thursday. Pakistan had already traveled to Australia with a weakened bowling lineup after fast bowler Naseem Shah was ruled out due to a long-term injury and Haris Rauf opted to play in Australia’s Big Bash League instead of joining the touring squad. Pakistan has lost its last 15 tests in Australia, last winning in 1995 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The teams play the second test in Melbourne beginning on Boxing Day, with the third test set for Sydney beginning January 3.

IGGDC Jammu organizes plantation drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu is taking a significant step towards environmental stewardship by launching a plantation drive within its premises.

Recognizing the pivotal role of planting native trees, a plantation drive for planting summer zone apple trees was conducted in the college premises under the guidance of Dr Rakesh K. Gupta, Principal and Dean IGGDC Jammu in presence of



Dr KC Sharma, Chief Consultant Surgeon, Udhampur and Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State chairman, Indian Yoga Association. The event was attended by faculty members, staff and

students.

This was followed by the guest lectures by of Dr KC Sharma on topic "Innovations of Rural Surgeon" focusing on the research innovations in the field of medicine and surgery.

The event concluded with the guest lecture by Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain on importance of yoga and spirituality. Through the combination of environmental consciousness and medical advancements, the college aspires to make a lasting impact on both the well-being of individuals and the planet.

NC constitutes SC Cell Office bearers District Udhampur Urban

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: With the approval of Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Jammu Province, Rattan Lal Gupta and as recommended by Sunil Verma District President Udhampur Urban.

Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell has Constituted Office bearers SC Cell District Udhampur Urban. The SC Cell Office bearers District Udhampur Urban has been constituted.

Amar Nath Rtd Principal as District President Udhampur Urban, Madan Lal Bhagat and Om Prakash as District Vice Presidents SC Cell Udhampur Urban.

Sham Lal and Mishamber Dass as District Secretaries SC Cell Udhampur Urban, Kuldeep Kumar and Sohan Lal Bhagat as Additional District Secretaries SC Cell Udhampur Urban.

Madan Lal as Block President Udhampur, Sher

Dogra as Block Secretary Udhampur, Parkash Chand Bhagat as Block President Jaganoo, Mohan Lal as Block Secretary Jaganoo, Madan Lal as Block President Majalta, Tarvinder Kumar as Block President Tikri, Mahinder Kumar as Block Secretary Tikri, Tara Mani as Block President Jib Thathi, Pawan Kumar as Block Secretary Jib Thathi, Ravi Kumar as Block Secretary Panchari, Puran Chand as Block Secretary Panchari, Satpaul as City President Udhampur, Kishor Kumar as City Vice President Udhampur, Madan Lal as City Secretary Udhampur, Ashok Kumar and Raj Paul as Organizers SC Cell.

Rattan Lal Gupta congratulated newly constituted office bearers and hoped that office bearers will reach to the gross root level workers to mitigate the sufferings of the people in their respective areas and strengthen the party units to face forthcoming challenges.

JU starts vertical green walls creation using waste plastic bottles



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Green Campus Task Force, University of Jammu (GCTF-JU) under its 'Waste to Wonder' initiatives towards Viksit Bharat@2047, organized "One-day Training Programme on Creating Green Walls/Vertical Gardens using Waste Plastic Bottles".

Hands-on training was provided by Rakesh, the vertical wall creation trainer, to around 80 GCTF-JU volunteers including the teachers in-charge, scholars, and students from different departments of the University.

Pertinent to mention here that GCTF-JU is University roadmap to develop sustainable campus through students participation.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Convener, GCTF-JU and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, formally welcomed the participants

and stressed upon the need to create awareness among the students and use such innovative ideas to promote environmental conservation efforts.

While interacting with the participants he said that reusing the waste plastic bottles which otherwise would have gone to waste disposal sites, ensures sustainable utilization of the waste material.

'Such initiatives would lead to the substantial reduction in the amount of plastic waste generated apart from improving the aesthetics of the buildings', he further added. The reuse and recycling of the waste material by students will further improve the already declared green campus of the university.

Dr. Deepika Slathia, Member Secretary GCTF-JU, discussed in detail the concept, creation, and importance of vertical green walls.

Hundreds join program to commemorate death anniversary of Madan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: A program to commemorate the death anniversary of former MP Madan Lal Sharma on his third death anniversary.

People of Khour and Akhnoor remembered their beloved leader Madan Lal Sharma on his third death anniversary.

A program was organised at Khour in which hundreds of people from Khour and Akhnoor gathered and paid their heartfelt homage to their beloved leader Madan Lal Sharma.

During the program people shared their memories about their beloved leader. Workers shared how Madan Lal Sharma opened the doors of development for the whole Jammu region and specially Khour and Akhnoor.

The works like opening of colleges, construction of bridges, roads, tube-well etc. changed the maps of these areas.

Speaking on the occasion, speakers said



that it was Madan Lal Sharma who raised voice in the Parliament to introduce Dogri language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution which created employment opportunities for students of Dogri language and promoted Dogri on national platform.

They also recognised his role in establishing migrant colonies for Kashmiri Pandits and people of border belt. Speaking on the occasion Satish Sharma said that he is indebted by the love that he is receiving from people of Khour and Akhnoor.

He said despite being out of power for a decade people have never stopped loving

our family. He said that MP always used to tell him that the people of Khour have magical power, they supported a normal farmer and made him a member of parliament.

He said that MP has told him that you have to take care of my people after me and Satish Sharma promised the public to leave no stone turned to serve them.

Others present were Ex-MOS Kuldeep Raj Verma, BDC chairman Parveen Sharma, Secretary JKPCJ Manjeet Jatt, Prabhu Singh, Prem Singh, Madan Lal, Viru Ram, Dr. B.D Sharma, Mohan Lal, capt. Sham Singh and Vasudev Chib.

Senior Citizen Services Supports Club Chowadi celebrates Dogri Manyata Divas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: Senior Citizen Services Supports Club Chowadi on Saturday celebrated Dogri Manyata Divas at its premises at Chowadi to create awareness among the stakeholders and the society for the promotion of Dogri Language.

Prominent citizens of different organizations joined this celebration and various deliberations were held for the promotion of Dogri language.

Ashok Gupta, former Drug Controller and President of the Club, welcomed the guests and requested the guests to share your valuable thoughts on the topic as it's our deep concern to save our mother tongue.

Dr. Kasturi Lal, former Principal GMC Jammu and Chairman of this Club, briefed about the importance and significance of this day in details as this day is very special for the

society.

Maj. Gen. S.K Sharma, General Secretary of the Club, convened the "Dogri Manyata Divas" proceedings.

He gave detailed presentation on the importance of the day which is being celebrated since 2003. Threadbare discussions were held on the Recruitment Rules, put in public domain by General Administration Dept. J&K Govt. for comments by the public.

It was decided to approach the Govt. for making a necessary amendment for inclusion of Dogri language as mandatory subjects for the posts in Jammu province and to display the signage boards in Dogri language at important public and Govt. places.

Prof. Joginder Singh gave details of the current status of enrollment in Dogri depts. in colleges. He stressed to encourage our children to opt for Dogri language in schools and colleges till it become a

mandatory subject.

Dr. Vijay Sharma, former Technical officer, Doordarshan captured the event in his camera for use to motivate people towards Dogri language and shared his valuable thoughts for the promotion of Dogri.. He also said the media can play a vital role to spread the message in the society since it is fourth pillar of the society.

Raman Suri in his written poem, he rattled out the salient important sites of our heritage in each of the 10 districts of Jammu province.

H.C Vaid also stressed that we should build pressure on Govt. to introduce dogri language at primary school level as compulsory subject.

T.S Reen Chairman of Federation of Industries, Anil Suri, Jagdish Langar, O.P Sharma, Anju Bansal, Rajneesh Gupta and other members of the club attended the programme.

JKPCC launches "Donate for Dosh"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: JKPCJ President Vikar Rasool Wani on Saturday started the online crowd funding campaign "donate for Dosh" launched by the Congress Party throughout the country for transparent funding for the party on 138th year of Congress foundation.

Launching the online campaign in J&K in a press briefing at PCC HQ here, as per AICC directive, JKPCJ President Vikar Rasool Wani flanked by Working President Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice Presidents Ravinder Sharma - Chief Spokesperson and Th. Balwan Singh, Vice President I/C HQ Vinod Sharma besides General Secretaries Pawan Raina, Suresh Dogra, Narinder Sharma

& Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta, appealed to the people especially party workers and sympathizers of Congress to vigorously go for on line donations, ranging from Rs. 138, Rs.1380, 13,800 & so on or in any other amount as part of "Donate for Dosh" campaign for transparent funding to the party account.

A certificate shall be issued on line to every donor, he added.

Vikar said that party shall reach out to every booth to atleast ensure donation of Rs.138 or more to the party funds.

He said Congress party under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had done crowd funding in 1920-21 and now in 138 years of its foundation now party completes 138 years on 28th Dec. 2023. He said a

large number of people are already engaged in the donations, launched by AICC on 18th Dec. 2023.

Expressing grave concern over the rise of terrorism and martyrdom of our Jawans in different areas especially in Rajouri-Poonch, JKPCJ said that Govt. should take more effective mode to bring the situation under control and ensure safety of innocents including the killing of our jawans.

He castigated the Govt. for making tall claims of normalcy, while terror incidents are on rise and our jawans are sacrificing their lives. He saluted the martyrs and expressed sympathies with their families. He said that several incidents of terrorism have taken place right from Dhangri, Kalakote, Koteranka, Mendhar, Kokernag in which several precious lives have been lost.

The Govt. should take more effective steps to check rise of terrorist activities and ensure safety of people, as people want peace and normalcy.

Sachika, Sanvi of DPS Jammu shine in PAN India Entrepreneurship Boot Camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: In a remarkable feat, Sachika Gupta (XI-E) from Delhi Public School Jammu has secured a prestigious position among the top four out of 100 students in the PAN India Boot Camp under Atal Tinkerpreneur 2023.

Following a rigorous selection process, 100 outstanding students have been chosen to participate in this transformative program. The camp was designed to provide a unique platform for these students to enhance their skills, collaborate with peers, and engage in cutting-edge projects.

Sachika had designed and written an e-book that solves the problem of lack of guidance in portrait drawing, helping aspiring artists especially young children to develop their skills and techniques.



Meanwhile, Sanvi Gupta (XI-F) had also earned recognition, being selected for a workshop on entrepreneurship organized by BITS Pilani in Rajasthan.

The workshop not only included training sessions but also provided an opportunity for Sanvi to present her business ideas, specifically focusing on promoting the cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Both Sachika and Sanvi have been honored with Certificates of Participa-

tion and Achievement for their outstanding performances.

The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, President-RCT Ajatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr. Ritu Singh, Director- S.S Sodhi, and Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra, along with staff congratulated the students, their parents, and their teacher in-charge, Sukaran Gupta, for their lauded efforts. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavors.

RHS celebrates Christmas festival with joy and excitement



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 23: RHS Management, Principal Staff and Students celebrated the holy festival of Christmas with joy and excitement.

The School Campus wore a festive look with aesthetically decorated Christmas trees, balloons and bunting.

The students dressed up as santas and angels personified the spirit of Christmas.

In a special assembly the students showcased their talents by singing of Carols

and scintillating dance performances.

Senior students dressed up as Santas went round the School distributing candies and chocolates bringing joy and happiness to the students and their mentors.

The Head of the Institute, Anita Bhatia, in her address congratulated the students while advising them to imbibe the eternal message of brotherhood and harmony for all. The celebration culminated on a joyful note with the festive spirit prevalent amongst all.

Comprehensive pain care management services launched

Top News Report

JAMMU / BATHINDA, Dec 23: The comprehensive pain care management services were launched at Max Hospital on Saturday. The OPD for these services will be available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 3pm.

Dr. Preet Kanwal Narula, associate director & head anaesthesia & pain management said, "The pain care management services will be led by a team of highly skilled and experienced specialists dedicated to diagnosing, managing, and treating various types of acute and chronic pain conditions. From advanced diagnostic techniques to personalized treatment plans, we aim to enhance the quality of life for individuals dealing with pain-related challenges."

He further said that a team of pain management experts, neurologists, physiotherapists, and psychologists will deliver comprehensive and tailored care.

We leverage the latest advancements in medical technology to ensure accurate diagnosis and effective pain relief solutions. With a focus on patient well-being, our services emphasize open communication, education, and shared decision-making between healthcare providers and patients, he informed.