

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Elderly woman missing in Srinagar, Family seeks public help



SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): A woman identified as Khatija Bhat, wife of Abdul Rehman Bhat, a resident of Kanidiwar Hawal has been missing for the past six days and her family is now seeking help from the general public to find her. Khatija Bhat, a resident of Kanidiwar Hawal has been missing for the past six days.

The elderly woman has been missing since 27 December afternoon.

A close family member of the missing woman said, "She had surgeries on both her eyes and was not feeling well when she left home."

Khatija, a mother of five girls, lives with her husband who is a retired engineer and her unmarried daughter, who is also taking care of her elderly parents.

In this regard, a missing report has been lodged at Police Station, Nowhatta, Srinagar.

Kashmir in grip of severe cold wave

SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): Kashmir ushered in the New Year on a dry note even as the cold wave intensified in the valley with the minimum temperature plunging two to three degrees further below the freezing point, officials said on Monday.

There has been no snowfall in most plain area of Kashmir while upper reaches of the valley have also received lesser than usual amount of snow by the end of December.

The open skies have resulted in the minimum temperature sliding further in most parts, including Srinagar, the officials said.

The minimum temperature dropped in the summer capital of Srinagar to minus 5.2 degrees Celsius from the previous night's minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

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Magnitude 7.6 earthquake strikes Japan, tsunami warning issued



TOKYO, Jan 1 (Agencies): Japan issued tsunami alerts and told people to evacuate coastal areas after a series of strong quakes on its western coastline on Monday.

The Japan Meteorological Agency reported quakes off the coast of Ishikawa and nearby prefectures shortly after 4 pm, one of them with

a preliminary magnitude of 7.6.

It issued a major tsunami warning for Ishikawa and lower-level tsunami warnings or advisories for the rest of the western coast of Japan's main island of Honshu.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV warned torrents of water could reach as high as 5 metres (16.5 feet) and

urged people to flee to high land or the top of a nearby building as quickly as possible.

NHK said the tsunami waves could keep returning, and warnings were continuing to be aired more than an hour after the initial alert. Several aftershocks also rocked the region.

Government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi

told reporters that nuclear plants in the area had not reported any irregularities. But he said it was critical for people in coastal areas to get away from the oncoming tsunami.

"Every minute counts. Please evacuate to a safe area immediately," he said.

A tsunami of about 3 metres (about 10 feet) high was expected to hit Niigata and other prefectures on the western coast of Japan. Smaller tsunami waves were already confirmed to have reached the coastline, according to NHK.

Warnings of waves up to a metre (3 feet) high were also issued for parts of North Korea and Russia. Russian officials issued a tsunami alert for the island of Sakhalin, warning that areas across the island's west

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264 drug cases registered, 75 drug peddlers booked under PIT NDPS Act/PSA in Baramulla in 2023: Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): The commendable performance of the Baramulla Police in the year 2023 in their relentless efforts to combat the drug menace in the region. The dedicated team of officers has displayed exceptional commitment and achieved significant milestones in enforcing the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

At the end of year 2023, the police have filed 264 cases under the NDPS Act, resulting in the arrest of 464 drug peddlers, which include

75 hard-core drug peddlers who have been booked under PIT NDPS Act/PSA.

The police have also made substantial seizures of contraband worth crores in the black market. Further, properties of drug peddlers worth Rs 3 crores, comprising three houses, three vehicles, and cash amounting to Rs.1.2 Crores has also been attached by the police.

Moreover, Baramulla Police destroys huge quantity of seized contraband substances worth 34 crores under section 25A of NDPS

Act of various cases of Police Stations across Baramulla District at Kashmir Health Care System IGC Lassipora Pulwama.

Citizens of the district have showed utmost faith and satisfaction in the action of police against drugs, and they have expressed their total support to the police.

Baramulla Police remains steadfast in its commitment to confront drug smugglers and to seize both movable and immovable property used for illicit trafficking within the district.

Wanted drug smuggler booked under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked most wanted and notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla and lodged him in Central Jail Kot-balwal Jammu.

A Police spokesperson said, "The most wanted and notorious drug smuggler namely Dawood Ahmad Sofi son of Ghulam Hassan

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Fingerprint Bureau being set up in Jammu Kashmir, 73 posts sanctioned



SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): The government of Jammu and Kashmir has approved the establishment of the Fingerprint Bureau in the UT, Republic reported on Monday.

The initiative is aimed at making it easier for law enforcement agen-

cies to identify suspects and to cross-reference fingerprints from crime scenes with existing records, which will make it easier to examine criminal histories.

The move will also help combat militancy and help ease the process of identifying suspects.

Truck driver gets 20 years in jail for raping 7-year-old girl in Maharashtra

PALGHAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): A court in Maharashtra's Palghar district has sentenced a 38-year-old truck driver to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a seven-year-old girl five years ago.

In his order on Saturday, the District and Additional Sessions Judge at Vasai, SV Khongal, also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on the convict.

Special Public Prosecutor Jaiprakash Patil

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Happy New Year 2024 to All Our Readers

Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva assumes Command Of Nagrota's White Knight Corps



JAMMU, Jan 1 (Agencies): Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva has taken charge as the General-Officer-

Commanding (GOC) of Nagrota's strategic White Knight Corps, also known as 16 Corps, succeeding Lieutenant

General Sandeep Jain. Lt Gen Sachdeva, previously stationed at the Army Headquarters in the National Capital, officially assumed command on Monday.

Lt Gen Sachdeva's appointment comes amid heightened security concerns in the Pir Panjal region, which witnessed multiple terror attacks in 2023, resulting in the loss of 19 soldiers and 7 civilians in five major incidents. Jammu and Kashmir

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Active Covid cases in India rise to 4,394

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): India has logged 636 new cases of COVID-19, while the number of active cases of the infection has increased to 4,394, the health ministry said on Monday.

Three new deaths due to Covid—two from Kerala and one from Tamil Nadu — have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5 last year, but cases

have again gone up after the emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

The daily numbers were in lakhs at the peak of the pandemic, which began in early 2020 and has seen more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 percent,

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Balloon marked with 'PIA' recovered along LoC in Poonch

SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): A balloon marked with PIA (Pakistan International Airlines) was recovered along Line of Control in Poonch, an official said on Monday.

The official said that the balloon was recovered in Tain Mankote in Mendhar area by the Indian Army.

"The balloon is in the possession of Army for required assessment", the official said.

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EDITORIAL

ONLINE
EDUCATION

Online learning is a modern digital method of education, where teachers and students interact with each other using devices such as laptops, smartphones, tabs or other devices. This method or system of study is quite popular these days, whereas after the outbreak of this pandemic, we have been asked not to leave the house. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, many schools have adopted the method of online study and have made this process successful to a great extent.

This process of study has its own advantages. It is quite convenient and very affordable process of study. Some of the important benefits of online study are detailed below.

This method of online study is very useful and convenient for students as well as teachers. Both of them can participate in education sessions through this process without stepping outside their homes. They only require a good device and internet connection to connect with each other. You can simply sit comfortably at a suitable place in your room with the books you need and attend online classes with your classmates. Online learning is a much cheaper method of schooling system in many cases. First of all, you do not need transport and other expenses in going to school and back, secondly, all other expenses of the school are reduced. Sometimes books are also available to us online, the price of which is much lower than the hard copy.

You can download it as per your requirement, which has the same content as the real books. Till now you only have to spend money for internet connection and nothing else.

There is no doubt that online study is a safe option, in which the chances of danger are very less. This is a boon for you, whereas stepping out of your house can prove dangerous. We all are well aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put the entire earth under lockdown. Due to which students do not come in physical contact with each other and due to this the possibility of spread of this epidemic among them is greatly reduced.

Thankfully, students are attending online classes regularly due to which the curriculum has not lagged behind.

Online study can bring tremendous flexibility going forward in the race of courses. Some of our universities provide online certificates in the subjects chosen by you. Everything from registration to examination is done online. Apart from this, there is flexibility in its timing also. If you join it even after a short delay then there is no need to worry, the classes of their session are recorded which you can use later also.

Another advantage of the online education process is that the use of paper is greatly reduced. In comparison to the classroom system, the amount of paper used in studying through digital system becomes almost negligible. You just have to note down all this in yourself, whereas your teacher can teach you even without any paper. Apart from this, online study tests are also conducted due to which the use of paper is greatly reduced. More coordination can be seen between the student teacher in online studies as compared to the classroom environment. Usually, distractions are more present in a classroom whereas in an online classroom, its chances are greatly reduced, which helps the student to concentrate more on what the teacher is saying. Apart from this, students become more sensitive so that they can solve their doubts by talking to their teacher.

The online learning medium is a fusion of education and technology. It teaches us how we can take advantage of the education system through new technology and we can make more efforts to develop and improve it. This system is taking new steps every day towards bringing a revolution in the field of education which has never happened before.

The Menace of Fake Degrees in Education : Undermining Integrity and confidence of teachers



By Devraj Thakur

The promotion of teachers based on fake degrees poses a severe threat to the integrity of the education system and, consequently, to society at large. When educators obtain and utilize fraudulent credentials to advance their careers, it erodes the very foundation upon which a robust educational framework rests.

Firstly, the use of fake degrees to secure promotions deceives educational institutions, administrators, and students alike. It creates a false impression of a teacher's qualifications, expertise, and experience. This deceit undermines the merit-based system that should govern academic and professional advancement. Genuine skills, hard work, and dedication are sidelined, leading to unfair advantages for those who manipulate their credentials, often at the expense of more deserving candidates.

The detrimental effects of this practice reverberate throughout the educational ecosystem. Students, the primary beneficiaries of education, suffer when under-qualified or ill-prepared teachers occupy influential positions. Such educators lack the necessary knowledge, pedagogical skills, and ethical grounding, ultimately compromising the quality of education imparted to young minds. This deficiency can hinder students' academic growth, critical thinking abilities, and overall development, impacting their future prospects and contributing to a weakened society.

Furthermore, the proliferation of fake degrees among educators fosters a culture of dishonesty and undermines the ethical fabric of education. It sets a deplorable precedent, signaling that shortcuts, deceit, and manipulation are acceptable means to achieve success. This erosion of ethical standards not only impacts the teach-

ing profession but also permeates society, where such practices might extend beyond education into various other fields and professions.

The systemic damage caused by the promotion of teachers with fake degrees is not confined solely to the classroom. It tarnishes the reputation of educational institutions and diminishes public trust in the education system as a whole. Parents, students, and society lose faith in the credibility and reliability of diplomas and certifications. This erosion of trust creates a ripple effect, impacting enrollment rates, funding allocations, and the overall perception of the value of education in society.

Addressing the issue of fake degrees in teacher promotions demands a multifaceted approach. Educational institutions must strengthen their verification processes for credentials, employing stringent measures to authenticate qualifications. Regular audits and checks should be conducted to ensure that educators possess legitimate degrees and certifications. Additionally, creating awareness campaigns and emphasizing the importance of ethical conduct and merit-based promotions can foster a culture of integrity within the education sector.

Moreover, legal frameworks need to be fortified to penalize those involved in the production, distribution, or utilization of counterfeit degrees. Stricter laws and severe consequences for offenders would serve as a deterrent, curbing the prevalence of fraudulent credentials in the education sector.

The proliferation of fake degrees within the education sector poses a substantial threat to the careers of genuine teachers. The practice of obtaining promotions based on falsified credentials not only undermines the credibility of the education system but also jeopardizes the quality of teaching imparted to students. As such, it is imperative to devise stringent measures and strategies to combat this pervasive issue.

Enhanced Verification Processes: Implementing rigorous verification protocols for academic credentials during the hiring process and subsequent promotions is critical. Educational institutions and education departments should collaborate with credential verification services or use technology-driven solutions to ensure the authenticity of degrees and certifications held

by teachers.

Regular Audits and Checks:

Conduct periodic audits and checks on teachers' qualifications, especially during the promotion or tenure evaluation processes. Random verification of academic documents can serve as a deterrent against the use of fake degrees.

Educational Awareness Campaigns:

Launch awareness campaigns to educate teachers, administrators, and stakeholders about the repercussions of using fake degrees. Highlight the importance of maintaining educational integrity and the severe consequences of misrepresenting qualifications.

Stringent Penalties and Consequences:

Establish severe penalties, including termination of employment, for individuals found guilty of possessing or utilizing fake degrees. This deterrent can dissuade others from attempting to manipulate their qualifications.

Promotion Criteria Reform:

Revise promotion criteria to include a holistic assessment of a teacher's performance, professional development, and contributions to the field of education. This shift can reduce the reliance solely on academic qualifications and encourage continuous professional growth.

Standardization and Centralized Database:

Develop a standardized system or centralized database that securely maintains authentic educational records. This centralized repository could assist in cross-referencing qualifications and preventing the use of forged documents.

Ethical Training and Integrity Programs:

Introduce mandatory ethical training and integrity programs for educators at various career stages. These programs can emphasize the significance of ethical conduct, honesty, and maintaining the integrity of the education system.

Collaboration with Accreditation Bodies:

Forge partnerships with accreditation bodies to ensure that institutions offering degrees and certifications meet stringent quality standards. This collaboration can help in authenticating legitimate educational institutions and their programs.

Whistleblower Protection and Reporting Mechanisms:

Establish whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage

individuals to report suspected cases of fake degrees without fear of retaliation. Reporting channels should be easily accessible and confidential.

Continuous Monitoring and Adaptation:

Regularly assess the effectiveness of implemented measures and adapt strategies to counter emerging methods of degree forgery. Continuous monitoring is essential to stay ahead of fraudulent practices.

In conclusion, the prevalence of fake degrees poses a significant threat to the credibility and quality of the education system. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that combines stringent verification processes, educational awareness campaigns, reforming promotion criteria, penalties for offenders, and collaboration with accrediting bodies. By implementing these measures, educational institutions and departments can safeguard the integrity of the teaching profession and ensure the advancement of genuine educators based on merit and expertise rather than fraudulent qualifications.

The use of fake degrees in the promotion of teachers jeopardizes the very essence of education and undermines societal progress. It compromises the quality of education, erodes trust, and perpetuates a culture of dishonesty. To safeguard the integrity of education and preserve societal values, concerted efforts from educational institutions, policymakers, and society at large are imperative to root out this menace. Only through collective action and a firm commitment to ethical principles can we fortify our education system and foster a brighter future for generations to come.

This article is a wake-up call, that we must face this abhorrent phenomenon. Hopefully, others will join me in the campaign against this epidemic, whether on social media platforms, newspapers, television, or other media channels. This threat is immense, for the present as well as the future.

(The author is National Internal Auditor, Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shakshik Mahasangh - Delhi India)

Challenge to stop misuse of Artificial Intelligence



By: Vijay Garg

In the present era, while technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increased the facilities, its serious side effects are also coming to the fore. These days, the problem of misuse of artificial intelligence and deepfake technology has emerged as very serious. Now, amid growing concerns

regarding these, the Central Government has issued an advisory to all internet media platforms to follow IT rules. Deepfake technology means manipulating the content available on the Internet and misrepresenting it. To do. These days, many types of misleading and inflammatory videos are being created on the internet media using AI and deepfake technology and misinformation is being spread to the people, like big experts in that field are being used to sell a household product in the market. A fake video has been prepared quoting its usefulness and is being made viral on the internet on the internet. People claiming to have discovered a medicine that can cure a major disease have been making fake videos and making them viral. health and fitness sector Such fake

videos are being prepared in the name of some big personality in which he is giving information about special methods and dosages to reduce obesity. Fake videos are being released quoting beauty experts inventing creams and pills to make dark skin fair and beautiful, and teeth whitening creams. In the name of some big personality, such fake videos containing one-sided statements on national and international topics are being posted, which can have an impact on the diplomacy of those countries. Moreover such provocative Fake videos of speeches are also being posted, so that hatred can spread in the society and the atmosphere can be spoiled. In such a situation, it is very worrying. Creating and circulating misleading and inflammatory videos

with the help of AI can cause a major crisis. It is important to stop its misuse. Today we need to understand that misinformation poses a deep threat to the security and trust of Internet users. Amidst the increasing misuse of deepfake technology, there is a need to spread awareness among people about it. Fake videos and pictures are being shared on the internet. Making things viral on media platforms should be avoided. If we identify content based on AI and deepfake technology in time, it is possible that we can stop the spread of false and misleading information among people.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Management Committee of Durga Mandir Railway Line Gagian framed

Retired Capt Kundan Lal Sharma elected Chairman



Top News Report

RS PURA, Jan 1: In a meeting held today at Durga Mandir Railway line Gagian, R S Pura, new Committee framed for management of temple. The unanimously elected team comprises of Captain (Retd) Kundan Lal Sharma, (Chairman) Vinod Kumar Sharma (President), Bharat Bhushan (General Secretary), Panch Kewal Krishna (Store Keeper), Subhash Chandra (Store Keeper), Anil Kumar Sharma (Accounts and Media Secy.), Ajit Kumar Sharma (Cashier), Balraj Khajuria (Auditor), Kaushal Sharma (Auditor), Mukesh Raina (Media Secy). Executive members include Kundan Pahalwan, Anil Kumar Sharma, Ram Prasad Sharma, Kewal Krishna Sharma and Sat Pal Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman said that Hindu temples are

considered to be holy places of worship where devotees come to seek blessings, offer their prayers, and perform various rituals. These temples are an integral part of Hindu culture and tradition, and they play a significant role in the spiritual and social life of the people.

They also serve as a place for people to come together and discuss important issues, such as politics and social justice. Capt Kundan further said that temples also face numerous challenges that hinder their proper functioning and upkeep.

These challenges include poor management, difficulties in adapting to changing times and societal expectations. Many younger generations of Hindus may not be as interested in traditional temple practices, and may seek more modern and relevant forms of worship.

This can lead to a decline in temple attendance and a loss of revenue for the temple, added Capt Kundan.

He said temple requires a significant amount of money to maintain its infrastructure, pay salary to Pujari and organize various religious events.

However, most temples rely on donations from devotees, and the amount collected is often insufficient to meet the expenses. The temple need to be cleaned, repaired, and renovated from time to time to ensure that it remains in good condition.

However, due to the lack of funds and resources, many temples are unable to carry out regular maintenance, leading to the deterioration of the temple's infrastructure.

He said large influx of devotees thronging temple is a constant challenge. Despite of assiduous efforts of temple managers, many a time things become extremely difficult to handle resulting in lot of disturbances and inconvenience to pilgrims.

He assured that all requisite steps will be taken to ensure proper management of temple.

VBSY's IEC Van extends awareness on crucial CSS Initiatives at Anjole



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 1: Today marked a significant stride in the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra as the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Van traversed through a series of pivotal locations encompassing Anjole areas of district Kishtwar.

The primary objective of this extensive movement was to disseminate vital information and raise awareness about critical Central Sector Schemes (CSS) through recorded messages of Prime Minister of India, actively engaging with the local populace in these regions.

The IEC Van's journey saw enthusiastic participation from the community, with the active involvement of notable personalities and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) along its route.

The presence and participation of Sarpanch

Anjole Disha Sharma, alongside community leaders, underscored the collective commitment to align with the visionary goals of Viksit Bharat, emphasizing the far-reaching benefits of these schemes.

An integral aspect of this engagement was the interactive 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani' session, where existing beneficiaries shared their experiences in detail, elucidating the tangible advantages accrued from these initiatives.

This platform served to encourage and enlighten the masses, fostering a deeper understanding and widespread utilization of these beneficiary-centric schemes.

The collaborative efforts witnessed during the Yatra underscore the collective determination to propel the nation towards a developed and empowered future envisioned by the Viksit Bharat initiative.

RTI Training Summit: empowerment through information

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 1: The RTI Training Summit, themed "Empowerment Through Information," held virtually on Sunday, December 31st, 2023, was a resounding success, drawing participation from 82 individuals across diverse sectors.

The event, conducted on the Zoom platform, attracted RTI Activists, Government Officials, Academicians, and General Public members from Jammu & Kashmir and various parts of India.

Distinguished as the 17th event organized at RTI Pend by J&K RTI Foundation, this summit witnessed the esteemed presence of Pankti Jog, the Executive Secretary of Mahiti Adhikar Gujarat Pahel (MAGP), a Gujarat-based group. Pankti Jog's expertise as the event's key trainer and resource person enriched the session with profound insights into the dynamics of the Right to Information Act 2005.

Among the notable participants were Sajad

Hussain, Akhtar Hussain, Arif Ismael, Sheikh Maqbool, Haq Nawaz Nehru, Rabiya, Karar Reshi, Syed Farhat, Mohammad Idrees, Shakeel ur Rasool, Momin Hussain, Journalist Ishaq Majeed, and Er. Aqib Bashir.

Er. Irfan Banka, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the J&K RTI Foundation, commenced the event by highlighting pertinent issues, notably the delay in RTI replies by Public Information Officers (PIOs) beyond the mandated 30 days and delay in Second Appeal hearings. Stressing the need for collective efforts among RTI Activists, he underscored the structural governance challenges prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pankti Jog's illuminating presentation emphasized the RTI Act's paramount importance in today's democratic framework. She highlighted its pervasive use by citizens, journalists, and investigators, unveiling information previously shrouded in official secrecy.

The interactive session featured an engaging Q&A segment where Pankti Jog adeptly addressed participant queries. Subsequently, practical queries were moderated by Sheikh Maqbool, fostering discussions among esteemed RTI Activists, including Haq Nawaz Nehru, Sajad Hussain, and Syed Farhat.

Akhtar Hussain, the district coordinator of J&K RTI Foundation for Kupwara District, delivered the summit's key takeaways. His focus on the challenges in retaining records post-floods underscored the crucial need for adherence to record retention rules.

The summit culminated with an encouraging message, advocating sustained utilization of the RTI Act and affirming its significant positive impact. Pankti Jog reiterated the importance of synergizing RTI with complementary laws like the Public Service Guarantee Act and Anti-Corruption Laws, advocating a holistic approach toward transparency and accountability.

AAP office opened in Nagrota Assembly Constituency at Grota Ranjan

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Jan 1: In order to give impetus & boost to the Party, a new AAP office opened at Grota, Ranjan, in Nagrota Assembly Constituency of Jammu Urban District by its Sangthan Manthri, Suresh Bhagat, in presence of Senior Party office bearers namely Er. Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandal, Ashni Matoo, Karan Aatri, Amrik Singh & others, with great pomp & show shouting slogans of the Party. Large number of local office bearers & volunteers of the locality were present on the occasion.

While addressing the Party enthusiasts and the



locals, Senior Party leaders said that people are generally fed up with the false & dreamy promises of BJP mostly concentrated on religions, Hindu-Muslim, Nehru- Jinnah, Shamsaahan- Kabristaan, Pakistan- Mandir- Masjid and that nothing is said about the JUMLA's thrown in the past. How long will BJP keep on fooling the masses & youths? They questioned and reminded that people were smartly befooled in 2014 & 2019

Parliamentary elections also in state elections, promising 15 lacs into the accounts of each house hold, doubling the income of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit of farmers, 2 crore jobs every year, removing corruption, decriminalization of politics, lowering prices of Diesel, Petrol, domestic gas, sand, Bajri, stones, making 100 smart cities, running of Bullet trains, constructing 1 model village in each constituency

every year etc, they said.

They added that enough is enough now and that all the people can't be befooled for all the time as the people have seen through the game of polarization, of all traditional Political Parties so called the savior of Hindus & Muslims.

They appealed the general masses to rise above the politics of religion & region in the larger interest of integration of the country and see through

the game of divisive politics as well as Divide & rule policy of ruling dispensation as also all traditional Political Parties who ruled the country as well as J&K, who simply boast of "VIKAS" from the roof top but in fact, on ground, they are sowing the seeds of hatred, division in the society, leading & dragging the Country to a situation of 1947 which is highly dangerous for the unity & integrity of the Nation.

The country has to run on the foot hold of its Constitution which teaches us to give regard to its religious sects on all costs, they maintained, frenzy of casteism, polarization in the name of religion will harm us than doing any good and that people not get misled and swayed by emotive slogans and imaginary JUMLAS, the AAP leaders said.

Sajjad Kichloo conducts tour of different villages in Nagseni block, holds public grievances program



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 1: In continuous endeavors to listen and redress genuine problems of poor rural masses of Kishtwar district and under the spree of tour programs in different remote areas of District Kishtwar today Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo Ex- Home Minister, Zonal President JKNC Chenab Valley Zone alongwith Faisal Hussain (DDC Nagseni)

and other prominent NC workers visited several Villages of Nagseni Block of Padder-Nagseni Constituency of Kishtwar District.

He held a series of interactions with rural people of Nagseni block and patiently listened to their grievances.

He also held party workers meetings and enjoined all to work together to strengthen the party base and also remain in the forefront to solve the problems of

rural masses.

He lambasted some officers who remained more concerned and inclined towards pampering and hulla gulla serving as agents of a particular political party and are found ignoring the crucial issues of the general masses.

He urged upon all to get their eyes opened and not live in fool's paradise and show the real essence of vote power to hungry political mongers who try to bring rift and rife between innocent people on the ground of religion, caste, creed and are threat to secular fabric of the nation. On the occasion many people joined the National Conference party with full enthusiasm and gusto.

Dr. Mustafa Kamaal extends New Year greetings, envisions prosperous future for J&K

Hopeful for long-awaited Assembly elections and restoration of Statehood in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Dr. Mustafa Kamaal, Additional General Secretary of J&K National Conference today met with senior colleagues at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu and extended heartfelt greetings on the first day of the New Year 2024.

Expressing optimism for peace and prosperity in the region, Dr. Kamaal conveyed his sincere hopes for a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

While interacting with the senior colleagues of the party Dr. Kamaal expressed optimism that the Assembly elections would be conducted in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court, highlighting the importance of adherence to legal processes for a transparent and democratic electoral process in the state. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the people in the absence of an elected government and emphasized the need for a representative administration to address the concerns



of the populace effectively.

"The aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir can only be truly reflected through their elected representatives," he said, adding "Holding Assembly elections and restoration of Statehood are not just a constitutional obligations, but a crucial steps towards restoring democracy and ensuring the holistic development and peace of the region."

The senior NC leader urged the authorities concerned to expedite the election process and pave the way for a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Kamaal reiterated the commitment of the National Conference to serve the interests of the

people and work towards the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir. He affirmed that the Party will continue its efforts to engage with the community, foster dialogue, and contribute to the democratic process in the region.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting include Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Bushan Lal Bhat Ex-MLC, Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Vijay Lakhshmi Datta, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Farooq Mughal, S. Nirmal Singh, Jatin Bhat, Amit Koul, Veer Ji Bhat, Sumita Bhan and others.

EESL to distribute 2000 Induction Cookstoves in Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 1: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the administration of Ministry of Power, announced the distribution of 2000 induction cookstoves to Anganwadi workers, Child-care centres and Monasteries in UT Ladakh.

This initiative will be implemented over the next 15 to 20 days under EESL's National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) with support from Ladakh Power Development Department (LAPDD) and fund allocated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) with the aim to promote energy efficient, clean, and safe cooking.

The event was graced by the presence of Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd) Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh, (Dr.) Mohd. Jaffer Akhon (Chief Executive Councillor, Kargil), Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (MP, UT of Ladakh), Ravinder Kumar (Secretary PDD, UT Ladakh), and Padma Angmo, Commissioner and Secretary, Social and Welfare.

Additionally, notable EESL figures present at the event included Vishal Kapoor (Chief Executive Officer), Animesh Mishra (Chief General Manager and Head of Sales & PR), Girja Shankar (General Manager of Tech and Head of Corporate



Driven Programs), and Nitin Bhatt (Deputy General Manager of PR & Sales).

India has traditionally relied on biomass-based cooking methods, which have taken a toll on both public health and the environment.

Furthermore, considering that 60% of India's future energy demand is anticipated to come from the cooling sector, the quest for sustainable and energy-efficient cooking solutions has become increasingly critical. To tackle these challenges, EESL has launched the National Efficient Cooking Program (NECP), aiming to promote the widespread use of induction cookstoves.

The introduction of these cookstoves brings a 25-30% cost advantage over conven-

tional methods. This innovative approach not only addresses health concerns among Anganwadi workers caused by harmful emissions from traditional cooking but also ensures a safer and healthier working environment.

Moreover, it emphasizes the pressing need to adopt sustainable and health-conscious cooking practices.

Brigadier (Dr.) B D Mishra said, "The distribution of induction cookstoves stands as a significant step towards sustainable living in Ladakh, and I commend EESL's dedication to fostering a more environmentally aware and energy-efficient community. This initiative not only aligns with Ladakh's ethos of responsible environmental stewardship but also empowers our citizens to embrace cleaner and more

efficient cooking practices."

During his speech at the distribution programme of EESL's induction cookstoves, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (MP, UT of Ladakh) said, "The detrimental impact of pollution, stemming from carbon emissions, is adversely affecting human health. This can be alleviated through the adoption of EESL's induction cookstoves. With the collaborative efforts of PDD Ladakh, BEE, and EESL, we are making strides in our collective journey towards creating an energy-efficient and carbon-neutral Ladakh, aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Moving ahead, our aim is to extend the reach of these induction cookstoves to every household in Ladakh."

Vishal Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, EESL, said, "At EESL, our commitment to empowering communities through sustainable solutions remains unwavering. With the distribution of induction cookstoves, our aim is to revolutionize cooking practices with cutting-edge, energy-efficient technologies. This initiative in Ladakh is a testament to our relentless efforts in advancing environmental sustainability, fostering not only a cleaner and healthier present but also ensuring a greener and more resilient future for generations to come."

Formula for happiness: If you are done with those typical New Year resolutions, take a cue from these celebs who are planning to create a happier, healthier, meaningful life this year by staying fluid

Come New Year and the first thing one thinks of is making resolutions. Although a very popular New Year's tradition, most people struggle to keep up with those well-intentioned commitments. If that sounds all too familiar, here's a way to turn over a new leaf and make 2024 different.

Go beyond those typical promises of hitting the gym, quitting social media or journaling and take a cue from these Bollywood celebrities on how they are planning to create a happier, healthier, meaningful life this year. Their hopes and aspirations for 2024 should give an idea or two.

Live one day at a time Chandigarh's very own Wamiqa Gabbi has made an impression in the entertainment world with her work in Jubilee, Charlie Chopra and Khufiya. Overwhelmed by the success she earned in 2023, all that she wants is that the trend carries forward to 2024. "The last year has been very special for me professionally and personally. So, I am praying 2024 is the same as 2023. I've experienced

growth and contentment and that's what I want should continue. My mantra in life is to live each day as it comes, not think too much about future. That keeps me calm."

On serious note Fukrey actor Manjot Singh is gearing up for a change, and that's his commitment to self and his audience. "In the coming year, I hope to change the perception of filmmakers and audience that I only do comedy films or that I chose funny roles. I want to surprise them with my serious side or in a romantic avatar, so I am aspiring to do something on those lines. It's my wish, resolution, vision for 2024."

The Kerala Story actor Adah Sharma has it all chalked out for 2024. There is something personal, professional and noble on her list. "I want to clean my cupboard. It's such a mess and I always find an excuse to not fix it. When it comes to work, I never had a goal of being part of the highest female grossing film ever with The Kerala Story, so feel I should just contin-



ue doing my work and trying my best to spread happiness. And something that's close to my heart is being a part of rehabilitation of abused elephants. I hope we can help as many as possible."

Change is Welcome Punjabi singer Daler Mehndi is doing something beyond music. In 2024, he is all set to show his acting talent with Welcome 3 and is quite excited about it.

"I am looking forward to my acting debut and I am grateful that my film journey takes off with the industry's best team, including Firoz Nadiadwala, Suniel Shetty, Sanjay Dutt and others." On the music front, he adds, "You will also see many Gurbani songs being released on my Gurbani channel."

Keep it free-flowing Netflix's coming-of-age film The Archies has revealed a promising

actor in singer Dot. Her promise for 2024 is, "I hope to continue following my gut and explore whatever excites me creatively. I tend not to make too many goals set in stone because I know life has a way of taking you places you don't expect! That being said, I'd love to finish my new album in the coming year."

Focus on fitness Tahir Raj Bhasin put on 8 kg for Sultan Of Delhi

but this method actor has it sorted in mind. For 2024, he says, "I want it to be a year of great roles and fantastic scripts. I also aim to make time for my family and friends. These are people who matter the most and bring me joy. Travel is always on my yearly plan. I'd also like to focus on fitness and make it my best year yet for both physical and mental health."

The joy of working

With her captivating performance in Class, Ayesha Kanga won the audience. Moving forward, she hopes that, "2024 is just superlatives of 2023. It's all about the joy of working for me and I'll work to be more creative than the year before. Perhaps read about a new concept, artist or designer that fills my life up with a lot of late night inspiration. I'm very driven by craft, whether it is consuming or creating it. I hope I find myself in a place where this is celebrated. I'll always push for it... and we'll see how far that takes me. So far, so good."

All for philanthropy Ending it and beginning it on a philanthropic note, Sonu Sood defines his aspirations for 2024. "I believe in doing something that is not related to just one day; it has to happen every day of your life. This year, I am planning to start an orphanage and old-age home, the work for which has already started. Few schools for the needy are also on the chart. Providing education and medical facility for all those in need is my priority."

Hoping for a better tomorrow

Reflecting on the every changing world, Ali Fazal keeps it simple when he says, "It's been an eventful year for me. The world as we know keeps changing drastically and we hope that it changes for the better in the coming year. I hope that my craft continues to evolve and I can be part of good storytelling. At the end and at the start of it all, we as artists always aspire to move people in as many ways as we can. I look forward to the many exciting narratives I'll be stepping into. And at the same time I want to give enough time to family and my loved ones." Richa Chadha has added another feather to her cap as a producer and that role she hopes is on the frontline in 2024. "I hope I can continue to do great parts as an actor, explore new and challenging characters, humanise them and win over the audience. As a new producer, I hope to tell interesting stories, bringing Indian narratives to the world. As a person, I just hope to be better overall."

Zahrah talks about her journey



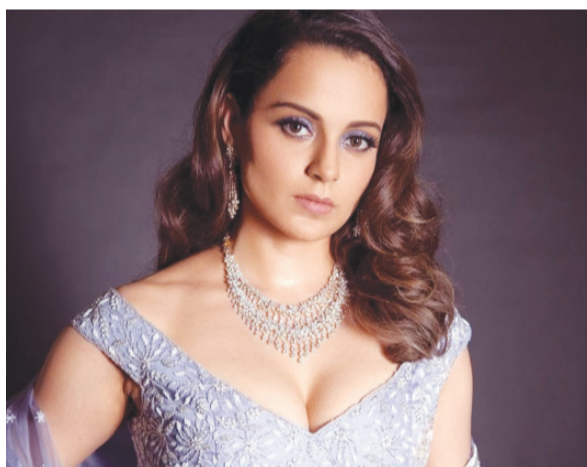
Zahrah S Khan, known for her melodious hits like Kusu Kusu and Dance Meri Rani, talks about the year gone by. Zahrah says, "It was an incredible year, beginning with the collaboration with Edward Maya

for Love Stereo in January 2023. Embarking on my first tour with a remarkable team was another highlight. Signing up for the film Vrushabha brought about another fantastic feeling. Working on Love

Stereo was an absolute blast, especially dancing alongside Tiger. This experience fueled my drive to improve as a dancer, and the overall balance between work and personal happiness was truly uplifting."

Talking about her journey, Zahrah says, "I am immensely grateful for the growth I've experienced every year since entering the industry as a professional playback singer in 2021. There has been no looking back since then; each year has been progressively more significant and fulfilling professionally. I am thankful to God for continuously blessing me with work. I'm excited to see what unfolds in 2024. I'm set to finish shooting for Vrushabha by March. My goal is to work on scripts that showcase a new side of me with each film. I hope to achieve what my mother did as both an actor and a singer."

Life's lesson: Kangana Ranaut's 2023 learning



Bollywood's Queen Kangana Ranaut reminisced about her 'dreams' and shared her learning of the year 2023, saying, that if one feels out of place, "remember you are on your way home." She is an avid social media user and has 9.4 million followers on Instagram. She took to the Stories section and penned a note, reflecting upon the year 2023.

She wrote, "I grew up with an inbuilt feeling of being out of place, I made the home of my dreams, farms and cottages, I felt happy, I felt content, I also felt at peace but I never felt at home. Slowly it became evident that maybe we are not meant to settle in this body, it's a fleeting phase and we must recognise that and never try to be at home." "Ever since I acknowledged that I am at home... This was my learning of 2023. If you feel out of place and feel that you fail to belong anywhere, remember you are on your way home," she added.

'I cannot diet': Rinku Ghosh

Actress Rinku Ghosh says there is nothing wrong with actors being asked to look their best all the time, as this comes as part and parcel of the profession.

"We are in showbiz, looking our best is part of our profession, but that doesn't mean we have to match some unrealistic goals to look a part of it. Everybody has their own body and we must work accordingly. I try to work out at least four to five times a week. I stick to my staple Indian food during the day. I believe a balanced, simple Indian meal has everything required on a plate," she says.

She adds, "I cannot diet, I eat everything. Being a Bengali, I cannot keep myself away from fish and rice. But one thing I do is that I don't eat after 8:00 pm. Also, mental fitness is vital, especially in today's fast-paced competitive



life. The first thing I do is cut-off from work after I reach home. Secondly, my therapy is my family and my gym time.

Thirdly, I need to have my 'me' time, which can be anything from watching TV to reading a book or having a coffee with friends."

New Year, new aspirations: Television artistes talk about New Year resolutions and lessons from 2023

As the curtains close on 2023, our favourite TV celebrities open up about their personal journeys, revealing New Year's resolutions and the invaluable lessons they've learnt from the rollercoaster ride of the past year. Join us as these stars share their reflections and aspirations.

Meet & greet people Kiran Khoje People often end up not working on their resolutions. I feel that having small resolutions can be fun. You can complete them, one at a time, and move forward. It's better than not having any. My resolution for the New Year is to meet and talk to a new person every day, whether I know them or not. Sometimes, appre-

ciating little things or expressing gratitude can be a resolution. The year 2023 had its ups and downs and there were overwhelming moments, but everything fell in place at its own time. Reminding yourself to take one step at a time is crucial. That's my learning from 2023.

Save more lives Somy Ali As for a resolution, it is always to save more lives and make No More Tears grow. It's selfish as it makes me feel good, yet helps others. Some love going out while I love snuggling with my close friends chatting or if I am called in by the police department working. It's all individual-specific and contingent upon a person's likes or



dislikes. Evolve as a person Shirin Sewani

My New Year resolution is definitely to grow as a person, learn to

be more patient and to try and be mature. Now that I'm entering a new

phase of my life, these are the basics that I need to work on.

Prayer for peace Ismail Umar Khan Resolutions are meant to be broken. I mean eventually, it breaks. So, there will be no resolution for me. Planning never works for me. We plan but God has other plans. I am hoping for a better world where there is no hatred, no violence, only peace. I pray for a decent life for everyone.

Target-fitness Shivangi Verma I absolutely believe in keeping resolutions but I need somebody to motivate me. I have many New Year resolutions, but the main one for the coming year will be to stay fit and healthy. I'm hoping that I meet the goal. Stay calm

Aradhana Sharma My goal this year is to wake up at 6 am. It's a challenge for me, but I want to achieve it. An important lesson I have learnt in 2023 is not to get provoked, no matter what others say or do. I believe that my path is unique and I don't want external opinions to affect me.

Room for improvement Kirti Sualy Every year I have the same resolution - try to be a better person. Because there's always room for improvement. I can't pinpoint anything in particular. Learning is a never-ending process and hopefully people around me will say that I have improved as a person.

ISRO launches satellite PSLV-C58; to study black holes, galaxies

At about 21 minutes into its flight, the rocket will orbit XPoSat at an altitude of about 650 km

CHENNAI, Jan 1 (Agencies): A PSLV rocket carrying a total of 11 satellites, including ISRO's X-Ray polarimeter satellite, lifted off from a spaceport here on Monday.

ISRO's maiden X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite would offer insights into celestial objects like black holes.

The PSLV-C58 rocket, in its 60th mission, carried primary payload XPoSat and 10 other satellites to be deployed in low earth orbits.

For the first time in its history, ISRO carried out a space mission on January 1.



Earlier, ISRO has carried out space missions with its two rockets - PSLV and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) in the month of January a couple of times, but not on the first day of a calendar year.

At 9.10 am the Indian rocket PSLV-DL variant with the code PSLV-C58, standing 44.4-metre tall and weighing 260 ton, took off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, in Andhra Pradesh.

At about 21 minutes into its flight, the rocket will orbit XPoSat at an altitude of about 650 km.

6 die as car hits road divider in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur



JAMSHEDPUR, Jan 1 (Agencies): Six people were killed and two others injured as the

car they were travelling in hit a road divider in Jamshedpur city of Jharkhand on Monday

morning, police said. The accident took place near Circuit House Square in Bistupur police station area around 5 am, an officer said.

Jamshedpur Senior Superintendent of Police Kaushal Kishore told agency, "Eight people were travelling in a five-seater car, which first hit a road divider and then a roadside pole. Five of them were killed on the spot, while three were taken to hospital, where one more person succumbed to injuries while the remaining two are undergoing treatment."

Bihar Gang Offered 13 Lakh To Men For Impregnating Women, 8 Arrested

PATNA/NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Eight people have been arrested in Bihar for allegedly offering 13 lakh to men for impregnating women who could not conceive.

They ran the racket under the name of "All India Pregnant Job Service", the police said.

The arrests have been made in Bihar's Nawada.

Police said the accused would contact men through WhatsApp and social media offering them an opportunity to earn lakhs in return for their "service."

The interested men were asked to pay a registration fee of 799. Once they would register, the gang gave them some photographs, asking them to pick a



woman of their choice whom they wished to impregnate.

They were then asked to deposit a security amount ranging between 5 to 20,000 depending on how "attractive the woman was."

"The men were told that they will be given 13 lakh if the woman gets pregnant. They were promised a consolation price of 5 lakh even if they failed to impregnate the woman," said Kalyan

Anand, Superintendent of Police, Nawada.

The arrests were made after a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Bihar police conducted a raid in Nawada.

Police have recovered mobile phones and a printer from premises, officials said, adding that efforts are on to trace the remaining accused - including the mastermind.

Kalyan Anand said the men are part of a countrywide cyber syndicate.

Suspecting that his best friend had illicit affair with his mother, Maharashtra teenager kills him

LATUR, Jan 1 (Agencies): Suspecting his mother of having an affair, a Latur boy allegedly hacked his best friend and neighbour to death with a sickle at his shack in the fields, officials said here on Monday.

The incident took place at Vadji village under Bhada police station on Saturday after the body of Ranjit T Mali alias Balu, 22, was found in a bloodied state in the field shack.

"We registered a case of murder and launched an investigation which revealed many shocking aspects," Bhada police station head Balasaheb Dongare told agency.

Police teams trying to crack the case spoke to deceased Mali's friends and relatives and learnt that he allegedly had an affair with some local



woman who was his friend's mother.

"We quickly managed to track the 32-year-old woman, who was the victim's neighbour and started probing her in detail on her purported relationship with the deceased," Dongare said.

Meanwhile, another police official learnt that the woman's 17-year-old son, studying in Class XI, had given an old

sickle to a friend at Vadji village and asked him to sharpen it for him to use in the fields.

"We summoned the boy for questioning, but he was evasive. We subjected him to a grilling and he confessed to the crime," Dongare said.

As per the boy's statement, he suspected an affair between his mother and friend Mali, and was filled with

embarrassment, shame and hatred against the latter.

Incidentally, the boy and Mali - who was educated till Class X - lived in neighbouring homes and also owned adjacent fields, and the latter used to spend nights in the shack to keep an eye over the crop.

Since the two were close friends, Mali had unhindered access to the woman's home which made her son doubt something fishy was going between them.

The boy admitted that he even quietly 'spied' on Mali and his mom for days, keeping a watch on their movements. After he was convinced that "there was something going on between them", the teenager vowed to finish off his

friend, and planned the killing.

He executed his plan to eliminate Mali in the early hours of Saturday and then went home, behaving normally.

Dongare said the investigation had revealed that "there was nothing serious going on between the boy's mother and his friend", and the murder was the outcome of a misunderstanding.

"We have checked the mobile call records of the woman and the victim, questioned her thoroughly, and though they used to chat often, there was nothing untoward between them," Dongare added. After the investigation is completed, the boy will be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.

"Soon, Hemant Soren Will Also...": BJP's Swipe After Jharkhand MLA Resigns

RANCHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): A sitting MLA of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) MLA, Sarfaraz Ahmad, resigned from the state legislative assembly on Monday, citing personal reasons.

The lawmaker represented the Gandey assembly constituency of Jharkhand.

An official notification by the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Monday read, "The resignation letter given by Sarfaraz Ahmed from his seat in the Legislative Assembly has been accepted by the Speaker. As a result of its approval, the said seat has become vacant in

the Legislative Assembly."

Taking a swipe at Chief Minister Hemant Soren after the sudden resignation of the ruling party MLA, BJP Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey said CM Soren would soon follow in the former's footsteps.

"Jharkhand's MLA from Gandey, Sarfaraz Ahmed, has resigned from the Assembly and his resignation has been accepted. Soon, Hemant Soren-ji will also resign from the post of chief minister and his wife, Kalpana Soren-ji, will take over as the next CM. The new year could bring pain to the Soren family," Dubey posted from his official



handle on X in Hindi.

Earlier, on Saturday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued fresh summons to CM Soren for questioning in connection with an alleged land scam.

This was the seventh summons issued to Soren by the ED under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Launder-

ing Act, 2002, asking him to appear before the agency and record his statement in connection with the alleged scam.

"Since you have not come to the office of the Directorate of Enforcement in obedience to the summonses issued to you, we are giving you this last opportunity to record your statement under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, at the place, date and time, mutually convenient to you as well as the undersigned (ED), which should be within 7 days of receipt of this notice/Summons," the ED stated in its fresh summons to the Jharkhand CM.

7 Houses With 80 Rooms Destroyed In Massive Shimla Fire, 9 Families Homeless

SHIMLA, Jan 1 (Agencies): A fire in the Jubbal area of Shimla district destroyed seven houses and rendered nine families without shelter, authorities said on Monday.

About 80 heavily timbered rooms of seven houses in Praunthi panchayat were completely gutted in the fire that broke out around Monday 1 am. No loss of human life or cattle

was reported.

Seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot from Jubbal, Rohru, Chirgaon, and Kotkhair fire stations but the blaze had engulfed the houses by the time they reached, Shimla Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told news agency.

It took the fire tenders six hours to douse the fire, he said.

Sky-high flames drew

the attention of a large number of people from surrounding villages who rushed to the spot to rescue people.

The cause of fire is yet to be ascertained and a case has been registered and investigations are underway, police said.

The affected families said that they lost about 7-10 crore worth of property collectively in the blaze.

Maharashtra Man Arrested For Raping, Thrashing 14-Year-Old Daughter: Cops



PALGARH, Jan 1 (Agencies): Maharashtra police have arrested a man accused of raping his 14-year-old minor daughter in the Navgarh area of Maharashtra.

The police have registered the case and arrested the accused father.

According to Navgarh police, the accused used to threaten and

rape his daughter for the past several days. When the victim was alone at home, the accused used to rape her. When the victim girl protested against him, he used to beat her badly.

"She narrated the incident to her elder sister, after which she took the victim to the nearest police station and registered a case," the police said.

Five Of Family, Including 3-Year-Old, Found Dead At Home In Punjab: Cops

CHANDIGARH, Jan 1 (Agencies): Five members of a family were found dead in their house in a village in Jalandhar district's Adampur, police said on Monday.

Police on Sunday night found 59-year-old Manmohan Singh, his wife, his two daughters, and a three-year-old granddaughter dead.

Manmohan's body was found hanging from a

ceiling fan, while the others' lay on a bed in the same room.

In a suicide note he left behind, Manmohan Singh said he was taking the decision because of some financial issues, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jalandhar (Rural), Mukhwinder Singh Bhullar said.

The officer said that according to the preliminary investigation, Manmohan strangled his

family members before he hanged himself.

The couple's eldest daughter was visiting her parents along with her minor daughter.

Manmohan's son is married and lives abroad, police said.

The matter of their death came to light after Manmohan's son-in-law called his wife on Sunday but got no answer.

"It was Manmohan's

son-in-law who gave information that his family was not picking up the phone...later when police went with him to the house, we found five bodies inside it. Manmohan Singh had hanged himself. The bodies of his wife, his two daughters and granddaughter were also found.

The investigation is on in the matter, said the SSP.

Senior Punjab Cop, An Arjuna Awardee Weightlifter, Found Dead In Canal

CHANDIGARH, Jan 1 (Agencies): In a shocker from Punjab on New Year's Day, a senior police officer who has also been an ace weightlifter was found dead near a canal in Jalandhar. The body of Dalbir Singh Deol, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, was found near Basti Bawa Khel canal.

Police Commissioner Swapna Sharma said 54-year-old Singh was hit by a vehicle after being dropped by his acquaintances on Sunday night. His driving licence and ID card were recovered from the spot.



Gurugram Woman Found Dead In Pool Of Blood, Baby Cried Near Her Body



GURUGRAM, Jan 1 (Agencies): The Gurugram Police is looking for the husband of a 23-year-old woman whose body was found in her house in the DLF Phase III area in a pool of blood with her two-year-old baby sitting near her crying, an officer said on Monday.

Police suspect that the woman was killed with a sharp-edged weapon. Her husband, who is suspected to have killed her, is on the run.

The police team which responded to the call found the house locked. When it broke open the door, it found the woman in a pool of blood and her baby sitting near her body, crying, the officer said.

Laxmi Rawat, the victim, was a native of Agra and was married to one Gaurav Sharma. Both had shifted to the current house around six months ago, said police, which suspect the murder took place a day before.

"We are investigating the matter from all angles and trying to catch the husband of the woman who is missing. The cause behind the murder will be cleared soon," said Vikas Kaushik.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur conveys DGP's New Year Message to staff and trainees



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 1: In order to convey New Year Message of R.R. Swain, DGP-J&K to Officers and Jawans of Jammu and Kashmir Police on the eve of New Year-2024, a function was organized at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur in

which the DGP's New Year Message was reiterated by Shiv Kumar, SSP Principal, Police Technical Training Institute, Vijaypur to all staff personnel and trainees. The Principal on behalf of the DGP-J&K conveyed New Year best wishes to all staff /trainees and their family members. While reiterating DGP's

Message, the Principal remembered Police Martyrs who made their supreme sacrifice to save the sovereignty of the Nation and emphasized upon staff and trainees to reaffirm their commitment to safeguard lives of the general public and uphold the values of the Constitution. Among others Zia-

Ul-Haq Dy.SP (Outdoor), Devinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Kuldeep Raj, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Shri Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP(Admn.), Surrinder Paul Dy.SP (Telecom), Asif Iqbal (Sr.PO), Inspr. Surinder Singh (CDI), Inspr. Javed Hussain (RI), Inspr. Pawan Kumar, Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra,

Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Tariq Mehmood, Inspr. Rakesh Kumar, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta (CTI), Inspr. Ashish Dharmat, Inspr. Shehbaz Ahmed, Inspr. Kapil Raina, Narinder Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

Devotional song competition held at Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 1: Shree Shyam Parivar Mandal Samba collaboration with Saraswati Sangeet Art & Culture Foundation Samba Organized a Devotional Singing Competition among the Children below 15 years at Narsingh Mandir Samba. All the participants performed Bajran and Hanuman chalisa and the Judges

gave their Judgement and distribute the Prizes and Certificates to the Participants.

The function organised on the eve of New Year Celebration.

The parents of Children said that Shree Shyam Parivar Mandal samba did splendid job filled a feeling of Devotion in heart of Children and people of Samba.

The organiser of this event was Anchit Mahajan and Pandit Govind Singh, SHO Samba Daljit Singh and Kapil Jain were special guests.

The judges of the event were Ravi Dutta and Jyotika Sharma.

The winners of the event were Hriday Sonar, 1st, Medhavi Mahajan, 2nd and Aarav Talwar, 3rd.

The chairman of Sarswati Sangeet Art & Culture Foundation Samba Ravi Dutta said that we a big event will organised for the children very soon in which children could showcase their talent.

Rajesh Gupta accuses BJP of betrayal and failure to deliver promised development

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) J&K general secretary and Media head of the party, Rajesh Gupta today said that BSP will continue to oppose BJP Govt for rising unemployment, economic crisis, lack of development and also expose the saffron party's false promises and betrayals.

While interacting with media, here today, Gupta rued that people in the country, especially Jammu and Kashmir are confronted with the ugliest situation due to the policies adopted by Modi Govt.

"After realizing that it has failed to achieve what it had expected after 5 August 2019, several drives were started to divert the attention of the people from real issues, matter of the fact remains, people won't change their opinion and never forgive BJP for what it has done in J&K," he added.

He alleged that the BJP exploited the electorate on different slogans on the

name of religion, regions and caste but it was a tool to seek votes through these emotional issues.

BSP leader strongly raised the issue of PoJK refugees who feel cheated and betrayed. Instead of the recommended relief of Rs 30 lakh per family, only Rs 5.5 lakh per family was sanctioned by the BJP government. A large number of eligible families are still deprived of the relief, he claimed.

Gupta said that the prevailing political and security scenario in J&K tells the story of total failure of the Central government which left the erstwhile state in total chaos. The BSP leader accused the BJP of being habitual in raking up controversies to divert the attention of the people from their failure to provide a credible government in J&K.

"There is no accountability in the administration as a result of which the people are suffering on all fronts," he said. Gupta said the bureaucratic connection with the people is at an all-time low.

Ramakrishna Mission organizes Free Medical Camp on Neurology

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: On the invitation of Medical unit of Ramakrishna Mission Udhewyala, Team of Vichar Kranti Manch International, headed by its President Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner & Chairman Indian Yoga Association, visited Free Medical camp on Neurology.

Organized by Ramakrishna Mission, it was featured by Dr Sushil Razdhan, a renowned Neurologist, Assisted by a team of Doctors from Cardiology, Orthopedics, Gynaecology, Dental, ENT, Ophthalmology, Departments, comprises of Allopathy



Physicians, Physiotherapists, clinical Psychology, who examined nearly 402 patients, by 13 doctors.

Free check up faculty, Blood sugar, HbA1c and Blood Pressure were available. Besides 65 parameters including CBC, LFT, KFT, Lipid Profile, BSF, urine tests and Thyroid function test (T3,T4, TSH) were also undertaken. Some free medicines were

also distributed.

The camp was a part of Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre's ongoing commitment to serving to community and providing accessible healthcare to all.

Sanjiv Verma, Commissioner Secretary GAD was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

He discussed and shared his views with Swami Jaynadarandana, Secretary Ramak-

rishna Mission Jammu, Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Sandeep Seointra Addl FC JKAS, Ashok Gupta Vice President Vichar Kranti Manch International, Yash Pal Sharma, Life coach & a trained Yoga trainer, Monika Khajuria, an experienced Netrasist, and Mohinder Rana, President Padar Welfare Front S/D Attoli (Padar) & others, about introducing Religious

Sermans, yoga & Meditation sessions for the patients, which will prove very useful help in treating the patients.

Dr Shreyansh Jain offered his services to hold periodical session on yoga.

Yashpal offered for a monthly session on skill development. Swami Jaynadarandana welcomed & felicitated Sanjiv Verma, Chief Guest, Dr Sushil Razdhan Neurologist and also presented vote of thanks.

Swami Jaynadarandana presented Momentoes & Literature of Swami Vivekananda, Shree Ram Krishan and Sharda Maa.

"Modi Ki Guarantee" wali Gadi will ensure benefit of schemes to very poor: Jugal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament BJP Lok Sabha Jammu along with former Minister Sham Choudhary, DDC Vidya Motan, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Ex-President MC RS Pura Satpal Pappi, District President BJP Rekha Mahajan, Senior Leaders BJP Ayodhya Gupta, Akash Chopra, Vikram Sandhu, Harbans today attended Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at panchayat Gazipur Kullian Block Miransahib in R.S Pura Jammu South Assembly constituency. Member of Parliament along with local residents garlanded Modi Ki Guarantee Wali Gadi.

Students performed cultural items and MP distributed caps & calendars amongst them.

MP also distributed certificates among the beneficiaries.

Member of Parliament while addressing the gathering present at the occasion said that our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a great visionary leader and working hard for the upliftment of very citizen standing last in the queue.

He said that many schemes have been launched by Modi and people are taking benefit of it.

He said that Modi has decided to start Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to reach every common man who left without



taking benefit of Modi Welfare Schemes.

He said that Modi Ji Ki Guarantee wali Gadi will ensure benefit of welfare schemes to every poor.

He said that IEC vans to every Panchayat ensure the promotion &

saturation of Modi Welfare scheme in every panchayat.

He said that this camp comprises stalls of various departments to ensure registration of those people who still not given with the benefits of schemes for which

they are eligible.

He said that many popular schemes like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and providing Water Facility to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission are

giving great benefits to the people and fulfilling their basic needs.

He said that panchayat Gazipur Kullian is very near to Miran Sahib town and needs to be developed soon.

He said that many mega projects have

been started in Jammu province which will boost economic growth of Jammu and bring development to the rural areas.

Member of Parliament also visited village Seri Kalan in Block Nagrota and inaugurated Community Hall constructed under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in which Mandal President Harish Sharma & Senior Leaders BJP Mohanlal Sharma, Om Parkash, Subash Singh, Chanchal Singh, Balbir Singh, Rattan Kumar, Ankush, Raj Kumar and others also remained present.

Sham Choudhary said that Panchayat Gazipur

Kullian in Block Miran Sahib is developed during the tenure of BJP Government in center.

He said that previous governments always neglected rural areas and people were deprived off their basic needs but now by the great decision of visionary leader Modi Ji officers are reaching to the doorstep of people by means of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Gharu Ram Bhagat and Vidya Motan DDCs warmly welcomed Member of Parliament on reaching the event.

BDO Daljit Singh, Officials of Various departments, Sarpanches and Panches were also present at the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

Magnitude 7.6 earthquake strikes Japan, tsunami warning issued

coast could be affected by the waves. In nearby South Korea, the weather agency urged residents in some eastern coastal towns to watch for possible changes in sea levels. Tsunami waves that hit later can be bigger than the initial ones.

The Japanese government has set up a special emergency centre to gather information on the quakes and tsunami and relay them speedily to residents to ensure safety, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

He reiterated the warning for immediate evacuation in affected areas.

Japan is an extremely quake-prone nation. In March 2011, a major quake and tsunami caused meltdowns at a nuclear plant.

NHK TV footage showed a room shaken

by the quake, with hanging laundry swaying from side to side and a computer on a desk rattling. Reports of major damage were not immediately available. NHK reported that some electric poles were toppled and roads cracked.

Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva assumes Command Of Nagrota's White Knight Corps

Police have identified foreign terrorists collaborating with locals to carry out attacks in the region.

The outgoing Corps Commander, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, who succeeded Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, is set to embark on a significant assignment in Dehradun."

Truck driver gets 20 years in jail for raping 7-year-old girl in

Maharashtra

told the court that the truck driver and the child's family were neighbours in Vasai.

Active Covid cases in India rise to 4,394

according to the ministry's website. According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

Wanted drug smuggler booked under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla: Police

Sofi resident of Solinda Khaipora Tangmarg has been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority. The booked drug smuggler has been detained and subsequently lodged in Central Jail Kot-balwal Jammu."

Pertinent to mention here that many cases

are registered against these drug smuggler and was involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth of Tangmarg & other areas of District. Despite his involvement in many FIR's he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth.

Fingerprint Bureau being set up in Jammu Kashmir, 73 posts sanctioned

been approved by the J&K Home Department for the bureau. A total of 22 Sub-Inspectors and 28 selection-grade constables will also be part of the new wing.

The bureau will maintain a comprehensive and secure database of fingerprint records of suspects including: organizing, indexing, and updating the database regularly to ensure quick and accurate retrieval of information when needed, report added.

Kashmir in grip of

severe cold wave

Celsius, they said. Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag town saw the minimum settle at minus 1.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

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

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Sensex, Nifty kick off 2024 on a flat note

The BSE gained 31.68 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 72,271.94 while Nifty rose 10.50 points to 21,741.90.

MUMBAI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty kicked off 2024 on a flat note, with the 30-share index closing with marginal gains following some buying in energy, services and telecom counters.

In a highly volatile trade, the BSE gauge eked out a modest gain of 31.68 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 72,271.94 after a muted beginning. During the day, it hit a low of 72,031.23 and a high of 72,561.91, its lifetime intraday peak.

The Nifty rose 10.50 points or 0.05 per cent to 21,741.90.

In 2023, the BSE benchmark jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 3,626.1 points or 20 per cent.



On the Sensex chart, Nestle, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Tata Motors, Wipro and ITC were among the winners.

In contrast, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, NTPC and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

Asian and European markets were closed on Monday for the New Year.

The US markets ended marginally lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.14 per cent to USD 77.04 a barrel.

According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,459.12 crore on Friday.

The BSE benchmark fell 170.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 72,240.26 on the last trading day of 2023 on Friday. The Nifty declined 47.30 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 21,731.40.

ATF price cut by 4 pc; commercial LPG rate reduced marginally by Rs 1.5 per cylinder

However price of domestic LPG, used in household kitchens for cooking, remains unchanged

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Jet fuel or ATF price on Monday was cut by 4 per cent, the third straight monthly reduction, and commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were marginally lowered by Rs 1.50 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks.

However, the price of domestic LPG -- used in household kitchens for cooking purposes -- remained unchanged at Rs 903 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 4,162.5, or 3.9 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 101,993.17 per kl, according to price notifications of state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the third straight monthly reduction in jet fuel prices. ATF price was cut by almost 6 per cent (Rs 6,854.25 per kl) in November and by Rs 5,189.25,



or 4.6 per cent, in December.

The three rounds of reduction have wiped away almost 45 per cent of the Rs 29,391.08 per kl increase in rates effected in four monthly tranches starting July 1.

The reduction in the price of jet fuel, which makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will ease the burden on already financially strained airlines.

Alongside, oil firms also reduced the price of commercial LPG - used in various establishments such as hotels and restaurants - by Rs 1.50.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost Rs 1,755.50 in the national capital and Rs 1,708.50 in Mumbai.

The price hike follows a Rs 39.5 per cylinder reduction in rates effected on December 22.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise cooking gas and ATF prices on the 1st of every month, based on the average international price in the previous month. The revision on December 22 was an outlier.

Petrol and diesel prices continued to remain on freeze for a record 21st month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital, and diesel costs Rs 89.62 per litre.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily, based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices, but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022.

Fixed deposit rates may stay stable; bond yields likely to fall

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): What lies ahead for fixed income investors in 2024? There's a sense of certainty that Central banks globally, especially the US Fed, has softened its tone and is likely getting ready for a rate cut in the Calendar Year. While back home, the RBI continues to be vigilant on inflation risk but falling core inflation has already lowered the inflation risk premium on bond yields.

Pankaj Pathak, fund manager, fixed income, Quantum AMC, says, "Falling core inflation should lower the inflation risk premium on bonds by reducing the yield spread on government bonds over the policy repo rate. This in turn can bring down the bond yields even without a rate cut by the RBI. Any increase in the rate cut probabilities would further intensify the downward trend in

bond yields." This could have a downward impact on bank FD rates as well.

However, since RBI has made it clear that it is not lowering its guard in the fight against inflation, it is likely that FD rates may remain at the current levels before seeing a marginal drop.

According to Manish Kothari, president and head, Commercial Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, bank deposit rates may remain at present levels for some time to come before heading lower, that too maybe marginally.

It must be noted that the weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTD) on fresh rupee term deposits of SCBs moved to 6.34% in November 2023 from 6.31% in October 2023. For outstanding rupee term deposits, it stood at 6.78% in November 2023 as against 6.75% in October 2023.

HFCL gets Rs. 1,127 crores order to deploy BSNL's Optical Transport Network



NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Domestic telecom gear maker HFCL has received an order worth Rs. 1,127 Crores from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Lim-

ited (BSNL) to deploy Optical Transport Network (OTN) infrastructure. The company will upgrade BSNL's network through OTN at over 300 large network

nodes and 2000 amplifier sites.

The entire installation process is projected to conclude within an ambitious 18-month timeframe. The partner-

ship will cover the entire spectrum of activities, including supply, installation, commissioning, and maintenance of OTN (Optical Transport Network).

"The order aimed at revolutionizing BSNL's Optical Transport Network is a testament to our unwavering commitment to advancing the nation's technological prowess. Our comprehensive network upgrade will not only address the heightened demands of Enterprise and FTTH/Broadband services but strategically position BSNL for the seamless launch of 4G services and the anticipation of 5G ser-

vices," said Mahendra Nahata, the Managing Director at HFCL.

HFCL has entered into a partnership with the NOKIA Network to deploy state-of-the-art optical technology. Following the deployment of these optical networks, HFCL has said that it will have a data capacity of 12 terabytes, effectively meeting its data needs for the next decade. The backbone network, spanning 310 aggregation locations, will serve as a pivotal force in empowering 4G, 5G, and BharatNet services, positioning BSNL at the forefront of India's digital revolution.

196 cases of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 detected in country

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): A total of 196 cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been detected in the country so far, with Odisha joining the list of states that have detected the presence of the variant, according to the INSACOG's data updated on Monday.

Ten states and Union Territories have so far detected the presence of the JN.1 sub-variant of the virus.

These states are Kerala (83), Goa (51), Gujarat (34), Karnataka (eight), Maharashtra (seven), Rajas-

than (five), Tamil Nadu (four), Telangana (two) Odisha (one) and Delhi (one), according to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG).

The INSACOG's data showed 179 Covid cases recorded in the country in December had the presence of JN.1, while 17 such cases were detected in November.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly-increasing spread, but said it poses a "low



global public health risk. The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was previously classified as a variant of interest (VOI) as part of the

BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said.

However, in recent weeks, JN.1 cases con-

tinued to be reported from multiple countries and its prevalence has rapidly increased globally.

The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country.

India has recorded 636 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases stood at 4,394, according to the data released by the Health ministry on Monday.

Low-cost plant compound, Cytisine, may help people quit smoking: Study

More effective than nicotine replacement therapy; however is not licensed or marketed in most countries



NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Cytisine, a plant-based compound, increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by over two-fold compared with placebo and may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a study has found.

Cytisine, a low-cost, generic stop-smoking aid has been used in eastern Europe since the 1960s and has shown no serious safety concerns, the researchers said.

However, the compound is not licensed or marketed in most countries outside of central and eastern Europe, making it unavailable in most of the world, including many low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries where it could make a big difference to global health.

The study, published in the journal Addiction, pooled the results

of eight trials comparing cytosine with placebo, with nearly 6,000 patients.

The combined results showed that cytosine increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by more than two-fold compared with placebo, the researchers said.

They also noted that cytosine may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a medically approved way to treat people with tobacco use disorder by taking nicotine through means other than tobacco.

"Our study adds to the evidence that cytosine is an effective and inexpensive stop-smoking aid. It could be very useful in reducing smoking in LAMI countries where cost-effective smoking cessation drugs are urgently needed," said Omar De Santi from Centro

Nacional De Intoxicaciones (CNI), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"World-wide, smoking is considered the main cause of preventable death. Cytisine has the potential to be one of the big answers to that problem," said De Santi, lead author of the study.

The research also looked at two randomised controlled trials comparing cytosine with nicotine replacement therapy, with modest results in favor of cytosine, and three trials comparing cytosine with varenicline, without a clear benefit for cytosine.

Cytisine was first synthesised in Bulgaria in 1964 as Tabex and later spread to other countries in eastern Europe and Asia, where it is still marketed, according to the researchers.

In 2017, the Polish pharmaceutical company Aflofarm began selling it as Desmoxan, a prescription-only medicine, and Canada approved it as an over-the-counter natural health product, Cravv, they said.

Because cytosine is a low-cost drug, it could form part of a plan to increase accessibility to drug therapy for smokers, which tends to be limited in LAMI countries, the researchers added.

Stomach bug may raise risk of Alzheimer's disease: Study

Alzheimer's disease affects millions of people globally, with numbers expected to rise sharply as demographics shift, say researchers

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 1 (Agencies): Common gut bacteria that is present in two-thirds of the world's population may be linked to a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease, according to new research.

The study examined whether a clinically evident Helicobacter pylori (H pylori) infection raised the risk of Alzheimer's disease in individuals 50 years of age and older. It was published in Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association. The common illness can lead to stomach cancer, gastritis, ulcers, and indigestion.



A group of researchers from McGill University examined the health information of more than 4 million adults in the UK who were 50 years of age or older between 1988 and 2019. It was discovered that those

with a symptomatic H. pylori infection had an 11 per cent increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent kind of dementia.

While the cause of Alzheimer's disease is multifaceted, the find-

ings build upon a growing body of evidence on the potential role of infections, particularly H pylori, in its development.

The study opens avenues for future research, particularly exploring whether eradicating this bacterium could effectively prevent Alzheimer's disease in some people.

Alzheimer's disease affects millions of people globally, with numbers expected to rise sharply as demographics shift, say researchers.

"Given the global ageing population, dementia numbers are expected to triple in the next 40 years. Howev-

er, there remains a lack of effective treatment options for this disease," said Dr Paul Brassard, the study's senior author and a Professor in McGill's Department of Medicine.

"We hope the findings from this investigation will provide insight on the potential role of H pylori in dementia to inform the development of prevention strategies, such as individualized eradication programmes, to reduce infections at the population level," said Dr Brassard, a public health and preventive medicine physician at the McGill University Health Centre.

Lawlessness in Samba as situation deteriorates, says Manjit Singh

Says locals need to help police in working out criminal acts



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 1: Expressing anguish over increasing criminal activities in Samba, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Monday has appealed District Police to curb the criminal activities that has spread fear psychosis among the people following repeated stabbing incidents in bright day light in last few of days.

A monthly meeting of the Apni Party was organized here at Vijaypur under the leadership of Manjit Singh.

In this meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding different issues in Samba, particularly increase in crime, unscheduled power cuts and suffering of farmers.

In his address, Manjit Singh said that the people are deeply concerned about the worsening situation in Samba with abrupt spurt in criminal activities, and drug addic-

tions whereas the police seem clueless.

"The law-and-order situation has deteriorated in Samba with every passing day and this situation has panicked the people. The situation has worsened within several months, and the criminals stab people without fearing the law or police," he said.

He appealed to the SSP Samba and other officials in the police department to take strict action against the elements who want to destroy the peaceful atmosphere and arrest the criminals under stringent laws.

He recalled how brutally a newspaper hawker, and another man were stabbed with sharp edged weapons and cut their body parts without mercy. "Even as the situation is worrying, the Samba police has been working day and night to control the crime. We hope that the police will further tighten its grid against the criminals and put them

behind the bars under the stringent laws," he said.

He however appealed to people for their awareness and help the police in solving the criminal acts so that such disturbing elements can be dealt with iron hands as per the laws of the land.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the unprecedented unscheduled power cuts that have impacted the water supply system in the district.

He said that the worst sufferers are the farmers who failed to run their water pumps to water their agricultural fields in Samba.

"In view of the continuous power cuts, the farmers have been left in a hopeless situation because their water pumps do not work, and they fail to supply water to their fields. On the other hand, the canals are also unable to supply canal water for irrigation purposes to all the villages especially at the tail-end villages," he added.

Karnika Sharma qualifies Ph.D



Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 1: Karnika Sharma, daughter of Ashok Kumar and Asha Rani has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Mathematics award by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "A Study on Certain Graph Parameters of Some Chemical Compounds" under

Prof. Vijay Kumar Bhat, School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra.

She has published research papers indexed in SCIE-ranked journals and also presented her research work at various international and national conferences.

Karnika expressed her gratitude to her parents, and supervisor for guidance, and to the School of Mathematics, SMVDU for providing all necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated the candidate and wished her a bright future.

Inter Panchayat Dixon Ball Tournament concludes



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Inter Panchayat Dixon Ball tournament took place at Green Stadium Sukha Dall Panchayat Bhatodi under the theme "Inter Panchayat Harmony from December 28 to 31, 2023.

During the tournament total ten panchayat participated with fourteen teams. Four semifinalists were Bhatodi Panchayat, Machhedhi panchayat, Dhanupatole panchayat, and Nazote panchayat. First semifinal was won

by Machhedhi from Dhanupatole and second semi-final was won by Nangala from Bhatodi.

The final match played between Panchayat Machhedhi and Panchayat Nangala. Nangala made 153 runs in 10 overs and restricted the Panchayat Machhedhi on 84 only. Nangala win the final by 69 runs.

Soam Raj of Nangala declared as the Man of match for his outstanding 67 runs in the final. Vikas Kumar from Machhedhi panchayat was declared

the Man of the series for making 167 runs and taking five wickets in four matches. Also cash prize of rupee 15000 was given to winning team.

Kasturi Ram headmaster and Vaishano Dutt member were the chief guests. Also Hans Raj and Hans Raj Kangla were present during the concluding ceremony in which trophies were given to the winners.

This whole tournament was organised by Rish-paul teacher, Kuldeep Kumar and Kewal Kumar.

JKBS members greet SSP M.L Kaith on new year, release 'Calendar 2024'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members greeted SSP M.L Kaith on new year.

SSP Kaith too greeted the members and said, "New Year is considered as an important day by one and all and the main reason being tagged with the word 'new'. We always give special attention and importance to new things in life. The same formula applies here as well. The new things that take place

in the New Year have a great impact on us."

SSP Kaith further released JKBS' New Year Calendar in a physical format and said, when we hang it up on our walls, it will remind us of 2024 festivals.

JKBS members who were present on the occasion included Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, TSO Retd Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Dilay Ram Kaith, Darshan Lal Motan, Des Raj Kaith, Duni Singh Motan and Hans Raj Loria.

DRCS organises donation drive for needy people



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: On the occasion of New Year Donation Drive was initiated by District Red Cross Society (DRCS) Jammu Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya (IAS) and Executive Secretary District Red Cross Society Jammu Anusya Jamwal (JKAS) at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, Channi

Himmat, Kachi Chawani and Roopnagar Jammu.

The motive of this initiative is to share the joy of new year with the needy people.

The Jammu administration has stationed four mobile vans across Jammu city, where people can donate toys, clothes, books and stationery items for the less-privileged sections of the society. The vans for this collaborative endeavor

with the District Red Cross Society are being manned by volunteers of C-Dyte.

The initiative aims to bring happiness and hope to those who are facing hardships and challenges in their lives.

Executive Secretary DRCS and ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal has appealed to the citizens of Jammu to donate generously and contribute to this noble cause.

PM Awardee Nazakat appointed Ambassador for 'MyGov Saathi 2.0', Citizen Engagement Platform

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Nazakat Choudhary, a distinguished PM Awardee and pivotal contributor to government initiatives, has been named the Ambassador for MyGov Saathi 2.0, the Government of India's, citizen engagement platform.

Choudhary's exceptional contributions to nation-building and youth empowerment through his role as a delegate of Yuva Sangam have earned him widespread recognition. As the newly appointed Ambassador for MyGov Saathi 2.0, he is set to play a key role in enhancing citizen participation and fostering a more inclusive governance structure.



MyGov Saathi 2.0, touted as the world's largest citizen engagement platform, exemplifies the government's commitment to transparency and collaboration. The platform empowers citizens to actively contribute to policy-making and national development by providing a digital space for sharing ideas, feedback, and suggestions.

Expressing his enthusiasm about the appointment, Choudhary stated,

"I am deeply honored to be appointed as the Ambassador for MyGov Saathi 2.0. It reflects the government's dedication to involving citizens in the decision-making process and harnessing collective intelligence for the betterment of our nation."

Choudhary's role as an ambassador will involve promoting MyGov Saathi 2.0 across diverse communities, encouraging citizen engagement, and bridging the gap between the government and the public.

This appointment aligns with the government's vision to create a more participatory democracy, where the voices of citizens play a crucial role in shaping policies and initiatives.

AAP volunteers, enthusiasts hold meeting at Pannu Chowk

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 1: A meeting of AAP workers & enthusiast was held at Pannu Chowk Akhnoor, in Akhnoor Assembly Constituency organized by Romesh Lal Bhagat, Vice President, District Rural, Jammu & was attended by Sr. AAP leaders & volunteers including Er. Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bhandral, Ashni Matoo, Karan Aatri, Omparkash Sharma, S. Amrik Singh, Rajat Manmar, Puran Chand, Hardev Singh Bhau, Dr. Nand Lal, Ravi Kumar Gotkar, Parveen Kumar, Er. Davinder Singh Bhau, Bansil Lal, Monu Sharma, Kuldeep Singh, Bachan Lal, Jami Lal, Baba Bharti, Ji, Shanker Dass, Rajesh Sharma, Sachin Bral, Tara Chand, Jugal Kishore, Hans Raj, Sham Lal, Jagdish Chander, Jia Lal, Sunil Singh etc, and dis-



cussed at length about the false and baseless propaganda of BJP against AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal after getting deeply frustrated due to their debacle in three Assembly elections in 2013, 2015 & 2020 also in MCD elections in Delhi & Punjab Assembly Elections where so called doctored & manufactured Modi Magic has miserably failed and openly tantamount that count down of BJP has begun to rid of their misrule, corruption, hatred, divisive politics aimed to

divide the social ethos of Indian culture which is a great threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

As per press release issued here, various speakers alleged that BJP government is fast dragging the country towards "Hitler Shahi" and under such circumstances, democratic and constitutional Institutions are being destroyed and even constitutional pillar- the guardian of people's rights is being brazenly violated as the 5-Member Constitutional Bench of Supreme

Court has been openly challenged by passing ill timed, unwanted and ill-conceived ordinance and bill in Parliament the speakers alleged and cautioned the people that such acts are like a dictator or a Monarch which will be opposed by countrymen tooth and nail because same is not in the interest of democracy, unity and integrity of the Nation, they maintained.

It was further unanimously resolved to work

jointly and strengthen the Party up to grass root level and appraise the masses about the fake & misleading promises of BJP leaders simply for their electoral gains and also resolved to work jointly, put in the efforts to awaken the masses about the hatred and divisive policies of ruling dispensation irrespective of caste, creed and colour, without falling in their trap of hollow nationalism, development and false slogan of "Beti Padhao- Beti Bachao", "Back to village" & so many other deceptive & misleading slogans.

The AAP leaders further expressed great shock and grief over the treatment being meted out to the women wrestlers and the farmers of the country demanding implementation of MSP already committed by the BJP regime and denial of these shell cast a bad shadow to them in 2024 election they alarmed.