# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

16

**Lindsay Lohan makes** surprise appearance at **Mean Girls premiere** 



**NATIONAL** 

**Bengal Governor seeks report on** ration scam probe; calls senior state officials to brief him

**INTERNATIONAL** 

18

Air Force Two carrying US Vice President Kamala Harris diverted to DC-area airport after encountering 'wind shear'



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

| 7

Vol.-15 Issue-10 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

#### BRIEFLY

#### Firing on New Year's **Eve: Three** held in Jammu, two pistols seized

JAMMU, Jan 10 (Agencies): Three people were arrested in connection with a recent firing here, leading to the seizure of two pistols, police said. An information was received at Chinore police post about firing by two groups on the eve of New Year at Kamal Nagar in Bantalab area on the outskirts of Jammu. A case was registered after the incident, a police spokesman said. Three accused were rounded up after strenuous efforts and during questioning they confessed to their involvement in the firing, he said, adding two pistols and five rounds were recovered at their disclosure. The spokesman identified the arrested accused as Sandeep Khajuria and Akbar Ali of Bantalab and Suresh Kumar of Talab Tillo. Some more arrests are likely in the case as the investigation progresses, he said.

#### No relief in sight, intense dry cold unabated in J&K

JAMMU, Jan 10 (Agencies): With no relief in sight, intense dry cold tightened its grip on Valley as dense fog adversely affected life in Jammu on Wednesday.

MeT department has forecast generally dry weather in J&K till January 26

Minimum temperature was minus 5 degree Celsius in Srinagar and Gulmarg on Wednesday while it was minus 6.3 in Pahalgam.

In Ladakh region, Leh town recorded minus 15.2 and Kargil minus 13.9 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city witnessed 4.8, Katra 5.7, Batote 2.2, Bhaderwah minus 0.2 and Banihal minus 1.4 as the night's lowest temperature.

The 40-day long period of harsh winter cold known as the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21 and will end on January 30.

#### **Youth found** dead in **Pulwama**

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): A youth was found dead at his home in the Puchhal area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on

Turn to page 9

### **Gadkari Inaugurates, Lays Foundation Stones Of 29 Highway Projects Worth Rs 4,000 Crore In Punjab**

HOSHIARPUR, Jan 10 (Agensies): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday here inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 29 national highway projects worth Rs 4,000 crore in Punjab.

The projects included Ladhowal bypass in Ludhiana, six-lane flyover and two-lane road over bridge in Ludhiana, four laning of Jalandhar-Kapurthala section, and



three bridges on the Jalandhar-Makhu road. Gadkari laid the foundation stones of several

projects, including four laning of Hoshiarpur-Phagwara road and four laning of Ferozepur

Modi is building expressways, including green expressways which are helping shortening distances between places. The minister for road transport and highways further said five green-

field expressways and

Addressing a gathering

here, Gadkari said the

BJP-led government

under the leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra

Turn to page 9

### BSF Director General reviews security situation, operational preparedness of troops

JAMMU, Jan 10 (Agencies): Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops guarding the border with Pakistan on the Jammu frontier, officials said.

Agrawal, who visited areas located close to the International Border (IB), also called on



Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor

Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here and briefed him about the security situation along the

The DG reviewed the security situation and the operational preparedness of the troops with senior BSF officials. Agrawal is currently on a visit to the Jammu

region. D K Boora, Inspector

#### General, BSF, Jammu Turn to page 9

#### Won't indulge in politics on Ram Temple **Kashmir** consecration: Omar Abdullah Rain

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday refused to comment on the consecration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya, saying he does not want to indulge in politics on the issue. "I will not comment on

the Ram Mandir. This is neither the first inauguration nor the last. We have seen inaugurations in the past as well. If you want to bring politics into it, it is up to you, I am not indulging in politics over



the issue." Abdullah told reporters here.

Asked if he would attend the consecration ceremony of the temple if he gets an invitation. the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he was sure he will not be invited.

"Why are you asking me whether I will go or not? Who goes uninvited? I know I won't be invited. Those who were to be invited, they have already got an invitation. The industrialists. cricketers, film stars and others

Everyone knows their names. Have you seen my name in the list? No. When they do not have an intention to invite me, why should we go into ifs and but?" he said.

## awaits Snow,

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): Dry spell prevailed in Kashmir valley even as the minimum temperature fell by several degrees, intensifying bone chilling conditions, officials said on Wednesday.

The dry weather has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual days as Srinagar on Tuesday recorded a maximum temperature of 14.2 degrees Celsius which was 8.1 degrees higher than usual for this

Turn to page 9

### JK Panchayat, Assembly **Elections likely post Lok Sabha Elections**

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): Elections for panchavats, urban local bodies, and the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly are anticipated to take place after the upcoming general elections, scheduled in a few months this year, a report in The Indian

Express reported. In Jammu and Kashmir, the traditional grassroots-level elected representatives in rural areas, comprising 4,892 village panchayats with a five-year term, concluded on Tuesday. The governance structure introduced in 2020, District Development Councils elected directly by the people, remains in place.

The term of urban local bodies, including two municipal corporations, 19 municipal councils, and 57 municipal committees, concluded on November 14, 2023, following elections held on party symbols after a 13-year hiatus.

Government sources, as per a report in The Indian Express suggest that elections for urban local bodies and panchayats are unlikely before the Lok Sabha elections. Despite an amendment to the J&K Panchayati Raj Act on December 28, 2023, allowing OBC reservation, constitutional issues have delayed the polls. The recently passed Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment Bill), 2023, now enables OBC reservation in J&K elections.

However, challenges hindering immediate local body and panchayat elections include the identification of reserved municipal constituencies and the transfer of the mandate for municipal electoral processes from the Chief Electoral Officer to the State Election Commission, as per Constitutional provisions.

Elections for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly need not coincide with the Lok Sabha polls, as indicated by the Supreme Court deadline of September 2024, set

■Turn to page 9

### 26/11 terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan custody serving 78-year jail term, says UNSC



UNITED NATIONS, Jan 10 (Agencies): Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba leader Hafiz Saeed is in the custody of the Pakistan government and is serving a 78-year imprisonment sentence following his conviction in terror

financing cases, the UN has said in updated information.

Saeed, 73, was designated as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council's Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee in December 2008.

He is in the "custody of the Government of Pakistan serving a 78-year imprisonment sentence since 12 February 2020 as a result of a conviction in seven terror financing cases." the Sanctions Committee said in an amended entry posted through a press release on the UN website

■Turn to page 9

#### Police, Army recover **2.5kgs** heroin in **Poonch**

JAMMU, Jan 10 (Agencies): Security forces on Wednesday seized narcotics weighing 2.5 kg from a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

They said the contraband, believed to be high-grade heroin worth crores of rupees in the international market, was smuggled from across the border, adding that it was found dumped in the Malti area ahead of the border fence.

A search operation is underway and further details are awaited, the officials said.

### Govt orders reshuffle in Administration

JAMMU, Jan 10 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday ordered transfers and postings in the administration.

According to a government order, Reyaz Ahmad Bangroo, Private Secretary is transferred from the Public Works (R&B) Department and posted in the Agriculture **Production Department** to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Latif Ahmad, Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is transferred and posted in the Cooperative Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Sajid Rashid Bhat, Pri-

vate Secretary is transferred from the ARI and Trainings Department and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting

Shabir Ahmad Mir, Private Secretary is transferred from the Housing & Urban Development Department and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting. Reyaz Ahmad Ban-

groo, Private Secretary is transferred from the Public Works (R&B) Department and posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Latif Ahmad, Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment in

the General Administration Department is transferred and posted in the Cooperative Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Sajid Rashid Bhat, Private Secretary is transferred from the ARI and Trainings Department and shall await in the **General Administration** Department for further posting. Ashok Kumar, Private

Secretary is transferred from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and posted in the Housing & Urban Development Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Zahoor Ahmad Dar, Private Secretary is

transferred from the Health and Medical Education Department and posted the Public Works (R&B) Department work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Abid Ahmad Qureshi, Private Secretary is transferred from the Office of Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K and posted in the Agriculture **Production Department** to work in the personal section of the Secretary (Technical).

Sanjeev Sharma, Private Secretary is transferred from the Mining Department and posted in the Hospitality & Protocol Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

■Turn to page 9



CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

#### **TENTH DAY/13TH DAY**

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

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

#### Grief Stricken:-

Dr. Ravinder Singh- Son

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

**Smt. Kanta Devi** 

Shri Ramesh Kumar

Raina

Mobile Nos.: 94191-50074, 99060-98663



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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sudha Raina -Wife

Son & Daughter in law & Grand Daughter

Romit, Akanksha & Aarohi Varun Koul & Deepali Raina -Son in law & Daughter

Ravi Ji Raina & Girja Raina

Phoola Dhar - Sister Asha Ji Dhar & Bushan Lal Dhar - Sister & Brother in law

Geeta Ji Raina & Moti Lal Raina -Sister & Brother in Laws

Munu ji Raina & Fancy Raina Vijay Raina & Kamna Raina - Brother & Sister in law

Veena Dhar, Sunjay Dhar, Bharat Raina, Arti Kaul, Renu Pandith, Anita Dhar, Babita Raina, Nitish Raina, Rohit, Rohan, Sheena, Bhoomi, Vidhya, Shivranjini, - All Nieces & Nephews

Mobile Nos - 9425302538, 9753589936, 9419795215

### **TENTH DAY & KRIYA/UTHALA**

As we navigate through this difficult time without Late Sh.Tarachand Gupta R/o 19-B New Karar 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

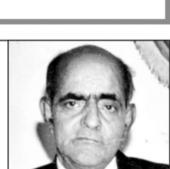
Veena & Kasturi Lal Gupta Pinkey & Rakesh Modi

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** 

**Sh Omkar Nath Bhat** 

### **10TH DAY/KRIYA** 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, Neeral, Bhoomi Yatarth Kauls: 9877140450, 9316601047, 9915844707

**OBITUARY & TENTH DAY KRIYA** 

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND SUDDEN DEMISE OF SHRI CHAMAN LAL SHANGLOO S/O LATE RADHA KRISHN SHANGLOO PERMANENT RESIDENT OF BANAMOLLA, NARPRISTAN, SRINAGAR (PRESENT RESIDENT OF 38/1 A LANE NO. 4 BHAWANI NAGAR, JANIPUR JAMMU) WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 02 - 01 - 2024. 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 11 - 01 - 2024 AT MATA BHADRKALI TEMPLE, THALWAL GHAT, JAMMU AT 0800HRS. ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT BETWEEN 1200 HR TO 1230 HRS.

IN GRIFF:

DAUGHTER -IN- LAW MUNI SHANGLOO W/O LATE DILIP SHANGLOO TINA AND MAJ GEN SUNIL SHANGLOO (RETD) - SON PREMLATA AND ANIL SHANGLOO - SON

GRAND CHILDREN AND GRAND DAUGHTERS/ SON-IN-LAW ASHWANI AND SHIVALI, VASUDHA AND AMOGH,

TUSHAR AND SHIVANI, AKHIL AND SHIKHA, VARUN AND NEETU
GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: BAAVYA, KIARA AND MADHAV
SAMAST HAKIM, KOUL, RAZDAN BHAN PARIVAR

9868902818, 9739652345

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Hon. Lt Nat Ram (IN) S/o Late Sh Bali Ram R/o H. No 343, Sector F, Sainik Colony Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed at residence on 12-01-2024 at 12.00 Noon to 2.00 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Asha Rani- Wife Sons & Daughter in Law Varun Kant & Neetu

Arun Kant & Shivan Brothers & Bhabhis

Sh. J.R Dogra (Chief Engg Retd) & Kamlesh Rani Sh. Vijay Kumar & Shaya Sh. Vakesh Kumar & Tannu Salochana Devi & Sh. Jai Pal - Sister and Brother in Law Rakesh Kumar & Gharo Devi- Brother in Law & Sister in Law MOBILE NO: 9419192462, 9035635584, 9419121009

HON LT NAT RAM (IN)

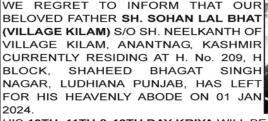
**SHRI CHAMAN LAL** 

**SHANGLOO** 

### **OBITUARY**

**OBITUARIES** 

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR (VILLAGE KILAM) S/O SH. NEELKANTH OF



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

Mrs. Santosh Kilam (Wife)

Mr. Sanjay Kilam & Mrs. Pooja Avasthi Kilam (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mr. Ajay Kilam & Mrs. Kavita Dhar Kilam (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Sanjna Kilam, Shehjaar Kilam, Bhavye Kilam, Maharishi Kilam (Grand Children) SAMAST PARIVAR:

SH. SOHAN LAL BHAT

(VILLAGE KILAM)

MRS. CHUNI

**MATTOO** 

KILAMS, TINGLOOS, BHATS

CONTACT NUMBERS: +91 9646701212, +91 9530730021

### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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

**GRIEF STRICKEN:** 

MATTOO'S AND KOUL'S Prof. J.L Mattoo (Husband)

Brother and Sister-in-law: Late. H.L Koul and Rekha Koul

Daughter-in-laws and Sons:

Dr. Ruchita and Dr. Rakesh Mattoo

Mrs. Kalpana and Mr. Upendra Mattoo Mr. Subash Mattoo

Grandchildren: Sobhna, Urvashi, Jayati

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 heav enly 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

#### KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh Som Raj Sharma S/o Late Moti Ram Sharma R/o House No. 20, Sector 1, Adarsh Enclave, Trikuta Nagar Jammu, J&K. Kriya will be performed on Thursday 11-01-2024

at our residence at 12.00 Noon. The Uthala will be held on Thursday 11-01-2024 at Shiv Mandir Sector-3, Trikuta Nagar from 2.30 3.30 PM.

**Grief Stricken** Smt Sharda Sharma -Wife Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Rachna Sharma & Raieev Sharma Smt Shelly Sharma -Daughter Mob. No. 9419130967, 9419189805



SH. VINOD KUMAR

Sh Som Raj Sharma

SH. VINOD KUMAR

Smt. Mohini Raina

### UTHAL

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

### TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smt. Mohini Raina W/o Late Sh. Kedar Nath Raina on 03rd January, 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 12th January, 2024 (Friday) at Jia Pota, Akhnoor Ghat and subsequently ASSEMBLY will be held at Muthi Ghat near the office of Director, School Education, Muthi at 11 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN** Sons & Daughter-in-laws

Niranjan & Anita Raina

Ramesh & Veenika Raina Asha & Sunil Khosa - Daughter & Son-in-law

Meena - Daughter

Grand Children: Ashwani, Shweta, Adit, Virankita, Amit, Abhishek, Mansi, Khushboo, Rohan, Navruti, Ashish, Rishabh, Vanika, Sapna,

Jeetender, Ritvik, Dipti. Rainas, Khosas, Bhans

Mobile: 7006845858, 9311051115



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



DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 10.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT RAJ DULARI BHAT -WIFE
SMT SARLA & SH SURINDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT JUSSY BHAT & SH AMIT KAW -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW
SMT BHARTI RANI BHAT WO LT OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMT MOHIN BHAT & SH M K BHAT -BHABHI & BROTHER
SMT KUNDNA & SH S C BHAT -BHABHI & BROTHER
SMT PHOOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT JEFTA & SHR C I KANDROO -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT JEFTA & SHR C I KANDROO -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMT SHANOO BHAT & SH AMIT BHAT -DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW

SMT SHANOO BHAT & SHAMII BHAI -DAUGHTER & COMMIN ROMI BHAT -SON
SMT SHEIKHA & SH SHUBAM BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMT RASHMI & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON

SMT ARCHANA & SHA JUAY KUUL. SMT KOMAL & SH PARDEEP KACHROO SMT SHEETAL & KANILESH KANDROO GRAND CHILDREN: SEJJAL, SPARSH, ARNAV, HARSHIT, NIMAY, NITAYE, KRISHNA, GITANSHU MOURNING FROM MAULIN SIDE SHALL ALSO BE HELD AT ABOVE GIVEN ADDRESS

#### TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



FLAMES ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024 AT NEW DELHI.

THE 10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT 8.30 AM ON FRIDAY, 12-01-2024 AT MURAD NAGAR GHAT, UP. **GRIEF STRICKEN** RAINA'S (MUJOOS), DHARS, PANDITAS,

#### 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 behi a legacy of resilience and contagious

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

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY Miskeens, Warikoos, Chagtoos, Tutus, Kauls, Jangis and

### 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 fo his heavenly abode on 04/01/2024. TENTH DAY will be performed at Akhnoo

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) Vaishali and Sh. Dinesh Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

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) ounder of Deva Memorial Secular High School Dableher, who left for heavenly abod Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib shall tak olace on 10-01-2024 at 9.00 A.M. at ou

Kirtan and Antim Ardas shall take place 12-01-2024 (Friday) from 11.00 A.M to 1:00 P.M - at Gurudwara Sahib Main Bazaar

ollowed by Guru Ka Langar. <mark>Sons and Daughters in Iaw</mark> Sdn: Gurkirat Kour W/o Late S. Sudershan Singh

Sulla Singh and Sdn. Loveleen Kour S. Redrose Singh and Sdn. Tajinder Kour Daughters and Son in laws.

Sudarshen Kour and S: Amarjeet Singh dn. Narinder Kour and S. Narinder Singh CONTACT NO: 9469211921, 9419607599, 9682114825

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS** S. Harbans Singh Ji S/o Lt. S. Sadhu Singh Ji of

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB JI AI 10:00 AM on 10/01/2024 (Wednesday) at the 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

PROGRAMME

#### 9419032718

With profound grief and sorrow, we infor about the sad demise of our beloved **Sunil Dhar** S/o Lt. Sh. Soom Nath Dhar R/o Purshiyar, Habbakadal Srinagar A/p Vive Vihar Paloura Jammu on 03/01/24 10th Day Kriya shall be performed on Friday

/eena Dhar **- Sister** leerja Dhar **- Sister-in-law** 



With profound grief and deep sorrow v inform that 10th day kriya of our belove SH.RAJ NATH BHAT (NIRASH), R/o Nagam Budgam at present H.No. 14 sector 2 Model Town Gangyal Jammu, will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 11.01.2024 (Thursday) at

(Daughter and Son-in-law) Aarti Raj Kavita Bhat (Daughter) Himani and Shuhul

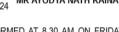
Sh Ashok Kumar Bhat and Smt Rajni Bhat Smt Roopa Ji Bhat W/O Late Sh Brii Nath Bhat Smt Jaikishori Bhat W/O Sh Hira Lal Bhat Smt Lalita Bhat W/O Surinder Kumar Bhat

Gogi P L Bhat

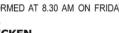
#### DISCLAIMER

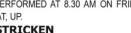
the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not





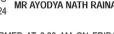


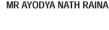




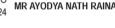


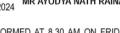




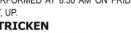


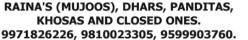






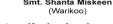








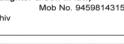
Smt. Shanta Miskeen





Shri Bansidhar Kath

Mob No. 9212758025





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

Prempora Khursi (Singhpora) Baramulla A/P H.No 13 Sec B Sainik Colony Jammu left for heavenly abode on 05/01/2024.



12 Jan at 9:30 AM at Muthi Ghat. GRIEF STRICKEN Smt. Rekha Dhar **- Wife** Rishab Dhar & Ritik Dhar - Son



GRIEF STRICKEN:-Smt Kavita Bhat **(Wife)** Sheetal Bhat W/o Sagar Srivastav

SH.RAJ NATH BHAT (NIRASH)

Our Arun Vaishnavi
And all loved ones Contact Numbers:- 7889356773, 9086554491

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."



### Poor and underprivileged have the first right on government resources: Sinha



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha participated in Block Diwas, a public outreach programme of J&K UT Administration, at Bhalwal on Wednes-

Congratulating people for overwhelming response on Block Diwas, the Lt Governor said the Jan-Bhagidari campaign to strengthen participatory governance is empowering citizens, generating awareness about responsibilities and ensuring accountability of officers in administra-

He called upon every section of the society to take initiative with dedication and determination to make their panchayat clean, liveable, achieve 100%

literacy rate, maintain green spaces and 100% saturation of all government schemes

"The sense of commitment and duty among the citizens towards the society and their respective panchayats will improve quality of life and pave the way to prosperity," the Lt Governor said.

He said, the massive and historic participation of people in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and 100% saturation of all schemes will remove developmental imbalances and give a tremendous boost to local economy.

The Lt Governor reiterated the resolve of the UT Administration towards equitable and inclusive development and to ensure empowerment of all.

Poor and underprivi-

leged have the first right on government resources. Efforts are being made towards promotion of Dogri and other regional languages, connecting remaining panchayats with road, boost industries,

tapping the potential of Agriculture & Allied sector, he said. "Besides central government schemes, the J&K UT administration is running more than a dozen self-employment schemes with an objective to provide resources and requisite training to youth to start their own

religious tourism and

added. At Block Diwas programme, the Lt Governor urged the people to assist Civil Administra-

business. This could be

a game changer both in

urban and rural areas,"

the Lt Governor further

tion and Police to intensify crackdown on drug supply chain to make their Panchayat Nasha-

Mukt. Responding to the issues put forth by former PRI members on the occasion, the Lt Governor assured them that their suggestions and genuine demands would be considered in the planning of District Capex Budget.

He also directed Deputy Commissioner Jammu to take a comprehensive review of the development of playfields in panchayats of the District and ensure that by the end of the month of April, every panchayat of Jammu District, where land is available, has a play-

The Lt Governor inspected the stalls put up various departments and enquired about the grievances received by the citizens. He handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under different government schemes

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District **Development Council** Jammu; Anand Jain, ADGP, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officers, former PRI members, and people in large number were present.

### Sanskrit Bharati Jammu **Kashmir conducts 10 days** enlightenment class



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: The concluding program of the 10-day world ancient language learning and awareness class organized by Sanskrit Bharti Jammu Kashmir, running from 31st December 2023 to 9th January 2024, concluded with grandeur today at Shri Baba Kailakh Dev

Temple, Bantalab. The closing ceremony under the chairmanship of Shakti Pathak, DIG of Jammu, Samba Kathua area.

He said that India and Indian culture cannot be imagined without San-

skrit language. He said that modern education can give us many types of material facilities but reading Sanskrit gives us spiritual knowledge and real peace, and Sanskrit itself inspires us not to get distracted even in

difficult situations in life. Pathak made a special request for Sanskrit students that they should study technology along with Sanskrit.

As the chief guest, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir School Education Board, Professor Dr. Parikshit Singh Manhas said in his speech that Sanskrit language gives the message of morality and humanity along with the golden history of India. Therefore every human being needs to learn Sanskrit.

As the main speaker

nder Notice NO. 11/2023-2024

Description

62245007 NARROW JAW ADAPTER FOR CTRB

supply of the following items :-

S. Tender

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

**INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH** 

**E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM** 

ry, Chief Materials Manager, N. Rly, Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for an n behalf of President of India, Invited tenders through e-procurement system for the

CLASS 'E' to Drg. NO. WD- 89067-S-9 ALT No. 9 Nos.

Note: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS website i. 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 from certifying agencies authorized under ITAct 2000 by Govt. c India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

in the program, Pratap Singh, senior full-time preacher of Sanskrit Bharati, said that Sanskrit is not just a ritual or a language of a particular class, Sanskrit is the language of knowledge and science, it is because of Sanskrit language and Indian culture that India in ancient times Led the world.

In the present times. India can again guide the world only through the knowledge contained in Sanskrit. It is extremely important to include Indian knowledge tradition in the curriculum of children. Parv as special guest in the program It is very important to include tradition in the curriculum of children.

Former IIS Bharti Vaidya, as the special guest in the program, in her address emphasized that culture should be taught compulsorily in schools right from the primary level so that children become cultured and a society free from drugs etc. can be created.

Saraswat, as the guest, Professor Shridhar Mishra, Director of Central Sanskrit University Shri Ranvir Campus, said that the coming era is the era of India and Sanskrit will play the biggest role in

Sanskrit Bharati worker Dr. Prabhakar Shastri concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

3200 02.02.202

### J&K grapples with erosion of democracy and economic instability under BJP regime: Rattan Lal

Conduct ULB, Panchayat polls to reinstate democratic process in J&K: Jan



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU. Jan 10: Over the nine years of BJP's misrule at the Centre and its proxy government in J&K, the people of this historically rich and diverse state have borne the brunt of a governance model that has failed to deliver on its promises and safeguard the interests of the residents. Under the incumbent government, J&K has witnessed a troubling erosion of democratic values, economic instability, and a palpable decline in the overall quality of life.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President while addressing a meeting of Youth Wing of J&K National Conference from Chenab Valley and Jammu District at Shere-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. In the meeting, Ajaz Jan, Provincial President JKNC Youth and former Legislator was also present.

Rattan Lal expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation in J&K under the present administration, citing a range of issues that have adversely impacted the lives of the people. From the erosion of democratic values to the economic downturn, he highlighted the multiple challenges faced by the people of J&K.

"The people of Jammu

and Kashmir have been enduring the brunt of the BJP's misrule for far too long. The promises made by the BJP during their campaigns have not translated into tangible improvements on the ground. Instead, we have witnessed a systematic erosion of the democratic fabric, economic instability, and an overall decline in the well-being of the people.

Rattan Lal Gupta asked the central government to revisit its policies and engage in meaningful discussions with all stakeholders to find lasting solutions to the complex issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir. The Provincial Presi-

dent has called upon the youth brigade of the Party to gear up for the upcoming polls in Jammu and Kashmir. Emphasizing the significance of active participation in the democratic process, Gupta urged the party cadre to be prepared and enthusiastic in engaging with the electorate. Stressing the importance of grassroots efforts and community outreach, he expressed confidence that a united and dedicated JKNC's vouth brigade would play a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of J&K during the upcoming

elections. Addressing the gathering of youth party leaders,

Ajaz Jan, Provincial President of JKNC, expressed deep concern over the sufferings of the people in the absence of elected representatives. He highlighted that democracy in Jammu and Kashmir had come to a standstill with the completion of the tenures of elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members.

Uraina the aovernment

to take prompt action, Jan called for the immediate conduct of Urban Local Body (ULB) and Panchayat polls. He emphasized the vital role of the youth cadre, urging them to actively engage with the public, listen to their concerns, and address issues affecting the community. He stressed that until the elections are held, it is crucial for the Party's youth leaders to remain connected with the people, ensuring their problems are heard and addressed effectively.

The former MLA demanded that the government should prioritize and expedite the conduct of ULB and Panchayat polls to reinstate the democratic process in the state.

Among those who were present in the meeting include Abid Magrey District Vice President Ramban, Sarshad Natnoo Zonal President Youth Chenab Zone, Adhayan Sharma, Rahil Choudhry, Jai Singh and

## LADAKH PHANDAY TSOGSPA

Central University Jammu hosts workshop

on "Spirituality and Education"



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: The office of Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu in collaboration with Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa organized a workshop on "Spirituality and Education". The chief guest of the event was His Eminence the 8th Choekyong Palga

Rinpoche The event was graced by the Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

Parshotam Kumar Dadhichi. President. Sanatan Dharam Sabha , J&K. Dr. Chhering Tandup, Ladakh Phanday convenor Jammu were also present in the event.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Ritu Bakshi, Dean student's Welfare Central University of Jammu.

She welcomed all the dignitaries and stated that such events are the need of the hour and we should

continue to collaborate on such things in future also and after that Paramieet gave introduction of Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa organization and stated that it is working on Seva. Sanskar and Ekta.

The NGOs is committed to providing health care centres in far flung areas, telepathy, mental health programmes and perseverance of our National Integration.

As a mandate of Viksit Bharat@2047, a video showcasing the road map of Viksit Bharat was played.

Parshotam Kumar Dadhichi, President, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, J&K, in his address talked about the role of spirituality in education

His Eminence the 8th Choekyong Palga Rinpoche, in his enlightened address emphasized that we need to balance our academic education and spirituality.

He further motivated the

audience to practice meditation and peaceful ways to make our life happy.

He also shared his deep concern towards increasing suicidal cases, drug abuse and depression. After that question and answers session was also done where the faculty and the students interacted with Guru Ji.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu thanked the chief guest His Eminence the 8th Choekyong Palga Rinpoche for his valuable insights.

He further added that integration of science, education and spirituality is a road map for youth towards Viksit Bharat @2047. Dr. Chhering Tandup, Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa Convener Jammu, presented a formal vote of thanks to all the dignitaries for making the event successful.

Many participants from different disciplines attended the mega event. The programme concluded with the National Anthem

#### NOTICEINVITINGTENDER e-NITNo.76-JJMOF2023-24Dated:06-01-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur,invitese-tendersfromreputedandresourcefulBidders/Firms/Companies/ registered in DIC or any otherstate Government for below mentioned work at Water Supply schemeofJal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur, of Jammu Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM)

The bidding process shall becompletedonlineon www.jktenders.gov.in intwocovers viz.Cover1st  $consisting of General Terms and Conditions and \ Technical Specifications and \ Cover 2^{nd} consisting of \ Financial \ Fin$ Bid on overall percentageratebasis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr.	Particulars of the	Estimated cost	Tender fee	Earnest	Bid Validity	Time of
No.	works	(lacs)	(in Rs.)	money		completion of
				deposit		work (days)
1	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical machinery alongwith allied works at WSS Lopara Tunder Lift(Refer to the scope of work)	As perANNEXURE -I to this biddocument	Rs. 500/-	2% of the estimated cost (in case of non-registered firms) Or 1% of the estimated cost (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	180 days	As perANNEXUR E-I to this biddocument.
2	Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical machinery alongwith allied works at WSS Palmar Lift (Refer to the scope of work)	As perANNEXURE -I to this biddocument	Rs. 500/-	2% of the estimated cost (in case of non-registered firms) Or 1% of the estimated cost (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	180 days	As perANNEXUR E-I to this biddocument.

Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (J J M

DateofBidopening

ThetenderinvitingauthorityisExecutive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur.

#### **CRITICALDATES:**

i 	PublishDate	06-01-2024 (18:00Hrs.)		
ii	DocumentDownloadStartDate	(18:30Hrs.)		
iii	ClarificationStartdate	08-01-2024		
iv	ClarificationEnddate	10-01-2024		
iv	BidsubmissionStartdate	06-01-2024		
v	BidsubmissionEnddate	18-01-2024 (15.00 PM)		

1. Bid documents can be accessed &downloaded from websitewww.jktenders.gov.in

 $2. \quad The whole bidding process shall be completed on line on tender portal \underline{\textit{www.jktenders.gov.in}}. \quad The$ 

intending bidders can downloadthebiddocumentfrom the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on thetenderportal. 3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal

Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division UdhampurBids must be accompanied cost of TenderDocument and EMD as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall

• Thecost oftenderdocuments shouldbe informof Treasurychallan /e-Challan towards the cost of tender document to be deposited in MH-0215-WSS (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Udhampur bearing bank account No. 0028010200000091, IFSC code JAKA0UDMPURinfavourofExecutive Engineer Jal

Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Udhampur

4. Firms who will fulfill the following parameters are eligible to participate. Average Annual financial turnover during the last 3 years, ending 31 March of the previous financial year,

should be at least 30% of this estimated cost. "Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially completed one similar work during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited"

Definition of "similar work" should be clearly defined. The hard copies of cost of tender documentinshapeof Treasury challan, Earnestmoney in shapeofCDR/FDR/BGandotherrelevant documentsshall

obtainedfromthebidderwhoisdeclaredasL1afteropeningoffinancial cover.  $6. \quad The bidshall remain valid for a period of {\bf 180 days} from the last date of submission of bids.$ Ifanybidderwithdrawshisbidbeforethesaidperiodor makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid any modifications and the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid and the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid and the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid and the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be inviolation of bid and the terms are the

security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.Otherdetailscan be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

8. Queriesbyemailifanyshouldbemadeat eephemudr@gmail.com.

No. JSPHEM/UDHR/2023-24/6052-65

DIP/J-13648/23 **Executive Engineer** 

Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division Udhampur

19-01-2024

(11:00 AM onwards)

### **EDITORIAL**

## SELF-RELIANT INDIA

Since independence, India has taken meaningful steps to make itself self-reliant in all fields. New possibilities have also been carved out by making proper use of modern technology and the resources available at our disposal. The Green Revolution that started in the sixties has made us very self-reliant in the field of food grains.

We have also achieved heights in the field of education through innovative training techniques and establishment of modern educational institutions. There has also been a lot of development in the field of science. Many types of government and private hospitals have been built. Dispensaries have been constructed. Free medical facilities have been provided to the lower and backward classes so that no one is deprived of these facilities.

Various types of laboratories have been built and many types of research have also been conducted. Industrialization is increasing rapidly in India and India is continuously developing in every field. By making good use of technology, every person in the village has been connected with communication facilities

At present, if we talk about development, a wave of development is being seen in all the villages of India. Development work is also being done in the village. Many different types of campaigns are being run to develop the country. Education campaigns are being run. Campaigns are being run to eradicate poverty. Campaigns are being run to build permanent houses and construction of roads is going on. Wherever you look in the country, government work is continuously progressing everywhere.

India will be fully developed only when all classes are equally prosperous. There is a dire need for development in India. Even at present India is a developing country. Like other countries like Japan and America, it has not been possible to go abroad. Because till now the pace of development is going on in India. Development in India was very slow for many years after independence. However, at present the pace of development has increased considerably.

A lot of work still remains to be done for the overall development of India. There are many areas of India which are deprived of development. The backward and downtrodden classes are also yet to be brought into the mainstream of development. Rich people have control over most of the resources of India and the poor are deprived of all these. Due to which development of entire sections is not possible. Decentralization of resources is necessary for overall development.

At present the rate of development in India is also increasing rapidly and development is being seen everywhere in India. The rate of growth in India is expected to be higher in the coming times.

### Hasina's victory: Time for caution, not complacency

By: K.C. Singh

The January 7 elections for the Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh's Parliament, has produced a huge win for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, with 223 out of 300 seats in its kitty. It is a fourth consecutive term and a fifth one overall for Sheikh Hasina, who first assumed power in 1996. In one of her first remarks after the victory, she thanked India as a "trusted" partner. The Indian government would obviously be happy at her continuance in office.

But the victory has come at a considerable cost. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, which since the restoration of democracy in 1991 has been the principal Opposition party, boycotted the election. While Begum Zia, serving her sentence for corruption, is under house arrest, her son and political heir Tarique Rahman is exiled in London. Consequently, the turnout was a poor 40 per cent, compared to 80 per cent in 2018. Although over 100 foreign poll observers were in Bangladesh, the problem was not so much the actual conduct of the election as what preceded it. In November, UN Special Rapporteurs had noted that "the weaponisation of the judicial system" had enabled the targeting of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society institutions. The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) rates Bangladesh 163 out of 180 nations on press freedom. Consequently, the United States has put restrictions on granting visas of select individuals to generate pressure on the government to improve its conduct.

However, there is no straightforward answer to the political conundrums confronting the government of Sheikh Hasina. Because of the assassination of her family members, especially her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then sitting Prime Minister, in a military coup in August 1975, there has always been high political polarisation.

Begum Khaleda Zia is the widow of a former Army Chief and President, who had a suspected role in the military coup against Sheikh Hasina's father. Even more problematic has been the electoral alliance of the BNP with the Jamaate-Islami, popularly addressed as the Jamaat, which sided with the Pakistani military in opposing the independence of Bangladesh. Its Islamist agenda includes the setting up of an Islamic state run according to the Sharia. India views it with suspicion due to its inevitable links to Pakistan's jihadi network.

Sheikh Hasina began the war crimes trials against the Pakistani collaborators, especially in the Jamaat, in 2010, during her second term as Prime Minister. Delaware Hossain Sayeedi, a preeminent leader of the Jamaat, died in jail last August. Many years of persecution of Jamaat's leadership and cadres has, at least on the surface, diminished its following. It had at best a five per cent vote share, which can expand quickly due to public sympathy, if the pressure on its membership and leadership eases. The Arab Spring, which overthrew military dictators of Egypt, Libya, etc demonstrated that authoritarian control may decimate the secular Opposition but Islamist forces survive and resurface quickly whenever an opportunity becomes available.

Thus, India has had no option but to back Sheikh Hasina, whatever her poor ratings may be as a democrat. The United States, while targeting her, ignores its own history of giving its allies a long rope on domestic political management. There is the famous remark of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt on a dictator: "He may be an SOB, but he's our SOB". But the danger is like President Barack Obama having to contend with the Muslim Brotherhood's government once the US let Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak fall.

That is a danger that confronts India in Bangladesh, like after the defeat of a pro-India government in the Maldives. Sheikh Hasina has overseen rapid economic growth over her last three consecutive terms. Per capita income has tripled in the last decade and Bangladesh has become the second largest exporter of garments in the world after China. In 2021, garments constituted 85 per cent of Bangladesh's \$51.8 billion exports. The principal export markets are in the West, led by the US. But the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-22 and resulting global economic slowdown has hurt the exports of Bangladesh. This has led to inflation and a drop in wages. Bangladesh was forced to obtain from the IMF a \$5 billion loan last year. Trade has constituted a quarter to a third of the GDP of Bangladesh over the last decade.

This combination of economic stress and democratic recession is a deadly combination that can trigger public protests. The huge drop in voting percentage indicates serious public disappointment with Awami League's running of domestic affairs. Although the incidents were limited, multiple fires on the eve of the elections also indicated public ire. The Indian government has invested heavily in Sheikh Hasina's rule. India has had a twofold objective: giving Sheikh Hasina some wins like the trans-Ganga bridge and containing Chinese influence by giving military assistance and refined oil products. The IndiaBangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) has the capacity to transport one million metric tonnes per annum of high-speed diesel to Bangladesh.

The geostrategic importance of Bangladesh for India is selfevident. It provides the shortest route to the seven states in India's Northeast. It also becomes a vital link in any connectivity project linking South Asia to the 10 Asean nations. Moreover, it is central to India's sub-regional aspirations via the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec). With good economic growth and an economy that has overtaken Pakistan, the pressure on illegal migration to India can diminish.

The real danger to India-Bangladesh relations is this country's over-dependence on one leader, who has turned 76, without a clear line of succession. India needs to help diminish the trust deficit between the ruling Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia's BNP. Pakistan must be keeping lines of support open to the exiled son of Khaleda Zia. India must do so as well. However, the majoritarian orientation of the BJP's current leadership weakens India's ability to preach tolerance and consensus to a Muslim majority neighbour with a population of 168 million.

Bangladesh is seriously endangered by climate change and rising oceans. Myanmar faces a tussle for ascendancy between the ruling junta and some ethnic minorities and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army. A stable and friendly Bangladesh is an absolute necessity for India. Sheikh Hasina's win should not create complacency in New Delhi. Political volcanoes have a tendency to burst when least expected.

### How Will Artificial Intelligence Affect Jobs 2023-2030



By: Vijay GarG

Vou would have been living under a rock if you did not know how artificial intelligence is set to affect jobs in 2023-2030. AI like ChatGPT seems to be stealing all of the headlines at the moment, Google unveiled new AI software to build presentations, analyze and enter data, and write content, and there are so many more AI tools like Gamma and Numerous AI.

Those that are resisting, rather than riding the crest of the wave will not be making hey whilst the sun shines when it comes to landing in-demand jobs in the next 7 years and enjoying job growth. AI will be taking some jobs, but it will be creating new ones!

Here are the most likely jobs that artificial intelligence will affect from 2023-2030:

How artificial intelligence will change the world Will AI help the world or hurt

Like any controversial subject, there will always be people

it?

who are for it, and those that are against it. Artificial Intelligence is no different. In fact, as new ai tools are introduced, and the news around them grows, so the division between the two camps will grow with it. Many market research analysts say that AI has the potential to bring about numerous positive changes in society, including enhanced productivity, improved healthcare, and increased access to education. But we need to adapt right now. Others will say, mostly those working in human work types of jobs that are manually repetitive, that ai and robotics is a disruptive force and when it comes to the future of jobs it merely serves to steal jobs. But robots and ai technologies can and will create a great many new vocations and help solve complex problems and make our daily lives easier and more convenient. The jury is not yet out on this, but the leaning is more toward ai being a positive force rather than a negative one.

How will AI affect jobs and the economy?

economy? McKinsey global institute says that at the global average level of adoption and absorption and advances in ai implied by their simulation, AI has the profound impact to deliver additional global economic activity of around \$13 trillion in the foreseeable future and by 2030, or about 16% higher cumulative GDP compared with today. This amounts to 1.2% additional GDP growth per year. If delivered, this impact would compare well with that of other generalpurpose technologies through history. This will mainly come from substitution of labor by automation and increased innovation in products and services.

The same report went on to say that By 2030, the average simulation shows that some 70% of companies will have embraced the ai revolution and adopted at least one type of AI technology but that less than half will have fully absorbed the five categories. Forbes say ai has the potential to be among the most disruptive technologies across global economies that we will ever develop.

How will artificial intelligence affect society and future?

Forbes says that the future of AI brings endless possibilities and applications that will help simplify our lives to a great extent. It will help shape the future and destiny of humanity positively, whilst Bernard Marr & Co says that the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on our society will have far-reaching economic, legal, political and regulatory implications on all types of jobs and industries that we need to be discussing and preparing for. Others in the know say that AI has the potential to bring about numerous positive changes in society both now and in the future, including enhanced productivity, improved healthcare, and increased access to education. AI-powered technologies can also help solve complex problems and make our daily lives easier and more convenient.

Will ai replace human jobs and

careers

How Will AI Affect Jobs - How many jobs will AI replace by 2030

Artificial intelligence (AI) could replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs, a report by investment bank Goldman Sachs says. It could replace a quarter of work tasks in the US and Europe but may also mean new jobs and a productivity boom. And it could eventually increase the total annual value of goods and services produced globally by 7%. The report also predicts two-thirds of jobs in the U.S. and Europe "are exposed to some degree of AI automation," and around a quarter of all jobs could be performed by AI entirely.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and OpenAI found some educated white-collar workers earning up to \$80,000 a year are the most likely to be affected by workforce automation.

Forbes also says that According to an MIT and Boston University report, AI will replace as many as two million manufacturing workers by 2025.

A study by the McKinsey Global Institute reports that by 2030, at least 14% of employees globally could need to change their careers due to digitization, robotics, and AI advancements.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout)

### Police recovers 2.24 Kgs of Cannabis like narcotics, arrests narco-smuggler

**Top News Report** 

REASI, Jan 10: To eradicate the menace of Drugs from the society and take stringent action against Drug Peddlers within the district, Reasi Police recovered 2.24 Kilo grams of Cannabis (Charas) like narcotics, Narco-Smuggler arrested as well as narcotic substance got seized on the spot.

Team of Police Station Pouni was on traffic duty in Domail area of Pouni, they stopped an Alto car bearing Registration No JK17-2289 which was coming from Reasi towards Bhambla.

During checking of the car, 2.24 Kilo gram including maize



husk of Cannabis (Charas) like Substance wrapped inside maize husk was recovered from the window panels of the car.

On questioning the driver namely Javed Ahmed, son of

Ghulam Rasool Mir, resident of Melhoora, Tehsil Zainapora District Shopian, was unable to give satisfactory reply. Thereafter all the recovered narcotic substance was seized.

On this a case FIR No. 03/2024 under Section 8/20 NDPS Act was registered at P/S Pouni.

Accused arrested and further investigation is going on. The whole operation is led by SHO Pouni under the supervision of Dy.SP Hgrs. Reasi.

SSP Reasi Amit Gupta, while sharing the details, said that Reasi police is committed to eradicate the menace of drug abuse. He appealed to public to support in its war against drugs for which any information pertaining to drug peddlers be shared with District Police on 24x7 helpline number 9070907017 where identity of caller is kept secret.

### Kulgam residents protest against PDD for hiking power bills, ask Govt to revisit decision



**Top News Report** 

KULGAM, Jan 10: The resident of Arigutnoo area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday staged a protest against the PDD authorities for a sudden increase in the monthly electricity tariff.

The residents said that while other areas are paying Rs 350 to 550 per month, they are witnessing a regular increase in the tariffs even as they have now been directed to pay

over Rs 1300 per month. "The electricity is zero and on top of that, we are now asked to pay bills that are illogical and do not have any logic. We have several areas that are paying Rs 350 to 550 as their electricity bill per month; we were also paying the same, but then, for the last few months we are witnessing a steep rise in the same," the protesting residents said

"We used to receive monthly electricity bill of about Rs 330 to 500 but from last four months the PDD start sending inflated bills upto Rs 1300 to us while they are consuming very less electricity", said Mohd Amin Bhat, a local resident

Mohd Akbar Bhat, another local resident told Voice of india (VOI) that "We are already suffering due the 2014 floods that washed away our houses completely, also snatched livelihood of majority of the people, despite poverty and limited resources, adding that I don't know what wrong we have committed that PDD is sending inflated bills to us which is injustice for us", The residents said that if the same continues, then they are not going to pay the bills and rather ask the

PDD authorities to wind up the entire set-up of the electricity from the area.

Meanwhile, Residents appealed to the LG administration to look into the matter and roll back the decision of hike in monthly

When Contacted Executive Engineer, Kulgam, Abdul Hamid Akhoon said that the load fixation had changed and the consumer had to pay the bill as per the new fixed load

"Earlier the consumers were paying according to the fixed load. Now the fixed load is 1.5 KW, according to which a consumer has to pay a minimum of Rs 1560," he said.

"We would consider for poor who can't afford to pay bills. But those consumers with ample resources will have to pay power bills as per their usage.

### MTS Staff of JK&L Dte selected as Sub **Inspector in JK Police**



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jan 10: Vinod Kumar serving as Multi Tasking Staff in National Cadet Corps Directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh has been selected to join the esteemed Jammu and Kashmir Police as Sub Inspector. Vinod Kumar has a commendable record of service with

Vinod Kumar conveyed his gratitude to Maj Gen RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General and other staff who motivated him to achieve this outstanding

The NCC Dte JK&L congratulated Vinod Kumar on his remarkable achievement and wishes him continued success in the new

### No DT presently damaged in ED II Sgr: KPDCL

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Jan 10: Manag-Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam, today inspected Divisional Workshop of Electric Division (ED) II, Srinagar at Huzuribagh and obtained a firsthand appraisal about replacement of damaged transformers.

Executive Engineer, ED II, Srinagar, Er. Rauf Bhat, AEE, Er. Dara Singh and other engineering and technical staff of Sub Division Huzuribagh were also present on

While inspecting the buffer stock of DTs, the MD was informed by EE ED II that no Distribution Transformer (DT)

is presently damaged in Electric Division II and all damaged DTs have been repaired at the

workshop. He was further informed that only 34 DTs were damaged in the month of December 2023, down from 62 in the corresponding period in 2022. In January so far, only 5 DTs have been reported damaged and all have been replaced within the stipulated

timeline fixed by the Government.
While visiting 3x6.3MVA
Receiving Station and Billing
Centre of S/D Huzuribagh, the MD appreciated the KPDCL staff and urged upon them to increase the billing and collection efficiency and maintaining the momen tum of inspection and disconnection drives in the Electric Division.

### 'Nassu Badragund Quazigund road in dilapidated condition, admin unmoved'



**Top News Report** 

QUAZIGUND, Jan 10: Residents of Nassu badragund Quazgund area of Anantnag District Wednesday expressed resentment over dilapidated condition of a 2 kilometer road stretch which they said has not been macadamized from past 8 years.

They said from past 8 years Roads and Buildings (R&B) department has failed to repair this road. School children and shopkeepers are the worst suffers due to the bad condition of the road," residents said.

Zahid ahmad a local

Resident of Nassu badragund told Voice of india (VOI) that they are facing inconvenience as road had turned into 'death trap' for them.

He said government macadamized other link roads in the locality last year but their "deliberately" left unattended.

Another local said from past 8 years nothing has been done for them, it's getting worse day by day," he said.

"We approached Concerned R&B department , but they turned deaf ears to their pleas," he

He said during emer-

gencies they have to use alternative routes to reach on the main road. Despite living in adjacent to Srinagar-Quazigund highway, link roads in the village are craving for attention, he said.

"We face problems when it rains as the road turns into a dam. Even we registered problem to concerned department but things remain unchanged on ground," he said.

Residents appealed Lt. Governor led administration to look into the matter, so that they could get a sign of relief.

### **LG Admin, Director School Education** should not come under pressure from private school mafia: Amit Kapoor



**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jan 10: President of Parents Association, Amit Kapoor, has fully supported the order of JKBOSE issued regarding all books being the same in government schools and private schools and said that no private school should be allowed to install

books as per its own wish. Along with this, he welcomed the decision to extend the holidays of children in view of the winter

He said that the mafia of some private schools has

been trying to put pressure on the LG administration and the Director of School Education to withdraw this

He expressed hope that the LG administration and the Director of School Education will not come under the pressure of the private school mafia even if they protest or adopt any other tactics

Amit Kapoor said this while addressing a press conference in Jammu.

He said that due to the harsh winter, all the parents are happy with the ing the school holidays on the demand of the Parents Association and parents and they have expressed gratitude to the LG administration and the Director of the School Education Department for this

Along with this, he said that the mafia of private schools is putting pressure to withdraw the order regarding installing uniform books in all the schools, but the parents, children and parents association are with JKBOSE and it is expected that JKBOSE will fight against this mafia of

### Pay bills or face disconnection: KPDCL

**Top News Report** 

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mussarat Islam, Wednesday urged consumers to clear their outstanding balance on account of electricity dues, failing which KPDCL shall be left with no option but to further accelerate its disconnection drives as warranted

"hit & run" law

under Section 56 of the Electricitv Act.

He further stated that smart meter consumers with arrears are being automatically disconnected if they do not pay their pending power bills.

Expressing serious concern over huge default figures in domestic, commercial and industrial categories, the MD stated that revenue realized on account of clearance of pending bills shall enable KPDCL to have enough resource availability for power purchase which will be critical for providing reliable supply.

The MD also said that huge default figures are taking a toll on the financial health of the Corporation as it would impact the fund flow under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which is aimed at transforming the LT Distribution Network in Kashmir Division.

sumers in clearing dues, the MD further stated that keeping in view the compulsion for realization of arrears, KPDCL has passed directions to all 19 Electric Divisions to further accelerate disconnection drives of defaulter consumers who are reluctant to pay their energy dues on time.

### Dimple leads protest against Stree Shakti Conclave in Jammu paves the way for **Women's Reservation in Electoral Polity**

#### Says revoke law through special session in Parliament



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a strong protest against "hit & run black law" at the Bus Stand on BC Road in Jammu.

The protest has gained significant support from various sections of society, including civil society members, transporters, owners, drivers, and conductors.

The protesters are vehemently opposing the "hit & run black law," demanding its immediate

Dimple addressed the crowd, expressing a lack of trust in the government's assurances since the law has already been passed in the parliament.

He urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister to revoke the law through a special session in the parliament. Dimple criticized the

Jammu & Kashmir government for doubling the Nashri toll tax and accused the transport minister of making unfulfilled promises, such as the closure of the Sarore toll plaza.

He also demanded the Regional Transport Office (RTO) and SSP Traffic to regulate e-rickshaws within their designated

zones. Furthermore, Dimple highlighted the challenges faced by the black auto industry in Jammu & Kashmir, which is threatened by the introduction of battery-powered buses and small autos. He argued that the livelihoods of drivers and owners are at risk, leading to financial difficulties and starvation.

Dimple called for unity among citizens of India and Jammu & Kashmir to stand against the "hit & run law" and raise their voices against the perceived destruction of the auto and matador transport industry.

Several prominent leaders have joined the cause, including Sanjay Sethi, Chander Bhati, Ashwani Sharma, Ramesh Kumar, Haneef Chodry, Chaman Lal, Ajiet Singh, Amar Jeet Singh, Pawan Kumar, S Vikram Singh, Ranjit Singh, S Taran Singh, Madan Lal. Rameshwar Kumar and Ashok Kumar.

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: In a

momentous stride towards fortifying women empowerment and advancing feminine progress within the electoral landscape, a Mega Conclave convened, bringing together women leaders and esteemed politicians from across the nation. Under the distinguished banner of Stree Shakti, this historic gathering unfolded at the illustrious Hari Niwas Palace in Jammu. Distinguished political luminaries such as Dr. Farooq Abdullah, a senior figure of the National Conference and Parliament member, Safina Baig, Senior People's Democratic Leader and DDC Chairman, and Kavinder Gupta, Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and former Deputy Chief Minister, graced the occasion. Joining them were eminent personalities like Dr. Ritu Singh, an esteemed educationist and Chairman of the Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation and Farzana Mumtaz, Editor in Chief of News Kashmir and a prominent media figure.

On the occasion Dr. Farooq Abdullah remarked, "As a soul who has witnessed the ebb and flow of Kashmir's history, I stand

before you today with a heart brimming with hope. This Stree Shakti Conclave is not just a gathering, it is a turning point. For the first time, the ramparts of Hari Niwas echo with the united voices of women leaders. their resolve as unwavering as the Himalayas themselves. This is a day we will etch in gold, a day that marks the dawn of a new era for Jammu and Kashmir, for India.

Safina Baig poured her heart out as, "Today, we celebrate a hard-won victory - the passage of the women's bill. We extend our gratitude to the Modi government for shepherding this bill through, but acknowledge that this is merely the first step on a long road to gender justice."

Rekha Mody, Founder of Stree Shakti - the Parallel Force and architect of this monumental gathering, emphasized the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, underscoring that the epoch-making Women's Reservation Bill in Indian politics serves as a resolute countermeasure against divisive forces rooted in religion and caste. Ms. Mody expressed her conviction, stating, "Women are ready to embrace reservation and it is political parties who



need to walk the talk. At the historic Hari Niwas Palace, Jammu, we celebrated the Women Reservation Bill and expressed gratitude that Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry are the first regions of the country that will witness implementation of women reservation in electoral polity. We are stressing on women of Jammu and Kashmir to be ready to be part of history and all the political parties to not just wait for reservation, but be women centric in approach, actively shaping the new political landscape.

Dr. Ritu Singh, an eminent educationist and Chairperson of the Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, lauded the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in steering the women of Jammu and Kashmir towards a brighter present and future for the country. Dr. Singh highlighted the transformative impact of women's Reservation, foreseeing a significant elevation in the socio-political status of Indian women and a catalytic boost in entrepreneurial development across all spheres. Furthermore, Dr. Singh stressed that active participation of women in governance and policy-making would foster equality and efficiency, aligning with the foundational principles of She shared her views as

Indian democracy.

private schools.

"Women of J&K, rise with Modi's vision! Reservation is our weapon, entrepreneurship our battlefield. and equality our ultimate victory.'

Farzana Mumtaz, Editorin-Chief of News Kashmir weekly and a prominent women's advocate in Jammu and Kashmir, lauded the implementation of reservations for women. terming it a significant omen for gender equality. She asserted that with the incorporation of necessary provisions, women will now have representation in all crucial tiers of governance. paving the way for their active involvement in steering the nation towards an era of progress.

Social and political circles of Jammu and Kashmir have widely applauded the move of Stree Shakti and as the women of Jammu and Kashmir stand poised to take a leading role in shaping the destiny of the nation, Stree Shakti remains committed to championing the cause of women's empowerment and fostering an environment where women play a pivotal role in the governance and progress of the country.

### What makes 2024 a hit with Hollywood filmmakers? From 1975 film A Boy and His Dog to 2023 movie Leo, as many as 25 sci-fi, superhero and horror films have been set in this year

It seems the year 2024 holds a fascination for Hollywood filmmakers. So many films, mostly sci-fi, superhero and horror, have been set in the year that one can hail 2024 as a subgenre. Last counted, there were at least 25 movies that fell in this category. Now, here's your chance to time-travel and see for yourself if these films, made years back, got the essence of the current year right.

World of superheroes

Spider-Man: Far From Home This 2019 seguel to Spider Man: Homecoming takes place about eight months after the events of Endgame, placing this film in the summer of 2024. It was the final film of the third phase of Marvel Cinematic Universe. Since many films of MCU are connected, Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, Thor: Love and Thunder all released in 2022 also follow events happening in the same timeline. In fact, the Far From Home sequel, which released in 2021, titled Spider-Man: No Way Home, is set in the late 2024. Another 2021 anti-hero MCU film, Venom: Let There Be Carnage based on the character Venom which first appeared in The Amazing Spiderman of Marvel Comics, is once again set in 2024. The events in another Marvel film Eternals (2021) take place in 2024 with a parallel story that explores the first time heroes landed on earth in 5000 BC. This year, Doctor



Strange is likely to return to continue the multiverse journey which he started in 2021. It is expected that the film will set in the same timeline of the year

The 2021 super-hero flick Black Widow is set in a nonlinear pattern and follows the events of 1995, 2016 and 2024. Its titular character, Natasha Romanoff, is played by Scarlett Johansson.

Peep into monster-verse Godzilla vs. Kong Another 2021 film, which is set in the future, is from the categorv of monster-verse. The franchise film narrates the events five years after the events of Godzilla: King of the Monsters and thus set in the year 2024. In 2015, Legendary Pictures announced to join Godzilla and Kong giving rise to MosterVerse franchise. It couldn't be a coincidence that Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire, which takes the story forward, is releasing in April this year, which means it is

set in the current timeline. To save the earth

Highlander II: The Quickening

Set in 2024, this is directed by Russel Mulcahy. It's a sequel to sci-fi cult classic Highlander (1986). The plot revolves around Connor MacLeod, who must free the earth from the Shield, an artificial ozone that blocks solar radiations.

Futuristic war

Illang: The Wolf Brigade

The South-Korean film is adapted from live-action animated film Jin-Roh: The Wolf Brigade. In the wake of re-millitarised Japan, North Korea and South Korea re-unites in 2024 to fight the common enemy.

Deadly mission Songbird (2020)

Based on Covid-19 pandemic, it predicts the year 2024 wherein the virus has mutated into Covid-23. In this pandemicravaged world, a love story turns into a deadly rescue mission.

Virtually there The Thirteenth Floor

The film depicts Los Angeles across three timelines, 1937, 1999 and 2024. This neo-noir sci-fi film is directed by Josef Rusnak, which is based on virtual reality (VR) simulation.

Finding the truth Narcopolis

This 2014 sci-fi thriller revolves around an officer, Frank Grieves (Elliot Cowan), who discovers a new drug inside an unidentified corpse and tries to get to the bottom of it. Set in 2024, when all drugs have been legalised in the US.

### **Lindsay Lohan makes** surprise appearance at Mean Girls premiere



Actress Lindsay Lohan made a surprise appearance at the Mean Girls premiere in New York

The original Mean Girls star on Monday night celebrated the premiere of the musical movie with writerproducer Tina Fey, who reprises her role as Ms Norbury from the 2004

comedy classic, and Angourie Rice, who takes on Lohan's role as Cady Heron.

Lohan and Fey were joined by original cast members Daniel Franzese, who starred as Damian Hubbard, and Rajiv Surrendra, who played rapping mathlete Kevin Gnapoor.

Will any of them make

a cameo in the film? "I couldn't possibly say, but we do have some fun cameos," Fey said.

"Ashley Park is in the movie. Tim (Meadows) is in the movie - we have some fun influencer friends. But you'll just have to come see it this Friday."

Additional Mean Girls stars and creative team members in attendance included Renee Rapp, Christopher Briney, Aulii Cravalho, Jaquel Spivey, Avantika, Bebe Wood, Busy Philipps, Jon Hamm, Megan Thee Stallion, director of photography Bill Kirstein, choreographer Kyle Hanagami and co-directors Arturo Perez Jr and Samantha Payne.

Payne recalled the initial conversations she and Perez Jr had with Rapp, who played Regina George in the Broadway musical, about translating the iconic queen bee from stage to screen.

"We talked about how this is really a personalisation of the role. On Broadway, it's so different from the camera being right here," Payne said while waving her hand in front of her face.

### Karuna Pandey says the journey of Pushpa Impossible is a rollercoaster of emotions

Karuna Pandey, who plays the titular role in the show Pushpa Impossible, has expressed gratitude as the show completes 500 episodes and said that the journey has been a roller coaster of emo-

Karuna, who plays the role of Pushpa Patel, said, "I am humbled by the love and admiration my character Pushpa has received from the audience. This journey across 500 episodes has been a rollercoaster of emotions, and as we celebrate this milestone, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude."

"A character that is highly relatable, Pushpa stands as a symbol of strength, resilience, and the triumph of the human spirit. Each episode is a shared victory with our audience, and I am excited to continue portraying Pushpa's story, exploring new challenges, and inspiring everyone to face life's obstacles with determination and

courage," she added. Pushpa's character has been synonymous with resilience, portraying an unwavering determination and bold



spirit as she confronts life's challenges with a 'never give up' attitude. Reflecting on the challenges she has conguered and the victories

pa's journey is a testament to the strength that lies within individuals, inspiring audiences to face adversity with courage. It airs on Sony she has achieved, Push-

#### Here's the binge-guide of films, series that won big at the Golden Globes 2024 The award season of in India

the year was kicked off with the Golden Globes on Sunday night. As celebrities lifted trophies for best direction and performances, here's your cue to binge upon the best content from across the world. Entertainment guaranteed, says the Globes jury!

The Bear

America comedy drama series is created by Christopher Storer. Starring Jeremy Allen White as Carmen 'Carmy' Berzatto, an award-winning chef. it's revolves around his return to hometown Chicago to manage the chaotic kitchen of his deceased brother.

Available Disnev+Hotstar

This is another gem

Killers of the Flower Moon

from celebrated filmmaker Martin Scorsese and stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Lily Gladstone in the lead roles. It is based on a true story. Mollie Burkhart (Lily), a member of the Osage Nation, fights to survive and save her community from a spree of killings in 1920's Oklahoma.

Available on Apple TV+ Succession One of the most popular shows of HBO, it's Christopher Nolandirectorial with Cillian

fourth and final season aired in 2023. It's about Roy family, the owners of global media and entertainment conglomerate Waystar RoyCo, and their fight for control of the company.

Available on JioCin-Barbie

Fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig starring Margot Robbie is first live-action Barbie movie. It follows the lead pair Barbie and Ken, played by Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, on a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis.

Available on Prime Video on rent Oppenheimer

Murphy in the titular role, Oppenheimer is one of the most talked about films of 2023. It traces the life of father of Atomic Bomb, Oppen-

heimer. Available to rent on Prime Video, Apple TV+ and YouTube

Poor Things

A feminist reimagining of the Frankenstein tale, it's based on the 1992 novel by Alasdair Gray. The plot focuses on Bella Baxter, played by Emma Stone, a young woman living in Victorian era London who after being crudely resurrected by a scientist following her suicide, embarks on an odyssey

of self-discovery and sexual liberation.

Expected to release on OTT by February

The Boy and the Heron Japanese Animation legend Hayao Miyazaki revolves around Mahito, a young 12-year-old boy, who struggles to settle in a new town after his mother's death.

Currently not available

in India

Anatomy of a Fall The suspense drama is directed by Justine Triet and is available in French, English and German. The courtroom drama revolves around Sandra Voyter (Sandra Hüller), who is trying to prove her innocence in her husband's death.

Currently not available

The Holdovers This period comedy

film is set in 1970's is directed by Alexander Payne. A Christmas movie, it offers a tale of a bad-tempered history teacher at a New England boarding school.

To be released in theatres on February 9

Korean director Lee Sung Jin has created this comedy-drama series. It revolves around two strangers whose involvement in a road rage escalates into a feud.

Available on Netflix. The Crown

The Royal drama offered its sixth instalment recently. Revolving around the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, it has been a constant favourite of binge-

Available on Netflix. Ricky Gervais: Armageddon

watchers. It is created

by Peter Morgan.

Another Christmas release, this stand-up special has comedian Ricky Gervais dishing out controversial takes on political correctness and oversensitivity in a comedy special.

Available on Netflix.

#### Adah Sharma to star in Sunil Grover-starrer Sunflower 2

Adah Sharma is all set to play an exciting role opposite Sunil Grover in the web show Sunflower Season 2.

The show is a crime comedy and revolves around a middle-class housing society in Mumbai called Sunflower featuring an array of

quirky characters. Expressing her excitement about the web show Adah Sharma said, "I did drama in Kerala Story, action

in Commando. So, I thought it would be nice to do comedy and this is a role to die for! I can't reveal too much but she's very unique and creepy.

This season revolves around her and she moves into Sunflower society and turns everyone's lives upside down."

Created by showrunner Vikas Bahl and directed by Navin Gujral, the show also



features Sunil Grover in the lead role alongside Ashish Vidyarthi, Ranvir Shorey, Mukul Chaddha and Girish Kulkarni in other prominent roles.

The release date of the second season has not been announced yet.

Meanwhile, Adah will also be seen in Bastar. Bastar: The Naxal Story is produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, coproduced by Aashin A Shah, and directed by Sudipto Sen.

### Sunny Leone's Teri Laal Chunariya surges to #1 in just two days



Sunny Leone's newest track Teri Laal Chunariya has been creating a buzz on YouTube since its debut.

Featuring Pawan Singh alongside Sunny Leone, the song has garnered

over an impressive 7 million views. The song has been trending at #1 within just two days of its release on

January 7. The song is receiving acclaim for its

infectious melody and lively rhythm. Sung by Jyotica Tangri, created by the musical duo Javed-Mohsin, and choreographed by Adil Shaikh, the video is also admired for its stunning visuals and dance moves.

### **At Vibrant Gujarat Summit, PM Narendra Modi** lists 10 key areas; asks global majors to invest in 'pillar of stability' India

Modi says that in a world surrounded by uncertainties, India's priorities are very clear

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called upon global companies to invest in India which the world sees as a "pillar of stability" in an increasingly uncertain world.

Describing India as a friend "who can be trusted as a partner, a voice that believes in global good", Modi told a large number of global and domestic industry CEOs, and foreign dignitaries at the Tenth Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Ahmedabad on Wednesday that in a world surrounded by uncertainties, India's priorities were very clear.

India was focusing on sustainable industry, infrastructure and manufacturing. Its other priorities are new age skills, futuristic technology, Al and innovation. India was also keen on green hydrogen, renewable energy and the full ecosystem of the semiconductor sector.



Pointing out that the industry was aware of the global economic scene, he said the world looks at India as an important pillar of stability. The Indian economy is also showing resilience because of the decadelong focus on structural reforms which in turn have increased the Indian economy's capacity and competitiveness. The government has aided this process by massive structural reforms that have made India an attractive destination for investment. The banking system today is the strongest in the world, 40,000 compliances have ended, GST introduced, and three FTAs signed along with an improved supply chain.

The priorities of 1.4 billion Indi-

ans towards development are human-centric, inclusive and equitable. This approach will be a major basis for world prosperity and development, making India in the process of becoming the world's top three economies in a few years from its position as the eleventh largest economy a decade back. "It is my guarantee that this will happen," the PM declared to applause.

The Prime Minister also drew attention to the fact that this was the first Vibrant Gujarat Summit since the Centre declared an era of Amrit Kaal for the next 25 years till 2047. The PM also spoke on the contributions by the foreign dignitaries at the Summit including chief guest Sheikh Mohamed bin-Zayed, Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi and Timor Leste President Ramos-Horta who also spoke on the occasion.

### Admirers pay last respect to Ustad Rashid Khan

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her cabinet colleagues were present at Rabindra Sadan



KOLKATA, Jan 10 (Agencies): Thousands of admirers of Ustad Rashid Khan paid their last respects to the classical vocalist, whose body was kept for public view at the state-run cultural complex Rabindra Sadan on Wednesday.

A gun salute was given to the versatile classical vocalist whose body was kept in a casket decked with white flowers. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee and her cabinet colleagues were present at Rabindra Sadan. Singer Usha Uthup, vocalist Pt Ajoy Chakraborty, his daughter and vocalist Kaushiki Chakraborty were among those who came to the venue to pay

Uthup said, "Rashid Bhai is like my vounger brother who left so soon. Khan, who made Hindustani classical music accessible to countless listeners, died at a Kolkata hospital on Tuesday after a four-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 55.

Khan's body was brought to Ranindra Sada from his Naktala home in the morning after being taken from a private

### Malayalam filmmaker Vinu passes away after brief illness in Coimbatore

THIRUVANANTHA-PURAM, Jan 10 (Agencies): Popular Malayalam filmmaker Vinu, who helmed a handful of hit movies in collaboration with director Suresh, died in a hospital in Coimbatore following a brief illness, industry sources said on Wednesday.

The 73-year-old filmmaker was admitted to the hospital recently for some abdomen-related ailments, the sources

He is survived by his wife and two children.

The Suresh-Vinu pair gave several success-



ful Malayalam movies including 'Mangalam Veettil Manaseshwari Gupta', 'Kusruthi Kattu' and 'Ayushman Bhava' among others.

Their last collaborative effort was the 2008 movie 'Kanichukulangarayil CBI'.

FEFKA Directors'

Union, an organisation of Malayalam filmmakers, condoled his demise.

Vinu was working on a new psychological thriller film, it said in a Facebook post.

Vinu would be cremated in Coimbatore on Thursday, it added.

### Woman shot by man in hotel room in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district

PATNA, Jan 10 (Agencies): A woman working in an orchestra was shot at in a hotel room in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, an official said on Wednesday.

Awadesh Saroj Dixit, the Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) of Muzaffarpur City said the accused and the victim had booked a room as husband and wife. The woman was shot inside the hotel room and the accused fled from the spot.

The incident occurred on Tuesday night when a person named Imran



Ali booked the room in the LV International hotel at Mithanpura Chowk.

"We have found a pistol and two live cartridges on the bed. The blood stains were found in the room. We have called the FSL team to collect the samples of

evidence followed by sealing the room," Dixit

During preliminary investigation, it was revealed the two were not husband and wife. The woman is a native of Silliguri in West Bengal and was living in Muzaffarpur and workspent some time and the accused shot the girl and fled. The victim managed to open the door of the room and reach the reception area on the ground floor before falling unconscious.

ing for an orchestra

party. After checking-in

room number 205, they

"The victim was admitted to SKMCH and is not in a position to give a statement," Dixit said.

"We have also found serious lapses on the part of the hotel administration. The hotel has no CCTV camera installed on the floor where the crime was committed.

There was no staff at the reception and the floor when the incident took place.

The accused has revealed his name in a register but not mentioned the name of the woman.

As she is having a gunshot wound on her cheek, she is unable to reveal her name. We are waiting for the recovery of the woman to find out the identification of the accused and the reason for the actual incident,' Dixit said.

### Bengaluru start-up CEO son's murder appears pre-planned, empty cough syrup bottles found in her room: Police

The postmortem has revealed the child was smothered to death either with a cloth or a nillow

PANAJI, Jan 10 (Agencies): The Goa police have found two empty bottles of a cough syrup in a room where the CEO of a start-up allegedly killed her fouryear-old son, indicating she might have given a heavy dose of the medicine to him and that it was pre-planned murder, an official said on Wednesday.

The postmortem has revealed the child was smothered to death either with a cloth or a pillow, as per officials.

The accused woman, Suchana Seth, allegedly killed her son in the apartment at Candolim in Goa and stuffed the body in a bag before taking it to neighbouring Karnataka in a taxi, police said.

She was arrested from Chitradurga in Karnataka on Monday night and brought to Goa on Tuesday.

A senior police officer told PTI that during the inspection of the service apartment room where the woman stayed, they found two empty bottles (one big and another small) of a cough syrup.

"The post-mortem conducted on the body has indicated the possibility that the child might have been smothered to death and there were no signs of struggle," he

"We are examining the possibility if the woman gave a heavy dose of cough syrup to the child before putting him to death," the official said. Enquiries with the service apartment staff

revealed the woman had asked them to buy a small bottle of a cough syrup claiming she was having cough, he said, adding the bigger bottle might have been carried



by her

"It looks like a preplanned murder," the official said.

According to police sources, the accused has denied her involvement in the crime during the interrogation and claimed the child was already dead when she

got up from sleep. "We don't buy her theory. Further investigation will reveal the motive behind killing the child. As of now, we know that she and her husband were estranged because of

which she might have done this," a senior police official said.

Seth checked in the service apartment on January 6 and stayed there till January 8 before leaving for Bengaluru in a taxi.

Following her arrest, a court in Mapusa town of Goa on Tuesday remanded her in police custody for six days.

The child's father, Venkat Raman, who was in Jakarta (Indonesia), reached Hiriyur in Chitradurga on Tuesday night and took posses-

sion of his son's body after postmortem.

"He was strangled to death or what we call smothering. Either a cloth or a pillow was used. The child died due to strangulation. It doesn't look like the child was strangulated using hands. It looks like a pillow or some other material was used. The rigor mortis (postmortem muscle stiffness) had resolved in the child," Hiriyur Taluk Hospital's administrative officer Dr Kumar Naik told report-

Seth is the CEO of 'The Mindful Al Lab', and according to her LinkedIn profile, she is an AI ethics expert and data scientist with over 12 years of experience in mentoring data science teams, and scaling machine learning solutions at startups and industry research labs.

### **Bengal Governor seeks report on** ration scam probe; calls senior state officials to brief him



KOLKATA, Jan 10 (Agencies): West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has asked senior state government officers including Chief Secretary BP Gopalika to brief him about the ration scam, an official said on Wednesday.

Besides, Gopalika, Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty, and DGP Rajiv Kumar have been called by the Governor for the meeting.

"The governor has asked the chief secretary, home secretary, and DGP

the ration scam. He will also ask them to give them details about the development in arresting the accused TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh," he told

The ED director on Tuesday met the governor. "The meeting lasted for nearly 40 minutes and the ED chief briefed the governor," he said.

An ED team was attacked on Friday when they went to TMC leader Shahiahan Sheikh's house in Sandeshkhali to conduct a raid in connection with

alleged irregularities in the ration scam. The ED has already lodged a complaint at the Nazat police station in connection with the assault.

The family of the accused TMC leader and the state police have also registered separate complaints against the central probe agency.

#### 3 coaches of Charminar Express derail at Nampally station in Telangana, at least 5 injured

HYDERABAD, Jan 10 (Agencies): Three coaches of the Charminar Express derailed at Nampally railway station in Telangana's Hyderabad on Wednesday morning, the railway officials said.

As per the officials, at least five persons sustained minor injuries in the incident.

The injured are undergoing treatment at the railway hospital, the official added.

According to Rakesh, Chief Public Relations Officer of South Central Railway, the incident occurred at around 9.15 am on Wednesday.

"The incident happened at around 9.15



am. This railway station is a terminal station where tracks end, as it is a dead end. The train should have stopped before the end; however, the train overshot and hit it. Three coaches of the train derailed in the incident," CPRO

Rakesh said while speaking to agency. "Around five people

who stood near the doors of the train suffered minor injuries in the incident. They are being treated at the Railway Hospital," he added.

#### Woman, husband, daughter killed by family in Bihar's Bhagalpur spot.

BHAGALPUR, Jan 10 (Agencies): A woman, her husband, and their daughter were allegedly killed by her father and brother in Bihar's Bhagalpur district, police said on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Chandni Kumari (23), Chandan Kumar (40), and Roshni Kumari (2).

The accused have been identified as Pappu Singh and his son Dheeraj Kumar Singh.

According to villagers Chandan Kumar and Chandani Kumari had a love marriage



three years ago. Chandani's father was unhappy over the

marriage. "The incident took place at around 4.25 pm on Tuesday when the trio were returning to their home in Navtolia village. When Pappu Singh noticed them, he first stopped them and started hitting them with an iron road. They fell unconscious. According to family members of the deceased, Pappu's son-Dheeraj Singh then shot them from point-blank range. All three died on the spot", the police said in a statement on Tuesday night. However, the accused man-

aged to flee. Immediately after the incident, senior police officers along with forensic experts, reached the

Bodies were sent for postmortem examination.

Talking to agency on Wednesday Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Naugachia Om Prakash Arun said, "According to villagers the deceased Chandan Kumar and Chandani Kumari had a love marriage three years ago. Chandani's family was not happy with her marriage. The matter is being further investigated. We have launched a manhunt to nab the accused".

### **Masked men carrying guns storm Ecuador TV** studio live on air after prison escape

Workers lie on the floor as hooded and armed people take over a TV studio of Ecuador's TV station TC during a live broadcast

GUAYAQUIL/QUITO, Jan 10 (Agencies): Ecuador faced a string of violent incidents on Wednesday, including the on-air invasion of a TV station by gunmen, as President Daniel Noboa named 22 gangs as terrorist organisations and military targets.

Police arrested 13 gunmen who took over television station TC during a live broadcast, while elsewhere at least seven police officers were kidnapped and there were several explosions around the country.

Noboa, who took office in November promising to stem drug trade-related violence, declared a 60-day state of emergency on Monday in response to prison violence - including hostage-takings of guards by inmates - and the apparent escape of Los Choneros gang leader Adolfo Macias over the weekend.

In a revised decree on Tuesday, Noboa recognised an "internal armed conflict" and identified nearly two dozen gangs as terrorist groups, including Los Choneros.

The government has said the violence is a reaction to Noboa's



The unrest in Ecuador led

Peru's government to declare

an emergency along its border

with Ecuador, while Brazil,

Colombia and Chile expressed

their support for the Ecuadorean

The take-over of TC's studio

in Guayaquil was broadcast live

for about 20 minutes, as people

wearing balaclavas and mostly

dressed in black wielded guns

and accosted staffers huddling

Gunshots and yelling were

heard on the live feed, and

some of the invaders gestured

at the camera. Someone could

government.

on the floor.

Live invasion

plan to build a new high security prison and transfer jailed gang leaders.

"Today's events show that the actions and decisions taken by the national government are gravely affecting criminal structures, and as an answer they have created a wave of violence to frighten the populace," Admiral Jaime Vela, head of the joint command of the armed forces, said after a security meeting with Noboa and other officials.

All the groups mentioned in Noboa's decree are now military targets, Vela added.

Prison transfers of major leaders have historically led to violence. Hundreds of inmates and several radio stations.

be heard yelling "no police".

ally, shares a site with another public broadcaster, Gamavision, The attackers entered through

TC, which broadcasts nation-

Gamavision's reception, assaulting staff there and leaving dynamite behind, TC news coordinator and reporter Leonardo Flores Moreno told Reuters earlier on Tuesday, when the operation to retake the site was still ongoing.

"We were in a meeting and they alerted us and we were able to hide," said Flores

Police said their operation resulted in the confiscation of explosives and guns, and police social media posts showed young men with their hands ziptied behind their backs kneeling on the floor.

"All hostages were freed ... the perpetrators will confront justice and be sentenced for terrorist acts," the police said on X.

The channel was back on air for its evening news broadcast. with anchors saying the attorney general's office was on site collecting evidence. Two employees were injured, the channel

### **Bhutan's Tshering Tobgay to** become PM for second time

The election was dominated by serious economic challenges that have called into question the Himalayan kingdom's long-standing policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth.



THIMPHU, Jan 10 (Agencies): Bhutanese voters have elected Tshering Tobgay to become prime minister for a second time after his party won nearly two-thirds of seats, the election commission said in results released Wednesday.

Tobgay, head of the liberal People's Democratic Party (PDP), who served as prime minister of the Himalayan kingdom from 2013 to 2018, won 30 of 47 seats in Tuesday's election, official figures showed.

The election was dominated by serious economic challenges that have called into guestion the Himalayan kingdom's long-standing policy of prioritising "Gross National Happiness" over growth.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Bhutan's key trading partner, offered his "heartiest congratulations to my friend" Tobgay for winning the polls, according to a post on X, formerly Twitter.

Tobgay responded by thanking Modi.

"I too look forward to working closely again with you to nurture and strengthen the unique bonds of friendship and cooperation that our nations enjoy," Tobgay wrote in a message on X on Wednesday.

The 58-year-old, a former civil servant, is a passionate conservation advocate who holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's in public administration from Harvard.

Tobgay was also leader of the opposition in Bhutan's first parliament when it was established in 2008, soon after the start of the reign of the present

archipelago nation sits

on the Pacific Ring of

Fire, an area of intense

volcanic and seismic

activity, and has nearly

Indonesian authorities

on Tuesday increased

the alert status of

Mount Marapi, located

on the country's Suma-

tra island, to the sec-

ond-highest level and

imposed a 4.5-kilometre

exclusion zone from its

130 volcanoes.

### Four people killed in terrorist attack in Pakistan: Police

PESHAWAR, Jan 10 (Agencies): At least four people, including three policemen, were killed after terrorists attacked a toll plaza in Pakistan's northwestern region on Wednesday, police said.

The incident happened when unidentified terrorists attacked Laachi toll plaza in Kohat district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday morning.

"Terrorists attacked the Laachi toll

plaza in KPK provinces' Kohat district. Four people including three policemen were killed," said the police.

Heavy contingent of police rushed to the site to control the situation.

After the incident, the police have sealed the entire area and started massive combing operation to arrest the culprits involved in the assault.



KPK's caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Arshad Hussain condemned the attack.

He Praised the services and sacrifices of the KPK police in war against

"The entire nation stands behind the police in their matchless struggle against terrorism." he said.

### Indonesia's Lewotobi Laki-Laki volcano erupts, on highest alert level

JAKARTA, Jan 10 (Agencies): Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted anew Wednesday, spewing ash clouds two kilometres (6,561 feet) above its peak as authorities raised the volcano's alert status to the highest level.

The eruption follows weeks of heightened volcanic activity on the mountain, located on eastern Indonesia's Flores Island, and prompted the local government to issue an evacuation order for nearby residents.



"The communities are urged to immediately evacuate to safe points to avoid hot ash (from the volcano)," local official Benediktus Bolibapa Herin told agency Wednesday.

Local authorities have

established two temporary shelters, which are currently accommodating about 5,000 people, Herin said.

The Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Center (PVMBG) late Tuesday raised

alert level to 4 after it was raised to the second-highest level last week and imposed an exclusion zone of four to five kilometres around the crater.

Lewotobi Laki-Laki's

Locals are advised to be on alert for potential flooding as volcanic mudflows pour into rivers, PVMBG head Hendra Gunawan said in a statement.

He added that people should wear masks "to prevent the dangers of volcanic ash to the respiratory system".

The Southeast Asian

crater. A December eruption of Marapi, which means "mountain of fire", killed

### Ex-Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf's death penalty upheld in treason case observed that Mush-

(Agencies): The Pakistan Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld late former president General (retd) Pervez Musharraf's death penalty awarded to him in 2019 in connection with a high treason case, Geo TV reported.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice

Athar Minallah said the Lahore High Court's January 13, 2020 order, which struck down Musharraf's death sentence, had been ineffective for non-compliance.

termed Musharraf's death penalty awarded by a special court in 2019 "unconstitutional". On December 17, 2019, a special court

The high court had

pronounced the death penalty on the late military general after a case of high treason



was lodged against him by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) for his "unconstitutional" decision to

impose a state of emergency in 2007, according to Geo TV.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court arraf's family did not follow the case even after multiple notices were sent to them. Salman Safdar, Mush-

arraf's counsel, said he attempted to contact the former president's family after the court decided to hear the appeal but did not get any response from them.

On February 5 last year, Musharraf, 79, died due to a prolonged illness in Dubai, where he was in self-exile.

#### Air Force Two carrying US Vice President Kamala Harris diverted to DC-area airport after encountering 'wind shear'



WASHINGTON, Jan 10 (Agencies): US Vice President Kamala Harris' aircraft was forced to divert to a Washington-area airport after encountering stormy weather Tuesday night as she

23 people.

returned from a trip to Georgia. Press secretary Kirsten Allen said in a statement, "Tonight, en route from Atlanta, GA, Air Force 2 was diverted from Joint Base Andrews to Dulles International Airport due to inclement

A person familiar with the matter, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss it, said the aircraft encountered wind shear as a powerful storm brought high winds and rain to the nation's capital. The same person said no one was injured.

Wind shear is a sudden shift in wind direction or speed that can be hazardous during take-off and landing.

### Yemen's Houthis launch one of largest Red Sea drone attacks, US, UK reported to have shot down

DUBAI, Jan 10 (Agencies): Yemen's Houthi rebels fired one of their largest barrage of drones and missiles targeting shipping in the Red Sea, forcing the U.S. and British navies to shoot down the projectiles in a major naval engagement, authorities said Wednesday. No damage was imme-

The attack by the Iranian-backed Houthis came despite of a planned United Nations Security Council vote later Wednesday to potentially condemn and demand an immediate halt to the attacks by the rebels, who say their assaults are aimed at stopping Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza

However, their targets have increasingly tenuous — or no — relationship with Israel and imperil one of the world's crucial trade routes linking Asia and the Middle East to Europe. That raises the risk of a U.S. retaliatory strike on Yemen that could upend an uneasy cease-fire that's held in the Arab

world's poorest country. The assault happened off the Yemeni port cities of Hodeida and Mokha, according to the private intelligence firm Ambrey. In

the Hodeida incident, Ambrey said ships described over radio seeing missiles and drones, with U.S.-allied warships in the area urging "vessels to proceed at maximum speed.' Off Mokha, ships saw missiles fired, a

drone in the air and small vessels trailing them, Ambrey said early Wednesday. The British military's United Kingdom Marine Trade Operations also acknowledged the incident off Hodeida.

The U.S. military's Central Command said the "complex attack" launched by the Houthis included bomb-carrying drones, anti-ship cruise missiles and one anti-ship ballistic missile.

It said 18 drones, two cruise missiles and the anti-ship missile were downed by F-18s from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, as well as by American Arleigh Burke-class destroyers the USS Gravely, the USS Laboon and the USS Mason, as well as the United Kingdom's HMS Diamond.

"This is the 26th Houthi attack on commercial shipping lanes in the Red Sea since Nov. 19," Central Command said. "There were no injuries or damage reported.'

"Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity," the UKTMO added.

The Houthis, a Shiite group that's held Yemen's capital since 2014, did not formally acknowledge launching the attacks. However, the pan-Arab satellite news network Al Jazeera quoted an anonymous Houthi military official saying their forces "targeted a ship linked to Israel in the Red Sea," without elaborating.

The Houthis say their attacks aim to end the pounding Israeli air-and-ground offensive targeting the Gaza Strip amid that country's war on Hamas. However, the links to the ships targeted in the rebel assaults have grown more tenuous as the

attacks continue. The attacks have targeted ships in the Red Sea, which links the Mideast and Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal, and its narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait. That strait is only 29 kilometers (18 miles) wide at its narrowest point, limiting traffic to two channels for inbound and outbound shipments, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Nearly 10% of all oil traded

at sea passes through it. An estimated \$1 trillion in goods pass through the strait

A U.S. draft resolution before the U.N. Security Council, obtained late Tuesday by The Associated Press, says the Houthi attacks are impeding global commerce "and undermine navigational rights and freedoms as well as regional peace and security." The resolution would demand the immediate release of the first ship the Houthis attacked, the Galaxy Leader, a Japanese-operated cargo ship with links

Israeli company that it seized in Novem-

ber along with its crew. An initial draft of the resolution would have recognized "the right of member states, in accordance with international law, to take appropriate measures to defend their merchant and naval vessels."

The final draft is weaker, eliminating any U.N. recognition of a country's right to defend its ships. Instead, it would affirm that the navigational rights and freedoms of merchant and commercial vessels must

be respected, and take note "of the right of member states, in accordance with international law, to defend their vessels from attacks, including those that undermine navigational rights and freedoms."

A U.S-led coalition of nations has been patrolling the Red Sea to try and prevent the attacks. American troops in one incident sank Houthi vessels and killed 10 rebel fighters, though there's been no broad retaliatory strike yet despite warnings from the U.S. However, Tuesday's attack appeared to be testing what response, if any, would come from Washington.

Meanwhile, a separate, tentative ceasefire between the Houthis and a Saudi-led coalition fighting on behalf of Yemen's exiled government has held for months despite that country's long war. That's raised concerns that any wider conflict in the sea — or a potential reprisal strike from Western forces — could reignite those tensions in the Arab world's poorest nation. It also may draw Iran, which so far has largely avoided directly entering the wider Israel-Hamas war, further into the conflict.

### Voluntarily retired employees of RTC hold protest



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: Voluntarily retired employees of J&K Road **Transport Corporation** on Wednesday held protest against the RTC Management and J&K Transport Department authorities for not releasing the pending dues of the VRS given employees.

The retired (VRS) employees of the RTC under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali assembled near Maharaja Hari Singh Park and held protest. They were shouting slogans against the RTC management and also against the J&K Transport authorities.

have not been paid their COLA and 6th Pay Commission arrears by the RTC authorities despite the fact that Central Government has paid an amount of Rs 76.95 crore to them including payment of the arrears of more than 700 employees. Their total DA amount comes out to around Rs 66.24 crores

Bali said that most of them are senior citizens and struggling for their

hard earned money for the last more than 8-9 years. But the authorities concerned have They alleged that they failed to pay their arrears. The officers in

> tactics. They appealed the Prime Minister Modi to intervene into the matter and provide justice to over 700 VRS given RTC workers of J&K, struggling for the last over eight years for getting their own hard earned money. Over 52 have expired during these years of struggle.

> J&K administration are

only harassing them

and adopting delaying

#### More Initiatives should emanate from the scientists & engineers of BEL: **Defence Secretary**

#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU/ NEW DELHI, Jan 10: Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated 'Abhigyaan', the stateof-the-art auditorium at the Central Research Laboratory (CRL) of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Defence Public Service Unit (DPSU) on January 10, 2024 in Ghaziabad, UP. He termed the Abhigyan auditorium as an asset to the scientific community.

Interacting with the scientists and engineers of BEL the Defence Secretary lauded their efforts towards bolstering National Security while carrying forward the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He urged them to have more collaborations with the domestic start-ups and incubators with the aim to provide state-of-the-art technologies/ products to the armed forces. He emphasized that more initiatives should come from the scientists and engineers of BEL

The Defence Secretary added that as efforts are being made towards jointness of the three Services, BEL can play an important role in ensuring that the equipment/systems are provided to the Armed Forces and Indian Coast Guard in an integrated manner.

Abhigyaan auditorium consists of excellent acoustics, smart interfaces, a large interactive data wall and three cameras with extensive features for live feed. There are also two high resolution displays for simultaneous presentation and demonstration. The auditorium has a seating capacity for 250 people and will be used for product demos, symposiums, hackathons, tech talks and lectures.

Chairman and Managing Director, BEL, Bhanu Prakash Srivastava and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

### **JKHEU President Suhaib** joins **EJAC**



#### **Top News Report**

SRINAGAR, Jan 10: J&K Handicraft Employees Union (JKHEU) President Suhaib Suhaib Munshi, accompanied by the General Secretary of the organization and a multitude of employees and supporters, officially joined the **Employees Joint Action** Committee (EJAC).

The joining ceremony took place in the presence of EJAC President Wajahat Durrani, General Secretary of the organization Sajad Ahmad Parray, senior EJAC leader Farooq Khan, and other prominent figures.

Expressing his enthusiasm for this new affiliation, Suhaib Munshi highlighted the democratic nature of EJAC's leadership

He stated, "It's an honor to be a part of this democratically elected leadership. Today, I am proud to join the Employees Joint Action Committee, and I believe in the collective strength of this organization to address the concerns of the employees.

Munshi emphasized the importance of addressing pending cases within various departments, particularly underlining the significance of resolving issues related to daily wagers. He acknowledged the current Chief

Secretary as being employees-friendly, noting that the Chief Secretary has shown a commitment to addressing all genuine concerns of the employees.

In his address, Munshi stated, "I hope that under the leadership of EJAC and with the support of our fellow employees, we can work towards resolving the pending cases and particularly focus on the daily wagers' concerns. The current Chief Secretary has shown a positive and proactive approach, and I believe we can collectively achieve positive outcomes for the betterment of the employees.'

The Employees Joint Action Committee, under the dynamic leadership of President Wajahat Durrani, welcomes Suhaib Munshi and his associates, aiming to strengthen the organization further and work collaboratively towards the welfare of the employees.

### People left without political representation in J&K, says Manjit Singh

#### **Top News Report**

RAMGARH, Jan 10: With no assembly elections in sight in J&K, the Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today alleged that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been left in hopelessness without political representation with the dissolution of Panchayats and Block Development Councils.

"The Govt could have extended the tenure of the PRIs, and BDCs in J&K knowing that the people would have no political representation in any part of Jammu or Kashmir Regions after their tenure gets dissolved," said Manjit Singh, while addressing a meeting that was organized at Lale Chak Chowk in Rajpura Block in Ramgarh Constituency of Samba District.

The meeting was organized by Adv. Sahil Bharti, District President, Samba, Legal Cell, and others.

In his address, he said that the tenure of PRIs and BDCs has expired, and it has left the people helpless across all the regions, making them disappointed with the present system that is being run by the Govt officials without any kind of

"This system has no link with the people at the ground and the people have anger against the officials for the ignorance towards the genuine demands and suffering of the people," he stated.

He cited certain developmental works that are still in progress and far from being completed within a time frame.

He also pointed out flaws in the widening work of the Jammu -

Pathankot Highway that has caused inconvenience to the people and has adverse impact on daily life, and the commuters.

"There is no accountability on the people and on the other hand, the assembly elections are nowhere in sight. The assembly elections have been delayed for an unknown period in J&K and this situation has annoyed people from all sections," he stated.

He demanded that the assembly elections should be held at the earliest in J&K to restore the democratic

system and win the confidence of the people.

"Our neighboring states have democratic Govts, and the development is being monitored by an elected Govt whereas the bureaucracy is answerable to the elected Govts. However, the things are opposite in Jammu and Kashmir which is an unjustified situation," he said.

He further appealed for the restoration of statehood and the holding of early polls

Earlier, he discussed farmers issues like agricultural land ahead of the fence on the International Border, electricity, supply of drinking water, and canal water to the tail-end villages in Ramgarh along the border.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, SC Provincial President, Jammu, Adv Lovely Mangol. Block President of Rajpura, Raman Sharma, Youth President of Block, Er Swaranjeet Singh, Block President Ramgarh, Bachan Choudhary, District President Youth Samba, Mangat Ram, District President Trade Union, Sunny Sambyal, Rtd. Principal, Krishna Devi, and

### Gadkari Inaugurates, **Lays Foundation Stones Of 29 Highway Projects Worth Rs 4,000 Crore In Puniah**

economic corridors are being built at a cost of Rs 1.20 lakh crore for better connectivity from Punjab to Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana.

He also spoke about the 670 km greenfield expressway Delhi-Amritsar-Katra project, saying once this project is complete, one can reach Amritsar from Delhi in four hours and Katra from Delhi in six hours,

On this occasion, Union Minister and local MP Som Parkash, former MP Vijay Sampla, Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, among others, were present.

#### **JK Panchayat, Assembly Elections likely post Lok Sabha Elections**

during its judgment on the Constitutional validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019. The last Assembly elections in J&K occurred in 2014.

Sources of The Indian Express highlight logistical and security considerations, suggesting the Election Commission will assess these during its visit to J&K as part of the Lok Sabha polls review. The special summary revision of electoral rolls for Panchayat elections, announced by State Election Commissioner B R Sharma, will take place from January 15 to February 5, with the final rolls published on February 26.

The term of chairpersons of 316 block development councils (BDCs), elected in October 2019 alongside the panchayats, has also concluded. Members of district development councils, the only elected representatives connecting the J&K government and the people, cannot replace panchayat members, councillors, or MLAs in their functions.

### **BSF Director General** reviews security situation, operational preparedness of troops

frontier, briefed Agrawal about the security situation here.

The BSF DG visited various border outposts in Jammu's Akhnoor sector on August 9 last year and exhorted the troops

to maintain effective domination to successfully meet the challenges from across

#### **26/11 terror attacks mas**termind Hafiz Saeed in **Pakistan custody serving** 78-year jail term, says UNSC

Saeed's address is listed as House No. 116E, Mohalla Johar, Lahore, Tehsil, Lahore City, Lahore District, Pakistan "as of" May 2008.

In December, India asked Pakistan to extradite Saeed, the 2008 Mumbai terror attack mastermind who Indian probe agencies want in several terror cases.

Last month, the Security Council 1267 Committee enacted a few amendments to certain entries on its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. Saeed is among those whose information has been amended and the updated details have been made available through the press release.

Under these amendments, the Sanctions Committee also noted that Hafiz Abdul Salam Bhuttavi, founding member of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and deputy to Saeed is "confirmed deceased." Bhuttavi, a UNSCdesignated terrorist who trained the Lashkar-e-Taiba attackers for the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and acted as the outfit's chief on at least two occasions, died in a prison in May last year in Pakistan's Punjab province while serving a sentence for terror

The Sanctions Committee also noted that Maulana Fazlullah, commander of Tehrike Taliban Pakistan (TTP), was "confirmed deceased on 13 June 2018." TTP commander since November 2013, Fazlullah led the local TTP in Pakistan's northwest valley of Swat from 2007 to 2009.

Pakistani national Noor Wali Mehsud is leader of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan "following the death of former TTP leader Maulana Fazlullah," an amended entry on Mehsud said. His address is listed as Paktika Province in Afghanistan as of Novem-

According to the amended information, the Al Rashid Trust, whose headquarters was in Pakistan, is "reportedly defunct." Al Rashid Trust was associated with Jaish-i-Mohammed and had been involved in the financing of Al-Qaida and the Taliban. Until October 2008, the entity also appeared as "Aid Organisation of the Ulema, Pakistan". The amended information said that "no indication of any activity under the name of Al-Rashid Trust has emerged as of November 2023." The ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List is updated regularly based on relevant information provided by Member States and international and

FROM PAGE 1 regional organisations.

#### **Govt orders reshuffle in Administration**

M. Asif Iqbal Shalla, Private Secretary is transferred from the Hospitality & Protocol Department and posted in the office of Commissioner of\_Enquires, 3&K.

Nazir Ahmad Paray, Private Secretary is transferred from the Cooperative Department and posted in the Tourism Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Salim Shalh, Private Secretary is transferred from the Agriculture Production Department and posted in the ARI & Trainings Department to work in the personal section of the Adninistrative Secretary.

Sanjay Ganjoo, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre) is transferred from the Agriculture Production Department and shall await in the General Administration Department for

Sanjay Kumar, Private Secretary (HoD Cadre) is transferred from the School Education Department and posted in the Higher Education Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative

Robinder Singh, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Revenue Department and posted in the School Education Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Prem Kumar, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Higher Education Department and posted in the Cooperative Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Vinod Kumar Bhat, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Public Works (R&B) Department and posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Sec-

Mohammad Yaseen Dar, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and posted in the Housing & Urban Development Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Showkat Ahmad Wani, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Health and Medical Education Department and posted in the Public Works (R&B) Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Mohd. Arshid Wani, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Cooperative Department and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting.

Sameer Ahmad Bhat, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the School Education Department and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting.

Suhail Nazir Bhat, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the Mining Department and posted in the Hospitality & Protocol Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Rayees Hussain Sheikh, Senior Stenographer is transferred from the ARI & Trainings Department and posted in the Office of Public Safety Act, J&K to work with the Chairman. Amit Gupta, Senior Stenographer is

transferred from the Health and Medical Education Department and posted in the Public Works 24 3 (R&B) Department to work in the personal section of the Admin-Mohammad Altaf Wani, Head Assistant

is transferred from the Public Works (R&B) Department and posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Sec-Kashmiri Lal, I/c Head Assistant is trans-

posted in the School Education Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary. Shabir Ahmad Wani, Junior Stenographer is transferred from the Hospitality &

ferred from the Revenue Department and

Protocol Department and posted with the Commissioner of Enquires, J&K. Sourav Kumar, Junior Stenographer is transferred from the Agriculture Produc-

tion Department and posted in the Culture Department to work in the personal Section of the Administrative Secretary. Sahil Toga, Junior Stenographer await-

ing orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department is posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work with the Secretary (Technical).

Irfan-Ullah, Daftari is transferred from the Public Works (R&B) Department and posted in the Agriculture Production Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Azad Hussain Shah, Jamadar-I is transferred from the Health and Medical Education Department and posted in the Public Works (R&B) Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Sec-

Jyoti Prakash, Orderiy is transferred from the Health and Medical Education Department and posted in the Public Works (R&B) Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

Rahil Sharma, MTS (Orderly) is transferred from the Social Welfare Department and posted in the Cooperative Department to work in the personal section of the Administrative Secretary.

The Government also ordered that all the officials shall be deemed to have been

### **Kashmir awaits Snow.** Rain

time of the year.

Jammu, the winter capital of the union territory, was colder than Srinagar on Tuesday recording a high of 11.6 degrees Celsius, which was 6.5 degrees below the normal. Jammu is currently under a cover of dense fog which has resulted in colder

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down from minus 2.4 degrees Celsius recorded on the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.4 degrees against minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was minus 5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, slightly down from the minimum temperature recorded the previous night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, they

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4.7 degrees Cel-

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

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

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December while there has been no precipitation in the first week of January.

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

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

#### Youth found dead in Pulwama

Wednesday.

Quoting official sources, news agency Kashmir Scroll reported that a 28-year-old youth from Puchhal Pulwama was found hanging inside his room at his home in Puchhal.

They said that that youth was immediately brought to District Hospital Pulwama by family members where doctors declared him brought dead.

They said that the deceased had recently failed to qualify the JE examination.

### **Markets decline in early** trade on fresh foreign fund outflows, weak global trends

BSE declines 81.35 points to 71,304.86; Nifty dips 27 points to 21,517.85

MUMBAI, Jan 10 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Wednesday amid fresh foreign fund outflows and a largely weak trend from global mar-

Investors preferred to stay on the sidelines ahead of the start of corporate earnings season and macroeconomic data announcements later this week, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 81.35 points to 71,304.86. The Nifty dipped 27 points to 21,517.85.

Among the Sensex firms, NTPC, Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro and Axis Bank were the



major laggards. HCL Tech, Titan, Nestle, ICICI Bank. IndusInd Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gain-

In Asian markets, Tokyo traded in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong were quoting lower.

The US markets ended mostly lower on Tuesdav.

Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 990.90 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.22 per cent to USD 77.76 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark ended marginally higher by 30.99 points or 0.04 per cent at 71,386.21 on Tuesday. The Nifty ended 31.85 points or 0.15 per cent up at 21,544.85.

### Nothing can stop India from becoming \$35 trillion economy, says Mukesh Ambani

NEW DELHI Jan 10 (Agencies): Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani said nothing can stop India from becoming a \$35 trillion economy by 2047 and that he is confident that Gujarat alone will become a \$3 trillion economy

The 66-year-old billionaire industrialist was speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024.

"No power on earth can stop India from becoming a 35 trilliondollar economy by 2047. And as I see Gujarat alone will become a 3-trillion dollar economy," Ambani said.

He went on to highlight Reliance's contribution towards the growth of Gujarat. He said onethird of the conglomerate's Rs 12 lakh crore investment in creating world-class assets and capacities across India has been in Gujarat.

The Reliance chief also outlined several commitments concerning Gujarat, adding that the conglomerate will "continue to play a leading role in Gujarat's growth story with significant investments in the next ten years".

He went on to say that Reliance will contribute to making Gujarat a global leader in green energy-led growth. "We will help Gujarat's target to meet half of its energy needs through renewable energy by the year 2030," he said.

"For this, we have started building the Dhirubhai Ambani Green **Energy Giga Complex** 

over 5,000 acres in Jamnagar. This will generate a large number of green jobs and enable the production of green products and materials and will make Gujarat a leading exporter of green products," he added.

He also spoke about Reliance Jio's 5G rollout and said Gujarat is fully 5G enabled. "This will make Gujarat a global leader in Digital Data Platforms and Al adoption," he added.

Ambani praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's India's swift transformation as a global economic giant and said that he is the "most successful Prime Minister in India's history" and the "greatest global leader of our times"

"You are working on the mantra of global good and make India the world's growth engine. The story of your jour-

ney from Gujarat to the Global Stage in just two decades is nothing short of a modern epic, Ambani said.

"Therefore, confidentâ€æevery Gujarati confidentâ€æand every Indian is confident that the Modi Era will take India to new summits of prosperity, progress and glory," he added.

In addition to Mukesh Ambani, numerous global leaders, prominent industrialists, and top CEOs graced the Gujarat Vibrant Summit 2024. During the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed his dedication to economic growth, assuring that India is on track to emerge as one of the top three economies globally.

### Gautam Adani promises Rs 2 lakh crore investment in Gujarat, create 1 lakh jobs

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Agencies): The Adani Group on Wednesday revealed plans to invest Rs 2 lakh crore in the green energy and renewable sectors over the next five years in Gujarat. The announcement was made by Adani Group chairperson Gautam Adani at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024.

Gautam Adani, speaking at the summit, outlined the ambitious investment strategy that positions Adani Group as a key player in India's transition to a cleaner and more sus-



tainable energy future. "We are expanding the green supply chain for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and creating the largest integrated, renewable energy ecosystem... Over the next five years, the Adani group will invest over Rs 2 lakh crores in Gujarat," Gautam Adani said.

This multi-billion-dollar investment is set to drive innovations, create employment opportunities, and significantly contribute to the growth of the renewable energy sector in Gujarat. Gautam Adani indicated that the investment is expected to create up to 1 lakh jobs, directly and indirectly.

Besides outlining the conglomerate's investment plan for Gujarat, Adani went on to highlight the stellar economic growth India has achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He highlighted India's strong GDP growth and per capita income since 2014, and added that the "best is yet to come". "India of today is poised to shape the global future of tomorrow." he added.

Speaking about the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, Adani said, "Vibrant Gujarat is a stunning manifestation of your (PM Modi) extraordinary vision. It has all your hallmark signatures, merging grand ambition, massive scale, meticulous governance and flawless execution. It ignited a nationwide movement as all our states march forward competing and cooperating to fundamentally remodel India's industrial landscape."

### Tata Group to build semiconductor fab in Gujarat: Tata Sons Chairman



NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Agencies): Tata Group announced on Wednesday its plans to build a new semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat this year. Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, while speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, said that the company is on the verge of completing negotiations, and the fab is set to commence operations in 2024.

"We are about to complete negotiations for the semiconductor fab in Dholera and will start operations in 2024," said Chandrasekaran.

With this announcement, Tata Group becomes the second Indian conglomerate to express interest in India's semiconductor industry. Anil Agarwalled Vedanta Group has also shown interest in chip manufacturing, having applied for \$10 billion in PLI (Production Linked Scheme) incen-

At the summit, South Korea's Simmtech announced its plans to open a chip component plant in Gujarat, alongside the upcoming semiconductor testing and packaging facility of U.S. chipmaker Micron.

Tata Group will additionally commence construction of a 20-gigawatt battery storage factory in Gujarat in the next couple of months, he added.

According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which oversees the semiconductor program, a total of 45 applications were received under the Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India. This includes six applications for setting up semiconductor fabs, three for setting up Display fabs, and ten for setting up compound and ATMP facilities. While one application has been approved under the ATMP scheme, nine have been approved under the Design Linked Incentive Scheme.

### Maruti Suzuki to invest Rs 35,000 crore for 2nd car plant in Gujarat

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Agencies): India's top carmaker Maruti Suzuki will invest Rs 35,000 corer (\$4.2 billion) to build a second car plant in Gujarat state and will add a new production line at an existing plant, the president of its parent company said.

The investments will see the company's annual production capacity in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state jump to 2 million vehicles from 750,000 currently.

The plans were announced during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, where thousands of chief executives, investors and diplomats have gathered for the three-day biennial event.

Toshihiro Suzuki, president of Japan's Suzuki Motor, also said the group's first bat-



tery electric vehicle will be rolled out from Maruti's existing plant in Gujarat by the end of the year.

In addition to being sold in India and Europe, the car will be exported to Japan - marking

the first time for Maruti to export to its parent

years ago, we expect 1.7 times in vehicle production and 2.6 times in export sales in

way

company's home country.

the current fiscal year," he said. The investment summit is part of Prime Minister Modi's final push to attract more investment in the country before a national election in which he will fight for a third term

and is widely expected to win.

Maruti, which commands more than 40 per

cent market share in the world's third-largest

auto market, plans to have six EV models

Suzuki said Maruti - which is mainly based

in India's Harayana state - had come a long

'It is noteworthy that as compared to 10

### Chandigarh's GMCH-32 begins minimally invasive heart surgeries, to train medicos

CHANDIGARH, Jan 10 (Agencies): Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, has started minimally invasive surgeries for heart patients with 15 successful operations conducted

Spearheaded by cardiologist Dr Siddharth, this cutting-edge technique is an alternative to openheart surgery and involves making small cuts, called incisions, in the chest to reach the heart for the required procedure, resulting in shorter hospital stay and quicker recovery. Notably, the GMCH is the exclusive facility in the city adopting this innovative approach, surpassing even the PGI in this regard.

In response to the overwhelming response, the GMCH is set to extend the application of this technique to bypass surgeries, following positive outcomes in initial trials. Plans are underway to conduct workshops and continuing medical education (CME) sessions to enhance understanding among medical professionals. With this, there is a reduction in the waiting time for heart patients at the GMCH's Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), now standing at two to three months. The department has expanded its services from one or two days to 4-5 days a week, aiming at alleviating the



backlog. The outpatient department (OPD) handles 50 patients, including both new and old cases.

The minimally invasive approach not only mitigates the risk of infections, but also minimises blood loss during surgery. However, the patient's eligibility for this procedure is contingent upon individual conditions, with traditional techniques still being employed when deemed suitable. The GMCH has also decided to create 25 faculty and staff positions for the CTVS department, recently approved by the Centre, signalling a significant expansion in healthcare services. Recognised as a crucial department catering not only to the tricity, but also to neighbouring states,

these positions encompass various roles supporting both patient care and academic advancement. Hi-tech procedure

This cutting-edge technique is an alternative to open-heart surgery. It involves making small cuts, called incisions, in the chest to reach the heart for the required procedure, resulting in shorter hospital stay and quicker recovery Expanding service

With GMCH adopting this technique, there is dip in waiting time for heart patients, which is currently two-three months

The hospital has expanded its services from one or two days to 4-5 days a week, aiming at clearing the backlog

### Eat more veggies, legumes, nuts; less dairy & meat to cut Covid risk: Study

SAO PAULO, Jan 10 (Agencies): Eating a predominantly plantbased or vegetarian diet high in vegetables, legumes, nuts, is linked to 39 per cent lower odds of Covid-19 infection, claims a research.

Researchers from the Universidade de Sao Paulo in Brazil also claimed that a diet low in dairy products and meat may help to ward off the infection.

"Plant-based dietary patterns are rich in antioxidants, phytosterols and polyphenols, which positively affect several cell types implicated in the immune function and exhibit direct antiviral properties," the team wrote in the study, published in the open access journal BMJ Nutrition Prevention & Health.

In the study, the team set out to evaluate the potential impact of dietary patterns on the incidence, severity, and duration of Covid-19 infection among 702 adult volunteers all of



whom were recruited between March and July 2022. They were divided into either omnivorous (424) or predominantly plant-based (278) dietary groups.

The plant-based food group was further divided into flexitarians/ semi-vegetarians who ate meat three or fewer times a week (87); and vegetarians and vegans (191).

The omnivores reported a higher rate of medical conditions and lower rates of physical activity. And the prevalence of overweight and obesity was significantly higher among the omnivores -- all factors associated with higher Covid-19 infection risk and more severe symptoms/complications.

In all, 330 people (47 per cent) said that they had had Covid-19 infection. Of these, 224 (32 per cent) said they had mild symptoms and 106 (15 per cent) had moderate to severe symptoms.

The omnivores had a significantly higher reported incidence of Covid-19 than the plantbased dietary groups: 52 per cent vs 40 per cent. And they were more likely to have had moderate to severe infection:18 per cent vs just over 11 per cent.

There was no difference, however, in how long symptoms lasted, the researchers said.

But those following a predominantly plant-based or vegetarian/vegan diet were 39 per cent less likely to become infected than the omnivores.

It may be that predominantly plant-based diets provide more nutrients that boost the immune system and help to fight viral infections, they suggest, by way of an explanation for their findings.

The team noted that "this is an observational study, however, and as such, can't establish causal factors". The researchers also acknowledge that the study relied on personal recall and subjective assessment, both of which are prone to error.

Nevertheless, "in light of these findings and the findings of other studies, and because of the importance of identifying factors that can influence the incidence of Covid-19, we recommend the practice of following plant-based diets or vegetarian dietary patterns," they said.

## Spotlight on Rohit, Kohli in first ever white-ball series between India and Afghanistan

The three-match contest will be India's last before the T20 World Cup in June, giving the team more clarity on where it stands ahead of the ICC event in Americas

MOHALI, Jan 10 (Agencies): The return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to the T20 format after 14 months will be keenly observed when India face a dangerous Afghanistan in the first ever white-ball series between the two teams, beginning here on Thursday.

The three-match contest will be India's last before the T20 World Cup in June, giving the team more clarity on where it stands ahead of the ICC event in Americas.

However, the final 15 will be picked on the core group's performance in the IPL, which precedes the World Cup.

Rohit and Kohli, now that they are back in the T20 setup, are a certainty in that squad but the accomplished duo would first like to get the most out of the games against Afghanistan.

The two India greats are also among the biggest crowd-pullers and their presence on the field would be another reason for the Mohali crowd to brave the prevailing cold wave.

Rohit, who will also captain the side, will be expected to carry on with his ultra-aggressive approach in the powerplay like he showed in the ODI World Cup. Kohli, on the other hand, will look to up his strike rate in the middle overs as the modern game doesn't have room for anchors anymore.

The team, having returned from South Africa last week, will



only assemble by Wednesday evening for the series-opener on Thursday evening.

Though the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tilak Varma remain in the squad after performing top-order duties in in the drawn series against South Africa, Shubman Gill is expected to open the innings alongside Rohit.

Across formats, Gill did not have the easiest of times in the Rainbow nation and will be looking to pile on the runs against Afghanistan with the fringe openers breathing down his neck.

In his toughest test yet in a blossoming T20 career, Rinku Singh proved his worth in the South African conditions and will be a key player for India in the middle-order, especially in the absence of the injured duo of

Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya.

With Ishan Kishan interestingly left out, Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson are the two wicket-keeping options for the

squad.

Having donned the gloves in the previous two series, Jitesh is expected to start ahead of Samson, who finds himself back in the fold after the short series in Ireland last August.

Shivam Dube too is back and can feature in the eleven as a pace bowling all-rounder while three specialists pace options are Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar.

Kuldeep Yadav will lead the spin attack and other options to choose from are Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar.

India would be expected to win

comfortably in their own conditions but Afghanistan will give them a run for their money.

Having recently exceeded all expectations in their giant-killing run during the ODI World Cup in India, Afghanistan will be high on confidence in a format that suits them the most.

Star spinner Rashid Khan, who underwent a back surgery in November, is part of the squad in Mohali but might not start the series.

Barring this, the team is at its full strength after the likes Mujeeb Zadran, Naveen-UI Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi sorted their contractual issues with the country's cricket board.

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

Aghanistan: Ibrahim Zadran (captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK), Ikram Alikhil (WK), Hazratullah Zazai, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Janat, Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad, Naveen Ul Haq, Noor Ahmad, Mohammad Saleem, Qais Ahmad, Gulbadin Naib and Rashid Khan.

### "WTC Has Made It Worse For Test Cricket": Ex-England Star's Sensational Claim



LONDON, Jan 10 (Agencie): Former England Test batter Mark Butcher feels the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) has done more harm than good to the longest format. South Africa recently named a depleted squad for the Test series in New Zealand with their top cricketers contracted to play in the second season of the SA20 as the dates of the two events are clashing. "One of the things that's made this even more inevitable is something that they've done to try to salvage Test match cricket, which is the World Test Championship," Butcher said on the Wisden Cricket Weekly podcast.

"The point is that your bilateral series have to capture the imagination of the fans and the players of the two countries that are playing in it, and then the wider cricket watching public. And the only way they are that is if they are competitive. And that's how it always was." Former Australia skipper Steve Waugh also came down heavily on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and top cricket boards, including the BCCI, after Cricket South Africa (CSA) named as many as

"Test match series were and Test matches in and of themselves, single games, were important events. The idea that you widen the whole thing out to sort of span three years and blah blah blah, some

seven uncapped play-

ers in a 14-man squad

for the two-Test series.

series are worth this, some series are worth that, some teams can't be asked this week — it makes it even more nebulous.

"The only effort that's been made to kind of try and keep it relevant, I think, has made it worse," Butcher said.

Butcher feels the ICC could have focussed on other relevant issues to secure the future of Test cricket instead of introducing the WTC.

"I don't know, in all of the wrong places the effort has been made. And the places where it might actually have made a difference, i.e., levelling up revenues for TV rights, allowing countries to be able to keep hold of their best players...

"Allowing them to be able to pay a universal standard of money for Test match appearances and whatever and then allow the richer boards to pay their players whatever they want to on top of that – I have no issue with any of that

"But this is just a surrender, if you ask me. It's been a slow moving car crash up to now and now it's kind of like, bang – impact has been made."

### Australian Open 2024: Sumit Nagal starts off with dominating win over Geoffrey Blancaneaux in qualifiers

MELBOURNE, Jan 10 (Agencie): India's Sumit Nagal made an impressive start in his quest to qualify for the main draw of the Australian Open 2024 men's singles. The 26-year-old defeated France's Geoffrey Blancaneaux in the first round of the qualifiers on Wednesday, January 10.

Nagal took an hour and 46 minutes to win the match 6-3, 7-5 on Court 8. It was a dominating show from the youngster, who remains the only Indian to take a set off the legendary Roger Federer when he achieved the feat in the 2019 US Open.

In the opening set, Nagal bagged a break of serve and then stormed to a 4-1 lead. Blancaneaux could not earn the break back and the Indian star went a set up with comfort.

The second set was a closely-fought affair as Blancaneau was in no mood to throw in the towel. At 5-5, it seemed that the set would go into a tie-breaker. But then, Nagal drilled the final nail in the coffin by earning his second and final service break of the match.



Nagal was impressive with his first serves, winning 74 percent of points from them. Blancaneaux was let down by the 32 unforced errors that he made compared to Nagal's 20. Blancaneaux impressed with his fastest serve of 201 km/h and 2 aces, but they were not enough to put his opponent under any pressure.

Nagal, who is currently ranked No.122 in the world, is next set to lock horns with wildcard Edward Winter from Australia on Thursday, January 11.

Back in 2021, Nagal played in the main draw of the Australian Open, but lost 2-6, 5-7, 3- to Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania in the first round.

## ICC Test Rankings: Rohit Sharma storms into top 10, Virat Kohli rises to No.6 DUBAI, Jan 10 (Agencie): up one place to become the 4

DUBAI, Jan 10 (Agencie): Indian cricketers have made significant strides in the latest ICC Men's Test rankings following their performances in the historic Cape Town Test win over South Africa. Virat Kohli, the star Indian batter, has climbed three places to secure the 6th position in the rankings. This rise is attributed to his valuable contribution of 46 runs in a challenging, low-scoring match in Cape Town.

Rohit Sharma, the Indian captain, has also seen a notable improvement in his ranking. With a four-spot jump, he has entered the top ten and is now positioned in 10th spot. His ascent in the rankings comes after playing a crucial role with scores of 39 and an unbeaten 16 in the same Test.

Aiden Markram was imperious at Newlands, striking a secondinnings century in a team bowled



out for just 176. His 106 led to a nine-spot jump to enter the top 20 (667), as the only Protea to make a move of note.

BOWLING RANKINGS

The Indian pace attack has been particularly impressive, with Mohammed Siraj being the biggest gainer among the bowlers. Siraj's exceptional performance, which included figures of 6/15 in the first innings, has propelled him up 13 spots, allowing him to break into the Top 20 at No.17.

Jasprit Bumrah, another key figure in India's pace battery, has also improved his standing in the ICC Test rankings. Following a six-wicket haul in the second innings of the Cape Town Test. Bumrah has moved

up one place to become the 4th ranked bowler in Test cricket. His performance was instrumental in India's seven-wicket victory and further cemented his reputation as a leading wicket-taker for the team.

Despite a four-wicket Test match, Kagiso Rabada was overtaken by the barnstorming Pat Cummins to go to second on the rankings list (858). Australia's captain capped off a Player of the Series performance in the third Pakistan Test, taking six wickets across just 25 overs.

Cummins' compatriot Josh Hazlewood made a move of his own, taking five wickets (including four in the second innings) to move from 11th to a tie for seventh (761) with James Anderson. The shift bumped Nathan Lyon to 11th (742), nine points clear of Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi, who sat out the match.

## Cameron Green recalled for Australia as selectors opt not to pick a specialist opener to replace Warner

MELBOURNE, Jan 10 (Agencie):Cameron Green has been elevated to Australia's test XI after selectors opted not to pick a specialist opener to replace the retired David Warner for the series-opening match against West Indies.

Cricket Australia unveiled the 13-player squad Wednesday, without releasing a batting order but confirming all-rounder Green would start.

"We have selected a team we believe contains the best six batters in the country," Australia's chief selector George Bailey said.

Matt Renshaw, who has opened for Australia, and fast bowler Scott Boland were added to the squad as cover.

Speculation that Steve Smith could be moved up from No. 4 to open with Usman Khawaja has increased, with Green expected to be inserted in the middle order.

The first test against West Indies starts January 17 in Adelaide. The second match will be a day-night in Brisbane.
Warner played the

last of his 112 tests in the third match of a 3-0 sweep against Pakistan in Sydney last week. Renshaw, Marcus

Renshaw, Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft were all considered options to fill the vacant spot.

Bancroft, who is among the leading scorers in the domestic competition but has only played two tests since returning from his ninemonth ban following the so-called "Sandpapergate" scandal, urged selectors to go with a specialist opener.

Ultimately, though, the 24-year-old Green's immense potential was a deciding factor.

a deciding factor.

A tall fast bowler, agile fielder and technically solid batter, Green



made his debut as an all-rounder against India in December, 2020.

He played 24 tests, averaging 33.6 with the bat and taking 30 wickets, before losing the all-rounder spot to Mitch Marsh during the Ashes series in England last July.

He played in Australia's World Test Championship final win over India in London, and was also a part of the Australia squad that won the 50-over Cricket World Cup in India last November. Selectors have started regenerating the limited-overs squad, with Warner retiring from the format and allrounder Marcus Stoinis and spinner Ashton Agar left out of the squad to play West Indies in a threematch ODI series next month.

Frontline fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and allrounder Mitch Marsh will be rested for the series, while paceman Lance Morris was included and expected to make his international debut.
Aaron Hardie, Matt Short, Jhye Richardson and Nathan Ellis were selected after missing out on the World Cup squad, and Joe Inglis was preferred as wicketkeeper to test gloveman Alex Carey.

Smith will return as captain to cover for Cummins.

Australia's test squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitch Marsh, Matt Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc.

Australia's ODI squad:
Steve Smith (captain),
Sean Abbott, Nathan
Ellis, Cameron Green,
Aaron Hardie, Travis
Head, Josh Inglis,
Marnus Labuschagne,
Glenn Maxwell, Lance
Morris, Jhye Richardson, Matt Short, Adam

Zampa.

## men's team for South Africa Tour preet Singh. The forward line Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Singh, Guriant Singh, Lal

**Hockey India announces 26-member** 



NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Agencie): Hockey India on Wednesday announced the 26-man sqaud for a Four Nation Tour in Cape Town, South Africa, starting January 22.

The tournament will feature France, Netherlands, India and hosts South Africa.

The Indian team will be led by Harmanpreet Singh and FIH Player of the Year winner Hardik Singh will shoulder the responsibilities of vice captain. Youngsters Araijeet Singh Hundal and Boby Singh Dhami have been included in the squad following an impressive outing with the junior side.

Goalkeepers PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak and Pawan have been included in the squad along with defenders Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Sumit, Sanjay and Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem.

Midfielders selected in the team are Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Hardik Singh and Manpreet Singh. The forward line features Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Akashdeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Boby Singh Dhami.

Singh Hundal, Boby Singh Dhami. Speaking about the South Africa Tour, Chief Coach Craig Fulton said: "We are quite excited to get on with the season in the Olympic year with the South Africa Tour where we will play quality teams. We have chosen a big squad in order to give players exposure and it will also give me an opportunity to see some of the players in competition mode ahead of the FIH Hockey Pro League. We have a short camp in SAI, Bengaluru before we leave for the Tour. We have also included two young players in the Senior side, and it will be interesting to watch them adapt to the level we play."

Squad: Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Pawan.

Patnak, Pawan.

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Sumit, Sanjay and Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem.

Midfielders: Vivek Sagar Prasad,

Midfielders: Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Shamsher Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Hardik Singh and Manpreet Singh.

Forwards: Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Akashdeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Boby Singh Dhami.

**Annual Identification of** 

**Defence Pensioners on** 

**SPARSH portal extends** 

keeping, and this exten-

sion aims to accommo-

date any unforeseen

challenges pensioners

may face in meeting the

Pensioners are urged

to take advantage of

this extended period to

complete their annual

identification promptly.

The Ministry remains

dedicated to maintain-

ing transparency and

efficiency in pension-

related matters, and

this extension is a tes-

tament to our commit-

ment to the welfare of

our defence personnel.

For further details and

assistance, pension-

ers are encouraged to

reach out to the desig-

nated helpline or visit

the official Ministry of

In J&K, those pen-

sioners whose annual

identification has yet

not been done, they

may visit their nearest

SPARSH Seva Kendra

or DPDO under PCDA

Northern Command for their annual identifica-

tion. For identification,

they must carry their Aadhaar Card, PPO

Number, Bank Pass-

book and Mobile with

commitment of the newly

appointed coordinators,

Gaga highlighted the

importance of their role

in harnessing the power

of social media platforms

to engage, mobilize, and

connect with the youth in

He underscored the

need for them to use

these platforms respon-

sibly to amplify the voices

of the youth and commu-

nicate the initiatives and

ideologies of the Indian

Youth Congress effec-

**Encouraging innovation** 

and constructive engage-

ment, Jagdev conveyed

his best wishes to the

appointed district social

media coordinators,

urging them to lever-

age social media as a

tool for empowerment.

awareness, and positive

change in their respective

This commendation

from the IYC National

General Secretary serves

as a testament to the ded-

ication and efforts of the

newly appointed district

social media coordinators

and reinforces the party's

commitment to harness-

ing the potential of digital

platforms for constructive

political engagement and

youth empowerment.

tively.

districts.

Jammu and Kashmir.

Defence website.

initial deadline.

upto Jan 31 Jan

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Jan 10: In

circumstances

response to the evolv-

and to facilitate a

smoother process for

our esteemed defence

pensioners, the Ministry

of Defence has decided

to extend the deadline

for the annual identifica-

tion of defence pension-

ers on newly SPARSH

The same is applicable

for all Defence Pension-

ers of Jammu, Kashmir

The original deadline,

set for November 30,

2023, has now been

extended to January

This extension aims

to ensure that all eli-

gible pensioners have

ample time to complete

the necessary docu-

mentation and provide

updated information for

the annual identification

This decision is part

of the Ministry's ongoing commitment to

streamlining adminis-

trative processes and providing the best sup-

port to our defence community. We understand

the importance of timely

and accurate record-

**Jagdev extends** 

Coordinators

**Top News** 

Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 10: In

a gesture of apprecia-

tion and encouragement,

al General Secretary and

Incharge of Jammu and

Kashmir for the Indian

Youth Congress (IYC),

has extended heartfelt

congratulations to the

recently nominated dis-

trict social media coordi-

nators of the Jammu and

Kashmir Pradesh Youth

Recognizing the pivotal

role of social media in

today's digital landscape.

Jagdev Gaga acknowl-

edged the significance

of these appointments,

emphasizing the crucial

responsibility these coor-

dinators hold in effective-

ly disseminating the par-

ty's message and vision

Expressing confidence

across various districts.

Congress (JKPYC).

nominated JKPYC

District Social Media

congratulations to newly

and Ladakh also.

31, 2024.

process.

### **76 Bn CRPF organizes medical** camp under CAP



#### **Top News Report**

JAMMU, Jan 10: Continuing the wellness of civilians, 76 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with J&K Health Department, organized a free medical camp under Civic Action Programme on Wednesday at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Nowabad, here under the guidance of Sandeep Khirwar, IG Jammu Sector and Ramesh Kumar, DIG Jammu Range

The main objective of the camp was to reach out to the needy people of the area to provide free health care and make them aware about their health

In the Medical Camp, two Medical Officers namely Dr. S.Sowmiya, 76 Battalion, CRPF and Dr. Rimpi Sangral Medical Officer, conducted free medical check-up of around 250 civilians and provided free medicines

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

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

Mahendra Singh 2IC, Rajesh Kumar Yadav 2IC, Karnail Singh Dy. Comdt., Debu Dhakarwal, Asstt. Comdt., Mohan Shyam, Asstt. Comdt. of 76 Bn CRPF also participated in the camp.

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

### **EJAC** demands immediate salary release for NHM employees

#### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 10: As the National Health Mission (NHM) employees enter their third month without salaries, the Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) vehemently demands the immediate payment of the rightful earnings for these dedicated officers/officials within the Health Department.

The Jammu and Kashmir **EJAC President Wajahat** Durrani has expressed deep concern over the prolonged withholding of salaries, asserting that keeping the hard-earned and sole source of livelihood of these essential healthcare workers withheld for such an extended period is intol-



The financial strain on these individuals, who are at the forefront of our health services, is not only unjust but also jeopardizes their ability to carry out their

duties effectively The statement issued by Spokesperson EJAC Mir Bashir today, emphasized "President Wajahat Durrani urges swift action to rectify this dire situation. The

delay in salary disbursement not only affects the morale of the healthcare workforce but also hampers their ability to provide uninterrupted services to the community.'

President Durrani underscored that releasing salaries is not merely a financial matter but a recognition of the invaluable contribution made by these healthcare professionals

The administration is implored to prioritize the welfare of its employees and act promptly to alleviate their financial distress.

"We trust that the concerned authorities will heed this urgent call and ensure that the hardworking individuals in the health sector receive their due compensation without further delay," he added.

### DCC discusses strategy, preparations for forthcoming **Parliamentary elections**



#### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 10: A meeting of District Congress Committee Jammu Urban under the presidentship of Th. Manmohan Singh was held here on Wednesday at PCC HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu in which the strategy and preparations for forthcoming Parliamentary elections was discussed, besides general problems of people were highlighted.

Speaking on the occasion, Th. Manmohan asked the party functionaries of the grass root level to gear up themselves for the elections to the Lok Sabha and also elections to the JMC and Assembly whenever held. He said that Block and

ward committees would be strengthened further in

order to gear up the urban district for the ensuing elections in the state.

He exhorted upon block and ward presidents to convene meetings in their respective blocks and wards to aware people about the policies and programmes of Congress Partv.

Manmohan further said that we must try to win the trust and confidence of people and spread the policies and programmes to the party as well. He appealed the party functionaries to liberally contribute in the 'Donate for Desh' fund launched by AICC.

Manmohan said BJP leadership in the state always sincerely followed the dictates of BJP high command and bartered

the interests of Jammu. He said that the so called champions of

Jammu utterly failed to represent the aspirations of people and safeguard their interests, be it educated youth, farmers, traders or employees/ workers and betrayed the trust reposed in BJP by the Jammu people.

Now the people are eagerly waiting to teach lesson to the BJP in the Parliament as well as in Assembly and Local Body elections.

Dr. R.K. Khajuria, Pawan Dev Singh, Vijay Malhotra, Atul Sharma, Sat Pal Sapolia, Nageshwar, Pawan Sharma, Rakesh Sharma,, Sanjeev Katal, Latish Sharma,, Kewal Jogi, Som Nat Shama, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Manohan Sharma, Danesh Verma, H.S. Bagi, Rishu Kumar, Raj Kumar, Rajeev and Ram Dayal also spoke in the meeting.

### in the capabilities and JU condoles passing of Prem Singh Sahi, former Registrar

**Top News Report** 

JAMMU, Dec 10: University of Jammu (JU) deeply condoles the passing of Prem Singh Sahi, former Registrar, University of Jammu, an Ace Administrator.

Sahi joined the university service as Junior Superintendent on May 30, 1959 and retired from service on December 31, 1999. He worked as Registrar, University of Jammu from April 9, 1996

to July 31, 1998.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor expressed his condolences on the demise of P.S Sahi and prayed that Almighty give enough strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Entire university fraternity including teachers, officers and staff paid rich tributes to the noble soul and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

### **SMVDU** faculty presents paper at International Conference

**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Jan 10: Dr. Surender Singh, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) attended the 2024 JNVU-ABVU-AIMT International Conference on "Innovative Research in Science, Management, and Technology (ICIRSMT)", organized at Institute of Evening Studies, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan during 5th-7th January 2024.

The conference was organized in Association with AIMT, USA, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, USA, and Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria.

Dr. Singh presented



the research paper titled "Novel Fuzzy Knowledge Measure and **Fuzzy Correlation Coef**ficient with Their Applications", and received the best paper award in the Science & Technology Track

In this paper, positive and negative evaluations of uncertainty due to vagueness have been discussed along with the evolution of a novel method for the study of fuzzy correlation mea-

**Eminent Speakers and** delegates from countries such as the USA, Japan, Oman, Botswana. Mauritius, Iraq, and India presented their research work in various interdisciplinary fields.

The participation in this conference was supported by the Professional Development Assistance (PDA) of SMVDU.

Dr. Surender Singh thanked Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor. SMVDU for allowing him to attend this conference

Dr. Singh interacted with eminent researchers working on applied and interdisciplinary aspects of Mathematics and expects some value addition and collaborations in his future research work

### JKBS members honour Rahul Mottan for achieving great milestone in modelling, acting



#### **Top News Report**

R S PURA, Jan 10: Members of Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha (JKBS) in a brief function held here on Wednesday, honoured Rahul Mottan for achieving the great milestone he had accomplished at modelling, singing and

Rahul Mottan comes of a respectable family from R.S.Pura's village called Gagian. Although he belongs to a small village but always dreamt of becoming para star on the big screen, said his friends while speaking on the occasion.

JKBS General Secretary R.L.Kaith when talked to his family it said, Rahul has a flair for modelling, dancing, singing and acting. At the very young age, he went to Punjabi film industry based in Mohali with the dream to star and set up his career in the modelling, singing and acting and today, he ha become a famous personality.

members JKBS

wished for him that he might always shine like the sun and illuminate the lives of those around

Prominent among those present on the occasion included JKBS' Deputy Chairman Havildar Des Rai Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, R.S.Pura Block President Jagdish Rai Kaith. Satwari Block President Master Naresh Kumar Kaith, Retired Section Officer Parkash Chand Mottan and Subedar Darshan Lal.

### **Prof. Supran Sharma** conducted a Training Session in STP at Delhi University

**Top News Report** 

KATRA, Jan 10: Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma of the School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University conducted a session in the Short Term Course on Research Methodology for University and College teachers organized by the Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education, UGC - Malaviya Mission **Teacher Training Centre** (MMTTC), University of Delhi.

In this one-week duration program, Prof. Sharma has taken two sessions focusing on the varied dimensions of Multivariate Analysis and provided insights into the diverse aspects of the topic.

During the sessions, Prof. Sharma empha-



sized that the quality of research work depends on the appropriateness of the research tools and as per the nature of the data as well as the objectives of the research work in hand. For holistic and comprehensive development of research aptitude exposure to contemporary research tools is a mandatory obligation.

Prof. Sharma mentioned that in the present era of advanced software, simulators, artificial intelligence, etc.

it is exceptionally critical to choose suitable research modeling and tools to prescribe policy suggestions implicating from the research analysis.

In the prestigious program, faculty members of different nooks and corners of the country and different streams including Sociology, Management, Product Design, Chemistry, English, and Economics from various Universities and Colleges attended the program and participated enthusiastically with a lot of queries, comments, discussion, etc.

A lot of questions were asked by the participants which were satisfactorily replied to by the resource person in a creative and constrictive

Edited, Printed, Published and Owned by: Rajiv Mahajan, Office: 17- New Rehari Jammu, Published from 17- New Rehari Jammu, and Printed from GK Offset Printing Press situated at Shivalik Puram Janipur, Jammu on behalf of Rajiv Mahajan. Senior Editor: M. K. Bangroo, Executive Editor: Anita Gupta, Photo Journalist: Aman Sharma (9906198186), Head Office Jammu. Mobile No: (9906300707, 9086072548), Fax No: 0191-2561688.

> e-mail: topnewsjk@gmail.com, editortopnewsjk@gmail.com (All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).