TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 06, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Bangladesh to hold general elections on Sunday; PM Sheikh Hasina poised to win another term



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BRIEFLY

E-way bill generation without B2B e-invoice details to be blocked from March 1

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Businesses with turnover above Rs 5 crore will not be able to generate e-way bill without including e-invoice details for all B2B transaction from March 1.

Under the goods and services tax regime, e-way bills are required for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs 50,000.

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) said on analysis it was found that some of the taxpayers, who are eligible for e-invoicing, are generating e-way bills without linking with e-invoice for B2B (business to business) and B2E (business to exports) transactions.

Night temp dips further, Sgr shivers at minus 5.4 degree **Celsius**

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Amid persistent dry spell across Kasnmır, tne mini mum temperature has recorded a further dip on Saturday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius.

The mercury continued to settle below freezing point in the ongoing 40-day harshest winter period, Chillai Kalan. As per the data, Pahalgam was the coldest at minus 6.3 degree Cel-

sius. Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.4 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir has recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort recorded a low of minus 4.5 degree Celsius.

In Kokernag, the mercury settled at minus 2.9 degree Celsius.

Pertinently, the weatherman has predicted dry weather conditions till January 14, saying there is no significant weather activity during the period.

Man arrested for alleged sexual harassment of minor girl in Bandipora

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Police on Saturday arrested a fair shop dealer over alleged sexual harassment of a minor girl in north Kashmir's Bandipora.

Reports said that Police Turn to page 9

Nadda in J&K on Sunday, Will discuss BJP's **LS Poll strategy for J&K with leaders**



JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): BJP president J P Nadda is reaching here Sunday on a daylong tour to discuss and finalise the party's Lok

Sabha poll strategy for Jammu and Kashmir, a leader said.

Nadda will begin his tour by paying obeisance at the historic Raghunath temple in the heart of the city before chairing a meeting of senior members led by J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina at the party headquarters here.

National General Secretary, incharge J&K. Tarun Chugh will also attend the meeting along with both Member Parliaments from J&K --Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma — who have won Udhampur and Jammu seats twice for

Turn to page 9

Three of a family dead, one injured in Reasi road mishap

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): A husband-wife duo and their minor child died while one person was injured in a road accident at Chassana in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

The accident, officials said, took place on Saturday afternoon when a vehicle with registration number Jk01V 8022 on the way from Tulli towards Chassana fell into a deep gorge at near Zero Point Chassana.

In the accident, officials added, three persons died on the spot. They were identified as Zahid Ahmed (27), son of Abdul Kareem resident of Balmatkote Mahore, his wife Sayra Akhter (26) and their three month-old child.

The injured was identified as Irfan Ahmed (22) Turn to page 9

Fire raging in PoJK forest spreads to Indian territory, troops asked to remain alert

JAMMU, Jan 6 (Agencies): A fire that broke out in a forest area in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has spread to the Indian side and security forces are on alert to thwart any infiltration bid under the cover of the blaze, officials said on Saturday.

The fire has spread to

the forest area along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, they said. It broke out in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) late Friday night and spread to the Balakote sector in the Mendhar sub-division, the officials said.

They said an alert has been sounded along the LoC in view of the raging fire to ensure there is no attempt of infiltration by terrorists under the cover of the blaze.

Army troops guarding the LoC are making efforts to put out the fire, the officials said.

Monitoring power supply in J&K myself: LG Manoj Sinha

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that he is personally monitoring the electricity supply on the daily basis in the UT while Srinagar has emerged as a role model for the rest of the country.

Addressing a function in Srinagar, LG, said that he personally monitors the electricity supply on a daily basis in the UT every evening. "I monitor and get feedback on area-wise power supply," he said. The LG said that the damaged transformers are being repaired within 24 hours. "There is no dearth of electricity in J&K," he said.

The LG said that under the dynamic leadership of outgoing SMC commissioner Athar Amir, Srinagar has gone through a huge transformation and is now a role model for the rest of the Indian cities.

"Srinagar has witnessed a huge transformation in the past two years. Today, we can say that Srinagar has emerged one of the best cities in the country," the LG said.

He said that the night of December 31 at Lal Chowk signifies that J&K is on the path of reviving its lost glory for which it was known for.

774 Fresh Covid cases in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): India has recorded a single-day rise of 774 COVID-19 cases while the number of active cases stands at 4,187, the Union health ministry said on Satur-

Two deaths — one each from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat — were reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily

cases was in double digits till December 5 but it began to rise again amid cold weather conditions and after the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant, JN.1 After December 5, the highest single-day rise of 841 cases was reported

on December 31, 2023,

which was 0.2 per cent

of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said. Of the 4,187 active

cases, the majority (over 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation. An official source said, "The currently available

data suggests that the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in the hospitalisation and mortality." India has witnessed

three waves of COVID-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily cases and deaths being reported during the Delta wave during April-June 2021. At its peak, 4,14,188 cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

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Army's **Romeo** Force, SOG **Police** conduct search operation in

Poonch

POONCH, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Romeo Force of the Indian Army and Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu-Kashmir Police conducted search operations in Poonch district on Saturday, police said.

Further details of the search operations are awaited.

As per officials, a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered by the Romeo Force and SOG of Jammu-Kashmir Police on December 30, 2023, from the Kasblari area of

■Turn to page 9

CBI faces criticism over incomplete charge sheet in JE Exam paper leak case



SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Chief Judicial Magistrate in Jammu has criticised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for presenting an incomplete charge sheet related to the theft and leakage of question papers for the JE (Civil) examination, The Daily Excelsior reported.

After reviewing the challan submitted by the Investigating Officer

(IO), the court returned it, asserting that the

piecemeal charge sheet

The office is directed to

hand over the charge

could not be accepted until further investigation was complete. The CJM said, "Therefore, the charge sheet in hand is returned to the IO with direction to complete further investigation and submit the complete charge sheet before the court of law.

sheet along with documents to IO on proper receipt." The incomplete

charge sheet, filed hastily according to the court, disclosed that the accused individuals had committed offences punishable under various sections of the IPC. The investigation

revealed a criminal conspiracy among the accused, involving the theft of JE (Civil) examination question papers, which were then dishonestly sold to candidates in an attempt to deceive JKSSB. Additionally, the accused were found to have leaked question papers from other exams.

The court stated that the prosecution should be allowed to submit an ■Turn to page 9

Weapons seizure case | NIA attaches property in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday attached a residential house here in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a weapons seizure case, officials said.

The house is located in Khan Colony in the city's Chanapora area and belongs to Mushtaq Ahmad, they said.

The property has been attached in connection



with "case RC-4/2022/ NIA/JMU registered in connection with recovery of arms and ammu-

The arms and ammunition along with incriminating material were seized from the house following the arrest two local hybrid militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)-The Resistance Front (TRF) in May 2022, the officials said.

nition", the officials said.

Fifteen pistols, 30 magazines and 300 rounds were among the items seized from the house, they added.

JKMEGA acknowledges reforms under Shalindera Kumar's tenure, welcomes new secretary

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Mechanical **Engineering Graduates** Association (JKMEGA) convened an executive council meeting on Friday at the MED Complex, Shalteng Srinagar, expressing gratitude for the reforms implemented during the tenure of Shalindera Kumar (IAS) as the Principal Secretary in PWD (R&B) &

Mechanical Engineer-

The association also extended a warm welcome to the newly

appointed secretary, Bhupinder Kumar (IAS). Reflecting on the decisions made under the leadership of Shalindera Kumar, the JKMEGA members acknowledged the elimination of adhocism and in-charge promotions within the Engineering cadre, particularly in the Mechanical wing. One member stated, "The decisions taken during Shalindera Kumar's tenure are worth praising and will be memorable for generations to come.'

The association lauded the administration for the introduction of online services, encompassing HRM, finance, and billing, which revolutionized the department, ensuring the highest level of transparency

in the system. Another member remarked, "The availability of online services has brought a revolutionary change and transparency to the department."

In light of the recent reshuffle and Shalindera Kumar's transition to a new assignment, the members expressed gratitude for the remarkable steps taken for the welfare of the public and

■Turn to page 9



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA WITH IMMENSE GRIEF, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED SH. DEWAN CHAND SHARMA EX MANAGER SBI S/O FAQEER CHAND SHARMA R/O 194 LAST MORH SARWAL, JAMMU ON DEC 27TH, 2023.

TENTH DAY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 5TH OF JAN, 2024 AT 11AM AT OUR RESIDENCE. KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON SATUR DAY 6TH OF JAN, 2024 AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 12 NOON.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 8TH OF JAN, 2024 AT SHIV SH. DEWAN CHAND SHARMA MANDIR SARWAL FROM 3PM TO 4 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW AND SONS SMT. KANCHAN SHARMA W/O LATE ASHWANI SHARMA

SMT.RAJNI SHARMA & BUNTY **DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW**

SMT.PAMMA & SURINDER SHARMA **BROTHER & BHABI:**

SMT.RADHA SHARMA & SHAM SHARMA SMT. ANITA SHARMA & ASHOK SHARMA



It is intimated with profound grief and sorrow that our beloved father Sh. J.B Singh S/o Sh S M Pathania H. No 210 Rehari Mohalla Jammu left for his heavenly abode on 27-12-2023.

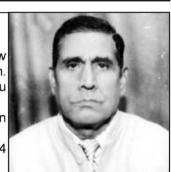
TENTH DAY will be held at Rani Talab on 05th of Jan 2024 at 11.00 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 08-01-2024 (Monday) at our residence.

The ASSEMBLY will be held at our residence 210 Rehari Mohalla Jammu at 9.30 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**

Sons & Daughter in Law Devinder Pathania & Anju Pathania Daughters & Son in Law

Kiran Pathania Renu Pathania & Adv. Narinder Kumar Dr Kanchan Pathania



EX MANAGER SBI

SH. J.B SINGH

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Jagdish Raj Magotra** S/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Magotra, House No. 38-D New Plot, Opp Krishna Building Jammu, who left for the heavenly abode on 29 Dec. 2023. **10th Day** wil be performed on 6/1/2024 (Saturday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence.

Kriya will be performed on 7/1/2024 (Sunday) at our residence. Uthala will be performed on 8/1/2024 (Monday) at 3.00 to 4.00 pm at Hari Mandir Rehari, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt Kamlesh Magotra - Wife Son & Daughter-in-law Brig Rajesh Magotra Smt Shalini Magotra Daughter & Son in law

Mr Krishan Dutta Late Mrs Anuradha Sharma Col Ravinder Sharma Sister & Brother in law

Brother & Sister in law Sh Satish Magotra Smt Sreshta Magotra Sh Ramesh Magotra

Smt Premlata Late Sh Darshan Magotra

Brother & Sister in law
Sh Keshav Sharma & Sunita Sharma



Shri Jagdish Raj Magotra

Nephew & Niece Dr Atul Thanda Sh Rakesh Magotra

Sh Rohit Magotra Sh Rahul Magotra Sh Abinay Magotra Sh Vikas Magotra

Esha, Era, Roshi, Manu, Samriti Grand Children

Crystal Aryaman Parth Shiyangi Sheytangi Ph. 9996356845, 9996356846

10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH RAMESH KUMAR DHAR** S/O LATE SH RAM CHAND DHAR ORIGINALLY FROM VILLAGE BIJBEHARA DISTRICT ANANTNAG KASHMIR PRESENTLY AT LANE NO. 21. BLOCK NO.125. FLAT NO. 18 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE

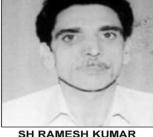
ON 01-01-2024 (MONDAY). TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 10-01-2024 (WEDNESDAY) 10.30 AM AT TRT MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA

NER BRIDGE.

GRIEF STRICKEN SMT SUNITA DHAR -WIFE KARTICK & SHRAVAN -SONS

BROTHERS & BHABHIS LT. SH DURGA NATH DHAR & SMT BIMLA JEE SH SHUBAN KRISHAN DHAR & SMT SAVITRI DHAR SH VIMAL KRISHAN DHAR (BITTUJI) & SMT ANITA DHAR

SISTER & JIJA JI SMT RAJINI KACHROO & LT. SH INDU BUSHAN KACHROO MOB. 8803982587, 9419313187



SH RAMESH KUMAR DHAR

TENTH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of Smt. Kanta Devi W/o Late. Advocate Shamsher Singh R/o Ward No. 01, Near Cooperative Society Kathua who Expired on 02-01-2024.

Tenth Day will be performed on 11-01-2024. 13th Day will be performed on 14-01-2024 at Ward No. 01, Near Cooperative Society Kathua.

Grief Stricken:-

Dr. Ravinder Singh- **Son**

Smt. Kanta Devi Lect. Satinder Singh & Anuradha- Son & Daughter-in-Law EX- Minister- Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh- Son

TENTH DAY KRIYA

Mobile Nos.: 94191-50074, 99060-98663

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad and untimely demise of our beloved Smt. Asha Gadroo W/o Sh. P. L. Gadroo originally R/o Bohri Kadal, Srinagar at present Krishna Nagar, Miran Sahib left for heavenly abode on 31-12-2023.

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 08/01/2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at Krishna Nagar, Miran Sahib at 11:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. P. L. Gadroo (Husband) (Daughter & Son-in law)

Smt. Sapna & Sh. Anil Raina

(Daughter-in law & Son) Smt. Meenakshi & Sh. Rahul Gadroo

DEEPLY MISSED BY

Gadroo, Safaya, Khar, Bhan, Koul, Manhas & Chauhan Family, Mob. No.9906296796, 9906001598

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 Lower 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 SMT MEENAKSHI AND SH AMIT GUPTA

7006060959, 7006555212 SHAGUN AAYAN AARVI AND SARANSH (NIECE AND NEPHEW)

MR VISHAL GUPTA

(TEACHER)

7298367147,

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

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved Mrs. Chuni Mattoo, wife of Prof. J.L Mattoo, original resident of Bana Mohalla, Srinagar, left for heavenly abode on 2nd January, 2024 at her residence 54, lane no. 5, Hazuri bagh, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat (Near DSE) on 11th Jan 2024 at 9.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN: MATTOO'S AND KOUL'S Prof. J.L Mattoo (Husband) Brother and Sister-in-law: Late. H.L Koul and Rekha Koul

Daughter-in-laws and Sons: Dr. Ruchita and Dr. Rakesh Mattoo Mrs. Kalpana and Mr. Upendra Mattoo Mr. Subash Mattoo

Grandchildren: Sobhna, Urvashi, Jayati



SH. SOHAN LAL BHAT

(VILLAGE KILAM)

MRS. CHUNI **MATTOO**

SH. BRIJ NATH KAUL

(PATWARI)

Smt. Vishno Devi

With reverence and sadness we mourn the demise of Sh. Brij Nath Kaul (Patwari), S/o Late Bal Ji Kaul fondly known as "Bhaiji, (originally from Keni Mohalla, Rainawari) presently residing at 706/606, SABZAR, Sector 45, Faridabad.

10th Day Kriya will be held on 10th January, 2024 at Chhota Haridwar, Muradnagar followed by Kirtan at our residence at Faridabad from 3.30 PM.

MOURNED BY:-Extended Kaul (Patwari) Family, Children,

Grand Children, Great Grand Children 9419120001, 9625194323, 9643003626, 9673051510

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/ UTHALA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform sad demise of ou

beloved Smt. Vishno Devi on 30th December 2023. Tenth Day will be performed on 7th January 2024 at 12.00 Noor Kriya will be on 8th January 2024 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm (a

Uthala will be performed at Hanuman Mandir, Digiana on 8th January, 2024 at 4.00 pm.

Late Sh. Jagdhar Sharma (Husband) Kuldeep and Jyoti Sharma - Son & Daughter-in-law Rajesh and Aruna Sharma - Son & Daughter-in-law Daughter & Son-in-law Kiran (Retd. Head Asst. Edu Deptt) and Tarsem Khajuria (Retd. Vet. Officer)

Promila (Retd. Asst. Registrar Jammu Univ) and Kewal Krishan Tripta and Late Sh. Anil Dubey Rajni and Rajkumar Sharma Mamta and Manoj Sharma (Retd. Honorary Captain)

and Grand Children: Kanav, Mishthi and Ojas (Suvidha Medicos Sanjay Nagar, Bhagwati Medicos Channi Himmat) Mob no. 9906113314, 9419134171





(Bushan Lal)



It is with deep sorrow and profound grief we regret inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Makhan L Koul (Papaij), son of Late Sh. Shiyij Koul, orgjina from Rang Teng, Ali Kadal, near Reshpeer Templ Srinagar and at present H.No 107/2, Block A, Rot Nagar Enclave, Jammu on 02-01-2024.

mmu), RIEF STRICKEN:

irother and Sister-in-law : h. Badri Nath Bhat & Lt. Smt. Asha Kiran Bhat on and Daughter-in-law : t. Sh. Kavinder Bhat & Sheetal Bhat teepak Bhat & Priyanka Bhat

The 10th-Day rituals will be performed at Akhnoor ar the Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat on 10-0 2024, 11:00 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN:-

you passed away, you took shelter from our heads, a shelter wir gave us strength and care always. Now our rooms won't be filled your younger days, your laughter, guidance & morals anymore. d which can not be filled all our lives. Perhaps we all were not rea

GRIEF STRICKEN:Sons and Daughter-in-Law
Smt. Shakuntala Koul W/o Late Sh. Roshan Lal Koul
Sh. Ashok Kumar Koul and Girja Koul
Sh. Bharat Bushan Koul and Nirmala Wali
Daughters and Son-in-Law
Smt. Veena Monga and Sh. Satish Kumar Monga
Smt. Sunita Bazaz and Sh. Daleep Bazaz
Grand Son and Daughter-in-Law
Mr. Sumit Koul and Mrs. Shiveeta Koul
Grand Daughters and Son-In-Law
Mrs. Minisha Koul and Mr. Anshoo Raina
Mrs. Shivanoi Koul and Mr. Loveesh Bhatt

Mrs. Minisha Koul and Mr. Anshoo Haina Mrs. Shivangi Koul and Mr. Loveesh Bhatt Mrs. Shafalee Koul and Mr. Sandeep Koul Great Grand Children: Shivika, Shivani, Esha, Kavish, Arav, Aavya, Aveer and Shivansh Bangroo Family, Raina Family, Kachroo Family and Raina (Hastu) Family Mob No.: 7006781310, 9419120318, 7006521813

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Sharma S/o Late Sh. Anant Ram Sharma R/o Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 28th of December

TENTH DAY will be performed on Saturday 06-01-2024 at 11.00 am at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu.

KRIYA will be performed on Sunday 07-01

2024 at our residence at 2.00 pm. Grief Stricken

Sh. Bodh Rai Sharma Sh. Om Prakash Sharma- Brother Nidhi Sharma & Neeraj Sharma (Manager J&K Bank)- Daughter-in-Law & Son

Ranjana & Amit Choudhary (Karnal)- Daughter & Son-in-Law Rachna & Amit Sharma (Katra)- Daughter & Son-in-Law Grand Children: Arsh, Aahana, Arshia, Anaya, Kavyansh, Pavani Sharma Family Mob.: 9419129273,6280109450, 7006639951

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED TRILOKI NATH BHAT S/O LT. SHAMBOO NATH BHAT R/O DH PORA KULGAM A/P H.NO. 80-C, OM NAGAR UDHEYWALLA BOHRI JAMMU ON 04-01-2024.
TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 13TH OF JANUARY, 2024 SATURDAY AT AKHNOR GHAT AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR

AND ASSEMBLT VILLE
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT
GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT RAJ DULARI BHAT -WIFE
SMT SARLA & SH SURINDER BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SMT BHART RAN BHAT WO'LT. OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMT BHART RAN BHAT WO'LT. OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMT MOHNI BHAT & SH M K BHAT -BHABH & BROTHER
SMT KUNDNA & SH S C BHAT -BHABH & BROTHER
SMT PHOOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT JECTA & SH R L KANDROO -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT PEOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT ROMI BHAS SON
SMT RASHM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
MR SHVAM BHAT -SON
SMT RASHM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHM & SH SH SUNIL KOUL
SMT ARCHANA & SH AJAY KOUL
SMT KOMAL & SH PARDEEP KACHROO
SMT SHEETAL & KAMESH KANDROO
GRAND CHILDREN: SEJAL, SPARSH, ARNAY, HARSHIT, NIMAY, NITAY
CRAND GROWN AND SHALL ALSO BE HELD AT ABOVE I

HEETAL & KAMLESH KANDROO O CHILDREN: SEJAL, SPARSH, ARNAV, HARSHIT, NIMAY, NITAYE, KRISHNA, GITANSHU NING FROM MAULIN SIDE SHALL ALSO BE HELD AT ABOVE GIVEN ADDRESS

TENTH DAY / KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Narayan Jee Choudary S/o Late Sh. Neelkant Choudary R/o Naidyar, Rainawari, Srinagar at Present Block-K, Quarter No. 8, TRT Kandoli Nagrota, Jammu. He breathed his last on 29th December, 2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor o 7th of January 2024 (Sunday) and Assembly will be held at Akhnoor Ghat between 12.00 to 1.00 pm. GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Ujala Choudary (Wife) Smt. Madhu Choudary (Daughter) Sh. Vikas Choudary (Son) Sh. (Dr.) R.L. Choudary (Brother) Smt. Basanti Choudary (Sister-in-law) Sh. Kaka Jee Choudary (Brother)

Sh. Ajay Choudary (Brother)
DEEPLY MOURNED BY: Choudary's, Sharma's, Matto's, Kenue's, Bhat's & All Near & Dear ones Contact: 9596687018, 7006397598

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tarsem Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh Bodh Rai Gupta, H. No. 51, Sec-08, Nanak Naga ammu, who left for the heavenly abode on Decemb

Tenth Day will be performed on 07/01/2024 (Sunday om 11 AM - 12.00 Noon in the RAM Mandir Sec-08 Nanak Nagar, Jammu. Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 10-01-2024 our residence at 12.00 Noon. GRIEF STRICKEN:

mt. Pinki Gupta **- Wif** Daughter & Son in laws lrs. Neelu Gupta & Sh. Bobby Mahajan (Amritsar) Mrs. Sonia Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta Son & Daughter-in-laws

Mr. Amit Gupta (Sonu) & Mrs. Arti Gupta

Mr. Anil Gupta (Monu) & Mrs. Poonam Gupta Phone: 8803227176 TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE WRITE TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF MR AYODYA NATH RAINA S/O LATE SH AMAR NATH RAINA (MUJOO) ORIGINAL R/O RAGHUNATH MANDIR, NEAR FATEH KADAL. SRINAGAR PRESENTLY AT H.NO.2152, C-2, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024. THE MORTAL REMAINS WERE CONSIGNED TO FLAMES ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024



AT NEW DELHI. THE 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 8.30 AM ON FRIDAY, 12-01-2024 AT MURAD NAGAR GHAT. UP.

GRIEF STRICKEN RAINA'S (MUJOOS), DHARS, PANDITAS, KHOSAS AND CLOSED ONES.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound sorrow we inform the sac demise of Smt. Shanta Miskeen (Warikoo) W/o Late Sh. M L Miskeen R/o 136, Lower Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu on Jan 05, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of resilience and contagiou

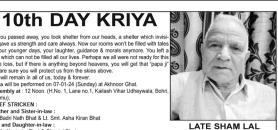
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Jan 13, 2024 at

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY

Miskeens, Warikoos, Chagtoos, Tutus, Kauls, Jangis and

DISCLAIMER

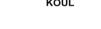
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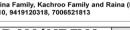


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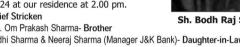


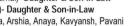














Sh. Narayan Jee Choudary









9971826226, 9810023305, 9599903760.



Smt. Shanta Miskeen

10TH DAY KRIYA







CBJ arrests two absconders after 4 years in Rs 1.64 Cr PHE fraud

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Special team of Economic Offences Wing -Crime Branch Jammu (CBJ) on Saturday apprehended two absconders namely Jatin alias Raja, age approximately 30 years and Jatinder alias Poot, both son of Rajni Kant, resident of Lambi Galli, Mukerian, Punjab at present Rajeev Colony, Mukerian, Punjab from Mukerian Punjab in Case FIR No. 02/2020 under Sections 409, 411, 414, 420, 447-A, 34/ IPC r/w Sec. 13(2) P.C. Act P/S CB Jammu for their involvement in running inter-state bookie business and illegally siphon-



ing of Rs. 1.64 Crore, revenue collected by Cashier (one of the accused) of Jalshakti Department of J&K Government.

CBJ official said both the accused were among four co-

accused in the case FIR. While the other accused viz Nikhil Gandral, son of late Ravinder Kumar Gandral, resident of H. No. 24/7 Greater Kailash Jammu and Inderpal

Singh, son of Trilochan Singh, resident of 61/2 Nanak Nagar Jammu were already brought to justice by presenting chargesheet against them in the Court of law after investigation conducted by Crime Branch Jammu was proved against them on merits of the case, however, the absconding sibling duo were on run to constantly evade their arrest, official said.

They absconded for nearly four years to be arrested from outside J&K by Special team of Crime Branch Jammu with meticulous, well coordinated and executed plan, official

Registrars, Sub Registrars of Jammu Province held

Manjit Singh directs Party's Ward Incharges to intensify public outreach programs in Jammu Urban



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh today directed the ward In-Charges to increase public outreach program in every ward in Jammu urban.

The directions were issued by Manjit Singh during a meeting with the leaders of Jammu urban, which was held at the Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

In this meeting, threadbare discussions were held regarding the grassroot level working in ward and emphasized on to educate people about policy and agenda of the Party.

While addressing the meeting, the Former Minister appreciated the ward In-Charges for their work while asking them to intensify their ongoing outreach program to strengthen the

He further stated that "The ward level interaction should be increased on a regular basis and a plan should be chalked out so that the issues of the masses can be highlighted

He said that the wards in Jammu lack basic amenities, overall development, cleanliness, irregular drinking water and unscheduled power cuts.

to resolve them.'

"These issues have affected the normal life of the people in Jammu whereas the traditional political parties have left the people without representation. On the other hand, the Govt officials in JMC work for their promotion, but not on the ground," he added

The Corporators would raise the developmental issues in JMC. However, the Corporation does not exist after it was dissolved, he said, and added that the Govt officials have failed to address the public issues

He stated that the garbage remains scattered in the wards / residential colonies and the drains choked with no efforts from the JMC to work on the basic things to improve the livelihood by providing facilities

and the public representa-

tives have not been given

heed in decision making

policy for development of

to the people. In the wake of the emerging situation, he said that the Apni Party leaders should come forward and highlight the issues of the people for their redressal.

The people have pinned their hopes with the Party and its agenda because it does not discriminate with anyone on the name of region or religion. We shall work together to bring people out of unpleasant situations, and upgrade their living standard," he further stated. The meeting was attended by all the leaders of Jammu Urban and they also put further their suggestions.

speak against Lord Ram

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of president Ashok Gupta held at protest against the leaders who have been speaking ill of Lord Ram as the inauguration of Ram Temple in Avodhva is verv near.

The party workers burned the effigy of the leaders by attaching the, to the head of Ravan as they should be burned to end the evil

Tejaswi Yadav is saying that Hospital should be

The people of this country



and hatred these leaders are trying to spread.

Party president Ashok Gupta stated that all these people who are speaking ill of Lord Ram belongs to the Ravan Sena and the once mighty Balasaheb Thackrey said that he is proud of Ram Mandir his son Udhav Thackrey is in coalition with the Party NCP (Sharad Pawar) whose leader says Bhagwan RAM was non vegetarian.

He further stated that

500 years Ram Lala was in tent and after the verdict of the Supreme Court the construction of temple has started and these leaders have no shame and respect either for Supreme Court or Prabhu Shri Ram.

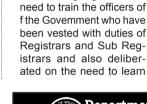
The party people present at the protest were Abhishek, Raju, Prem, Bantu, Kalu, Rampal, Sunil, Vinay, Vikky, Geeta and Sunita and various others were present.

DFSS holds protest against leaders who

build in place of temple but this fool doesn't realise that even when people visit hospitals they pray to the almighty for the speedy recovery and safe opera-

are going to disavow these people in the elections as they have used words of hatred and disgrace against Shri Ram because Shri Ram is the Aaradhya of this nation

At last he stated that for



congratulated the Registration department for the recent historic steps taken like digitization of records. linkage of checklist with each article of registration,

Sensitization Programme for

In his address, Justice Rahul Bharti while highlighting that the registration is a time bound process said that this workshop is a golden opportunity to transfer knowledge. from judiciary to executive.

In his special remarks Achal Sethi highlighted that the change of laws in 2019 was a challenge for officers with non judicial backgrounds, however, such trainings bridge this gap to ensure smooth and hassle free work of registration of documents

In his introductory remarks Sheikh Arshad Ayub shared the history of developments in the field of registration since 2019 for which sincere efforts have been made to expedite the whole process.

He exhorted the registering officers to work tirelessly to facilitate the general public in the matter of registration of documents. He also gave an over-

zation of revenue records

view of process of digiti-



Pawan Dev Kotwal (Former District and Sessions Judge) President, District Consumer Commission, Jammu and M.S Parihar (Former District and Sessions Judge) President, District Consumer Commission, Kathua were the resource persons for the said training programme.

Yash Paul Boumey, Director J&K Judicial Academy in his introductory address discussed the need to educate Registering officers and use this training as a beautiful opportunity to clear all their doubts for ease free registration process

In the interactive sessions, the registering officers engaged in a series of insightful sessions throughout the day, covering various aspects of Registration act and related matters.

Also present on the occasion were AIGR Kashmir, Saijad Hussain Ganai. AIGR Jammu, Mansoor Aslam Chowdhury, all Registrars and Sub Registrars of Jammu division, and other officers/officials of Department of Registra-

sitization programme for all

Registrars/Sub registrars of

Jammu province on Satur-

day at Judicial Academy

Complex, Janipur Jammu.

The programme was

organised with the aim of

increasing the efficiency,

knowledge and skills of the

officers in discharging their

duties to serve the nation.

The training programme

was inaugurated by Justice

Sanjeev Kumar Shukla,

Judge, High court of J&K

and Ladakh (Chairperson,

J&K Judicial Academy) in

presence of Mr. Justice

Rahul Bharti, Judge High

court of Jammu and Kash-

mir and Ladakh (Member,

J&K Judicial Academy),

Sheikh Arshad Ayub,

Inspector General of Reg-

istration, J&K and Achal

Sethi, Secretary to Govt,

Department of Law, Justice

and Parliamentary affairs,

Delivering the inaugural

address Justice Sanjeev

Kumar highlighted the

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government Office of the Additional Wildlife Warden,

Jambu Zoo

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE E-TENDERING

Tender Notice: e-NIT No.:- 45/WLW/JZ of 2023-24 dated: 03-01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. /Central Govt.

name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contract or	Tender Documen t (in Rs.)	of compl etion	/Opening Authority
Construction of Breast Wall on left and right side of the reptile enclosure at Jambu Zoo.	47.34	94,680	А, В, С,	1000	30 days	Tender opening committee
The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of						

seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- http://jktenders.gov.in Position of funds: CAPEX 2023-24 Position of AA& TS: Accorded.

quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be

03-01-2024				
03-01-2024				
03-01-2024 from 4:00 PM				
10-01-2024 up to 04:00 PM				
11-01-2024 at 12:00 AM				
(In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu,				
Manda Hills, Jammu)				
11-01-2024 at 03:00 PM				
(In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden,				
Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)				

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: - https://iktenders.gov.in. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and

Terms & Conditions:

- 1. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Additional Wildlife Warden Jambu Zoo. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- 2. The Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) has to be uploaded at the time of bidding.
- 3. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bids by the Tender Opening Committee of the Department. The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of Conservator of Forest/Wildlife (Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu), Manda Hills, Jammu.
- 4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, then the earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- 5. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from government service without permission of the government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained permission from the government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.
- 6. The interested bidder can download the NIT / Bidding documents from the website:https://jktenders.gov.in.

NO.: WLW/JZ/

DIP/J-13501/23

Amit Sharma (ACF) Additional Wildlife Warden Jambu Zoo

development with over Rs 17 cr funds in 5 yrs Faith, inclusive development & success remain 3 key mantras of our efforts: Anil Sharma

Jandrah Panchayat records unprecedented

ing employment for local people

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: With Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir completing their five-year term next week, there has been a complete turnaround on account of building infrastructure, overall development and ensuring 100 percent saturation in providing benefits of all centrally-sponsored schemes to the natives of Panchayat Halqa Jandrah in block Dansal of Jammu district for the period.

The inclusive development in Panchayat Jandrah, being represented by the president of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) Anil Sharma during the last five years, is the testimony to the vibrancy in grassroots level institutions in the Union Territory and it is a role model for other Panchayats and their representatives to follow.

The Panchayat has also attained distinction of being a corruption-free and Open Defecation Free (ODF) Panchayat in Jammu district where the accountability and transparency have turned out to be a major hallmark of the system.

While presenting his report card, the AJKPC president said that Jandrah Panchayat was the only grassroots level institution in Jammu and Kashmir where projects worth over Rs 17 Crore were initiated and executed during the last five years.

"Efforts have been made to uplift the living standards of



people in the village by ensuring quality infrastructure, roads, water supply and electricity, apart from ensuring 100 percent saturation in providing benefits of all centrally-sponsored schemes to local people of Jandrah," Sharma said, adding "the projects, which were hanging in limbo for the past several years, were taken up and completed with the active support of the people".

The AJKPC chief said, "The entire area used to face the problem of drinking water and an initiative was taken to ensure regular water supply. We managed to bring water supply schemes, including PHE and NABARD. worth Rs 8.5 crore in the last five years that has helped us to settle the drinking water shortage problem once for all" And under Capex Budget PRI's, worth Rs 8 Lakh by installing New Hand pumps repairing of already installed hand pumps at Panchayat Jindrah. Within the last five years

that has helped us to settle the drinking water shortage problem at place of Devak Sathan Shiv Mandir and Cremation Ground.

In the power sector, six 100

KVA transformers, one transformer having capacity of 250 KVA and about 400 LT and HT poles (both PCC and steel poles) with a total cost of Rs 1.5 crore have been installed in the Panchayat, he said, "Road projects hanging fire for the past decades have taken up after getting funds worth Rs 50 lakh approved under Non-Plan from Public Works Department. Besides, the black-topping works under Capex budget worth Rs one crore were also executed that changed the landscape of the entire village".

Under SAMGRA program, the Panchayat has been able to build a two-storey building worth Rs 65 lakh in the premises of Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Jandrah, the AJKPC leader said, adding "We also made a big stride in creatunder MGNREA scheme in the Panchayat where works worth Rs 1.10 crore were completed". The local Sarpanch said,

"Under Prime Minister Awas Yojna (PMAY) (Grameen), we managed to get 78 cases of providing cemented houses to poor and needy people approved with an estimated cost of Rs 1.014 crore. Similarly, we brought funds worth Rs 81 lakh under 13th and 14th Finance Commissions for overall development and creating infrastructure in the Panchayat. We also made an expenditure of Rs 62 lakh under PRI Capex budget for raising infrastructure in Jandrah Panchayat".

"With our initiatives, we have been able to construct six ponds in the village under Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP) with an estimated cost of Rs 50 lakh. Besides, we also expended funds worth Rs 12.5 lakh under CD Panchayat category," Sharma said.

He said, "In nutshell, Jandrah Panchayat has witnessed grand spectacle of development and infrastructure building during the last five years. It is now marching on the path of progress and its success story is an inspiration for other Panchayats to follow in coming years".

Sharma expressed his gratitude to the people of his Panchayat for posing faith in him and extended whole-hearted support for carrying out unprecedented development in the Panchayat.

EDITORIAL

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

eadership is a unique skill among all the qualities of personality development. Through leadership, you can easily reach the heights of success in your workplace. There are many definitions of leadership. The word leadership has a broad meaning in itself. Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people or an organization to achieve a common goal.

A good leader instills positive emotions among the people. Leadership is an important skill for both personal and professional development. Leadership is the unique identity of any human being, which makes him different from others. Due to which they get name and respect in the society.

Any organization or group is non-existent without leadership. Leadership provides future direction and vision to any organization and group. Leadership plays a vital role in maintaining a lively atmosphere in the group. A good leader provides guidance, support and confidence to the people through right leadership. Leadership plays the role of a promoter in achieving goals and increasing efficiency.

Many leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, Sir Winston Churchill and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel are living examples of good leadership.

Although any human being has leadership qualities by birth, some people acquire this quality through hard work and dedication in life. The main qualities in leadership are confidence and discipline. For leadership, a person must be aware of every aspect of life.

People like leaders because of their qualities like honesty, patience and transparency. The leader should be full of creativity and positive attitude. The ability to delegate responsibility effectively strengthens leadership. Along with being empathetic, a leader must also be strong, courageous and have the ability to take necessary decisions. A leader can inspire anyone with his speeches, ideologies, background or just his personality. In good leadership, the leader has a long-term vision and good intentions.

There are many types of leadership. But it is divided into three main departments. When a person guides people on the basis of having specific knowledge in any field, it is called competency-based leadership. When a person is active in achieving objectives on the basis of his personality and actions, it is called leadership based on personality.

When a person motivates group members to work, it is called position based leadership.

Actually, there are many tasks under leadership. They have to carry an entire group or organization with them. Taking decisions according to circumstances is the first duty of leadership. Along with taking decisions, directing the work is also very important.

Commanding your group is also a technique. It is the job of a leader to give proper direction to the work and maintain control over the organization. It is also the responsibility of the leader to maintain unity in the group or organization and to instill confidence among the people.

With effective leadership we can achieve high morale. The true test of leadership ability comes in difficult times. The leader must have the spirit to dedicate himself to the growth and progress of humanity. The love of excellence is found in a great leader.

A true leadership will take you to the best heights and a wrong leadership will take you to the path of destruction. To make leadership a part of one's life, one should move forward with hope and confidence since childhood.

Will Ulfa accord really bring peace to Assam?

By: Wasbir Hussain

n December 29, 2003, just around a week ago, yet another rebellion ended in Assam. This time it was the tripartite accord that the Government of India and the Assam state government signed with the United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) in New Delhi in presence of Union home minister Amit Shah and Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Has this peace accord with the Ulfa, formed on April 7, 1979, brought the curtain down finally to insurgency in Assam? The answer is no, because the breakaway faction under the leadership of the elusive Paresh Baruah, which had named itself Ulfa (Independent), is still active and has not given up the practice of hurling grenades or launching the odd attack on the security forces, although in an irregular fashion.

What then has the Ulfa accord achieved? Unlike the peace accord with the Bodo rebels that had initially led to the creation of the Bodoland Autonomous Council, which later got elevated to the Bodoland Territorial Council, the Memorandum of Settlement with the Ulfa does not provide any new autonomous politico-administrative structure. This means that the leadership of the Ulfa who have put their signatures on the agreement, including chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa (who signed under his real name Rajib Rajkonwar) and general secretary Anup Chetia (who signed as Golap Baruah, his actual name), would not come to head any administrative structure, unlike Hagrama Mahilary, for instance, who became the chief executive member of the BTC once the Bodo Accord was signed in 2003 and his rebel group, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT), was disbanded.

Many are already arguing that the Ulfa accord has achieved nothing because one need not carry out an armed insurrection for four-and-ahalf-decades leading to the death of around 10,000 people to secure from the government an assurance to resolve inter-state boundary disputes or prevent the enrolment of illegal migrants in Assam's voters' list (these are assurances the government has provided in the MoU). But, the Ulfa accord has certainly achieved something which other peace agreements with other organisations in Assam have not.

The Ulfa accord is seen by its leaders as well as Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as a document that will go a long way to preserve and protect the identity of Assam's indigenous population, and that way, Assam's very own identity. What the accord has managed to get from the Government of India is a promise to continue the "guidelines and methodology" adopted for the delimitation exercise conducted in 2023 in future delimitation processes. Now, the 2023 delimitation exercise saw a rejig of populations that is expected to ensure maximum representation for indigenous communities in the 126-member Assam Assembly by keeping non-original inhabitants, mainly migrant settlers from present-day Bangladesh, out. In his New Year interaction with the media, Dr Sarma said the 2023 delimitation has made it impossible for nonindigenous communities to contest and win in 106 of the 126 Assembly constituencies in Assam. This is the safeguard that Assam has always wanted and various organisations have been fighting for it.

Another significant provision in the Ulfa accord is that a citizen of the country who is ordinarily resident in an Assembly constituency shall only be entitled to be registered in the voters list of that constituency. No person shall be registered in the voters list of more than one constituency.

This aims at preventing, say, migrant settlers from relocating to other places, vote in another constituency and thereby alter the demographic profile of that area.

Talking to this columnist after the accord was signed, Ulfa general secretary Anup Chetia said: "We never fought for power or position, we battled to safeguard Assam's and the Assamese identity. If we have been able to secure 106 of the 126 Assembly constituencies in Assam for the indigenous people, I think we have achieved a lot." The government of Assam will now set up a committee to examine and recommend measures for implementation of political reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and More Other Backward Classes (MOBC) in the urban local bodies and panchayats in the state. This means that there will be reservation of seats for OBCs/MOBCs at the grassroots level elective bodies that will give several communities the rights to decide their development strategy.

Will the recalcitrant Ulfa (Independent) chieftain Paresh Baruah be now under some pressure to rethink on his decision to stay away from possible peace negotiations with New Delhi following the Ulfa accord? The fact remains that the government has succeeded in clinching peace deals with all insurgent groups in Assam who were active in the Bodo heartland, the Dimasa and Karbi inhabited districts, the tea garden belts and now with the Ulfa itself. The only rebel group left to be tackled is Ulfa (Independent). Will the government adopt a strategy to totally sideline the Ulfa (Independent) or will it adopt a strategy to bring this group

too to the negotiating table? That's the big question.

Well, Ulfa (Independent) chief Paresh Baruah has almost welcomed the accord, saying he is happy that the fighters have now managed to be free of the grip of the outfit. Paresh Baruah would not comment on what has been achieved or not by the accord. But the Ulfa (Independent) leader has made a path-breaking statement in an interview after the December 29 Ulfa accord. Paresh Baruah said in a televised interview on News-Live, Assam's largest satellite news channel, that if the Government of India agrees to discuss the "historical and political rights of Assam" and the "political issues concerning all communities in the state", which he calls "United Assam", the Ulfa (Independent) might consider sitting for peace talks. Of course, Paresh Baruah described this as his personal opinion and said that if New Delhi comes up with such an offer, he would discuss with his colleagues in the outfit. This statement is path-breaking because the Ulfa (Independent) and Paresh Baruah himself has always maintained that there can be no talks with the Government of India unless it agrees to discuss their "core issue" of "sovereignty" for Assam.

The Ulfa accord may have ended the insurgency for its 700-odd cadres who have been living in designated camps, and may even trigger efforts to now bring the Ulfa (Independent) to the negotiating table, but there is no guarantee that no new militant group would emerge in the days ahead if only to avail the government's rehabilitation packages. This remains a challenge before the government, apart from an effective implementation of the 21-page MoU that has just been signed.

Benefits of The JEE Main Computer - Based Mock Tests at Home

By: Vijay GarG

ock tests are very important as it will provide the actual performance of the IIT JEE candidate. It is more important for those students who are facing computer based exams for the very first time. Here below are some listed benefits of JEE Main Computer-Based Mock Tests:

In Knowing your Knowledge Depth

Mock tests help you to know which areas you are weak in and what all things you don't know. It will clear the basic concepts of students quickly and make them able to prepare for the exam more efficiently. By attempting, students will understand the actual pattern of the examination and the process and pre-exam preparation.

Time management

TIme management is very important as it's a regular kind of thing which generally we hear like one has left the questions despite knowing the answer to the questions. Mock tests will help to know the time management like which question needs to be attempted first, what should be in order to attempt the question or what will be a suitable speed to solve the question so that all the questions could be covered within the provided time limit.

Tracks topic wise concept

Mock tests will help in tracing topic wise concepts and let you know about your weak areas and help to select the specific topic / topics which need to be revised more frequently. It will also track your time to time progress of the preparation for the examination.

Actual test environment

Mock tests help you in getting accustomed to the actual test environment to overcome your examination anxiety, improvement in your physical ability during exam period like sitting power, concentration power, recall power, increase speed and accuracy etc.

Habit for Computer - based examination

Mock test gives you the idea about the computer-based test. Some of the things during the examination like 'Screen change with every question' etc. could create some disturbance in the concentration of the candidate.

Analysis After Mock Test

The most important part of attempting mock tests is analysis after the test. Without analysis attempting a mock test is purely a wastage of time. Here below is a sample through which you could analyze your performance in a mock test.

Answered correctly and confidently: The topics from which the questions have been answered with perfect concepts.

Answered correctly but not confidently: The topics from which the questions have been answered, but not sure about the concepts.

Wrongly answered: You have wrongly answered the question and the reason behind that may be

Doesn't have the concept to solve the question.

Lack of concentration while answering, which may be due to examination fear, noises inside examination hall etc.

In a hurry to solve the question you have not read carefully or have read partially and answered.

Not attempted: there may be some questions about which you may not have the idea or may not have the time to look into that.

Summarize the analysis to correct the concept

After such analysis you got some conclusions about the subject or topics like:

You have answered exactly with the required concept and need not to revise the topic frequently.

There may be some topics which require more concepts and need to be revised frequently.

Now you should have to list down each topic and revise as per need. It is necessary to revise all the topics weekly or at least in 15 days. This will help to minimize the mistakes and increase the accuracy.

Summarize the analysis to correct the behavioral mistake

This includes the kind of mistakes you have done due to lack of concentration or hurry to solve, like you have partially read the question and answered or you have used the concept of upper or lower question while answering or you have marked in the wrong column or sometimes it may be due to overconfidence.

You may attempt more mock tests and make a three hour study slot to overcome this kind of mistake.

Analyze your Strategy

A candidate must have a certain strategy to solve the paper, like generating a strategy of solving the easy and solvable question first. This will increase the speed, accuracy and time management of candidate. A smart and efficient candidate would always analyze his strategy.

Conclusion

As per the conclusion, a candidate must attempt a computer based mock test at home. There are several online platforms like 'Physics Wallah' etc who are providing the accurate and appropriate questions with the latest syllabus, where students need to register and attempt for the mock test.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

Need more Gurukuls in India to protect cultural heritage while providing modern education: Rajnath

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW Delhi. Jan 6: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called for setting up more Gurukuls in the country to not only provide modern education, but also protect India's moral and cultural heri-

After laying the foundation stone of 'Gurukulam Evam Acharyakulam' at Swami Darshanand Gurukul Mahavidyalay in Haridwar, Uttarakhand on Saturday, Rajnath Singh stated that at a time when moral values are deteriorating due to imitation of foreign culture, Gurukuls must come forward to provide modern education while incorporating moral values among the youth.

"About 1,000-1,500 years ago, there were many big universities in this country, wherein the Gurukul tradition

was prevalent. After that, the country saw foreign invaders nearly destroying that system. They, in turn, developed a system which provided education to our youth, not in accordance with the country's cultural spirit. Indian culture was portrayed as inferior. This feeling not only affected us politically but also mentally. During



that time, Swami Darshanand ji established this Gurukul which has been illuminating our young generations since then," he said.

Referring to the National Education Policy 2020. Rainath Singh voiced the Government's resolve to inculcate moral values in the young ignited minds right from primary edu-

cation. "The new education policy is being implemented in many educational institutions across the country. The process is long as no change in the educational system takes place suddenly. Gurukuls can play a very important role in this long process," he said.

The Defence Minister pointed out that Gurukuls give an impression that they only follow ancient methods of education, but in today's times they have progressed and become modern.

He exhorted the Gurukuls to advance in the areas of emerging and cutting edge technology, such as Artificial Intelligence and quantum technology, along with traditional education, in sync with today's constantly-evolving times.

"Develop such technologies that will make the nation a leader in this

is working towards the preservation of our cultural heritage and its upliftment. The idea goes beyond cultural preservation, so that our future generations can be proud of the culture of this great country. Gurukuls can play a major role in this direction," he said. The Defence Minister

that the Government

made special mention about Yoga and how the ancient Indian practice has been followed by the entire world due to its benefits. "India follows the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family). Our vast store of knowledge is dedicated to the entire world. Today, 21st June is celebrated by the United Nations as International Day of Yoga Day across the world. The practice, which was once considered limited only to India, has not only been accepted by the people globally, but is now an important part of their daily life," he said.

Highlighting the important place of Sanskrit in Indian literature, Rajnath Singh stressed on the need to promote the ancient Indian language in the same way Yoga was made accessible to the people.

Shiv Sena warns fanatics, attacks on Hindu temples hurt religious sentiments

Conspiracy to break Hindu-Sikh brotherhood: Sahni



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit expressed strong reaction on the continuous targeting of religious places of Hindus on foreign soil, warned the fundamentalist forces to desist from their cowardly actions and appealed to the Modi government to strengthen the security of Hindu temples on foreign soil.

Shiv Sainiks gathered at the party state office under the leadership of chief Manish Sahni, holding placards with the words "Cowardly attacks on Hindu temples will not be tolerated", warned the radicals to desist from their cowardly actions.

Sahni said that religious places of Hindus are being continuously

targeted on foreign soil. Some fundamentalist forces active in foreign countries are conspiring to break the brotherhood of Hindus and Sikhs through their cowardly actions, which cannot be tolerated at all.

Sahni said that this is the second incident of attacks on Hindu temples in America in the last 15 days.

Vomedh begins second season of

'Terrace Theatre' with "Nanhi Kali"

Earlier, Hindu temples were also targeted in Pakistan, Australia and Canada.

Sahni has demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put a complete stop to the increasing incidents of targeting Hindu religious places by using their growing influence in foreign countries, as per the claims of BJP leaders.

General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, President Kamghar Wing Raj Singh, Sarista Devi, Ghulshan Ara, Jagbir Singh, Mangu Ram, Rahul Kumar and many others were present.

Director Health Services Kashmir visits Kulgam, participates in Bharat Sankalp Yatra



Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 6: Director Health Services Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rather visited Qaimo, Kulgam on Saturday where he participated in "Vakshat Bharat Sankalp Yatra" at PHC Qaimo.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kulgam Muhammad Imran Khan, CMO Kulgam, Anantnag and other officers and line department officers also

participated in the programme. The program was well attended by people.

The Director interacted with the local people besides taking feedback from the beneficiaries regarding the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the area.

A pledge was taken by the participants and Prime Minister's video messages and other promotional videos were also shown on the IEC

van in the presence of Director Health.

Speaking to Voice of India correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khanday on the occasion, Director Health said that the focus of the Yatra is to reach people, create awareness and benefit welfare schemes. He further said that Vakshat Bharat Sankalp Yatra is proving to be a one-stop solution for people to register themselves and avail benefits for various welfare schemes.

Only NC can give tough fight to BJP in ensuing polls in J&K: Bhagat

Top News Report

field. Gurukuls should

act as a guide for other

educational institutions.

In the times to come.

they should once again

represent the coun-

try and its culture, and

become the new identity

Rajnath Singh under-

scored the role Guru-

kuls can play in the cul-

tural development in the

country. He highlighted

the efforts being made

by the Government, led

by Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi, towards

"Infrastructural devel-

opment from Kashi

Vishwanath corridor &

Mahakaleshwar Dham

to Ram Mandir shows

cultural upliftment.

of India," he said.

KISHTWAR, Jan 6: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) senior leader Ajeet Bhagat emphasized that only the National Conference has the mettle to give a formidable challenge to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming polls in

Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have now understood well that BJP leadership has expertise in befooling public and telling lies, therefore it is the time for one and all in the UT to extend wholehearted support to NC leadership in the upcoming polls to bail out people from the morass created by BJP Government at the Centre.

He also stressed the people of the Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen hands of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah to once again.

Medical camp organised by **Panzgam Army Camp**

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 6: Lunahare COB under Panzgam Battalion organized a medical camp in Govt Middle School. Central Moh, Rashanpura A.

patients of the area. The patients came from all age groups including 30 children, 48 females and 70 males.

Everyone was given a

The medical camp was organized in a way to function smoothly. The locals thanked the Army for the treatment given and appreciated the efforts done by the medi-

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Continuing its efforts to take theatre to peoples' doorsteps, Vomedh Rangmanch, the prominent theatre group of J&K today began 2nd season of Terrace Theatre by staging the 1st episode of its much talked about Terrace Theatre Series at House No 8, Lane No 7, Surya Vihar, Bohri where it's short play "Nanhi Kali written by Rajni Bhatti and directed by Rohit Bhat was performed

Senior Journalist, Social Activist and Theatre Artist King C Bharati was the Chief Guest on the occa-

Today's episode was hosted by Anita Sharma on the terrace of her house at Surya Vihar, Bohri.

The neighbours and theatre lovers assembled on the terrace and watched the engrossing short play enacted beautifully by artists of Vomedh.

The theatre series is vet another step in promoting

regular theatre activities by Vomedh group which has carved a niche in theatre circles of Jammu and Kashmir and presented various theatrical presentations in J&K and outside getting huge appreciation from one and all which include Ek Aur Birbal, Ateeth Ke Sakshi, Khoya Bachpan, Gadeh Bateh, Roymut

This is a path breaking concept to revive the old cultural neighbourhood bonding on the terrace and at the same time promoting art and culture, savs Rohit Bhat, director Vomedh.

Bhatta, Mujrim Mein Nahi

Par Mein Hi Hoon etc.

He added that Vomedh will go to other places and the Terrace of other people to perform such short plays to involve the community at large in theatre and social upliftment.

Rakesh Roshan Bhat, playwright feels that this concept would go a long way in promoting theatre in Jammu and also appreciated the artists of Vomedh who make all efforts to take

the terrace series to different areas with dedication.

Speaking on the occasion King C Bharati said that "Terrace Theatre "will involve youngsters and new entrants in theatre to give them as well as the theatre lovers an opportunity to watch performances on a regular basis.

He appreciated the fact that Vomedh was also initiating a regular workshop series for the fresh aspirants and theatre lovers which will be conducted by Vomedh groups senior artists to keep the flame of meaningful and quality theatre alive.

It is worth mentioning here that this theatre series helps people to watch live theatre in their vicinity and the good old days to free themselves from the whirlpool of social media.

The artists who performed in the play include Bharati Kaul, Himagini Moza, Ishu Bharati Pandit, Suman Bhat, Priya Khar and Aarohi Moza Balgotra.

Vomedh has received a lot of offers from different areas by theatre lovers to perform on their terrace where neighbours can join to watch the plays

Vomedh can be contacted for any such performances to promote theatre and cultural activities on 9796899219

DC Anantnag conducts comprehensive inspection of Child Care Institutions



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 6: Deputy Commissioner Syed Fakhruddin Hamid conducted a thorough inspection of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Anantnag district. The primary goal of the visit was to assess operations, infrastructure, and address concerns regarding the well-being of children in these institutions.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner actively engaged with both the staff and inmates of the CCIs. Inmates shared valuable suggestions on

infrastructure and operations, prompting the DC to promptly instruct relevant departments to incorporate these suggestions into the institutions' operational plans within a specified timeframe.

Emphasizing the district administration's commitment, SF Hamid highlighted the crucial necessity for the proper physical, mental, and educational development of CCI inmates, recognizing them as the future of society. He further directed the CCI staff to provide

diligent care to the chil-

dren, acknowledging their significant role as builders of the nation.

an immediate response to identified needs during the visit, the Deputy Commissioner sanctioned a TV for Palaash and warm clothing for the inmates of Pareesha and Palaash. Additionally, he directed concerned authorities to maintain adequate heating arrangements, considering the chilly weather conditions, to ensure the comfort and well-being of the children.

It is pertinent to mention that approximately 100 children currently reside across the four CCIs in the Anantnag district.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by District Social Welfare Officer Muzaffar Ahmad Malik, members of the Child Welfare Committee Anantnag, and officers from the Social Welfare

Department

Doctors from Panzgam Army Camp gave consultation and treated

medical checkup along with specific medical advice. Post completion of checkup medicines were distributed as endorsed in the medical

Ram Temple consecration ceremony to be great moment of joy for everybody: Purnima

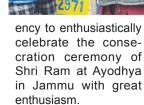
Urges market associations to decorate markets, organize Bhandaras on Jan 22 decorated stalls should

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The consecration ceremony of January 22 at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be a "great moment of joy for everybody" and the people of Jammu and Kashmir should celebrate the day as a "festival".

This was stated by Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K and former deputy Mayor Jammu, while interacting with the members of various market associations of Jammu East constituency.

Purnima Sharma has appealed to various Bazaar Associations of Jammu East constitu-



The senior BJP leader approached the office bearers of different traders and bazaar associations and held elaborate discussions on celebrating the above said

event in order to make it a memorable one. Asserting that 22nd Jan 2024 is a historic day not only for the Hindus but for the people of other communities too as Ram belongs to one and all not only in India but across the globe, she urged the office bearers of the associations to

ensure the best decora-

tion of the markets with multicolour buntings and illuminations. She said that the markets and houses must present the look of Deep Mala on the auspicious day. She also urged the business community to organize Bhandaras by every market association across the East constituency for which well be established for the people especially for the needy ones. It is pertinent to men-

tion here that the main associations with which the celebration programmes for 22nd Jan were discussed included Kanak Mandi Bazaar Association, Raghunath Bazaar Association, Lakhdatta Bazaar Association, Rajinder Bazaar Association, Residency Road Association, Veer Marg Association, Link Road Association, Gali Darugiran Association, Ranbir Market Association, Purani Mandi Bazaar Association, Super Bazaar Association and Shalimar Road Association.

Get ready for fireworks...

Deepika Padukone pairing with Hrithik Roshan in Fighter is a match made in cinematic heaven! Wait, here's more of such fresh dynamic jodis who promise to keep us delighted throughout the year

In the cinematic landscape of 2024, Bollywood enthusiasts are in for a treat as an eclectic mix of both anticipated and unconventional parings are set to ignite the silver screen with their sizzling chemistry and charisma spanning various genres. So, whether you are craving for highoctane action or heartwarming romances, this year's lineup of some fresh jodis and exciting tales holds a promise to delight everyone.

Action in Tehran Manushi Chhillar and John Abraham

John Abraham and former Miss World Manushi Chhillar are set to share the screen in the action-thriller Tehran, inspired by true events. Produced by Maddock Films and directed by Arun Gopalan, the film is slated for a theatrical release on April 26. In the announcement stills, Manushi and John look action-ready holding guns in their hands. While John has a broody appearance in the picture, Manushi sports a tomboyish look

with curly, short hair. Interesting blend Janhvi Kapoor and Jr

NTR

Janhvi Kapoor is set to make her debut in the South Indian film industry alongside Jr NTR in Devara Part 1. The new on-screen pair is expected to bring an interesting blend of their respective styles and acting skills. Janhvi, at an event, said that she prayed everyday to work with 'her favourite' Jr NTR. Directed by Koratala Siva, the movie is scheduled for release on April 5.

Fighting spirit Raashii Khanna and

Siddharth Malhotra Raashii Khanna and Siddharth Malhotra unite for the action-packed film Yodha. Backed by Karan Johar's production house, this fresh collaboration has sparked excitement among fans. As the film also stars Disha Patani in the lead role, it is also being touted as a love triangle. The anticipation is high for the intensity and vigor these actors will bring to the upcoming thriller scheduled to

15.

be released on March January 25, promises to Prepare for an onscreen spectacle in 2024 as these dynamic couples set the stage ablaze.

Deepika Padukone and Hrithik Roshan The much-anticipated

Aiming for the sky

film Fighter is set to feature the dynamic pairing of Deepika Padukone and Hrithik Roshan. Directed by Siddharth Anand, the action-packed movie, scheduled for release on showcase the electrifying chemistry between the two actors. Playing Indian Air Force pilots, the film is hailed as India's first aerial action franchise, with teasers and songs already offering glimpses of their sizzling on-screen connection. The duo's collaboration has stirred

Quite a twist Radhika Madan and Akshav Kumar

excitement.

In the official Hindi remake of the Tamil hit Soorarai Pottru, with working title Production No.27, there's an unconventional pairing of Radhika Madan and Akshay Kumar. This duo is set to bring a fresh perspective to the narrative, injecting innovation and excitement into the Hindi version of the Tamil blockbuster.

Youthful energy: Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor

Khushi Kapoor and Ibrahim Ali Khan are set to make their onscreen debut in a

romantic comedy produced by Karan Johar. This fresh pairing of the youngsters is generating excitement, as they are expected to bring a contemporary vibe and youthful energy to the yet-to-be-titled film. The collaboration of Khushi and Ibrahim also marks the coming together of

North meets South: Vijay Sethupathi and Katrina Kaif This year's film calendar will begin with the film

two influential Bollywood

families.

Merry Christmas, directed by Sriram Raghavan, and it is set to feature the unexpected yet intriguing pairing of Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi. The film is scheduled to premiere on January 12. This mystery thriller, shot simultaneously in Hindi and Tamil, promises to be a tale of strangers' encounters. Merry Christmas marks Katrina Kaif's Tamil debut.

Contemporary couple: Sara Ali Khan & Aditya Roy Kapur

Prepare for a captivating on-screen duo as Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur come together for Anurag Basu's Metro...In Dino, set to release on March 29. Billed as an anthology of 'heartwarming stories of contemporary couples', Sara and Aditya's camaraderie is expected to be a visual treat.

Back in time: Rashmika Mandanna and Vicky Kaushal

Laxman Utekar directs the highly anticipated film Chaava, featuring the dynamic pairing of Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna. Scheduled for release on December 6, this fresh collaboration is said to be one of the highlights of the film. Vicky Kaushal, reprising the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, reunites with director Laxman Utekar after their previous success with Zara Hatke Zara Bachke. Fans eagerly anticipate the magic the duo.

Gripping tale: Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde

Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde are set to create fireworks this Dusshera with their collaboration in the riveting thriller Deva. The gripping action-thriller will release on October 11. Directed by Rosshan Andrews, known for Malayalam blockbusters such as Salute and Kayamkulam Kochunni, the film follows an intense tale of a rebellious police officer (Shahid) investigating a high-profile case, who is entangled in a web of deceit and

Michelle Yeoh breaks down her fight scenes in The Brothers Sun

The Oscar-winning actress Michelle Yeoh cracked history open when she won the Academy Award for Best Actress in Everything Everywhere All at Once last year, but she's not sitting back to bask in the glow. The actress described her process for a harrowing fight scene in her new series The Brothers Sun, which dropped on January 4 on Netflix.

She said, "I exercise every day. I do my whole routine of being in shape and knowing my moves. When you are in shape and ready to strike, it's not difficult." As a martial arts icon who has made her mark on some of the most influential action movies of all time like Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Supercop and Yes, Madam, it's no surprise she's prepared for all comers.

The Brothers Sun, ruthless Taipei gangster Charles Sun (Justin Chien) travels to Los Angeles to protect his mother, Eileen (Yeoh), who fled the triad with her younger son, Bruce (Sam Song Li), an average 20-something clueless to the family business.

Eileen is a caring mother who also harbours ambitions of once again ruling the underworld. Yeoh says she created the multidimensional matriarch by making an in-character diary and collaborating closely with the show's creators, Brad Falchuk and Byron Wu. "They're always an e-mail away," Yeoh said "And I'm like, 'Sit down with me,



please. Let's go through this because once we do, it will be so easy on the day. You will get the emotions that you need from me'."

Another upside of working with superproducer Falchuk is that he's a powerful ally in pushing for equality in the entertainment industry, a cause Yeoh has battled for throughout her career. "For the last few years, I have been fighting for different roles and hoping to find the entry point into where we all deserve to have a seat at the table," she said.

"It's only in the last couple of years that you see more and more of the Asian stories being told. And also, Brad Falchuk is not Asian, but he championed our story," she added.

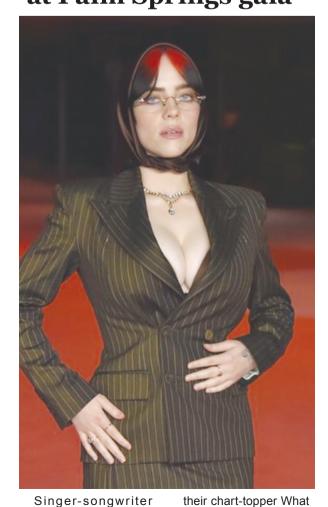
Megan outshines all in Expend4bles



She's here to serve looks and bullets! Megan Fox aka Gina is the newest member of the Expendables gang and she's giving the boys a run for their money. She's smart, resourceful, brave, fierce and especially 'foxy'.

Megan Fox says, "They end their relationship because they're just too competitive with one another. I feel at home in these action movies. She's clever. That's probably her strong suit. She's clever and also reckless. I think they're probably all reckless. That's why they are The Expendables. Even after their wild break-up, there's still something there, Christmas wants to connect with her, but he doesn't have the capacity for that. They have this cat-and-mouse relationship."

Billie Eilish dedicates her award to people struggling emotionally at Palm Springs gala



Singer-songwriter Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas won Chairman's Award for

Was I Made For? from Barbie at the Palm Springs International Film Festival's annual gala hosted by Mary Hart.

Billie Eilish paid a tribute to her parents and recalling their journey as aspiring actors, Eilish got candid about the emotional song's personal meaning. She dedicated her award to "Anyone who experiences hopelessness and the feeling of existential dread, and feeling like 'what's the point'."

It was an emotional night for many of the honorees. 'The Holdovers' star Paul Giamatti, who received the Icon Award from his Sideways co-star Sandra Oh, paid tribute to his late mother, who passed away prior to the 2004 comedy, and older sister, who died before the opening of Alexander Payne's latest critically acclaimed film. Meanwhile, Cillian Murphy bagged the Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor for Oppenheimer.

Soulful song Ram Dhun from Pankaj Tripathi-starrer Main Atal Hoon released



After evoking a sense of patriotism among the audience with the song Desh Pehle, makers of the Pankaj Tripathi-starrer Main Atal Hoon finally unveiled the soulful song Ram Dhun.

Taking to Instagram, production house Hitz Music treated fans with a full song video and captioned it, "Jab dhunki laagi Ram naam ki, bhul gaye sab kaam! #RamDhun song out now #MainAtalHoon in cinemas 19th January, 2024."

The song was released on a grand scale in Delhi recently. Written, composed, and sung by Kailash Kher, Ram Dhun is a melodious song about Lord Rama. Main Atal Hoon is helmed by director Ravi Jadhav. It features Pankaj Tripathi in the lead role as Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Arti Singh says 'silence is the mantra for 2024'

Arti Singh, who was in Gulmarg, Kashmir for her New Year vacation, has shared her mantra for the year 2024, and it is 'silence'

Known for her work in shows like Maayka, Uttaran, Devon Ke Dev Mahadev among others, Arti took to her Instagram, and shared her holiday album, wherein she can be seen posing against the snow-clad mountains of picturesque Kashmir.

Arti also shared a reel with a dialogue which says, "Ab is naye saal me ek kaam to karna hai mujhe, ki apne sukoon ke sath koi compromise nahi karna. Jo galtiyan ho gayi unhe repeat nahi karna... apne par kaam karna hai. (Now this year I have to do one thing that is not to compromise with my peace. I won't repeat the mistakes I have made... I will work on myself)."

The video was captioned as, "Reel says it all new year, new goals.



Silence is the mantra #gulmarg #khyber". Meanwhile, on the

work front she is currently seen in the show Shravani.

Indian Navy trying to hunt down pirates involved in hijacking attempt; Indian crew of Liberian-flagged vessel thanks it for rescuing them

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Indian naval forces are on Saturday investigating suspected vessels in the North Arabian Sea to track down the pirates involved in an attempt to hijack a merchant vessel with 21 crew members, including 15 Indians, officials said.

The Indian Navy on Friday thwarted the attempted hijacking of Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk and rescued all its crew members.

The crew of the bulk carrier are now engaged in restoring the propulsion system, power supply and steering gear of the platform, the Navy said. "Thereafter, MV Lila Norfolk will recommence her passage to her destination under escort of the Indian naval warship," it

The Navy deployed a warship, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, helicopters and MQ9B Predator drones to assist the vessel after it sent a message on the UK Maritime Trade Operations portal, saying unidentified



of them.

armed personnel had boarded it on Thursday evening.

On Friday, Indian Navy's elite marine commandos rescued all 21 crew members of the commercial vessel after boarding it from frontline warship INS

The Navy came out with a statement detailing its response to the hijacking attempt.

In a video shared by the Navy, three Indian crew members of the bulk carrier thanked the force for rescuing them. "I am proud of Indian Navy," said one

The Navy said it swiftly responded to the hijacking incident by deploying considerable strength of assets, both ships and aircraft, with an aggressive intent to counter the attack by pirates.

"INS Chennai-guided missile destroyer arrived at the scene of action by 1515 hours. Continuous aerial recce of MV Lila Norfolk was undertaken by MQ9B (Sea Guardian drone),

P8I (maritime patrol aircraft) and integral helicopters," it said in the statement.

It said that subsequently, the Indian Navy Marine Commandos boarded MV Lila Norfolk and undertook thorough sanitisation of the upper decks, machinery compartments and living spaces.

"The team did not find any pirates on board. Forceful warnings by the Indian Naval aircraft to the vessel and likely interception by the Indian Navy warship, probably compelled the pirates to escape during the night hours," the Navy said.

"All 21 crew of MV Lila Norfolk have been rescued and are safe. Indian naval forces are investigating the suspected vessels in the area," it said.

"At present, the crew of MV is engaged in restoring propulsion, power supply and steering gear," it said.

This is among a series of such maritime incidents witnessed in the strategic waters over the last few weeks.

Taking out Nyay Yatra as govt didn't give us a chance to raise issues in Parliament: Mallikarjun Kharge



NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said his party is taking out the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra as the government did not give it a chance to raise issues in Parliament.

The Rahul Gandhi-led Manipur-to-Maharashtra yatra, which will begin on January 14, will cover 6,713 km and its participants will travel on buses and

"The Yatra will focus on basic social, political and economic issues of the country," Kharge told a press confer-

He added that INDIA bloc leaders and members of civil society had also been invited to join the march along its route.

The Congress had earlier said that the east-to-west Yatra would prove to be as impactful and transformative as the earlier south-to-north Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

The Congress is taking out the Yatra as "the government did not give us the chance to raise our issues in Parliament", Kharge said and added, "We will listen to people through this platform

The yatra being organised ahead of the 2024 general election will cover 110 districts, 100 Lok Sabha seats and 337 assembly segments in 66 days, starting from Manipur capital Imphal.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kharge said unfortunate incidents had taken place in Manipur and the prime minister who spoke everywhere and did photo sessions had not visited the state.

He also attacked the BJP government at the Centre, alleging that it is blatantly misusing agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department to threaten opposition leaders.

On whether he would attend the January 22 Ram temple consecration ceremony, Kharge said he had got an invite and would soon decide on it.

Referring to the new labour laws and criminal laws, the Congress chief said the legislations brought in by the government showed signs of dictatorship.

4 die as car hits pedestrians, rams into stationary vehicle in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer

JAIPUR, Jan 6 (Agencies): Four people died and as many were injured in Jaisalmer when a speeding car hit two pedestrians before colliding with a stationary pickup van, police said on Saturday.

Four people, including the driver, were travelling in the car. Shortly before the accident, one of the occupants of the car had uploaded on his social media account a video of the four consuming alcohol in the vehicle, they said.

The incident took place on Friday night when the car was going towards Barmer from Akal village in Jais-

A police team tried to stop the car at a checkpoint but its driver did not stop, police said.

When the car reached Devikot town in Jaisalmer, it hit two pedestrians standing on a road and then rammed into a pickup van that was parked on the roadside, they said.

The two pedestrians, Menkala (34) and her son Manish (13), and two car passengers, Roshan Khan and Bha-

4 killed in accident on National

Highway in Karnataka

HUBBALLI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Four

people were killed and two injured

when a truck crashed into two cars

parked on the National Highway near

According to police, the accident

occurred on Belligatti cross on the

here on Saturday morning.

wani Singh, died in the accident. Four people were injured in the incident, said Vikas Sangwan, Superintendent of Police, Jaisalmer.

> "The car's driver was said to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital and will be arrested on Saturday," he said.

Police said shortly before the accident, Roshan had shared on his social media account a video of him and his friends consuming alcohol in the car.

Bengaluru-Pune Highway. While three

of the deceased are from Hassan, one

Police said it took them a lot of effort

to bring out the injured people from the

badly mangled cars. The injured have

been admitted to a local hospital.

ISRO's Aditya-L1 spacecraft to be placed in its final destination orbit shortly

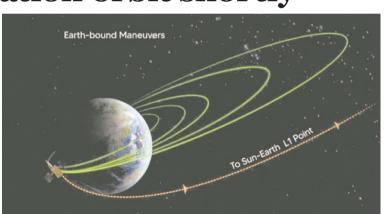
BENGALURU, Jan 6 (Agencies): ISRO will perform the final manoeuvre on Saturday to inject Aditya-L1 spacecraft -- the first space-based Indian observatory to study the sun -- into its final destination orbit, some 1.5 million kilometres from the earth.

According to ISRO officials, the spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system, about 1.5 million km from the earth. The L1 point is about one per cent of the total distance between the earth and the sun.

A satellite in a halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the sun without any occultations/eclipses, they said, adding that this would provide a greater advantage in observing solar activities and its effect on space weather in real time.

"This manoeuvre (at around 4 pm on Saturday) will bind the Aditya-L1 to a halo orbit around L1. If we don't do this, there is a possibility that it will continue its journey, maybe towards the sun," an ISRO official told agency.

The Polar Satellite Launch



Vehicle (PSLV-C57) launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, on September 2 last year.

After a flight duration of 63 minutes and 20 seconds, it was successfully injected into an elliptical orbit of 235x19,500 km around the earth.

The spacecraft underwent a series of manoeuvers thereafter and headed sun-earth Lagrange Point 1(L1), having escaped the earth's sphere of influence.

The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic

and particle and magnetic field detectors

"Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads directly view the sun and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point L1, thus providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium," according to the space agency.

The suits of Aditya L1 payloads are expected to provide the "most crucial information" to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, and propagation of particles and fields, officials said.

The major science objectives of the Aditya-L1 mission are:

*Study of the Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.

*Study of chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionised plasma, initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares.

*Observe the in-situ particle and plasma environment, providing data for the study of particle dynamics from the sun.

*Physics of the solar corona

and its heating mechanism. *Diagnostics of the coronal and coronal loops plasma: Temperature, velocity and density.

*Development, dynamics and origin of coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

*Identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere, base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events.

*Magnetic field topology and magnetic field measurements in the solar corona.

*Drivers for space weather (origin, composition and dynamics of solar wind).

Sexual harassment case: Delhi Police urge court to frame charges against ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

The police say the incidents of sexual harassment, allegedly committed by Singh, overseas and in India, including Delhi, are part of the same offence

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Delhi Police on Saturday urged a court here to frame charges against BJP MP and former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a case of alleged sexual harassment of women wrestlers

The police opposed the contention of the accused that since some of the alleged incidents took place overseas, they do not fall in the jurisdiction of

courts in Delhi, as it concluded arguments on framing charges against Singh.

is from Bengaluru.

The police submitted before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot that the incidents of sexual harassment, allegedly committed by Singh, overseas and in India, including Delhi, are part of the same offence.

"Delhi court has jurisdiction to try this case," the police told the



judge.

The court will hear the matter on January 20.

The city police had filed a charge sheet in the case against Singh, a six-time MP, on June 15, 2023 under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354-A (sexual harassment), 354-D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

18-year-old Uttarakhand youth 'inspired by Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar' arrested in Delhi, weapons seized NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): An

18-year-old youth from Uttarakhand was arrested in Sector 23 of Delhi's Rohini with two illegal firearms and live cartridges, police said on Saturday.

They said Pradeep Singh, who dropped out after Class 8, was inspired by the Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar gang and wanted to become like them. A police officer said Singh came in

contact with the Lawrence-Goldy gang via social media platforms and they provided him with the firearms and asked him to wait for further directions. He was arrested from Rohini's Sector

23 with two illegal firearms and half a dozen live cartridges, the officer said.

ED concludes searches in Religare Finvest Limited case;

During questioning, Singh told police that he was unemployed.

He said that from Uttarakhand, he went to his relative's place in Rajasthan where he studied till Class 8. Then, he went to Haryana and stayed with his

"On reading stories of Lawrence Bishnoi and Godly Brar, he started surfing them on social media. He came in contact with their gang members and told them that he wanted to join their group," another police officer said.

Police said Pradeep is further being interrogated about his plan. Brar is a key member of the Bishnoi

Man loses over Rs 2 lakh to fraudsters offering job in Qatar varsity dent of Gautam Nagar

THANE, Jan 6 (Agencies): A 32-year-old man from Thane district in Maharashtra was allegedly duped by two unidentified persons who took more than Rs 2 lakh from him on the pretext of giving a job of professor in Qatar University, police said on Saturday.

The case was registered on Friday at the Ambernath police station, they said.

"The victim is a resi-

area of Ambernath. In his complaint, he said that two unidentified persons posing as recruiters contacted him over the phone and emails and offered to provide him the job of professor at Qatar University," an official said.

The accused asked him to pay money for registration, document verification, visa processing and a medical

examination. Believing them, the victim transferred Rs 2,28,600 to the fraudsters between August and October 2023," he said.

But when the victim sought to know when he would be appointed, they gave evasive replies. Finally, he approached the police and lodged a complaint, he said, adding that investigation into the

case is on.

documents, digital data seized NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agen-Infrastructure Pvt Ltd. Dion

cies): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday concluded its searches in a money laundering investigation linked to the alleged diversion of funds worth more than Rs 2,000 crore from Religare Finvest Limited (RFL), official sources said.

The agency had launched the raids on Friday and searched nine locations in Delhi-NCR, including the corporate offices of RFL, M3M India Holdings, RHC Holding Pvt Ltd, Hillgrow Global Solutions and Prius commercial, the sources said.

The raids ended on Saturday. Officials said "incriminating" documents, including digital evidence, were seized during the searches and large-scale proceeds of crime generated out of criminal activities have been identified.

RFL said in a regulatory filing that its current management had also complained to the ED to initiate a probe.

"Pursuant to Regulation 30 of the Listing Regulations, we wish to inform that the Enforcement Directorate officials, basis a complaint made by the present management of Religare Finvest Limited, wholly owned subsidiary company of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL/Company) and pursuant to the ongoing investigation with respect to Corporate Loan Book, collected relevant information/ documents on January 05, 2024 to expedite the investigation as per request made by RFL recently."

"The information and documents as advised were provided/submitted to the officials of the authority," the company said in a statement.

The ED's money laundering case stems from a Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) FIR and the federal agency had arrested ex-Fortis promoters Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh and CMD of Religare Enterprises Ltd.

Alaska Airlines grounds 737-9 aircraft after midair window blowout on flight from Portland

The incident occurs shortly after takeoff and the gaping hole causes the cabin to de-pressurise

PORTLAND, Jan 6 (Agencies): Alaska Airlines grounded all of its Boeing 737-9 aircraft late on Friday, hours after a window and piece of fuselage on one such plane blew out in midair and forced an emergency landing in Portland, Oregon.

The incident occurred shortly after takeoff and the gaping hole caused the cabin to depressurise. Flight data showed the plane climbed to 16,000 feet (4,876 metres) before returning to Portland International Airport.

The airline said the plane landed safely with 174 passengers and six crew members.

"Following tonight's event on Flight 1282, we have decided to take the precautionary step of temporarily grounding our fleet of 65 Boeing 737-9 aircraft," Alaska Airlines CEO Ben Minicucci said in a statement.

Each of the aircraft will be returned to service after full maintenance and safety inspections, which Minicucci



said the airline anticipated completing within days.

The airline provided no immediate information about whether anyone was injured or the possible cause.

The plane was diverted about six minutes after taking off at 5.07 p.m., according to flight tracking data from the FlightAware website. It landed at 5.26

The pilot told Portland air traffic controllers the plane had

an emergency, was de-pressurised and needed to return to the airport, according to a recording made by the website LiveATC.net.

A passenger sent KATU-TV in Portland a photo showing the hole in the side of the airplane next to passenger seats. Video shared with the station showed people wearing oxygen masks and passengers clapping as the plane landed.

The National Transportation

Safety Board said in a post on X, that it was investigating an event on the flight and would post updates when they are available. The Federal Aviation Administration also said it would investigate.

The Boeing 737-9 MAX involved in the incident rolled off the assembly line and received its certification just two months ago, according to online FAA records.

The plane had been on 145 flights since entering commercial service on November 11, said FlightRadar24, another tracking service. The flight from Portland was the aircraft's third of the day.

Boeing said it was aware of the incident, working to gather more information and ready to support the investigation.

The Max is the newest version of Boeing's venerable 737, a twin-engine, singleaisle plane frequently used on US domestic flights. The plane went into service in May 2017.

Hezbollah fires 60 rockets at north Israel army base after Hamas deputy killing



BEIRUT, Jan 6 (Agencies): Lebanon's Hezbollah fired Saturday more than 60 rockets at an Israeli military base, the group said, describing the barrage as a response to the killing of Hamas's deputy leader in Beirut.

"As part of the initial response to the crime of assassinating the great leader Sheikh Saleh al-Aruri... the Islamic resistance (Hezbollah) targeted the Meron air control base with 62 various types of missiles," the Iran-backed group said in a statement.

The Israel-Lebanon border has seen regular exchanges of fire. mainly between Israeli forces and Hamas ally Hezbollah, since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

Aruri's killing on Tuesday in a Hezbollah stronghold in southern Beirut, which a US defence official has told AFP was carried out by Israel, has raised fears of further escalation.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for the strike, the first on the Lebanese capital since hostilities began last year.

The Israeli military said it had identified around 40 rocket launches from Lebanese territory on Saturday morning, adding in a statement that Israeli forces struck a cell responsible for some of the launches shortly thereafter.

Air raid sirens went off in towns and cities across northern Israel, later also blaring in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

In a speech Friday, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel that the group will respond swiftly "on the battlefield" to Aruri's killing.

Nearly three months of cross-border fire have killed 175 people in Lebanon, including 129 Hezbollah fighters, but also more than 20 civilians including three journalists, according to an agency tally.

In northern Israel, nine soldiers and at least four civilians have been killed, according to Israeli authorities

Bangladesh to hold general elections on Sunday; PM Sheikh Hasina poised to win another term

DHAKA, Jan 6 (Agencies): Bangladesh will go to the polls on Sunday in which Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to win a fourth straight term in the absence of the main Opposition BNP which is boycotting the elections amidst violence and has called for a 48-hour nationwide strike against the "illegal government.'

A total of 119.6 million registered voters are eligible to vote at Sunday's polls in more than 42,000 polling stations, according to the country's Election Commission. More than 1,500 candidates from 27 political parties are contesting in the election besides 436 independent candidates.

Over 100 foreign observers, including three from India, will monitor the 12th general election, which is being held under tight security. The election commission said it expected the results to start flowing from early on January 8.

Prime Minister Hasina's ruling Awami League is expected to win for a straight fourth time as the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former premier Khaleda Zia, 78, who is under house arrest as a convict of graft charges, boycotted the polls.

Hasina, 76, in a nationally televised address this week has urged the pro-democratic and lawabiding parties not to fuel ideas that "disrupt" the country's constitutional process

The BNP has called for a 48-hour nationwide general strike starting from Saturday. The 27 political parties that are contesting the elections include the opposition Jatiya Party (JAPA). The rest are members of the ruling Awami Leagueled coalition, which experts dub as "satellite

parties. As part of its vote boycott campaign, BNP on Thursday called a 48-hour countrywide general strike from 6 am on January 6 to 6 am on January 8 as the party has been claiming



no election under the incumbent government would be fair and cred-

BNP spokesman Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the strike, saying it was aimed to press for their demands for "resignation of the illegal government, establishment of a non-party neutral government and release of all party leaders and activists from prison".

Ahead of the elections, Hasina's government arrested tens of thousands of rival politicians and supporters, a move which rights groups have condemned as an attempt to paralyse the Opposition.

Prime Minister Hasina said the Awami League, whenever it came to power, ensured the economic and social development of the people of the country.

Authorities deployed Army troops across the country two days ago "in aid of civil administration" to maintain peace and order during the voting.

Despite the strict security arrangements, unidentified people carried homemade bomb and arson attacks in empty polling centres in four out of 64 administrative districts, while BNP activists clashed with police in another district, leaving five people wounded on Friday.

At least four people were killed when a passenger train was torched by arsonists near Dhaka on Friday night.

The BNP has demanded a UN-supervised investigation into the incident which it described as a "preplanned" act of sabotage.

Brussels-based thinktank International Crisis Group (ICG) said the country is at a critical juncture.

"Bangladesh is at a

fect democracy will soon hold a third election without a credible alternative to the incumbent government," it said in a recent report. The think tank said

critical juncture. The

once vibrant, if imper-

while it was now too late to delay the January election, the Awami League and BNP should work after the vote to deescalate the country's political tensions, including through concessions by both sides.

Political science professor and analyst Harunur Rashid said he feared Bangladesh might need to wait for an indefinite period to witness a congenial political atmosphere because of the highly conflicting nature between the two major parties.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Kader on Friday said there was no perfect democracy anywhere in the world, but BNP's participation could have made the upcoming elections more competitive.

Emerging from a meeting with the Commonwealth Observer Group, Kader said, "They have agreed with us that nowhere in the world there is a cent per cent or perfect democracy".

He said an unprecedented "mass tide" has been created in favour of the party across the country ahead of the elections.

Hoping that the national election would be held in a free, fair, and peaceful manner, he said the election means a festival of democracy to the people of Bangladesh, and this time it is no exception.

"Ignoring the severe cold, the people have welcomed the election and taken part in the polls campaign. A mass tide has been created across the country in favour of the boat (the Awami Party's election symbol)," Kader said.

He commented on the BNP's general strike on election day and said it is now an "obsolete tool" in Bangladesh's politics.

Hasina has been in power since 2009 and won the last election in December 2019, in a poll marred by deadly violence and accusations of poll rigging.

The BNP boycotted the 2014 election but joined the one in 2019, which party leaders later said was a mistake, alleging the voting was marred with widespread rigging and intimidation.

BNP's boycott announcement this time, however, initially posed a challenge to Hasina on the legitimacy of the January 7 polls as JAPA also expressed its reluctance to join the fray but agreed to participate as the ruling party decided to spare them 26 seats, withdrawing their candi-

Awami League also left six seats to its partners in the 14-party ruling alliance while Hasina encouraged independent and rebel candidates to contest to make the polling participatory while the ruling party was carrying out a campaign for high voter turnouts.

Senior BNP leader Abdul Moyeen Khan on Friday called the government efforts "childish", proving its "political bankruptcy"

Analysts and watchdogs, however, said the country of 170 million was heading for virtual one-party rule, while many voters said they found no charm in voting this time as the polling was set to reelect the incumbent government.

Bangladesh's economy has also slowed sharply since the Russia-Ukraine war boosted prices of fuel and food imports, forcing Bangladesh to turn to the International Monetary Fund for a bailout of USD 4.7 billion last year.

Many fear that a fourth straight term for Hasina would worsen the economic situation, deepening their despair.

Deaths from western Japan earthquakes hit 110 The coastal community



SHIROMARU, Jan 6 (Agencies): Rescuers and residents sifted through rubble Saturday as focus turned to recovering bodies and cleaning up rather than finding survivors, five days after a huge earthquake struck central Japan killing at least 110 people.

The death toll from the New Year's Day 7.5-magnitude quake in the Ishikawa region of Japan's main Honshu island was certain to rise, with 210 people still unaccounted for, authorities said.

The work of thousands of rescue workers has been hampered by bad weather -- snow was forecast for Sunday -- and roads torn apart by gaping cracks and blocked by an estimated 1,000 landslides.

Two elderly women were pulled from the wreckage of their homes on Thursday in the badly hit city of Wajima on the Noto peninsula, but since there has been no reason for cheer.

In Suzu, where dozens of homes lie in ruins, a dog barked while an agency team filmed the clean-up operation on Friday, the signal of a grim discovery. "Training for disaster

rescue dogs begins with something similar to a game of hide-and-seek," canine trainer Masavo Kikuchi told agency.

"Finally they are trained to bark when seeing a person under the rubble.

Houses containing any fatalities that are discovered are being marked and left alone until a coroner can come with relatives to identify the In the port city fishing

boats were sunk or lifted like toys onto the shore by tsunami waves that also reportedly swept one person away.

of Shiromaru, which was hit by a tsunami several metres high on January 1, was a tangled mess of wooden, metal and plastic debris. "The tsunami came

maru through the river, and then ran up through the street," said one of its roughly 100 residents, Toshio Sakashita. "We have received no public support here.

Look, the main street is

still blocked due to the

from the cove of Shiro-

rubble, which has been left untouched," the 69-year-old told agency. "We cannot live in our house any more," Yukio Teraoka, 82, told agency as he and his wife shovelled heavy,

sodden sand brought by the waves out of their wrecked home. Pray for souls

Local authorities said Saturday that 110 people were confirmed dead, with 210 unaccounted for. "We sincerely pray for

the repose of the souls of those who have passed away," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on X. formerly Twit-

In an emergency response meeting, he told ministers "urgently

and swiftly" to repair roads to help hundreds of people in cut-off areas.

Despite frosty ties with Japan, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un sent a message of "deep sympathy and condolences", state news agency KCNA reported, echoing the United States, China and other countries.

Around 23,800 households were without electricity in the Ishikawa region and more than 66,400 were without running water.

Power and water outages have also affected hospitals and facilities for taking care of elderly and disabled people.

More than 30,000 people were in 357 government shelters.

Japan experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year and most cause no damage, with strict building codes in place for more than four decades. But many buildings are older.

The country is haunted by the monster quake of 2011 that triggered a tsunami that left around 18,500 people dead or missing and caused a nuclear catastrophe at the Fukushima plant.

'Complementary AK-47s': Israel says Hamas tunnels found under Gaza hotel



GAZA, Jan 6 (Agencies): The Israel Defense Forces on Saturday said that it discovered Hamas tunnels under a hotel in Gaza, adding that the Palestinian terrorist group had stored many weapons under the hotel, including AK-47 assault rifles, explosives and drones.

In a social media post, the IDF said it had carried out an operation at the Blue Beach Hotel in northern Gaza and eliminated

several Hamas terrorists. The Israeli forces alleged Hamas terrorists "exploited the hotel, from where they planned and executed attacks both above and below

"IDF troops operated at a Hamas terrorist quarter under the Blue Beach Hotel on the beach in northern Gaza, using a range of methods and destroyed the infrastructure earlier this week," the IDF

Recently, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the IDF will implement a more targeted approach in northern Gaza and will track down Hamas leaders in the south as well.

In northern Gaza, the army's operations will include raids, tunnel demolitions, air and ground strikes, and special forces operations. In the south, the focus will be on eliminating Hamas leaders and rescuing the remaining 130 Israeli hostages on October 7.

As the Israeli bombing in Gaza continues, the UN humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths, has stated that the Gaza Strip has become "uninhabitable"

In a recent statement, Griffiths warned that a "public health disaster is unfolding" in the territory as people are facing "the highest levels of food insecurity ever recorded". "Famine is around the corner," he said, also adding that the humanitarian community is facing an "impossible mission".



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: In a vibrant display of devotion and unity, the Sandhya Pheri witnessed a large number of "Ram Devotees". A diverse assembly of people came together to partake in the soul-stirring Bhajna of Prabhu Shri Ram.

The Sandhya Pheri was led by Neena Gupta, Adv. Ishant Gupta & Balwan Singh, marked by spiritual fervor and communal harmony, exemplified the rich tapestry of cultural heritage.

Participants immersed themselves in the divine chants, echoing the

timeless teachings of Prabhu Ram and also chanting slogans "Jai Shri Ram".

The Sandhya Pheri started from Surya Chowk and passed through various areas of Channi Himmat and finally ended in the park, sector 5 Channi Himmat.

This auspicious event not only celebrated religious traditions but also showcased the collective strength of the community.

The resonance of prayers and the vibrant atmosphere served as a testament to the enduring spirit of unity and

Ishant Gupta & Neena Gupta appealed the gathering of Ram Devotees to remain present on 22nd January at Panch Mandir Sector 2 Channi Himmat to witness the live program telecasted directly from Ayodhya and took

blessings of Prabhu Shri

Ram.

Poonam Gupta, Neera Gupta, Sunita Gupta, Kamlesh Magotra, Yudhveer Singh Sambyal, Ashok Gayatri, HC Vaid, Prof. Bhola Nath, Amit Gandotra, Khushboo Gupta, Rajni Gupta, Dheeraj Malhotra, and others were the prominent who present on this occasion.

Driving Licences of 23 Offenders Suspended in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 6 (Agencies): In a recent move by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) of Kashmir, 23 driving licences have been suspended due to violations of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. This decision, effective for three months, was officially announced on January 5, 2024

The RTO invoked Section 19 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, a provision enabling the licensing authority to suspend or revoke a driving licence on grounds of safety and public interest. Rule 21 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, specifying conditions and procedures for licence suspension or cancellation, was cited as the basis for this

The suspended licences resulted from various offences, including driving without a speed limiting device (SLD) and overloading of vehicles. Additionally, three motorcyclists faced licence suspension for riding without

To maintain transparency, the RTO mentioned that details of the suspended licences would be recorded on the Sarthi web portala national database encompassing driving licences and vehicle registrations.

In response to the enforcement action, the RTO urged the public to adhere to traffic rules and regulations, warning of strict consequences for any violations. Emphasizing

the importance of road safety, the RTO specifically called on drivers to install SLDs in their vehicles and insisted on the mandatory use of helmets for two-wheeler riders.

A roster of transgressors, along with their driving licence identifiers and corresponding violations, has been unveiled. Among the offenders are individuals such as Sh Showkat Ali (JK1220080077578), Bashir Ahmad Ganie (JK0920090061200), Mohammad Ashraf Mochi (JK0120110033644), Aijaz Ahmad Hyder (JK0520010005426), Nisar Ahmad Sheikh (JK1320130032330) Irfan Bashir (JK0120230007803), Latief Ahmad Bhat (JK0420230002604),

Others in the last are Javid Ahmad Noochi (JK0420230000112), Shakeel Ahmad Beigh (JK1520230000146), Shakeel Ahmad (JK1120140041839), Barkat Ali Sankar (JK0120110029907), Gulam Hassan Bhat (JK0120120045097), Gulzar Ahmad Lone (JK1620120012275), Shabir Ahmad Khanday (JK0420140025130), Imtiyaz Hussain Wani (JK0120140088810), Javid Ahmad Guroo (JK0420180001094), Mohd Imran Bhat (JK0120180000237), Arif Ahmad Dar (JK0420220001571). Manzoor Ahmad Dar (JK0119990065171), Bilal Ahmad Dar (JK0120120073055), Fasil Sidiq Chalka (JK0120140090787), Imran Nazir Bhat (JK0420190005420), and Suhail Iqbal Bhat (JK0120110030137).

Udhampur Police recovers 25 stolen mobiles and handed over to owners

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 6: Udhampur Police with the aim to extend public services recovered 25 stolen Android Mobile handsets with a

purchase value of Rs 3.5 lacs approximately for which missing complaints were registered in Police Station Udhampur.

On the directions of

SSP Udhampur Joginder Singh, Police handed over these recovered mobile phones to their owners who expressed their gratitude towards Udhampur Police.

Sham Langar lauds Gadkari for addressing concerns regarding Expressway Flyover Design in Jammu



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Sham Lal Langar, Convenor of the BJP Trade Cell, Jammu & Kashmir, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sh. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Highways, for his prompt consideration of the genuine concerns raised by the trading community in Jammu regarding the proposed design of the RCC Wall structure for the Expressway Flyover from Narwal to Sainik Colony.

Addressing media persons here today, Sham Langar Saud that Chamber of Commerce and Industries Jammu had previously approached the J&K BJP leadership seeking modification of the proposed RCC Wall structure design for the expressway flyover.

The senior BJP leader said that a delegation of BJP leaders headed by Devender Rana has met with the Union Minister for Highways in Delhi and briefed him the matter concerning the traders of Jammu city with regard to the proposed of Expressway Flyover from Narwal to Sainik Colony area in Jammu.

Langar said that the del-

egation urged the Union Minister Nitin for reconsideration of the current design in favor of a pillarbased structure, citing potential disruptions to local businesses and community life

Langar lauded Nitin Gadkari for a patient hearing to the serious concern of Jammu traders and directed authorities concern to change proposed design of RCC Wall structure with Pier and Girder Wall structure in the upcoming Expressway Flyover from Narwal to Sainik Colony area of Jammu city.

Sham Langar expressed gratitude to the senior BJP leaders, including Tarun Chuq, General Secretary BJP and Prabhari J&K, Ravinder Raina, President BJP J&K, and Devender Rana, for championing the

Sham Lal Langar expressed gratitude to the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. for the commendable development initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the realm of infrastructure

Udhampur Police arrested o5 smugglers, rescued 56 bovines, 05 vehicles seized

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 6: Udhampur Police apprehended 05 bovine smugglers, rescued 56 cattle and seized 05 vehicles used for bovine smuggling during last one week

Team of PS Udhampur apprehended two vehicles bearing read No. JK02CS 4092 and JK19A 2075 and rescued 22 bovines from the cluthes of three bovine smugglers namely Khalid Ahmed, son of Mohd Iqbal, resident of Anantnag, Mohd. Nazir, son of Ghulam Mohd, resident of R.S Pura and 3rd accused person fled away from spot (taking bovines by foot).

In this regards, 03 cases FIR No. 01/2024, 02/2024 and 03/2024 under Section 188 IPC stand registered in PS Chenani.

In another case of bovine smuggling, team of Police Station Udhampur, apprehended three bovine smugglers alongwith 34 bovines loaded in three vehicles bearing registration no. JK02DD 7950, JK14B 8523 and JK02K 2835 Jakhani Naka Point, Udhampur.

Three accused persons namely Reham Ali, son of Mirza, resiodent of Janipur, Jammu, Asghar Ali, son of Mohd. Shafi, resident of Jakti, Nagrota and Liakat Ali, son of Noor Mohd, resident of Ramban got arrested.

In this regard, FIR No. 01/2024, 06/2024 and 07/2024 under Section 188 IPC stand registered in PS Udhampur.

Billawaria starts slab work of **Community Center of Atal Ji Park**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria kick started the slab work of the Community Center of Atal Ji Park located at Gangyal Ward No. 56 of RS Pura-Jammu South Constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that this place used to have Ram Leela 50 year ago, which is not held now in time due to which people have lost interest.

While some people are eying on encroaching this land, it is our first foremost duty to protect it and save it from the encroachers so that some work could be done for the good of the people. He said that people had been demanding proper use of this land for a long time, for which funds were sanctioned from the government and Atal Ji Park

was done at this place. He further said that slab work has been started today for the construction of a community center in Atal Ji Park, which fulfills the pending demand of

the people. The people of

the surrounding area and the area will be especially benefited

He said that the BJP party is working towards redressing the problems faced by the people of weaker and backward sections of the society and it is indeed a matter of satisfaction for him that he has been able to make some kind of expansion.

He said that during his tenure as Deputy Mayor, he was always engaged in working for the welfare of the society.

He said that a sum of money has been earmarked for the beautification of Atal Ji Park but if needed, more funds will be made available to complete the work.

He said the Modi government is committed to the overall development of the people with special focus on infrastructure development and social welfare.

Local people expressed their gratitude to Billawaria for showing their inter-

est in development works. Later, former Deputy Mayor Jammu and senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurated the camp of various government schemes at Ward 48 Gorkha Nagar in Bahu constituency.

Billawaria said that cards for various schemes of more than 50 people are being made every day in the camp. In which most of the people are taking benefits of the recently started Vishwakarma Scheme and getting themselves reg-

istered with the scheme. Billawaria said that the scheme used to be started in the previous governments also but the scheme remained confined to the government office but under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. every scheme came on the ground and every section is getting its benefit. He said that through this camp, people deprived of government schemes will get benefits.

He said that the Modi government has brought many schemes for every section which will benefit the deserving people.

Mandal President Ranjit Singh, Mulkh Raj, Rakesh Sangral, Jugal Kishore, Karuna Chhetri, Kulwant Singh and dignitaries were present.

Drug peddler arrested, contraband substance recovered



Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 6: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Wanpora, Shamsipora intercepted a suspicious person identified as Nisar Ahmad Ganie son of Bashir Ahmad Ganie resident of Hussanporabagh carrying a nylon bag. During search, officers were able to recover 3 Kgs of grinded cannabis like contraband substance concealed in a nylon bag from his possession. He has been

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

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 03/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qaimoh and investigation has been initiated.

Police urged the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112.

Police requested people to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society.

Police reassured the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

FROM PAGE 1

incomplete charge sheet in JE Exam paper leak case

additional list of witnesses and documents during the trial as further investigation is ongoing.

Emphasising that the IO is not required to forward every accused person in custody at the time of filing the charge sheet, the court remarked, "Whenever there is sufficient evidence to try the accused persons. However, the manner of conducting an investigation in the present case and the manner of presenting the challan in haste and hurried manner by the IO cannot be lost sight of."

Expressing concern, the court highlighted that the accused were informed about the filing of the challan through WhatsApp and criticized the IO for presenting the charge sheet hastily, and issuing notices to two accused persons even when the investigation was incomplete. The court pointed out the failure of the Investigating Officer to explain the delay in completing the investigation since January 2023.

The court noted that the conduct of the Investigating Agency, particularly in completing the investigation regarding the officials of JKSSB and M/S MeritTrac Services

Pvt Ltd, raised questions. It remarked, "It appears that CBI has not completed the investigation with respect to criminal conspiracy amongst the officials of JKSSB and M/S MeritTrac Services Pvt Ltd and the CBI picked up one aspect of the investigation and filed an incomplete charge sheet with respect to the remaining accused persons." The court highlighted that the charge sheet indicated pending further investigation, rendering it incomplete.

JKMEGA acknowledges reforms under **Shalindera Kumar's** tenure. welcomes new secretary

the engineering community. They commended the historical reorganisation and restructuring of PWD, emphasising its necessity and successful implementation under the dynamic leadership of Shalindera Kumar and his team.

The association concluded the meeting by addressing minor concerns raised by the Mechanical Engineering fraternity regarding the recent reorganisation. Emphasising the importance of resolving these concerns, they underscored the

need to ensure the continuous growth and development of the Mechanical Engineering fraternity in Jammu & Kashmir for the larger benefit of the public.

Er Firdous Ahad Bhat, President of JKMEGA, affirmed the association's commendation for the administration's commitment to promoting excellence in the engineering sector. He urged all stakeholders to collaborate towards building a better and more sustainable future for the engineering sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Man arrested for alleged sexual harassment of minor girl in Bandipora

Post Nowgam received a complaint from the father of a minor girl (name withheld) that she had gone for fingerprint formalities at the house of fair price shop dealer in Sumbal area.

The complainant alleged that the said person took advantage and allegedly sexually assaulted her.

Police have taken cognizance of the matter and filed a case FIR No. 03/2024 U/S POCSO Act.

The accused has been held and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

the party, respectively. The leader quoted above said the meeting is likely to finalise the party's candidates for the Lok Sabha elections based on an internal survey report which was recently submitted to Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Nadda in J&K on Sunday

Will discuss BJP's LS Poll

strategy for J&K with

leaders

The focus of the meeting would be to finalise the party strategy to counter the INDIA bloc which has hinted of putting up joint candidates against the BJP, he said.

The meeting will also discuss Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir later this month or in early February, the leader said.

He said Nadda is also scheduled to hold a separate meeting with J&K BJP president and General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul before returning to Delhi. 774 Fresh Covid cases in

India Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 4.5 crore people have been infected and over 5.3 lakh have died across the country

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far in the country.

Army's Romeo Force, SOG Police conduct search operation in **Poonch**

Poonch, said officials.

The explosives were subsequently destroyed by the army on the spot in the forest of the Kasblari area.

Three of a family dead. one injured in Reasi road mishap

son of Abdul Rashid resident of Dewal Mahore who is seriously injured and was taken to PHC Gota for the treatment.

CBI faces criticism over

Govt plans to import coking coal from Russia for steel firms

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): The government plans to form a consortium of stateowned companies to facilitate coking coal imports from Russia to help domestic steel companies tide over shortages, two government sources said.

Stung by lower supplies and higher prices of coking coal, leading Indian steel companies have petitioned the government to help boost supplies of the key steel-making raw material.

Indian steel companies consume around 70 million metric tonne of coking coal annually, and imports constitute around 85% of the country's total requirement

Steel mills in India, the world"s second-biggest crude steel



producer, have struggled with volatile supplies of coking coal from Australia, which normally accounts for more than half of India's annual imports.

Other than Australia, India imports coking coal from the US, Indonesia and Canada, among others

The consortium of govern-

ment-backed companies would make it easier for steel companies to import coking by reaching out to suppliers in different countries, negotiating prices and other terms of import deals, and eventually selling the imported raw material to local steel mills, the sources said.

The sources, with direct knowl-

edge of the matter, didn"t wish to be identified as they are not authorised to talk to the media. They did not name any of the companies that might be involved. The consortium would also look at diversifying India"s coking coal imports.

"The idea is to get the best price and look beyond Australia to diversify the imports basket," one of the sources said. The Ministry of Steel didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comments. In November, Australia assured India of steady supplies of coking coal, but supplies are still patchy.

India would source more coking coal from Russia to make up for the sporadic Australian supplies, the sources said.

Federal Bank starts search for new MD & CEO after RBI turns down extension for Shyam Srinivasan



KOCHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Keralaheadquartered Federal Bank on Saturday said it started the search for a new managing director & CEO after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) turned down the private bank's request for a one-year extension for the incumbent MD & CEO Shyam Srinivasan.

On October 6 last year, the Federal Bank had written to the RBI seeking a one-year extension for Shyam Srinivasan as MD & CEO following the expiry

of his current three-year term on September 22, 2024.

"This request was made in the context of the RBI's permissible limit of 15 years on the term of an incumbent MD & CEO," Federal Bank said, in a communique to the stock exchanges.

Srinivasan has been the bank's MD & CEO since 2010.

However, on January 4 (Thursday), the bank received a communication from the RBI asking it to submit a fresh proposal containing a panel of at least two fresh names for the appointment as its MD & CEO. The RBI said a new name to lead the Federal Bank is after taking into consideration the "longer-term requirements of the bank".

The Federal Bank said at its meeting on January 5 (Friday), that the bank's board of directors has taken the RBI's letter on record and will proceed accordingly.

Lower nominal GDP makes fiscal deficit target steeper

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): While India's real GDP growth is estimated to be 7.3% for FY24 -- much higher than most predictions-- the nominal GDP or the GDP at current prices (2023-24 prices) is expected to be only 8.9%, which is lower than the budgeted target of 10%.

This means that the size of the Indian GDP (in current prices) would likely be R297 lakh crore at the end of the current financial year instead of the budgeted estimate of R302 lakh crore. This could make it difficult for the government to meet its fiscal deficit target.

The government has budgeted for a fiscal deficit of R17.9 lakh crore in the current financial year. If the nominal GDP for FY24 is R 297 lakh crore instead of R302 lakh crore, the fiscal deficit could be 6% of the GDP instead of the targeted 5.9% in the current financial year.

The nominal GDP growth slowed down to 8.9% in FY24 from 16.1% in FY23, due to sharp slowdown in deflator growth (1.4% in FY24 vs 8.2% in FY23). The wholesale price index (WPI), which constitutes the majority of GDP deflator,

was in the negative zone for most part of the current financial year. Analysts, however, believe that though a lower nominal GDP growth may make the 5.9% fiscal target steeper, the government would most likely achieve it.

Gaura Sen Gupta, economist at IDFC First Bank, feels that the Centre would meet the FY24 fiscal deficit target of 5.9%, even after incorporating slowdown in nominal GDP growth and disinvestment shortfall.

DK Srivastava, chief policy advisor, EY India, also expects the Central government to meet its budgeted fiscal deficit target for FY24.

"The budgeted buoyancy of Centre's gross tax revenues (GTR) was only 0.99 which would imply a tax revenue growth of 8.8%, well below the budgeted GTR growth of 10.4%," he said.

"However, based on Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, we expect a higher than budgeted growth in Centre's GTR due to a much higher direct tax buoyancy than was assumed in the Budget. We expect the GoI to meet its budgeted fiscal deficit target for FY24," he added

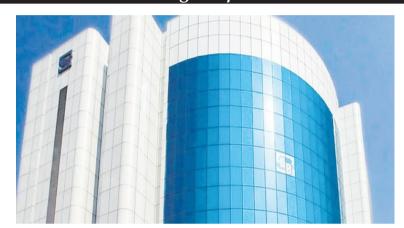
SEBI tightens short-selling norms

Market regulator said naked short selling not permitted in the Indian securities market

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) reiterated that naked short-selling is not permitted in the Indian securities market, but investors of all categories can do short-selling.

Sebi also repeated that institutional investors are prohibited from engaging in day trading, meaning they are not allowed to square off their transactions within the same trading day. "Naked short selling shall not be permitted in the Indian securities market and accordingly, all investors would be required to mandatorily honor their obligation of delivering the securities at the time of settlement," said SEBI in a notification.

Already banned in many markets, naked shorting is the practice of selling short shares that have not yet been determined to exist or that the trader hasn't secured in some way. In gen-



eral, traders first borrow a stock or determine that it can be borrowed before selling it short.

On not allowing institutional investors from practising day trading, Sebi said that all transactions would be grossed for institutional investors at the custodians' level and the institutions would be required to fulfill their obligations on a gross basis. The custodians, however, would continue to settle their deliveries on a net basis with the stock

exchanges. The clarity on short-selling by the market regulator comes days after India's Apex Court came down heavily on short-sellers in the Adani-Hindenburg case.

The Supreme Court has asked the government and SEBI to see if there was any infraction of law by the Hindenburg report on short selling, and if so, take action in accordance with the law. Sebi notification also read that securities traded in the

F&O segment shall be eligible for short selling. The regulator said that it may review the list of stocks that are eligible for short selling transactions from time to time. Sebi dictated institutional investors to disclose upfront at the time of placement of order whether the transaction is a short sale.

Sonam Srivastava, Founder and Fund Manager at Wright Research said the latest SEBI short selling regulations are undoubtedly a double-edged sword. "While their stated aim of curbing market manipulation and enhancing price discovery is laudable, their potential to dampen market efficiency shouldn't be ignored. Limiting short selling, particularly naked shorting, can impede liquidity, especially in smaller stocks. This could make the market less responsive to fundamental shifts, potentially harming price discovery," said Srivastava.

CSIR to develop indigenous standards for medical diagnosis as West-based models may not be suitable for Indian population

CHANDIGARH, Jan 6 (Agencies): In a novel project, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is developing indigenous standards for medical diagnosis and treatment which would be more attuned to the Indian population than the Western standards that are being presently followed.

"Our allopathic system of medicine is based on the parameters devised by the West. The view of the scientific and medical fraternity is that the genetic profile, genealogy environment, living conditions, diet and level of physical activity of the population in the sub-continent are quite different from that in the West and hence, the medical param-

eters devised for the Western populace may not be ideal for Indian conditions," Dr Sanjiv Khosla, Director Institute of Microbial Studies (IMTEC), one of the participating laboratories in the project, said.

Titled Phenome India-

CSIR Health Knowledgebase (PI-CHeCK), the project is being undertaken by all 37 constituent laboratories of CSIR, and in the first phase will involve a sample base of 10,000 employees, pensioners and their family members. CSIR's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, is the nodal laboratory for the project.

The broad aims list for the project include estimating the disease burden, identifying risk



factors and development of risk prediction tools, establishing India specific normative values and enabling precision health.

"It is a five-year project to generate a database of Indian phenomes, which has been initiated recently," Dr Khosla said. "It will be a longitudinal study where the same individuals shall be observed for 2-3 years by conducting a battery of physical and bio-chemical tests," he added. CSIR's pan-

India presence enables it to have an employee base from all over the country, enabling sampling from different regions.

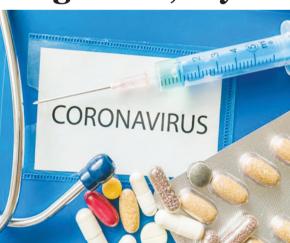
Scientists associated

with the project say that for example the Western parameters that define blood pressure or sugar levels to be normal may not be correct for the population of another region due to a host of biological and environmental factors. When we look at the globe, geographi-

cally vast areas have a unique and diverse phenotype and the parameters for measuring or determining a disease could vary. Phenotype is defined as the set of observable characteristics of an individual resulting from the interaction of its genotype with the environment.

Out of proposed 10,000 sample base, 5000 will undergo deep phenotyping and 500 will be identified for very deep phenotyping. Besides physical measurements and routine examination, blood biochemistry, ECG, mircobiome, lung spirometry and oscillometry, skin testing, transient elastography and fibroscan are the tests that will be carried out.

Pfizer's Paxlovid antiviral drug does not reduce risk of long Covid, say researchers



NEW YORK, Jan 6 (Agencies): US pharma giant Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid (Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir) does not reduce the risk of developing long Covid for vaccinated, non-hospitalised individuals, according to a study.

A team of researchers from University of California San Francisco (UCSF) revealed that among Paxlovid users, a higher proportion of individuals with acute symptoms rebound and test-positivity than previously reported.

The findings appeared in the Journal of Medical Virology.

Paxlovid treatment for acute Covid-19 has been shown to be effective for high-risk unvaccinated individuals. But the effect of the treatment on long Covid risk, including whether it protects vaccinated people from getting long Covid, has been less clear.

To explore, the team selected a group of vaccinated people who had reported their first

positive test for Covid-19 between March and August of 2022 and who were not hospitalised.

In December 2022, the two groups reported similar conditions. About 16 per cent of those treated with Paxlovid had long Covid symptoms compared to 14 per cent of those who were not treated with the medication.

Commonly reported symptoms included fatigue, shortness of breath, confusion, headache, and altered taste and smell.

Those who took Paxlovid and then went on to develop long Covid reported as many long Covid symptoms as those who were not treated with Paxlovid.

A small percentage of people developed severe long-term Covid, and those who had received Paxlovid were just as likely to have severe long-term Covid symptoms as those who

Among individuals who experienced symptom-

Paxlovid treatment, 21 per cent reported rebound symptoms.

And among those with

rebound symptoms, 10.8 per cent reported one or more long Covid symptoms compared to 8.3 per cent without rebound symptoms.

For participants who repeated antigen testing after testing negative and completing treatment, 25.7 per cent reported rebound test positivity. In total, 26.1 per cent reported rebound symptoms or test positivity.

"We found a higher proportion with clinical rebound than previously reported but did not identify an effect of post-treatment rebound on long Covid symptoms," said Matthew Durstenfeld, a cardiologist and UCSF assistant professor of Medicine.

"Our finding that Pax-lovid treatment during acute infection is not associated with lower odds of long Covid surprised us, but it is consistent with two other rigorously conducted studies finding no difference in post-Covid conditions between 4 and 6 months after infection."

The researchers, however, noted that the study may have been impacted by limitations arising from its observational nature with researchers relying on patient self-reporting of treatment and long Covid symptoms.

Health Department cautions against common myths in winter

MANDI AHMEDGARH, Jan 6 (Agencies): In wake of the severe cold wave, the Health Department has cautioned residents against adopting some practices which are considered in layman's sense beneficial to fight the dip in mercury.

Consuming liquor to fight cold temperature, maximising temperatures by keeping angithis or bukharis inside rooms at night and installation of gas geysers in small bathrooms were cited as most hazardous practices that have proved fatal in several cases.

Warnings are being issued to parents and organisers

at schools and anganwadis. Authorities at government healthcare centres in local towns have advised people to take precautions to prevent health hazards arising due to hypothermia and suffocation.

As per instructions received from Deputy Civil Surgeon Sajila Khan, authorities at local government healthcare centres cautioned against the common myths being followed to fight the effects of severe cold.

"Unfortunately people in rural and sub-urban regions resort to consumption of liquor, believing that it helps fight against severe cold. However, studies have revealed that confronting low temperature after liquor consumption causes hypothermia, which can prove hazardous to human life," said Rajesh Garg, SMO at the local civil hospital.

Installation of gas geysers in bathrooms and using angithi with burning coal to maximise temperature in enclosed rooms were also found dangerous for human life.

Rajesh Garg said in both cases combustion of fuel in restricted supply of air produced carbon monoxide gas, which is poisonous to life. "Contrary to common belief, gas geysers are absolutely unsafe even if the

gas cylinder is installed outside the bathroom as actual combustion process takes place near the appliance which is installed inside the bathroom," explained Garg, claiming that many lives had been lost due to carbon monoxide poisoning in closed bathrooms in the recent years.

Burning of coal in closed rooms was also reported to have taken many lives due to production of carbon monoxide gas which has strong affinity to combine with haemoglobin and forming carboxyhaemoglobin, which causes acute deficiency of oxygen in blood and proves fatal, said Garg.

India will need 'experienced' Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma at T20 World Cup 2024: Irfan Pathan

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencies): Irfan Pathan feels that India will need the experience of both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma on and off the field during the T20 World Cup 2024 as there will be quite a few unknown pitches during the tournament.

The schedule for the T20 World Cup 2024 was announced on January 5, with India being grouped with Ireland, Pakistan, USA and Canada. India's campaign, which begins on June 5, will see them play three of their group stage matches in New York and the final one in Florida.

The big question heading into the tournament has been the availability of Kohli and Rohit. Both men haven't played any T20Is since India's World Cup 2022 semi-final exit.

However, the star duo are reportedly eager to play the tournament in June this year.



Speaking to Star Sports, Pathan said he would love to see Kohli back in the format as he was able to regain his touch during the T20 World Cup 2022 and IPL 2023.

Pathan also suggested that the unknown pitches in the USA and the Carribean would require experienced campaigners to boost the squad.

"Personally, I would like to see Virat on the pitch because when we talk about two years back, definitely he was not in his best form. But the last IPL and T20 were one of the most amazing tournaments for him. Also, when you are playing in countries like West Indies and the USA,

there are quite a few unknown pitches, and here you will need experienced players like Kohli and Rohit Sharma, both on and off the field," said Pathan.

Would love to see Kohli and Rohit on the field

Pathan would conclude by saying the selection of both stars would ultimately be a call by the team management and would depend on their fitness. However, the former cricketer expressed his desire to see both men perform in the T20 World Cup, especially with Rohit also regaining his touch.

"The playing of both the players also depends upon team management and their fitness, but I would love seeing both of them on the field, especially when Rohit has also changed his form and has been making a lot of runs in One Day Cricket,"

said Pathan.

Warner leads Australia to victory in his final test match, completing a 3-0 sweep over Pakistan



SYDNEY, Jan 6 (Agencie): David Warner scored 57 runs to help lead Australia to an eight-wicket victory over Pakistan on Saturday in his final test match, ending a 112-test career as a winner on his home ground.

With Australia needing only 11 runs to claim its third consecutive victory in the three-test series, Warner was out lbw off the bowling of Sajid Khan. He walked off the Sydney Cricket Ground to loud applause as he waved to the crowd

The only other wicket to fall in Australia's second innings was when opener Usman Khawaja was also adjudged lbw off Khan's bowling for a six-ball duck.

Pakistan scored 313 and 115 and Australia responded with 299 and 130-2. Marnus Labuschagne scored 62 and was at the crease with Steve Smith (4) when the match ended.

Smith (4) when the match ended. Australia quickly took Pakistan's three remaining wickets on Saturday morning to set a 130-run victory target with almost two full days remaining.

After Josh Hazlewood (4-16) ran through Pakistan on Day 3, the visitors offered little resistance before they were all out. Mohammad Rizwan (28) and Aamir Jamal (18) put on 42 for the eighth wicket, but Pakistan folded quickly once Nathan Lyon had Rizwan caught at leg slip.

Lyon also bowled Hasan Ali to end the innings, finishing with figures of 3-36.

Warner had earlier led the team onto the field to start the day, while "Thanks Dave" with his trademark leap also painted on the ground in front of the Members Stand.

Australia won the first test in Perth by 360 runs and the second by 79 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"We Won't Go": Ravi Shastri Wants BCCI To Reject South Africa-Like Two Test Series Invitations Due To 'Waste Of Time'

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencie): Legendary India cricketer Ravi Shastri blasted the scheduling of the India-South Africa Test series as he called the two-match series a "waste of time". South Africa outplayed India completely in the first Test while the Rohit Sharmaled side claimed a historic win in the second Test match that lasted for just 107 overs. Shastri said on commentary that India should focus on playing either 'T20Is and Test matches or ODIs and Test matches' while touring and just refuse to play any two-match Test series in the future.

"After watching this Test series, the Indian cricket establishment should make sure to never play just two Tests. If some country invites you for a two-Test series, say, 'We won't go'. Two-Test match series are a waste of time. It's neither here nor there. Focus should be on either playing T20Is and Test matches or ODIs and Test matches. They could have easily played three T20Is and three Tests," Shastri said on Star Sports.

Meanwhile, India skipper Rohit Sharma called out the International Cricket Council (ICC) as well as the match referees over the standard of rating pitches after the second Test.

The second Test at Newlands, saw India claiming a seven-wicket win with a total of 642 deliveries bowled in both innings. The Test was the shortest in the history of red-ball cricket, eclipsing the previous shortest involving Australia and South Africa in 1932 in

Melbourne (656).

After winning the shortest Test in his-



tory, Rohit opened up on the criticism of some Indian pitches for being rank turners favouring the hosts.

"I mean, we saw what happened in this match, how the pitch played and stuff like that. I honestly don't mind playing on pitches like this. As long as everyone keeps their mouth shut in India and don't talk too much about Indian pitches, honestly," Rohit said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"Because you come here [in Test cricket] to challenge yourself. Yes, it is dangerous. It is challenging. So, and when people come to India, it is again pretty challenging as well. Look, when you are here to play Test cricket, we talk about Test cricket, the ultimate prize, Test cricket being the pinnacle and stuff like that. I think it's important that we also stand by it."

When you are put up against, a challenge like that, you come and face it. That's what happens in India, but, in India on day one, if the pitch starts turning, people start talking about 'Puff of dust! Puff of dust!' There's so much crack here on the pitch. People are not looking at that," Rohit added.

Mercurial India Women Wary Of Australia Backlash In Search Of T20I Series Win

A mercurial Indian Women's team will be keen to produce another all-round show as they look to seal the three-match series against Australia in the second T20I

told the media after the

"I felt like our field-

ing effort was brilliant

because a bowler can't

give her best until and

unless she is supported

by all the nine play-

ers inside the ground."

India's comprehensive

win on Friday night at

the DY Patil Stadium has

put them in pole position

to push for a first-ever

series win against Aus-

tralia at home, for they

have beaten them in an

away series 2-1 in 2015-

But accomplishing this

task would be easier

said that done given

India will have to show

consistency and at the

match.

MUMBAI, Jan 6 (Agencie): A mercurial Indian Women's team will be keen to produce another all-round show as they look to seal the threematch series against Australia in the second T20I in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. Putting behind the disappointment of a 0-3 hammering in the ODIs — marred by poor efforts in all areas — India Women came out firing on all cylinders in the first T20 to thrash Australia by a huge nine-wicket margin for the first time in history. Criticised for being sloppy in the ODIs, India were spectacularly athletic in the field on Friday, while the bowlers led by young Titas

any stage in the first half of the opening T20. Shafali Verma (64 not out) and Smriti Mandhana (54) then shared 137 runs -- India's best opening partnership against Australia in T20I history -- to take them

Sadhu did not allow

Australia to get away at

It was a near-perfect night for the 19-year-old Sadhu (4/17), who set the ball rolling with three

home.



powerplay wickets, while spinners Deepti Sharma and Shreyanka Patil too claimed two wickets each to support the young pacer.

The Indian team also brought up their fielding several notches higher to save plenty of runs. The catching was good too with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur herself holding on to four chances.

Even Titas did well on one occasion to snaffle her fourth wicket when Ashleigh Gardner gave a return catch on her follow through.

"Behind every match or every good performance, there are hours of hard work that is for to celebrate legendary
Ellyse Perry's 300th
international game.
"Really excited for
Sunday, actually. I think
it's a great opportunity

"Really excited for Sunday, actually. I think it's a great opportunity for our team to celebrate someone who has been, you know, at the forefront of our game and sort of seen the evolution of women's cricket right around the world in Ellyse Perry," Australia captain Alyssa Healy said.

same time, watch out

for Australia's fightback

who will be determined

"The opportunity to be a part of her 300th fixture, everyone's really excited for her. She doesn't want to talk about it. I've already brought it up at breakfast this (Friday) morning. She doesn't want to talk about it. It makes her feel old." Australia had their in-form batter Phoebe Litchfield notching up yet another significant score of 49 and teaming up with Perry again to set a platform for a 79-run fifth wicket stand.

But the visitors lost wickets in heaps on either side of the Litchfield-Perry rearguard, which they need to address.

The visitors also were not up to the mark on the field, giving away too many extras. In fact, Darcie Brown gave away 14 extras in the first over itself and Australia would look to be more disciplined with the ball.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, Minnu Mani.

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

2 Bihar teams showed up for Ranji Trophy match against Mumbai. Complete chaos

Controversy erupted during Bihar's Ranji Trophy 2023-24 match against Mumbai at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium in Patna when two teams arrived at the venue at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium.

PATNA, Jan 6 (Agencie): Two teams from Bihar arrived in Patna to play the state's first Ranji Trophy match of the 23-2024 season, resulting in chaos and confusion. A dispute arose, causing a split in the Bihar Cricket Association (BCA), as the president, secretary, had issued separate team lists. The police stopped the secretary's team from entering and playing the game against Mumbai.

The start of the Ranji Trophy match on Day 1 was delayed by a couple of hours due to the bizarre occurrence before the BCA President's team took on heavyweights Mumbai.

Despite the chaos, Bihar were focused on the job in hand. Veer Pratap Singh, their veteran pacer, picked up 5 wickets as Mumbai were bundled out for 251. Bhupen Lalwani topscored for Mumbai with 61 in the absence of captain Ajinkya Rahane, who sat out of the match in Patna due to an injury concern.

oncern.
After years, Bihar was hosting



an Elite Group Ranji match at Moin-ul-Haq Stadium in Patna. Cricket's fervour was back in Patna at Moin-ul-Haq Stadium after a long time, albeit amid controversies. The dispute unfolded within the Bihar Cricket Board, where two separate team lists were released for the same team.

While BCA President Rakesh Tiwari announced one team, the ousted Secretary Amit Kumar released another. This internal strife within BCA questioned which team would face Mumbai. Both BCA teams arrived outside the stadium in the morning. However, the police sternly escorted the Secretary's faction,

making them sit in their bus and leave. Players listed by BCA President Rakesh Tiwari participated in the match.

However, a while later, unknown individuals attacked BCA's OSD Manoj Kumar. Reports suggest an incident akin to an assault took place, wherein someone struck him on the head with a stone, causing injuries. Following this event, it was stated that the identification of all culprits is underway from the BCA's side.

Subsequently, strict legal action was promised against them to prevent such incidents. Sources said that the BCA stood united, but that a few individu-

als were conspiring to defame the state body by running campaigns against it.

BCA has been facing such internal disputes for many years, even raising questions about player selections.

President's Team List - Captain: Ashutosh Aman, Himanshu Singh, Ravi Shankar, Rishabh Raj, Navaj Khan, Vipul Krishna, Akash Raj, Baljeet Singh Bihari, Sarman Nigrodh, Veer Pratap Singh, Sakibul Gani (Vice-Captain), Vipin Saurabh (Wicketkeeper), Babul Kumar, Sachin Kumar Singh, Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

Suryavanshi.
Secretary's Team List - Captain: Indrajit Kumar, Shashi
Anand, Lakhan Raja, Yashasvi Rishabh, Prateek Kumar,
Vikrant Singh, Himanshu
Hari, Shashi Shekhar, Vedant
Yadav, Abhinav Kumar, Kamalesh Kumar Singh, Vishwajeet
Gopala, Prashant Srivastava,
Deepak Raja, Apoorv Anand
(Vice-Captain), Vikash Ranjan
(Wicketkeeper), Shashim
Rathore, Samar Kudari, Kumar
Mridul, Kumar Rajneesh.

AIFF President Evaluates Possibility Of Implementing 'Additional Video Review System' In India



NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (Agencie): The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has written to the International Football Association Board (IFAB) to explore the possibility of India participating in the trial of the 'Additional Video Review System' (AVRS). "The President's recommendation aims to consider the extension of the existing technical infrastructure to accommodate an 'ondemand' video review request from the referees through a multiangle, multi-camera broadcast feed," AIFF said in an official statement. "Our prime objective here is to reduce the margin of error by empowering match officials with the technology to assist in their decision-making. While we will continue to work to implement VAR, I feel that, to begin with, AVRS can be a great option for a country like India," AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said. "AVRS would help

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us study the impact of the technology, train our match officials with the new concept, and assess its adaptation by players, coaches, and clubs alike," he added.

Currently, the mass adoption of VAR is limited due to financial and infrastructure requirements set out in FIFA's Implementation Assistance and Approval Programme (IAAP). Only about 30 percent of the 211 footballplaying nations--mainly in Europe and South America--currently have VAR subscriptions for either full domestic seasons or selective stages.

The President has suggested the AIFF Referee Department undertake the study to seek FIFA's suggestions and approval.

Skaters of IHRSC clinch 9 medals for J&K at 61st **National Skating Championship**

Indomitable' Udhay Narayan emerges national speed champion with triple gold haul

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: In a triumphant display of athletic prowess, the illustrious Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) has etched its name resolutely in the annals of national sports, securing a multitude of medals at the 61st National Roller Skating Championship held recently in Chennai.

Continuing with yet another dazzling performance at national sports arena, four distinguished skaters of this prestigious club have proven their mettle on the grand stage, showcasing exceptional skill, dedication and sportsmanship.

The skaters of Indian Hawks in J&K's contingent, with their unwavering commitment to excellence, seized an impressive array of medals across various age categories, standing as a testament to the club's commitment to fostering a culture of athletic brilliance.

The skaters' performances have not only garnered acclaim for their individual achievements but have also collectively propelled IHRSC to the forefront of national sporting recognition.

In a crowning moment of glory, one of IHRSC's ace skater



Udhay Narayan has ascended to the pinnacle of success by clinching the coveted title of National Champion by bagging all the three gold medals in his age category races.

This outstanding accomplishment stands as a beacon of club's commitment to nurturing talent and producing skaters of extraordinary caliber.

The club's success in the National Championship underscores the meticulous training regimens, strategic coaching, and unwavering perseverance that define IHRSC's sporting ethos

Such a stellar performance resonates not only within the precincts of the championship arena but also elevates IHRSC to a commendable stature within the broader sporting community. The triumphant narrative of the aforesaid club in the

country. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit and relentless pursuit of excellence that characterizes the IHRSC, marking it as an exemplar of sporting prowess in the esteemed landscape of national championships.

national sporting sphere not

only enriched the club's legacy

but also set a lofty standard for

aspiring athletes across the

The medal winner skaters of IHRSC include Udhay Narayan (3 gold medals and declared as National Speed Champion), Samarjot Singh (2 gold and 1 bronze medal), Kartikeya Puri (2 silver medals) and Puneesh Puri (1 gold medal).

Other skaters of the club who also played with high class sportsmanship but couldn't made upto podium include Tamanna Saini, Tabish, Sanvi Grover, Adwait, Achintya, Prageet Kour and Rudra Arora.

In a message to media persons, Ashok Gandotra (Retd Chief Engineer) Chairman of IHRSC lauded the medal winners for bringing laurels to the Union Territory, Club and their parents.

He however asked other skaters in J&K to follow the pursuit looking at the scintillating performance of the aforesaid four medal winner skaters stressing on adding more medals into the tally in upcoming tourneys at the national arena.

Ashok Gandotra also thanked President JKRSA and all the members of the association for providing the opportunity to budding skaters.

Meanwhile, invincible Udhay and other medal winners thanked the trainers at the IHRSC for providing world class coaching and winning tips at the rink that led to this milestone achievement giving them opportunity to touch skies of success and rule the podium meant for medal distribution.

Police Wireless Communication Course commences at PTTI Vijaypur



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 6: Police Wireless Communication Course (PWCC) Level-1 commenced at PTTI Vijaypur for Police personnel of Telecommunication Wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The duration of the course includes two weeks Refresher Course followed by 12 weeks PWCC-Level-1 with a objective to enhance the capabilities of participants and expose them to the latest tools and tech-

The course was formally inaugurated by Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal, PTTI Vijaypur who during inaugural function briefed the trainees to take keen interest in their Indoor/Outdoor classes to secure better results in their examinations and emphasized upon them to maintain proper discipline in the Institute.

Vice Principal further told the trainees that during training period they will be familiarized with various latest

Electronics Devices and Circuits besides taught important topics like Radio Communication. Digital Electronics, Radio Communication, Optical Fibre, POLNET 2.0, Radio Trunking System etc. which would definitely help them in performing field duties after training course.

Among others, Surrinder Paul, DySP (Indoor/Tech), Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Himanshu Dutta (CTI), Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Shehbaz Ahmed were present during inaugural function.

NCC Cadets carry out Plastic Free Tawi Campaign in collaboration with local civic bodies at Nagrota



Top News Report

NAGROTA, Jan 6: In a remarkable display of community collaboration, the National Cadet Corps have undertaken a significant Socially Useful and Productive initiative.

The focus of this endeavour is the Cleaning of Tawi River Banks in Nagrota, with a specific emphasis on removing plastic waste materials.

540 NCC Cadets and Staff of 2J&K BN NCC of Jammu Group (JK&L Dte) participated in the cleanup drive.

The Sarpanch of Panchayat Dhok Wazira, Raman Wazir, Puran Chand, Naib Sarpanch, Lambardars Rattan Singh and Kulwant Singh, 41 Civilians and employees of Block

Development Nagrota extended their wholehearted support to this noble cause.

Alongside the cleanup plastic activity, awareness programs are being conducted to educate the community about the long-term consequences of plastic pollution.

A total of approx. 700 kg plastic was collected and properly disposed to Garbage dumping site at Kot Bhalwal.

The "Plastic Free Tawi Campaign" signifies the power of collaborative action between youth organizations, local leadership, and community members. This initiative is not just about cleaning the riverbanks; it's a symbol of collective responsibility towards our water Bodies.

KCCI delegation calls on LG Sinha, discusses business community issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: The President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Javed Ahmad Tenga called on the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha at Jammu and discussed important issues facing business community requiring his attention. A memorandum was also submitted to the Lt. Governor.

The matter of renewal of Tourism Registration Licenses of Hotels, Guest Houses, Restaurants, Houseboats was discussed. The prolonged delays, absence of Single Window system, non adherence to Ease of Doing Business norms, multiple NOCs caused tremendous difficulties to tourism stakeholders which needed to be addressed on priority basis.

The Lt. Governor's attention was invited to the deteriorating hospitality sector infrastructure due to non-issue of permissions for repairs, renovation and reconstruction of hotels at Pahalgham, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Srinagar etc.

The properties needed to be upgraded to bring them in sync with the amenities and facilities required during modern times.

The KCCI sought Lt. Governor's intervention in the implementation of Industrial Policies in letter and spirit and addressing other Industry issues.

The Tagging of 125 J& K BOSE affiliated private Schools with Government Schools across Jammu & Kashmir would affect at least 2300 employees, cause difficulties for thousands of students.

The KCCI proposed 1 year extension to these schools to comply with the required compliances with special consideration by the government on lease and related

Standardization of J&K BOSE Books in consonance with NEP-2020 would be affecting 200 Private Publishers, 1000 representatives of publishers, 3200 Book sellers and more than

10000 families. KCCI suggested that in view of a huge amount of capital both of the Bank and the traders was involved, a deferment of two years be considered to enable them to liquidate the

The KCCI impressed upon the Lt. Governor the urgent need of announcing an uncapped and longer period valid OTS Scheme by the Jammu & Kashmir Bank. It was brought to his notice that with a new OTS Scheme both the Banks and borrowers would benefit-Bank would recover its money whereas the borrowers accounts would get regularized. Such a gesture would send positive signals to the business community.

The KCCI pleaded announcement of amnesty to the Commercial Power Consumers on the analogy of the amnesty granted to the domestic consumers.

The Lt. Governor assured the KCCI team that the genuine issues raised by them will be addressed. The President thanked the Lt. Governor for the time and opportunity he provides to KCCI to present important trade related

The Senior Vice President Ashaq Hussain Shangloo & Treasurer Zubair Mahajan were also present in the meeting.

On 5th of January the KCCI team had a meeting with the Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Shailendra Kumar and discussed the issue of withheld subsidies and other issues relating to his Department. He issued on spot orders to the concerned officials for addressing the issues raised by KCC&I Team.

Gurmeet takes blessings of **Guru Gobind Singh**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: On the 'holy Occasion of the birthday of the Guru Gobind Singh, Gurmeet Singh President Beopar Mandal, & General Secretary JKPCC Congress Jammu East Constituency, took blessing and paid his services since last 41 years at "Jooda Ghar Sewa" involvement in such religious &

pious works, privileged. Briefing to the "holy Occasion of the birth of the Shree Guru Gobind Singh" as stated "Guru Gobind Singh Ji was the 10th Sikh Guru of Nanak. He was born at Patna, Bihar, India, on December 22, 1666. His birthday sometimes falls either in December or January or even both months in the Gregorian calendar. The annual celebration of the Guru's birthday is based on the Nanakshahi calendar."

Guru Gobind Singh was the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who gave his life to protect religious freedom. He succeeded his father when he became a Guru at nine years of age. Shree Guru Gobind Singh Ji's teachings have a big impact on Sikhs. In his lifetime, he stood against the Mughal Rulers and fought against injustice. In 1699, Shree Guru Gobind Singh Ji took five men from the lower caste of society and baptized them as His Five Beloveds, endowing them with great courage and a devotion to God. It was his dedication to God, his fearlessness and his desire to protect the people from being oppressed that led Shree Guru Gobind Singh Ji to establish the Khalsa, a military force of saint-soldiers which he baptized. Gurmeet said.

Prominent members present were Manpreet Singh, Rajveer Singh, Amandeep Singh, Apu Singh, Karanjit Singh, Bupinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Jaspal Singh, Gagandeep Singh and Guneet

Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands donates wheelchair to Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: A new motor-powered wheelchair has been donated to Govt Medical Hospital Gandhi Nagar on Saturday by Rotary Club Jammu Helping Hands.

Speaking on the occasion, Karuna Gupta, the President of the Club, said Rotary Club is a humanitarian organisation and there is a need to put smiles on the faces of the less privileged in



society. She highlighted the work her club is doing for socio-economic upliftment of needy and down

trodden class of society. Dr Rakesh Magotra, Medical Superintendent of Government Hospitals

Gandhi Nagar appreciated the gesture and support from the club and he hoped to get more contributions in the future also. Jaswinder Singh Kuku, Secretary of the Club, in his speech thanked Dr Ruchita Mahajan and Dr Geetanjali Jasrotia who were the conveyors of the project.

Rtn Rohit Vashisht presented vote of thanks to rotary members who came forward to help with wheel chairs, Dr Prem Sharma, Kamal Gupta, Retd Col. S S Koushal, Sarita, Vandana and Vijaydeep Mangotra.

JKSSB aspirants seek revival of waiting list



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 6: Amidst rising concerns over unemployment, JKSSB aspirants held a protest at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu, urging the revival of the waiting list.

With the recent absence of this crucial provision, candidates securing multiple selections are left with the choice to opt for one post, leaving numerous positions vacant.

The revocation order issued on 26th September 2023 has left over thousands of aspirants in turmoil, facing uncertainties in securing employment due to the absence of waiting lists for previously advertised

posts. This dire situation has sparked fears that the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir could soar, with meritorious candidates next

in line being deprived of opportunities.

Aspirants emphasized that the restoration of waiting lists is crucial to ensure fair and transparent recruitment processes, preventing wastage of seats and securing opportunities for deserving candidates.

They have firmly warned that they will continue their protest at the site until their demands are met.

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