OP NEWS OF J&K



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



TOKYO, Jan 1 (Agena preliminary magnitude cies): Japan issued of 7.6. tsunami alerts and told

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

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.

told reporters that nucle-

ar plants in the area had

not reported any irregu-

larities. But he said it

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 Turn to page 9

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



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

Active Covid cases in India rise to 4,394 NEW DELHI, Jan 1 have again gone up after

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 Turn to page 9

Baloon marked with 'PIA' recovered

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

people to evacuate

coastal areas after a

series of strong quakes

on its western coastline

The Japan Metero-

logical Agency reported

quakes off the coast of

Ishikawa and nearby

prefectures shortly after

4 pm, one of them with

on Monday.

75 hard-core drug ped-Act of various cases of Police Stations across dlers who have been Baramulla District at

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

Turn to page 9

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

smuggler

under PIT

Baramulla:

SRINAGAR, Jan 1

(Agencies): Acting

tough against drug ped-

dlers and to eradicate

the menace of drugs

from the society, Police

booked most wanted

and notorious drug

smugglers under PIT

NDPS Act in Baram-

ulla and lodged him in

Central Jail Kot-balwal

A Police spokesper-

son said, "The most

wanted and notorious

drug smuggler namely

Dawood Ahmad Sofi son

Turn to page 9

of Ghulam Hassan

Jammu.

booked

Police

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

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.

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 Sat-

urday, 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 Turn to page 9

Fingerprint Bureau being set Wanted drug up in Jammu Kashmir, 73 posts sanctioned **NDPS** Act in

cies to identify suspects

and to cross-reference

fingerprints from crime

scenes with existing

records, which will make

it easier to examine

The move will also help

combat militancy and

help ease the process

of identifying suspects.

criminal histories.



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

The initiative is aimed at making it easier for law enforcement agenIt will also aid in the fight against militancy. The Administrative Council led by JK Lieu-

tenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and the Home Department also sanctioned 73 posts for the upcoming bureau in the region.

An official told Republic that the Finger Print Bureau will be headed by a Senior Superintendent of Police rank official, and will be assisted by one Superintendent of Police and two **Deputy Superintendents** of Police. Additionally, five ministerial posts of police officials have also Turn to page 9

(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

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, Turn to page 9 along LoC in Poonch SRINAGAR, Jan 1 (Agencies): A balloon marked with PIA (Pakistan International Air-

lines) 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.

Elecom - Security - Software

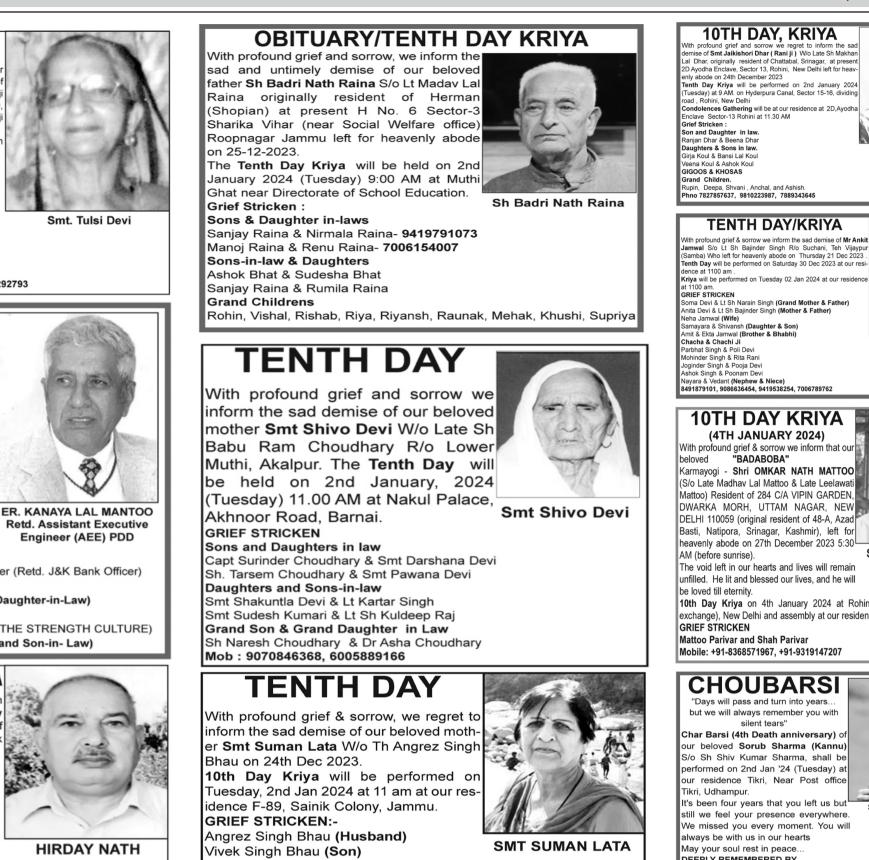


CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

OBITUARIES



enth Day Kriya will be performed on 2nd January 2024 Tuesday) at 9 AM. on Hyderpura Canal, Sector 15-16, dividing bad , Rohini, New Delhi ondolences Gathering will be at our residence at 2D,Ayod clave Sector-13 Rohini at 11.30 AM





unfilled. He lit and blessed our lives, and he will 10th Day Kriya on 4th January 2024 at Rohini Ghat (near telephone exchange), New Delhi and assembly at our residence.

Mobile: +91-8368571967, +91-9319147207

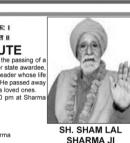
CHOUBARSI

but we will always remember you with **Char Barsi (4th Death anniversary)** o our beloved Sorub Sharma (Kannu S/o Sh Shiv Kumar Sharma, shall be performed on 2nd Jan '24 (Tuesday) at our residence Tikri, Near Post offic It's been four years that you left us bu still we feel your presence everywhere. We missed you every moment. You will



(KANNU)

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY SANMOTRA FAMILY ALL NEARS & DEARS



SHARMA JI 13TH AUG 1940 - 25 DEC 2023

a torred eoucatonist. social reformer and religious leader whose life left an indelible mark on his community and beyond. He passed away on 25th December at 3:35 am in the presence of his loved ones. **10th Day** to be held on 2nd January, 11 am - 2:00 pm at Sharma Palace, Dablehar, R.S. Pura, Jarmu. **GRIEF STRCKEN:** Smt Viro Devi (Wife) **(Brothers and Sisters-in-law)** Shri Brahmeder Sharma and Smt Bimla Devi Shri Boylander Sharma and Smt Bimla Devi Shri Brahmeder Sharma and Smt Bimla Devi Shri Brahmeder Sharma and Smt Bimla Devi Shri Brahmet Sharma and Smt Bimla Devi Shri Lekhraj Sharma and Smt Santosh Sharma **(Nephew & Daughter-in-law)** Shri Mahant Rajesh Bittu ji (Chairman, Radha Madhav Trust) and Smt Rajni Sharma **(Sons & Daughter-in-law)** Shri Kaliash Pati Sharma and Smt Renuka Sharma



Daughter and Son-in-law Mrs. (Maj) Bhavna Jaggi & Col Arun Jaggi

Mobile No. 7006450266, 9922944064 **TENTH DAY KRIYA**

Tenth Day Kriya of our beloved Smt Kishni Pandita (Pyari) W/o Sh P L Pandita of Mantapora, Anantnag Kmr shall be per-03-01-2024 formed on

(Wednesday) at Akhnoor Ghat and afterwards the Assembly



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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law Pushker Nath Raina & Kundan Raina Rattan Lal Raina & Tosha Raina Chaman Lal Raina and Bimla Raina Aniali Raina W/o Late Shadi Lal Raina Daughter & Son-in-law Ashok Ji Bhat & Nancy Bhat Bhart Bhushan Tickoo & Jiji Tickoo Vijay Asthana & Usha Asthana

Contact No.: 9419206291, 09999823589, 9419332786, 9419292793

OBITUARY/ **TENTH DAY KRIYA**

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

January 4th, 2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat (near Directorate of School Education)

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt KRISHNA MANTOO (Wife)

[Daughter and Son-in-law]

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

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

(Grandsons)

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

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Suman Raina (Wife)

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

& Samast Raina Parivar. MOB NO: 7889974415, 7889349854

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND REGRET, IT IS TO INFORM, THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SHRI RAM JI PANDIT S/O LATE SH. AFTAB RAM ORIGINALLY R/O AKHRAN KULGAM AND AT PRESENT SATTANI DHAR ROAD UDHAMPUR. 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 6Th JANUARY (SATURDAY) 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDHAMPUR AT 9:00 AM



RAINA

SMT. KISHNI PANDITA (PYARI)

shall take place at 12.00 Noon at our residence H No 417, Behind Shiv Mandir (opposite Govt Quarters) Janipur Colony, Jammu,



SH. SOOM NATH PANDIT (BROTHER) (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) SHRI RAM JI PANDIT ATE-SMT PHOOLA KUMARI & SH. SURINDER KRISHAN PANDIT SMT. ANITA PANDIT & SH. KANWAL JI PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON SMT DAISY PANDIT & MAHARAJ KRISHAN PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON) SMT. PUPLY KUMARI & SH. CHAND KRISHAN (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON) SMT. REETA KUMARI & SH. ASHOK KUMAR RAINA (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW SMT. GIRJA BHAT & SH. OMKAR NATH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT USHA KUMARI AND SH. BUSHAN LAL BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT LALITA BHAT & SH. PRAN NATH BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT PUMMY BHAT & SH. SANJAY KUMAR BHAT (DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW) SMT. KAJAL PANDIT & SH. ROHIT (GRAND DAUGHTER IN LAW & GRAND SON) GRAND CHILDREN: MOHIT, SAHIL, NIKHIL, DIVYA, RUCHI, MEHAK & DANISH GREAT GRAND SON- SHIVA Phone no-9797305248,8493058455

TENTH DAY KRIYA

INFORM THE SAD & UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. BAL KRISHAN PANDITA ON 26-12 2023, ORIGINALLY FROM KHAWAJA BHAG BARAMULLA

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE HELD AT MATA BHADRAKALI ASTHAPAN THALWAL JAMMU FROM 7:30AM ONWARDS ON 4TH JANUARY 2024 & SUBSEQUENT ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE 37 AJIT COLONY GOLE GUJRAL JAMMU FROM 11AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN SMT. PINKEE PANDITA WIFE **BHABHI & BROTHER**

SMT. LALITA & SH. RAJ NATH PANDITA SMT. VEENA & DR. DURGA NATH PANDITA SMT. JANSI & SH. MOHAN LAL PANDITA

SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW

SMT. BIMLA & SH. AVTAR KRISHAN PANDITA

DR. NEHA KACHROO & DR. ISHAN PANDITA - DAUGHTER -IN-LAW & SON DR.SHIKSHA & SH. PAMPOSH MOHAN KOUL - DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW MS. SHRIYA PANDITA (DAUGHTER). SMT & SH RAKESH KACHRU SMT.& SH. RAJESH KACHRU

MOB.: 9891471253, 6005690285, 9541860478, 9086074869, 9725285474, 7889915073.

10TH DAY KRIYA

Our Hearts still ache with sadness, and many tears still flow. What it meant to loose you, No one will ever know. We hold you close within our hearts; and there you will remain to walk with us throughout our lives untill we meet again 10th Day Kriya will be held at Kutta (Batla) on 02 January 2024 **Grief Stricken:** Smt Anjana Manhas (Wife) **Daughters and Sons-in-law** Smt Shoba and Rishi Kotwal Smt Manju and Vijay Thakur

Smt Aruna and Sanjeet Kotwal

Sh Chamail Singh Manhas (Ex Serviceman) DoB- 15 April 1960

SH. BAL KRISHAN

PANDITA

Date of Death - 24 Dec 2023

Grief Stricken :

SAMAST PANDITAS, HANGLOOS, BHATS, AMBAR-DARS, TICKOOS, RAINAS AND SARAF PARIVARS

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER SMT KAUSHALIYA BHAT W/O LT. DARSHAN LAL BHAT OF SAFAKADAL SRINAGAR KASHMIR AT PRESENT HOUSE NO:- 39-B LANE 01 EKTA VIHAR, GANGYAL JAMMU ON 25TH. DEC 2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT AKHNOOR ON 3RD JAN 2024 AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT OUR ABOVE

RESIDENCE AT 11.30 AM.

SMT. KAUSHALIYA BHAT **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**SH. & SMT. SHAM LAL SHAH (BROTHER AND BHABI) SH. & SMT. MOHAN LAL SHAH (DO) MR. & MRS.KAMAL KRISHAN BHAT (SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW) SMT & SH. DILEEP FOTEDAR (DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW) SMT. & SH.RAJESH RAINA (DO) SMT. & SH. ANIL JI ZUTSHI (DO) MANSI & MANAV (GRAND CHILDREN) MRS. & MR .SANJAY BHAT (GRAND DUGHTER AND GRAND SON IN LAW) MRS.& MR. SUNNY RAINA (DO) CONTACTS:- 9419213564, 7006198418

hri Mahesh Sharma (AEE DIQC) and Smt Aruna Sharma (Son-in-law and Daughter) Shri Ajay Sharma and Smt Archana Sharma Nephews: Piyush Ji, Dr. Rahul, Adv Daksheesh, Rohit, Sachin Surishta, Shakti - Niece Grandchildren: Akarshan Kritika Arushi Karishma Athary and Manik

TENTH DAY

sh Pati Sharma and Smt Renuka Sharma

Kunal Dogra S/o Late Sh. Ramesh Kumar resider of H.No -16/A, Lane No - 1, Basant Nagar, Janipu Mainstop on 24 December 2023 at 5.40 pm We very humbly pray to the God Almighty to bestow Moksha to the departed soul and give courage to the members of the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss **10TH DAY** will be performed on 2 January (Tues at 10 a.m at our residence. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



TENTH DAY KRIYA

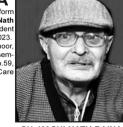
Mother - Sunita Dogra

Brother - Rahul Dogra

Brother - Rohan Dogra

Sister - Deepika Choudhary Sister - Riya Dogra Mob - 7006876513, 7889865665

Mith profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform he sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kashi Nath** Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Nath Ji Raina originally residen Kaina Sto LC Shi, Nath Ji Kaina ong inaliy resident of Nowgam Shangus, Ananthag on 27 Dec, 2023. **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Akhnoor, Jammu on 5th Jan, 2024 and subsequent assem-bly shall be held at our residence Ward No.59, Khajuria Mohalla Paloura, Near Jesus Care Comment School form 11 20 AM Convent School from 11.30 AM. SRIEF STRICKEN mt. Asha Kundan Raina **- Wife** Smt. Asha Kundan Raina - Wife Daughter-in-law & Son Smt. Princy & Sh. Inder Raina Daughter & Son-in-law Smt. Kiran & Sh. Bharat Ji Bhat Sisters-in-law & Brothers Smt. Sarla & Sh. Mohan Lal Raina Data Patrik & Dh. Wise La Data



SH. KASHI NATH RAINA

mt. Babli & Sh. Hira Lal Raina mt. Joana & Sh. Chaman Lai Raina mt. Jyoti & Sh. Chaman Ji Raina **isters & Brothers-in-law** mt. Jaikishori W/o Lt. Sh. Shambu Nath Pandita Sh. J.N. Koul H/o Lt. Smt. Jaya Koul h. Hira Lal Bhatt H/o Lt. Smt. Santosh Bhat nt. Sarla Pandita & Sh. Ashok Kumar Pandita

10th DAY KRIYA

As you passed away, you took shelter from our heads, a shelter whi by gave us strength and care always. Now our corns won't be filled to of your younger days, your laughter, guidance & morals anymore. 'n void which can not be filled all our lives. Perhaps we all were not read huge loss, but if there is anything beyond heavens, you will get that We are sure you will protect us from the skies above. You will remain in all of us, today & forever. Krivy awill be performed on 70-124 (Sunday) at Athnoor Ghat. Assembly at: 12 Noon. (H.No. 1, Lane no.1, Kailash Vihar Udheywai Jammu).

LATE SHAM LAL BHAT



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

TENTH DAY

We deeply condole the sad demise of our beloved Vishal Kumar S/o Sh. Ramesh Chander R/o Village Dabuj Kaka, Jakh, Near Datti Mata Mandir District: Samba. Tenth Day will be performed on 2nd January 2024 at 11.00 am. Day-Tuesday at their residence.

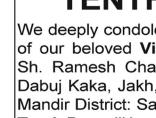
Grief Stricken

All Family Members

Ph.: 9797852122



Vishal Kumar





GRIEF STRICKEN : Brother and Sister-in-law : Sh. Badri Nah Bhat & Li. Smt. Asha Kiran Bhat Son and Daughter-in-law : Li. Sh. Kavinder Bhat & Sheetal Bhat Deepak Bhat & Priyanka Bhat Daughter and Son-in-law : Priya Misri & Pintoo Ji Misri Grand-son : Amnol Misri Grand-son : Amnol Misri





Jammu), GRIEF STRICKEN :

Mob: 7006289043. 9

LOCAL/ ADVT

New AICC JK Incharge Solanki to address **Congress convention on Jan 5** Singh & Ravinder Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Newly appointed AICC Incharge for J&K Affairs Bharatsinh Solanki, Former Union Minister, shall be arriving here on January 5th and address an important party convention in Jammu on Jan. 5th to gear up for upcoming Lok Sabha polls & to press the Govt. for early Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir. JKPCC Presidents Vikar

Rasool Wani announced this here today in a meeting of senior functionaries of PCC DCC and frontal organizations. He said that newly appointed Incharge Bharatsinh Solanki, former Union Minister alongwith

newly appointed General Secretary AICC G.A. Mir shall be arriving here on January 5th & address the conventions of prominent workers of Jammu province at Kashmir Hills Banquet Hall, Paloura Jammu,

He asked party leaders to mobilize prominent workers of adjoining districts and block functionaries to attend the convention. which shall be attended by all senior functionaries of PCC, Districts & Blocks besides former Ministers, Ex-Legislators and other prominent leaders. He said that the party has

to gear up for the upcoming election to the Lok Sabha and to press the Govt. for early elections to the state

assembly as per Supreme Court directions. The party shall hold a threadbare discussion to gear up for the preparations to start mobilizations of cadres and to go to the masses Wani said that Congress

shall expose the failures of BJP Govt. on all fronts and depriving people of J&K of their political & economic rights, leading to large scale economic distress and unemployment besides unprecedented price hike and huge taxations and imposition of fees on common people.

The meeting was attended by Working President JKPCC Raman Bhalla, Senior Vice Presidents Mula Ram, Th. Balwan

Chief Spokesperson), Vice Presidents T.S. Bajwa, Indu Pawar, Ved Mahajan, Ch. Shah Mohd, Yash Pal Kundal, Vinod Sharma, Hari Singh Chib & Rajnish Sharma(Treasurer), General Secretaries Ashok Dogra, Dina Nath Bhagat, M.K. Bhardwai, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, T.S. Tony, Naresh Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Parveen Sarwar Khan, Narinder Sharma, Balbir Singh, Rajesh Sadotra, Subash Bhagat & Thomas Khokhar, DCC Presidents Jammu Urban, Jammu Rural- Shamsher Singh Chib, Kathua- Pankaj Dogra, Ramban- Parvez Ahmed Wani, Udhampur -Vinod Khajuria, Reasi-B.S. Jamwal, Secretaries Bushan Dogra, Sanjeev Panda, Raiveer Singh, Th. Hoshyar Singh, Michael Wazir, Satish Sharma, Rajan Sharma, Ritu Choudhary, Dwarka Choudhary, Vijay Tagotra, Vijay Shastri, Harvinder Singh Mehta, Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta, Ricky Dalotra & others

BJP OBC Morcha organizes PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration camp at Ambphala

Top News Report JAMMU, Jan 1: BJP OBC Morcha organized PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration camp at Amb-

phala, here on Monday. Yudhveer Sethi (Vice President BJP), Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) were present in the programme organised by Rakesh Pandey Vicky (Mandal President BJP OBC Morcha).

Raman Sharma (Mandal President), Karan Sharma (General Secretary). Sunil Bindru (Media incharge), Suresh Salgotra (Vice President BJP OBC Morcha), Ashok Salgotra (District President OBC Morcha) were present on the occasion. Many people registered themselves for the PM Vishwakarma Scheme

happily Yudhveer Sethi briefed all about PM Vishwakarma Scheme and said PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Prime Minister to provide end-to-end support to

Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy

Maker (Traditional), Barber

(Naai), Garland maker

(Malakaar), Washerman

(Dhobi), Tailor (Darzi) and

He said Under the PM

Vishwakarma Yojana, there

is a provision to provide

training for skill develop-

ment to artisans associated

with 18 traditional works

including blacksmiths, gold-

smiths, potters, carpenters

and cobblers, and a train-

ing allowance of Rs 500

per day and an incentive

amount of Rs 15,000 for

Bukhari visits residence of Aijaz Khan's

Fishing Net Maker.

artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools

The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades, viz. Carpenter (Suthar/ Badhai), Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith (Lohar), Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith (Sonar), Potter (Kumhaar), Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker. Cobbler (Charmkar)/ Shoesmith/Footwear artisan, Mason (Rajmistri), Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/

tool kit

He said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme has designed to boost local economies, bridging the gap between age-old artistry and modern market demands. By providing artisans with enhanced access to resources, training, and market exposure, the scheme promises to breathe new life into the diverse tapestry of Indian craftsmanship, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and preserving cultural legacies for future generations.

3

By PM Vishwakarma Scheme no one will remain unemployed. This scheme is especially for our youth who want to open their work /business. They will get training and avail loan benefits for their business set up and can provide employment to others , he added

Braham Jyot thanked Yudhveer Sethi for valuable information about PM Vishwakarma Scheme and he appreciated Rakesh Pandey Vicky for tremendous work for public.

JU organizes interaction session for Viksit Bharat@2047 and NAAC/NIRF Preparations



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: The University of Jammu organized an interactive session focused on Viksit Bharat@2047 and preparations for the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu on the occasion said that the various steps have been taken by the University to promote the culture of skills, innovation, Research and development.

Prof Rai further said that the University is committed to educational excellence which aligns with the national vision of a developed India by 2047.

The interactive session was a testament to the structure projects which have been sanctioned are underway and soon work will start on those projects, especially the prestigious innovation tower, shooting range etc.

> called upon the teaching faculty to promote quality research in all domains and all disciplines and take forward in such a stride that we can convey that Multidisciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are what Jammu University is heading towards. Prof Rohmetra talked in detail about various initiatives which the Office of Dean Research Studies is envisioning to take forward in days to come. Prof Pankaj Srivastava, Director, Distance Education and Online Education & Convener, Viksit Bharat @2047 Campaign, JU underlined the vision laid down by Sh Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding Viksit Bharat @2047 aimed at to outline the path for the development and progress of India by the year 2047. The University of Jammu received an unprecedented response from its students while registering them actively on the Viksit Bharat @2047 portal, said Prof Srivastava. Prof Srivastava further said that

actively participated, sharing their visionary ideas to contribute towards the realization of India as a developed nation by 2047. He informed that during this period, the University Prof Neelu Rohmetra, organized various events Dean Research Studies including poetry recitation competitions, marathons,

group discussions, quizzes, nukkad Nataks and essay writing competions etc on the theme aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Dr Ginny Dogra, I/C Director, DIOA emphasized on various contours of NAAC and NIRF and about the Preparations University is undertaking for the forthcoming NAAC visit to the University.Dr Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies conducted the proceedings of the function.

Prof Bechan Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu was also present on the occasion. Prominent among those present on occasion were Prof Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof Rajiv Rattan, Director, College Development Council, Sh Sanjeev Mahajan, Controller of Examinations. Deans. Rectors. Heads of various Campus Departments, Directors, faculty members, Officers, Office bearers of various associations of University.

Chandel expresses gratitude to PM for naming of airport after Lord Valmiki in Ayodhya



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: National Valmiki Sena, led by its National Chairman Raju Chandel, is expressing happiness and gratitude for the naming of an airport after Lord Valmiki in Ayodhya.

In a conversation with journalists, Chandel, along with other prominent community members, expressed their appreciation for India's deepened the Valmiki community's faith and reverence for him. In addition, Chan-

del criticized previous governments for disrespecting Lord Valmiki by labeling him as a bandit. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Lord Valmiki is recognized as an all-seeing sage and a revered founder of religious doctrine. The National Valmiki

Sena expresses gratitude for this change in perception and sees it as a significant difference between the current government and its predecessors. Chandel also con-

demned remarks from a former minister regarding the construction of the Ram Temple, suggesting that such leaders should leave the country if they cannot respect Sanatan



and others.

The Party President,

on behalf of all the Party

leaders, expressed soli-

darity with the bereaved

family members, espe-

cially Vice President of

the Party, Aijaz Ahmed

Khan, Vice President,

Choudhary Zulfkar Ali,

and Provincial Vice

President, Jammu, Haji

Mumtaz Ahmed Khan for

the loss of their loved one,

The Party leaders par-

ticipated in the prayers

for the maghfirat of the

departed soul and prayed

to Almighty Allah to grant

her highest place in

Meanwhile, Altaf

Bukhari expressed

his sympathy with the

Jannah

Dr Maimuna Begum.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari along with senior leaders of the Party today visited the residence of Party's Vice President Aijaz Ahmed Khan and Haji Mumtaz Ahmed Khan's elder sister Dr Maimuna Begum here at Bathindi in Jammu District, who passed away recently after prolonged illness.

The Party President, Altaf Bukhari was accompanied by Senior Vice President, Ghulam Hussan Mir, State General Secretary, Rafi Ahmed Mir. State General Secretary, Vijay Bakaya, Provincial President, bereaved family members and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

Prominent among those who visited the residence include Provincial Vice President, Jammu, Shafi Sheikh, Additional General Secretary, Arun Kumar Chibber, SC J&K President, Bodh Raj Bhagat, ST J&K President, Saleem Alam, J&K Apni Trade Union President, Ajaz Kazmi, Provincial Secretary, Dr Rohit Gupta, District President Samba, Raman Thappa, Spokesperson, Khushboo Bhagat, Youth Wing Vice President/Spokesperson, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, General Secretary Youth/Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya, Provincial President, Jammu, Youth, Vipul Bali, Provincial President, Women Wing, Jammu, Pavneet Kour, Provincial Vice President Women Wing, Neelam Gupta. District Youth president Samba,

Mangat Ram and others

collective determination of educational institutions to meet and exceed the standards set by NAAC and NIRF." said the Vice-Chancellor.

Prof Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and in charge, Dean Academic Affairs exuded that the University of Jammu for the last two years has been aetting unprecedented support and handholding from the UT Jammu & Kashmir Government. She further said that various infra-

Dimple expects regaining statehood of J&K in 2024 through elected government

over 3624 students have

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: Sunil Dimple. President Mission Statehood, announced the expectation of regaining the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 through an elected government.

The mission led by Sunil Dimple aims to continue the political and judicial struggle for the restoration of Articles 370, 35-A, and the implementation of the conditions of the Instrument of Accession. A New Year function was organized at a church in

the Christian colony, with Priest Daved Siduu leading the event.

Sunil Dimple, president of Mission Statehood, was the chief guest.

Prayers and blessings for the new year were conducted by Priest Daved Siduu, invoking Jesus Christ's blessings. Musicians presented beautiful songs to welcome the new year. Sunil Dimple expressed



Dimple criticized the BJP government, stating that it failed to fulfill its promises in the previous

year (2023). He claimed a victory in the Supreme Court, securing the restoration of the princely Dogra state with an elected govern-

ment After the assembly elections, Sunil Dimple plans to pass ordinances to ensure justice, protect lands and jobs, and implement the conditions of the

Instrument of Accession. Dimple expressed the mission's commitment to fight for the unification of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan in the J&K state assembly ordinance.

He demanded the immediate restoration of Jammu and Kashmir state, suggesting holding assembly elections concurrently with the parliament elections under the

J&K statehood Prominent personalities like Priest Daved Siduu, Ashok Sharma, Shaheen, and others addressed the aatherina

Prime Minister, Naren-Dharma. dra Modi, for acknowledging and honoring

Lord Valmiki. Chandel highlighted the significant role of Lord Valmiki in chronicling the life of Lord Rama before his earthly incarnation.

He emphasized the importance of Lord Valmiki's work, the Ramavana, in guiding the world and celebrating Lord Rama's greatness.

The Prime Minister's acknowledgment of Lord Valmiki is seen as a positive step that has

SMVDU faculty delivers keynote at Sunway University, Malaysia

figure.

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 1: Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi, Dean R&D and Head, School of Energy Management, SMVDU delivered a keynote in Advanced Material & Sustainable Energy Technologies AMSET2023 at Sunway University, Malaysia and provided an insightful address on topic, Solar Thermal Energy Storage with Phase Change Materials for Sustainable Water/Air Heating Systems.

It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Tyagi highlighted the importance of utilizing phase change materials in solar thermal energy storage systems to enhance their efficiency and sustainJammu, S. Manjit Singl

Prominent people join Shiv Sena Hindustan at Jangwal

Shiv Sena Hindustan will intensify its campaign against drugs in 2024: Kesri



Shiv Sena Hindustan

will also intensify its

campaign against drugs

in the border areas,

He said SSH is com-

mitted to root out the

menace of drugs from

J&K and will not allow

the smuggling of narcot-

He appreciated J&K

Police for adopting a

zero-tolerance policy

against narcotics and

the results of this

approach have started

Kesri said, "We have

decided that we will not

allow any kind of narcot-

ics trade in J&K nor will

we allow any drugs to be

smuggled through J&K.'

He further said, "I fully

believe that with coor-

dinated efforts, we will

be successful in rooting

out the menace of drugs

and achieve our goal of

a drugs-free J&K. We

will not rest until this

fight against drugs is

ics through J&K.

coming in.

added Kesri

Top News Report druas

ARNIA, Jan 1: Under the chairmanship of Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President, Pandit Rajesh Kesari and Captain Ghara Ram, President Jangwal, several prominent persons today joined Hindustan Shiv Sena at Jangwal in appreciation of SSH fight against drugs menace in border areas which has become huge nuisance spoiling younger generation.

Addressing the gathering, Kesri said that the way we had launched a campaign against drugs made a lot of difference to the government, due to which the police took strict action against the drug sellers and caught them and booked them in the districts under the Public Safety Act due to which every effort is being made to keep the society and the young generation away from won.

He said with the help of all organisations and other concerned, has been trying its best for drugs free J&K but this war against narcotics cannot be won without people's participation.

Kesri said drugs not only make the younger generation and the societv hollow but also its profits are being used against the country's security.

"I appeal to everyone to take part in this fight against drugs. People should inform the security agencies of any information about any drugs trade anywhere," he said.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Captain Om Prakash, Balwant Saini, Raj Kumar ,Rajesh Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Anju Devi, Poli Devi, Neeru Devi besides others.



ability and also shared his research findings among the eminent scholars as well as academicians on the potential of these systems in providing costeffective and environment friendly solutions for water and air heating applications.

This lecture was attended by leading researchers from academia

He concluded by appreciating the Modi government's efforts in erasing the slander against Lord Valmiki

Temple. Overall, the statements from the National Valmiki Sena reflect a positive sentiment towards the government's recognition of Lord Valmiki and its efforts in addressing historical disrespect towards the revered

and the ongoing con-

struction of the Ram

OP-ED

EDITORIAL

ONLINE EDUCATION Nline learning is a modern digital method of advertion, where

tal 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



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 underqualified 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-

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

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. 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.

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. Whistleblower Protection and Reporting Mechanisms:

Establish whistleblower protection mechanisms to encourage (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

LOCAL

VBSY's IEC Van extends

awareness on crucial CSS

Management Committee of Durga Mandir Railway Line Gagian framed

Retired Capt Kundan Lal Sharma elected Chairman

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

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

These challenges

include poor manage-

ment, difficulties in

adapting to chang-

ing 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.

of the people.

and upkeep.



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

He said temple requires a significant amount of money to maintain its infrastructure, pay salary to Pujari and organize various considered to be holy religious events. places of worship where

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.

This can lead to a

decline in temple atten-

dance and a loss of

revenue for the temple,

added Capt Kundan.

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

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

handle resulting in lot of



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

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 beneficiarycentric 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

Public Information Offi-

cers (PIOs) beyond the

mandated 30 days and

delay in Second Appeal

hearings. Stressing

the need for collective

efforts among RTI Activ-

ists, he underscored the

structural governance

challenges prevalent in

Pankti Jog's illuminat-

ing presentation empha-

sized the RTI Act's

paramount importance

in today's democratic

framework. She high-

lighted its pervasive

use by citizens, journal-

ists, and investigators,

unveiling information

previously shrouded in

official secrecy.

Jammu and Kashmir.

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 Hus-The interactive sessain, Arif Ismael, Sheikh sion featured an engag-Maqbool, Haq Nawaz ing Q&A segment where Nehru, Rabiya, Karar Pankti Jog adeptly addressed participant Reshi, Syed Farhat, queries. Subsequently, Mohammad Idrees, Shakeel ur Rasool, practical queries were moderated by Sheikh Momin Hussain, Jour-Maqbool, fostering nalist Isfaq Majeed, and discussions among Er. Aquib Bashir. esteemed RTI Activists, Er. Irfan Banka, the including Haq Nawaz Founder and Chief Nehru, Sajad Hussain, Executive Officer of the and Syed Farhat. J&K RTI Foundation, Akhtar Hussain, the commenced the event district coordinator of by highlighting pertinent issues, notably the delay in RTI replies by

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.

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 difrural 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.

AAP office opened in Nagrota Assembly Constituency at Grota Ranjan the game of divisive poli-

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 Banday, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Ashni Matoo, Karan Aatri, Amrik Singh & others, with great pump & snow 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, Shamshaan- Kabristaan,

Parliamentary elections every year etc, they said. also in state elections, They added that enough promising 15 lacs into the is enough now and that accounts of each house all the people can't be hold, doubling the income befooled for all the time as the people have seen of farmers by ending 2022, MSP to the benefit through the game of polarization, of all traof farmers, 2 crore jobs ditional Political Parties every year, removing cortics 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,

and that nothing is said about the JUMLAs 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

Pakistan- Mandir- Masiid

ruption, 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

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

they maintained, frenzy of casteism, polarization in the name of religion will harm us than doing any good and that people not get mislead and swayed by emotive slogans and imaginary JUMLAS, the AAP leaders said.

ferent remote areas of District Kishtwar today Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo Ex- Home Minister, Zonal President JKNC Chenab Valley Zone alongwith Faisal Hussain (DDC Nagseni)

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

and other prominent

NC workers visited sev-

eral Villages of Nagseni

Block of Padder-Nagse-

ni Constituency of Kisht-

He hold a series of

interactions with rural

people of Nagseni block

and patiently listened to

war District.

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



the betterment of Jammu

and Kashmir. He affirmed

that the Party will contin-

ue its efforts to engage

with the community, foster

dialogue, and contribute

to the democratic process

those who were present

in the meeting include

Rattan Lal Gupta Pro-

vincial President Jammu

Province, Sheikh Bashir

Ahmed Provincial Sec-

retary 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,

Faroog Mughal, S. Nirmal

Singh, Jatin Bhat. Amit

Koul, Veer Ji Bhat, Sumita

Bhan and others

among

in the region.

Prominent

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

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 daysunder 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 safecooking.

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 Councilor, 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 carbonneutral 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, energyefficient 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."

ENTERTAINMENT

tomorrow

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.

6

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 Wamiga 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.'

my cupboard 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 some-

thing 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

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 job. 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." 8 kg for Sultan Of Delhi The joy of working

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

With her captivating

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 oldage 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."

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 artistes 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."

Hoping for a better

Reflecting on the every changing world,

Ali Fazal keeps it simple

when he says, "It's been

Zahrah talks about her journey



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

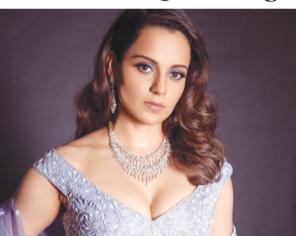
achieve what my mother

did as both an actor and

a singer."

dislikes.

Life's lesson: Kangana Ranaut's 2023 learning



'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.

but this method actor

"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



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

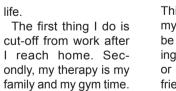
Bollywood's Queen Kangana Ranaut reminisced about her 'dreams' and shared her learning of the year 2023, saying, that if one feels out of place, "remember

vou 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.

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.

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 individualspecific and contingent upon a person's likes or



My New Year resolu-Evolve as a person tion is definitely to grow Shirin Sewani 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.

NATIONAL

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 mis-



sion on January 1. Earlier, ISRO has carried out space missions with its two rockets - PSLV and Geosynchro-

LATUR, Jan 1 (Agen-

cies): Suspecting his

mother of having an

affair, a Latur boy alleg-

edlv hacked his best

friend and neighbour

to death with a sickle at

his shack in the fields,

officials said here on

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

"We registered a case

of murder and launched

an investigation which

revealed many shocking

aspects," Bhada police

station head Balasaheb

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

Dongare told agency.

Monday.

field shack.

nous 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 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 fiveseater 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 Investi-

gation 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.

"Soon, Hemant Soren Will Also ... ": BJP's Swipe

were found dead in

their house in a village

in Jalandhar district's

Adampur, police said

Police on Sunday night

found 59-year-old Man-

mohan Singh, his wife,

his two daughters, and

a three-year-old grand-

Manmohan's body was

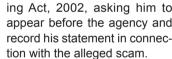
found hanging from a

daughter dead.

on Monday.



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





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.

car they were travel-

ling in hit a road divider

in Jamshedpur city of

Jharkhand on Monday

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

them," Dongare added. the Juvenile Justice

Board.

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

SHIMLA, Jan 1 (Agencies): A fire in the

was reported. Seven fire tenders

the attention of a large number of people from

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

friend, and planned the

killing. He executed his plan

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 After the investigation is completed, the boy will be produced before

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

resigned from the state legislative assembly on Monday, citing personal reasons.

RANCHI, Jan 1 (Agencies):

A sitting MLA of the ruling

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

(JMM) MLA, Sarfaraz Ahmad,

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

party MLA, BJP Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey said CM Soren would soon follow in the former's footsteps.

the Legislative Assembly."

Taking a swipe at Chief Min-

ister Hemant Soren after the

sudden resignation of the ruling

"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-

"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.

district destroyed seven houses and rendered nine families without shelter, authorities said on Monday. bered rooms of seven houses in Praunthi panchayat were completely gutted in the fire that broke out around

Jubbal area of Shimla were rushed to the spot from Jubbal, Rohru, Chirgaon, and Kotkhai fire stations but the blaze had engulfed the houses by the time they reached, Shimla Super-About 80 heavily timintendent of Police San-

jeev Kumar Gandhi told news agency. It took the fire tenders six hours to douse the fire, he said. Sky-high flames drew 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 ceiling fan, while the 1 (Agencies): Five others' lay on a bed in members of a family 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, Man-

mohan 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 sonin-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.

Monday 1 am. No loss

of human life or cattle

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

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 twoyear-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.

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 Swapan Sharma said 54-yearold Singh was hit by a vehicle after being dropped by his acquaintances on Sunday night. His driving licence and ID car were recovered from the spot.



INTERNATIONAL

Taiwanese President says ties with China must be decided by will of people

TAIPEI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Taiwan's relations with China must be decided by the will of the people and peace must be based on "dignity", President Tsai Ing-wen said on Monday after China's leader, Xi Jinping, said "reunification" with the island is inevitable.

China has been ramping up military pressure to assert its sovereignty claims over democratically governed Taiwan, which on Jan. 13 holds presidential and parliamentary elections.

Xi's comments, in a New Year's Eve address, struck a stronger tone than the previous year where he said only that people on either side of the Taiwan Strait are "members of one and the same family"

Asked about Xi's speech at a New Year's press conference at the presidential office in Taipei, Tsai said the most important principle on what course to follow on relations with China was democracy.

"This is taking the joint will of Taiwan's people to make a decision. After all, we are a demo-



cratic country," she said. China should respect the outcome of Taiwan's election and it is the responsibility of both sides to maintain peace and stability in the strait, Tsai added. China has cast the election

as a choice between war and peace and has refused multiple offers of talks by Tsai, believing she is a separatist.

Tsai has made bolstering and modernising Taiwan's defences a priority, including pushing an indigenous submarine programme.

"Everyone's home has locks



Taiwan's government has repeatedly warned China is trying to interfere in the election, whether by using fake news or military or trade pressure, and Tsai said she hoped people could be on alert for this.

After China accused Taiwan of erecting trade barriers and ended some tariff cuts for the island, China last week threatened further economic measures

Tsai said Taiwan's companies must look globally and diversify. "This is the correct path, rather

than going back to the path of relying on China, especially as in China's unstable market there is unpredictable risk," she said. "We have always welcomed

healthy, orderly interactions across the strait, but trade and economic exchanges cannot become a political tool.

China has taken particular exception to current Vice President Lai Ching-te, the presidential candidate for Taiwan's ruling Democratic Party (DPP) and who is leading in opinion polls by varying margins, saying he is also a dangerous separatist. Both the DPP and Taiwan's

largest opposition party the Kuomintang say only the island's people can decide their future.

Tsai cannot stand again after two terms in office. She will step down in May when the next president is sworn in.



2023.

The time takes its toll.

and the number of 'ail-

ments' increases. One

Denmark's Queen announces

COPENHAGEN, Jan 1 (Agencies): After more than 50 years in power, Denmark's Queen Margrethe II has unexpectedly declared she will step down early in 2024, according to agency.

During her annual New Year's Eve address shown on Danish television, Margrethe, 83, announced that she would be handing over the crown to her son, Crown Prince Frederik.

She gave an example of her beliefs about the future -- referencing a back operation she

thanks to the competent health personnel, who took care of me. Inevitably, the operation gave cause to thoughts about the future - whether now would be an appropriate time to pass on the responsibility to the next generation." "I have decided that now is the right time," she said.

"On January 14, 2024 underwent in February - 52 years after I succeeded my beloved "In two weeks' time, father - I will step down I have been Queen of as Queen of Denmark. I Denmark for 52 years. will hand over the throne Such an amount will to my son, Crown Prince leave its mark on any-Frederik," the queen body--and also on me!

announced, according to agency. After King Frederik IX passed away on January 14, 1972, Queen Margrethe II assumed the throne.

Following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II of Britain in the previous year, Margrethe assumed the title of Europe's longest-serving queen.

North Korea's Kim orders military to 'thoroughly annihilate' US, South Korea if provoked

SEOUL, Jan 1 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to "thoroughly annihilate" the United States and South Korea if provoked, state media reported on Monday, after he vowed to boost national defences to cope with what he called an unprecedented US-led confrontation.

Kim is expected to ramp up weapons tests in 2024 ahead of the US presidential election in November. Many experts say he likely believes his expanded nuclear arsenal would allow him to wrest US concessions if former President Donald Trump is reelected.

In a five-day major ruling party meeting last week, Kim said he would launch three more military spy satellites, produce more nuclear materials and develop attack drones this year in what observers say is an attempt to increase his leverage in future diplomacy with the US

In a meeting on Sunday with commanding army officers. Kim said it



is urgent to sharpen "the treasured sword" to safeguard national security, an apparent reference to his country's nuclear weapons program. He cited "the US and other hostile forces' military confrontation moves", according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim stressed that "our army should deal a deadly blow to thoroughly annihilate them by mobilising all the toughest means and potentialities without moment's hesitation" if they opt for military confrontation and provocations against North Korea, KCNA said.

Ukraine stronger, says Zelenskyy as war with **Russia moves towards second year**

KYIV, Jan 1 (Agencies): President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his New Year address early on Monday said Ukraine had become stronger in overcoming serious difficulties as the war against Russia moves toward its second year.

But Zelenskyy's slick 20-minute video message, delivered from his Kyiv office, made almost no direct reference to the situation on the 1,000-km front line or the limited success of a counteroffensive launched in June.

Nor did he refer to the political and diplomatic difficulties in securing continued military and other aid from both the US Congress and the European Union. Zelenskyy said the war had taught Ukrainians to withstand Russian attacks and adapt to hardships, including blackouts, the operation of industry and threats to shipping its exports.



"The major result of the year, its main achievement: Ukraine has become stronger. Ukrainians have become stronger," Zelenskyy said in the address, interspersed with footage of cities under attack and meetings with leaders of Ukraine's Western allies.

"When, at the beginning of 2023 ... we surmounted, with-

out exaggeration, the most difficult winter in history. When we proved that Ukrainians are tougher than cold and darkness. Stronger than power outages and blackout threats. Ukrainians are stronger than any blockades and vetoes, disbelief or skepticism," he said. Zelenskyy pointed to Ukrainian successes in containing and

attacking Russia's navy in the Black Sea, confirmed "by their large landing ships, missilearmed and patrol corvettes on the bottom of the sea."

Ukrainians were "stronger than any intrigues," he said, in putting together groups of Western countries for improving Ukrainian air defences and pledging to supply F-16 fighter aircraft.

"We will definitely see them in our skies," he said of the F-16s, while repeating a promise to boost domestic weapons production and produce at least one million drones in the next year.

And in a reference to questions about ensuring that the Ukrainian military had sufficient numbers of troops, he urged those who are "still hesitating to make a bold choice next year, to defend their own country, to work for it, to help it."

cannot undertake as much as one managed in the past," the queen said, according to agency. The Danish queen said that she underwent "extensive back surgery" in February this year and added, "Everything went well,



Terrorism-linked fatalities in

as army pounds Gaza

GAZA, Jan 1 (Agencies): The war in Gaza ground into the new year on Monday, with Hamas firing a barrage of rockets at Israel just as the clock struck midnight and two dozen people killed overnight in Israeli strikes on the Palestinian territory.

Air alert sirens sounded across Israel as 2024 began, and AFP journalists in Tel Aviv witnessed missile defence systems intercepting rockets overhead, with some revellers in the streets below rushing for cover while others kept up the party with a shrug.

"We were all afraid on the corners... my heart was pounding," Gabriel Zemelman, 26, said in front of a bar after the rocket fire.

"It's terrifying. You just saw the life we live, it's crazy."

The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the attack in a video published on social media, saying they had fired M90 rockets in "response to the massacres of civilians" carried out by Israel.

The Israeli army confirmed the attack, without initially reporting any casualties or damage. Surrounded by partiers, server Ran Stahl,

24, said he didn't have the heart to celebrate, not since one of his friends was killed in Hamas's attack on the Supernova music festival.

"The minute I start to dance, I feel guilty -- the sadness and mourning come back," he said.

In Gaza, overnight Israeli strikes killed at least 24 people, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, with attacks reported across the length of the territory. The nearly three-

triggered by Hamas's bloody October 7 attacks on Israel, which killed around 1,140 people, most of them civilians, according to an agency tally based on official figures.

around 250 people hostage that day, most of whom remain in Gaza, according to Israeli officials.

Israel vowed to destroy Hamas in response, launching a punishing offensive in the Gaza Strip that has reduced vast areas to a ruined wasteland and killed at least 21,822 people, mostly women and children, according to the territory's health minis-

The Israeli army says 172 of its soldiers have been killed inside Gaza,

with the war showing no signs of stopping. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Saturday that the fighting would last "many months until Hamas is eliminated and the hos-

talking to my friends,

and we remembered

how... we used to go out

and enjoy our time on

the last day of the year.

But this New Year's

Eve, there are only mis-

siles and the remains of

Since Israel imposed a

siege at the outset of the

war, Gazans have been

facing dire shortages

of food, fuel, water and

UN chief Antonio

Guterres has con-

demned the "epic

human suffering" and

"collective punishment"

of Palestinian civilians,

while the WHO has

warned of the risk of

"We are exhausted...

We were displaced

five times during this

war," said 29-year-old

"We hope things

infectious disease.

Bassam Hana.

people," he said.

medicine.

tages are returned". 'We live like animals' In the besieged Gaza

Strip, where the UN savs 85 percent of the population has been displaced, 20-year-old Hamdan Abu Arab said he hoped "2024 will be better". "Just a while ago, I was

month war in Gaza was

Fighters also took

try.

improve in 2024 and that we live just like any other human being. Currently, we live like animals."

At least 48 Palestinians were killed in strikes on Gaza City over the weekend, the territory's health ministry said, with many still buried under the rubble

"After the explosion we arrived at the scene of the strike and saw martyrs everywhere," said one resident after a building was hit.

"Children are still missing, we can't find them." In his nightly briefing on Sunday, Israeli army spokesman Daniel Hagari said several militants "were killed and subdued during the battles in Khan Yunis" earlier in the day. "We are continuing to

handle the underground tunnels and to strike the rocket launching array, in order to reduce rocket fire into the State of Israel.

"Dozens of aircrafts are in the skies of Gaza at any given moment," he said.

Regional fears International mediators have continued efforts toward a new pause in

fighting. A Hamas delegation from Qatar visited Cairo on Friday to discuss an Egyptian three-phase plan proposing renewable ceasefires, a stag-

gered release of hostages for Palestinian prisoners, and ultimately an end to the war, sources close to Hamas said.

> Their allies Islamic Jihad said on Saturday that Palestinian factions were "in the process" of evaluating the proposal and would give a response "within days". The war in Gaza has raised fears of a broader regional conflict, with hostilities flaring with mostly Iran-backed militant groups in nearby countries who say they are acting in support of Hamas.

The Israeli army announced Sunday night having intercepted two "hostile aircraft" launched from Syria towards northern Israel. Earlier it had reported launches toward Israeli territory originating in Lebanon.

"Throughout the day, IDF (military) tanks and helicopters targeted three terrorist squads operating in Lebanon," the army said in a statement. And in the Red Sea, the US military said Sunday that Navy helicopters had fired at Iran-backed Huthi rebel boats off Yemen that were attacking a cargo ship, with Yemeni sourc-

es reporting 10 rebels

killed.

Pakistan hit unprecedented levels in 2023: Think tank reports

KARACHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): Pakistan recorded an unprecedented spike in terrorism-related violence in 2023, with the total violence-related fatalities reaching a record six-year high, especially in the restive provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, according to two think tank reports.

According to the annual security report prepared by the Islamabadbased Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), at least 1,524 violence-related casualties and 1,463 injuries from 789 terror attacks and counter-terror operations were recorded in Pakistan in 2023.

Those killed included nearly 1,000 civilians and security forces personnel. The total fatalities number marks a record six-year high, exceeding the 2018 level and the highest since 2017, the report said.

The CRSS said there has been a surge in violence and terror attacks in the country every year since 2021.

It marked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces as the main centres of violence, leading to 90 per cent of all fatalities and 84 per cent of attacks, including incidents of terrorism and security forces operations, recorded during this period.

In contrast, the Punjab and Sindh provinces jointly witnessed only 8 per cent fatalities in 2023

The report said that in 2023, the county recorded an alarming surge in violence of about 56 per cent -- an unprecedented escalation in the last 10 years -- with the overall number of fatalities increasing from 980 in 2022 to 1.524 in 2023.

This includes a staggering 57 per cent uptick in the Balochistan province and 55 per cent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Punjab saw a 96 per cent rise in violence, though the number of fatalities was very low, followed by Sindh, where the fatalities increased by 26 per cent. The report also said that around 65

per cent of all violence-related fatalities recorded in 2023 resulted from terrorism, while the remaining 35 per cent from the security forces operations against the militants.

It said that at least 586 terror attacks were carried out in the year in the country, of which only 17 per cent were claimed by the banned terror outfits such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Army, Daish (Islamic State Khorasan) and others.

The country's security forces conducted as many as 197 operations against terror groups in which 545 terrorists were killed.

According to the report, the year also saw a rise in sectarian violence as acts of terrorism directed at religious communities and their places of worship resulted in the tragic loss of 203 lives, of which 88 were security officials.

Another Islamabad-based think tank, the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), in its annual report, said that Pakistan witnessed another year of an unprecedented surge in militant attacks.

The PICSS said that the country saw a staggering 69 per cent rise in attacks, an 81 per cent increase in resultant deaths, and a 60 per cent surge in the number of injured.

"The year 2023 witnessed at least 641 militant attacks across the country in which 974 people were killed and 1,351 injured. The year 2022 witnessed 380 militant attacks resulting in 539 deaths and 836 injuries... By combining militant attacks and security forces actions, the country saw over one thousand violent incidents in which 1,511 people were killed and 1,440 injured," it said.

As for militant attacks, the PICSS database shows that the average number of militant attacks per month rose from 32 in 2022 to 53 attacks per month in 2023, which is the highest monthly average in any year after 2015.

LOCAL/CONTD....

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

lew Message, the Principal remembered Police har, Martyrs who made ice their supreme sacrifice to save the sovertaff eignty of the Nation and ees. emphasized upon staff on and trainees to reaffirm their commitment ew to safeguard lives of to the general public and uphold the values of the ers. Constitution. P's Among others ZiaUI-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

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 Hirday 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

Mandir Samba.

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 1: Shree Shyam Pari-

var Mandal Samba collaboration with

Saraswati Sangeet Art & Culture Foun-

dation Samba Organized a Devo-

tional Singing Competition among the

Children below 15 years at Narsingh

All the participants performed Bajan

and Hanuman chalisa and the Judges

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 1: On the invitation of Medical unit of Ramakrishna Mission Udheywala, 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, Oryhopedics, Gynaecology, Dental, ENT, Ophthalmology, Departments, comprises of Allopathy



Physcians, Physiotherapists, clinical Psychology, who examined nearly 402 patients, by 13 doctors. Free check up faculty,

Blood suger, 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 Yajnadharananda, Secretary RamakSermans, 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 Yajnadharananda welcomed & felicitated Sanjiv Verma, Chief Guest, Dr Sushil Razdhan Neurologist and also presented vote of thanks.

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



been started in Jammu province which will boost economic growth of Jammu and bring

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, en

experienced Netrasist,

and Mohinder Rana,

President Padar Wel-

fare Front S/D Attoli

(Padar) & others, about

introducing Religious

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

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.

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 que.

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

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 Awaas 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

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 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.

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

FROM PAGE 1 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).

BUSINESS / HEALTH

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.

10

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

on Monday for the New Year. The US markets ended marginally lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark 77.04 a barrel.

markets were closed

Brent crude declined 0.14 per cent to USD According to exchange data, Foreign Institu-

tional 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 cyl-

inder 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.

ship will cover the entire

spectrum of activities,

including supply, instal-

lation, commissioning,

and maintenance of

OTN (Optical Transport

"The order aimed at

revolutionizing BSNL's

Optical Transport Net-

work is a testament to

our unwavering com-

mitment to advancing

the nation's technologi-

cal prowess. Our com-

prehensive network

upgrade will not only

address the heightened

demands of Enterprise

and FTTH/Broadband

services but strategi-

cally position BSNL for

the seamless launch

of 4G services and the

anticipation of 5G ser-

Network).

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.

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

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 (WADTDR) 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

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 partnervices," 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

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



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

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

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-

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. BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was is classified as a VOI. previously classified the world body said. as a variant of inter-However, in recent est (VOI) as part of the weeks, JN.1 cases con-

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.

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

with a symptomatic H.

pylori infection had an

11 per cent increased

risk of Alzheimer's dis-

ease, the most preva-

While the cause of

Alzheimer's disease is

multifaceted, the find-

lent kind of dementia.

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 1 (Agencies): Common gut bacteria that is present in twothirds 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

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. However, 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.

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 twofold 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 cytisine with placebo, with nearly 6,000 patients

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

They also noted that cytisine 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 tobac-CO.

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

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 cytisine with nicotine replacement therapy, with modest results in favor of cytisine, and three trials comparing cytisine with varenicline, without a clear benefit for cytisine.

Nacional de Intoxica-

ciones (CNI), Buenos

"World-wide, smoking

is considered the main

cause of preventable

death. Cytisine has the

Aires, Argentina.

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 overthe-counter natural health product, Cravv, they said.

Because cytisine 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.

SPORTS

Welcoming 2024 with sporting spirit

It's time to put aside off-the-field challenges that have hurt Indian sports in the last 365 days or so and enter the New Year with fresh optimism.

NEW DELHI, Jan 1 (Agencies): The way 2023 flew by, there is an inherent temptation to think about all that is beautiful for 2024. The time of the year has come when we indulge in introspections and predictions, of the past that has gone by and what the future holds. In sports, a loss can be as gripping a tale as a victory. It is a world where there is no loser. The story could be of either triumph or dejection. It could be a contest where ageing limbs plot the fall of an agile young body and mind with equanimity, where experience compensates for endurance.So when it comes down to predicting the future in sport, it is not just tricky but downright perilous. Yet we can travel with our imagination to prosperity and good health through sport.

In India, sports and mismanagement are inseparable. Imagine the world changing in 2024. What if we enter into a year when there is absolute silence and everyone in the administration is working to take the sport to greater heights? 2023 was marked by differences within the apex sporting body of the country, the Indian Olympic Association and various other National Sports Federations including wrestling, taekwondo, volleyball, basketball, handball, table tennis, just to name a few. In an ideal 2024, the whole fraternity will decide to come together and follow the sports code in toto. The IOA will finally appoint the Chief Executive Officer that the Interna-



tional Olympic Committee has been insisting on. The sports ministry and the Sports Authority of India will assist the NSFs in every way they can and not meddle with their affairs at all. The All India Football Federation will actually establish a nation-wide grassroots programme instead of just talking about qualifying for dis-

tant World Cups. These days, if one faction within an NSF is recognised by the IOA or the sports ministry, the other faction is recognised by the International Federation. The sports ministry and the IOA did not handle the wrestling fiasco well. Here's hoping for better governance in 2024. Here's another bestcase scenario - The Paris Olympics just got over and India finishes in the top 20. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics saw

India finishing 48th with one gold medal and seven medals in total. In Paris, the hope would be for that medal tally to swell to over 10 (first time it will reach double figures) with at least two gold medals.

Looking at the delayed 2022 Asian Games a few months ago, where India finished with over 100 medals, 111 to be precise, this is very much possible.

In reality though, it is indeed a bit difficult. If we consider the sports that India managed to win medals at the Olympics in the last five editions, then there will be serious concern for Paris. Weightlifting, which gave us a medal in Tokyo, may face a stiff test this time. Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu is struggling with injury. Champion shuttler PV Sindhu, who had given India a medal in Rio and Tokyo, has looked vulnerable inside the court in recent times. However, her slip in form has been compensated by the rise of doubles exponents Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. Wrestling had added two medals through Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya but right now the sport itself is in a mess. Only Antim Panghal (women's wrestling 53kg) has secured an Olympic quota so far. A lot will depend on

the remaining qualifiers if India wishes to maintain its record of winning at least one medal in the Olympics since 2008. Men's boxing is in doldrums but women boxers are a big consolation.

Another medal sport in the last two decades. shooting seems to miss the target in big events too often. Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker and rifle shooter Sift Kaur Samra have been exceptional but others need to be more consistent. The shooters were the biggest disappointment at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Besides, archery has been on a roll at the Asian Games with compound archers creating history. Over to the recurve team to finally win an Olympic medal

The brightest spot in recent times has been Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra. If consistency is a word that defines champions it has to be Neerai. He has also been the most unassuming and nonchalant athlete on the athletics circuit. If Mondo Duplantis has raised the bar in pole vault, Neeraj has taken the sport to a different plane. His victories have given belief, especially to the billions in India. He will again spearhead India at the Olympics this year. Despite his form and sartorial dominance, sports can be quirky. Yet, if he is fully fit, he will be among medals in Paris too. Once again the nation

will be hoping for an ICC Trophy when the cricket caravan moves to the US and the Caribbean for the Men's World T20 in June. The richest cricket body has yet to win a global title since the 2011 World Cup. As cricket expands to new frontiers, India would be hoping to expand their fortunes, not just in terms of money but also in terms of positive results. The women cricketers too would be seeking top reward in the World T20 in Bangladesh. In an ideal world, both trophies should be in India. In reality, things could be challenging. In football, the goal will not be trophies, but putting up a respectable show at the Asian Cup in January. A big victory there could be the spark that Indian Football so desperately needs. Some sports definitely need an overhaul. Table tennis would be one. Boxing is another. After the highs of Vijender Singh, men have struggled to win medals at the Olympics.2024 may not change anything. Or it could end up changing everything. After all, doesn't the beauty of sport lie in its unpredictability?

Harmanpreet's form with bat in focus as India look to salvage pride in final ODI against Australia

by six wickets even

after posting their high-

est-ever total of 282 for

8 in the format, Kaur's

side dropped as many

as seven catches in the

second game, as Aus-

tralia get away with a

At the same time,

Richa Ghosh's heroics

in the second ODI -- 96

off 113 balls (13 fours) in

a stiff chase-and Jemi-

mah Rodrigues' consis-

tency (82 and 44) have

delivered the goods with

Ghosh is India's new

find in No. 3 and to have

an aggressive batter in

the top order gives the

hosts a lot of firepower.

Pressure will be on the

likes of Amanjot Kaur

and Deepti Sharma,

who could not finish the

game for India despite

the equation being

almost run-a-ball in the

The cliched old adage

of 'catches win matches'

came to the fore again

after India dropped at

least seven chances.

and head coach Amol

Muzumdar admitted

after the game that

Kaur's team remains a

India's defeat by six

wickets in the first ODI

and narrowly by three

runs in the second

extended their plight

at home against Aus-

work in progress.

second ODI.

the bat for India.

three-run win.



MUMBAI, Jan 1 (Agencie): Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's form with the bat will be in focus as the Indian Women's team looks to salvage pride and end a nine-match losing streak at home against a dominant Australia in the third and final ODI here on Tuesday.

Kaur has led her side admirably well in a long home season with a couple of historic results in the Tests, but this period has also witnessed her struggle with the bat. She has scored runs in double digits only thrice in eight innings across formats this season with her highest being 49 against England in the one-off Test last month. In the historic win against Australia in the one-off Test, Kaur was out for a duck in India's first innings and she was not required to bat in the second essay. In the two ODIs against Australia who have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. her scores were 9 and 5. While India made the most of the favourable home conditions in the one-off Test, the home team's frailties have come to the fore again in white-ball cricket in the last two ODIs. If India were ordinary

tralia, whom they have not beaten even once with the ball in the first ODI wherein they lost in the 50-over format in the last 16 years since February 2007.

Muzumdar had also confirmed that Sneh Rana would be available for the final ODI after missing the second half of the last game due to a collision with Pooja Vastrakar.

India will host the 2025 Women's 50-over World Cup and with the core of the squad already determined, the task hereon would be to improve in all departments, particularly fielding.

Australia, on their part, would be keen on putting a better show in the field after dropping a few regulation chances in the last match, while big runs are awaited from skipper Alyssa Healy.

Healy has been scoring in double-digit figures consistently but a big score has deserted her so far, while Australia will expect further fireworks from both Phoebe Litchfield and Ellyse Perry who have hit fifties in both the ODIs.

The Teams (From):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur ©, Smriti Mandhana (vc), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Sneh Rana, Harleen Deol.

Australia: Alyssa Healy (c & wk), Darcie Brown, Heather Graham. Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Beth Mooney (wk), Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham.

Match starts at 1:30pm IST.

United Cup: Djokovic leads Serbia to 2-1 victory over China

Australian former world champion Melissa Hoskins killed in car crash

on his return to Perth

PERTH, Jan 1 (Agencie): Making a triumphant return to Perth after a decade, Novak Djokovic led Serbia to a 2-1 win over China at the United Cup.

Djokovic, playing in the western Australia city for the first time since the 2013 Hopman Cup, beat Zhang Zhizhen 6-3, 6-2 and then teamed up with Olga Danilovic to clinch the decisive mixed doubles 6-4, 1-6, 10-6 against Zheng Quinwen and Zhang in the Group E match.

Zheng, who beat reigning Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in her opening United Cup match, had leveled the match 1-1 when she outplayed Danilovic 6-4, 6-2.

Djokovic needed just 74 minutes to beat Zhang as he converted three of the seven break points.

"It's great to be back in Perth," Djokovic said afterward. "New Year's in a few hours so I really appreciate you coming to hopefully celebrate New Year's Eve with us here on the court. It's been 10 years since I've been in Perth, and this arena is definitely one of the nicest, from inside and outside, that I've played in." Djokovic said he felt a bit rusty early

against Zhang and a "little bit out of rhythm" because of not playing a match for over a month.

"It obviously takes a little bit of time to get the engines going and he was serving well," he said.

"I think the serve was great on my part, whenever I needed to get myself out of trouble, at 15-15 or 30-30 in my service games, I found a good serve." China routed Czech Republic in its first match 3-0, but after Sunday's win Serbia is also in with a chance to advance.

Earlier, former US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez led Canada to a 2-1 victory over Chile in Sydney in its tournament's opening match.

Fernandez defeated Daniela Seguel 6-3, 6-2 before Nicolas Jarry leveled the Group B tie for Chile by beating Steven Diez in straight sets in Sydney.



Diez had replaced Felix Auger-Aliassime who was rested with a minor knee issue.

Fernandez and Diez then clinched the deciding mixed doubles against Seguel and Tomás Barrios Vera 7-5, 4-6, 10-8 to seal the tie for the Canadians.

"I'm extremely happy with the way I played," Fernandez said after her win over Sequel.

"It wasn't the greatest match because it is my first match of the season, the nerves, but I'm extremely happy with the way that I was able to manage it."

In Perth, Great Britain's Katie Boulter stunned fifth-ranked Jessica Pegula of the United States in Group C, rallying from a set down to win 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

The Americans drew level when Taylor Fritz defeated Cameron Norrie 7-6 (5), 6-4 to force a deciding mixed doubles match.

Pegula and Fritz then combined for victory over Boulter and Neal Skupski 1-6, 7-6 (4), 10-7 that sealed the tie, 2-1, for the defending champions.

The Americans will gualify for the quarterfinals if they win their final match against Australia. All three teams still have a chance of qualifying if Australia beats the U.S. in the last group match. Mixed teams from 18 countries are playing in Perth and Sydney in what doubles as a warmup for the Australian Open. The format is a men's and women's singles and a mixed doubles.

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (Agencie): Australian Olympic track cyclist and former world champion Melissa Hoskins has died after a car accident in the country's south, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) said on Monday. Australian media has widely reported that Hoskins' husband and twice world individual time trial champion Rohan Dennis has been arrested and charged over her death.

"The AOC has expressed the utmost



sadness at the loss of Olympic cyclist Melissa Hoskins after the tragic events in Adelaide," it

said in a post on social media platform X. "Our condolences go to Melissa's family, friends and the cycling community at this extremely difficult time." Hoskins, 32, won gold in the team pursuit at the 2015 world championships and was a member of the Australian team at the 2012 London and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics.

A statement from the state police of South Australia released on Sunday said a 32-yearold woman died in the hospital after being hit by a car in an inner northern suburb of Adelaide, the capital of South Australia. Police said a 33-year-

old man has been arrested and charged with causing death by dangerous driving, driving without due care and endangering life. The driver was known to the woman and given bail to appear in court on March 13, police said. A police spokesperson said they do not confirm the names of victims or

accused involved in an

incident.

David Warner announces ODI retirement ahead of his last Test in Sydney

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (Agencie): Batting stalwart David Warner on Monday announced his retirement from ODI cricket alongside the end of his Test career here this week but will continue to play T20 cricket for Australia.

The 37-year-old swashbuckling opener, however, kept the door open for himself to be available for the 2025 Champions Trophy if the Australian team needs him.

Ahead of his swansong Test at his hometown venue SCG, Warner revealed that Australia's World Cup final victory over India in November was his last match in the 50-over format. "I'm definitely retiring

well. That was something that I had said through the (50-over) World Cup (in India in 2023), get through that, and winning it in India, I think that's a massive achievement," he said at a press conference at the SCG on Monday. "So I'll make that decision today, to retire from those forms, which does allow me to go and play some other leagues around the world and

from one-day cricket as

sort of get the one-day team moving forward a little bit," said an emotional Warner. "I know there's a

Champions Trophy coming up. If I'm playing decent cricket in two years' time and I'm around and they need



someone, I'm going to be available. Considered as one of Australia's and world's most destructive batters in recent times. Warner ended his oneday career as a two-

time world champion after finishing the 2023 World Cup in India as his team's leading run scorer. The left-handed opener made his ODI debut in 2009 in a match against South Africa in

Hobart. Since then, he has played 161 ODIs, scoring 6,932 runs at an average of 45.30 with the help of 22 hundreds and 33 fifties.

He is Australia's sixthhighest run-scorer in men's ODIs and second on the hundreds list behind Ricky Ponting who played 205 more ODI innings than Warner.

In the 111 Tests he has played so far, Warner has scored 8,695 runs at an average of 44.58 with 26 hundreds and 36 fifties. He will continue to be available for Australia in T20 cricket and is hopeful of featuring in their World Cup campaign in that format in June in the Caribbean and the US.

LOCAL

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 addictions 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

DRCS organises donation

DONATION DRIVE

drive for needy people

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 farm-

ers 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

Prof. Vijay Kumar Bhat,

School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

indexed in SCIE-ranked journals and also presented her research work at various international and national con-

Karnika expressed

her gratitude to her par-

ents, and supervisor for

guidance, and to the

School of Mathematics,

SMVDU for providing all

necessary support and

facilities for carrying out

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati

Kumar, Vice-Chancel-

lor, SMVDU, and other

committee members

congratulated the can-

didate and wished her

a bright future.

the research work.

papers

University, Katra. She has published

research

ferences.



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

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 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.

Kaith, Darshan Lal

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, Machhedi panchayat, Dhanupatole panchayat, and Nazote panchayat. First semifinal was won

by Machhedi from Dhanuparole and second semi-final was won by Nangala from Bhatodi . The final match played between Panchayat Machhedi and Panchayat Nangala. Nangala made 153 runs in 10 overs and restricted the Panchayat Machhedi on 84 only. Nangala win the final by 69 runs. Soam Raj of Nangala declared as the Man of match for his outstanding

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

12

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 Rishpaul teacher, Kuldeep Kumar and Kewal Kumar.

NC committed to empower women in J&K: Bimla Luthtra

67 runs in the final. Vikas

Kumar from Machhedi

panchayat was declared



make the women fully

aware about their rights

and take appropriate

and adequate steps to

empower the women folk

so that they come forward

to demand their entitle-

She said that since

majority of women are

home makers, they are

the worst victims of the

sky rocketing prices,

property tax and unprec-

edented inflation during

the BJP rule due to the

Due to non-availability

of basic amenities includ-

ing water, power, roads,

Old age pension etc Vil-

lage of Budhi people

are going through tough

ment under such rights.

KATHUA, Jan 1: State Vice President Women Wing Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and former MLA, Bimla Luthra said that the present government has failed to take any concrete steps towards reducing the suffering of women amid these challenging

She was addressing the meeting at Budhi in Jasrota Constituency District

The meeting was organized by Ashu Rajput **District President Kathua** Rural Women Wing JKNC. On this occasion various women workers with my sisters here, she added.

Sham Narian Mehta **District President Kathua** Rural asked people to be cautions from divisive policies of BJP and support the National Conference in the upcoming polls in

Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban women wing and Ashu Rajput also addressing the meeting they asked people to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah while working at gross root level.

Those who were present in the meeting included Parveen Kousar, Joainder Kour District Vice President Women Wing Jammu Urban, Prem Chand and others.



Top News Report JAMMU, Jan 1: On the occasion of New

Himmat, Kachi Chawani and Roopnagar Jammu. The motive of this initia-

C-Dyte.

with the District Red Cross Society are being manned by volunteers of

JKBS members who were present on the occasion included Corporator Rashpal Bhardwaj, TSO Retd Rachhpal Kaith, R.L.Kaith, Dilay Ram

Top News Report

economic conditions.

Kathua, on Monday.

ioined National Confer-

Jammu and Kashmir.

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 Ansuya Jamwal (JKAS) at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, Channi

tive is to share the joy of new year with the needy people.

The Jammu admin-

istration has stationed

four mobile vans across

Jammu city, where people

can donate toys, clothes,

books and stationerv

items for the less-priv-

ileged sections of the

society. The vans for this

collaborative endeavor

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, Ansuya 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

same formula applies here as well. The new things that take place

Motan, Des Raj Kaith, Duni Singh Motan and Hans Raj Loria.

ence Luthra said that today there is a dire need to

The Unscheduled power cuts and erratic water supply and also come to the fore while interacting

times

wrong policies.

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 Banday, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, 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, Bansi 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 dragging the country towards Presidential form of government 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 unani-

mously 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.

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office : 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor : M. K Bangroo, Executive Editor : Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No : (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com

(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).