TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper

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BRIEFLY

Cop dies of suspected cardiac arrest in **Anantnag**

SRINAGAR, Dec 30 (Agencies): A cop died of suspected cardiac arrest in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Saturday morning, an official said.

Quoting an official, the news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that Head Constable Mohammad Jabbar Dar of Sagam Kokernag, presently posted at **District Court Anantnag** was found lying unconscious at his home.

"The cop was taken to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead due to cardiac arrest", the official added.

Unabated cold wave despite marginal improvement in night temperatures in **Kashmir**

SRINAGAR, Dec 30 (Agencies): Unabated Kashmir valley despite marginal improvement in night temperatures on Saturday.

Dense morning fog continued to impede pedestrian and vehicular movement in the valley as motorists used flashers and headlights to signal their presence on the

In not in very distant past, motorists used to have powerful fog lights to pierce through thick fog, but very few such vehicles are seen on the road nowadays in Kashmir.

A MeT office statement said that Minimum temperature in Srinagar city was minus 2.8 degrees Celsius today while it was minus 2.5 and minus 4.1 in Gulmarg and Pahalgam respectively.

Leh town of Ladakh region had minus 13, Karqil minus 8.8 and Drass minus 10 as the minimum temperature today.

Jammu city had 7.7, Katra 8.2, Batote 4.6, Bhaderwah 2.2 and Banihal 1.2 as the night's lowest temperature.

Kashmir is presently passing through the 40-day period of harsh winter known as 'Chillai Kalan' that starts on December 21 and will end on January 30.

PM Modi virtually flags off second **Vande Bharat Train in Katra**



KATRA/JAMMU, Dec 30 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday virtually flagged off the second Vande Bharat train between Jammu and Kashmir's Katra

and New Delhi, with LG Manoj Sinha expressing hopes of a railway link between Kashmir and Kanyakumari early next vear.

Union minister Jitendra Singh, who attended the ceremony in Katra, congratulated the people of the Union territory on the New Year's gift of a second Vande Bharat train and said this was possible because of Modi's commitment to work for the overall development of the region.

"In the coming months, the Kashmir-Kanyakumari railway link will be dedicated to the **Turn to page 9**

India logs 743 Covid cases, highest single-day rise in 225 days

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): India on Saturday recorded 743 fresh COVID-19 infections, the highest single-day rise in 225 days, while the number of active cases stood at 3,997, the Union health ministry said.

Seven new fatalities three from Kerala, two from Karnataka and one each from Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu — were reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases was in double digits till December 5 but it began to rise again amid cold weather conditions and after

the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant.

The daily numbers were in lakhs at the peak of the pandemic, which began in early 2020. More than 4.5 crore people have been infected and over 5.3 lakh have died across the country in four years.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far in the country.

JKRTC-Red Bus tie up to ease seat reservation for passengers

JAMMU, Dec 30 (Agencies): In a major move, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and online bus ticketing platform RedBus has entered into an agreement to ease seat reservation while sitting at home.

Managing Director, JKRTC Rakesh Kumar Srangal said that the JKRTC have entered into an agreement with one of the largest online booking platforms for buses, RedBus to facilitate easy booking of tickets by the travellers.

"Passengers will now be able to book seats online in JKRTC buses on the RedBus app or its website," said the Managing Director.

Turn to page 9

Police announces Rs 5 Lakh reward for identifying retired SSP killers

SRINAGAR, Dec 30 (Agencies): Days after a retired Senior Superintendent of Police was shot dead by suspected militants in north Kashmir, J&K Police has announced a cash reward of Rs 5 Lakh for any information in con-

nection with the killing.

Retired SSP, Moham-

mad Shafi Mir. was shot dead on December 24 inside a mosque by an unidentified gunman at Gantmulla village on the Baramulla Uri highway while he was offering the call of prayers in the local mosque. While police termed it a terror incident, the official sources said the 72-year-old retired officer was killed by a 12-bore gun, a weapon

which isn't usually used

by the militants.

The Police made the announcement of the reward through posters that were pasted in several areas of the Gantmulla and its adjoining areas.

"It is to inform everyone that anyone who will share any information or leads about the killing of Mohammad Shafi Mir on December 24 morning by some unidentified person, will be rewarded with Rs 5 lakhs," reads a poster issued by Police.

The Police said the identity of the one who would share the information, would be kept secret.

After the killing, Police has questioned several people including some relatives of the retired

Turn to page 9

"Terrorism is against Humanity": Farooq **Abdullah after Poonch terror attack**

POONCH, Dec 30 (Agencies): Days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah expressed condolences on the deaths of three civilians, saying that "terrorism is against humanity.'

Earlier on December 21, four Army personnel were killed and three others were injured after heavily armed terrorists ambushed two Army vehicles near Thanamandi in the Rajouri sector.

"Terrorism, for any reason, is against humanity. The terrorism that has happened or is happening is not acceptable in any community. Not only are jawans but



officers like Colonel and two captains have lost their lives. We regret that the civilians also lost their lives," Abdullah said.

He further expressed condolences on the demise of former senior Jammu and Kashmir Police officer Mohd Shafi, who was shot dead by terrorists while offering prayers at a mosque in Baramulla.

"This (terrorism) should be stopped. I urge my neighbouring country to stop this, as, like this, we are not heading towards friendship. Former Indian PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee also said that if we maintain the friendship, then only we can progress. I would suggest finding a solution through dialogue between India and Paki-

stan," he added.

Rajasthan man arrested for cheating JK Govt Teacher of Rs 11 Lakhs

JAMMU, Dec 30 (Agencies): ADGP, Jammu Zone, Anand Jain on Saturday rewarded an investigation team from District an online fraudster from Ajmer Rajasthan.

An official said that ADGP rewarded the investigation team with a cash reward of Rs, 5000/- to each along with Commendation Certificates for arresting the fraudster who was involved in case FIR No. 237/2023 registered at Police Station Doda.

"The fraudster, a resident of Jhunihun Raiasthan had cheated online more than eleven lacs Rupees (11 lacs) from a Govt. teacher of Doda", the official said.

"In a function held at DPO Doda, SSP Doda Shri Abdul Qayoom while distributing the Commendation Certificates to the Police team. complimented them for their commendable job and professionalism exhibited by them during the investigation of the case and efforts made by them to arrest the absconder", the official

"The officers/officials who were awarded Commendation Certificates along with cash rewards included SI Mohd Shafi, ASI Tilak Raj, ASI Mushtaq Ahmed and Sgct. Shakeel Ahmed of District Police Doda". the

Turn to page 9

Talks with Pakistan and Militancy cannot coexist, says Devender Rana

JAMMU, Dec 30 (Agencies): Asserting that talks with Pakistan and the prevailing situation cannot coexist, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana labelled Pakistan as the hub of militancy.

He said that engaging with the neighbouring state, marred by militancy and failure, holds no meaning.

Speaking to the media during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Devender Rana, accompanied by Veena Khanna, BJP State Secretary, and Shalinder Vaid, BJP Additional Protocol Secretary, reiterated the national leadership's stance that



dialogue and terrorism are incompatible.

He said the advocacy of talk with Pak, coming in the backdrop of gruesome and unfortunate recent militancy-related incidents, is all the more worrisome.

"There is a need to be extra vigilant against the terror ecosystem that instantaneously jumps to provide cover to acts

may try to condone or downplay the barbarism unleashed by terrorists in terms of death and devastation caused, and continuously being perpetrated, by the Pakistani lackeys but that doesn't change the ugly face of terrorism this part of the country has been witnessing. Also, engagement with sovereign countries is a central subject and those poking noses were venturing out to forbidden domains and trying to carve out an unsolicited role for themselves," he

of terror. A few people

Rana said that militancy emanating from Pakistan is on its last ■Turn to page 9 protest

workers from Rajouri and Poonch, Ms. Mufti set out for Topa Peer village with the intention of expressing condolences to the families of the deceased civilians.

However, her journey

Mehbooba Mufti prevented from meeting Poonch families, holds SRINAGAR, Dec 30

(Agencies): PDP President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti faced hindrance on Saturday as she attempted to visit the families of civilians who allegedly lost their lives while in the custody of security forces in Poonch. Accompanied by party

■Turn to page 9

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

IOTH DAY will be performed on Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Laxmi Narayan Temple, Gandhi Nagar,Jammu at 11.00 an KRIYA will be performed on Sunday 31st Dec 2023 at c residence H No 686-A, Gandhi Nagar,Jammu 12.00 noon.

Daughter-in-law & Son
Ramnee & Hemant Andotra
Daughter & Son-in-law
Shakun & Pawan Parihar (Inspector)
Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Kuku & Sh. Karan Singh Andotra (Retd. Chief Engineer)
Smt. Radha & Sh. Balbir Singh Andotra (Retd. AEE)
Sister & Brother-in-law
Late Smt. Nimni & Late Sh. Naseeb Singh Pathania
Smt. Shobha & Sh. Shallinder Singh Panwar
Grand Children- Vivaan, Vihaan, Rudra & Geetanjali.
Mobi: 7780987649. 9796485151. 7889847057

10TH DAY, KRIYA

al Dhar, originally resident of Chattabal, Srinagar, at preser D Ayodha Enclave, Sector 13, Rohini, New Delhi left for heav

2D Ayoura Enclave, Sector 13, Korlini, New Deini eier for neav-enly abode on 24th December 2023

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 2nd January 2024
(ruseday) at 9 AM. on Hyderpura Canal, Sector 15-16, dividing road, Rohini, New Delhi Condolences Gathering will be at our residence at 2D,Ayodha Enclave Sector-13 Rohini at 11.30 AM

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

with profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mr Ank mmwal S/o Lt Sh Bajinder Singh R/o Suchani, Teh Vijaypu Samba) Who left for heavenly abode on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 nnth Day will be performed on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 at our res ance at 1100 am

at 1100 am. GRIEF STRICKEN Soma Devi & Lt Sh Narain Singh (Grand Mother & Father) Anita Devi & Lt Sh Bajinder Singh (Mother & Father) Neha Jamwai (Wife) Samayara & Shiwansh (Daughter & Son) Amit & Ekta Jamwai (Brother & Bhabhi)

Chacha & Chachi Ji Parbhat Singh & Poli Devi Mohinder Singh & Rita Rani Joginder Singh & Pooja Devi Ashok Singh & Poonam Devi Nayara & Vedant (Nephew & Niece) 8491879101, 9086636454, 9419538254, 7006789762

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret

to inform the demise of Mrs. Bimla

Chowdhury, beloved wife of Mr. Avtar

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 31st

Dec'23 (Sunday) at 10AM CST at Hindu

Temple and Cultural Centre Kansas City

10TH DAY KRIYA

(4TH JANUARY 2024)

Karmayogi - Shri OMKAR NATH MATTOO

(S/o Late Madhav Lal Mattoo & Late Leelawati

Mattoo) Resident of 284 C/A VIPIN GARDEN,

DWARKA MORH, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW

DELHI 110059 (original resident of 48-A, Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar, Kashmir), left for heavenly abode on 27th December 2023 5:30

The void left in our hearts and lives will remain

unfilled. He lit and blessed our lives, and he will

Mobile: +91-8368571967, +91-9319147207

10TH DAY KRIYA

exchange), New Delhi and assembly at our residence.

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that of

"BADABOBA"

Ajay Razdan, Babita Razdan, Rohit Bhat, Bhawna Bhat,

Ashish Bhan, Bhavika Bhan, Posheen Razdan, Poorva Bhat,

10th Day Kriya on 4th January 2024 at Rohini Ghat (near telephone

Chowdhury, on December 22, 2023.

Ashvika Bhan, Bhavya Bhan

(Rani ji)

profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sase of **Smt Jaikishori Dhar (Rani ji)** W/o Late Sh Makha

lob: 7780982649, 9796482512, 7889847057

RASAM PAGRI on Monday 1st Jan 2024 at our res

No 686-A, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu 2.00 pm GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rama Andotra (Wife) Daughter-in-law & Son

Enclave Sector-15 Romanias Grief Stricken: Son and Daughter in law. Ranjan Dhar & Beena Dhar Daughters & Sons in law. Girja Koul & Bansi Lal Koul

Chacha & Chachi Ji

(USA).

Family:

OBITUARY

beloved mother Smt. Tulsi Devi W/o Lt. Govind Ram Raina of Verinag, Anantnag Kashmir on 26-12-2023 presently at Balaji Enclave Sec-23/Pocket 11/B, Rohini, Delhi 85. R/o H.No. 69, Second Floor, Pocket 11/B Sec-23 Rohini Landmark Balalji Satsang Bhawan

Tenth Day will be performed at Rohini New Delhi on 04/01/2024

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Pushker Nath Raina & Kundan Raina Rattan Lal Raina & Tosha Raina Chaman Lal Raina and Bimla Raina

Anjali Raina W/o Late Shadi Lal Raina Daughter & Son-in-law Ashok Ji Bhat & Nancy Bhat

Bhart Bhushan Tickoo & Jiji Tickoo √ijay Asthana & Usha Asthana

Contact No.: 9419206291, 09999823589, 9419332786, 9419292793



Smt. Tulsi Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA/UTHALA

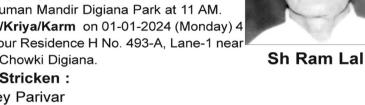
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise our beloved Sh Ram Lal S/o Lt Sh Mokoru Ram H No. 493-A Lane No. 1 Digiana, who left for his heavenly abode on 20-12-23. 10th Day Kriya will be performed on 29-12-23 at Hanuman Mandir Digiana Park at 11 AM. Uthala/Kriya/Karm on 01-01-2024 (Monday) 4

PM at our Residence H No. 493-A, Lane-1 near Police Chowki Digiana.

Grief Stricken: Pandey Parivar

Smt Sharda Devi (Wife)

Mob: 94191-55958, 90861-89066



OBITUARY/ **TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO - Retd. Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PDD, R/o House No F 145/833 JMC Ward No 18, Last Morh Sarwal, Jammu, J&K as he has left for his heavenly abode on 27 December, 2023.

The TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held or January 4th, 2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt KRISHNA MANTOO (Wife)

[Daughter and Son-in-law]

Mrs. Renu Thaper (Yoga Instructor) & Mr. Y.C Thaper (Retd. J&K Bank Officer) 9419153072, 9419191928

Mrs. Asha Mantoo W/o Late Mr. Varinder Mantoo (Daughter-in-Law)

Mr. Satyam Thaper & Mr. Shivam Thapar (Owner's THE STRENGTH CULTURE) Mrs. Gunjan & Mr Kapil Mahajan (Granddaughter and Son-in- Law)

MOB NO: 7889974415, 7889349854

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved Hirday Nath Raina S/o Late Sh Mashewar Nath Raina of Trichal Pulwama presently residing at Flat no 2. Block 134, Lane 22, Jagti colony, Nagrota.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 05-01-2024, 9 A.M. at Muthi Ghat, Near Director of School Education. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Suman Raina (Wife)

Meenakshi & Arun Raina (Son & Daughter in law) Shonu & Ashish Raina (Son & Daughter in law) Shama & Bansi Lal Raina (Brother & Sister in I Kiran & Bushan Lal Raina (Brother & Sister in law) Sunita & Deepak Raina (Brother & Sister in law) Rajni & Shadi Lal Koul (Sister & Brother in Law)

Vrindha (Grandchild)

& Samast Raina Parivar,



ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO

Retd. Assistant Executive

Engineer (AEE) PDD

RAINA

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND REGRET, IT IS TO INFORM, THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SHRI RAM JI PANDIT** S/O LATE SH. AFTAB RAM ORIGINALLY R/O AKHRAN KULGAM AND AT PRESENT SATTANI DHAR ROAD UDHAMPUR. 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 6Th

JANUARY (SATURDAY) 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDHAMPUR AT 9:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN SH SOOM NATH PANDIT (BROTHER)

(DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) . LATE-SMT PHOOLA KUMARÍ & SH. SURINDER KRISHAN PANDIT

SHRI RAM JI PANDIT SMT. ANITA PANDIT & SH. KANWAL JI PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON SMT DAISY PANDIT & MAHARAJ KRISHAN PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON) SMT. PUPLY KUMARI & SH. CHAND KRISHAN (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)

SMT. REETA KUMARI & SH. ASHOK KUMAR RAINA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW SMT. GIRJA BHAT & SH. OMKAR NATH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT USHA KUMARI AND SH. BUSHAN LAL BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT LALITA BHAT & SH. PRAN NATH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)

SMT PUMMY BHAT & SH. SANJAY KUMAR BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT. KAJAL PANDIT & SH. ROHIT (GRAND DAUGHTER IN LAW & GRAND SON) GRAND CHILDREN: MOHIT.SAHIL. NIKHIL.DIVYA.RUCHI. MEHAK &DANISH

GREAT GRAND SON- SHIVA Phone no-9797305248.8493058455

MAASWAR AND WAHERWAAR

Today marks the one-year anniversary of your departure, and the void left by your absence still echoes with the profound sadness of losing someone dear. Memories flood our thoughts, and the ache of your absence remains a poignant reminder of the enduring impact you had on our lives.

MAASWAR AND WAHERWAAR of our beloved Father, Sh. Brij Nath Bhat will be performed on 30th and 31st Dec, 2023 respectively at Govt Qtrs. Tophsherkhania, Block-X, Set No 568.



Deeply Missed and remembered by

Samast Bhat, Koul, Padha, Raina, Malla and Sadhu Parivar

10TH DAY KRIYA

OBITUARIES

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

Chand Krishen Sapru **- Brother**

Youge Jee Dassi (Son-in-law) Annapurna & Surinder Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son)

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

Retu & Ravi Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son) Renu & Kuldeep Bhat (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Anita & Vikas Sadhu (Daughter and Son-in-law) Kouls, Painoos, Dhars, Bhats, Sadhus, Hakims Grand & Great Grand children

Tel No: 0191-2456547, Mobile: 9810743072

Its now a week you have left us in deep mourn. We are missing your presence among us.May God bestows sadgati to you

Tenth Day shall be held on 28th Dec (Thursday) 11:00-12:00 Noon at Pacci Mandi Hall, Chauhata. **Kriya** shall be held on 31st Dec at our residence 11:00am onwards. **Uthala** shall be held on 1st Jan (Monday) 2024, 12:00-1:00 Noon at Pacci Mandi Hall,

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt.Neelam Sethi - Wife Daughters and Son-in-Law

Smt Himza Lakhani & Sh Nitesh Lakhani Smt.Rimza Sambyal & Sh.Amit Sambyal Miss Aakriti Sethi

Brothers & Sister-in-law Sh.Shambu Nath Sethi & Smt Sujata Sethi Sh.Shanker Sethi & Smt. Sunita Sethi Sh. Parshotam Sethi & Smt. Leena Sethi Miss Aakriti Sethi - Daughter Raiat, Prateek, Sharun - Sons

Grand Children: Asvi, Yashvi, Aarish, Maira

SH. SHIV DATT SETHI

Smt. Man Mohani Raina

KIRTAN & ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved S. Milanpal Singh S/o S. Pritam Singh R/o Nanak Nagar, Jammu (Amit Tent House) on 16.12.2023 in USA.

The ARDAS will be performed as per program given below: -

PROGRAMME Kirtan & Ardas will be performed at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Ji, Guru Nanak Nagar or 31.12.2023 (Sunday) from 3:00 PM 4:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: (Father & Mother) S Pritam Singh (Retd. IN) & Sdn. Gurjeet Kour

Sdn. Catuih Campos (Wife) Dr. Smit Kour & S. Avtar Singh (Sister & Brother-in-Law

Lt Cdr. Amit Singh (Brother) S & Sdn Gurcharan Singh (Taya n Tayi)

S & Sdn Ravinder Singh (Taya n Tayi)

S & Sdn Jasbir Singh (Cha Cha n Chachi) S & Sdn Jeet Singh (Phua n Phuphar)

Late S & Sdn Sharanjeet Kour (Phua n Phuphar)

S & Sdn Surinder Singh (Bittu Mama) S & Sdn Joginder Singh (Nindi Mama)

7006056800, 9103138255

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Pardeep Sharma (Govt. Contractor) S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Sharma R/o H No.112 Mohalla Khorinar Ward No. 8 District Poonch on 19-12-2023.

13TH DAY/UTHALA will be performed on Sunday, 31st of December, 2023 from 3 PM to 4 PM at Gita Bhawan

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Arun Bala- Wife Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh. Sachin Sharma & Smt. Kritika Sharma Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Shrutika Sharma & Sh. Ajay Sharma

Nephew Sh. Sushank Sharma &

Sh. Shubam Sharma

MOBILE NOS. 9419130189, 9419624462, 9596970599

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father Sh Badri Nath Raina S/o Lt Madav Lal Raina originally resident of Herman (Shopian) at present H No. 6 Sector-3 Sharika Vihar (near Social Welfare office) Roopnagar Jammu left for heavenly abode on 25-12-2023.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 2nd January 2024 (Tuesday) 9:00 AM at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education. Grief Stricken:

Sons & Daughter in-laws

Sanjay Raina & Nirmala Raina- 9419791073 Manoj Raina & Renu Raina- 7006154007

Sons-in-law & Daughters

Ashok Bhat & Sudesha Bhat

Sanjay Raina & Rumila Raina

Grand Childrens

Rohin, Vishal, Rishab, Riya, Riyansh, Raunak, Mehak, Khushi, Supriya

REMEMBRANCE (1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY)

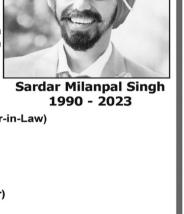
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. One year has gone since you left for the heavenly abode but we will always feel your presence everywhere. Your

memories will remain with us forever. **DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY**

Dr. Hansraj Shan (Father) Smt. Kiran Shan (Mother)

Sh. Lalit Shan (Brother) Tanvi Shan and Gaurav (Sister and Brother in law)

9419182677



13TH DAY/UTHALA

Mandir, Poonch.



(Govt. Contractor)

Sh Badri Nath Raina

AKSHIT SHAN



AM (before sunrise)

be loved till eternity.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mattoo Parivar and Shah Parivar

Bhabis & Brothers Late Smt Durga & Late Sh Moti Lal Nazir Smt Ratni & Late Sh Pyare Lal Nazir Smt Ratni & Late Sh Rattan Lal Nazir Sisters & Brothers in law

Grand Children Baby Kashyi Kaul _ate Smt Chuni & Late Sh Moti Lal Kotru - Jn er Svojas Kaul, Savir Kaul Mob : 7895990259, Roopa Kaul & Late Sh M K Kaul- **Delhi** rmala Nazir & Chuni Lal Raina-Banglor 9999414820 SAMAST SAPROO PARIVAR (IN LAWS)

CHOUBARS

but we will always remember you with silent tears"

Char Barsi (4th Death anniversary) o our beloved Sorub Sharma (Kannu) S/o Sh Shiv Kumar Sharma, shall be performed on 2nd Jan '24 (Tuesday) a our residence Tikri. Near Post office Tikri, Udhampur,

It's been four years that you left us bu still we feel your presence everywhere We missed you every moment. You will always be with us in our hearts May your soul rest in peace DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY SANMOTRA FAMILY

MOB - 9906150866/ 9987680609



Shri OMKAR NATH

Sh Mahraj Krishan Kaul

(Nazir)

SHRADHANJALI

With profound grief & sorrow, we express heartfe condolence on the untimely demise of our beloved Sh. Arvind Kapoor (Retd. AGM, J&K Bank). May almighty shower eternal peace to the departed soul and give courage to bereaved family on thi nuge and irreparable loss. REMEMBERED BY:

Mohinder Singh, Igbal Singh Suraj Parkash Sharma, D.S. Jamwal K.S Bhalwal, Bashir Siddiqui (Sgr) Mohd. Amin Khan (Sgr)



(Retd. AGM, J&K Bank)

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Rs 41,000 cr rail projects in progress in J&K: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 30: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today attended the flagging off of the second Vande Bharat Express connecting the holy city of Katra with New Delhi

With this, Katra is among the first lot of cities in the country to have two Vande Bharat Express trains.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi virtually flagged off the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express from Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh todav morning. Dr Jitendra Singh joined the function from Katra railway station.

The Minister informed



Budget. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra said the Prime Minister has accord-

distinction. Similarly, more

than 6,000 crore rupees

have been allocated for

the development of Jammu

and Kashmir in the Union

ed special attention and focus to the development of this region ever since he assumed the office. He said immediately after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Modi inaugurated Katra Railway station which had been completed in 2013. But, it took the Prime Minister to inaugurate it, reflecting that the holy city has a special place in Shri Modi's

Dr Jitendra said, the

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 30:

Police Technical Training

Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur

on Saturday organized a

lecture for Police personnel

and trainees on the topic

"Online Financial Frauds".

of MCA Department of

Jammu University deliv-

ered an impressive lecture

on various online frauds

viz. OTP Fraud, fraud using

remote access mobile app,

UPI fraud, Refund fraud,

OLX fraud using digital

documents, fraud using

fake SMS, SIM swap fraud.

QR code scam, etc. and

Prof. Vinod Sharma

that those areas of the country which remained not connected would see connectivity under his government for overall development of the country. The Prime Minister fast-tracked the pace of development projects, he added. Dr Singh described today's flagging off of the Vande Bharat Express as the Prime Minister's New Year gift to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially Katra. He said the short-

PTTI Vijaypur organizes lecture

highlighted the importance

of proper understanding of

He suggested various

security tips and tricks to

prevent such threats and

advised the participants

not to share any sensitive

information viz OTP, Bank

Details & passwords etc.

Speaking on the occa-

sion. Shiv Kumar. SSP.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur told

that such lectures are being

organized to make aware

Police personnel about

modalities being adopted

by Cyber scammers and

to look out for steps to be

taken for its prevention.

various online frauds.

on online financial frauds

have been addressed by none other than by Prime Minister Modi. This is a testament to his commitment for the development of Jammu and Kashmir the Minister underscored. He said the way the web of rail connectivity has been expanded in J&K it will be a testament to the changing face of the Union Territory. Dr Singh emphasised that

a record more than two crore tourists visiting the Valley, and over a crore pilgrims paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is an example of that connectivity. Dr Singh said the government has reached the last person in the queue, delivering services like water, power and medical facilities to the people The Minister said the role of J&K will have a critical importance in a developed India by 2047.

Principal PTTI Vijay-

pur thanked Prof. Vinod

Sharma for sparing his pre-

cious time to make aware

staff and trainees of the

Among others, Kuldeep

Raj, DySP (Indoor/Tech).

Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP

(Admn.), Inspr. Surinder

Singh (CDI), Inspr. Ram

Lal (CLI), Inspr. Himanshu

Dutta (CTI), Inspr. Mulkh

Raj, Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra,

Inspr. Ashish Darmat, Inspr.

Kapil Raina, Inspr. Bhopin-

der Singh, SI Sulinder

Singh, SI Amolak Singh,

Narinder Kumar and others

were present on the occa-

ADGP Jammu rewarded investigation team of district police Doda



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 30: The Jammu Zone, Anand Jain, rewarded investigation team of District Police Doda with cash reward of Rs, 5000 to each along with Commendation Certificates for arresting an online fraudster from

involved in case FIR No. 237/2023 registered at PS Doda in which the fraudster resident of Jhunjhun Rajasthan had cheated online more than eleven lacs Rupees (11 lacs) from a Govt. teacher of Doda. In a function held at DPO Doda, SSP Doda Abdul

Qayoom-JKPS while distributing the Commendation Certificates to the Police team, complimented for their commendable job and professionalism exhibited by them during investigation of the case and efforts made by them in arresting the online fraudster from Ajmir Rajasthan.

The officers/officials who were awarded Commendation Certificates alongwith handsome cash reward are SI Mohd Shafi, ASI Tilak Raj, ASI Mushtag Ahmed and Sact. Shakeel Ahmed of District Police Doda.

SSP Doda congratulated and wished them best and advised them to work with more dedication and devotion for earning more rewards and appreciations

Balwant Thakur conducts exclusive session with children

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: Theatre director Padamshree Balwant Thakur who is also known as the magic man of Indian theatre, today conducted an exclusive theatre workshop with children at Natrang Studio Theatre.

Terming theatre as the ultimate art of transforming personalities he emphaout of the world art while working with top professionals and trainers of children theatre of Europe, America, Japan, South Korea. China and South Africa It may be recalled that he introduced his kind of theatre with his play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' in the Republic of Mauritius which was staged repeatedly in Mauritius in French.



sised on the optimum use of this magical art by the schools and colleges.

Art of theatre empowers a child with unbelievable extraordinary abilities like public speaking, self-confidence, eidetic memory, and outstanding leadership

Natrang introduced children theatre in Jammu in 1990 and till date the Natrang's children theatre initiatives have drastically transformed the fate of thousands of the youngsters. Natrang can proudly claim that majority young achievers of Jammu are the products of our unique

theatre training initiatives. Every year Natrang conducts three workshops for children which include 'Summer Theatre Camp', 'Winter Theatre Workshop' and 'Spring Theatre Workshop'. Balwant Thakur has developed a new training methodology for children using the latest developed techniques of human transformation and devel-

opment Being a globally exposed person, he acquired this

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: The

National Health Mission

(NHM) Employees Asso-

ciation of Jammu Division

on Saturday (30-12-2023)

formally became a constitu-

ent of the Employees' Joint

As per a statement, senior

office bearers of the NHM

Employees Association

Jammu including Provincial

President Dr Vikas Sharma,

Sr Vice President Faizan

A Tramboo, Gen Sec Alay

Sharma besides Sr NHM

Leaders Dr Rakesh Kotwal.

Dr Anil Sharma and Pawan

Kumar met EJAC UT Presi-

dent Wajahat Hussain Dur-

rani and pledged allegiance

to the EJAC, in a high level

meeting attended by different

the EJAC. Durrani assured

to forcefully take up our

issues with the government

including initiation of the

regularisation process and

other genuine issues, the

association members said

under the larger umbrella

of EJAC, our issues will be

"We hope that by coming

"We are now affiliates of

departments.

in a statement

Action Committee (EJAC).

NHM Employees Association Jammu

Division becomes EJAC constituent

English, Creole and Hindi languages. Natrang is perhaps the only Children Theatre group of India which has the credit of having travelled and cov-

and directed by Balwant

The lucky children who Mahajan.

ered the entire length and breadth of the country with its children plays. Natrang is currently conducting a 15 day children winter theatre camp which

will culminate with the presentation of play 'Rang Badalti Duniya' written

are a part of this winter workshop are Araiya Shan, Anadika Pandoh, Supria Gorka, Aarjav Jain, Niddha Mahajan, Mehak Chib, Hriday Vashishth, Audvik Badyal, Evana Sawhney, Nitaara Sawhney, Jayaditya Singh Jamwal, Samrat Sharma, Ruhaan Chandan, Trivit Mahajan, Advik Sharma Daivik Gunta Prial Ashok Gupta, Deshna Jain, Anaadi Abrol, Shriyan Jandial, Shranya Jandial, Adeesha Singh and Aarva

highlighted and redressed

in a more effective manner.

The decision has been taken

unanimously by the Associa-

The NHM is a centrally

funded scheme with more

than 10,000 doctors, mana-

gerial staff and paramedics

currently working in different

hospitals of the state under

They have been demand-

ing regularisation of services,

enhancement of salary at par

with other States/UT, timely

Provincial President Dr

Vikas Sharma. Sr Vice

President Faizan A Tramboo

and other office bearers of

the association expressed

their gratitute and thanked

EJAC's UT President Dur-

rani for granting them affili-

ation and hope that under

the leadership of EJAC, the

NHM employees would feel

secure while projecting their

genuine issues before the

The NHM Association

Jammu Division on the occa-

sion has appealed to all NHM

employees of the division to

stay united on one platform

and seek their support in fur-

ther strengthening the union

activities in the future

authorities.

release of salary etc.

the mission.

tion members", it added.

Annual Social Conclave 2023 organised by People's Hut Foundation

and NIRBHAY Bharat Foundation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: The Annual Social Conclave 2023 was organised by People's Hut Foundation in collaboration with Nirbhay Bharat Foundation. 'Be The Change' was the main aim of the event of the Social Impact hosted on 30th of December 2023.

Annual Social Conclave is a social conference and meeting held to understand, discuss, and debate the social problems being faced by the NGOs in J&K and how we as responsible social work practitioners can help make society a better place by coming up with solutions to those

issues.

In the 2022 edition, we had a stunning 60+ number of participants who provided many amazing and new solutions to tackle those problems, which was held in Jammu. Social Conclave's main aim was to impart Jammu NGO's with ground reality-check knowledge and provide them with an equally beneficial and interactive conference where the possible solutions could be discussed for the problems being

faced by the NGO's. The main event of Social Conclave was a Full day conference, with a plethora of events. The agendas for this conference were: Rural Illiteracy and Unemployment, Adoption of SDGs being each NGO for the next 1 Year, Zero Hunger, Youth, Curbing the Drug Menace, Privacy and Social Media, Climate Action etc The prominent NGO representatives of Jammu province participated in the meeting.

The meeting was facilitated and Organised by Dr. Rohit Koul, Founder Director of People's Hut Foundation along with Tarun Uppal Chairperson of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation. This meeting built on previous meetings that have been convened in the past.

In the meeting the representative speakers deliberated upon How to work in a systematic and well-coordinated manner during the emergencies.

All the participants shared their experiences and learning from the field, challenges they faced and the plan going forward.

"The efforts of the Jammu NGOs were greatly admired and it was emphasised that their continued support for the underprivileged society is highly valuable", the statement reads.

The delegates said important issues concerning each domain were discussed by the representatives. During this annual

meeting of Jammu NGO's the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) related agendas were also discussed and emphasis were laid on how to formulate ideas to promote sustainable growth and prosperity in the region.

The attendees included Tarun Uppal from Nirbhay Bharat Foundation. Dr. Rohit Koul from People's Hut Foundation, Dr. Raminder Jit Singh from SARA NGO, Rajendra Wanchoo from Kalposh Foundation, Dr. Nidhi Gupta Abrol from Gracious Givers, Dr. Imran Khan from Kanval International Rehab. Foundation (KIRF), Amardeep Singh and Dr. Sandeep Singh from Diva International Foundation, Suresh Kumar from Resolvio Foundation. Vikas Koul from People's Hut Foundation, and the reps. from the other NGO's of Jammu region who also proposed futuristic measures to empower

the society. At the end of the meeting a vote of thanks was given to all the participants by Tarun Uppal from NBF.

The NGO representatives were also felicitated with an Appreciation Award and a Shawl as a token of appre-

President CCI thanks PM for starting second Vande Bharat Express from New Delhi to Katra

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: President CCI, Arun Gupta expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for giving much needed relief to the pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi by starting the second Vande Bharat Express from New Delhi to Holy town Katra from 30 December 2023 which will have brief stoppage at Udhampur and Kathua

Arun Gupta also thanked Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MOS in PMO Office Dr. Jatinder Singh and Hon'ble LG UT of J&K Manoj Sinha with whose efforts it has become possible to start this new train.

Arun Gupta said that this train will a big relief to the business community besides the pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi and the General passengers

He also said that Jammu



Railway Station being the most congested station, the stoppage time for Vande Bharat trains should be atleast five minutes instead of two minutes.

Arun Gupta further said that Jammu is a major hub for railway operations for interstate and intrastate transportation.

There is ample need to upgrade the Jammu Railway Station by giving it the Divisional Status although it has been announced earlier but on ground nothing has been done in this regard, as such urgent steps be taken to develop the infrastructure which is

necessary for establishing a new Railway division.

Arun Gupta further pointed out that there is urgent need to establish a rail engine workshop between Jammu and Kathua as at present the nearest rail engine workshop is at Patiala which is far away from Jammu.

Moreover the rail network is extended upto Baramulla in Kashmir Vallev which is more than 300 KM from Jammu. The present rail engine workshop at Patiala shall prove to be insufficient to meet the requirement of repairs as the number of rail engines has increased manifold.

Arun Gupta also said that few new trains and some existing ones be restricted upto Jammu Railway Station and the visitors be encouraged to visit this city of temples in order to give boost to the economy of UT

E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST

Short e-NIT No. 46 of 2023-2024/Jammu East Dated 28-12-2023 For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on <u>percentage basis</u> from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of I&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-								
S.	Name of Work	Name of	Advertise	Cost of	Earnest	Time	Time and	Class of
No		Division	d Cost	document	Money	Allowed	date of	Contractor
110			(Rs. in	(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	for	opening of	
			lacs)	(***********		complete	tender	
			lacsj			-on		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Creation and strengthening	PWD (R&B)	25.00	600	2% of	02	(1300 Hrs)	A, B & C
	of Market Outlet at Kissan	Division Jammu			Advertised Cost	Month	on or after	
	Ghar Shalimar Bagh New	East			Cost		04-01-2024	
	Delhi.							

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-12-2023				
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-12-2023 to 03-01-2024 upto 1800 Hrs				
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive				
		Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East				
4	Bid submission Start Date	28-12-2023				
5	Bid Submission End Date	03-01-2024 upto 1800 Hrs				
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	04-01-2024 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive				
	(Online)	Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East				
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed				
	·					

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan/ receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- 4471-81 Dated :- 28-12-2023

DIP/J-13193/23

(Er. Satish Kumar Bhagat) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East

EDITORIAL

CONSUMER EXPLOITATION

enerally consumers are not aware of their rights and they do not even have correct information about consumer rights, due to which they are repeatedly cheated by fraudulent traders.

Due to lack of knowledge about consumer rights, consumers are exploited one by one in the cheating system of the traders, the price of the goods or services and the quality of the product is compromised every time.

Consumer exploitation has been done in many ways. Situations of exploitation especially occur when more capitalist and powerful big companies start producing goods. Exploitation is divided into two categories-in the form of goods or commodity and in the form of service.

Deficiency in weight, quantity, weight and measurement, not being of the described or shown quality, impurity or adulteration, charging more than the prescribed price, deficiency in the expected capacity and quality of the product, the product being unsafe, defects in the product.

Not providing quality and satisfactory service on time as per service conditions, service being unsafe and faulty, causing loss instead of convenience/benefit and causing physical, mental and intellectual harm.

The organization representing agencies of consumer groups all over the world is called Consumers International. The Essential Commodities Act 1955 was enacted in India to ensure easy availability of essential commodities to consumers and to protect them from exploitation by unscrupulous traders. In which provision was made for exchange and control of production and distribution and determination of prices of declared essential consumer goods, then the responsibility of enforcement or implementation of the provisions of this Act rests with the administration of the State Governments and Union Territories.

In order to provide goods in correct measurements and weights to the consumers and to protect their interests, the Standard Weights and Measures Enforcement Act was implemented in the state on 1 April 1997. The objective of consumer cooperative is to supply goods to wholesalers at the right price and to eliminate the role of middlemen, whereas the structure of consumer cooperative was prepared at four levels, in which primary store, wholesaler or central store, state consumer association and national consumer cooperative. Unions are involved. Consumer Grievance Redressal Cell was formed in February 2002. The Food and Supplies Department has set up a national consumer helpline to provide advice to consumers.

Help can be availed by calling toll-free number 1800-11-4000, which is being run by Delhi University to provide redressal to consumers' complaints.

To protect the rights of consumers, a separate department named Consumer Affairs was created by the Central Government in the year 1997, which completely looks after the functioning of protecting their rights including consumer complaints, maintaining the standards of products and improving services.

Consumer Welfare Fund has been established with the objective of providing financial arrangements for protection and promotion of consumer interests and schemes and programs related to consumer protection.

2024 is almost here... Are you ready for it?

By: Shobhaa De

onder why we can't resist what are called "year-enders"? Mercifully, 2023 is nearly over -- just two more days to go, and the world can sigh, "Thank God it's over!" No question about it -- 2023 qualifies as the "annus horribilis" (a year of disaster or misfortune). I am not going to subject you to my personal list. Let me just make a few wild, reckless and totally irresponsible observations on the ghastly "Year of Wars" during which the earth almost selfdestructed. Blink! And it could have ended -- just like that -- with a bang, not a whimper. To think that two major wars were staged and are still being waged in 2023, just as humanity was pulling out of a pandemic, is a cruel act of twisted politics. The dreaded Covid-19 eliminated millions! The ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza continue to claim precious lives, with no respite or resolution in sight, as the countdown for 2024 begins.

For us, here in India, 2024 is likely to be the single most significant year in the nation's history. What happens in April-May will set the country on a course which some believe may mark a journey of no return for the next 50 years. Are you ready for the road ahead? The outcome of the general election sounds like a done deal, a closed story. But who knows? Fate, history has shown us convincingly and often enough, has a way of throwing a googly when we least expect it. At this stage, it's nothing more than wishful thinking... gut feeling. But hey -- who would have believed that Donald Trump could occupy the White House once again, given his monumental baggage? But it certainly looks like a distinct possibility right now. Matlab... Yahan bhi, kuch bhi ho sakta hai! Take heart, folks. Those who are dreading the inevitable, can do one of two things -- reconcile themselves to the poll results or start praying fervently.

I have decided to dedicate 2024 to frivolity and good cheer. Better than daily tequila shots, na? Being seriously committed to irony has its advantages. Nothing can shake the cynics. Not even the prospect of what is staring us in the face -- it's time to enjoy a good giggle over a tipple, and let those in charge of our lives -- the minders of the national conscience -- do their worst. I'm prepared for any and every absurd dispensation, including a new moral code for citizens. Dress codes for women are being rigorously enforced in certain states. Behaviour codes for minority communities are already in place. Women, being the most visible minority, are living with the fear of being further targeted and marginalised. The plight of our female wrestlers (along with the male wrestlers who supported them) is beyond pathetic. It ought to shock and shame those in authority who claim to represent the rights of women. When men in power get away scotfree after serious allegations are made against them, encourages other men to go ahead and harass defenceless women at will. With very poor representation in Parliament (just 78 female members out of 542 in the Lok Sabha, and 24 in the Rajya Sabha out of 224), there is no real lobby batting for a better deal for India's 698,192,092 million mahilas, who constitute a hefty 48.4 per cent of the total population. 2024 may see a further deterioration.

So, dear readers, before we chorus Jai Ho! at the likely outcome of the general election, it might be a good idea to re-examine what exactly it is that civil society desires from the political leadership at this point. In one word, it is freedom. Right now, we are a mute, emasculated nation. And to those who constantly roll out impressive statistics and numbers (the Sensex hit 72K this week), is there no concern for the steppedup multiple compromises we will be forced to make next year? Are boasts about India becoming the third largest economy in the world enough consolation to those who suffer daily indignities and discrimination? Is anyone even talking about fair play? A less hate-filled approach to vital issues that exclude millions from the national narrative? The "M" word (Muslim) will assume far greater significance in 2024. The BJP does not have a single Muslim Member of Parliament... isn't that significant and scary signalling?

Not every scenario is as dismal or depressing. Over a giddy X'mas weekend, I met a lot of incredibly wealthy and well-connected young people, who gave their vote of confidence to the BJP being in power, come 2024. These entrepreneurs are tomorrow's billionaire babalog... with impeccable academic credentials. They have spent the past two decades chasing the good life in New York, London, Dubai, Hong Kong, Munich, and travelling frequently to China, cutting mean deals across the world. I watched them emerge from their Bentleys and Aston Martins, dressed impec-

cably, throwing back their heads and laughing carelessly -- the world is indeed their oyster. But, dig deeper, and you sense the narrative has changed dramatically during the past 12 months. Most are rethinking their decisions to live an international, almost nomadic life, jetting between financial hubs and dreaming the best dreams. With most European economies in tatters, America in a mess, a broke England, the choice is between Dubai and India. But hey -- Dubai is far, far more expensive to live in, especially if you have school-going kids. Why not opt for apna desh? That's exactly what's happening with the 40-somethings banking on India's sound financial health in the years to come.

On a lighter and totally silly note, there were two big reveals as 2023 reached the finishing line. Both "reveals" received hysterical coverage on the social media. The world of entertainment stood still as Aaradhya Bachchan's forehead was seen for the very first time since she made it as a legit mini-celeb on domestic and international red carpets. The attention to Abhishek and Aishwarya Rai's teenage daughter's exposed brow, unveiled at a school function, was finally surpassed by the pap-debut on X'mas day of a cherubic one-year-old -- Baby Raha -- the blue-eyed daughter of Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. What could possibly be cuter???

Have an incredibly OTT 2024, readers. Let's hope that 2024 turns out to be an "Annus Mirabilis" -- a remarkable or auspicious year. Don't lose your sense of humour -- you are going to need lots of it after the elections in April-May. A dizzying, rollicking rollercoaster ride is guaranteed. Happy New Year, all...

A doctor becomes a doctor after going through countless trials and tribulations



By: Vijay Garg

There is no doubt that medical science has made a lot of progress. The number of discoveries that have been made in this field have hardly been made in any other field. The findings of medical science have mostly been proven correct. Whether it is new drugs to save life-threatening diseases or surgery with robot technology, medical science has touched the heights. Every year lakhs of kids try their luck to become a doctor by giving NEET entrance test. There is no doubt that Medical education is a very expensive education. If it is called the most expensive education in India, then there is no mistake. Costing crores of rupees to become a doctor has become a trivial matter. First MBBS and after that post graduation studies cost lakhs of rupees. One thing is

man cannot make his children doctors, same is the case with middle class families. Even if their children are very bright, now the money crunch shatters their dream. The medical Education has remained only for the children of rich people. A doctor's child definitely thinks of becoming a doctor and his doctor parents also encourage him to go into his field. The salary and allowances of senior doctors in our country are much higher than that of junior doctors. It is natural that the children of senior doctors are able to complete this education financially. Earlier, senior doctors used to run their own private clinics or hospitals along with government jobs due to which their economic status was quite high was correct to an extent. But the Punjab government has enforced that a government doctor cannot run a private clinic or hospital while on duty. The result of which was that many doctors resigned from their government jobs and gave priority to running their own private clinics or hospitals. The largest government medical university in Punjab is Baba Farid University, Faridkot, along with Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, where medical stu-

as clear as glass that a poor

dents are admitted. Neither are college studentsDuring the conversation, it was learned that one has to face many hardships to become a doctor. After explaining in detail, it was learned that many children who are studying medicine become mentally ill. They lose heart, as a result they try to keep themselves calm by taking drugs. This is very worrying. That student believed that MBBS. The fee is the highest in Punjab, while the health system of Punjab is underdeveloped, in such a situation, the government can reduce the fees and maximize Children should be motivated for medicine. He said that professors put pressure on children. If ragging is happening in the college, then the college management is unaware of it or has become careless on purpose. This should also be considered. If seen, government hospitals are running on the heads of junior doctors. Along with 24-hour rigorous duty, they also do rigorous postgraduation studies. Governments are not unaware of this. A good doctor can become only if he gets a comfortable environment or some kind of training There will be no pressure on S. If this continues, in the near future children and

parents will be seen avoiding

medical studies. A student who has become a doctor by spending close to crores of money will somehow work to add to his hard-spent money. Then people like us address doctors as robbers. In 2018, the fee was directly reduced from four lakh to nine lakh. If we take the cost of the hostel, then the cost reaches about fifteen lakh. The reason behind all these is less availability of seats.During a study, it has been found that 25 children taking coaching at Kota have committed suicide in 2023 as compared to last ten years. Which is very high compared to other years. The direct reason for which has come to light is the pressure of studies and heavy expenses incurred during studies. Another study shows that 13 thousand students committed suicide in 2021. The reason for this was the pressure of studies. If the government wants to improve the welfare system of the state, doctors should be recruited, that too by paying good salaries. Doctors who do not pay their debts Can perform without any other greed.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout)

GDC R S Pura participated in Assembling Climate Clock event



Top News Report

R S PURA, Dec 30: GDC R S Pura participated in Assembling Climate Clock to remind masses "The Clock Is Ticking - Lets Act In Time"

Climate clock is a clock that tells us how much time is left before we touch global warming of 1.5oC. The time shown depends on our carbon budget and current rate of carbon emissions across the world.

Most people will be unaware of the fact the time left before we touch global warming of 1.5oC, from where irreversible climate change starts, is only about 6.5 years.

The world seems to be oblivious of this fact, also oblivious to the fact that it is only a matter of time before their lives get affected by catastrophic climate change.

As part of the event, Viksit Bharat Club, NSS, NCC and Eco club of GDC R. S.

Pura participated in to assemble their climate clocks and install them in the buildings so that people can see the ticking time everyday and get encouraged to take "actions for climate correction" as climate change is real and is now recognized as one of the gravest challenges facing the international community.

Currently, it is majorly affecting the poor, but the days are not far when every person, irrespective of international and monetary barriers, will suffer the casualties of climate change.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, esteemed Principal of the college. She said that event is in line with Mission LiFE which focuses on the need to adapt a lifestyle favouring sustainability as our nurturer needs nurturing. It's responsibility of each individual to inculcate a habit of

reducing conspicuous consumption of energy and making rapid transition towards becoming energy consciousconscious. She further added that climate is not changing it has already changed and we all need to take climate corrective measures because we all are contributor to the climate change and only switching to green and clean energy sources won't solve the problem but limiting our consumption and generating and localizing the generation can help together make the planet a better place to live in. The event was coordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, Nodal officer Viksit Bharat and the faculty members who present on the occasion were, Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO, Dr. Rkesh Choudhary, ANO NCC. Prof. Shifali Abrol, Convener Eco Club, Prof Sudesh

Kumar, Prof Shelley

Kalsi and Prof. Geetika

Khatana visits Bafliaz, extends condolences to bereaved families

Top News Report

POONCH, Dec 30: BJP MP Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana visited the families of civilians here who lost their lives recently and also paid tributes to the martyr army jawans who were martyred in a terrorist attack in ditrict Poonch.

He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir won't allow the nefarious designs of the enemy country to succeed and would fight together to defeat the menace of the terrorism in the Union Territory.

MP Khatana said that Indian army holds an impeccable record in upholding human rights, stating that the law of the land would take its course.

He remarked on the neglect the hilly districts of Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi endured in the past 70 years, attributing it to the "loot and scoot" practices of previous governments.

MP Khatana lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30:

A Satsang by Swami

Vinay Muni was organ-

ised at Chatha Gujjran

in memory of Late Shri

Darshan Kumar Tugga.

Sangat hailing from differ-

ent corners participated

Addressing the sangat,

Swami Vinay Muni said

that the Soul does not

take birth nor does it die.

The Soul is a permanent

entity. This phenom-

therein

Satsang held in memory

of Darshan Kumar Tugga

to serving the poorest of the poor, highlighting flagship schemes such as Har Ghar Nal Se Jal, Ujjwala, PMAY, and the distribution of land to the landless in Jammu and Kashmir as exemplary initiatives. He noted that over the past nine years, the region has witnessed a significant influx of liberal grants and the sanctioning of various development projects.

He said that in a recent meeting with the Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Nitin Gadkari, MP Khatana raised concerns about tunnels and roads in Rajouri and Poonch. Minister Gadkari assured MP Khatana that the matter would be taken up with the relevant authorities, reflecting the government's commitment to infrastructure development in the region.

MP Khatana expressed confidence in the government's dedication to bringing prosperity to the hilly districts of Jammu and Kashmir through comprehensive development initiatives.

enon of taking birth and

dying is of the ego. It is

the ego that is born and

it is the ego that dies.

In reality, the Soul does

not die at all. Birth and

death do occur; there is

no question about it. We

all witness its occurrence

Death takes place when

all the accounts of karma

of a person's life are fin-

ished. Whatever account

he had bound for the

current life, comes to an

end and therefore death

occurs, Swami added.

Farewell accorded to Sectional Officer Raj Kumar



Top News Report

DODA, Dec 30: Farewell accorded by ICDS Department at DC Office Kishtwar to Sectional Officer Raj Kumar Chandail, on retirement.

Everyone congratulated SO Raj Kumar Chandail on his retirement and saluted his honesty. He served entire tenure in duty have spent about 15 years in District Kishtwar.

When his posting was made, he was engaged as a Junior Assistant and after that he retired as a Sectional Officer.

All his colleagues in his office honored him with gifts and also blessed him for his health and said that with your honesty, we will work in the same way as we have done our work with hon-

Raj Kumar said, "I

and taught me that my elder brother Prem Raj and I always worked with honesty wherever I got a chance to do duty."

Officers present at farewell party include Programe Officer Rishi Kumar Sharma, CDPO Kishtwar Ifat Ara, DIO kishtwar Kuldeep Kumar, CDPO Paddar Najeeb Ahmed, and other Officer of different department.

Student Welfare Committee of GDCW Kathua organises function



Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 30: To say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024, Student Welfare Committee of GDCW Kathua organised cultural program in

the college campus. Function started with the lightning of lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Savi Behl, Principal of the college and followed by a group song presented by faculty members.

Chief Guest in her address congratulated and appreciated DSW for taking this initiative to organise such a beautiful programme.

She gave blessings and good wishes to all faculty members for New year and encouraged the students to take part in these activities for all round development of the personality. Proceedings of the program were carried by

Dr Amita Dua and formal vote of thanks was presented by DSW, Dr. Rachna Devi.

Senior faculty members Dr Inderjeet Kour, Dr Babita Mahajan were also present in the func-

Dr. Renu, Dr Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Deepti Salotra, Dr Surekha Rani, Dr Ajay, Dr. Ritu Kumar, Dr Roshan Lal and all the teaching non teaching staff members were present in the function.

Day-long seminar between Travel and Tourism stakeholders of Vietnam and Leh held



Top News Report

LEH, Dec 30: As a part of the first Cultural Exchange and Tourism Introduction Programme in Vietnam, a day-long seminar was held at Samtan Hill Dalat between the Travel and Tourism stakeholders of Vietnam and Leh Ladakh, which was presided by the esteemed Counsul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Dr Madan Mohan Sethi in the presence of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson.

Representatives from LAHDC Leh, such as Councillor Tsering Namgyal; Councillor Lobzang Sherap; experts and stakeholders of travel and tourism sector from both Leh Ladakh and Vietnam and other concerned officials were also present.

In the seminar, President, All Ladakh Travel Trade Alliance (ALTTA), PT Kunzang; President All Ladakh Hotel and Guest Houses Association (ALHGHA), Skarma Tsering Dehlex; President All Ladakh Tour Operator Association (ALTOA), Delex Namgail presented presentation highlighting the Travel and Tourism industry of Ladakh and its potential.

Another landmark achievement was the signing of three separate Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) between the stakeholders of the two regions i.e Lam Dong Province, Vietnam and Leh Ladakh, India. The first MoU dealt with collaboration in Agriculture between Ladakh and Vietman, which was signed by Councillor Khaltse, LAHDC Leh, Lobzang Sherap representing Ladakh.

The second MoU was signed between the Travel and Tourism stakeholders of Vietnam and Ladakh and the third MoU focused on Hotel Industry and was signed between the respective stakeholders and experts of hotel industry.

Addressing the gathering, Counsul General Dr Madan Mohan Sethi appreciated the novel initiative of LAHDC Leh in promoting tourism and cultural exchange in Vietnam. Counsul General Sethi assured his full support in promotion of tourism between Ladakh, India and Vietnam. He also concurred to take up the issue of charter flight between Ladakh and Vietnam with the concerned higher authorities.

Chairman/ CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, in his address, shed light on the religious and spiritual bonding between Vietnam and India and the strong bilateral relationship shared by the two countries in different sectors. He added that Hanley in Ladakh is the

abode of the first Dark Sky Sanctuary in the whole of South-East Asia and highlighted the booming tourism in Ladakh and its potential. He expressed grati-

tude to the government officials of Lam Dong Province and Samtan Hill Dalat for the support extended in successfully conducting the first cultural exchange and tourism introduction programme with immense potential and opportunities embedded in it for

both the regions. CEC also expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and guidance provided by the Counsul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Dr Madam Mohan Sethi.

CEC Gyalson added the signing of the three MoUs would deepen the bilateral relationship between the two and bring economic prosperity and inclusive development in the respective sectors.

Further, CEC Gyalson

extended warm invitation to the stakeholders of Vietnam to organise and conduct a cultural exchange and tourism promotion programme in Ladakh and expressed hope that the result of such initiative would reflect in the increase of tourists from Ladakh and India in Vietnam and vice-versa, fostering a deeper sense of connection and bond between the two coun**Top News Report**

District Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, Dec 30: Rattan Lal Gupta, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu has lambasted the incumbent Govt of totally ignoring the remote areas in every aspect with the people in these areas left to

fend for themselves. The senior NC leader expressed this while addressing a meeting of NC workers at Chenani in Udhampur district

here on Saturday. The meeting was conducted by Ram Purshotam Sharma. District President Udhampur Rural and Naresh Anthal District Secretary Udhampur Rural who apprised the senior functionaries of party about the hardships being faced by the people living in the region. He also briefed the senior leaders about the party's functioning and programmes being conducted by the party cadre in these areas

Rattan Lal lamented that it is really an irony that the BJP's proxy Govt in J&K as well as the Union Govt are making tall claims about the equitable development of the J&K while the ground situation reveals contrary conditions. He said that the fact remains that during the present regime remote/ rural areas remained completely ignored and untouched in terms of development

He said that the deplorable conditions in remote/ rural areas of J&K especially Dudu, Basantgarh, Latti, Goldi Pancheri and Majalta bear evidence to the Union Govt and the UT Administration's failure in reaching out to these areas for development and welfare of the people living in these

Elaborating on the situation in such areas, the senior NC leader said that Ramnagar to Dudu, Chenani to Dudu and Udhampur to Panchari roads are currently in highly deplorable condition thus badly hampering the smooth connectivity to these areas. He said that people have been left to the mercy of God as there is dearth of medical and healthcare facilities.

Rattan Lal criticizes incumbent

Govt for neglecting remote of

The power shortage in the said areas is the worst as having glimpse of a glowing electric lamp has been reduced to a dream only. Moreover unemployment has landed the youth in these areas into utter frustration and chaotic conditions, non-availability of ration and other essential commodi-

The Provincial President said that despite such difficult conditions making the life of the people in these areas quite miserable, there is nobody to listen to their woes. He assert ed that only NC can address each and every issue of the people of these areas as it had been doing during its governance in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdul Ghani Malik, former JKNC Udhampur in his address on the occasion raised serious concern over Govt's delay tactics on holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said only the represen tative government can best understand the problems of the people and address their issues and hence elections to the J&K Assembly should be held at the earliest Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Pro-

vincial Secretary JKNC, while demanding that the Assembly elections in J&K be held along with the Parliamentary elections, asked the party workers to gear up for elections to ensure a smooth victory of National Conference so that people get rid of the governance that has given them nothing except miseries. Among those who were pres-

Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Mohd Shaffi Adv, Rajesh Gupta Adv Lal Chand Musafir, Sarista Devi. Prem Nath nomi. Akash Khalsa, Ch. Mohd Gani, Amir Chand, Hukam Chand, Haji Saif Ali, Jagdish Bhaderwaj, Sr leader Sethi, Govind Ram Ramesh Kumar, Bushan, Hari Gopal Sharma, Abdul Rehman, Anyatullah and other function aries of District and Blocks

Modi govt is committed to enhance accessibility and connectivity across **India: Rekha**



Top News Report

JAMMU, 30 Dec: Modi govt is committed to enhance accessibility and connectivity across India this was stated by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. The public gathering was held in Trikuta Nagar Mandal of Bahu Constituency in District Jammu South in connection with public Booth Jan Samvaad Abhiyaan in the presence of Ex-Councillor and Trikuta Nagar Mandal President Neeraj Puri, Ward President DP Arora, Speaker Ayush Sawhney were present on the occasion.

Rekha Mahajan addresses the common masses and highlights the quality of a country's infrastructure is a key determinant in shaping its economic trajectory. She added that the Narendra Modi-led Govt has kept infrastructure at the front and center of its development agenda including the union territory of J&K. Rekha said in the upcoming future the nation will witness the" victory chariot" of PM Modi-led government for the third consecutive term in 2024 parliamentary election.

Rekha hails that Indian railways witnessed a massive capacity expansion through line doubling and electrification and the" Vande Bharat Express", India's first indigenous Semi High-Speed trains, is a major 'Make in India' success story.15 Vande Bharat trains are already operational and 400 Vande Bharat express trains are to be manufactured in the next three years. Rekha also added that PM Modi's visionary and vibrant leadership also introduced the new Vande Bharat Express train in J&K and Indian Railways has allocated the 49th Vande Bharat Express train to the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) in Jammu & Kashmir. Rekha Mahajan emphasized that Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced that the

USBRL will be completed by December 2023 or January 2024, and a Vande Bharat metro train will be operated between Jammu and Srinagar once the project is fully operational. Rekha enlightened that in the last nine years, the metro rail projects have reached 20 cities. In the aviation section steps were taken to make it affordable and accessible through the Udan project.

Rekha said that the country also witnessed major constructions during this period like the World's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge, the World's Iongest highway tunnel, the Atal Tunnel, further the completion of many long-pending projects like the Saryu Nahar Irrigation Canal, Eastern, and Western Peripheral Expressway, etc. The recently implemented infrastructure development projects are accelerating the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, she added.

Ready to party?: As the New Year knocks on the door, here's a round-up of where you can celebrate in the tricity and make memories for a lifetime

'Celebrate endings — for they precede new beginnings'

And to bid adieu to 2023 and welcome the New Year, we bring the happening events of tricity, where friends and family members can celebrate together one last time this year! From musical evenings to sundown parties to curated food menus for the weekend, restaurants, bars and hotels are ready to host Chandigarh folia.

Sufi night
Immerse yourself in the soulstirring tunes of Satinder Sartaaj
as you bid farewell to the old
and welcome the new in style.
The event, Mehfil-e-Sartaaj, will
commence at 9 pm on New Year
Eve at Radisson Red, Mohali.
The ticket price covers exquisite New Year's Eve dinner and
unlimited beverages. Let the
Sufi music set the tone for a
year filled with positivity, laughter and unforgettable moments.

Music to the ear
Punjabi singer Ninja, along
with artistes Gulzar Channiwala
and Renuka Panwar, will be performing live on New Year Eve at
the Open Air Concert, Shalimar
Ground, Panchkula.

On December 31, Armaan Bedil will perform at The Altius Boutique Hotel, Chandigarh. Also Hyatt Centric, Chandi-



garh, is hosting a concert with singers-performers Jassi Gill and Babbal Rai.

One can also celebrate New Year Eve with Prem Dhillon at Playboy Club Chandigarh (8 pm), whereas JW Marriott has hired Punjabi singer Amrit Maan to perform on the Eve. Titled 'Dazzle N Disguise With Amrit Maan', it will commence at 9:30 pm at the Grand Ballroom of the hotel.

Carnival feel
As part of Chandigarh Club'
Countdown 2024, celebrations
began last Saturday. For the
New Year Eve, organisers have

from 11.30 am onwards. In the evening at 7:30 pm, there will be fashion show choreographed by former Miss India finalist Aprajita Sharma. On New Year Eve, none other than veteran Punjabi singer Harbhajan Mann will be performing at Chandigarh Club while New Year Tambola will be held for the club members.

Hotel Hometel, Chandigarh, is hosting a dance-and-dine themed party called 2024 New Year Carnival. Reserved for family and couples, there will be a lavish gala dinner, unlimited snacks and beverages, DJ with LED Party and also fun games as well as activities for kids. They will also distribute special gifts and hold a lucky draw contest.

You can also celebrate the New Year Party 2024 at Gymkhana Club, Sector 3, Panchkula. There will be games, lucky draw contest and a belly dance performance. Also Singer Rimz J and Dilsher will perform, whereas DJ Yamaha will make the party people rock the dance floor.

Midnight Resolutions— the Year-End Bash with DJ Sandy is being hosted by Elante Mall, Chandigarh, and will begin at 8 pm on New Year Eve.

Newlyweds Arbaaz Khan, Shura Khan Jet off for New Year vacation



The New Year is going to be really special for actor Arbaaz Khan as he will ring in 2024 with his wife Shura Khan.

On Saturday morning, the newlyweds were spotted at the Mumbai airport and happily posed for the shutterbugs.

In the videos surfaced online, Arbaaz can be seen wearing a black sweatshirt that he paired with blue jeans. Shura opted for a grey co-ord set that she teamed with a cool black cap.

Arbaaz and Shura got married in an intimate

nikah ceremony on December 24 at the latter's sister Arpita Khan Sharma's residence in

After the ceremony, Arbaaz took to Instagram and announced his sacred union with Shura via a heartfelt Instagram post.

Mumbai.

"In the presence of our loved ones, me and mine begin a lifetime of love and togetherness from this day on![?] Need all your blessings and good wishes on our special day!," he wrote. For the wedding, Arbaaz wore a floral bandhgala with beige trousers while matching with his bride Shura, who wore a floral peachcolored lehenga for the nikah ceremony.

The ceremony happened in the presence of close friends and family members.

Actors Raveena Tandon, Riddhi-ma Pandit, Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia Deshmukh also attended the nikah ceremony of Arbaaz and Shura besides family members including Salim Khan, Salma Khan, Helen, Salman Khan, Sohail Khan, and Alvira Agnihotri among others.

Arbaaz was previously married to Malaika Arora. They separated in 2016 and officially divorced in 2017; they have a son, Arhaan. Arbaaz also dated Giorgia Andriani but the two called it quits last year.

Reportedly, he met Shura, a makeup artist, on the sets of his upcoming film 'Patna Shukla', which features Ravena Tandon in the lead role.

Khushi Dubey play as a role of undercover Cop in Aankh Micholi

Star Plus has announced its new undercover cop saga, Aankh Micholi, starring Khushi Dubey and Navneet Malik. Produced by Shashi Sumeet Productions, Aankh Micholi promises to keep audiences hooked.

The makers of Aankh Micholi have dropped an intriguing promo for the cop drama. The promo depicts Rukhmini (Khushi Dubey) as an undercover cop fighting the goons on one side and maintaining family ties on the other. Rukhmini aspires to be a reputed official. Aankh Micholi will also be a twisted tale of a saas and a bahu. It will be interesting to witness Rukhmini's journey and how she achieves her goals.



Rebel Wilson opens up about her upcoming memoir 'Rebel Rising'

American actor and comedian Rebel Wilson spoke about the 'gut-wrenching' process of writing her book 'Rebel Rising', which will be released on April 2. She also showed a behind-the-scenes video of herself signing books, according to People.

In the Instagram story clip, Wilson autographed printed pages from her book as she narrated the video. "This is how I'm spending the nights of my holidays," she said. "Just a few to go for the first thousand people who buy the book. I can't wait for you guys to read this," she continued about her memoir.

"You're going to see a whole new side of me.



Lots of funny and serious stuff... And hopefully, you guys will love the book as much as I've loved writing it—although sometimes it's been gut-wrenching and emotional," Wilson added.

'Rebel Rising' follows Wilson's unconventional success in Hollywood and her personal issues with fertility, weight, sexuality, and more.

She spoke to People about the scary yet exciting experience of writing her memoir in October.

"I've been writing the book for the past 18 months because when I write, I have to totally be by myself and isolated," Wilson said. "It's just been this secret thing I've been doing by myself for 18 months. It's so exciting now that it's done."

The Australian actress also acknowledged that she was unhappy with the book's introduction since she struggled to be herself in her writing.

"I think the first few chapters were really...," Wilson said. "Then the editor was like, 'This just doesn't sound like you.' So what I started doing was I just sat there by myself as if I'm just telling the story to a friend. I just kind of found my writing style—as if I'm sitting opposite my friend, telling all my life's deepest secrets, which is a bit scary."

'Witnessed a new India': Amitabh Bachchan bids emotional farewell to 'KBC 15'

Amitabh Bachchan, who has been the host of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' bids an emotional farewell to the quiz based reality show, and said he has witnessed a new India on the ten seats of the stage.

The first episode of season 15 premiered on August 14. Amitabh has hosted 14 seasons of the knowledge based reality show, since the year 2000. However, the season 3 of the show which premiered in 2007 was hosted by superstar Shah Rukh Khan. The last episode of this season featured an IAS aspirant Avinash Bharti, who hails from Haiderganj, Uttar Pradesh. He won the amount of Rs 50 lakh.

The finale episode also featured Indian Para-archer Sheetal Devi and actress Vidya Balan. They were followed by veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, and her granddaughter and diva Sara Ali Khan.

In episode 100, which is titled as 'Vidai Ka

Samay', the megastar was seen giving a monologue. For the finale episode, Amitabh sported a red suit and paired it with a white shirt. In the monologue, the

'Don' actor said: "Goodbyes are really strange. Those who bid goodbye with a smile do so with really heavy hearts. Bidding a beloved goodbye doesn't make you sad because it leaves the house vacant, rather, it makes you sad because their departure leaves a void in your heart."

The 81-year-old actor shared that he had the urge to sit in the audience seats.

"Normally, these seats are occupied by the audience and their self-less love. By people who are here to help total strangers. Prayers are invoked here. Playfulness and shenanigans are also born here. I've witnessed a new India on these 10 seats (fastest finger first seats). A glorious and progressive India," he said.



The 'Brahmastra' actor went on to say, "An indigent India with unwavering and steadfast resolve. An India, who with the ink of its hard work, penned new destinies. I've witnessed futures being adorned and histories being written. It feels as though I've witnessed an entire journey of one's life."

Amitabh said that the stage is his strength.

"The resonating applause of the viewers not only honours the efforts of every contestant, but also, always, inspires me to keep going. I wish to end this

season with that very applause," he ended his speech.

In season 15, the makers had introduced a new part called 'Super Sandook' where players, after crossing the second threshold, attempt a rapid fire question round. The 50:50 lifeline was replaced with the 'Double Dip'.

Retired Squadron Leader Sushmita Sahay was the first contestant of the 15th season. Jaskaran Singh, an IAS aspirant, became the first Rs one crore winner of Season 15.

Kusha Kapila: I have mostly essayed extremely urban characters

Actress Kusha Kapila, who plays Chhaya in the coming-of-age drama series 'Dehati Ladke', shared how she has mostly essayed extremely urban characters, and in this show, she has played a professor unlike her previous roles.

The social media personality and YouTuber, Kusha is known for her roles in 'Selfiee', 'Plan A Plan B', 'Thank You for Coming', and 'Case Toh Banta Hai'.

Speaking about her role in 'Dehati Ladke', she said, "Chhaya is a liberal and progressive woman, who is an Assistant Professor at Rajat's university.

She finds love in Rajat's mentor, Prashant. Chhaya has a mind of her own; she is a strong-headed yet amicable person, and people find it easy to open up to her.

Besides being progressive, she is also unafraid to make mistakes in life."
Talking about taking up



a role unlike any other she has played in the past, Kusha said, "Interestingly, my character in 'Dehati Ladke' is unlike any other roles that I have done in the past. I have mostly essayed extremely urban characters. I've never really played a professor, especially somebody who quotes poets and imparts wisdom at the drop of a hat. So, that was very interesting."

Based on a best-selling Hindi novel, the narrative not only evokes a sense of nostalgia for college days, but also imparts valuable life lessons about embracing life to the fullest.

The series follows the journey of Rajat, a simple boy from a village, who embarks on a quest to chase his dreams in Lucknow.

This young adult series features Shine Pandey, Raghav Sharma, Tanish Neeraj, Saamya Jainn, Aasif Khan, and Kusha.

It is streaming on Amazon miniTV.

"Our Vision Was Not Bharat-Centric After Independence Till Narendra Modi Changed It": Amit Shah

Amit Shah suggested that Article 370 led to the birth of separatism and terrorism until its abrogation in 2019

AHMEDABAD, Dec 30 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that after independence, those who loved the country felt bad that its vision was not "Bharat-centric" until the time that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister.

"After independence, those who loved the country and had knowledge about it and had respect for the word 'Bharat', felt bad that though the country is free, its vision was not Bharatcentric but on something else. This was in the minds of many for several years," Shah said on Saturday while attending the Pujya Purani Swami Smriti Mahotsav organised by Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam in Ahmedabad.

"All Bharatiya Janata Party workers started working on changing this vision from 1950 onwards. Several generations of our party strived to make that happen, and many even lost their lives till the day



came when Gujarat's Chief Minister became the country's Prime Minister and the whole world was singing the praise of Bharat," Shah added.

Singing praises on India's achievements throughout the decades, the Union Minister said that the country is now on the way to being the top mobile phone manufacturer, third when it comes to start-ups and renewable energy.

"Today, we are progressing towards being the top mobile phone manufacturer; we rank third as far as start-ups are concerned, third in renewable energy production, and no one doubts us now as far as security is concerned," Shah said.

Amit Shah suggested that Article 370 led to the birth of separatism and terrorism until its abrogation in 2019.

"For years, we have been bearing the brunt of Article 370, which led to the birth of separatism and terrorism. On August 5, 2019, Modi brought an end to Article 370 with one stroke of a pen," Mr Shah said.

Speaking on the Narendra Modi government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, Shah said, "With surgical strikes and air strikes, we gave a message to those who used to mess with our borders not to take on our defence forces, otherwise, they will get a firm response from us, even within their homes. Zero tolerance towards terrorism is Narendra Modi's policy."

Thanking the Swami Narayan Sampradaya for its help in advancing the Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan of Gujarat, the Home Minister said, "The Swami Narayan Sampradaya has enlightened several people. I must admit that if the gurukul of Swami Narayan Sampradaya had not worked in different places in Gujarat, the Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan of Gujarat would have been left incom-

Do people want easy rail travel or picture with 'shahenshah's statue': Rahul Gandhi takes a dig at government



NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a swipe at the government over setting up of selfie booths at railway stations with life-size cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking whether people want easy rail travel or a picture with the "shahenshah's statue".

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "Fares for every class of 'Garibo Ki Sawaari', Indian Railways have been increased. Even the fare concession given to the elderly was withdrawn. Platform ticket prices were increased and the door for privatisation was opened.

He said, "Was this money, which is being squeezed out of the public's hard-earned money, for making a selfie stand? What do the people of India want? Cheap gas cylinders and easy rail travel? Or Picture with 'shahenshah's statue'?'

Gandhi's attack on the government came days after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said setting up selfie booths at railway stations with photographs of Modi is a "brazen waste" of taxpayers' money while opposition states await MGNREGA funds

Kharge had also shared a copy of a reply obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act that listed the stations under the Central Railway where temporary and permanent selfie booths have been

Five killed as lorry hits vehicles, rams into teashop in TN's Pudukottai

PUDUKOTTAI, Dec 30 (Agencies): Five persons, mostly devotees, were killed and 19 others injured when a cement-laden lorry hit two vehicles before knocking down a roadside tea shop at Namanasamudram in the district, police said on Saturday

The incident, which occurred in the wee hours, caught the devotees who had stopped at the tea stall unaware.

The driver of the lorry bound for Sivaganga from Ariyalur lost control of the vehicle, and



hit a car and a van before ramming into the tea shop on the Tiruchi-Rameswaram highway, police said.

vallur, were on a trip to Omshakthi temple while the van carried Ayyappa devotees.

Four persons died on the spot while another

succumbed on the way to hospital, police said. The injured have been admitted to the Pudukottai Government Hospi-Devotees from Tirutal. Police and Fire service personnel rushed to Namanasamudram extricated the bodies and rushed the injured

Capt Ashutosh Shekhar flies maiden passenger plane to Ayodhya; family says proud of him

AYODHYA, Dec 30 (Agencies): It is a proud moment for the family, says 75-year-old Mukteshwar Singh as his son piloted the first commercial passenger plane to the new airport here after its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

Forty-three-year-old Captain Ashutosh Shekhar is a pilot with Indigo, and after the airport was opened, his flight from New Delhi (2.40 pm) is scheduled to land here at 4 pm.

Modi also inaugurated the city's railway station, days ahead of the consecration of the Ram temple. The event on January



22 is expected to be attended by thousands of people.

"Lord Ram has been kind to us," said Shekhar's mother Madhurani Singh (68)

"Since the day he entered the aviation sector, it was my dream to see him flying an aircraft to

Ayodhya. It has come true after 12 years. What could be more joyous than seeing a dream being fulfilled!" she said. This is a "divine moment" also,

said Mukteshwar Singh. He said his family's associa-

tion with Ayodhya went back four generations when his great grandfather visited the city to become a disciple of Shri Ram Vallabha Kunj Janki Ghat.

Shekhar is a disciple of Guru Shree Ram Shankar Das ji Vedanti of the city, said the family.

"It is a very emotional moment for the whole family. I believe he came into the aviation sector because of the blessings of our gurus. Today, he is flying the first aircraft to Ayodhya as the inaugural flight. It is a matter of great pride for the family," Mukteshwar Singh told agency.

Shekhar's wife Sweta Ranjan said the flight would take off from Delhi at 2.40 pm and land at Ayodhya at 4 pm. "It will start its return journey at 4.40 pm and reach Delhi at 5.55 pm," she said.

"Both my children are very happy. We believe that our happiness and prosperity in the family is by the grace of our divine association with the birthplace of Lord Ram," she said.

Delhi cop dragged, beaten up after asking man to show bike documents

to the hospital. A case

has been registered.

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): A head constable of the Delhi Police was dragged and beaten up by four men after he stopped one of the accused's twowheeler to check his licence papers, police said today.

Kuldeep, a head constable posted at the Hauz Khas Police Station in South Delhi, suffered critical injuries to his face and was admitted to a hospital, they added. The incident occurred at a police booth in the South Extension Part-II area on Friday afternoon.

At the time of the incident, Kuldeep and

Constable Mukesh were patrolling at the South Extension Part-II market, said South Delhi DCP Chandan Chaudharv. Both were in their civil dress as it was a special drive in view of the upcoming New Year celebrations, he said.

Kuldeep and Mukesh noticed a man riding his motorcycle without a helmet and in an improper manner. As the two-wheeler was also creating a loud noise due to its modified silencer, the duo stopped the motorcyclist and asked him to show his licence papers and registration certificate, Chaudhary said.



The rider -- Chayank Seelelan alias Addi (22) -- refused to show his documents, following which the police officials took him to the booth. It is alleged that Chayank called his brother Tanishk and narrated about him being stopped by the police.

After some time, Tanishk, Chayank's father Anil and cousin Badal Chaudhary arrived at the police booth and began abusing the policemen for not letting him go. They also threatened them with dire consequences, claiming they had "relations with a

When Kuldeep asked the four men to show him their documents, they dragged him out of the police booth and beat him up with sticks. He was later rescued by passers-by and informed the police control room of his assault.

While Chayank's brother, father and cousin fled after attacking Kuldeep, the police caught Chayak with the

help of the people. An FIR was lodged in connection with the matter. DCP Chaudhary said strict action would be taken against the accused.

Three die as bus hits motorcycle amid dense fog in Uttar Pradesh



GONDA, Dec 30 (Agencies): Three people died and two were injured here when a private bus hit a motorcycle from behind amid reduced visibility due to thick fog, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place on the Colonelganj-Belsar-Nawabganj

Utkal Ranjan Sahu Takes Charge As Acting

road near Chakraut under the Colonelgani police station area on Friday night.

Due to dense fog, a private bus hit a motorcycle from behind, killing two persons riding the two-wheeler.

The bus driver lost control of the vehicle after hitting the motorcycle and ran over a person on a footpath, said Superintendent of

Two people were injured in the incident and are undergoing treatment at a hospital, he said.

One of the deceased was identified as Dashrath Lal Shukla (45), a resident of Pandey Chauraha. The identity of the two who were travelling on the motorcycle is yet to be ascertained, Jaiswal said.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination. The bus driver is on the run and teams have been formed to arrest him, he

Jharkhand woman strangles 2-year-old son for crying during her call, arrested

GIRIDIH, Dec 30 (Agencies): A woman in Jharkhand's Giridih district allegedly strangled her 2-year-old son for disturbing her while she was on a phone call. The woman was allegedly irritated by her son's crying while she was on a phone call with someone.

The woman, Afsana Khatoon, had married Nizamuddin six years ago and the couple had two sons, aged four and two.

Afsana's father-in-law and complainant, Rojan Ansari said that Afsana reportedly locked herself in a room with her younger son after a fight with her husband. She was on a phone call when her son started



crying. Instead of comforting him, she strangled him, the family alleged.

Afsana didn't open the door for a while. The matter came to light when she called her husband inside the room to sleep, and he found their son unconscious. The toddler was rushed to the hospital,

but he died.

Meanwhile. Afsana. who has been arrested and sent to jail, claims that she did not intend to kill her son and that he died after she, irked over his crying, pushed him in anger, causing him to fall off the bed.

The police have sent the child's body for postmortem and further investigations are underway.

Director General Of Rajasthan Police Senior IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahu, who is currently the director general of Rajasthan home guards, took the additional charge after Director General of Police

JAIPUR, Dec 30 (Agencies): Senior IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahu took charge as acting Director General of Police of

The 1988-batch IPS officer, who is currently the director general of Rajasthan home guards, took the additional charge after Director General of Police Umesh Mishra took voluntary retirement on Saturday.

Rajasthan at the police head-

quarters here on Saturday.

After assuming the charge, Sahu said that based on instructions and priorities of the state government, the police force would work towards preventing crime against women, gang war



and cyber crimes. The acting DGP said effective action will be taken against gangsters, those involved in cybercrimes and crimes against

women.

Action was being taken against gangsters in the state, he said, adding that concrete steps would be taken to prevent crimes against women by holding talks with the authorities concerned.

About cybercrime, he said if people remain alert then cybercrime can be reduced significantly and the police department is working to raise awareness among people on the issue.

Senior police officers, including Director General (Law and Order) Rajeev Sharma, Director General (Cyber Security) Ravi Mehrada, Additional Directors General Sanjay Agarwal, Govind Gupta, Anil Paliwal, Sanjib Narzary, Vishal Bansal and V K Singh were present at the police headquarters to welcome Sahu.

Russia launches the biggest aerial barrage of the war and kills 30 civilians, Ukraine says

At least 144 people were wounded and an unknown number were buried under rubble during the roughly 18-hour onslaught, Ukrainian officials said.

KYIV, Dec 30 (Agencies): Russia launched 122 missiles and dozens of drones against Ukrainian targets, officials said Friday, killing at least 30 civilians across the country in what an air force official called the biggest aerial barrage of the war.

At least 144 people were wounded and an unknown number were buried under rubble during the roughly 18-hour onslaught, Ukrainian officials said. A maternity hospital, apartment blocks and schools were among the buildings reported damaged across Ukraine.

In the capital, Kyiv, broken glass and mangled metal littered city streets. Air raid and emergency service sirens wailed as plumes of smoke drifted into a bright blue sky.

Kateryna Ivanivna, a 72-yearold Kyiv resident, said she threw herself to the ground when a missile struck.

"There was an explosion, then flames," she said. "I covered my head and got down in the street. Then I ran into the subway station.

Meanwhile, in Poland, authorities said that what apparently was a Russian missile had entered the country's airspace Friday morning from the direction of Ukraine and then vanished off radars.

In the attack on Ukraine, the air force intercepted most of the ballistic and cruise missiles and the Shahed-type drones overnight, said Ukraine's military chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

Western officials and analysts had recently warned that Russia limited its cruise missile strikes for months in an apparent effort to build up stockpiles for massive strikes during the winter, hoping to break the Ukrainians'

The result was "the most massive aerial attack" since Russia's full-scale invasion in



Congress must step up and act."

British Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak said the attack should

stir the world to further action in

"These widespread attacks

on Ukraine's cities show Putin

will stop at nothing to achieve

his aim of eradicating freedom

and democracy," Sunak said on

social media platform X, former-

ly Twitter. "We must continue to

stand with Ukraine — for as long

United Nations Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres con-

demned Russia's attack "in

the strongest terms" and said

attacks against civilians are

unacceptable and must end

immediately, according to a

Ukrainian Foreign Minister

Dmytro Kuleba said the scale

of the attack should wake

people up to Ukraine's continu-

"Today, millions of Ukraini-

ans awoke to the loud sound

of explosions," he wrote on X.

"I wish those sounds of explo-

sions in Ukraine could be heard

all around the world. In all major

capitals, headquarters, and par-

liaments, which are currently

debating further support for

In Kyiv, the bombardment

damaged a subway station that

lies across the street from a fac-

tory belonging to the Artem com-

pany, which produces compo-

nents for various military-grade

support of Ukraine.

as it takes.'

statement.

ing needs.

February 2022, Air Force commander Mykola Oleshchuk wrote on his official Telegram channel. It topped the previous biggest assault, in November 2022 when Russia launched 96 missiles, and this year's biggest, with 81 missiles on March

9, according to air force records. Fighting along the front line is largely bogged down by winter weather after Ukraine's summer counteroffensive failed to make a significant breakthrough along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) line of contact.

Ukrainian officials have urged the country's Western allies to provide it with more air defenses. Their appeals have come as signs of war fatigue strain efforts to keep support in place.

The U.N. Security Council hastily convened later Friday to discuss the attack, which Assistant Secretary-General Khaled Khiari called "appalling."

"Tragically, 2023 is ending as it began — with devastating violence against the people of Ukraine," he said, and noted that international humanitarian law forbids attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that the bombardment shows Russian President Vladimir Putin must be stopped, "but unless Congress takes urgent action in the new year, we will not be able to continue sending the weapons and vital air defense systems Ukraine needs to protect its people.

missiles. Officials did not say whether the factory was directly

Overall, the attack hit six cities, and reports of deaths and damage came in from across the country. Several dozen missiles were launched towards Kyiv, with more than 30 intercepted, said Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv military administration. Eight people were killed there, officials said.

In Boyarka, near Kyiv, the debris of a shot-down drone fell on a home and started a fire. Andrii Korobka, 47, said his mother was sleeping next to the room where the wreckage landed and was taken to hospital suffering from shock.

"The war goes on, and it can happen to any house, even if you think yours will never be affected," Korobka said.

Tetiana Sakhnenko lives next door and said neighbors ran with buckets of water to put out the blaze, but it spread quickly. "It's so scary," she said.

In the eastern city of Dnipro, four maternity hospital patients were rescued from a fire, five people were killed and 20 injured, officials said.

In Odesa, on the southern coast, falling drone wreckage started a fire at a multistory residential building, according to the regional head, Oleh Kiper. Two people were killed and 15, including two children, were injured, he said.

The mayor of the western city of Lviv, Andrii Sadovyi, said one person was killed there, with three schools and a kindergarten damaged in a drone attack. Local emergency services said 30 people were injured.

In northeastern Ukraine, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said the city was subjected to at least three waves of aerial attacks that included S-300 and Kh-21 missile launches. One person was killed and at least nine injured, officials said.

Nearly 200 Killed In 24 **Hours As Heavy Fighting** Rages Across Gaza

GAZA CITY, Dec 30 (Agencies): Fierce Israeli tank fire and aerial bombing struck Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip on Friday night, residents said, after nearly 200 people were reported killed in 24 hours in Israel's campaign against Hamas operatives.

The sound of shooting indicated fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas fighters in Khan Younis, some residents said. Planes also carried out a series of air strikes on the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip. according to medics and Palestinian journalists.

Israeli forces have been pounding Khan Younis in preparation for an anticipated further advance into the main southern city, swathes of which they captured in early December.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said troops were reaching Hamas command centres and arms depots. The Israeli military also said it had destroyed a tunnel complex in the basement of one of the houses of the Hamas leader for Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, in Gaza City.

Twelve weeks after Hamas operatives stormed Israeli towns, killing 1,200 people and seizing 240 hostages. Israeli forces have laid much of the Gaza Strip to waste as it pursues its war aim of eradicating the Islamist militants

Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million people have fled their homes at least once and many are on the move again, often reduced to taking shelter in makeshift tents or huddled under tarpaulins and plastic sheets on open ground.

Gaza health authorities said 187 more Palestinians were confirmed killed in Israeli strikes in 24 hours, raising the toll to 21,507 - about 1% of Gaza's population. Thousands more bodies are feared to be buried in the ruins of obliterated neighbourhoods. PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST

A Palestinian journalist working for Al-Quds TV was killed along with a number of his family members in an Israeli air strike on their house in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza Strip, health officials and fellow journalists

It brings the toll of Palestinian journalists killed in the Israeli offensive to 106, according to Gaza's government media office.

The Committee to Protect Journalists

Former ISI chief Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed summoned

(CPJ) said last week that the first 10 weeks of the Israel-Gaza war were the deadliest recorded for journalists, with the most journalists killed in a single vear in one location.

Most of the journalists and media workers killed in the war were Palestinian. The report by the U.S.-based CPJ said it was "particularly concerned about an apparent pattern of targeting of journalists and their families by the Israeli military."

Earlier this month, a Reuters investigation found an Israeli tank crew killed a Reuters journalist, Issam Abdallah, and wounded six reporters in Lebanon on Oct. 13 by firing two shells in quick succession from Israel while the journalists were filming cross-border shelling.

Israel has previously said it has never and will never deliberately target journalists and that it is doing what it can to avoid civilian casualties, but the high death count has caused concern even amongst its staunchest allies.

The U.S. has called for it to scale down the war in coming weeks and move to targeted operations against Hamas leaders. So far Israel shows no sign of doing so.

Israel on Friday said it facilitated the entry of 49,130 vaccine doses, enough to inoculate almost 1.4 million people against illnesses including polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and meningitis.

The vaccine transfer was coordinated with UNICEF, said a statement from COGAT - the defence ministry agency that coordinates with the Palestinians - in order to prevent the spread of disease in the enclave.

Gaza is almost entirely reliant on food, fuel and medical supplies from the outside, and Israel has limited access apart from at the southern end. International agencies say supplies being let in through Israeli inspections are a small fraction of Gaza's vast needs.

Last week Israel bowed to international pressure to open a second crossing it said would double the number of supply trucks daily to 200, but just 76 were able to enter on Thursday, according to the United Nations, compared to 500 in peacetime.

An Israeli government spokesman said on Friday it does not limit humanitarian aid and the problem was with its distribution inside Gaza.

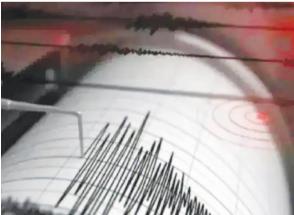
5.9 magnitude earthquake shakes **Indonesia's Aceh province**

ACEH, Dec 30 (Agencies): A strong and shallow undersea earthquake shook part of Indonesia's Aceh province Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of serious damage or casualties.

The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 5.9 earthquake was centred 362 kilometres (225 miles) east of Sinabang, a coastal town in Aceh province at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles).

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of possible aftershocks.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of more



than 270 million people, is frequently hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake on Nov.21 killed at least 331 people and injured nearly 600 in West Java's Cianjur city.

It was the deadliest in Indonesia since a 2018 quake and tsunami in Sulawesi killed about 4,340 people.

In 2004, an extremely powerful Indian Ocean quake set off a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia's Aceh province.

by high-level body probing Faizabad sit-in ISLAMABAD, Dec 30 (Agencies): In a

rare move, a highlevel probe body has summoned Pakistan's former spy chief Lt-Gen Faiz Hameed next week to record his statement in an infamous sit-in by a radical Islamic group in November 2017 that paralysed the capital city for about three weeks.

The sit-in was led by Tehreek-i-Labiak Pakistan (TLP) group activists under cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi. The protestors were upset due to some changes in the oath of elected representatives which they alleged violated the Islamic concept of finality of the Prophet. According to news



agency, the commission summoned Hameed, the former director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), for a second time to record his statement next week. Hameed served as DG-ISI from June 2019

to October 2021. The paper quoted sources saying that two notices were sent to the former ISI chief through the defence ministry.

In the first notice, he was summoned in the second week of December, but the notice could not be served in time, resulting in the retired general not appearing before the commission.

Now, the second notice has been sent asking him to appear before the commission next week and record his statement regarding the sit-in and assist the

commission in gathering evidence in this matter, reported the paper.

It was not clear if the former spy chief would appear before the commission and record his statement.

The ISI is considered highly powerful and influential in the country and its retired officials are seldom subjected to probe or any kind of scrutiny.

The sit-in at the Faizabad interchange linking the capital Islamabad to Rawalpindi had cut off the two cities for about three weeks, causing massive hardships for the people.

The Supreme Court in a 2019 judgment had pulled up the security institutions for failure to stop the protestors and also ordered a probe to fix the responsibility for the failure.

The judgment authored by the current Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa was not implemented until he became the head of the Supreme Court in September and resumed hearing the old review petition against his judgment filed by the then government.

Isa expressed anger at the delay in implementing his judgment, forcing the government to set up the 'Faizabad Sit-In Commission' to probe and fix responsibility for the failure to let the protestors gather at a key juncture and paralyse the capital city.

Spy Balloon Used US Internet Service to Send Data to China: Report

WASHINGTON, Dec 30 (Agencies): A US official revealed that the Chinese spy balloon, which traversed the United States in early 2023, used an American internet service provider to transmit periodic data related to navigation and location back to China, agency reported.

This connection emerged as one of the means by which the US intelligence agencies were able to track the balloon's location and gather crucial information during its transit.

While the identity of the specific internet service provider remains undisclosed, agency was informed that the balloon had the capability to communicate with Beijing as it crossed the US

NBC News first reported that the balloon relied on a US network for communication.

According to the US official, the network connection was not utilised to transmit intelligence data back to China. Instead, the balloon stored such information, including imagery and other data, for later retrieval.

The US successfully shot down the Chinese spy balloon in February, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of the stored information.

Both the FBI and the Director of the Office of National Intelligence declined to comment on the matter. Agency reached out to the Chinese Embassy in Washington for a response. China has consistently main-



tained that the balloon was a weather balloon that had veered off course.

As previously reported by agency, the US intelligence community assessed that the spy balloon was part of an extensive surveillance program orchestrated by the Chinese military.

The balloon fleet had conducted over two dozen missions across at least five continents in recent years, according to US officials.

While the US believed that Chinese Communist Party leaders did not intend for the balloon to cross into the United States, previous reports indicated that the CCP leaders reprimanded the operators of the surveillance programme over the incident.

In June, President Joe Biden suggested that Chinese leader Xi Jinping was caught off guard by the balloon's presence, stating that Xi "got very upset" when the US shot it down because "he didn't know it was there."

Biden drew a comparison to dictators becoming embarrassed when unaware of critical developments, agency reported.

China successfully launches test satellite for internet technologies



BEIJING, Dec 30 (Agencies): China on Saturday successfully launched a test satellite for satellite internet technologies.

The satellite was launched by a Long March-2C carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

It successfully entered its preset orbit, the report said. It was the 505th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

Sahil Maharaj appeals all Indians to illuminate their homes in Jan 22

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: Katha Vyas Bal Saint Sahil Maharaj held a press conference today at the Jammu Press Club, addressing several crucial matters.

He declared 22nd January 2023, as the auspicious day for the establishment of Ram Mandir, expressing the longawaited anticipation of Sanatan followers.

Lord Rama, accompanied by his family and bhakt Hanuman, is expected to grace ayodhya on this momentous occasion.

Sahil Maharaj appealed to all Indians to illuminate their homes akin to Diwali celebrations, emphasizing the unity and collective contributions made by devotees for the construction of Ram Mandir.

Highlighting the significance



of the Supreme Court's verdict on Ram Mandir, Sahil Maharaj termed it as the 'most impactful decision for Sanatan followers'.

He commended the Modi government for overcoming the formidable challenge of suspending article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, considering it a temporary provision unsuitable for India's unity. The abolition of this article, he asserted, promotes the idea of 'One Nation, One Flag,' leading to the closure of separatist establishments.

On the occasion of Vishwa Karma Day in 2023, the honorable Prime Minister announced the 'PM Vishwa Karma Policy'. Sahil ji acknowledged this policy, which offers rural laborers an opportunity to get loans without guarantors. He has also discussed other significant initiatives of Modi government.

Expressing gratitude for the various government initiatives in Jammu, Sahil Maharaj touched upon a matter concerning the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. In discussions with the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, he raised concerns about the charges for Atka Aarti at Vaishno Devi pilgrimage imposed by the shrine board.

Sahil Maharaj appealed for reconsideration and requesting that an amount of Rs 5100 for four individuals, including two children, should not be charged for Atka Aarti at Vaishno Devi temple.

Sahil emphasized unity, gratitude, and the spirit of celebration among all Indians on the forthcoming auspicious day of Ram Mandir establishment on 22nd January, 2024.

Kashmiri Sikh hockey players to compete in World Keshdhari Tournament



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 30: Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad, Director of the International Sikh Sports Council, is taking proactive measures to promote traditional Sikh participation in hockey, particularly in preparation for the upcoming World Keshdhari Hockey Tournament 2024, slated for November in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Mohali

During a recent meeting at the Pvt. Press Club in Rajbagh, Srinagar, Peer Mohammad engaged with Chairman J&K Hockey Academy, Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, emphasizing that only Sikh players maintaining their traditional appearance in Sikhi Saroop—uncut hair and beards—will be eligible to participate in the tournament.

He underscored how such tournaments serve to connect players with their heritage beyond the scope of

Following Peer Mohammad's advocacy, Chairman Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani ensured the participation of Gursikh players from Kashmir in the upcoming tournament at the International Hockey Stadium in Mohali.

These players will depart from Srinagar to Mohali, under the guidance of Amarjeet Singh, Ex-hockey player, veteran hockey club and his technical

Wani also assured that the J&K Sports Council will provide support in organizing this significant tournament.

The International Sikh Sports Council expresses gratitude for the support and participation, eagerly anticipating the success and cultural celebration of the World Kesadhari Hockey Tournament

Teams from various countries will also be participating in this prestigious international-level event.

ABVP will organise nationwide 'Parisar Chalo campaign: Mustafa Ali

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: ABVP held its 69th National Conference at Delhi In which 4 resolutions were Quality education and a vibrant environment are necessary. Global inclusive policies are essential for overall well-being. Embrace a healthy lifestyle, youth. Balanced environmental harmony for wise development were passed in the national convention and two appeals Two resolutions titled Shri Ram Mandir, a symbol of Indian self-respect and Nari Shakti Vandan Act, a historical initiative, have also been passed. the meeting of the National Executive Council

In this National Conference 10,000 Delegates from across Bharat and overseas participated in this Convection. Ambassadors Envoys and First Secretaries from different Embassies also participated Hon'ble Home Minister of Bharat Shri Amit Shah Ji Inaugurated the program

Mustfa Ali Further mentioned that ABVP will initiate "Parisar Chalo Abhiyan" to conduct a survey of vacant posts in campuses across the country, To Increase enrollment in Educational

student attendance in campus Classes Since the Covid pandemic, the inclination among students to visit the campuses of educational institutions has decreased.

From 12 Jan (Swami Vivekanand Jayanti) to 23 Jan (Neta Ji Subash Chander Bose Javanti) Yuva Utsav will be celebrated across campuses of Nation with Maximum outreach to student with Maximum **Unit Declaration**

Positive thinking working to resolve a developed India under the leadership of the country's youth. May the dream of rebuilding this nation be fulfilled and the youth become healthy in every way. Currently, ABVP has played an important role in positive changes in various fields including education, environment of the country.

On the auspicious occasion of Bhagwan Shri Ram Lalla's life

campuses To increase consecration at Shri

Ram Temple in Ayodhya on 22nd January, the ABVP has appealed to the students from all over the country to lighten education campuses with diyas (Deepotsav). This opportunity is to educate the students of the country about the

ideals of Shri Ram. ABVP will spread the ideas and teaching of Bhagwan Shri Ram with students of the country. Eight members from

Bharat participated in the Student and Youth Leader Summit of SAARC Countries organised by JENESYS held in Tokyo Japan from December 11 to 19.

Two members of Gulam Mustfa Ali and Muskan Anand from J&K represent Bharat in this SAARC countries Youth Summit

In this Press conference ABVP JK State Secretary Akshi Billowria and State Joint Secretary Sannak Shrivats were also present.

ABGP J&K celebrates National Consumers Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: the Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchavat- celebrate Rashtriya Grahak Diwas on the eve of National Consumers day which is usually celebrate all over country from 24th to 31 December every year.

The main function was held at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Sabhagaar, Ved Mandir Karan Nagar, Jammu in which a large gathering of member from Jammu Mahanagar and other district besides other prominent citizens associated with APGP attended the function.

A programme was started with welcoming of guests and lighting of Ceremonial lamps by the Chef guest Vikas Santosh Pandit MD SR Technomade Jammu, among others Rifat Kohli, Director Food and Supplies (CAPD)

Jammu, Madan Lal Magotra Dy. Commissioner Food and Drugs Control, Hema Choudhary, Member of Consumers Disputes Redressal Commission Jammu and Kashmir as Guest of Honour. Whereas Ashok Trivedi and Asha Singh Kushwah, National Executive Members of Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat Central as guest of Speakers.

Thakur Dass Sharma, State president of ABGS along with office bearers/ Members Executive

Body formally welcome the eminent dignities by presenting them flowers bouquets and Memen-

Rajeev Bhardwaj Sangathan Mantri State Unit brief the audience about the performances are made by the ABGP State unit during last three years and further to deal with New challenges. Ashok Trivedi, Guest

speaker, spoke on National level working of ABGP and achievements made by the organization at the Central level in the welfare of the Consumers. Madan Lal Mago-

tra spoke on the food & drugs and how the Department work on adulteration in food & drugs. Hema Choudhary Guest of Honour in her

address highlighted the Consumer protection Act 1986 and amendments made in the act in 2019. Asha Singh Kushwah spoke on Women Devel-

opment and the role of

women in ABGP. She

also spoken on the environment and focused on Swach Bharat Abhiyan. Refut Kohli, Guest of Honor in her address, spoke on the Essential commodities in good qualities on fare prices which are being provided to the consumers by the department. She

legitimate rights. Chief Guest Vikas

further made the audi-

ence aware about their

Santosh Pandit M.D S.R. Techomade in his address urged the prosperity by Consumers is very essential Subject that need Consistent deliberations among the Suffered Consumers especially in the rural areas.

He urged the audience to remain Vigilant about their rights and further extend the awareness amongst the other people in rural and urban areas at large.

The students of Vedhya Bharti Mandir and Bal Nikatan (Ved Mandir) performed cultural programme i.e. Grahak Geet, Saraswati Vandana and National Anthem, who were presented gift packs by the Chief Guest and other dignities on the stage. The function was concluded with vote of thanks by the President Thakur Dass Sharma.

JKAP grieved over demise of Dr Maimuna Begum

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari has grieved over the demise of Dr Maimuna Begum who passed away following prolonged illness in Jammu.

Dr Maimuna was the elder sister of Apni Party Vice President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Aijaz Ahmed Khan sb; and Apni Party senior leader and ex-MLA, Haji Mumtaz Ahmed

The deceased was also the sister-in-law of Apni Party Vice President, and Former Cabinet Minister, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali

"I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, particularly Aijaz Ahmed Khan, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali sb, and Haji Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, who have lost their loved one," said Altaf Bukhari in his condolence message, while extending solidarity with the bereaved family members.

Bukhari prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

At this moment of grief, all the Apni Party leaders have also extended their solidarity with the bereaved family members and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Prominent among those include Senior Vice President

Ghulam Hassan Mir, Parliamentary Committee Chairman Mohammad Dilawar Mir, Vice President Zaffar Iqbal Manhas, Vice President Usman Majid, Vice President Javid Mustafa Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, General Secretary, Syed Asgar Ali, Provincial President, Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Provincial President Jammu Sardar Manjit Singh, Chief Coordinator Abdul Majeed Padder.

PM Modi virtually flags off second Vande Bharat **Train in Katra**

people by the prime minister. Not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the entire country is also waiting for the completion of this historic project," J-K Lieutenant Governor Sinha said.

He was addressing the function at the Katra railway station before the flaggingoff of the Vande Bharat train by the prime minister.

The under-construction 111-km Katra-Banihal section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) is likely to be completed within the next four months, connecting Kashmir with Kanyakumari by train, according to officials.

"Today, among the six Vande Bharat trains to be flagged off by the prime minister, one is exclusively designated for the route from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi. This will be the second Vande Bharat train for Jammu and Kashmir. It reflects Modi's commitment to developing this Union territory," Sinha said before the

After August 2019, the LG said, the connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country has witnessed an improvement.

"The first Vande Bharat train was flagged off between Katra and New Delhi in October 2019 and so far, 94 lakh pilgrims have visited the Vaishno Devi shrine and the pilgrim footfall is likely to cross 95 lakh by

the end of this year which is the highest in the past 10 years...," he said.

The work on upgrading the Jammu. Budgam and Udhampur railway stations at Rs 6,003 crore under the Amrit Bharat Scheme is going on at a fast pace, while several other stations in the Jammu region are also being upgraded, Sinha added.

He said the state-of-the-art Vistadome coach was introduced in Kashmir in October and the final location survey is going on for four new railway lines between Awantipora and Shopian, Anantnag and Pahalgam, Sopore and Kupwara and Baramulla and Uri.

"Under the leadership of the prime minister, the development of basic infrastructure to provide ease of travel, better facilities, job opportunities and connectivity to the last village was ensured. The whole country is seeing a picture of Jammu and Kashmir which is moving up in overall development, peace and prosperity under the guidelines of Modi." Sinha said.

"The way the railway is laying its network in Jammu and Kashmir, experts will visit the place to know how the train reached Kashmir. The railway network is going to be a catalyst in changing the picture of J-K where one crore pilgrims visit Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and another two crore tourists reach the Valley," Singh, a Lok Sabha member from the Udhampur parliamentary constituency, said.

JKRTC-Red Bus tie up to ease seat reservation

for passengers

FROM PAGE 1

He stated that as of now, 16 routes will have the facility of online ticketing, adding, "passengers traveling to Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh will get the facility of online seat booking through the RedBus plat-

Notably, JKRTC with more than 500 buses provides interstate services.

This partnership, he said, will make the process of seat reservation accessible and easier for passengers.

The JKRTC provides daily bus services to prominent destinations like Jammu to Ajmer, Jaipur to Jammu, Ajmer to Jammu, Chandigarh to Jammu, Jammu to Jaipur, Jammu to Dehradun, Jammu to Haridwar, Dehradun to Jammu, Srinagar to Jammu and Jammu to Srinagar.

He said that the JKRTC is strengthening its operations to make the process of seat reservation accessible and easy for passengers, adding, "the one-time partnership with RedBus will expand the bus operator network. JKRTC plays a major role in the intercity bus transport sector of North India and the RedBus online platform will further make the booking experience smoother and easier for passengers."

JKRTC with non-AC seater, Volvo AC seater, deluxe and executive AC seater buses presently serves 79 lakh passengers

Police announces Rs 5

Lakh reward for identify-

officer. Police has also seized around nearly two dozen 12-bore rifles from the villagers of the area during investigation of the case. These rifles have been sent for forensic

ing retired SSP killers

examination, sources said.

Police are looking at various aspects of this case. Mir, who retired in 2012 was living without any security in the village. His relatives allege that his security was withdrawn in 2022 and despite requests the security wasn't provided to him again.

Rajasthan man arrested for cheating JK Govt **Teacher of Rs 11 Lakhs**

official said adding "the SSP Doda congratulated and wished them best and advised them to work with more dedication and devotion for earning more rewards and appreciations in their future services.'

Talks with Pakistan and Militancy cannot coexist, says Devender Rana

breath on the Indian soil of Jammu and Kashmir due to focused operations by the security forces, the police and more importantly the people of the Valley in particular, who are realising the dividends of peace now ever than before as economically humming Valley is booming

with multifarious activities in the wake of unprecedented arrival of tourists, adventurers and sports persons. "This momentum in socio-economic activities, which might be uncomfortable for those basing their politics on boiling Kashmir for the lust of power, will have to be carried forward with active cooperation of the people as per the cherished agenda of the Prime Minister, who believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. For realising the vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir, it is incumbent for all to strengthen the hands of Yashasvi Narendra Modiji, he added.

Mehbooba Mufti prevented from meeting **Poonch families. holds** protest

was abruptly halted by security forces at DKG, approximately 2.5 kilometers from Topa Peer, preventing her from advancing further. This prompted the PDP leader to stage a protest along with her party workers who raised slogans in opposition to the actions of the security forces. "BJP President Ravinder Raina can come here, National Conference leaders can come, but they tell us that there is some threat here. I think the biggest threat here is these people. They don't want us to meet those families...They are trying to hide something then," remarked Ms. Mufti during the protest.

Google settles USD 5 billion privacy lawsuit over tracking people using 'incognito mode'

The search engine misled people into believing that it wouldn't track their internet activities while using incognito mode

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 30 (Agencies): Google has agreed to settle a USD 5 billion privacy lawsuit alleging that it spied on people who used the "incognito" mode in its Chrome browser — along with similar "private" modes in other browsers — to track their internet use.

The class-action lawsuit filed in 2020 said Google misled users into believing that it wouldn't track their internet activities while using incognito mode. It argued that Google's advertising technologies and other techniques continued to catalogue details of users' site visits and activities despite their use of supposedly "private" brows-



ina

Plaintiffs also charged that Google's activities yielded an "unaccountable trove of information" about users who thought they'd taken steps to protect their privacy.

The settlement, reached on Thursday, must still be approved by a federal judge.

Terms weren't disclosed, but the suit originally sought USD 5 billion on behalf of users; lawyers for the plaintiffs said they expect to present the court with a final settlement agreement by February 24.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the settlement

Oil cos offer Rs 6.87/litre incentive on ethanol made from molasses



NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): State-owned fuel retailers have offered Rs 6.87 per litre incentive on ethanol made from C-heavy molasses to shore up supplies.

"In order to maximise ethanol production from C-molasses route and improve the overall availability of ethanol for ethanol-blended petrol programme, public sector oil marketing companies announce an incentive of Rs 6.87 per litre for ethanol from C-heavy molasses," the oil ministry said.

C molasses is a

byproduct of sugar factories and its utilisation for ethanol production is an effective way to promote green economy, it

Oil firms are mixing 12% ethanol in petrol as part of a government programme to cut consumption of fossil fuel and import dependence.

Oil marketing companies Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) announced the incentive.

The companies said the decision was taken

to promote the supply of ethanol from C-heavy molasses.

The incentive amount will be payable over and above the previous Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) procurement price of Rs 49.41 per litre.

The government will decide the prices of ethanol produced from B-heavy molasses and juice in a few days. The government can offer additional ethanol from C-heavy against lapsed allocations of juice or B-heavy ethanol. The government might also convert the existing revised allocations of juice or B-heavy ethanol for supply as C-heavy.

The incentive will not be applicable on quantities supplied in ESY 2023-24 against allocations/purchase orders of ESY 2022-23.

India trade deficit with Australia down 40%

Preferential lines refer to preferential access given via duty cuts as part of trade agreements between nations.

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): Country's trade pact with Australia has boosted exports in several sectors of the Indian economy, including engineering goods, electronic products, and pharmaceuticals, as per the commerce ministry. The data showed country's overall merchandise exports to Australia grew by 14% in April to November 2023, while imports from the country declined by 19% during the same period. The trade deficit with Australia during the period has also fallen by 39% to \$5.3 billion.

According to the data, exports from India to Australia under preferential lines rose by 17.8 percent year-on-year, reaching \$1.58 billion during the period of



April to October 2023. However, exports of gems and jewellery reported a negative growth of 19%, while chemicals export also plummeted by 26% in April-October of 2023.

Preferential lines refer to preferential access given via duty cuts as part of trade agreements between nations. Among sector-wise Indian exports to Australia on preferential lines, the highest percentage increase was recorded in drugs and pharmaceutical products, which saw a significant rise of 52 percent in the first seven months of the current fiscal

year, followed by a 37 percent surge in the export of cereals preparation during the same period.

Imports from Australia on preferential lines also recorded growth, particularly in pulses, fruits, and vegetables during April-October 2023. Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary of the Commerce Ministry, noted that the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which came into effect on December 29, 2022, has completed its first year and both the countries are trying to expand the existing pact into a more comprehensive "Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)".

South Delhi customer orders 9,940 condoms in one year from Blinkit

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): A South Delhi consumer ordered a whopping 9,940 condoms from Zomato-owned quick delivery platform Blinkit in 2023, earning himself a place 'Blinkit Trends 2023'.

Meanwhile, Gurugram ordered a whopping 65,973 lighters in 2023, and placed more orders for Tonic water (carbonated drink) than for soft drinks this year, according to the same report.

About 30,02,080 PartySmart tablets (to avoid morning hangover after alcohol consumption) were delivered this year.

Someone from Bengaluru placed an order for an iPhone 15 Pro Max worth Rs 1,59,900, a packet of Lay's and six bananas

Around 3,20,04,725 maggi packets were delivered after midnight as a consumer bought 101 litres of mineral water in one order.

Around 80,267 Gangajal bottles were delivered this year via Blinkit as someone bought 4,832 bathing soaps in 2023.

"About 351,033 printouts were delivered before 8 a.m. and 45,16,490 Eno sachets were ordered, along with 1,22,38,740 ice creams and 8,50,011 ice cube packets. this year.

Someone from Hyderabad ordered 17,009 kgs of rice in 2023.

"Thirty-eight underwears were

ordered in a month by someone. They were delivered brief-ly," said Blinkit. Another consumer ordered 972 mobile chargers.

"Shared so many facts about buying patterns on Blinkit through 2023. Dropping some of the best to round up the year. Which one is your favourite?" Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa posted on LinkedIn.

A follower reacted: "Obviously brought by a retailer due to price differential from GT distributor".

Breach of contract: Wipro seeks Rs 25 crore from ex-CFO

BENGALURU, Dec 30 (Agencies): IT major Wipro has demanded Rs 25.15 crore in damages along with 18% interest from its former CFO Jatin Dalal for violating a clause in his employment contract. Dalal has joined the company's rival Cognizant. The suit was filed by the IT company at the end of November and a civil court in Bengaluru has posted for orders on January 3.

The non-compete clause prevents Dalal from joining a rival company within one year of leaving the company and failing which he would be liable to compensate the com-



pany with value of the Restricted Stock Units (RSU) allotted to him or the sum of his total remuneration in the previous 12 months.

Earlier, this newspaper reported that Dalal has filed an application requesting the court to move the matter to arbitration. Dalal joined Wipro in 2002 and became CFO of the company in April 2015 and also assumed additional responsibilities as President beginning in December 2019. Dalal also led Wipro Ventures, Wipro's \$300 million strategic investment arm focused on investing in early- to mid-stage startups.

On September 21, Wipro announced that CFO Dalal has resigned and that Aparna C lyer has been elevated as its new CFO. A week later, Cognizant announced the appointment of Dalal as CFO, effective in December. Dalal is reporting to Ravi Kumar S, Cognizant's CEO. The company also said

that Dalal will oversee, among other responsibilities, Cognizant's worldwide financial planning and analysis, accounting and controllership, tax, treasury and internal audit, corporate development, investor relations and enterprise risk management functions.

Wipro has seen many top-level exits in recent times. The company has also filed a complaint against Mohd Haque, a former senior vice president and head of healthcare and medical devices- Americas, alleging a violation of the non-compete clause in his employment con-

tract. He moved from the company before the expiration of the noncompete clause that was set until August 1, 2023. He also joined Cognizant recently.

Clause prevents Dalal joining rival in 1 year

Suit was filed by Wipro at the end of November and a civil court in Bengaluru has posted for orders on January 3. The non-compete clause prevents Dalal from joining a rival within one year of leaving the company and failing which he would be liable to compensate the company with value of the Restricted Stock Units (RSU) allotted to him.

Don't take headaches lightly

Migraines, cluster headaches and tension headaches are the three primary types generally seen among patients.

BENGALURU, Dec 30 (Agencies): Headaches come in varying degrees of pain - some are throbbing, discomforting and uncomfortable, while cluster headaches are equivalent to a hot iron being plunged into the eye, doctors said. Doctors see two kinds of headaches among patients - primary and secondary. Primary headaches are the ones in which an organic cause is not found and secondary headaches are induced by a particular cause like infection, inflammation, blood clot or trauma.

Migraines, cluster headaches and tension headaches are the three primary types generally seen among patients. "The incidence of headaches has increased due to a person's ability to recognise them more accurately. It was noted that the inability to cope with situations or daily stress and dietary habits has contributed to the rising incidence.

Any sight of recurrent headaches for short durations, sudden severe headaches, or change in the character of headaches is when a person should consult

a doctor," said Dr Srinivas R, Lead Consultant, Neurology, Aster CMI Hospital. Migraine is one of the most prevalent kinds of headache which may last between four to 72 hours if left untreated, limiting your ability to carry out a daily routine.

A person experiences

visual disturbances before the headache phase starts like shimmering lights, zig-zag lines, stars or blind spots. They suffer from throbbing pain on one side of the head, accompanied by light and sound sensitivity, and nausea and vomiting. "Headaches occur more commonly than a lot of other diseases and are often ignored," said Dr Rashmi Devaraj, consultant and neurologist, at Apollo Hospitals.

"It is important to look out for 'red flag signs' like sudden onset of severe headache (thunderclap headache) which could be rupture of a blood vessel in the brain or sudden bleeding. If a person suffers from persistent vomiting or sudden loss of vision, it is a sign of underlying bleeding and requires

immediate medical inter-



lasts beyond two days or increases in intensity, a person must seek medical help," she added.

Doctors have advised the need for lifestyle modification, following sleep hygiene, stress management, understanding triggering points and ignoring symptoms to avoid headaches as much as possible. In India, where self-medication is rampant, it has also resulted in medicineoveruse-chronic headaches caused by mindless popping of pills to get relief from it. Cluster Headaches People usually ignore symptoms like pain on one side of the head, watery and red eyes, and even a blocked nose, attributing it to fatigue, general

sickness, excessive screen time, lack of sleep or extended work hours.

A cluster headache is rare and incurable, occurs in cyclic patterns and can affect any age group. While its exact cause remains unknown, studies have declared it as one of the most painful headaches a person can experience. Though there are no exact statistics, several studies have stated that 0.1% of the population or more suffer from it. Despite headaches being a common issue, clinicians still lack expertise and often misdiagnose cluster headaches as migraine.

Doctors said symptoms of migraine and cluster headache can overlap. Hence, a person suffering from continuous headaches is advised to maintain a 'headache diary' to record the period, symptoms and possible triggering factors, which can give doctors a detailed perspective for better diagnosis. Despite similar symptoms, cluster headaches show contrasting qualities.

They follow a pattern which usually lasts 15 minutes to three hours. It can occur seasonally, lasting several weeks. The intensity of the pain is continuous, unlike in the case of migraine, which can last for multiple days with varied pain intensity.

A person can experience swelling around the eye, drooping eyelids, restlessness, excessive tearing and unbearable pain in the face area, head and neck. In a case study, a 26-yearold was misdiagnosed with migraine for eight years and his condition deteriorated to a point where the pain became unbearable and pushed him to attempt suicide. The doctor advised the patient to seek help and not to ignore headache

symptoms.

'Be responsible; avoid contact with the vulnerable if you have fever, sore throat': Sakra World Hospital doctor



(Agencies): As the year is coming to an end and COVID-19 cases are on the rise across the country people should take precautions rather than the government imposing restrictions, said Dr Rajath Athreya, senior consultant and HOD paediatrics and neonatology, Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru. A member of the Karnataka government's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee, in an interview with Aknisree Karthik, he says there is no cause for concern now.

Coronavirus will remain in circulation at a low level. The precursor of the JN.1 variant was Pirola which was in circulation for several months with very few cases globally. The JN.1 variant has a single mutation which has enabled higher infectivity and ease of spread.

This is to be expected with newer variants.

As of now World Health Organisation (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) who have based their opinion on JN.1 trajectory in Singapore and other countries have said that this variant does not seem to add any further burden to public health. WHO has called it a Variant of Interest. There is no cause for concern apart from the need to be vigilant.

We feel we are past the pandemic now. We have entered a phase of endemicity where the population has varying degrees of immunity to coronavirus by infections, exposure and vaccination. The viruses will keep mutating and when a variant has the advantage of dodging some of this immunity, it will cause some surges. The links between vac-

cines and unexpected deaths purportedly are more anecdotal than evidence-based. There is not much data to attribute causation. So our advice will be to go with the recommendations of the Government of India, WHO and other professional bodies concerning vaccination advice. As of now, a booster has not been recommended. We have to wait for further guidance.

The way we handle

respiratory virus infections when it is a pandemic and a public health concern, and when it is not of that magnitude are different. Now is the time for sensible precautions rather than restrictions. I would urge the public not to panic and all of us to remain vigilant. People with medical conditions like kidney, lung, liver and heart diseases, the elderly and those with lowered immunity should be masked up in crowded indoor and outdoor places until we know better. We need to act responsibly if we have any symptoms like fever, cough and sore throat avoid close contact with vulnerable individuals and mask up until we recover.

OTD: MS Dhoni retires from Test cricket after Boxing Day Test against Australia at MCG

Back on December 30, 2014, MS Dhoni retired from Test cricket after the Boxing Day Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencies): Back on December 30, 2014, MS Dhoni pulled the curtains down on his Test career. The decision came out of the blue during India's Test series on Australian soil in 2014-15.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) released an official statement to put forth the development of Dhoni's retirement from the purest format. It was learned that Dhoni took the decision due to "the strain of playing all formats"

"One of India's greatest Test captains under whose leadership India became the No. 1 team in the test rankings, MS Dhoni, has decided to retire from Test cricket citing the strain of playing all formats of cricket," the release said.

"BCCI, while respecting the decision of MS Dhoni to retire



from Test cricket, wishes to thank him for his enormous contribution to Test cricket and the laurels that he has brought to India. Virat Kohli will be the captain of the Indian team for the fourth and final Test against Australia to be played

in Sydney," the release added. Dhoni scored an unbeaten 24 in the second innings of his last Test as the match ended in a draw. Chasing a mammoth target of 384, India finished with 174 for six in 66 overs.

Dhoni missed the first game

of the series at the Adelaide Oval due to a thumb injury. In his absence, Virat Kohli stood in for him. It was also the first time that Kohli captained India at the international level. After the Melbourne Test, Kohli was officially named as the skipper of the Indian team.

Dhoni once held the record for the most wins as captain in Tests. In 60 Tests, he led India to 27 victories. It was in 2019 that Kohli went past him to become India's most successful Test skipper.

In 90 Test matches, Dhoni scored 4876 runs at an average of 38.09 and a strike-rate of 59.11 with six hundreds and 33 fifties to his name. His highest score of 224 came against Australia back in 2013 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in

India is one of the most underachieving teams: **Michael Vaughan**

CENTURION, Dec 30 (Agencie): Former England cricketer turned commentator Michael Vaughan emphasised Indian cricket as "one of the most underachieving teams" following their innings and 32 runs loss against South Africa in the opening Test match of the series.

On Thursday, India slumped to their thirdbiggest defeat against the Proteas in Tests after losing by an innings and 32 runs

within three days. In a post-match show for Fox Cricket Michael Vaughan asked his fellow expert former Australian cricketer

Mark Waugh "Do you think, in terms of cricket, India are one of the most underachieving sports teams in the world?"

However, Mark didn't reply to anything to which Michael stated, "They haven't won much in recent times. I think they are (an underachieving side). They don't win anything. When was the last time they won something? With all the talent they have, all the skill set."

Vaughan further said that India were successful in winning their last two Test series against Australia away from home but when it comes to white-ball World Cups, they have failed in both formats.

"They've won in Australia twice (Border-Gavaskar Trophy series wins in 2018/19 and 2020/21).

Magnificent, but the last few World Cups, been nowhere, in the last few T20 World Cups, been nowhere."

"You go to South

Africa, who are, you know, useful in Test match cricket and to produce a performance like that...I mean, with all the talent they have, and the resources they have, I don't think they win anything," the former England cricket team captain added.

Nepal cricketer Sandeep Lamichhane convicted of rape; faces up to 10 years in jail

KATHMANDU, Dec 30 (Agencie): A court in Nepal found the Himalayan nation's high-profile cricketer Sandeep Lamichhane guilty of raping a teenage girl and fixed January 10 for sentencing.

The 23-year-old has been the face of cricket in Nepal and was the only player from the country to take part in prominent Twenty20 leagues across the world.

He was suspended as Nepal's captain last year and taken into custody after police issued an arrest warrant for him over the assault in 2022. He was later released

face up to 10 years in jail. His lawyers said he would appeal the verdict to a higher court.



on bail.

Lamichhane could

"We did not expect

this judgement... we are frustrated," lawyer Sabita Bhandari Baral told Reuters about Friday's verdict by the Kathmandu district

court. "We'll definitely appeal," she said.

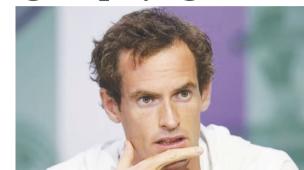
Murray longs to play against Nadal, Djokovic again

BRISBANE, Dec 30 (Agencie): Andy Murray conceded Saturday he longed for the chance to play again on the big stage against superstars Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Speaking ahead of the season-opening Brisbane International, the 36-year-old said he missed the days when he regularly met Djokovic, Nadal and Roger Federer at the business end of major tournaments

Murray matched it with the big three for a decade between 2006-16 before a run of injuries resulted in time off court and a slide in his ranking.

While the others powered on to title after title, the Scotsman, now ranked 42, was forced to



battle his way back, his career never reaching its former heights.

The last time he met Nadal was in the semifinals of the Madrid Masters in 2016 and while he played Djokovic in the Madrid Masters last year, he had not met him since 2017 before that.

"Obviously I would like the opportunity to play against them again, ideally in the latter stages of big tournaments,"

Murray said. "That's something that obviously I've missed, that feeling, not had that

opportunity really.

"If I get the opportunity to practise with them, I still really, really enjoy

"It does bring back some good memories, but ideally, I'd want to be doing that in the tournaments, not in the first rounds.'

Murray has been prac-

tising with Nadal in Brisbane as the Spaniard makes his comeback after almost 12 months away with injury.

He said Nadal was moving well and showing no signs of the hip injury that forced him off tour after the 2023 Australian Open.

Murray also said Nadal appeared to have made only minor changes to his game in his time away from the tour.

"His second serve is significantly harder than what he did earlier in his career," Murray said.

"But yeah, the rest of the game, unless there's a physical issue, there's not really much reason for him to make huge changes to that -- it's been pretty successful. "When he's fit and healthy, that game style is what has worked really, really well for him, looking for his forehand, trying to dominate with that shot.

"If he wants to be successful in the future, that's what he should be looking to do. That's how he was trying to play today."

Murray takes on second-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the first round, a rematch of the 2013 Brisbane International final which Murray won in two close sets.

Dimitrov won their last encounter at this year's US Open.

"I need to play really well, certainly much better than there, if I want to get through it," Murray said.

Warner is not selector, we will consider Green for opening slot in Test: Aussies coach McDonald

MELBOURNE, Dec 30 (Agencie): David Warner might have endorsed Marcus Harris as his successor for opening slot in Tests, but Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said they are considering a lot more options and Cameron Green is also in contention.

Warner will retire from Test cricket after the third match against Pakistan at Sydney beginning on January 3.

There have been a lot of debates as to who should replace Warner at pole position with the names of Harris, Green, Matt Renshaw and Cameron Bancroft doing the rounds.

"Davey's not a selector. I remember back to when Davey endorsed Matt Renshaw so I think the next one will probably be Cam Bancroft and then Cameron Green and he'll have all bases covered. "But it's great when a

fellow player endorses someone else internally. It means that they've probably excluded other players as well, but he was asked his opinion and we're happy with him expressing that," McDonald was quoted as saying by ESPNCricinfo.

Australia's next Test assignment is against West Indies and McDonald said a decision on Warner's successor will be taken well in time for that series.

"All options will be



considered. We're not going to make the decision until the deadline, which will be the West Indies game.

"Cameron Green, as a discussion around who are the best six batters, has definitely been in the conversation," McDonald said.

McDonald also con-

firmed that Warner will miss the ODIs and T20Is against the Windies in early February in order to play for the Dubai Capitals in the ILT20 in the UAE.

> He said Cricket Australia has been looking into the NOC (No-Objection Certificate) request of Warner.

Sri Lanka name Wanindu Hasaranga as T20I skipper before Zimbabwe series, **Kusal Mendis to lead in ODIs**

COLOMBO, Dec 30 (Agencie): Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), on Saturday, December 30. named Wanindu Hasaranga as the skipper of the national T201 team. This announcement comes as the team gears up for their upcoming series against Zimbabwe. Concurrently, right-handed batter Kusal Mendis is set to captain the one-day international team.

The experienced Charith Asalanka steps into the role of vicecaptain, offering support to both Hasaranga and Mendis in their respective formats. This reshuffling in the hierarchy follows Hasaranga's return to the field; he had been sidelined due



to an injury incurred during the Lanka Premier League in August. Hasaranga takes over the T20 reins from

Dasun Shanaka, who remains a key figure in the preliminary selections for the forthcoming series that includes three one-day internationals and an equal number of T20 matches, commencing on January 6th on home turf. Mendis's ascension to ODI captaincy occurred

mid-World Cup in India, stepping in for an injured Shanaka. Despite a less than stellar World Cup performance, where Sri Lanka secured only two victories out of nine matches, the SLC has taken measures to revitalize the team's administration.

A fresh selection committee now operates under the guidance of former opener Upul Tharanga, with Ajantha Mendis as a member. Additionally, the legendary Sanath Jayasuriya has been appointed as a 'cricket consultant' for a year, bringing his extensive expertise to the fore.

These changes reflect Sri Lanka Cricket's commitment to rebuilding and strengthening their team dynamics, with an eye on future successes on the international

Sri Lanka will play all their matches against Zimbabwe at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

'Reborn' Emma Raducanu shrugs 'weight' off shoulders to start new journey in ASB Classic

AUCKLAND, Dec 30 (Agencie): British tennis sensation Emma Raducanu said that she is excited to make a return to competitive tennis in the ASB Classic in Auckland after being out of action since April. Raducanu last played in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix where she lost to Jelana Ostapenko in the Round of 32.

The 21-year-old admitted that undergoing surgeries on her shoulder and wrists took a toll on her body.

Raducanu, however, said that she has managed to shrug off the pressure of expectations that was on her after she won the US Open 2021. Two years ago, Raducanu became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam after she defeated Canada's Leylah Fernandez in the final.

"Yeah, I feel reborn in a way. I feel fresh,



I feel ready, I feel happy, I feel excited. So overall, I'm feeling very positive and lighter. I think that for two years after the US Open, I felt maybe a bit more like weight on my shoulders, but now I feel completely fresh,' Raducanu was quoted as saying in a press

conference.

"It's nice not to have three casts on you, so you know, just moving around and showering, everything, you really appreciate just like being able to do your own hair, stuff like that. So yeah, I'm just happy to be back playing," she added.

Back in 2023, Raducanu defeated the talented Linda Fruhvirtova 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 after rallying back from a set down. But there, she had to retire midway from her match against Viktoria Hruncakova because of an ankle injury.

Raducanu is back for the tournament in 2024 and is set to restart action from the main draw, which gets underway on January 1. Raducanu entered the top 10 last year, but has dropped down to No.298 in women's singles due to her long absence from the court.

Strength of character: Stimac's final word on Asian Cup squad

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (Agencie): Lined up to face strong sides like Australia and Uzbekistan in the AFC Asian Cup in Doha next month, India head coach Igor Stimac today said "strength of character" will be the parameter to decide who will be included in the final

India are clubbed with formidable Australia, strong central Asian side Uzbekistan and tricky Syria — all above Stimac's team in the FIFA rankings — in the group stage of the Asian Cup from January 13 onwards.

"All the boys in the (probable) list are similar in their football qualities. What we are looking for the final list of 26 is definitely experience, physical strength, and the final line will be drawn by the

strength of their character," Stimac said "This is very important for us as a team, because no matter the talent, if there is no character nothing can be achieved," he added.

Stimac will announce his final 26 players before the team's departure tomor-

Regarding areas which need improvement, he said: "I am looking for defensive compactness, offensive transition, and the set-pieces mostly. It's also very important to work on man marking inside the box, because I was not happy with that part of our game, in the last few games. We started leaking some unnecessary goals inside the box because marking was not properly

done."

Disability dialogue on challenges and prospects of inclusion organized

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: An interactive panel discussion on the theme 'Challenges and prospects of building an inclusive social order' was held under Disability Dialogue at University of Jammu.

The disability dialogue focussed on generating a debate and reflecting upon various dimensions of disability rights, policies and issues.

The panel discussion was undertaken to deliberate upon issues confronting the person with disabilities in India with special focus on Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the opportunities and avenues available for emancipation of personal with disabilities, and outlining strategies for overcoming the challenges and barriers faced by personal disabilities and bringing about transformative change in the society.

The panellist for the discussion were Prof. Kusum Lata Malik, President of the Blind Federation, and a renowned academician and a researcher; Anil Joshi, Former member Board of Directors for National Trust Act, Gol and an accessibility diversity and inclusion expert; Ranjit Kalra member of the J&K Sports Council and Senior faculty at University of Jammu;



Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now; and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu.

Iqbal Lone, Commissioner, Person with Disabilities, J&K chaired the panel discussion. In his opening remarks he highlighted that the persons with disabilities are an integral part of the society who need our compassion and acceptance. He shared that J&K stands at sixth place in national UDID card enrolment, pointing towards the earnest efforts of the UT administration.

He also emphasized on the need of involving academia and researchers to successfully address the issues confronting the persons with disabilities

Prof. Kusum Lata Malik in her address highlighted the need for strengthening education system and employment sector for making the persons with disabilities selfreliant. She suggested that inclusive education should be promoted through solemn efforts and discrepancies in employment opportunities should be mini-

Anil Joshi emphasized on the need of channelizing the energies of persons with disabilities. He pointed that in the modern times is it essential that technology is utilized and modified to ensure inclusion. He also noted that the non-disabled should interact with the disabled to understand their challenges and

mized.

be carried out for both bureaucracy and media, and exhorted upon the need of collective effort towards the cause of inclusion. Prof. Sarika Manhas

tion workshops should

Convener of the panel discussion in her concluding remarks mentioned that all stakeholder- persons with disabilities, NGOs, media, academia, students and volunteers need to participate and generate a disability discourse that successfully addresses the issue of inclusivity. She also pointed that inclusion is not a concept but rather a way of life that all of us need to imbibe.

Prominent among others who participated in the disability dialogue were Umesh Sharma (Disabled Care), Dr. Piyali Arora (Associate Prof. GDC Udhampur) Kamal Nain Bhan (Association of Aphasic and Deaf), Ritika (Beloved Grace), Shria Abrol (RCI Counsellor), Balkis Razia (Occupational Therapist), along with faculty, research scholars and students of University of Jammu and University of Kashmir. Officers from the Office of Commissioner Persons with Disabilities J & K, Relief and Rehabilitation Department also graced the occasion with their presence.

Dr. Farooq inaugurates Gulah Mohammad Jan Memorial T-20 Tournament in Poonch



Top News Report

POONCH Dec 30: In a significant move to promote a healthy lifestyle and identify young talents in sports, the Gulah Mohammad Jan Memorial T-20 Tournament was launched in Poonch, an event that witnessed the participation of over 32 youth

The prestigious tournament was officially declared open by Dr. Faroog Abdullah, former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament, at the Sports Stadium Poonch over 32 teams of youth signed up to take part in the event.

Organized by a dedicated team led by Raiz Madni, Shoaib Mughal, Asgar Ali, Imran Shah, and others, the tournament aimed to provide a platform for the youth to showcase their talents and engage in physical activities promoting health and wellness.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by several notable personalities, including Jahangir Hussain Mir, former MLC, and Ajaz Jan, former MLA, who addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of sports in the development of

young individuals Among the prominent attendees were Bhaghussain Rathoor, Peer Nissar Shah Peer Khurshid Shah, Sheikh Afzal, Mashooq Khan, Bashir Naike, Gulam Hussain Bhatti, Raju Thakur, Narinder Singh Talwar,

Inclusivity workshop organized for

NSS volunteers and Students

Naveen Singh, Prvinder Singh, Abdul Razak, Rahim Daat, Javid Lone, Mukhtar Rathoor, Matiul Rehman, Sonu Singh, and Dr. Ravinder Singh, along with others who showed their support for this initiative.

The Gulah Mohammad Jan Memorial T-20 Tournament is more than just a sports event; it is a testament to the commitment of the Poonch community towards nurturing and recognizing the potential of its youth. Through this tournament, the organizers and supporters aim to inspire a generation to adopt healthier lifestyles and bring to light the hidden sports talents among the young popu-

SMVDU Vice-Chancellor releases Book'Nano Materials for Sustainable Tribology'



Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 30: Professor (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, launched the book, Nano Materials for Sustainable Tribology published by CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, United Kingdom. The book, jointly edited by Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SMVDU), Dr. Mir Irfan UlHaq (Assistant Professor, SMVDU), Dr. Patricia Iglesias Victoria (Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA), Dr. SudhanrajJeganmohan (Assistant Professor, EötvösLoránd University, Hungary), and Prof. AnkushAnand (Professor, SMVDU), delves into the intricate realm of nano materials and their pivotal role in fos-

tering sustainable tribology. It explores innovative solutions for friction, wear, and lubrication challenges across various industrial sectors. The book launch event commenced with a comprehensive overview of its contents, covering a spectrum of nano materials and their diverse applications in ensuring sustainable tribology. The editors, while interacting with the dignitaries present, emphasized the significance of this pioneering publication in advancing scientific knowledge and promoting sustainable practices within tribology. Highlighting the university's commitment to cuttingedge research, the Vice-Chancellor commended the scholarly contributions encapsulated in the book. Prof. Balbir Singh, Deanof Academic Affairs and Prof.

Eswaramoorthy, Head School of Mechanical Engineering, provided insightful perspectives on the book's relevance in contemporary scientific discourse during their address at the event. Shri Aiav Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU, congratulated the faculty members for their dedication and efforts.The book showcased the university's dedication to pioneering research and academic excellence. The event was graced by Sh. K. N. Rai, Technical Advisor, Shri Mata VaishnoDevi Shrine Board, Katraand Mr. Vishavjeet Singh, Deputy CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra. Prof. Suparn, Director, DQA, SMVDU, and Mr. Joginder Sharma, PRO, SMVDU, were also present during the

function.

2,274 cadets to take part in NCC Republic Day Camp 2024, with largest participation of 907 girls

Top News Report

issues, and also need

to collaborate to find

solutions for these chal-

Ranjeet Kalra shared

that the Sports Policy

of J&K has inputs and

special provisions for

disabled sports per-

sons. He highlighted

the recent achieve-

ments of Blind cricket

team, wheelchair bound

basketball players, and

disabled archers to

point that bodily limita-

tions can be conquered

successfully through

personal perseverance,

strong support network,

and sustained training.

Pardeep Dutta under-

lined the need of break-

ing off the 'Victim men-

tality'. He focussed

on developing feeling

of humanism - which

appreciates all without

any prejudice. He sug-

gested that sensitiza-

lenges

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 30: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2024 commenced at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt with Sarva Dharma Puja on Saturday. This year, a total of 2,274 cadets from all 28 States and eight Union Territories will participate in the sia, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Mauritius and Mozambique.

In his address. DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh called upon the cadets to participate wholeheartedly and derive maximum benefits from each activity in the camp.



month-long camp. With 907 girls, this year's camp will see the largest participation of girls cadets

This diverse participation includes 122 cadets from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, apart from 171 from the North-Eastern Region, effectively portraying a microcosm of 'Mini India'.

As part of the Youth Exchange Programme, the camp will also witness the participation of cadets and officers from 25 friendly countries -Argentina, Botswana. Bhutan, Brazil, Czech Republic, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malay-

He advised them to display the highest qualities of Character, Integrity, Selfless Service, comradeship and teamwork cutting across the barriers of religion, language, caste in the spirit of nation first.

The Republic Day Camp holds the fundamental aim of instilling a sense of patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities among the cadets. This annual event serves as a platform to offer cadets valuable opportunities for training, engaging in cultural activities, and participating in social service initiatives, thereby nurturing unity and pride.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 30: The Office of the Programme coordinator, NSS and Coordinator Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Govt College for Women, Parade Jammu organised one day workshop on Inclusivity for the students and NSS volunteers. The workshop was held today at GCW, Parade, where Prof Kusumlata Malik, President National Federation for Blind, India and Sh. Anil Joshi, Former member National Trust Act Gol, Accessibility and Inclusivity Professional were the invited resource persons. In their session both the resource persons highlighted the need to understand and appreciate the contours of human diversity. Prof. Malik gave instances where being disabled in considered primary part of a person's identity, undermining the other potentials of the individual. She stressed on the need of looking beyond the limitations of those with disabilities. Sh. Joshi shared his exemplary journey as a parent to a daughter who despite her Down syndrome has become fully independent and competent. He further asked the volunteers to

reach out to the parents

of children with disabilities and share with them the need of early identifi-

cation and intervention. Programme Coordinator, NSS talked about the importance of the workshop and underlined the need for fostering an inclusive environment in a world where diversity is celebrated. She further stressed that through these kinds of workshops volunteers will gain valuable

insights into the significance of embracing differences. Prof. Sarika Manhas, Coordinator, Disability Initiatives while addressing the volunteers focused on the need for open dialogues and urged upon the participants to share their views and experiences for creating safe and supportive spaces for all. She mentioned that true inclusivity can been attained when the principle of Zero reject is followed. She informed that the University of Jammu is committed towards creating a conducive and friendly environment for persons with disability. She urged volunteers to have develop empathic approach in their lives.

Dr. S.P. Saraswat, Principal. Parade College shared about the various new initiatives

taken for the personality development of the students. He encouraged the students to participate in actively where there are opportunities of self-exploration and self-expression. He also narrated anecdotes from his interaction with people with disabilities, which were inspirational

and motivational.

Dr Harmanmeet Kaur, Co-convenor, NSS advisory committee, GCW Parade presented the welcome address. She deliberated upon the importance of the concept of inclusivity in the life of the individuals. She stressed on the need for leadership potential among the NSS volunteers. Dr Gurpreet Kour, Programme Officer, NSS thanked the University of Jammu for such an endeavor and also stressed upon the inclusion of Persons with Disability in the journey of Viksit Bharat. Dr. Atiya Sayeed, Programme Officer, NSS presented the formal vote of thanks on the occasion.

Certificates of merit were also distributed to the students who has participated in the fortnight Viksit Bhart Abhiyan organized in the college. More than 100 students and volunteers participated in the day long workshop.

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