

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 02, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Kashmir Valley well equipped with fuel, no cause for panic, says Div Com

SRINAGAR, Jan 2 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bhiduri, has urged residents not to panic by flocking to petrol pumps with vehicles and bottles. He assured that the Valley has enough petrol, diesel, kerosene, and LPG to last for nearly a month.

Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bhiduri emphasised that the influx of people to petrol pumps for fuel would only lead to unnecessary panic. "We have sufficient stock of essentials in Kashmir, including petrol and LPG, for almost a month," Bhiduri said.

He urged the public to remain calm and assured them that the ongoing transporter strike would not adversely impact Kashmir. Negotiations are underway with the transporters, and the divisional administration is dedicated to ensuring that there is no scarcity of essentials, including petrol, diesel, and LPG, during the winter months, said the Divisional Commissioner.

3.9 magnitude earthquake hits J&K

JAMMU, Jan 2 (Agencies): An earthquake of 3.9 magnitude hit Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday but there were no reports of any damage, officials said.

The National Centre of Seismology said the tremor was felt at 11.33 am.

The depth of the earthquake was five kilometres below the surface at 32.76 degrees north and 74.57 degrees east, it said.

A police official said there has so far been no reports of any damage from anywhere.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 3.9, Occurred on 02-01-2024, 11:33:32 IST, Lat: 32.76 and Long: 74.57, Depth: 5 Km, Location: Jammu and Kashmir," the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) posted on X.

Fuel stations go dry in Jammu as Transporters strike on Centre's New Law on Hit & Run cases

JAMMU, Jan 2 (Agencies): People face hardships as several fuel stations went dry in Jammu in view of the strike by the transporters opposing new law of the Central government in hit and run cases.

The transporters in various districts of Jammu region under the banner of All J&K Transporters Association staged protests demanding roll back of the new law.

"The law should be imposed to every citizen. Why only drivers of commercial vehicles are entitled to face rigorous punishment and heavy fine in hit and run cases," said transporters union leader.

He said that the government should take a call and amend the law.

Meanwhile several filling stations went dry due to the strike because of non-supply of fuel by the tankers.



Few petrol pumps witnessed huge rush of people standing in queue for fuel.

The transporters staged protest at Lakanpur in Kathua district—the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile the Transport Association and drivers staged a protest against the new law on hit-and-run cases in Maharashtra's Nagpur. The new law attracts a

7-10-year prison sentence for drivers falling foul of it. As a result of this protest, people at petrol pumps faced long queues.

Meanwhile, similar protests over the new hit-and-run law were staged across states. Private bus and truck drivers on Monday enforced a 'chakka jam' (traffic jam) across the state of Madhya Pradesh in protest against the new

law. Drivers enforced a 'chakka jam' on Pithampur Highway in Dhar by putting obstacles on the road.

Members of an organisation representing the drivers also staged a protest on the streets of Bhopal at the Board Office intersection.

Gyansingh Yadav, a cab driver who was also among the protesters on Monday, couldn't hold back his tears.

"The likes of myself, who drive cabs for a living, could still be home at night. But the truck drivers often don't get to meet their loved ones for 15 days or more. We are not against any government or law but I feel some amendments should be made, especially about the penal provisions against drivers. The new law attracts a 10-year prison term for errant drivers. I feel it should be reduced to 1-2 years," Yadav told ANI on Monday.

A similar protest also broke out in the Chhattisgarh capital, Raipur, where bus drivers staged a demonstration against the new central law.

With the buses anchored in their sheds, regular commuters and interstate passengers bore the brunt of the protests.

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Div Com Kashmir extends open invitation to all for Jan 26 celebrations in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, Dec 2 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir VK Bhiduri on Tuesday extended open invitation to people of Kashmir valley for 26th January celebrations in Srinagar.

"I extend my invitation to everyone to attend Jan 26 function which is going to be held at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar this year," Bhiduri told reporters here in Srinagar.

"Like August 15 last year, I again invite people to come and join the celebration of January 26. I hope you will respond and join the function," he said.

Notably, the divisional administration has been holding Republic and Independence Day celebrations at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Sonawar Srinagar from the last few years owing to security concerns.

However, after considerable improvement in law and order situation in the valley the divisional administration has decided to hold such events at the Bakshi Stadium Srinagar.

Water bodies across Kashmir Freeze, Minimum stays below freezing point

SRINAGAR, Jan 2 (Agencies): A thin layer of ice has formed over the surface of the Dal Lake as the minimum temperature in Srinagar on Monday night was minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The residents of the lake, who live in houseboats, had a tough time breaking the ice layer while roving their boats towards the banks.

Water supply pipes have frozen in many areas of Kashmir due to extreme cold wave conditions.

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 6.2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5.7 degrees Celsius, they said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius while Kokernag

town saw the minimum settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell with no precipitation forecast over the next six days, the officials said, adding December month

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Govt approves formation of draft committee for establishing Madrasa board in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 2 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded sanction to the establishment of a draft committee to draft proposal for the establishment of Madrasa Board in the Union Territory.

The committee shall constitute of Dr Khur-

shed Ahmad Bhat, principal, HSS Nowgam, Bandipora; Dr Shakeel Ahmad Khan, Sr Lecturer, BHSS Zadiabal, Srinagar; Mohd Shafi Wani, Sr Lecturer BHSS Mujkund, Srinagar; and Mr Nazir Ahmad Motta, Coordinator, (I/C Madrasahs), CEW, DSEK.

The committee will meet in the Directorate from 3rd January to 7th January and will submit their recommendations/ proposal to Director School Education Department Kashmir by or before 10th January, read an order, issued by DSEK.

Covid 19 Alert: Leh District makes masks mandatory following case uptick

LEH, Jan 2 (Agencies): Amidst a surge in Covid-19 cases, the Leh district in the union territory of Ladakh administration issued a directive on Monday, making the wearing of masks mandatory in public spaces. With 11 reported cases of Covid-19 in Leh last

week, precautionary measures have been mandated to curb the virus's spread.

"In light of the increasing Covid-19, preventive measures to control the spread of Covid-19, people are hereby instructed to adhere

to rigorously. People are obligated to wear face masks in offices, workplaces, and public areas, including public transportation," stated Santosh Sukhadeve, Chief Executive Officer of District Disaster Management Authority

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SIA raids Cop's house in Jammu in terror financing case

JAMMU, Jan 2 (Agencies): State Investigation Agency is carrying out raids at multiple locations in Jammu. The raids are said to be in connection with a case pertaining to terror financing and Hawala transactions.

Sources said that in Belicharana area under Satwari police station, a team of SIA led by Inspector rank officer arrived today afternoon to carry out searches at the residence of a cop. The said cop is presently posted in armed wing of Jammu and Kashmir police and is posted in Kashmir Valley.

Dheeraj Gupta Re-Designated as Financial Commissioner



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: J&K Government Tuesday ordered the re-designation of senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Dheeraj Gupta as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment.

According to a government order, consequent upon promotion of Dheeraj Gupta, IAS (AGMUT:1993) to the Apex Scale (Level-17 in the Pay Matrix), vide Order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under endorsement No. 14016/24/2022. UTS-I dated 20.12.2023, and subsequent assumption of charge on 21.12.2023, the officer is hereby designated as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment.

Mobile phone without SIM recovered from Central Jail in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 2 (Agencies): A mobile phone without a SIM, an earphone and an adapter were seized from the premises of the high security central jail at Kot Bhalwal in Jammu, a police official said on Tuesday.

The seizure was made from a polythene bag found lying in an open area inside the prison complex, the official said.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel guarding the prison that houses foreign and local terrorists noticed the polythene bag and informed the

police station concerned, he said.

A police team rushed to the spot and searched the polythene bag, leading to the recovery of the phone and the accessories, the official said.

The police have registered a case and further investigation is underway, he said, adding that the mobile phone was handed over to forensic experts for a detailed analysis.

It was not immediately known whether the polythene bag was abandoned by someone from inside the jail or thrown from outside, the official added.

3 injured after vehicle hit by boulder in Ramban

JAMMU, Jan 2 (Agencies): At least three passengers were injured after a vehicle was hit by a boulder on a link road in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

Reports said the passenger cab was on way to Ramban from Halla Dandratth village when it

was hit by heavy boulders that rolled down from a hill.

Three passengers traveling in the vehicle were injured in the incident who were moved to district hospital Ramban for treatment. The condition of one of the injured persons is said to be critical.

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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Tulsī 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 Balaji Satsang Bhawan.

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law

Pushker Nath Raina & Kundan Raina
Rattan Lal Raina & Tosha Raina
Chaman Lal Raina and Bimla Raina
Anjali Raina W/o Late Shadi Lal Raina

Daughter & Son-in-law

Ashok Ji Bhat & Nancy Bhat
Bhart Bhushan Tickoo & Jiji Tickoo
Vijay Asthana & Usha Asthana

Contact No.: 9419206291, 09999823589, 9419332786, 9419292793



Smt. Tulsī Devi

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

ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO
Retd. Assistant Executive
Engineer (AEE) PDD

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved **Hriday 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 & Bansil 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

HIRDAY NATH
RAINA

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND REGRET, IT IS TO INFORM, THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SHRI RAM JI PANDIT S/O LATE SH. AFTAB RAM** ORIGINALLY R/O AKHRAN KULGAM AND AT PRESENT SATTANI DHAR ROAD UDHAMPUR.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 6TH JANUARY (SATURDAY) 2024 AT DEVIKA GHAT UDHAMPUR AT 9:00 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

SH. SOOM NATH PANDIT (BROTHER)

(DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)

LATE-SMT PHOOLA 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. PUPY 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



SHRI RAM JI PANDIT

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE 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

SH. BAL KRISHAN
PANDITA

TENTH DAY

With profound grief, we inform that our beloved mother **Smt Darshana Devi Ji** W/o Sh Dwarika Nath Hans R/o Paloura Dhok Jammu left for heavenly abode on 26/12/2023. The **Tenth Day** will be held at Ravidas Mandir Paloura Jammu on 3/1/2024 (Wednesday) at 12.00 Noon.

Grief Stricken

Sh Dwarika Nath Hans (Husband)

Son & Daughter in law

Mr Kewal Krishan Hans & Mrs Jyoti Devi

Suhani Hans (Grand Daughter)

Bumika Hans (Grand Daughter)

Nitin Hans (Grand Son)

Son & Daughter-in-law

Naresh Kumar Hans & Poli Devi

Sushant Hans (Grand Son)

Shivani Hans (Grand Daughter)

Daughter & Son in law

Sushma Devi & Jeet Lal

8494006787, 9906139035, 8082116740



Smt Darshana Devi Ji

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 performed on 03-01-2024 (Wednesday) at Akhnoor Ghat and afterwards the **Assembly** shall take place at 12.00 Noon at our residence H No 417, Behind Shiv Mandir (opposite Govt Quarters) Janipur Colony, Jammu.

Grief Stricken :

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

SMT. KISHNI PANDITA
(PYARI)

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.

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



SMT. KAUSHALIYA BHAT

TENTH DAY & SHRADHANJALI

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, he was left for his heavenly abode on 27 December, 2023.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on January 4th, 2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor at 08:00 AM **Assembly** will be held at Pashupati Mandir Last Morh Sarwal at 12:00 Noon.

The **SHRADHANJALI** will be tributed at Shri Gita Mandir Samriti Bhawan Bakshi Nagar Jammu on January 4th, 2024 (Thursday) from 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM).

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)
9419191928, 9419153072

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

Mr. Satyam Thaper & Mr. Shivam Thapar (Grandsons)

(Co-Owner's THE STRENGTH CULTURE)

Mrs. Gunjan & Mr Kapil Mahajan (Granddaughter and Son-in-Law)



ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief we inform sad demise of our beloved **Smt Neelam Sharma W/o Sh. Suresh Sharma** R/o H. No F125 Sec 14 Shiva Ji Chowk Nanak Nagar.

10TH DAY will be performed on 03-01-2024 (Wednesday) at Gorkha Mandir Shivaji Chowk Nanak Nagar at 10.30 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 04-01-2024 (Thursday) at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed on 05-01-2024 (Friday) at Gorkha Mandir Shivaji Chowk Nanak Nagar from 3 PM to 4 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sanmotra Family

MOBILE NO: 9906045411, 6006341985, 7006824062



Smt Neelam Sharma

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND SUDDEN DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH SUBASH KUMAR KHULLAR** R/O GURHA BRAHMNA PATOLI JAMMU. WHO LEFT US FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 25/12/2023.

TENTH DAY/SATSANG WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE GURHA BRAHMNA PATOLI AT 12:00 NOON.

GRIEFLY STRICKEN:

SANTOSH KUMARI - WIFE

DEEPU & PREETI - CHILDREN

SMT PRAKASHO DEVI & BEHARI LAL - PARENTS

SMT SUNITA DEVI & CHAMAN LAL - BROTHER/BHABHI

SMT. SUSHMA DEVI & RAJ KUMAR- BROTHER/BHABHI

MOB. NO.: 9906061304, 7889633790

SH SUBASH KUMAR
KHULLAR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ashok Kumar Malla** S/o Late Soom Nath Malla R/o Ali Kadal Bodgir Srinagar presently at H.no 7/2 Shiv Dass Colony Tomal Bohri. He breathed his last on Monday 25/12/2023.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor on 3rd Jan.2024 and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat (Near DSE Jammu) at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Brother and Bhabi)

Maharaj Krishan Malla & Smt. Prana Malla

Desha Malla (Wife)

(Sister and Brother in Law)

Smt. Santosh Koul & Sh. Moti Lal Koul

Smt. Pinki Tufchi & Sh. Ashok Tufchi (Sister and Brother in Law)

Rahul & Sheetu Malla (Son & Daughter in law)

Rohit & Anita Malla (Son & Daughter in Law)

Deepika Handoo & Sh. Rajesh Handoo (Daughter & Son in law)

All Near & Dear ones.

Contact: 9906289366, 9011018358.

Sh. Ashok Kumar
Malla

10TH DAY KRIYA

(4TH JANUARY 2024)

With profound grief & sorrow we inform that our beloved **"BADABOBA"** Karmayogi - **Shri OMKAR NATH MATTOO** (S/o Late Madhav Lal Mattoo & Late Leelawati Mattoo) Resident of 284 C/A VIPIN GARDEN, DWARKA MORH, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110059 (original resident of 48-A, Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar, Kashmir), left for heavenly abode on 27th December 2023 5:30 AM (before sunrise).

The void left in our hearts and lives will remain unfilled. He lit and blessed our lives, and he will be loved till eternity.

10th Day Kriya on 4th January 2024 at Rohini Ghat (near telephone exchange), New Delhi and assembly at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Mattoo Parivar and Shah Parivar

Mobile: +91-8368571967, +91-9319147207

Shri OMKAR NATH
MATTOO

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Kashi Nath Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Nath Ji Raina** originally resident of Nowgam Shangus, Anantnag on 27 Dec. 2023. **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed at Akhnoor, Jammu on 5th Jan, 2024 and subsequent assembly shall be held at our residence Ward No.59, Khajuria Mohalla Paloura, Near Jesus Care Convent School from 11.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

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

Smt. Babli & Sh. Hira Lal Raina

Smt. Rozy & Sh. Chaman Lal Raina

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Nanna Ji Raina

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Smt. Jaikishori W/o Lt. Sh. Shambu Nath Pandita

Sh. J.N. Koul H/o Lt. Smt. Jaya Koul

Sh. Hira Lal Bhat H/o Lt. Smt. Santosh Bhat

Smt. Sarla Pandita & Sh. Ashok Kumar Pandita



SH. KASHI NATH RAINA

10th DAY KRIYA

As you passed away, you took shelter from our heads, a shelter which invisibly gave us strength and care always. Now our rooms won't be filled with tales of your younger days, your laughter, guidance & morals anymore. You left a void which can not be filled in our lives. Perhaps we all were not ready for this huge loss, but if there is anything beyond heavens, you will get that "papa ji" We are sure you will protect us from the skies above. You will remain in all of us, today & forever. **Kriya** will be performed on 07-01-24 (Sunday) at Akhnoor Ghat. Assembly at: 12 Noon. (H.No. 1, Lane no. 1, Kailash Vihar Udhewala, Bhat, Jammu).

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Brother and Sister-in-law:

Sh. Badi Nath Bhat & Lt. Smt. Asha Kiran Bhat

Son and Daughter-in-law:

Lt. Sh. Kavinder Bhat & Sheetal Bhat

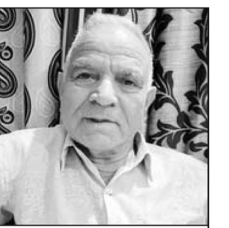
Deepak Bhat & Priyanka Bhat

Daughter and Son-in-law:

Priya Masi & Pritoo Ji Masi

Grand-son: Armol Masi

Grand-children: Ronak, Tushant, Dya, Kalp

LATE SHAM LAL
BHAT

Major Gen Sachdeva visits NCC Training Academy Nagrota, motivates cadets

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Jan 2: Major General RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General of the NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Pays Inspirational Visit to NCC Training Academy in Nagrota. His visit was aimed at interacting with and motivating the NCC Cadets who have been diligently undergoing CATC for the last 5 Days.

During his visit, Major General RK Sachdeva engaged with the young NCC Cadets, offering



words of encouragement and sharing his invaluable insights and

experiences. His inspirational presence provided a signifi-

cant boost to the cadets morale as they continue their intense training

regimen in the Camp. Major General Sachdeva commended the dedication and commitment of the NCC Cadets and emphasized the importance of discipline, leadership and teamwork in their training.

He urged the cadets to strive for excellence and embody the values of the NCC.

Major General RK Sachdeva's visit served as a reminder of the NCC's mission to groom young leaders and instill in them the spirit of patriotism and service to the nation.

H&MED rebuts news regarding deaths reported in SMHS Hospital

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: The Health and Medical Education Department (H&MED) on Tuesday refuted the recent news item titled "3110 deaths reported in SMHS Hospital till November this year", published in Daily Greater Kashmir dated 26-12-2023.

As per records available with the Hospital, a total of 72,795 patients were admitted as inpatient in the Hospital in the year 2023-24 till 30th November, 2023 and the total deaths during the aforementioned period was 2095 including 295 patients brought dead and 838 deaths in causality.

The department, in its communicative received here in this regard, stated that in the year 2022-23, 3218 deaths were reported for a figure of 109202 admissions in the Hospital. The gross death rate for 2022-23 was 2.98 and for the year 2023-2024 was 2.87, thereby showing a slight decline this year.

It is crucial to acknowledge the efforts under-

taken by the SMHS hospital administration to address the healthcare challenges in the region. As mentioned in the news item, the hospital administration has procured 156 ventilators over the last three years from various companies, aiming to enhance critical care capabilities. Additionally, significant infrastructural developments have been initiated, including construction of New Emergency Theatre Block, a 16-Bedded Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), and installation of six new oxygen plants with a capacity of 1000 LPM each. Further, causality wards both surgical and medical have been upgraded. Nero Surgical facilities are provided with causality for critically injured patients with Head Injury. All Radiological including CT, USG, Doppler and other high end investigations are provided under one roof 24*7 and the reports are available online.

The hospital's commitment towards improving patient care is evident through ongoing proj-

ects such as extension of ENT Department and acquisition of a new CT scan machine in the Department of Radio-diagnosis. These initiatives showcase a proactive approach towards addressing the healthcare needs of the community.

The percentage of death rate reported vis-a-vis IPD figures is well within the normal range and is not alarming, as is indicated in the news item. It is essential to consider various factors contributing to these numbers, such as the complexity of cases, underlying health conditions, and external factors beyond the hospital's control and the fact that SMHS Hospital is tertiary care Hospital and generally critical patients are referred to the facility.

"We believe that presenting a balanced perspective on the situation at SMHS Hospital is crucial for fostering a constructive dialogue about healthcare challenges and improvements in the region", H&MED maintained.

Sadhotra castigates UT Administration for callous attitude towards the people of border areas



Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jan 2: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and former minister has castigated the Union Territory Administration for adopting callous attitude in addressing the woes of the people living in border areas. He expressed this while addressing a meeting of NC workers held at village Lalyana in Bishnah here today.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sham Lal Sadhotra Block President. District President Jammu Rural (B), Naresh Bittu while welcoming the senior NC leaders and the workers highlighted the problems being faced by the people of the area on various counts due to authorities least bothered to listen to their woes under the existing Union Territory Administration.

Senior National Conference leader Ajay Sadhotra in his address on the occasion raised serious concern over the incumbent Govt's callous attitude towards the people of border areas. He lambasted the UT Administration of totally ignoring the border area people in every aspect with the people in these areas left to fend for themselves. He said that it is really an irony that the BJP's proxy Govt in J&K is making tall claims about the equitable development of the nation while the ground situation speaks contrary.

He said that the fact remains that during the present regime border areas remained completely ignored and untouched in terms of development as a result of which the condition in these areas is quite deplorable. Rattan Lal Gupta, NC Provincial President Jammu in his address on the occasion slammed the Govt for its hollow slogans of strengthening democracy at grass roots level. He said, "Why the Govt is shying of holding Panchayat, ULB and Assembly polls in J&K?"

Raising serious concern over Govt's delay tactics on holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that people's miseries have increased manifold in absence of a duly elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir. Asserting that only the representative government can best understand the problems of the people and address their issues, he demanded that elections to the J&K Assembly be held at the earliest. He also asked the party workers to gear up for elections to ensure a smooth victory of National Conference so that people get rid of the governance that has given them nothing except miseries.

The senior NC leader asserted that only NC can address each and every issue of the people of these areas as it had been doing during its governance in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC said that there is a dire need to strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to get rid of misrule in J&K.

Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu and Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell also addressed the meeting and said that the people of Bishnah have reposed faith in the National Conference and we are confident that they will continue support National Conference as they have done in the past by electing National Conference candidates twice from Bishnah Constituency.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting include: Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Tarsem Khullar, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Sandesh Shan Secretaries Central Zone, Randhir Singh, Kuldeep Singh Kousal, S. Gurdarshan Singh, Rakesh Singh, Rachpal Singh, Jatinder Kumar, Sarita, Mohinder Kumar and others.

J&K becomes first UT in country to launch PM Vishwakarma Yojana

Take maximum benefits of this Yojana, become catalysts for change across Jammu and Kashmir: Advisor Bhatnagar to Craftsmen



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: In a significant step towards empowering the craftsman community of Jammu and Kashmir, enhance their competence and empower them regarding self employment as well as equip them with industry-relevant skills, Jammu and Kashmir today became the first UT of country to launch prestigious PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY) from Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian.

The Yojana was launched virtually by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar alongwith Secretary, Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari with the first batch of 30 trainees (Viswakarmas) of Darzi Craft being imparted training at ITI Shopian from Tuesday.

Joint Secretary, MSDE, Sonal Mishra; Commissioner Secretary, SDD, J&K, Saurabh Bhagat; Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Faz Lul Haseeb; Director SDD, J&K, Principals, Superintendents and Instructors of Government ITIs, various craftsmen and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gather-

ing, Advisor Bhatnagar said that it is a proud moment for entire Jammu and Kashmir that with the support of Central Government our UT has become first UT of country to start this programme. He remarked that PMVY is an important scheme as it aims to provide recognition training tool kits certification marketing support and soft loans to empower our craftsmen He also underscored that this scheme is also committed to honour and empower the artisans of our country who immensely contribute towards the economy of our nation as a whole.

The Advisor further highlighted that the present LG led Administration is committed towards fostering a culture of skill environment across the region in order to create maximum employment avenues for the youth.

Advisor Bhatnagar, on the occasion, commended the efforts of SDD and ITI Shopian in implementing the program and highlighted the importance of skill development in empowering the youth and contributing to the nation's economic growth. He encouraged the craftsmen to make the most of this opportunity and become catalysts for change across Jammu and

Kashmir.

The scheme will be operationalised in all districts of JK soon Speaking on the occasion, Secretary MSDE highlighted on the basic objectives of the scheme.

Commissioner Secretary, SDD and Deputy Commissioner Shopian also spoke on the occasion.

While speaking on the occasion, several trainees of first batch expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and pledged to dedicate themselves to acquiring skills that would not only benefit their individual careers but also contribute to the overall development of the region.

Pertinently, PMVY is an ambitious initiative of Central Government in Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The scheme aims for recognition of artisans and crafts of people through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card as well basic training of five to seven days and advanced training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day. The scheme will also provide modern toolkit of Rs 15000 free of cost to trained Vishwakarmas besides linkage with credit based soft loans and marketing support for expansion of their business will also be provided under the Yojana.

Yasha Mudgal reviews working of Farmer Producer Organizations



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Production (HADP), Yasha Mudgal, on Tuesday had a comprehensive review of working of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Yasha Mudgal assessed the impact of FPOs in fostering economic empowerment, enhancing market access and promoting sustainable farming practices in the region.

"FPOs, being crucial entities in the agricultural landscape, can play a pivotal role in consolidating small and marginal farmers, providing them with a collective voice and a platform for inclusive growth", she maintained.

Yasha Mudgal said that collectivization of small and marginal farmers to from their organizations as FPOs has been recognized

as the most effective institutional mechanism to reduce production cost, increase productivity and facilitate better market. This will not only help in augmenting the income of farmers but shall also considerably improve rural economy and create job opportunities for rural youths in villages itself, she added.

In a forward-looking initiative, the Mission Director underscored the need for a comprehensive study to evaluate the current progress in the region. She stressed the importance of undertaking a comprehensive study to analyze the impact of existing FPOs on the local agricultural landscape and identify future opportunities for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) The study will encompass aspects such as economic growth, market penetration, and socio-economic uplift of the farming community, she added. Also, the

study will culminate in formulation of strategic recommendations to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities. She extolled that these recommendations will guide future initiatives and policies to bolster the growth and sustainability of FPOs.

It was informed in the meeting that 197 FPOs have been registered, so far, under the central sector 'Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPO' scheme. Besides, apple is the primary product of one-fourth (49) of the total FPOs registered so far followed by vegetables (24).

The meeting was attended by Registrar, Cooperative Societies (RCS) J&K, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Director Agriculture/ Horticulture Jammu, Additional RCS Jammu/Kashmir, Regional Director NCDC, DGM NABARD, Regional Head NAFED, all Deputy Registrars and other concerned officers from allied departments while Kashmir based officers participated virtually.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR
e-mail : xenpwddivgandhinagar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/56 of 2023-24 Dated 30-12-2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Up-gradation / Face lifting of JKHPMC's Regional Office at Fruit Transhipment Centre Narval Jammu (J&K) Under Capex Budget 2023-24	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	23.83	600	47660 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	02 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 10-01-2024	"A", "B" & "C" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Managing Director JKHPMC Ltd. vide No. 138 of 2023 dated 15-12-2023.

Position of TS :- Sanctioned by this office vide order No. 64/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2023-24 dated 26-12-2023.

Project Authority :- Managing Director JKHPMC Ltd..

Major Head of Account :- Under Capex Budget 2023-24

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30-12-2023 to 09-01-2024, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05-01-2024 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
4	Bid submission Start Date	30-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	09-01-2024 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-01-2024 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

DIP/J-13293/23

.. Sd ..
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

EDITORIAL

TAKE
PRECAUTIONS

Earthquakes have occurred many times in the beginning of the world, due to which many people around the world have suffered from them. Between 1988 and 2001, earthquakes have occurred 6 times across the world. Between 1950 and 1975, earthquakes have occurred four times in many parts of the world. It is not in anyone's power to predict where the earthquake will occur and at what time. Because earthquake is a natural disaster which depends on nature, it is not in our power to control it.

The Earth was formed millions of years ago. At that time the Earth was a burning ball of fire or the hottest planet. With time the Earth's surface cools down and the Earth's interior is liquid, due to which the temperature of the Earth's interior surface starts increasing. The temperature of the earth's surface keeps changing at different levels, due to disturbances in the earth's surface the earth's surface becomes hot and the danger of earthquake starts being felt.

In 1908, due to earthquake in Italy, lakhs of people died, some of them got injured and people's houses were destroyed and people suffered huge losses.

Due to the earthquake in Peru in 1960, many people were injured and 60,000 people were affected by the earthquake and died tragically. In 1958, 1 lakh people died due to earthquake in China. More than 1 lakh people lost their lives due to earthquake in Bihar in 1934. 1,50,000 people died due to earthquake in Latur in 1933. 2 lakh people died due to earthquake in Gujarat in 2001.

When an earthquake occurs, we feel as if someone is shaking us. If an earthquake occurs with low intensity, some people do not even realize it and sometimes an earthquake occurs with a very strong shock, due to which the entire earth starts shaking. As soon as you feel the danger of an earthquake, sit on a strong table or chair to protect yourself.

In case of an earthquake, we should protect ourselves by staying at one place, and should stay away from windows and shelves, so that they do not fall on us due to the shock.

If you live in a tall building and earthquake tremors start coming, then it is natural for the tall building to collapse, then we should get down and sit in a safe place, until the earthquake tremors stop.

If you are somewhere and driving a car, then at that time you start feeling earthquake tremors, then in such a situation, we should park the car at one place and immediately sit in an open field, till then the earthquake tremors do not stop. Is. And in such a situation, we should not think of going up in the building by taking the lift, because in such a situation you may get injured due to shock. If you are stuck in the middle of a market or school, then sit in an open place and away from electric wires until the earthquake tremors stop.

There has been a lot of damage due to the earthquake in India. Just because of earthquake, people lose property and houses worth lakhs of rupees. Due to the earthquake, there has been a lot of damage to high buildings, employee offices, buildings, animals and many people.

Earthquake has a very bad effect on everyone's life. This is a natural disaster. No one can control this. No one can predict what will happen in a natural disaster.

2024, a year of elections, will be full of challenges

By: K.C. Singh

The year 2024 brings multiple challenges, some quite unique. For one, over 40 countries will face national elections, starting with Bangladesh and Taiwan in January. The trail then runs through Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Russia and then the European Union nations, plus Britain and the United States. The UK must hold elections before January 2025 while the American presidential polls is due to be held on November 5.

These elections vary from controlled ones like in Russia to some highly polarised ones in India, Europe and the United States. But three challenges will carry over from 2023. The Ukraine war has reached a stalemate phase, with Russia projecting the lack of Ukrainian gains in its counter-offensive as a defeat. President Vladimir Putin needs this as his presidential election approaches and he bags another term.

The other factor is, of course, the Gaza conflict and Hamas' existential, no-holds barred fight against Israel's all-out attack. So far, the conflict has remained localised, except for sporadic attacks by Iranian allies in a pincer move by Hezbollah from the north in Lebanon and by the Houthis from the south in Yemen. The Hezbollah attacks have been largely stymied by the US naval flotilla in the eastern Mediterranean though they have deployed south of Litani river, forbidden under UN negotiated terms. The Houthis have successfully rendered the Red Sea as a "no-go" zone for global shipping. Freight and insurance rates are mounting as ships begin taking the longer route around the Cape of Good Hope. With an Iranian general in Syria killed in Israeli bombing, escalation by Iran cannot

be ruled out. Especially as Iran has announced the boosting of its nuclear enrichment programme. Israel has always maintained that it would not allow Iran to acquire strategic nuclear capability, meaning nuclear devices.

The third troublesome element persisting from 2023 is the state of the Chinese economy and the domestic pressures on President Xi Jinping to restore economic growth and robust employment for youth. An authoritarian Communist state which leverages the absence of freedoms by providing consistent and buoyant growth can resort to jingoistic actions abroad if the social contract fails at home. The first test will be the Chinese reaction to the expected victory of the current Taiwanese vice-president, Lai Chingte, who advocates distancing from China, short of pronouncing outright independence.

China and Russia would keenly observe the US presidential election. Russian President Vladimir Putin would favour a Donald Trump win, knowing his boasts about ending the Ukraine war quickly. The implication is to have Ukraine accept the status quo, including perhaps abandoning membership of Nato. That is why Mr Putin appears to be prepared for another summer of war, hoping that Mr Trump's victory will lead to a Ukrainian capitulation. China, on the other hand, would prefer Mr Trump's defeat as their experience from his first term is of unpredictable confrontation. That may also be a factor in China's timing to implement its proclaimed desire to annex Taiwan, by force if necessary. A predictable Joe Biden would appear to be a better person with his finger on the nuclear button than an erratic Donald Trump. The question thus lingers whether China may prefer to move against

Taiwan with Mr Biden in power?

South Block may also have concluded that Russia is emerging largely unscathed from its Ukraine adventure. L'affaire Pannun, uncovering an Indian agency's alleged complicity in a plot to kill American citizens, is souring relations with Washington. What better way to warn the Americans to drop the issue than by having external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar undertake a five-day Russia trip. Russian coincidentally is his compulsory foreign language, which he learnt during his first posting in Moscow in the early 1980s.

With its economy humming along healthily, India is well placed to traverse the destabilised world, provided that the Gaza conflict does not suddenly spread to the Gulf. The Bangladeshi election, despite its flawed execution, should have a pro-India Sheikh Hasina continuing in power. Bhutan will come under renewed pressure to settle its border issues separately with China. The Maldives, after the initial anti-India policy decisions by the newly elected Islamist government, may settle down to more balanced relations with both India and China.

The Pakistan general election in February should throw up a Nawaz Sharif government, which a re-elected Indian government may decide to engage. One of the Pakistani pre-conditions has been to restore the status quo ante in Jammu and Kashmir before talks can be resumed. India's Supreme Court has in any case ruled that the statehood of J&K must be restored in 2024. India needs to learn one major lesson from the Gaza war — that peace temporarily obtained by the use of security forces is never sustainable. Rising attacks by militants in that UT, despite the Union government's claims of normalcy,

are signs of trouble lurking below the surface.

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi wins a third term, as is generally expected, he would need to weigh all these factors to ensure a great legacy.

The other electoral test is in Europe. Elections to the European Parliament are due in June. A rightward shift in many nations may also get reflected in that election. If Donald Trump was to win in the US and the European Parliament gets dominated by a rabble-rousing xenophobic lot, the post-Second World War liberal order will face a serious challenge. The victory of right-wing Marine le Pen in the French presidential election and an increase of the seats of the Nazism-inspired Alternative for Germany (AfD) in Germany's Bundestag (parliament) cannot be ruled out.

Thus, the year 2024 marks an inflexion point when the accepted liberal democratic order gets tested. In India, a massive win by the BJP can equip the party to move India more firmly towards a majoritarian theocratic state. In the United Kingdom, 14 years of Conservative rule is likely to end with the Labour Party capturing power. In Poland, the centrist alliance has displaced the right-wing government. In Latin America, while Brazil saw the return of a socialist order, in Argentina the reverse happened with right-wing victory.

Thus, the churn is global as immigration, economic challenges and a neo-Cold War are pitting an accepted liberal model against various forms of authoritarian, theocratic, Communist or majoritarian models of governance. If the centre has to hold, the US, Europe and India, in that order, must ensure that the regressive forces do not win.

Passing class X boards continues to be a roadblock



By: Vijay GarG

The Department of School Education and Literacy, under the Ministry of Education, has recently reported that more than 29 lakh students have failed to clear class X board exams in 2023. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, presenting the data in the Lok Sabha, stated that out of 18,99,08,809 students who took the examination, 1,60,346,671 passed, while 29,561,138 students did not advance to class XI.

"The reasons for failure of students in examination depends on various factors like not attending the schools, difficulty in following the instruction in schools, lack of interest in the studies, level of difficulty of question paper, lack of quality teachers, lack of support from parents, teachers and schools etc," Pradhan said in the Lok Sabha.

Madhya Pradesh with 3.98

lakh students has the record number of students who failed to clear class X exams followed by Bihar Board at 3.48 lakh students, Uttar Pradesh at 2.97 lakh students and Gujarat at 2.45 lakh students, revealed the figures submitted by the ministry in Lok Sabha.

No-fail policy
"With the RTE Act and the National Curriculum Framework emphasising on a no-fail policy till class VIII, the students are not given a chance to improve. As a result, later, at the time of boards, the students fail to perform well. Technological distractions, and lack of parental care can also be reasons for such poor performance," says an education ministry official on condition of anonymity.

When it comes to CBSE, only 10% of the students fail to clear the examinations, however, when they appear in compartmental examination, most students manage to clear it, says Sanyam Bhardwaj, controller of examinations, CBSE.

With the 2024 board exams soon approaching, CBSE is initiating reformative steps to help the teachers guide students. "We are supporting the schools by releasing the curriculum and the syllabus early so that the preparation is started well in advance. We are providing academic support to our schools' principals who are considered as the academic head. We provide

sample question papers to the students with the thought that they will be aware and will not be afraid of the question paper. CBSE ensures that students not only pass but are able to learn better in the process," he adds.

Quality teachers
"School-going children may have a lot of problems. Performance is linked to learning and schools must first find out why are the students not learning or not showing interest,"

Circumstances, family support, social background of students and their ability to learn also need to be explored by schools. "Schools must probe whether education is seemingly not attractive to those students. Attendance is crucial because to sit for an examination, a student requires a certain percentage of attendance. It is a huge nation with so many boards. It is very difficult to identify the students if they are school-going or distant learners," underlining the need for dedicated teachers. "If a student has not learnt, then the teacher has not taught,"

Handholding and reforms
Despite the data by the Central government, that the situation is improving gradually. Bihar state schools had performed poorly, which has improved after 2019 due to the efforts put in by local administration and teachers.

"Innovative and reformative steps have helped the state schools. The overall pass per-

centage of Bihar class X students was 81.04% in 2023. This has been the highest so far for Bihar matriculation. Initially the passing percentage used to be 50% to 70%,"

"The impact of the reforms was felt from 2019. The BSEB was also awarded with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2022. Several changes were made to the Bihar board, which was infamous for paper leaks, cheating, delayed examinations, irregular results. The class sessions have also become regular."

The exam pattern was changed five years ago, and the students have benefited from this. The number of objective-type questions has increased. Bihar board students now are preparing for competitive exams like JEE, NEET. So, while a student is preparing for a competitive exam, the exam pattern will help them in both - class X exams and competitive exams, says Dwivedi. At least 75% attendance has also become mandatory this year, the impact of which will be felt in the next year, he says, adding that students from other boards are slowly joining the Bihar board.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout)

Three YEP returned cadets of 2 J&K Bn NCC motivates 540 Cadets



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Three Youth Exchange Program NCC Cadets in 2023 of 2 J&K BN NCC (Jammu Group / JK&L Dte) motivate 540 NCC Cadets undergoing Annual Training Camp at NCC Training Academy Nagrota.

In a historic First time- Three cadets of the Battalion represented India in Youth Exchange

Programmes (YEP) in 2023. This achievement marks a significant first for any battalion in the NCC, with three cadets being selected to participate in the prestigious YEP in a single Year.

The three cadets-SUO Vireshwar Manhas (YEP Vietnam) of MAM College, SUO Abhisek Saini(YEP Kyrgyz Republic) and SUO Sameer Singh(YEP Bhutan) of GGM Science Col-

lege showcased exemplary dedication, discipline, and commitment, embodying the values instilled by the NCC.

The Youth Exchange Programmes offer a unique opportunity for cadets to engage in cultural exchange, fostering international cooperation and understanding.

The Three Cdts shared their enriching experiences, with 540 NCC cadets at NCC Training

Academy, Nagrota. Their narratives will serve as a source of inspiration, encouraging others to strive for excellence and seize opportunities beyond borders.

This achievement not only adds a glorious chapter to the history of 2 J&K BN NCC but also underscores the organization's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals capable of representing India on the global stage.

Magisterial enquiry initiated into unnatural death at Pakal Dul HEP

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 2: Dr. Devansh Yadav, District Magistrate Kishtwar, has taken action in response to an incident reported at Pakal Dul HEP, Danduroo, by initiating a magisterial inquiry into the unnatural death of a laborer from Jharkhand.

This move is also accompanied by an order under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, prohibiting further hiring of laborers from outside the state/district in Pakal Dul HEPP by JP Ltd.

The order remains effective for 02 months from the date of issuance or until the conclusion of the investigation, whichever comes earlier.

SDM Marwah has been designated as the Magistrate to conduct the enquiry into the reported death case by Tehsildar Dachhan.

Acknowledgment of an incident reported by Tehsildar Dachhan regarding



the unnatural death of a laborer has highlighted the significance of security and labor dispute resolution for uninterrupted project execution, avoiding financial losses.

Both inquiries are expected to be submitted to the District Magistrate's office within 15 days.

This action aims to uncover the facts surrounding the unfortunate incident, ensuring adherence to labor laws and maintaining a conducive environment for project execution.

Additionally, ALC Kishtwar has been entrusted

to investigate the alleged labor law violations in this incident.

The order stressed the verification of character/ antecedents and registration of labor brought from outside the state/district for Power projects.

The order further emphasizes maintaining the 80:20 ratio of employment/hired laborers in compliance with higher authorities' instructions, and underscores the principal employer (CVPPL/RHPCL) and executing companies' responsibility to adhere to labor laws and guidelines.

Path Shri Sukhmani Sahib held at Aryans on New Year 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: To invoke the blessings from the Almighty for students of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh Path Shri Sukhmani Sahib was held for Aryans students & faculty members to pay obeisance to the Shri Guru Granth Sahib.

The Path was followed by Langar. 'Kadha Prasad' was also dis-

tributed among students. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group while addressing advised students to follow the principles of the Gurbani in their lives and cultivate the values of humanity.

On this occasion Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria, Founder, Mrs. Rajni Kataria, Treasurer, Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans Group were present.

Prof. B.S. Sidhu Director, Aryans Group; Dr. J.K. Saini, Director, Aryans College of Engineering and Dr. Garima Thakur, Deputy Director, Aryans Group, Kusum Sood, Dean, Academics; Manpreet Maan, Dean Scholarship Dept; Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing; Manu Kataria, Chief Finance Officer; Navdeep Girdhar, Liaison Officer were also present.

5-day Snow Trekking Expedition with 15 Adventurous Trekkers from Gujarat concludes

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 2: Incredible Tours and Treks, spearheaded by Managing Director Mohd Yaseen, announced the triumphant completion of a groundbreaking 5-day snow trekking expedition along the Kellar to Dev Chatter route in the Jammu region.

This exceptional journey marked the first-ever commercial snow trekking experience in the area, providing a unique adventure for 15 enthusiastic trekkers from Gujarat.

The carefully curated expedition showcased the breathtaking landscapes and challenges of the snow-covered terrains, offering participants an unforgettable experience amidst nature's pristine beauty.

The 15 trekkers, hailing from Gujarat demonstrated remarkable



resilience and spirit as they navigated through the picturesque yet demanding route.

"We are thrilled to have successfully orga-

nized and executed the first commercial snow trekking venture in the Jammu region," said Mohd Yaseen, Managing Director at Incredible

Tours and Treks. "The overwhelming joy and satisfaction expressed by each participant reflect our commitment to delivering unparal-

leled adventure experiences."

All 15 members of the trekking party expressed their happiness and satisfaction upon completing this remarkable journey. The trek not only tested their physical endurance but also forged lasting bonds among the participants, creating memories that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Incredible Tours and Treks, under the visionary leadership of Mohd Yaseen, extends its gratitude to the trekkers, whose adventurous spirit and trust made this pioneering snow trekking expedition a resounding success. The company looks forward to continuing to push the boundaries of adventure tourism and introducing more unique experiences in the future.

Kathua Campus organizes lecture on "Empowering Viksit Bharat @2047: Unveiling significance of AI"

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 2: Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized an Expert Lecture on Empowering Viksit Bharat @2047: Unveiling the Significance of Artificial Intelligence.

The resource person was Er. Munish Kohli, Senior Manager at Tower Vision India Ltd. He has been working in the ICT industry for 17 years and has been awarded with many prestigious national awards. In the lecture, he presented invaluable insights into the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the advancement of a thriving India.

Er. Kohli illustrated the multifaceted significance of AI in advancing various sectors crucial to the nation's development. He discussed myriad ways in which AI serves as a cata-



lyst for progress across various sectors crucial to the evolution of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India). He also added that AI driven research and development, along with fostering the culture of innovation, can position India as a leader in technological advancements in future. He also said that AI has the potential to transform Viksit Bharat by driving economic growth, fostering innovation, addressing societal

challenges, and improving the standard of living for its citizens.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu in his message emphasized the importance of embracing cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence. He highlighted that these initiatives contribute significantly to the knowledge enrichment of students and professionals. Prof. Jasrotia stressed the criti-

cal importance of understanding and harnessing the power of AI as it serves as a catalyst for visionary thinking and forward-looking strategies in empowering Viksit Bharat. He commented that such initiatives are a testament to Kathua Campus's unwavering dedication in fostering a culture of progressive thinking, innovation, intellectual exploration and nurturing an environment conducive to embracing transformative technologies pivotal to India's journey towards development and progress.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Incharge Head, MCA, Kathua Campus (JU) welcomed the resource person. He stressed that such lectures marked a crucial juncture in the pursuit of fostering innovation and progress in the evolving landscape of India's development. He further

said that Kathua Campus remains steadfast in its commitment for nurturing a culture of innovation and knowledge dissemination, serving as a beacon for embracing ground breaking technologies pivotal to the nation's progress.

Er. Amarjeet Chopra coordinated the whole program and Er. Jeewanjot presented the vote of thanks.

Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Ms. Anvi Sharma, Er. Sandeep Raj, Dr. Shivani Sharma, Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Ms. Anu Er. Sushant Gagral, Er. Palvi Verma, Er. Vishavjeet Singh, Er. Sourav Gupta, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Dr. Kanika Bhadwal, Er. Ritika Gupta, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Er. Archana Saalaria, Er. Himani Khajuria, Er. Arooshi Gupta, Er. Puneet Kour, Er. Karan Kumar, Er. Arjun Kapoor, Er. Rohit Khatri were also present during the lecture.

Huge quantity of sub-standard fertilizer seized in Kulgam



Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 2: Nearly 400 quintal of sub-standard fertilizer seized by the Agriculture Department's law enforcement agency on Tuesday at Ladgoo vil-

lage of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The raid which was led by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal was conducted after receiving credible

inputs regarding the sub standard fertilizers and unauthorized sale and black marketing of it in Kulgam.

It said that about 400 quintal of sub standard fertilizer were seized during the raid.

After the recovery of the huge quantity of sub standard fertilizer that was being used, the Director Agriculture Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal commended the joint efforts put to confiscate the poor quality material.

He assured that a strict action under the law shall be initiated against such people found involved in the use of sub standard fertilizers, the statement added.

Milk & Milestones: Army churns progress in Pukharni

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 2: In a significant step towards fostering economic development and empowering local communities, Rashtriya Rifles inaugurated a state of art milk factory in the remote border village of Pukharni.

This initiative executed under Op Sadbhavana underlines Indian Army's commitment towards empowering the inhabitants

towards self-dependence and socio-economic development.

The milk factory which was inaugurated by the resident women of Pukharni is a concrete step towards harnessing the potential of resident dairy farmers and provide a local avenue for regions' dairy farmers to sell their milk produce thus reducing dependence on Naushera and Rajouri.

Women empowerment



is one of the noteworthy aspects of establishment of Pukharni Milk Factory wherein this establishment will provide jobs to over 20 local women.

Besides serving as a powerful tool for social transformation, with actively involving women in dairy production chain, Indian Army aims to enhance their economic independence and social standing giving way for a more inclusive and progres-

sive society.

The focus of this project is not just economic development but also engaging Gujjar and Bakarwal community of the region wherein the Indian Army has collaborated with Gujjar community to comprehend the intricacies of dairy farming in the challenging terrain of Pukharni.

The synergy between the military and resident population is a testament to the

effectiveness of Op Sadbhavana in fostering understanding and cooperation.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by BDO of Quila Dharal, Social activist for Gowseva Md Faiz Khan, Sarpanchs, Panchs, Assistant Registrars, Lambardar and other civil officials who promised their full support to take this initiative even more further and aid in its development in future.

Star power with a price tag

A glittering New Year's Eve party entails plenty of hard bargains and calculations between performing artistes and organisers. Here's going behind the party scene in tricity

We saw some big names from the music industry, including Jassi Gill, Babbal Rai, Satinder Sartaj, and Amrit Maan, perform at various hotels and clubs in the tricity. It was a glittering year-end celebration with the star power shining bright. And all the joy, music and cheer to say goodbye to 2023 was worth it! But do you really know the worth of it?

While you and I enjoyed the performances of these singers on New Year's Eve by paying a certain cover charge, as we turn the page to 2024, let's take a sneak peek at what goes into signing up a celebrity for the top parties in town.

December 31 is the culmination of not just the year but also the effort put into organising the celebrity event, the planning for which begins sometimes five months in advance. Shortlisting an artiste and finalising the theme for the evening is the first step. Once the organisers get in touch with celebrities to know their charges,



it becomes the defining factor for the following plan of action. As Sanjeev Ranjan, the FnB director at JW Marriott explains, "We approach five to 10 artistes based on our budget. Negotiations are done; there's a discussion about logistics, but no concrete decision is made up until mid-October or November." JW Marriott guests witnessed an electrifying performance by Amrit Maan this time. In the past, it has invited Sunanda Sharma, Jasmine Sandlas, among others.

Sanjeev adds, "That's because the singer's manager doesn't give a final quote. He knows

New Year's Eve is the biggest event of the year for him as well as for us, so he waits to see the kind of offers others in the hospitality industry are making. Having said that, any good artiste will hardly settle for something below Rs 20 lakh."

This fee may or may not include other requirements of an artiste. There is travel, stay, food and bouncers. This list also has a cost. Another important thing for consideration is the tech rider. If simply put, it's all the technical needs—such as band, stage setup, equipment, sound, mixer, mic, etc. "Some artistes have their tech rider and

come with their band for background music, but many times organisers have the responsibility to arrange those things as well, and that too at an extra price. So, you can add another Rs 2-3 lakh over and above the charges of an artiste that range from anywhere between Rs 4 and 30 lakh, depending on their popularity. It may seem like a money-making event from the outside, but most of the time, owners of hotels like mine just end up paying from their pocket to see a successful event," says Ginny Chawla, the owner of Altius Boutique Hotel, who arranged a performance by singer

Armaan Bedil.

Ginny asserts that the idea is to bring something new for their regular clients and introduce the first-timers to the best from their kitchen.

Pankaj Chaudhary, founder-director of Proamaze, has experience of over 20 years in the hotel and event management industry. Having organised performances by Jassi Gill, Babbal Rai, Harrry Sandhu, Afsana Khan, Prabh Gill in Chandigarh, he says, "New Year is a time when any artiste almost doubles his charges for a performance. Even celebrity DJs who usually take Rs 2-3 lakh demand a 50-60 per cent hike in their usual fee."

A new trend that Pankaj says is setting in is, "Some celebrities are now managing their own events. Satinder Sartaj, for instance, has a team, and his performance at Radisson Red, Mohali, was taken care of by them. In such cases, artistes usually decide to pay the hotel for the venue and food and be in-charge of the rest."

Jr NTR returns from quake-struck Japan, hopes for country's swift recovery



'RRR' star Jr NTR on Tuesday morning said he had returned from Japan and wished for its swift recovery after a series of powerful earthquakes hit the island country.

The quakes struck the western region of Japan, leaving at least eight people dead and damaging buildings, vehicles and boats, with officials warning people in some areas on Tuesday to stay away from their homes because of a risk of more strong quakes.

Jr NTR, who spent the last week in Japan, in a

post on X said he was "deeply shocked" by the earthquakes in the country.

"Back home today from Japan and deeply shocked by the earthquakes hitting. Spent the entire last week there, and my heart goes out to everyone affected. Grateful for the resilience of the people and hoping for a swift recovery. Stay strong, Japan," the actor wrote on the microblogging site.

His film 'RRR', a period action drama also starring Ram Charan, had emerged as the high-

est grossing Indian film upon its release in Japan in 2022. The SS Rajamouli directorial had raised over 410 million yen (Rs 24.13 crore approximately) at the Japanese box office.

On Monday, the quakes, the largest of which had a magnitude of 7.6, also started a fire and collapsed buildings on the west coast of Japan's main island, Honshu, causing the country to drop its highest-level tsunami alert after issuing one following a series of major earthquakes.

Aftershocks continued to shake Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas a day after a magnitude 7.6 temblor slammed the area on Monday afternoon.

Eight people were confirmed dead in Wajima city, officials said. Seven others were seriously injured, while damage to homes was so great that it could not immediately be assessed, they said.

Kyodo news agency reported at least 13 deaths had been confirmed.

Karishma Tanna's New Year message for fans



Karishma Tanna has extended greetings for the New Year, and thanked her fans for

being part of her journey, wishing for a fantastic year filled with love, and endless pos-

sibilities.

Taking to Instagram, Karishma, who enjoys 7.6 million followers, shared a string of pictures, wherein she can be seen smiling candidly, wearing a white sweater, and blue denims. She opted for neutral makeup and kept her hair open.

The post was captioned as, "Happy New year everyone! May this New Year bring you joy, success, and countless beautiful moments! Thank you for being a part of my journey. Here's to a fantastic year ahead filled with love, happiness, and endless possibilities. Happy New Year to all my wonderful Instagram fam #HappyNewYear #2024."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Karishma played the lead in the crime drama Scoop, directed by Hansal Mehta and Munmayee Lagoo Waikul.

It also stars Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub and Harman Baweja in lead roles, along with Prosenjit Chatterjee in pivotal roles.

Her character Jagruti Pathak, a senior crime reporter, was based on Jigna Vora.

Decoding happiness

From watching the last sunset of 2023 to doing a balancing asana to playing with fireworks — this is how celebs ushered in 2024



Watching the last sunset

Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram celebrated their first New Year together as the newlywed couple in Kannur, Kerala.

The lovebirds took to social media and shared glimpses of their New Year getaway. Randeep and Lin are seen posing for a selfie, while standing against the picturesque backdrop of the sunset.

The post was captioned as: "Last sunset of 2023."

The geotag was of Kannur, Kerala. Randeep gave the music of the song Sooraj Dooba Hain to the post.

Rashmika's 'happiest' wishes

Rashmika Mandanna on Monday extended warm greetings for the

New Year to her fans, and shared a selfie, leaving the internet in awe of her natural beauty.

The Dear Comrade actress enjoys 40.9 million followers on Instagram. She has a vibrant social media account and is often seen sharing glimpses of her day to day life.

As we embark on a fresh year, Rashmika took to Instagram Stories and penned a heart-warming wish. The post was captioned: "Good morning! Happiest new year my loves! 2024 has a goooooo ring to it no?"

In another Story, Rashmika shared a glimpse of a board game, and wrote, "Let's goooooo 2024!"

'May million miracles begin'

Samantha Ruth on

Monday extended warm greetings to her fans for the New Year, and said "may a million miracles begin at sunrise." The actress, who enjoys a fanbase of 31.2 million followers on Instagram, shared a glimpse of the sunrise.

The post was captioned, "May a million miracles begin at sunrise. Happy New Year."

In another post, Samantha shared her picture posing candidly for the lens, spreading her arms, fireworks in the backdrop. It was captioned, "And may many angels surround us. Happy New Year."

On 'balanced' note

Shilpa Shetty Kundra kicked off her first day of the New Year on a 'balanced' note. On Monday, Shilpa Shetty's post was all about work-

ing out.

Taking to Instagram, Shilpa shared a video of herself performing some balancing asana.

Sharing the video, she wrote, "I'm starting 2024 on a 'balanced' note with the Ashwa Sanchalana Salamba Utthita Eka Padasana, which is a great balancing asana. It helps improve focus and concentration, and also enhances the coordination between mind and body. It also improves the back and the hamstring's flexibility. Please note: People suffering from back pain or slip-disc and during pregnant women must avoid this asana."

She also revealed her resolutions for 2024.

"Wishing you all a Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy New Year... My resolution for 2024 is to

Live in the 'Now' with awareness, balance, and gratitude," Shilpa added.

Varun plays with fireworks

Varun Dhawan has welcomed the New Year with fireworks.

Varun posted a video of fireworks on Instagram and wrote, "Don't say bye say hi #2024 #happynewyear... Happy New Year, 2024." He can be seen enjoying fireworks with his wife Natasha Dalal.

Meanwhile, Varun will be seen in the Indian adaptation of the Hollywood series Citadel opposite actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Royal touch
Kareena Kapoor Khan added a royal touch to her celebration. Taking to Instagram story, Kareena treated fans with a glimpse of their New Year's Eve.

The first picture captured the selfie queen Kareena wearing a colourful velvet sharara suit. She clicked a mirror selfie with her husband and actor Saif Ali Khan as he got dressed up for the night in a white three-piece suit. Sharing the photo, she wrote, "Are you ready? We are."

Monika Khanna on a philosophical note

Known for her work in Aasman Se Aage, Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyaara Pyaara and Thapki Pyar Ki, actress Monika Khanna shared that while it is required to be ambitious today, one cannot ignore one's emotional side, and needs to balance the two in order to thrive.

"Maintaining a balanced viewpoint is crucial for a decent and successful life in society. You need to earn to fulfil your needs and aspirations, and at the same time, you should be kind-hearted and compassionate. Understanding others' perspectives and resolving issues in your own way is vital," she says.

Monika says that life demands balance, and if you can't help someone, it's better not to add to



their pain.

"Sometimes, speaking unnecessarily may be entertaining for you, but it could deeply affect the other person," shares the Prem Bandhan actress.

Monika adds, "Focus on your work, pursue your dreams, but don't become so cruel that you don't understand others' struggles. Be good, help others without expecting much in return, and remember, you are your own saviour. Cultivate a compassionate and kind heart, offering help when needed, without any expectations. Embrace the treasure of love and kindness within you. Even if it doesn't come back to you, you won't feel a lack of anything."

Monika is currently seen in the show Ikk Kudi Punjab Di.

Kumar Sanu's Sau Dil Gar is a romantic number



Veteran playback singer Kumar Sanu, who ruled the 1990s, released a new track, titled Sau Dil Gar.

The song, composed and penned by Sar-

barish Majumder, is a romantic number. Kumar Sanu describes the track as something that belongs to the genre he undoubtedly rules.

Talking about the track, Kumar Sanu says, "It is a vibrant romantic song, capturing the bond of lovers which is exactly my genre. I loved every moment of singing and recording the song. It was amazing to collaborate with Sarbarish, who is the music director and the lyricist of the song."

The singer adds, "His lyrics matched the emotions of the song and hopefully my voice added a sense of depth and nuance to it. I look forward to seeing the reaction from the audiences for the song and hope it will bring smiles to people's faces this

New Year."

This romantic single is produced by Amrik Singh Khatri.

Talking about his experience of working with Kumar Sanu, composer Sarbarish says, "I am thrilled to collaborate with Kumar Sanu and feel grateful for the experience. I have learnt a lot from him and loved every bit of it. We have worked hard on this song and hope as a team we have done justice to it."

The song has been released under the label of Audio7, and is available across audio streaming platforms.

Indian youths are creating a brave new world: PM Modi

Says 'our innovators took the number of patents from around 4,000 in 2014 to almost 50,000 now'

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Indian innovators took the number of patents from around 4,000 in 2014 to almost 50,000 now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of state-run Bharathidasan University here, the Prime Minister quoted the 'Puthiyathor Ulagam Seivom' Tamil verses of poet Bharathidasan, after whom the university had been named, and said it meant creating a brave new world which is also the university's motto.

Modi said the Indian youth were already creating such a world. The Indian scientists are on the world map through missions like Chandrayaan and 'our innovators took the number of patents from around 4,000 in 2014 to almost 50,000 now.'

India's 'humanity scholars are showcasing the India story to the world like never before.' Also, the nation's musicians and artists were continuously bringing international awards for the



country, he said.

Modi underlined that giving back to the people for a better society and country is the true purpose of education.

"Youth means energy, it means the ability to work with speed, skill and scale. In the last few years, we have worked to match you in speed and scale, so that we can benefit you.

"In the last 10 years, the number of airports had doubled from 74 to nearly 150. Tamil Nadu has a vibrant coastline so you would be happy to know that the total cargo handling capacity of major ports in India

has doubled since 2014."

The speed of road and highway construction in the country has almost doubled in the last 10 years. The number of registered startups in the country has grown to almost one lakh; this was less than 100 in 2014.

India has also seen a number of trade deals with important economies and such deals will open up new markets for our goods and services. They also create countless new opportunities for youths.

Whether it is institutions like the G-20, fighting against climate change or playing a bigger

role in the global supply chain, India is being welcomed as a part of every global solution.

"In many ways, due to the local and global factors, this is the best time to be young in India. Make the most of this time to take our country to new heights."

Underscoring the importance of constant learning, re-skilling and upskilling, he said in a rapidly transforming world, 'either you drive change or change drives you.' Modi is the first Prime Minister to address the convocation ceremony of the varsity, established in 1982.

In a very brief interaction with a group of students, he asked if anyone was interested to go to Delhi, to which two women students raised their hands and smiled.

The Prime Minister paid floral tributes to a bust of Bharathidasan (1891-1964), hailed as revolutionary Tamil poet, and he posed for a group-photograph with students, Governor R N Ravi and Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Canadian politics has given space to Khalistani forces, says S Jaishankar



NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has affirmed that Canadian politics has given space to Khalistani forces and also allowed them to indulge in activities that adversely impact bilateral relations between India and Canada. He expressed concern that these actions are not in the interest of

either country. In an interview with agency, Jaishankar said, "The issue at heart is the fact that in Canadian politics, these Khalistani forces have been given a lot of space and allowed to indulge in activities which, I think, are damaging the relationship, and are clearly not in India's interest, and not in Canada's interest either. But

unfortunately, that is the state of their politics," Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs Minister also clarified that the G20 summit in New Delhi had no relation to the Khalistani issue in Canada.

He added, "Getting everybody around on a G20 has nothing to do with the Khalistan issue in Canada. The Khalistan issue is not new. It has existed for years...I can explain my government, my prime minister. It's not for me to speculate on other prime ministers."

Diplomatic relations between India and Canada are facing a significant strain due to a very vocal pro-Khalistan lobby in Canada threatening Indian diplomats posted in the country, raising concerns about the future of the bilateral partnership.

4 police commandos, 3 soldiers injured in attack by militants in Manipur

MANIPUR, Jan 2 (Agencies): At least four police commandos and three soldiers were injured in attack by militants in Manipur's Moreh on Tuesday.

Fresh violence had rocked Manipur on the first day of the New Year with at least four people killed and 14 others injured by armed attackers in Thoubal district on Monday.

Police said the incident occurred at Lilong Chingjao, where armed attackers opened fire at people following a quarrel over the forcible collections from the people. Among the injured,

many are stated to be critical and shifted to hospitals.

Reports said the attackers, wearing police uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons, came in four vehicles and opened fire on people, mostly Muslims.

The three people died on the spot and another person succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. The identity of the killers is not known immediately.

High tension followed the incident and two of the vehicles used by the assailants were burnt by an angry mob.

Meanwhile, in wake of the Thoubal violence, the administration of all five Valley districts -- Thoubal, Imphal East and Imphal West, Kakching and Bishnupur, cancelled relaxation of curfew and reimposed the prohibitory orders to prevent escalation of violence.

Additional Central and state forces have also rushed to Thoubal district and adjoining areas where retaliatory attack could occur.

Tensions have reportedly also risen in state capital Imphal following the fresh incident of violence.

Vizag horror: Girl from Odisha goes to beach with boyfriend, gang-raped by 13 men

Police have arrested 11 accused while the search is on for 2 others in Jharkhand



VISAKHAPATNAM, Jan 2 (Agencies): In a horrific case, a 17-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by 13 men in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.

The victim was sexually assaulted by her boyfriend and his accomplice and was later gang-raped by 11 accused, all reportedly

photographers at RB Beach here.

The crimes, committed between December 17 and 19, came to light after a missing complaint was lodged with the police. She was traced to her native village in neighbouring Odisha and was brought to Visakhapatnam.

Police have arrested 11 accused while the search is on for two others in Jharkhand.

According to police, a missing case was registered in the Fourth Town police station on December 18 on a complaint filed by the girl's father. She worked as a maid in a government employee's house. As the owners went on a vacation, she was alone, taking care of the owners' pet.

As the victim was in shock, it took some time for her to reveal what had happened. Based on her statement, police registered two cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act on December 31 and took up the investigation.

According to her statement, she went to RK

Beach with her boyfriend on December 17.

The boyfriend brought his friend with him and they both raped her at a lodge. Shocked over this, the girl went to RK beach and wanted to end her life. A beach photographer, who spotted her alone, offered to help. He took her to a lodge, where he, along with his accomplices, raped her. She was reportedly subjected to sexual assault for two days.

The victim managed to flee from the clutches of the gang and went to her native district Kalahandi in Odisha. She had moved to Visakhapatnam with her family only nine months ago.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission chairperson Vasireddy Padma has written to Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Ravi Shankar, seeking details of the case.

Women's organisations have demanded stringent punishment for the guilty.

Three killed, 40 injured in bus-truck collision in Odisha's Cuttack

Although the exact reason behind the mishap is yet to be ascertained, police suspected poor visibility due to dense fog could be the possible cause of the accident.

CUTTACK, Jan 2 (Agencies): At least three persons, including a woman, died and 40 others were injured in a head-on collision between two vehicles on Cuttack-Chandabali state highway in Cuttack district on Tuesday.

Police sources said the mishap occurred when a private bus they were travelling in collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction near Kalapola under Nischintakoili policy limits.

The truck driver and two passengers died on the spot. The deceased are Anasuya Barik (21) of Aul, Nalinikant Moharana (22) of Rajkanika and truck driver Sk Sabir (45). The condition of the bus driver is stated to be critical.

All the injured passengers



were rushed to Nischintakoili Community Health Centre (CHC). Seven of them have been shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital after their condition deteriorated.

Police said the ill-fated bus

carrying the passengers was heading towards Cuttack from Chandabali. It collided with a speeding 14-wheeler empty truck coming from Cuttack's side at about 7.20 am.

On being informed, Fire Ser-

vices personnel rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies of the deceased and rescued injured passengers trapped inside the badly mangled bus by using a gas cutter.

Although the exact reason behind the mishap is yet to be ascertained, police suspected poor visibility due to dense fog could be the possible cause of the accident.

A case has been registered and further investigation is on.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expressed grief over the tragic accident and announced ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh for each deceased family. He directed the district authorities to provide the injured best of the best treatment free of cost and wished them speedy recovery.

Fake army man dupes comedian Rakesh Bedi of Rs 85,000 as actor tries to sell his Pune flat

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Bollywood and television comedian-actor Rakesh Bedi has alleged that he was cheated by a purported army man when he tried to sell his flat in Pune, an official said here on Tuesday.

According to a complaint lodged by Bedi, 69, with Oshiwara police station here, the purported army man is one Aditya Kumar who had responded to an online ad for buying the actor's flat.

The accused called up Bedi claiming he was interested in buying the flat and the two also agreed on the price of around Rs 87 lakh.

The prospective buyer, who also showed his



identity card and other documents proving he was in the Indian Army, offered to pay from his 'army account' and asked Bedi to deposit Rs 85,000.

Bedi fell for him as he had earlier sold one of his properties to a genuine defence personnel without any hassles.

Kumar even shared his account number with Bedi and sought for a test transfer of Re 1, and

after it was successful, asked him to transfer Rs 50,000.

Then he told the actor that he had transferred the amount back, but when Bedi said he had not received it, the accused gave evasive replies.

He asked Bedi to transfer two amounts of Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000 from his wife's accounts which he did, but thereafter, the self-proclaimed army man Kumar stopped taking the actor's calls.

Realising that he had been cheated by the so-called army man, Bedi lodged the police complaint on Saturday and further investigations are on, said the investigation officer.

Building collapses near Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan, 5 feared trapped

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agencies): At least five people are feared trapped after a building collapsed near Ajmer Sharif Dargah on Tuesday.

The trapped people are suspected to be under the debris of the collapsed building.

Rescue teams have been rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, the District



Collector, Superintendent of Police and an

additional police personnel team left the spot.

Karti Chidambaram appears before ED again in Chinese visa money laundering case

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Congress MP Karti Chidambaram appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday for a fresh round of questioning in a money laundering case linked to issuance of visas to some Chinese nationals in 2011, official sources said.

52-year-old legislator from Sivaganga Lok Sabha seat in Tamil Nadu was questioned in this case on December 23 last year and the central agency recorded his statement under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

He again deposed before the investigating officer of the case at the ED headquarters in central Delhi, officials said.

The money laundering case, filed under the

provisions of PMLA, stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR.

The probe pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Karti and his close associate S Bhaskararaman by a top executive of Vedanta group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, according to the CBI FIR. The work for setting up the power project was being executed by a Chinese company and was running behind schedule.

A TSPL executive had sought re-issuance of project visas for 263 Chinese workers for which Rs 50 lakh allegedly exchanged hands, according to the CBI FIR. The CBI had last year raided the premises

of the Chidambaram family and arrested Bhaskararaman even as Karti was questioned by it.

Karti has earlier said that the ED probe was a "fishing and roving" enquiry and that he has submitted documents to the agency in the past. He had called the case "most bogus", asserting he was "certain that he never facilitated even a single Chinese national in their visa process, let alone 250."

He had also said this case was an attempt to target his father and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram through him.

This is the third money laundering case against Karti with the INX Media and Aircel-Maxis cases being probed by the ED for some years now.

Japan Airlines aircraft catches fire on runway post-collision with another plane at Haneda airport

TOKYO, Jan 2 (Agencies): A plane caught fire on the runway of Tokyo's Haneda airport on Tuesday after a possible collision with another aircraft after landing.

All 367 onboard Japanese flight have been evacuated from the blazing aircraft. However, NHK reported that five people on Japanese Coast guard plane were unaccounted for after the collision.

Local TV video showed a large burst of fire erupting from the side of a Japan Airlines plane as it taxied on a runway. The area around the wing then



caught fire. Later video showed fire crews working to put out the fire. It wasn't immediately clear what

had happened or if there were injuries. NHK TV reported that the plane JAL Flight 516, an Airbus A350, had flown out of Shin Chitose Airport in Japan to Haneda.

NHK reported Japan Airlines officials as saying that the accident appeared to be a collision with a Japan Coast Guard aircraft.

Firefighters are currently dousing the flames.

Haneda is one of the busiest airports in Japan, and many people travel over the New Year holidays.

South Korea opposition leader stabbed in neck by autograph-seeker, incident caught on camera



SEOUL, Jan 2 (Agencies): South Korea's opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung was stabbed in the neck during a visit to the southern city of Busan on Tuesday and was airlifted to a university hospital, party and fire officials said.

Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 presidential election, was conscious and receiving emergency treatment after being attacked by an unidentified man while touring the site of a proposed airport, the officials told agency.

The attack left him with a gash of about 1 cm on his neck, YTN television reported. Hospital officials did not immediately confirm the details of his injury.

Lee was airlifted by a fire department helicopter to the Pusan National University Hospital, a party official and

emergency officials told agency.

"He is conscious and receiving treatment at the hospital," a Democratic Party official told agency.

The assailant appeared to be a man in his 50s or 60s, who wore a paper crown with Lee's name on it, news photographs showed.

The man approached and asked for an autograph as Lee spoke among a throng of supporters and reporters, then lunged forward and attacked him, video footage showed.

Jin Jeong-hwa, a Lee supporter who was at the scene livestreaming the event, told Reuters there were two dozen police officers present.

The assailant was quickly subdued by men including police officers, the footage showed.

He was refusing to answer police questions

about his motives, daily Busan Ilbo reported.

Video clips on YTN television and another posted on X showed a man lunging at Lee with his arm stretched out. Lee grimaced and collapsed to the ground.

News photographs showed Lee lying on the ground with his eyes closed and bleeding, and people pressing a handkerchief against his neck.

President Yoon Suk Yeol condemned the attack and instructed best care be given, his office said.

"This type of violence must never be tolerated under any circumstances," his office quoted Yoon as saying.

A former governor of Gyeonggi province, Lee narrowly lost to conservative Yoon, a former chief prosecutor, in the 2022 presidential election. He has led the main opposition party since August 2022.

Lee is currently on trial for alleged bribery stemming from a development project when he was mayor of Seongnam near Seoul.

He has denied any wrongdoing.

Thousands evacuated following volcano eruption in Indonesia

MAUMERE, Jan 2 (Agencies): More than 2,000 residents have been evacuated to temporary shelters amid heightened volcanic activities in a volcano in eastern Indonesia, a local official said Tuesday.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Nusa Tenggara province has erupted several times in recent weeks, including an eruption on Monday that spewed volcanic ash 1.5 kilometres (4,800 feet) above its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG).

The agency recorded another eruption from Lewotobi Laki-Laki on Tuesday but ash clouds from the volcano were not observed, it said in a statement.

Volcanic ashes from recent eruptions have affected two sub-districts near Lewotobi Laki-Laki mountain, prompting more than 2,200 residents to evacuate to temporary shelters set up by local governments, Benediktus Bolibapa Herin, an official for East Flores district, told agency on Tuesday.

"There are 1,931 evacuees in the Wul-

anggitang (sub-district), and 328 evacuees in the Ile Bura (sub-district)," Herin said, adding that the number of the evacuees could rise as more people seek safety from the volcano.

"Due to the increase in (Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki's) status, the communities must be relocated to safe zones to anticipate unwanted things."

Authorities on Monday raised the volcano's status to the second-highest of Indonesia's four-tiered alert levels and expanded the exclusion zone from two kilometres to four kilometres



(13,100 feet) around its crater.

The volcano's ashes also forced Frans Seda Airport, located more than 80 kilometres away, to close since Monday, state news agency Antara reported.

The Southeast Asian archipelago sits on the

Pacific Ring of Fire, an area of intense volcanic and seismic activity.

Last month, Mount Marapi, which means "mountain of fire", on Sumatra island erupted and 23 people were killed.

Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes.

Russia accidentally bombs own village near Ukraine

MOSCOW, Jan 2 (Agencies): Russia said it had accidentally bombed a village in its southern Voronezh region near Ukraine on Tuesday but stressed there were no casualties.

The accident occurred the same day as Russia hit Ukraine with a large-scale missile attack.

It is not the first such incident during Moscow's almost two-year-long Ukraine offensive.

"On January 2, 2024, at around 9 am Moscow time (GMT), during a flight of the Aerospace Forces, an abnormal discharge of aircraft ammunition occurred over the village of Petropavlovka in the Voronezh region," the Russian army said in a statement quoted by



Russian news agencies. "There are no casualties," it added. Petropavlovka lies some 150 kilometres (93 miles) east of the Ukraine border. The ministry said six private houses were damaged in the accident, Russian news

agencies reported.

"An investigation into the circumstances of the incident is underway. A commission is working on the ground to assess the nature of the damage and provide assistance to restoring houses," the statement read.

The governor of the Voronezh region, Alexander Gusev, said some of Petropavlovka's residents have been moved to temporary accommodation.

He also said there were no casualties but said there was "destruction recorded in seven households."

In April last year, the Russian army acknowledged that one of its warplanes accidentally dropped a bomb in its city of Belgorod, near the Ukraine border, causing a blast.

Powerful earthquakes in Japan leave 48 dead, destroy buildings

WAJIMA, Jan 2 (Agencies): A series of powerful earthquakes hit western Japan, leaving at least 48 people dead and damaging buildings, vehicles and boats, with officials warning people in some areas on Tuesday to stay away from their homes because of a risk of more strong quakes.

Aftershocks continued to shake Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas a day after a magnitude 7.6 temblor slammed the area on



Monday afternoon. Forty-eight people were confirmed dead in Ishikawa, officials said. While damage to homes was so great that it could not immediately be assessed, they said.

Somalia recalls envoy to Ethiopia after Somaliland deal



MOGADISHU, Jan 2 (Agencies): Somalia said Tuesday it was recalling its ambassador to Ethiopia, declaring that a controversial port deal Addas Ababa signed with the breakaway region of Somaliland was a violation of its sovereignty.

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre also vowed that Somalia would defend its territory by "all legal means possible" following Monday's agreement that gives landlocked Ethiopia long sought-after access to the Red Sea.

The government said it was appealing to international bodies including the United Nations and the African Union to stand with Somalia.

"Somaliland is part of Somalia under the Somali constitution so Somalia finds this step to be a clear violation against its sovereignty and unity," the Somali cabinet said in a statement.

It said the memorandum of understanding signed in Addis Ababa on Monday was "null and void with no legal basis and Somalia will not accept it".

"In response to this, the Somali government has recalled its ambassador in Ethiopia for consultation."

The government also said it was appealing to the United Nations, African Union, the Arab League and regional East African grouping IGAD among others "to stand with the right for Somalia to defend its sovereignty and force Ethiopia to adhere to international laws".

In an address to the nation, Barre called for the people of Somalia to stay calm.

"I want to assure you that we are committed to defending the country, we will not allow an inch of land, sea and skies to be violated," he said.

"We will defend our land with any legal means possible... We must unite and forget about our differences to defend our land, integrity and sovereignty."

One killed, dozens injured in missile attacks on Ukraine

KYIV, Jan 2 (Agencies): Russia on Tuesday rained missiles on the Ukrainian capital and other cities killing one person and injuring dozens, with downed rockets hitting high-rise buildings and sparking fires.

More than a dozen loud explosions were heard in Kyiv by agency journalists on Tuesday morning as air defences worked, shaking buildings in the city centre.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, one person was killed and more than 20 injured by "at



least four strikes" that damaged multi-storey buildings and civilian infrastructure in the centre, the head of the city's military administration, Oleg Sinogubov, said.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia was launch-

ing Kindzhal missiles and more were heading towards the capital as well as towards the south and west.

Tuesday's attacks come a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin said his forces would intensify strikes

on military targets after an unprecedented Ukrainian attack over the weekend on the Russian city of Belgorod.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko reported multiple explosions and debris from downed missiles hitting the capital.

He said 10 people had been injured in a multi-storey block of flats in the Solomiansky district "where a fire broke out as a result of a missile attack".

In the Pechersk district, debris hit the roof of a nine-storey building and another multi-sto-

rey building, the military administration said.

Fires also broke out in a supermarket and a warehouse, the mayor said.

In the city's northern Podil district, "the territory of a civilian infrastructure facility is believed to have been hit", Klitschko said.

Some civilian infrastructure and residential buildings in four districts were without power and there was a temporary lack of water pressure in the supply network in some areas, the mayor

said, while a gas pipe had been damaged in one district.

"As soon as the security situation allows it, we will restore electricity to everyone," the city's military administration said.

The attacks came after Russia on December 29 launched a wave of strikes across Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv, which killed 39 people.

Moscow also hit Ukrainian cities on New Year's Eve, with Kyiv saying it had foiled a "record" number of drones launched by Russia.

4 Palestinians Killed In Clashes As Israel Troops Raid West Bank: Report

"At the end of an exchange of fire, they killed four terrorists and confiscated three Carlo-type weapons (locally produced submachine guns) that were used by them," the army said in a statement.

GAZA, Jan 2 (Agencies): Israeli troops killed four Palestinians during a raid in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, sources on both sides said, with the army describing the four as "terrorists".

"Four Palestinians were martyred by occupation bullets in the town of Azzun," the Palestinian health ministry said.

The official Wafa news agency said the men were shot dead when clashes erupted as Israeli troops raided the town.

"Israeli occupation soldiers fired live ammunition, stun grenades, and tear gas at

residents during the raid," the report said.

Israeli troops searched homes and businesses, and took surveillance footage from several shops, Wafa reported.

The army said troops had returned fire after fighters shot at them and threw explosives.

"At the end of an exchange of fire, they killed four terrorists and confiscated three Carlo-type weapons (locally produced submachine guns) that were used by them," the army said in a statement.

A soldier was moderately wounded, it added.

In a separate exchange of



fire, troops "neutralised" a Palestinian fighter who fired at them in the town of Qalqilya, the army said without elabo-

rating. Israeli forces made seven arrests in the West Bank overnight, the army said, adding

that more than 2,550 people have been arrested in the territory since the Israel-Hamas war erupted.

The West Bank has been under Israeli military occupation since the Six-Day War of 1967 and tensions have escalated since the outbreak of fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Since October 7, at least 321 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli troops or settlers, according to the Palestinian health ministry. More than 520 Palestinians were killed in the territory last year.

DEO convene meeting with various Political Parties to Boost Voter awareness on EVMs

Top News Report

REASI, Jan 2: District Election Officer Reasi, Vishesh Mahajan, on Tuesday held a crucial meeting with representatives of various political parties at the DC office, Reasi.

The agenda was to inform representatives about the ongoing initiatives aimed at bolstering voter awareness concerning Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

During the session, it was revealed that EVM Demonstration Centres have been strategically set up at key locations, including the



DC office, Reasi and the offices of SDMs in Katra, Dharmari, and Mahore. These centers have been established to provide voters with a thorough understanding of EVMs, fostering well-informed and efficient participation in the upcoming elections.

Moreover, emphasis was placed on the initiation of the First Level Checking of Additional EVMs at the DC office, Reasi, scheduled to occur from 6th-9th January, 2024.

Noteworthy is the participation of political party representatives to

participate in this process, underscoring the commitment to transparency and fairness in the electoral proceedings.

In a significant development, it was conveyed that all claims and objections received during the recently concluded Special Summary Revi-

sion have been diligently addressed. The final Electoral Rolls, incorporating these resolutions, are slated for publication on January 5, 2024. This meticulous approach reflects a dedication to ensuring a smooth and credible electoral process throughout the district.

Kesri demands urgent breakthrough in Truckers' protest over hit-and-run law

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today in a press conference said that the way the Tanker Union drivers' strike is being conducted all over the country and in our Jammu and Kashmir, it is very sad and can put the government in difficult times.

Addressing media persons in Jammu, Kesri said before making any law, the government should first discuss with its members among the public. All the opposition MPs in the Parliament and the members of the Rajya Sabha or the members



of the learned assembly should also be consulted.

Laws should be made only after that, the government makes laws, it is a good thing to make laws, but hastily made laws will entangle the country in serious problems, the entire responsibility of which lies with the government, added

Kesri. Kesri further said that entire people of the country and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are in trouble.

There is an outcry for petrol, the vehicles are getting stopped, emergency vehicles like ambulance etc, police vehicles, fire extinguishing vehicles, bank vehicles and other emergency vehicles will all come to a standstill.

The government should call the heads of the driver union and resolve this issue so that it does not have any impact on the general public and the daily routine of the general public can become normal.

Police bids farewell to outgoing officers in Baramulla & Budgam

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 2: Police organised impressive farewell functions in the honour of outgoing officers in Baramulla and Budgam upon their transfer from the districts.

In Baramulla, Police organised a farewell function at Officers Mess Baramulla in the honour of outgoing SDPO Tangmarg Ashfaq Alam-DySP upon his transfer from district Baramulla.

While speaking on the occasion, DIG NKR Baramulla Vivek Gupta and SSP Baramulla Amod Ashok Nagpure threw light on the tenure of outgoing offi-

cer and commended his supervisory skills, professionalism and decision making during toughest situations. On the occasion, SP Hqs Baramulla, CPO DPO Baramulla, DySP Hqs Baramulla, DySP DAR DPL, SDPO Pattan, SDPO Uri, SDPO Kreeri, SDPO Tangmarg and other officers were also present.

In Budgam, Police organised a farewell function at Officers Longue DPL Budgam in the honour of outgoing SP Salim Jehangir and DySP DAR Owaise Rashid on their transfer from the district.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Budgam

Al-Tahir Gilani threw light on the tenure of departing officers and commended their supervisory skills, professionalism and extended his best wishes to the outgoing officers. On the occasion, Addl. SP Budgam Raghav S, SP CIU Budgam Aijaz Ahmad Malik-JKPS, DySP Hqs Sakib Ghani-JKPS and other officers were also present.

Later on, the outgoing officers were presented mementos and gifts as a goodwill gesture. The outgoing officers shared their experience and extended their gratitude to all ranks of police for their cooperation during their tenure.

Ganesh leads protest against PW(R&B) over dilapidated condition of road from Duniya to Dhyansar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Youth Wing activists of Shiv Sena Hindustan J&KUT led by Youth Wing President Ganesh Choudhary along with locals today held strong protest against the dilapidated condition of road from Duniya to Dhyansar Sarore and total neglect on the part of District Administration and the concerned R&B authorities.

Earlier SSH activists and local people assembled at Bari Brahmama and held strong protest demonstration.

They were raising loud slogans in support of their demand and also against the District Administration Jammu and the PW (R&B) authorities.

They alleged that despite strong protests, the authorities despite assurance remained unmoved.

They alleged that neither local administration nor, R&B SE and Executive Engineer are serious about the road. Due to worst condition of road the locals have



been left to suffer.

Speaking on the occasion, Ganesh Choudhary said the road in question is in worst conditions and R&B failed to maintain this road despite huge hue and cry from public. Most of the people who move on Scooties or bikes have to face hardship due to dilapidated condition of road leading to Sarore from Duniya to Dhyansar.

Hundreds of inhabitants living in different villages falling on road from Duniya to Dhyansar who communicate on this dilapidated road on daily basis, have suffered manifold problems demanding blacktopping of the road in the shortest possible time.

Ganesh threatened to intensify their protest if their demand of blacktopping of road is not redressed.

While speaking on the occasion he said that the condition becomes worst in the rainy days as the entire road becomes slippery because of mud filled potholes throughout the stretch.

He alleged that the road is in dilapidated condition but despite several requests, neither the concerned department nor the local Administration has bothered to address the problem.

Ganesh, while accusing the authorities of being insensitive towards the people

living in Duniya to Dhyansar and adjoining area, said that thousands of inhabitants of area are suffering due to non-maintenance and repair of road since long.

Ganesh further said that the worsened condition of this road can be gauged from the fact that its blacktopping has not been done for the last many years, he said and held PWD responsible for the same.

"The inhabitants of area are aghast over the alleged step-motherly treatment by the concerned authorities as despite running from pillar to post since the last many years, they did nothing except giving assurances to

repair the stretch of road from Duniya to Dhyansar, thereby endangering the life of hundreds of villagers who have no other option but to travel on this only road link of the area", said Ganesh.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Samba District President Nek Ram, Chairman Vikas Kumar, Bishnah Vice President Shankar Singh, Bari Brahma President Sanjeev Kumar, Bari Brahma General Secretary, Surinder Choudhary, Arina Block President Rinku Choudhary, Arina Block Chairman Yashpal, Bari Brahma Vice President Rahul Kumar, Arina Vice President Bharat Bhushan, Sunita Devi, Reena Devi, Sonia Choudhary, Rajni Devi, Tripta Devi, Santosh Devi, Madhu Devi, Suman Devi, Sonia, Sumit Devi, Prabhu Dayal, Mohan Lal, Bhushan Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Rakesh Kumar, Pritam Kumar, Balkar Chand, Yash Pal, Sukhvinder, Gourab Kumar, Bari Brahma President Sunita Devi and Garo Devi.

Two drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances recovered in Baramulla

Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 2: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 2 drug peddlers in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Boniyar headed by SHO Boniyar at a checkpoint established at Chellan Boniyar intercepted one suspicious person.

During search, 30 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Bashir

Ahmad Rather son of Gh Hassan resident of Bimyar Boniyar.

He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Similarly, a police party led by Incharge PP Mirgund at a checkpoint established at Harthrat Pattan intercepted one person. During search, 105 grams of Charas Powder like substance was recovered from his possession.

He has been identified as Firdous Ahmad Teli alias Bhai son of Ali Mohammad resident of Khore Sherabad Pattan. He has been arrested and shifted to police sta-

tion where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police station and further investigation have been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

Police arrests drug peddler, recovers contraband substance

Top News Report

SOPORE, Jan 2: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested a drug peddler in Sopore and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A Police party of Police Post Fruit Mandi during patrolling at Fruit Mandi crossing near Chakrodikhan Sopore intercepted a suspicious person. During search, 300 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Ghulam Rasool Najar alias Mudair son of Ghulam Mohiudin Najar resident of Mumkak Sopore. He has

been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 017/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

Police facilitates PCPG meeting in Budgam

Top News Report

BUDGAM, Jan 2: In order to bridge the gap between police & public, Police in Budgam facilitated Police Community Partnership Group meeting (PCPG) at Police Station Beerwah.

The meeting was chaired by SHO Police Station Beerwah and was attended by respectable citizens, Numbarbars, Panchs, Sarpanchs, Traders federation representatives and civil society members of Beerwah and its adjacent areas.

During the meeting, various issues of public interest including drug menace and other public service delivery issues were discussed.



All the grievances put forth by attendees were heard patiently and were assured by the chairing officer that all the grievances pertaining to police will be dealt as per law and remaining grievances will be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal.

During the meeting cooperation of gen-

eral public was sought in eradication of drug menace and other social crimes from the society. The participants were also stressed to cooperate with Police in maintaining law and order in the areas and in identifying anti-national and anti-social elements who try to disrupt the peaceful environment.

FROM PAGE 1

Fuel stations go dry in Jammu as Transporters strike on Centre's New Law on Hit & Run cases

"We are poor people. Penal action should be taken against the owners of our vehicles. This law is unfair on us and we'll continue to be on strike till our demands are met," a bus driver said.

The ongoing strike has impacted the movement of about 1,000 buses across Chhattisgarh.

Under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the Indian Penal Code, drivers who cause a serious road accident

by negligent driving and run away without informing the police or any official from the administration can face punishment of up to 10 years or a fine of Rs7 lakh. Earlier, the punishment in such cases was two years in the IPC.

In the Winter Session of Parliament, the Union Government passed the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023.

Private transport operators claim the law discourages drivers and may lead to unjust punishments. They claim that the drivers could be subject to mob violence when they attempt to transport the injured to hospitals and demand the repeal of the law.

Water bodies across Kashmir Freeze, Minimum stays below freezing point

was 79 per cent deficit on rainfall.

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.

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).

Covid 19 Alert: Leh

District makes masks mandatory following case uptick

(DDMA), in an official order.

"The general public is advised to refrain from unnecessary gatherings and avoid crowded places. All Heads of departments (HoDs) in Leh district and sub-divisional magistrates are tasked with ensuring strict compliance with this directive," Sukhadeve added.

He further noted that the chief medical officer is responsible for conducting thorough surveillance and submitting daily Covid-19 status reports to the DDMA.

Sensex falls 379 points on profit taking in bank and IT stocks, foreign fund outflows

'Ahead of the impending results season, investors are adopting a profit booking strategy'

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Benchmark Sensex declined by 379 points on Tuesday due to profit-taking in bank and IT shares after recent sharp gains and fresh foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 379.46 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 71,892.48. During the day, it tumbled 658.2 points or 0.91 per cent to a low of 71,613.74.

The broader Nifty declined by 76.10 points or 0.35 per cent to close at 21,665.80. As many as 31 Nifty shares declined while 19 advanced.

Among the Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Wipro and Hindustan Unilever were the major lag-guards.

Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the winners.

The market extended yesterday's last hour's sell-off, taking negative



cues from Asian peers due to weak Chinese manufacturing data and mounting tensions in the Red Sea, which has the potential to disrupt global trade and crude supplies," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

"Ahead of the impending results season, investors are adopting a profit booking strategy. Auto stocks declined on below-expected volume numbers, while pharma stocks were the stand-out due to catch-up in the US economy," Nair added.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Seoul ended in the green. European markets were mostly trading in positive territory.

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

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.05 per cent to USD 78.58 a barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 855.80 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

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 on Monday. The Nifty went up by 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.

Household debt in India does not pose systemic concern: RBI

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Despite the recent increase in financial liabilities, household debt in India is much lower than in other emerging market economies (EME) and, therefore, the risk of defaults due to greater exposure of higher mortgage payments and floating rate interest is limited in India, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) financial stability report.

"The current level of household debt in India does not pose systemic concern," the report observes.

Gross household financial savings, which had surged to 15.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 (pandemic peak year), supported by large precautionary savings, fell to 11.1 per cent in 2021-22 and further to 10.9 per cent in 2022-23, reverting to its pre-pandemic trend (viz., an average of 11.0 per cent during 2011-12 to 2019-20), the report



states.

In terms of absolute levels, gross household financial savings expanded by 13.9 per cent year-on-year during 2022-23.

Household net financial savings (HNFS), however, fell sharply to 5.1 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 from 11.5 per cent in 2020-21, well below its long-run annual average of 7.0-7.5

per cent.

The fall in HNFS was driven by a rapid rise in financial liabilities from 3.8 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 to 5.8 per cent in 2022-23 even as financial assets moderated only marginally to 10.9 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.1 per cent in 2021-22, according to the RBI report.

The increase in financial liabilities

was driven by a steep rise in borrowings from financial institutions, with a large part in physical assets creation (mortgages and vehicles).

Thus, the overall savings of households may still hold steady with a compositional shift in favour of physical savings.

This would directly add to gross capital formation, supporting an upturn in the private investment cycle and, eventually, the prospects for growth, the report points out.

Moreover, recent data show that HNFS rose to 7.0 per cent of GDP in Q4:2022-23 from 4.0 per cent of GDP in the previous quarter, indicating normalisation of HNFS towards the pre-pandemic long-term trend.

Household debt moderated to 37.6 per cent of GDP in March 2023 from its peak level of 39.2 per cent in March 2021, the report added.

GACL ties up with Vedanta to explore opportunities in caustic-chlorine, other businesses



NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL) on Tuesday said it has signed an initial pact with Vedanta

Aluminium for exploring various business opportunities in the areas of caustic-chlorine and other allied businesses. The Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) envisages to recognize the potential of adding value to the business of both GACL and Vedanta Aluminium by adopting a

collaborative approach in common business interests to achieve synergy, GACL said in a regulatory filing.

Vedanta Aluminium is a business of Vedanta Ltd.

Accordingly, both companies desire to explore the opportunities for cooperation in greater detail so that the resources could be pooled together in a mutually beneficial manner, it said.

"With this MoU, both

companies have, in principle, agreed to jointly explore the business opportunities either in the form of joint venture project or through contractual arrangements of mutual interest," it added.

Gujarat-based GACL has a production capacity of 8,52,400 tonnes per annum with manufacturing facilities spread over four complexes, two each in Vadodra and Dahej.

Suzuki Motorcycle India's vehicle sales grow 24 pc in Dec

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Two-wheeler maker Suzuki Motorcycle India on Tuesday said its vehicle sales increased 24 per cent year-on-year to 79,483 units in December.

Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL), a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, had sold 63,912 vehicles in December, as per a company statement.

"The company closed December 2023 with total sales of 79,483 units, recording 24 per cent year-on-year growth," Suzuki Motorcycle India said in the statement.

Of the total two-wheeler sales last month, the domestic sales volume stood at 69,025 units, while the remaining 10,458 units were retailed in the overseas markets, it stated.

Explainer | Decoding disease X: Ailments in humans & animals can no longer be treated in isolation

BHUBANESWAR, Jan 2 (Agencies): The Covid pandemic has turned the focus on zoonotic diseases that have emerged as a constant threat to the world. If the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus- 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a zoonotic virus, led to an unforeseen life-altering pandemic worldwide, many researchers have warned it as a mere sign of what may emerge as certain zoonotic diseases could become potentially deadlier causing future pandemics, dubbed as disease X.

Since India is predominantly an agricultural country, and animal husbandry is crucial to the economy, several risk factors like rising population, rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and deforestation leading to disturbance in the ecological system are all set to trigger zoonotic diseases and help in spread of infections that were once confined to non-human species.

According to WHO, almost 60% of all human infections and 75% of newly emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origin. Out of every 10 infectious diseases identified in humans, six are zoonotic diseases, originating from animals. Emerging diseases are a growing public health threat in the country.

The ever-increasing human intrusion into natural ecosystems, growing demand for animal-based food products, international trade, travel and several other factors have expanded human exposure to the diseases. Studies revealed, of 1,407 human pathogens discovered so far, 816 were zoonotic, capable of being transmitted naturally between animals and humans. Among them, as many as 177 are emerging or reemerging, and of these 130 are classified as zoonoses. The emerging and reemerging pathogens are set to cause many infections to human health and impact the economy like the Covid-19 pandemic.

What are zoonotic diseases?

Zoonoses are diseases transmissible from animals to humans. The infections can be bacterial, fungal, viral, or parasitic. Mammals, birds, reptiles, and probably amphibians are amplifier hosts for these viral zoonoses. Some common examples of zoonotic diseases are bacterial (salmonellosis, brucellosis, plague, and leptospirosis), fungal



(cryptococcus and histoplasmosis), parasitic (leishmaniasis, hydatid disease, schistosomiasis, and toxoplasmosis), and viral (rabies, influenza, and yellow fever).

Zoonotic diseases which are prevalent in India are the Nipah virus, avian influenza, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Hantavirus, SARS, cysticercosis, brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, anthrax, plague, echinococcosis and Schistosomiasis and Kyasanur forest disease (KFD). New emerging diseases of public health importance are avian influenza, Nipah, trypanosomiasis, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and H1N1.

Scientists estimate that three out of every four new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals and more than six out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals. Ebola, SARS, MERS and Zika are some of such diseases that emerged over the last century. As per the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), zoonotic disease like brucellosis have emerged from Assam, Kerala and Rajasthan; Japanese encephalitis from Tamil Nadu to Uttar Pradesh; leptospirosis from Maharashtra to Punjab; melioidosis from Assam and Karnataka; cutaneous leishmaniasis from Delhi to Rajasthan to Jammu and Kashmir; KFD from Karnataka to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa; Nipah from West Bengal to Kerala and scrub typhus from

Arunachal Pradesh to Tamil Nadu to Odisha. Noted microbiologist and former ICMR member Dr Tribhuvan Mohan Mohapatra said rapid urbanisation, human infringement on once-wild environments and dietary diversity have led to increased contact between humans and animals facilitating the transmission of these diseases. Given the changing climate and ecology, the mortality and morbidity due to zoonoses will be greater than usual due to several factors including limited prevention and management strategies and lack of vaccines and therapeutics directed towards such viral infections, he said.

"It is high time that the country is prepared by strengthening surveillance with a strong laboratory network to identify diseases both in animals and humans at the earliest to launch prompt containment action before an outbreak becomes a pandemic," added Dr Mohapatra.

Action plan

Health matters are now interrelated due to emergence of zoonotic diseases and it is difficult to treat human, animal or wildlife health in isolation. Collaboration across sectors and disciplines can only contribute to protect health, address challenges like infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance and food safety besides promoting good health and maintaining ecosystems.

As warned by WHO, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is now focusing on at least 20 zoonotic diseases including anthrax, scrub typhus, rabies, swine flu, bird flu, bovine tuberculosis, Nipah, brucellosis, blastomycosis, psittacosis, trichinosis, cat scratch disease and histoplasmosis. The country is all set to pilot 'One Health Programme' that envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as trans-boundary pathogens.

With the risk of infectious pathogens capable of jumping the barriers of species increasing post-Covid, states have been asked to involve all stakeholders, including agriculture, veterinary and wildlife wings, strengthen the public health laboratories for early diagnosis and develop additional methodologies when required for surveillance and understanding the spread of emerging diseases.

Low oil price to benefit India's trade, current account balance - Goldman Sachs

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agencies): Stating that the country's external balances are stronger than expected on the back of strong inflows, a Wall Street brokerage on Tuesday projected a sharp fall in India's current account deficit to 1% this year from 2% in the last.

Current account deficit reflects the shortfall in a country's 'current' transactions with the rest of the world. Current transaction involves all transactions that do not create an obligation to return the money or create any ownership interest. As such, a high current account deficit indicates that the country is not able to fund its 'current' requirements -- such as for purchasing goods from abroad -- through other such transactions, and must rely on capital inflows for the same.

India's current account deficit will fall to \$39 billion, or 1% of the GDP, said Goldman Sachs, from \$67 billion in FY23. It had earlier predicted a CAD of 1.3%.

For the next financial year (FY25), it expects CAD to be 1.3%, and not 1.9% as projected earlier. This, it said, is primarily due to a downward revision to their oil price forecast to USD 81/barrel in 2024 from more than USD 90 earlier. It also noted that India's services exports -- such as IT and tourism -- continue to surprise on the positive side.

Beyond the current account, Goldman Sachs was optimistic about India's overall external balances -- including the capital account -- due to the CAD, strong capital flows, adequate forex

reserves and low external debt.

Combined with this, expectations for a weaker dollar due to the likely five US Fed rate cuts this year suggest a "goldilocks" environment for the country's external balances, it noted.

The brokerage expects robust capital flows in 2024, driven by strong equity portfolio flows as the Fed starts the easing cycle; robust debt inflows as the bonds are included in the JP Morgan's global government bond index from June 2024; and higher FDI inflows with the country continuing to benefit from regional supply chain diversification.

These capital inflows should help offset lower net corporate dollar borrowing inflows owing to sizable maturities of earlier loans coming up in 2024, it said, adding overall, the balance of payment surplus should jump to USD 39 billion in FY24 but fall to USD 27 billion in the next fiscal.

The country's oil imports fell to USD 164 billion in the January-November 2023 period from USD 189 billion a year ago as oil prices were 18 per cent lower during the period.

Similarly, services trade surplus is tracking higher as exports have surprised to the upside, driven by both business and software services.

With US growth remaining resilient, the report expects services export to remain strong and services trade balance will print in at USD 158 billion up from USD 148 billion.

These two will balance out the rise in gold imports which so far

stood at USD39.6 billion and may close the fiscal USD44 billion from USD37 billion in FY23.

On the other hand non-oil and non-gold imports are tracking marginally higher than earlier forecasts driven mainly by electronic goods and machinery imports among the major sub-components, and may close the year at USD445 billion from USD440 billion.

Net FDI inflows stood at USD17 billion up to October 2023 compared to USD36 billion a year ago, while both equity and debt inflows have picked up in Q3 and at the current run rates they may close at USD28 billion this fiscal up from USD24 billion.

The report sees the country's external vulnerabilities remaining low with comfortable import cover at around 11 months, higher than the pre-pandemic average of 9.5 months, and the forex reserves as a share of external debt of 99 per cent is at its highest level in the past 10 years, excluding the pandemic years.

On the rupee, the brokerage said it continues to see the rupee as a relatively low-volatility carry currency.

But quickly noted that despite this "goldilocks" scenario, the rupee is likely to underperform most EM Asia currencies as they expect the RBI to accumulate inflows and build forex reserves at every opportunity.

They continue to expect the dollar/rupee pair to hover around 83-82 in the next three to six months, and then appreciate slightly to 81 over the next 12 months.

IND vs AUS, 3rd WODI: 20-year-old Mannat Kashyap makes debut, Sneha Rana misses out

MUMBAI, Jan 2 (Agence): India handed a debut to 20-year-old left-arm spinner Mannat Kashyap in their 3rd and final ODI against Australia women on Tuesday at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. In their first international fixture of the New Year, India made only one change to their lineup, leaving out all-rounder Sneha Rana who suffered a concussion injury during the second match of the series.

Mannat Kashyap was handed the India cap by Sneha Rana at the team huddle before the start of the match in a heartwarming moment. The young left-arm spinner from Paiala looked thrilled as she posed with the India cap for the shutterbugs at the iconic venue.

Sneha Rana trained on the eve of the 3rd ODI in Mumbai, but the Indian team management seems to have decided against taking a risk. Sneha suffered a nasty on-field collision with teammate Pooja Vastrakar while fielding in the 2nd ODI and had to be taken to a hospital for scans. The all-rounder completed her quota of 10 overs despite the knock on her head, but she



was taken for scans before the Indian chase after she complained of a headache.

India lost a close match, failing to chase down 259. India fell short of the total by just 3 runs and conceded a 2-0 unbeatable lead.

Notably, Mannat Kashyap is the third Indian after Shreyanka Patil and Saika Ishaque to make her ODI debut in the ongoing series against Australia. The three players and Bengal pacer Titus Sadhu were the four uncapped players who were picked in the squad, keeping in mind the preparations for the 2025 World Cup.

IND vs AUS, 3rd WODI Team

News

India: Yastika Bhatia, Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Amanjot Kaur, Mannat Kashyap, Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh, Shreyanka Patil.

Australia Playing XI: Alyssa Healy (wk, c), Phoebe Litchfield, Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ashleigh Gardner, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham, Alana King, Kim Garth, Megan Schutt.

WHO IS MANNAT KASHYAP? Mannat Kashyap emerged as a standout performer in the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023, showcasing her

exceptional talent and contributing significantly to India's triumph. Her prowess with the ball was on full display during the match against Scotland, where she delivered a game-changing spell, claiming four wickets for just 12 runs.

Kashyap's impact throughout the tournament was substantial; she finished the group stages as the joint second-highest wicket-taker and the highest among the Indian contingent, despite playing only two matches. Her five wickets across those games came from a mere seven overs, underlining her efficiency and lethality as a bowler. She finished the tournament with 9 wickets in just 6 matches.

The young left-arm spinner's impressive outings at the World Cup did not go unnoticed, as she entered the WPL 2024 auction with high expectations. Gujarat Giants signed the left-arm spinner for Rs 10 lakh.

Mannat Kashyap also shone in the Emerging Asia Cup 2023 T20 tournament final against Bangladesh, picking up a match-winning tally of 3 wickets and helping India successfully defend 127.

Warner makes desperate plea to return missing Baggy Greens ahead of swansong Test



SYDNEY, Jan 2 (Agence): Australia opener David Warner on Tuesday made an emotional plea on social media for the return of his Baggy Greens after the backpack containing the cherished possession was stolen in transit ahead of his swansong Test here.

As a "last resort" the 37-year-old took to Instagram so that he can walk out wearing the Baggy Green -- the iconic

cap worn by Australian Test cricketers -- in his final Test at his hometown.

"Unfortunately, this is my last resort to do this. A couple of days ago, someone has taken my backpack out of my extra luggage," Warner said in a video post on his Instagram.

"Inside this backpack was my Baggy Greens. That's sentimental to me. It's something that I would love to have back, in my hands, walking out there, coming this week. If it's the backpack that you really wanted, I have a spare one here. You won't get into trouble. Please reach out to Creed Australia or myself via my social media and I'm happy to give this to you if you return my Baggy Greens. Thank you," he added.

With the video he wrote that the backpack, containing the caps, was taken from his luggage which was flown out of Melbourne to Sydney a few days ago by Qantas Airways.

"@qantas have said they checked their cameras and have not seen anyone open our bags and take the backpack, however they do have blind spots," he wrote.

The bag is understood to contain two caps as Warner had been given a replacement when he had lost his original Baggy Green in 2017.

However, Warner's wife had later found that cap.

AUS vs PAK: Babar Azam most important player for Pakistan, Shan Masood backs batter to score in Sydney

SYDNEY, Jan 2 (Agence): Pakistan captain Shan Masood has defended out of form batter Babar Azam ahead of the third and final Test match vs Australia. Babar Azam had a really poor outing in Test cricket in 2023. The batter did not score a single half-century in 2023 and was dropped as the Test captain in the aftermath of World Cup 2023.

Amidst heavy criticism about the batter's lack of runs, Masood said that Babar has been putting in a lot of hard work in the nets.

"Babar Azam is our main player. We have no concerns over his performance. His approach is positive. He is practicing for hours in the nets and has great fitness. I am looking forward to him scoring big in the Sydney Test," Masood said in the press conference ahead of the final Test match.

The team has been heavily criticised for its poor fielding. Pakistan have dropped a host of catches in two Test matches and even gave away 52 extra runs in first innings of the Melbourne Test match. Abdullah Shafique was the main culprit for Pakistan in the slip cordon, but might continue to field in the position, hinted Masood.

"In a game your hands are tied



because slips are very specialised. A lot of fielding places in Test cricket are very specialised. We had four genuine quick bowlers, so it was hard to get them into the slips. And then Abdullah Shafique has been a good slipsman for us and those are the guys that practise for hours every day," Masood said.

"He's a brilliant slips fielder. He's got age on his side. But I think if he doesn't feel comfortable, Babar is a decent first slipper," the captain concluded on the matter.

Pakistan announced their playing XI a day ahead of their final Test match. Pakistan made two changes to their playing XI.

"Death Of Test Cricket...": Australia Great Warns ICC, BCCI Over 'Irrelevant Legacy'

SYDNEY, Jan 2

(Agence): Former Australia captain Steve Waugh has raised concerns over the future of Test cricket after South Africa named a second-string squad for their upcoming Test tour of New Zealand. The Proteas will play two Tests against the Kiwis, with uncapped batter Niel Brand will lead the side consisting of just three players -- Keegan Petersen, David Bedingham and Zubayr Hamza -- from the ongoing home series against South Africa. The top South African cricketers are contracted to play in the second season of the SA20, the T20 league launched by CSA and Indian Premier League investors, which clashes with the tour.

According to a CSA ruling, no player con-



tracted to SA20 franchises is eligible for selection for the Tests.

Taking to Instagram, Waugh has slammed the International Cricket Council and top cricket boards, including the BCCI, for not caring

about Test cricket. The 1999 World Cup-winning captain, Waugh, vouched for equal match fee for all Test players as a step towards securing the future of Test cricket. "Is this a defining moment in the death of test cricket. Surely the ICC along the cricket boards of India, England and Australia must step in to protect the purest form of the game. A premium, equal match fee for all test players might be a good starting point. History and tradition must count for something. If we stand by and allow profits to be the defining criteria the legacy of Bradman, Grace and Sobers will be irrelevant," Waugh posted on Instagram.

Despite having to travel with a makeshift squad, Proteas Test coach Shukri Conrad said he was confident that the team would be competitive.

"The players selected for this tour have every chance of challenging New Zealand," said Conrad, who pointed out

that most of the players had shown their ability while playing for South Africa A in recent series against West Indies A and India A.

Brand, 27, was born in Johannesburg but went to high school in England at King's College, Taunton.

He has a solid first-class record with 2906 runs at an average of 39.27. He is also a capable left-arm orthodox spin bowler who has taken 72 wickets at an average of 30.81.

South African squad: Neil Brand (capt), David Bedingham, Ruan de Swardt, Clyde Fortuin (wk), Zubayr Hamza, Tshepo Moreki, Mhlangeni Mpongwana, Duanne Olivier, Dane Paterson, Keegan Petersen, Dane Piedt, Reynard van Tonder, Shaun von Berg, Khaya Zondo.

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott's contract extended after successful World Cup 2023 campaign



KABUL, Jan 2 (Agence): Former England batter Jonathan Trott's contract as Afghanistan cricket team's head coach has been extended for a year. Following his successful stint as the team's head coach, the Afghanistan Cricket Board extended Trott's contract. His 18-month tenure came to an end in 2023 but the board chose to continue working with him throughout 2024, in which Afghanistan will play the T20 World Cup.

This move comes after Afghanistan's successful ODI World Cup campaign as the team beat former World Champions like Pakistan,

England and Sri Lanka. They also thrashed Netherlands and came close to even beating the eventual Champions Australia before Maxwell produced one of the greatest knocks in white ball cricket. Afghanistan managed to win 4 out of the 10 matches to finish off at the 6th spot in the league stage. From winning a mere one win in their last 2 World Cup campaigns to winning 4 in a single edition, the team took a big leap under Trott's guidance.

"The decision comes after his successful 18-month tenure, during which he made significant contributions to the team's progress

and development," the Afghanistan Cricket Board said in a statement.

"Mr. Jonathan Trott expressed his pleasure on the extension of his contract and stated that he is looking forward to spending more time with the squad and building on the performances of the recently held Cricket World Cup 2023."

The Afghanistan team is currently playing a three-match T20I series against the UAE, where the scoreline stands at 1-1. Trott's next assignment as the team's head coach will be the 3-match T20I series against India, starting January 11. This series comes in the lead up to the ICC T20 World Cup, that is scheduled to take place in June this year in West Indies and the USA.

Trott was appointed as Afghanistan's head coach in July 2022. Under his coaching, the team won 8 out of the 23 ODIs, which included a maiden series win over Bangladesh. Afghanistan won 11 out of 26 T20Is, including their maiden series win over Pakistan.

"Surrendered Meekly...": Ex-India Bowling Coach's Brutal Assessment Of 1st South Africa Test Defeat

NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agence): India were outplayed by South Africa in the first Test of a two-match series last week in Centurion. The Proteas took a 1-0 in the series, courtesy of an innings and 32-run win at the SuperSport Park. With India eyeing a redemption in the series decider in Cape Town, a venue where they have never won a Test, former bowling coach Bharat Arun shared his views on the humiliating defeat in the series-opener last week, saying that the visitors "surrendered meekly" against South Africa.

"Well, to see India come back and [KL] Rahul get that century was quite happening. And there was quite a lot of help in the wicket for the bowlers. So we had a very, very positive feeling about the whole thing. And we thought that we could clearly make a Test match out of this. I think winning or losing a Test match is okay. But I think the way we lost the last Test - we surrendered meekly in the second innings - is not a good feeling," Arun told RevSportz in an interview.

On being asked if India can make a comeback and draw the series at Newlands, Arun feels Rohit and his men are strong enough to do so. To back his claim, Arun recalled how India won the series in Australia during their last trip, having lost the first Test after being bowled out for 36.

"Indians are strong enough. They are resilient enough to be able to come back after this Test match. We did come back after being 36 all out in Australia. So losing a Test match is, I don't think it's a very, very big deal. But I think how you come back from there is even more important because that shows the character, their resilience, and things like that," he added.

India have never beaten South Africa in six previous meetings at the Newlands in Cape Town. They have played six Tests at the venue, losing four and drawing two.

In fact, India have only ever won four Tests in the Johannesburg Nation. Two of those victories have come at Johannesburg's Wanderers Stadium (2006 and 2018), including their first-ever Test win in South Africa under Rahul Dravid's captaincy 17 years ago.

Who Is Kashvee Gautam? Uncapped Indian Star Bought For INR 2 Crore By Gujarat Giants In WPL Auction



NEW DELHI, Jan 2 (Agence): The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 auction saw unprecedented scenes as uncapped all-rounder Kashvee Gautam fetched a whopping bid of INR 2 crore from Gujarat Giants on Saturday. Kashvee saw an intense bidding war between UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants for her services before the latter won the battle with a bid of Rs. 2 crore, the highest for an uncapped Indian player.

Kashvee isn't an

unfamiliar name in the Indian cricketing spectrum, having impressed many with her performances in the domestic circuit. Hailing from Chandigarh, Kashvee first made headlines when she picked all ten wickets in a domestic U-19 ODI match in February 2020. Ever since that feat, she has been touted as a future superstar for India in women's cricket.

Gautam achieved the feat for Chandigarh in a match against Arunachal Pradesh

at the KSRM College ground in Andhra Pradesh. Making use of the swing on offer, she got all the dismissals either by uprooting the stumps or by trapping the batters LBW in front of the stumps.

Kashvee took up the sport at the age of 14 and has never looked back since. She was also a part of the Women's T20 Challenge that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ran alongside the IPL for a few years before the introduction of the WPL.

The pacer-bowling all-rounder herself once said that she idolises India seamer, Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar is someone who has always inspired me. He has seen a lot of struggles in his career. He is a world-class bowler. I always wanted to emulate him and have tried to create an impact similar to him in terms of contributions with the ball," she told Women Criczone in an interview.

Ashok Koul addresses Booth Jan Samvad in Ward 50

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Further gearing up the ongoing "Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan" in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, BJP J&K State General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul accompanied by District President BJP Jammu South Rekha Mahajan, State IT Head BJP J&K Adv. Ishant Gupta, Trikuta Nagar Madal President & Corporator Neeraj Puri (Lucky Puri) and Corporator Neena Gupta, Ward President Pawan Kumar Dhunna and main speaker Dr. Himja Mengi, addressed a programme of all booths of Ward No. 50 Channi Himmat.

Besides, local leaders, the beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, the senior citizens and youth of the ward attended the programme.

Ashok Koul, while speaking in the programme, said that the massive public response to the BJP's programmes and meetings itself speak that the people are convinced by the programmes and policies of Narendra Modi Government. He said that after 5 August 2019, things have changed in Jammu and Kashmir.



There is a positive wave in the entire length and breadth of the UT, which endorses the decision of the Modi Government to abrogate Article 370 and 35A. During the past four years, the people have seen return of peace and normalcy, educational institutions and Government offices are functioning normally, there is no stone pelting, no bandh calls, markets are opened, people moving fearlessly, the tourist inflow has recorded steep rise, global events like G-20 have been conducted successfully.

Rekha Mahajan, while addressing the programme, said that the Narendra Modi Government has taken care of all the regions and sections of the soci-

ety while formulating various welfare schemes. These welfare schemes benefitted every citizen in the country. She said that the women have got special attention in the schemes, which has empowered them socially and economically.

Dr. Himja Mengi said it is the same Government under Narendra Modi, which has come forward to grant political reservation to women. It granted the basic rights, which were denied to them before the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. She asked the participants in the programme to strengthen the BJP and give one more chance to Narendra Modi to be PM for a third term. She also spoke

on various schemes to benefit the youth and make them self-dependent through schemes like Start ups.

Ishant Gupta conducted the programme proceedings and said that public has trusted the guarantee given by PM Modi.

Neena Gupta said that PM Modi delivers, what he promises. He devoted himself as Public Sewak for whom Nation is the top priority.

Neeraj Puri said that BJP Government under the leadership of PM Modi launches numerous pro people scheme which benefits the masses and appeal to the public to enroll themselves for "Vishwakarma Scheme". Pawan Kumar extended vote of thanks and said he is highly grateful to the public who grace the programme by their esteemed presence.

Prominent who present on this occasion were Poonam Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra, Rajinder Mehta, Diwaker Kohli, Prof. Bhola Nath Sharma, Om Parkash Sharma, Snajeev Vaid, Amit Gandotra, Indu Wazir, Vishal Gupta, Hitesh Jandyal, Deepak Kohli, Dheeraj Malhotra, Viraj Mahotra, Manav Mahajan and others.

Sunrise Educational Trust team meets with President PWVA



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: A deputation led by Rajesh Sharma founder trustee of Sunrise Public School Institute of education unit of Sunrise Educational Trust, Channi Himmat Jammu along with teachers Asha Rani, Radha Gupta, Pinky Malhotra, Nisha Devi, Zuberi Shaikh and Hamreen Kour met with Prof Rasmata Das Swain, President Police Wife's Welfare Association (PWVA) Jammu and Kashmir UT at Police Welfare Complex Gandhi Nagar, here on Tuesday.

Rajesh Sharma explained about the school and said we have started with 8 to 10 girls and boys and now we have the strength of 203 girls and boys getting the free education free books free uniform and refreshments to underprivileged children staying in slum area of Jammu urban since 2012 and school is up to 8th standard, now we are planning to go for residential school and will provide free education along with lodging and boarding up to 12th standard.

After 12th then they

can go for any professional courses as per the capacity of the students, and said we have already applied for the land in JDA Jammu and also identified the land in Nagrota.

Prof Rasmata listened to the deputation carefully and appreciated the efforts made by the Sunrise Educational Trust, teachers and other staff and assured the deputation all possible support will be provided in future and given very valuable suggestions like start skill development programme and schemes for women empowerment also.

Caution and collective efforts needed to stop new variant of Corona: Dr. Preeti Bhagat



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has said that the new variant of Corona is spreading rapidly across the country. Its cases being reported in Jammu and Kashmir also, there is an atmosphere of fear among the people.

During the last three years, lakhs of people had lost their lives due to this epidemic.

The government is working seriously to stop this epidemic, but it is also in the hands of the people to a large extent to keep themselves away from it. This epidemic can be avoided by taking precautions.

If you are already sick then do not go to crowded events. Corona can rapidly affect people who are already sick. Apart from this, follow the rules of social distancing and maintain a physical distance of one meter from any person. To avoid infection, wear a mask and keep cleaning your hands with alcohol-based sanitizer or soap or hand wash.

To avoid spreading the infection to others, cover your face while coughing or sneezing. The most important thing is that if any symptoms are seen in your body, then first isolate yourself and take medicines only on the advice of the doctor, do not take any medicine on your own.

Dr. Preeti Bhagat said that lakhs of people lost their lives during the previous waves of Corona and those who recovered are still struggling with many types of problems. If Corona infection is to be stopped then collective efforts will have to be made for this.

BJP organizes PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration camp at Shakti Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: BJP organized PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration camp at Ward 29 Shakti Nagar, Jammu.

Parmod Kapahi (District President BJP), Braham Jyot Satti (Incharge BJP OBC Morcha) were present in the program which was organised by Parveen Badyal (Vice President BJP OBC Morcha) and Tarun Sharma (BJYM Leader).

Surinder Choudhary (Former Councillor), Onkar Verma (Mandal President BJP), Sahil Sharma (BJYM), Raj Kumar (Social Activist), Pawan Kumar were also present on the occasion. Many people registered themselves for the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Speaking on the occasion Parmod Kapahi



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 artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades.

He said Under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, there is a provision to provide training for skill development to artisans associated with 18 traditional works including blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, carpenters and cobblers, and a training allowance of Rs 500 per day and an incentive amount of Rs 15,000 for tool kit.

Braham Jyot 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.

He said especially women are participating actively in this program and praising PM Narendra Modi for his efforts and tireless working for upliftment of middle class public.

He said now everyone is able to set up his/her business and becoming able to live life in a better way. This is all happening by our dynamic PM Narendra Modi.

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.

Women, unemployed youth, farmers, small traders, Drivers cannot be fooled by BJP: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: In order to give impetus & boost to the Party, a new AAP office opened at Grota, Ranjan, in Nagrota Assembly Constituency of Jammu Urban District by its Sangthan Manthri, Suresh Bhagat, in presence of Senior Party office bearers namely Er. Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Rajesh Pargotra, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Ashni Matoo, Karan Aatri, Amrik Singh and others, with great pump and show shouting slogans of the Party.

Large number of local office bearers & volunteers of the locality were present on the occasion. While addressing the Party enthusiasts and the locals, Senior Party leaders said that people are generally fed up with the false & dreamy promises of BJP mostly concentrated on religions, Hindu-Muslim, Nehru-Jinnah, Shamsaan-Kabristaan, Pakistan-Mandir-Masjid



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

village in each constituency every year etc.

The AAP leaders cautioned the masses that BJP has smelt rat of eating humble Pie in 2024 Lok Sabha election and that is why they are turning every stone to divert the attention of the public of the country in general & women folk in particular and make best use of their emotions for electoral gains.

They cautioned the masses in general & women folk across the country in particular to see through the game and not fall into the trap of BJP which they lay at the time of elections and later call it a Jumla.

Their sympathy with the women is well

known in case of women wrestlers, Hathras episode, Manipur naked parading of girls & women, and the latest one is that in UP the three active office bearers of BJP's IT cell have been accused of raping a Banaras Hindu University student on the campus last November in PM Modi's Parliamentary Constituency.

The AAP leaders asked why PM, Modi, UP CM & women & Child Development Minister, Samriti Irani were silent after their photographs with the rape accused surfaced in public domain?

The AAP leaders asserted and appealed the masses to teach them a lesson for times

to come to save the honor and dignity of women.

The AAP leaders further said that a perpetrator is always a man of sin, whatever be his caste, political affiliation or sect or religion but sad on the part of ruling dispensation, they have saved all such perpetrators- rapists and criminals be it Brij Bhushan Singh, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, or Ajay Teni who crushed down 8 protesting farmers, the three active office bearers of BJP-IT cell, Kunal Panday, Abhishek Chauhan & Saksham Patel or a contractor who repaired the bridge where more than 150 pedestrians lost their lives in MORBI Gujarat etc.

The AAP leaders maintained and warned that enough is enough and that they will be paid in the same coin in 2024, they cautioned and added that now the women folk, the unemployed educated youth, the farmers, traders & laborers etc cannot be befooled any longer now.

Dimple threatens Jammu Bandh if hit and run law is not roll back



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 2: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, led a protest against the new motor vehicle black law during with the transporters' union.

Dimple expressed concern over the severe penalties and imprisonment introduced by the law, particularly emphasizing the impact on drivers.

Dimple is urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to roll back the "hit & run black law," claiming it poses a life threat to license holders and the general public.

He argued that the law will adversely affect various modes of transportation, including bikes,

cars, autos, buses, trucks, and tankers.

The president of the mission statehood is not only criticizing the law for its impact on employment in the transport industry but also highlighting the existing challenges faced by the public, such as issues with fuel supplies and long queues at petrol pumps.

Sunil Dimple is threatening to call for a "Jammu Kashmir Bandh" in protest against the law, indicating widespread opposition.

He asserted that the government has failed to provide any benefits to drivers, conductors, and vehicle owners, accusing the BJP of not fulfilling its promises to

various sections of the population.

The protest, scheduled for January 3rd at Hari Singh Park, is expected to involve civil society, transporters, and numerous unions.

Other leaders, including Ranjet Singh, Anan Sharma, Ashish Singh, and various union leaders from the Kashmir region, Chinav Valley, and Pir Panjal, are present in the protest.

Dimple concluded by questioning whether this is the "Modi ki Guarantee," expressing dissatisfaction with the government's actions and policies regarding the transport industry and the promises made to different segments of the population.