

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 03, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Security forces launch search operation in Poonch

SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation in Mandi and Mendhar areas of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

In a joint operation, Army, CRPF and Police laid a cordon around Kasbadi Mendhar and Adhai village of Mandi after receiving inputs about suspicious movement of terrorists in the area, said an official.

The search operation was underway when this report was being filed.

Earlier, four army personnel died and three others were injured after terrorists ambushed an army vehicle in Bafliaz area of Poonch district. The incident followed massive anti-terror operation in the wooden areas of Bafliaz.

Mosque, two houses damaged in Kulgam fire

SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): A major fire incident in Gandbal Frisal, south Kashmir's Kulgam district, on Tuesday night partially gutted a masjid and two residential houses, officials said.

According to a fire and emergency official, the blaze engulfed a three-story masjid, a double-story house with a tin roof, and a single-story house with a tin roof when they received the call. Fire-fighters from Bijbehara, Yaripora, and Kulgam headquarters responded swiftly and managed to bring the situation under control.

The intense flames also caused significant damage to the rooftop of the Masjid. Fortunately, the prompt intervention of police, fire tenders, and local residents prevented the fire from spreading further.

The official said that the blaze damaged the residential houses of Jahangir Ahmed Pala and Ab Majeed Pala, both sons of Ab Aziz Pala and residents of Gandbal, along with the masjid.

Meanwhile, locals said that the fire caused substantial damage to the residential houses, as well as damage to the Masjid floor and windows. They described the fire as massive, quickly engulfing the houses and the Masjid. They have appealed to the government for support.

More details awaited.

Ministry asks airlines to do justice with passengers in case of flight delays, cancellations

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked airlines and operators to do justice to passengers amid cancellations and delays in flights due to fog and other operational-related issues.



The new year has seen an increase in air travel, especially by families for holidays, but the ministry has also received several complaints, with flight delays and cancellations.

"A senior official of the aviation ministry has advised all the airlines and operators to do justice to the passengers in case of sudden flight cancellations and further delay. DGCA is also keeping an eye on the complaints of passengers too," a ministry official told ANI.

In a meeting with senior officials and airlines, including operator representatives, the aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia himself asked operators to strictly follow the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) in terms of flight cancellations, or delay and refund policies.

In December, the government issued guidelines for compensation to air passengers due to flight cancellations and delays.

In case of cancellation, the airlines shall either provide an alternate flight or provide compensation in addition to the full refund of air tickets. Additionally,

the airline shall provide meals and refreshments to the passengers who have already reported for their original flight at the airport while waiting for the alternate flight.

In case of a flight delay, the airline is required to provide meals and refreshments, an alternate flight or a full refund of the ticket to the passenger or hotel accommodation (including transfers), depending on the total flight delay.

However, airlines shall not be obliged to compensate in cases where

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Vice-President to visit Jammu Tomorrow

SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar will visit Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, on January 4.

During his one-day tour, VP Dhankhar will be the Chief Guest at the 8th Convocation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu. Later he will proceed to Kathua in the afternoon.

In Kathua VP will inaugurate the Expo on emerging startup trends at Industrial Biotech Park Kathua.

The Vice President is visiting Kathua on the personal invitation of the Union Minister in PMO with Independent Charge of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh.

Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha and senior

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Five people succumb to Covid in last 24 hours, 511 Cases of JN.1 series variant reported till January 2

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) under the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has reported five deaths due to Covid in the last 24 hours in the country. A total of 511 cases of the JN.1 series variant have been reported from 11 states till January 2, 2024.

62,022 new cases have been registered in the last 24 hours, and the total number of cases stood at cases are 4,50,15,136, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

The active caseload stood at 4,440, which showed a decrease of 125 since Tuesday.

722 people recovered in the last 24 hours and the total recovered cases stood at

4,44,77,272.

State-wise distribution indicated 2 deaths in Kerala in the last 24 hours. The deceased has been identified as a 66-year-old male with Chronic Liver Disease, Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS), and Sepsis and a 79-year-old female with coronary artery disease (CAD), T2DM, and Sepsis.

Karnataka reported one Covid death in the last 24 hours. A 45-year-old male with hypertension (HTN) from Vijayanagar lost his life due to Covid.

Punjab reported one Covid death. The deceased has been identified as a 62-year-old male with Pulmonary Kochs, Lung injury, and MODS.

Tamil Nadu reported one death due to Covid

in the last 24 hours. A 74-year male with Interstitial Lung Disease, CAD, DM, and hypertension lost his life.

In Bihar reconciliation of mortality figures is ongoing. Odisha has reported 27 active cases on Tuesday.

32,946 tests were done on January 2 in the country, ICMR reported.

Further reconciliation of mortality figures is ongoing.

"A total of 511 cases of the JN.1 series variant have been reported from 11 states till January 2, 2024. Karnataka has reported 199 cases of the sub-variant. Kerala has reported 148 cases. 47 cases have been reported from Goa, 36 from Gujarat, 32 from Maharashtra," the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

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Cop among two arrested in terror-funding case in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) has arrested two more persons, including a policeman, for allegedly being part of a cross-border narcotic syndicate involved in terror funding here, officials said on Wednesday. The arrest of Selection grade constable Saif-ud-din of Jammu and former sarpanch Farooq Ahmad Jungal of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla

district took the number of accused in the case to 17, they said.

They said the syndicate was unearthed by SIA following investigation in a hawala case involving former minister and chairman of Nature-Mankind Friendly Party Jatinder Singh alias "Babu Singh".

Singh was arrested in April 2022 after one of his worker's Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kash-

mir's Kokernag, was held along with hawala money of Rs 6.90 lakh in Jammu.

The SIA had already filed a charge sheet against 12 accused, including the former minister in the instant case. While nine accused are lodged in Central jail, three absconders are in Pakistan.

A team of SIA raided the house of the policeman in the Belicharana

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Why Punjab man with a PhD and 4 Master's degrees is now selling vegetables

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): A man in Punjab with a PhD and four master's degrees is selling vegetables to make both ends meet.

Dr Sandeep Singh said he taught at a Punjabi University for over a decade but quit due to financial constraints.

"I taught at Punjabi University - five years on a JRF (junior research fellowship) and seven years as a guest faculty.



In June this year, I quit teaching as it became difficult for me and my family to survive on that salary," said Sandeep Singh.

As per Sandeep Singh, the salary by the university was very low and not given on time either.

Sandeep Singh now

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ED raids Jharkhand CM's Press Advisor, others in 'Illegal' mining case

RANCHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided locations of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's press advisor, officials of Sahibganj district and a former MLA as part of a money laundering probe into alleged illegal mining in the state, official

sources said.

About a dozen locations in the state are being raided by the central agency under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The premises of Abhishek Prasad alias Pintu, collector and SP

of Sahibganj district, ex-MLA Pappu Yadav, some jail department officials and a police constable are being searched, the sources said.

The agency, since 2022, has been probing a trail of Rs 100 crore of "proceeds of crime"

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Kashmir freezes with intense dry cold, no relief in sight

SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): Intense dry cold wave continued in Kashmir on Wednesday as most water bodies froze in part recording alarmingly low discharge.

Kashmir is reeling under intense dry cold wave as Dal, Nigeen, Wullar and all other lakes, streams and rivers froze in parts while the water level in these dropped alarmingly low due to very scant snowfall and that too only in the mountains so far this season.

Demands for potable water have started pouring in from places otherwise believed to be sufficiently provided through water supply schemes by the Jal Shakti department.

Weather office has forecast cloudy weather from January 4 to January 6, adding that this is unlikely to result in rain/snowfall in the plains.

Srinagar city had minus 4.8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday as the minimum temperature while Gulmarg and Pahalgam had minus 3.8 and minus 6.6 respectively.

In Ladakh region, Leh town had minus 15.2, Kargil minus 12.4 and Drass minus 14 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 7, Katra 4.4, Batote 2.6, Baderwah 0.3 and Banihal minus 1.6.

Fresh protest erupts in Indian wrestling; this time against Bajrang, Sakshi and Vinesh



NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The ongoing crisis in Indian wrestling took a fresh twist on Wednesday when hundreds of junior wrestlers assembled at Jantar Mantar here to protest against the loss of one crucial year of their careers, a situation for which they blamed top grapplers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat.

Loaded in buses, the junior wrestlers arrived from different parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, catching the police unaware.

Close to 300 of them came from Arya Samaj Akhara in Chhaprauli, Baghatpat while many others came from the Virender Wrestling Academy in Narela. Many are still packed in

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Kejriwal skips third ED summons in Delhi Excise policy case

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday skipped the third summons issued by the ED in the Delhi excise policy case and sent a written reply calling the notice illegal, AAP sources said.

The Aam Aadmi Party asserted that Kejriwal was ready to cooperate with the agency but claimed that the summons was sent with the intention of arresting him.

"Why has the notice been sent right before elections? The notice is an attempt to stop

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EDITORIAL

SAVITRIBAI
PHULE

Savitribai Phule was born on 3 January 1831. She was born in a farmer family in Maharashtra. Savitri Bai's father's name was Khandoji Nevse and mother's name was Lakshmi Bai. Along with this, Savitribai was also the first female teacher of India and was also a poet and social worker.

Savitribai had only one goal in life to educate girls. Savitribai Phule got married at the age of 9. Savitribai was an intelligent person, she also had knowledge of Marathi language.

Savitribai belonged to a farmer family, yet she became India's first teacher. Along with this, she also became a social worker and also emerged as a poet. Savitribai also wrote two poetry books, the first was her poetry Phule and the second was Bawankashi Subodhratnakar.

Savitribai wanted to do something good in her life. For this, she had only one goal to educate women by any means and she also took many steps for this. In 1848, when Savitribai Phule ji went to teach children, everyone used to shower cow dung on her.

That is, they used to beat her by throwing cow dung at her, and they said that Shudras did not have the right to teach more Shudra people, that is why Savitribai was stopped by the people. Even after all this, Savitribai did not stop and she always kept walking with her bag. She always kept a pair of clothes in that bag and when people hit her with cow dung, her clothes would get dirty, that is why she used to change her clothes after reaching school, after that she used to teach the children.

Savitri Bai had only one goal to educate girls by any means. Along with this, she removed the ban on many practices and got success in them like widow remarriage, eradicating untouchability, giving women their rights in the society and educating women, during all this Savitribai also established 18 schools of her own. Her school was first opened in Pune.

When the first school was opened by her, only 9 children used to come to that school and she also taught them. But within a year many children started coming.

Savitribai opened her first school on her birthday on 3 January 1848, in which she started teaching children from 9 different castes. After this, she gradually started this campaign that it is mandatory to educate women and she also got success in this campaign. After this, both Savitribai Phule and her husband Jyotiba Phule together got 5 schools built.

At that time people had a very wrong ideology that girls should not be taught. Along with this, Savitribai also changed this ideology and made people understand that girls should have the same right to study as boys have.

Savitribai struggled a lot for this. After this, she also established a center, where she inspired widow women to remarry. Along with this, there was also a struggle for the rights of the untouchables.

Both Savitribai and her husband Jyotiba Phule were social reformers. Together they both served the society very well. But she had no children, so she adopted Yashwantrao, the son of a Brahmin widow. This was opposed by all the members of the entire family, hence, she ended his relationship with his family.

In 1852, the then British government honored the entire couple for their contribution in the field of women's education. Along with this, the Central and Maharashtra governments had also established many awards in the memory of Savitribai Phule.

In 1897, when people were suffering from plague, a hospital was opened by Savitribai and her son and the untouchables were also treated in that hospital. But during this illness, Savitribai herself became a victim of this disease and died. There have been many such people in our India, who are worthy of respect even today. She has done many such things for our India and for the people of India, due to which people are getting their rights today. That is why we should respect such people.

Congress flounders, needs a strategy to get relevant

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The 138-year-old Congress Party needs an emphatic popular mandate to deliver on its deal to its partners in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance that it will pull its weight in the 2024 general election by winning enough seats to oust Narendra Modi from power and defeat the BJP. The present team of leaders owe it to the lineage of the party that imagined the nation as a republic committed to modern, secular and just values to succeed in fulfilling the promises it has made.

To do so the party needs a message and a mission that is unequivocal and makes common sense to the crores of voters across the diversities of identity, geography and language. A "Donate for Desh" fundraising campaign or a 6,200-km Bharat Nyay Yatra crossing 14 states, most of them ruled by the BJP and the toughest battlegrounds for the emaciated Congress in these parts, is not a strategy for wooing the masses and winning a mandate.

By the time the money comes in and the yatra is over, the 2024 general election will have been, most likely, called and the Congress may not be any better off than it was in 2019 when it won a mere 14 parliamentary seats out of the 355 constituencies that the march will cover in 150 days. The BJP won 236 seats in the 14 states, including Uttar Pradesh with 80 MP seats, West Bengal with 42 seats, Bihar with 40, Maharashtra with 48, Gujarat with 26, Rajasthan with 25, Odisha with 21, Madhya Pradesh with 29 and Chhattisgarh with 11 seats.

The chances of the yatra's success in mobilising the popular

vote will face its first obstacle in Manipur. Experts on the Northeast say, at best, Rahul Gandhi may be allowed to flag off the yatra from Imphal, after which the probability is that he will be airlifted out of the state and sent on his way. It is difficult to imagine a red carpet will be laid out for Rahul Gandhi through the tense and volatile Manipur countryside.

The yatra and the crowdfunding exercise, more about that later, are only two of the four action points the Congress has been able to announce as of now. The party's other two initiatives are setting up a five-member National Alliance Committee, that seems to be floundering in the negotiations with the regional and smaller parties over seat-sharing, and the 138th year of its founding celebration in Nagpur.

There is an inconsistency between what the Congress thinks it is doing and its actions thus far. From the outside, the Congress seems to be in denial about its current shortcomings in relation to the targets it has set.

The cognitive dissonance is obvious. It is uncertain if it is cause for hilarity or the deepest depression.

The cash-strapped party has launched a campaign of crowdfunding, "Donate for Desh". The Congress says it is a unique moment in its history when it is asking people to contribute "for the nation". From Mallikarjun Kharge's explanation, it would appear that the party believes the donations will serve to establish a connection with the masses and draw them into participating in the campaign to oust Narendra Modi and defeat the BJP in the general election. It is incomprehensible why the Congress thinks something as impersonal as a cash

transfer into a bank account is the same as a steadfast commitment to vote for the party in 2024, when it is so obviously not.

The "Donate for Desh" has no clear message; nor does it have a mission that contributors can identify with. Neither Mr Kharge nor the Gandhi family have an iota of the charisma and the appeal that Mahatma Gandhi possessed in truckloads, which makes the argument that the fund drive has a pedigree the same as the Tilak Swaraj Fund an insult to the extraordinary effectiveness of a campaign that inspired women to donate their gold, the only property they possessed over which they had total control.

It would have been inconceivable for the Mahatma to squander the collections on a Bharat Yatra with an abstract mission of presenting itself as a crusader for "nyay", or justice. It is absurd for the Congress to finance a road trip involving complicated logistics and enormous expenditure for setting up camps, transporting yatri and the container modules for Rahul Gandhi and other VIP leaders to sleep in without firming up seat-sharing with its INDIA partners in UP, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal, for starters. It seems to have no memory of its recent pitiable performance in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, where it lost to the BJP in the recent Assembly elections.

And it has not as yet unveiled strategy for states like Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand and Meghalaya.

If the Congress is committed to the challenge of mobilising the masses to vote for it and the INDIA collective, it should have got on with the seat-sharing negotiations, for starters. The Rahul Gandhi-led yatra may have had some politi-

cal value if INDIA as a collective of parties had a common minimum programme and a common campaign strategy. None of this has progressed to the point that the yatra and the campaign can be fused together to create a buzz among voters in what is politically hostile terrain for the Congress and the INDIA alliance.

The vague announcement that eight to ten meetings of the INDIA group will be held across the country seems to have nothing with to do with a coordinated strategy to grab voter attention as the yatra gets going. What message can the yatra deliver in UP if the Samajwadi Party and smaller parties on the one hand and the Congress on the other have not finalised seat-sharing and a common campaign agenda?

The BJP's message and mission are clear. The party led by Mr Modi guarantees delivery on all promises. The Ram Mandir inauguration is the biggest and shiniest example of the guarantee message and its capacity to fulfil its declared mission.

Funds, message and mission, that is resources, purpose and strategy, is the basic minimum that the Congress needs for a mandate to lead the INDIA collective and put up an honest fight against the BJP. The people's mandate will not be delivered on a platter; INDIA and the Congress will have to fight for it. Without syncing message, mission and strategy, the INDIA collective will be at best a banner and the regional parties will work independently to protect the turf they now control from the even more aggressive and immensely beefed-up BJP, after the Ram Mandir inauguration on January 22, 2024.

The future of education lies in inclusivity, adaptability, and forward-thinking approaches



By: Vijay GarG

The landscape of higher education is on the cusp of revolutionary changes as 2024 begins. Emerging trends are reshaping traditional paradigms and educational institutions must be prepared to adapt to stay ahead. Following are the key trends and innovations that will redefine the educational experience in the higher education domain and provide insights into the dynamic future of learning.

Quality in hybrid learning

As 2024 has arrived, the traditional boundaries of classrooms and textbooks are giving way to the liberating concept of hybrid learning models. These models seamlessly incorporate online and face-to-face interactions which represent not just a passing trend, but a long-term educational revolution. The driving force behind this significant shift is to create a flexible and relevant group of students and provide them with fluid learning experiences. Hybrid learning not only expands

the geographical reach but also caters to the diverse needs of the students by offering an overall educational journey. The growth of these models opens avenues for innovation, allowing educational entrepreneurs to create impactful courses with global reach.

Focus on mental health

In 2024, the well-being and mental health of students will be given the topmost priority. Recognising the fact that mental health is integral for academic success and good quality of life, institutions are reimagining student support services. Beyond addressing mental health concerns reactively, the emphasis is now on adopting preventive measures and creating a resilient academic environment. While creating a culture of empathy and support it has to be ensured that students end up becoming resilient. Sports, sleeping habits, spiritual guidance, and the right peer group can prove to be instrumental in this process.

Upskilling and lifelong learning

The evolving landscape of work and education is driving the imperative for lifelong learning and upskilling. Now that 2024 has arrived, traditional degree programmes are expanding to include modular and skill-based learning programmes. These programmes are designed in collaboration with industry partners to enable the professionals to continuously update their skills in response to changing industry needs. The concept of lifelong learning is transforming alumni networks into lifelong engagement models where graduates

return periodically for upskilling and retraining. This shift not only benefits individuals, but also cultivates a community of engaged professionals by contributing to the institutions' reputation and appeal.

Competency education

Competency-based education is gaining prominence within the educational landscape. Unlike traditional models that emphasise time-based metrics, competency education focuses on mastering specific skills and knowledge. By aligning education with the demands of the real-world, competency based education prepares students for the workforce by prioritising hands on skills over theoretical knowledge. While implementing competency-based education poses challenges such as curriculum redesign and assessment methods, it offers a unique opportunity for new universities to stand out in the educational market. Due to its emphasis on mastering the skills, personalisation, and alignment with workforce needs, competency education is relevant and effective educational paradigm.

Evolving LMS

Integrating the Learning Management Systems (LMS) with the educational domain is of utmost priority. Modern LMS platforms go beyond being repositories of course materials, incorporating artificial intelligence, data analytics, and personalised learning routes. These systems provide accessibility, flexibility and efficiency by catering to the demands of both traditional and hybrid

learning models. While the initial investment in a sophisticated LMS is substantial, its long-term benefits in terms of cost savings, streamlined administration, and enhanced student experiences make it a strategic investment for many new universities.

Sustainable success of universities

One of the pressing questions for those contemplating the establishment of a university is the cost involved. The financial considerations for opening a university in 2024 will be multifaceted which will be influenced by factors such as location, scale, and institutional focus. The geographical location significantly impacts both initial and ongoing costs with urban settings often incurring higher expenses. The desired size and type of institution, whether research-focused or specializing in liberal arts, also play a pivotal role in determining budgetary requirements. Rigorous financial planning guided by educational financial advisors is crucial to ensure not only the establishment, but also sustainable success of the university.

As the educational landscape undergoes transformative shifts, educational leaders must stay agile and responsive to these trends. The future of education lies in inclusivity, adaptability, and forward-thinking approaches.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout)

Devotees thronged to seek blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj on New Year

Love is a deal of acceptance, not of getting things done: Mata Sudiksha

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 3: "Love is to be believed, its not a thing to be imposed; when we realise this, all our bonds get dissolved and we proceed on the path of devotion". This is excerpt from the discourses delivered by Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji on the auspicious occasion of special congregation /satsang organised on the eve of New Year in Burari, Ground No 8.

With the beginning of the New Year 2024, thousands of devotees from Delhi NCR region and adjoining areas joined to listen to the holy discourses of her holiness and have the holy glimpses.

On the same occasion, addressing the holy congregation Nirankari Rajpita Ramit said that our belief and devotion on Nirankar should be based on our personal experience rather on getting inspired from someone else.

The worship, after the attainment of vision of divine knowledge from Satguru is of utmost importance. By granting similar divine knowledge to all, Satguru is delivering salvation



while living and we can attain salvation with our dedication and experience.

Further Satguru Mata said that while in our practical lives, we adopt narrow attitude and discriminatory behaviour in limited sphere of

ours. However, we can rise above this only through divine knowledge and see the one God. We have to broaden our vision and live life with the feelings of love only. By doing this our narrow-mindedness will cease to exist.

Talking about the love Satguru Mata said that when we get connected to the great God, then no fetters remain. Attaching oneself to the Color of this berang/ Color-less, one gets immersed in the real color through which one's devotion gets more strengthened. But, at times by forgetting this truth, we try to influence others through our own ideology. In reality, the love is a subject to act upon but not to persuade others to believe in it. We have to do all acts through this consciousness of divine knowledge. We have to lead this life replete with devotion along with love within for everyone.

At the end, Satguru Mata blessed all and extended her wishes for everyone to lead a life full of devotion, remembrance and divine congregation on new year to all. Satguru's precious words on the eve of new year is undoubtedly a boon for whole humanity.

BMO Mandi takes surprise visit at Sub centre Balnoi



Top News Report

MANDI, Jan 3: Block Medical Officer Mandi Dr Nusrat in nissa Bhatti surprise visit Health Centre balnoi and took stock of the functioning.

During the visit, the BMO inspected of the newly constructed building and also interacted with the staff and locals of the area and sought feedback from the public.

Moreover the work on

the newly constructed sub centre balnoi is mostly completed. But there is a need for power cum water supply and development of the main wall fencing for protection of the health centre, BMO ensure that the electricity and water supply issue will be resolved very soon so that the patients get proper sign of relief.

Moreover the 5-member committee

will be framed for the auction of old building material as soon as possible BMO said.

In addition BMO also checked the record and attendance and directed the staff to maintain cleanliness and provide better medical care facilities to the patients.

During the visit of BMO Mandi, staff, senior citizens, Sarpanch, locals of the area were also present on the occasion.

IGNOU Jammu makes its way deep into rural-tribal belts of region

77% of total enrolled learners from rural-tribal areas, says Regional Director



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: "Regional Centre Jammu of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) since its inception in the year 1998 has set several benchmarks over the years in terms of sustainable growth of enrollment and providing quality support services to the learners across the region. Setting yet another benchmark, around 77 percent learners from the rural and tribal areas have enrolled themselves under IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu for various programmes in the recently concluded July 2023 admission cycle. This is yet another feather in the cap of the Regional Centre to have taken IGNOU to the far

flung and remote areas of the region", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

Dr. Verma stated that IGNOU, over the years, has lived up to the country's expectations of providing quality education to the marginalized sections of society which includes free of cost education being provided to jail inmates across the country and enrolling a large number of SC/ST learners for a number of programmes of the University for which the programme fee is exempted.

He also stated that the University has digitized the study material for different programmes and IGNOU also provides a discount of 15% on the programme fee to the students who opt

for digital material rather than the hard copy. The digitized material is available at eGyankosh, the digital repository of the University.

Dr. Verma also informed about the launch of certain new utilitarian programmes by the University from the ongoing January 2024 admission cycle which include MASL (Master of Arts in Spanish), MAPFHS (Master of Arts in Population and Family Health Studies).

Regional Director called upon those aspiring learners who wish to take admission in any of the IGNOU programmes online for the ongoing January 2024 admission cycle to enroll themselves before the last date which is January 31, 2024.

KCCI welcomes IICT Srinagar lab becoming First Accredited Textile Testing Laboratory of J&K

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 3: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) expressed satisfaction over Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) Srinagar lab becoming First Accredited Textile Testing Laboratory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Accreditation has been done by the Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL).

The KCCI considers it to be a historic milestone as it will accord due credibility and recognition to the testing facility being provided by the Institute in line with National and International Quality Standards. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce has a close association with IICT, Srinagar and played a big role in its development and expansion. On this occasion the KCCI expresses appreciation

to its Director Mr. Zubair Ahmad, Government of India, Jammu & Kashmir Government and officials of the institute for their role for getting it the Institute Accredited. This status of the IICT will greatly benefit the manufacturers/Exporters of Kashmir Handmade products. It is hoped that the IICT will grow from strength to strength for which the KCCI will continue to play its active role.

SMVDU faculty published Patent

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 3: The design patent for the "Machine Learning Integrated Blockchain Model for Industry 4.0 Smart Applications" has been published where Dr. Deepak Jain, Assistant Professor, School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) is one the contributors.

Other collaborative recipients of the design patent include Dr. Beena B.M (Associate Professor, Karnataka), Ranjan Kumar Dash (Professor, Odisha), Dr. Anil Bhat (Senior Assistant Professor, Jammu



and Kashmir), Dr. Soudamini Behera (Assistant Professor, Odisha), Aditya Kumar Prajapati (Uttar Pradesh), Mohd Sartaj (Research Scholar, Uttar Pradesh), Dr. Subhra Debdas (Associate Professor, Odisha), Sthitprajna Mishra (Research Scholar, Odisha), Dr.

Suraj Sharma (Associate Professor, Chhattisgarh).

On December 15, 2023, the Office of Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. published the patent under application number 202341074960, Publication Number - 50/2023. The Field of invention falls under the 'Communication' under classification "H04L0009320000, G06N0020000000, G06F0021620000, G06Q0010060000, H04L0009060000".

Talla Jewellers, NGO celebrate New Year at Bal Ashram



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Talla Jewellers & Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), an NGO, committed to making a positive impact in the lives of those in need, joyously celebrated the onset of the New Year with the children of Bal Ashram in Channi Rama.

The foundation's members engaged the children in a day filled with laughter, games, and treats, creating lasting memories for all involved.

Various engaging games were organized, and the winners were treated to a delightful assortment of goodies,

including chocolates, candies, and other delightful items.

Adding a touch of sweetness to the festivities, the foundation generously distributed food items like Patty, Halwa, Soup, and more, ensuring the children enjoyed a delicious start to the year. The event aimed not only to provide entertainment but also to instill a sense of joy and belonging among the young hearts at Bal Ashram.

On speaking with Vivek Parihar, CEO & Founder said, "Our NGO remains dedicated to its mission of spreading kindness and making a positive impact on

communities. The New Year celebration at Bal Ashram exemplifies the foundation's commitment to uplifting the spirits of those who may be less fortunate".

While speaking with Abhishek Raina, Secretary (Jammu Province) thanks to Kashish Gupta CEO Talla Jewellers for their support in organising this activity & said, "As we step into the New Year, Foundation reaffirms its pledge to continue supporting and bringing joy to communities in need.

The members present were Jyoti, Sachin, Babita, Kunal, Shruti, Shubam, Stuti, Sahil, Vishal and Vivek Sharma.

Councillor Sahil Gupta takes part in New Year celebrations

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Municipal Committee Bishnah Councillor Sahil Gupta took part in New Year celebrations in Kesi Morh Bishnah.

He distributed Halwa and sweets along with other dignitaries.

The event was attended by various prominent figures, including SHO Bishnah Abid Bukhari, Gold Smith Sharan Aryan, DDC Member Dharminder Kumar, Sarpanch Bavisshan Singh, BJP Senior

leader Anil (Mintu) Gupta, Social activists Anirudh Sharma and Arjun Sharma, KC Morh Shop Keeper Association Sanju Sharma, Parveen Sharma, Sandeep Karlopia, Rohit Kumar, Bishambar Das, Tushar Digra, Vansh Mehra, Ayaan Mehra, Akshay Sharma, and others.

During the celebration, SHO Abid Bukhari, DDC Member Dharminder Kumar, and other attendees appreciated the efforts of Sahil Gupta and extended New Year wishes to the public of Bishnah town.



Rohiin Chandan praises 'Modi magic' as PM tops list of most popular global leader

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked as the "world most popular leader" in the world by a US-based decision intelligence company, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Secretary Jammu South and Prabhari Yuva Morcha Jammu South Rohiin Chandan, remarked that "Modi's magic" has been endorsed even by an international survey.

He stated according to the survey by 'Morning Consult' PM Modi has a global approval rating of 76 per cent.

Rohiin Chandan expressed, that after the recently concluded assembly election results in five states, even an international poll has given a thumbs up to "Modi's guarantee and magic", which is about his model of governance and delivery in the last successful ten years. He also noted

that Modi scored high ratings even during an international crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic when other world leaders suffered in popular support.

Rohiin elaborated that it is because he had been able to deliver on development and growth while managing inflation and taking more than 13.5 crore people out of poverty. He said the approval rating will be reflected in the Lok Sabha upcoming polls in 2024.

Chandan said PM Modi's excellent administrative skills and legislative experience spanning decades coupled with empathetic leadership has found him a place in the hearts of millions of Indians," he added.

Rohiin counted that it also showed people continue to believe in Bharatiya Janata Party ideology and see it as a beacon of trust, hope, and credibility, a posi-

tive signal for the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as visionary Prime Minister Modi gets set for a chance to equal Jawaharlal Nehru's record of three straight stints as PM.

"The election results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh are showing that the people of India have faith only in the politics of good governance and development and their faith in the BJP remains intact.

Rohiin Chandan highlights that the PM used "Modi ki guarantee" for the first time during the unveiling of Bharat Mandapam, setting the tone for the state polls as the phrase was used by party leaders to emphasize Modi's promises were pragmatic and deliverable.

Rohiin said the country was moving ahead under the clairvoyant leadership of PM Modi with the goal of a developed India.

'You ought to respect your characters'

Three of Us director Avinash Arun on why he refrained from making the lead character's illness the hero of the plot and instead emphasised on the closure of a chapter of her life...

With limited shows and no promotions whatsoever, the film *Three of Us* made an unceremonious exit from theatres in November 2023. But after its arrival on Netflix, many, including renowned filmmaker Hansal Mehta, have hailed it as the *Movie of the Year*.

While one might appreciate how OTT propagates good cinema, the need of the hour is to talk, promote and celebrate filmmakers, scriptwriters and artists for such wonderful projects. Avinash Arun, co-writer, cinematographer and director of *Three of Us*, finds time to talk to us about the journey of his latest release, plans for 2024 and what makes him a 'moderate' man.

While writers Avinash Arun, Omkar Achyut Barve and Arpita Chatterjee collectively weaved a tale of fading memories, past-trauma and a bitter-sweet closure, Arun's brilliant direction accentuated the stellar performances of lead actors Shefali Shah, Jaideep Ahlawat, Swanand Kirkire and Kadambari Kadam. Not to forget how wonderfully Arun captured the Konkani region through his lens with each frame enhancing the viewing experience.

Talking of the same, he reveals, "While writing the script, we had a fair idea about what



we wanted for its backdrop — the Konkani region. It has a personal connect too, for I grew up there. So, the familiarity helped."

On the perfect casting for the three lead characters, Shailaja, Pardip and Dipankar, Arun says, "I never write keeping an actor in mind. In the creative process of writing, you go with the flow. You don't know where the ink and paper will take you and you have to surrender yourself to it. It is only when you think of filming it, that's when you think of a face. I was clear that Shefali Shah would be perfect as Shailaja. Jaideep (Pardip) and Sharad (Dipankar) came later in the picture."

Another gem that shines in *Three of Us* is Varun Grover, who has written dialogues as

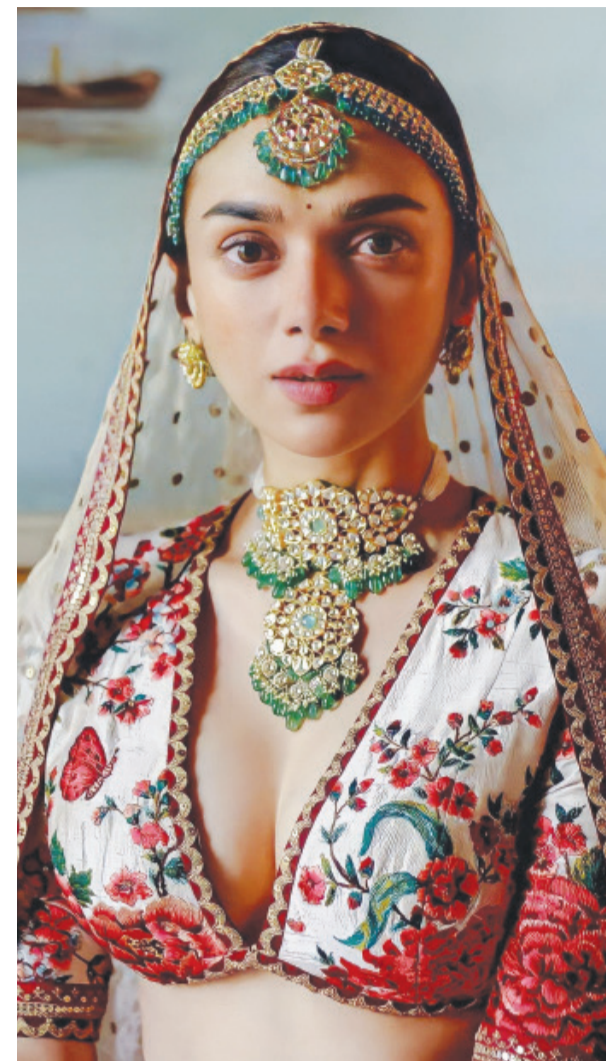
well as the poem *Udgam* for the film. Arun shares, "We had this idea for more than five to six years. We were not writing it down but it kept playing in the subconscious mind. *Three of Us* was my attempt to make something like what Gulzar sahib has done, a film that feels as if it has walked straight out of a book. And going by people's response, it's more of a poetry book. So, Varun has actually done it."

Be it critically acclaimed series *Paatal Lok*, *School of Lies*, *Vishnu* or the anthology series *Unpaused* or recent release *Three of Us*, Arun's characters evoke empathy more than sympathy. On whether the writing process is different for such characters, he laughs it

off, "You ought to give respect to your characters. If you make their poor background, problems, disability or illness the hero of the plot, it would evoke pity. In Shailaja's case, her dementia may have made her act on her long-time wish to visit Vengurla, but it isn't the entire discourse of the plot, which makes her story relatable."

It's only been five days since the release of the film on OTT and Arun is inundated with positive feedbacks. He only wishes for the film to do well. Reviews don't bother him much. "I detach myself from what I have done or achieved. I didn't take the pressure of *Paatal Lok*'s success when working on the sequel. Also, I seldom read reviews. A strong like or dislike is not something that I can relate to. Everything should be in moderation. If I wish to make a film or write a script, I would do it anyway. Being too serious or too casual will also not sail your boat." Indeed, Arun does 'everything in moderation'. For the budding writers or directors, Arun has a piece of advice, "Whatever story you are going to tell is already being told in a million ways, but that shouldn't stop you from telling it anyway. It is how you tell it that will make your story personal as well as unique."

'Grateful', says Aditi Rao Hydari as she confirms her relationship with Siddharth



Aditi Rao Hydari has shared a love-struck picture with Siddharth

from their New Year getaway, sharing how blessed, happy and

grateful she is with the Rang De Basanti actor.

Aditi and Siddharth are reportedly in a relationship for the past few years, but they had not made it official. They worked together in the Telugu romantic action drama *Maha Samudram*.

However, now on the occasion of New Year, Aditi dropped a picture with her beau, leaving everyone in awe of the couple. The *Murder 3* actress wrote, "Happy, blessed grateful to magic, happiness, love, laughter unicorns rainbows and fairy dust #happynewyear to you all 2024".

Siddharth was earlier married to Meghna. The couple had announced separation in January 2007. Meanwhile, on the professional front, the actor was last seen in Tamil movie *Chithha*. He next has *Indian 2* and *Test* in the pipeline.

While, Aditi last appeared in Tamil movie *Hey Sinamika*. She will be seen in *Gandhi Talks* and *Lioness*.

It's sun, sea & sand for Sana Raees Khan

Bigg Boss 17 contestant Sana Raees Khan known for her vivacious personality, chose to celebrate her individuality and welcome the New Year in the tropical paradise of the Maldives.

Sana took to her social media and updated all her fans about her New Year celebrations by sharing glimpses of her breathtaking getaway.

Her social media posts conveyed a sense of joy, liberation, and newfound freedom post-eviction. In a bunch of pictures, we could see Sana donning a beautiful misprint multi-coloured cord-set and apart from that the



actress is also seen posing in a stunning multicolored body-hug-

ging sleeveless swimsuit which she paired with a beige corset top.

Ranaksh Rana: 'Success means more work'

Ranaksh Rana says that while people feel that success makes one feel relaxed and in control, it is quite the opposite in reality. He adds that one needs to tread with caution after a successful break.

"The work picks up after a successful launch. To choose the right script, upgrade knowledge and skills, read, read, and read anything and everything. Success for the world is different but actually success brings more work and double the effort. People see success differently. If I can bring about a change in society through my art, I will be successful," he says.



Talking about working in the entertainment industry as a career option, he says, "Cinema, as a field, has a lot of opportunities and potential. We have not even covered 10 per cent of the Indian population who go to theatres to watch the cinema. I think the field is open for talented artists to capture — across different aspects of filmmaking."

He adds, "Those who treat it as a secondary profession may find it difficult to succeed. Point is to not take it lightly. Research, practice, watching films, practice - it is a lifelong journey of learning and upgrading yourself. Like any other field, cinema

and filmmaking is a serious business."

Ask him what are the pros and cons of working in the industry and he says, "I have acted on 90+ plays and have been associated with the industry for a long time but only since 2020 have I pursued this as a full-time career. The pro of being in the entertainment industry is that there are unlimited opportunities of growth and you can live multiple lives in one life. You can truly empathise with different segments of society, and understand their reality, and their struggles. The con is that people come to the industry to try and not to actually work."

Anupama Solanki says that one needs to be patient while building relationships



Anupama Solanki says that one needs to be patient while building relationships. However, she adds that nowadays we are very impatient and want results quickly.

"Relationships are quite challenging for people who are impatient. Well, I have a lot of patience and it's in-built in me. So, I easily handle all my relation-

ships. I don't react till it becomes worse. These days relationships are nothing for a few people. Ranveer Kapoor and Shradha Kapoor's movie *Tu Jhooti Main Makkar* is the biggest example. Nowadays people lose patience and have weak minds. That is why to use and throw things in relationships," she says.

She says that people form great friendships at work, and most of those sustain as well. "I totally agree if your friends are from work, then it will become easier to maintain friendships. These days everyone one in a hurry and has limited time so it's better to have friends in the same field," she says.

Meanwhile, she adds that everyone is different and has their own needs. "Everyone has a totally different mindset. Few people are emotional so they need emotional support and few people have very less emotions so they don't have emotional values. Relationships and careers should be balanced," she says.

Anjali Patil was duped of Rs 5.79 lakh by an imposter pretending to be a Mumbai police officer



An imposter pretending to be a Mumbai police officer allegedly duped Bollywood actor Anjali Patil convincing her that she had drugs in a courier in her name.

Anjali was duped of Rs 5.79 lakh by the fraud posing as the officer, a report said.

Last week, Anjali received a phone call from someone claiming to be Deepak Sharma, an employee of FedEx courier company.

He informed her that the package registered in her name, which was bound for Taiwan, had been seized by customs authorities as it had drugs.

He also alleged that her Aadhaar card was found inside the package, and advised her to contact the Mumbai cyber police to prevent any potential misuse of her personal information.

After this, Anjali received a call from someone identifying himself as Banerjee from the Mumbai cyber police. Banerjee said that her Aadhaar card had been linked to three bank accounts involved in a money-laundering case. To prove her innocence, Banerjee demanded Rs 96,525.

In order to avoid potential legal repercussions and resolve the case, Patil was told to transfer Rs 4,83,291 to a Punjab National Bank account.

A few days later, when Patil shared the incident with her landlord she realised that she was target of a cyber scam. She reported the incident to the DN Nagar police. A case has been registered and investigation is on. Meanwhile, in a statement FedEx warned customers of such fraud calls.

Kusha Kapila on her transition from a Delhiite to Mumbaikar

Social media personality and actress Kusha Kapila has opened up on her experience of moving to Mumbai from Delhi, and shared how she is a "different" person when she is in the "city of dreams".

Youtuber Kusha is known for her work as a host of *Comicstaan*. She also featured in projects like *Dehati Ladke*, *Case Toh Banta Hai* and *Selfie* among others.

The story chronicles the life of a young boy, Rajat, who moves to Lucknow from a small village to pursue his college education, where his life transforms as he experiences the true trials of life. Rajat's innocence, aspirations, moral compass, and deeds are all defined by his village background, which makes *Dehati* the central figure in Rajat's identity.



Talking about her experience of moving to Mumbai from Delhi, Kusha said, "Moving to Mumbai has been fantastic. I'm not a stranger to the city, considering I've been working here for the last three to four years. But it's very fast-paced as compared to Delhi.

People are workaholics here. I think I'm a different person when I'm in Mumbai." Kusha said she is very charged and always on her toes, when in Mumbai. "However, whenever I go back to Delhi, I like to take things a little slow. I like to strike that balance between both cities," she shared.

PM Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone of projects worth Rs 1,156 crores in Lakshadweep

The PM reached Lakshadweep yesterday and chaired a review meeting on aspects relating to Lakshadweep's progress.

KAVARATTI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 1,156 crores in Kavaratti today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be addressing a mass gathering of two lakh women from various walks of life at the Bharatiya Janata Party's Mahila Conference in Thrissur Kerala later today.

Banners and hoardings have been put up in Thrissur city to welcome the Prime Minister.

He will address road shows and public meetings

Titled 'Sthree Shakthi Modikk Oppam' (Empower Women with Modi), the convention, to be held at the Thekkinkadu ground today is organised by the Kerala unit of the BJP to congratulate PM Modi for successfully passing the Women's Reservation Bill in both Houses of Parliament.

Women from diverse backgrounds have been invited to participate in the event.

The PM reached Lakshad-



weep yesterday and chaired a review meeting on aspects relating to Lakshadweep's progress.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crore in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

He dedicated the Demonstration Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (DFRP) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam in Chengalpattu district.

Built at a cost of about Rs 400 crore, this groundbreaking

facility has the unique distinction of being the world's only industrial-scale plant capable of handling both carbide and oxide spent fuels from fast reactors, a release stated.

He also inaugurated the new terminal building of the Tiruchirappalli International Airport -- Tamil Nadu's second-largest terminal in terms of international traffic, after the one in the capital Chennai.

The new terminal building has been developed at a cost of more than Rs 1100 crore. The two-level new international terminal can serve more than 44

lakh passengers annually and about 3,500 during peak hours, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) informed earlier through an official release.

Tiruchirappalli International Airport is the second-largest airport in terms of international passenger traffic after Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

Prime Minister Modi also dedicated to the nation multiple railway projects worth crores. These include the doubling of the 41.4 km Salem-Magnesite Junction-Omalur-Mettur Dam section; the doubling of the rail line section of 160 km from Madurai-Tuticorin; and three projects for rail line electrification: Tiruchirappalli-Manamadurai-Virudhunagar; Virudhunagar-Tenkasi Junction; Sengottai-Tenkasi Junction; Tirunelveli-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur.

The rail projects are tipped to help improve the rail capacity to carry freight and passengers and contribute to economic development and employment generation in Tamil Nadu.

Udhayanidhi Stalin To Invite PM Modi For Khelo India Games In Tamil Nadu



CHENNAI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Wednesday said he would call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on January 4 to invite him to the Khelo India Youth Games to be held this month in Tamil Nadu.

For the first time, Khelo India Youth Games would be held in the state and it is slated to be conducted from Janu-

ary 19 to 31, Udhayanidhi Stalin told reporters, adding he would be inviting Modi for the event.

"I am going to invite him; to participate or not is his wish," he said answering a question.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, who also holds the portfolio of youth welfare, expressed confidence that the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would release funds to the state following her visit to Tamil Nadu to assess damage following rains and floods in Thoothukudi and nearby southern regions.

The DMK youth wing's state conference is likely to be held (at Salem) before the end of January and a formal announcement would be made by party president and Chief Minister M K Stalin, Udhayanidhi Stalin, party's youth wing secretary said.

DRDO develops system for real-time, site-specific weather forecast in mountains

CHANDIGARH, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a new system for real-time and site-specific weather forecast over the north-western Himalayan region during winter months.

According to DRDO scientists, the system will be instrumental in the mitigation of natural hazards such as extreme temperature, heavy snowfall, avalanches, and landslides. This will not only assist in the movement and deployment of troops in mountain regions, but also be beneficial for the civil administration and the local population of such areas.

Real time weather forecast in remote and difficult terrain assumes significance in the backdrop of not only a high level of operational deployment, but also in the growing tourist influx and increasing socio-economic activities in areas such as Ladakh. Many road axis in this region, which are not only strategically important but also frequented by visitors, are prone to vagaries of nature such as heavy rain, snow, and avalanches.

Developed by the Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment (DGRE) located at



Chandigarh, the system functions as an independent weather forecast system and has undergone trials in high altitude snow-bound areas, sources said.

DGRE's mandate is to create a geospatial information system for operational planning and military intelligence, provide cutting edge engineering solutions for ensuring safe movement of troops in all kinds of terrain and build artificial intelligence-enabled solutions for deployment.

The system, called analog ensemble, uses meteorological observations of 20-30 previous winter seasons from observatories located in the Shamsawari Range, Pir Panjal Range, and the Great Himalayan Range to predict surface meteorological variables such as temperature, wind, and precipitation for up to 72 hours.

Several recent studies on high-altitude weather patterns, including those conducted by the DRDO have indicated a

perceptible change in climate owing to global warming and anthropological activities. This has led to an increase in freak weather events, necessitating monitor and observation.

Studies have noted that the Himalayas have become warm in the last 25 years with significant climate change seen especially after 2000. The amount of snowfall has decreased whereas rainfall has increased, with the snow line in many areas also receding.

In fact, a recent report tabled in Parliament by the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Water Resources observed that there is a severe shortage of meteorological and monitoring stations in the Indian Himalayan region. Presently DGRE has set up three Mountain Meteorological Centres for avalanche study and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology has five meteorological and discharge stations located in the high-altitude regions. The Central Water Commission has set up 46 meteorological observation stations in the Himalayan region, out of which only 35 are telemetry-based stations.

19-month-old among 3 dead as car lost control after tyre burst and crashed into another car coming from opposite lane in Andhra Pradesh

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM (ANDHRA PRADESH), Jan 3 (Agencies): Three people, including a child, were killed after a car collided with another vehicle in East Godavari district on Tuesday, police said today.

According to police, the accident occurred on the national

highway near Bandhapuram in Devarapalli mandal of East Godavari district.

The car lost control after a tyre burst and crashed into another car coming from the opposite direction, where three people were killed, and eight others injured, they said.

Gopalapuram (West Godavari) MLA Talar Venkat Rao, who was travelling on the same route at the time of the accident, informed the police.

The police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to nearby hospitals for treatment. Devarapalli police have reg-



istered a case and are investigating.

12 die in collision between bus and truck in Assam's Golaghat

GOLAGHAT, Jan 3 (Agencies): Twelve people were killed and around 30 injured on Wednesday in a head-on collision between a coal-laden truck and a bus in Golaghat district of Assam, police said.

The accident took place at Balijan near Dergaon in the morning when the bus with 45 people on board collided with the goods vehicle, Golaghat SP Rajen Singh told agency.

The bus was heading towards Upper Assam when the incident occurred.

"As of now, 12 people have been killed. The injured have been sent to hospital," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives, and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 each to the injured.

"Pained by the loss of lives due to a road mishap in Golaghat, Assam. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected," the Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X.

A senior doctor at Jorhat Medical College and Hospital told reporters that the injured were undergoing treatment at the health facility.

"The condition of some of the injured is critical. We are monitoring their condition," she said.

Meanwhile, Assam Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya ordered an inquiry into the incident, and asked top officials of his department to reach the accident spot.

46-Year-Old British Woman Tourist Found Dead At Goa Beach: Police

PANAJI, Jan 3 (Agencies): A 46-year-old British woman who was on a holiday in Goa was found dead near a beach in Canacona village of the coastal state on Wednesday, police said.

There was no external injury on the body of the woman, identified as UK national Emma Louise Leaning, they said.

"Her friends do not suspect any foul play,"

a senior police official said.

The body, recovered near a beach at Canacona in South Goa district, was "under decomposition stage", the police said in a release.

The Canacona police have registered case of unnatural death and the body has been sent for postmortem to the district hospital in Margao town of South Goa, the official said.

Karnataka BJP protests against man's arrest in Babri masjid riots case

BENGALURU, Jan 3 (Agencies): BJP workers in Karnataka on Wednesday staged protests against the arrest of a person involved in the riots that occurred after the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. The protest was held in Hubballi, where the 50-year-old accused, Poojary, was arrested on Monday.

In the wake of the protest, the police stated that they have increased security arrangements in Hubballi and other parts of the state.

"In view of the protest called by a party, we have made elaborate arrangements in and around the place of protest. Around 13 cases pertaining to bootlegging, riots and other cases have been taken up. As of now, we have not received any letter (to protest)..." senior police officer Renuka Sukumar stated.

Poojary was arrested on Monday, 31 years after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Uttar Pradesh, which resulted in country-wide riots. Karnataka Police asserted that the arrest was a routine drive and he wasn't arrested so far as his case was termed as "long-pending".

The BJP accused the Congress-led Karnataka govern-



ment of "targeting Hindu activists" and termed the arrest as a "witch hunt against Hindus".

BJP leader DV Sadananda Gowda called it a "politically motivated" move and asked "why this provocation?" ahead of Ram Mandir's consecration.

"Closing the cases, was it within the purview of legal boundaries? The appeasement politics of Siddaramaiah certainly will pay back to him within a very short period...Legal issues which need to be taken care of will be taken care of by the BJP legally. These are all political activities, 100% politically motivated...Now when we are going to inaugurate Ayodhya Ram Mandir at this juncture, why would they do all this? Why this provocation?" Gowda asked.

BJP leader CN Ashwath Nara-

yan also accused the government of engaging in "appeasement politics".

He said, "They (state government) cannot be discriminative, they cannot misuse the fund, they are answerable. This is what the people have been demanding. There should not be appeasement politics or misuse of the funds...Only vote bank politics is not appreciated by the people. They are trying to politicise the entire thing so that's the reason we are condemning the entire approach of the Congress government in Karnataka...Now they should realise be nationalist, respect all sections, being inclusive".Meanwhile, Congress leader BK Hariprasad hit back at the BJP, calling the protests "politically motivated". He also alleged that the protesters are

"trying to replicate" the Godhra train burning incident, which led to the Gujarat riots in 2002.

"What kind of agitation this is, please make me understand. If you observe the Supreme Court hearing, you can easily discern that this agitation is politically motivated; you cannot categorise this as a genuine protest. There is no history of demolishing one religious place to construct another. Let me be clear, this is not a religious program; don't exaggerate it," Hariprasad said.

He added, "In Karnataka, the government must take all precautions. At the same time, back in Gujarat, Kar Sevaks were burnt alive in Godhra. They are attempting to replicate that incident in Karnataka. We must not allow such untoward incidents to happen here. We need to provide ample security to all those who visit Ayodhya; we cannot afford another Godhra incident in Karnataka."

Babri Masjid, a 16th-century mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, was demolished by right-wing Hindu activists on December 6, 1992. The site is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram, a prominent deity in Hindu religion.

Massive Blaze On Ludhiana Flyover After Fuel Tanker Catches Fire



LUDHIANA, Jan 3 (Agencies): A massive fire erupted at a flyover near the Khanna area in Punjab's Ludhiana today, sending plumes of thick, black

smoke billowing into the sky. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

The source of the blaze was identified as a fuel tank that caught fire on the National Highway near Khanna, creating a chaotic scene that brought traffic to a standstill and prompted an urgent response from emergency services. The oil tanker hit a divider and overturned.

Photos and videos of the incident show thick, black smoke blowing up into the sky while vehicles pass underneath the flyover. As of now, there have been no reports of any casualties or serious injuries.

Emergency teams have reached the location and are trying to douse the massive inferno.

Karnataka man chops off Anganwadi worker's nose after her kids plucked his flowers

BELAGAVI, Jan 3 (Agencies): A middle-aged man chopped off the nose of an anganwadi worker in a fit of anger after her children plucked flowers from his garden, police said here on Wednesday.

According to police, the incident occurred on Tuesday at Basurte village in Belagavi district.

The accused Kalyani More picked up a fight with the worker Sugandha More (50) and chopped off her nose.

A profusely bleeding Sugandha was admitted to a hospital where her condition is said to be critical.

Police have launched a manhunt for the accused who is at large.

Army Recruiting Office organizes outreach programme for NCC cadets

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 3: Army Recruiting Office, Jammu organised an outreach programme for NCC Cadets undergoing CATC-J7 conducted by 2 J&K Bn NCC, Jammu at NCC Camping Ground, Nagrota on 03 Jan 2024.

A total number of 493 Cadets (Boys) attended the same. Staff of Army Recruiting Office, Jammu



briefed the attending NCC cadets on a number of benefits towards their enrolment as officers as well as Agniveers in Indian Army including provisions of bonus marks being provided to NCC cadets.

Online notifications regarding various modes of entries into Indian Army are available on the official website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

Rajiv Khajuria briefs Chief Secretary on NDF Activities



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: President of National Development Foundation, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria called on the Chief Secretary J&K Atal Dulloo and appraised him about the activities of the Foundation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Khajuria briefed the Chief Secretary that the NDF is working to promote ECCE and FLN as envisioned in National Education Policy 2020 and

on a convergent approach to strengthening Child Protection Mechanism as envisioned in Mission Vatsalya & Juvenile Justice Act 2015.

Khajuria presented a collage to the CS showcasing the work done by the NDF Jammu, formerly known as Modern Culture Club Rajouri, which was patronaged by the Chief Secretary in 1997 in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the consistency of NDF's work and wished all the best to NDF for the organisation future plans. He reiterated the commitment of the State Government for promoting all good works being done in the National Interest and in the interest of the poor and needy in Jammu & Kashmir.

District Wushu Association Kupwara felicitates Medalists of 17th J&K Wushu C'ship

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 3: District Wushu Association Kupwara felicitated the medalists of 17th J&K UT Wushu Championship 2023 and the Khelo India Wushu Womens League 2023 medalist.

In the recent championship Kupwara Wushu Academy bagged 10 medals.

Meanwhile, Suzain Jahangeer won gold, Zaheen Mushtaq won silver, Adiba Fayaz won silver, Ariba Fayaz won silver, Faika Majeed won bronze, Areen Tariq won bronze, Musaab Zargar and Ayoub Zargar performed well.

Besides this, Saleeqa Tariq who already won Gold in Khelo India



State Women's Wushu league and got selected for the nationals and in the middle she got silver in The UT level and 1st Bronze in the Nationals, where she got selected for the upcoming championship in Goa and international level as well.

We are highly thankful to Almighty then our coach Aijaz Ahmed Pala JKP member and

our trainer Qaiser Habib Zargar for training us so hard.

We are also thankful to the J&K Sports Council for supporting us and our National chief coach of India Kuldeep Handoo Dysp sports , for giving us such platforms and supporting us whole heartedly. It was all impossible without Handoo, said national medalist Saleeqa Tariq.

Ramesh Inder Singh's book 'Dukhant Punjab Da' released

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Jan 3: Punjab former Chief Secretary Ramesh Inder Singh's book 'Dukhant Punjab Da', was released here on Wednesday.

The book which is an eye-opening account of before and after Blue Star throws serious light on the past and present history of Punjab.

On this occasion, senior journalist Baljit Balli and the author were also engaged in a discussion about the book. Harish Jain, Publisher Unistar Books was also present during the occasion.

Ramesh Inder Singh was the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar during Operation Blue Star and he has described the situation as he saw it with his own eyes in this book. Ramesh Inder Singh was later promoted and retired from the post of Chief Secretary.

Ramesh Inder Singh said, "Starting from the year 1978, Punjab went through a volcanic period in which there was endless violence. These few years were to determine the direction of our history. After the country's independence, perhaps no other domestic crisis would have had such a deep impact."

"But 40 years after the Blue Star incident, we still hear conflicting stories about what hap-



pened and how. This book 'Dukhant Punjab Da' is an eye-witness account of this historical accident and those years. The book gives a detailed description of the past events which shows the situation of insurgency from its beginning to its end."

He further said that even in the best of times, people's perception of an event or situation varies. Particularly devastating events blur neutrality, divide people, and often ignore the facts.

"Operation Blue Star and the events that followed were disastrous events of this nature, which led India to go to war among itself. The country lost a Prime Minister, a Chief Minister, a former Army Chief, thousands of innocent civilians and some innocent people. However, nearly four decades later, we still hear different stories about what happened, why it happened, and how it happened. Facts are eternal, but whose facts are they? It's one person's truth versus another

person's, your interpretation versus their interpretation," Ramesh Inder Singh maintained. Ramesh explained that in June 1984, the Indian Army marched towards Amritsar - Operation Blue Star was underway. Some saw it as an attack on the holy site of Sri Harmandir Sahib, while others saw it as a military operation to liberate the holy site from gun-toting terrorists.

"A few months later, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated. Street massacres took place in Delhi and elsewhere, in which more than 3,000 innocent Sikhs were killed. It was genocide while others consider it a spontaneous reaction to the assassination of their beloved leader. For some, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was a martyr, as the Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib publicly stated in 2003. However, others hold him responsible for more than two decades of turmoil, suffering and destruction in Punjab," According to Ramesh

Inder Singh I was an eyewitness, and sometimes a role player, although this is inconsequential at this moment in history. What I saw or did—or what I failed to do—needs to be told. My conscience, more than anything else, prompts me to state my interpretation of the facts and events during the decade and a half surrounding Operation Blue Star.

It would not be fair to history to leave things unsaid. Therefore, I feel the need for an objective and factual description of events and incidents. I try to do just that in the pages of this book.

Terrorism has been decisively eliminated in Punjab. However, the deep, underlying ethno-socio-religious fault lines that have caused turmoil in the state still persist. History has a strange habit of repeating itself and we must be careful, only those civilizations move forward that learn from their history.

This is the first time to publish the present work under the RTI

system after my retirement as Chief Secretary of Punjab and later as Chief Information Commissioner of Punjab, having held government roles, he said. I do not regret this long gap as the passage of years has helped clarify the issues and cool down the anger.

Much has been said and written about Operation Blue Star and the turmoil in Punjab in these twenty-nine years. Several history books and documentaries and some eyewitness accounts—mostly hearsay—have been published. However, given the sensitivity of the topic and security requirements, not everything has been said and may not be said for some time.

However, to the best of my knowledge, I have said and written it honestly. I hope, as the frenzy subsides over time, people inside and outside the government will be more receptive to this work. My words may seem bad to some people; however, the intention is not to hurt anyone's sentiments or instigate divisiveness.

But starting a dialogue, opening the way for introspection and most importantly moving towards healing and ending a painful past can be achieved with reconciliation, justice and transparency, asserted Ramesh Inder Singh.

HDFC Bank acts as a sponsor and destination bank for facilitating ASBA in Secondary Market

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: HDFC Bank, a leading Clearing and Settlement bank of NSE & BSE in the Cash & Equity Derivatives segments, acted as a Sponsor and Destination bank for "Trading supported by Blocked Amount in Secondary Market" that kicked off from January 01, 2024 on the Indian Stock Exchanges.

SEBI and Stock Exchanges permitted Trading in Cash segment through block mechanism, on optional basis, for Secondary Market from January 1, 2024 on the lines of ASBA for Primary Markets where investor's funds will continue to

remain in their savings account with the required funds being blocked instead of the investor having to upfront transfer the amount to the broker's account for placing the Trades.

The bank has been able to support this new initiative of SEBI through integration of its systems with that of Exchanges and respective Clearing Corporations. This system integration facilitates investor validation, block creation, release, revoke, execution and end of day reconciliation and reporting. The UPI backed technology solution of block / release of funds helps investors meet margin and settlement obligations seamlessly.

FROM PAGE 1

Ministry asks airlines to do justice with passengers in case of flight delays, cancellations

the cancellation and delay are caused by a force majeure event—extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the airline.

Facilities to be offered to the affected passengers in case of flight disruption are already available in the public domain in the form of a Passenger Charter published on the ministry's website, DGCA website and on respective airline's website.

Vice-President to visit Jammu Tomorrow

officers from Central and UT Governments will accompany Vice President on the occasion.

Five people succumb to Covid in last 24 hours, 511 Cases of JN.1 series variant reported till January 2

Tamil Nadu has reported 26 cases of JN.1 sub-variant. Delhi has reported 15 cases, and 4 cases have been reported from Rajasthan.

Telangana has reported two cases. Odisha and Haryana have reported one

case each. On the JN.1 sub-variant of COVID, Senior Consultant of Respiratory Medicine at Apollo Hospital, Dr Rajesh Chawla, said, "It spreads very fast. This is a variant of omicron, so it is likely to spread very fast. And gradually it is going to replace the other variants and become the predominant variant. JN.1 is a mild COVID virus and just like in Omicron, you did not see many patients of severe variety and only a few patients had severe disease, in the same way JN.1 is of mild variety. The symptoms in this include runny nose, cough, fatigue, pain in the throat and voice becoming hoarse while some people may suffer from diarrhoea."

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

Cop among two arrested in terror-funding case in Jammu

area here on Tuesday and seized some electronic gadgets, the officials said, adding further investigation is in progress to dismantle the ecosystem of narcotics supplies to fund anti-national activities.

Earlier also, the officials said the policeman was booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act when he was arrested with 200 grams of heroin from Shahpur Kandi area of

Pathankot. The role of the policeman and the former sarpanch came to light following the arrest of key accused Mohd Sharief Chechi, also a resident of Uri, in September last year. After taking over the investigation of the case, the official said SIA unearthed the modus operandi adopted by the accused, including Chechi who used to collect narcotics from across the Line of Control to generate proceeds for terror funding. The case was initially registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar in Jammu following arrest of Shah on specific information that he along with the former minister were working under the directions of Pakistan's ISI and their agents to fund Jammu-based separatists to carry out subversive activities, the officials said.

Fresh protest erupts in Indian wrestling; this time against Bajrang, Sakshi and Vinesh

buses and they plan to deboard and join their colleagues when more wrestlers arrive at the landmark protest site.

The security personnel struggled to control them as they shouted slogans against Punia, Malik and Phogat.

The protesters were carrying banners that read: 'UJWW save our wrestling from these 3 wrestlers'.

Ironically, almost a year back at the same protest site, the top three wrestlers had managed to draw huge support for their cause when they called for the arrest of

former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh after accusing him of sexually harassing women wrestlers.

Thousands of people from different sections of society, including farmers groups, social workers, politicians, women's groups and members of the wrestling fraternity, came out to support Malik, Phogat and Punia.

The three are now facing protests from within their community with those assembled at Jantar Mantar, accusing them of ruining their careers.

Since January 2023, national camps and competitions have been on hold as the WFI has been suspended twice and an ad-hoc panel is running the sport.

Those protesting on Wednesday demanded that the suspended WFI be restored after disbanding the ad-hoc panel which has been appointed to run the sport by the sports ministry.

Kejriwal skips third ED summons in Delhi Excise policy case

Kejriwal from campaigning in elections," the party alleged.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal will not go to the ED office today, CM wrote to ED.

Kejriwal was summoned on Wednesday for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering case.

This was the third ED notice to Kejriwal, also the AAP's convener, after he refused to appear before the federal agency on two earlier summonses for November 2 and

Why Punjab man with a PhD and 4 Master's degrees is now selling vegetables

runs a vegetable cart with a board saying 'PhD Sabzi Wala'.

"We follow Guru Nanak Dev's teachings and won't beg before anyone. I will keep doing my work," he said.

"I go to the mandi in the morning to buy vegetables. By evening, I get free after selling the vegetables. After that, I teach my child and then do my own studies," said Sandeep Singh, who is currently pursuing B.Lib (Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences) from Lovely Professional University.

Despite the hardships, Sandeep Singh said he wants to continue teaching children in the future and hopes to open his coaching centre.

"From the very beginning, I wanted to be a teacher. No one can stop me from fulfilling my dreams. I can't rely on the government to make my dreams come true. It doesn't matter if the university did not give me a (permanent) job," he said.

ED raids Jharkhand CM's Press Advisor, others in 'illegal' mining case

generated from illegal mining operations in the state.

Indian Yoga Association organizes yoga seminar at BYS Yogashram



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Indian Yoga Association organized a yoga seminar at Yogashram of Bhartiya Yog Sansthan (BYS), Gol Gujral, here on Wednesday.

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman Indian Yoga Association, explained about the significance of yoga in day to day life.

"Yoga is a way of life, and if we incorporate yoga in our lives slowly and make it an integral part of our lifetime, we would be in a peaceful state in our daily lives. We would be able to make decisions without getting influenced by our emotions, would think and act with wholesome attention, awareness & focus. The modern world has given the word "stress", it has become an acceptable way of life, never good at our physical & and

mental level of health. Stress can be replaced by calmness and peace. Yoga opens the blockades at our mind, body, breath & emotional levels and takes to a much higher level of living. Yogic way of life ensures every situation, not viewed as stress and body is not always in the flight or fight mode. It rejuvenates, provide complete rest & positive growth of our body," said Dr Shreyansh.

Besides the importance of yoga, sometimes advisory, Dos & Donts were detailed by Dr Jain.

The dignitaries from different NGOs also blessed the Seminar by their presence and sharing, including Satya Paul Sharma State President Bhartiya Yog Sansthan, Abhinandan Jain, Financial Advisor Vichar Kranti Manch International, Mohinder Rana, President Padar Foundation Forum,

Giatanandan Jain, Gen Secy JK Gouraksha Samiti & President SS Jain Sabha Talab Tillo, Dev Raj Sharma, a Yoga Scholar, Devender Gupta, Jagat Ramm, Pusan Sharma, Rajneesh Jain, Jia Lal Sharma, Social Activists & Yoga Sadhaks, Parbha Jain Commissioner JK Bharat Scouts & Guides, Madhu Jain from Mahaveer Physiotherapy & Yoga Center, Veena Jain, Founder President Shraman Sanskriti Manch, Ranjna Verma, Yoga Teacher, Suresh Jain, Former President Jain Taruni Mandal & others.

Parmod Jain, Former State Gen Secy SS Jain Sabha, Yoga Expert & Naturopath was blessed with best wishes from personalities on his 77th birthday, all wished him a Healthy, Purposeful, Successful, Peaceful, Delighted, wonderful, loving and Spiritually elevated life.

Panthers condemn imposition of 10-yr punishment for Drivers in hit and run cases

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Vilakshan Singh, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party, vehemently denounces the recent legislative enactment that mandates a punitive 10-year imprisonment for drivers in hit and run cases.

This harsh and disproportionate measure serves as an oppressive imposition on drivers and exacerbates an already overburdened legal system.

The imposition of such an extreme penalty for drivers is a clear departure from the principles of fair justice and proportionality.

It not only disproportionately penalizes individuals but also stands as a grave concern for the entire community relying on transportation services for their livelihoods.

Singh said that the provisions of Section 106 of the Bhartiya Nayaya Sanhita 2023 instead of doing "Nayaya" are doing "Unyaya" with the drivers.

He said that provisions of Section 106 are clearly indicative of the fact that the present government is pro-rich and anti-poor.

Under section 106 if a Doctor causes death by negligence he can be sentenced for a maximum of two years but if a driver causes death by negligence, he can be imprisoned for 10 years. Singh questioned how for the same offense a doctor and a driver can be treated differently. Singh termed the provisions of Section 106 as arbitrary, unjust and

sion, DIG SIU Jammu Zone expressed hope that such moot court trials would definitely help Police personnel to understand court proceedings better.

Earlier, Shiv Kumar, Principal PTTI Vijaypur welcomed DIG SIU Jammu Zone and other Investigating Officers of various districts.

Zia-Ul-Haq (DySP Outdoor), Khushwant Singh, DySP (Admn.),

illegal.

Singh said that Bhartiya Nayaya Sanhita 2023 prescribes lesser punishment for offenses more serious than causing death by negligence.

Singh asserts that while road safety and responsible driving are of paramount importance, imposing a blanket 10-year sentence is unduly severe. Such punitive measures not only instill fear among drivers but also undermine the spirit of justice by disregarding the principle of proportionality in sentencing.

Vilakshan Singh called upon the government to reconsider this draconian law and suggested that a more balanced and nuanced approach is needed.

Enhancing road safety and responsible driving can be better achieved through comprehensive measures that involve education, awareness campaigns, and improvements in infrastructure, rather than excessively punitive legislation.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party underlines the importance of revisiting the law to ensure that justice is fair, proportional, and in line with the fundamental principles of law and order. Singh urges the government to engage in dialogue with stakeholders to find a solution that prioritizes road safety while also safeguarding the rights of drivers and ensuring a fair and just legal system. He demanded that Section 106 should be amended immediately.

CIOs of different districts and other officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur were also present on the occasion.

Senior Prosecuting Officers Asif Iqbal, Altaf Wahid and Rohit Tadyal conducted the court proceedings and also briefed the Investigating Officers how to improve investigation in UAPA cases and record Statement in the court during trial of cases.

BJP Sanskriti, Art Culture Cell releases devotional Bhajan "Rang Tera"



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Sahil Mahajan (BJP JK Ut Co-Convenor Sanskriti Art Culture Cell), Sohail Kazmi (Veteran Journalist) along with Himashu Kapoor released devotional Bhajan Rang Tera in Jammu.

Program was organised by Sahil Mahajan (MD: Maa Bawe Wali Records).

The song was released under banner Kalsi Music and sung by Manthan Sumbriya, Music was done by Bunty Shah, Directed by Sachin Mehra, Lyrics by Raman Randhawa, Editor Yashu Manhas by

blessings of Guru Vishal Heer.

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Kazmi said that in Jammu and Kashmir, the devotional songs of Gods and Goddesses are played everywhere during every religious ritual or function whether it is Jagrata, Langar, Seva, Pooja or other religious rituals.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should also support and encourage the local artists of Jammu and Kashmir so that they can also grow and reach new heights in their respective industries as it will

make every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir proud.

While Sahil Mahajan further added that the youth of J&K should also participate more in the religious activities and rituals as it will guide them towards an enlightened future and prevent them from going on the wrong track in life and doing illegal activities like drugs and ruining their own lives.

Sahil Mahajan said that the Cell is always there to support every artist of Jammu and Kashmir and if they need any help they can approach party for the assistance.

Vishwakarma Yojana takes off from J&K Narendra Modi keeps his promise, transforming lives of artisans: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Hailing the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to start PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), an initiative aimed at empowering and enhancing skills of artisans and craftspeople from Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that this is how promises are kept and lives of millions are transformed.

PM Modi, he added, does what he says and now that this most beneficial central government scheme has taken off from J&K, many artisans and craftsmen are going to be benefited in a big way.

Raman Suri said, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory (UT) to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), wherein craftsman community will be imparted training of five to seven days, advanced training of 15 days or more, a stipend of Rs 500 per day, and a free modern toolkit worth Rs 15,000 for trained Vishwakarmas. This will enhance the skills of craftspeople

and other skilled workers, who will then be able to establish their own workstations or businesses.

The BJP leader added that once the artisans and craftspeople will be trained, they can seek credit-based soft loans and marketing support to expand their businesses. This scheme, he added, is going to be quite beneficial for the artisans of Jammu and Kashmir, who are a considerable number. Several people who are into handicrafts, weaving and other such artisan works, can avail the benefits, and set up their own businesses after taking loans and toolkits by subscribing to this government sponsored scheme.

Raman said that the BJP government at the centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working round the clock for all sections of the society. Right from white-collared jobs to businesses across the nation to skilled and unskilled labour, PM Modi has a set plan for everyone's growth. He intends to make the nation one of the top three economies

in coming years, and such schemes are there to empower professionals in a big manner, who ultimately will contribute in building a strong and economically self-reliant country - Bharat.

By initiating the PMVK scheme from Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister has once again established that the people of this region top his priority list.

He intends to empower the craftsman community through self-employment, which is why this scheme has started from J&K. In the first phase, a batch of 30 artisans in darzi craft will be trained at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Shopian, which was once infested with militancy.

By the time this batch will be trained, more districts will have such trainings to empower the youth and make them self-reliant. The scheme is expected to be operationalised in all districts of J&K soon, he said, adding that the PMVY, an initiative launched by the Central government in September 2023, aims to recognise artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificates and ID cards.

PTTI Vijaypur organizes Moot Court mock drill



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 3: In order to aware Police personnel and trainees of various courses with regard to appearance before the Courts and dispose their statements as Prosecution Witnesses,

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Moot Court Mock Drill proceedings under UAPA cases.

Haseeb-Ur-Rehman, DIG SIU Jammu Zone supervised the whole proceedings.

On this occasion, mock drill of a UAPA case was conducted in which Police witnesses of the case appeared before the Moot Court and cross examined by designated defense counsel.

Speaking on the occa-

SMVDU student presents Paper at 6th Bharatiya Vigyan Sammelan



Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 3: Milind Shukla, a final year student of the School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) presented a research paper at the 6th Bharatiya Vigyan Sammelan which was jointly organized by Vijnana Bharati and Government of Gujarat at Ahmedabad from December 21-24, 2023.

Bharatiya Vigyan Sammelan (BVS) is a flagship program of

Vijnana Bharati initiated as a vehicle to reach the masses in the pursuit of popularizing science.

He presented a poster and a paper in two conferences; Bhasha Vigyan and Indian Knowledge System (IKS).

The University continues to inspire and motivate its students to achieve excellence in their chosen fields while fostering an environment of innovation and academic growth.

Milind Shukla's successful participation in BVS 2023 is a notable milestone in his academic journey, setting an example for future students and highlighting the University's commitment to promoting Indian values, research and scholarly endeavours.