

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 09, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Farooq Granted Permission to Travel to New Delhi

SRINAGAR, Jan 9 (Agencies): Authorities here have allowed Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to travel to Delhi for a "personal" visit.

"Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Mohammad Umar Farooq was allowed by the state authorities to travel to New Delhi yesterday (Monday). Mirwaiz had conveyed the personal nature of his visit after which the authorities allowed him," Anjum-an Auqaf Jamia Masjid, the management body of the 14th-century mosque in Srinagar, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The Mirwaiz will be back (in Kashmir) in a couple of weeks," the statement added.

8 residential structures damaged in fire incident in Anantnag

SRINAGAR, Jan 9 (Agencies): At least eight residential structures were gutted in a massive fire incident in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, officials said.

Fire and Emergency Services said that a fire broke out in a residential structure at Boat Colony Khanabal around 3 am and engulfed other structures, causing extensive damage to seven single-story and a double-story house.

Eight fire tenders were pressed into service from different stations in the district to douse the flames.

The incident did not result in any reported loss of life or injury to any individual.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained, they said.

Mehbooba Mufti holds meeting of PDP leaders in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 9 (Agencies): PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday met with party leaders here as part of efforts to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level in Jammu region.

The former chief minister is on a two-day visit to the city.

"She held a meeting with leaders here and reviewed party activities. She discussed measures and programmes for strengthening party at the grass-root level in the region," Additional General Secretary, PDP, Satpaul Singh Charak said.

Para-Archer from Kishtwar receives Arjuna Award from President Murmu



JAMMU, Jan 9 (Agencies): Sheetal Devi, an inspiring para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, received the prestigious

Arjuna Award from President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi today.

Born with phocomelia, which impeded the development of her arms, she faced considerable challenges from a young age. However, Sheetal's indomitable

spirit saw her excel in activities that built her physical strength, crucial for her future in archery.

Her entry into professional archery was marked by an event organised by the Indian Army in Kishtwar in 2019. Under the mentorship of Kuldeep Vedwan, a former archer, Sheetal honed her skills, adopting a unique technique that involved using her feet and legs for shooting, similar to Matt Stutzman, a renowned armless archer.

Sheetal made a mark at the World Archery Para Championships 2023 in the Czech

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LG Sinha reviews preparations for Khelo India Winter Games 2024



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for 4th Khelo India Winter Games scheduled to begin on 2nd February at Gulmarg.

The Lt Governor was briefed by Sarmad

Hafeez, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, on the progress of preparatory works assigned to the concerned departments.

The Lt Governor directed the departments concerned to complete all works expeditiously through time-bound action plans and ensure all the facilities meet the

international standards.

The success of previous editions of Khelo India Winter Games has transformed J&K UT into a winter sports hub. It must be ensured that this year too becomes a momentous occasion for athletes and winter sports enthusiasts coming to J&K UT from

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Chief of Army Staff enthralled by NCC Cadets



Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 9: General Manoj Pande, ADC, Chief of Army Staff visited the NCC Republic Day Camp 2024 at the DGNCC Camp here today. On arrival, he was received by Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh, AVSM, VSM, DGNCC.

The Chief of Army Staff reviewed an impres-

sive 'Guard of Honour' by smartly turned out cadets drawn from all three Wings of NCC i.e. Army, Navy, Air Force. This was followed by a brilliant band display by NCC cadets of Scindia School.

Later, the COAS visited the 'Flag Area' created by the NCC cadets depicting social awareness themes and cultural activities. The

cadets provided him a detailed briefing about their respective State Directorate themes.

Afterwards, the COAS visited the 'Hall of Fame', a proud possession of the NCC that displays a rich archival collection of alumni photographs, models, motivational items, and other themes from the three wings of the NCC.

The Chief of Army

Staff, along with other distinguished guests also witnessed a spectacular 'Cultural Programme' performed by the talented NCC cadets in the auditorium.

The Chief of Army Staff expressed his delight in the fact that many former NCC cadets hold high positions in the Government and Armed Forces.

He motivated cadets to take a leadership role in various professions in addition to Armed Forces.

He also urged the cadets to put their heart and mind into everything they undertake and become role models for the youth of our nation.

He also highlighted about the significant contribution of NCC in

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Raj Bhawan bids farewell to Minga Sherpa



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the officers of Raj Bhawan bid farewell to Minga Sherpa, who

served as Additional Secretary at the Lt Governor's Secretariat.

The Lt Governor complimented Minga Sherpa for his professional

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NEET-PG 2024 exam rescheduled to July 7

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Postgraduate examination has been rescheduled to July 7 this year, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences said on Tuesday.

The cut-off date for the purpose of eligibility for the exam this year is August 15.

The exam was earlier scheduled to be held on March 3.

"In supersession of NBEMS notice dated 09.11.2023 and pursuant to the receipt of NMC letter dated January 3, 2024, the conduct of NEET-PG 2024 examination, which was earlier notified to be tentatively held on March 3, 2024, stands rescheduled," the NBEMS said in a notice.

"The NEET-PG 2024 shall now be conducted on July 7, 2024," it said.

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Active Covid Cases in Country recorded at 3,919

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): India has logged 475 new cases of Covid, while the number of active cases of the infection stood at 3,919, the health ministry said on Tuesday.

Six deaths — three from Karnataka, two from Chhattisgarh and one from Assam — have been reported in a span

of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, 2023 but cases began to increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, 841 new cases were report-

ed on December 31, 2023 which was 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

Of the total active cases, a large majority of these (around 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that

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Five persons arrested for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, Jan 9: Continuing its drive against persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police on Tuesday arrested five persons and seized five vehicles in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

A Police spokesperson said, "The Police party led by DySP HQRS Kulgam along with SHO Police station Kulgam under the close supervision of SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS during patrolling at Matalhama, Kulgam arrested five persons (Drivers).

The arrested persons have been identified as Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/O Ghulam Mohiuddin Sheikh R/O Sumarbugh, Lasian, Sameer Ahmad Dar S/O Ghulam Muhammad Dar R/O Zanipora, Pampora,

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Ammunition, Drugs recovered during search operation in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 9 (Agencies): Drugs and ammunition were recovered during a search operation in the Keran area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Quoting sources, Kashmir Scroll reported that on Monday evening search operation was carried out by Kupwara police along with 06

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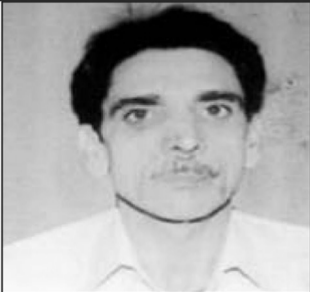
10TH DAY KRIYA

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 BIJBHARA DISTRICT ANANTNAG KASHMIR PRESENTLY AT LANE NO. 21, BLOCK NO.125, FLAT NO. 18 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 01-01-2024 (MONDAY).

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

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT SUNITA DHAR -WIFE
KARTICK & SHRAVAN -SONS
BROTHERS & BHABHIS
LT. SH DURGA NATH DHAR & SMT BIMLA JEE
SH SHUBAN KRISHAN DHAR & SMT SAVITRI DHAR
SH VIMAL KRISHAN DHAR (BITTUJI) & SMT ANITA DHAR
SISTER & JIJA JI
SMT RAJINI KACHROO & LT. SH INDU BUSHAN KACHROO
MOB. 8803982587, 9419313187



SH RAMESH KUMAR DHAR

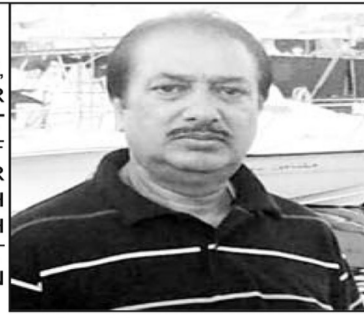
OBITUARY

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)

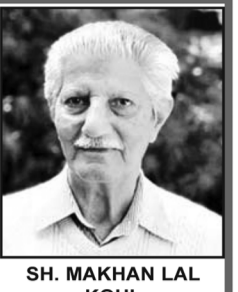
TENTH DAY KRIYA

It is with deep sorrow and profound grief we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Makhan Lal Koul (Papaji)**, son of Late Sh. Shivji Koul, originally from Rang Teng, Ali Kadal, near Reshpoo 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 Gija Koul
Sh. Bharat Bushan Koul and Nirmala Wali
Daughters and Son-in-Law
Smt. Veena Monga and Sh. Satish Kumar Monga
Smt. Sunita Bazzaz and Sh. Daleep Bazzaz
Grand Son and Daughter-in-Law
Mr. Sumit Koul and Mrs. Shiveeta Koul
Grand Daughters and Son-in-Law
Mrs. Minisha Koul and Mr. Anshoo Raina
Mrs. Shivangi Koul and Mr. Lovesh Bhatt
Mrs. Shafalee 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.: 7006781310, 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 Ashram, 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 Ardhas 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

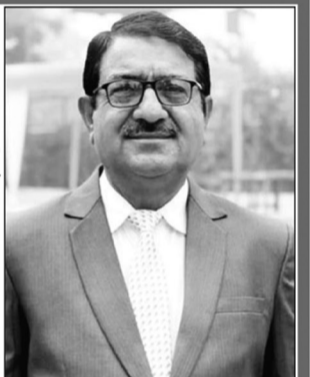
10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Shri Ramesh Kumar Raina** S/o Late Shri Shibanath 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, Shivrangini, - All Nieces & Nephews
Mobile Nos - 9425302538, 9753589936, 9419795215



Shri Ramesh Kumar Raina

TENTH DAY & KRIYA/UTHALA

As we navigate through this difficult time without **Late Sh. Tarachand Gupta** R/o 19-B New Karan Nagar Jammu, We seek the presence of all those who were dear to him. Please join us in honouring his memory during Tenth day & Kriya/ Uthala.

TENTH DAY will be Performed on Wednesday (10/01/24) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Ved Mandir Road Ambphala at 12 Noon.

KRIYA will be performed on Saturday (13/01/24) at our Residence at 12 Noon.

UTHALA Will be held on Saturday (13/01/24) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Ved Mandir Road Ambphala from 4 pm to 5 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Son & Daughter in Law : Manohar Gupta & Sunita Gupta
Contact: 9419183779
Daughters and Son in Laws :
Sudershana & Yoginder Gupta, Neelam & Ashok Gupta
Veena & Kasturi Lal Gupta
Pinkey & Rakesh Modi
Brothers & Sister-in-laws:
Smt. Geeta Devi & Sh. Madan Lal Gupta
Smt. Rani Devi (W/O Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta)
Smt. Rohini Devi (W/O Lt. Sh. Mukand Lal Gupta)
Sister: Vaishno Devi.



LATE SH. TARACHAND GUPTA

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 Yatarth
Kauls: 9877140450, 9316601047, 9915844707



Sh Omkar Nath Bhat

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

Contact No. 9622106151



Sh Rattan Lal Bhagat

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vinod Kumar** S/o Late Sh Charan Dass R/o Lakshmi Nagar Ward No 67 Muthi, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 01/01/2024.

10TH DAY will be performed on 10/01/2024 at our residence.

KRIYA will be performed on 11/01/2024 at our residence.

UTHALA will be performed at KRISHNA PALACE MUTHI on 12/01/2024. 4:00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

WIFE : ANURADHA SHARMA
DAUGHTER : VAISHALLY SHARMA
SON : AMAN SHARMA
FATHER AND MOTHER IN LAW : LATE SH. DWARKA NATH & Smt. SWARN NATH
BROTHER AND SISTER IN LAW : SH. ASHOK KUMAR & NEELAM SHARMA
SH. DARSHAN KUMAR & RENU SHARMA
SISTER AND BROTHER IN LAW : DARSHANA DEVI & SH. THORU RAM
Smt. SUNITA Sharma & SH. GOUTAM KUMAR
Lt. Smt. PUSHPA DEVI W/O SH. BADRI NATH
NEPHEW AND NIECE : NEHARIKA, SHRIYA , SHITAV



SH. VINOD KUMAR

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, WE INFORM SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **TRILOKI NATH BHAT** S/O LT. SHAMBOO NATH BHAT R/O DH PORA KULGAM A/P H.NO. 80-C, OM NAGAR UDHEYWALLA BOHRI JAMMU ON 04-01-2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 13TH OF JANUARY, 2024 SATURDAY AT AKHNOOR GHAT AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 10.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT RAJ DILAKSHI BHAT -WIFE
SMT SARLA & SH SURINDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT JUSTY BHAT & SH ANIT KAW -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SMT BHARTI RANI BHAT W/O LT. OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMT MOHNI BHAT & SH M K BHAT -BHABHI & BROTHER
SMT KUNDA & SH S C BHAT -BROTHER
SMT PHOOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT JEETA & SH R L KANDROO -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT SHANOO BHAT & SH AMIT BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
MR RONI BHAT -SON
SMT SHEIKHA & SH RUBAM BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHMI & SH LOVELASHI BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
MR SHIVAM BHAT -SON
SMT RASHI & SH SUNEIL KOUL
SMT ARCHANA & SH AJAY KOUL
SMT KOMAL & SH PARDEEP KACHROO
SMT SHEETAL & KAMLESH KANDROO
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

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
RAINA'S (MUJOO'S), DHARS, PANDITAS, KHOSAS AND CLOSED ONES.
9971826226, 9810023305, 9599903760.



MR AYODYA NATH RAINA

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

GRIEF STRICKEN
RAINA'S (MUJOO'S), DHARS, PANDITAS, KHOSAS AND CLOSED ONES.
9971826226, 9810023305, 9599903760.

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, Warikoo's, 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



Shri Bansidhar Kath (Papa Ji)

Grand Children : Aakriti, Jhanvi, Dea, Shiv

SAMAST KATH & KOUL FAMILY

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 Lecture) / 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 Ardhas 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. Sudershan Singh
S. Makhan Singh and Sdn. Lovelene Kour
S. Radhose 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, 9622148225



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

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

S. Harbans Singh Ji S/o Lt. S. Sadhu Singh Ji of Prempora Khursi (Srinagora) Baramulla A/P H.No.13 Sec B Sainik Colony Jammu left for heavenly abode on 05/01/2024.

PROGRAMME

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI At 10:00 AM on 10/01/2024 (Wednesday) at their Residence.

BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI At 10:00 AM on 12/01/2024 (Friday) at their Residence.

SHABAD KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAS at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Gurdwara Sainik Colony Jammu followed by Guru Ka Langar.

IN GRIEF

Teith family and friends
9419032718



S. Harbans Singh Ji

DISCLAIMER

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Devotional Bhajan 'Teri Jai Ho Bawe Wali' released devotional Bhajan



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Baldev Singh Billawaria (Deputy Mayor Jammu), Mahant Rajesh Bittu (Chairman Religious Tourism Chaired), Sahil Mahajan (BJP JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti, Art Culture Cell), Mahant Ram Narayan Dass Shastri and Mahant Gopal Anand released

devotional Bhajan Teri Jai Ho Bawe Wali in Press Club Jammu.

The program was organised by Sahil Mahajan (BJP JK UT Co-Convenor Sanskriti Cell) & Maa Bawe Wali Records (MD). The Song was released under banner Neeta Adarsh present and Sung by Neeta Adarsh, Music by Rakesh Anand, Direct-

ed by KK Malhotra Film, lyrics by Nirbhay Slathia, DOP by KK Malhotra, Assistant director Mahajan.

Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that in Jammu and Kashmir, the devotional songs of Gods and Goddesses are played everywhere during every religious ritual or function whether it is

Jagrata, Langar, Seva, Pooja or other religious rituals. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir should also support and encourage the local artists of Jammu and Kashmir so that they can also grow and reach new heights in their respective industries as it will make every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir proud.

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

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

Potholes on RS Pura-Jammu road becoming cause of accidents: Sansar Chand

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Sansar Chand has said that potholes on the RS Pura-Jammu road are causing road accidents.

He said that this road was constructed just a few years ago but due to poor quality of material, the road got uprooted after the rains due to which accidents keep happening every day. Some time ago, the concerned department filled it with soil and dust, due to which the problem increased instead of reducing.

Sansar Chand said that the carelessness



of the department is evident from the fact that despite repeated demonstrations by the people, no steps are being taken to improve the condition of the road. Especially from Kulian to R.S Pura The condition of the road is so bad that it has potholes at many places, due to

which many times drivers meet with accidents while trying to escape.

Apart from this, due to filling of soil in the pits by the department, dust keeps flying which also spoils the health of the people. There are many potholes on this road such that if drivers drive at high speed then the risk of accidents is 100%. Many times, especially two-wheeler drivers fall while applying brakes after seeing potholes.

He has demanded from the administration that steps should be taken as soon as possible to repair this road.

BJP's success attributed to PM's visionary approach to people's welfare, development: Sham Langer

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Sham Lal Langer, Convenor Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that the Union Govt led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in full synchronization with the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Administration stands fully committed to faster development of the nation as well as the welfare of the people. He said that the BJP's unprecedented success is not a coin-

idence but attributable to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary approach to people's welfare and development and the dedicated work of the party's foot soldiers working relentlessly 24X7 among the people at the grass roots level.

In a statement issued to media, Sham Langer said that BJP is an organization with broader approach and has always been outcome oriented, on matters of welfare and economic upliftment rather than being dogmatic. Its



greatest achievement has been in matters pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir be it abrogation of Article 370 or reining in the terrorists by following a zero tolerance policy against the merchants of death and destruction. Moreover,

the party accords top priority to nationalism, he added.

The senior BJP leader said that Bharatiya Janata Party has not only served the country a package of ideologically-driven reforms but it also ensured that the said transformation takes place in quick succession, rather than at a snail's pace as it happened in earlier regimes. It would not be wrong to state PM Modi effortlessly fused nationalism and development augmented by aggressive campaigns against

corruption and making transparency its hallmark. He said that rather than pushing welfarism to the margin, BJP made it the main stake which is evidenced by the fact that the budgets brought by the BJP Govt reflect policy continuity. Undoubtedly welfarism remains the central pillar of the Modi government's development policy, he said there should be no doubt that BJP is set to take up the reins of the governance of the nation under PM Modi for the third consecutive term.

ABVP urges LG to expedite process of appointment of JKPSM Chairman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir urges Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to intervene and expedite the appointment of a new Chairman for the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). There is urgent need for a new Chairman to address the slowdown in the agency's operations, which is adversely affecting recruitment processes and scheduled examinations.

ABVP State Secretary Akshil Billowria said that following the retirement of the previous Chairman in November month, the JKPSC has experienced a significant slowdown in its activities.

Interviews, selection lists, and exams scheduled after November 21st have been put on hold, causing uncertainty and inconvenience for aspiring candidates. This disruption not only affects the commission's functionality but also impacts the recruitment process and the aspirations of numerous individuals seeking government employment opportunities.

Mustafa Ali, ABVP National Secretary, expressed deep concern over the situation and emphasized the importance of expediting the appointment of a new Chairman and other members to restore the agency's functionality. He highlighted the need for swift action to ensure the timely conduct of interviews, finalization of selection lists,

and resumption of examinations.

ABVP further emphasized that the appointment of a competent and experienced Chairman would strengthen the JKPSC's ability to carry out its crucial responsibilities effectively.

ABVP with its rich history of student activism, remains committed to advocating for the rights and welfare of students in Jammu and Kashmir. The organization firmly believes that a fully functional JKPSC is essential for a transparent and efficient recruitment process, ultimately benefiting the aspiring youth of the region.

ABVP urges Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to prioritize the appointment process and take immediate steps to address the matter.

Modi launched welfare schemes for every section: Langeh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Addressing the monthly meeting of Jammu and Kashmir BJP SC Morcha at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, its state president Neelam Langeh, stressed upon the morcha leaders to educate the members of the community about numerous welfare schemes of Narendra Modi government. He said that during the last about ten years, BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has launched dozens of welfare schemes for every section and many of them have benefited the SCs across the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, like other parts of the country.

Neelam Langeh, who reviewed the ongoing programmes of the morcha and discussed the future programmes in this meeting, along with Morcha Prabhari Jagdish Bhagat, Seh Prabhari Jeet Ngral, former VC Balbir Ram Rattan and DDC member Dharminder Kumar, said that the socio-economic status of the scheduled castes have improved a lot now.

The SC Morcha President said that the Modi government has taken care of every region and every section of the society in its schemes and the SCs too have got fair share in the programmes and policies of this government, which is going to complete ten years soon and this period will go into the chapters of the history as golden period of the country.

Jagdish Bhagat, will speaking in the meeting, shared details of a number of activities being successfully conducted in different areas of Jammu province and said that the members of the community are attending Booth Jan Samvad, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and other programmes in large numbers, which show their resolve to stand with BJP and strengthen it.

Jeet Angral informed about the welfare schemes run by different departments of the government in Jammu and Kashmir and asked the morcha leaders to identify the people of the SC community who have been left and help them to apply registered as beneficiary of the scheme of their choice.

Dharminder Kumar said that the SCs in rural areas are availing the benefits of Modi government schemes and have developed faith in the leadership of the BJP.

Morcha office bearers, district presidents were prominent among those attending the meeting.

AAP-J&K to initiate "Badlao-Yatra" from Jan 10



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: AAP-J&K to initiate "Badlao-Yatra" from January 10 to 17, 2024 to expose Modi Govt on highest ever unemployment, women protection, inflation of prices, repeated paper leak scams & causing 35000 suicides of youth in last two years in the name of Agniveer scheme.

To declare the start of its "Badlao Yatra" in order to expose the utter failures of Modi Govt hide itself the inauguration of holy Mandir, AAP Senior leaders, R.S. Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Banday and Kuldeep Kumar Rao

asked Modi Govt to boldly place it's 10 years track record before the nation instead of hiding itself behind the proposed inauguration of by Govt must reply on highest ever unemployment, increasing crime rate against our women, inflation of prices & over 35000 suicides of our youth in last two years in the name of Agniveer scheme related paper leakage scams, they added.

This Badlao Yatra will touch maximum areas of Jammu province to aware the public about immediate challenges before the democracy of India because of

Modi Govt's dictatorial proceedings, the AAP leaders added.

AAP leader loudly gave a call to the masses to protect the beautiful Constitution & secular status of India those are facing swear threats from BJP's dictatorial attitude & focused on the importance of militarily strengthened INDIA for which it requires a true internal political stability which is being compromised for being in power.

Other Sr. Party leaders present on the occasion include Amit Longer, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Advocate Dalvinder Kumar, Adv. Arvind Bindral & others.

French Club felicitates French teachers, winners of French Club contests

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: French Club felicitated French teachers, Personalities of Jammu & winners of French Club contests French Club Jammu proudly celebrated the dedication and excellence of French language educators in prominent schools across the city.

The felicitation ceremony, held at Press Club, Jammu also highlighted the achievements of distinguished individuals who have significantly contributed to the cultural landscape of Jammu.

The event saw the recognition of French teachers from schools such as Jodhamal Public, Heritage, KC Public,



British International, IDPS, Model Academy, Shaurya International and Govt. Polytechnic College, Jammu and Club also felicitated freelance French teachers Megha Sharma and Rohini Khajuria for their tireless efforts in imparting linguistic and cultural knowledge to students. Their commitment to fostering a love for the French language has played a pivotal role in

shaping the linguistic diversity of the region. In addition to honoring educators, the French Club Jammu took the opportunity to acknowledge the winners of the prestigious Sushant Singh Trophy 2023. Club felicitated Aadhya Wazir, Jaspreet Kaur and Aadhya Sadhotra. Furthermore, the ceremony extended its appreciation to notable personalities from

Jammu who have made significant contributions to the community and its cultural richness.

Their efforts in promoting cultural understanding and fostering local talent have left an indelible mark on the region.

Club felicitated Mitali Dogra (International Player & Coach, Gymnast) and Amit Anand (Tabla Player) Baldev Singh Billawaria, Former Deputy Mayor who was Chief Guest on the occasion said that youth of Jammu possess enormous talent which requires exposure across the country.

He further said that we should not forget our culture as well as Dogri language and exhorted that we should make

efforts to promote our culture and make use of Dogri language in daily conversation.

The dignitaries who graced the occasion were Rakesh Gupta (Former President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu), Ravinder Singh (Famous Media Personality), Brij Mohan (Poet & Music Director), Naresh Sharma (Famous Artist), Tarun Sharma (Founder & President, Nat Manch) and Amit Sharma (Secretary, BJP, District Jammu South).

The programme was held under the supervision of Arun Sharma, President & Founder of French Club and the proceedings of the event were done by Suhana Sharma.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION SAMBA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (4th Call)

e-NIT-No 160 REW Samba of 2023 Dated :-05-01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with union territory of J&K, CPWD, MES, Railways Etc, for each of the following works under BUNKERS the year 2023-24.

S. No	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Const. Of Community Bunker near Baba Bali Karan Sadwal. Village sadwal Block Rajpura District Samba under Year 2023-24	2% of Adv Cost	8.50	600	45 Days	1200 Hrs on after 16-01-2024	A,B,C,D
2	Const. Of Community Bunker at Chak Sadda opposite to Kuldeep House. Village Chak Sadda Block Rajpura District Samba under Year 2023-24	2% of Adv Cost	8.50	600	45 Days	1200 Hrs on after 16-01-2024	A,B,C,D
3	Const. Of Community Bunker at Suresh kumar Media Person Chak Sadda. Village chak sadda Block Rajpura District Samba under Year 2023-24	2% of Adv Cost	8.50	600	45 Days	1200 Hrs on after 16-01-2024	A,B,C,D

NOTE: Contractors who have got Contractors cards issued from Kashmir Province, it is mandatory for them to upload their verification certificate of Crime Branch alongwith other qualifying documents failing which their tenders will be declared non-responsive.

NOTE:-Bidder should not belong to Panchayati Raj Institution

(Scan copy of Declaration that the bidder not a member of PRI duly attested by Notary/Block Development Officer).

Note:-Made misleading or false representations/document if any found at any step by the bidder, he shall be debarred to participate in any tendering process upto 6 months.

ii) :- After opening of the tender if the rates quoted by the lowest bidder is found high & value of work is more than the advertised amount, he/she is advised to negotiate his/her quoted rates with the department/offer his/her consent within Seven days after opening of the tenders failing which the work shall be put to fresh tender as no allotment shall be made beyond the advertised amount.

Note:-

If the contractor (L1) fails to submit CDR @ 3% within Seven days from the opening of financial bid, he shall be debarred to participate in any tendering process upto 12 months after forfeiting the CDR of the contractor without serving any notice.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Sanctioned

Position of funds: Partially Available (Disposal of Funds at Block Development Officer Concern)

- Date of Publishing from :-06-1-2024
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 06-01-2024 to 15-01-2024 upto 1800 hours.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 06-01-2024 to 15-01-2024 upto 1800 hours.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Samba on 16-01-2024 at 1200 Hrs
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

No:- XEN/REW/S/2023-24/ Dt:-05-01-2024 DIP/J-13621/23

Sd/-
(Er. Sanjiv Kumar Gupta)
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Division Samba

EDITORIAL

PROGRESSING
INDIA

Our country India is a completely multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual country, where many types of discrimination in the name of religion and caste are currently being seen. The progress of the country is also situated at present.

The India of my dreams should be such an India where the pace of development is seen increasing rapidly everywhere so that the country can join the list of developed countries as soon as possible.

In today's time, there is a lot of discrimination in the name of caste and religion in the country. However, this discrimination has reduced a little since the past. But in the future, this discrimination which is currently going on in the name of caste and religion will end completely and if people work together keeping aside the issues of caste and religion, then the country will get an important contribution to the progress of the nation.

Even today, our country is much backward in terms of education compared to other countries. If you want to see the India of your dreams, then you will also have to spread awareness about education and make your main contribution to ensure that every citizen of the country becomes educated.

It should be the duty of every citizen in the country to get education. Only educated and talented individuals will be able to advance the development of the nation. If every person in the country is educated then no one will be able to stop the development of the country.

In today's time, there is a lot of corruption in the country and this corruption is increasing day by day. The reason for increase in corruption is that there are many such exceptions in the country, who are spreading corruption in the country for their own selfish interests. But the India of my dreams will be completely corruption free. In the India of my dreams, women and men will be considered equal. Even in the job sector, both men and women will be able to work shoulder to shoulder and gender discrimination will be completely eliminated.

It is being said that India is currently progressing a lot in science and technology. But even today our country is far behind in science, industry and technology compared to other countries. India of my dreams in which science, industrial and technological development will increase, due to which the country will come in the list of developed countries.

Our India is going to change completely after 100 years of independence. Technology is increasing day by day in our India and by the year 2047, India will become a completely technology based country.

By C P Surendran

Last week, I was in Thrissur when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in town. Thrissur is a temple town – the city is built around a hillock where an ancient Shiva temple is located. All the roads lead to the temple. By noon on January 3, every one of these roads was blocked to traffic, so Modi's address from the temple grounds could be made.

The crowd was massive. After a decade in power, even in a leftist state like Kerala, Modi seemed an elemental force; nothing had taken away the studied mystique of his power even in a state historically hostile to saffron ideology.

Yet, what the PM said was predictable. He slammed the CPM as well as the Congress. Modi said both parties were corrupt and that only the BJP, whose electoral presence in Kerala so far has been marginal, can usher Kerala into a truly developed phase.

Never mind that Kerala is politically and culturally antithetical to the idea of industrial development. Its main sources of income are tourism, liquor (awful

Role of free will in our daily lives

spirit, awfully overpriced), and human capital export (NRIs). That is the way it is going to be in the foreseeable future too, except perhaps in the matter of IT.

This note is not about the PM or Kerala. It is about how little a role free will plays in our daily lives. Certainly, that is what I thought, listening to the PM. The prime minister's speech could have been predicted: he would not have said a word that surprised anyone, least of all himself.

This predictability pretty much applies to all of us. Mamata Banerjee or Mahua Moitra must make only the noises they are accustomed to utter. Pinarayi Vijayan and Udayanidhi Stalin are not in a position to alter their narratives. They would be pretty much saying and doing exactly what they have been saying and doing for years now, given their political matrix and family credentials.

As primates whose consciousness is of a superior order – we are conscious of our consciousness – it is a little disturbing that we are not quite guided by free will, as we would like to think.

In the Western tradition, civilisation is anchored on free will.

One of the first great exponents of free will was St Augustine, who virtually invented the idea some 1,800 years ago because he had to absolve his god from all blame. If the Abrahamic god, as is postulated, is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, then evil could not be explained. For example, god would have known that Eve would bite the apple, and he would be in the docks for growing that strange tree right in the middle of the garden like an invitation to ruin his own party. Augustine solved the problem by attributing free will to man. So you can choose – not to eat the apple.

But is there free will? That's the question now flying in the face of philosophers and neurobiologists. In a recent episode of the podcast Final Thoughts on Free Will, academic Sam Harris asks you to think of the three best movies you have ever seen. His question: how did these three movies come up? Why not any other three? Did you know you were going to name these three? No. You were only a witness to the decision. Free will had little to do with it.

Let's take a larger question. The Ukraine war has killed over

10,000 civilians, including hundreds of children who had nothing to do with the war. The Gaza war has killed over 25,000. Here, too, children have figured in thousands on the fatalities' list. What free will did they have in making the biggest decision in their lives? What was it they could have done on their own volition to prevent their deaths? Nothing.

Indeed, those who 'free-willed' the wars into existence were Putin, Zelensky, the Hamas leadership and Netanyahu. Are they now in a position to call it off? No.

Robert Sapolsky, who teaches at Stanford, is the author of the best-selling Determined. He contends that if all intentions are willed free into existence, where did that intention come from? He says that the only way to determine the last intention you had is to figure out the intention just before. And so you keep going back in your intention-formation process to the Big Bang, which incidentally was free of all will.

Then, you are doing what you are doing because you really have no choice. In other words, the choices we make are predetermined by our genetic disposition

and the cultural and social contexts attending to us and traced back to our progenitors.

This warrants a second look at our justice system, which is based on the idea of crime and punishment. That a man commits a crime is not the result of a choice, but the emergence from a predisposition. Sapolsky says there needs to be a whole lot more compassion built into the justice system because man is not fully responsible for his actions. He advocates that a capitalist system that works on rewards must also go. So must entitlement, a 'wokist' condition of civilisation.

The point is that if we get rid of the idea of free will, the world would be a markedly better place because we would accord each other more fallibility. We would need to be fairer and kinder to each other. This would fundamentally alter the way we

perceive reality. And based on that changed perception, we may strain toward a less harsh reality than the one that has emerged.

In that ideal state of things, Modi would be less predictable and may talk, at least in flashes, like Rahul Gandhi. Zelensky would surrender. Putin would cry. Netanyahu would call off the war on the children of Gaza. And, who knows, Kerala just might have a BJP government that quotes Marx with a smile.

(C P Surendran,
Poet, novelist,
and screenplay
writer. His latest
novel is *One
Love and the
Many Lives of
Osip B*)

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
TENDER NOTICE				
Invitation of Open Tender through E-Procurement system				
Assist. Material Manager, N. Railway, ETD/Store Depot/Ludhiana for and on behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the given below item.				
S.N.	Open Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender opening date
01.	70235178B	DG Set 250 KVA Capacity; 250 KVA with AMF panel as per attached PCEE/NR specification.	01 Nos.	02.02.2024
NOTE- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class-III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act-2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.				
Tender Notice No.: 003/2023-24 Date: 02.02.2024 82/2024				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

How To Prepare For UPSC Geologists' Exams



By: Vijay GarG

Every student works hard with the hope of clearing competitive examinations conducted by the Union/State Public Service Commissions for securing a bright career.

The UPSC conducts Combined Geo-Scientists' Examination every year to appoint geoscientists, including geologists, hydrogeologists, geophysicists and chemists, in the Geological Survey of India (GSI) under the Union ministry of mines, and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Union ministry of jal shakti. Combined Geo-Scientists' Examination is a three-tier exam: (i) Stage-I: Preliminary Examination; (ii) Stage-II: Main Examination and (iii) Stage-III: Personality Test.

The Preliminary Examination is of objective type having two papers: (a)

Paper-I: General Studies of 100 marks and (b) Paper-II: Geology/Hydrogeology/Geophysics/Chemistry of 300 marks of two-hour duration each. Marks secured in the Preliminary Examination is counted for the final merit list. Candidates clearing the Preliminary Examination are allowed to take the Combined Geoscientists (Main) Examination. The main examination has three papers (descriptive type) for each stream and the marks obtained in this exam are also counted for deciding the final merit. The personality test is of 200 marks. Final merit list is prepared on the basis of marks obtained out of a total of 1200 marks in three stages.

Minimum Educational Qualification

(i) Geologists in GSI: Master's degree in geological science or geology or applied geology or geo-exploration or mineral exploration or engineering geology or marine geology or earth science or oceanography and coastal areas studies or petroleum geosciences or geochemistry.

(ii) Hydrogeologists in CGWB: Master's degree in geology or applied geology or marine geology or hydrogeology

(iii) Chemists in GSI/CGWB: M.Sc. in chemistry or applied chemistry or analyti-

cal chemistry

(iv) Geophysicists in GSI/CGWB: Master's degree in physics/ applied physics/ geophysics/ exploration geophysics/ applied geophysics/ marine geophysics)/ applied geophysics.

Strategy for preparation

Smart study is the need of the hour to get through any competitive examination.. Time management is very important for competing in the exam. And, it can be done only through regular practice of writing answers to previous years' questions. Practice makes a man perfect, goes the saying.

Another important part of the strategy is preparation of notes. The aspirants should attend their graduation and post-graduation classes seriously and note down important points of lectures. They should also refer to good textbooks and reference books and make their own handwritten notes.

For Preliminary Examination, they should concentrate on basics of the subject. They should practise multiple choice questions from authentic resources available online/offline. They may solve previous years' CSIR-NET and GATE examination papers while preparing for preliminary stage. This will help them understand their

analytical ability. Candidates should delineate their strong topics from the weaker ones and make preparations accordingly.

For Mains Examination, notes should be prepared using bullets, well-labelled diagrams and flowcharts, highlighting important terms and words. The aspirants need to analyse the question papers of the last five years carefully and prepare a list of frequently asked questions. They must focus on these topics while covering the prescribed syllabus. Important points should be presented in bullet forms. Handwriting should be eligible, quite neat and clean. Candidates need to be careful about the word limit of every answer they write, as limited space is provided in the question cum answer booklets. Moreover, all the questions must be answered within the allotted time. Candidates must believe in themselves and write answers with a peaceful mind to get success in examination and achieve their goal.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Sarpanch Gurdeep distributes dustbins among Panchayat representatives



Top News Report

RS PURA, Jan 9: Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, Sarpanch of Gandli Panchayat in RS Pura block and State Secretary of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, distributed waste-bins among Panchayat representatives on Tuesday as part of an initiative to make the Panchayat garbage-free.

The Naib Sarpanch Pyarelal, Panch Satya Devi, Pawan Singh, and other representatives were present on this occasion.

Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini emphasized his commitment to cleanliness upon assuming the responsibilities of the Sarpanch position. He initiated a campaign to make the

Panchayat garbage-free, and now, taking another step forward, waste bins have been distributed among the locals so that waste disposal can be managed effectively.

During his tenure, Sarpanch Saini highlighted the significant contributions made by the Panchayat to reach new heights. He acknowledged the cooperation of Panchayat representatives in achieving this success.

Sarpanch Saini expressed gratitude for the beneficial and welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government for the common people. He mentioned that efforts have been made to extend these schemes to the Panchayat level, making it

a model Panchayat.

On this occasion, Sarpanch Saini appealed to the government to extend the term of the Panchayat's tenure by one year to strengthen Panchayati Raj.

He emphasized that while the tenure of Sarpanch, Panch, and BDC members is being terminated by the government, the term of District Development Council (DDC) members is not being concluded. In this context, he advocated for the Three-Tier System to continue effectively, ensuring the completion of the Panchayati Raj structure.

The programme witnessed the presence of Sardar Harjinder Singh, Darshan Singh, Indrapal Singh, Radha Rani, and other prominent persons of the Panchayat.

IAF invites online applications for Selection Test for Agniveer Vayu Intake

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Airmen Selection Centre, Ambala will be conducting recruitment process for enrolment of eligible youth (Male & Female both) as Agniveer Vayu from its area of jurisdiction (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh (UT), Jammu & Kashmir (U/T) and Ladakh (U/T).

Both male and female candidates, recruited through this scheme will be called Agniveer Vayu. The official notification for online applications from unmarried male and female candi-

dates for selection test for Agniveer Vayu Intake 01/2025 under Agnipath Scheme is being shared with this press release.

The registration process for online applications for recruitment of youths both male and female as 'Agniveer v Vayu' will be starting from 1100h on 17 Jan 2024 to 2300h on 06 Feb 2024.

It is requested that the eligible candidates (male & female) may please be encouraged and motivated at your end to register them for said examination on website <https://agnipathvayu.cdac.in>

TFTA President Abhinav calls on Secretary PWD

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Abhinav Anand President Traders Federation Trikuta Nagar (TFTA) and District Secretary BJP

Jammu South called on Bhupinder Kumar (IAS) Secretary PWD R&B J&K UT at Civil Secretariat Jammu and congratulated him for his New Assignment.

President Nat Manch launches Plantation Drive

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: President Nat Manch and BJP leader, Dr. Tarun Sharma today launched Plantation Drive 2024 campaign in Jammu City with planting a fruit plants.

The aim of the initiative is to Green and Clean

Jammu & Kashmir. He said and appealed to the people to plant trees in their houses, strips, public parks and to protect them.

Other members present on the occasion were Pawan Sharma, Amit Nayyar and Rohit Sawhney.

End of Panchayat Raj in J&K BJP Govt failed to hold elections due to fear of defeat: Congress

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Congress has said that Panchayat Raj system has collapsed today due to expiring of term of Panchayats in J&K and said that BJP has deliberately delayed the Panchayat elections due to fear of defeat.

JKPCC has said that BJP deliberately delayed the elections and the Panchayat Raj system collapsed today in J&K, which is great injustice to the people of J&K who are without a democratic Govt. since June 2018. Last assembly elections were held in December 2014, but assembly elections in J&K are due since 2018 but now in January 2024, no one know the timing of assembly elections, said JKPCC Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma. He said that BJP wanted to control the powers in the lands

of few bureaucrats to easily run through remote control from centre to Carry out the propaganda and publicity of the BJP Govt. through the administrative machinery, for the upcoming elections. The entire administrative & field machinery is on publicity job of the BJP Govt. with an eye on general elections, he added.

BJP allowed Panchayat Raj system to die its death as it was not confident of winning. People's aspirations and rights do not matter to the ruling BJP, which is now evidently clear, adding that ULB and Panchayats were the last symbols of democracy left in J&K. The Govt. was supposed to complete these elections one month prior to the completion of their present term of Panchayats & ULB, he added.

Lecture on Spirituality in Modern Life organised at JU Palga Rinpoche underscores importance of cultivating calmness in mind and body through meditation



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: In a seminar organised by the Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa in collaboration with Yuva Bharat and Buddhist Department at the University of Jammu, the Head of the Department, Prof. Shoiab Malik along with Parmit and Dr Chhering Tandup, welcomed esteemed guests.

Chief Guest, His Eminence Palga Rinpoche, a distinguished spiritual leader, emphasised the crucial connection between modernity and spiritual practices.

He underscored the importance of cultivating calmness in mind and body through meditation in today's world, where youth grapple with confusion and sensitivity, often resorting to destructive paths.

His lecture was enlightening and inspired youth to follow the right path and participate in positive

events.

His eminence Palga Rinpoche, main speaker of the seminar has also focused more on practices of modernity and spiritualism.

He said that in modern world we need to focus on calmness of our mind and body through the practices of meditation. Today's youths are confused and more sensitive towards their life.

Prof. Virender Kundal, Guest of Honour and Director, Department of DSR, JU has spoken of need of practices of spiritualism and simultaneously hard work like Swami Vivekananda and many more saint for the achievements of ultimate goals of Vishaw Guru when the country will observe it's 100 independence day.

This insightful seminar has initiated valuable discussions on the intersection of modernity and spirituality, providing a platform

for addressing the challenges faced by today's youth and emphasising the importance of spiritual practices for a harmonious society.

Earlier, Prof. Shoiab Malik, Head of the Department, Buddhist Department has welcome the guests.

Parmit, has mentioned about the aims and objectives of Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa. Dr. Chhering Tandup Se. Assistant Professor and Convenor Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa has given the brief introduction of His Eminence Palga Rinpoche.

The session was followed by question answer sessions and His Eminence has replied all the genuine questions. The formal vote of thanks has been presented by Dr. Chhering Tandup, Assistant Professor, Bhadarwah Campus and Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa Convenor. The event was efficiently managed by Dr. Thinley.

Randhawa tours Bhour Kothey area, asks JMC officials to identify development works for execution

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa under Public Outreach Programme conducted tour of conducted tour of Bhour Kothey area of JMC Ward Number 73 of Jammu South RS Pura Assembly Segment.

Randhawa was accompanied by Vijay Sharma Mandal President, Inder Khajuria, Makhhan Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Pushkar Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Narinder, Vinod and many others.

During the tour, Randhawa took first hand appraisal of the issues being faced by the people.

While interacting with the visiting leader, the people apprised him about the issues including dilapidated condition of roads and drains, damaged street lights, etc.

While speaking, Former Legislator, who was accompanied by the officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, flayed the Municipal authorities for ignoring the area (Ward Number 73).

Despite falling under the ambit of Jammu Municipal Corporation, the area is having no proper lanes and drains, street light and other basic amenities.

"The area has been

ignored as no development works have been carried out in this area and for this, only JMC authorities are responsible", Randhawa said and asked the accompanying JMC officials to chalk out a plan and draft a proper estimate to carry out development works in this area as soon as possible.

"A detailed estimate of the development works will be made and very soon, the area will have all the basic amenities", Randhawa assured the people.

He also asked the people to identify the development needs of their area so that work can be enlisted for execution by the JMC.

Randhawa added that BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has done tremendous work to ensure that every section of the society gets its due share.

Former Legislator while referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Jammu and Kashmir said that while the economically marginalized segments of the society have been brought under Ayushman Bharat scheme as part of health for all across the country, it has been made applicable as Ayushman Sehat in the Union Territory with benefits of Rs 5 lakh medical cover to every family without any economic slab.

"Central Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come up with an inclusive agenda of development, growth, investment and creating opportunities for the youth—skilled, unskilled and educated. The initiatives put into action by the visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi will transform Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of region, religion, caste or ethnicity", he said.

The BJP leader said that PM Modi gave special attention towards J&K with abrogation of Article 370 remaining the turning point for the region which has opened the floodgates of development and end of turmoil that lasted for over three decades under the meek dispensations of Congress and other parties.

"Gigantic Vaccination programme, fight against COVID, digital revolution, cashless transactions, etc are among umpteen other schemes and policies which the BJP regime have realized and helped India to become one of the developed countries across the world", Randhawa said, adding that the opportunity should be well utilized to disseminate all this among the masses to bring more people to party fold and strengthen party at grass roots level.

Apni Party delegation calls on SDM Akhnoor



Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 9: A delegation of Apni Party today called on Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Akhnoor to discuss developmental

issues with him.

The delegation was led by Apni Party District President Jammu Rural-A, Pushap Dev Kumar Uppal.

During their meeting with the SDM, Uppal

highlighted various developmental issues of Panchayat Halqas in Akhnoor and vacant posts of the Lambardars.

He demanded that the vacant posts of the lambardars should be filled up at the earliest so that the public issues can be addressed at the concerned village level.

After hearing the delegation carefully, the SDM Akhnoor assured them that their demands would be considered.

NEP Orientation Program inaugurated at MMTTC-SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 9: The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra inaugurated the 8-day Online training Program entitled "NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program" which is being conducted for University and College teachers from all over India.

The Inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU who dwelt upon the role of NEP-2020 which is founded on the five guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability and

reiterated that NEP-2020 will help in imparting holistic learning and will prepare our youth to meet the diverse national and global challenges of the present and the future.

Prof. Supran K. Sharma, Director, MMTTC-SMVDU dwelt upon the need for sensitizing Faculty Members in realizing their role in futuristic institution building in the Indian Education Policy ecosystem.

It is pertinent to mention that the Faculty Members get trained to impart holistic education, imbuing the ideals of India-centric ethics and human values. Thus, the teachers and learners are expected to

acquire the concept of the Indian Knowledge System and apply it in real life for the advancement and creation of knowledge.

The event spread over 10 days shall include 16 Technical Sessions and the Speakers have been specifically selected from various Institutions of the country to enunciate the need for imparting training and skills to Faculty Members for the smooth and successful implementation of NEP-2020 as per the decisions taken by UGC at Institutions of Higher learning across the country.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Sunanda and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sharada Potukuchi.

Women empowerment must upgrade their living standard and to make society vibrant: Mir

Women pin hopes with Apni Party: Manjit Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Asserting that women play a vital role in the society, the Apni Party Senior Vice President, Jammu, Ghulam Hassan Mir has emphasized upon the empowerment of women to upgrade them educationally, economically, politically and socially to upgrade the living standard of the society and to make society vibrant.

As per a press release, a meeting of women wing was organized by Provincial President

Women Wing Jammu, Pavneet Kour here at Apni Party Office, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was also attended by Provincial President, Jammu, S. Manjit Singh and other leaders.

While chairing the meeting of the women wing, Ghulam Hassan Mir reviewed the working of the women wing and suggested certain measures that need to be taken to gain more strength on the ground.

He appreciated the women wing and its



leadership for educating women about the policy and agenda of the Party.

He said that the Apni Party believes that the women are not fully empowered. Therefore, the educational, economic, political, and

social empowerment of women is must to fully empower the women and upgrade the living standard of the society.

"It becomes imperative to fully empower women in Jammu and Kashmir so that they can resolve

their own issues," said Mir.

He said that the women should come forward and join the Apni Party which has provided appropriate representation to the women folk.

"The involvement of

women in politics is important to fight for their rights which have been guaranteed by the constitution of the country," he said.

He further stated that the Apni Party is committed to the empowerment of women.

Accordingly, he said that the Party has committed to enhance marriage assistance from Rs 50000 to Rs 1 lakhs for the girls belonging to poor families, enhancement of widow pension up to Rs 5000, and supply of four cooking

gas cylinders per year to each family under Ujjwala Scheme, belonging to economically weaker section of society.

He also said that the participation of women in economic activities will boost the economy as well as upgrade the living standard of the society, especially the women and young girls.

"The education of women and awareness among them about their rights must for their empowerment," he added.

Meanwhile, Provin-

cial President, Jammu, Manjit Singh also spoke on the occasion and held detailed deliberation about the activities of women wing.

He said that the women from different segments of society have joined the Apni Party after being impressed with the policy and agenda of equitable development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, Pavneet Kour, Provincial President, Women Wing, Jammu also explained the organizational working.

You have to block mindless trolling but some criticism is important feedback: Ananya Panday

You can't get too carried away by either praise or hate, says actor Ananya Panday, who is earning rave reviews for her performance in 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', a film she describes as a relevant story that captures the impact of social media on youth.

Panday, who made her movie debut with 2019's 'Student of the Year 2', has often been targeted by online trolls for her comments, fashion choices and sometimes, just for hailing from a film family.

The 25-year-old, who is the daughter of actor Chunky Panday, said she has been vocal about people expressing themselves and learning from their mistakes. She believes whatever she has experienced since she became an actor has contributed to her growth.

"If I hadn't been exposed to those emotions, I would probably not be able to perform a certain way. So I'm grateful for whatever's happened because I have been allowed to express myself through my work. And, some criticism is helpful and like important feedback. Obviously, you have to block out the mindless trolling," Panday said in an interview.

Asked about the praise that has come her way post 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' and 2022's 'Gehraiyaan', the actor said she has learned to take feedback in her stride.

"I feel like people's perceptions change every Friday. You can't get carried away by praise or hate. You have to keep working hard, that's the best you can do. You can't change the way people speak, so you can only



work on yourself. That's what I have learned," added Panday, who also runs a digital social responsibility initiative against online bullying.

She is happy that people have connected with her character of Ahana, a workaholic marketing executive, who feels stuck in her relationship and career, and takes to social media to seek validation.

Panday said the film, also starring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav, was one of the "best working experiences" she has had. Netflix's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' is directed by Arjun Varain Singh and released on December 26.

"I want to be able to play characters that go beyond generation, that people always remember and feel happy when they think about, and relate to," said the actor, recalling growing up on films such as 'Jaane Tu Yaa Jaane Naa', 'Ye Jawani Hai Deewani' and 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai'.

'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' captures the pitfalls of hyper-connectivity in the internet era and the constant need for validation from strangers through the story of three friends, who are unable to move forward in life for different reasons whether it's Panday's Ahana, Chaturvedi's Imaad, a stand-up comic hiding a tragedy, or Gourav's Neil, a fitness instructor trying to make it big.

Through the film, Panday said, they wanted to understand the current generation and depict "what's going on around all of us".

"We all felt it, all the actors and the director. Everyone felt like this was happening in their lives and people weren't talking about it. It is a relevant issue because it's not just about social media. It's about the way relationships have changed."

Panday, who is an active Instagram user but is "too scared" of X, said the film helped her relook at her own relationship

with social media.

"At the end of the day, everyone has to realise that it is just for fun and it can be all taken away with a click of a button. You just shut your phone and it's all gone. And, there's a real world out there with actual people and connections to form."

Panday has received acclaim for some of the emotional scenes in the movie, but the actor said those came easy to her as opposed to the fun moments.

"Strangely, for me, the toughest part as an actor is to laugh on screen. And, this is one of those films where there were moments when the friends are hanging out and we had to laugh and I just couldn't," the actor recalled.

What helped her was a workshop with acting coach Atul Mongia. "He does this exercise where he does 'every degree of an emotion', where you have to go from zero to hundred. I could do anger, sadness, everything, but I just couldn't do happiness and laughter. He made me sit in the middle of a room. First, he made me cry and then, he made me laugh," she said.

Panday's upcoming projects include Vikramaditya Motwane's film 'Control' and her debut web series 'Call Me Bae', and an untitled film.

"As an actor, it's gratifying that directors like Zoya Akhtar, Shakun Batra, and Vikram sir... They see something in me and want to work with me. To me, that's the best reward as an actor to work with people where I can learn something and grow," she said.

Penelope Cruz says her kids want her to do superhero movie



Actress Penelope Cruz's children would love to see her star in a superhero movie.

"If it's something interesting, why not? It's fun. As you could imagine, that's what my kids ask me sometimes, 'Are you ever going to do that, mom?' Because I've done so much drama and so many films I can't show to them yet," the actress, who has Leo, 12, and Luna, 10 with her husband Javier Bardem, told Variety.

Cruz is also keen to make a musical movie, and she's already looking forward to the challenge.

The actress shared, "I'm going to do one soon, I think. I was very fortunate to do 'Nine' with Rob Marshall. I had an incredible time. It forced me to go back to dancing to five hours a day. We're planning something that makes me very happy."

Cruz has worked with Bardem at various points in her career, but she doesn't want to work with the award-winning actor 'all the time'.

The actress and Bardem, who have been married since 2010, worked together on the drama movie 'Everybody Knows', but she's previously insisted that they'll only collaborate "when it makes perfect sense", reports ace-showbiz.com.

Aradhana Sharma to be seen in upcoming series Video Cam Scam

Aradhana Sharma, who is a part of the upcoming web series Video Cam Scam opened up on what fascinated her to be the part of this project, and shared how she believes in spreading awareness about the rising trends like morphing and deep fake videos, which are causing significant harm to people mentally and financially.

Aradhana said that the title gives you a hint that it involves video, a camera and a scam. "However, the scam isn't just financial; it also targets you emotionally by exploiting your values, morality, and personal integrity. This is done through the use of cameras and advanced video techniques driven by current AI technology. In essence, it's a plot that manipulates not only your financial well-being but also emotional and moral values," she says.



On what made her say yes to the show, she said, "What drew me to this project is that as an actor, my role goes beyond just performing, it's about raising awareness."

Looking for films that can create a positive impact on the audience: Madhuri Dixit Nene

Madhuri Dixit Nene says she is keen to do meaningful cinema as she believes such films have a positive impact on the audience.

The 90s Hindi cinema superstar, best known for films like 'Dil', 'Saajan', 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!' and 'Dil To Pagal Hai', has featured in movies such as 'Aaja Nachle', 'Bucket List', 'Dedh Ishqiya' and 'Maja Ma' in her second innings.

"I'm looking for films and roles that are different to do and yet they create an impact on the audience and make them think," the actor told agency in an interview.

Her new Marathi film 'Panchak', which she has produced as well, deals with themes such as superstition and the fear of death.

"When I read the script of 'Panchak', I liked it instantly as it was a dif-



ferent take on superstition with a comic lens. Through the film, we are trying to say that don't fear in life, keep a balanced outlook," she said.

ferent take on superstition with a comic lens. Through the film, we are trying to say that don't fear in life, keep a balanced outlook," she said.

Talking about 'Mityudand', her 1997 film, Madhuri said many people from the industry advised her not to do the film as it was not a commercial entertainer. The Prakash Jha-directed movie, also starring Shabana Azmi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Om Puri, was a commentary on social and gender injustice and Madhuri believes it challenged her as an actor.

"When I was doing 'Mityudand', a lot of people said, 'You are a commercial film heroine, why are you doing this art house film?'. There were people who were trying to dissuade me from doing it, I did it because I loved the script."

Madhuri said she has never understood the "demarcation between art house and commercial cinema".

"For us acting is acting, it's just a different way of expressing, also the way it is done is different. 'Mityudand' was a great film for me to talk about. I've never feared

my choices as an actor. I went with my conviction, and gut feeling."

'Panchak', directed by Rahul Awate and Jayant Jathar, boasts of an ensemble cast including Kothare, Dilip Prabhavalkar, Bharati Achrekar, Anand Ingale, Tejashri Pradhan, Satish Alekar, Nandita Patkar, Sampada Kulkarni and Deepti Devi.

"We got all the best actors from theatre, TV and films, the casting is very interesting in this film. I found the film interesting because it is based in Konkan, my parents are from Konkan India and we used to visit Ratnagiri a lot, climb trees, eat mangoes, I felt I've seen all these characters there, they are so relatable," she said.

Released on January 5 in theatres, 'Panchak' is produced by Madhuri along with her husband, Dr Shriram Nene.

Shilpa Shetty on her cop avatar, Tara, in Rohit Shetty's upcoming series Indian Police Force, and why she calls it a shero

At the grand trailer launch event for the much-anticipated web series Indian Police Force, Shilpa Shetty shared insights about her character, Tara Shetty, as she steps into Rohit Shetty's cop-verse.

In a candid revelation, Shilpa expressed her excitement about portraying Tara Shetty. She said, "Why wouldn't one accept a role like this. You know I describe Tara Shetty as a shero. She is badass, she is passionate, she's compassionate and she's self-

less in her line of work and it's all the qualities of someone whom you would put on a pedestal."

Reflecting on the opportunity, Shilpa further revealed, "It all just came together for me when they came to narrate the part. The minute they said the character is Tara Shetty, it was like okay... checklist."

Shilpa, known for her versatile roles, expressed her joy in working with Rohit Shetty, stating, "I always wanted to work with Rohit, not just because of the Shetty connection. I really love the grasp he has on this...



and to play a cop in his cop universe is nothing but a compliment for me." What truly makes this association special is Shilpa Shetty is the

first female cop in the Rohit Shetty Cop Universe.

Fans are eagerly awaiting Shilpa's shero role and action-packed performance as she embraces her new avatar. The trailer, showcasing Shilpa's whistle-worthy dialogues and her captivating portrayal as a lady cop, has left audiences highly entertained and excited. Indian Police Force is set to premiere soon on Amazon Prime Video, promising an adrenaline-pumping experience for fans of both Shilpa Shetty and Rohit Shetty's cop universe.

Omkar Kapoor lights up Aangan Aapno Kaa



Omkar Kapoor is making his television comeback with the Sony Sab's heartwarming family drama, Aangan Aapno Kaa, bringing a breath of fresh air to the storyline.

Stepping into the character of Dr Siddhant, a resilient and compassionate doctor with modern ideologies, he becomes a potential suitor for Pallavi (Ayushi Khurana), chosen by her father Jaidev.

This intriguing addition promises to bring exciting new twists to Pallavi's life and adds complexity to her budding romance with Akash (Samar Vermani).

The show is undeniably exploring a topic that is both unique and remarkably progressive. Siddhant's character is going to contribute a refreshing and progressive dimension to the storyline.

The 'Delhi-Dili' connect — PM Modi holds bilateral meeting with Timor-Leste president

The significance of Timor Leste, a small southeast Asian country

CHANDIGARH, Jan 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a bilateral meeting with Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta in Gujarat's Mahatma Mandir.

Horta is in India for the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. According to the PMO, the two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation in a range of areas, including development partnerships in energy, IT, FinTech, health and capacity building.

Modi also met the delegation accompanying the visiting Timor-Leste leader and reaffirmed India's commitment to building a vibrant 'Delhi-Dili' connect. The two leaders also discussed regional issues and developments in the Indo-Pacific. This is the first ever Head of State or Government-level visit between the two countries, according to an official statement.

'Delhi to Dili' connect

It was last September when PM Modi first spoke of 'Delhi to Dili' connect while announcing an Indian embassy in Timor-Leste, or East Timor as it is also called.

Dili is the capital city of Timor-Leste—a southeast Asian country with significant strategic importance and geopolitical significance due to its location.

Modi also invited Timor-Leste to join the International Solar



Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Horta, meanwhile, sought support from India in meeting its development priorities, particularly in areas of health care and capacity building in IT.

India and Look/Act East policy According to reports, relations between East Timor and India date back to the early modern period when traders from the sub-continent travelled to the island in search of sandalwood.

The trade links increased after the Portuguese colonisation of East Timor and some parts of India.

The small country was under the dominance of the Portuguese till 1975, when the Revo-

lutionary Front for an Independent East Timor resistance movement declared independence.

However, the new country was soon invaded by Indonesia which relinquished it following the United Nations-sponsored act of self-determination.

India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Timor-Leste and also participated in its Independence Day celebrations. A high-level delegation led by the then Minister of State for External Affairs represented India at the event in May 2002.

Since then several high-level visits between officials of the two countries have taken place. An MoU formally establishing

diplomatic relations was also signed on January 24, 2003.

In the past, the country has supported India's candidature for a non-permanent seat and also for the post of Regional Director, South East Asia Regional office (SEARO), WHO.

Cementing ties with the friendly nation also supports India's 'Look/Act East' policy, experts say.

Timor-Leste—an 'essential actor in Southeast Asia'

Officially called the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the country comprises the eastern half of the island of Timor (of which the western half is administered by Indonesia) the exclave of Oecusse on the north-western half and minor islands of Atauro and Jaco.

Dili is the capital and largest city. Separated by the Timor Sea, Australia is its immediate southern neighbour.

Apart from the fact that Timor-Leste is a friendly nation, India's renewed interest appears to be backed by some other reasons as well, one of which is its geopolitical significance due to its location.

As per a research paper in the Journal of International Relations, since its independence from Indonesia, East-Timor has become an "essential actor in Southeast Asia".

'Show aashta, not aggression': PM to BJP leaders ahead of Ram temple inauguration



NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave strict instructions to ministers in the last cabinet meeting ahead of the Lord Ram's statue consecration program in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024.

As per sources, PM Modi asked the ministers to show their faith and devotion but refrain from showing aggression.

The ministers have been asked not to give unnecessary statements and ensure the party's dignity ahead of the big event. They have also been asked to maintain peace and harmony in their constituencies and ensure there is no disturbance whatsoever.

The ministers have been asked to arrange a visit of the local people of their constituencies in

Ayodhya after the ceremony on January 22.

PM Modi will inaugurate the mega Pran Pratishtha (consecration) of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya on January 22. The event will be telecast countrywide and there will also be a live-streaming of the event on New York's Times Square.

More than 7,000 people have been invited to the ceremony by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust.

Several noted personalities and celebrities have also been invited for the event.

PM Modi will also address all the Ram Bhakts in India and abroad.

ED files first charge sheet in railways land-for-jobs case, names Rabri Devi, daughter Misa Bharti

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday filed its first charge sheet in the railways land-for-jobs-linked money-laundering case, naming former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and her MP daughter Misa Bharti.

An alleged "close associate" of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's family, Amit Katyal, some other individuals and companies have been named in the prosecution complaint (charge sheet), they said.

The charge sheet has been filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Delhi and the court has listed the matter for January 16, sources said.

Katyal was arrested in the case by the ED in November last year while Lalu Prasad Yadav and his son and Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav were sum-



moned by the agency but they have not yet deposited.

The alleged scam pertains to the period when Prasad was the railway minister in the UPA-1 government.

ED Files Charge Sheet In Waqf Board Case Involving AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan



NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday filed a charge sheet in a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the recruitment of staff and leasing of assets of the Delhi Waqf Board during the chairmanship of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, official sources said.

A total of five entities have been named in the prosecution complaint (charge sheet) that includes three alleged associates of Khan-- Zeeshan Haider, Daud Nasir and Jawed Imam Siddiqui-- who were arrested by the central agency in November 2023, apart from some others, they said.

Khan, the 49-year-old legislator who represents the Okhla constituency in the Delhi assembly, has not been named as an accused.

The agency, after conducting raids

against Khan and some others in October last year, had claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA acquired "huge proceeds of crime" in cash from illegal recruitment of staff in the Delhi Waqf Board and invested these for purchasing immovable assets in the name of his associates.

The searches, the ED said in a statement, were conducted in the case related to illegal recruitment of staff in Delhi Waqf Board and illegal personal gains by way of unfairly leasing of Waqf Board properties during the chairmanship of the board by Amanatullah Khan during 2018-2022.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR and three Delhi Police complaints.

Khan, the ED said, "acquired huge proceeds of crime out of the said criminal activities in cash and this cash amount was invested in purchase of various immovable properties in Delhi in the name of his associates." Several "incriminating" materials in the form of physical and digital evidence were seized during the raids which "indicate" the role of Khan in the offence of money laundering, it had said.

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had alleged there was a campaign underway to end the AAP and asserted that false cases are being filed against party leaders.

Bengaluru AI start-up CEO kills 4-year-old son in Goa hotel, arrested while fleeing to Karnataka with body in a bag

PANAJI, Jan 9 (Agencies): A 39-year-old chief executive officer of a start-up company allegedly killed her four-year-old son in Goa and then travelled with the body to neighbouring Karnataka, a police official said on Tuesday.

The Goa police arrested the accused, Suchana Seth, from Chitradurga in Karnataka on Sunday night, he said, adding that the motive behind the killing was not yet known.

According to Seth's LinkedIn page, she is the CEO of start-up Mindful AI Lab and was among the top '100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics for 2021'.

She checked into a rented service apartment at Candolim in North Goa on January 6 along with her son, Calangute police station inspector Paresh Naik said.

After staying there for two days, she informed the apart-

ment staff that she wanted to go to Bengaluru for some work and asked them to arrange a taxi, he said.

"The staff suggested that she could take a flight to Bengaluru which would be a cheaper option rather than hiring a taxi," he said.

The accused insisted that she would travel by taxi only, and accordingly a vehicle was arranged on January 8 in which she left early in the morning.

Later, when the apartment staff went to clean the room in which she had stayed, they found blood stains on a towel, Naik said.

"The management of the apartment informed the Calangute police, who then reached the spot," he said.

The staff also informed the police that the woman's four-year-old son was not seen with her when she left the apartment



and she was also carrying an unusually heavy bag, he said.

The police then called the accused and enquired with her about the blood stains and her "missing" son.

"The accused told us that the blood stains were due to her periods. She also told us that her son was with her friend in Margao town (in South Goa) and provided the address," the official said.

Naik said he immediately took

the help of Fatorda police (near Margao) and got to know that the address given by her was fake.

The inspector later spoke over phone to the taxi driver, who was on way to Bengaluru and had reached Chitradurga district in Karnataka, to take the accused to the nearest police station.

The police in Chitradurga checked the woman's bag in which they found the body of the child, Naik said.

A team of the Calangute police then rushed to Chitradurga and obtained a transit remand of the accused, who is being brought to Goa.

The post-mortem would be conducted in Chitradurga, Naik said.

Police have sounded the accused's husband, Venkat Raman, who is currently in Jakarta, he said.

Senior bureaucrat Samir Kumar Sinha appointed Director General (Acquisition) in Defence Ministry

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Senior IAS officer Samir Kumar Sinha has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre.

Sinha, a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is currently working in his Assam-Meghalaya

cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence, a Union Personnel Ministry order said.

Bharat Harbanslal Khara, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary



in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar will be the Additional Secretary as well as Mission Director for the Department

of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Jal Jeevan Mission.

Puja Singh Mandol, currently Joint Director General in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the order said.

Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, at present a Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry, will now be Addi-

tional Secretary.

Asit Gopal, Commissioner of Eklavya Model Residential School of the National Educational Society for Tribal Students under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has been named as Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Textiles.

Senior bureaucrat Tripti Gurha will be Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Two kids die of asphyxia due to coal fire, parents found unconscious in Uttar Pradesh

LAKSHMIPUR KHERI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Two children were killed and their parents hospitalised due to asphyxia caused by a coal fire lit in their room to beat the cold while they slept, police here said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in Mailani town on Monday night, they said, adding that the room had no ventilation.

The victims were identified as Ramesh



Vishwakarma, his wife Renu, daughter Anshika (8), and son Krishna (7). Ramesh's sister-in-law

Uma Devi knocked on his door Tuesday morning but got no response, following which the door

was broken down and all four were found unconscious, police officials said.

They were rushed to the Mailani health centre, where Anshika and Krishna were declared dead, while Ramesh and Renu were taken to the Kheri district hospital.

Mailani police station in-charge Pankaj Tripathi said the bodies were sent for a post-mortem examination.

Karnataka Man Tied To Pole, Thrashed For Making Video Of Woman Taking Bath



HUBBALI, Jan 9 (Agencies): A man was thrashed by a mob today after he was caught

recording a video of a woman taking a bath at her home in Karnataka's Hubballi district.

The locals tied him to an electric pole and beat him up, videos showed.

The videos showed the accused surrounded by a group of men, one of whom was seen slapping him. Upon receiving information, police reached the spot.

The accused, identified as Laad Sahab, has been taken for a medical examination by the police.

The man was working near the house of the

woman at around 7 AM at Gokul Road when he saw her and started recording through a window.

When the woman noticed him, she started screaming following which neighbours gathered at her house, caught the accused and started thrashing him.

Police have taken the man into custody and a further investigation is underway.

Bhutan Votes In National Polls As Poor Economy Hits "Happiness Index"

Some voters are expected to have trekked for days to cast their ballots in the landlocked mountain nation of about 800,000 people.

THIMPU (BHUTAN), Jan 9 (Agencies): The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan began voting Tuesday in general elections with parties vowing to tackle serious economic challenges, calling into question its longstanding policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth.

Both parties contesting the vote are committed to a constitutionally enshrined philosophy of a government that measures its success by the "happiness and well-being of the people".

Some voters are expected to have trekked for days to cast their ballots in the landlocked mountain nation of about 800,000 people.

Foremost in the minds of many are the struggles facing the kingdom's younger generation, with chronic youth unemployment and a brain drain.

"Taking part in elections is about securing a better future for us," said 22-year-old student Ugyen Tshering, after voting in the freezing morning mountain air in the capital Thimphu, with Buddhist prayer flags fluttering in the background.

"Job opportunities in Bhutan are scarce and the new government should focus on solving this, so young people don't leave abroad for greener pastures," he added.

Bhutan's youth unemployment rate stands at 29 percent, according to the World Bank, while economic growth has sputtered along at an average



of 1.7 percent over the past five years.

'Mass exodus'

Young citizens searching for better financial and educational opportunities abroad have left in record numbers since the last elections, with Australia as their top destination.

Around 15,000 Bhutanese were issued visas there in the 12 months before last July, according to a local news report -- more than the preceding six years combined and almost two percent of the kingdom's population.

The issue is key for both parties contesting the poll.

"I hope for development in rural areas," said Sandhya Pradhan, 25, an architect, adding that boosting the education and health sectors was also important.

"Both of the candidates are very capable," she added. "They will be able to encourage the youth currently in Australia to come back and work in Bhutan."

Booths will stay open until 5:00

pm (1100 GMT), with results likely to be announced the following day.

Career civil servant Pema Chewang, 56, leader of the Bhutan Tendrel Party (BTP), said the country was losing the "cream of the nation".

His opponent, former prime minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Tshering Tobgay, 58, sounded the alarm over Bhutan's "unprecedented economic challenges and mass exodus".

His party's manifesto quoted government statistics showing that one in every eight people were "struggling to meet their basic needs for food" and other necessities.

Squeezed between India and China

Tourism, a small share of Bhutan's economy but a key earner of foreign currency, has yet to recover from the disruptions of the Covid pandemic.

The previous government pursued several projects to diversify the economy, including a

special economic zone on the Indian border and plans with a Singapore-based company to raise funds for a cryptocurrency-mining scheme.

Both parties have pledged a huge ramp-up of investment in hydropower, its primary source of energy.

Bhutan held elections for the first time in 2008 after political reforms established a bicameral parliament soon after the start of the reign of the present king, who remains hugely popular.

Namgyal, 92, who uses only one name, said he had voted in every election as democracy was something he valued.

"I am nearing the end of life, so voting is something I will do as long as I can," he said, holding up his ink-stained finger to show he had cast a ballot.

Campaigns in the Buddhist-majority nation have always been subdued affairs, with strict rules mandating that election materials can only be posted on public notice boards.

A primary contest in November narrowed the race down to two parties, with both the previous government's lawmakers and their former opposition knocked out.

Bhutan lies sandwiched between the globe's two most populous countries, China and India, with both neighbours watching with keen interest as they eye strategic contested border zones.

South Korea passes landmark bill to ban dog meat

On Tuesday, the National Assembly passed the bill to ban dog meat by a 208-0 vote.



SEOUL, Jan 9 (Agencies): South Korea's parliament on Tuesday endorsed landmark legislation outlawing the country's dwindling dog meat industry, as public calls for the ban have grown sharply amid animal rights campaigns and worries about the country's international image.

Some angry dog farmers said they plan to file a constitutional appeal and launch rallies in protest, a suggestion that heated debate over the ban would continue.

Dog meat consumption, a centuries-old practice on the Korean peninsula, is neither explicitly banned nor legalised in South Korea. Recent surveys show more people want its ban and a majority of South Koreans don't eat dog meat any longer.

But the surveys also indicated one in every three South Koreans still oppose the ban even though they don't eat dog meat.

On Tuesday, the National Assembly passed the bill by a 208-0 vote. President Yoon Suk Yeol's government supports the ban, so the subsequent steps to make it law are considered formality.

"This law is aimed at contributing to realising the values of animal rights, which pursue respect for life and a harmonious co-existence between humans and animals," the legislation stated.

The bill would make the slaughtering, breeding, trade and sales of dog meat for human consumption illegal from 2027 and punish such acts with around three years in prison. But it doesn't stipulate penalties for eating dog meat.

The bill would offer assistance to farmers and others in the industry for shutting down their businesses or shifting to alternatives. Details of outlawing the industry would be worked out among gov-

ernment officials, farmers, experts and animal rights activists, according to the bill.

Humane Society International called the legislation's passage "history in the making."

"I never thought I would see in my lifetime a ban on the cruel dog meat industry in South Korea, but this historic win for animals is testament to the passion and determination of our animal protection movement," said JungAh Chae, executive director of HSI's Korea office.

The legislation left farmers extremely upset and frustrated.

"This is a clear state violence as they're infringing upon freedom of occupational option. We can't just sit idly," said Son Won Hak, a farmer and leader of a farmers' association.

Son said that dog farmers will file a petition to the constitutional court and launch rallies in protest. He said farmers will meet on Wednesday to discuss other future steps.

There is no reliable official data on the exact size of South Korea's dog meat industry. Activists and farmers say hundreds of thousands of dogs are slaughtered for meat each year in South Korea.

China Satellite Launch Triggers Safety Warning In Taiwan Phones

BEIJING, Jan 9 (Agencies): A Chinese satellite launch triggered Taiwan's emergency phone alert system on Tuesday, days before the self-ruled island holds a crucial presidential election that has heightened security worries around the region.

Chinese state media said that Beijing had successfully launched the "Einstein Probe satellite using the Long March-2C carrier rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre".

"The satellite entered its designated orbit," CCTV reported, adding that the launch was a "complete success".

Around the same time in Taiwan, phones across the island sounded with an emergency alert.

"China launched (a) satellite which flew over the southern airspace," said the alert in Chinese. "Public, please

beware of your safety." However the English part of the message described it as an "air raid alert", warning of a "missile flyover Taiwan airspace".

The alert came as Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu was holding a press conference with foreign reporters in Taipei ahead of Saturday's election.

He assured reporters that it was a satellite, explaining that the alert was issued because of possible "debris".

"When a rocket is openly flying in our sky, some of their tubes or debris will fall in this region," Wu told reporters.

"That's the reason why our national alert centre will issue this kind of alert. It has happened before."

Saturday's election will be closely watched from Beijing to Washington as voters choose a new

leader to steer the island in the face of an increasingly assertive Beijing. Front-runner Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's current vice president, accused Beijing of using "all means" to influence Saturday's vote.

China has maintained a near-daily military presence around Taiwan, sending in fighter jets, naval vessels and drones.

The latest incursion came Monday when four balloons flew over the island, according to Taiwan's defence ministry, while 10 Chinese warplanes and four naval vessels were also observed.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency said the satellite will be used to make astronomical observations, in particular "mysterious transient phenomena in the universe comparable to the flickering of fireworks".

Blinken In Israel To Discuss 'Way Forward' With PM Netanyahu Amid Gaza War

The visit comes as the Israeli military said its campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip was shifting into a new phase involving more targeted operations in the territory's centre and south.

TEL AVIV, Jan 9 (Agencies): Top US diplomat Antony Blinken was set to meet Israeli leaders Tuesday as part of efforts to contain the war in Gaza, a day after strikes in Syria and Lebanon killed high-profile members of Hamas and its ally Hezbollah.

The visit comes as the Israeli military said its campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip was shifting into a new phase involving more targeted operations in the territory's centre and south.

Sirens warning of incoming rockets sounded in central and southern Israel on Monday, as well as near the border with Lebanon, where Israeli strikes and tit-for-tat exchanges of fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants have raised fears the war could spread north.

Earlier in the day, Hezbollah announced the killing of a "commander" for the first time since October, naming him as Wissam Hassan Tawil.

A security official in Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tawil "had a leading role in managing Hezbollah's operations in the south", and was killed there by an Israeli strike.

The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah "military sites" in Lebanon on Monday, but did not immediately comment on Tawil's death.

His was the second high-profile killing in Lebanon this month, following a strike in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut that resulted in the death of Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-



Aruri.

On Monday the Israeli army also said it had killed a "central" Hamas figure in Syria, Hassan Akasha, who had led "terrorist cells which fired rockets... toward Israeli territory".

The October 7 attack by Hamas that triggered the war resulted in about 1,140 deaths in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Fighters also took around 250 hostages that day, 132 of whom remain captive, Israel says. Of those, at least 25 are believed to have been killed.

Israel has responded with relentless bombardments and a ground invasion that have killed at least 23,084 people, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's health ministry.

The Israeli army announced early Tuesday the deaths of four more soldiers, taking the number killed since its ground invasion began to 180.

Crisis visit
The repeated strikes in Lebanon and Syria, attacks against US forces in Iraq, and a campaign against shipping in the Red Sea by

starvation".

The United States has said Blinken will press Israel on its compliance with international humanitarian law and ask for "immediate measures" to boost aid to Gaza.

New phase

As Israel's main ally and arms supplier, Washington has grown increasingly concerned over the war's civilian death count, with President Joe Biden noting in a campaign speech Monday that he had been "quietly working with the Israeli government to get them to reduce" their troop presence in Gaza.

The comments came as the Israeli army said its war in the territory was entering a new phase.

Speaking to the New York Times, army spokesman Daniel Hagari said there would be "no ceremony" to mark the transition, but that the next phase would involve fewer soldiers and air strikes, adding the troop reduction began this month.

Hagari alluded to the transition in his nightly briefing on Monday, and described a shift in focus away from Gaza's devastated north.

"While there are still terrorists and weapons in the north, they are no longer functioning within an organised military framework," he said.

Meanwhile, there were "hard battles being fought both in the centre and the south" of Gaza, he added.

Earlier in the day, the military showed journalists what Hagari described as a cluster of

weapons factories and tunnels in central Gaza that looked like industrial facilities, but which he said were in fact used to produce missiles and shells.

Journalists killed
The United Nations on Monday said it was "very concerned by the high death count of media workers", a day after the Qatar-based Al Jazeera network said an Israeli strike had killed two of its journalists, including the son of Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh.

In the southern border town of Rafah, another strike on Monday killed two of Dahdouh's nephews.

Dahdouh was recently wounded himself in a strike that killed his cameraman, having already lost his wife and two other children in an Israeli bombardment in the initial weeks of the war.

"They say Rafah is safe, but we don't see it is safe in Rafah. No place is safe," said Mohammad Hejazy, overlooking the blood-soaked road.

The UN rights office called for all journalist deaths to be "thoroughly and independently investigated".

Violence against Palestinians has also surged in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli police confirmed three people were killed late Monday during a raid on Tulkarem to arrest a "wanted terrorist".

Israeli forces and settler attacks in the West Bank since October 7 have killed at least 333 people, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry.

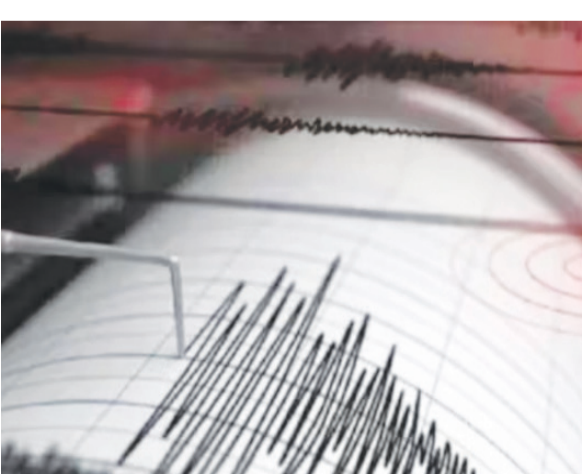
Earthquake of magnitude 6.7 strikes Indonesia's Talaud Islands

TALAUD ISLANDS, Jan 9 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 6.7 on the Richter scale struck the Talaud Islands, Indonesia, on Tuesday, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) reported.

There were no immediate reports of loss of life or property in the region.

According to the NCS, the epicentre of the quake was found to be at Latitude: 4.75 and Longitude: 126.38, respectively and occurred at a depth of 80 km.

"Earthquake of Magnitude:6.7, Occurred on 09-01-2024, 02:18:47 IST, Lat: 4.75 & Long: 126.38, Depth: 80 Km ,Location: Talaud



Islands,Indonesia," the NCS posted on X.

Last week, a massive earthquake of 7.6 on the Richter scale jolted Japan on New Year's Day and caused massive damage to life and property.

At least 100 people were killed with more

than 200 people still missing in the country's deadliest quake in nearly eight years.

The earthquake that struck Japan's west coast destroyed infrastructure, leaving 23,000 homes without power in the Hokuriku region.

GDC Udhampur gears up with NCORD, SVEEP activities for Viksit Bharat@2047 Sankalp Yatra

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 9: In continuation of activities for Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal and to acquaint students of the college with different aspects of college life, Nashamukt Bharat, Fearless Bharat with fearless young voters committed to making Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Viksit Bharat Coordination cell of the College in collaboration with NCORD Cell, NSS, NCC, and SVEEP Cell of Electoral Literacy Club, organised multiple programs for Orientation and awareness programs for NCORD and SVEEP activities in the light of Viksit Bharat Sankalp@ 2047 in different modes.

The Patron and the Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta has been the guiding force behind all programs.

For General Orientation the students and staff were briefed before

the closing of the college for winter vacations for which the programs were organised in the different places of the College like College Vaatika, conference hall, playground, classes and canteen areas for spread of maximum awareness with a dedicated task of each one teach one during the vacations. The staff and the students were very enthusiastic to be a part of this initiative.

Speaking about the initiative the Patron and Principal appreciated the unique way of the coordination cell to make the vacations interesting and productive. He congratulated the Coordination Cell for this different initiative in the college. He apprised all that India is a vibrant democratic country that with the committed nationals and the youth away from drugs will for sure achieve the goal of

Viksit Bharat by 2047. At the same time, he shared his satisfaction with the status of academics, curricular and extracurricular, sports and other related activities. He shared with all present the recent B++ NAAC grading of the college and the students achieving the highest number of positions in the University results. He also shared with all new students the rich tradition of the college as well as the great achievers of all times. He said that the college has in its treasure alumni of international repute, be it Padamshrees, Vice Chancellors, Scientists, Businessmen, IAS, IFS and JKAS Officers, Army officers, Judges, Professors, and many International Sports persons. He further asked the students to take part in every activity happening in the college along with

their academic pursuits. He advised them that they should keep their self safe from any kind of addiction and corruption and be a fearless youth that thinks about the development of the society and the nation.

The programs have been continuously monitored by the coordination cell, the details of which would be submitted to the college after the culmination of the winter vacations. At the same, the NSS and NCC Volunteers of the college are also doing door-to-door NCORD and SVEEP activities by campaigning for Nashamukt Samaj and becoming fearless voters in the upcoming elections. They are also campaigning for the registration of new eligible young voters. The students shall submit a detailed report of the drives and awareness campaigns conducted during the vacations.

Braham Jyot distributes blankets among needy drivers

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: In the view for chilled weather today Braham Jyot Satti, Incharge BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir visited Narwal Transport area of Jammu and distributed blankets among needy drivers and conductors.

During his visit he interacted with various transporters, drivers and conductors and listened to their grievances.

Speaking on the occasion Braham Jyot said this is the ideology of BJP is Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas so, BJP workers are working on ground level and serving humanity which is its true example and Our goal is to help the last person standing in the queue.

He said transport is often used for long-distance less time-sensitive goods and passenger transport and in this chilled Weather transporters work almost 24/7 for the public's facility even from Irregular schedules, long hours, little physical activity, limited access to healthy foods on the road and stress make healthy living a challenge for long-haul drivers with blanket and other warm resources



He said in this chilled Weather we are continuously organizing social tasks and serving humanity as per lists of needy Families which are being provided by locals.

He said The Ideal Worker of BJP is the One Who Thinks About the Society before Himself and bjp always works on Nation's first , Party second and Self last ideology and we always remain available for needies .

He said now weather is changing and we are experiencing cold waves especially during night and Now Jammu Kashmir is in the grip

of Chilled waves especially in night so today we distributed blankets among some needy people including ladies who are not able to purchase new warm stuffs . They are not in stable financial condition that they can afford new blankets .

He said we always provides helping hands to other and we can't leave anyone in hard time .

He said in the chilling waves we are living with facilities like hot air blower , blankets etc but there are many people are not able to buy these all . So it is our duty as ideal human being to take care of all of them.

Hari Singh felicitates Silambam Athletes for outstanding performance at 5th Asian Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of JKPC, today honored the outstanding Silambam athletes who showcased unparalleled skill and dedication at the recently concluded 5th Asian Silambam Championship in Tamil Nadu from December 26th to December 29th, 2023. The felicitation ceremony was held at Jammu North Assembly segment, showcasing the remarkable talents and dedication of the Indian team.

The felicitation event, held in the presence of esteemed coaches Rajneesh Gupta and Jai Gupta, witnessed the recognition of the exemplary achievements of the

Indian Silambam team. Dignitaries, including Jitender Kumar, Sh. Virender Singh (President of the Association), Kaka Ram (General Secretary of the Association), and Sunil Singh (Youth President, Jammu North), joined Hari Singh Chib in acknowledging the athletes for their stellar performances on the international stage.

Gold Medalist Naresh Kumar and Silver Medalists Malika Bhagat, Riya Choudhary, and Palak Choudhary were lauded for their exceptional prowess in the ancient martial art form. The Bronze Medalists, including Pulkit Singh, Sant Kumar, Shrawan Singh, Bharat Gupta, Pulastya Koushal, and

Maneet Kumar, were also recognized for their dedication and contribution to India's success at the championship.

Speaking on the occasion, Hari Singh Chib expressed profound appreciation for the athletes, emphasizing the significance of their accomplishments in promoting the cultural heritage embedded in Silambam. He highlighted the need for continued support and encouragement for traditional martial arts, recognizing them as vital elements of India's rich legacy.

Hari Singh Chib, recognizing the untapped potential within the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, urged the government to extend comprehensive support and assistance to budding players.

Emphasizing the immense talent that resides within the region, Chib underscored the necessity of providing these young athletes with the necessary platforms and resources to hone their skills.

Children on innovation and creativity spree in Natrang Theatre Workshop

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Braving extremely chilly weather, Jammu children are exploring altogether a new world of creativity and innovation at Natrang's winter theatre workshop for children. Conceptualized and devised by Padamshree Balwant Thakur, a new methodology of children theatre is being implemented in an intense theatre workshop which is going on these days at Natrang Studio Theatre in Jammu. Natrang the premier cultural institution of Jammu devotes the entire winter, offering a unique opportunity for children aimed at exploring their immense inner abilities of children. While majority prefer to utilize winter vacation in holidaying, few parents finding this as an ultimate occasion, bring their children to Natrang which has pioneered in children theatre and have given platform to thousands of children and have transformed and groomed their personalities. In Natrang's Winter Theatre workshop-2023 children are working on various aspects of the art of storytelling and play-making. This Natrang's new approach of working with children is yielding huge visible results as the participating children are demonstrating endless amount of confidence in public speaking and sharing of new thoughts. Away



from their routine class rooms and usual school curriculum, they have found a new environment filled with highly enterprising, aspiring/inspiring creative and innovative ideas. They have found a space where they are being encouraged to express their thoughts using dramatics as an effective tool to connect with the world around. Every year Natrang organises winter, Spring and Summer workshops for children at its studio theatre where through creative games, improvisations, and exercises they explore their immense inborn inner abilities. Theatre in the developed world is used as an important tool in personality development and amazingly helps in infusing of confidence. Stage is considered as a magic space where a child transforms him/herself into a highly confident personality.

Natrang is doing regular Children Theatre in the Jammu for

the last 34 years, it has trained, inspired and motivated thousands of children till now and most of them have excelled brilliantly in various fields be it acting, direction, media, management, civil services, medicine, engineering, social work etc. It clearly speaks that no matter, what you want to become in life, the confidence, spontaneity, self-exploration, creativity and discipline you imbibe because of theatre training, works as a guiding light and strong motivational force for you to succeed and excel in every sphere of life. The training module of Natrang's Children theatre has been exclusively devised by Padamshree Balwant Thakur himself, who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the country and outside to many nations. His plays like Mere Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai and Aap Hamare Hain Kaun

are being considered as one of the most celebrated and longest living plays by children in India. Children have immense possibilities and abilities to perform but they are required to be explored through such highly innovative experiments of theatre and arts in education. They are required to be infused self confidence and equipped with new tools of communication, organizing self, focusing targets and the art of public speaking and in this area, these Theatre Workshops plays a major role. In winter Theatre workshop-2024 a play by Balwant Thakur is also being devised under the direction of Neeraj Kant. The workshop is being assisted by Kanan Kaur and coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen. Sumeet Sharma is the visiting faculty of the workshop. The children who extremely lucky to be a part of this unique initiative are.

The lucky children who are a part of this winter workshop are Aarjav Jain, Aarya Mahajan, Adeesha Singh, Advik Sharma, Anaadi Abrol, Araiya Shan, Daivik Gupta, Deshna Jain, Mehak Chib, Eva Saini, Evaana Sawhney, Hriday Vashishth, Jayaditya Singh, Nidha Mahajan, Nitaara Sawhney, Noor Abrol, Priyali Ashok Gupta, Ruhaan Chandan, Samrat Sharma, Shrayana Jandial, Shriyan Jandial and Trivid Mahajan.

FROM PAGE 1

Para-Archer from Kishtwar receives Arjuna Award from President Murmu

Republic, where she won a silver medal, becoming the first female armless archer to achieve this feat. This victory not only brought her acclaim but also secured a place for her in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Her success continued at the Asian Para Games 2023, where she won multiple medals, including golds in the individual compound and mixed team events and a silver in the women's doubles.

Her excellence in the sport was further recognised through several prestigious awards. She was named the Best Youth Athlete of the Year by the Asian Paralympic Committee and the Best Women's Para Archer of the Year by World Archery. Additionally, Sheetal attained the number one ranking in women's compound para archery in 2023.

LG Sinha reviews preparations for Khelo India Winter Games 2024

across the country. We will have an opportunity to present our rich culture and warm hospitality and everyone must work together to create memorable experience for them, he said.

The meeting also discussed the comprehensive strategy for promotional campaigns, establishment of joint con-

trol rooms, deputation of Nodal officers, smooth flow of traffic, parking spaces, lodging, transportation, uninterrupted power & water supply, medical facilities, public utility and other amenities. The Lt Governor directed the concerned departments for effective coordination for the smooth conduct of the games.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dullo Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; senior officers of Police and Civil administration attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

Chief of Army Staff enthralled by NCC Cadets

national building activities including social service schemes like Blood Donation Camps, Environmental Conservation and Puneet Sagar Abhiyan etc.

The COAS applauded the cadets for their impeccable turnout, impressive 'Guard of Honour' and a captivating cultural programme.

He motivated the cadets to believe in themselves and equip themselves with determination and move ahead with firm resolve. He wished all NCC cadets success in their future endeavours.

Raj Bhawan bids farewell to Minga Sherpa

conduct and sincere dedication towards work.

He felicitated Minga Sherpa and wished him good health and all the success in future.

India's Annual Hajj Quota enhanced to 1.75 Lakh Pilgrims this Year: Joint Sec Minority Affairs Nirumpama Kotru

first time Hajj Pilgrims to 1.75 lakh annually.

She said that the good part of the agreement is that this year also highest number of Hajj pilgrims will be from J&K and those who remain in waiting list and anyone who cancels his application, preference will be given to J&K residents in the waiting list.

"We are now only behind Pakistan and Indonesia. Still we have requested the Saudi government to enhance the quota to 2 lakh annually from next year. The agreement was supervised by Union Minister Smriti Irani and MoS Foreign Ministry V Murlidharan.

She said that as is already known that last year a significant initiative was taken women without "Mehram" can also perform Hajj and this year they have already received 6000 applications from women who wish to perform Hajj without "Mehram". "We believe that this year the number will be even higher than last. And during our visit we have ensured that those wishing to take this Holy pilgrimage do not face any difficulties in terms of facilities and other things," she said.

Nirupama said that the facilities for Hajj pilgrims were overseen by Union Minister herself and she had an extensive discussion with Saudi authorities for providing better facilities to Hajj pilgrims from India.

NEET-PG 2024 exam rescheduled to July 7

According to the recently notified "Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023", the existing NEET-PG examination will continue till the proposed National Exit Test (NExT) becomes operational for the purpose of PG admission.

The NEET-PG is an eligibility-cum-ranking examination prescribed as the single entrance examination for admission to various MD/MS and PG diploma courses under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.

Active Covid Cases in Country recorded at 3,919

the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in the hospitalisation and mortality," the sources stated.

India has witnessed three waves of COVID-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily new cases and deaths being reported during the Delta wave in April-June 2021.

At its peak, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021. Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 4.5 crore people have got infected and over 5.3 lakh have died since then across the country. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website. Accord-

ing to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

Five persons arrested for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Kulgam

Fayaz Ahmad Reshi S/O Nazir Ahmad Reshi R/O Lethpora, Pulwama, Bilal Ahmad Dar S/O Ghulam Nabi Dar R/O Lethpora, Pulwama and Javid Ahmad Dar S/O Mohd Sultan Dar R/O Lethpora, Pulwama and Police have seized five vehicles (Dumpers) involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. In this regard, a case FIR No. 04/2024 under relevant sections of law stands registered at police station Kulgam and investigation has been taken up.

Ammunition, Drugs recovered during search operation in North Kashmir

RR near Ziyarat Sharief Keran located on the banks of river Kishan Ganga under jurisdiction of police station Keran.

"During search operation recoveries were made that include Ak 56 Rifle 01 No, Ak 56 Magazine 01 and 10 packets of Brown Sugar like Substance. A case FIR No. 01/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered while further investigation has been taken up," they said.

Market rebound loses steam in fag-end trade

Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma and Tata Steel were the major gainers

MUMBAI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Tuesday closed moderately higher after a fag-end sell-off minimised the handsome gains posted in early trading.

Besides, investors opted for profit-taking ahead of the start of corporate earnings season and macroeconomic data announcements later this week, traders said.

After rising sharply during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex trimmed most of the gains during the fag-end and ended marginally higher by 30.99 points or 0.04 per cent at 71,386.21. During the day, it jumped 680.25 points or 0.95 per cent to 72,035.47.

The Nifty also gave up most of the intra-day gains and ended 31.85 points or 0.15 per cent up at 21,544.85. During the day, it climbed 211.45 points or 0.98 per cent to 21,724.45.

Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma and Tata Steel



were the major gainers. On the other hand, Nestle, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher, while Seoul and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended with significant gains on Monday.

"Positive sentiments in the Indian IT sector, fueled by a US tech rally and demand on emerging technologies, overshadowed the anticipated muted Q3 results of the sector.

"Market optimism about potential softening of US inflation is driving expectations

of near-term rate cuts, bolstering overall sentiment. But in-between profit-booking is emerging due to mixed cues from Asian markets as well as high valuation concerns," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark tanked 670.93 points or 0.93 per cent to settle at 71,355.22 on Monday. The Nifty declined 197.80 points or 0.91 per cent to 21,513.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 16.03 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.72 per cent to USD 77.43 a barrel.

Indian refiners seek additional Saudi oil imports after sharp price cut: Report

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Indian state refiners, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), are actively seeking increased imports of Saudi crude oil, reported news agency.

The move comes in response to Saudi Arabia's recent reduction of the official selling price of its main export grade for February to the lowest level in 27 months.

Both IOC and BPCL are considering lifting an additional 1 million barrels of oil each from Saudi Aramco in February, according to sources within the companies quoted in the news agency's report. Typically, Saudi Aramco informs Asian



buyers of their monthly crude allocations by the 10th of each month.

One of the reasons behind IOC's interest in obtaining more oil from Saudi Arabia and West Africa is the challenges it faces in procuring Russian light sweet crude Sokol due to payment difficulties.

India, being the world's third-

largest oil importer and consumer, has recently increased its reliance on Russian crude, which is sold at a discount following the refusal of Western nations to purchase oil from Moscow. Consequently, Russia became India's top oil supplier, displacing Iraq and Saudi Arabia to second and third place, respectively.

In response to Russia-related sanctions by Washington, several tankers earmarked for delivering Sokol crude to India have been diverted in the past two months, resulting in a decline in India's Russian oil imports in December to an 11-month low.

However, oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri clarified that the decrease in India's import of Russian oil was primarily due to unattractive prices rather than payment issues.

IOC, which used to receive 6-7 cargoes of Sokol oil every month under its annual deal with Rosneft, may seek additional supplies from West African producers Nigeria and Angola to compensate for the loss in Russian oil supply.

CoinDCX earmarks USD 1 million fund to aid investors in asset transfers

BENGALURU, Jan 9 (Agencies): Crypto exchange CoinDCX on Tuesday said it is earmarking a USD 1 million Treasury Fund to facilitate asset transfers for investors from non-FIU (Financial Intelligence Unit) compliant offshore exchanges.

The USD 1 million Treasury Fund will be utilised to offer a 1% bonus on all crypto deposits made between January 9 and 17, 2024, it said.

Last month, the FIU issued show cause notices to nine off-



shore crypto and virtual digital assets platforms including Binance for not complying with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provisions in India. Later, crypto exchanges in India said that Indian investors should always aim to have their assets in FIU-compliant entities.

FIU IND also wrote to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to block the URLs of the nine entities operating illegally.

CoinDCX has 1.4 crore investors and traders in India. According to various exchanges, investors are now transferring their assets from non-FIU compliant offshore

exchanges to Indian exchanges. Last week it announced a 2000% surge in crypto deposits since December 28 on its platform.

Minal Thukral, EVP, of Growth & Strategy, CoinDCX, said, "We have always advocated investors to use platforms that prioritise compliance with regulatory frameworks and local laws."

Crypto investment platform Mudrex recently witnessed a surge of USD 1 million in crypto deposits from prominent exchanges, includ-

ing Binance, following the FIU warning notice to overseas crypto exchanges.

In the wake of the FIU's directives, Mudrex saw an influx of crypto deposits.

Edul Patel, CEO and co-founder of Mudrex said, "Indian investors should always aim to have their assets in FIU-compliant entities as it gives them a localised experience and more importantly a way for legal recourse against fraudulent activity on their account."

Starbucks plans to double employment opportunities in India by 2028

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Starbucks India is gearing up to double employment opportunities in the country by the year 2028 in a strategic move to expand its presence in the country's vast market.

Tata Starbucks plans to double its workforce, aiming for approximately 8,600 partners, which is in line with its target of 1,000 stores by 2028. This expansion strategy extends beyond metropolitan areas, with plans to enter Tier 2 and 3 cities, expand drive-thrus, airports, and introduce 24-hour stores to cater to diverse customer needs.

The expansion initiative aligns

with Starbucks' long-term 'Triple Shot Reinvention Strategy' with focus on scaling operations, elevating customer experiences, and contributing to the growth of the economy.

Tata Starbucks Private Limited aims to operate 1,000 stores in India by 2028, equivalent to the opening of a new store every three days. The plan involves upskilling of local partners for various job roles. It also includes the establishment of new stores designed to provide customers with better experience, and the promotion of Indian-origin coffee to Starbucks enthusiasts globally. Laxman Narasimhan, chief

executive officer, of Starbucks said, "Over the past 11 years, the Indian market has grown to become one of Starbucks' fastest-growing markets in the world. With a growing middle class, we are proud to help cultivate the evolving coffee culture while honouring its rich heritage. With our trusted business partner, Tata, and our green apron partners, we are well-positioned to capture the limitless opportunities as we open one store every three days in India and further our aspiration to become truly global." As India propels towards becoming the world's third-largest economy by

2030, Starbucks recognises the nation's strategic importance and is committed to doubling its presence in one of its fastest-growing markets, he added.

Tata-Starbucks joint venture The joint venture, initiated in 2012, has already seen Tata Starbucks operate successfully in over 390 stores across 54 cities, employing around 4,300 partners who proudly wear the distinctive green apron.

Since entering the Indian market in October 2012, Starbucks has cultivated a strong presence through its joint venture with Tata Consumer Products Limited.

India's ultra rich buy Rs 7,200 crore luxury flats in Gurugram in just 72 hours

GURUGRAM, Jan 9 (Agencies): Real estate major DLF has recorded sales of luxury residences in its latest offering, 'Privana South' here, at over Rs 7,200 crore.

This comes as part of its pre-formal launch sales. The units were sold off within 72 hours in its pre-launch phase.

DLF said the residential project is spread across about 25 acres in Sectors 76 and 77 in

Gurugram.

The exclusive enclave will comprise 1,113 luxury residences across seven towers, presenting 4 BHK apartments and penthouses.

The project offers a clear view of the Aravalli Range and is in the vicinity of the upcoming Haryana government's Safari Park project spread over 10,000 acres.

DLF officials said each

buyer was allotted only one unit, with about 25 per cent of the sales coming from NRIs, with a booking amount of Rs 50 lakh.

Sectors 76 and 77 are well connected with direct access to all major hubs of Gurugram and Delhi. They offer smooth road travel to prominent destinations like Jaipur, Manesar, Panipat, Sonapat, Karnal and beyond.

Bottled water contains thousands of previously unknown nanoplastics: Study

NEW YORK, Jan 9 (Agencies): Bottled water contains tens of thousands of identifiable fragments as well as previously unknown nanoplastics in each container, posing significant health risk, finds a study.

In recent years, there has been rising concern that tiny particles known as microplastics are showing up basically everywhere on Earth -- from polar ice to soil, drinking water and food. However, in the study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the researchers focussed on nanoplastics -- the spawn of microplastics that have broken down even further.

For the first time, the team from the Columbia University in the US could count and identify these minute particles in bottled water using newly-refined technology. They found that on average, a litre contained some 240,000 detectable plastic fragments -- 10 to 100 times greater than previous estimates, which were based mainly on larger

sizes.

Nanoplastics are so tiny that, unlike microplastics, they can pass through intestines and lungs directly into the bloodstream and travel from there to organs including the heart and brain.

They can invade individual cells, and cross through the placenta to the bodies of unborn babies.

"Previously this was just a dark area, uncharted. Toxicity studies were just guessing what's in there," said Beizhan Yan, environmental chemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

"This opens a window where we can look into a world that was not exposed to us before."

Using a technique called stimulated Raman scattering microscopy, which involves probing samples with two simultaneous lasers that are tuned to make specific molecules resonate, the researchers tested three popular brands of bottled water sold in the US (they declined to name which ones), analysing plastic particles down

to just 100 nanometers in size.

They spotted 110,000 to 370,000 particles in each litre, 90 per cent of which were nanoplastics; the rest were microplastics.

They also determined the specific plastics -- polyethylene terephthalate or PET, polyamide -- a type of nylon, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and polymethyl methacrylate -- all used in various industrial processes.

While the plastic types the researchers searched for accounted for only about 10 per cent of all the nanoparticles they found in samples; they have no idea what the rest are.

If they are all nanoplastics, that means they could number in the tens of millions per litre, the researchers said.

But they could be almost anything, "indicating the complicated particle composition inside the seemingly simple water sample", the authors wrote.

"The common existence of natural organic matter certainly requires prudent distinguishment."

Scientists find 35 previously unknown species of bacteria

LONDON, Jan 9 (Agencies): A team of scientists has discovered 35 new species of bacteria, some of which can cause infections in humans.

The team from the University of Basel and the University Hospital Basel in Switzerland has been collecting and analysing patient samples containing such unknown germs since 2014.

Overall, the team analysed 61 unknown bacterial pathogens found in blood or tissue samples from patients with a wide range of medical conditions.

Conventional laboratory methods, such as mass spectroscopy or sequencing a small

part of the bacterial genome, had failed to produce results for all these isolates. That is why the researchers sequenced the complete genetic material of the bacteria using a method that has only been available for a few years.

They then compared the identified genome sequences with known strains in an online tool.

Out of 61 analysed bacteria, 35 were previously unknown.

The researchers classified the remaining 26 strains as hard to identify—either their genome sequences had only been added to databases recently or a correct taxonomic description of the pathogens had only been

created a very short time ago.

An evaluation of the patient data showed that seven out of the 35 new strains were clinically relevant, meaning that they can cause bacterial infections in humans. "Such direct links between newly identified species of bacteria and their clinical relevance have rarely been published in the past," said microbiologist Dr. Daniel Goldenberger from the varsity.

Most of the newly identified species belong to the Corynebacterium and Schaalia genera, both gram-positive bacilli.

"Many species in these two genera are found in the natural human skin microbiome and the

mucosa. This is why they are frequently underestimated, and research into them is sparse, said Goldenberger.

They can, however, cause infections when they enter into the bloodstream—due to a tumour, for example.

Bacterial infections can be treated more efficiently if the cause of the disease is known.

In most cases, all it takes to identify a pathogen is an analysis in a medical laboratory.

Sometimes, however, the standard methods are insufficient—for example, if the species of bacteria has not yet been classified or is particularly difficult to grow.

Cervical cancer awareness month: What are its symptoms and causes

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): As we observe Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in January 2024, it's crucial to shed light on this significant health issue that affects women worldwide. Cervical cancer originates in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus connected to the vagina. It often develops gradually, starting with dysplasia, and pre-cancerous changes in the cervical cells.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is the fourth most common type of cancer in the world. In India, cervical cancer poses a significant health challenge, making it the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the country.

Approximately 6 to 29% of all cancers in Indian women are attributed to cervical cancer, with the highest incidence rate recorded in Mizoram state.

Symptoms of cervical cancer may not be apparent in the early stages. However, as the disease progresses, warning signs such as unusual vaginal bleeding, including post-coital bleeding, bleeding between periods or after menopause, watery or foul-smelling vaginal discharge, and pelvic pain, especially during intercourse, may emerge.

Dr Rahul Manchanda, Senior Consultant (Endoscopic Gynecology), PSRI Hospital, said that another early sign of cervical cancer involves ulcers and irregular surfaces on the cervix

after examination.

The primary cause of cervical cancer is persistent infection with certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection.

While HPV is common and usually cleared by the immune system, it can sometimes lead to cervical cancer over time.

Multiple sexual partners, a weakened immune system, smoking and exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES) are some risk factors that can increase infection cases. Early detection of cervical cancer includes screening through Pap tests and HPV DNA tests.

The treatment often depends on the stage of the cancer and may include surgery, chemo-

therapy, radiation therapy, targeted drug therapy, and immunotherapy. For early-stage cervical cancer, a combination of radiation therapy and low-dose chemotherapy is often used to enhance the effectiveness of the treatment.

To reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer, experts urge women to get regular screenings done and stress the importance of HPV vaccination.

Dr Manchanda said, "If given in the appropriate dosage (HPV vaccine) to the person, it can prevent cancer to the extent of more than 90 to 95%. Morbidity and mortality could be reduced since cervical cancer is the second-biggest killer among women in the country."

If it is in your destiny, it is bound to happen, says Mohammed Shami as he receives Arjuna award

The 33-year-old is bestowed with the Arjuna award, the second-highest sporting honour in the country

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agencies): Recovering from an ankle injury, star India pacer Mohammed Shami said his prime focus is to achieve optimum fitness keeping in mind the upcoming home Test series against England.

The 33-year-old, one of the stars of India's ODI World Cup campaign, was bestowed with the Arjuna award, the second-highest sporting honour in the country, on Tuesday.

"My aim is to keep myself fit as far as possible, as the next two tournaments and series are big. I will focus on fitness," Shami, who took 24 wickets in seven World Cup games, told agency on Monday night during a reception hosted by the sports



ministry for this year's national sports awards winners.

"There is no tension about my skill, as I believe if I maintain

my fitness, skill will be there on the ground."

Shami, who is currently undergoing rehabilitation at

the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, had missed the recent South Africa series after not being cleared by the BCCI medical team.

The five-Test series against England begins on January 25.

Shami is the lone cricketer and one of the 26 sportspersons to receive the honour.

"It's a dream come true, it's my life's biggest achievement, the fruit of my hard work," said the Uttar Pradesh-born cricketer, who has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests so far.

"No one can change your luck. If anything is decided by destiny, it is bound to happen. One must continue to work hard; it will pay off."

IND vs AFG: Umran Malik is not even getting selected for India A, Aakash Chopra concerned over pacer's future

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agency): Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra is concerned over Umran Malik's future. The fastest bowler in the history of Indian cricket was not selected in India's 3-match series against Afghanistan. The pacer was neither named in the India A squad against England Lions ahead of the 5-match Test series against Ben Stokes' side.

Speaking on his YouTube channel Chopra questioned that absence of the speedster who he thought was in India's plans during the transition period in the white-ball formats of the game.

"Till some time back, Umran Malik was everywhere. We took him to the West Indies as well and it seemed like he could be in the World Cup team too but now he is not there in any of the teams. He doesn't even get selected for India A," Chopra said on his YouTube channel.

Umran Malik last played for India in the tour of West Indies where he did not enjoy a good outing. Several critics

including SunRisers Hyderabad bowling coach Muttiah Muralitharan have argued that the bowler needs to learn other skills apart from generating raw pace to be effective as a bowler.

Umran Malik rose sensationally in the 2022 edition of the Indian Premier League where he picked 22 wickets at a strike-rate of 13.41.

The pacer had terrorised batters with his raw pace and ability to hit the deck hard.

However, the bowler did not get regular chances in the 2023 season. He played 8 matches and only picked 5 wickets at an economy of 10.85.

Chopra however defended the pacer and said that Umran got minimum chances with the Indian side.

"What happened within three months that a guy first gets selected for the Indian team, gets very minimum chances there, and then goes totally missing? We don't even know where Umran Malik is. Why isn't he there? We should know why this is happening," questioned the former India cricketer.

Kidambi Srikanth Shocks Jonatan Christie To Enter Second Round Of Malaysia Open

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Agency): India's Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the second round of Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with a come-from-behind win over world number 5 Indonesian Jonatan Christie in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. The 30-year-old from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, who has been going through a lean phase for quite sometime, notched up a stunning 12-21 21-18 21-16 win over sixth seed Christie in the opening round match that lasted an hour and five minutes. The former world no. 1 will face Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus next.

A 2021 world championships silver medalist, Srikanth has often struggled to sustain the pressure in a three-game match to make a number of early exits but he looked in fine fettle on Tuesday as he kept attacking despite losing the opening game, to come out victorious. Srikanth always had some tough battles against the Indonesian, whom he had defeated six times in 11 meetings.

Playing the first match of the new season, Srikanth didn't have a good start as he lagged 4-7 initially and though he managed to make it 8-7 briefly, all hopes went up in smoke when Christie blazed off nine straight points



to leave him stranded. With Parupalli Kashyap in the coach's chair, Srikanth opened up a 4-0 lead in the second game but Christie again zoomed ahead to grab an 11-7 advantage at the break. The Indonesian also held a 17-14 cushion at one stage but Srikanth then went on to win seven of the next eight points to roar back into the contest.

In the decider, Srikanth again found the going tough as Christie dominated the rallies, moving from 5-0 to 14-9.

The Indian, however, used his attacking returns and perfect placements to make Christie twist and turn as the tide started to change. The Indonesian also made a few unforced errors as Srikanth turned the tables with a seven-point burst to move to 16-14. The Indian kept things tight thereafter and punched the air after his opponent went long again.

India & T20Is: Old script expecting new outcome

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agency): OF the eight Indian cricketers who made their T20I debuts in 2023 (not including the scratch Asian Games squad), five were batters. They were Rahul Tripathi, Shubman Gill, Tilak Varma, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rinku Singh.

It would have been safe to assume that this was going to be the next generation. To complete this exercise, it's necessary to go back in time. Of the last 28 debutants (not including the maiden caps at Hangzhou) from August 2019, 11 have been batters, including the above-mentioned five. The other six were Prithvi Shaw, Nitish Rana, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan. You would assume this 11 would have been the core.

Yet, only one of this 11 is assured of a spot in the top four (Yadav). Even as other countries have opted for out of the box thinking or T20 specialists, India, for reasons best known to themselves and themselves alone (speculation is the only game in town as the selectors



do not hold press conferences) have continued to play it safe. It's all good trying out the next generation in bilaterals in non-World Cup years but they seem to be lacking the appetite during the World Cups.

Nowhere else is this more prominent than in the identity of the two players who have made a comeback into the national scheme of things since that chastening night against England in 2022. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They were there at the T20 World Cup in 2012. Twelve years later, they are odds on to feature in a sixth consecutive World Cup. As artists, they have abundant skill. They have performed admirably

on a number of occasions and they have reinvented themselves. You can arguably say Kohli has somewhat rediscovered his mojo in the longest formats while Rohit's opening avatar in ODIs is a joy to behold.

Yet, for all their reinvention, are they among India's best in T20s? On the available evidence, only one answer is possible. No. Kohli is found wanting whenever spin is in operation while Rohit frequently fails to marry intent with execution. Both of them have been part of leadership groups at multiple World Cups but the result has always been the same; underwhelming campaigns. In 2023, Rohit averaged 20.7 in T20s

while striking at 132 (22 at 130 in 2022). Kohli struck at 113 against spin in 2023 while averaging 47 (119 and 44 in 2022). Not getting out is one thing but do you want your No. 3 to block balls through the middle overs?

Even as other teams have designated batters — 'powerplay basher' and 'spin hitter' to name a few — India are seemingly rooted to the past to give their golden oldies another chance at cornering glory in the shortest format. This is even before you begin bring fairness into the equation. The one question you have to ask yourself is whether the two stalwarts would have made themselves available for the Afghanistan series if it was played one week after the T20 World Cup?

Since that deflating Adelaide night, India have featured in 25 T20I games. 25 games without Kohli and Rohit. 25 games were other people were seemingly groomed with the promise of having a go at the World Cup in the West Indies and the USA. 25 games were other captains were tried. Yet...

Hockey India Appoints Herman Kruis As High Performance Director

NEW DELHI, Jan 9 (Agency): Hockey India on Tuesday announced the appointment of Herman Kruis as the new High Performance Director. He will assume the role till September 2024, overseeing the National Junior and Senior programs of Hockey India, including the Coaches Education Pathway among other tasks. Kruis who is from the Netherlands has over two decades of coaching experience, and was earlier appointed as Coach of Indian Men and Junior Women's Hockey Teams to oversee their preparations for the coveted FIH Men's Junior World Cup and FIH Women's Junior World Cup respectively.

In his vast coaching experience, Kruis has worked with Den Bosch ladies - a club based out of the Netherlands - as their Head Coach and during his tenure the team won the European Cup eight times in a row. He was also the National Head Coach for the Netherlands Indoor Women's Hockey Team from 2006 to 2008 and he was also the National Head Coach for the Netherlands Outdoor team from 2008 to 2010.

In his most recent stint, he was the National Head Coach of the Belarus Indoor and Outdoor team from 2016 to August 2023. Kruis is a certified FIH Coach-Educator.

"Hockey India is



delighted to appoint senior Coach Herman Kruis as the High Performance Director of Hockey India. He will oversee the various programs run by Hockey India including the Junior and Senior programs. I wish Herman the very best as he assumes this new role," expressed Hockey India President Padma Shri Dr Dilip Tirkey.

Expressing his delight on being appointed as the High Performance Director, Kruis said, "I am looking forward to this new stint with Hockey India. The Indian teams are on the cusp of creating history and I look forward to utilizing my expertise in helping the teams and Hockey India in achieving their goals for this year."

Mickey Arthur, 2 Other Coaches Sacked After PCB Didn't Find NCA 'Clause' In Contract

LAHORE, Jan 9 (Agency): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to amicably part ways with its foreign coaches Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Andrew Puttick after the senior team's poor run of form in recent times, including a forgettable World Cup campaign. A senior official of the board said on Tuesday that PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf and chief operating officer Salman Naseer would negotiate a final settlement with the trio. The three who were part of the Pakistan team management during the Asia Cup and World Cup decided to take vacations after they returned to Lahore from India and were informed their services were no longer required

with the national team.

The three were told that instead the PCB had decided they will work at the National Cricket Academy as it appointed Mohammad Hafeez as director of the Pakistan team and new set of coaches.

But, apparently, the board found out that in the contracts of the three there was no clause giving them the right to force the trio to work at the NCA permanently as they had signed up to work with the Pakistan team. "After some consultations since Mickey is already with Derbyshire and Puttick and Bradburn have found new assignments it was decided to end the matter amicably and release them from their contracts," the official said.

He conceded the board would be paying some months' salaries as compensation to the trio. He also confirmed that Puttick, the batting coach, had informed the PCB about his new assignment with Afghanistan before accepting the contract. Similarly, Bradburn has also informed the PCB that English county, Glamorgan, want him to work as their head coach.

The Pakistan team was white-washed 3-0 in Australia despite having a new team director and coaches. Arthur, Puttick and Bradburn were all appointed by the PCB during the tenure of the last chairman of the cricket management committee, Najam Sethi, in April-May last year.

Osimhen dreams of AFCON title, end to Nigerian suffering

ABIDJAN, Jan 9 (Agency): Newly crowned African Player of the Year Victor Osimhen is a star on a mission. He wants to transform the suffering of Nigerian supporters into joy with an Africa Cup of Nations title.

The Napoli forward topped the African poll last month to finish ahead of Egyptian Mohamed Salah and Moroccan Achraf Hakimi and become the first Nigerian winner since Nwankwo Kanu in 1999.

It was a reward for helping his club to a first Italian title in 33 years and also scoring consistently for the Super Eagles.

But amid the successes there was also sadness for the 24-year-old, who sold newspapers and bottles of water in the bustling streets of Lagos as a teenager to eke out a living.

The day that has haunted Osimhen for a long time was March 29, 2022, at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

Earlier, Nigeria travelled to long-time regional rivals Ghana and drew 0-0 in the first of two matches to decide whether the Black Stars of Super Eagles would



qualify for the 2022 World Cup.

As Nigerian supporters flocked to the national stadium expectations were high that the home team would use that advantage to good effect and secure a place at the finals in Qatar.

But those dreams were shattered as Ghana drew 1-1 to qualify on away goals and deprive Osimhen and his teammates of a place on the global stage.

"We could not have asked for more from our supporters in Abuja that night," recalled Osimhen to reporters before leaving Italy to join the Cup of Nations squad.

"Let them down" "They roared us on from the first whistle to the last. The noise they created was deafening. But we let them down and that hurt. Nigerians

deserved better."

Now Osimhen believes he has the perfect antidote to the lingering suffering of supporters -- Nigeria must win the biennial Cup of Nations a fourth time.

The Super Eagles triumphed at home in 1980, slamming three unanswered goals past Algeria, then edged Zambia 2-1 in Tunis in 1994 and Burkina Faso 1-0 in Johannesburg in 2013.

Since overcoming the Burkinabe, Nigeria have been on a Cup of Nations rollercoaster, failing to qualify in 2015 and 2017, finishing third in 2019 and making a last-16 departure two years ago.

Paired with Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau and Equatorial Guinea in the first round in Group A, Nigeria are expected to contest first place with

the hosts.

Teams finishing first and second in each group are guaranteed knockout-stage places and the four best-ranked of the six third-placed sides also progress.

"We are capable of winning this tournament because the squad is packed with players who are performing exceptionally well for their European clubs," says Osimhen.

"All of us are desperate to make up for failing to reach the 2022 World Cup. The only way we can achieve that goal is by winning the Cup of Nations."

Ivory Coast, twice champions but flops when they previously hosted the tournament 40 years ago, have no shortage of stars and Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi says "they are the team to beat".

"We will enjoy the support of the entire Ivory Coast nation, which is an incredible asset to have," says Ivory Coast coach Jean-Louis Gasset.

Workmanlike Equatorial Guinea have reached the knockout stage in all three previous appearances while Guinea-Bissau, who won a 2024 qualifier in Nigeria, are seeking a first finals victory.

VC, CUJ inaugurates FDP on Indian Knowledge Systems under aegis of UGC-MMTTC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at Central University of Jammu is set to host a comprehensive Faculty Development Program (FDP) from January 9th to 18th, 2024, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain. It is designed to offer an in-depth orientation and sensitization on Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), this FDP aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's objectives.

During the inaugural event, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, highlighted University's commitment to embracing and promoting traditional knowledge systems in contemporary education. In light of the dynamic nature of teaching-learning pedagogy, development of faculty in all disciplines is the highest pri-



ority of our University, he added. Dr. Neelika Arora, Director of UGC-MMTTC, Central University of Jammu, informed that this FDP program is the second in the series that the centre is slated to offer. The FDP program includes 170 faculty members from various educational institutions across India, aiming to bridge the gap between traditional Indian knowledge and modern pedagogical methods.

She also informed that the MMTTC is designed to implement the key changes to the current higher education system to revamp and reenergize it and thereby deliver high-quality higher education with equity and inclusion.

The inaugural session was conducted by Dr. Amita Gupta. While presenting a formal vote of Thanks, Dr. Bijender Kumar

informed that the eminent experts from different universities across the country will be conducting the session during the next ten days.

The FDP is spearheaded by an energetic organizing team that aims to enrich educators with a nuanced understanding of IKS and its integration within the current educational framework.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Director of UGC-MMTTC at the university, leads the initiative alongside Dr. Akshay Kumar, the Deputy Director.

Dr. Bijender Kumar, Program Coordinator, and Dr. Amita Gupta, Program Co-Coordinator, have been instrumental in shaping the program's structure and content.

The FDP is a significant step towards realizing the objectives of NEP 2020, which emphasizes the incorporation of Indian knowledge and ethos in the education system.

BSP demands restoration of J&K's statehood, polling through ballots

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: The BSP on Tuesday demanded the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and polling through ballot papers.

Lashing out at the Central government over unemployment, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Jammu and Kashmir UT General Secretary Rajesh Gupta demanded the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's livelihood and polling through ballot papers.

Gupta said people have lost the faith in EVM's if ruling government is fair enough then there should not be any hesitation to con-



duct elections by using ballot papers instead of EVM's.

Gupta said people of Jammu region have been facing discrimination in every sector for last more than 73 years by the successive State Government.

The BSP leader said that nationalist people of Jammu kept on suffering, with colossal discrimination in terms of Government jobs, development of tourism,

industries, infrastructure, road network and development of rural and border areas.

Rajesh Gupta maintained, successive Governments at center, continued with their appeasement policies, towards Kashmiri centric politics and divide between Jammu and Kashmir regions kept on growing bigger and bigger, in terms of exploitation.

"Jammu and Kashmir have a huge capacity for power production. Despite harnessing thousands of megawatts of power, it's kept in dark. The people of Jammu and Kashmir rightfully deserve a part of that power which is produced here," he said.

Rajeshwar's new collection of Hindi poetry 'Chalte-Chalte' released by Notion Press Chennai

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: 'Chalte-Chalte' a collection of Hindi poetry written by eminent English, Dogri and Hindi writer Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' released by Notion Press, Chennai.

The book carries 57 poems predominantly free verse poetry written on varied subjects in a simple language so that the readers should connect with the thought therein with an ease.

The poet has covered almost all the subjects in this collection like man-woman relations, spirituality, exploitation, social evils, love, conspiracies etc.

He is of the opinions that many a times a concept can be expressed in a verse in a better way as it has so many dimensions.

He says that every poetry lover understands any poem in his or her own way which is the beauty of poetry as well. Just like

as reading poetry is an everlasting experience, for a poet the creative process involved therein also offers a pleasant feel. He advocates that reading culture should flourish in our region also which will inspire the writers to put in more effort to serve good literature to literature lovers.

The cover page of the book that carries 115 pages is designed by Mrinalini Singh which is quite attractive and creative too. The poet hoped that the book will be well received by readers and critics.

It is pertinent to add here that Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju' has been writing in Hindi, Dogri and English languages for the last 32 years and this is his 24th book and first this year.

About 1000 articles written by him in English, Hindi & Dogri languages have been published in different leading national and regional newspapers and magazines. He has

also written 15 theatre plays which have been staged by prominent theatre groups.

About 30 plays and 05 serials written by him have been broadcast from Aakashwani Jammu and about 20 plays, 15 serials and more than 100 Documentaries telecast from DD KISAAN, DDK Jammu, DDK Srinagar and DD Kashmir.

He has 23 books to his credit that include 08 in his mother tongue Dogri and 12 are in Hindi and 03 in English. Out of these 23 books, 05 are on poetry, 07 are on short stories, one on essays on social topics, 10 are on Art and Culture and one translation work in Dogri language.

In addition to several awards and honours, he has been awarded Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bal Sahitya Puraskar-2022 State award for literature in Hindi & Dogri, Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial award etc.

Rehabilitation and Education- the keys to solving the drug crisis: Jagdev Gaga



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 9: Indian Youth Congress National General Secretary and Incharge Jammu and Kashmir Jagdev Gaga in a statement issued to press here said, "It is saddening to note that this Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir is in the clutches of drug abuse, and more and more people are getting addicted to the menace as reportedly an unchecked supply of drugs has snatched the peace of many families, who bread-earners have fallen prey to callous drug traffickers."

There is a famous saying that if you want to destroy a nation, never kill them physically, only provide them drugs and prevent them from edu-

cation. Jagdev Gaga expressed concern over our youth are go into drug abuse from an early age. Personal trauma mixed with bad company can lead to drug abuse, and often addiction. The negative impacts range from loss of appetite, malnutrition, infections, changes in personality, etc. to severe mental health issues and memory loss. Imprisonment and arbitrary detention of drug abusers only make things worse.

"Rehabilitation is the proper way to fix this problem, along with steps to discourage the use of drugs," Jagdev said and demanded there is also need for the relevant authorities to spring into action without wasting any more time and take action against the drug traffickers who are operating with impunity.

They must nip the evil in the bud as early as possible lest the menace of drugs should destroy the whole of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir society, he said.

KP leaders for concrete time-bound rehabilitation policy of KPs in Valley

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: The forceful exodus period of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) from the Valley has passed more than thirty-one years but no serious effort has been made by any previous Government in these years in this direction by framing any tangible and concrete return and rehabilitation Policy for these displaced people in the valley which has demoralized them heavily.

In a statement issued today, prominent leaders of the Community, M.K Yogi, Vinod Pandita, and Vishal Jotshi

have jointly appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister of India to frame a concrete time-bound rehabilitation policy for the settlement of Kashmiri Pandits back in valley with honour and dignity as they have full faith and pinned great hopes in present Government.

Yogi and Pandita said that union Government has done tremendous and laudable development in all the spheres in the country and have expressed sanguine hope that a tangible and concrete rehabilitation policy be framed at the earliest so that this

long genuine pending demand of displaced migrants is fulfilled for sake of justice and equity.

The leaders said with the formation of a concrete rehabilitation policy, would pave the way for early return and rehabilitation of displaced communities back in the valley.

Yogi and Pandita also appealed to Lt. Governor J&K for the creation of fresh ten thousand posts for the educated unemployed youth of Kashmiri migrants as the unemployment among educated KP Youth is on the rise.

Modi Govt committed to work for needy Sections: Sat



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: To promote the stores run by Central Government which are selling Bharat Brand Wheat Flour (Atta) at 27.50/kg and Bharat Brand Chane Ki Daal at 60/kg, former Minister Sat Sharma accompanied by BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra and other leaders visited the Bharat Brand store at Talab Tillo.

Sat Sharma lauded the efforts of the Modi

government for providing the Bharat Brand Flour and Dal at a very affordable price so that weaker sections can also take advantage of it.

Launch of Bharat Brand Products will increase supplies in the market at reasonable cost and will help in continued moderation of Prices of these important food items. Sat also asked the locals to visit the stores and get these items at genuine price. Keshav Chopra while

speaking hailed the PM Modi for working tirelessly to uplift the downtrodden sections and provide them the essential commodities at a very affordable price. These stores will also help in stabilizing the prices of essential commodities Keshav further added.

Rakesh Sharma, Bhubesh Thapa, Jatinder Khajuria, Vinod Wazir, Ashok Kumar, B.D Khajuria, Koushal Kumar and others were also present.

SSP Reasi conducts Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre meeting



Top News Report

REASI, Jan 9: In view of present security scenario and with the aim to share information between different agencies operating in district Reasi, today Amit Gupta Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi conducted a Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centre (SMAC) meeting in the office chamber at District Police Office Reasi.

Besides officers of Reasi Police, meeting was attended by the Lt. Col from Adm Commandant Reasi, representatives from DCIO/IB, DI CID (C) Reasi, DI CID SB Reasi, 58 RR Bn., 4 FID, IRP 1st Bn., Dy. Commandant 126 Bn.

CRPF Bidda, 2 I/C 6th Bn. CRPF Katra & DSB Reasi.

At the outset of the meeting SSP Reasi welcome all the officers and put forth the agenda of the meeting.

In the meeting threadbare discussion was held on present security scenario in view of recent terror attack in district Rajouri and its spillover effects in Reasi, law & order situation, Republic-Day-2024 under currents, movement/ presence of militants, present dynamics and revival of militancy, surveillance over OGWs, surrendered militants, missing youths and their presence in

POK & keep check on radicalization of youth in society.

A brainstorming session was also held on the above the mentioned agenda points for district Reasi, in which all the officers put forth their fact and information based view points.

Sr. Superintendent of Police Reasi stressed upon timely sharing of action able information among the entire sister agencies operating in the district, for surveillance on all anti-national and anti-social elements in the district.

Meeting ended with a note of better coordination and cooperation among all the agencies.

JKBS hails selection of Sunny Kumar Sandhu as SI in JKP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) members have hailed selection of its community youth Sunny Kumar Sandhu as Sub Inspector in J&K Police.

JKBS President Rachhpal Kaith, Senior Vice President Birender

Kaith, General Secretary R.L Kaith and executive members congratulated both for this achievement and wished him all success and happiness as he embarks on a new journey.

Sunil grinned with a big smile and thanked all the JKBS members saying, "It did make me feel good to get a compliment from you".

High Court grants relief to PUCA for Pharmacy admissions in Punjab

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: In writ petition number CWP-11-2024 dated 6th Jan, 2024 in case Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) Vs Punjab State of Technical Education and Industrial Training (PSBTE & IT), acting Chief Justice Ritu Bahri has directed IK Gujral Punjab Technical University (IKGPTU), Jalandhar & PSBTE & IT, Chandigarh to consider the admission done in Pharmacy Courses from 31st Oct, 2023 to 31st December, 2023.

The petitioner Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA

knocked the door of Court stating that Supreme Court & Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), New Delhi have permitted the admission in Pharmacy Courses in the entire Country till 31st December. Many other states like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh etc have also extended the dates of admission but in Punjab the admissions were closed on 31st October.

Now with this Court order, all the admissions done in Punjab in Pharmacy Courses in last 3 months will be considered. The court has fixed the date 31st Jan, 2024 for the next hearing.

Taekwondo trials on Jan 13

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 9: Taekwondo Association of J&K is going to conduct selection trials of Sub-Junior, Cadet & Junior (Kyorugi & Poomsae) Team under the aegis of India Taekwondo on 13th of January 2024 at Ganesha Martial Arts Academy, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

According to a handout issued by the Association, the said selection trials are open for all Sub-Junior, Cadet & Junior Taekwondo players.

The selected players will represent J&K in the upcoming 2nd Sub-Junior, Cadet & Junior Taekwondo Championship 2023-24.

"A selection committee has already been framed for the smooth conduct of the trials and fair selection of the players. Taekwondo Association of J&K

is committed to support the athletes of J&K and will hold fair selection trails for the nationals.

Those players who want to take part in the trials can contact Mukesh Thakur - Incharge trials Committee and register themselves by or before 11th of January 2024.

For fulfilling the eligibility criteria, the players should possess Aadhar Card, Domicile Certificate and can send all these documents on the email- taekwondojk1@gmail.com

There won't be any on-the-spot registration. All the players must register online via contacting Qumiti Lal Jain (Mob No. - 9103439965), Mukesh Thakur (Mob No. - 9419122640), Ravinder Sharma (Mob. No. - 9149826972), Harsh Vardhan Raina (Mob. No. - 6006131434).