TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

|6

Swati Sharma graces the television show Rang Punjab De



NATIONAL

| 7

Renowned sculptor Uttam R Pacharne dies at 67 in **Mumbai hospital**

INTERNATIONAL

18

Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Navalny located in penal colony 3 weeks after contact lost



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BRIEFLY

Man dies of alleged suffocation in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Dec 26 (Agencies): A man died of alleged suffocation in the Sumbal area of North Kashmir Bandi-

pora district. An official said that one Nazir Ahmad Sofi, son of Mohammad Abdullah, resident of Sarie Dagarpora in Sumbal was taken to JVC Hospital Srinagar in an unconscious condition.

"The doctors at the hospital declared the person as brought dead on arrival", the official said adding "The person is believed to have died of asphyxiation (suffocation)."

A police official has also confirmed the death of the person to Kashmir Scroll. "We are gathering more details regarding the incident", the official

Biting Cold, **Dense fog** envelop Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 26 (Agencies): Minimum to dip at night in most parts of Kashmir even as dense fog disrupted early morning life for the second consecutive day in the Valley on Tuesday, officials said here.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius on Monday night, a slight decrease from the previous night's minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.7 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 4.3 degrees Celsius, they said, adding that the it was the coldest recorded place in the Kashmir Valley.

Gulmarg, a famous ski resort in Baramulla, recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, officials said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 2.0 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The Met department said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry till the end of the month.

A dense layer of fog engulfed Srinagar city,

Turn to page 9

Lt Governor Attends Divya Adhyatmik Mahotsav at Haridwar

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is restoring the past glory of India and building a prosperous and modern nation: LG Sinha

HARIDWAR/ JAMMU, Dec 26: The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoi Sinha has said that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is restoring the past glory of India and building a prosperous and modern nation. The Lt Governor was speaking at a function to mark Juna Akhara Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri's 25 years as Acharya Mahamandaleshwar at Harihar Ashram, Haridwar.

Highlighting the contribution of Acharya Shri Swami Avdheshanand Giri's contribution to the



nation, the Lt Governor said, Swami Ji has tirelessly worked for spiritual upliftment of people and to bring peace and prosperity in the society.

"To achieve the vision of developed India,

Acharya Shri is working on a mission mode for environment security, social welfare, healthcare, providing amenities in rural areas and playing the role of a catalyst and a facilitafrom deprived section of society," the Lt Governor The Lt Governor

tor in educating kids

appreciated the role of Acharya Shri Swami Avdheshanand Giri in fighting against various social evils and practices and involving youth in sustainable development efforts. He also said that spiritual leaders always inspired the younger generation and mobilized their energy for constructive work.

"India, the land of spiritual seekers, great scientists, philosophers

Turn to page 9

India reported 69 cases of COVID subvariant JN.1 till Monday

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): A total of 69 cases of JN.1 subvariant of COVID have been reported in the country till December 25, Health Ministry sources said on Tuesday.

As many as 34 cases were reported from Karnataka, 14 from Goa, nine from Maharashtra, six from Kerala, 4 Tamil Nadu and two from Telangana, the sources said.

The total number of active cases in the country was recorded at 4,170

Karnataka reported 436 cases, Kerala 3096, Maharashtra 168, Gujarat 56, and Tamil Nadu 139 cases, according to Union Health Ministry

Meanwhile, amid rising concerns over the emergence of the new variant of the coronavirus, Dr Randeep Guleria, former director of AIIMS Delhi said, "This is the season when you will see viral infection, respiratory infection becoming more. Every year we see them whether it's influenza, COVID, RSV or other viral infections. And that happens because of the temperature and crowding."

"As it's a holiday season, people travel so they will carry the virus with them. There are crowds and many of the crowds stay indoors because of the cold **Turn to page 9** Two separate **Earthquakes** hit Ladakh, **Kishtwar**

JAMMU, Dec 26 (Agencies): Two earthquakes of mild intensity struck Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir early Tuesday, officials said. There were no immediate reports of any damage due to the tremors, they said.

The epicentre of the two quakes were in Ladakh's Leh district and Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, they added.

According to the National Centre of Seismology (NCS), an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude occurred at 4.33 am in Ladakh.

The depth of the ■Turn to page 9

Terrorists using Chinese weapons, devices to attack Security Forces in J&K: Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 26 (Agencies): Terrorists are using Chinese-made weapons and communication devices to carry out attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, a media report quoting Army sources said today. Greater Kashmir couldn't independently verify the report.

Quoting intelligence agency, India Today reported that terrorist groups like JeM and Lashkar-e-Toiba are using China-made weapons, body suit cameras, and other communication devices to attack the Army.

Sources quoted in the report said that China is supplying drones, hand grenades and other weapons to the Pakistan army, which have been used by terrorist groups in the recent attacks, and evidence of that has been found by security forces.

"The terrorist groups carried out three major attacks in Jammu and Kashmir this year," sources said.

Sources have learnt that terrorists trying to infiltrate into India from Pakistan have been found to be using sniper guns made with Chinese technology against Indian soldiers. They said once such attack was carried out in November where a sniper gun was used against an Indian soldier on the Jammu border.

They said images

released by the terrorist groups after the three major attacks this year were taken from Chinese-made body cameras and were also edited and morphed.

Intelligence sources quoted in the report said that encrypted messaging devices used by terrorists for communication are also Chinese. They said the Pakistani army regularly receives supplies of weapons, cameras, and

■Turn to page 9

Three-Storey footwear store gutted in fire in **Poonch** Market

POONCH, Dec 26 (Agencies): A fire broke out at a three-storey shop at the main market in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Further, according to officials, the footwear store was gutted entirely in the blaze.

Upon receiving word of the incident, fire tenders arrived at the scene and launched a dousing operation. The blaze had been brought under control at the time of filing this report.

A video clip of the blame showed leaping flames from the building along with thick plumes of smoke. Officials said they were still in the process of ascertaining the exact cause of the fire.



Over 4.25 lakh tech employees lose jobs in last 2 yrs, 24 workers per hour

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): As generative AI threatens millions of jobs, tech companies globally are now sacking employees even in the holiday season (they had spared workers in 2021 and 2022 festive seasons amid the global meltdown and started layoffs only in the first



month of the New Year). Tech companies, including startups, around the world have fired more than 425,000 employees in the last two years (till December 26, 2023), with more than 36,000 employees being sacked in India in the same time period.

Turn to page 9

Arms recovered from 3 persons during search operation in Pulwama, arrested

SRINAGAR, Dec 26 (Agencies): Security forces have arrested three persons and recovered weapons from them in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said on Tuesday.

"Based on specific intelligence inputs, a Joint Cordon & Search Operation (CASO) was launched by Indian Army and Jammu and

■Turn to page 9

Snowy Christmas in Gulmarg draws 10,000 tourists

SRINAGAR, Dec 26 (Agencies): In a festive spectacle, Gulmarg, the renowned ski resort, embraced its winter charm, attracting around 10,000 tourists on Christmas Eve.

The pristine snow-covered landscape echoed with joyous celebrations as locals, domestic, and foreign tourists immersed in the festive spirit. The snowfall not only added to the scenic beauty but also contributed to Gulmarg's economic vibrancy.

Assistant Director of Tourism, Gulmarg, Javeed Ahmed said



Gulmarg recorded over 10,000 tourists on Christmas Eve, with a significant influx of foreign visitors. Javeed expressed

optimism about a surge in foreign arrivals as winter activities unfold. On Sunday, Gulmarg

marked 4,912 visi-

tors, followed by 4,828 on Monday, indicating a robust start to the season, Ahmed said, adding, "With a total of 16,000 tourist arrivals so far, we anticipate a substantial increase Turn to page 9



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY KRIYA

IN LOVING MEMORY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA of Smt Raj Dulari Chaku, wife of Late Shri Moti Lal Chaku, born in Bagh Jogi Lankar, Rainawari, breathed her last on December 18th, 2023, in Prayagraj, UP. She is survived by her children, grandchild dren, 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

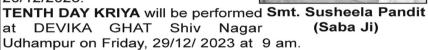
Shaila & Deptanshu Chaku Megha & Abhinav Koul

Sweene & Raghav Taplu

Ojasvi Chaku With Chakus, Kouls, Razdans, Mirzas & Wangnues



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.



SMT RAJ DULARI CHAKU

Mr. Rattan Lal Kaul

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.

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

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: SMRITI, SURBHI, ISHAN **GREAT GRAND SON: MASTER KAVISH**

(PHONE NUMBER: 7006153796, 8715881777, 9419213519)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED VARUN SHARMA S/O LATE SH. C D SHAR-MA R/O H.NO.1283 SECTOR 6 LANE NO. 7 NANAK NAGAR JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 18/12/23 (MONDAY).

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 27TH DEC.2023 WEDNESDAY AT 11AM AT OUR RESIDENCE KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 28TH DEC. 2023 THURSDAY AT 12.30 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-SMT. KAMLA SHARMA (MOTHER) MASTER KEVIN SHARMA (SON) MRS. NEHA SHARMA (WIFE) (SISTER & BROTHER IN LAW)

MRS. NEERAJ & MR. VINEY SHARMA (9419183530) MRS. SHIVANI & MR. RAJESH SHARMA (9906039624)



SMT. RATTAN RANI

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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

(Wednesday) from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM.



at Hindu Ashram, Reasi on 27-12-2023 LT. SMT. CHANCHAL **MENGI**

CHUNI DEVI RAINA

Smt. Man Mohani Raina

Sh Prithvi Nath Pandita

Giani Lakhmir Singh

Smt Sharika Bhat

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

OBITUARY/ 10TH DAY KRIYA

Ph.No: 9906036310, 9622253964

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)

13.08.1933 - 19.12.2023 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

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, Pajnoos, 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. DIEE 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

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 9419652715, 9419166960, 9419159018

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR FATHER GIANI LAKHMIR SINGH S/O LATE DHANNA SINGH R/O SINGH PURA MARALIA MIRAN SAHIB R S PURA JAMMU. BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI AT 9:30 AM

27-12-2023 AT OUR RESIDENCE KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS AT GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA SINGH PURA MARALIAN FROM 10:30 -12:00

GRIEF STRICKEN:

SONS & DAUGHTER IN LAW

S RACHPAL SINGH & LATE SDRN CHARANJEET KOUR S TIRATH SINGH & SDRN GURMEET KOUR S JAGJIT SINGH & SDRN DAVINDER KOUR

DAUGHTERS & SON IN LAW SDRN MOHINDER KOUR & SAMARJEET SINGH

SDRN RAVINDER KOUR & S HARCHARAN SINGH SDRN JATINDER KOUR & S RANJEET SINGH

GRAND SON: S IQPAL SINGH & SDRN PRABLEEN KOUR

GRAND DAUGHTER IN LAW : SDRN HANEET KOUR & S GURVINDER SINGH GARRY MOBILE NOS. +91 788-9624375

COURTESY PRAGUNN ADVERTISERS

TENTH DAY

inform the sad and untimely demise of Smt Sharika Bhat W/o Sh Makhan Lal Bhat of Khah Bazar Anantnag presently residing at Pooja Colony Lower Thathar (near park) Bantalab Jammu on 18th of December

December 2023 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 10.30 AM.

Grief Stricken

Brothers and Sisters in Law Sh O.N Bhat & Manmohini Bhat Sh R.L.Bhat & Shama Bhat

Smt Tosha Saproo & Sh R.L.Saproo (Sister in Law and Brother in law) Sons & Daughters-in-law Behari Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat, Sanjay Bhat & Bubita Bhat, Dilip Bharti & Priya

Bhat, Sunita Dhar & Sanjay Dhar - Daughter & Son-in-law Grand Children: Aryan, Angel, Krishna, Shriya, Saieesh M.No. 7006455913, 7006434467, 9999250504



ly residing at Pooja Colony Lower Thathar (near park Bantalab Jammu on 18th of December 2023. Tenth Day will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat or 27th December 2023 (Wednesday). Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat r Directorate of School Education at 10.00 AM.

Grief Stricken Sh Makhan Lal Bhat -Husband Sons & Daughters-in-law

Behari Lal Bhat & Pinky Bhat Sanjay 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

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

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

Omkar Nath Mantoo- Husband Ammesh Mantoo and Bharti Mantoo (Son & D-in-law)

hand Ji Mantoo and Kamlesh Mantoo (do-)

sanjeev Mantoo and Vicky Mantoo (do-)

sanjey Jalali and Meera Mantoo (Jolalii) (Son-in-Law and Daughter)



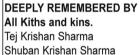
Smt Sharika Bhat

Smt Jai Kishori Mantoo

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

ou were, you are and you will always be close to our hearts a

Masvar/Vaharvar of our beloved father Sh. Avtar Krishe Raina (Baijan) will be performed on 26th and 27th of Decembe 2023 at our residence H.No. 657, Sec-3, Vinayak Nagar Mut

MISSING AND REMEMBERING ALL THE TIME Smt. Santosh Raina - Wife Brother & Sister-in-law Sh. Roshan Lal Raina & Smt. Sudesha Raina Sh. Nanajee Rajna & Smt. Babeeta Rajna

Sh. Rohit Raina & Smt. Babeeta Raina Sh. Rohit Raina & Smt. Nishu Dhar - **Son & Daughter-in-law** Daughter & Son-in-law Smt. Shalu Raina & Sh. Arun Verma Smt. Asha Raina & Sh. Rakesh Raina - Sister & Brother-in-law Smt. Anjli Raina - Sister Shilpa, Shailesh, Sheenu, Ashraay, Anushka & Ronit Mob.: 9796230121, 7889828320

Sh. Avtar Krishen Raina

SH TEJ KRISHAN

Smt. Raj Kumari

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

NAGAR, MIGRANT QUARTERS, BLOCK - G, FLAT NO-15, U 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
SAHIL PANDITA (SON) - 7006244069
BROTHER & BHABHI
SMT. RADHA DEVI WO LATE SH RADHA KRISHNA PANDITA
SH. JIL PANDITA & SMT CHUNI PANDITA
SH. MANOHAR LAL PANDITA & SMT SANTOSHA PANDITA
SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT PATIN RAINA WO LATE SH JAGAR NATH RAINA
SMT PUSHPA BHAT WO LATE SH JAGAR NATH RAINA
SMT DURA KOUL WO VIJAY KOUL
KUCHROO'S (BARAMULLA) & SMAST PANDITA PARIVAAR

PANDITA (BABLU JI)

(UCHROO'S (BARAMULLA) & SMAST PANDITA PARIVAAR OF NAHAMA TENTH DAY/KRIYA

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

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

11:30 AM at our residence

Son & Daughter-in-law Hukam Singh & Jyoti Ashok Singh & Ritu Devi Darshan Singh & Asha 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 Chot 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 Handoo (Bhabi)

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

Smt Indrawati

10TH DAY/KRIYA With profound grief & sorrow, we inform sad &

untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Bhupesh Sharma S/o Sh. Om Parkash Sharma R/o House No. 522 F, Lane No.29 (Mandir Gali), Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu. The 10TH DAY will be performed at Hari

Mandir, Rehari Colony, Jammu on 27-12-2023 (Wednesday) at 11.00 AM.

MOBILE NO: 9419264681

Kriya will be performed on 28.12.2023 (Thursday) at our Residence from 10.00 AM onwards. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rattanabha Sharma & Sh. Om Parkash Sharma -Mother & Father All members of Sadotra & Sharma Parivar

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."



DISCLAIMER



With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to

Tenth Day will be performed on 27th

Sh Makhan Lal Bhat- Husband

Smt Desha Bhat

FFMA celebrates Sardar Udham Singh birth anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: The birth anniversary of Udham Singh, the revolutionary who was hanged for killing Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the massacre of hundreds of Indians at Jallianwala Bagh, was celebrated on Tuesday with great enthusiasm in Mahesh Pura Park Jammu.

Members of Freedom Fighter Memorial Association (FFMA) garlanded his photo and paid tributes to him.

Udham Singh was hanged at Pentonville Prison in London on July 31, 1940, for shooting dead O'Dwyer.

O'Dwyer was the Punjab's Lieutenant Governor when the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Amritsar on April 13, 1919.

At least 400 people were killed and over 1,000 injured when Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to fire at unarmed civilians who had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh.

On Tuesday, a special programme was held at Mahesh Pura Park Jammu, which among others was attended by Chairman of Freedom Fighter Memo-



rial Association Rajiv Mahajan, President Prof. S.S Bhalwal, General Secretary Karnail Chand, Vice Presidents Pritam Sharma, Garu Ram, Nirmal Kishore and Kamal Sharma, Secretary Parbhat Kapahi and

"Shaheed-i-Azam Udham Singh who sacrificed his life for the country's freedom is unparalleled in history. His life will continue to fill the hearts of our youth with the spirit of patriotism for generations," Rajiv Mahajan

"The India envisioned by freedom movement heroes like Udham Singh still stands like a challenge in front of us and we will have to take a pledge to maintain our democratic values," Prof. S.S Bhalwal said.

Karnail Chand said the country was proud of Udham Singh who was an eye witness to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and avenged it in the most fitting manner.

Pritam Sharma said, "It is our duty to build the India as envisioned by fearless freedom fighters like Udham Singh." Udham Singh was born on December 26, 1899, at Sunam in Sangrur district of Punjab.

Meanwhile FFMA members also paid tributes to Shaheedi Diwas Vadde Sahibzade and Security forces of India, those were martyred for the Country.

NSF celebrates 124th birth anniversary of Udham Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: National Secular Forum (NSF), organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Udham Singh who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Udham Singh Amar Raha "inqulaab Zindabad" 'Bharat Mata ki jai", they paid tributes to Udham Singh and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil.

Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Sukhdev Singh President NSF presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District Urban and Zonal Secretary, JKNC appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organize these functions. He also said that the right tribute to Udham Singh would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

On this occasion, he said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination.

He mentioned that during the Omar Abdullah led NC government, jobs were provided to a large number of youth, RTI Act was enacted to eradicate corruption and several other revolutionary steps were taken to push J&K on the path of development. Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push for this demand. NC would leave no stone unturned to achieve statehood for J&K.

Dr Sukhdev Singh threw light on the life of martyr Udham Singh was born 'Sher Singh', on 26 December 1899. Udham Singh became involved in revolutionary politics and was deeply influenced by Bhagat Singh and his revolutionary group.

Vikshay Vashist district President NSF, also spoke on the occasion.

Roshan Sharma. Jammu District President delivered the welcome address, Mohd Umar Farooq President University Unit was delivering the vote of

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan protest rally



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, Sunil Dimple on Tuesday led an anti-Pakistan protest rally calling for the liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), Gilgit-Baltistan, and other regions from Pakistan.

Sunil Dimple urged Defense Minister Rajnath

Singh to start a war with Pakistan for the liberation of POK, Gilgit-Baltistan, and to make them part of the Jammu and Kashmir

Dimple, while addressing the rally, welcoming Rajnath Singh's visit and urging a strong response to Pakistan, ISI, and Afghan militants infiltrated in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the truth is pen-

deportation of Rohingyas from Jammu and Kash-

Dimple expressed full support for the people of POK and stated that the Government of India would soon make POK part of Jammu and Kash-

Dimple urged Rajnath Singh to liberate J&K land occupied by China in Ladakh and called for the construction of residential areas, roads, bridges along the Line of Control (LOC) with India in Ladakh.

Sanjay Sethi, Hanef Chowdhry, Mukhtiyar Kalia, Pardeep Kumar, Rameshwar, Pawan Sharma, Ajiet Singh, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Madan Lal, Ashok Kumar, and others participated in the rally.

Stop politicizing terror acts, appeals Brig Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: The recent terror incident at Dera Ki Gali (DKG) area near Bufliaz in Surankot tehsil of the Poonch district in which four brave hearts of 48 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) attained Veergati has sent shockwaves across the country.

The nation is distressed due to the horrific acts of the terrorists as well as loss of lives of three civilians reportedly killed in custody. This area has witnessed a spike in terror incidents since the last year.

In a press release issued today, Brig Anil Gupta, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party has appealed to the opposition leaders to stop politicizing the terror act and help restore peace in the res-

tive region. BJP condemned custodial killings and urges the Muftis and Abdullahs to wait for the report of the inquiry since the Army authorities have also assured full cooperation including a free and fair enquiry.

"There is no denying the fact that the terrorists cannot survive in this area without local support particularly the foreign terrorists. The involvement of a few locals cannot be ruled out. "Rather than kindling the fire, these leaders must help in extinguishing the fire", urged Brig Gupta.

"In the era of 370

CMs & Home Ministers (mostly the CM) enjoyed limitless powers. They provided latent support to anti-national elements& radicals for their survival. Now there is no official support to terrorism/radicalisation," claimed Brig Gupta.

"But the ecosystem created by them in which radicalization and terrorism were used to further their political agenda continues to plague the environment even today. It is so deep rooted that it will not be eliminated so easily. Will take time. Till then terror incidents will continue to happen off and on. The Gupkar Gang leaders will continue to use such incidents as politi-

cal tools to question the

government and boast of terrorism continuing even in post-370 environment but will never condemn terrorism or its aka Pakistan," added the Spokesperson.

"On the contrary they bat for talks with the country that is responsible for exporting religious terrorism into Jammu & Kashmir acknowledged by none other than the ex-dictator of Pakistan Gen Pervez Musharraf," rued Brig Gupta.

It is very unfortunate that rather than cooperating with the government and security agencies in investigation, they are indulging in political opportunism and trying to create disturbances and disharmony, Gupta said.

Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj delivers religious sermons



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: Sadhguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi today, on the occasion of Purnima, during the satsang in Ranjdi, while delighting the Sangat with the nectar of his sermons, said that a person can attain that element even in Grihastha Ashram. Sahib has spoken for both. A householder is definitely a householder, a detached person is definitely a detached person. Speak the truth first. Truth is a penance. A man tells lies to hide his crimes and for his own selfish gains. One person told me that you said that you have to speak the truth. Then I will have to close the business. I said why. Said that someone comes and asks for wheat. I say Rs 2000 per quintal. He says give Rs 1800. So I have to say that I bought it for Rs 1800. I said what do you need to say? Keep the same price and then see. You try to be honest. There is never a loss. But this mind is so sinful that it says that you will not get any benefit by being honest. You will not get blessings from lies.

ance itself. Second, there should be mercy. Kindness means not hurting anyone. Do not hurt anyone through thoughts, words and actions. One opened an electrical shop. I said tell the truth. Do not cheat. After a few days I met him, he was sad. I asked- how are things going? Said it would have to be closed. I said why. Said that one bulb actually costs Rs 20. The same duplicate is priced at Rs 10. I'm doing real work. I sit all day, the customer does not come. Goes to someone else. I said keep it up. In no other era was honesty as valued as it is today. When people know that you are honest, they will come. When 99 out of 100 are being dishonest then honest people cannot be found by searching. Even a thief wants honesty from his partner.

After some time his mother asked him to explain it. He is so busy in business that he is not able to take care of his body.

When I asked, he said, Guruii. by your grace the shop is running so well that the rest kill flies. Even if my shop is closed, the man waits, but takes the goods from me only.

Lies go to great heights first. Then falls. You should not cheat or cheat even while living in a householder's ashram. Do not feed haram to your children. This is a penance. Have complete honesty. Then

LG Administration has completely neglected | CUJ-MBA Graduates secure job placements Border areas in development: Sadhotra

Top News Report

to the Army Chief to liber-

ate POK, Gilgit-Baltistan,

and to respond strongly

to anti-India activities by

Dimple alleged the

involvement of China,

American rifles, and steel

bullets in the hands of

Afghanistan, ISI terrorists,

leading to martyrdom.

He also demanded the

Pakistan and China.

SUCHETGARH, Dec 26: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former minister (JKNC) expressed this while addressing a workers meeting organized by JKNC atVillage Balah in Suchetgarh Constituency.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province were present. The meeting was presided over by Jatinder Kumar Block President Suchetgarh and Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B apprised the senior party functionaries about the party activities carried out in the area and problems of border dwellers being faced by them.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra in his address, criticized the BJP for betraying the border dwellers of Jammu. Accusing the ruling party of neglect and empty promises, the senior NC leader emphasized the hardships faced by the people living in border areas, highlighting their struggles with security scenario, and lack of basic amenities. Furthermore, he also pointed out the severe lack of infrastructure development, which has left many areas without proper roads, healthcare facilities, and

educational institutions. Accusing the incumbent government of cheating and betraying the people of this nation on every promise made by it before elections, he asked the Govt where are the jobs after having promised to provide 2 crore jobs every year to the youth of the nation, Fifteen Lakh Rupees will credited in their respec-

tive saving accounts

and five marla residen-

tial plots at safer places.

Rattan Lal Gupta dire need to strengthen the united opposition in order to save the Indian democracy that has been reduced to smithereens by the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Govt at the Centre. He said that the big parties in the alliance need to shun their much egoistic approach and be fully cooperative with the small and regional parties which have their own value and can play a vital and significant role during the upcoming polls to

from the Centre. Rattan Lal Gupta reminded opposition parties of their mistakes committed earlier that if some share had been provided to the regional parties in the recent polls conducted in five states, then the results would have been totally different and in their favour. He also asserted that National Confer-

dislodge the BJP Govt

ence has always wanted that there should be a strong opposition in the country as that alone can check the misdemeanor of democracy by those governing the nation.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary. JKNC, Jammu, urged the border dwellers to strengthen the National Conference's presence and influence in their area. He highlighted the Party's commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by border communities, emphasizing the JKNC's dedication to ensuring their safety, economic development, and access to essential services.

He assured the people that the National Conference, under the leadership of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah would continue to fight for their rights and work tirelessly to bring about tangible improvements in their living conditions.

Among others who were present in the meeting include: Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik Vice Presidents Central Zone, Som Raj Taroch, Madan Lal. Mohinder Kumar. Jatinder Kumar, Bachiter Singh, Jagga Ram, Balwinder Singh, and others prominent functionaries of Districts and

Blocks.



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: Amidst global economic challenges, The Central University of Jammu organized a successful placement drive in collaboration with Niva Bupa Health Insurance and EaseMyTrip travel and tourism industry, offering valuable career prospects for its MBA and M.A English students.

Training and placement office, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) under the guidance of Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain has organized campus placement drive for MBA- Travel and Tourism, MBA HR & Marketing other than M.A English students and witnessed active participation from students eager to embark on rewarding careers in health insurance and travel and tourism sectors. Niva Bupa and EaseMyTrip, are distinguished names in the industry, engaged with students through a rigorous selection process designed to identify individuals with the skills and acumen required for the dynamic fields of health

insurance and travel &

tourism sectors.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor CUJ in his message said that "We believe in providing our students with diverse opportunities to excel in their chosen fields. This partnership with EaseMyTrip and Niva Bupa aligns with our commitment to preparing students for success in the competitive professional landscape.

Niva Bupa Health Insurance a prominent player in the corporate sector, team lead by HR Mr. Mukesh Kumar offered job role of Next Gen Sales Channel while EaseMytrip team lead by Mr. Danish Kalam offered job roles as content writer, HR-Recruiter and MICE operations after assessed, analysed and adjudged the shortlisted students of Central university of jammu.

Niva Bupa team of campus recruitment experts spoke and interviewed the students of CUJ on various hiring parameters. 15 Students have been selected and few others were shortlisted in this campus drive with the highest package stood at 4.62 Lac. HR Niva Bupa

Mr. Mukesh Kumar was impressed by the caliber of students and the proactive approach of the university in grooming them for the

corporate sector. EaseMyTrip team of campus recruitment experts spoke and interviewed the students of CUJ on various hiring parameters. 7 Students have been selected with the highest package standing at 3.43 Lac. Mr. Danish Kalam from Ease-MyTrip was influenced by the performance of students and the proactive approach of the university in grooming them for the

travel and tourism industry. The placement drive not only provided students with a chance to secure placements but also allowed them to gain valuable insights into the intricacies of health insurance and to gain valuable insights into the travel and

Training and Placement Officer Viraj Magotra along with the faculty members Prof. Ajai Pal Sharma. Prof. Rahul Yhakur. Dr. Ranjeet Raman were also present and motivated the students for the session and advised them to take advantage of campus placement in getting head start in their career.

The successful event underscores the university's dedication to fostering partnerships with leading companies in diverse sectors, ensuring that students receive exposure to a wide range of career opportunities. Such initiatives contribute to the university's mission of producing well-rounded, industry-ready profession-

EDITORIAL

CASHLESS MISSION

ashless India Mission has been done by the Government of India to improve the economy of the country. Through this, all the people have also been made aware to work digitally because today in our country we lose our money through theft, robbery, pickpocketing etc. Therefore, ever since the process of digitalization has been implemented in India, everyone has become very aware and does all the work digitally without money.

Many benefits can be seen. When people's currency was banned, all the black money came out. The general public got a lot of benefits from this process because India was made digital by being cashless, due to which people stopped misappropriating money because if people do not keep money with them then they have to take money out of their pockets again and again. And the difficulty in giving. That problem is now over, because now all the work is done easily through phone.

Due to cashless India, corruption, terrorism, hoarding etc. have all ended in the country. Terrorist activities in India have also reduced to almost no level. Due to cashless India, the development of the country reached great heights. Today our country has moved towards progress among the big countries of the world. Today, all money transactions are done online.

Ever since India became cashless, it is not that everyone has become aware of it. Even today, there are many people in our country who do not know how to use mobile phones. Because of which they are facing a lot of problems. People cannot transact money online without mobile and without internet service.

Even today, people in our Indian villages do not know well about digital services. In many places, the internet speed is also very low, due to which they are not able to do online money transactions properly, that is why we cannot say that our India has become completely cashless

Ever since the process of demonetization has started in India all the work is being done digitally. People are also facing a big problem, because there are many people who do not know the correct information about online money transactions. Apart from this, there is a big problem of internet speed and internet service, there are many places where this service is not available.

Most people have been affected by this. Many times, due to poor internet, people have faced the problem of hacking through online money transactions. That is why it has become very important to improve the cyber system in India, it is a big challenge for our government.

Today, most of the people in our country have smartphones and mobile phones. Through which one can easily pay money online to pay for any work. Today any business transaction can be easily done online with the help of debit card / credit card.

Apart from this, most of the people can send money from one place to another online through these applications like PhonePe, GooglePe, UPI, BHIM for their small tasks because now the whole of India has become cashless with digital. Through these, people's money remains safe and they can use it carefully.

People have benefited a lot from cashless India. Everyone has started understanding the concept of online money transactions. This online transaction process has become very secure and transparent. Through this demonetization, the black money accumulated by the people came out and it is being used by the government for the welfare of all the people. All the people of cashless India have got a lot of benefits.

The power and legitimacy of nations and leaders

By: Sanjaya Baru

enry Kissinger's passing away last month, La few months after he turned 100, has been mourned around the world by those who celebrated his eventful life. He was equally scorned in death by those who viewed him as an immoral apostle of death and destruction across much of Asia. Whatever his positive and negative legacy as a high-ranking official of the United States government, Henry Kissinger was a phenomenal student of history, a master of diplomacy and an engaging author.

His lasting diplomatic legacy remains the bilateral relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Despite the ups and downs since 1971, when the world's biggest capitalist state and the largest Communist country established diplomatic relations, the US-China relationship has continued to define shifts in the changing global balance of power over the past half century.

In a book I co-edited (A New Cold War: Henry Kissinger and the Rise of China; HarperCollins, 2023), we took note of the cynical manner in which he promoted that bilateral relationship, amassing millions as a consultant to American corporations investing in China. Kissinger lived life king size till the very end, flying to Beijing after he turned 100 for a final meeting with China's President Xi Jinping. A visit that seems to have once again helped define US-China relations.

By recognising China's power potential, Kissinger granted its Communist regime global legitimacy. The rest of the world, including all of China's neighbours, had no option but to come to terms

with this new reality. In his classic text on World Order: Reflections on the Character of Nations and the Course of History (Penguin Books, 2014), Kissinger underscores the importance of both power and legitimacy in defining both a global and a regional "order": "Any ... system of order bases itself on two components: a set of commonly accepted rules that define the limits of permissible action and a balance of power that enforces restraint where rules break down."

In the recently published Power, Legitimacy and the World Order: Changing Contours of Preconditions and Perspectives (Routledge, 2023), the editors Sanjay Pulipaka, Krishnan Srinivasan and James Mayall have put together essays that reflect on contemporary themes around a changing global balance of power and with respect to the notion of legitimacy. In a finely-crafted introduction that tries to pull together a varied set of essays, the distinguished diplomat Krishnan Srinivasan, a former Indian foreign secretary, takes the Kissinger view forward by observing that: "The exercise of power is insufficient to be a dominant geopolitical player; legitimacy is also needed. The most powerful leaders crave legitimacy both at home and abroad."

The ongoing churn both globally and within many nations is a consequence of both changing power balances and questions about the legitimacy of both institutions and leaderships. In the post-Second World War system, observes Srinivasan, the United States enjoyed both power and legitimacy; however, the recent decline of American influence in world affairs is because even though it "remains powerful, its legitimacy is being

questioned".

What is interesting today about many nations around the world, including the United States, the European Union, China, Russia and India, among others, is the fact that a shift in both global and domestic power equations is happening along with a challenge to the legitimacy of extant institutions and leaderships.

Consider both the US and China, even as their relative power balance is Shifting, both countries are also having to deal with domestic questions about the legitimacy of institutions and leaders. In the US, even as the country seeks to assert its dominance within the Western Hemisphere and even in Asia, Donald Trump and his supporters are questioning the legitimacy of the nation's political leadership. In China, President Xi has amassed more power than any other Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. Yet, questions about the legitimacy of his power grow as China falters on the home front.

In India too, the equation between power and legitimacy is now under scrutiny.

In seeking to alter the power balance between ourselves and the rest of the world, we have taken various initiatives, and our chairmanship of the Group of 20 in 2023 was viewed as an event that would announce India's arrival at the global high table. Yet, all the glitz and elan of the G-20 summit has been dissipated by the manner in which the United States, Canada and their allies have exposed the present government's underhand dealings overseas.

The questioning of India on the Pannun and Nijjar assassination plots comes on top of repeated questions being raised around the world about the Narendra Modi government's human rights record, its adherence to democratic values and protection of the rights of minorities. India may have become more powerful, but the Indian government today is seen as having lesser legitimacy.

Even at home, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is without doubt the most powerful PM India has had since Independence. The administrative and political power he has assimilated in his hands and office is more than the power enjoyed both by Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Yet, the manner in which Mr Modi has sought to sideline his own council of ministers, weaken federal institutions, empower the arms of the State and, finally, delegitimise the parliamentary opposition have together cast a long shadow on the legitimacy of the government.

For how long can nations and leaders sustain their power if their legitimacy is under question? Can legitimacy be acquired merely through the exercise of power?

These questions raise further questions about the role of each of the institutions of the State and society. Can the legitimacy of the State as a whole be enhanced by delegitimising any one of its institutions – be it the executive, judiciary and legislature? Can a government secure greater power by delegitimising the media and institutions of civil society?

The year 2023 will be remembered for having raised all these questions about the global order and our Republic. It remains to be seen if some answers will come our way in 2024. The conduct and results of elections in several countries, including the United States and India, can help answer some of these questions

The Comparison between Ramanujan's intuitive mathematical insights and Artificial intelligence data-driven Logic illustrate

By: Vijay GarG

rinivasa Ramanujan, an eminent mathematician, emerged from modest origins to attain a revered status in the field of mathematics during the twentieth century.

He was born in 1887 in Erode, India, and is renowned for his exceptional commitment, innate aptitude, and profound passion for mathematics.

Despite his limited formal education and financial challenges, Ramanujan's remarkable aptitude for mathematics was clear, setting him apart in his area.

He developed thousands of results independently, many of which were later proven to be novel and profoundly significant.

Ramanujan's mathematics was not just a collection of theorems and formulas; it was an art form, brimming with creativity and

He worked extensively in fields such as infinite series, number theory, continued fractions, q-series, and modular functions.

One of his most famous contributions is the infinite series for π (pi), which not only displayed his mathematical ingenuity but also revolutionised the way calculations for π were done, contributing significantly to the field.

His notebooks, filled with theorems, conjectures, and equations, were decades ahead of their time. For instance, his work on mock theta functions, initially a mystery to contemporary mathematicians, found applications in areas as diverse as number theory, representation theory, and even quantum mechanics.

The comparison of Ramanujan's intuitive and self-taught approach to mathematics with the structured and data-driven processes of modern artificial intelligence offers a fascinating study of contrasts.

While AI, with its vast computational capabilities and algorithmic precision, represents a pinnacle of technological progress, Ramanujan's story is a testament to the untapped potential of the human mind and its ability to transcend the limitations of its environment through sheer intellect and passion.

This article examines the similarities and differences between the cognitive processes of AI, a creature of structured logic and enormous data processing capability, and Ramanujan, someone whose life was a com-

bination of struggle and brilliance.

We take a closer look at how each has made a distinct contribution to the fields of mathematics and technology, influencing our understanding in ways that were previously unthinkable.

Intuitive Insight Vs Data-Driven Logic The comparison between Ramanujan's intuitive mathematical insights and Al's data-driven logic illustrates two distinct approaches to mathematics.

Ramanujan, largely self-taught, relied on intuition and creativity, making significant contributions to number theory and infinite series for π (pi) through intuitive leaps rather than systematic analysis.

The interplay of Ramanujan's intuition and Al's computation highlights the potential for combining these methods for groundbreaking discoveries.

While Ramanujan's approach was characterised by personal insight and serendipity, AI's strength lies in processing data and executing algorithms efficiently.

Together, they represent a fascinating dialogue between human creativity and technological progress, each contributing uniquely to the advancement of mathematics and technology.

Self-Taught Learning Vs Structured AI Algorithms

The difference between Ramanujan's intuitive, self-learn approach to mathematics and the structured, data-centric learning of AI highlights two different ways of acquiring knowledge.

Ramanujan, starting with only basic textbooks, explored deeper into mathematics, driven by his natural curiosity and talent. He made groundbreaking discoveries, such as the Rogers-Ramanujan identities, without formal guidance.

In contrast, AI relies on structured algorithms and data, learning from patterns in large datasets to create predictive models and optimise solutions, yet lacking Ramanujan's ability for intuitive leaps.

This juxtaposition highlights the unique strengths and limitations of human and machine intelligence. Ramanujan's exploratory approach shows the power of human curiosity and innovation, while AI excels in processing data and algorithmic precision.

The potential synergy between the two, like using AI to explore Ramanujan's unproven conjectures, illustrates how they can complement each other in advancing knowledge and technology.

Originality And Creativity: The Human

The contrast between Ramanujan's creative, original approach to mathematics and the capabilities of AI highlights the divide between human and machine intelligence.

Ramanujan's work, such as his innovative series for π and the partition function of integers, demonstrated a level of originality and creative problem-solving beyond the current scope of AI.

AI excels in pattern recognition and data optimisation but lacks the human capacity for true innovation and the creation of novel concepts.

While AI operates within its programmed parameters and can't emulate human creativity, Ramanujan's legacy inspires the development of new AI algorithms. His mathematical innovations encourage AI applications in unexplored areas and complex problem-solving.

Ultimately, Ramanujan's work underscores the unique human ability for creative thought, highlighting the complementary roles of human ingenuity and AI in advancing various fields

Ethical And Philosophical Aspects: Beyond Computation

Exploring the differences between Ramanujan's mathematical approach and AI reveals a clear division between human and machine intelligence, especially in ethical and philosophical areas.

Ramanujan's work was deeply personal and philosophical, often linked to spiritual inspiration and seeing mathematics as an art. In stark differentiation, AI, while technically advanced, lacks the capacity for ethical understanding and philosophical reflection, highlighting a distinct nature of intelligence.

AI operates on algorithms and data without the ability to make ethical judgements or engage with philosophical concepts, a limitation evident in areas requiring moral and ethical decision-making, such as healthcare or judicial sentencing.

In contrast, Ramanujan's mathematical journey demonstrates the profound capacity of human intelligence to intertwine computation with ethical and philosophical understanding, underscoring the unique value of human insight in areas beyond the scope of AI.

Ramanujan's Legacy In Modern Technology

Ramanujan's legacy significantly impacts modern technology and the scientific com-

munity, transcending traditional mathematics. His intuitive methods and groundbreaking work have practical applications in fields like computer science, cryptography, physics, and engineering.

In computer science, Ramanujan's partition theory advances algorithm development, crucial in optimising computing processes. His number theory contributions are vital in cryptography, underpinning modern digital security.

Ramanujan's approach influences theoretical computer science, particularly in complexity theory and innovative algorithm design. His unresolved problems and interdisciplinary perspective continue to inspire scientific research, pushing the boundaries of knowledge and fostering an integrative approach to science and technology.

Furthermore, Ramanujan's story enriches mathematical education and permeates popular culture, highlighting the role of natural talent and creativity in mathematical discovery. His enduring influence underscores the timeless nature of his contributions and their ongoing impact on technology and human understanding.

Bridging Genius And Algorithms: The Ramanujan Machine

The Ramanujan Machine, developed by the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, represents a fusion of Ramanujan's intuitive mathematical approach and AI's computational efficiency.

Designed to replicate Ramanujan's formula-discovery methods, it exemplifies the synergy between human-inspired creativity and algorithmic power, reflecting the themes of human ingenuity and AI in advancing mathematical knowledge.

Ramanujan represents the apex of human creativity and success, a monument to the human mind's unique possibilities. His legacy reminds us that, while AI might perform amazing computational feats, it will never approach the intuitive heights of a mind like Ramanujan's.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout)

Ashu Group in collaboration with Medanta organize health checkup camp

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: Ashu Group in collaboration with Medanta Hospital Gurgaon organized a free health checkup camp at Rajesh Public High School Bishnah.

The camp was inaugurated by Vinod Kumar, Deputy Director Gulistan News TV, Dharmindra Kumar, DDC Member Bishnah, Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MBBS Senior Doctor Sub District Hospital Bishnah, Sushil Singh Charak Chairman Nations Development Association (NDA) and Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Managing Director Rajesh Public High School Bishnah and Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Khojipur.



The team of Specialist doctors provided free consultation wherein large number of patients including male, females, children suffering from Hypertension, Diabetics, Piles, Respiratory Diseases, Joints pains, Arthritis, disc, Cervical, Mental Stress and other fatal diseases and

problems got checked

up from the doctors. Speaking on the occasion Vinod Kumar said that organizations like Ashu Group play an important role in providing help and care to people at their doorstep. Er. Ashu Kumar the

Managing Director,

Ashu Group also said

Er. Ashu Kumar also appreciated the role of Chairman of Nations

the future also.

they are committed to

provide best health care

facilities to the common

man and assured that

he along with his team

will continue to conduct

free medical camps for

the common people in

Development Association (NDA) Sushil Singh Charak who gave me such guiding powers and inspiration to work. I pray to God that they should be taken on a very good path and they should be made to do good work. We learn from youth leaders like these. Dr. Arvind Sharma

(Physician), Dr. Ashwani Kumar Bhagat (Orthopedic) and Sandeep Singh Jamwal (Assistant Manager Marketing), Ikhlaq Ahmad (Blood sugar), Gazanfar Javid (BP) Gowhar Mohi Ud Din (Registration), Ankush Mahajan (PFT) and Ashutosh Sharma Staff nurse and others were also present during the

Little Angels School organizes Trekking Camp at Bani



Top News Report

KATHUA. Dec 26: A two-day trekking camp was organized for the physical education students of class 12th by the Little Angels Higher Secondary School Kathua at Bani.

The camp was flagged off by SHO Bani Arjun Magotra, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and Block Forest Officer Mohd.

The SHO Bani appreciated the trekking camp and motivated

the students to involve themselves in physical

activities

Block Forest Officer Mohd Asif, under the guidance of Range Forest Officer Bani, Naresh Sharma and the overall supervision of DFO Basohli Ashwani Kumar SFS, took the students for trekking in the forest area of the mountains of Bani.

They also briefed them about the different kinds of trees and their importance. They also provided refreshments to the

students, and even the local people welcomed the trekkers.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh invited the students to experience the hidden beauty of Bani and encouraged them to come and feel the freshness of nature away from the crowds and pollution of the city.

The school administration thanked SHO Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, and BFO Mohd Asif for their cooperation in conducting the trekking

The two-day trekking camp was a great success for the students. They learned about the importance of trees and the beauty of nature. They also had the opportunity to bond with their classmates and teachers.

Demolition drive held, illegal structures demolished in Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 26: Day after news published regarding Illegal constructions unabated at Chowgam, Brinel Lammer and Kund area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, acting

promptly upon a specific information regarding the illegal construction.

A team of PMGSY Kulgam led by its AEE Manzoor Ahmad dar along with Naib Tehsildar Kund, Hyder Hussain Bhat carried out a

demolition drive in different areas in Kulgam and demolished various structures which were raised illegally.

AEE told that nobody is allowed to raise any structure without permission from the competent authority. These violators were informed time to time not to raise structures illegally and now officials were being forced to act tough.

"We demolished all these structures in area and in other parts, such structures will be dismantled as well. People are requested to refrain from such practices otherwise be ready for the loss." he said.

Samba District Athletics Association held

Top News Report

SAMBA, Dec 26: Samba District Athletics championship organised by Samba District Athletics Association under the aegis of J&K Amateur Athletics Association, J&K Sports Council & J&K Olympic Association in U-14, U-16, U-18, U-20, Open categories for both boys & girls concluded on Tuesday.

About 200 athletes of different schools and institutions of Samba district participated.

On the valedictory function, Gurucharan Singh, Senior Athletics Coach J&K Sports Council was the Chief Guest and Dr. Ajay Charak (lecturer) was the Guest of Honour who Awarded the winners with certificates.

The position holders will get the chance to participate in the NIDJAM at Gujarat in the month of Feb 2024 in age group



of under -14 and 16 Boys and

Results:-

(Under 14 boys) 60m- 1st-Divyansh Singh, 2nd-Roshan Lal. 3rd- Rudra Pratap. 600M- 1st - Shantu Sharma, 2nd- Rudra Pratap Singh, 3rd-

Himank Anmol. Long Jump: 1st-Rudra Pratap, 2nd-Himank, 3rd-Divyansh, Kids, Javelin- 1st-Rudhar Pratap, 2nd-Medhansh Choudhary

(Under 14 girls) 60M- 1st-Raksha Sharma, 2nd-Namra Malik, 3rd-Shivani Devi, 600M-

1st- Ishani Sharma, Long jump-1st -Shivani Devi, 2nd- Raksha Sharma, 3rd- Vaibhayi Sharma, Kids Javelin -1st Namara Malik 2nd Vaibhavi Sharma, 3rd Parul

(Under 16 Boys) 60M- 1st Neelkamal, 2nd Mukund Katal, Kanhenya Lal. 600M-1st Gautam Singh, 2nd Hardeep Singh, 3rd Mohd Kamran. Javelin throw: 1st Jatin Charak, 2nd Himanshu. Shotput- 1st Krishna Padha, 2nd Anush Khanotra, 3rd Haroon Abbas. Long jump:1st Amit Jhony, 2nd Hardeep Singh, 3rd Jatin Singh.

(Under 16 Girls)- 60M 1st Jhanvi Sharma, 2nd Sanchi, 3rd Kamini. 600M- 1st Riya Sharma D/o Naresh Kumar, Javelin throw: 1st Niharika Gupta, 2nd Muskan Vaid, Shotput- 1st Ridhima, 2nd Liza, 3rd Vaishnavi, long jump: 1st Sanchi, 2nd Kamini, 3rd Muskaan.

Dashmesh Kabaddi Cup 2023 held

Top News Report

JAMMU. Dec 26: Tarun Sharma attend the grand finale of the "Dashmesh Kabaddi Cup 2023" at Ved Mandir today, organized by Swami Vivekanand Sports Club J&K.

More than 25 teams participated from various districts, across J&K UT.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Tarun Sharma praised the tournament as a genuine tribute to the Chaar Sahibzaade, the four sons of the 10th Sikh Guru - Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Reflecting on the historical significance of their martyrdom between December 21 and December 27 in



1704 AD. he acknowledged their sacrifice for faith and the right to remain Sikhs.

"In honoring their martyrdom, we acknowledge the profound impact it had on protecting our civilization. We remain indebted to their sacrifice," stated Dr. Tarun Sharma.

Highlighting the enduring legacy of Mata

Guiri, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and the four Sahibzades, he emphasized their bravery and ideals, stating, "Their bravery and ideals continue to inspire millions. They stood unwavering against injustice and envisioned an inclusive and harmonious world. In today's times, it is

crucial for more people

to be aware of their

extraordinary contribu-

Distinguished individuals present at the event included Sanjay Kumar Tutto (principal IDPS Kathua), Akash Kohli (MD Gurukul institute), Sudesh Thakur (Physical teacher and founder member SVS Club), Ravi Manhas (retd. ZPEO Jammu), Balbir Singh (founder member SVS Club), Partap Singh, Vansh Parihar, Gurmeet Singh, Vatsala Gupta and Sonia Sharma.

This kabaddi league was sponsored by Shree Institute of Education, Vatsala Gupta, Sonia Sharma and Ved Mandir Committee.

ABRSM appoints Darshan Bharti as National Media Cell Head **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 26: The Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) has nominated Darshan Bharti as ts national Convenor for the media cell, in the organization's two-day National Office bearers meeting held in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh which concluded today.

The announcement was made by Mahendar Kapoor, National Organising Secretary of ABRSM, underscoring the pivotal role of Darshan Bharti in advancing the organization's media initiatives.

Hailing from Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, Darshan Bharti is currently Senior Vice President of ABRSM's Jammu and Kashmir unit, and co-convenor of National Media cell of ABRSM. He has an experience of 13 years in media and has worked with various reputable organizations such as DD News, All India Radio, Dainik Jagran, The Indian Express, and The Tribune.

Assuming the position of national convenor of the media wing, Dar-



shan Bharti will take charge of steering ABRSM's media relations, communications, and public relations endeavors at the national level.

Expressing unwavering confidence in Darshan Bharti's capabilities, Mahendra Kapoor emphasized, "With Darshan Bharti's extensive background in both broadcast and print media, he stands as the perfect choice to lead our media outreach. His appointment is instrumental in advancing ABRSM's mission, amplifying awareness about our initiatives, and championing the cause of educators nationwide.

The appointment of Darshan Bharti in a pivotal role within the organization has been met with widespread acclaim, especially within the sphere of Jammu Kashmir.

As Devraj Thakur, the National Internal Auditor and President ABRSM Jammu Kashmir, rightfully acknowledged, Bharti's induction is poised to ignite a wave of advancement and efficiency in the organisa-

Bharti's extensive tenure and profound association with the organization have rendered his appointment not just significant but immensely promising for the collective workforce operating within Jammu Kashmir. This isn't merely a new addition to the team; it's a strategic move that promises to infuse fresh perspectives, expertise, and a wealth of experience into the operations conducted across India, Thakur said while hailing the appointment of Darshan Bharti.

9-day birth anniversary celebration of Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri conclude



Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 26: Advocate of the concerns of social harmony, love brotherhood etc., helpful in purifying the atmosphere and environment, enhancing devotion and patriotism along with divine qualities in the hearts of the people, the great devotee of God is running in

the holy Samadhi complex Sohanjana under the chairmanship of respected Shri Gangad-

The 9-day birth anniversary of social reformer Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri has come to an end today with the completion of Gau Gopal

Mahayagya. On this occasion, a big dangal was also organized in which big wrestlers from India and abroad showed their physical strength by participating in the wrestling competition.

This Dangal is organized every year by Pavitra Samadhi with the aim of inspiring the youth of India to stay away from all kinds of drugs and build a healthy and strong body.

with AI & Cyber Security Awareness Initiative **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Dec 26: The Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) has taken a bold step towards the future by implementing the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Defence.

As part of this initiative, the Directorate has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cyber Security Awareness as a pilot project, benefiting hundreds of cadets.

The campaign, which began in September 2023, has quickly gained traction and is proving to be a valuable learning experience for the



NCC Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Directorate leads the way

participating cadets. By integrating AI and cyber security awareness into their training, the NCC is empowering young minds with essential skills for the digital age.

"This pilot project has been a huge success," said a spokesperson from the NCC Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh

seeing a significant increase in curiosity and engagement amongst our cadets, who are eager to learn more about these ever-evolving fields. The project has also played a crucial role in making our cadets and their families

more digitally aware and

secure."

The initiative's success can be attributed to the dedication and expertise of various stakeholders. Professionals from IIT Jammu, J&K Cyber Police, computer science professors from academic institutions, and qualified Associate NCC Officers have all

generously contributed their time and knowledge to the project, making it truly inclusive and accessible to all cadets.

The NCC's commitment to equipping its cadets with the latest technological knowledge and skills is commendable. By embracing AI and cyber security education, the NCC is preparing its young members for a future filled with exciting possibilities and challenges.

This forward-thinking approach serves as an excellent example for other educational institutions to follow, paving the way for a more informed and cyber-secure future generation.

Fans couldn't have asked for more as their favourite eligible bachelors KL Rahul, Randeep Hooda, Sidharth Malhotra and Raghav Chadha took the wedding vows this year

In 2023, love took centrestage, knitting together a tale of grand weddings, intimate ceremonies and theme parties, marking a year of joy for many celebrities in Bollywood and the Tamil film industry. From Kiara Advani to Parineeti Chopra to Randeep Hooda, and more, Bollywood witnessed a blend of lavish and private weddings.

Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul kicked off the season with a picturesque ceremony at Suniel Shetty's farmhouse, setting the tone for the year. Meanwhile, the Tamil film industry saw its share of enchanting unions, from dreamy Italian weddings to traditional South Indian rituals, captivating the hearts of fans. As 2023 draws to a close, here's a recap of

those surreal moments that defined the year of celebrity weddings.

Traditional touch

Randeep Hooda and Lin Liashram Bollywood actor Ran-

deep Hooda tied the knot with long-time girlfriend Lin Liashram during an intimate traditional Meitie wedding ceremony in Imphal on November 29. Respecting the rituals and customs, both Randeep and Lin wore traditional Manipuri outfits. While Randeep wore a white ensemble, Lin dressed up in costume of Potloi with gold jewellery.

High pitch Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul

Athiya Shetty and cricketer KL Rahul got married in a private pastel-themed ceremony at Suniel Shetty's farmhouse in Khandala



on January 23. After dating for three years, they opted for an intimate celebration with close friends and family, implementing a nophone policy for added privacy. The intimate affair marked the first big wedding of 2023 with Athiya donning a champagne pink lehenga and KL Rahul an ivory sher-

wani. Royal affair

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra

Shershaah co-stars Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra exchanged vows in a fairy tale wedding at Jaisalmer's royal Suryagarh Palace on February 7. Kiara wore an ivory and pink lehenga, and Sidharth a beige sherwani with gold zardozi embroidery. The ceremony, attended by

luminaries, captured the essence of romance. The couple even teased fans with mushy reel videos on Instagram from their royal affair.

White gold Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha

Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha held a pearl-white themed wedding in Udaipur

on September 24. The #Ragneeti trend dominated the Internet as their wedding invite got leaked! Parineeti surprised everyone by marrying the politician, and several clips, including varmala and Raghav Chadha's baraat reaching the venue, went viral. Parineeti also sang a song titled O Piya for

Raghav during the wed-

ding rituals.

Designer deal Masaba Gupta and Satyadeep Misra

Fashion designer Masaba Gupta and actor Satyadeep Misra sealed their love during an intimate ceremony on January 27. Masaba wore a 'Rani Core' lehenga from 'House of Masaba', paired with her mother Neena Gupta's jewellery, while Satyadeep chose a barfi pink kurta and pyjama set. The celebration marked a new chapter in Masaba's journey, following her previous marriage to producer Madhu Mantena.

Special feeling Swara Bhaskar and Fahad Ahmed

Swara Bhaskar and politician Fahad Ahmed started their journey together with a court marriage under the Special Marriage Act. Their commitment culminated in a celebration of traditional ceremonies in March, blending Hindu and Islamic traditions. The couple now shares the joy of parenthood, blessed with a baby girl. Star power

Varun Tei and Lavanya Tripathi

After a secret relationship for five years, Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi surprised everyone with their destination wedding at Borgo San Felice in Tuscany, Italy, on November 1. The star-studded guest list included veteran actor Chiranjeevi with wife Surekha Ram Charan and Allu Arjun. Varun in an embroidered golden sherwani and Lavanya in a red bridal outfit got married according to Hindu traditions.

'The journey has just begun'

As we still obsess over Gaddiyan ucchiyan rakhiyan, the Obsession hit-maker Riar Saab, who performed at Zomaland carnival, tells us about his future plans

When the song's title is Obsession, one cannot help but obsessing over it! That's how it is with singer Riar Saab's Punjabi song, Obsession, which stole the limelight after actor Vicky Kaushal uploaded a video performing on the song. And soon, netizens went along and played their part in making it a viral sensation. With catch words like ucchiyan gaddiyan and jattiyan, the song has been played everywhere. On Saturday night the Obsession hitmaker Riar Saab performed at Zomaland, an annual food carnival by Zomato, at Chimney Heights, Zirakpur.

As he lip-synced to his fan-favourite songs for one hour performance at the event, the crowd cheered. Riar also paid tribute to late singer-songwriter Sidhu Moosewala by playing his song Levels. He shared on stage with the live audience, "It's not possible to perform and not remember Sidhu baai." Interestingly, the artiste shares an uncanny resemblance

with Moosewala.

Born as Taran Singh Riar, and fondly called Tanu and Riar, he has been in the music industry for a long time. Earlier known by his stage name Frenzzy, he was part of music group Aavrutti, but later changed his stage name to Riar Saab. He explains, "I would say the name change has been lucky for me. Sikander (Kahlon) paaji told me that the name Frenzzy didn't capture my true essence. It dissociated me from my personality as well as my culture. He said I should use my surname as my stage name as it's unique. Saab came from how in villages people call anybody who resides in other cities and are visitors in their hometown."

Having spent years in Mumbai, Riar says people are surprised to see him conversing fluently in Hindi and Marathi. For him language is no barrier and he can easily sing in Hindi and Marathi too. Riar, who started his music journey by



to shed the image of a rapper. Singers like Sikander, Divine, and others have left an influence on him. He adds, "I was in the ninth standard when I first started to rap. I used to sing too but never formally took training. I am a self-taught artiste. My

worth Rs 6000 when I started taking interest in music and it was a huge push for me to pursue my passion.'

Riar never lost hope even when things didn't work for him. Signed by Gully Gang and introduced as Riar Saab in 2022 with the song

Area 06, he owes his new-found success to his parents for believing in him.

The singer' roots are in Gurdaspur, Punjab and he likes to spend time in his village Dhapai to observe and introspect which he says helps a great deal in making music. A pet lover, he has three dogs and two cats and loves to spend time being one with nature whenever possible. After Mumbai and Pune, he loves to perform in Amritsar. Ask him about his fashion game, and he swears by street style, staying true to his allegiance with the Gully Gang. He has recently dropped his debut EP, How I Love. For the next year, he hopes to bring more collaborations and singles for his fans.

The singer, who recently performed in the US and Australia, says, "It's everyone's dream to be participating in international music festivals, sing a song or two for Bollywood films and collaborate with big names. The journey has just begun. Let's see where it takes me."

Mahesh Bhatt hosts the talk show Pehchaan: The Unscripted Show, on the lives of 13 prominent Sikhs



Mahesh Bhatt is hosting a talk show with the series Pehchaan: The Unscripted Show on SonyLIV.

Pehchaan promises to be an unprecedented and heart-touching journey into the lives of 13 prominent Sikhs of

one who has not heard of sugar will not know what it tastes like. Pehchaan has to be experienced. And though it is being pegion-holed as a chat show in the minds of many, but it's much more than that. It is a very powerful emotional

you and leaves you teary-eyed. What the Indian entertainment landscape lacks is intimate, upheld back conversations.'

Не continued, "Pehchaan hurls you into the hearts of people in their most vulnerable moments and from there you see them climb rung by rung towards hope. These brave men have beard their hearts and spoke to me with heartfelt candor about their beautiful lives as they ploughed through from 'unbeautiful' moments."

"These are the stories of lives led with courage and integrity - an inspiration to anyone who watches it. I see myself as a new person after knowing these gentlemen and feel like I'm reborn after each interaction."

Pehchaan is designed to unravel the untold stories, struggles, and triumphs that have shaped the lives of these exceptional Sikhs. The show will have more seasons to follow covering many other extraordinary people from different walks of life.

Rihanna open to exploring



Singer Rihanna is a bit unsure what her future will look like but she's still excited "for what is to come.'

"I'm in an era of discovery. And maybe it's rediscovery because so much is changing, and some things are fleeting. And some things

are yet to be discovered, right? And I'm in the centre of all of that," Rihanna said. "So, I'm not on a landing yet, but I'm excited for what is to come because I have the feeling of what it is. But I can't put it into words, and I know the journey is going to

be exciting of getting there. And that's not just with fashion or my daily routine... with music, all of it! I'm really excited to explore things right

Rihanna hasn't actually released an album since Anti in 2016. The singer shared that she's "open to exploring" as she works on new music.

The Work hitmaker shared, "Musically I'm feeling open. I'm feeling open to exploring, discovering, creating things that are new, things that are different, things that are off, weird, might not ever make sense to my fans, the people that know the music I've put out. I just want to play. I want to have fun with the music." Rihanna performed the Super Bowl Halftime Show earlier this year.

The singer, who has been with A\$AP Rocky since 2020, said, "I've been so focused on the Super Bowl, I totally forgot that my birthday is coming up. I totally forgot about Valentine's

Swati Sharma graces the television show Rang Punjab De



Recently, Swati Sharma graced the musical television show titled Rang Punjab De. She was successful in mesmerising the audiences with her beautiful rendition. She also recounted her life-altering encounter with the acclaimed music composer Tanishk Bagchi. It was in that moment that fate intertwined their paths, leading to the creation of the chartbuster Banno Tera Swagger

Apart from Banno Tera Swagger, Swati has sung across different genres and languages. Tittar Bittar, Rail Gaddi and the soulful rendition of Tum Jo Gaye (female version) are among her most popular songs.

Singer Dua Lipa posts pictures from Rajasthan trip

quotient which moves

Popstar Dua Lipa is spending holidays in India and is currently in Rajasthan, going by a motley of pictures she posted on Instagram. In the first image, Dua posed on her bed wearing a blue shirt and striped pants.

She then shared another photograph, where she is seen in a red dress.

The singer was seen posing in a black outfit in the next picture, as she travelled around in Rajasthan.

She captioned it: "Happy holidays from me to you, sending love light health and happiness for the year ahead."

This is not the first time Lipa has visited India, as a few years ago she was in the country. She had posted pictures then too and captioned one among them: "At the Ganesh Temple in Jaipur. A lady outside the temple helped me and taught me how to



put on the saree before I entered. We joined in with the locals, and offered sweet treats to the Gods and the people inside.'

"Taught Indians To...": PM Modi Lauds Sikh Gurus" **Teachings On 'Veer Bal Diwas'**

Speaking at a "Veer Bal Diwas" event to commemorate the martyrdom of two sons of Guru Gobind Singh, PM Modi said their sacrifices are not only being remembered in India but also globally through programmes in countries like the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that Sikh gurus have taught Indians to live for the glory of their land and served as an inspiration to make the country better and developed.

Speaking at a "Veer Bal Diwas" event to commemorate the martyrdom of two sons of Guru Gobind Singh, PM Modi said their sacrifices are not only being remembered in India but also globally through programmes in countries like the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

PM Modi said his government



has a clear vision and roadmap to fulfill the unlimited dreams of India's youngsters, irrespective of the region and society they

The government has a clear policy and no flaw in its intentions, he said, citing the increase

were born in.

in the size of the Indian econo-

The Prime Minister exhorted youngsters to give top priority to their health, saying when they are fit, they will be "super hit" in their careers and life. He asked them to stick to a good diet, opt for "digital detoxification" and shun the use of narcotics.

PM Modi appealed to religious leaders and social organisations to launch a movement against

"Veer Bal Diwas" is a symbol of the resolve to do anything to protect Indianness, the prime minister said in his tributes to the two "Sahibzadas"

Renowned sculptor Uttam R Pacharne dies at 67 in Mumbai hospital

MUMBAI, Dec 26 (Agencies): Renowned sculptor and former Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi Uttam R Pacharne passed away following a brief illness, here early on Tuesday, a family

He was 67, and breathed his last at a private hospital in Goregaon west where he was admitted last Friday for complications arising out of a brain haemorrhage, said his friend and artist Prakash Bhise.

Pacharne is survived by his wife, a son Subodh who is an architect and daughter Suruchi who is a research scientist in the United Kingdom.

Bhise added that Pacharne's

mortal remains shall be kept at his home in Raheja Complex of Malad east for public darshan from 10 am to 2 pm today and then taken away for the last

Born on June 2, 1956 at Chakhalewadi in Ahmednagar, Pacharne topped the Diploma in Art Teacher's course at Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya in Pune in 1976, and then did a sculpture and modelling course from the prestigious Sir J J School of Art in Mumbai.

From 1978, he participated in several art exhibitions of his sculptures and creations at some of the top galleries in the country and abroad.

He bagged the National Lalit Kala Akademi Award and Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar (1985), Junior National Award in memory of the late PM Indira Gandhi (1986), medals, honours, and other accolades during his career of over four

He was appointed Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi (2018) for a 3-year term, President of the Bombay Art Society and other bodies in various capaci-

Pacharne's big and small sculptures adorn different locations in India and abroad, including White Tiger Regiment at Jhansi (1980), Swami



Vivekananda statue at Mumbai (1981), standing Buddha and Dr B R Ambedkar statue, both in Dhule (2002), Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj statue in south Mumbai (2003), Swatantrya Jyot at Andaman and Nicobar Islands (2004), freedom fighter Govindbhai Shroff at Aurangabad (2007), among many more.

4 of family die in MP's Guna as truck carrying 40 tonnes of scrap falls on their car

BHOPAL, Dec 26 (Agencies): Four members of a family died and two were seriously injured as a scrap-laden truck fell on their car in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district early on

Tuesday.

The truck lost control and fell on the car when it tried to overtake the vehicle

The police said high speed and poor visibility due to heavy fog on the

hational highway led to the accident.

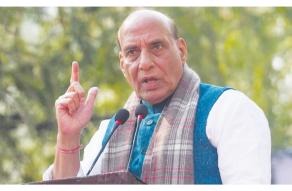
The family belongs to Raigarh district. Police said a couple and their two daughters died on the spot. Two injured passengers were pulled out and sent to a nearby

Reports suggested that the truck was carrying 40 tonnes of scrap and the moment it fell on the car, it was badly mangled.

Police contacted the relatives of the victims with the help of the car's registration number. Police used cranes to lift the truck and a JCB machine to remove the

lakh, rescued in Jharkhand

Will find attackers of merchant navy ships even from depths of seas and take strict action, says Rajnath Singh



MUMBAI, Dec 26 (Agencies): The Indian government has taken serious cognisance of the recent attacks on merchant navy ships MV Chem Pluto and MV Sai Baba, and it will take strict action against those behind the attacks by finding them even from the "depths of seas", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

Speaking after the commissioning of stealth guided missile destroyer INS Imphal, Singh said India had intensified patrolling of the seas after the recent attacks on merchant navy ships.

"The Indian government has taken the drone attack on MV Chem Pluto and attack on MV Saibaba in the Red Sea seriously. We will find those who executed the recent attacks on merchant navy ships even from the depths of the seas and take strict action against them." Singh said.

MV Chem Pluto with 21 Indian crew members was struck by a drone about 217 nautical miles from Porbandar

on Saturday following which both the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard deployed a number of assets to provide assistance to

A Gabon-flagged commercial crude oil tanker with 25 Indian crew members reportedly came under a drone attack in the Southern Red Sea. Indian officials later clarified that the commercial oil tanker was not an Indianflagged vessel.

Meanwhile, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said four destroyers had been deployed to counter piracy and drone attacks on merchant ships.

He said P-8I aircraft, Dorniers, Sea Guardians, helicopters and Coast Guard ships had been deployed jointly to counter the threats of piracy and drone attacks.

6 die in Uttarakhand's Haridwar as wall of brick kiln collapses



DEHRADUN, Dec 26 (Agencies): Six workers were killed and four injured on Tuesday when a brick kiln wall collapsed on them in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district, police said.

The accident occurred

Four-year-old boy abducted, sold at Rs 2.95

at Lahboli village, said Haridwar SSP Pramendra Dobhal, who was on the spot.

The four injured had been hospitalised, he said.

They were working at the brick kiln when the

This way a deal at Rs

wall collapsed, the SSP said.

"We are looking into the circumstances that led to the accident. Action will be taken against whoever is found responsible,' Dobhal added

2 arrested in Goa for molesting woman, her 24-year-old daughter

PANAJI, Dec 26 (Agencies): The Goa police have arrested two men for allegedly seeking sexual favours from a woman and her 24-year-old daughter and molesting them on several occasions at a village near Mapusa town, around 10 km from here, an official said on Tuesday.

Shahrukh Kareli (24) and Mohammad Ilahi (25) were arrested on Monday, Mapusa DSP Jivba Dalvi said.

"The victims 52-year-old woman and her daughter - and the accused live in the same locality. As per the



complaint lodged by the woman, the two men would abuse her and her daughter and use objectionable language against them. On several occasions, they also sought sexual favours from them and threatened them," he said.

Based on the complaint, a case Sections

354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC was registered against the two at the Colvale police station, Dalvi added.

HAZARIBAG, Dec 26 (Agencies): A fouryear-old boy, who was abducted from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district and sold at Rs 2.95 lakh to a couple in Koderma district, was rescued after a week,

police said on Tuesday. Six persons involved in the crime were arrested, the police said.

Sadar Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mahesh Prajapati said, "The boy was abducted from Okni locality in Hazaribag on December 18 and he was rescued from Koderma on December 25.



He said that six mobile phones and the cloth sheet, which was used to abduct the boy, were also recovered from them

The boy had been sold to a couple - Geeta Devi and Rohit Ravidas - in the Indrapuri locality of Koderma district at Rs 2.95 lakh, he said.

The couple allegedly wanted a child to carry on the family dynasty,

he said. One Jvoti Kumari and Kanhiya Kumar came to know about their willingness and told the couple that they know an NGO that helps in adoption, another police official

said

2.95 lakh was finalised between them. The couple gave them Rs 1.7 lakh in advance, he said. Jyoti and Kanhiya then contacted one Nutan Devi, who lived in the locality of the abducted boy, for the task. Nutan involved one

Kareena Devi for keeping a vigil on the boy, the police officer said.

On December 18, Nutan abducted the boy and handed over the boy to Jyoti and Kanhiya. Then, they gave the boy to the Kodermabased couple and took their remaining amount

Delhi Man, 29, Stabbed To

Death Over 1,500: Cops

of Rs 1.25 lakh. After finding no trace

of their son, the parents complained with the Lohsinghna police station in Hazaribag. Based on the complaint. a special investigation team (SIT) was formed at the direction of Hazaribag SP Manoj Ratan

Chothe. The police accessed the CCTV footage of the locality and based on this Kareena Devi was arrested.

On her information, other members of the crime were also arrested, police said.

History sheeter's family open fire at police team in UP's Kannauj, constable killed

KANNAUJ, Dec 26 (Agencies): Family members of an alleged criminal fired on the police team that had gone to arrest him, killing a constable who was shot in the encounter in Kannauj district, officials said on Tuesday.

Police constable Sachin Rathi (28) sustained a bullet injury in the incident that happened in the Vishungarh police station area and was sent to Kanpur for treatment where he succumbed to his injuries, Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Kumar Anand said.

Police said Ashok Kumar alias Munna Yadav, the alleged criminal, and his son were shot in retaliatory firing. They were sent to a hospital in Kannauj.

The SP said Kumar was a historysheeter with 20 cases registered against him and there was a non-bail-

able warrant against him. On Monday police received informa-

tion that Kumar was at his home following which a police team of Chhibramau and Vishungarh police station jointly laid siege to the house, Anand told reporters

Kumar, his wife and son opened fire at the police team as soon as the police team arrived at the spot in Dharni Dheerpur Nagariya village, the SP said.

Constable Rathi was shot in the thigh and was rushed to Kanpur for treatment where he succumbed to his injuries late in the night, he said.

The history-sheeter and his son have been sent to Tirva Medical College in Kannauj, he added.

Anand said that two pistols had been recovered from Kumar and his son with which they were firing at the police. During a search at the house, a doublebarrel rifle was also found, police said.

Three men kidnap, rape 17-year-old in Rajasthan's Alwar

JAIPUR, Dec 26 (Agencies): Three men allegedly kidnapped a 17-year-old girl at gunpoint and raped her in a hotel in Rajasthan's Alwar district, police said

According to police, the victim had gone out to purchase some medicines when the accused kidnapped her in a car and forced her to drink liquor. They took her to a hotel where they raped her, police said.

A case has been registered against three named accused and searches are being conducted to nab them, they said. The victim's mother has lodged a report with the police that the minor was kidnapped on the night of December 23.

The accused took her away in a car at gunpoint and raped her, Kherli police station in-charge Mahavir

Manoj Saini, Kedar Saini and Narendra have been named as the accused in the FIR, Prasad said. The victim has been medically examined and investigation in the case is under way. The investigation

has been handed over to DSP Kathumar, police said.

29-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a man from his neighbourarea, police said on Tuesday.

hood over a dispute regarding 1,500 of prior dues in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh The body of the victim Vinod, alias Vinnu, was recovered from his house in

Madipur JJ cluster on December 22. It

had multiple stab wounds, police said.

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): A

DELHI POLICE

Police have taken the accused into custody, they said. According to police, it was found

during investigation that Vinod had an altercation with one Mohammad Abdulla, who works as an electrician and lived nearby.

Police started looking for Abdulla and arrested him on December 25 from the area, an official said

A day before the incident, Vinod and Abdulla had an argument regarding 1,500 of previous dues, police said. According to police, Vinod had gone

to Abdulla's house but he did not find him there. It made him angry and he shouted at Abdulla's family members. "Abdulla came to know about Vinod's

misbehaviour with his family members. Next day, he went to Vinod's place and stabbed him multiple times, leaving him dead on the spot," an officer said.

Vinod lived with his elder brother in the house, police said.

Biden orders strike on Iranian-aligned group after 3 US troops injured in drone attack in Iraq

Iranian-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah and affiliated groups claimed credit for the attack on US troops

WASHINGTON, Dec 26 (Agencies): President Joe Biden ordered the US military to carry out retaliatory strikes against Iranian-backed militia groups after three US service members were injured in a drone attack in Northern Iraq.

National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said one of the US troops suffered critical injuries in the attack that occurred earlier on Monday.

The Iranian-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah and affiliated groups, under an umbrella of Iranian-backed militants, claimed credit for the attack.

Biden, who is spending Christmas at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, was briefed on the attack and ordered the Pentagon to prepare response options.

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Biden's national security team quickly drew up plans and presented him with options in a call and Biden



directed strikes against three locations utilized by Kataib Hezbollah and affiliated groups. The US strikes were carried out at about 4:45 a.m. on Tuesday in Iraq.

"The President places no higher priority than the protection of American personnel serving in harm's way," Watson said. "The United States will act at a time and in a manner of our choosing should these attacks continue."

The latest attack on US troops follows months of escalating threats and actions against American forces in the region since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel that sparked the devastating war in Gaza.

The US has blamed Iran, which has funded and trained Hamas, for the rising violence by its network of proxy groups across the region, including

attacks by Yemen's Houthis against commercial and military vessels thorough a critical shipping choke point in the Red Sea.

The Biden administration has sought to prevent the Israel-Hamas war from spiralling into a wider regional conflict that either opens up new fronts of Israeli fighting or that draws the US in directly.

The administration's measured response — where not every attempt on American troops has been met with a counterattack — has drawn criticism from Republicans.

The US has thousands of

troops in Iraq training Iraqi forces and combating remnants of the Islamic State group, and hundreds in Syria, mostly on the counter-IS mission. They have come under dozens of attacks, though as yet none fatal, since the war began on October 7, with the US attributing responsibility to Iran-backed groups.

Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's son Talha to contest election from Lahore

Hafiz Saeed, who is in jail since July 17, 2019, for various charges, was sentenced in April 2022 by a special anti-terrorism court in Lahore, to a jail term of 33 years for 'financing terrorism'

ISLAMABAD, Dec 26 (Agencies): Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), a political entity of the 26/11 terror attacks mastermind and founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, has fielded candidates for all national and provincial assembly constituencies across Pakistan for the upcoming general election to be held on February 8.

Hafiz Saeed's son Talha Saeed is also going to contest the polls from National Assembly's constituency NA-127, Lahore, while PMML's central president Khalid Masood Sindhu is



taking part from NA-130, against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Hafiz Saeed, who is in jail since July 17, 2019, for various charges, was sentenced in April 2022 by a special anti-terrorism court in Lahore, to a jail term of 33 years for "financing terrorism".

In a notification dated April 8, the MHA said Hafiz Talha Saeed is a senior leader of Lash-kar-e-Taiba (LeT) and head of the cleric wing of the terror outfit. Talha Saeed has been "actively involved in recruitment, fund collection, planning and executing attacks by LeT in India and Indian interests in Afghanistan.

The electoral symbol for the PMML is the chair.

It reported quoting the PMML spokesperson, Tabish Qayyum, that they had pitched their candidates for all National Assembly and provincial seats across the country, "We have left no seat uncontested."

In Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hindu woman files nomination for general election

KHYBER PAKH-TUNKHWA, Dec 26 (Agencies): In a first, a Hindu woman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Buner district has filed her nomination papers for a general seat in the upcoming polls in Pakistan, Dawn reported.

The general election is scheduled for February 8 to elect the members of the 16th National Assembly.

Saveera Parkash has officially submitted her nomination papers for the general seat of PK-25 in Buner district.

A member of the Hindu community, Parkash is optimistic about contesting the elections on a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) ticket, following in the footsteps of her father, Om Parkash, a recently retired doctor and a dedicated member of the PPP for 35 years.

A local politician, Saleem Khan, who is affiliated with the Qaumi Watan Party, noted that Parkash is the first woman from Buner to submit nomination papers for the upcoming election on a general seat, as reported by Dawn on Monday.

Parkash, a 2022 graduate of Abbottabad International Medical College, serves as the general secretary of the PPP women's wing



in Buner. Expressing her commitment to the welfare of the community, she highlighted her desire to work for the betterment of women, ensuring a safe environment and advocating for their rights.

She also emphasised the neglect and suppression of women in the development sector and aims to address these issues if elected.

In an interview with Dawn, Parkash spoke about her aspirations to follow in her father's footsteps, working for the area's underprivileged. She submitted her nomination papers on December 23, expressing hope that the senior leadership of the PPP would endorse her candidature.

Parkash, with a background in medicine, emphasised that her commitment to "serving humanity is in my blood". Her dream of becoming an elected legislator stems from her firsthand experiences with poor management and helplessness in government hospitals during her medical career.

Imran Noshad Khan, a social media influencer from Buner, expressed his wholehearted endorsement of Saveera Parkash, irrespective of her political affiliation. He commended her for breaking stereotypes perpetuated by traditional patriarchy, emphasising the significance of a woman stepping forward to contest elections in a region where it took 55 years since Buner merged with Pakistan

Recent amendments by the Election Commission of Pakistan mandate a five per cent inclusion of women candidates in general seats, Dawn reported.

Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Navalny located in penal colony 3 weeks after contact lost

MOSCOW, Dec 26 (Agencies): Associates of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said that he has been located at a prison colony above the Arctic Circle nearly three weeks after contact with him was lost.

Navalny, the most prominent foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is serving a 19-year sentence on charges of extremism. He had been imprisoned in the Vladimir region of central Russia, about 230 kilometers (140 miles) east of Moscow, but his lawyers said they had not been able to reach him since December 6.

His spokesperson, Kira Yarmysh, said he was located in a prison colony in the town of Kharp, in the Yamalo-Nenets region about 1,900 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of



Moscow.

Navalny is "fine — at least as much as possible after such a long stage" and a lawyer visited him, Yarmysh told news agency.

The region is notorious for long and severe winters. The town is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Vorkuta, whose coal mines were among the harshest of the Soviet Gulag prisoncamp system.

"It is almost impossible to get to this colony; it

is almost impossible to even send letters there. This is the highest possible level of isolation from the world," Navalny's chief strategist, Leonid Volkov, said on

Transfers within Russia's prison system are shrouded in secrecy and inmates can disappear from contact for several weeks. Navalny's team was particularly alarmed when he could not be found because he had been

ill and reportedly was being denied food and kept in an unventilated cell.

Yarmysh said the transfer was connected with the campaign for the Russian presidential election in March.

While Putin's reelection is all but certain, given his overwhelming control over the country's political scene and a widening crackdown on dissent, Navalny's supporters and other critics hope to use the campaign to erode public support for the Kremlin leader and his military action in Ukraine.

"They deliberately sent him to this particular colony precisely in order to isolate Alexei as much as possible, so as not to give him any opportunity to communicate with the outside world," she said.

"This is all happen-

ing precisely because Alexei, despite the fact that he is in prison, is still the main opponent of Vladimir Putin ... It is not surprising that they began to transfer him to another colony right now, so that he could not interfere with Putin's campaign." Navalny has been behind bars in Russia since January 2021, when he returned to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin. Before his arrest, he campaigned against official corruption and organized major anti-Kremlin protests.

He has since received three prison terms and spent months in isolation in Penal Colony No. 6 for alleged minor infractions. He has rejected all charges against him as politically motivated.

Russian Ship, Suspected Of Carrying Drones Destroyed, Claims Ukraine

KYIV, Dec 26 (Agencies): Ukraine's air force said Tuesday it had destroyed a Russian fleet ship off the Crimean peninsula suspected of carrying drones for use in Moscow's war against Kyiv.

"Around 2:30 am (0030 GMT) on December 26, tactical aviation of the Air Force attacked with cruise missiles the Novocherkassk large landing ship of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation in the area of Feodosia," it said in a post on messaging platform Telegram.

Feodosia is home to a major Russian naval base on the occupied Crimean peninsula. In an earlier message, it said the Novocherkassk had been "destroyed", adding that "people say that it transported Shaheds", referring to Iranian explosive drones used regularly by Russia against Ukraine.

Air force commandant Mykola Olechtchouk posted a video of a fiery explosion at the Russian naval base in Feodosia.

Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-backed head

Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-backed head of Crimea, said: "An enemy attack was car-

ried out in the area of Feodosia".

"The port area is cordoned off," he wrote

on Telegram.

"As of now, the detonation has stopped and the fire has been localised. All relevant services are on site. Residents of several houses will be evacuated."

Ukraine frequently carries out strikes in Crimea, particularly targeting the Russian

In April 2022, it sank the cruiser Moskva, the flagship of the Black Sea fleet.

Death toll rises to 18 in furnace explosion at Chinese-owned nickel plant in Indonesia

PALU, Dec 26 (Agencies): The death toll following the explosion of a smelting furnace at a Chinese-owned nickel plant on Indonesia's Sulawesi island rose to 18 on Tuesday, as police ordered the plant to stop operations until an investigation into the incident is completed.

The accident, which occurred on Sunday, was the latest in a series of deadly incidents at nickel smelting plants in Indonesia that are part of China's ambitious transnational development program known as the Belt and Road Initiative.

Nickel is a key component in global battery production for electric vehicles.

Four Chinese and nine Indonesian workers died instantly on Sunday when the furnace exploded while they were repairing it, said Central Sulawesi police chief Agus

Nugroho. Three more victims died a day later while being treated at a local hospital.

Two more workers died on Tuesday at the hospital, bringing the total number of fatalities to 18, including eight workers from China, said Deddy Kurniawan, a spokesperson for PT Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park, known as PT IMIP, the parent company of PT Indonesia Tsingshan Stainless Steel, where the accident occurred.

The plant is in the Bahodopi neighborhood of Morowali Regency.

"We have ordered PT Indonesia Tsingshan Stainless Steel to stop its operation until our entire investigation is completed," said Nugroho, the police chief, adding that authorities had set up a team to determine whether negligence by the company led to the deaths.

The blast was so powerful it demolished the furnace and damaged parts of the side walls of the building, Nugroho said.

PT IMIP said in a statement on Sunday that the furnace was under maintenance and not operating at the time of the accident. However, "residual slag in the furnace" came in contact "with flammable items," causing the furnace walls to collapse and the remaining steel slag to flow out.

Rescuers extinguished the fire and evacuated workers after a nearly four-hour operation, Kurniawan said.

About 44 workers are still being treated at a hospital and the company's clinic on Tuesday with serious to minor injuries, including 11 Chinese nationals, Kurniawan said.

In a news briefing on Monday,

Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning expressed condolences for the victims and said that China is "saddened by the casualties caused by the accident."

She said her ministry is working closely with authorities in Indonesia and has instructed the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta to assist in the aftermath, including ensuring medical treatment is provided to the injured and helping to determine the cause of the accident.

It was the third deadly incident this year at Chineseowned nickel smelting plants in Central Sulawesi province, which has the largest nickel reserves in Indonesia.

Two dump truck operators were killed when they were engulfed by a wall of black sludge-like material following

the collapse of a nickel waste disposal site in April.

In January, two workers, including a Chinese national, were killed in riots that involved workers of the two nations at an Indonesia-China joint venture in neighboring North Morowali regency.

Last year, a loader truck ran over and killed a Chinese worker while he was repairing a road in PT IMIP's mining area, and an Indonesian man burned to death when a furnace in the company's factory exploded.

Nearly 50% of PT IMIP's shares are owned by a Chinese holding company, and the rest are owned by two Indonesian companies. It began smelter operations in 2013 and is now the largest nickel-based industrial area in Indonesia.

One dead, 24 wounded in strikes on pro-Iran sites in Iraq: security source



BAGHDAD, Dec 26 (Agencies): At least one member of a prolran faction was killed and 24 were wounded in strikes Tuesday on three sites in Iraq used by pro-Iranian forces, Iraqi security sources said.

An interior ministry official said the strikes targeted a Hashed al-Shaabi site in the central city of Hilla, capital of Babylon province.

One person was killed and 20 wounded, while four others were wounded in a second strike in the southern province of Wassit.

Hours earlier the

United States said its forces had conducted strikes on three facilities used by Kataeb Hezbollah and affiliated groups in Iraq in response to a series of attacks on US personnel.

Dr Jitendra Singh meets students from J&K, calls them architects of 2047

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Dec 26: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday met a delegation of about 250 school children belonging to all districts of Jammu & Kashmir, who are currently on a visit here.

These students are visiting Jaipur, Ajmer and New Delhi under 'Watan Ko Jano - Youth **Exchange Programme** 2023' of Government of India. In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, the visit is aimed at showcasing the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh told the young students that they are destined to be the architects of 2047 and that this is one of the best times happening for India as also a new beginning for Jammu & Kashmir.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri NarendraModi, Dr

Jitendra Singh said, the picturesque region of Jammu & Kashmir has undergone a remarkable transformation. Stone pelting incidents are a thing of the past. Today, Jammu & Kashmir makes headlines more for stories of sporting achievements, he said.

"Cricketers from

J&K like Abdul Samad,

Umran Malik, Parvaiz Rasool and Manzoor Pandav represent in the IPL. Wushu players Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and Abhishek Jamwal brought laurels to the country in the recent Moscow Championships. In 2022, a Kashmiri skier, Arif Khan, carried India's National Flag at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Beijing," he said, adding, "Girls in Kashmir also participate in sports at par with boys. Earlier this year. 16-year-old Sheetal Devi, hailing from Loidhar village in Kishtwar, is the 'first female archer without arms to compete internationally'. At the Asian Para Games, she claimed not one but three medals, including



a gold, in different categories."

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this shift can be attributed to various factors. including increased administrative support, improved infrastructure, and a growing priority to

Citing the stupendous success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in J&K, Dr Jitendra Singh encouraged the school children to also look for opportunities outside government job. Lavender is an avenue of Agri StartUps.employment generation research, opening many paradigms of development, he said.

"Bhaderwah has

emerged as the Lavender capital of India and Agri StartUp destination. Following the success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in Bhaderwah and Gulmarg regions, over 3,000 Startupsare now engaged in Lavender cultivation alone," he

Dr Jitendra recalled that PM Modi, in the 99thEdition of Mann ki Baat, appreciated the efforts of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) in supporting farmers in the cultivation of Lavender in Bhaderwah of Doda district under CSIR-Aroma Mission.

The S&T Minister

informed that the CSIR had introduced high-value essential oil bearing lavender crop through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) for cultivation in districts Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri and later also in the other districts including Ramban, Pulwama, etc. In a brief span of time, aroma/lavender cultivation has become a popular option in farm-

The net annual income of farmers who switched from maize to Lavender cultivation has increased many folds from around Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per hectare to Rs. 3,50,000/- to Rs. 6,00,000/- per hectare.

ing for agricultural Start-

up, he said.

Farmers of the Bhaderwah, Doda district, produced 300, 500, 800, and 1500 Litres of Lavender oil in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. They earned > Rs. 5.0 Crorebetween 2018-2022 by selling

dry flowers, Lavender

plants, and Lavender oil.

Dr Jitendra, who represents Udhampur Constituency of J&K in the Lok Sabha, said the discovery of Lithium in Reasi district may well turn out to be "India's next big story", giving a multifold boost to the country's economy.

"Analysis suggests that the value of Lithium deposits in Reasi may be higher than China," he said, stating that Lithium is a key component in rechargeable batteries and there is huge demand for Lithium as the world turns to renewable energy.

Stating that an increasing number of items from J&K have been geo-tagged, Dr Jitendra Singh said it will help promote sales of GI-tagged products from the UT to boost the local economy.

"Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi has made efforts to bring development in J&K. Various infrastructure projects will change the face of J&K, projects such as Ujh Multipurpose project, ShahpurKandi dam project, construction of world's highest railway bridge on Chenab river in Reasi, setting up of AIIMS and IIMs, etc. In Kathua district, the Engineering College has started functioning and Medical College will also be opened soon. North India's first Biotech park will be set up in Kathua in J&K," he said, adding that a record number of tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir this year.

Dr Jitendra appealed

to the students to be catalysts of PM Modi's reforms and help their effective implementation in J&K.

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the unexplored North-Eastern Region (NER) have huge natural resources that would drive India's future growth story during the Amrit Kaal towards attaining a ViksitBharat @ 2047, he said.

During the interaction, the students brought out particular instances of lack of development in their regions in the state and how things are now beginning to change for the better. They thanked the Minister for Government's support to students from Jammu & Kashmir, due to which they have got the opportunity to study in premier universities and colleges under the PM Special Scholarship Scheme. They cited development works being undertaken on ground level in the last few years like opening of new medical colleges, national highways, bank branches, schools etc. that were distant dreams earlier.

Jaquar Cricket Club registers thrilling victory

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: On the basis of its excellent performance, Jaquar Cricket Club won a thrilling match by defeating Press Club-11 Jammu by 7 runs.

On this occasion, **BJP General Secretary** Vibodh Gupta participated as the chief guest.

Along with him, senior BJP leader Somnath Khajuria and Secretary Chamber of Traders Federation Tushar Mahajan were the special guests.

While Dinesh Mahajan joined as a special guest.

He met the players of the winning and runnerup teams and distributed trophies among them.

He wished both the teams the best for their excellent performance. He also congratulated the Press Club for organizing such

matches and said that the media works under stress 24 hours a day, so it is better for them to play in such a situation

He assured that he is with the Press Club for such events.

of stress

In the match played on the occasion of Martyrdom Day Chhote Sahibzade-2023 at the Green Ground of Jammu University, the captain of Jaquar Cricket Club won the

which can relieve them

toss and decided to bat first, in which the team scored an excellent score of 195 runs losing 3. wickets in 20 overs. Gave it to his teammate on behalf of the team, the opening batsmen made an excellent partnership, in which Gurmeet Singh played an inning of 80 runs. While Ravpreet Singh scored

Singh scored 28 runs. The bowling was better from Press Club,

38, Jeevanjyot Singh

scored 25 and Harveer

but due to many missed catches the team scored big. On behalf of Press Club, Tejas Jamwal, Varun Sharma and Naveen Kaul took 1 wicket each.

Press Club team's opener Rupesh Raj, who set out to reach the target, lost his wicket early for just 1 run. On behalf of the team,

Tejas Jamwal scored quickly and played an unbeaten half-century of 82 runs.

Supporting him, Mohit

Sharma scored 37 runs, Rohit Sharma scored 24 runs, Rahul Khatri scored 21 runs and the team scored 189 runs after losing 5 wickets. Scored and lost the match by just 7 runs. For Jaquar Cricket Club, Harveer Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Ravpreet Singh and Sachin Kumar all

took 1 wicket each. Gurmeet Singh was awarded the title of Man of the Match for his excellent innings.

Ritika Trehan led delegation meets DC Jammu to address public grievances

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: A proactive women's delegation, spearheaded by Chief Spokesperson of BJP Mahila Morcha in Jammu & Kashmir UT, Ritika Trehan, held a constructive meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, in his office chamber the other day.

The primary agenda of this collaborative session was to highlight and discuss the prevailing public grievances within the region. The delegation aptly presented a comprehensive overview of these concerns, emphasizing the urgent need to resolve them for the benefit of the community.

During the deliberation, Trehan stressed the importance of ensuring that the commitments made by our



Prime Minister towards the inclusive development of all sections of society - "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Aur Sabka Prayaas" - are translated into action at the grassroots level.

In response to the delegation's impassioned appeal, DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, assured his personal involvement in actively addressing the grievances raised by the public. He pledged to organize departmental camps that would specifically cater to the needs of the remaining beneficiaries, ensuring that essential services and support reach their doorsteps efficiently.

This positive and proactive engagement between the delegation led by Ritika Trehan and the DC Jammu signifies a collaborative effort towards fostering a more responsive and citizen-centric administration.

Lt Governor Attends Divya Adhyatmik Mahotsav at Haridwar

and great artists has always shown the path of peace and coexistence to the world. Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji is restoring the past glory and building a prosperous, modern India," the Lt Governor said.

India reported 69 cases of COVID subvariant JN.1 till Monday

weather, which leads to the spread of infection which is different in different people. So I would say what we need to do is first of all COVID appropriate behaviour like wash your hands regularly if you have a cough, and cold so that you don't spread the infection to others," he added.

He further said, "Avoid going to crowded places, especially if you have a fever, cough and cold because you may be

spreading the infection to others." The World Health Organization (WHO) recently classified JN.1 as a variant of interest, distinct from its parent lineage BA.2.86. However, the global health body emphasised that the overall risk posed by JN.1 remains low based on current evi-

Two separate Earthquakes hit Ladakh, **Kishtwar**

earthquake was five kilometers below the surface of the earth at 34.73 degrees latitude and 77.07 degrees longitude, it said.

The earthquake jolted sleeping residents of both Kargil and Leh districts but police said there was no report of any damage from anywhere

An earthquake of 3.7 magnitude occurred was recorded at 1.10 am in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. The depth of the quake was five km from the surface at 33.36 degrees latitude and 76.67 degrees longitude, the NCS said.

Terrorists using Chinese weapons, devices to attack Security Forces in **J&K: Report**

communication devices from China, but instead of using them, it makes them available to terrorist organisations in PoK for infiltrations and terrorist attacks in India.

Intelligence agencies, as per the report, believe that new modus operandi adopted by terrorist groups is a China's bid to get Indian troops diverted from Galwan in Ladakh to Jammu & Kashmir back.

Over 4.25 lakh tech employees lose jobs in last 2 yrs, 24 workers per hour

Citing the global macroeconomic conditions, Big Tech firms and startups across the spectrum have sacked employees, and layoffs continue to happen.

According to the latest data from layoff. fyi, a website that tracks tech sector job cuts. 1.178 tech companies have laid off 260,771 lakh employees this year globally (as of December 26).

FROM PAGE 1

In 2022, 1,061 tech companies laid off 164,769 employees. On average, about 582 employees lost

their jobs every day in the last two years or more than 24 workers every hour. In terms of sector, retail-tech, consumer-

off the most employees in this year. Paytm has just laid off over 1,000 employees in an effort to reduce costs and realign

tech and fintech were the ones which laid

its businesses. Social media platform ShareChat asked 200 employees, or about 15 per cent of its workforce, to go as part of strategic restructuring

Game streaming platform Loco has laid off about 36 per cent of its workforce, or 40 employees, from its total staff strength

Google-backed edtech platform Adda247 laid off around 250-300 employees across verticals. Edtech major Byju's laid off 4,000-5,000 employees in a "business restructuring exercise"

The startup has eliminated more than 10,000 positions in the past two years. Homegrown quick-grocery delivery provider Dunzo reportedly laid off at least

"150-200" more employees amid severe

cash crunch in September. The startup had already sacked nearly 400 employees so far this year in two job cut rounds.

Arms recovered from 3

persons during search operation in Pulwama. arrested

Kashmir Police at Panzu and Gamirai in Pulwama on 25 December, 2023. Three suspected individuals have been apprehended with recovery of 2 pistols and other war-like stores," Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X. It said the suspects were being ques-

tioned jointly by the Army and the police.

Snowy Christmas in Gulmarg draws 10,000 tourists

in footfall, gearing up for a successful season."

The average daily influx of 5,000 tourists is expected to rise, and Gulmarg is poised for a bustling New Year, the Assistant Director Tourism said.

Despite the high demand, the hospitality sector, including hotels and guesthouses, is efficiently accommodating the surge, showcasing Gulmarg's capacity to host a large number of tourists, the officials said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Christmas celebration at Gulmarg, Director Tourism, Raja Yaqoob highlighted the department's preparation for the New Year and the joy of witnessing mostly foreign tourists exploring the valley.

"While Pahalgam is nearing full capacity, Sonamarg, opening for winter tourism for the first time, is also witnessing a rise in tourist arrivals," Raja Yaqoob said, adding this positive news during a Christmas celebration at Gulmarg.

"Mostly foreign tourists are coming to the valley this time, which is a happy moment for all of us," Director Tourism said.

As part of the festive celebrations, Saint Mary's Church hosted a joyous event led by Father Eric and Father Venoo. Community members gathered to offer prayers following their religious traditions, and a ceremonial cake-cutting added to the festive spirit, attended by officials and stakeholders alike.

Biting Cold, Dense fog envelop Kashmir

affecting normal life for the second consecutive day, officials said. There was less than usual traffic on roads in the morning while vehicles were seen moving at low speeds due to the reduced visibility.

"The visibility in Srinagar at 9.25 am was 91 metres due to the fog cover. The motorists should drive carefully due to the low visibility," an official of the local meteorological office said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' — the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the Valley.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-daylong 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Stock markets rally for third day on firm trend in Asian equities, buying in HDFC Bank

The broader Nifty advanced 91.95 points or 0.43 per cent to 21,441.35

MUMBAI, Dec 26 (Agencies): Stock markets closed with gains on Tuesday, extending the winning run to the third day on the trot after buying in power, utilities, oil and gas and banking shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 229.84 points or 0.32 per cent to settle at 71,336.80.

During the day, it jumped 364.33 points or 0.51 per cent to 71,471.29.

Index heavyweights HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries contributed around 120 points to the rally.

The broader Nifty advanced 91.95 points or 0.43 per cent to 21,441.35.

Power, utilities, banking, oil and gas and commodities shares attracted buying while IT and tech shares succumbed to selling.

Among the Sensex firms, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Titan and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.



Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and HCL Technologies were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled with gains while Shanghai ended lower. Markets in Hong Kong were closed.

US and European markets were closed on Monday. European markets remained closed on Tuesday for Boxing Day. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed

79.09 a barrel. Equity markets were closed on Monday for

0.03 per cent to USD

Christmas.
"Global markets are

rallying in anticipation of aggressive US FED rate cuts in 2024. And Indian equities too are experiencing a surge despite premium valuations driven by reversed FIIs inflows amid global risk-on," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Servic-

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,828.94 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 241.86 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 71,106.96 on Friday.

The Nifty went up by 94.35 points or 0.44 per cent to 21,349.40.

GST on corp guarantee: Realtors seek revision

'GST should be either on actual or 1% of guarantee, whichever is lower

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): Real estate developers have made representation before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to make amends in the recent circular of imposing 18% GST on corporate guarantees given by related parties, as per government sources.

"As per developers, 18% GST should be imposed on either actual consideration or 1% of the guarantee amount, whichever is lower," a highly placed source said. Notably, as per the circular, the consideration value on which the GST will be levied is higher of either the actual payout or 1% of the loan amount.

Besides realty developers,

other industry bodies are also in the process of making representation before the government in respect of recent ruling. "Currently the courts are on vacations. We will file the writ petition in the first or second week of January," another source said.



Meanwhile, as per government sources, the next GST Council meet may take up the above issue for discussion. The 53rd Council meeting will likely take place in January. According to experts, the recent ruling by the Council will have a significant impact on the infrastructure and real estate sector, which heavily relies on external financing and borrowing for large-scale projects.

The new rule states that the taxable value of corporate guarantees will be either 1% of the

guarantee amount or the actual consideration paid for providing the corporate guarantee, whichever is higher. This means that GST will be applicable on guarantees between related parties, even if the subsidiary company cannot claim full input tax credit. The proposed rule determines the value for taxation purposes based on this valuation.

Manish Mishra, Partner and Head of Practice - Indirect Tax at JSA Advocates & Solicitors, had earlier told this newspaper that guarantees issued by the parent company on behalf of lending banks should not be considered a service to the subsidiary. He argued that guarantees, being actionable claims, do not fall under the category of goods or services and should not be subject to GST.

Mishra pointed out that the parent company cannot charge a consideration to the subsidiary due to the commitment made to the banks, which further supports the argument against GST imposition in the absence of consideration.

Ruling to impact infra, real estate sector

According to experts, the recent ruling by the Council will have a significant impact on the infrastructure and real estate sector, which heavily relies on external financing and borrowing for large-scale projects. Realtors may file writ petition in the first or second week of January

Disinvestment fetches over Rs 4.20 lakh cr in 10 years

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): With general elections are not very far, the government's privatisation bandwagon has almost but stalled as a government wary of being accused of selling family silver opts for minority stake sales on stock exchanges over outright privatisation.

The result -- the disinvestment target for cur-

rent fiscal year is again likely to be missed. Big ticket privatisation plans such as that of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and CONCOR are already on the backburner and analysts feel meaningful privatisation can happen only after April/May general elec-

tions.

In the current fiscal,

out of the budgeted amount of Rs 51,000 crore, about 20 per cent or Rs 10,049 crore has been collected through minority stake sales via IPO (Initial Public Offering) and OFS (Offer For Sale).

Strategic sale of a host of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), including SCI, NMDC Steel Ltd, BEML, HLL Lifecare and IDBI Bank, are in the pipeline for completion in the current fiscal.

However, with the process of due diligence and demerger of core and non-core assets yet to be completed with respect to most of the CPSEs, there has been a delay in inviting financial bids. In the case of IDBI Bank, where the government

had received multiple EoIs (Expressions of Interest) back in January 2023, the bidders are yet to get security and 'fit & proper' clearance from the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), respectively.

Hence the privatisation of all the CPSEs in the list and IDBI Bank are likely to spill over into the next financial year.

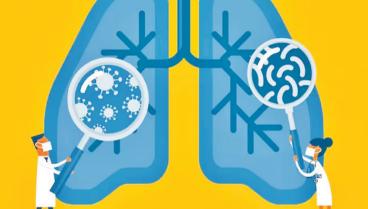
Indian researchers identify gene that helps TB bacterium survive in human body

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have made a significant discovery in the fight against tuberculosis (TB).

They have identified a gene that plays a crucial role in the survival and persistence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) within the human host. This finding, published in Science Advances, could lead to new strategies for combating the disease that remains one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide.

The research team, led by Amit Singh, Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, focused on understanding how Mtb can remain dormant in the body for extended periods.

Mayashree Das, a PhD student involved in the study, explained that while the immune system can often detect and eliminate Mtb, the bacterium has developed ways to hide and persist



in oxygen-poor regions of the lungs, evading both the immune response and TB medications.

Singh's group cultivated Mtb in a Bio Safely Level-3 facility at IISc's Center for Infectious Disease Research, examining the bacterium's reliance on ironsulphur clusters. These clusters are vital for various cellular processes, including respiration and energy production, which enable Mtb to survive the hostile environment of the lungs and cause infection.

The researchers discovered that the production of these iron-sulphur clusters is primarily controlled by a single gene known as IscS under normal and low-oxygen conditions.

However, when the bacterium is under oxidative stress, another set of genes, the SUF operon, is activated to meet the increased demand for new clusters.

By creating a mutant Mtb strain lacking the IscS gene, the team observed that its absence led to

a severe form of the disease in mouse models, rather than the typical persistent, chronic infection. This suggests that the IscS gene regulates the SUF operon, maintaining a balance that allows the bacterium to persist in the host.

Furthermore, the mutant bacteria were found to be more susceptible to certain antibiotics, indicating potential new avenues for treatment. The researchers propose that targeting the IscS and SUF systems with a combination of antibiotics might enhance treatment efficacy.

This discovery not only sheds light on the mechanisms of TB persistence but also opens up possibilities for developing therapies aimed at eradicating the disease.

With continued research, the insights gained from the IISc study could eventually lead to the elimination of TB as a global health threat.

Fever and cold cases rise as mercury drops: Here's how to avoid illness



NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): In winter, it is quite common to see an uptick in common cold cases. Almost every second person experiences body aches and fever with runny nose and cough

With the sudden drop in temperature, viruses become more active with high transmissibility. Consequentially, more people suffer from respiratory illnesses.

Dr Mukund Singh, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Accord Superspeciality Hospital, Faridabad, told IndiaToday. In that the immune system weakens

during the cold weather which makes people susceptible to viral infections.

"Paradoxically, people tend to get dehydrated due to decreased thirst. Then there is increased urine production due to the cold. So ensuring proper hydration during the winter is crucial," said Dr Mukund Singh.

To avoid getting sick in winter, it's essential to take preventive measures such as washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face, staying away from sick people, getting enough sleep, staying hydrated, and eating a healthy diet.

Dr Singh added that getting an annual vaccine is also recommended to reduce the risk of getting the flu.

Additionally, keeping your living space clean and well-ventilated can help prevent the spread of germs

vent the spread of germs.

Protect yourself from the cold weather by wearing multiple layers and a hat

and gloves when you step outside.

"It's also essential to keep your home clean and well-ventilated to reduce the

risk of exposure to viruses and bacte-

ria," said Dr Singh.

Covid-19 has a new variant: Why is it always in December?

NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencies): It was the winter of 2019 and the world was readying to welcome the New Year with all the traditional merry. But, the last few weeks, like we all remember, turned everybody's lives upside down with a unique virus — first reported in China

— invading our lives.
Four years later, the
Covid-19 pandemic has
abated, but the virus
continues to exist in our
lives in its many evolutionary forms.

This December, a new strain of the coronavirus that caused the pandemic — JN.1 — is making waves across the world. The World Health Organisation has classified JN.1 as a "variant of interest" but has noted that it poses a low risk to public health.

low risk to public health. Covid-19 saw three big mutations in December of 2020: Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), and Gamma (P.1). A year later, in December 2021 the Omicron variant sent the world back into their homes just months after lockdowns began to ease.

The next year, in December of 2022, while there was no emergence of a new major variant, we saw the rise of subvariants such as BA.2 and BA.5, all classified within the Omicron branch of the coronavirus.

And now we have the JN.1 variant, which also belongs to the Omicron lineage.

A recurring feature in these variant evolutions is December, the cold winter month that first introduced the novel coronavirus (as it was known in 2019 and early 2020) into the world.

2020) into the world.
Why is it always
December? We will
analyse that, but first,
let's understand this new

variant.
WHAT IS JN.1?

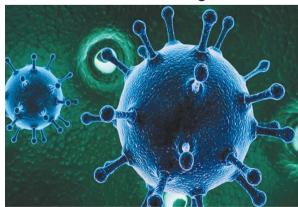
The latest mutation of the coronavirus, dubbed JN.1, has been

declared as a 'variant of interest' by the World Health Organisation (WHO) due to "its rapidly increasing spread" across the world. It has already been detected in many countries, including India, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Part of the BA.2.86 lineage, which is a descendant of the Omicron or B.1.1.529 variant of SARS-CoV-2. JN.1 comes equipped with an additional mutation in the spike protein.

Dr G C Khilnani, Chairman, PSRI Institute of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine told news agency that the new variant causes mild illness in the form of fever, sore throat, cough, and headache. However, it may be detrimental for the susceptible population such as the elderly, obese, and those with COPD, diabetes, cancers, and

others."
Several studies have



pointed to the cold and dry winter as an accelerating factor behind the surge in Covid-19 cases (case and point the mutations mentioned above).

A study published in the journal Nature, conducted to analyse the onset of the second wave triggered by the Delta variant, showed that during the first wave of the pandemic, weather conditions affected how easily the virus

As we moved from summer to winter, the temperature dropped, and the air became drier, contributing to an intense second wave of Covid-19 in countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

Researchers at China's Sichuan International Studies University also confirmed a similar hypothesis. Their study found that participants, living in cold conditions, reported a higher likelihood of contracting the coronavirus than participants in controlled (warmer) conditions.

"Covid-19, like other respiratory viruses, exhibits a seasonal pat-

tern. Two factors are in constant flux: the virus and our bodies. As the virus evolves, new strains emerge, while our immunity to previous strains wanes. This means there's always a 'new kid on the block' that our bodies don't recognise, leading to potential recurrent infections," Dr Dipu TS, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases at Kochi's Amrita Hospital told IndiaToday.in.

THE HOLIDAY

Covid-19 emerged in China in December and a major contributor to it spreading to the rest of the world was the month

December is a holiday season in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

While it was Christmas in the South, countries in the Northern Hemisphere — especially China — were celebrating the lunar new year in January, an event that

helped the virus travel to the rest of the world.

This year as well, the JN.1 variant is travelling fast thanks to the holiday season. "The holiday season, with its increased social gatherings, fosters closer contact among travelers and locals, accelerating transmission," Dr Dipu added.

With international travel reaching pre-pandemic levels in 2023, an increased movement does facilitate the viral spread. Experts, however, maintain that travel should be seen as an augmenting factor rather than the main cause of the current surge.

SHOULD YOU

PANIC?
Experts have continuously maintained that there is no need to panic, but do advise caution citing human behaviour that keeps changing.

"At this point, there does not appear to be any evidence suggest-

ing a high prevalence of hypoxia or other manifestations of severe disease. However, those with comorbid illnesses, the elderly, the obese, and the unvaccinated should exercise increased caution as the number of cases due to the JN.1 variant increases," Dr Devashish Desai, Consultant, Infectious Diseases, Ruby Hall Clinic told IndiaToday.in.

Vaccination and masks remain the potent force against viral infection. WHO has highlighted that "current vaccines continue to protect against severe disease and death from JN.1 and other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2."

As the year ends and the celebrations begin, it's paramount to strengthen our immune defenses with vaccines and masks once again just as we did so many times in the past since the invisible nemesis still lurks in the background.

Rohit's men gear up to end 31-year wait for series win in South Africa

The two-match Test rubber, starting here on Boxing Day, will be India's ninth away series in the Rainbow Nation since 1992.

CENTURION, Dec 26 (Agencies): He endured the heartbreak of a lifetime 36 evenings back but Rohit Sharma will give his all to erase the memories of a World Cup final defeat as he trains his eyes on ending India's 31-year wait for a Test series win on South African soil.

The two-match Test rubber, starting here on Boxing Day, will be India's ninth away series in the Rainbow Nation since 1992, and captain Rohit will have an onerous task of traversing a difficult terrain in order to conquer what has always been dubbed the team's 'final frontier'.

However, for the action to start at Supersport Park, the heavy rains predicted on the first two days need to subside.

The Centurion track offers variable bounce and is one of the fastest in the region.

And that makes up for a compelling contest between bat and ball in relatively cooler and windy conditions in an open ground where it can jag around a bit.

In the last 50 over World Cup, skipper Rohit, at best would have emulated Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, but if he and his men manage to pull off a coup in this country, he would stand first among the equals.

Mohammed Azharuddin (1992) failed, so did Sachin Tendulkar (1996) and Sourav Ganguly (2001).

Rahul Dravid (2006-07), Dhoni (2010-11 and 2013-14) won Test matches, and so did Virat Kohli (2018-19 and 2021-22) but none of them could win the elusive series in South Africa.

So Rohit will have a job at hand and a win might just be the much-needed soothing balm required to heal the World Cup wounds even though the scars will remain.

For the golden generation of



they are judged by the results

they produce. They know that,"

But that freedom comes with

"We want to encourage them in

the way they play but also keep-

ing the conditions in mind and

certain, sort of tactical thing they

have to adopt when they play in

South Africa. The nature of ball,

how it behaves over 80 overs,

shots that they play early and

later on. I think it's about finding

balance between having cricket

smarts to read the game and

understand the situation, and

of course allowing to express

yourself. Hopefully, they make

smart decisions," the coach had

But all said and done, India's

performance will depend on

three factors: how well the skip-

per executes his hook and pull

shots, for how much time Virat

Kohli decides to leave balls out-

side the off-stump, and how well

the team covers up Mohammed

The skiddy Mukesh Kumar

looked better at the nets but the

extra bounce available makes a

Bavuma, the retiring Dean

Elgar, the stylish Aiden Markram,

the exciting Tony de Zorzi, and

the dogged Keegan Petersen

case for Prasidh Krishna.

Shami's absence.

said on Christmas eve.

Dravid said.

Indian cricketers, this is also their last African Safari and a chance to conquest what no other team could on eight previous tours.

In Temba Bavuma's South Africa, they have a team that has a crack fast bowling attack, which could make some of the young Indian batters look like cats on hot tin roof.

For Yashasvi Jaiswal, it will be the first big test against a quality attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee.

than what he got in the Caribbean, and the variable nature of it will ask him probing questions. Similarly, Shubman Gill and Shreyas lyer, who have proven their mettle on sub-continental

There will be way more bounce

in more challenging batting conditions.

Iyer, especially, with his well-documented weakness against the short ball, will have to churn

pitches, need to up their game

out something really special.
Coach Rahul Dravid doesn't
want Jaiswal and Gill to change
their style but wants them to
develop game awareness and

"We encourage the players to play (in a manner) they feel most comfortable. In the end

play as per the need of the hour.

that can make Indian bowlers toil hard.

KL Rahul donning the big

constitute a good batting unit

KL Rahul donning the big gloves is another aspect of this game.

The team management handing over keeping responsibilities to Rahul can be viewed from two different prisms.

The positive one would be the faith in his ability as a glovesman in 50-over cricket and hoping that he can do it for 90 overs in a day.

The not-so-positive aspect will be the sheer desperation not to lose that extra batter in lyer and also not looking at the bigger picture that Rahul could find it extremely difficult to stand up to Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in a month's time against England at home, provided Ishan Kishan isn't back from his mental health break.

It will be another away Test match which Ashwin might have to miss because of conditions and combinations.

At Supersport Park, it normally takes three and half to four days to achieve results and if the toss happens on the second day, after a washout on opening day, batting first will surely be a very difficult proposition.

Teams: India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Prasidh Krishna, KS Bharat (wk), Abhimanyu Easwaran (2nd Test).

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (captain), Aiden Markram, Tony de Zorzi, Dean Elgar, Keegan Petersen, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Tristan Stubbs (wk), Nandre Burger, Marco Jansen, Wiaan Mulder, Gerald Coetzee, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, David Bedingham.

AUS vs PAK: Would be difficult for Marsh, says Michael Hussey on replacing David Warner as Test opener



MELBOURNE, Dec 26 (Agencie): Former Australia star Michael Hussey highlighted the necessity of choosing a specialized opener to fill David Warner's shoes in Test cricket. Hussey cautioned against choosing a temporary fix and emphasized the value of recognizing a specialist with a strong track record in Sheffield Shield cricket. Hussey made these remarks as he was honored alongside Lyn Larsen in the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.

As Warner approaches a probable retirement from Test cricket following the ongoing series against Pakistan, Cricket Australia has initiated the search for potential successors. Australia all-rounder

Mitchell Marsh emerged as a potential candidate; however, he expressed that assuming the role "doesn't align" with his perspective.

"Opening is one of the toughest jobs in the game. So for me personally, if I was selecting, I'd be going for a traditional, proper opener. Someone who has done it for a long period of time. I'm not saying you can't do it, and maybe someone could evolve into doing that role," Hussey said as quoted by ESPN Cricinfo.

Cameron Bancroft, Matt Renshaw, and Marcus Harris emerged as the primary candidates for the opening slots. Bancroft and Renshaw have been consistently scoring in first-class cricket, while Harris showcased his brilliance in the recent practice match against Pakistan.

"But I think it would be difficult for a player like Mitch Marsh or someone - I know there's been talk about him going up the order. I think he's probably more suited, much like Travis Head, to be in the middle-order. I think that'd be the best for the balance of the Australian team," Hussey added.

Earlier, Usman Khawaja voiced his inclination for a dedicated opener to join him at the top, raising uncertainties about Labuschagne's suitability for the role. In contrast, Travis Head and Shaun Marsh openly expressed their reluctance to assume opening duties. Their perspectives contribute depth to the ongoing discussions regarding the optimal successor for the 37-year-old, shedding light on players' preferences and the potential lineup variations being weighed.

Afghanistan unlikely to give NOCs for Mujeeb, Naveen and Farooqi, putting IPL participation in doubt

KABUL, Dec 26 (Agencie): The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) is unlikely to offer No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen UI Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi for the next two years, putting their participation in the Indian Premier League 2024

season in doubt.

According to a release issued by the ACB, the board has decided to delay the annual contracts for the year 2024 for these players having formed a "dedicated committee to thoroughly investigate the matter", after they expressed a desire to be released from their central contracts from January 1.

"The insistence on not signing the central contract for these players was their involvement in commercial leagues, prioritizing their interests over playing for Afghanistan, which is regarded as a national responsi-

"A Year Since I Saw You": "Blocked"

bility," the ACB said on its website.

"By opting for their release, the Afghanistan Cricket Board has decided to take disciplinary measures against these players," the board added.

Afghanistan is also set to play a three-match T20I series against India with the first game to be played on January 11 in Mohali, the second on January 14 in Indore and the third on January 17 in Bengaluru.

"In response, the ACB assigned a dedicated committee to thoroughly investigate the matter, develop appropriate recommendations that best serve the ACB's interests and share them with the ACB's top management," the ACB said.

The board added that Mujeeb, Naveen and Farooqi have also requested to "consider their consent for participation in the national

events".

While Mujeeb was roped in by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs 2 crore during the auction earlier this month for IPL 2024, Naveen was retained by Lucknow Super Giants and Farooqi by Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The ACB further informed that its special committee has made a three-point recommendation.

"Starting from January 1, 2024, the three players shall not be eligible for the central contract for one year. In this case, ACB will consider and decide their participation in events when needed," read the first

The ACB said NOCs to these three players will be revoked immediately. Each of these three players represented Afghanistan in the 50-over World Cup in October-November.

Jaismine working towards decluttering mind

GREATER NOIDA, Dec 26 (Agencies): Commonwealth Games bronze medallist boxer Jaismine Lamboria is working on improving her mental acuity as well as sharpening her punches as she eyes a Paris Olympics quota.

The talented boxer ended her debut Asian Games campaign on an anti-climactic note earlier this year. Having won the first round in dominant fashion, Jaismine seemingly had a brain fade moment after she was given a warning, with the referee eventually forced to stop the 60kg quarterfinal bout. "I was given a warn-

ing, counting for the first time. So, I was not able to handle it. My mind just went blank.

It is important to know how to come back from such a situation which I didn't," Jaismine said after winning her quarterfinal bout at the National Championships.

A win would not only have fetched her a medal but also a Paris Olympics quota. "After that Asian Games bout, coaches told me to work on the mental aspect. I am working with a psychologist.

He has told me to work on visualisation and do meditation," she said.

The 22-year-old cruised to the National Championships semi-finals in the 60kg category, which is one of the two women's weight classes where India is yet to seal a Paris quota. A top-three finish at the Nationals will ensure a return to the national camp, where she has been a regular for the past two years.

Haryana's Jaismine has come a long way since competing in her debut World Championships in 2022. From someone who used to only counterattack, she has learnt to be the aggressor. "I am learning a lot of things. I try



and work on my weaknesses. I prefer backpeddling but my Services coaches tell me to also go ahead and attack," she said.

Khawaja wears sports shoes with daughters' names in Pakistan Test

MELBOURNE, Dec 26 (Agencie): Australia's Usman Khawaja wore shoes marked with his daughters' names as he batted against Pakistan on Tuesday, after being banned from wearing references to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

A close-up photo of the 37-year-old's shoes showed the names of Khawaja's daughters Aisha and Ayla taped to the side of his footwear during the opening day of the second Test in Melbourne.

Khawaja, who was out for 42, had been denied permission by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to have a sticker showing a black dove holding an olive branch on his bat and shoes during the match.

The logo, which he displayed during training on Sunday, also had the words 01:UDHR -- a reference to Article One of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- written on it.

Khawaja was previously stopped from wearing shoes emblazoned with the hand-written slogans "Freedom is a human right" and "All lives are equal" during the first Test in Perth.

The ICC said they flouted its rules on messages that relate to politics, religion or race.

Khawaja posted an Instagram message on Monday seemingly venting his frustration: "Merry Christmas everybody. Sometimes you just gotta laugh. Cya at Boxing Day!"

He marked his post with the hashtags #inconsistent and #doublestandards. Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said Khawaja was "passionate about human rights".

"We supported Usman with an application (to the ICC) which really felt non-partisan, non-religious, apolitical," he told broadcaster ABC of Khawaja's bid to wear the dove symbol.

"Equally, the ICC has its regulations and they are there for good reason so we have to respect those. But I think the main way we deal with this (type of issue) is through good communication and working together."

Last week, Khawaja spoke about how the Israel-Hamas conflict had affected him. "When I'm looking at my Instagram and seeing innocent kids, videos of them dying, passing away, that's what hit me the hardest," he said.

"I just imagine my young daughter in my arms ... I get emotional talking about it again. I don't have any hidden agendas."

Shikhar Dhawan's Emotional Note On Son Zoravar's Birthday NEW DELHI, Dec 26 (Agencie): Indian crickhas been blocked from the has blocked from the has been blocked from the has been blocked from the has bloc

(Agencie): Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has been going through a torrid time off the field. Dhawan isn't in the Indian national team's plans in any of the three formats at present but is the captain of the Indian Premier League franchise Punjab Kings. Still rolling with his professional life, it's the personal life that has given Dhawan the most difficulties of late. Having been separated from his wife Ayesha Mukherjee, Dhawan hasn't been able to meet his son Zoravar in person for a year now. In an emotional social media post on Instagram, Dhawan

even claimed that he has been blocked from all virtual platforms through which he could connect to his son.

In October this year, a Delhi court granted divorce to Shikhar Dhawan on grounds of "cruelty" inflicted on the famous Indian cricketer by his estranged wife Aesha Dhawan.

The court also granted mandatory visitation rights to Dhawan to meet his son in India and Australia. It also ordered Aesha to bring their son to India for visitation purposes including overnight stays with Dhawan and his family and during the school holidays. But, it seems



like Dhawan isn't even able to connect to his son virtually, let alone meeting in person.

Dhawan's emotional post on Instagram read: "It's been a year since I saw you in person, and now, for almost

three months, I've been blocked from everywhere so Posting the same picture to wish you, my boy, a very Happy Birthday. "

"Even if I can't connect with you directly, I connect with you through Telepathy. I am so proud of you, and I know you're doing great and growing up nicely."

"Papa always misses you and loves you. He's always positive, waiting with a smile for the time when we will meet again by the Grace of God. Be naughty but not destructive, be a giver, be humble, compassionate, patient, and strong."

"Despite not seeing you, I write you messages almost every day, asking about your well-being and daily life, sharing what I'm doing and what's new in my life."

"Love you loads Zora Papa"

Delegation of SAC meets MP Khatana, lists demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: A delegation of Sharnarthi Action Committee Jammu and Kashmir, comprising members and representatives, met with the esteemed Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana to present a comprehensive charter of demands. The delegation led by Gurdev Singh, president JKSAC handed over the charter, which bears more than one lakh signatures, to MP Gulam

The Charter of Demands highlights the pressing issues faced



by the displaced persons and demands the immediate implementation of the Joint Parliament Committee's Report 183. Among the key demands are employment package on the analogy of Kashmiri migrants to address the employment concerns of the displaced persons, reservation in govt Jobs, defreezing of 24 Assembly seats reserved for residents

ization of proprietary rights on evacuees' properties allotted to displaced persons, mutation of land titles for displaced persons who have been allotted land.

MP Khatana expressed his gratitude for the delegation's visit and assured them that he would take up the matter at the appropriate forums to address the concerns raised in the Charter of Demands. He acknowledged the significance of the issues presented and affirmed his commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of the

of Pakistan-occupied Jammu displaced persons. and Kashmir (POJK), regular-

KDP wing of **DPAP** highlights demands of displaced people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: In a joint statement issued by the leaders of Kashmiri Displaced People (KDP) Wing OF Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) through Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Roop Krishen Koul Vice President, Raj Kumar Ticku General Secretary, Daizy Dhar Mahila President, Renu Razdan Mahila Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President and Shikha Koul Women's Youth Wing President highlighted demands.

"The Government of India as well as J&K Government must review the recommendations made by the Departmental related to the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs (137th report) on rehabilitation of J&K migrants presented to Rajya Sabha on February 13, 2009, headed under the Chairmanship of Sushma Swaraj, wherein among other provisions for rehabilitation of migrants, recommendation regarding declaration of Minority Status for Kashmiri Hindus, inclusion of Members in NHRC, Minority Commission of India were made," leaders said and demanded that facilities as provided vide Govt order No.Rev/MR/141of 2009 dt.26.10.2009, may be

implemented at an earliest. The leaders demanded that after building of confidence measures among displaced Kashmiri Hindus, stakeholders displaced after 1990, a concrete permanent rehabilitation policy of Displaced Hindu Community requires to be worked out, as the long 33 vears exilement in its own

State is least tolerable. They also demanded that a Review Committee comprising of Top Authorities and exiled people is requested to be appointed

for on spot assessment of Apathetic position of displaced people, so that the attempts of de-identification of the Valley Kashmiri Hindus is stopped and generation of Kashyap Reshi is saved.

The leaders demanded that two Kashmir Based Police Batalions among Kashmiri Hindus of Displaced or Valley living low educated youth irrespective of relaxation of norms will lead a confidence building measure to attract displaced community youth to Valley, besides easing out unemployment.

They, however, demanded that till working out of resettlement back policy ,the displaced community requires to be adopted, financially, educationally, economically, socially, as envisaged in pursuance of the Constitutional rights of India, and as per the NHRC directions issued from time

Moreover the Leaders have appealed the President of India to amend the Bill passed in the Parliament regarding reservation of two Assembly Seats as on Elected Basis with reservation of two Constituencies in Valley instead of two seats on selection/nomination purpose

The Leaders have warned a section of self styled so called well wishers of displaced people. creating and demanding rehabilitation policy of displaced people according to their own agendas, which are totally not acceptable to the real sufferers of exilement happened after 1990, as such people are not victims of genocide.

The leaders appealed the Govt.of India that such people may not be treated as stake holders of displacement while working on resettlement, rehabilitation policy of displaced

8th State Speed Ball Champioinship-23 concluded



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: 8th State Speedball Championship organised by Indian Youth Games & Sports Federation In collaboration with J&K Sports Speedball Association concluded at Crescent Public School Janipur, HERE ON Tuesday.

About 120 players from 10 schools of Different Distt Namely Sanskriti Jammu School, S.D Tara Puri Public School, Shiksha Niketan School, Dogra Hr. Sec. School, R.M. Public School, Crescent Sports Club, DPS Jammu, APS Dhar Road Udhampur, DPS Rajouri, Rich Harvest School Samba, JSS Kathua, participated in this championship.

Haseeb Ur Rehman DIG Railway Jammu was the Chief Guest while Kosheen Koul (DSP HQ), Arshad Choudhary (Chairman CPS), Pooja Malhotra (Founder Patron JKSBA) Tarun Uppal (Distt. President), Munish Gupta (Vice President JKSBA) were also present.

Pooja Malhotra welcomed all guests on the behalf of Jammu & Kashmir Sports Speedball Association and the refreshments were served to the players on behalf of Rotary Club

Haseeb Ur Rehman applauded the efforts of all players as well as their parents and give them motivation by her speech and wish them best of luck for their upcoming tournaments and give special attention to Sunny Nanda (General Secretary JKSSB) for organizing this tournament.

Vote of Thanks was given by Sunny Nanda.(The event was hosted

by Madam Vineet Koul. The matches were officiated by Sahil Janjua (Coach Kathua) Sandeep Sharma (Coach Udhampur) Amar Koushal (Coach Rajouri), Vishal, Sahil Kaith (Coach cps), Jagdeep Janjua (APS Dhar Coach).

Gold: Shrasthi Sharma (CPS), Vinayak Sharma (CPS), Naksh Charak (JSS), Dakshdeep Singh (JSS), Prabal Bakshi (JSS), Tanshiq Mahajan (APS Dhar Road), Rayandeep Singh (JSS), Rajveer Singh (RMPS), Pradhuman (DHSS), Tarundeep Singh (JSS) and Lauvya Mahajan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator. NSS, JU and ELFA International is organizing a two-day workshop for students with disabilities and NSS volunteers, 'Leadership Skills for an Inclusive World: Challenges and Prospects'

The inaugural function of the workshop was held on Tuesday, where Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Dutta mentioned that determination is the key skill that can help us win in all situations. It is very important to lend a helping hand to others in order to create an inclusive society.

According to him it is social conditioning that makes us view people in binaries of abnormal and normal. He exhorted the students to realize their inner potential and be makers of their own destiny.

He further mentioned that an inclusive approach should be based not on charity but rather on compassion

Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU and convener of the workshop presented the welcome address where she mentioned that students with disabilities have the potential to be leaders of the world as they are more compassionate and empathetic.

Leadership skills workshop

inaugurated for students with

disabilities at Jammu University

She stressed the need to harness the leadership potential of youth including those with disabilities. She further informed that the University of Jammu is committed to the cause of persons with disabilities and is constantly striving to add value to their lives

and experiences She also hoped that the NSS volunteers would become true leaders by reaching out to those who are marginalized and disadvantaged.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU and co- convener of the workshop discussed the objectives of the workshop.

She shared that NSS volunteers work on the principle of 'Not me but you', and 'once a volunteer always a volunteer' and hence have an exceptional role in building an inclusive social order.

She further highlighted that NSS is a just not a name but rather a feeling that runs in the blood of all volunteers. She also urged the volunteers to constantly be ready to be

a support mechanism for those with disabilities

Mehran Khan, Founder and CEO of ELFA International and key resource person for the workshop highlighted the role of motivation, determination and perseverance in the empowerment of youth.

He shared many strategies for the achievement of equality and equity in society. He emphasized that empathy and inclusion are benchmarks of a good leader.

The formal vote of thanks was accorded by Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Faculty DD & OE, JU

The inaugural session was followed by a technical session, where through games, and activities students learned leadership skills.

More than 50 students with disabilities belonging to the different teaching departments of the University, and NSS volunteers from the main campus and affiliated colleges actively participated in the workshop.

A team of research scholars from the Department of Home Science and Sociology-Vinish Malik, Meghna Sharma, Vishawdeepika, Insha, Lokesh Kumar, Shiv Pal, and Manu Saini helped in the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Operational Training of Highway Patrol vehicles, stress Management camp conducted at PTTI Vijaypur

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 26: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur conducted one day newly inducted Innova Crysta G+ retrofitted Highway Patrol vehicles in the Police Depart-

About 40 Police personnel of Traffic Wing, nominated by Police Headquarters, attended the training programme who were given knowledge of preliminary functions, operation and



Maintenance of newly inducted Innova Crysta G+ retrofitted Highway Patrol vehicles.

Faizan and Mohd Altaf, Engineers/Technicians of M/S Indo Kashmir Traders imparted the

basic knowledge of Innova Crysta G+ retrofitted Highway Patrol vehicle to the Police per-

Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur highlighted the

aim of organizing training session and emphasized upon traffic Police personnel to properly utilize the services of newly inducted retrofitted vehicles for smooth traffic regulation on

He also advised the participants to book the erring drivers by using the latest technology devised in these retrofitted vehicles so as to streamline the traffic management.

Besides this, one day lecture on stress Management was also organized in the Institute which was attended by all staff and trainees.

Raiesh Sharma, DGM Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. North West UP delivered an impressive lecture on the topic and shared various ways to overcome the state of depression, anxiety and fear compounding the miseries of the life.

Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor) Kuldeep Raj, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Admn.), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Javed Hussain, Inspr. Vivek Kalostra, Inspr. Anil Kumar, Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, Inspr. Pawan Kumar, SI Amolak Singh, Narinder Kumar were present on the occasion.

Ten artists unite to Champion Kashmir's Pashmina Legacy through Online Exhibition

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 26: In a defiant dance of colour and thread, ten renowned artists breathe new life into the endangered art of Kashmiri Pashmina, launching on December 23, 2023 onwards "The Grand Pashmina Ehsaas," their online exhibition at 6.30 PM onwards.

Changing the image of the artists from the Jholadharis in the 80's to redefining fashion today, bringing with it a sense of royalty - these eminent artists move a step forward in making a mark for the new age India. They carry the strength of tradition and culture on their shoulders as the finest artists of India light the flame to be lightened.

They bring the traditional art of Pashmina artistry to the forefront and highlight the need for the karigars and weavers to be brought to center stage. Going away from popular news when Kashmir has been in the headlines during terrorist activities, this important move of the painters emphasizes our pride in its cultural heritage and the roots of our country.

It brings into focus the Make in India ideology of our prime minister and the need for us to cater to the world, weaving the weft and warp of our historic cultural gravitas.

Luminaries like Prof. Niren Sengupta, Shridhar Iyer and Niladri



Paul, each a titan in their domain, along with Gagan Vij, Priyendra Shukla, Vimmi Indra, Sonali Durga Chaudhari, Anki Bhutia, Durga Kainthola and Manisha Gawade herself, converge on this digital

canvas, celebrating the exquisite craftsmanship and rich heritage of Kashmiri Pashmina.

On the occasion, Manisha shares her emotions, "I am glad to be able to bring together ten maestros as they

reiterate their belief in the rich elegance of the timeless Pashmina. 'The Grand Pashmina Ehsaas,' an online exhibition, is a pioneering effort in saving the Pashmina from extinction. I urge one and all to

prepare for this vibrant show which soon leaps off the screen, gracing physical canvas in the coming months. Let the artistry orchestrate awareness. I urge all to join the chorus to preserve this silken symphony for generations to come. These beautiful works of art deserve to be passed on as heirlooms for all our future generations to come. We all have to wake up before it's too late."

Ehsaas, born in 2012 from the vision of Manisha Gawade along with sister, late Dr. Alka Raghuvanshi has empowered countless artists and artisans. From dance and music to painting, weaving and sculpting, Ehsaas

has united diverse disciplines, providing a platform for their talent to flourish. Notably, Ehsaas spearheaded the firstever wearable art installation, aptly named "Ehsaas," solidifying its position as a champion of artistic innovation. Pashmina, the "soft

gold" of textiles, boasts a lineage as rich as its texture. Derived from the fleece of Changthangi goats, native to the harsh environs of Ladakh, pashmina reflects the resilience of both nature and craftsmanship. Its history, intricately woven like its fabric, dates back to the 15th century, when Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin introduced the art of pashmina embroidery to Kashmir. This legacy flourished under the Mughals, solidifying pashmina's position as a coveted symbol of luxury and cultural heritage.

In intricate stitches and swirling patterns, Kashmiri Pashmina, lauded by UNESCO, whispers a vibrant history of cultural dialogues that have enriched the region's artistic landscape. The Silk Roads, those ancient arteries of commerce, left an indelible mark on Kashmiri art, evident in the evolution of pashmina designs and motifs.

"The Grand Pashmina Ehsaas" is a celebration of cultural heritage, a testament to artistic resilience, and a call to action to safeguard the future of Kashmiri Pash-

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