TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 03, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

16

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



NATIONAL

| 7

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

INTERNATIONAL

18

Taiwan Detects 4 Chinese Balloons Near Major Air Base Ahead Of Polls



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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. Firefighters 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

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

Turn to page 9

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

■Turn to page 9

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.

602 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 recov-

ered cases stood at

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-yearold 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-yearold 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.

Turn to page 9

Kejriwal skips

summons in

Delhi Excise

NEW DELHI, Jan 3

(Agencies): Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal

policy case

third ED

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 crossborder 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 Kashmir's Kokernag, was held along with hawala money of Rs 6.90 lakh

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

Turn to page 9

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 respectively.

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, Bhaderwah 0.3 and Banihal minus 1.6.

In Ladakh region, Leh

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. Baghpat while many others came from the Virender Wrestling Academy in Narela. Many are still packed in

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

■Turn to page 9

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

RANCHI, Jan 3 (Agen-

cies): The Enforcement

Directorate on Wednes-

day raided locations of

Jharkhand Chief Min-

ister 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, offi-

University – five years on difficult for me and my a JRF (junior research family to survive on that fellowship) and seven salary," said Sandeep years as a guest faculty. Singh.

cial sources said.

About a dozen loca-

tions in the state are

being raided by the cen-

tral agency under the

provisions of the Pre-

vention of Money Laun-

dering Act (PMLA), they

The premises of

Abhishek Prasad alias

Pintu, collector and SP

others in 'Illegal' mining case

said.

Ph.D Sabzi Wala In June this year, I quit teaching as it became

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

of Sahibganj district,

ex-MLA Pappu Yadav,

some jail department

officials and a police

constable are being

searched, the sources

The agency, since

2022, has been probing

a trail of Rs 100 crore of

Turn to page 9

"proceeds of crime"

Sandeep Singh now Turn to page 9 ED raids Jharkhand CM's Press Advisor,

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



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

CONDOLENCE

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association Jammu, expresses heartfelt Condolence on the sad demise of Shri Rajnish Gupta Code Chief Manager R/ No. 4273 R/o 76 BB Gandhi Nagar Jammu -180004 retired officer of the Bank and our honorable member. We pray Almighty to bestow eternal peace to the departed soul and provide courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

(Mohinder Singh) President

(R K Bhan) **General Secretary**



Shri Rajnish Gupta

OBITUARY

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter-in-law Pushker Nath Raina & Kundan Raina Rattan Lal Raina & Tosha Raina

Chaman Lal Raina and Bimla Raina Anjali Raina W/o Late Shadi Lal Raina Daughter & Son-in-law

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

Contact No.: 9419206291, 09999823589, 9419332786, 9419292793

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

Suman Raina (Wife)

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

Vrindha (Grandchild) & Samast Raina Parivar,

MOB NO: 7889974415, 7889349854



HIRDAY NATH RAINA

SHRI RAM JI PANDIT

SH. BAL KRISHAN

PANDITA

Smt. Anita Devi

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

SH. SOOM NATH PANDIT (BROTHER)

(DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)

LATE-SMT PHOOLA KUMARÍ & SH. SURINDER KRISHAN PANDIT SMT. ANITA PANDIT & SH. KANWAL JI PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON SMT DAISY PANDIT & MAHARAJ KRISHAN PANDIT (DAUGHTER IN LAW AND SON) SMT. PUPLY KUMARI & SH. CHAND KRISHAN (DAUGHTER IN LAW & SON)

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

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

GREAT GRAND SON- SHIVA Phone no-9797305248,8493058455

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

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

SMT. LALITA & SH. RAJ NATH PANDITA SMT. VEENA & DR. DURGA NATH PANDITA

SMT. JANSI & SH. MOHAN LAL PANDITA

SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW SMT. BIMLA & SH. AVTAR KRISHAN PANDITA

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

SMT.& SH.RAKESH KACHRU SMT.& SH. RAJESH KACHRU.

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

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved Smt. Anita Devi W/o Late Sh. Tilak Raj R/o H.No. 16C Vasant Vihar Akhnoor Road Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 26-12-2023.

Tenth Day/Satsang will be performed on Thursday 04-01-2024 at our residence H.No. 16C Vasant Vihar Akhnoor Road Jammu at 12.00 Noon.

Grief Stricken

Rohit Raj & Eena- Son & Daughter-in-Law Vaneet Raj & Priya-Son & Daughter-in-Law Ankush & Arun- Daughter & Son-in-Law

Mob. No.: 9622146672, 9622146718, 9906111593



Smt. Tulsi Devi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

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

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

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

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

UTHALA will be performed on 05-01-2024

(Friday) at Gorkha Mandir Shivaji Chowk Nanak Nagar from 3 PM to 4 PM GRIEF STRICKEN Sanmotra Family

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

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

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

9419191928, 9419153072

(Co-Owner's THE STRENGTH CULTURE)

MOBILE NO: 9906045411, 6006341985, 7006824062

CHOUBARS

LEFT US FOR ETERNAL JOURNEY YOUR MEMORIES ARE STILL FRESH AND

YOUR PRESENCE IS FELT EVERYWHERE AND EVERYTIME CHOUBARSI of our beloved Lt Th. BALWAN SINGH S/o LATE TH. FARANGI SINGH BHALWAL shall be performed on 5th January 2024 (Friday) a Trikuta Yatri Niwas, Ved Mandir Complex, Ved Mandir Road, Amphalla, Jammu at 10:00 A.M. onwards

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY: -Daughter-in-Laws & Sons

Lt. Smt Santosh Kumari & Sh Krishan Pal Singh Bhalwal Smt Sudershana & Sh Prem Pal Singh Bhalwal Smt Sudesh & Sh Kulbushan Singh Bhalwal

Smt Champa Rani & Sh Kuljit Singh Bhalwal

Smt Neelam & Sh Raghunandan Singh Bhalwal

Smt Chiterlekha & Sh Bhupinder Singh Bhalwal Smt Sunita & Sh Jagdeep Singh Bhalwal Daughter & Son-in -Law

Lt. Smt Suman Baloria & Sh Virender Singh Baloria All Grand Daughters & Son-in Laws, All Grand Sons and Daughter-in-Laws All Great Grand Daughters and Sons 9419246878, 9958952398, 9419173218

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Sh. Niranjan Nath Bhat (Bushan Lal) S/o Late Smt. and Sh Keshav Nath Bhat R/o House No. 25 ower Muthi near Kailash Resort, Jammu originally R/o Danow (Kulgam).

TENTH DAY will be performed on Sunday, 7th January 2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and gathering will be held at Muthi Ghat from 12:00 noon onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Basanti Bhat- Wife **Brothers and Sisters-in-law**

Sh. Kanya Lal Bhat and Smt. Bimla Bhat Sh. Ashok K Bhat and Smt. Jyoti Bhat Sisters and Brothers-in-law

Smt. Phoola Pandit and Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandit Smt. Princy Pandita and Sh. Sameer Ji Pandita Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Priya Bhat and Sh. Anil Kilam Daughter: Divya Bhat

Phone: 9858199860, 8860790802

TENTH DAY/KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW,

WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF MR VISHAL GUPTA (TEACHER) S/O SMT SHARDA GUPTA AND SH JIA LAL GUPTA R/O HNO 429, BEHIND ASHRAM DIGIANA JAMMU. TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON

THURSDAY, 04-01-2024 AT VISHWAKARMA HALL RANI TALAB, DIGIANA JAMMU (NEAR RADHA KRISHNA MANDIR) TIME 11AM -12 NOON.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON SUNDAY, 7TH JAN 2024 AT HOME.

GRIEF STRICKEN NEHA GUPTA (WIFE) DAUGHTERS AND SON RIDHI, PAJAS AND RIDHANSH SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW SMT RAJNI AND SH VISHAL GUPTA

7298367147, 7006060959, 7006555212

SH. SOHAN LAL BHAT

(VILLAGE KILAM)

MR VISHAL GUPTA

(TEACHER)

Sh. Niranjan Nath Bhat

(Bushan Lal)

SMT MEENAKSHI AND SH AMIT GUPTA SHAGUN AAYAN AARVI AND SARANSH (NIECE AND NEPHEW)

OBITUARY WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW

WE REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. SOHAN LAL BHAT (VILLAGE KILAM) S/O SH. NEELKANTH OF VILLAGE KILAM, ANANTNAG, KASHMIR CURRENTLY RESIDING AT H. No. 209, H BLOCK, SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH NAGAR, LUDHIANA PUNJAB, HAS LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 01 JAN 2024.

HIS 10TH, 11TH & 12TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 10TH, 11TH & 12TH of JAN-UARY 2024 RESPECTIVELY AT HARIDWAR. GRIFF STRICKEN:

Mrs. Santosh Kilam (Wife)

Mr. Sanjay Kilam & Mrs. Pooja Avasthi Kilam (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mr. Ajay Kilam & Mrs. Kavita Dhar Kilam (Son & Daughter-in-law) Sanjna Kilam, Shehjaar Kilam, Bhavye Kilam, Maharishi Kilam (Grand Children) SAMAST PARIVAR:

KILAMS, TINGLOOS, BHATS CONTACT NUMBERS: +91 9646701212, +91 9530730021



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO - Retd. Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PDD, R/O House no F 145/833 JMC ward no 18, Last Morh Sarwal, Jammu, J&K, he was left for his heav-

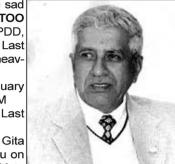
enly abode on 27 December, 2023. THE TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on January 4th, 2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor at 08:00 AM Assembly will be held at Pashupati Mandir Last

Morh Sarwal at 12:00 Noon. The SHRADHANJALI will be tributed at Shri Gita Mandir Samriti Bhawan Bakshi Nagar Jammu on January 4th, 2024 (Thursday from 03:00 PM to

04:00 PM).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Krishna Mantoo (Wife) [Daughter and Son-in-law]





ER. KANAYA LAL MANTOO

Smt Neelam Sharma

Th. Balwan Singh Ji

Mobile: +91-8368571967, +91-9319147207 TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Kashi Nath Raina S/o Lt. Sh. Nath Ji Raina originally resident of Nowgam Shangus, Anantnag on 27 Dec, 2023.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Akhnoor, the bay Criya day subsequent assem.

Mattoo Parivar and Shah Parivar

10TH DAY KRIYA

(4TH JANUARY 2024) With profound grief & sorrow we inform that beloved "BADABOBA"

Karmayogi - Shri OMKAR NATH MATTOO

(S/o Late Madhav Lal Mattoo & Late Leelawati

Mattoo) Resident of 284 C/A VIPIN GARDEN,

DWARKA MORH, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW

DELHI 110059 (original resident of 48-A, Azad

Basti, Natipora, Srinagar, Kashmir), left for

heavenly abode on 27th December 2023 5:30

The void left in our hearts and lives will remain

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

exchange), New Delhi and assembly at our residence.

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

beloved

AM (before sunrise).

be loved till eternity.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Jammu on Sth Jan, 2024 and subsequent assem-ply shall be held at our residence Ward No.59, Khajuria Mohalla Paloura, Near Jesus Care Convent School from 11.30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Asha Kundan Raina - Wife Daughter-in-law & Son mt. Princy & Sh. Inder Raina

Daugnter & Son-In-law Smt. Kiran & Sh. Bharat Ji Bhat Sisters-in-law & Brothers Smt. Sarla & Sh. Mohan Lal Raina Smt. Babli & Sh. Hira Lal Raina Smt. Rozy & Sh. Chaman Lal Raina Smt. Jvoti & Sh. Nanna Ji Raina

Sisters & Brothers-in-la Sisters & Brothers-In-law Smt. Jaikishori W/o Lt. Sh. Shambu Nath Pandita Sh. J.N. Koul H/o Lt. Smt. Jaya Koul Sh. Hira Lal Bhatt H/o Lt. Smt. Santosh Bhatt



το χυω passeα away, you look shelter from our heads, a shelter which by gave us steength and care always. Now un rooms won't be filled will of your youngers, your laughter, guidance & morals anymore. Yo void which can not be filled all our lives. Perhaps we all were not ready huge loss, but if there is anything beyond heavens, you will get that 'ς. We are sure you will protoct us from the skies above. You will remain and our so, today & forever.

Kriya will be performed on 07-01-24 (Sunday) at Akhnoor Ghat.

Assembly at: 12 Noon, (H.No. 1, Lane no. 1, Kallash Vihar Udheywala, Jammu),

ammu), GRIEF STRICKEN : rother and Sister-in-law : h. Badri Nath Bhat & Lt. Smt. Asha Kiran Bhat Sh. Badri Nath Bhat & Lt. Smt. Asna r Shan and Daughter-in-law: Lt. Sh. Kavinder Bhat & Sheetal Bhat Deepak Bhat & Priyanka Bhat Daughter and Son-in-law: Priya Misri & Pintoo Ji Misri Grand-son: Anmol Misri



Shri OMKAR NATH

MATTOO

Mob: 7006289043, 9086666034

SAD DEMISE With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you that our beloved Sh. Sat Paul left for heavenly abode on 26th of December,

Tenth Day will be held on January 04, 2024 11.00 am. Venue:- At our residence, Sehora Fondly Remembered By: Smt. Santosh Kumari - Wife

Devinder, Muninder & Anjni - Children Sh. Yash Paul (Bittu) & Nisha - Brother & Si Jagdish & Deepika - Nephew & Niece Sisters & Brothers-in-law Geeta Devi & Late Sh. Darshan Sangral Santosh Kumari & Sh. Ravi Sangral Ritu Rani & Sh. Suresh Kumar



Contact: 9419138016, 9419187397,

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of ou beloved Mrs. Chanchal Sharma W/o Sh. Ravinder Nath Sharm R/o H.No. 225/ Sec - 4, Channi Himmat on 25 Dec 2023. 10th Day - Wednesday on 03 Jan 2024 at our reside

11 am. Kriva - Thursday 04 Jan 2024 at our residence. Uthala - Friday 05 Jan 2024 at Panch Mandir, Sec - 2, Char

Himmat at 3 pm to 4 pm. r. Ravinder Nath Sharma - Husband (Chief Lab. Tech) GMC Jamn

Mr. B.M. Sharma & Mrs. Madhu Sharma (Chacha & Chachi Ji) Mr. Himanshu Sharma & Mrs. Tanvi Mengi (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Mr. Rakesh Sharma & Mrs. Sunita Sharma (Chacha & Chachi Ji)

Mrs. Chanchal Sharma Mr. Rajesh Mengi & Mrs. Sunita Mengi (Sambandhi & Sambandhan) Ph: 9419118925, 01912460816

TENTH DAY

ad demise of our beloved Sh. Ram La Sharma S/o Late Sh. Baniya Ram, Gurha Brahmana (Bindra Da Bagh) Akhnoo Jammu, who left on 26-12-23. **Tenth Day** will be performed on Thursda 4-01-24 at their residence at 12.00 PM. Kriya will be performed on 5-01-24 at 1 PM

at their residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-Smt. Premika Sharma (Daughter-in-law) Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Mangal Devi & Sh. Som Dutt Sharma Sister & Jiju Smt. Bandana Devi & Sh. Pawan Kuma . Pooja Devi & Sh. Ravi Kumar . Rita Sharma & Sh. Rakesh Kumar

Smt. Rajani Sharma & Sh. Satish Kumai Grand Daughter: Shanaya Sharma, Anaya Sharma Shanaya Caterers, Shanaya Food's & Sharma Enterprise Ph: 9622209060, 7889836327

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to nform the sad demise of our beloved Mrs. Rita (Pinky Koul) Mattoo, R/O 1358, Sector 40-B, Chandigarh, as she left for her heavenly abode or

The Tenth Day Kriya will be held on January 5, 2024 Friday) at Shiv Mandir (Ghagger) Panchkula, and the ssembly will be held at the residence at 12:30 PM GRIEF STRICKEN:

Dr. S. K. Mattoo (Husband) Rahul Mattoo & Mrs. Zirish Mattoo (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Sh. Ram Lal Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt Ram Kishori Kou**l W/o Late Sh Onkar Nath Koul R/o Zeer

Bagh Bhadarwah at present H.No. 52 Land

No. 2 Shiv Vihar Janipur Colony Jammu o

Kavin Mattoo (Son) A.K. Mattoo & Mrs. Asha (Bhaiya & Bhabhi)

Sunil Mattoo & Mrs. Damini (Nephew) Sandeep Mattoo & Mrs. Sandhya (Nephe

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Ji Pota Ghat Akhnoor and **ASSEMBLY** wi be held at 12:00 Noon on 06-01-2024 a Muthi Ghat near Director School Educat

GRIEF STRICKEN /idya Parkash Koul (Devar) Sons and Daughters in law Anoop Koul and Sunita Koul Daughters and Sons in Law

Urvashi Zutshi W/o Late Sh S.P. Zutshi Asha Misri and Anil Misri Neena and Dr Vijay Sagar SAMAST KOUL AND RAZDAN PARIVAR



SMT RAM KISHORI KOUL

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DISCLAIMER

Commercial units in Reasi directed to install CCTVs within 21 Days

JAMMU, Jan 3 (Agencies): Commercial units in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district have been directed to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their business premises within 21 days for the security of the public. District Magistrate, Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan also asked the owners of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, dhabas, shopping malls and other commercial

establishments at Katra and Ransoo to furnish details of their employees to their respective police station and tehsildars within the same period.

Reasi district is home to the famous shrines of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine at Ransoo Tehsil in Pouni and a large number of pilgrims from different parts of the country visit them every day.

In an order issued on Tuesday, the district magistrate said installation of CCTVs would not only help in controlling crime but will also enhance safety of people and thwart terrorist activities.

"In order to deter criminals, anti-social and anti-national elements from committing crimes, the installation of CCTV outside such establishments would work as a force multiplier, which

would inspire further confidence in general public/customers visiting these establishments," Mahajan said, directing installation of the CCTVs within 21 days.

"Any contravention of

this order shall attract

legal consequences as are contemplated under section 188 of the India Penal Code," the order read.

In another order seeking details of employees working in commercial units in Katra and Ransoo, Mahajan said it was felt necessary to conduct verification of employees for the safety of the public and pilgrims visiting shrines.

The owners of the business establishments were asked to furnish details of their employees, including Aadhaar numbers, address and mobile phone numbers to their respective police stations and tehsildars concerned within a period of 21 days.



President Kamla Sharma in presence of other members Santosh Kumari, Arit Kumari, Boly Devi, Skeena, Gulam Ahmed, Gulzar Ahmed and Nisar Ahmed felicitating Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo in his office chamber on Wednesday.

Varsity plans a big infrastructure and innovation push: Prof. Rai

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: The Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, interacted with senior members of the media today to discuss the university's ongoing initiatives, accomplishments, and future plans.

The Vice-Chancellor was flanked by Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar; Prof. Rajiv Rattan, Director, College DevelopProf. Rai exuded that the university is going to give huge impetus to infrastructure development, and in this regard, work will soon start on a prestigious innovation tower, a huge parking space, and a state-of-the-art iconic main gate depicting Dogra culture.

The University has become the first varsity in the UT to offer a full-fledged Masters degree in English and Commerce through online mode, said Prof. Umesh Rai, adding that the university is going to organise a women's JK



ment Centre; Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, Director, Directorate of Distance and Online Education; Prof. J. P. S. Joorel; Prof. Naresh Padha and Prof Satnam Kour Raina, Chairperson, Utsaah, the Clubs, and Head, Department of Psychology. During the interaction, Prof. Rai highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and student success.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised the importance of fostering a collaborative learning environment and strengthening ties with industry partners.

In his address, he acknowledged the support rendered by Print & Electronic Media and further added that various capacity development programmes of the faculty are being organised, for which Rs 5 crore of financial support has been sanctioned by the UT Jammu & Kashmir Government and an additional Rs 5 crore has been sanctioned for the implementation of NEP-2020. The faculty of the 'Design Your Degree' programme shall also be given specialized training.

Science Congress in the month of February, thereby defining the resolve that the university believes in Women's empowerment through science and technology.

The vice chancellor further said that the university is organising a 3-day mega festival called "Goonj," wherein universities of UT J&K and affiliated colleges of JU are going to participate and display their best practices in their respective institutions, as well as showcase dance, music, and sports.

The magic happens when elders and youth talk, and in this regard, the University is soon starting a programmeme with the aim of engaging youth with elders with the caption "Bajargon ke baat Yuvawo ke sath," and the purpose is that elders through this programmeme pass down

one's life experience.

The elders will be requested to visit campus and engage with youth, and youth will also go to villages and interact with the elders. These experiences will be well documented, and a documentary will also be prepared.

BJP adopting anti people approach: Bhalla



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: The District Congress Committee Jammu (Urban) on Wednesday held monthly meeting at the Congress office at Shaheedi Chowk to discuss important matters.

ters.
The meeting was presided over by JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and attended by Vice Presidents JKPCC Ved Mahajan, Hari Singh Chib, Rajnish Sharma (Treasurer) & Pranav Shagotra.

The meeting was organized by President DCC Jammu Urban Th. Manmohan Singh.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include General Secretaries PCC Narinder Gupta, Adv. Suresh Kr. Dogra, Balbir Singh, Satish Sharma Secretaries PCC Rajveer Singh, Michael Wazir, Jyoti Vaid, anjeet Singh Jatt, Hoshyar Singh, AP Singh Lucky, Ricky Dalotra, Rakesh Sharma, Pawan Sharma, Dewan Chand, Vijay Malhotra,, Camres Bbloo, Parshotam Mehra, Ram Magotra, Surinder Singh Dutt, Latish Sharma, H.S. Bagi, Ram Parkash Magotra, Som Nath Sharma, Darshan Lal Mehra, Ram Dayal Raina, Vijay Verma, Raj Kumar Meenia, Om Parkash and

Speaking on the occasion Shri Raman Bhalla said that after abrogation of special status, the lands of poor being snatched, the protection to jobs have gone and there are no jobs in government and private sector. In this situation the BJP government and UT administration is putting additional burden of the sorts of taxes on poor. When the people raise their voice, they are booked on

frivolous charges and crushed to suppress the voice of people. He said that to divert the public attention from the failures on all the fronts, the BJP is trying to divide the people on communal lines. The atmosphere across the country has been vitiated with the patriotic Indians, due to attempt of the BJP to divide the common people

on communal lines.

He said that the claims of BJP for opening of floodgates of private investments and creation of large scale jobs in private sector. as nothing of this sort has been witnessed. The local traders, contractors, businessmen and transporters are loosing business opportunities to outside residents, especially in Jammu region, while strongly criticizing the disbanding and downgrading of historical state into UT. He said that the promise of large scale Govt. jobs and opening private sector for jobs, was a big bluff & ioke with the educated youth of J&K. He accused the BJP government of exploiting their political powers vested in them by virtue of forming the government at the Centre to target the Congress leadership and in an attempt to weaken the

Bhalla stated that the BJP is misusing government agencies like the ED to constantly harass opposition leaders especially the Congress party is being brutally targeted, as Congress leaders are not allowed to raise their voices against the blunders of the Modi Government. The government wants to suppress any voice of reason that wants to fight for the right and point out

opposition and distract the

public attention away from

their failures.

their faults, Bhalla said that the BJP government feels empowered as they control central agencies in the country and they can use them to defame and harass their opposition which is the Congress party.

He further said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal. He asked the party functionaries to highlight the failures of BJP on various fronts, including economy, foreign policy, communal harmony. inflation, farmers' income national security, welfare for the Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes, and other backward classes. The best way to get rid from this anti people policies of government is to defeat BJP in the upcoming Parliament

elections, Bhalla added.
Reacting over the recently passed bill in the Parliament after throughout
145 opposition MPs from
the Parliament, Narinder
Gupta, General Secretary
PCC & Former Chairman
Jammu Bus Stand Travel
Agency said it was most
unfortunate that the bill was
passed in a hidden way, as
there was nobody in the
Parliament to oppose the
decision

Moreover Govt. should take in confidence all stakeholders including opposition.

Smelling large scale opposition from the people, the Govt. has kept the implementation on hold for the time being and it will again implement the same.

again implement the same.
He said the best way to get rid from all such antipeople policies of the BJP Govt. it should be defeated in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Congress Party supports Transport Unions for their right cause, Gupta added.

Central University Jammu Unveils New Year Calendar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: In a momentous event today, the Central University of jammu unveiled its New Year Calendar, marking the beginning of a year filled with academic excellence and vibrant campus life.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ inaugurated the calendar. The meticulously crafted calendar showcases a diverse array of events, including academic seminars, cultural festivals, and sporting competitions, reflecting the university's commitment to holistic development.

Prof. Yashwant, while expressing their optimism for the year ahead; he emphasized the university's dedication to providing a well-rounded educational experience for all its students. With an emphasis on fostering a dynamic and engaging

learning environment, the calendar promises a year brimming with intellectual stimulation and community-building activities.

"The New Year Calendar is not just a schedule of events; it's a roadmap to a year of learning, discovery, and shared experiences. We look forward to a year where our Central University community thrives academically, culturally, and athletically," remarked Prof. Yashwant.

The calendar is now available for distribution across the campus and serves as a visual guide for the upcoming academic sessions. Students, faculty, and staff alike are encouraged to actively participate in the scheduled events, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of life at Central University.

Criminal detained under PSA in Udhampur

JAMMU, Jan 3 (Agencies): An alleged criminal was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Wednesday, police said.

Ashraf Ali alias 'Shifu', a resident of Ramnagar, has become a threat to public peace and tranquillity, forcing the district magistrate to issue orders for his detention under the PSA, a police spokesperson said.

He said Udhampur Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh prepared Ali's dossier for PSA for his continuous involvement in criminal activities like bovine smuggling, theft and bootlegging.

JALSHAKTIDEPARTMENT,JAMMU

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE)CITYDIVISION NO-1.JAMMU

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ICE INVITING SHOPT TERM E TENDED

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDER E-NITNo.JS/PHECD-I/ 110 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, of J&K Union Territory, E-Tender (Item Rate Based) is invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1, Jammu, from approved and eligible contractor of appropriate class registered with UT of Jammu and Kashmir/ other UT's or State Govt./CPWD/MES registered firms/contractors under two cover system, Cover 1 comprising of technical bid and cover 2 comprising of financial bid for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender(In Rs)	Cost of Tender document Fees (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Improvement f water supply by way of making interconnection and manifold of new Over Head Tank 2.00 lac. Gallon Capacity at Patoli Brahmana under JMC internal resources 2023-24.	Rs.2.63 lacs	Rs.200	Rs.5260/-	A to D	60 days
2	Improvement and upgradation of water supply of Nallah wali Gali opposite Colour Saloon old Janipur ward no.34. under Grant in Aid.	Rs.5.14 lacs	Rs.500	Rs.10280/-	A to D	60 days

Position of funds : Approved Position of Ts: Accorded Position of AAA: Accorded

- 1. Date of publishing:-01-01-2024 (1800Hrs)
- 2. Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-01-2024 (1800Hrs) onwards.
- 3. The bids shall be uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-01-2024 (1800Hrs) to 08-01-2024 upto (1200Hrs).
- 4. The complete bidding process shall be online.
- 5. The technical bids received shall be opened online on **08-01-2024 after (1500Hrs)**, or anyother convenient later date in the office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) CityDivisionNo-1,Jammu.
- 6. Furnishingofhardcopiesofbidsimmediatelyaftersubmissionofe-tendershasbeendispensed with as per Govt. order no. OM No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder, who isdeclaredasL1afteropeningoffinancialbids.
- 7. A copy of CDR/FDR duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti(PHE) City Division No-I Jammu, against the earnest money deposit, should be uploaded by the bidders, However

before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as lowest bidder and shall be kept in record till the allotment process is finalized. The earnest money shall be released on receipt of the performance security or CDR/FDR against the EMD can be retained after accepting the balance amount in the shape of CDR/FDR to meet the requirement of the amount of the Performance security. The CDR / FDR used for one tender shall not be entertained for other tender; which are under the process of tendering and the validity of such CDR / FDR shall remain till the outcome of such tender only. The CDR /FDR used for one tender shall have to be released from the Divisional Office before using for another tender.

No: PHECD-I/7003-7008 DIP/J-13327/23 Dated:-01-01-2024

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) City Division No-1 Jammu

People of J&K deprived of fundamental right by not holding elections in J&K: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary and former Minister has said that the development works started during the National Conference governance in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought to a standstill under the incumbent Govt. Moreover the overall developmental scenario existing today is hopeless and highly deplorable, he added.

He expressed this while addressing a meeting of NC functionaries of District Udhampur Urban held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

The meeting began with

Jammu.
The meeting began with the NC District President Udhampur Urban Sunil Verma apprising the senior functionaries of party about the problems being faced by people of the area and failure of the authorities to address the same despite approaching them repeat-

edly.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra observed that the development works started during the National Conference governance in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir have been brought to a standstill under the



Devika project is quite

clumsy and still far from

completion. The senior NC leader said that the Union Territory Administration has been clamoring a lot about its industrial policy bringing a paradigm transformation in industrial sector thus giving a push to economy and employment to just create a false narrative. However, the fact remains that majority of industries in J&K especially in Udhampur are at the verge of closure, while many industries stand already closed. He said that the road project from Ramnagar to Basant-

garh continues to be in dol-

drums with its completion

nowhere in sight.

He said that the incumbent Administration is not serious even about the health of the people which is evident from the fact that the Health Centres are running without doctors especially in rural and far flung areas likewise the condition of Ration supplies and electricity is also worst. He asserted that the incumbent Govt in J&K exemplifies the worst form of governance

mercy of God.
Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu, in his address on the occasion, accused the Govt of depriving the people of J&K of fundamental rights by not holding ULB, Panchayat and Assembly polls in this Union Territory in which is

leaving the people to the

their constitutional right. Reacting to JP Nadda's visit to Jammu on Jan 7, Rattan Lal mocked the BJP National President for confining his visit to Lok Sabha polls while maintaining a criminal silence on holding ULB ,Panchayat and Assembly polls which are already due.

Accusing the BJP of adopting unconstitutional methods to delay ULB, Panchayat and Assembly polls in J&K, the senior JKNC leader asserted that BJP has adopted delay tactics on the aforesaid polls due to fear of suffering an unprecedented defeat and debacle due to its utter mis-

governance in J&K.

He claimed that BJP is not at all in a condition to contest Assembly polls. He accused the BJP of depriving the people in J&K of their fundamental rights by not holding the elections which goes very much against the basic tenets of

Abdul Gani Malik Zonal President Udhampur

democracy.

JKNC said that people are anxiously waiting for the announcement of Assembly elections in J&K by the ECI and they will definitely teach the BJP a lesson.

He asserted that people

Reasi and former minister

know well that only NC can address their issues and they will overwhelmingly vote in favour of National Conference candidates. He asked the people to further strengthen the hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Prominent among those

who were present in the meeting include Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Satwant Kour Dogra P.P Women Wing, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone. Capt. Pavitar Singh, Moti Ram Sharma, Capt Balbir Singh, Akash Verma, Sanjay Verma, Sajad Ahmed, Sunita Mehra, Savitri Devi, Radha Devi, Ruksana Begum, Sham Lal, S. Gurmeet Singh, Kishore Sadhotra, Krishan Lal, Bishan Dass, Mashamber Dass, Jagdiv Singh, Simran, Karnail Chand Shoket Ali, Mohd Mushtaq Manmohan Verma and others.

EDITORIAL

SAVITRIBAI

PHULE
avitribai 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

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

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

¬he 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

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 yatris and the container modules for Rahul Gandhi and other VIP leaders to sleep in without firming up seatsharing 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-

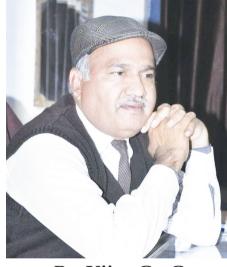
cal value if INDIA as a collective of parties had a common minimum programme and a common campaign strategy. None of this has progressed to the point that the yatra and the campaign can be fused together to create a buzz among voters in what is politically hostile terrain for the Congress and the INDIA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

¬he 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 universi-

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 sigh 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

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.

and Kashmir.

SMVDU faculty published Patent

expresses appreciation

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, Gol, published the beauty.' patent under application number 202341074960, Publication Number -50/2023. The Field of invention falls under the 'Communication' under classification "H04L0009320000, G06N0020000000, G06F0021620000 G06Q0010060000, H04L0009060000"

Chenab Valley's overlooked languages seek echo: CTF calls for linguistic survey

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 3: Inspired by the recent launch of the "People's Linguistic Survey of Assam," the Chenab Times Foundation (CTF) has called for a similar initiative in the Chenab Valley of Jammu

The foundation, a registered trust dedicated to art, culture, and public welfare, believes that documenting and preserving the rich tapestry of overlooked languages in the region is crucial to their survival.

"The news of the Assam survey filled us with hope," said Maryam Begum, Chairperson of

"It's a reminder that language diversity is not just an academic pursuit, but a vital part of our cultural heritage and identity. The Chenab Valley is home to a treasure trove of languages like Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Pogli, Kishtwari, Rambani, Padari, and Khashali, each with its own unique history and

Anzer Ayoob, President of CTF, echoed Begum's sentiment, emphasizing the urgency of action. "Many of these languages are facing the threat of extinction, with younger generations increasingly adopting dominant languages. A comprehensive survey, involving local communities, is essential to understand their status, document their grammar and vocabulary, and create awareness about their importance."

The Assam survey, launched by Assam Women's University and Jorhat College, aims to capture under-represented and overlooked languages. By actively involving local communities, it also seeks to raise awareness about their significance and the need for preservation. CTF believes that replicating this model in the Chenab Valley can yield similar positive results.

"We urge the government of Jammu and Kashmir, along with universities and cultural institutions, to take the lead in this endeavor.' Ayoob stated. "A collaborative effort, drawing inspiration from the Assam initiative, can safeguard these precious languages for future generations. Let us not lose the echoes of our rich linguistic heritage in the Chenab Valley."

The CTF's call comes at a critical time when the linguistic landscape of the Chenab Valley faces increasing pressure from globalization and homogenization. By documenting and celebrating these overlooked languages. the foundation hopes to not only preserve a vital part of the region's cultural identity but also contribute to the broader national effort to protect India's linguistic diversity.

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 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 attend-

ed by various prominent figures, including SHO Bishnah Abid Bukhari, Gold Smith Sharan Aryan, DDC Member Dharminder Kumar, Sarpanch Bavishan Singh, BJP Senior

leader Anil (Mintu) Gupta, Social activists Anirudh Sharma and Arjun Sharma, KC Morh Shop Keeper Association Sanju Sharma, Parveen Sharma, Sandeep Karlupia, 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 positive 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 high-

lights 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 artistes 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, Swanad Kirkire and Kadamabari Kadam. Not to forget how wonderfully Arun captured the Konkan 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 Konkan 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

Be it critically acclaimed series Paatal Lok, School of Lies, Vishaanu from 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

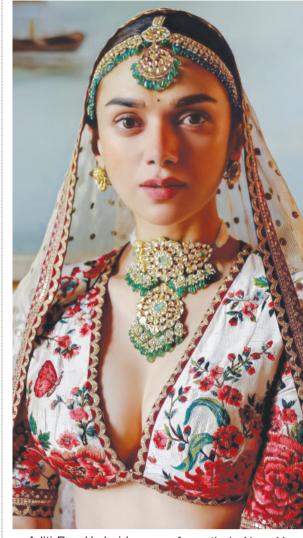
book. So, Varun has actually

done 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 Samu-

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 sieeveless 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 artistes 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 ourney 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 inbuilt 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 Shraddha 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 moneylaundering case. To prove her innocence, Baneriee 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 Puniab National Bank account.

A few days later, when Patil shared the incident with her landlord she realised that she was target of a

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 Selfiee 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 fastpaced as compared to



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 Parlia-

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: Tiruchchirappalli-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 January 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

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 socioeconomic 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 intelligenceenabled solutions for

deployment. The system, called analog ensemble, uses meteorological observations of 20-30 previous winter seasons from observatories located in the Shamshawari 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 Himalayans 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 reced-

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 Talari 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 inves-

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

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

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

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 Hubbali, 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 Hubbali 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 "longpending"

The BJP accused the Congress-led Karnataka govern-



ists" 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 Narament of engaging in "appeasement politics" He said, "They (state govern-

ment) 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

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.

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Saavn.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

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

BELAGAVI, Jan 3 (Agencies): A middleaged 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 vil-

lage 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.

Rescuers race against time in search for survivors in Japan after powerful quakes leave 62 dead

Besides the military and firefighters, search dogs have joined the effort to search for dozens of people who are thought to be trapped, although the exact number is unclear.

SUZU, Jan 3 (Agencies): Rescue workers and canine units urgently sifted through rubble in the winter cold Wednesday in what the prime minister called a race against time after powerful earthquakes in western Japan left at least 62 people dead and dozens believed trapped under collapsed buildings.

Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas were rattled by a major 4.9 magnitude aftershock in the early hours among the dozens of aftershocks that have followed a magnitude 7.6 temblor two days ago.

The first 72 hours are especially critical, experts say, because the prospects for survival greatly diminishes after three days.

"More than 40 hours have passed. This is a race against time, and I feel that we are at a critical moment," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. "We have received reports many people are still waiting for rescue under collapsed buildings."

Relief officials were delivering water, blankets, food and other supplies. Noto's narrow peninsula landscape has added to the challenges in reaching some communities. Water, power and cell phone service were still down in some areas.

"Hardly any of the homes are standing. They are either partially or totally destroyed," said Masuhiro Izumiya, the mayor of Suzu city, which suffered heavy



damage.

Besides the military and firefighters, search dogs have joined the effort to search for dozens of people who are thought to be trapped, although the exact number is unclear.

Weather forecasts warned of heavy rainfall in Ishikawa, leading to worries about landslides and further damage to halfcrumbled homes. Temperatures were also dropping lately to below freezing levels.

Of the deaths, 29 were counted in Wajima city, while 22 people died in Suzu, according to Ishikawa Prefectural authorities. Dozens of people have been seriously injured, including in nearby prefectures.

Two additional deaths were still awaiting official confirmation in Wajima, meaning the overall toll would likely grow to 64 people.

Ensuring adequate water supplies and bathroom services to those who have evacuated were a priority, according to Ishikawa

Gov. Hiroshi Hase. He encouraged everyone to use masks, antiseptic and soap to guard against the spread of infectious diseases, another growing fear the region faces as life at evacuation centers drags on.

But residents on the coastline were already picking up the pieces, like Noto resident Kazuyuki Iwaike, who was deep in thought as he cleaned up his home. It was by sheer chance he had avoided death. He was not home when the tsunami

"I always thought it was someone else's problem, thinking there is no way a tsunami would come," he said.

Officials warned that things were unpredictable and possibly bigger quakes could hit.

As a quake-prone nation with crisscrossing fault lines and many volcanoes, Japan has had its share of disasters, including a quake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan in 2011.

Japan is also an organized, conformist and relatively crimefree society, where warning systems are systematically relayed as a public service. Disaster experts say that's helping save lives, but they warn people shouldn't let their guard down.

Boats lav overturned in water. roads were blocked by mounds of dirt, and shovels scooped scattered pillars and walls from flattened homes. A major fire turned an entire section of Wajima city into ashes.

Adding to the worries are the several nuclear plants in the region, although no major problems or rise in radiation levels have been reported. Shika nuclear plant in Ishikawa suffered partial electricity failure, but backup power kicked in, ensuring the critical cooling process continued.

On Monday, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a major tsunami warning for Ishikawa and lower-level tsunami warnings for other coastal areas. The tsunami warnings were lifted Tuesday. The latest quakes have not come with tsunami warnings.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese joined President Joe Biden and other world leaders in expressing empathy for the Japanese.

"Our hearts go out to our friends in Japan," he said. "We will provide, and have offered, whatever support is requested by our friends in Japan."

suspect who stabbed opposition leader Lee in the neck immediately after the attack. Police said he

SEOUL, Jan 3 (Agencies): South Korean police on Wednesday raided the residence and office of a man who stabbed the country's opposition leader, Lee Jae-myung, in the neck in an attack that left him hospitalized in an intensive care unit, officials said.

The assault occurred when Lee was passing through a throng of journalists after visiting the proposed site of a new airport in the southeastern city of Busan on Tuesday. The attacker, posing as a supporter, approached Lee asking for his autograph before he took out an 18-centimeter (7-inch) knife to attack him.

After receiving emer-

gency treatment in Busan, Lee was transported by helicopter to the Seoul National University Hospital for surgery. Cho Jeong-sik, the party's secretary general, said Wednesday the two-hour surgery was successful and that Lee remained in the hospital's intensive care unit for recovery. Police and emergency officials earlier said Lee was conscious after the attack and wasn't in critical condition.

The suspect was detained by police

ISIS trying to establish foothold in Pakistan:

told investigators he attempted to kill Lee and that he had plotted his attack alone, but his motive is unknown.

South Korean police raid house of

Top News of J&K

Jammu, Wednesday, January 03, 2024

Busan police said they sent officers to search the suspect's residence and office in the central city of Asan on Wednesday as part of their investigation. Police said they plan to ask for a formal arrest warrant for the suspect over alleged attempted murder.

Police disclosed few further details about the suspect except that he was aged about 67 and bought the climbing knife online. Police refused to disclose what kind of office he has in Asan, but local media photos showed officers searching a real estate

office. Lee, 59, is a toughspeaking liberal who lost the 2022 presidential election to President Yoon Suk Yeol by 0.7 percentage points, the narrowest margin recorded in a South Korean presidential election. Their closely fought presidential race and post-election bickering between their allies have deepened South Korea's already toxic conservative-liberal divide.

Recent public surveys have put Lee as one of the two leading early favourites for the next presidential election in 2027, along with Yoon's popular former justice minister, Han Dong-hoon. Yoon is by law barred from seeking reelection.

In a New Year meeting involving top officials, politicians and general citizens on Wednesday, Yoon repeated his wish for Lee's quick recovery. He also condemned the assault on Lee as "a terrorist attack" that is "an enemy to all of us and an enemy to liberal democracy," according to his office. Lee was supposed to attend that meeting.

Lee has been a vocal critic of Yoon. Last year, he launched a 24-day hunger strike to protest Yoon's major policies, including what he called Yoon's refusal to firmly oppose Japan's release of treated radioactive wastewater from its crippled Fukushima nuclear power.

Lee has been grappling with a prolonged prosecutors' investigation over a range of corruption allegations. Lee has denied legal wrongdoing and accused Yoon's government of pursuing a political ven-

Japan investigates plane collision at Haneda Airport

TOKYO, Jan 3 (Agencies): Japanese investigators on Wednesday probed a near-catastrophic collision at Tokyo's Haneda Airport of a coast guard plane and a passenger jet that killed five people, with almost 400 others narrowly escaping a raging

All but one of the six people on the smaller all 379 Japan Airlines passengers and crew escaped down emergency slides minutes before the Airbus was engulfed in flames late Tuesday.

The blackened husk of the airliner, still sitting on the tarmac Wednesday, bore witness to just how dangerous their escape had been. Several hundred metres (yards) away lay the remains of the coast

guard's DHC-8 aircraft. The captain of the coast guard plane -which had been bound for the New Year's Day earthquake zone in central Japan -- was its lone survivor but suffered serious injuries.

Footage on Tuesday showed a ball of fire erupting from underneath the airliner shortly after landing and coming to a halt on its nose after its front landing gear failed.

As people slid to safety, dozens of fire engines with blue and red flashing lights sprayed the flames, but the entire fuselage was soon ablaze. It took eight hours to finally extinguish the fire.

"It was getting hot inside the plane, and I thought, to be honest, I would not survive," one female passenger told broadcaster NHK.

"I thought we landed normally. But then I realised I was smelling smoke," a woman with

a small child told NHK. take off. "I needed to protect my

daughter. That was the only thing on my mind," she added.

Another passenger described surviving the crash as a "miracle"

"I bounced off my seat from the impact when we landed," the 28-yearold man told Nikkei Asia.

"We made it just in the nick of time. It's a miracle we survived."

Landing clearance

from the Japan Transport Safety Board told reporters that the flight recorder and the voice recorder from the Coast Guard plane had been found, but those of the passenger jet were still

being sought. "We are surveying the situation. Various parts are scattered on the runway," Fujiwara said, adding that the authority planned to interview

several people involved. Asked at a briefing whether the Japan Airlines flight had landing permission, officials at the major carrier said: "Our understanding is

that it was given." But JAL and the land ministry declined to comment directly on exchanges between flight controllers and the two planes, citing the ongoing investigation.

In a recording from Haneda's control tower made in the moments before the collision, available on a site that broadcasts live air traffic signals, a voice is heard advising JAL's flight to "continue approach".

NHK reported that the control tower had instructed the coast guard plane to hold short of the runway.

But the broadcaster also quoted an unnamed Coast Guard official as saving that the pilot, Genki Miyamoto, 39. said immediately after the accident that he had permission to

Airbus investigators

Dozens of domestic flights were cancelled on Wednesday from Haneda, one of the world's busiest airports, but international arrivals and departures were little affected.

Airbus said it would send a team of specialists to help investigate.

The passenger plane had arrived from New Chitose Airport serving Sapporo on the north ern island of Hokkaido. Those on board includ-

ed eight children. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida praised the deceased crew members on their way to help the victims of the quake that killed at least

62 people. "These were employees who had a high sense of mission and responsibility for the affected areas," he said Tuesday.

In 1985, a JAL jumbo jet flying from Tokyo to Osaka crashed, killing 520 passengers and crew, in one of the world's deadliest crashes involving a single flight.

The world's worst civil aviation disaster also happened on the ground when two Boeing 747s collided at Los Rodeos Airport in Tenerife in 1977, killing 583 people.

"I can't speculate on what happened here but human error will probably be found as a contributing cause," Doug Drury, aviation expert at Central Queensland University, told AFP.

"Airlines are required to be able to empty an airplane of all passengers and crew within 90 seconds. The flight crews train for events quite frequently in simulation and it is a complicated process that as we saw was completed without fail," he said.

"A key component here was that no one tried to grab their carryon bags.

Ministry of Interior tells Senate ISLAMABAD, Jan 3 highlighted the TTP's reorganisation and

(Agencies): Pakistan, which is witnessing an influx of Tehreek-i-Taliban terrorists in significant numbers in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tribal districts, is also facing a threat from the Islamic State (ISIS) which is trying to establish a foothold in the country, the Ministry of

Interior has said. The ministry's statement came as the Senate was briefed about the escalating influence and activities of the TTP following the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the inaction of the interim Afghan government led by the Taliban against the banned group.

The interior ministry, in a written response during question hour.

operational expansion during the peace talks in 2022, which has significantly increased its militant activities.

"It has given significant rise to its activities and is seeking the support of other militant groups to increase strength and capabilities. It is mostly concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially merged districts, with footprints in Balochistan and trying to activate its network in the country," it said.

It said that the arrival of TTP in significant numbers continues in merged districts, along with the recruitment, training and placing of suicide bombers, is a

cause of concern. The ministry said Daesh -- an Arabic

acronym for the selfproclaimed Islamic State militant group -- was also trying to establish a foothold in Pakistan and resorted to terrorist activities against Shias and religious minority communities to ignite

sectarian strife. It said fencing along the western borders of Pakistan had largely been completed to further strengthen the state mechanism of curbing the illegal movement from across the border. However, it pointed out that the two organ-

isations, particularly the TTP, continued to sabotage the fence. ing its porous borders with Afghanistan in

Pakistan started fenc-March 2017, after facing a spate of deadly attacks from Afghanistan-based militant groups in the previous year. The barrier, being

built on the 2,640-km border, also known as the Durand Line, is near completion. It passes through

rugged mountains, densely forested valleys and narrow rock passages.

Militants have ramped up their attacks since they revoked a ceasefire with the Pakistani government in November 2022.

In the deadliest attack on security forces in the outgoing year, at least 23 Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred and more than 30 troops wounded on Dec 12 after militants belonging to the Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan stormed a compound used by the military in Dera Ismail Khan's Daraban area.

The ministry also said data of 1.45 million registered refugees was updated and expanded through the issuance of smart identity cards.

"The cards contain basic information. including biometric data, and are compatible with the local systems," it said.

About dismantling the communication networks to combat online extremism, it said the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority was actively monitoring

cyberspace. "A total number of 16,522 complaints were forwarded to social media platforms for blocking of radical/sectarian, anti-state and terrorist content during 2022," it said.

Afghanistan hit by two earthquakes of magnitude 4.8, 4.4 in less than 30 minutes

FAYZABAD, Jan 3 (Agencies): Two earthquakes jolted Afghanistan on Wednesday in a span of less than 30 minutes. The first earthquake had a magnitude of 4.4 and occurred at 12:28 am 100 km east of Fayzabad, according to the National Center for

The second quake, with a magnitude of 4.8, struck at 12:55 am, 126 km east of Fayzabad. So far, no injuries or damage to property has been reported.

On December 12, 2023, an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale hit Afghanistan. Before that, in October last

year, a powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake followed by strong aftershocks killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan, the country's national disaster authority said.

Around 2,000 people died in one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

Taiwan Detects 4 Chinese Balloons Near Major Air Base **Ahead Of Polls**

TAIPEI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Four Chinese balloons were detected moving across the median line separating Taiwan from China, with three flying directly above the island, Taipei's defence ministry said Wednesday.

A graphic released by the ministry showed three balloons headed northeast above Taiwan after appearing "southwest of Ching-Chuan-Kang", home to a military airbase in the western city of Taichung.

The lowest altitude measured for one of them was 12,000 feet (3,658 metres). Tuesday's balloon incidents



the second consecutive day such objects were detected above Taiwan. The ministry began reporting them for the first time in December, publicly identifying six incidents. It said Wednesday it was "closely monitoring and will take appropri-

ate measures" on the balloons, depending on the "nature, altitude and possible hazards of the targets". Conflict expert Ou Sifu of Taiwan's Institute of National Defense and Security Research said the balloons are "for military coercion and psychological warfare".

"The presidential election is coming and balloons are a kind of military intimidating tool," he told agency, adding that China wished to influence more "pro-Beijing votes".

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has in recent years ramped up military and political pressures against

the government of President Tsai Ing-wen. It has sent in unprecedented numbers of warplanes and naval vessels around the island, dubbed by conflict experts as "grey zone" tactics that serve to intimidate Taiwan's military. Beijing has also refused to engage with Tsai during her tenure, as she does not acknowledge China's claim on Taiwan. Her deputy Lai Ching-te -- a self-proclaimed "pragmatic worker for Taiwan's independence" -- is the current frontrunner for the January 13 election. Beijing has dubbed him a "troublemaker" and a "separatist".

Army Recruiting Office organizes outreach

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

ਾਸ ਤੇ ਗੰਭੀਰ ਦਾਨ**ਣਾ ਪਾਉਂਦੀ**

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 &

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

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, Musaib 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

We are highly thankful to Almighty then our coach Aijaz Ahmed Pala JKP member and our trainer Qaiser Habib Zargar for training us so

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 Saleega Tarig.

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.

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

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHANDI-GARH, 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-



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

"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

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 Puniab." 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

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

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 vari**ant 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 Raj-

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 evi-

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

FROM PAGE 1 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 Bairang. **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: 'UWW 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

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 Direc-

torate in connection with an excise policylinked 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

December 21.

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

Sensex falls 535 points dragged by HDFC & IT shares, weak global trends

Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Nestle, HCL Technologies, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards

MUMBAI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Stock markets declined for a second day in a row on Wednesday with benchmark Sensex closing lower by 535 points due to selling in HDFC Bank and IT shares amid weak global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 535.88 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 71,356.60. During the day, it tumbled 588.51 points or 0.81 per cent to 71,303.97.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange slipped 148.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 21,517.35.

Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Nestle, HCL Technologies, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards.

IndusInd Bank, ITC, Bharti Airtel and State Bank of India were among the winners.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled lower while Shanghai ended in the green.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended



mostly lower on Tues-

"The lack of fresh triggers and concerns over valuation influenced investors to stay sidelined. Weak global indicators, like contraction in China & Euro zone manufacturing data, added concerns about global economic recovery in 2024. Importantly, the market was waiting for the FED minutes later today for rate insights," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to an 18-month low in December amid softer increase in factory orders and output, despite minimal inflation, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey, conducted by

nar, showing that sales

of residential properties

priced Rs 50 lakh and

below fell to 97,983 units

last year from 1,17,131

As a result, the share

S&P Global, showed that there were softer, albeit sharp, increase in factory orders and output, while business confidence towards the year-ahead outlook strengthened.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 56 in November to an 18-month low of 54.9 in December.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.55 per cent to USD 75.47 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,602.16 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Sensex fell by 379.46 points or 0.53 per cent to settle at 71,892.48 on Tuesday. The Nifty declined by 76.10 points or 0.35 per cent to 21,665.80.

India's manufacturing sector growth falls to 18-month low in December on softer rise in orders, output

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 56 in November to an 18-month low of 54.9 in December

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): India's manufacturing sector growth fell to an 18-month low in December amid softer increase in factory orders and output, despite minimal inflation, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey, conducted by S&P Global, showed that there were softer, albeit sharp, increase in factory orders and output, while business confidence towards the year-ahead outlook strengthened.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 56 in November to an 18-month low of 54.9 in December.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.



"India's manufacturing sector continued to expand in December, although at a softer pace, following an uptick in the previous month. Growth of both output and new orders softened, but on the other hand, the future output index rose since November," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Despite a loss of growth momentum, the sector still expanded strongly in December.

New business gains, favourable market conditions, fairs

and expositions collectively induced another sharp increase in manufacturing production during December, according to panellists.

The December data showed a 21st consecutive increase in international order receipts at goods producers in India.

"Companies noted gains from clients in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. New export sales expanded at a moderate pace that was the joint-slowest in eight months," the survey noted.

On the prices front, input costs

rose at the second-slowest rate in nearly three-and-a-half years and charge inflation softened to a nine-month low.

Among the items reported to have been up in price were chemicals, paper and textiles. Little-changed from November, however, the rate of inflation was negligible by historical standards and was the second-weakest in just under three-and-a-half years, as per the survey.

"Rates of increase in input and output prices were broadly unchanged," Bhandari added.

HSBC India PMI data showed a general lack of pressure on the capacity of manufacturers at the end of the third fiscal quarter. Subsequently, employment was largely stable in December.

When assessing the yearahead outlook for production, Indian manufacturers were at their most upbeat for three months. Anecdotal evidence highlighted advertising, better customer relations and new enquiries as the main factors boosting business confidence in December, the survey said.

Vietnam-based VinFast likely to set up EV battery plant in India: Report

Three sources famil-



NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Vietnambased electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast is making strides to establish its first manufacturing facility in India, reported news agency. iar with the matter, who were quoted in the report, said the facility of electric vehicle (EV) industry is slated to be situated in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, specifically in the city of Thoothukudi.

The focus of this manufacturing plant is said to be the production of batteries designed for electric vehicles.

It's worth noting that this endeavour is distinct from VinFast's earlier plans, which involved the assembly of vehicles using parts shipped from Vietnam.

Despite being in the league with formidable car manufacturers like Tesla and China's BYD,

VinFast has opted to remain tight-lipped about the development, declining to provide comments.

However, the company

did release a statement on Wednesday, suggesting that it would disclose the comprehensive details of its plans at "an appropriate time."

Sales of homes costing up to Rs 50 lakh dip 16 % last year; total sales hit 10-yr high: Report

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Sales of homes costing up to Rs 50 lakh fell 16 percent last year to nearly 98,000 units across eight major cities due to a rise in property prices and high mortgage rate, according to Knight Frank India.

Nevertheless, overall housing sales, comprising all price points, rose 5 percent annually to 3,29,907 units during 2023 across the top eight cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

New supply in homes costing up to Rs 50 lakh dropped 20 percent in 2023 year-on-year. This also resulted in a fall in sales of affordable homes.

The overall sales reached a 10-year high, driven by higher demand in the mid-income and luxury home segments. Real estate consultant

Knight Frank India on

Wednesday released its

report through a webi-

of affordable homes in total housing sales has come down to 30 percent from 37 percent.

The share of homes costing above Rs 1 crore grew to 34 percent

units in 2022.

a year ago.
Knight Frank India
CMD Shishir Baijal said,
"Characterised by a shift
towards more expensive
properties, the residential market continues
its onward march to
achieve another watershed year in 2023."

in 2023 from 27 percent

"This growth is led by the strong economic fundamentals of the country that give buyers financial confidence to make long-term investments," he said.

"Furthermore, dramatic improvement in home affordability over the last decade has helped home buyers despite a steady rise in prices. Having said that, we

can see some signs of distress in the affordable segment, which saw reduced sales volumes," Baijal said.

The consultant attributed the fall in sales of affordable homes to subdued demand because of the combined impact of rising property prices, increased home loan rates, and the disproportionately adverse effects of the pandemic in this category.

In 2018, the share of affordable homes in total sales was 54 percent. Mumbai saw a 6 percent drop in sales of affordable homes to 39,093 units in 2023 from 41,595 units in the previous year.

The city that saw a maximum decline in affordable segment sales was Bengaluru with an annual decline of 46 percent to 8,141 units in 2023 from 15,205 units in 2022.

The Delhi-NCR market witnessed 44 percent fall in sales of affordable homes to 7,487 units last year from 13,290 units in 2022.

Knight Frank said the total housing sales increased 5 percent to 3,29,097 units in 2023 from 3,12,666 units in the previous year.

In Mumbai, sales grew 2 percent to 86,871 units from 85,169 units. Housing sales in Delhi-NCR rose 3 percent to 60,002 units from 58,460 units.

Bengaluru saw an increase of 1 percent in sales to 54,046 units from 53,363 units, while Pune witnessed 13 percent rise in sales to 49,266 units from 43,409 units.

Housing sales in Chennai rose 5 percent to 14,920 units from 14,248 units. In Hyderabad, sales grew 6 percent to 32,880 units from 31,046 units.

Kolkata saw an increase of 16 percent to 14,999 units in 2023 from 12,909 units in the previous year.

Housing sales in Ahmedabad rose 15 percent to 16,113 units in 2023 from 14,062 units in the previous year.

Delhi HC grants time to Vivo officials to respond to ED plea against release in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted three vivo-India executives one week to file their reply to a plea by the Enforcement Directorate challenging an order for their release in a money laundering case.

While Additional Solicitor General S V Raju argued that the trial court order was "totally perverse" and the matter required urgent adjudication, the counsel for the accused sought time to file their response.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma listed the matter for further hearing on January 11 and said, "They will need to file a reply. I can't deny them".

"The court grants time of one week to respondents to file a reply," the court ordered.

ASG Raju argued one of the respondents, a Chinese national, was a flight risk.

The counsel for the accused said they had

already surrendered

their passports.

Justice Sharma also indicated she would, when she passes a written order, direct the accused to appear before the ED on Fridays and Mondays.

On Tuesday, a vacation bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela had issued notice on the anti-money laundering agency's plea challenging the trial court order of December 30 while noting that since the executives have already been released, no exparte interim order could be passed at this stage.

On December 30, the trial court had directed the release of three vivo-India executives-

Chinese national and interim CEO of vivo-India Hong Xuquan alias Terry, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Harinder Dahiya and consultant Hemant Munjal, observing that the accused were not produced before the court within 24 hours of the arrest

and so their "custody

was illegal".

The three accused had moved the local court seeking bail and claimed they were arrested on December 21 and not December 22, as recorded by the ED, and since they were not produced before a court within 24 hours of their arrest, their arrest was "illegal and not sustainable in law".

The ED counsel had, however, contested the claim, saying after the three were "formally arrested, they were supplied with grounds of arrest and produced before the concerned court within 24 hours

from arrest."

The agency has said the premises of the three accused were searched on December 21 and they were subsequently taken to the ED office for questioning and for a forensic analysis of their phones.

They were formally arrested the next day on December 22, the ED told the court.

The ED raided vivo-India offices and the premises of those linked to it in July last year and claimed to have busted a major money laundering racket involving Chinese nationals and multiple Indian companies

tiple Indian companies. It had then alleged that Rs 62,476 crore was "illegally" transferred by vivo-India to China to avoid payment of taxes in India.

Study finds new gene mutation that protects against Parkinson's

NEW YORK, Jan 3 (Agencies): A team of US researchers have identified a previously unknown genetic mutation in a small protein that provides significant protection against Par-

kinson's disease.
The study, led by the team at the University of Southern California (USC) offers a new direction for exploring potential treatments.

The variant, located in a mitochondrial microprotein dubbed SHLP2, was found to be highly protective against Parkinson's disease; indi-

viduals with this mutation are half as likely to develop the disease as those who do not carry it.

The variant form of the protein is relatively rare and is found primarily in people of European descent, reveals the study, appearing in the journal Molecular Psychiatry.

"This study advances our understanding of why people might get Parkinson's and how we might develop new therapies for this devastating disease," said Pinchas Cohen, Professor

of gerontology, medicine and biological sciences at the USC Leonard Davis School.

"Also, because most research is done on well-established protein-coding genes in the nucleus, it underscores the relevance of exploring mitochondrial-derived microproteins as a new approach to the prevention and treatment of diseases of ageing," Cohen said.

For the study, the team led a series of experiments where they compared genetic variants in the mitochondrial DNA in



patients with Parkinson's disease and in controls. The researchers found a highly protective vari-

ant found in 1 per cent of Europeans, that reduced risk of Parkinson's disease by twofold, to 50 per cent of average.

Next, they demonstrated that this naturally occurring variant results in a change to the amino acid sequence and pro-

tein structure of SHLP2. The mutation -- a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), or a change to a single letter of the protein's genetic code -- is essentially a "gain-of-function" variant that is associated with higher expression of SHLP2 and also makes the microprotein more

stable.
According to their findings, the SHLP2 vari-

ant has high stability compared to the more common type and provides enhanced protection against mitochondrial dysfunction.

The research team was able to use targeted mass spectrometry techniques to identify the tiny peptide's presence in neurons and found that SHLP2 specifically binds to an enzyme in mitochondria called mitochondrial complex 1.

This enzyme is essential for life, and declines in its function have been linked not only to Parkinson's disease but

also to strokes and heart attacks.

The increased stability of the SHLP2 variant means that the microprotein binds to mitochondrial complex 1 more stably, prevents the decline of the enzyme's activity, and thus reduces mitochondrial dysfunction.

The benefits of the mutant form of SHLP2 were observed in both in vitro experiments in human tissue samples as well as in mouse models of Parkinson's disease.

Suryakumar doesn't quite know what to do in ODIs but he is a freak in T20 cricket: Nasser Hussain

Suryakumar has established himself as one of the best batters in the shortest format of the game, scoring 4 centuries and 17 fifties from 60 T20Is

DUBAI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav is a bit clueless in 50-overs cricket but the swashbuckling batter "is a freak" who is absolutely in command in the shortest format and will be the one to look out for at the T20 World Cup later this year, feels former England skipper Nasser Hussain.

Since beginning his T20I journey for India in 2021, Suryakumar has quickly established himself as one of the best batters in the shortest format of the game, scoring four centuries and 17 fifties from 60 T20Is.

His impressive run got him the No.1 spot in the ICC Rankings for T20I batters in 2022, which he has held on to since. However, the big-hitting batter has struggled to make a similar impact in ODIs.

"The person for the world to watch out for at the moment in T20 is Suryakumar Yadav," Hussain was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"I mean, the bloke is a freak. The cliche of Mr. 360, but some of the shots he plays... and he is a bit of a freak because in fiftyovers cricket, he doesn't quite know when to go, when not to go, what to do.



pions, but not playing particu-

larly well at the moment. It's in

the Caribbean and West Indies

are going OK, then you have

Pakistan, so can I choose all of

South Africa put some record-

breaking performances in the

World Cup last year before they

lost to eventual champions Aus-

"I'm going to go for South Africa

versus England in the final. I'm

following (fellow commentator)

Simon Doull a little bit here.

Before the (50-over) World Cup,

tralia in the semifinals.

these sides?'

"But in T20 cricket, he absolutely knows what to do every single time almost, and it's a fun game, T20 cricket and watching SKY, that is absolutely fun," Hussain added.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to take place in the Caribbean and USA in June, and Hussain has backed South Africa to win their maiden ICC trophy.

"I haven't thought too much about this actually... but I'm going to go with South Africa.

"England are (reigning) cham-

was a little bit left field. I mean, it's still South Africa, one of the great cricketing nations, sporting nations, but I thought that was a good shout from Doully. And they played some brilliant cricket in that World Cup." Hussain feels Cricket South

he tipped them to win it and it

Africa's T20 league -- the SA20, which was launched last year -- has benefitted the national

"I think their (domestic) SA20 competition has really elevated some of their players and they have now got that depth and that class and that talent.

South Africa were without the injured pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala at the ODI World Cup but the two are expected to be available for the T20 event.

"I don't know where he is with his injury at the moment, but someone like Anrich Nortje is what they were missing maybe in those vital games, towards the end of the World Cup.

"So I think, maybe, if Nortie can get fit for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and with their dynamic batting line-up, I'm going to look for South Africa," Hussain added.

SA vs IND: South Africa register lowest-ever Test total against India, get bowled out for 55 in Cape Town



CAPE TOWN, Jan 3 (Agencie): Mohammed Siraj ran through the South African batting line-up in the first innings at the Newlands Stadium, on Wednesday 3 January. Mohammed Siraj registered figures of 9-3-15-6 bowling out South Africa for just 55 runs in the first innings of the second and final Test match of the series.

India made a strong comeback in the second Test match after their embarrassing defeat in the 1st Test. India's terrific effort with the ball meant that South Africa registered their lowestever Test total against India, having been bowled out for just 55 runs in 23.1 overs. The previous record for the lowest total against India was held by Hashim Amla's team, who were bowled out for just 79 runs in Nagpur back in 2019. In that game, Ravichandran Ashwin had picked 5 wickets in the first innings.

South Africa's record of lowest first innings total remained intact on the day. Back in 1932, the Protea nation were bowled out for just 36 runs against Australia.

On the day, the India pacers looked in sensational touch and picked all 10 wickets in the very first session of the day. Barring Siraj's 6 wickets, Jasprit Bumrah picked 2 wickets, while Mukesh Kumar registered figures of 2.2-2-0-2.

Lowest-Ever Total vs India in Tests

55 all-out was also the lowest-ever total scored by any team against India in the Iongest format of the game. South Africa looked clueless against the Indian bowling attack on the day, where the Indian pacers showed tremendous character to come back from a shattering defeat.

In the previous Test match, India had suffered an innings defeat in Centurion where the Indian bowling attack was criticised heavily. India made two changes to their bowling attack on the day. The team dropped Ravichandran Ashwin and Shardul Thakur and brought in Ravindra Jadeja and Mukesh Kumar. No India spinner got to bowl in the first innings due to the India pacers running riot against the Proteas.

Viral video: Indian fan proposes to girlfriend during **T20** match in Australia

MELBOURNE, Jan 3 (Agencie): An Indian fan stole the spotlight after he proposed to his girlfriend at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the middle of a Big Bash League (BBL) match, leaving her thrilled.

The incident was recorded on Tuesday when Australian commentator Jason Richardson interviewed a couple, who were supporting different teams.

Richardson just asked them if him supporting Stars and his partner supporting the Renegades was an issue in their relationship.

He said: "Yeah, I am a big Stars fan and she is a Renegades fan. But she loves (Glenn) Max-



well too and I am a Maxwell fan, so i just brought her here so that..."

In the middle of the conversation, the man pulled out a ring from his pocket while Richardson was visibly shocked. "It is a big occasion so i just want to put a ring on her," he added.

She instantly said yes and there was a huge cheer from the people sitting in the same stand while Richardson joined in on the celebrations.

> And then there is loud cheer in the crowd and the interviewer as well.

> The video which was shared by 7Cricket on their official X account has gained over 1.86 lakh views and over a thousand likes.

AUS vs PAK: Aamer Jamal, Mohammad Rizwan lift Pakistan to 313 after Pat Cummins picks 5-wicket haul at SCG

SYDNEY, Jan 3 (Agencie): Aamer Jamal, Mohammad Rizwan and Pat Cummins hogged the headlines as Pakistan scored 313 in 77.1 overs on Day 1 of their third and final Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Australia are leading by 307 runs after their David Warner and Usman Khawaia saw off one over.

After opting to bat first, the visiting team found themselves in all sorts of trouble after being reduced to 99 for five in 29.3 overs. Abdullah Shafique and debutant Saim Avub bagged ducks. Babar Azam hit four fours in his 26-run knock before Cummins dismissed him for the

third time in the series. Shan Masood scored 35 after which Mitchell Marsh accounted for his wicket. After Pakistan lost half their side, Rizwan and Salman Agha took charge. The



duo put on 94 runs for the sixth wicket to give Pakistan some sort of momentum.

Rizwan was looking good to become the first Pakistani wicketkeeper to score a Test hundred on South African soil. However, Cummins got him out when he was batting on 88 runs with the help of 10 fours and two

JAMAL SHINES IN SYDNEY Salman racked up 53 runs off 67 balls to give Rizwan support. After Rizwan and Salman played well, it was Jamal who took the visiting team past the finish line. Playing on his third Test match, Jamal scored 82 runs off 97 balls with nine fours

and four sixes. Jamal and Mir Hamza put on

86 runs for the 10th wicket to frustrate the Australian bowlers. In the end, Nathan Lyon removed Jamal to pull the curtains down on the Pakistan innings.

For Australia, Pat Cummins was the star of the show after he picked up his third Test 5-wicket haul in a row. After finishing 2023 with two 5-wicket hauls at the MCG, he started 2024 with another one of them.

Cummins had figures of 18-1-61-5 after he prized out the scalps of Babar, Saud Shakeel, Rizwan, Sajid Khan and Hasan Ali. Mitchell Starc got the early wicket of Shafique, after which he dismissed Salman.

On Day 2, Pakistan will be looking for early wickets while Warner and Khawaja will be looking for a strong opening partnership to lay the platform for the hosts.

NZ vs PAK: Matt Henry returns as New Zealand name 15-member squad for Pakistan T20Is

WELLINGTON, Jan 3 (Agencie): New Zealand, on Wednesday, January 3, named a strong 15-member squad for their upcoming five-match T20I series against Pakistan.

Matt Henry, who was ruled out of World Cup 2023 due to a hamstring injury, has been included in the squad. The speedster is set to take part in a domestic match on Friday

before joining the national team. Kane Williamson and Devon Conway have also returned after missing the recent series against Bangladesh. However, Williamson won't play in the third T20I of the series to manage his knee.

Rachin Ravindra has been rested after he played in the series against Bangladesh. Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson will also be a part of the last three T20Is of the series.

Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Conway, Henry, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi and Tim Southee have been picked for all five T20Is.

Gary Stead, the New Zealand head coach, said that the Black Caps need to be on their toes with the T20 World Cup to be played later

"With just three T20I series left before the T20 World Cup, all matches are vitally important for our preparation. Starting the series off at Eden Park (Auckland) on a Friday night will be a great occasion and one I know the team will relish," Stead was quoted as saying

The five T20Is between Pakistan and New Zealand will take place from January 12 to 21 in Auckland, Hamilton, Dunedin and Christ-

New Zealand squad for Pakistan T20Is

Kane Williamson (c) (matches 1, 2, 4 and 5), Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson (match 3 only), Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson (matches 3, 4 and 5), Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears (matches 1 and 2), Tim Seifert (wk), Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee.

WFI without Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh is acceptable to us: Sakshi Malik

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencie): Sakshi Malik on Wednesday insisted that she has no issues with the newly-elected Wrestling Federation of India if Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh-Ioyalist Sanjay Singh is kept away from the body.

Malik had announced her retirement from the sport on December 21 in protest against the election of Sanjay Singh as WFI President.

The 2016 Rio Olympic Games bronze medallist also claimed that her mother has been receiving threat calls from former WFI chief Brij Bhushan's sup-

Malik, 31, said they will accept a WFI without Sanjay Singh but ruled out her own involvement in running of the federation. "We don't have any issues with the new federation except one man, Sanjay Singh. We don't have any issue if the new body comes back without Sanjay Singh. We do not have any issue with the ad-hoc committee as well," Malik told reporters.

"The government is like parents for us and I would request them to make wrestling safe for the upcoming wrestlers. You have seen how Sanjay Singh has been behaving. I don't want Sanjay Singh's interference in the federation," she added.

"I can only make a request. If the ministry says he won't come back it will be better. Everybody saw the kind of power abuse by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh after the WFI elections. He announced junior nationals at his home without much deliberation."

Sanjay Singh had defeated 2010 CWG gold medallist Anita Sheoran by a huge 40-7 margin.

Prem Chand Lochab, who was from

the Sheoran panel and had the backing of Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, was elected secretary general.

Sakshi also requested the ad-hoc panel to conduct age group nationals at the earliest. "I don't want that any young wrestler suffers because of us. The ad-hoc committee has already announced senior nationals and I request the ad-hoc committee to announce the U15, U17 and U20 nationals.

Interestingly, hundreds of junior wrestlers on Wednesday assembled at Jantar Mantar to protest against Malik, Phogat and Punia, who they blamed for the mess in Indian wrestling.

Malik then revealed that her family is getting threats. "For past two-three days, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's goons have become active. My mother is getting threats through phone calls. People are calling and saying that a case will be registered against someone in my family."

"People on social media are abusing us but they should remember that they have sisters and daughters at their

Asked if she would consider becoming a sports administrator, Malik replied in a negative. "I am disturbed. We just want junior wrestlers to not suffer. As of now, I don't have it in my mind. We are being blamed for junior wrestlers' loss and that's incorrect. If women are involved in running of sport, that will be good," she said.

When informed about junior wrestlers' protest against them at Jantar Mantar, Malik said, "I have given 18-20 years to wrestling. Only I know what I have gone through in the last few months."

Virat Kohli surges into top 10 in Test player rankings, Jasprit Bumrah re-enters top 5

DUBAI, Jan 3 (Agencie): Indian batter Virat Kohli started the new year on a good note as he re-entered the top 10 in the ICC Test rankings, climbing to ninth position, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the latest ranking update on Wednesday.

"Former India captain Virat Kohli has returned to the top 10 of the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings while South Africa opener Dean Elgar has made a huge jump after his Player of the Match effort in the first Test of the two-match ICC World Test Championship series in Centurion, which the home side won by an innings and 32 runs to take a 1-0 lead," ICC announced in a official state-

Kohli, a previous top-ranked batter who fell out of the top 10 in mid-2022, has moved up four spots to ninth place with scores of 38

and 76, but is still 103 rating points behind top-ranked Kane Williamson of New Zealand (864 points). Joe Root comes in second with 859 rating points, while Steve Smith comes in third with 820.

Meanwhile, India skipper Rohit Sharma dropped four places to 14th position in the Test rankings. On the other side, South African veteran Dean Elgar is certain to retire as a top-20 batter after his efforts in the first Test in Centurion, jumping 19 places to 17th (680) ahead of his last appearance.

Following his comeback to Test cricket, Jasprit Bumrah re-entered the bowlers' rankings, finishing fifth (767), just behind compatriot Ravindra Jadeja (774). Marco Jansen's efforts resulted in a three-place climb to 22nd (618), but a five-place jump to 8th in the allrounder standings, with a career-best rating

The latest weekly update also considers performances in the second Test between Australia and Pakistan. Australia's Marnus Labuschagne has risen one spot to seventh after scoring a half-century in the first innings, while Alex Carey (up four places to 41st) and Mitchel Marsh (up 16 places to 52nd) have

Pakistan hitters Saud Shakeel (up one spot to 13th), Abdullah Shafique (up three spots to 21st), and Mohammed Rizwan (up four spots to 27th) advanced following the Melbourne Test, which Australia won by 79 runs to take a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

With the bat, Afghanistan batter Ibrahim Zadran jumped 14 spots to 33rd after a halfcentury earlier in the week

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 Shrevansh 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 rejuvenate, provide complete rest & positive growth of our body," said Dr Shrevansh.

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, Giatnandan 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 Secv 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.

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 Witness-

es. 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-

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 Bhartiva Navava 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 pro-

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

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

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 Igbal, 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 ruin-

ing 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

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 to professionals 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 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.

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.



Bharatsinh Solanki Jb. G A Mir **AICC INCHARGE FOR J&K General Sec. AICC**



City of Temples JAMMU **5th Jan, 2024**



President, JKPCC JAMMU AND KASHMIR PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

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