TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper

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King Charles III's annual Christmas message from Buckingham Palace includes sustainable touches



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BRIEFLY

Former VC SDA Muhammad **Yousuf Bhat** passes away

SRINAGAR, Dec 25 (Agencies): Former chief Engineer R&B, Muhammad Yusuf Bhat passed away on Sunday after a long battle with cancer, family sources said.

Bhat, who was also former Vice-Chairman of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), breathed his last at SKIMS Soura.

His congregational prayers would be held at his residence, opposite, Police Station, Rajbagh. The Chahrum of the deceased will be held on Thursday, December, 28, 2023.

"He indeed left us with fond memories and an unrecoverable loss. We pray to almighty to give strength to his dear and loved ones and to get through this difficult and testing time," said a family member.

Two critically injured in North **Kashmir road** accident

SRINAGAR, Dec 25 Agencies): Two per sons were injured after the vehicle they were traveling in rolled down in the Sangri top in the Sopore area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday afternoon, an official

The official told that a Wagon-R car rolled down the Sangri top Sopore, resulting in critical injuries to the two individuals. The injured have been identified as Umar Javid Nazki, Mohammad Igbal Najar, both residents of Model Town Sopore.

"The injured duo has been taken to a hospital for immediate treatment", the official said further.

Dr Farooq, **Omar Abdullah Greet People** on **Christmas**

SRINAGAR, Dec 25 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah have greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Christmas.

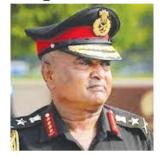
In his greetings message, Dr Faroog said, "I greet the Christian community on the auspicious occasion of Christmas with immense joy. It is the day of kindling spirit of service and

■Turn to page 9

Army Chief arrives in Jammu to review security situation amid **Anti-Terror Operation in Poonch**

JAMMU, Dec 25 (Agencies): Army chief General Manoj Pande arrived here on Monday to review the prevailing security situation in the Jammu region amid a massive ongoing operation to track down the terrorists behind a recent ambush on Army vehicles that left four soldiers dead in the border district of Poonch, officials said.

The chief of Army staff reached Jammu and later, left for the Rajouri-Poonch sector to review



the operational preparedness of the force and the prevailing security situation, a defence spokesperson said.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding of the Jammu-based White **Knight Corps Lieutenant** General Sandeep Jain and senior civil administration and police officers are camping in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch to supervise the anti-terrorist operation and maintain law and order.

The four soldiers were killed after their vehicles were ambushed by the terrorists at Dhatyar
Turn to page 9

2 of marriage party killed, 13 others injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Reasi



JAMMU. Dec 25 (Agencies): Two people were killed and 12 injured on Monday when a minibus carrying a wedding party skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said.

The bus was travelling from Balmatkote to Badar village when the accident took place near Dhamini around 6 am, Chassana SHO Suman Singh said. A rescue operation was launched immediately

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COVID-19 | India records 628 fresh cases, active caseload at 4,054 NEW DELHI, Dec at 8 am showed.

25 (Agencies): India recorded a single-day rise of 628 new COVID-19 cases while the active caseload jumped to 4,054, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The total fatalities were recorded at 5,33,334 (5.33 lakh) with one new death reported from Kerala in the previous 24 hours, the data updated

The country's Covid case tally is currently at 4,50,09,248 (4.50

crore). The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has risen to 4,44,71,860 (4.44 crore) while the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

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Army officer in coma after gunfight in Kupwara dies after eight years



SRINAGAR, Dec 25 (Agencies): Lieutenant Colonel Karanbir Singh Natt who was in coma for the last eight years after receiving serious injuries while fighting terrorists in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir in 2015, passed away on Saturday in Military Hospital Jalandhar, a media report said today.

Top army officials including Brig BA Dhil-

Ion (retd), Director Sainik Welfare Punjab, confirmed the death of Lt Col. Natt's demise.

Lt Col Natt was serv-

ing as the second-incommand of 160 Territorial Army Battalion (JAK Rifles) at the time of the incident in November 2015 while leading a combing operation against terrorists holed up in a village near Kup-

He had received grievous injuries to his face, particularly lower jaw, when on November 25. 2015 a terrorist holed up in a hut in Haji Naka village in Kupwara district of J&K. close to the Line of Control, fired upon him, reported The Indian Express.

Doctors in the Military Hospital in Srinagar and later in Army Research and Referral Hospital New Delhi had conducted frantic surgeries on him to save his life.

He was originally com-

missioned as a Short Service Commission officer in The Brigade of Guards in 1998. He served in the regiment for 14 years before being relieved from service in 2012. He joined the Territorial Army following his completion of service as a Short Service Commission officer.

Hailing from village Dhadiala Natt, near Batala, the deceased officer is survived by his wife Navpreet Kaur, and daughter, Guneet and Ashmeet.

Traffic movement affected as thick fog blankets Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Dec 25 (Agencies): Normal life was affected in Srinagar on Monday morning as a thick layer of fog blanketed Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Because of low visibility, lesser number of vehicles were seen on the roads and the ones plving were moving at a slow pace with their fog and headlights turned on to prevent accidents.

A Met official said that the visibility in the capital city was 91 metres at 8:30 am. 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.

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

er is expected from December 28-31," he said, adding, "Overall there is no significant weather activity till December ending"

He said from January 1-3, weather is expected to be generally cloudy

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Breaking Barriers | J&K to hold first-ever festival to honour Persons with Disabilities on Dec 28, 29

SRINAGAR, Dec 24 (Agencies): In a heartwarming initiative, the Jammu and Kashmir government is set to host VYOM-J&K 2023, a first-ever festival to honour and felicitate the remarkable achievements of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) across J&K.

The two-day Inclusive Purple Fest will be held at the University of Jammu on December 28 and 29, 2023.

SRINAGAR, Dec 25

(Agencies): The Chris-

tian community in Kash-

mir on Monday cel-

ebrated Christmas with

special prayers held

for the resolution of the

The event would witness PWDs like Insha Bashir from Budgam and Chandeep from Jammu, both exemplifying extraordinary feats in their chosen arenas.

Insha Bashir from central Kashmir's Budgam district is the first wheelchair basketball player from J&K. Insha has not only showcased her skills at the national level but also proudly represented India on the international stage in the

Message of Love, Peace and Happiness: Kashmir's

Israel-Palestine conflict.

The biggest mass was

held at the Holy Family

Catholic Church at Mau-

lana Azad Road, where

dozens of Christians,

including women and

Christian Community celebrates Birth of Jesus

United States. She bagged a National Award from the President of India in 2022 and a State Award in 2023. "When I started my

journey to showcase my abilities there was no role model for me and there was no basketball team across J&K. But I decided to move ahead and today I have reached a level where I have achieved international recognition," Insha

children, assembled to

celebrate the birth of

The church wore a fes-

tive look as it was deco-

rated with colourful bun-

ting, lights and balloons.

end to the conflict in

Palestine. We see the

difficulties, tough times

and challenges faced by

the people there, but we

have left it to the Lord,

praying for peace in the

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region through Him,"

"We prayed for an

Jesus Christ.

■Turn to page 9

meeting with J&K leaders to discuss poll preparedness

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who is meeting the leaders of different states to discuss the poll preparations, will hold a meeting with the leaders from Jammu and Kashmir at the party headquarters to discuss the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-

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Kharge to chair

tions.

According to party leaders, Kharge, who held meetings - separately with the leaders of 24 states along with former party chief Rahul Gandhi and several other top leaders - will be meeting with the leaders of Jammu and

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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 or 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

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

With Chakus, Kouls, Razdans, Mirzas & Wangnues

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



SMT RAJ DULARI CHAKU

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

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

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

Tenth Day Kriya

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt Kamla Tikku W/o Lt. Sh O N Tikku on 21st of December 2023 at her residence 28A, Ext. IInd Gandhi Nagar Jammu.



Mr. Rattan Lal Kaul

SMT. RATTAN RANI

Tenth Day Kriya a solemn occasion Smt Kamla Tikku to honour her memory is scheduled to take place on 29th of December 2023 at 9.00 AM at Muthi Ghat.

Grief Stricken Sh Ravinder Tikku & Rainu -Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh Ashwani Tikku & Sushma -Son & Daughter-in-law Sh Rakesh Tikku & Veena -Son & Daughter-in-law Smt Rajni & Sh Jatinder Koul -Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Suman & Lt. Sh Surinder Gigoo -Daughter & Son-in-law Smt Anjana & Sh Kumar Ji Koul -Daughter & Son-in-law

TENTH DAY KRIYA
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE

REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOWED MOTHER SMT. RATTAN RANI W/O LT SH BADR NATH KACHROO R/O MATTAN (AT PRESENT PUNE) BREATHED HER LAST ON MONDAY (18.12.2023)

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT. AALANDI GHAT PUNE ON 27/12/2023 AT. 09.00 HRS

GRIEF STRICKEN DAUGHTER-IN-LAW SMT RAJNI DHAR KACHROO SON / DAUGHTER IN LAW AVTAR KRISHAN & SUMAN LATA DAUGHTERS / SON IN LAW SMT SARLA & ROSHAN LAL KOUL

SMT USHA & SANJAY MUSSA **GRAND SON / DAUGHTER IN LAW** SHEETAL & SONIYA **GRAND DAUGHTER'S / SON IN LAW**

KANCHAN & VIKAS SHALINI & VINAYAK

GRAND CHILDRENS: SMRITL SURBHLISHAN **GREAT GRAND SON: MASTER KAVISH**

(PHONE NUMBER: 7006153796, 8715881777, 9419213519)

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. Kriva will be performed at our residence on 26-12-2023 (Tuesday). Uthala will be performed at Hindu Ashram, Reasi on 27-12-2023 LT. SMT. CHANCHAL

(Wednesday) from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN



MENGI

Smt. Preeti & Rahul Mengi (Rocky) Sh. Rajiy Sadotra H/o Lt. Smt. Shaveta Grand Sons: Aniket, Ayush, Vedant, Sidhant

10TH DAY

Ph.No: 9906036310, 9622253964

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

CHUNI DEVI RAINA

13.08.1933 - 19.12.2023

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

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Rajni Gupta W/o Suresh Kumar R/o W.No. 16 Shiva Nagar Kathua on 17th December 2023.

The 10TH DAY will be performed at our residence on 26th December 2023 at 11:30 AM. THE 13TH DAY will be performed at our residence on 29th December 2023 at 1 PM.

WITH REVERENCE & GRIEF: Sh. Suresh Kumar (Husband) Shubam Gupta (Son) Sister and Brother in Law

Smt. Renu Gupta & Sh. Santosh Kumar Smt. Seema Gupta & Sh. Rajnesh Gupta Smt. Sunita & Dr. B.D. Gupta 7889763638, 7006863481



SMT. RAJNI GUPTA

10TH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret

to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Man Mohani Raina W/o Late Hony. Lt. Som Nath Raina R/o 187, Shastri Nagar, Jammu on 22-12-2023. 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi

Ghat, near Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 31-12-2023 at 9:15 am. GRIEF STRICKEN:

Chand Krishen Sapru - Brother Youge Jee Dassi (Son-in-law)

Annapurna & Surinder Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son) Muni & Sushil Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son) Sunita & Kanwal Krishan Razdan (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Retu & Ravi Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son) Renu & Kuldeep Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law) Anita & Vikas Sadhu (Daughter and Son-in-law) Kouls, Painoos, Dhars, Bhats, Sadhus, Hakims

Grand & Great Grand children Tel No: 0191-2456547, Mobile: 9810743072

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved father Karamyogi Sh Prithvi Nath

Pandita originally resident of Magam, Handwara Kashmir presently at H.No. 113, Sector 6, Behind Sai Baba Mandir Lower Roop Nagar Muthi left for heavenly abode on 21.12 2023. TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Muthi

Ghat near Directorate School Education, Muthi on Saturday 30.12.2023 at 9:30 am. GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter-in-laws & Son Mrs. Renu Kaul & Prof. Sundeep Pandita Mrs. Skula Bhat & Sh. Sanjay Pandita

Daughters & Son-in-laws Mrs. Rajni Pandita & Sh. Ashok Pandita Mrs. Veena Kar & Sh Vijay Kar

9419652715, 9419166960, 9419159018

Mrs. Pitta Jigri W/o Lt. Sh Makhan Lal Kar (Sister) Mrs. Dhanwati W/o Lt. Omkar Nath Bhat (Bhabi) Mrs. Reeta Bhat W/o Lt. Swaroop Nath Bhat (Bhabi)

Grand children: Ajay, Ashwani, Sudanshu, Shreya, Divij, Tanish, Vedica Great Grand children: Samanyu, Yayati, Kavyansh Ph.: 9419137162, 9419299551, 9469231701



Smt. Man Mohani Raina

Sh Prithvi Nath Pandita

TENTH DAY

Nith profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of Smt Sharika Bhat W/o Sh Makhan Lal Bhat of Khah Bazar Anantnag presenty residing at Pooja Colony Lower Thathar (near park) Bantalab Jammu on 18th of December 2023. Tenth Day will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat of

27th December 2023 (Wednesday). Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat nea Directorate of School Education at 10.00 AM. Grief Stricken

Sh Makhan Lal Bhat **-Husband** Sons & Daughters-in-law Behari Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat Saniay Bhat & Bubita Bhat Dilip Bharti & Priya Bhat Daughter & Son-in-law Sunita Dhar & Sanjay Dhar

Grand Children: Aryan, Angel, Krishna, Shriya, Saieesh M.No. 7006455913, 7006434467, 9999250504

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad emise of our beloved mother Smt Jai Kishori Mantoc (Teja) W/o Sh Omkar Nath Mantoo R/o Sangrampora Sopore Kashmir presently at Trikuta Nagar Enclave Lower Muthi, Akalpora, Jammu, who left for heaver abode on 20th Dec. 2023

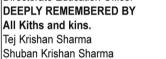
Jammu on 29th Dec. 2023. Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 10 A.M

oner Stricker: Omkar Nath Mantoo- **Husband** Ramesh Mantoo and Bharti Mantoo **(Son & D-in-law)** Chand Ji Mantoo and Kamlesh Mantoo (-do-)

Sanjeev Mantoo and Vicky Mantoo (-do-) anjeev Mantoo and Vicky Mantoo (Jabla) (Son-in-Law and Daughter)
SAMAST PARIVAR
MANTOO'S, MATTOO'S AND JALALI'S Mob: 9622129039, 9419702111, 8716035010, 9419105497

TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is now a week you have left us in deep mourn. We are missing your presence among us. May God bestows sadgati to your noble soul. Tenth Day Kriya of Sh. Kashi Nath Sharma R/o Mandlik Nagar Paloura shall be performed at 9.30 am on 28th December 2023 at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate Education Office.





Sh. Kashi Nath

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

One year has passed when you left us for the heavenly abode There was not a single moment when we have not missed yo ou were, you are and you will always be close to our hearts ar

Masvar/Vaharvar of our beloved father Sh. Avtar Krishe Raina (Baijan) will be performed on 26th and 27th of December 2023 at our residence H.No. 657, Sec-3, Vinayak Nagar Mu Jammu.
MISSING AND REMEMBERING ALL THE TIME

Smt. Santosh Raina - Wife Brother & Sister-in-law orourer & Sister-in-law Sh. Roshan Lal Raina & Smt. Sudesha Raina Sh. Nanajee Raina & Smt. Babeeta Raina Sh. Rohit Raina & Smt. Nishu Dhar - **Son & Daughter-in-law** Daughter & Son-in-law

mt. Shalu Raina & Sh. Arun Verma Smt. Asha Raina & Sh. Rakesh Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law

(Baijan)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

NAGAR, MIGRANI MOSTALES
21-12-2023
10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30-12-202
(SATURDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT AT 10:00AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:NANCY PANDITA (WIFE)
(SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
VIPAN PANDITA & KOMAL PANDITA - 7006076686

VIPAN PANDITA & KOMAL PANDITA - 7006076686
SAHIL PANDITA (SON) - 7006244069
BROTHER & BHABHI
SMT. RADHA DEVI WIO LATE SH RADHA KRISHNA PANDIT.
SH. JL. PANDITA & SMT CHUNI PANDITA
SH. JL. PANDITA & SMT SANTOSHA PANDITA
SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT RATHI RAINA WIO LATE SH JAGAR NATH RAINA
SMT PUSHPA BHAT WIO LATE SH MLL BHAT
SMT DUSHPA BHAT WIO LATE SH MLL BHAT
SMT DURA KOUL WIO VIJAY KOUL
KUCHROO'S (BARAMULLA) & SMAST PANDITA PARIVAAF

SH TEJ KRISHAN PANDITA (BABLU JI)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Kumari** W/o Sh Soverdhan Singh R/o H.No. 67/1, New Plot, Near State Motor Garage Jammu, who left for heavenly abode or unday on 17 Dec 2023. TENTH DAY will be performed on 26-12-2023 Tuesday

KRIYA will be performed on 29. Dec. 2023 (Friday) at ou residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN . Goverdhan Singh (Husband) Sh. Nater Singh & Smt. Gian Kumari - Jeth & Jethani

Son & Daughter-in-law

Ashok Singh & Ritu Devi

Darshan Singh & Asha

Hukam Singh & Jyoti

Smt. Raj Kumari

Grand Children - Naman, Ayush, Pragati, Kunal, Amrita 94193 27832, 9419148427, 9596658248

In Loving Memory Of Our revered mother Smt Indrawati Handoo (Bhabi) W/o Lt. Shri Kashi Nath Handoo (24-07-1924-18-12-2023).

10th Day Kriya Wednesday, 27th December, 2023 | 09.00 am at Chol Haridwar Upper Ganga Muradnagar UP.

Prayer Meeting/Shanti Paath Friday, 29th December, 2023 | 04.00 - 5.30 pm at Sharika Bhawan, Institutional area (Adjacent Police

Station), Sector-17, Faridabad. Fondly Remembered By: Samast Handoo/ Bhat/ Bali/ Raina/ Tickoo/ Dhar/ Thussu/ Zutshi Pariva H.No.1892, Sector-9, Faridabad 9958998069, 9910687799, 9560809812



TENTH DAY / UTHALA With overwhelmed grief a sorrow, nform the sad demise of our beloved Smt **lladhvi Verma,** W/o Sh Sham Lal Verma R/o H.No.106/2, Lane 4, Talab Tillo

Tenth Day will be held on Tuesday 26 December 2023 at our residence Talab Tillo

at 10:30 am. Uthala will be held on Tuesday 26 December 2023 in Hari Mandir, Rehai howk from 3 pm to 4 pm. GRIEF STRICKEN

(Son & Daughter in law) (Daughter & Son in law)

Nancy & Arun Bhalla
Grand Children: Ananya, Gokul, Lovece

Smt. Madhvi Verma

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the contents on their own before acting there upon."

LG attended function organized on occasion of Malaviya & Vajpayee Jayanti

Atal Ji with his policies and public service laid foundation of good governance in the country: Sinha

Top News Report

JAMMU / GHAZIPUR, Dec 25: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, attended a function organized on Janm-Jayanti of Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya and former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the Chief Guest in Ghazipur today.

In his address, the Lt Governor said, Mahamana was one of the main architects of modern education and industrial development while Atal Bihari Vajpayee with his policies and public service laid foundation of good governance in the country.

Mahamana as an independent thinker, social reformer & educationist always believed in setting higher goals. He was determined to change the fate of India & destiny of youth. He applied his wisdom & values in actions, bringing new revolutions in education, technology & industries." the Lt Governor said.

He said the vision of Mahamana in 20th century on Selfreliance, Swadeshi, technical education, Women's education Swarajya was to achieve the goal of independent and Atma-Nirbhar Bharat.



Lt Governor noted that Mahamana gave two important Mantra's in his life-first, devotion to God through right conduct and second, service to the nation with total dedication. He said the entire society will have to come together to ensure that the new momentum gained towards women empowerment continues and we must inspire everyone to follow the ideals and values of Mahamana to build a strong and prosperous India.

Mahamana's lifelong mission was to transform the lives of people & strengthen the bonds of unity in society. His vision and ideals continue to remain as relevant in the 21st century and playing a leading role in building a self-reliant India of Mahamana's dreams. By establishing BHU, Mahamana ensured that young men and women realise their full potential & live a righteous life.

The humanity must follow his principles to eradicate differences and discrimination. The resolve of every person, every mind must be committed to create a caring and inclusive society to build Viksit Bharat by

2047. This will be true tribute to Mahamana," the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor said, the life of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpavee Ji was dedicated to social equality, equal opportunities to all and empowerment of marginalised in society.

His tenure as a Prime Minister and life in public service symbolizes an era of good governance. He will continue to inspire all of us to serve people with dedication and devotion. I consider Atal ji a true warrior of public life who laid special emphasis on promoting decentralized system of governance, the bottom up approach for active participation of people in decision making," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor observed that Atal Ji's determination, character and values, his poetic heart, his revolutionary vision influenced a wide spectrum of our national life for decades.

"With his spiritual strength, humility, oratory and dedication towards the nation he transcended the boundary of ideologies. Even People who had completely opposite views had become his admirers," the Lt. Governor further added.

54-members shooting squad leaves for National **School Games**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Jammu and Kashmir will have a strong representation at the 67th National Shooting School Games for All Age Group scheduled to be held under the aegis of School Games Federation of India (SGFI) from December 27 2023 to January 1, 2024 at Bhopal(MP).

Congratulating the selected 54 shooters taking part in the School Nationals Games at Bhopal, Director DYSS, Subash C Chhibber shared his best wishes with the players.

Vishal Bharti Physical Teacher (YSS), Rehber e Khel Teachers Muzammil, Atul Sharma, Ashutosh Sharma, Archna Thakur Coaches Rajesh Virdhy (AIM 10X Shooting Academy), Aman Singh (Mission Olympics Shooting Academy) and others were also among the part of the team going to Bhopal.

BJP pays tribute to Vajpayee on his birth anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal paid tributes to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Booth 64 of Panchayat Ranjitpur Talab Tillo. The programme was organised by Sarpanch Avinash Singh.

Former Minister Sat Sharma, Mandal President BJP Talab Tillo Keshav Chopra, BJP JKUT Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, BJP JKUT Co-Incharge IT Department Karan Sat Sharma, District General Secretary Adv Rajesh Gupta, Ex Sarpanch Rai Kumar also paid tribute to

Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sat Sharma said that Atal Ji was leader of the downtrodden sections of the society who always worked to uplift the poor. Sat added that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the only leader who was appreciated by people across the country.

Keshav Chopra said that Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Ji was a great leader and the 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' slogan truly suits

him. He recalled that after the supreme sacrifice of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Atal Ji led a nation-wide agitation for J&K.

Ayodhya Gupta said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee's thoughts and words always live on, he was a great Statesman, a legendary politician and a great poet too. His struggle and hard work will always be an example for the coming generations,

Ayodhya said. Sarpanch Avinash Singh and Karan Sat Sharma added that Vajpayee lived left his dream to serve the Nation. He asked all to study and learn lessons from his

Naib Sarpanch Subhash Chander, Ex Panch Sampuran Chand, Sandesh Kumar, Babu Ram, Shako Ram. Vaiinder. Raman Vaid. Atul Pangotra, Garo Devi and

GDC Udhampur organises "Open Forum For Youth" for Viksit Bharat@2047

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 25: In the continuum of the league of programs in Azaadi ka Amrit Kaal during the year of G20 presidency of India.

The NSS Units in collaboration with Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) of the College organised "Open Forum For Youth" in the conference hall under the Patronship of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta for "Viksit Bharat @2047".

The event included an inaugural and a technical session, which was conducted by senior NSS volunteer Rishika

In the inaugural the lightening of lamp was done by Worthy Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta along with NSS POs Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Prof. Sanjeet Singh and other senior Faculty members Viz. Dr. Pankai Sharma and Dr. Jagjeet Singh. After lighting of lamp NSS volunteers sang NSS Song.

Prof Sanjeet Singh (NSS PO) presented welcome address followed by introductory remarks by Dr. Gurpreet Kour (NSS PO).

It was proceeded by keynote address by Dr. Pankaj Sharma who talked in length and breadth about the Viksit Bharat 2047 Sankalp and the ways to materialize it, through a power point presentation. He also apprised all about the modus operandi set by Union Ministry of Education and envisaged by the JK Higher Education for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Dr. Jagjeet Singh, The Institutions Innovation Council (IIC) President of the College apprised all students about the need of start-ups and innovative ideas for the Viksit Bharat.

He appealed to all youth

apability for the under mentioned work.

Type of Tender

Contract Period

Website

to come forward, wherein IIC will hand hold all their ideas and forward it to higher authorities for

implementation. in his address worthy Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta addressed the volunteers and motivated them for future endeavors with respect to Viksit Bharat 2047

He said that all must follow the Hon'ble Prime Minister to do something every day for the nation, and make possible the mantra of Sankalp se

"India is a nation of Young Minds, and I am quite sure we will achieve the Sankalp of Viksit Bharat through all of you" he reiterated.

This was followed by a brainstorming technical session that included wonderful ideas shared by almost 30 students among whom Mohit. Arnav. Akshav. Ambica Baljeet Singh and many others shared innovative ideas on ideation and innovation with respect to Udhampur specific problems and also committed to submit its blue print to IIC for further consideration.

Dr. Jang Bahadur Singh, Lecturer of Electronics and IIC member, who has many startups to his credit, also motivated the young minds by sharing lots of ideas and experiences with the NSS volunteers and other students present over there. After this, the forum was open for discussion for half an hour.

Ambica ended the program with vote of thanks. The Session was attended by a number of faculty members, large no of student's and NSS volunteers.

Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Dr. Jagjeet Singh and Prof. Sanjeet Singh were the main pillars behind the organisation of the Open Youth Forum. The event finally concluded with National Anthem.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 167 of 2023-24 Dated 21.12.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)		Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contrac -tor	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Construction of Drain from House of Sh Yog Raj Khajuria to House of Sh Ram Pal Sharma and Construction of Drain from Shop of Kulbeer Traders to House of Sh Ashok Kumar and Drain near shop of Sh Gurbachan Singh Ward No. 3 Udhampur (2 nd call)	4.76	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Drainage Sector
2.	Construction of Drain from H/O Kishore Singh to Ashok Singh Jamwal's House Ward No. 6 Udhampur (2 nd call)	4.76	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Drainage Sector
3.	Construction of nallah from h/o ajay khajuria to irrigation office and construction of nallah from irrigation office to onwards Ward No. 7 Udhampur (2 nd call)	4.76	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Drainage Sector
4.	Repair of drian from the house of lucky baria to house of Madan Sharma (Kele Wali Gali) Ward No. 8 Udhampur (2 nd call)	4.76	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Drainage Sector
5.	Construction of Drain from house of Kailash Kailoo to Hanuman Temple Main Bazaar Udhampur by way of Precast drain Ward No. 12 Udhampur (2 nd call)	4.76	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Drainage Sector
6.	Construction of simple compositing unit (organic waste unit) at Fruit and Vegetable Market Udhampur by way of providing and installation of composter Machine including Electrical works as per required specifications complete job (2 nd call)	19.65	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	90 Days	"B/C"	Horticult ure
7.	Opening/ Establishment of Kindergarten classes by Repair and Renovation To Single Room at different Schools at GMS Gullaban, Sankari, Upper Galiote, Lower Kalsote, Lower Chapad, Kamyad, Dayalli, Lower Diggi, Dubka Bagh, Dardilla Zone Panchari District Udhampur Capex 2023-24. (3 rd call)	5.00	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	45 Days	"D"	Capex Budget 2023-24 (UT Sector)

Position of AAA:-Accorded Position of T.S:-Accorded Position of Funds:-Available

1 Date of Issue of Tender Notice

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

21-12-2023

l	2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-12-2023 to 28-12-2023, 1800 Hrs				
l	3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-				
ĺ							
Ī	4	Bid submission Start Date	22-12-2023 from 900 Hrs				
Ι	5	Bid Submission End Date	28-12-2023 up to 1800 Hrs				

4	Bid submission Start Date	22-12-2023 from 900 Hrs		
5	Bid Submission End Date	28-12-2023 up to 1800 Hrs		
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29-12-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.		
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.		

- 1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- 2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the ression of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of
- 3. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur. The date for same shall be intimated separately. No:- 23423-28

Dated: - 21.12.2023 DIP/J-13023/23

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur

DFSS holds protest against Pakistani for sponsoring terrorism in J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held a massive protest in Jammu by burning the Pakistani Flag against the killing of retired SSP officer in mosque.

Ashok Gupta condemned the "cowardly attack" by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and said the killing of the SSP should be avenged.

Gupta said that that act of th militants is not only gruesome, brutal or barbaric.

but satanic too.

He stated that the time was ripe for all the parties to be united for defeating the nefarious designs of the militants and inhumane attitude of Pakistan.

Delhi should be shut down and war should be declared against the terrorist nation as they only understand the language of bullets.

terrorism on the name of Islam and killing a retired SSP while he was offering namaz shows there demonic nature and nefari-

Pakistan embassy in New

Pakistan tries to spread

Political parties who are based out of Kashmir

always talk about talks with Pakistan and now they should answer to the people of the valley as Kashmir's are being killed to whom Pakistan claims to be saving or liberating.

> The terror camps is POK which were destroyed during the surgical strikes have been working again and this time a bigger attack should be done to destroy the terror camps once in for all.

The party people who were present at the time of protest were Abhishek. Rahul, Sunny, Vikky, Prem, Amit, Kalu, Rampal, Sudhir, Geeta, Shashi and various others were present.

Devotees take out Ram Jhanki in Old City

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Dozens of devotees led by Narotam Sharma former Councillor JMC and BJP leader on Monday organised Ram Jhanki in old city Jammu.

Ram Jhanki is being organised to celebrate Kalash Staphna ahead of inauguration of Lord Ram Temple in Ayodhya on 24th of January next year.

Narotam informed that two Kalashs have been placed in old city one in Ram Ashram Peer Kho and another in Laxmi Narayan



temple, Dhakki Sarajan. He also appealed the local devotees to visit these two shrines and pay their obeisance to the Kalash.

The prominent people who also attended the

procession include Vidya Devi, Dhan Saroop Gupta, Sarooj Gupta, Suresh Gupta, Anuradha Sharma, Ramesh Sudan, Rattan Kumar, Sanjay Abrol, Satpaul Raina and Lucky Mehra were also present.

NORTHERN RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE** For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer Northern Railway, DMU CAR SHED JALANDHAR CITY invites open Tender through

Name of Installation and commissioning of Automatic coach washing plant at DMU Car Shed Jalandhar City. Rs. 2,43,99,000/- (Two Crore Forty Three Lakh and Ninety Nine Thousand Only) stimated Cost of Work (Approximate) Tender Security Amount Rs. 2.72.000/-(Earnest Money Deposit) (Two Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Only.) Tender document available for sale on website 22.12.2023 E-Tender closing Date & Time 12.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening of E-Tender 12.01.2024 at 15:15 Hrs on IREPS website Validity of Tender 45 Days from the last date of submission of tender

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EDITORIAL

CHAR SAHIBZADE

uru Gobind Singh was born on 05 January 1666 in Patna to the ninth Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur and Mata Gujri. When he was born, his father had gone to Assam to preach religion. His childhood name was Govind Rai. He spent his first four years in the same house in Patna where he was born. In 1670, his family again came to Punjab. In March 1672, his family moved to a place called Chakka Nanaki situated in the Shivalik Hills of the Himalayas. It was here that his education began. He studied Persian, Sanskrit and learned military skills to become a warrior. Nowadays Chak Nanaki is called Anandpur Sahib.

Govind Rai ji used to spread spiritual joy daily in Anandpur Saheb and gave the message of morality, fearlessness and spiritual awakening among humans. Anandpur was actually Ananddham. Here all the people attained supernatural knowledge of equality, equality and harmony without any discrimination of caste, color, caste or sect. Govind ji was the embodiment of peace, forgiveness and tolerance.

On 11 November 1675, Aurangzeb publicly beheaded his father Guru Teg Bahadur in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, due to his complaint against the forced conversion of Kashmiri Pandits to Islam and because he himself did not accept Islam. After this, on the day of Baisakhi, 29 March 1676, Gobind Singh was declared the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. Even after becoming the 10th Guru, his education continued. Education included reading and writing, horse riding and bow shooting etc. In 1684 he composed Chandi Di Vaar. Till 1685 he lived at a place called Paonta on the banks of river Yamuna.

While Guru Gobind Singh was unique in the world's sacrificial tradition, he himself was a great writer, an original thinker and a connoisseur of many languages including Sanskrit. He composed many texts himself. He was a patron of scholars. 52 poets and writers were present in his court, that is why he was also called 'Saint Soldier'. He was a unique combination of devotion and

He always gave the message of love, unity and brotherhood. Even if someone tried to harm Guruji, he defeated him with his tolerance, sweetness and gentleness. Guruji believed that man should neither intimidate anyone nor be afraid of anyone. He preaches in his voice, 'Bhai kahu ko ko det nahi, nahi bhaya manat aan'. Since childhood, he was a simple, easy-going, devotional Karmayogi. His speech was full of sweetness, simplicity, courtesy and the feeling of renunciation.

The first philosophy of his life was that the path of religion is the path of truth and truth always wins.

When everyone gathered in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh established a Khalsa speech "Waheguruji ka Khalsa, Waheguruji ki Fateh". He named his army Singh (meaning lion). Along with this, he also established the basic principles of Khalsa. 'The Five' were the five basic principles which Khalsa used to follow. This also included hair, which meant not cutting the hair. Kangha or wooden comb which is a symbol of cleanliness, Kada or iron bracelet (like a bracelet), for the Khalsa's self-defense, briefs or knee-length pajamas; This was a symbol. And Kirpan, who taught us to protect every poor person, irrespective of his religion or caste.

Guru Gobind Singh had three wives. On June 21, 1677, at the age of 10, he was married to Mata Jito in Basantgarh, 10 kilometers away from Anandpur. Both of them had 3 sons whose names were – Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh, Fateh Singh. On April 4, 1684, at the age of 17, his second marriage took place with Mata Sundari in Anandpur. They had a son whose name was Ajit Singh. On April 15, 1700, at the age of 33, he married Mata Sahib Devan.

The term Char Sahibzade is used to collectively address the four sons of the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji-Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh, and Fateh Singh.

By: Palash Krishna Mehrotra

emories are not Googleable. What Lone remembers is both accurate and approximate, a blend of fact and fiction, triple distilled, like vodka, through layers of time. My first memory of Christmas is from when I was seven. I went to a Protestant school for boys. We didn't have Fathers and Brothers who dressed in robes, nor did we have to carry hymn books. We did say the Lord's Prayer every morning and around mid-December we put up a nativity play, recreating the scene of Jesus' birth, and the Shepherds and Wise Men visiting Jesus and Mary.

I didn't land a plum role. I was the sutradhaar who narrated the story. I'd read a few lines, which my classmates enacted. Timing was paramount. I remember there was a lot of red in the air. The sheet that I read from was pasted on thick red chart paper. Red is also the colour of Santa's uniform, although he wasn't around, or maybe he was, a teacher dressed as Father Christmas, and handing out toffees. Maybe it was Mr Ryder, who later emigrated to Australia. Mrs Massey, drenched in perfume, applied red lipstick on our lips. I remember my ruby lips being very sticky, which made my job challenging. Every time I tried opening my mouth, my lips wouldn't budge.

My other memory is of groups of boys turning up at

Fairytales of Christmas

teachers' homes to eat cake. It was a trophy ritual, with the bragging rights reserved for those who'd hogged maximum cake: "Let's go to Mr Egbert's, Mr Dacosta's, Mr Rodericks', Mr Maxwell's, Mr Saunder's..." Some teachers lived on campus, others in Muirabad, Allahabad's Christian part of town. I lived next door to the Anglo Indian Colony, where electric stars appeared magically in December, adorning misty gates and foggy doorways.

Sometimes I'd be in Bombay, at my mother's place in Vile Parle. Hand-crafted dioramas depicting the babe in the manger appeared at quiet suburban crossings. At thirteen, I'd look at ads for Christmas Eve celebrations, called "blasts", in mid-day and be filled with a yearning for the good time. Our neighbour in Bombay was Christian; Aunty threw an annual terrace party, complete with booming speakers and blinking lights. I'd watch from my balcony and feel more yearning in a so-close-yet-sofar kind of way. Picking up on cues, my uncle, Alok Mama, would take me to his flat in Malad and we would dance till late, Bappi Da's "Disco Station" playing on rewind-repeat on the smuggler's market mono two-in-one.

My parents were friends with the poet Dom Moraes and his wife, Leela Naidu. They had proper Christmas feasts with roast turkey and wine and fancy folk, and where, at the age of sixteen, I wore a clipon earring on the wrong ear,

prompting an eminent art historian to ask my father if his son was gay.

As a university student in England, I realised that Christmas is one big shopping festival. It was drilled into me by the natives there that one could not be alone for bada din. I found this curious because I'd been alone one Diwali in my Delhi college and savoured being solitary king of the deserted campus. Later, when I did a summer internship with a London publisher, I figured that British publishing takes the longest Christmas sabbatical, starting mid-December and ending mid-January. No wonder that the cogs of publishing, like justice, move so slowly.

It was a good couple of authentic Christmases in the British Isles, one in London where a ninety-year-old grandpa wanted to drive home after one drink too many, and one in Dublin where I tasted black pudding for the first time. I learnt that no one here eats cake for Christmas. The other thing I remember about 1998 is that people were gifting the same books to each other: Ted Hughes' Birthday Letters and John Bayley's first volume of the Iris trilogy. I ended up with multiple copies.

As I'm writing this, a notso-old flame calls. She's on a train going from Antwerp to Amsterdam. She tells me she will be spending Christmas with a friend in Belgium. She tries explaining Secret Santa to me, something she used to have at her convent school. I feel an old festive melancholy come over me. I need to listen to a song. No, not WHAM's "Last Christmas", because it reminds me of eating hamburgers at the Connaught Place Wimpy's where the air-conditioning was always turned on high and the May temperature outside sizzled at forty-five. I want to listen to a song that is windy-cold and has a touch of sad.

I turn to Shane MacGowan, the Irish folk-punk-poet-bard who died on 30 November, and had a grander funeral than the queen. I turn to the song he hated the most because it was his most popular, the Christmas classic "Fairytale of New York", which he sang with Kirsty MacColl. MacGowan injects the song with trademark dark realism, singing about the "scumbag', the "bum", the "junkie... lying there almost dead on a drip in that bed", the outcasts he felt an affinity with, but at heart it's a love song shot through with a downbeat optimism: "It was Christmas Eve, babe, in the drunk tank/ An old man said to me, 'Won't see another one/ And then he sang a song, 'The Rare Old Mountain Dew'/ I turned my face and dreamed about you./ Sinatra was swinging, all the drunks they were singing/So, Happy Christmas, I love you, baby/ I can see a better time when our dreams come true./ The boys of the NYPD choir were singing, 'Galway Bay'/ And the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day.

How Artificial intelligence(ChatGPT) improve education and also Foster's in students a sense of accountability



By: Vijay GarG

echnology has evolved into an essential tool for ■ both educators and students in today's ever-changing educational landscape. The classroom experience is changing because of numerous advancements, including interactive learning platforms and sophisticated AI-driven chatbots. As a versatile and dynamic addition to the educational arsenal, OpenAI's natural language processing (NLP) model, ChatGPT, stands out among them.

Personalised learning

Being able to customise learning experiences is one of the biggest benefits of implementing tools like ChatGPT in the classroom. AI-driven solutions may adjust to each student's needs and learning rate, in contrast to conventional one-size-fits-all approaches. For example, ChatGPT can offer custom explanations, practice questions, and feedback to make

sure that students get the help and challenges they need to succeed academically.

Enhanced collaboration

The importance of collaborative learning cannot be overstated. With technology, students can cooperate more successfully across geographic barriers. By facilitating group conversations, Q&A sessions, and project collaboration, ChatGPT helps students feel more connected to one another. Communication amongst international students is also made easier by its real-time translation capabilities, fostering cultural variety in the classroom.

24/7 availability

The constant accessibility of AI-based solutions is one of their key benefits. When they require it, students have access to information and support. ChatGPT is available to help, whether it's with latenight homework assistance or weekend exam preparation. This feature not only improves education but also fosters in students a sense of accountability and self-directed learning.

Increased support for teachers

Technology does not take the position of instructors in the classroom; rather, it supplements them. Instead, it raises the bar for them. By automating repetitive chores like grading assignments, providing supplemental teaching resources, and sharing insights into students' learning progress, ChatGPT helps teachers. As a result, teachers are free to concentrate on more interesting and interactive areas of education.

Access to a wealth of knowl-

Online knowledge is abundant, which can be both a blessing and a curse. Chat-GPT provides context-specific explanations and factchecking to assist students in navigating this informational maze. It promotes critical thinking and research techniques, teaching students how to separate false material from reliable sources.

Inclusive education

Technology makes inclusive schooling possible. Through the provision of content in many formats, such as text and voice, ChatGPT can help students with disabilities. Non-native English speakers can access the same materials and have meaningful interactions thanks to its multilingual support. A diverse and tolerant classroom climate is fostered by this inclusivity.

Interesting, active lessons Interactive classes are much more interesting than standard lectures thanks to advancements in educational technology. ChatGPT may recreate actual situations, bringing lessons to life. It makes learning enjoyable and efficient by encouraging students to investigate, inquire about, and learn through immersive experiences. Insights driven by data

The performance of pupils can be better understood with the help of data analytics and machine learning techniques linked with AI models like ChatGPT. Teachers can pinpoint the areas in which their students are having difficulty and modify their instruction accordingly. With this datadriven strategy, no student is

Lifelong education

left behind.

Nowadays, learning is not just done in a classroom. Students are able to participate in lifelong learning thanks to the accessibility of technology and AI models like ChatGPT. They can learn new things, develop new abilities, and keep up with developments in their area of interest, promoting a culture of ongoing self-improvement.

Hence, technological advancements are transforming education, especially those incorporating AI and natural language processing, such as OpenAI's Chat-GPT. While supplying teachers with resources, they are enhancing personalisation, inclusivity, and engagement of education.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab)

BJP pays tribute to Vajpayee in Ward 50



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Neena Gupta, Ex-Corporator Ward 50 and Ishant Gupta (Advocate) State Head Information Technology (IT) Department BJP J&K paid tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary at Ward 50 Channi Himmat.

Pawan

Dhunna Ward President, Poonam Gupta District Secretary BJP Mahilla Morcha and Kamlesh Magotra BJP Mahilla Morcha Mandal President, Amit Gandotra. Adv. Ariun Pandon, Ankita Gupta, Aabha and others were also present and grace the occasion.

Neena Gupta stressed upon the schemes and achievements of the Central Government. as well as good governance for the welfare of the poor

Pawan Kumar also spoken about the life and governance of Atal Ji which marked as a period of Good Governance and thanks everyone to take participate in the programme.

Aijaz Khan grieved over fire incident in Bhimdasa

Top News Report

RAMBAN. Dec 25: Apni Party Vice President, and Former Minister Aijaz Ahmed Khan has expressed grief over the fire incident at Bhimdasa Panchyat of Tehsil Gool in which one residential house gutted. In a press release,

Aijaz Ahmed Khan expressed his worry regarding the increasing fire incidents in the Tehsil Gool amid the harsh winter conditions. He, while expressing

his group on the inci-

dent, has demanded immediate relief and rehabilitation of three victim families who were displaced following the gutting of the fire inci-

As the families have become homeless, he demanded adequate compensation for the loss of the house and household items for the rehabilitation of the victim families.

Meanwhile. demanded a fire station at Block Gundi Dharam so that such incidents can be handled timely, and the loss of life can be reduced.

Bukhari extends Christmas greets

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Apni Party President, Sved Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Christmas. In his message, Altaf

Bukhari prayed for

brotherhood, peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion.

"The Christmas celebrations bring the people of different faiths together and keep the society united," he said, while praying for prosperity of J&K.

'Rampant cutting of walnut trees at Khuchipora, authorities in deep slumber'



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Dec 25: In brazen violation of norms, illegal cutting of walnut trees is being frequently reported at Malikpora Khuchipora and Verinag area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

There is a blanket ban on cutting and felling of walnut trees and the permission for the same is to be sought from the

Top News

Report

JAMMU, Dec 25:

Natrang's most sought-

after Winter Theatre work-

shop for Children -2023

was inaugurated here

today at Natrang Studio

Theatre with the lighting

of traditional lamps by

Natrang President and

founder Director Pad-

mashree Balwant Thakur.

In his inaugural address,

Balwant Thkaur said that

this unique camp would

provide an opportunity to

children to enable them

to explore their immense

inner creative and artis-

tic abilities. The timings

of the camp will be 3:30

pm to 5.30pm daily and

the children will have the

occasion to get trained

under professionally

trained directors includ-

ing accomplished actors/

directors like Neeraj Kant,

Anil Tickoo and Sumeet

Sharma who are con-

sidered as one of the

most accomplished the-

atre trainers and direc-

Divisional Commissioner, who can provide such permission in rare cases, if the growth of a tree can endanger or

risk the life or property.

However, the practice is going unchecked at Khuchipora, Malikpora Sadiwara, Verinag and other areas of Anantnag District the authorities are turning a blind eye.

According to sources, contractors dealing with wood has chopped off many walnut tree illegal-

tors of children theatre.

Mr. Sunny Mujoo will be

the dance director of the

workshop. The workshop

is being coordinated by

Mohd. Yaseen who is a

National Scholarship and

Fellowship holder in the

Every year Natrang

gives an opportunity to

children to creatively uti-

lise their winter break with

learning beyond the text-

books. Similarly this year

too, Natrang is having a

15 day winter camp for

children where they will

work on personality devel-

opment, confidence build-

ing, sharpening of com-

munication skills, acting,

play making process and

much more with the help

of highly innovative cre-

field of Theatre.

ly at Khuchipora, Malikpora and Verinag areas. Sources said that the

contractor was cutting down the tree in broad daylight breaking the law with impunity using portable chainsaws and other equipment to fell the tree. Sources also revealed

that said contractors applied for permission for branch cutting of walnut trees after the Ist class magistrate granted the permission for same but the said contractors misleads the officials and chopped off the trees at trees which is against the rules and misleading to adminis-

Notably, the chopping down of the Walnut trees is an offense under the Preservation of Specified Trees Act 1969 in the erstwhile state.

Meanwhile, when contacted to revenue officials of the said area he said that strict action will be taken against the contractor who is involved in cutting of walnut trees in Khuchipora and other areas of

Winter Theatre workshop inaugurated at Natrang Jammu

ative games and theatre

exercises. Theatre is a

sophisticated expres-

sion of basic human

needs. For children it is

an instinct to mimic and to

tell stories through narra-

tives and metaphors. This

innate quality in children

is enhanced and polished

with the help of theatre. It

is vital to understand that

when phrases like 'learn-

ing is fun' and 'play and

learn' are quoted, we can

easily think of theatre as a

means to learn in a child's

life. With the growing

competition every teach-

er and parent is following

the rule of thumb, to break

this monotony Natrang

introduces theatre to the

kids which brings fresh-

ness to the child's imagi-

7th Bn SSB Jammu organizes Basic Computer Course at Khellani



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 25: 7th Battalion SSB, Jammu has organised and inaugurated of a 30 days basic computer course under the Civic Action Programme from December 24 to 30, 2023 working days onwards in premises of 'B' Coy Khellani, SSB in district Doda.

In this training (skill training course) 30 educated unemployed

nation and helps them to

grow intellectually. Since

every child is special, it is

important that we encour-

age them to open up to

the best of their ability by

giving them confidence.

Nothing can achieve

that than the confidence

a child gets by perform-

ing on stage. During the

winter camp, the children

will learn and explore

themselves through

highly developed the-

atre exercises which are

in vogue in Europe and

USA. This winter Natrang

has planned to produce a

short play as the focus of

the workshop will be play

production with children,

It may be recalled that

the longest living plays by

children like 'Mere Hisse

will get benefited.

The programme was inaugurated by Vikas Singh, Officiating Commandant 07th SSB. Jammu in present on Zaleel Ahmed Trainer Modern Computer's Doda

A total of 30 educated unemployment youths of Doda will participate in this training in basic computer course. The training is being organised with the aim of skill development.

Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai and

'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun'

are the proud productions

of Natrang's children the-

atre wing which are written

and directed by Balwant

Those who attended

the inaugural session of

Winter Theatre Workshop

included Advik Sharma,

Mehak Chib. Araiva Shan

Anadika Pandoh, Sou-

janya Shekhar, Ruhaan

Chandan, Samrat Sharma,

Supria Gorka, Aarjav Jain,

Adeesha Singh, Javaditva

Singh, Prial Ashok Gupta,

Deshna Jain, Niddha

Mahajan, Hriday Vash-

ishth, Haardik Vashishth,

Sahil Narwalia, Dheeraj

Kotwal, Suneha Angural,

Priya Kumari, Palshin

Dutta, Sukriti Singh Jas-

rotia, Muskaan Sharma,

Rana, Arun Dev Verma,

□Vansh Pandotra, Van-

shika Thakur,

Radhika

Sharma, Sushant Singh

Charak, Sanket, Vishal

Sharma, Aadesh Dhar,

Deepshikha Sharma,

Sunaina Sharma, Parul

Sharma, Sneha Mukesh

Arun Sharma,

Thakur.

'Flouting rules illegal construction going unabated in Kulgam village, admin unmoved'



Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 25: Illegal constructions continued unabated in Chowgam, Brinel Lammer and Kund roads in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, the administration has failed in acting against the accused.

The encroachments, as per locals, have come up Quazigund Kund Main road Chowgam Brinel Lammer road in the Kulgam district as many Residential houses, shopping complexes and protection walls have been constructed in violations of norms and administra-

tion is sleeping over it. Locals said that as the administration has failed to check the illegal constructions, more such constructions are coming up in the shape of Residential houses, shopping complexes and protection walls.

Resident of Kund and Chowgam area said that a portion of the road has been encroached by some vested interests who are constructing Residential houses

, shopping complexes and protection walls there. "The matter was brought into the notice of PMGSY Kulgam who issued instructions, but nothing was done", they said.

The additional Deputy commissioner (ADC) Kulgam had directed Executive Engineer PMGSY to look into the matter immediately.

"He was also asked to make sure that not a single portion of the road is encroached upon by anyone. However, the orders seem to have fallen deaf ears", locals said.

Locals said that while they are forced to run from pillar to post in order to get permission to construct even a single room and "the big shopping complexes are coming up without permission". They said it is the poor who have to suffer for want of permission.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kulgam Vikar Ahmad Giri said that he had issued orders for the necessary action. However, when he was asked that nothing was done after the orders, he said that he will look into the matter.

"I have passed orders for immediate action after the issue was brought into our notice . There might be some delay in the action, I will surely issue another reminder to the concerned and the same shall be done soon," he

On the issue of unabated illegal constructions, The ADC Kulgam said that the district administration was taking the issue seriously and that the action will be taken

against those involved. "We have been quite intolerant regarding the illegal constructions and the same will continue. If in the night a construction comes up, we go in the morning and pull it

Col Mahan takes swift action to resolve **Pathiara Panchayat issues**



Top News Report

BASOHLI, Dec 25: Colonel Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman Kathua, visited the Pathiara Panchayat in Basohli to address the concerns of local youth and residents.

The ongoing construction of stadium in Pathiara village, was initiated in 2016, faced delays due to the pandemic. However, a commendable development transpired as the government recently sanctioned Rs 80 lakh for the project. This funding will facilitate the creation of stadium boundaries and a synthetic volleyball ground.

During his visit, Col Mahan interacted with the community, listening to their grievances. The primary issue raised was the obstruction caused by the stadium's construction to the Pathiara Plakh road, affecting around 30 families who rely on this route to reach their homes. He contacted relevant authorities, including ADC Basohli and XEN Sports Council, to address this concern and ensure the timely relocation of the stadium boundaries.

Furthermore, Col Mahan highlighted the achievements accomplished in the past 2.5 years through the collaborative efforts of the three-tier system, emphasizing the pivotal roles played by DDC, BDC, and Sarpanch.

To enhance the utility of the stadium and better connect the region, Col Mahan Singh pledged to improve the overall accessibility of Pathiara by establishing bridges that connect Pathiara with GDC Basohli, Batada Basohli, and Plakh to Basohli Granole Nala.

The visit underscores Col Mahan Singh's commitment to community welfare, efficient problem-solving, and the development of infrastructure to uplift the lives of the residents in Pathiara (Plahi Panchayat).

The sanctioned funds and proposed connectivity initiatives reflect a proactive approach toward fostering progress and prosperity in the region.

DDC Chairman was accompanied by BDC Chairperson Basohli Sushma Jamwal, Sarpanch Poli Devi, Subedar Yubkaran and

Nirbhay Bharat Foundation celebrates Tulsi Pujan Diwas

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Tulsi Pujan Diwas was celebrated by Tarun Uppal, founder of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation under the guidance of Mahamandaleshwar Shri Mahant Shri Rameshwar Das Ji Maharaj at Kameshwar Temple Akhnoor. A large number of Tulsi plants were distributed among the devotees visiting the temple.

Many dignitaries were present in this program including Mahant Ram Simran Das, Rajan Gupta (Pradhan Sarv Shakti Sena), Ranjit Singh (BJP District President Akhnoor), Prabhat Singh, Narendra Singh, Ravindra Singh and many others.

Addressing the program, Tarun Uppal said Tulsi is known as one of the holiest and most sacred plants in India since ancient times. It is considered auspicious to perform Tulsi puja every day and seek blessings. Every year on December 25, Tulsi Pujan Diwas is celebrated across the country.

According to the Hindu scriptures, Goddess Lakshmi resides in the holy Tulsi plant and is the Goddess of happiness and prosperity. It is also believed that the Tulsi plant is very dear to Lord Vishnu and the ones who perform Tulsi Pujan are blessed with Lord Vishnu's blessings.

and Shriya Devi.

Any person who applies dripping water from Tulsi leaves on their forehead, is equivalent to a holy bath in the river Ganges. It is believed that worshiping Tulsi Mata gives happiness and prosperity. During this, Tarun Uppal also wished happiness and prosperity in the country.

JCB, Tractor seized for illegal excavation of soil in Kulgam Kulgam led by District

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 25: Hours after news published regarding the illlegal excavation of soil at Kund Mode in Devsar area of Kulgam, acting promptly upon a specific information regarding extraction.

A team of Geology and Mining department

Mineral Officer Murtaza Bashir raided the specific location and seized One JCB and a seive tractor involved in illegal excavation of soil in the area.

DMO Kulgam told Voice of India that all the vehicles after seizure were handed over to Police station Devsar till the realization of penalty by the geology and mining department.

DMO also appealed people to purchase minerals from legal sources only and stay away from illegal mining practices, adding that the persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law.

Sunny Deol talks about his equation with Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan

While his equation with Shah Rukh Khan has matured with time, actor Sunny Deol says he has developed an emotional connection with Salman Khan and is happy to collaborate with Aamir Khan on an upcoming project.

As per media reports, Sunny had a bad experience while working on the 1993 film 'Darr', which had Shah Rukh as an antagonist. Directed by Yash Chopra and also starring Juhi Chawla, the movie turned 30 on Sunday.

Sunny and Shah Rukh were photographed posing together and embracing each other at the 'Gadar 2' success bash in September.

"I'm so thankful to him (Shah Rukh). I remember speaking to him when he was in Dubai for the promotions (of 'Jawan'). I thought he wouldn't come, but he came straight from there. He was there for a little while. I didn't get a chance to meet or speak to him after that, but whenever I do it would be beau-

"We, as actors, have certain things that happen over a period of time. When we are young, we are a bit different and as time goes by we start maturing and we start understanding what life is in reality. All of us have



changed quite a lot. That's the beautiful thing about time. It heals everything," the 66-yearold actor said in an interview

About Salman, Sunny said he recently met his 'Jeet' co-star, who also shares a close bond with his brother Bobby Deol and father Dharmendra.

"We spent nearly two-three hours in Goa. We were laughing and joking about just in general. We were happy with how things are. We also spoke about doing something together. I remember he had called me once and how emotional he was. He said how much he loves me. That's the kind of connection we have." he

Sunny will next start working on 'Lahore, 1947', produced by Aamir Khan Productions. The partition drama will be directed by Rajkumar Santoshi.

"Aamir was there at the party too and he said, 'I want to meet you tomorrow'. Then we got down to discussing a film ('Lahore, 1947'). It was a really emotional and beautiful moment. God has been great," he said.

While Sunny and Aamir haven't co-starred in a film yet. they have worked with Santoshi in separate projects.

"We will be starting it very shortly. We are trying to put up a set and then we will take it off. That's a film that Raj and I were going everywhere to do, but it was not happening. This is what happens when something works ('Gadar 2') then the doors open. That's the reality of life, we can't change it," he said.

According to Sunny, it was his childhood friend Karim's idea that he should host a party for 'Gadar 2' success

Besides Shah Rukh, Salman, and Aamir, celebrities including Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Sanjay Dutt, Suniel Shetty, Anil Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Vicky Kaushal, Varun Dhawan, Kartik Aaryan, Kriti Sanon, Arjun Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, and Aditya Roy Kapoor attended the event.

Sunny expressed happiness about receiving all the love and appreciation from his colleagues for 'Gadar 2', the sequel to the 2001's film 'Gadar'.

"There were a lot of positive vibes. I had called everyone from the industry with whom I worked and even those with whom I hadn't worked. They all came with positive thoughts. good feelings and all the happiness. I could feel the vibe."

"It was very sweet... I remember telling Salman that 'You call me every time and I would never come to the party, but you came'. When there's genuine happiness, it feels good," he

Shriya Pilgaonkar impresses with her vibrant thumkas in Dry Day



Shriya Pilgaonkar, fresh off winning the Best Actor award for her outstanding performance in Taaza Khabar, captivates audiences with her first-ever Bol-Ivwood dance number in the upcoming film Dry Day.

Completely different from her previous roles

in Taaza Khabar, Broken News, and Guilty Minds, Shriya embraces a new dimension, by bringing the vibrant spirit of the popular Lath Maar Holi to the screen. This is the first time we see Shriya dancing to the tunes of a masala Bollywood!

Shriya shared, "It is a dream come true to have my own Holi song in the film Dry Day and I'm happy with the amazing response. I had a blast shooting for this in Bhopal. The choreography and the art direction enhanced the vibe and truly captured the crazy Lath Maar holi spirit. I have always wanted to dance on screen and couldn't have asked for a better track. Halla Macha is a song that's going to be played at every party and get people on the dance floor. It truly was an experience of a life time.'

The Amazon original film, produced by Nikhhil Advani, released on December 22. It features Jitendra Kumar, Annu Kapoor and Shriya Pilgaonkar in pivotal

Fatima Sana Shaikh reflects on her journey

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who made her debut with the sports drama film Dangal, celebrates seven years of its release on Saturday. The film, which featured Fatima in the role of wrestler Geeta Phogat, is a biopic based on Mahavir Singh Phogat and his daughters Geeta and Babita.

The film wasn't just a cinematic treat but it was a cultural phenomenon with Fatima's portrayal of the real-life wrestling champion, earning her accolades and adoration in equal measure.

Reflecting on her journey, Fatima said: "It's been seven years since Dangal, a film that marked my debut in cinema and gave me happy tears, joy and timeless memories. From Dangal to Dhak Dhak, my film career has been a roller-coaster ride of emotions with happiness, tears, joys and sorrows."

She further mentioned: "Geeta Phogat will always hold a special



I'm grateful for all the

received..."

'Darr' first went to Aamir, then Ajay and finally to SRK: Juhi Chawla

As 'Darr' completes 30 years on Sunday, actress Juhi Chawla recalls how special it was to have superstar Shah Rukh Khan on board and as to why it was the most important film that she has ever done in her career.

Juhi said, "'Darr' is one of the highlights of my career. Before 'Darr', I worked with Yash Chopra ji in Chandni and it was just a tiny bit. At that time, I was new, but still he cast me opposite Vinod Khanna ji and I had that little guest appearance."

"That was the first time I faced the camera with Yash ji directing me, which was just two-and-

half days of work." She added, "After that I worked in Pam Chopra ji's production which was also a Yash Raj film 'Aaina'. And I have said this before, 'Aaina' was the first time where I was called to Honey ji's house, who sat me down and went through the entire script with me. The second time that I ever heard a script again was when



Yash ji sat me down in the Gadda room at their

"I was amazed as I was an upcoming artist, who was still finding her feet

and here was this great director whose movies I had watched as a child, and then when I became an actress, I was sitting in front of him, while he took me through the whole film."

Juhi said it was very rare that directors and producers wrote their whole script before going into shooting.

"However, with Yash ii. both the films that I did whether it was 'Aaina' or 'Darr', they narrated the whole script to me! It was wonderful. I do have wonderful memories of working with Yash ji. I was very young at that time and was in awe of him. It was such a big moment for me to be a Yash Chopra ji's heroine, and that I would be directed by him. I had grown up watching 'Silsila', and another movie, but I never imagined that I would be in front of the camera and that the legendary Yash Chopra Juhi said she was

would be directing me!" thrilled to hear that Shah Rukh Khan would be playing the anti-hero in 'Darr'.

She said, "When I heard that Yash ji was going to cast Aamir for the role that Shah Rukh did, I was so happy, because I had worked with Aamir in our initial films and I was comfortable with him. Then I heard that Aamir was not doing it, then I think it went to Aiav Devgn and then to some other young heroes, but they wouldn't do it. Then finally it went to Shah Rukh. But I can't tell you how special it was!"

Juhi said. "At that time, I was this wideeyed young girl who was going through life and going through the whole experience... I didn't know what I was doing or where I was heading."

"Just experiencing these big highs and being overwhelmed with it, also being nervous, but then also finding my little joys with Shah Rukh - because I had done 'Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman' with him by then. So, at least, there was that comfort level. It was a great adventure."

Ananya Panday says she wanted people to take her seriously as an actress

Nothing works like good work, says Ananya Panday who wants her film choices to reflect the evolution she has had as an actress. The actress, who debuted with Karan Johar's production Student of the Year 2, earned critical acclaim for her performance in Shakun Batradirected Gehraiyaan

from the same banner. While fans noticed a shift in her choices post Gehraiyaan, Panday called it a 'natural progression', whether it is her latest film Kho Gaye Hum Kahan from Zoya Akhtar's banner or her upcoming cyber thriller Control by Vikramaditya Motwane. "I've always wanted people to take me seriously as an actress. It's not that it (choices) changed after Gehraiyaan. I'm in my

20s, I'm growing up and there are different things that I'm relating to. There are different kinds of stories I want to do. It's simultaneous with my growth as a person. My choices are also changing. It's a ripple effect," the actress, 25, said.

"I'm not making any conscious decisions. I've my wish-list and I'm secretly manifesting who I want to work with but nothing works like good work. I'm trying to focus on that," Panday added.

Ananya said she is grateful that filmmakers like Batra, Akhtar and Motwane 'believed that if I could work with them, I could back a film for them'. Kho Gaye Hum Kahan is set to stream on Netflix from December 26 and also stars Siddhant Chaturvedi,



Adarsh Gourav and Kalki Koechlin. The coming-of-digital-age drama revolves around three best friends as they navigate life while striving to balance their online identities with their true selves. Panday hopes the

movie resonates with people of her age. "I found it very relatable and I felt if I can find it relatable, then there are so many people out there, who will. There are films that define every generation. I feel like being a part, hopefully, of something that people will look back years later and be like, 'Oh, that's ahead of time or that spoke of our generation and we related to it'," she said. Kho Gaye Hum Kahan is directed by debutant director Arjun Varain Singh.

Our projects choose us: Aasif Khan



Expressing how he wants to try an array of dynamic characters, Aasif Khan

from Amazon miniTV coming-of-age drama Dehati Ladke, says, "As an actor, my journey

has been surprising. And I'd genuinely be thrilled if things remain unchanged. Similar to my portrayal in Dehati Ladke, I aspire for the opportunities in this journey to vary and hold distinct meanings for each. Some of us feel lost and aren't as fortunate as others to consistently seize these opportunities. We do not choose our projects, but they choose us instead. So, I've been very lucky so far as each project I've got has been very different from the other, very experimental, including Dehati Ladke."

Adding to this, he talks about what made him inclined towards Dehati Ladke. He says, "This show is so well written, it is honest and innocent, yet full of drama."

"Blessings Of Labourers Beneficial For Double **Engine Government": PM Modi**

PM Modi also praised the state government for resolving this issue, which was pending for a long time, and said he was fortunate to be a part of this event.

INDORE, Dec 25 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said investments of thousands of crores have been made in Indore's vicinity during the BJP's "double-engine" government.

This will give rise to thousands of employment opportunities, PM Modi said addressing via video link a programme organised to distribute dues worth 224 crore pertaining to workers of the Hukumchand Mill in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city.

The decision will benefit more than 4,800 labourers, he said at the programme 'Mazdooron ka Hit, Mazdooron ko Samarpit'. The PM also praised the state



government for resolving this issue, which was pending for a long time, and said he was fortunate to be a part of this event. "Four castes - poor, youth,

women and farmers - are very important for me," he said. PM Modi further said that getting the blessings of labourers on the occasion of the Good Governance Day, being observed on former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary, will prove to be beneficial for the "double-engine" government and the people of the state.

Workers of the Hukumchand Mill fought a long legal battle for the payment of their dues after the mill in Indore was closed in 1992, and went into liquidation.

On the initiative of the Madhya Pradesh government, the state Housing & Infrastructure Development Board and labour unions sealed an agreement and the settlement amount was deposited in the high court on December 20, officials earlier

I have severed all ties with wrestling and have nothing to do with it, says Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): BJP MP and former wrestling federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday said he had severed all ties with the sport and his upcoming meeting with Union Home Minister Amit would have nothing to do with it.

His remark assumes significance as on Sunday the Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs issued an official release saying it had suspended the Wres-

tling Federation of India (WFI) along with its newly elected chief and other office-bearers.

The decision of the Sports Ministry came close on the heels of newly elected WFI president Sanjay Singh announcing the hosting of the U-15 and U-20 nationals at Nandini Nagar in Gond district of Uttar Pradesh by the end of the year.

The Sports Ministry termed the decision "hasty" and a "complete disregard to the sports code".

Bhushan held a press conference later in the day saying, "Sanjay Singh is not my relative. I have withdrawn myself from wrestling affairs of the country."

On Monday, he reaffirmed that he had broken all ties with the sport and wouldn't be involved with activities related to the sport.

"Whatever I had to say, I said on Sunday. I have taken retirement from wrestling administration and have nothing to do



with the sport anymore. As far as meeting Amit Shah is concerned, if it happens, we will not discuss wrestling.

Sanjay Singh should do his work. I am doing

mine. The wrestling issue is between the government and the elected federation. I have nothing to do with this," Brij Bhushan told reporters.

1 Dead, Many Hospitalised **After Allegedly Eating 'Prasad'** At Karnataka Temple

BENGALURU, Dec 25 (Agencies): A woman died and 70 others were hospitalised in a suspected case of food poisoning in Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural limits, police said on Monday.

Police said they suspect the cause of food poisoning to be an edible offering at a place of worship in the area.

Some of those hospitalised have been discharged while others are still undergoing treatment. The health department is closely monitoring the situation.

As of now, it is suspected to be a case of food poisoning, but since the investigation is in the initial stage, the exact cause cannot be ascertained at present, they added.

A preliminary inquiry has revealed that on Saturday, most of them had visited a temple in Hoskote town where they ate 'prasad'. A day later, a few among those complained of dysentery and vomiting after which they rushed to hospitals for

A woman who complained of the same symptoms was admitted to one of these hospitals on Sunday afternoon

and died this morning, a senior police

Many others also were admitted to hospitals on Sunday morning and complained about dysentery and vomiting.

"We have information that about 70 people have been admitted to different hospitals. The health department has identified five hospitals in which maximum patients have been admitted. Looking at the situation, in one of the hospitals, they have dedicated an entire floor to treat ICU patients. Patients suspect that the prasad they ate at the temple on Saturday must have led to alleged food poisoning. But there were also others who did not eat the prasad and yet developed dysentery and vomiting. So it needs to be verified," he said.

"We have started recording statements of these patients. So far we have not registered any complaint. Our investigation is in the initial stage. We are awaiting a complaint from the health department and the food safety officer. Based on the statements and their complaints, we will soon be registering a case and taking necessary action," he

Five of a family among six killed in two road accidents in Telangana

HYDERABAD, Dec 25 (Agencies): Six persons, including five members of one family, were killed in two road accidents in Telangana's Nalgonda district. Double tragedy struck a family as a vehicle carrying six persons, who were on their way to the first accident

site, collided with an oil tanker early on Monday. Three of them were killed while three others were injured and their condition is stated to be critical. According to the police, two persons including a

pedestrian were killed in the first accident near Vempahad in Nidamanoor mandal on Sunday night. Keshavulu (28), who was heading to Peddapur from

Miryalaguda on a motorbike, hit a pedestrian Saidulu Both the persons lost their lives. On learning about

the accident, seven members of Keshavulu's family left for the accident site in a Tata Ace vehicle early

Another tragedy struck the family as the vehicle collided with an oil tanker, barely half-a-kilometre from the spot where Keshavulu was killed.

Three persons died on the spot while the fourth succumbed at the hospital. The deceased were identified as Ramavat Ganaiah (40), Pandiah (40), Bujji (38) and Nagaraju (28). Three others were injured and were shifted to Miryalguda area hospital.

Woman Techie Burnt Alive By Classmate Who Underwent Sex Change To Marry Her



CHENNAI, Dec 25 (Agencies): On the eve of her birthday, a 24-year-old software engineer in Tamil Nadu was chained, slashed with a blade and burnt alive by her former classmate who had undergone a sex change operation to marry her, police said

today. The disturbing incident unfolded in Thalambur near Kelambakkam, a quiet southern suburb of Chennai. According to police reports, 26-year-old Vetrimaran alias Pandi Maheswari, under the guise of a birthday surprise, blindfolded 24-year-old R Nandhini and subjected her to an unimaginable ordeal involving chains



and petrol.

The unsuspecting victim, a native of Madurai and a software engineer, had been residing with relatives in Chennai. Vetrimaran, having changed his name from Pandi Maheswari, lured Nandhini into his deadly trap on the pretext of a birthday celebration.

"They were friends and were living together in Chennai. No indication yet of any sexual assault. Whether Vetrimaran had displayed violent tendencies earlier is not clear. An investigation is on," Tambaram Police Commissioner Amalraj told NDTV.

Investigations revealed a dark turn in

the relationship between the two. Having studied together in Madurai, Nandhini continued the friendship even after Vetrimaran underwent a sex-change operation. Both of them had worked together in a private IT firm in Thoraipakkam, further intertwining their lives, police said.

According to the police, the motive behind this gruesome act seems to stem from Vetrimaran's suspicion that Nandhini had developed an interest in others.

Vetrimaran reportedly invited Nandhini for what was supposed to be a birthday surprise, but the evening turned into a nightmare for the 24-year-old. According to the police, local residents discovered Nandhini, still chained and burning, and immediately rushed her to the hospital, where she died

The police swiftly apprehended Vetrimaran, who now faces charges of murder and is remanded to judicial custody.

"All is well in party, we are united": Nitish Kumar on rumours of turmoil in JD(U)

PATNA, Dec 25 (Agencies): Dismissing the rumours of turmoil in the JD (U), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that all was well in his party and the rank and file were working together to fulfill promises made to the people of the state.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function organized to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vaipavee on his 99th birth anniversary, Kumar denied that he was unhappy with the outcome of the opposition INDIA bloc meeting held in Delhi last week and expressed confidence that seat sharing arrangements will be completed soon.

When asked about the rumours of turmoil in the JD (U), as recently reported in a section of media quoting BJP leaders, Kumar said, "All are united in our



party, all is well.

I don't pay attention to what they (BJP leaders) say about us. Let them say whatever they want...it does not have any value.

We are only concerned about the overall development of the state. We have undertaken many development works for the overall growth of Bihar".

"We had announced 10 lakh government jobs to the youth of Bihar.

Let me make it very clear that we will soon achieve this target, around five lakh government jobs have been provided by the Mahagathbandhan government", said the CM.

The Mahagathbandhan government's initiatives are visible, he added.

Kumar debunked reports that he was "dissatisfied" with the INDIA bloc meeting held in Delhi last week and said, "I have been maintaining it since the beginning that I have no desire for myself. My only wish is to unite the maximum number of parties before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. I am working only in this direction".

Four-month-old boy dies after being attacked by stray dog in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, Dec 25 (Agencies): A fourmonth-old boy succumbed to the injuries sustained after an "attack" by a stray dog in a hut at Shaikpet area, officials said on Monday.

The incident happened on December 8 when the baby's parents, who are labourers, had left him in a cradle in the hut and gone for work, they said.

As per information, three stray dogs went near the hut and one of the stray canines went inside the hut which had no door and bit the boy on the face and forehead, a civic official said.

The boy was subsequently admitted to a state-run hospital here where he died on Sunday while undergoing treatment, the official said.

The boy's parents hail from Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.

Meanwhile, following the incident, around 20 stray dogs were caught in the area as per guidelines and all of them were found already sterilized, the official said, adding the dogs were subsequently released. In a similar incident on February 19 this year, a pack of stray dogs attacked and killed a four-year-old boy in Amberpet in the city.

Two killed, six fall sick after gas leak at storeroom in Bengal's Durgapur

KOLKATA, Dec 25 (Agencies): Two persons died while six others were rescued in critical condition inside a storeroom of a popular sweetmeat outlet at Durgapur in West Bengal's Burdwan district on Monday

The deaths occurred due to the gas leak from a cooking LPG cylinder which was also stored at the same storeroom. The bodies of the two deceased were recovered while six others were rescued under critical conditions on Monday morning.

The two deceased persons have

been identified as Bidhan Mondal (21) and Atanu Ruidas (22). All the dead and sick are residents of the Beliatore in the Bankura district of West Bengal.

The sick persons are currently under treatment at a local hospital. Local police sources said that the mishap probably happened sometime between late Sunday night and early Monday morning.

"One of the employees, before falling unconscious, had sent a SOS call to the owner of the sweetmeat outlet, who immediately reached near the storeroom.

However, he found the door of the storeroom locked from inside and his repeated banging of the door failed to evoke response," said a local police official.

Thereafter the owner with the help of his associates broke open the door and also informed the local police station. The bodies of the two deceased victims were recovered and six others were shifted to the local hospital.

Initial investigation revealed that a gas leak, in a sparsely ventilated storeroom, was the main reason behind the mishap.

3 Killed After 2 Vehicles **Collide Due To Dense** Fog In Rajasthan

JAIPUR, Dec 25 (Agencies): Three people were killed and another injured in an accident between two vehicles due to dense fog in Rajasthan's Barmer district on Monday morning, police said.

According to the police, four friends from Gujarat who were returning in a car after visiting the Tanot Mata temple in Jaisalmer collided with another vehicle due to dense fog on Monday morning.

The accident was so severe that the car was completely damaged from the front, they said.

All four youths got trapped in the car, police said, adding three of them died on the spot while one was seriously injured.

The accident took place on National High-

way-68 near the Dhorimanna toll plaza in Barmer district, police said.

The police are scanning the CCTV footage around the incident site to trace the unknown vehicle.

Kesharam, the head constable of Dhorimanna police station, said that the deceased were identified as Vishnu (50), Jitin (48) and Jignesh Kumar (50).

The local people took the four youths to Dhorimanna Hospital where the doctor declared three of them dead, said Kesharam and added that all three were residents of Gujarat's Ahmedabad.

The dead bodies have been kept in the mortuary, police said, adding the post-mortem will be done after arrival of the family members.

Three killed in accident in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur SITAPUR, Dec 25 (Agencies): said the victims were riding withmunity health centre where they

Three men were killed when an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle from behind in the Laharpur area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Monday.

The accident occurred late on Sunday on the Bisvan Laharpur Road, they said.

Laharpur SHO Mukul Verma

out helmets when their motorcycle was hit from behind near the Ruda Bhavnathpur village.

The trio -- Rafig (18), Alamuddin (25) and Suhail (19) -- hailed from Khanpur Sadat village in the

Laharpur area, he added. The three injured motorcyclists were rushed to the nearby comwere declared dead. Their families have been

informed and the bodies sent for post-mortem, the police said. A case has been registered in this connection.

The police have also started a search operation to trace the offending vehicle, Verma said

Palestinians feel 'no joy' as Israel bombs **Gaza on Christmas**

PALESTINIAN TERRITO-RIES, Dec 25 (Agencies): Palestinians said they felt "no joy" this Christmas as Israel bombed Gaza on Monday, with no end in sight to the war that Hamas says has claimed more than 20,000 lives.

Festivities were effectively scrapped in the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem, revered as the birthplace of Jesus Christ, with few worshippers or tourists on the usually packed streets.

In the besieged Gaza Strip, the Hamas-run ministry of health said early Monday Israeli strikes had killed at least 18 people in the southern city of Khan Yunis, the centre of recent fighting.

At a hospital in the city, Fadi Sayegh -- whose family has previously received permits to travel to Bethlehem for celebrations -- said he would not be celebrating Christmas this year.

"There is no joy. No Christmas tree, no decorations, no family dinner, no celebrations," he said while undergoing dialysis. "I pray for this war to be over soon."

Sister Nabila Salah from the Catholic Holy Church in Gaza -- where two Christian women were killed by an Israeli sniper earlier this month according to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem -- struck a sombre tone.

"All Christmas celebrations have been cancelled," she told agency. "How do we celebrate when we are... hearing the sound of tanks and bombard-



ment instead of the ringing of bells?'

The war broke out when Hamas fighters attacked southern Israel on October 7 and killed about 1,140 people, mostly civilians, and seized 250 hostages. according to an agency tally

based on Israeli figures.

Israel has vowed to eliminate Hamas in response and its military campaign, which has included massive aerial bombardment. The campaign has killed 20,424 people, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's health ministry.

Pope Francis kicked off global Christmas celebrations on Sunday with a call for peace.

"Our heart goes to Gaza, to all people in Gaza but a special attention to our Christian community in Gaza who is suffering," the Catholic leader said.

Christmas eve strike Just ahead of Christmas, the Hamas-run health ministry said at least 70 people were killed in an Israeli air strike on Sunday at the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

Health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said the "toll is likely to rise" as many families were thought to be in the area

at the time of the strike. In a separate incident, the ministry said 10 members of one family were killed in an Israeli strike on their house in the Jabalia camp in northern Gaza.

Vast areas of Gaza lie in ruins and its 2.4 million people have endured dire shortages of water, food, fuel and medicine due to an Israeli siege, alleviated only by the limited arrival of aid trucks.

Eighty per cent of Gazans have been displaced, according to the UN, many fleeing south and now shielding against the winter cold in makeshift tents.

The head of the UN refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, called for an end to the suffering.

"A humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza is the only way forward," he wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "War defies logic and humanity, and prepares a future of more hatred and less peace.'

World Health Organization

coming to town.

A 3-D, interactive web-

site at www.noradsanta.

org showed Santa Claus

and his reindeer on their

imagined worldwide

delivery route, allowing

users to click and learn

more about the various

The Santa tracker

presented by the North

American Aerospace

Defense Command

(NORAD) dates to 1955,

when a Colorado news-

paper advertisement

printed a phone number

to connect children with

cities along the way.

chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also renewed calls for a ceasefire, saying: "The decimation of the Gaza health system is a tragedy."

'No choice' Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday the war was exacting a "very heavy price", as the death toll of soldiers killed in the conflict continued to mount.

"But we have no choice but to keep fighting," he said, adding: "This will be a long war."

The army said Monday two more soldiers had been killed, taking to 17 the number of troops killed since Friday and 156 since Israel's ground assault began on October 27.

Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus indicated that forces were close to gaining control in northern Gaza and that now "we focus our efforts against Hamas in southern Gaza".

Two freed detainees and a medic said Sunday that Palestinians held by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip had suffered torture, a charged denied by the military.

The two men were among hundreds detained by Israeli forces over alleged links with Hamas during Israel's ground offensive.

About 20 men released from Israeli custody "have bruises and marks of blows on their bodies", Marwan al-Hams, hospital director in the southern city of Rafah, told agency.

13-Year-Old Palestinian Boy Killed In Israeli Strike Had A YouTube Dream

GAZA, Dec 25 (Agencies): 13-year-old Awni Eldous was trying to build a following on his YouTube channel before he was killed in an Israeli air attack in Gaza. After his death, people have helped to achieve his dream of reaching 1 million subscribers on YouTube. His channel currently has 1.49 million subscribers.

In August last year, Eldous who was known for his love of computers and gaming posted a video thanking his fans for helping his channel reach 1,000 subscribers and explained his ultimate goal. "I am Awni Eldous, a Palestinian from Gaza. I am 12 years old," he said in the video. "The goal of this channel is to reach 100,000 subscribers. And 500,000, then 1 million, and - God willing - to reach 10 million subscribers with your support and love."

He ended the short video saying "peace out" to his 1,000 subscribers before walking out of view.

In the comments section, numerous users have shared heartfelt condolences and sought forgiveness for

US-Canada military 'tracks' Santa Claus to help



not assisting Eldous in achieving his goal while he was still alive.

BBC reported that Awni's family home was hit in an Israeli strike on October 7.

Awni's aunt told the media outlet that he was a happy, confident and helpful boy who would hold the door open for her. Another family member called him "engineer Awni" because of his love of computers.

To others, this 13-yearold gamer has become a kind of symbol, representing the loss of children in the Gaza Strip.

"Two bombs fell suddenly on top of the building and destroyed it. My wife and I were lucky to survive because we were staying on the top floor," Awni's uncle Mohammed said.

Both he and a neighbour said they had received no warning. "It was sudden, boom," the neighbour said.

Narrating the incident, Eldous's aunt said she did not want to believe the messages she was receiving. She shared that after connecting to the wi-fi, she saw that a close friend of the family had shared a photo of her brother on social media with the caption: "Rest in peace." She ran to the hospital.

"They asked me to see the bodies but my husband refused... he wanted me to remember their beautiful faces when they were alive," she says in a Facebook message, sent from the south of Gaza, where she is now displaced.

Ala'a says 15 members of her family were killed that night, among them Awni.

She describes him as being a calm, helpful boy. His dad was a computer engineer and Ala'a says that for as long as she can remember, Awni would copy his father, pulling laptops apart and then trying to piece them back together, BBC reported.

Since the onset of the Israel-Hamas war in early October, over 10,000 people have lost their lives in Gaza. Among them, at least 4,000 were children.

King Charles III's annual Christmas message from Buckingham Palace includes sustainable touches

LONDON, Dec 25 (Agencies): Charles III will be giving his second Christmas message from Buckingham Palace in front of a live tree decorated with sustainable ornaments.

The message, to be broadcast at 3 pm on Monday, will be the king's second holiday address since he ascended the throne. but the first since his coronation in iviay

The natural decorations adorning the tree were made from wood, dried oranges, brown glass, pine cones, and paper. The tree will later be replanted, the palace savs.

Charles has promoted environmental causes, such as protecting wildlife and combating climate change long



before it became popular, throughout much of his life. He spoke at the beginning of the month at the UN's COP28 climate summit in Dubai.

Last year, in his first Christmas message as monarch, Charles evoked memories of his late mother. Queen Elizabeth II, and paid tribute to the 'selfless dedication' of Britain's public service workers. Many of those workers spent much of the past year in a fight with the government over pay, creating disruptions in transportation, education and adding to already long wait times at hospitals as doctors, nurses, and ambulance workers walked off the job - some for several days at a time throughout the year.

While Elizabeth delivered her address from a desk, Charles last year stood by a Christmas tree at the church on the grounds of Windsor Castle where his parents are buried.

This year, he will speak from a room in Buckingham Palace that leads to the balcony where members of the royal family assembled after his coronation ceremo-



Santa but mistakenly directed them to the hotline for the military nerve center.

To avoid disappointing the little ones, NORAD's director of operations at the time, Colonel Harry Shoup, ordered his staff to check the radar to see where Old Saint Nick might be and update the

children on his location. Sixty-eight years later NORAD is continuing the tradition of setting up a temporary call center out of its Colorado headquarters to answer

children's burning ques-

A photo posted by the group on Facebook showed rows of people answering phones, some in uniform and others wearing red Santa caps

Some top-level US dignitaries -- namely President Joe Biden and wife Jill Biden -- joined in on

the holiday action. "This evening, the President and First Lady participated in the North American Aerospace Defense Command

with children and families across the country," the White House said in a statement.

Santa tracking calls

Earlier Sunday the tracker went down for a short while, leaving children in the Pacific region in the dark about his exact position.

"Hey #SantaTrackers! We may be having a couple of technical difficulties with our tracking map, but #Santa is still flying! He is headed to Fiji next!" the group which runs the tracker said on their Facebook page, before announcing a fix one hour later.

Father Christmas had begun his journey with an out-of-this-world first stop, according to NORAD: the International Space Station orbiting Earth.

The reindeer-pulled sleigh was also seen traversing Israel as well as crossing over southern Gaza, crisscrossing Africa, and venturing southward to Palmer Station, a research facility in Antarctica.

Santa then headed up through South America, bound for the United States, unloading approximately 100,000 gifts every second for about 4.9 billion total presents as of 0130 GMT Monday, according to the tracker.

When not spreading holiday cheer, NORAD conducts aerospace and maritime control and warning operations -including monitoring for missile launches from North Korea, something that may be on Santa's mind this year as he passes over, with the most recent ICBM test just days ago.

Over 1,000 Convicts In Sri Lanka Prisons **Released To Mark Christmas**

COLOMBO, Dec 25 (Agencies): Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe granted an amnesty to more than 1,000 convicts and released them from jails across the country to mark Christmas, a prisons official said Monday

Among the 1,004 freed on Monday were Sri Lankans jailed for not being able to pay outstanding fines, Prison Commissioner Gamini Dissanayake said.

Sri Lanka is majority Buddhist and a similar number of convicts were freed in May to



mark the holiday of Vesak, which celebrates the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. The latest pardon came after police arrest-

ed nearly 15,000 people during a weeklong military-backed anti-narcotics drive that was halted on the eve of Christmas.

A police statement said 13,666 suspects were arrested while nearly 1,100 addicts were detained and sent for compulsory rehabilitation at a military-run facility.

The island nation's jails are chronically overcrowded.

As of Friday, there were nearly 30,000 inmates in facilities designed to hold 11,000, according to official data.

Fire erupts in New York subway, creates panic on Christmas Eve

NEW YORK, Dec 25 (Agencies): A fire at a subway in New York's Brooklyn caused by an electric bike left nine people injured and several passengers trapped on Christmas Eve.

Several passengers took to social media and shared videos capturing thick smoke billowing through the subway, where the e-bike ignited, causing chaos and panic.

Passengers found themselves trapped on a train as doors refused to open, while others tried to find their way out using the stairwell.

Several emergency crews, including fire tenders, rushed to the spot to rescue passengers trapped in smoke-filled train coaches and other



with delays in both direcparts of the subway. "A/C trains are running tions after FDNY (New

York City Fire Department) responded to a track fire on High St," the New York City Transit Subway said on X, formerly known as Twitter. It also cancelled at least two trains after the

The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals and doctors said their condition was stable.

Russia intends to keep rate of weapons production high: Minister



MOSCOW, Dec 25 (Agencies): Russia has the upper hand in weapons production over the West and intends to keep the rate of growth high, a top Russian minister said on Monday after both the West and Russia ramped up arms production for the Ukraine war.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, triggering the biggest conflict in Europe since World War II and the deepest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the

Ukraine and its Western backers ramped up arms production in an attempt to defeat Russian forces on the battlefields of Ukraine. Russia also hiked production but says the West is to blame for the war which Moscow dates to 2014.

"I don't want to boast, but I can say that we began to gain and picked up the pace of production earlier than Western countries," Denis Manturov, the deputy prime minister who oversees arms production, told the RIA news agency.

"Another question is how long this race will last," Manturov said, adding that a 2025-2034 armament plan was due to be approved next year.

President Vladimir Putin and his defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, have said that production of artillery, drones, tanks and armoured vehicles is soaring.

Some former leaders of the West have spoken about a new Cold War between Russia and China on one side and the United States and its allies on the other, though Russia's \$2 trillion economy would find it hard to counter the entire

might of the West alone for long. According to IMF data, the United States' nominal gross domestic product was \$27 trillion this year while China's was \$17.7 trillion.

"We must both replenish reserves and maintain the given rate of production," Manturov said.

"As far as it comes to the guts of Western countries - here I would not want to speak for them."

Manturov said that the volume of state defence orders in 2023 has doubled over the prior year, with production of "certain weapons" rising ten-fold.

Birla celebrates 'Carnival de Noel'-a memorable celebration of festive joy

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Carnival de Noel, an enchanting celebration orchestrated by Birla Open Minds International School, Jammu, unfolded into a dazzling spectacle of jubilation, music, and vibrant performances, leaving attendees enthralled by the spirit of the season.

The event was graced by the presence of the Director of the school and Nagar Singh, School's Chairperson Dr.Panna Manas Choudhary, Abhimun Choudhary and Dr. Goldy.

The event was made more remarkable by the Principal of the School. Aparana Kohli who enlightened every part of the event to make it more graceful and entertaining.

Amidst a backdrop of festive adornments and twinkling lights, Carnival de Noel commenced with a music performance symbolizing the unity and camaraderie that characterized this unforgettable day.

The event showcased an array of captivating performances, featuring talented individuals who lit up the stage with their artistry.

The carnival also embraced diversity

through a variety of dance performances, encompassing hiphop and theme-based dances. These dynamic displays of artistry brought forth the creative essence of the performers, creating an electrifying atmosphere that reverberat-

ed throughout the event. Amidst all these performances, a ramp walk for the kids, female and male audience was organised on the stage to create more enthusiasm among everyone.

The major attraction of the event was the unveil the School Mascot-Panther. The motto behind this mascot is 'Never Give Up.

The school also felicitated parents with the Brand Ambassadors sashes and momentos. These parents have always been a support for the school and moti-

vated us in all times. The culmination of

excitement came with the eagerly anticipated lucky draw, offering attendees the chance to win enticing prizes and adding an extra layer of thrill to the festivities.

The event resonated with the infectious joy of the attendees and the remarkable talents showcased by the performers.

Carnival de Noel succeeded in blending the harmonious spirit of the festive season with a celebration of community and artistic expression. Families and friends came together to create treasured memories on 25 December 2023 at Birla Open Minds International School, Jammu, painting an evening that will linger in their hearts as a testament to shared laughter and moments of pure delight.

Delegation of FTII meets MP Khatana, list issues



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: A delegation from the Federation of Trade & Industry of India (FTII), led by its president Dr. Sanjay Bansal, met BJP MP Rajya Sabha (Nominated), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, to extend their heartfelt congratulations for his dedicated efforts in raising pertinent issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir during the recent Parliament session.

Delegation comprised of Sandeep Mengi, Vice president FTII, Sanjiv Aggarwal, Parshant

The delegation expressed their appreciation for MP Khatana's commitment to advocating for the welfare and development of the region. Dr. Sanjay Bansal, President of FTII, acknowledged Er. Gulam Ali Khatana's proactive stance in addressing key concerns that impact the trade and industrial sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted several pressing issues, including the delay in the estab-

lishment of a dry port in Jammu, concerns related to turnover incentives, the need for a freight subsidy, granting freehold rights on leased land, and the establishment of a common godown facility at a centralized location.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana assured the FTII delegation that he would actively take up these crucial matters at the appropriate forums. He emphasized the significance of addressing these challenges to foster economic growth and industrial development in the region.

The interaction concluded with a mutual commitment to continued collaboration between the Federation of Trade & Industry of India and Er. Gulam Ali Khatana to work towards the resolution of these issues and promote the overall welfare of Jammu and Kashmir.

NC has always championed Women's rights and empowerment: Rattan Lal



Top News Report

JAMMU, DEC 25: National Conference Provincial Preident Jammu Province Rattan Lal Gupta while asserting that the party's Naya Kashmir Policy document focusses on empowering the women folk, has said that NC has always advocated for the women's rights and their empowerment. He said while Arti Malhotra, a social activists joined into party fold.

While welcoming Aarti Malhotra social activist into party fold, Ajaz Jan Provincial President YNC Jammu said that empowered and emancipated women are the significant asset of the society as it is they who shape the future of the future generations and hence achieving the better future for the nation and its people.

Aarti Malhotra while joining said that she is highly impressed by the ideology of National Conference the foundation of which was laid by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohd Abdullah and carried forward by the party cadre led by Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. She said NC is the only secular party in Jammu and Kashmir and has practically displayed its commitment to women's empowerment in J&K. She said, "My aim of joining NC is to uphold the secular ideology and leave no stone unturned in further empowerment of the women in J&K.

Double engine Govt betrayed J&K refugees: Sadhotra

Only NC can truly fulfill aspirations of J&K people: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 25: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference and former Minister, has accused the double engine government, led by the BJP, at the Centre of betraying the refugees of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those from Pakistanoccupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The meeting was Presided by Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban JKNC, Jammu, apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by the people of Block No 3 Gaddigarh with regard to shortage of basic amenities like scarcity of power, water, roads, and medical facilities and civic amenities, etc. Addressing a meeting

at Block No 3, Gaddi Garh area here today. the senior NC leader stated, "The PoJK refugees have been feeling deceived. The commitment made to them by the BJP-led Central Government has not been fulfilled. Despite our government under Omar Abdullah's leadership identifying over 36,000 refugee families in Jammu and Kashmir, their plight remains

"Our government recommended a comprehensive compensation of Rs 25 lakh per refu-

unaddressed.

gee family for one time settlement. This was further bolstered by a Parliamentary panel's recommendation of Rs 30 lakh per family. However, the present Government at the Centre headed by PM Modi has failed miserably in this regard, providing a meager Rs 5 lakh per family, thus betraying the refugees," added

The senior National Conference leader assured that if voted to power, the National Conference would strive to provide the remainder

Sadhotra.

of the compensation to the refugees by engaging with the Centre.

Rattan Lal Gupta

called on the party's workers to actively counter the misleading campaigns propagated by BJP leaders, emphasizing the growing unrest and chaos prevalent across the region which added to the turmoil. It is our duty as members of the National Conference to step up and counter these negative narratives with truth and integrity" as the National

Conference has always

stood for the aspirations of our people. He Urging party workers to engage directly with the public, Rattan Lal added, "Our role is not just to contest elections but to be the

voice of the people. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary, JKNC, Jammu, emphasized the Party's commitment to restore stability and address the pressing concerns of the people in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged party workers to remain steadfast and dedicated in the mission to bring

peace and prosperity to

the region.

Among others who

were present in the meeting include: Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing, Deepinder Kour Ex-MLC, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Rajesh Bakashi, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Sardar Sandeep Singh Wazir, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Vivek Gupta, Harminder Singh, Som Raj Taroch, Aslam Choudhary, Davinder Singh, Tarsem Lal, Satpal Singh, Rajat Esher and others.

Army Chief arrives in Jammu to review security situation amid **Anti-Terror Operation in Poonch**

Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in the Surankote area of Poonch on

In the aftermath of the attack, three civilians, aged between 27 and 42 years, were allegedly picked up by the Army for questioning. They were found dead on December 22.

The officials said a massive search operation continues near the scene of the ambush, covering both Surankote and the Thanamandi forest in nearby Rajouri dis-

Mobile internet remained suspended in Poonch and Rajouri for the third straight

The services were suspended early Saturday following the killing of the three civilians within hours after they were allegedly picked up by security personnel for questioning in connection with Thursday's ambush.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced compensation and jobs to the families of the deceased civilians on Saturday and said the medico-legal formalities were conducted and legal action in the matter was initiated by the appropriate

The Army has ordered a thorough internal investigation into the deaths of the three civilians and said it is committed to extending full support and cooperation in the probe.

In a post on X on December 23, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army said: "Search operations by the security forces are continuing in the area of operations after the incident of 21 Dec 23. Reports have been received regarding three civilian deaths in the area. The matter is under investigation. Indian Army stands committed to extending full support and cooperation in the conduct of investigations.'

2 of marriage party killed, 13 others injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Reasi

and one man — identified as Mohd Ashraf (25) — was found dead. Thirteen others, including nine girls aged between three and 19 years, were taken to hospital. One of the critically injured people — 17-yearold Tahir Ahmad — succumbed while being shifted to Rajouri for specialised treatment, the officer said.

COVID-19 | India records 628 fresh cases, active caseload at 4.054

The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per

According to the ministry website, 220.67 crore Covid vaccine doses have been administered.

Traffic movement affected as thick fog blankets Srinagar

with "light rain/snow at scattered places."

Kharge to chair

FROM PAGE 1 meeting with J&K leaders to discuss poll preparedness

Kashmir on Tuesday.

Rahul Gandhi along with other senior leaders and state leaders will be present during the meeting, the party leader said. The party leader said that the leaders will hold discussions on the poll preparedness and the mood in Jammu and Kashmir following the passage of the two Bills during

The party leader said that during the meeting, the party leaders will also discuss the alliance with the National Conference and the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir.

the recently concluded Parliament's Winter

Breaking Barriers | J&K to hold first-ever festival to **honour Persons with** Disabilities on Dec 28, 29

told agencies.

Chandeep, a two-time world champion and a silver medalist is the only Indian to achieve this feat in Taekwondo

"I received a State Award and Outstanding Sportsperson Award in 2019," he told Greater Kashmir over the phone from Jammu.

Chandeep has also won a gold and bronze medal in Asian Championship and is a four-time gold medalist and national gold medalist besides being a six-time state championship award winner.

"I have remained a five-time national medalist in swimming," he said.

Briefing about VYOM-J&K, 2023, a 2-day Inclusive Purple Fest, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal

Nanda told Greater Kashmir that the festival would be held in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Department (PwD), Government of India (GoI).

"It is a fest entirely for and by persons with disability. They will perform and participate in all the activities. The idea is to highlight their abilities which we tend to think are not there." Nanda said.

Talking to Greater Kashmir, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Iqbal Lone said since J&K is the last Union Territory to implement the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act in the entire country, the commission was rolled out in 2022 to create awareness and reach out to the last vulnerable persons when it comes to PWD.

"VYOM-J&K, 2023, is the first of its kind in J&K in which we expect the participation of over 4000 PwD across J&K in different activities," Lone said.

He said that the activities include dialogue, sports events, and exhibitions.

Lone said over 300 participants are coming across every state and UTs of the country which include the Commissioner for PwDs across the country and the concerned Department Secretaries

"Apart from those we expect some 50 exhibitors who have done innovations research and are experts in disability affairs," he said.

Lone said that the entire exercise was in continuation of the commitment of the J&K government to reach out to every PwD and evolve a mechanism in which they know their rights and entitlements.

"J&K is among the top seven states and UTs in the country to reach saturation when it comes to UDID - a project in which every PwD has a UDID card to avail all the schemes and all the entitlements and State and Centre sponsored schemes whosoever is having benchmark disability,' he said.

Message of Love, Peace and Happiness: **Kashmir's Christian Community celebrates Birth of Jesus**

Father P Tigga said after the Christmas Mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church. The conflict has been triggered by unprec-

edented and multi-pronged attacks against Israel by Hamas militants from Gaza since October 7. Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive in Gaza to avenge the

Father Tigga said that Christmas carries the fundamental message of love, peace, and happiness.

"We feel happy today as we gather here, we feel unity among us. We have especially prayed for the Kashmir region, for our parents, brothers and sisters, for everyone... so that we must all live together. We should have humanness, that is what is important," he said.

Dr Farooq, Omar Abdullah Greet People on Christmas

compassion, devoting one's life towards alleviating human suffering. I hope that the day acts as a harbinger of peace and prosperity throughout the world."

Omar Abdullah in his message said, "Brotherhood, harmony and amity are part of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural legacy, which is exhibited through observances like Christmas," he said. Sending greetings and warm wishes to all countrymen and women, he wished a joyous occasion to all celebrating the festival.

Visa, agri, GSP likely to figure in India-US trade policy forum meet in January

India and the US will discuss ways to increase trade and investments between the two countries during the two-day meeting from January 13, 2024. It will be the 14th ministerial-level meeting of the India-US TPF

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): Issues about visas, promoting agri trade and resumption of benefits under the American generalised system of preferences (GSP) are expected to figure in the meeting of India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in January here, an official said.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai will be here for a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

Both sides will discuss ways to increase trade and investments between the two countries during the two-day meeting from January 13, 2024. It will be the 14th ministerial-level meeting of the India-US TPF, the official said.

The last meeting was held in Washington in January 2023. India in that meeting highlighted the delay in the issuance of business visas to people from

New Delhi is also keen on restoration of its beneficiary status under the US GSP programme. The previous Trump admin-



istration in the US revoked the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from India in 2019. The GSP allows eligible developing countries to export dutyfree goods to the US.

About 1,900 Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering were getting duty-free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976.

Both the countries in the last TPF meet had noted that the movement of professionals and skilled workers and business travellers between the countries contributes to enhancing bilateral economic and technological

partnership, the official added. The official said that the proposed social security totalisation agreement may also figure in the meeting.

Under a totalisation agreement, an expatriate in either country need not contribute to the social security schemes of the host country. It would benefit a number of Indians, particularly from the IT sector who are working in America and paying social

security but are unable to get any benefit out of it.

In the 13th TPF meeting, the two countries launched a new working group on resilient trade to deepen bilateral dialogue on a range of issues that can enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the trade relationship including trade facilitation.

TPF is a platform to resolve trade and investment issues between the two countries. It has five focus groups -- Agriculture, Investment, Innovation and Creativity (intellectual property rights), Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

The US is the largest trading partner of India. America accounts for about 20 per cent of India's total exports in goods and is a key market for services sectors like IT.

The bilateral trade between the countries has increased to USD 129.4 billion in 2022-23 from USD 120 billion in 2021-22. India received USD 6 billion in foreign direct investment from the US in 2022-23.

Paytm lays off hundreds of employees as it implements **AI-powered automation**



NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): Fintech leader Paytm has laid off several hundred employees from its operations, sales and engineering team, according to reports.

A company spokesperson did not divulge the number of people affected, but said the company is "transforming our operations with Al-powered automation to drive efficiency, eliminating repetitive tasks and roles to drive efficiency across growth and costs, resulting in a slight reduction in our workforce in operations and marketing".

"We will be able to save 10-15 per cent in employee costs as AI has delivered more than we expected it to. Additionally, we constantly evaluate cases of non-performance throughout the year," a Paytm spokesperson said.

In 2021, the fintech major had laid off 500-700 employees based on nonperformance.

"Insurance and wealth will be a logical

expansion of our platform, in continuation of our focus on the existing businesses. Having shown the strength of our distribution-based business model in loan distribution, we are expanding the same to focus on new businesses to drive scale," said the Paytm spokes-

Paytm is leveraging AI to revolutionise payments and financial services like wealth management, Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said in an interview with Bloomberg.

Paytm's Al-driven strategy has helped it reduce workforce while continuing to innovate for India.

"As we lead the AI revolution in India, we are embracing AI-powered automation to eliminate repetitive tasks leading to substantial cost savings. With an aim to drive efficiency across growth and costs, we are reducing our workforce by 10 per cent and continue to drive innovation in India across payments and financial services," said a Paytm spokesperson.

Paytm believes that its strong mobilefirst foundation and early Al adoption will give it a competitive edge. The company aims to hit EBITDA-level profitability sooner. It has generated free cash for the past two quarters and Sharma expects that trajectory to continue.

Adani Green Energy inks pact with SECI for supply of 1,799 MW solar power

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): Adani Green Energy (AGEL) on Monday said it has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 1,799 MW of solar power.

With the signing of this balance PPA, AGEL has completed the power offtake tie-up for the entire 8,000 MW manufacturing-linked solar tender awarded to it by the SECI in June 2020, a company statement said.

According to the statement, AGEL has announced the execution of a PPA with the SECI to supply 1,799 MW of solar power.

"We are glad to conclude the largest green PPA and enable a sustainable energy landscape. Aligned to India's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, Adani Green is determined to deliver in excess of 45 GW renewable energy, a five-fold increase from our current operating portfolio," Amit Singh, CEO, AGEL, said in the state-

AGEL has progressed on the commitments of the SECI manufacturing-linked solar PV tender, including setting up 2 GW of PV cell and module manufacturing facilities.

AGEL has already commissioned a solar PV cell and module manufacturing plant with a capacity of 2 GW per annum through its associate company Mundra Solar Energy Ltd (MSEL), it

The plant is located at Mundra, Gujarat. AGEL holds 26 per cent shares of MSEL through its wholly-owned subsidiary Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Ltd. With this, Adani Green now has tied up PPAs of 19. 8 GW and the balance is merchant capacity in its 20. 6 GW locked-in portfolio, it stated.

With over 2 lac acres of land already tied up in resource-rich areas of India, the portfolio is fully de-risked for execution of 45 GW capacity by 2030, the statement added.

Amway India introduces Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C + HA3 Daily Serum

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: In its quest to provide a visibly healthy beauty to meet the diverse needs of an ever-evolving consumer, Amway India, one of the leading FMCG direct-selling companies, strengthens its Artistry Skin Nutrition range with Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum.

This daily 'hero serum' provides enhanced hydration for brighter, radiant skin and a visibly healthy, youthful glow.

Universally safe with all skin types, the Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum seamlessly complements the Artistry Skin Nutrition range, encompassing Artistry Skin Nutrition Anti-aging, and Bal-



ancing & Hydrating ranges. Talking about the new launch,

Ajay Khanna, CMO, Amway India said, "At Amway India, we are in a constant state of evolution, driven by the dynamic needs of our consumers. We are committed to providing need-based recommendations in skincare that seamlessly aligns with our consumer's aspirations, helping them achieve their skincare goals.

Harnessing our extensive expertise in skin science, we developed Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C + HA3 Daily Serum, a hero serum that embodies the fusion of nature and scientific innovation.

Artistry Vitamin C + HA3 Daily is a high-performance brightening Serum that works to visibly reduce lines and wrinkles and with hydration. Concentrated with 2X Vitamin C, 2.4X antioxidants, and tri-action Hyaluronic Acid, Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum is a fresh-mix bottle that gives you a boost youthful radiance with every use. As per our consumer perception studies, 80% of users reported that it improved their skin's hydration and tone in less than a week. And, continued use over 4 weeks resulted in visibly brighter and more radiant skin. We are confident that Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C + HA3 Daily Serum will be the most sought-after product, empowering consumers to embrace visibly healthy skin that radiates confidence.'

plump the appearance of skin

Live Christmas trees affect indoor air chemistry: Researchers

NEW YORK, Dec 25 (Agencies): Live Christmas trees release chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that create fresh smell found in air fresheners, candles and some personal care products.

In the outdoors, conifers, the group of plants that includes most Christmas trees, release monoterpenes, and they can affect outdoor air quality.

But little is known about how much monoterpene is released when a tree is cut down and placed indoors during holidays. "We know that these

trees are emitting something, and the question then becomes: How big of a source is it? We wanted to explore which chemicals are emitted and how much, and to put that into the context of other sources of chemicals in a house,' said Dustin Poppendieck, an environmental engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

To answer these questions, Poppendieck and colleagues took a common type of Christmas tree — a Douglas fir- and sealed it inside a chamber. They then measured

the amount and type of VOCs it emitted over 17 days and also investigated whether the VOCs reacted with other components of indoor air to create new compounds.

They placed it inside an environmentally controlled chamber, where they could measure the chemicals emitted from the tree in real time.

They decorated the



tree in a typical holiday lighting setup and shone bright lights on it to mimic the day-night cycle. The team turned off the lights every 12 hours and watered the tree every day.

The team brought in outside air at a rate typical for households, and constantly measured chemicals in the indoor

Monoterpenes were the most abundant VOC emitted from the tree.

They peaked during the first day before diminishing significantly by the third day. Their concentration was initially at the same level of a plug-in air freshener or newly constructed house before it quickly dropped by nearly 10 times its original amount, said Poppendieck.

The researchers detected 52 distinct types of monoterpenes, according to research published in the journal Indoor Environments.

For people who are sensitive to VOCs, Christmas trees could be one possible cause for watery eyes and noses, especially when initially brought indoors.

In that case, Poppendieck suggests, opening a window near the tree will reduce exposure. "But for most people, this shouldn't be a major concern."

Energy tech firm Enphase led by Indian-origin CEO lays off 350 workers

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 25 (Agencies): American energy technology company Enphase, led by Indianorigin Badri Kothandaraman, is laying off 10 per cent of its global workforce, impacting approximately 350 contractors and employees.

According to Enphase president and CEO Kothandaraman, the move is to streamline operations by ceasing contract manufacturing operations in two locations in the US and resizing other contract manufacturing sites.

"We have decided to reduce our global workforce by approximately 10 per cent, impacting approximately 350 contractors and employees. In addition, we will continue our hiring and travel freeze through 2024 and cut discretionary spending on several other fronts," he said in

a message to employ-

Kothandaraman took full accountability for the decision.

"I understand this is difficult for all of us, especially when it impacts our valued colleagues and friends who are departing. We will treat our departing colleagues with the utmost respect and empathy, provide them with severance packages, engage in consultation where required, and support them with their transi-

tions," he wrote. Headquartered in Fremont, California, Enphase develops and manufactures solar micro-inverters, battery energy storage, and EV charging stations primarily for residential customers.

The company has shipped more than 48 million micro-inverters to 2.5 million solar systems in more than 140 countries. Kothandaraman

said that over the last 12 months, the solar market has seen a lot of turbulence worldwide. In the US, high interest rates have caused a significant drop in consumer demand, while "California's NEM 3.0 transition continues to create further uncertainty".

"These challenges have caused our topline revenue to decrease. In response, we must right-size the company and get our non-GAAP operating expenses to be within a range of \$75 million to \$80 million per quarter in 2024," said the CEO.

The company's worldwide micro-inverter contract manufacturing operations currently have a combined capacity of approximately 10 million units per quarter.

JN.1 Covid variant more transmissible but not causing severe infections: Expert

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencies): The new coronavirus sub-variant, JN.1, is more transmissible and is spreading rapidly but is not causing severe infections, said former AIIMS director Randeep Guleria.

He also said that the new Covid variant is becoming more dominant. " It is more transmissible, it is spreading more rapidly, it is gradually becoming a dominant variant as far as Covid-19 is concerned, in the US, Europe, and we are seeing more cases in India as well," the senior pulmonologist told news agency.

However, he also said that the

data suggests that the new variant is not causing severe infections and hospitalisation.

SYMPTOMS AND PREVENTION Talking about ways to remain healthy and prevent catching the new sub-variant, Dr Guleria urged people to indulge in Covid-appropriate behaviour.

"Wash your hands regularly. Cough into your armpit or into a tissue so you can avoid spreading the infection to others. Avoid going to crowded places, especially if you have a fever, cough and cold," the health expert said.



He also asked people with comorbidities like diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, and those in the older age group, to wear face masks when out in public.

Talking about the symptoms, Guleria said, "Most of the symptoms are predominantly of the upper airways like fever, cough, cold, sore throat, running nose and body aches."

NEW COVID VARIANT IN INDIA JN.1, a descendant of the Omicron lineage and has been classified as a 'variant of interest' by the World Health Organization, has

become one of the fastest-spreading viruses in the last few weeks.

In India, the first case of JN.1, which is a lineage of Omicron, was found in a 79-year-old woman in Kerala.

As many as 22 cases of the Coronavirus sub-variant JN.1 were reported across the country until December 21, as per central government sources.

Out of the 22 JN1 cases, 19 have been traced in Goa and one each in Kerala and Maharashtra. Details of one case is yet to be revealed by the authorities.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma sweat it out as life moves on month after forgettable World Cup final

There's a 31-year jinx in Indian cricket having missed out on a Test series win in South Africa and in the twilight zone of their careers, both would want to achieve which no other Indian teams could

CENTURION, Dec 25 (Agencies): It has now been more than a month since the forgettable World Cup final but it still hurts like hell.

However, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are two battle-hardened professionals who know that it's important to move on as they sweated it out in companionable silence.

There's a 31-year jinx in Indian cricket having missed out on a Test series win in the 'Rainbow Nation' and in the twilight zone of their careers, both would want to achieve which no other Indian teams could.

While Kohli, who came back from London after a short break with family, joined the training after half an hour, Rohit did look a bit more relaxed after shutting himself off for three weeks.

The two batted in different nets and centre practice strip, and also faced throwdowns for more than an hour

There was hardly any conversation between them even when they took short breaks in between. Unlike the World Cup nets when there was a mix of both focus and laughter, the only sound that made you sit up and take notice was that of the red leather colliding with the willow.

Coach Rahul Dravid had a hawk eye on centre nets as KL Rahul put his pads on quickly. With Kona Bharat not even bothering to don the big gloves during the first hour, one had no



doubt who would keep wickets. It became more clear with the slip formation when Rahul kept wickets and had young turks Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill for company.

Cricket is piece of life and all present at Supersport Park during the gruelling three hours were seen picking up the pieces. Amid the silence though, Rohit's sense of humour remained intact when he joked with a well known Youtuber that "you have got competition because others are here," pointing out at other journalists, who have come to cover the series.

The first to enter the nets, Rohit and young Yashasvi Jaiswal were seen taking turns while facing Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur for five deliveries each before coming in for next round.

However, the signature Rohit came to fore when he slog swept Ashwin deep into the

Rohit the opener is concerned. As the skipper was in the midst of his first stint, in walked Kohli and had a brief chat with coach Dravid as he watched Rohit's batting.

grass embankments. One knew

that nothing has changed as per

After some time, King Kohli walked out of the main arena and padded up for the throwdown nets where Rohit and Jaiswal would join in a few min-

"Tujhko pehle jana ki main jaaon (You will go first or should I go)," Rohit asked his younger opening partner who wants the senior to take strike.

One of the throwdown specialists Dayanand asked his skipper, "Dada aapke liye kaunsa bowler rakhein, right arm ya leftarm (Should I keep right-arm or left-arm bowler for you)."

The skipper was fine with anything as the former skipper

already started his knocking at other nets

Both defended well, left a lot of deliveries on length and drove occasionally, exchanged nets, watched a bit of each other's batting.

Rohit later was seen explaining the body balance while hitting the pull shots as Jaiswal and Gill, the "Rohit-Kohli" duo of future listened intently.

The team looked intense like its head coach, a far cry from the more relaxed environment one saw during World Cup.

There's lot at stake in the next two weeks.

Ashwin could miss out again Against a four-pronged pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen and possibly Gerald Coetzee, it is unlikely India will lessen their batting depth and hence, Shardul could once again pip Ravichandran Ashwin in the pacer-friendly conditions where underlying moisture is expected due to forecast of heavy showers on Day 1.

But Shardul will be the fourth pacer and if one goes by nets, Mukesh Kumar, although a few yards lesser in pace than Prasidh Krishna, bowled good channels and beat the bat a lot of times.

Prasidh though bowled his back of length deliveries, which didn't trouble most of the bat-

A new challenge for **Rahul: Dravid**



CENTURION, Dec 25 (Agencie): KL Rahul has always been confident about keeping wickets in Tests and the upcoming series against South Africa will give India's new gloveman an opportunity to do something different, head coach Rahul Dravid said.

With KS Bharat having been found technically inept in terms of batting abilities in the traditional format, the Indian team management's other option was Ishan Kishan, who decided to take a 'mental health' break.

In that sense, Rahul wasn't just the best choice amongst the troika but he was also the only viable option in a pressure scenario and on the pacer-friendly tracks here.

"I see it as an exciting challenge, an opportu-

nity for him to certainly do something different. Obviously, with Ishan not being available this opportunity came up, we had a couple of keepers to choose from and Rahul is one of them. We had discussed with him and he was very confident and was keen on giving it a go," Dravid said.

While Dravid understood that the challenges of wicketkeeping in Tests was entirely different but he trusted the fellow Bengaluru man to do a good job, having shown decent abilities in the 50-over version.

"We do understand it is not something he has done as often. But he has been doing it regularly in 50 overs cricket and that takes a lot out of your body. He has prepared well over the last five to six months, he has done a lot of keeping," Dravid said. While Dravid explained the rationale behind opting for Rahul as the wicketkeeper, he also dropped a hint that there won't be much spin bowling on this track, effectively ruling out Ravichandran Ashwin as the second

spinner. "There's not going to be that much spin bowling, so that will ease him into the role a little bit," the coach said.

Having Rahul as keeper also gives the team the cushion of an extra batter, which in this case is Shreyas lver.

"It's really nice to have him for the option he provides us. His ability with the bat will be useful and he has kept in white ball cricket and the question is of transforming that into red ball cricket," Dravid said.

Pakistan's 15-test losing streak in Australia hard to break owing to injuries

MELBOURNE. Dec 25 (Agencies): Pakistan goes into Tuesday's Boxing Day match against Australia on a 15-match test losing streak, not having won Down Under since November 1995.

The team's everexpanding injury list heading into the Melbourne Cricket Ground test won't make ending the streak any easier.

Pakistan spinner Noman Ali became the second player in two days to withdraw from the touring squad for the remainder of the threetest series due to illness and injury. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz will replace Ali in the squad, the selection committee said on the weekend.

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 Thurs-

day. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who missed out the first test, was also ruled out of the test because of a leg injury. Pakistan travelled



weakened bowling lineup after fast bowler Naseem Shah was ruled out due to a longterm injury and Haris Rauf opted to play in Australia's Big Bash League instead of joining the touring squad.

"It is really unfortunate that Noman Ali is not available for the test matches," chief selector Wahab Riaz said. "Due to logistical challenges, including visa issues for any new player, and considering the requirement for a left-arm spinner. Nawaz was the best available choice for the side."

Australia opener Usman Khawaja, who was reprimanded by the International Cricket Council for wearing a black armband in support of Palestinians in Gaza during the first test, is not expected to wear it on Tuesday for the start of the second.

He risked further sanction by the ICC if he wore it again, and said last week he had no plans to wear the armband again during this series.

ICC regulations prevent cricketers from displaying messages of political, religious or racial causes during international matches. Khawaja was born in Pakistan and is the first Muslim to play test cricket for Australia.

On Sunday at training, though, Khawaja was seen with the image of

branch — recognized as a universal symbol of peace — on his right boot and on the back of his bat. But the left-hander's

application to the ICC to be allowed to display the images during the Melbourne test was turned down. Australia captain Pat

Cummins feels the dove symbol supports his teammate's right to have strong beliefs, but accepts the governing body's ruling. "We really support

Uzzy. He's standing up for what he believes and I think he's done it really respectfully," Cummins said Monday. "But obviously there's

rules in place and I believe the ICC have said they're not going to approve that. They make up the rules and you've got to accept it."

Khawaja was wearing plain black shoes and was greeted warmly by members of the Pakistan team as players from both sides went through light training sessions indoors at the MCG on Monday.

Australia is expected to name an unchanged line-up for the match. The final Pakistan lineup will be confirmed at the toss.

The third test is scheduled to begin Jan. 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground — where Pakistan had its last win in Australia nearly 30 years ago.

Wonder women: India record maiden women's Test victory against Australia

MUMBAI, Dec 25 (Agencie): India registered their first victory against Australia in a women's Test match today following their comprehensive eightwicket win in the oneoff contest at Wankhede Stadium.

A significant firstinnings lead of 187 had put India in the box seat and they needed only 75 runs to clinch the contest after bowling out Australia for 261 in the touring side's second innings.

They lost opener Shafali Verma and No. 3 batter Richa Ghosh, but Smriti Mandhana anchored their chase with an unbeaten 38, sealing India's memorable victory with a four shortly after the lunch



Playing more than one Test at home for the first time since 1995, there was hardly a moment when the team put a foot wrong.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led India had beaten England by 347 runs - the highest victory margin in terms of runs in women's Test cricket — in a one-off

Test in Navi Mumbai earlier this month.

In 40 Tests, India now have seven wins and six defeats, while 27 have heen drawn

"It's the reward for all the hard work we have done for so many years," Kaur said after India's first victory against Australia in 11 Tests since the teams first clashed in the longest format in

"Hopefully after these two wins, we will get to play many more Test matches in the upcoming years."

Earlier, India claimed the last five Australia wickets for just 28 runs after the tourists had resumed their second innings on 233/5.

Seamer Pooia Vastrakar trapped Ash Gardner Ibw before off-spinner Sneh Rana, who was chosen Player of the Match for her sevenwicket haul, dismissed Annabel Sutherland (27) and Alana King off successive deliveries. Leftarm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad claimed the last two wickets to hasten Australia's col-

"What an amazing experience to come over here and play Test cricket," Australia captain Alvssa Healv said. "It's not easy to win over here, we've found that out. We'd love to play a couple more (Tests) to make it really interesting."

The teams will now play three ODIs and an equal number of T20Is.

Rohit Sharma "Has To Change His Approach": Sunil Gavaskar **Ahead Of South Africa Tests**

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencie): As the Indian cricket team embarks upon a challenge they have never managed to ace before, the spotlight will be on skipper Rohit Sharma who returns to international cricket for the first time since the conclusion of Cricket World Cup 2023. Rohit led the Indian team by example, taking them on a run of 10 consecutive wins before the loss against Australia in the final. As India gear up for the South Africa test, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar wants the Hitman to change his approach completely.

Rohit donned an aggressive batter's avatar in the ODI World Cup, trying to score maximum runs in the powerplay. Gavaskar wants this approach to change.

"First and foremost, the challenge would be to get your mental state into a Test match situation," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"He has been batting in the one-day format, where he had decided that he would be playing the attacking role and try and score as much as possible before the field restrictions were lifted in the first 10 overs. We saw that in the World Cup. That was his approach for the World Cup.

Contrary to ODI cricket, Test cricket requires a batter to last longer on the field, playing shots with a more measured approach. Gavaskar is hoping Rohit can make this change in mentality quickly.

"For Test cricket, he has to change his approach completely because he has to think in terms of batting the whole day. If he bats the whole day, then clearly, with the range of shots he has got, he will be able to end up with 150-plus not, then India will be 300-plus or 350-plus," he added.

"That's the change he has to do. As a batter, when you are batter-captain, the moment you score run, your confidence in leading the side also increases. That's going to be a big challenge for Rohit Sharma,

INDW vs AUSW: India name squads for Australia ODI, T20Is, Shreyanka Patil earns maiden ODI call up

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (Agencie): India Women, on Monday, December 25, named their ODI and T20I squads against Alyssa

Healy's Australia. Shreyanka Patil earned her maiden ODI call-up after she made her debut in the T20I series against England. In three matches against Heather Knight's women, Shreyanka picked up five wickets and won the Player of the Match award in the third and final T20I

of the series. Left-arm spinner Saika Ishaque is also in the ODI squad after she first donned the national colours in the T20Is against England. Both Shreyanka and Ishaque started making a mark after playing for the Royal

Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Mumbai Indians (MI) respectively in the 2023 Women's Premier League (WPL).

Young pacer Titas Sadhu, who was a part of India's U19 T20 World Cup squad earlier this year, is a part of both the squads, led by Harmanpreet Kaur.

Harmanpreet recently became the first Indian skipper to beat Australia in Women's Tests in 1977. India won the match by eight wickets at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The three ODIs will take place at the Wankhede on December 28, 30 and January 2. The Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Mumbai will host the three T20Is on January 5, 7 and 9.

India squad for Australia ODI series

Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar,

Sneh Rana, Harleen Deol. India Squad for Australia T20I series

Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, Minnu Mani.

St. Peter's Catholic Church celebrated Christmas joyfully

Top News Report

JAMMU. Dec 25: St. Peter's Catholic Church, Prem Nagar along with its Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Kuriakose, Asst. Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Suhail Joseph and all the faithful celebrated Christmas joyfully.

In Christian tradition it is believed that Jesus was born on 25th December therefore we all celebrate this day joy-

The night service at the church began at 10 PM where hundreds of people participated to receive the blessings of Baby Jesus.

The morning service on 25th December start-



ed at 11 AM where again hundreds of people came to participate and prayed for peace and blessings of Jesus. The festival of Christmas is celebrated every year with lot of religious fervour, joy, carolling and sharing.

People sung carols to share the message of Christmas that is joy, peace and progress of whole humanity. Jesus Christ though being God became human to instill in every human person quality of peace and fra-

Today we live in a world where lot of difference and human enmity exists therefore, we need to understand and learn from Jesus Christ that Christmas is not only about external decorations but it is cleaning one's heart to live peacefully and joyfully in this world.

We pray that this Christmas may bring peace and joy to whole of humanity and especially in our beautiful country. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose in his homily emphasised on understanding love of God towards humanity.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may have eternal life".

Like Jesus was born through Mother Mary's womb may he be born in our hearts this Christmas.

Manjit Singh, other Apni Party leaders participate in Christmas celebrations in Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 25: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh along with other Party leaders on Monday joined Christmas celebrations with the Christian brothers and sisters in District Samba

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: On

the occasion of Kisan

Diwas, Jai Shiromani

Baba Kaliveer Ji Trust

members organized

Langar Sewa (Bhan-

Additional Deputy

Anusuya

Commissioner (LO)

Jamwal, Superinten-

dent of Super Speciality

Hospital Manoj Cha-

lotra, SDPO Vikram

Singh Bhau distributed

Trust had organize

such Bhandara on each

possible entry and exit

dara).

Jammu

Prasad.

As per a press release, the Apni Party leaders led by S. Manjit Singh participated in the celebrations at Samba and celebrated the occasion with the Christian com-

munity. The Former Minister was accompanied by SC Provincial President, Jammu, Lovely Mangol, District President Legal

Jai Shiromani Baba Kaliveer Ji Trust

organizes Langar Sewa at Ward 13

Cell, Samba, Sahil Bharti and others.

They met the community members and

greeted them on the eve

of Christmas. Manjit Singh spoke on the occasion and hoped that the auspicious occasion will help the people to understand the importance of unity in diverse society.

He also highlighted the importance of celebrating Christmas and asked the leaders of the Christian community to come forward and help the community members for their social, economic and political upliftment.

Satsang held in memory of Sodagar Lal Kaith



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: A Satsang in memory of Sodagar Lal Kaith was held at Village Halqa today in which a large number of people hailing from different corners participated.

Addressing the devotees, the religious Guru said, Each moment,

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25:

Ahmedabad-based

Vivanta Industries Ltd

(BSE - 541735) - pro-

viding consultancy and

Turnkey solutions for

projects from conceptu-

alisation to implementa-

operations with focus

on next-gen tech busi-

Company is venturing

into new verticals includ-

ing drone, Information

Technology, Al and

Robotics, Charging sta-

tion for electric vehicles

among others. Compa-

ny has already started

work on the Drone and

EV business and aims

to make it big in coming

In September 2023,

company entered in to

In-principal Memoran-

dum of Understanding

(MOU) with Vivanta

Drone Research Centre

Tanzania Ltd (VDRCTL).

Vivanta Industries Ltd

will acquire 50% stake

in VDRCTL for setting

up assembly line as well

as R&D of drones. Com-

pany expect a sizable

business opportunity

from African Continent

and look to expedite the

Further in April 2023,

company received work

order amounting USD

5 million from Electric

Vehicle Organizational

Centre North America

Corporation (EVOCNA)

for establishing EV

charging and manufac-

turing unit. Company

expect to establish the

plant in 18-24 months

and required software

in 6-12 months from the

date of receipt of order.

The order is for com-

project.

death is happening in us at the organ and cellular levels. This is how, with just one look at your insides, your doctor knows how old you are. In fact, death began in us even before we were born. Only if you are ignorant and unaware does it seem like death will come to you someday later. If you are

Vivanta Industries Ltd to transform operations

mercialization of Electric

Vehicle technologies,

which include vehicle-

to-grid. Vehicle-to-build-

ing, and vehicle-to-load

capabilities, by validat-

ing the technologies and

demonstrating the com-

mercial viability of such

technologies. Company

expect to reach sales

worth approx USD 10

million and above after

establishing the project.

In the Extra-Ordinary

General Meeting of the

Company held on Feb-

ruary 13, 2023, mem-

bers of the company

had approved amend-

ment of objects clause

of the Memorandum of

Association allowing the

company to venture in

to multiple businesses

including Agriculture &

Animal Feed, Indus-

trial automation, indus-

trial robotics systems &

drone, charging station

for electrical vehicles

Established in 2013,

Vivanta Industries Ltd

is a civil construction

and engineering com-

pany offers range of

services including land

survey and procure-

ment, project designing,

fiscal studies, funding,

and marketing services.

Company has executed

turnkey projects espe-

cially in pharmaceuti-

cals, Agro based fertil-

iser projects, industrial

park. Company's shares

are listed on Bombay

Company in Septem-

ber 2022 was awarded

with turnkey contracts

to establish biogas proj-

ects and industrial park

in the state of Gujarat

amounting Rs. 37 crore.

mission the biogas proj-

The company to com-

Stock Exchange.

among others.

with focus on Next-Gen Tech Businesses

aware, you will see both life and death are happening every moment. If you as much as breathe a little more consciously. you will notice that with every inhalation there is life, with every exhalation there is death, the Guru said.

Among others who listened to the Satsang were DDC Member Balbir Lal, Municipal Councillor Krishan Lal Kaith, TSO Rachhpal Kaith, Captain Om Parkash Kaith, Naib Sar-

panch Dev Raj Nandan, R.L.Kaith, Ujjagar Singh Bassa, Mahesh Bhardwaj, Daya Ram Kaith, Kaka Ram Kaith, Munshi Ram Kaith and Krishan Lal Kaith.

ect in Sabarkatha dis-

trict in a near future and

expects to start work

on biogas projects in

Banaskantha and North

Gujarat with 40 MT

capacity. The aggregate

cost of these projects

For H1FY24, com-

pany reported multi-

fold rise in the total

income to Rs. 23.03

crore as compared to

total income of Rs. 0.90

crore in H1FY23. Net

Profit during H1FY24

was reported at Rs.

1.01 crore, 47% rise

Y-o-Y from Rs. 68 lakh

net profit reported in

H1FY23. For FY23,

company reported Net

Profit of Rs. 1.30 crore

on Total income of Rs.

24.81 crore. As on

September 2023, com-

pany has net reserves

amounting to Rs. 4.02

crore. Promoter Group

holding in the company

as on 30 September

2023 stands at 39.14%.

financial year of FY23-

24, company's board of

directors had approved

a bonus issue of equity

shares in the ratio of

1:4 i.e., 1 new equity

share of Rs 1 each for

every 4 existing equity

shares of Rs 1 each

held by the company's

shareholders. Pursuant

to the approval, com-

pany allotted 2.5 crore

bonus shares of Rs.

1 face value. Trading

approval was received

from Bombay Stock

Exchange on 15 Sep-

tember 2023. In Febru-

ary 2023, share of the

company with face value

of Rs. 10 each were split

into 10 equity shares of

Rs. 1 face value.

During the current

costing Rs 12 crore.

Mahant Shastri

peace in one's marital and family life.

Shastri mentioned that Tripura Bhairavi Jayanti is also celebrated on the full moon day of Margashirsha, falling on Tuesday, 26th Decem-

Tripura Bhairavi, the sixth form of Mahavidya, is revered as the embodiment of God-

tri emphasized that worshiping Goddess Annapurna ensures abundance and fulfillment, and reciting her Vrat Katha brings happiness and her divine grace during challenging times.

Bhagwan Shri Dattatreya, Tripura Bhairavi, Mata **Annapurna Jyanti on Dec 26**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Every year, Margashirsha purnima,Bhagwan Shri Dattatreya, Tripura Bhairavi and Mata Annapurna jyanti celebrated. This year, the celebration falls on Tuesday, 26th December, Purnima Margashir-

Mahant Rohit Shastri, the head of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust, shared that the celebrations of Lord Shri Dattatreya Jayanti are observed on Margashirsha Purnima every year.

Lord Shri Dattatreya is considered an incarnation with aspects of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh. He is the son of sage Atri and Anusuya Devi.

explained that worshipping Lord Shri Dattatreya brings the blessings of the trinity, ensuring happiness and dess Kali

Worshiping Tripura Bhairavi grants success and removes obstacles, arrogance, and troubles in life. On the same day, Annapurna Jayanti is observed, celebrating the goddess who sustains the entire creation with food.

Mahant Shas-

All tall claims made by Govts regarding subsiding militancy proved to be vague: TMF

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: Team Mask Force (TMF) Chairman Vijay Sharma, in a press release to media, said that all tall claims putforth by governments in curtailing the militancy proved to be vague & absurd.

Only recently Target killing of Rtd SSP Shafi who was shot dead in a mosque and killing of four Jawans of Indian army are ample evidences to prove that it has not been subsided rather aggravated.

Only the other day LG Manoj sinha issued press statement that militancy is on death bed but condemned the dastardly Act of Militants in killing Rtd SSP Shaffi and committed that those responsible for it shall be taken to task.

NC Chief Faroog Abdullah hoped Government would certainly find out way out to pave the way to do away with militancy.

No day is left when Our army personnel are targeted by militants and certainly it would be earnest desire of public that peace prevail in the valley and across the state, said chairman Team Mask Force.

While Addressing media persons, Shakti Uppal, Chairman of Trust, said that our trust start Langar Sewa on the day of Kisan Diwas.

This type of function also helps brotherhood, prosperity, integrity and unity of our society, he

added.

Shiv Uppal president, Rohit Kumar Gen. Secretary, Senior Member of Trust Anil Dhar, Ravi Bharti, Sumit uppal, Anil Gupta, Karan Singh Manhas, Jai Bhardwaj, Bunty Singh, Akash were also present.

RS Pura's Simar Kaur shines at District-Level **Athletics Championship organized by JU**



Top News Report

R.S PURA, Dec 25: In a remarkable display of athletic talent, Simar Kaur, a student from the village of Kulkala in R.S Pura region, clinched the gold medal in the under-14 long jump category at the Athletics Championship. The event was organized by the District Amateur Jammu Athletes Association and hosted by

Jammu University. It is noteworthy that the competition, which saw participation from athletes across the district, was a stage where Simar Kaur emerged victorious, securing the gold medal with her exceptional performance. Following her achievement, a special ceremony was organized on Monday by the local Panchayat to honor Simar Kaur, uplifting her spirit and acknowledging her success.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, who is also the father of Simar Kaur, expressed his joy over his daughter's accomplishment. He proudly stated that Simar's victory at the district level not only elevates the name of their Panchayat but is also a source of inspiration for other girls in the area who are balancing education and sports.

He further added that efforts are being made to promote sports within the Panchayat under the 'Khelo India' initiative.

Simar Kaur's mother, Rajvinder Kaur, also shared her happiness, noting that her daughter's triumph in winning the gold medal has brightened the name of their school and region. She emphasized that Simar's achievement is a testament to the fact that there is no difference between a daugh-

Simar Kaur, a class 8th student of Jammu Sanskriti School, remarked that she had set her mind on excelling in the competition and attributed her success to the blessings and hard work. She expressed her determination to continue her sports activities and aims to participate in national and international level competitions to bring further laurels to Jammu and Kashmir and her Panchayat.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by notable figures including Sardar Harjinder Singh and Darshan Singh among other dignitaries.

the Kargil War against

He said Atal ji was a

great leader and eminent

poet and patriotic person

who resign from govern-

Pakistan.

BJP pays tribute to Vajpayee at Jammu West

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 25: BJP paid tribute to Bharat Ratna and former PM of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his Birth anniversary at Booth 43-44, ward 29 Jammu west.

Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir) were present in main there. Program was organ-

ised by Parveen

Badyal (Vice President

Jammu West), Tarun

Sharma (Senior leader Yuva Morcha), Bharta Bhushan (Kaka ji), Ram Kumar and others were present on the occasion. They paid Floral tribute

to Atal Bihari Vajpayee

on his Birth Anniversary. They remembered the works of Bharat Ratna and former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Braham Jyot Bharat Ratna

ment for Nation former PM of India Atal

Bihari Vajpayee was a very honest and great leader of India as well as a great poet. He was a dynamic leader, under his leadership India won

He said Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a ground to earth personality and he face every national threat with courage and was the first leader not from the Congress to serve a full term in office He was an Indian politician who served three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

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