

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, JANUARY 08, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Maldives President Muizzu arrives in China, set to sign several agreements to bolster bilateral ties



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BRIEFLY

Three goods' stores gutted in fire incident in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 8 (Agencies): Three goods' stores were gutted in a blaze in the Pinche Mandi area of Batmaloo in Srinagar on Monday, officials said.

They said that a fire broke out in one of the stores used to stock clothes, goods and other items today morning.

Soon after the incident personnel of Fire & Emergency Department along with the locals swung into the action and doused the flames before they could spread further.

In the incident, three stores got damaged, while the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

20 Delhi-bound trains delayed, city wakes up to cold morning with min temp at 5.3 Deg C

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Twenty Delhi-bound trains were delayed on Monday due to weather-related conditions in the national capital, which recorded a minimum temperature of 5.3 degrees Celsius, two notches below the season's average.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the relative humidity at 8.30 am was recorded at 95 per cent.

The IMD has forecast shallow fog for the day with the maximum temperature likely to settle at 17 degrees Celsius.

According to the Indian Railways, 20 Delhi-bound trains were delayed due to weather-related conditions.

Man found hanging from tree, family alleges murder

SRINAGAR, Jan 8 (Agencies): A man who had been missing for more than three months was found hanging from a tree in the forest area near SMVDU road Manthal, on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the family members of the deceased have alleged murder.

The Excelsior reported that Ajit Kumar (35), son of Nanak Chand, resident of Dinga Aamb

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Amit Shah's visit to J&K deferred due to inclement weather

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday has been deferred in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and forecast, officials said on Monday.

Shah was scheduled to visit the Union Territory to attend the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalpa Yatra', a Central government programme, in Jammu and inaugurate projects worth Rs 1,379 crore, including E-buses and lay the foundation stone of projects worth Rs



2,348 crore.

The home minister was also scheduled to undertake a review of the security and development of Jammu and

Kashmir and planned to travel to Dera Ki Gali in Poonch sector and meet the families of the civilians killed recently in this area, said a home

ministry official.

He was also scheduled to distribute appointment letters to several youths on compassionate ground in Jammu, the officials said.

"However, the visit is deferred in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and forecast," they said.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina also confirmed the same.

"Just been intimated that due to the uncertain weather conditions prevailing in the region, tomorrow's 9th

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Bilkis Bano Case | SC quashes Gujarat Govt's remission order, 11 convicts to return to jail



NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the Gujarat government's decision to grant remission to 11 convicts in the case of gangrape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven of her

family members during the 2002 riots in the state, saying the orders were "stereotyped" and passed without application of mind.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the convicts to surrender

before jail authorities within two weeks.

Holding the PIL challenging the remission as maintainable, the bench said the Gujarat government was not the appropriate government to pass the remission order.

The apex court clarified that the State, where an offender is tried and sentenced, is competent to decide the remission plea of convicts. The convicts were tried by Maharashtra.

"We need not have gone into the other issues. But for sake of completion, we have,

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Kashmir continues to reel under Cold Wave conditions

SRINAGAR, Jan 8 (Agencies): There was slight respite from the intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Monday but the minimum temperatures remained several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, owing to clear sky, MeT officials said.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on Sunday



night, up from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius noted the previous night, the

officials said. Qazigund recorded

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SSP Samba removes two personnel from service for prolonged absence

JAMMU, Jan 8 (Agencies): Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, removes two personnel from service for prolonged absences.

"For prolonged absence from legitimate duties, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh, has removed from service one under suspen-

sion selection grade Constable, who was also involved in the firing and assault case of Hatli Kathua, and disengaged one habitual absentee Special Police Officer (SPO) on the recommendation of the inquiry officer," according to a press release.

The stern departmental action of removal or dis-

engagement was taken after the delinquent personnel didn't pay heed to a series of signals to resume duties, attendance notices and show cause notices served upon them, as also published in newspapers and showed no interest in serving any more in the department.

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Sheikh Hasina re-elected for fifth term in Bangladesh



DHAKA, Jan 8 (Agencies): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the re-election for a fifth term in the national election that were conducted on Sunday amidst the boycott by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by former PM Khaleda Zia, who is currently in jail.

Sheikh Hasina's party Awami League has won a fourth consecutive term in the 12th parli-

amentary election, marking the second lowest voter turnout since the reinstatement of democracy in 1991, according to the Daily Star. Bangladesh media reported that Awami League has won the polls but the official confirmation by the country's Election Commission is still awaited.

The Awami League party hailed a significant victory for the fourth straight term, with

Sheikh Hasina returning to power despite the ongoing anti-election activities by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), as reported by the Dhaka Tribune.

The landslide victory that the AL helped itself win in yesterday's polls means Sheikh Hasina will further tighten her grip on power as she is poised to go in history as the longest serving prime minister in Bangladesh, according to the Daily Star.

Notably, the Awami League won in five constituencies amid a boycott by the opposition BNP and 15 other parties.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has instructed her party leaders, workers and supporters not to hold any victory procession

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682 cases of Covid Sub-Variant JN.1 reported from 12 States till Jan 7

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): The number of cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 reported from 12 states till January 7 rose to 682, official sources said on Monday.

They said 199 cases have been reported from Karnataka, 148 from Kerala, 139 from Maharashtra, 47 from Goa, 36 from Gujarat, 30 from Andhra Pradesh, 30 from Rajasthan, 26 from Tamil Nadu, 21 from Odisha, three from Telangana and one from Haryana.

Even though the number of cases is rising and the JN.1 sub-variant has been detected in the country, there is no cause of immediate concern as the majority of those infected are opting for home-based treatment, indicating mild illness, officials said.

The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country.

States have been urged to ensure effective compliance with the detailed operational guidelines for revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

They have asked to monitor and report district-wise cases of influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory illness in all health facilities regularly for early detection of rising trend of cases.

The WHO has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest"

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J&K Admin imposes night curfew along International Border in Samba

JAMMU, Jan 8 (Agencies): Night curfew has been imposed along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district to ensure better area domination by BSF troops and to foil any nefarious activities close to the borderline, according to an official order.

The step was taken to prevent cross-border infiltration and smuggling of weapons through drones in the extreme foggy weather conditions prevailing along the Indo-Pak border line, said the order issued by District Magistrate Abhishek Sharma on Sunday.

According to the order, the movement of civilians has been stopped

from 9 pm to 6 am in one kilometre-long strip from the IB in Samba district.

"No person or group of persons shall move in the area up to one kilometre along the International Border in district Samba from 2100 hours to 0600 hour during the night," the DM said in the order and invoked Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code to impose a night curfew along the IB.

The instruction was issued following a meeting of the district-level standing committee where authorities of the Border Security Force (BSF) suggested the imposition of a daily night curfew on a one

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2,000 chickens burnt alive as fire engulfs poultry farm in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 8 (Agencies): A fire broke out at a poultry farm in the outskirts of Jammu city, claiming the lives of over 2,000 chickens, officials said on Monday.

The incident occurred in the Doko Jagir area of Akhnoor tehsil here on Sunday night in the farm, owned by one Ranjeet Singh, they added.

The fire, which erupted suddenly, quickly spread throughout the entire poultry facility, engulfing the entire farm, the officials said.

Over 2,000 chickens perished in the intense fire, they said.

Efforts are underway to

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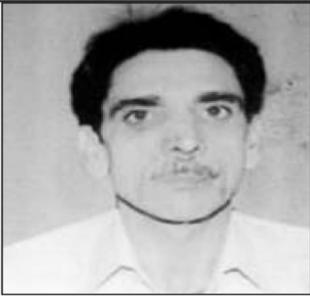
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10TH DAY KRIYA

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, 9419131387



SH RAMESH KUMAR DHAR

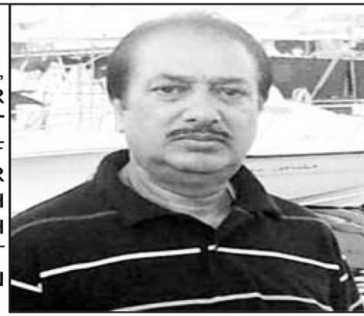
OBITUARY

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

HIS 10TH, 11TH & 12TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 10TH, 11TH & 12TH OF JANUARY 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 PARIWAR:
KILAMS, TINGLOOS, BHATS
CONTACT NUMBERS: +91 9646701212, +91 9530730021



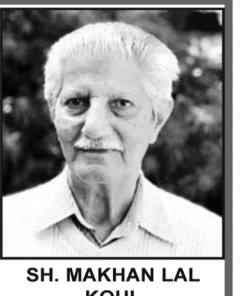
SH. SOHAN LAL BHAT (VILLAGE KILAM)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is with deep sorrow and profound grief we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Makhan Lal Koul** (Papaaji), son of Late Sh. Shivji Koul, originally from Rang Teng, Al Kadai, near Reshpoor Temple-Srinagar and at present H.No 1072, Block A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu on 02-01-2024.

The 10th-Day rituals will be performed at Akhnor and the Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat on 10-01-2024, 11:00 AM.

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 Bhusan Koul and Nirmala Waii
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. Shiveta Koul
Grand Daughters and Son-in-Law
Mrs. Minisha Koul and Mr. Anshoo Raina
Mrs. Shivangi Koul and Mr. Loveesh Bhatt
Mrs. Shafiq Koul and Mr. Sandeep Koul
Great Grand Children: Shivika, Shivani, Esha, Kavish, Arav, Aavya, Ameer and Shivansh
Bangroo Family, Raina Family, Kachroo Family and Raina (Hastu) Family
Mob No.: 706781310, 9419120318, 7006521813



SH. MAKHAN LAL KOUL

TENTH DAY/13TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of **Smt. Kanta Devi** W/o Late. Advocate Shamsheer 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
Lect. Satinder Singh & Anuradha- Son & Daughter-in-Law
EX- Minister- Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh- Son
Mobile Nos.: 94191-50074, 99060-98663



Smt. Kanta Devi

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



MRS. CHUNI MATTOO

BHOG/ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Surinder Singh Sodhi** Ji, Jammu S/o Late Budh Singh Ji R/o H.No. 8, Lane No. 1, Gobind Nagar, Digiana Astram, Jammu.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 8/1/2024 (Monday at 9.30 am) at our above mentioned residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib at 10.00 am on 10/1/2024.

Kirtan and Antim Ardass from 10.30 to 12.30 pm at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Digiana Camp Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdn. Jasbir Kour Ji (Wife)
S. Kanwalnain Singh Ji (Son)
S. Gurmeet Singh Ji (Brother)
Sdn. Navleen Kour Ji (Daughter)
Sdn. Navjot Kour Ji (Daughter)
Sdn. Amrit Kour Ji (Sister)
S. Jamail Singh Ji (Brother-in-law)

Mob.: 9055508687, 9622157123



S. Surinder Singh Sodhi Ji

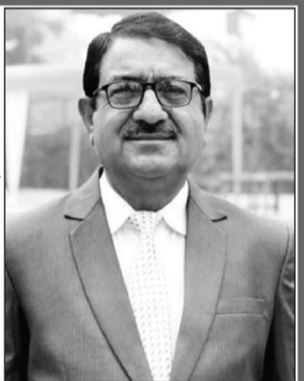
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Shri Ramesh Kumar Raina** S/o Late Shri Shibnath Raina originally R/o Chowgam, Devsar, Kulgam, Kashmir on 7th January 2024 at Bhopal (M.P)

10th Day Kriya will be held at Khatlapur Ghat, Chota Talab, Bhopal on 16th January 2024 at 9 am sharp.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sudha Raina -Wife
Son & Daughter in law & Grand Daughter
Romit, Akanksha & Aarohi
Varun Koul & Deepali Raina -Son in law & Daughter
Phoola Dhar - Sister
Asha Ji Dhar & Bushan Lal Dhar - Sister & Brother in law
Geeta Ji Raina & Moti Lal Raina -Sister & Brother in Laws
Ravi Ji Raina & Girja Raina
Munu ji Raina & Fancy Raina
Vijay Raina & Kamna Raina - Brother & Sister in law
Veena Dhar, Sunjay Dhar, Bharat Raina, Arti Kaul, Renu Pandith, Anita Dhar, Babita Raina, Nitish Raina, Rohit, Rohan, Sheena, Bhoomi, Vidhya, Shivranjini, - All Nieces & Nephews
Mobile Nos - 9425302538, 9753589936, 9419795215



Shri Ramesh Kumar Raina

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Ajoy Koul (SBI)** S/o Sh. Omkar Nath Koul on 31-12-2023.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 9-01-2024 (Tuesday) at Mata Bhadarkali Asthanan, Thalwal, Phalal Mandal thereafter the assembly will be held at our residence at 11.30 AM.

IN GRIEF:-

Indu Koul - Wife
Sister & Brother-in-law
Hansi & Lokesh Badam
Daughter & Son-in-law
Tishya & Abhishek Kadlabju
Hoshang Koul - Son

14, Shankar Vihar, Khoo Wali Gali, Near Harmandir Public School, Trikuta Nagar, Extension 1P, Jammu-180020
Mobile: 9419193199, 8825065124



SH. AJAY KOUL (SBI)

10TH DAY/KRIYA

Sh Omkar Nath Bhat
S/o Lt. Sudarshan Bhat
Resident of Bagwaanpura Verinag (Kashmir) presently at H.No.493, Saini Vihar, Phase-2 Baltana, Chandigarh.

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our respected father who went to heavenly abode on dated 4th Jan, 2024.

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Shani Mandir Sect-21 Panchkula at 8 am on 13 January 24.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Ravi & Shashi Kaul -Son & Daughter-in-law
Sanjeev & Soni Kaul -Son & Daughter-in-law
Neety & Sanjay Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law
Grand Children: Aditya, Karan, Tanvi, Neeraj, Bhoomi Yatharth
Kauls: 9877140450, 9316601047, 9915844707



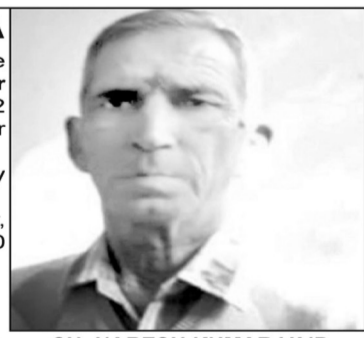
Sh Omkar Nath Bhat

DHARAMSHANT/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Naresh Kumar Vaid** S/o Late Bk. Sham Lal Vaid R/o Hno. 489/2 Narwal Pain Satwari, Jammu Cantt. who left for heavenly abode on 28th of December, 2023. **Dharamshant** will be performed on Tuesday 09-01-2024 at our residence at 11 A.M. **Uthala** on 09-01-2024 at Aap Shambu Mandir, Satwari near Sabzi Mandi, Jammu from 3.30 P.M to 4.30 P.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Chanchal Bakshi (wife)
Sahil Vaid (Son)
Tamanna Bakshi & S. Harsimran Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Brother and Bhabhi
Sh. Rajesh Bakshi & Smt Manju Bakshi (Former member Cantt Board)
Sh. Vinod Bakshi & Smt Seema Bakshi (Health Deptt.)
Sh. Vivek Bakshi & Smt Bandana Bakshi
Sisters and Brother-in-law
Smt. Virda Bali & RZ Late Khem Raj Bali
Smt. Pawan Dutta & Sh. Mukund Lal Dutta
Smt. Saroj Dutta & Sh. Sudarshan Dutta
Smt. Sushma Dutta & Sh. Rakesh Dutta
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Pawan Bakshi & Late R.S Bakshi



SH. NARESH KUMAR VAID

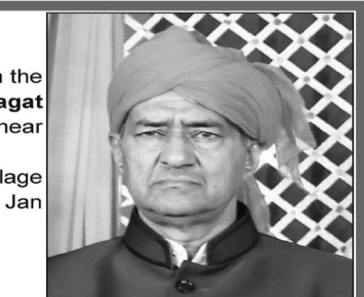
10TH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Rattan Lal Bhagat** S/o Lt Sh Natha Ram R/o Village Thickrian, near Petrol Pump R S Pura.

Tenth Day will be performed at Residence village Thickrian, near Petrol Pump, R S Pura (10th Jan 2024) Time 12 Noon to 2.00 PM.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Geeta Devi - Wife
Son & Daughter in law
Avinash Bhagat & Hema Bharti
Daughter & Son in law
Sandhya & Ved Parkash
Grand Daughter
Shaivya Ved



Sh Rattan Lal Bhagat

Contact No. 9622106151

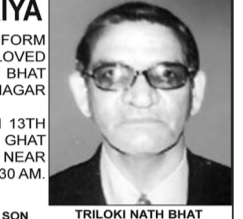
OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM THE 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 DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 10.30 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT RAJ DULARI BHAT -WIFE
SMT SARLA & SH SURINDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT JUSY BHAT & SH AMIT KAWI -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SMT BHARTI RANI BHAT W/O LT. OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMT MOHNI BHAT & SH M K BHAT -BHABHI & BROTHOR
SMT KUNDA & SH S C BHAT -BROTHER
SMT PHOOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT JETA & SH R L KANJROO -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT SHANOO BHAT & SH AMIT BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
MR ROME BHAT -SON
SMT SHEKHA & SH SUBHAM BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHMI & SH LOVELASHI BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
MR SHIVAM BHAT -SON
SMT RASHI & SH SHIKH KOUK
SMT ARCHANA & SH AJAY KOUL
SMT KOMAL & SH HARDEEP KACHROO
SMT SHEETAL & KAMLESH KACHROO
GRAND CHILDREN: SEJAL, SPARSH, ARNAV, HARSHIT, NIMAY, NITAYE, KRISHNA, GITANSHU
MOURNING FROM MAULINI SIDE SHALL ALSO BE HELD AT ABOVE GIVEN ADDRESS



TRILOKI NATH BHAT

MOBILE NO. 6006535090, 9906983254, 7006047103, 9906231716, 9419317871

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tarsem Lal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta, H. No. 51, Sec-08, Nanak Nagar Jammu, who left for the heavenly abode on December 29, 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 07/01/2024 (Sunday) from 11 AM - 12.00 Noon in the RAM Mandir Sec-08, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on Wednesday 10-01-2024 at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Pinki Gupta - Wife
Daughter & Son in laws

Mrs. Neelu Gupta & Sh. Bobby Mahajan (Amritsar)

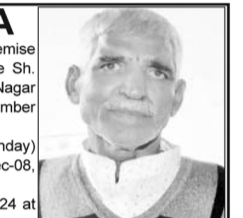
Mrs. Sonia Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta

Son & Daughter-in-laws

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

Mr. Anil Gupta (Moru) & Mrs. Poonam Gupta

Phone: 8803227176



Sh. Tarsem Lal Gupta

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
RATNA'S (MUJOOOS), DHARS, PANDITAS, KHOSAS AND CLOSED ONES.
9971826226, 9810023305, 9599903760.



MR AYODYA NATH RAINA

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound sorrow we inform the sad 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 contagious optimism.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat on Jan 13, 2024 at 9:30AM.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Miskeens, Warikooos, Chagtoos, Tutus, Kauls, Jangis and Khers.



Smt. Shanta Miskeen (Warikoo)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri Bansidhar Kath (Papa Ji)** R/o H No. 66 Lane. 4 Laxmipuram Chinor (erstwhile Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag) who departed for his heavenly abode on 04/01/2024.

TENTH DAY will be performed at Akhnor on Saturday the 13th of January followed by an assembly at our residence H No. 66 Lane No. 4 Laxmipuram Chinor at 12 Noon.

Grief Stricken:

Smt. Veena Kath (Wife)

Sh. Vikram and Simi Kath (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob No 9463783515

Sh. Vishal and Ruby Kath (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob No. 9212758025

Smt. Vaishali and Sh. Dinesh Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mob No. 9459814315

Grand Children : Aakriti, Jhanvi, Dea, Shiv

SAMAST KATH & KOUL FAMILY



Shri Bansidhar Kath (Papa Ji)

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **S. Sham Singh, Ji (Retd. Sr. Lecturer)** / Founder of Deva Memorial Secular High School Dablehar, who left for heavenly abode on 03-01-2024

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib shall take place on 10-01-2024 at 9.00 A.M. at our Residence.

Kirtan and Antim Ardas shall take place at 12-01-2024 (Friday) from 11.00 AM to 1.00 P.M - at Gurudwara Sahib Main Bazaar Dablehar.

Followed by Guru Ka Langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughters in law

Sdn: Gurkirat Kour W/o Late S. Sudarshan Singh

S. Makhan Singh and Sdn. Lovelene Kour

S. Redrose Singh and Sdn. Tajinder Kour

Daughters and Son in laws.

Sdn: Sudarshan Kour and S. Amarjeet Singh

Sdn. Narinder Kour and S. Narinder Singh

CONTACT No: 9469211921, 9419607599, 9622144825



S. SHAM SINGH, JI (RETD: SR LECTURE)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Surinder Pal Singh** S/O Late S. Nasib Singh R/O H.No. 1406, Sec-7, Street No.2, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu, on 31-12-2023.

Aarambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be performed on 07-01-2024 at 10:00 AM at their Residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib will be performed on 09-01-2024 at 10:00 AM at their Residence.

ANTIM ARDAS will be performed at Gurdwara Sant Pura Danna, Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu, on 09-01-2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, followed by Guru Ka langar.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Devinder Kour (Wife)

S. Sahib Pratej Singh (Son)

Sdm. Kiranjot Kour & Gagandeep Singh (Daughter & Son-in-law)

S. Kuldeep Singh & Sdm. Charanjit Kour (Brother & Bhabhi)

S. Manjeet Singh & Sdm. Sandeep Kour (Brother & Bhabhi)

S. Sukhwant Singh & Sdm. Sukhjeet Kour (Brother & Bhabhi)



S. SURINDER PAL SINGH

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DM Samba orders Police verification, disclosure of details of tenants & hired persons

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 8: District Magistrate, Samba Abhishek Sharma, by virtue of powers vested under section 144 of CPC, 1, has ordered all landlord(s), landowner(s) owner(s) of properties, owner(s) of business establishment, attorney holder(s), person(s) in charge of properties in any capacity (hereafter called as owners) located in jurisdiction of district Samba, to mandatory disclose details of outsiders working in Industries/ construction companies/ business establishments/ domestic helpers/ tenants (commercial and agricultural) after proper police verification.

after proper police verification.

All owners shall after the issuance of this order and within ten days of letting/ sub-letting/ renting out his/her premises/ house / business establishment or part thereof to any tenant(s) as per the prescribed Declaration Form, to be signed by both the owner(s) and the tenant(s), to the concerned Police Station, either in person or by registered post addressed to the concerned Station House Officer (SHO).

The owners who have already let / sub-let/ rented out their house(s)/ business

establishment or part(s) thereof to any tenant(s) on any date prior to the issuance of this order, shall within ten days after the issuance of this order, submit without fail the detailed particulars of the outsider(s) working in Industries/ construction companies/ business establishment / domestic helpers/tenants (commercial and agricultural) as per the declaration form to the concerned Police Station.

It is clarified that individuals relating to all arrangements of letting or sub-letting the property like Paying Guest, Tenants (Commercial and Agricultural) etc.

shall also be covered by this order.

Owners who have allowed Jhuggi's in their lands shall also be required to disclose the details as per the declaration form.

Every SHO in district Samba shall conduct verification of outsiders working in Industries/ construction companies / business establishment / domestic helpers/ tenants (commercial & agricultural) and also maintain a separate register for such purpose.

Every Tehsildar, through the Institution of Lambardar, Chowkddar and through PRI Members shall disseminate the information about

this order and the need for mandatory disclosure of details of outsiders especially in border villages.

Any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with, in accordance with law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Samba shall ensure enforcement of said order in letter and spirit.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance. If not withdrawn or rescinded earlier.

ABVP demands to reinstate waiting list criteria in JKPSB & JKSSB selection process

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir expresses strong resentment to the recent decision by the LG administration to omit the waiting list criteria in the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Jammu Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) selection procedure.

ABVP State Secretary Akshi Billowria said, "The waiting list has played a crucial role in ensuring fairness and transparency in the recruitment process. It provides an avenue for deserving candidates who might have narrowly missed the initial selection, offering them an opportunity

to secure a position based on merit in case of vacancies or unforeseen circumstances."

She added that by eliminating the waiting list, the government risks depriving highly qualified and capable candidates of their rightful chance to contribute to the public service. This decision could lead to a loss of talent and diversity within the public administration, ultimately undermining the principles of equality and meritocracy.

Furthermore, the omission of the waiting list may result in a perception of unfairness and arbitrary decision making, eroding the trust of aspiring candidates in the integrity of the selection process. This could have long-lasting repercussions on the morale

of students and the credibility of the JKPSB and JKSSB.

Furthermore, High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh also in a recent judgement ruled that the select/waiting list remains operative for one year to fill up vacancies which remain unfilled due to non-joining of the selected candidates.

ABVP urged the LG JK UT to reconsider this decision and reinstate the waiting list criteria in the JKPSB & JKSSB selection procedure. This would not only ensure a more equitable and merit based recruitment process but also foster confidence among the student community in the government's commitment to transparency and fairness.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Kathua's Mushroom Marvel: Agriculture Department's guidance Sparks Rural Women's Economic Triumph

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 8: In the enchanting district of Kathua, a heartwarming success story unfolded reflecting how the Agriculture Department has taken center stage in transforming the lives of rural women.

Neelam Rani, once a homemaker with boundless dreams, steps into the spotlight during the "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani" segment of the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. With heartfelt gratitude, Neelam narrates how the Agriculture Department's initiatives became the driving force behind a remarkable journey towards economic independence. "Our humble homes have become the epicenter of change," she expresses, acknowledging the unwavering support that the government schemes provided.

Neelam applauds the dedication of the District Agriculture Department, emphasizing their crucial role in the transformative process. "They believed in us when others doubted, turning unused poultry sheds into thriving mushroom units. Their continuous support has made Jandi village a testament to



the impact of government schemes."

The self-help groups formed under Neelam's leadership become a pivotal part of the narrative. "Venturing into entrepreneurship with the guidance of the Agriculture Department, we have become proud owners of mushroom production units. It's not just about mushrooms; it's about breaking barriers and redefining possibilities."

Neelam proudly announces the establishment of the district's first women's FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation), a milestone achieved through the foresight and commitment of the Agriculture Department. "This is a symbol of women's empowerment, made possible by the government's support," she declares.

Looking to the future, Neelam reveals aspirations beyond expectations. "Our mushroom business is flourishing, and we are even requesting an AC unit for sustainability in the scorching summers. The Agriculture Department's support has made us dreamers and achievers."

With heartfelt gratitude to the Agriculture Department and a promise to pay it forward, Neelam Rani's story becomes a symbol of the transformative power of government schemes. Her words resonate through the virtual platform, inspiring others on the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to believe in the potential of every individual and the impact of government initiatives on the lives of those who dream of a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow.

Jal Jeevan Mission: Revised District Action Plan approved at Rajouri

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 8: District Development Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat presided over a pivotal meeting on Monday, to deliberate and approve the revised district action plan aimed at ensuring comprehensive coverage of left out beneficiaries under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission.

Jal Jeevan Mission, a visionary initiative, is steadfast in its commitment to providing safe and ample drinking water through individual household tap connections reaching every rural household in India. In addition to ensuring access to clean water, the program emphasizes the implementation of source sustainability measures, making greywater management, recharge, and reuse integral components of its mandate.

The detailed deliberations during the meet-

ing centered on the proposed action plan, reflecting the ongoing evolution of the mission. Previously encompassing 293 schemes with an estimated cost of Rs 1942.80 crores, the revised plan has not only streamlined existing initiatives but has also introduced five additional schemes. Consequently, the total number of schemes now stands at an impressive 298, with an estimated cost of Rs 1974.77 crores.

The District Development Commissioner Rajouri expressed optimism about the potential of the revised plan to significantly enhance the reach of the mission, ensuring that no community is left without the essential resource of clean water. The commitment and collaborative efforts of the officers present underscore the dedication of the district administration to achiev-

ing the overarching goal of the mission.

This meeting serves as a testament to the proactive approach adopted by the district administration in addressing the challenges and evolving needs of water resource management. As the revised action plan gains momentum, it is anticipated to bring about transformative changes in the lives of residents, reinforcing the district's commitment to sustainable development.

ADDC Pawan Kumar, DFO Rajouri Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera, Satyendra Maurya, CPO Mohammad Khurshid, SE Hydraulics Bhram Jyoti Sharma, ACD Vijay Kumar, CEO Education Bishamber Dass, CMO, Dr Rajinder Sharma; CAO Sohan Singh, EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri Ashwini Sharma, SE Jal Shakti Nowshera Bipin Kumar and other officers attended the meeting.

DC Rajouri chairs introductory meeting with District & Sectoral Officers

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 8: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat on Monday chaired an introductory meeting with District and sectoral officers here in the Conference Hall of the PWD Dak Bungalow, setting the stage for a productive and proactive approach towards the holistic development of the district.

Addressing the officers, Deputy Commissioner Om Prakash Bhagat emphasized the importance of prompt and efficient execution of the developmental projects. He asked the officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment, keeping the welfare of the public at the forefront of their endeavors.

Recognizing the importance of coordination and collaboration, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure close inter-departmental coordination.



This would play a crucial role in the planned and seamless execution of various developmental works throughout the district. By working together as a cohesive unit, the officers can maximize their impact and deliver tangible results that will positively transform the lives of the residents of Rajouri.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need for well-organized arrangements for Republic Day celebrations. It is imperative to ensure a smooth and efficient execution of the event, with all necessary preparations made well

in advance.

In light of the approaching elections, the DC directed the officers to be thoroughly prepared. The aim is to conduct the elections seamlessly and uphold the democratic process.

Acknowledging the importance of effective communication, the DC has stressed the need for timely reception of any communication in the DC office. This ensures that information flows efficiently, facilitating quick decision-making and response to various matters within the jurisdiction. Focusing on the development

of border areas, the DC has directed officers to prioritize the timely completion of border bunkers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner made a clear and unequivocal directive to all officers in attendance: no officer shall leave the station without obtaining prior permission. This directive underlines the importance of accountability and responsibility, ensuring that officers remain available and accessible to fulfill their duties and responsibilities towards the development of the district.

The Deputy Com-

missioner stressed the significance of holistic development, emphasizing that it encompasses various sectors and aspects of the district. From infrastructure to healthcare, education to agriculture, and social welfare to employment opportunities, every facet of development should be given due attention and prioritized accordingly.

Among the others the meeting was attended by ADDC, Pawan Kumar; DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera, Satyendra Maurya; ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behral; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SE PWD(R&B), Devi Dayal; SE Hydraulics, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; DSEO, Sandeep Sharma; ACD, Vijay Kumar; ACP, Sheraz Chowhan; DPO, Auqil Nuvaid and other district and sectoral officers.

VBSY: IEC Van Traverses through Panchayats of block Kalakote & Qila Darhal in Rajouri District

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 8: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) is rapidly gaining momentum in Rajouri, becoming a driving force behind the implementation of various government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development throughout the district. This ambitious initiative is strategically crafted to transform Rajouri by extending its reach to underserved areas and ensuring the effective execution of government programs, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Central to this endeavor is an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van, a dynamic mobile platform

designed to effectively communicate and create awareness about the diverse initiatives undertaken as part of the Yatra. The van plays a pivotal role in engaging with local communities, imparting crucial knowledge, and empowering residents to avail themselves of the benefits offered by government schemes.

The VBSY has recorded notable success in the implementation of various government schemes in Rajouri District. These schemes, crafted to elevate living standards and provide essential services, have been executed with exceptional efficiency on the ground. Consequently, the community has

experienced tangible improvements and witnessed positive changes in their daily lives.

Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Sialsui, Kothain-B, Panhar, Khadarian, Bagla Androoth, Rajpur Bhatta, and Rajpur Kamila of block Kalakote, as well as Qila Darhal. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the district and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives are felt at the grassroots level.

The impact of the Yatra is evident in enhanced access to healthcare, education, and basic amenities, contributing to the overall progress of Rajouri

District. Meticulously planned and executed, this initiative aligns with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the community.

The VBSY symbolizes progress and collaboration, embodying the spirit of Viksit Bharat Sankalp. By bringing government schemes to the grassroots level and ensuring comprehensive coverage, it has created a platform for empowerment and upliftment. This transformative journey in Rajouri District stands as an exemplary model of effective governance, community engagement, and collective determination to build a better and prosperous India.

Fair Price Shop dealers continue on strike for redressing issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: The Fair Price Shop Dealers Association Jammu and Kashmir (JK UT) highlighted long pending demands of FPS Dealers functioning in the JK UT rural as well as Urban areas.

The FPS Dealers Federation JK UT raised their voice to the hardships and also took up the matter with All India FPS Federation, New Delhi.

The main long pending demand FPS Dealers of JK UT are restore Distribution of Ration Supply under old PMGKAY, ensure minimum income guarantee of all Fair Price Shop Dealers of Rs. 50,000/ under world Food programme (WAFP) or fulfill the recommendation of mini-



imum Rs.764 per qntl, ensure distribution of pulse and edible oil through PDS, allow the 2nd option to draw the ration items in case of any emergency in favour of aggrieved Ration Card holder whom thumb impression is always mismatch, may pl be

allow them to draw their ration on the basis of Aadhar card through POS machine.

They also demanded to extend the provision of 1 Kg Ration per qtl as handling loss, exchange of Polythene bags while filling of Atta/Rice (Ration items) into

jute bags immediately as we pay Rs.14/- per qtl in the Govt. Treasury, removal of mediator while supply of wholesale ration items like Meghalaya and Asam to avoid them leakage so that the share of margin shall be distributed among the FPS dealers, ensure Net weight of Ration and weight of tare while doorstep delivery to the Rationee, accord permission to FPS Dealers particularly in Rural Areas as an agent for purchase of Rice and wheat, and implementation of Universal PDS System.

Keeping in view of the aforesaid demands, FPS Dealers Association JK UT also requested and informed that all the FPS Dealers of JK UT are on strike from January 1 till their demands are not solved.

EDITORIAL

SAFE DRIVING
SAVE LIFE

Road safety is very important for everyone's life. Special care should be taken while crossing the road so that one can save oneself from any kind of road accident. Make everyone aware about road safety so that everyone's life remains safe from road accidents.

Nowadays, everyone is in a hurry, they are in a hurry to reach home, office and market, so in order to reach there quickly, they drive very fast due to which they become victims of road accidents.

It is mandatory for everyone to follow road traffic rules, many road safety rules have been made by the government. Lakhs of people die in road accidents. Whenever we are crossing the road, we should walk on the side of the road only paying attention to our side. And if there is a vehicle or a car at the intersection, then it is necessary to follow the traffic signals and follow the traffic rules, only then the incidents of road accidents can be controlled.

Means of transportation play an important role in the history of human development. Many stories of the development of human life are associated with the development of the wheel. As man has used his willpower, he has developed means of transportation.

In earlier times, when humans had to travel somewhere, they used to travel through camels, horses, horse-drawn carriages and bullock carts. At that time, traveling expenses were affordable. After this, fast vehicles gradually developed which helped in reaching places quickly and also started saving time.

We should use footpath while walking on the road. And while driving a car on the road, we should drive from the left side, walk on the road in our own direction and if we drive a vehicle, then we must blow the horn on the road only after seeing the crowd on the road, so that the people walking on the road can get a signal from the horn. and can be avoided from becoming a victim of any kind of road accident.

One should never cross the road by running; the driver should always drive slowly on the road. The driver must use seat belt while driving a four-wheeler. And people should wear helmet while riding a bike. If we drive any vehicle then there must be a mirror installed in the vehicle so that we can know which vehicle is coming or going behind us.

There are many measures to avoid road accidents, you can protect yourself. Whenever you drive on the road, wear a helmet so that in case of an accident, you can protect yourself from head injury. We should drive carefully while driving on the road. Must follow the traffic rules made by the government, challan should be issued against those who break traffic signal rules and a case should also be filed against them, only then we can be saved from becoming victims of road accidents.

In today's time, youth drive on the roads as if they are flying an aeroplane that is why the number of road accidents in our country is increasing day by day, in which thousands of people die every day. In such a situation, we all should come together and make everyone aware about the rules of road safety.

India & China: Of power, performance & posturing

By: Sanjaya Baru

A note written by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the country's first home minister, in 1949 on the view India ought to take of China is once again in the news. It is fairly well known that Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru had adopted a different approach on some issues, but that Patel deferred to Nehru on such matters. Four points need to be remembered while analysing the difference in the approach of the two great leaders. First, that Patel felt free enough to pen down his views, differing with those of the Prime Minister, and recorded them for posterity. He was not intimidated by Nehru's wider and deeper knowledge of world affairs and world history, a fact that Mahatma Gandhi himself had recognised.

Second, both leaders were dealing with a decolonising Asia in rapid transition. Both China and India and, indeed, much of Asia had entered a new world as new entities with new leaderships. In today's more settled world, despite all the uncertainties that characterise the post-Cold War world, it is not often easy for younger generations to comprehend the uncertainties of that new post-colonial, post-war era. Everyone was experimenting. Everyone was "crossing the river by touching the stones", to quote a famous Chinese folk saying.

Third, the dominant sentiment in India at the time in thinking about the world was the anti-colonial sentiment. Differences may have been there in the way Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel viewed the world and in the way that other nascent political groups did so.

However, everyone was united by a patriotism born in the crucible of the anti-colonial freedom struggle.

Finally, the post-colonial leaderships of both China and India were still very nervous about their hold over their newly-constituted nations and territories. It would be no exaggeration to suggest that the Communist leadership in China was perhaps as nervous about its hold over its far-flung borders as India's was. If Mao Zedong wanted to secure control over Tibet, Nehru and Patel too would have wanted to secure control over Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East Frontier Agency areas.

Neither succeeded in full measure, but very quickly came to terms with the "ground realities".

To judge them today based on the perceptions gained over time, through lenses acquired, dispensed with and re-acquired over time, does not do justice to their intellectual acumen nor to their nationalism and commitment to building a truly "New India" -- an independent, new republic of many "nationalities", ethnicities, linguistic groups and religious faiths. It is easy for many today to assert that India is in fact "Bharat", that the present is but a natural inheritor of a distant past. However, in the 1940s and 1950s the republic was still being constituted as one nation.

In this process, many newly independent nations made many mistakes. Some like Korea and Vietnam came into being as free nations and were immediately split up. Others like India were first split up before being created. Many others were first imagined on paper and then con-

stituted into nations on the ground. One must enter the mind of the political leadership of those times to understand their fears and aspirations. To adopt a superior attitude today in faulting the leadership of the past would be churlish. The fact is that despite the 1962 war, and the consequences of the Cold War, the leaderships of both China and India have sought to maintain stability in their relationship. What "destabilised" the relationship, so to speak, was the sharply differential performance of both their economies between 1990 and 2010. China's emergence as the second biggest economy and the world's biggest trading power placed it in a category of its own. By 2010, China began viewing itself as a global power in the same league as the United States. India, it believed, was still a developing economy in the company of many other Asian and African economies.

It is interesting to note that in a recent comment on the bilateral relationship by China's English-language publication, Global Times, a Chinese commentator has noted that the Narendra Modi government was now adopting a more pragmatic view of where China and India stood. By not allowing the border issue, with China occupying newly acquired territory along the so-called "Line of Actual Control" to further mar the relationship, Prime Minister Modi has yielded space and conceded ground.

Equally importantly, by repeatedly drawing attention to the difference in the size of the two economies and urging Indians to come to terms with this reality, the Modi government has changed the debate around the trade deficit. In a tongue-

in-cheek remark, Zhang Jiadong, director of the Centre for South Asian Studies at Fudan University, draws attention to a change in India's approach to the huge trade deficit that it faces in its bilateral trade with China. Says Mr Zhang: "When discussing the trade imbalance between China and India, Indian representatives earlier used to primarily focus on China's measures to reduce the trade imbalance. But now they are placing more emphasis on India's export potential."

In short, what Mr Zhang is saying is that rather than complain about China's unfair trade practices and the "uneven" trade playing field, as India did for close to two decades, including through Prime Minister Modi's first term, it had now come around to accept the size differential between the two and it now views the trade deficit as a consequence of India's "limited" export potential and weak performance. This is a neat swipe, and so far, we have not heard any protestations from the government's spokespersons or the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

In this remark on the approach to the trade imbalance lies the core of the Chinese view of India's status. China merely wants India to come to terms with the power differential and "potential". Interestingly, Mr Zhang seems to suggest that Narendra Modi may have finally come to terms with it. Both Patel and Nehru believed that China and India were equals, while neither Mao Zedong nor Zhou Enlai did so. Patel and Nehru adopted different perspectives on how to deal with this imbalance, in perceptions and performance, as have subsequent Indian leaders. This debate will go on till India ups its performance. Posturing will not do much.

Learning New Skills related to the field of Artificial intelligence will be a Strategic and Beneficial step



By: Vijay Garg

If studies are to be believed, a report from LinkedIn predicts that the skills required for jobs globally will change at least 65% by 2030 due to AI. In a joint survey of large companies, expertise in AI and machine learning emerged as the top two fastest growing job roles. Talking about India, in the last two years India and similar countries have seen a doubling of job postings mentioning AI

or Generative AI. Has been. Understand its importance from the fact that now AI training is being given even during school education. In such a situation, for the youth who are going to graduate and are confused about the area of specialization, or want to do ups killing or want to switch jobs, learning new skills related to the field of AI will be a strategic and beneficial step. What are the skills of AI? Machine Learning (ML): Expertise in ML is in high demand. In Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning and Natural Language Processing (NLP) This skill proves particularly useful. While searching while writing the article, 16000 ML Engineer job postings were visible on LinkedIn and 8000 on Indeed. Data science requires feeding data into AI models. For that, data visualization, analysis and visualization are important and require experts. Cloud Computing As AI models

become more complex, the ability to leverage cloud platforms for training and their practical use is becoming increasingly important. That's why Demand for skills has increased in platforms like AWS, Azure and GCP. Generative AI: With the advent of tools like ChatGPT and Dell-E2, there is a market for skills related to the use and management of generative AI models for creative content creation, marketing and product development. What roles will be in demand? Knowledge of programming languages like Python, R and Julia will be required more and more. Whereas, Robotics and AI Engineer, Data Analyst Manager, ML Engineer, Data Engineer etc. The roles of others will become important. Along with this there are some emerging roles. Business Intelligence Engineer A business intelligence (BI) engineer is trained in seeing patterns and interdependen-

cies in different features of a dataset. Qualifications: Educational background in engineering, computer science or related fields, practical experience in data analysis and familiarity with web-based tools required. AI Software Engineers The architecture of AI applications is usually designed by AI software engineers. Ability: Bachelor's degree in related fields with programming and analytical skills is required. Whereas a certificate in AI or Data Science will improve job prospects. Prompt Engineer/ Researcher Prompt engineers primarily develop and refine AI generated text, allowing the AI model to respond accurately and meaningfully to user instructions.

(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
Columnist Malout
Punjab)

ITI Kishtwar hosts National Apprenticeship Mela



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 8: The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the District Industrial Centre, organized the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela in line with the Prime Minister's Skill India Mission.

The event saw the participation of over 80 applicants across 15 sectors, representing more than 10 establishments and offering 15 distinct trades.

Its objective is to encourage companies to hire more apprentices, promoting skill development and enhancing employability across various

fields such as welding, electrical work, fashion designing, sewing technology, computer operation, carpentry, and more.

Hosted by Anoop Sharma, Principal ITI Kishtwar, and supported by Inamul Haq and Irshad Ahmed, Senior Faculty of ITI Kishtwar, the one-day event enables applicants to shape their careers through apprenticeship training.

Applicants need an 8th-12th grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree to participate. This initiative offers young and aspiring individuals the opportunity

to select from over 15 trades, including welding, electrical work, fashion designing, sewing technology, computer operation, mechanical work, among others.

Moreover, successful candidates will receive certifications recognized by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training, significantly enhancing their employability post-training.

The primary aim of this program is to motivate companies and local establishments to engage more apprentices while aiding employers in identifying and nurturing talent through comprehensive training and practical skill development.

UGC Refresher course in Environmental Sciences started at JU

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: A two-week online refresher course (RC) in Environmental Sciences (Interdisciplinary) started at the University of Jammu, Jammu.

Prof S K Pandita, Director, UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), University of Jammu graced the inaugural event as Chief Guest.

Prof. Pandita welcomed the participants and dignitaries present in the inaugural session of the refresher course.

He gave a brief account of MMTTC, University of Jammu, and discussed the need for organizing such courses.

Prof. Pandita also suggested the participants to extensively study and follow the National Education Policy (NEP) guidelines to enhance the overall teaching-learning experience.

Earlier, Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Course Coordinator and Head, Department of Environmental Sciences explained the overall structure of the refresher course and informed that due to the interdisciplinary nature of the course, experts from diverse educational and research institutions, PSUs and industries, and various geographical regions both from within and outside India, having expertise in diverse research fields are invited for knowledge sharing in this refresher course in Environmental Sciences.

The course is being attended by Assistant Professors from various institutions across the country. The inaugural session was also attended by Dr. Deepika Slathia and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Atri, faculty members from the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu.

Transportation of bovine out of Samba district banned

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 08: District Magistrate, Samba, Abhishek Sharma, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 Cr.P.C. imposed restriction on transportation of bovine animals such as Cow, Ox, Calf, Buffalo etc. except with the prior permission from this office.

Since it is not possible to serve the order

individually, it is being issued ex- parte. Senior Superintendent of police Samba shall ensure strict implementation of this order. Any person found violating this order shall be dealt with in accordance with law.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of Sixty days from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn/ rescinded earlier.

Empowering Women: J&K Bank's CSR hits 8th District



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 8: J&K Bank is delighted to announce a significant milestone in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) collaboration with Live For Others- Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF)- "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This initiative, aiming to promote menstrual hygiene awareness, encompasses the distribution of 500,000 sanitary napkins and the facilitation of 100 awareness seminars across J&K.

Anantnag, the 8th district to complete this mission, witnessed the distribution of over 25,000 sanitary napkins and the delivery of five

impactful awareness lectures, reaching more than 2500 people.

The seminars took place in both government and private schools, including Govt. Girls Hr. Sec School, Anantnag; Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Qazigund; Ace International School; Oxford Presentation School and Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Bijbehara. The resource persons for these seminars were Babita, Aparna and Jasleen.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health. Currently, we eagerly anticipate the initiative's expansion

to other districts, with our team working diligently on its implementation," said Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF expressed gratitude to the Director School Education Jammu, CEO Anantnag, and the Principals of all participating schools.

Special thanks go to J&K Bank for organizing this impactful activity through their CSR fund, as acknowledged by Afsheen, President, Kashmir Province.

Key members present during this activity included Shah Aamir, Vishal, Shubam, Sahil, Urfee, Afsheen, Samar, Abhishek Raina, Shruti, Sachin, Kunal, and many more.

Aakash BYJU'S Redefines Education through Innovative PTM Approach

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Aakash BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services, is reshaping the landscape of education through a groundbreaking approach to Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs).

This transformative model is set to redefine traditional educational interactions by offering a comprehensive view of each student's educational journey, transcending mere academic performance.

At the core of this initiative is the introduction of dedicated mentors for student groups. The process begins with a comprehensive evaluation, encompassing academic achievements, strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement.

The unique aspect lies in the collective effort of the mentor and subject faculties, each contributing their specialized

insights to form a well-rounded analysis. This collaborative discussion ensures that the mentor has a 360-degree understanding of the student's journey, allowing them to provide personalized guidance.

Unlike traditional PTMs that predominantly focus on grades and attendance, Aakash BYJU'S PTMs provide parents with a profound insight into their child's education. These meetings delve into not only academics but also essential aspects of student development, including discipline and classroom engagement, providing parents with a nuanced understanding of their child's progress.

Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director at Aakash BYJU'S, stated, "Our innovative PTMs go beyond mere meetings; they represent a commitment to

each student's unique educational journey. Aakash recognizes that success is not solely derived from academic prowess but is a product of a student's overall growth, encompassing discipline, participation and general behaviour. By integrating mentor insights and subject-specific analysis, we ensure a holistic understanding of a student's growth, equipping parents with actionable insights for continued success."

The strength of this approach lies in the expert perspective provided by subject faculties, who bring specific insights into a student's performance in their respective subjects. This thorough analysis goes beyond the superficial, providing parents with a nuanced understanding of their child's academic strengths and weaknesses.

AIMCCC urges Govt to redress long pending demands of KP Migrants

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: All India Migrant Camps Coordination Committee (AIMCCC), President, Dush Rattan Pandita and Chairman, K. Raina urged Government to redress the long pending demands of KP Migrants.

Talking to reporters here on Monday, Pandita said that discrimination with KPs and Migrants is not tolerable as KPs are the worst sufferers of militancy and cross Border Terrorism.

"We express anguish and grief as the problems which got birth at the time of our migration are still stand with us. As were never solved by Governments from time to time," he said.

AIMCCC demanded and will write to Prime Minister regarding rescue of encroached land at Valley.

"Maximum land of KP have



been encroached since 1989-90 and also records have been tempering may needs stern action from the government side against culprits and land grabbers," Pandita said and demanded complete enquiry against discrimination with such poor and deserved people by some officials at that time pendency of files even civil secre-

tariat/departments or in courts for want of justice.

AIMCCC demanded healing touch for those who could not get government jobs during whole migration period. These people may be sanctioned Rs 25 lakh in shape of loan so that without any mortgage and hurdles for to run up their own business units for their survival.

AIMCCC demanded release of our balanced ex-gratia payment pending within the govt. since decades, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on Kashmiri Pandits also as we were and are still farmers and are stake holders of JK UT, installation 4 bore wells at Jagti Township, enhancement of cash upto 25,000 per family, direct election for 2 KPs reserved seats instead of nomination.

AIMCCC rejected discrimination with Rajput Community Living in Valley since Maharaja Time.

"These people are assets for government and nation. So it is duty of the government to make their demands full fill immediately on priority bases," Pandita said.

Daljit Singh, PN Jalali, CL Koul, O N Koul, Anjali Kar, Priya Dhar, Mela Misri, Asha Koul, Sagar Koul, T K Bhat, Anil Mehta, Yogesh Chib, Vinoo Misri, Binu Singh and Kuldeep Bhat were also present in the press conference.

Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat Branch holds meeting

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Brahman Sabha, Channi Himmat Branch, a Subsidiary of Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, on Monday held meeting which was centrally focussed on discussion and suggestions for smooth implementation of Sanskars and Sanskrit programs in the society.

The meeting commenced after Jyoti Prajablan by V.P Sharma, President Dogra Brahman Patinidhi Sabha, Dr.P.C Shastri, President Awardee, Special Invitee/Chief Guest, Sunil Sharma, Coordinator along with Executive body members.

The office bearers of Sanatan Dharam Sabha, General Category Peoples Forum and other social organisations were also invited in the meeting.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Shastri stressed on giving due recognition to the Brahmins who have done a lot for the society and country.



Enlightening that Brahmins by Birth should also be Brahmin with Karma and Sanatan Sanskriti needs proper Prachar among masses so that nobody could dare to deliver false propaganda among masses just for vote bank politics.

Jagdish Dogra who was representing S.D Sabha also shared his views on Sanatan Dharam and to educate the youth regarding our Devi Devtas and their preachings and told the significance of Janau and its significance. Sunil Sharma, Convenor

delivered brief report on the work done till date by Sabha.

He informed the gathering that database is being prepared by connecting the Brahmin families living in Channi Himmat.

Brahmins in Channi Himmat area can become

a part of Brahmin Sabha by filling a form to take membership of Brahmin Sabha.

Every Sunday this campaign will be taken forward with the help of many Brahmin families. This campaign is gaining momentum every day with some new expe-

riences and suggestions which will prove useful in strengthening Sabha in the future.

Sunil Sharma said that in the coming time, this campaign of moral values started by Sabha will move forward with more speed and many works for the upliftment of the society will be done by the Sabha in the future.

Sunil Sharma further informed that sabha started Hanuman chalisa in Temples as a part of "Sanskrit Sinchan Programme".

After the address of other speakers viz. Soujanya Sharma, Prof. R.D Sharma, Yash Pal Sharma, Ved Parkash Sharma, President DBPS stressed on propagation of moral values among Brahmins, eradication of Nasha which is rapidly flourishing among youth and celebration of different occasions viz Parshuram Jayanti, National days and Sanskrit events and upkeeping of Dogra culture and heritage with unity and coordination.

He lauded the efforts of Sunil Sharma, Convenor of the Channi Himmat Sabha and executive body members for the best efforts done to unite Brahmins in Channi Himmat in short time. The proceedings of meeting were conducted by Sanjeev Sharma and Vote of thanks was given by Gopal Sharma.

Others included Ashok Khajuria, Kewal Krishna Sharma, Bhola Nath Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Chaman Lal Sharma, Subhash Shastri, Yash Paul Sharma, Pawan Kumar Sharma, Raju Sharma, Varun Sharma, Parveen Sharma, Inder Kumar Sharma, Rajinder Sharma, Diwaker Khajuria, Sunil Sharma, Master Aayushman Sharma, Kewal Krishna Sharma Girija Sharma, Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Neeru Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Soujanya Sharma, Shivram sharma, Krishan chand Sharma, M.L.Padha Jagan Nath Sharma were present on the occasion.

'Oppenheimer' dominates Golden Globes, 'Poor Things' upsets 'Barbie' in comedy

'Succession' and 'The Bear' lead TV winners

Christopher Nolan's blockbuster biopic 'Oppenheimer' dominated the 81st Golden Globes, winning five awards, including best drama, while Yorgos Lanthimos' Frankenstein riff 'Poor Things' pulled off an upset victory over 'Barbie' to triumph in the best comedy or musical category.

If awards season has been building towards a second match-up of Barbenheimer, this round went to 'Oppenheimer'. The film also won best director for Nolan, best drama actor for Cillian Murphy, best supporting actor for Robert Downey Jr and for Ludwig Goransson's score.

"I don't think it was a no-brainer by any stretch of the imagination to make a three-hour talky movie — R-rated by the way — about one of the darkest developments in our history," said producer Emma Thomas, accepting the night's final award and thanking Universal chief Donna Langley.

Along with best comedy or musical, 'Poor Things' also won for Emma Stone's performance as Bella, a Victorian woman experiencing a surreal life and sexual awakening.

"I see this as a rom-com," said Stone. "But in the sense that Bella falls in love with life itself, rather than a person. She accepts the good and the bad in equal measure, and that really made me look at life differently."

Lily Gladstone won best actress in a dramatic film for Martin Scorsese's 'Killers of the Flower Moon'. Gladstone, who began her speech speaking the language of her native tribe, Blackfoot Nation, is the first Indigenous winner in the category.

"This is a historic win," said Gladstone. "It doesn't just belong to me."

The Globes were in their 81st year but facing a new and uncertain chapter. After a tumultuous few years and heaps of scandals, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association was dissolved, leaving a new Globes, on a new network (CBS), to try to regain its perch as the third biggest award show of the year, after the Oscars and Grammys. Even the menu (sushi from Nobu) was flipped.

"Golden Globes journalists, thank you for changing your game, therefore changing your

name," said Downey in his acceptance speech.

It got off to a rocky start. Host Jo Koy took the stage at the Beverly Hilton International Ballroom in Beverly Hills, California. The Filipino American stand-up hit on some expected topics: Ozempic, Meryl Streep's knack for winning awards and the long-running 'Oppenheimer'. After one joke flubbed, Koy, who was named host after some bigger names reportedly passed, also noted how fast he was thrust into the job.

"Yo, I got the gig 10 days ago. You want a perfect monologue?" said Koy. "I wrote some of these and they're the ones you're laughing at." Downey's win, his third Globe, denied one to Kenergy. Ryan Gosling had been seen as his stiffest competition, just one of the many head-to-head contests between 'Oppenheimer' and Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie'. The filmmakers faced each other in the best director category, where Nolan triumphed.

It was two hours before 'Barbie', the year's biggest hit with more than \$1.4 billion in ticket sales, won an award. Billie Eilish's 'What Was I Made For?' took best



song, and swiftly after, the movie took the Globes' new honour for "cinematic and box office achievement." Some thought that award might go to Taylor Swift, whose 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour' also set box-office records.

Margot Robbie, star and producer of 'Barbie', accepted the award in a pink gown modelled after 1977's Superstar Barbie.

"We'd like to dedicate this to every single person on the planet who dressed up and went to the greatest place on Earth: the movie theatres," said Robbie.

'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer', two blockbusters brought together by a common release date, also faced off in

the best screenplay category. But in an upset, Justine Triet and Arthur Harari won for the script to the French courtroom drama 'Anatomy of a Fall'. Later, Triet's film picked up best international film, too.

Though the Globes have no direct correlation with the Academy Awards, they can boost campaigns at a crucial juncture. Oscar nomination voting starts on Thursday, and the twin sensations of Barbenheimer remain frontrunners.

Other contenders loom, though, like 'Poor Things' and 'The Holdovers'.

Paul Giamatti and Da'Vine Joy Randolph both won for Alexander Payne's 'The Holdovers'. Giamatti, reuniting with

Payne two decades after 'Sideways', won best actor and Randolph won for her supporting performance as a grieving woman in the 1970s-set boarding school drama.

"Oh, Mary, you have changed my life," Randolph said of her character. "You have made me feel seen in so many ways that I have never imagined."

Hayao Miyazaki's 'The Boy and the Heron' won best animated film, an upset over 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'.

SUCCESSION' AND THE BEAR' LEAD TV WINNERS

The final season of 'Succession' cleaned up on the television side. It won best drama series for the third time, a mark that ties a record set by 'Mad Men' and 'The X-Files'. Three stars from the HBO series also won: Matt Macfadyen, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin.

"It is bittersweet, but things like this make it rather sweeter," said 'Succession' creator Jesse Armstrong.

Hulu's 'The Bear' also came away with a trio of awards, including best comedy series. Jeremy Allen White won for the second time, but this time he had company.

Ayo Edebiri won her first Globe for her leading performance in the Hulu show's second season. She thanked the assistants of her agents and managers.

"To the people who answer my emails, you're the real ones," said Edebiri.

'Beef' won three awards: best limited series as well as acting awards for Ali Wong and Steven Yeun.

The Globes also added a new stand-up special award. That went, surprisingly, to Ricky Gervais, who didn't attend the show he so often hosted. Some expected Chris Rock to win for 'Selective Outrage', his stand-up response to the Will Smith slap.

THE GLOBES COME BACK

A few years ago, the Golden Globes were on the cusp of collapse. After The Los Angeles Times reported that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association had no black members, Hollywood boycotted the organisation. The 2022 Globes were all but cancelled and taken off TV. After reforms, the Globes returned to NBC last year in a one-year deal, but the show was booted to Tuesday evening. With Jerrod Carmi-

chael hosting, the telecast attracted 6.3 million viewers, a new low on NBC and a far cry from the 20 million that once tuned in.

The Golden Globes were acquired by Eldridge Industries and Dick Clark Productions, which Penske Media owns, and turned into a for-profit venture. The HFPA (which typically numbered around 90 voters) was dissolved and a new group of some 300 entertainment journalists from around the world now vote for the awards.

Questions still remain about the Globes' long-term future, but their value to Hollywood studios remains providing a marketing boost to awards contenders. (The Oscars won't be held until March 10.) This year, because of the actors and writers strikes, the Globes are airing ahead of the Emmys, which were postponed to January 15.

With movie ticket sales still 20 per cent off the pre-pandemic pace and the industry facing a potentially perilous 2024 at the box office, Hollywood needed the Golden Globes as much as it ever has.

Srishti Jain joins the cast of Chand Jalne Laga as Priti



Celebrated as one of the most passionate love stories on television, COLORS' Chand Jalne Laga continues to capture viewers' hearts with its beautiful narrative. The show takes

an electrifying turn with the introduction of new character Priti, played by Srishti Jain. It's an attempt to bring a fresh dynamic to the evolving romance between Dev (Vishal Aditya

Singh) and Tara (Kanika Mann).

Srishti expresses her excitement, stating, "I've been eagerly waiting for a chance to collaborate with Colors, and I'm thrilled that it's finally happening! The start of 2024 couldn't have been more fantastic - I got the call for this role on the eve of the New Year! I'll be seen essaying the character of Priti, who becomes Tara's go-to person during her tough times. The introduction of Priti will bring a new dynamic to the love story of Dev and Tara. I hope that the viewers will welcome and cheer for me and my character."

Arjun Bijlani won't be resuming as a host for Splitsvilla this season

Actor and host Arjun Bijlani won't be able to host MTV Splitsvilla this year due to his commitment to the show Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyay — Shiv Shakti.

Arjun is known for his charismatic hosting skills, and the season 14th of the reality series MTV Splitsvilla was hosted by Sunny Leone and Arjun.

The show aired from November 2022 to February 2023. Hamid Barkzi and Soundous Moufakir emerged as the winner of the 14th season. The 41-year-old actor has expressed his deep attachment with the show and its



strong connection with the youth. Talking about the same, Arjun said, "Splitsvilla is very close to my heart. I had a great time hosting it. This year I won't be able to continue as the host as my daily soap shoot is demanding. The show has fantastic youth audience and I will miss it."

Jameela Jamil believes the fad of weight-loss injections will soon end

Actress Jameela Jamil, who has previously battled an eating disorder, hates the slogan "no pain, no gain" because she doesn't believe exercise should be viewed as punishment and says the quick fix for losing weight is "not sustainable."

She said, "It's been quite heartbreaking, watching such an extraordinary rise of unhealthy attitudes towards bodies again after it felt like so much progress had been made."

The She Hulk star said of injections such as celebrity favourite Ozempic: "It's not



sustainable. I think as quickly as it came in, it's gonna go out again."

The Legendary star is an advocate for body neutrality.

Saree with dupatta, logomania, natural fabrics and retro vibe — celebrity designers predict trends that will define 2024

Each New Year is a fresh canvas for vibrant hues and all things new. In the world of fashion, 2024 unfolds a rich tapestry woven with threads of style, sustainability and a nostalgic nod to the iconic '90s. Let's delve deeper into the trends that will shape the fashion landscape for this year with the nuanced perspective of celebrity designers who unravel the fashion forecast for 2024.

Sustainable Chic
Designers are all for sustainable fashion and they underscore the importance of mindful choices and eco-friendly practices. Nida Mahmood, who translates art into her youthful designs, champions sustainability, and says, "It's the key driver of fashion globally. We will see a lot of craft influences from different parts of the world." She emphasises, "Fabrics make a world of difference to any piece of clothing and natural fabrics like cotton, cotton-viscose blends, and silks are a great option to choose from. She predicts a departure from oversized silhouettes. "Covid-19 forced us to break away from formal constricted clothing completely. It has been four years since and we are

ready to bring back some more structure to clothing."

Hyderabad-based designer Archana Jaju aligns with this trend, envisioning a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, putting comfort at the forefront. "Fashion in 2024 is a captivating dance between culture and clothing, where tradition meets modernity in a harmonious blend. The spotlight on comfort is undeniable, urging a fusion of breathable fabrics and relaxed fits to achieve a stylish, easygoing allure."

Modern Fusion Wear
In the realm of fusion wear, Delhi-based designer Mithi Kalra suggests it's going to be a season of ethnic outfits with modern sensibilities. "Dresses and lehengas in light, breezy pastels with soothing prints will trend. There will be fresh elements to the usual attire with floral motifs embellished with cutdana, thread, zari, sequins and stonework." Chandigarh-based Jasleen Kaur highlights how fashion is a reflection of culture. "Along with visually appealing patterns, well-fitted garments, and a neutral colour palette enhances the overall look."

Mithi vouches for layering and quotes celebrities for



endorsing the trend. "Many celebs are seen wearing layered Indian-wear to create that fun fashion look. Carrying a dupatta along with a saree is another enchanting trend that is here to stay."

As we talk of layering, Delhi designer Aaina Mahajan says, "Expect to see layering and fringes, as these details will be popular in 2024. For a more relaxed look, full denim looks and knits will be seen everywhere, offering a comfortable yet stylish option for

everyday wear." Both Mithi and Jasleen believe co-ord sets with formal details in exquisite fabrics are a hot pick for any occasion.

'90s Resurgence
Be ready for a resurgence of the '90s marked by bold patterns and baggy silhouettes, reflecting a nostalgic charm. As Nida says, "Grunge, high waisted everything, crop tops, slip dresses and chokers are all a big influence this year. Baggy but with a structure will be



the new mantra for 2024. Be it boyfriend jeans with a cinched in waist or one size big slip dress, throws and jackets will be in trend."

Influence of the '90s is evident in Archana's designs, "With bold patterns and baggy silhouettes, we are injecting a touch of retro into contemporary fashion. In 2024, classic receives a modern makeover, emphasising sustainability, intricate cuts, and detailed craftsmanship."

Even Jasleen believes comfort and nostalgia sets the tone for this year's fashion landscape. "Logomania, a trend prominent in the '90s, has made a comeback with brands prominently displaying logos on clothing. Additionally, grunge aesthetics, characterised by flannel shirts and combat boots, have resurged, blending comfort with an effortlessly cool vibe. Even accessories like chunky sneakers, scrunchies, and small sunglasses are back with a bang."

Elegance Redefined
Aaina Mahajan's vision for the fashion scene in 2024 is filled with an array of elegant and chic styles. She says, "Tailored garments like low waist dresses and feminine pant suits will be all the rage. The mini hem dresses, which have been out of fashion for a while, will make a grand comeback with a modern twist." In ethnic wear, Mithi foresees experimental trends. "A rich blouse paired with a heavy skirt is perfect for occasion wear. Even a saree with a corset blouse is a style statement."

Colours and Patterns
Fashion draws inspiration

from emotions and as Archana says, "We have incorporated symbolic patterns that convey messages of resilience, unity and growth, reflecting a positive outlook on the year." She predicts a diverse colour palette for different occasions—earthy tones and pastels for formality, vibrant hues for weddings, and playful colours for lively parties.

Mithi adds an artistic flair to the fashion narrative, infusing abstract prints that reflect and promote Indian culture. These prints, inspired by Indian poetry and literature, add a storytelling element to the clothing. She says, "Prominence of shades like rose pink and coral define the narrative of ethnic wear for 2024. For Jasleen neutral tones such as soft beiges and warm creams are expected to dominate the overall fashion palette. She adds, "Occasions will see classic hues like navy, deep burgundy and timeless pastels such as blush pink. In parties bolder jewel tones like emerald green and royal blue, along with glamorous metallic tones and vibrant shades like fuchsia will prevail."

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra A Boon For Health Of Poor: PM Modi

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing, PM Modi said the biggest objective of the Yatra is to ensure that no rightful beneficiary of government schemes is left out.

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said an empowered India would be ensured when the four castes of poor, farmers, women and youth are empowered.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing, PM Modi said the biggest objective of the Yatra is to ensure that no rightful beneficiary of government schemes is left out.

He noted that since the Yatra started, about 12 lakh new Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries gave application for a free Ujjwala gas connection.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is proving to be a boon for health of the poor, Modi said.

Noting that "Modi's vehicle of guarantee" is reaching every



corner of the country, the prime minister said who had thought that officials and politicians would come to the doorstep of the people in villages and every nook and corner of the country.

"Not only in the country but in the world, 'Modi ki guarantee' is being discussed," he said.

"Whether it is a metropolis like Mumbai, or a small village in Mizoram..., 'Modi ki Guarantee

wali gaadi' is reaching every corner of the country," he said.

During the programme, PM Modi also interacted with beneficiaries who praised the initiatives of the government.

Since its launch on November 15 last year, PM Modi has regularly interacted with the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra all across the country.

The Yatra is being undertaken across the country with an aim to attain saturation of flagship schemes of the government by ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

On January 5, the campaign crossed a major milestone as the number of participants surpassed 10 crore.

Attack on ED officers: Those questioning law and order situation trying to malign West Bengal, says CM Mamata Banerjee



KOLKATA, Jan 8 (Agencies): Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that those questioning West Bengal's law and order situation in the backdrop of the attack on Enforcement Department (ED) officers were trying to

malign the state.

Banerjee asserted that Kolkata has been adjudged the country's safest city for years as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

"I am not bothered about criticisms against

me. But, I will protest if anyone tries to malign the state. Those questioning the law and order situation are trying to malign the state," she said, addressing the 'Students Week' programme here.

Three ED officers were injured and several of their vehicles vandalised as hundreds of supporters of TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh attacked them on Friday.

The attack happened when the ED team went to Sheikh's house in Sandeshkhali for a raid in connection with alleged irregularities in the state's ration system.

Bilkis Bano case: Rahul Gandhi says BJP 'protector of criminals'

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday slammed the BJP over the Supreme Court quashing the Gujarat government's decision to grant remission to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, saying the verdict has shown once again who the "protector of criminals" is.

Earlier in the day, the apex court said the Gujarat government abused its power in granting the remission to the men convicted of gang-raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 riots and ordered that they be sent back to jail within two weeks.

The Gujarat government's remission order was without application of mind, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said and asked whether "heinous crimes against women permit remission" whatever faith she may follow or creed she may belong to.

In a post in Hindi on 'X', Gandhi said, "The tendency to 'murder justice' for electoral gains is dangerous for a democratic system. Today, the Supreme



Court's decision once again showed the country who gives 'patronage to criminals'."

"Bilkis Bano's tireless struggle symbolises the victory of justice against the arrogant BJP government," the former Congress chief added.

Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was raped while fleeing the horror of the communal riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident in February 2002.

Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed. All 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15, 2022.

Ram temple 'Pran Pratistha' invitation cards to be hand-delivered to all guests: Sources

AYODHYA, Jan 8 (Agencies): Invitation cards for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be "hand-delivered to all the guests" through representatives of the temple trust and a large number of volunteers, official sources said.

Besides, various representatives of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and their allies are also aiding in hand-delivering the invitations.

Some of the guests have already received the invitation card.

The invitation card has an imposing image of the temple and also Lord Ram. Besides the large, aesthetically-designed cards, the invitation also includes a booklet carrying brief profiles of some of the key people who were involved in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Over 7,000 people are on the invitee list of the temple trust and they include cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, and billionaire industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani.

"We have invited people from different walks of life, from space exploration to arts and some forgotten tribals to architects. Besides, some of the prominent names being among



the invitees, there are several others who have made a mark in their lives. They have been invited too," a senior member of the temple trust told agency.

Invitations have been sent out to different sects and communities for the grand 'Pran Pratistha' of the Ram temple on January 22, the sources said.

Ayodhya is being decked up for the event and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the ceremony.

"We have a huge network of people and volunteers. And, each guest will receive the invitation card by hand and not through postal or courier delivery service," the temple trust member said.

Invitations were recently also sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

Party sources said the invitation cards were hand-delivered to both of them by a senior representative of the temple trust.

Supreme Court verdict on the Ram temple issue.

The apex court in a historic verdict settled the fractious issue that goes back more than a century, and backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque.

Actors Arun Govil and Dipika Chikhlia, who played the roles of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita in the famous TV serial 'Ramayan', have also been invited to the ceremony.

Invitation cards have been printed in "both Hindi and English". Each invitation set carries the main invitation card, the "Pran Pratistha" programme card and a booklet on the journey of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and people who played a part in it, directly or indirectly.

General secretary of the trust Champat Rai had earlier said family members of 50 karsevaks who lost their lives during the Ram temple movement have also been invited. Invitations have also been sent to judges, scientists, writers and poets.

He said the Ram temple complex, built in the traditional Nagara style, will be 380 feet in length (east-west direction), 250 feet in width and 161 feet in height. Each floor of the temple will be 20 feet high and have 392 pillars and 44 gates.

One dead, 10 injured as slab of under construction church collapses in Telangana

HYDERABAD, Jan 8 (Agencies): A migrant labourer was killed, and 10 others injured after the slab of an under-construction church collapsed in Sangareddy district of Telangana on Sunday, police said today.

The accident took place in Kohir of the district when a group of

workers were laying a slab, they said.

Following the mishap, those working above the iron structure fell down even as some labourers who were working below got trapped in the debris, a senior police official said, adding that one of them died.

Ten others who were trapped in the debris

and injured were pulled out and admitted to a hospital, police said.

The project engineer and the contractor have been taken into custody, the official said.

Asked about reports that the deceased migrant worker belonged to Myanmar, the official said it is yet to be confirmed.

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath takes oath as member of state assembly

BHOPAL, Jan 8 (Agencies): Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Kamal Nath on Monday took oath as a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative assembly.

Newly elected Congress MLA Sohanlal Valmiki was also sworn in on Monday. The state assembly polls were held in November 2023.

Congress veteran Kamal Nath, who won the election from the

Chhindwara assembly seat, was not in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal when the newly elected MLAs were administered the oath during a special session of the state assembly here last month.

On Monday, speaker Narendra Singh Tomar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Nath and Valmiki in the meeting hall of the state assembly.

Nath had defeated his BJP rival Banti Sahu by



36,594 votes from the Chhindwara assembly seat.

Congress MLA Valmiki won the election from

Nath was replaced as the state Congress president after the party's poor performance in the 2023 state assembly polls.

The ruling BJP recorded a thumping victory by winning 163 seats in the 230-member MP assembly.

The Congress, which had bagged 114 seats in 2018, notched up victories in just 66 segments this time, while the Bharat Adivasi Party pocketed one seat.

Enforcement Directorate arrests Haryana ex-MLA Dilbag Singh in illegal mining case



NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested Haryana's former MLA Dilbag Singh and his aide Kulwinder Singh in connection with an illegal mining case and an e-conveyance scam.

The central agency had been conducting raids on the premises of Singh, belonging to the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), and Congress MLA from Sonapat, Surrender Panwar, since January 4 which concluded today. At least five illegal foreign-made arms, 300 cartridges, over 100 liquor bottles, cash worth Rs 5 crore and around 5 kg bullion (gold or silver valued in weight) were recovered from the premises of Dilbag Singh and his associates on January 5 - the second day of the raids.

Both Dilbag Singh and Kulwinder

Singh were taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the two will be produced before a local court where the Enforcement Directorate will seek their further custody. The money laundering case stems from multiple FIRs of the Haryana Police lodged to probe alleged illegal mining of boulders, gravel and sand that took place in the past in Yamuna Nagar and adjoining districts even after the lease expired and a ban was imposed by the National Green Tribunal. The probe agency is additionally probing an alleged fraud in the 'e-ravan' scheme, an online platform that was started by the Haryana government in 2020 to simplify collection of royalties and taxes and to keep tax evasion in mining regions at bay.

AAP leaders file nomination for Rajya Sabha elections

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh has filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections along with senior leader ND Gupta and former Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Monday.

With agency inputs, AAP MP Sanjay Singh arrived in a police van to file his nomination for



the upper house of the Parliament.

Singh's father Dinesh Singh expressed his gratitude to the party

leaders for nominating his son for a second term in the house.

"He has received another chance, thanks

to the cooperation among the AAP workers. I would also like to thank CM Arvind Kejriwal for his support", Dinesh Singh said.

AAP leader's wife Anita Singh also thanked CM Kejriwal for nominating her husband.

"It is a matter of happiness; he is coming from jail to file his nomination. I would like to thank CM Arvind Kejriwal for his support," she said.

While, Maliwal became the first woman candidate to represent the party in the Parliament, she was the DCW chairperson from 2015-2023.

"I have just filed the nomination for Rajya Sabha and I'm very emotional. I want to thank Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh for sending a common woman like me to the Rajya Sabha," Maliwal said.

Thousands forced from homes by a deadly Japan earthquake on New Year's face stress and exhaustion

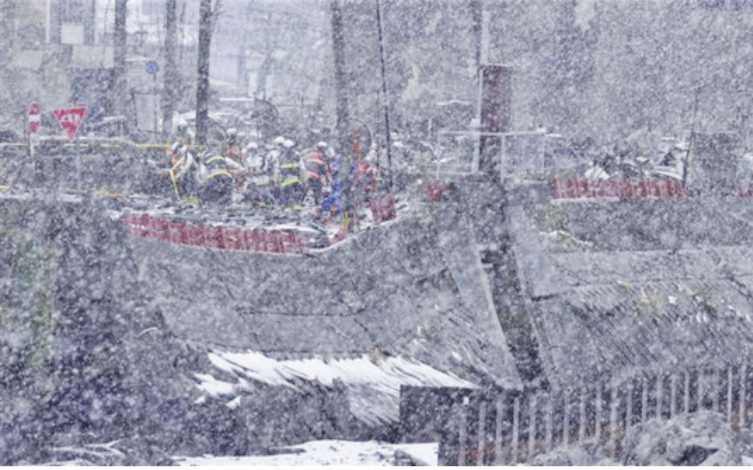
The powerful earthquake left at least 168 dead and dozens missing

WAJIMA (JAPAN), Jan 8 (Agencies): Thousands of people made homeless overnight are living in weariness and uncertainty on the western coast of Japan a week after a powerful earthquake left at least 168 dead and dozens missing.

The rescue effort since the magnitude 7.6 New Year's Day quake has drawn thousands of troops, firefighters and police who picked through collapsed buildings Monday hoping to find survivors.

Authorities warned of the danger of landslides, exacerbated by a heavy snowfall, throughout the quake's epicentre on the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture. The landscape blanketed in fluffy white revealed burned and crumbled houses, ashen blocks of a city, highways with gaping holes and cracks.

The deaths included 70 people in Wajima, 70 in Suzu, 18 in Anamizu and the rest were spread among four other towns. At least 323 people were still unaccounted for, a jump from some 100 earlier in the day as rescuers pour over a list of the region's population. Another 565 people were



injured, and 1,390 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged.

A tsunami of several metres (feet) followed the initial major quake, adding to the damage. Aftershocks have continued daily.

Japanese meteorological officials warned strong quakes could persist for another month. Their frequency, while gradually diminishing, remained high compared to past quakes, totalling more than 1,000.

For the residents, recovery work has barely started. Shuji Yoshiura, a fisherman, said his boats were damaged and he could not go out on the sea. Before the quake, Wajima was

a tourist town with a shopping street offering seafood and traditional crafts. Much of it was destroyed in the fires that broke out after the January 1 disaster.

Kentaro Mitsumori, who runs a corner grocery shop, slept in his car with his wife to guard against looting. Their store still stands but has no lock, electricity or running water. Everything sold out in three days. But he plans to close his business.

"Even if I manage to fix up the place, there just aren't going to be enough customers. I don't know how Wajima can survive," he said.

Nearly 30,000 people staying in schools, auditoriums and other evacuation centres wor-

ried about infections as cases of COVID-19 and other illnesses popped up.

In the shelters, people were still sleeping on cold floors. After initial help of a piece of bread and a cup of water for each person a day, more aid is allowing some facilities to begin serving hot food cooked in huge pots.

People were delighted by the temporary bathing facilities set up by soldiers, sitting in the hot water they had missed for days. Still, exhaustion and stress are wearing them down. Many are in mourning. The main quake struck on New Year's Day, a time for families to gather in Japan. Some survivors said they were all alone because they lost their loved ones.

Mizue Kaba, 79, was lucky she survived, as did her daughter, son-in-law and grandson, who were visiting on New Year's from Osaka in central Japan.

Kaba is sleeping at a school, and no one is sure what might happen when schools open in a week after the New Year's break.

Three stoves were not enough to heat the school's big hall, and more heaters arrived.

"It's so cold," Kaba said.

Israel says Hezbollah struck sensitive air traffic base in north and warns of 'another war'



JERUSALEM, Jan 8 (Agencies): Hezbollah has struck an air traffic control base in northern Israel, the Israeli military said, and warned of "another war" with the Iran-backed militant group.

The increase in fighting across the border with Lebanon as Israel battles Hamas militants in Gaza gave new urgency to US diplomatic efforts as Secretary of State Antony Blinken prepared to visit Israel on his latest Mideast tour.

"This is a conflict that could easily metastasize, causing even more insecurity and even more suffering," Blinken told reporters after talks in Qatar, a key mediator. The escalation of cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has complicated a US push to prevent a regional conflict.

The Israeli military said Hezbollah fire hit the sensitive air traffic control base on Mount Meron on Saturday but air defences were not affected because backup systems were in place. It said that no soldiers were hurt and all damage would be repaired.

Nonetheless, it was one of the most serious attacks by Hezbollah in the months of fighting that has accompanied Israel's war in Gaza and forced tens of thousands of Israelis to evacuate communities near the Lebanese

border.

Hezbollah described its rocket barrage as an "initial response" to the targeted killing of a top Hamas leader in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut last week, which is presumed to have been carried out by Israel.

The Israeli military chief of staff, Lt Col Herzi Halevi, said military pressure on Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, was rising and it would either be effective "or we will get to another war". Military spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari asserted that Israel's focus on Hezbollah's elite Radwan force was pushing it away from the border.

Israel has mostly sought to limit the fighting in its north. Hezbollah's military capabilities are far superior to those of Hamas. But Israeli leaders have said their patience is wearing thin, and that if the tensions cannot be resolved through diplomacy, they are prepared to use force.

Runway at Tokyo's Haneda airport reopens week after fatal collision between Japan Airlines airliner and coast guard aircraft

TOKYO, Jan 8 (Agencies): Tokyo's Haneda airport is almost back to its normal operation Monday as it reopened the runway a week after a fatal collision between a Japan Airlines airliner and a coast guard aircraft seen to have been caused by human error.

The collision occurred Tuesday evening when JAL Flight 516 carrying 379 passengers and flight crew landed right behind the coast guard aircraft preparing for a take off on the same runway, both engulfed in flames.

All occupants of the JAL's Airbus A350-900 airliner safely evacuated in 18 minutes. The captain of the coast guard's much smaller Bombardier Dash-8 escaped with burns but his five crew members died. At the coast guard Haneda base, colleagues of the five flight crew lined up and saluted to mourn for their deaths as a black vehicle carrying their bodies drove past them. The victims' bodies were to return to their families Sunday after police autopsies as part of their separate investigation of possible profes-

sional negligence. Haneda reopened three runways the night of the crash, but the last runway had remained closed for the investigation, cleanup of the debris and repairs.

Transport ministry said that the runway reopened early Monday and the airport is ready for full operations.

The collision caused more than 1,200 flights to be cancelled, affecting about 200,000 passengers during the New Year holiday period. The airport was crowded with passengers Monday.

The investigation focuses on what caused the coast guard flight crew to believe they had a go-ahead for their take off while the traffic control transcript showed no clear confirmation between them and the traffic control.

Traffic control staff assigned to the runway apparently missed an alert system when it indicated the unexpected coast guard entry.

The Haneda airport traffic control added a new position Saturday specifically assigned to monitor the runway to step up safety measures.

Maldives President Muizzu arrives in China, set to sign several agreements to bolster bilateral ties

BEIJING, Jan 8 (Agencies): Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu arrived here on Monday on a five-day state visit during which he is due to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and sign several agreements to bolster the bilateral ties.

Muizzu, who is regarded as 'pro-China', is accompanied by his wife Sajidha Mohamed and a high-level delegation.

The President and the First Lady were greeted by senior Chinese officials upon their arrival.

Muizzu's maiden visit to China, however, has been marred by a huge diplomatic row triggered by the derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi by some Maldivian ministers after he posted a video of him on a pristine beach during his visit to Lakshadweep.

The Maldivian envoy to India was on Monday summoned to the external affairs ministry and conveyed strong concern over remarks.

Muizzu is due to hold talks with Chinese President Xi and sign several agreements to bolster the bilateral ties, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin.

"The relations between China and the Maldives now stand at a new historical starting point. We believe that through this visit, the two heads of state will provide strategic guidance for the bilateral relations to reach a new height," Wang told the media on January 5.

During President Muizzu's visit, the Maldives and China will hold official talks and sign key agreements to enhance trade, professional development, and socioeconomic cooperation, the Maldivian President's Office said in a press release.



The visit will also pave the way for collaborations in technology and other areas between the two countries, it said.

Muizzu will also attend the Invest Maldives Forum in the southeastern Chinese city of Fuzhou, China and meet with senior Chinese business leaders to explore avenues for strengthening socioeconomic relations between the Maldives and China, it said.

Muizzu's predecessors in the recent past visited India first, considering the wide-ranging bilateral ties and the Maldives' proximity to India, followed by China which has expanded its influence in the island nation by investing in major infrastructure projects there.

Surprisingly Muizzu, who was sworn in as President in November, chose Turkiye as his first destination for a foreign visit soon after his election followed by the UAE where he met Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) on December 1 and discussed the progress of the wide-ranging bilateral ties.

During the meeting, both leaders agreed to set up a core group to discuss the multi-dimensional relations and further deepen ties.

The meeting took place after Muizzu requested New Delhi to withdraw 77 Indian military personnel from the Maldives and decided to review more than 100 bilateral agreements between the two countries.

Earlier, Muizzu's government announced its plans to drop a hydrographic survey agreement with India.

In December, the new Maldives Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef visited China, his first visit abroad, and took part in the China-sponsored China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, (CIORF) in Kunming.

Significantly, while praising Chinese infrastructure projects, Latheef made no mention of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) under which most of the Maldives' infrastructure projects were built.

The BRI is an ambitious plan initiated by President Xi in 2013 to develop new trade routes

connecting China with the rest of the world via land and maritime networks to improve regional integration, increase trade and stimulate economic growth.

Observers say Muizzu's foreign policy perhaps is still evolving as the Maldives domestic political situation has undergone a major change after his election in November last year.

Soon after his election Muizzu fell out with former pro-China President Yameen, regarded as his mentor, and opted to pursue his own foreign and domestic policy.

Under Yameen's Presidency, China carried out major infra projects amid allegations of debt traps by some influential politicians of the Maldives.

Angry with Muizzu, Yameen, who is currently serving a prison sentence for corruption, quit the ruling Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and formed his own political party called People's National Front (PNC) from jail to oppose Muizzu.

Also, the island's Parliament is currently dominated by the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) headed by Solih and the island nation is due to go to Parliamentary polls in April.

The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and occupies a special place in its initiatives like SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the Neighbourhood First Policy of the Modi government.

The Maldives' proximity to India, barely 70 nautical miles from the island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep and 300 nautical miles from the mainland's western coast, and its location at the hub of commercial sea lanes running through the Indian Ocean gives it significant strategic importance.

Heavy wave of Russian missile attacks hit areas throughout Ukraine



KYIV, Jan 8 (Agencies): Ukraine came under strong Russian missile attacks early Monday that struck near the front lines of fighting in the east as well as in central and western parts of the country, killing one person and injuring at least 30.

The heaviest casualty toll was in the Dnipropetrovsk region, where a woman died in a missile attack outside the city of Kryvyi Rih and 24 were injured in a strike on the town of Novomoskovsk. In Kryvyi Rih itself, more than 20 houses and a shopping center were damaged in a missile attack, said regional governor Serhii Lysak.

At least four missiles hit Kharkiv, the country's second-largest

city, injuring one person, said mayor Ihor Terekhov. Regional governor Oleh Syniehubov also said two people were injured and two more were trapped under rubble after a strike on the village of Zmiiv.

In Zaporizhzhia, a major city along the Dniipro River, two people were injured in a missile strike on a residential district, said regional governor Yurii Malashko.

Over the past 24 hours, Russian troops conducted 131 artillery attacks on the Kherson region, killing two people and injuring five, according to governor Oleksandr Prokudin.

Kherson city and the surrounding region have been consistently

targeted since Russian forces withdrew from the city to the eastern side of the Dniipro in the autumn of 2022.

At least six explosions shook the central Khmelnytskyi region on Monday morning, but there were no immediate details on casualties or damage.

The Ukrainian military said Monday that Russian forces made unsuccessful efforts to advance during the past day in several areas, including around Lyman in the Kharkiv region and in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Authorities of the Khmelnytskyi region said at least six explosions were heard during the morning missile attack, but no casualties or damage was immediately reported.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko says a man who was injured in a missile attack on Jan. 2 died in a Kyiv hospital Monday. Another man injured in the same attack died in Kharkiv on Monday, Syniehubov said.

Bomb explosion kills six Pakistani policemen going to escort polio vaccination team



PESHAWAR, Jan 8 (Agencies): A bomb explosion targeted

policemen going to provide security for polio vaccination workers

in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday, killing six of them and injuring 22 others.

The incident occurred in the Mamund tehsil of Bajaur district in the province bordering Afghanistan.

The police personnel had just boarded a van to join security duty with polio vaccination teams when the explosion occurred.

The injured have been shifted to a nearby hospital, where an emergency was declared.

Six policemen were killed and 22 others injured in the explosion. The police spokesperson said all the casualties were of police personnel.

Caretaker Chief Minister KPK Arshad Hussain condemned the attack and said the war against terrorism would

go on till the elimination of the last terrorist.

Polio teams are often targeted by militants in Pakistan due to opposition to the vaccine.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack but Islamist militants, including the Pakistan Taliban, have killed scores of polio vaccination workers and policemen guarding them in the past.

IIAPL Golf Season 2: Grand celebration unveiled in Jammu City

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: The highly anticipated IIAPL Golf Season 2 concluded with a splendid two-day event, uniting architects from across India in a captivating showcase of golf prowess and camaraderie.

The IIAPL Golf Season 2 hosted by IIA J&K Chapter is a prestigious event that brings together architects passionate about golf, fostering a sense of community and friendly competition.

Architects from various corners of the country converged upon the picturesque city of Jammu. The day began with a warm welcome to the participants at the KC Residency, followed by an exquisite Welcome Dinner and Musical Night.

The heart of the event unfolded at the BSF Golf Course in Jammu. Participants enjoyed a delightful combination of competition and camaraderie, with drinks and lunch served on the course.

The event featured the felicitation of Chief Guests, including the distinguished presence of IIA President Ar. Vilas Avachat, Vice President Ar. Jitender Mehta, and Junior Vice President Ar. Tushar Sogani, Hon. Treasurer Ar. B. Sudhir, Jt. Hon. Secretary Ar. Akshaya Beuria who graced the occasion as national office bearers of the IIA.



The winners across various categories were Ar Anupam Mittal, Ar Binesh Kumar, Ar Ramachandran, Ar yogesh tyagi, Ar Rahul Tyagi, Ar Manish Gupta, Ar Shweta, Ar Babita, Ar Amit Kumar, Ar Himani, Ar Karuna, Ar Akshay and Ar Gopa Kumar.

Chief Guest DIG PSO BSF Sukhdev Raj, extended his gratitude to the IIA Office Bearers and Delegates nationwide. He also express his special appreciation towards the unwavering dedication, tireless efforts, and exceptional contributions of IIA Jammu Kashmir Chapter for their outstanding commitment to excellence and everyone involved in making this tournament possible.

Ar. Vikas Dubey Chairman IIA Jammu & Kashmir Chapter in his welcome address extend his gratitude to Chief Guest DIG PSO BSF Sukhdev Raj, Special

Secretary to Tourism Amarjeet Singh, National Office bearers and golf enthusiasts from different part of country for participation in IIAPL Golf tournament season 2, held at EPTABSF golf course on 7th of January 2024.

He also expressed heartfelt appreciation to Ar. Binesh Sukumar, Ar. Anupam Mittal, Gurdeep Singh, Rohit Bhalla, Dr. Anil Slathia, Sanjeev Singh Pathania, V.M. Singh DIG BSF, Viresh Kumar Singh DIG (Comn), Rajan Uttam Gajbe 2IC, Pradeep Suthar AC, for their tireless efforts, support and dedication for the success of this tournament.

As the sun set, the celebration continued with a Cultural Extravaganza at KC Regale Park, providing an evening of artistic performances and memorable moments. This segment highlighted the rich cultural diversity of J&K UT and talent present in the architectural community.

The overall event was graciously sponsored by GBN Enterprise, Everest Industries, Tile&Bath and SR Technomed.

Maj Gen RK Sachdeva ADG, NCC Dte JK&L visits Republic Day Camp at Delhi



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, visited the Republic Day Camp -2024 (RDC-24) in Delhi during the Chief

of Naval Staff's visit.

It was marked by inspiring visits and motivational engagement. Through a motivational lecture, he fuelled the cadet's enthusiasm in various activities like Guard of Honour, Parade, Cultural Programme, Flag Area and Line Area Competition.

The distinguished visit left an indelible mark, sparking a wave of motivation among 122 cadets hailing from the three regions.

The ADG's presence served as a source of inspiration, fostering a sense of discipline and commitment among the cadets. This interaction undoubtedly strengthened the NCC's commitment to nurturing potential leaders, inculcate discipline and patriotism among the youth from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

He also rekindled the spirit of excellence for the Directorate's success in the Republic Day Competition.

DC Rajouri reviews progress on Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote Road Project

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 8: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Om Prakash Bhagat on Monday convened a meeting to review the ongoing work on the pivotal Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road project.

It is pertinent to mention here that this vital road serves as a lifeline for the Pir Panjal region, connecting the border district of Rajouri to the historic Mughal Road, maintained by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). The Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote Road is not

just a transportation corridor but also the shortest route to the scenic Kashmir Valley.

This road intersects with the historical Mughal Road at Bafliaz in Poonch district. It serves as a pivotal conduit for hundreds of tourists, passenger vehicles, and trucks traveling to and from the Kashmir Valley, linking Jammu and various parts of the country. This crucial infrastructure venture holds immense promise for enhancing connectivity and fostering development in the region, making the

review imperative.

A comprehensive review during the meeting indicated that the road encompasses a total length of 32 kilometers, and significant progress has already been achieved. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also discussed issues regarding the construction work and asked the officers to work in tandem to resolve the issues amicably.

The Deputy Commissioner, with a keen eye for quality and precision, directed the officers to steadfastly adhere to the

prescribed specifications for the construction of the road. His emphasis on maintaining impeccable quality standards underscores the commitment of the administration to delivering a road that not only serves as a lifeline for the local populace but also stands the test of time in terms of durability and safety.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite their efforts in completing the roadwork, recognizing the urgency and importance of timely project delivery.

In conclusion, this review meeting provided an opportunity to assess the progress of the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road project. It highlighted the critical role of the road as a lifeline for the Pir Panjal region and emphasized the need for maintaining high-quality standards throughout the construction process. Among the others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Kumar Khajuria; Assistant Commissioner Defence Saleem Quereshi and Officers from BRO attended the meeting.

Top News Report

REASI, Jan 8: Continuing special drive against the bovine smuggler Reasi police foiled bovine smuggling at Dera Baba. During Naka checking at Dera Baba, two vehicles bearing registration no JK02CS-9920 driven by driver namely Rafaqit Ali, son of Shafi, resident of Chapped Tehsil Damsal and District Jammu alongwith Manzoor Hussain, son of Taj Din, resident of Keri Parthal Tehsil Katra District Reasi was intercepted for checking and found one bovine animal and JK20B-3706 driven by driver namely Mohd

Zabir, son of Abdul Husain, resident of Thuroo Tehsil Thuroo District Reasi was intercepted for checking and found two bovine animals, which were being transported illegally without DM permission.

In this cognizance taken and two FIR's Registered as Case FIR No. 06/2024 under Section 188/IPC at P/S Reasi and FIR No. 07/2024 under Section 188/IPC at P/S Reasi, vehicles seized and investigation started.

In another incident, Police team of Pouni foiled bovine smuggling bid and rescued 02 bovine animals from

the clutches of accused person namely Balvinder Kumar, son of Madan Lal, resident of Kathar, Akhnoor, District Jammu, who was carrying two bovine animals by foot from Jammu District to Rajouri via Pouni.

In this regard, case FIR No. 02/2024 under Section 188/IPC, 11(1)(a) PCA Act got registered at P/S Pouni. Accused arrested and investigation is going on.

Pertinently Reasi Police under the supervision SSP Reasi established zero tolerance towards Bovines Smuggling and is committed to eradicate the menace of Bovine Smuggling from the District.

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah's visit to J&K deferred due to inclement weather

January) visit of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. @AmitShah Ji to Jammu stands cancelled," he said in a post on X.

Sheikh Hasina re-elected for fifth term in Bangladesh

following the announcement of the results of the 12th general election, Dhaka Tribune reported.

PM Sheikh Hasina and Awami League president has won the Gopalganj-3 constituency almost unopposed in a landslide victory bagging 2,49,962 votes in Sunday's 12th general election. The total number of seats in this constituency is 108.

Earlier in the day, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader expressed confidence that the Boat would emerge victorious in this election, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

"A victory of democracy and people of the country," he said.

"The election was held in a free, fair and peaceful manner, overcoming many obstacles. They [BNP] wanted to confuse the international and national friends of Bangladesh by spreading propaganda," he added.

Meanwhile, Awami League Office Secretary Barrister Biplab Barua highlighted that the turnout of voters in the 12th parliamentary election was satisfactory despite the "terrorism and anti-election activities of the BNP".

PM Hasina also accused the Bangladesh opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of inciting violence in the country and said that they are against the development of the people.

"Bangladesh is a sovereign country and people are my power," she said after voting, adding that she hoped her party would win the people's mandate, which would give it a fifth term since 1996.

PM said, "BNP and Jamat did several arsoning and various other violent activities, such as burning train, burning vehicle, stopping people's movement...I would say that they do not believe in democracy, they are not patriots, and they are against the development of the people. Moreover, they don't want democracy to continue."

Hasina, 76, urged citizens to cast their ballots and show their faith in the democratic process, branding the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) a "terrorist organisation", Al Jazeera report-

ed. The 12th national polls in Bangladesh ended on Sunday amidst a largely peaceful environment.

However, according to the Daily Star, voters' presence was noticeably low, with many election centres hardly seeing any queues throughout the day. In many centres, election officials and polling agents sat idly with very little to do.

The voting began at 8 am on Sunday at 261,912 polling booths in 42,024 voting centres and continued until 4 pm with 299 parliamentary seats up for election, according to the Dhaka Tribune.

Highlighting the anti-election activities by the opposition party, incidents of violence were reported in different districts, which left one person dead in Munshiganj and many others injured in different parts of the country.

Reportedly, by the time the nation went to the polls yesterday, over 27,000 BNP leaders and activists were rounded up and over 1,700 were sentenced to jail in political cases in just about two months, according to Daily Star.

Bilkis Bano Case | SC quashes Gujarat Govt's remission order, 11 convicts to return to jail

Rule of law is breached because the Gujarat government usurped power not vested in it and abused its power. On that ground also, the remission orders deserve to be quashed," the bench said while pronouncing the judgement which spanned over 100 pages.

The top court also held as 'nullity' its May 13, 2022 order of another bench asking the Gujarat government to consider remission plea of convicts as it was obtained by "playing fraud on the court" and by suppressing material facts.

It said this is a classic case where the order of this court was used to violate the rule of law by granting remission.

The top court said Rule of law has been breached by usurpation of power and May 13, 2022 order has been used to usurp the powers and abuse the process of law.

"We strike down the remission orders on the ground of usurpation of power by Gujarat government," the bench said.

The apex court had on October 12 last year reserved its verdict after an 11-day hearing on the petitions, including the one filed by Bano.

While reserving the judgement, the apex court had directed the Centre and the Gujarat government to submit by October 16 the original records related to the remission of

sentence of the 11 convicts.

While hearing the matter in September last year, the top court had asked whether convicts have a fundamental right to seek remission.

During the earlier arguments, the apex court had observed that state governments should not be selective in granting remission to convicts and the opportunity to reform and reintegrate with society should extend to every prisoner.

Besides the petition filed by Bano contesting the remission granted to them by the Gujarat government, several other PILs, including one by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, independent journalist Revati Laul and former vice-chancellor of Lucknow University Roop Rekha Verma, have challenged the relief.

TMC leader Mahua Moitra has also filed a PIL against the remission and their premature release.

Bilkis Bano was 21-years-old and five months pregnant when she was raped while fleeing the horror of the communal riots that broke out after the Godhra train-burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed in the riots.

All 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15, 2022.

Kashmir continues to reel under Cold Wave conditions

a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, while the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir noted a minimum temperature of 4 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, slightly down from the previous night, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.1 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 5 degrees Celsius, they added.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

A thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the Dal Lake here on Monday and other

water bodies in Kashmir due to the intense cold wave that is gripping the region, the officials said.

People who live in houseboats in the Dal Lake had a tough time breaking the layer of ice over the water body to reach its banks. Water in pipes also froze in several parts of the Kashmir valley.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December.

No snowfall was noted in most of the plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amount of snow. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather till January 12.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurud' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

J&K Admin imposes night curfew along International Border in Samba

kilometre-long strip from the IB, enabling them to perform their duties more effectively, the order said.

"It is felt by the district administration that it is expedient that the movement of people in border areas is regulated so that there is better area domination by BSF in border areas and nefarious designs of forces inimical to Indian security are subverted," the DM said in the order.

In case movement is necessary, the person or persons are required to produce their respective ID cards to BSF and police authorities, Sharma said.

"Any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with in accordance with law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte," the order read.

"This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn or rescinded earlier," it added.

2,000 chickens burnt alive as fire engulfs poultry farm in Jammu

assess the extent of the damage and investigate the cause of the fire, they added.

SSP Samba removes two personnel from service for prolonged absence

Moreover, inquiry officers had also recommended their removal and termination in their findings after conducting inquiries under the rules.

"The under-suspension selection grade Constable Joginder Singh has been removed from service in terms of Article 128 of J&K CSR, as he has been absenting himself unauthorizedly for the last ten months continuously and is still absent," the release stated. During his absence, he was also involved in cases under sections 307, 323, 452, 504, 506 IPC, and the 3/35/27 Arms Act.

"As for SPO Bachan Lal, he has been disengaged on the recommendation of the inquiry officer for being a habitual absentee, remaining absent for six months during the year 2023 and is still absent," the release stated.

682 cases of Covid Sub-Variant JN.1 reported from 12 States till Jan 7

given its rapidly increasing spread but said it poses a "low" global public health risk.

The JN.1 sub-variant of the coronavirus was previously classified as a variant of interest (VOI) as part of the BA.2.86 sub-lineages, the parent lineage that is classified as a VOI, the world body said.

Man found hanging from tree, family alleges murder

Dabi Kathua, was found hanging from a tree in a forest area near SMVDU road at Manthal, under mysterious circumstances.

The deceased was missing since September 29, 2023 and a report in this connection was also registered in Police Post Tikri on November 4, 2023.

Ajit Kumar a driver by profession had gone to Tikri with his friends where their Xylo car met with an accident. While his friends left for home, Ajit Kumar stayed there for getting the car repaired, the report suggests.

However, his whereabouts could be traced after that, while his decomposed body was found in a forest area near SMVDU road today. After the body was spotted by some locals, Incharge PP Tikri along with a police team reached the spot and shifted the body to the mortuary of Udhampur District Hospital.

Meanwhile, family members of the deceased alleged that he was murdered and Police should properly investigate the case. Police have initiated inquest proceedings under 174 CrPC.

Sensex, Nifty snap two-day winning streak, tumble nearly 1 per cent on global weakness

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 670.93 points or 0.93 per cent to settle at 71,355.22

MUMBAI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to close with deep losses on Monday, snapping their two-day winning streak as investors pared exposure to banking, metal and FMCG stocks amid a weak trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 670.93 points or 0.93 per cent to settle at 71,355.22. During the day, it fell 725.11 points or 1 per cent to 71,301.04.

The Nifty declined 197.80 points or 0.91 per cent to 21,513.

Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of India, ITC, Nestle, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Hindustan Unilever were the major laggards.

In contrast, HCL Technologies, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and Titan



were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Japan's Nikkei was closed for a holiday.

European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended marginally up on Friday.

"The market witnessed widespread selling as the euphoria over early rate cuts may diminish due to the better-than-expected non-farm payroll data from the US and the consequent rise in the US 10-year yield.

In the near term, investors' trade positions will be more inclined

towards the upcoming result season," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.21 per cent to USD 77.81 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,696.86 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark jumped 178.58 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 72,026.15 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 52.20 points or 0.24 per cent to 21,710.80.

MakeMyTrip observes 3,400 per cent rise in Lakshadweep searches on platform since PM Modi's visit

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): MakeMyTrip, on Monday, said it has observed a 3,400 per cent increase in on-platform searches for Lakshadweep ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the islands.

"We have observed a 3400 per cent increase in on-platform searches for Lakshadweep ever since Honorable PM's visit. This interest in Indian beaches has inspired us to launch a 'Beaches of India' campaign on the platform with offers and discounts to encourage Indian travellers to explore country's stunning beaches. Keep watching this space!" MakeMyTrip said in a post on social media platform X.

Lakshadweep has emerged as a preferred tourist destination after Modi's visit. People start-



ed comparing the Indian island with globally sought-after beach destinations like Maldives and Seychelles. This came close on the heels of comments by Maldivian ministers against the Indian prime minister on social media, triggering a diplomatic row between the two nations.

Meanwhile, the Maldivian envoy to India was summoned to the external affairs minis-

try and was conveyed strong concern over remarks posted on social media against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sources said.

The government of the Maldives, on Sunday, suspended three deputy ministers for derogatory social media posts against Modi.

The deputy ministers criticised Modi for his post on X following

his visit to Lakshadweep, inferring that it was an attempt to project the union territory as an alternative tourist destination to Maldives.

According to Maldivian media reports, deputy ministers in the youth ministry, Malsha Shareef, Mariyam Shiuna and Abdulla Mahzoom Majid, have been suspended over their posts.

In New Delhi, official sources said the Indian high commission in Male strongly raised the matter with the Maldivian foreign ministry.

The disparaging remarks by the ministers have drawn flak in India, with many celebrities urging people to explore domestic tourist destinations instead of going to Maldives.

Costs of veg, non-veg meals decline in December on fall in onion, tomato prices

MUMBAI, Jan 8 (Agencies): Fall in onion and tomato prices in December led to a month-on-month decrease in the cost of a vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali or a meal by 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, a report said on Monday.

Rates of home-cooked veg and non-veg thalis fell 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in December, according

to Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics (MI&A) Research 'Rice Roti Rate' estimates.

Easing of veg and non-veg thali costs was due to a 14 per cent and 3 per cent month-on-month decrease in prices of onion and tomato, respectively, with the festive season coming to an end, said the report.

The cost of a non-veg

thali declined faster due to a 5-7 per cent month-on-month decline in the price of broilers, which account for 50 per cent of the cost, it added.

The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India. The data also reveals the ingredients (cereals, pulses, broilers, vegetables,

spices, edible oil and cooking gas) driving the change in the cost of the thali.

The report further revealed that on a year-on-year basis, the cost of the veg thali rose 12 per cent, while that of a non-veg meal declined 4 per cent.

The rise in veg thali cost was led by a substantial increase of 82 per cent and 42 per cent

in prices of onion and tomato, respectively, the report said.

Prices of pulses, which account for 9 per cent of the veg thali cost, also increased 24 per cent year-on-year, it stated.

The decline in the cost of the non-veg thali was due to 15 per cent decline in broiler prices year-on-year amid higher production, the report added.

Mercedes Benz lines up Rs 200 cr investment, to launch over 12 products in 2024

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz would invest Rs 200 crore in India this year on new products, manufacturing operations and digitisation, to strengthen its position after recording sales of 17,408 units in 2023, a top official of the company said on Monday.

Mercedes-Benz India would have more than 12 launches in 2024, including three electric vehicles (EVs), out of which half would be in the Top-end Vehicle Segment (TEV) and would be priced Rs 1.5 crore onwards.

"This year marks a special year as we celebrate 30 years of Mercedes Benz in India. We are going to invest Rs 200 crore more into our factory in Pune. This makes a total investment of Rs 3,000 crore in India. So that's a strong statement of intent," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer said in an interview.

These investments would be towards manufacturing opera-

tions, new product startups and digitisation of the manufacturing process, he added.

In 2023, Iyer said, the company recorded its best-ever sales in its history in India with 17,408 units and a growth of 10 per cent.

Mercedes-Benz India had recorded its best-ever sales in 2022 when it clocked 15,822 units.

On the outlook for 2024, Iyer said the company is looking for "double-digit" growth despite volatility in both supply and demand.

Currently, the company's order book stands at 3,000 units.

On the product launch plan, Iyer said, "We are looking at more than 12 new car lines to be launched in 2024. 50 per cent of them will be in TVS. These will include three new EVs."

The TEV segment continues to drive aspiration for the brand, Iyer said, adding that three new EVs to be launched in 2024 would build up the company's



EV portfolio.

"EVs now comprise 4 per cent of our total sales and the segment witnessed a trebling growth in 2023," he added.

Mercedes-Benz India also launched its new GLS luxury SUV in both petrol and diesel versions priced at Rs 1.32 crore and Rs 1.37 crore, respectively.

Iyer said SUVs account for 55 per cent of the company's total sales and sedans 45 per cent.

On three new EVs, he said it will be across the entry luxury, core luxury, and TEV segments. When asked about the con-

tribution of EVs to total sales going forward, he said, "We are still looking forward to 20-25 per cent of our sales coming from EVs in the next four years' time."

To get closer to customers in servicing, he said Mercedes-Benz India would create 20 new workshops in 2024 in 10 new cities, including Jammu, Udaipur, Amritsar, Patna, Valsad, Agra, Kannur and Kottayam.

On reports of American electric carmaker Tesla seeking special incentives to set up plant in India, Iyer said, "We are pretty confident that if the government announces any policy it will be a level playing field for the current manufacturers who have invested in India." He, however, added that new players in the segment are welcome "because that will only intensify adoption of EVs to the market".

"We have always been supportive of free trade and imports as long as it is a level playing field for the existing investments and new ones," Iyer said.

Study reveals how high-fat diet can increase risk of Covid-19

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): A high-fat diet not just affects your genes or linked to obesity, colon cancer or irritable bowels, it can affect your immune system, the brain and even increase the risk of Covid-19, according to a latest study.

Researchers from the University of California, Riverside, conducted a 24-week experiment, feeding mice diets where over 40% of calories came from fat.

The diets included saturated fat from coconut oil, monounsaturated modified soybean oil, and unmodified soybean oil high in polyunsaturated fat. All three diets led to concerning changes in gene expression, affecting processes crucial for the body's functionality.

The study, published in Scientific Reports paper, revealed significant impacts on the intestines, including changes in genes related to fat metabolism, gut bacteria composition, and susceptibility to infectious diseases.

For example, they observed an increase in pathogenic E. coli and a suppression of Bacteroides, which helps protect the body against pathogens.

Surprisingly, high-fat diets increased the expression of ACE2 and host proteins used by Covid spike proteins to enter the body.

The research team, known for linking soybean oil to obesity and diabetes, found that all three high-fat diets

influenced the expression of ACE2 and other host proteins crucial for Covid spike protein entry.

Moreover, high-fat diets increased signs of stem cells in the colon, potentially linked to cancer.

Coconut oil showed the most gene expression changes, followed by unmodified soybean oil, hinting at the role of polyunsaturated fatty acids, particularly linoleic acid.

Negative microbiome changes were more pronounced in mice fed the soybean oil diet, aligning with previous findings on the adverse effects of high soybean oil consumption.

The study, conducted on mice, emphasised that these findings apply specifically to soybean oil and not other soy products.

"Word on the street is that plant-based diets are better for you, and in many cases that's true. However, a diet high in fat, even from a plant, is one case where it's just not true," said Frances Sladek, a UCR cell biology professor and senior author of the new study.

While mouse studies may not perfectly translate to humans, the shared DNA similarity raises concerns, especially as soybean oil is the most consumed oil in many parts of the world.

The researchers, however, have advised that one shouldn't panic about having a high-fat single meal since it only highlights the long-term effects of it.

Health experts warn against rising heart attacks, eye-related complications in winter

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencies): As winter tightens its grip, health experts have expressed concerns about heightened risks of heart attacks and also stressed the importance of preventive eye care during the colder months.

With recent studies too showing a notable rise in heart attack rates during the winter season, the experts said chilling temperatures and unique seasonal factors contribute to an increased susceptibility to cardiovascular issues and eye-related complications.

Cold weather constricts blood vessels and increases blood pressure, potentially triggering heart attacks, particularly in people with pre-existing cardiovascular conditions, the doctors said.

They advised the public to remain vigilant about heart health during the winter by maintaining regular exercise, a heart-healthy diet and staying adequately warm.

Senior consultant interventional cardiologist at the Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals Dr Vijay Kumar said, "It is imperative to address the heightened risk of heart attacks during the winter season, a phenomenon



attributed to a confluence of environmental factors."

"The surge in pollution levels during this time not only triggers inflammation but also intensifies respiratory challenges for those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma and smokers," he added.

Additionally, Dr Kumar said, the plummeting temperatures burden the heart, necessitating increased effort and making individuals more susceptible to cardiac events.

Consultant cardiologist at Kanpur's Regency Hospital Dr Abhinav Gupta said the constriction of blood vessels in colder weather

poses a significant threat particularly for hypertensive patients, amplifying the likelihood of debilitating brain strokes.

"Disturbingly, data reveals a higher mortality rate post heart attacks in winters as compared to those occurring in the summer months," he said.

"However, there is hope in adopting proactive lifestyle measures to counteract these risks. Regular exercise, moderate eating habits and proper hydration with lukewarm water can play a pivotal role in mitigating the vulnerabilities associated with winter-induced heart attacks," Dr Gupta added.

"As we navigate the colder months, individuals must prioritise their cardiovascular health through these practical steps, empowering themselves to weather the seasonal challenges with resilience and well-being," he further said.

Global non-profit organisation Orbis International's country director Dr Rishi Raj Borah emphasised the significance of eye care during winter. Orbis is dedicated to preventing and treating avoidable blindness.

The winter months present distinctive challenges to maintaining optimal eye health as dry air, indoor heating and exposure to harsh winds can lead to dry eyes, irritation, and even more severe conditions, he said.

"Preventive measures such as staying hydrated, using artificial tears and protecting the eyes from harsh weather conditions are crucial to preserving optimal eye health during this season," Dr Borah added.

Rohit, Kohli back in T20I squad for Afghanistan series

CAPE TOWN, Jan 8 (Agencie): Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli today made a high-profile comeback to India's T20 squad for the three home games against Afghanistan. Rohit was also named captain for the series beginning in Mohali on January 11.

Rohit and Kohli last appeared in a T20I in the World Cup semi-final defeat against England in November 2022. After India's exit, the two veterans along with KL Rahul were seen to be playing archaic cricket in the powerplay and the team needed to move on from that approach with Hardik Pandya earmarked as the new T20I skipper.

However, Pandya's injury followed by Suryakumar Yadav's ligament tear resulted in a lot of inexperience at the top of the order.

It was reported last week that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel was set to pick the celebrated duo for the Afghanistan series. "Decisions on Rohit and Virat can't solely be taken by the selection committee. There is a lot at stake — broadcasters, sponsors — and you can't pick one and drop the other. Ajit and his team needed to maintain a status quo," a former India selector told agency on conditions of anonymity.



The T20I squad also features wicketkeepers Sanju Samson and Jitesh Sharma, with Ishan Kishan being ignored for the shortest format. "Ishan wasn't happy that he was travelling without much game time. He is on a break right now and is vacationing.

In any case, the selectors are in all likelihood looking beyond Kishan. It will be interesting if he is picked for the England Test series where KS Bharat will be back behind the stumps," a BCCI source said. Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, the two Test team certainties, have been rested and Ruturaj Gaikwad isn't fit to play yet. All-rounder Shivam Dube has also been named in the squad in Pandya's absence. The Afghanistan series will be India's last before the World Cup, which takes place right after the IPL.

Indian squad
Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar

Virat is an outstanding player, nothing will happen (even if they are coming back to the T20 fold after a long gap)," Ganguly said. Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith reckons leaving out the likes of Rohit and Kohli from any team is extremely tough. "It's a very tough decision to leave out two players who have been incredible," said Smith.

Rohit should captain in T20 WC: Ganguly



KOLKATA, Jan 8 (Agencie): Former captain Sourav Ganguly today backed stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to feature in India's squad for the T20I World Cup in June. The duo has not featured in a T20I for about 14 months. "Of course Rohit should captain the team in the T20I World Cup. Virat also should be there. Virat is an outstanding



player, nothing will happen (even if they are coming back to the T20 fold after a long gap)," Ganguly said. Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith reckons leaving out the likes of Rohit and Kohli from any team is extremely tough. "It's a very tough decision to leave out two players who have been incredible," said Smith.

AB de Villiers blames T20 cricket for short India-SA series

DURBAN, Jan 8 (Agencie): Legendary South African batter AB de Villiers is annoyed that India and South Africa played only two Test matches in the just-concluded series and blamed the proliferation of T20 leagues across the world for the situation.

"I am not happy that there is not a third Test. You have to blame the T20 cricket going around the world," he said. "I do not know whom to blame, but I sense something is wrong. If you want to see which is the best Test team in the world, something has to change," he added.



South Africa star Heinrich Klaasen announces retirement from 'favourite format' Test cricket

CAPE TOWN, Jan 8 (Agencie): 32-year-old Heinrich Klaasen announced his retirement from Test cricket on Monday, January 8, coming up with an emotional statement on social media. Klaasen's decision came after he was overlooked for the recent 2-match Test series against India.

Heinrich Klaasen, one of the finest middle-order batters in ODI cricket, has played only 4 Tests over 4 years. His most recent assignment in whites for India came when he kept wickets for South Africa in a home Test against the West Indies in March 2023.



"After a few sleepless nights wondering if I am making the right decision, I have decided to Retire from RED Ball cricket. It's a difficult decision that I have made because it is by far my favourite format of the game," Klaasen said in a statement on social media.

Klaasen's retirement comes days after their former captain Dean Elgar brought down the curtains on his celebrated Test career. Elgar led South Africa in his farewell Test against India in Cape Town.

first-class player, having played 85 games and scoring 5347 runs at a stellar average of 46. He hit 12 hundreds and 24 fifties in his career.

Klaasen was considered as a better batter than most wicketkeepers on the circuit in South Africa, but South Africa preferred Kyle Verreynne for the home series against India.

"The battles that I faced on and off the field has made me the cricketer I am today. It has been a great journey and I am glad I could have represented my Country. In my opinion it was the most precious Cap I have ever been handed.

"Thanks to everyone who has played a part in my Red Ball Career and Shaped me into the Cricketer I am today. But for now a new challenge awaits and looking forward to it," he added.

South Africa will next play a 2-match series in New Zealand in February. The Proteas have named a young squad with as many as 7 uncapped players for the tour, a decision that irked many in the cricket fraternity. The big stars, including Klaasen, were not available as they are gearing up for SA20, the second edition of the T20 league, starting January 10.

Team India Suffers Mohammed Shami, Suryakumar Yadav Blows. Report Rules Out Duo Till...

NEW DELHI, Jan 8 (Agencie): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) medical team continues to wait for the likes of Mohammed Shami and Suryakumar Yadav to regain full fitness. The duo is likely to remain out for a longer period, with Shami likely to miss the first two Tests against England while Suryakumar's return is not expected until the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season. The BCCI announced India's squad for the 3-match T20I series against Afghanistan on Sunday but the team for the Test series against England is yet to be named.

As per a report, Shami hasn't even started to bowl and would have to go to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru to prove his fitness. He was named for the Test assignment against South Africa but was later ruled out.

"Shami hasn't even started to



bowl, he will have to go to NCA and prove his fitness. He looks doubtful for the first two Tests against England. Whereas in Yadav's case he will take more time than expected. After his hernia operation it might take up to eight-nine weeks for him to start training. Hopefully, he

will be fit during the IPL," Indian Express quoted a source as saying.

As for Suryakumar, he is on a delicate timeline that could see him remain out of action until the IPL 2024 season starts. Surya has a sports hernia for which he is likely to undergo

surgery abroad. Such a situation rules him out for about two months.

A report in the Times of India suggested that the Mumbai Indians batter could even miss the first few games of the IPL season because of his situation.

"SKY was recently diagnosed with a sports hernia. He is currently recuperating at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. In two-three days, he will fly for Munich, Germany, to get operated for it. It means that he certainly won't be playing for Mumbai this season in the Ranji Trophy and is likely to miss the initial games for the Mumbai Indians in the IPL," a source in the BCCI was quoted as saying.

"With the T20 World Cup in June, Surya will be given all the time to recover properly. He is crucial to India's chances in the T20 World Cup," TOI further said.

Asian Olympics qualifier: Indian shooters renew quest for Paris quota

JAKARTA, Jan 8 (Agencie): The Indian rifle and pistol shooters will renew their quest for Paris Olympics quota places when the Asian Olympics qualification event begins here today. A total of 16 Paris quota places are available at the continental tournament and the Indian pistol shooters will be in contention for as many as five possible berths.

The 10m air pistol events for men and women begin on the first day, with three Indians in contention in each of the two Olympics events.

The men go first with

Arjun Singh Cheema, Varun Tomar and Ujjwal Malik gunning for podium finishes and the one quota place that they can win in the event. Sarabjot Singh already won the other for the country last year. Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan and Surbhi Rao then shoulder Indian hopes in the women's event, in which India has still to win a Paris quota.

National pistol coach Samaresh Jung was positive about India's chances. "They have all been shooting well in training. The scores are good, now they have to just execute today. We

are very positive," he said.

As many as 385 athletes from 26 countries will take aim at the Senayan Shooting Range. "Our shooters have settled down pretty comfortably. It's a competitive field as the stakes are high, but we expect some success," said India's high performance director Pierre Beauchamp.

India have already won 13 Paris Olympics quota places in shooting across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines. While all quota places in rifle have been secured, a total of three quotas have been won in pistol.

Carlos Alcaraz posts heartfelt message to Rafael Nadal after Australian Open withdrawal

MELBOURNE, Jan 8 (Agencie): Carlos Alcaraz posted a heartfelt message to Rafael Nadal after the former World No.1 decided to withdraw from the Australian Open 2024 due to injury.

Nadal, who had just made his comeback after a year-long hiatus, revealed he suffered a setback due to a micro tear in his muscle during his quarter-final defeat in Brisbane International.

The Spaniard went on to confirm that he would have to pull out of the Australian Open as a result of the fresh injury.

"Once I got to Melbourne, I have had the chance to make an MRI and I have micro tear on a muscle, not in the same part where I had the injury and that's good news," Nadal said in an emotional Instagram post on Sunday, January 7.

"Right now I am not ready to compete at the maximum level of exigence in 5 set-matches. Therefore I'm flying back to Spain to see my doctor, get some treatment and rest."

"I have worked very hard during the year for this comeback and as I always mentioned my goal is to be at my best

level in 3 months," said Nadal.

Wishes have been pouring in for the former World No.1 with Alcaraz posting a heartfelt message. The Spaniard said that everyone is waiting to see Nadal in the next tournament.

"We are waiting for you in the next Rafa tournament! Get well soon!" said Alcaraz on Nadal's Instagram post.

Not very bad news: Rafael Nadal allays fears of prolonged absence

Despite the setback, Nadal would confirm that it wasn't all 'bad news' and is hoping to

make a swift return to the court.

"I have worked very hard during the year for this comeback and as I always mentioned my goal is to be at my best level in 3 months. Within the sad news for me for not being able to play in front of the amazing Melbourne crowds, this is not very bad news and we all remain positive with the evolution for the season.

"I really wanted to play here in Australia and I have had the chance to play a few matches that made me very happy and positive," Nadal said.

Pakistan name Mohammad Rizwan as vice-captain of their t20I team ahead of New Zealand tour

ISLAMABAD, Jan 8 (Agencie): Pakistan on Monday, January 8 confirmed the appointment of Mohammad Rizwan as the vice-captain of their T20 international men's team. Rizwan will be captain Shaheen Afridi's deputy from the upcoming 5-match series against New Zealand, starting January 12.

Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was named the T20I captain after Babar Azam stepped down from his role as all-format captain following the team's horror run in the ODI World Cup tournament in India. Afridi's men landed in Auckland ahead of the series opener on Monday, January 8.

The move to have Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Rizwan in their core leadership group is a big boost of confidence for the Pakistan side ahead of the T20 World Cup. Rizwan has been one of the mainstays of the T20I team, having played 85 T20Is for Pakistan and



has scored 2797 runs, including a hundred and 25 fifties.

Despite having been one of the senior players in the side, Rizwan has not had the opportunity of leading the side, even as stand-in captain in T20I cricket. However, Rizwan was crucial to the team during Babar Azam's stint as the captain of the side. Babar led the side in T20 World Cup 2021 and 2022 and they made the final in

2022, a year after losing in the semi-final in the UAE.

With Shaheen, a fast bowler, taking up the responsibility of captain, the appointment of Rizwan makes strategic sense, considering workload management for their star pacer.

Pakistan will begin their full-fledged preparation for the T20 World Cup with a 5-match series against New Zealand. They have named three wicketkeepers in Azam Khan, Haseebullah and Rizwan, who is likely to play as a frontline batter.

Pakistan Squad for NZ T20Is: Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abbas Afridi, Azam Khan (wicket-keeper), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wicket-keeper), Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (vice-captain), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Usama Mir and Zaman Khan.

IIM Jammu inaugurates Education Leadership Development Training Prog for College Principals of J&K



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, known for its commitment to academic excellence, has initiated a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled, "Education Leadership Development Training Program" for College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir.

The program, organized under the aegis of the Executive Education and Consultancy Division, commenced from January 8, and will go on till January 12, 2024.

The inaugural session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, setting a

symbolic tone for the enlightening journey ahead.

Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Programme Director at IIM Jammu, extended a warm welcome and provided insights into the program's objectives. Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu offered a brief overview of Executive Education & Consultancy at IIM Jammu.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized that the programme signifies our commitment to fostering educational leadership, empowering college principals to steer academic excellence in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to urge that educational

institutes work together and collaborate for nation-building and global progress.

In his address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that the Education Leadership Development Training Program underscores IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

The program's focus on aligning with the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) and fostering innovation is crucial for our education system's growth. Empowering college principals and senior faculty is more than a program; it's a transformative journey towards shaping visionary leaders. He emphasized that Jammu is unique with three

Institutes of National Importance—IIM, IIT, and AIIMS.

Collaborations include programs like B.Tech + MBA with IIT Jammu and MBA in Hospital Administration and Management with IIT and AIIMS, exemplifying NEP 2020. He mentioned that this initiative will play a pivotal role in shaping the region's education future, aligning with national priorities, and ensuring a brighter tomorrow for students in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants were given a tour of the Institute including the state-of-the-art Library at IIM Jammu. The program aims to equip Principals and Senior faculty of colleges with essential leadership skills, aligning their vision with contemporary educational trends and the evolving needs of students and the community. Key objectives include the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in colleges, enhancing instructional leadership, fostering effective communication, promoting cultural competence, encouraging innovation and adaptability, and instilling data-informed decision-making skills.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Programme Director. The entire programme is being coordinated by office of EE & C, IIM Jammu.

76 Bn CRPF organizes medical camp under CAP



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Continuing the wellness of civilians, 76 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with J&K Health Department, organized a free medical camp under Civic Action Programme on Monday at Guru Ravidas Community Hall, Channi Rama, Jammu under the guidance of Sandeep Khirwar, IG Jammu Sector and Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range.

The main objective of the camp was to reach out to the needy people of the area to provide

free health care and make them aware about their health.

In the medical camp, two Medical Officers namely Dr. S. Sowmiya, 76 Battalion, CRPF and Dr. Neeyati Abrol, Medical Officer, conducted free medical check-up of around 300 civilians and provided free medicines.

T.H. Khan, Commandant-76 Bn inaugurated the Civic Action programme and appealed to all people of the area to remain fit by doing physical exercises regularly and sensitized them to maintain

a healthy lifestyle & hygiene.

Besides, he also elaborated the role of the CRPF in maintaining cordial relationship between locals & force.

Mahendra Singh 21C, Rajesh Kumar Yadav 21C, Debu Dhakarwal, Asstt. Comdt., Rajinder Pal Singh, Asstt. Comdt., Insp Vishnu Kumar Sharma of 76 Bn CRPF also participated in the camp.

The initiative drew positive response and was received well by the locals with the urge that CRPF to organize such camps in the future also.

5.7 Dance Academy celebrates its 'Annual Day-Nritya Utsav'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: 5.7 Dance Academy celebrated its 'Annual Day-Nritya Utsav' at 5.7 Dance Academy Campus in Udheywala Jammu, wherein Sunil Sharma Director – Unique Dance Academy and Ritu Koul were the Chief Guests.

Tarun Uppal, Chairperson Nirbhay Bharat

Foundation was the Special Guest and Dr. Rohit Koul was the Guest of Honour.

The program was inaugurated with lighting the traditional lamp by Sunil Sharma, Dr. Ritu Koul, Tarun Uppal and Dr. Rohit Koul.

A documentary based on the activities of '5.7 Dance Academy' was also shown, prepared by

Komal Koul, Administrator of the Academy.

A cultural collage through various dance forms was presented by the students of the 5.7 Dance Academy on the occasion of its annual function. The premises of the academy resounded with music, dance and drama as the tiny tots put up a scintillating performance to

celebrate the annual day based on the theme "Nritya Utsav".

More than 68 students participated in the event and presented various dance forms of the country.

Ritu Koul in her speech, emphasised on the importance of parents' active participation in children's skills development may it be Dance or any field and she also stressed the need to cultivate reading habits as well in children to curtail screen time.

Sunil Sharma said that each child is special and should be promoted towards excellence and added each child is special and should be promoted towards excellence. The event was attended by a large number of dignitaries including parents.

Administrator of the Academy, Komal Koul appreciated the hard work put in by the young students and thanked

the eminent gathering present at the occasion. Such events provide the much-needed exposure to the students and prepare them for the long and arduous journey called Life, Tarun Uppal – Chairperson Nirbhay Bharat Foundation said who marked his presence in the event as the Special Guest.

Dr. Rohit Koul – Director and CEO of People's Hut Foundation who was the Guest of Honor in the Annual Function appreciated the program prepared under the directions of Vimal Koul and Sunmeet Bhardwaj (Managing Directors and Choreography Head) emphasized the usefulness of dance and its need in today's time and cited the coordination of music and dance in the new education policy 2020.

The dignitaries awarded certificates and trophies to students and congratulated the young achievers for excellence in various categories.

Dr. B.R Ambedkar Charitable and Welfare Trust Ghagwal holds meeting, discusses issues



Top News Report

GHAGWAL, Jan 8: A joint meeting of Dr. B.R Ambedkar Charitable and Welfare Trust Ghagwal was held at Ghagwal where so many issues were discussed with regard to the problems being faced by the society of SC, ST, OBC and downtrodden.

After discussion and with the consent of all the members of the Trust, Adv. Dharam Vir has been elected

as President of Dr.B.R Ambedkar Charitable and Welfare Trust Ghagwal.

Adv Dharam Vir thanked all the members of the Trust who deposited their trust upon him and assured the Trustees and all the people of Ghagwal that Trust will always be present in the social cause of the society and hoped that District Administration Samba and Ghagwal in particu-

lar shall give due representation to the Trust in the social cause of the society.

The members who were present in the meeting are Retd. Lecturer Pritam Chand Chairman, Retd. Lecturer Kuldeep Raj Ex-President, Romesh Chander Gen. Secretary, Sardari Lal Cashier, Karnail Chand, Sham Lal, Som Raj, Rakesh Prajapati, Gurbeas Kunal, Sunil Kumar and. Mohan Lal.

Keshav Chopra organizes eye check up camp at Rehari



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Samvedna Society Chairman Keshav Chopra organised 79th Free Eye Screening/Check Up, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme and Domicile registration camp at Baby Caterers Rehari Jammu.

The Camp was organised in collaboration with Sood Eye Centre (A unit of Agar-

wal Hospitals).

A total of 102 patients were provided free of cost treatment including Refraction, NCT, AR Check Up, Vision Check Up by a team headed by Dr Avitash Kumar M.S Eye Surgeon and free medicines were also given to the patients.

Speaking on the occasion Keshav Chopra said that this initiative aimed to provide accessible eye care services to the people

at their doorstep, we are committed for the overall upliftment of the living standard of needy sections and Samvedna believe in giving back to the community and promoting the importance of Healthcare, "Those who can't afford the treatment we will work to provide them free of cost" Aim of organizing this camp was to help the People to easily get the Ayushman Bharat Golden Card, PM Vishwakarma Scheme registration and Domicile Registration at one place, Keshav further added.

Dharamveer Chopra, Jugal Kishore, Ashish Sharma, Brijesh Kumar, Rakesh Bali (Marketing Manager), Kartar Chopra, Manoj Tandon, Divyansh Gupta, Vikas Kumar (Operator), Rahul (Operator), Sushil Gupta, Sourav Gupta, Ritesh Peer and others were also present during the camp.

Samsung opens pre-reserve for Next Galaxy Smartphone in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced the pre-reserve of its next flagship Galaxy smartphone, which will be unveiled later this month.

Pre-reserved customers will be eligible for early access and special offers on purchasing the new Galaxy devices.

Customers can pre-reserve the flagship Galaxy devices by paying a token amount of Rs 2000 on Samsung.com, Samsung Exclusive stores, Amazon.in and leading retail outlets across India. Consumers who pre-reserve

will get benefits worth Rs 5000.

Since the introduction of the first Galaxy flagship, Samsung has been continuously enhancing and innovating the flagship experience for the consumers. With the next generation of the flagship, offering enhanced devices based on years of rigorous R&D and investment, Samsung aims to further drive the latest era of Galaxy innovation and consolidate its position as the industry leader.

Samsung will unveil its next generation of flagship devices at Galaxy Unpacked on January 17 in San Jose, California.

Retirement party organised in honour of Supdt Er Rakesh Kumar



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 8: A large friend circle participated in a retirement party organised in honour of Superintendent Engineer Rakesh Kumar who recently retired from J&K UT's Rural Development Department after attaining the age of superannuation.

Congratulating Er Rakesh, Mr R.L.Kaith said, "Retirement is about embracing the time to pursue your hidden passions and dreams. May your retirement be the key that unlocks the door to new opportunities and adventures."

All his friends con-

verged in the function wished Er Rakesh a healthy, wealthy, long and happy retirement.

Among the friends who graced the occasion included Senior Divisional Manager, OIC (Retd) D.S.Motan, Lect. Verinder Kumar, Amreek Singh, Adv. Shashi Kumar Kaith and BMS Printer Kamal Kishore.