TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Kareena Kapoor Khan does not seek validation from social media



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After state govt shoots down Imphal venue, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to begin from private ground in Manipur's

INTERNATIONAL

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UK To Give \$3 Billion Military Aid To Ukraine, Largest Since Russia War



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BRIEFLY

Venue changed for J&K DGP's public grievances redressal programme

SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Police have announced a change in the venue for the DGP J&K Public Grievances Redressal **Programme**

The event, originally slated to take place at Police Headquarters Peerbagh Srinagar, will now be held at DPL Zangli Kupwara on January 13, 2024, between 2 PM and 4 PM.

The police administration has set up a dedicated help desk at DPL Kupwara, starting today, to facilitate the registration process for individuals planning to visit and meet the Director General of Police during the public hearing.

"This is to inform that the public grievances redressal programme of DGP J&K, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow i.e., January 13, 2024 (Saturday) at Police Headquarters Peerbagh Srinagar, will now be held at DPL Zangli Kupwara tomorrow, January 13, 2024, between 2 PM and 4 PM. A help desk has been established in DPL Kupwara from today where you can register yourself for the Public hearing," stated the police in an official communication.

Western **Disturbance** likely to affect J&K, **Bring light** snowfall

SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): A feeble western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir on Friday with a possibility of light snowfall over isolated places in the higher reaches, according to the meteorological department. Minimum tempera-

tures in Kashmir rose marginally due to cloud cover.

Feeble western disturbances are likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and January 17 evening. Under the influence of these western disturbances, generally cloudy weather with light snowfall over isolated places in the higher reaches is expected, the meteorological department here

said. A dry winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer-than-usual days. Day temperatures in Srinagar were more ■Turn to page 9 Terrorism taking its last breath in J&K, investing in ut means investing in India's Unity: LG Sinha

GANDHINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): Terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir and investors should pump in funds in the Union Territory (UT) as doing so would mean investing in the unity and integrity of India, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Friday.

Addressing prospective investors at a seminar organised as part of the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here, he urged them to turn their attention to the erstwhile state and contribute in connecting J&K with the rest of the country by setting up ventures there.

Without taking Pakistan's name, Sinha asserted nefarious designs of India's neighbour will not suc-



ceed and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, whose special status was revoked by the Centre in 2019, will soon be similar to that in the rest of the country. "An effort is being made to create a conducive environment (to attract investment in J&K). Investing in Jammu & Kashmir means investing in India, investing in the unity and integrity of India and strengthening its integration," the Lieutenant Governor said. He promised investors that they will profit from their investment in the Union Territory. "(By

investing) You will get maximum profit in J&K and also contribute to connecting J&K with the rest of the country. Terrorism is taking its last breath. Our neigh-

bour tries its best every time, but we are working in the direction of finishing off terrorists and uprooting the entire ecosystem of terrorism from the UT," he said at the seminar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called Gujarat the "gateway to the future", but the state should also contribute towards development of J&K, the 'Sharda peeth' of the country, he said.

People were full of doubts regarding law and order in J&K, but the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows crime rate in the Union Territory is even lower than Gujarat, Sinha maintained. "Under the leadership of PM Modi, the government does not believe in buying peace but to establish peace permanently, and I am certain in the coming times, the situation in J&K will be similar to that in the rest of the country," he said.

■Turn to page 9

Another mobile phone recovered from prisoner's possession in Central Jail

JAMMU, Jan 12 (Agencies): The authorities have yet again recovered one more mobile phone from the possession of an inmate lodged under Public Safety Act (PSA) in high security Central Jail in Kot Bhalwal area here in the city outskirts.

Official sources said that on specific inputs, searches were carried out in the barracks wherein hardcore criminals are lodged especially those facing punishments under UAPA and PSA.

"One mobile phone is recovered from the possession of an inmate jailed in PSA case," sources said.

In less than two months, six cases have been registered with the Police Station Gharota

related to recovery of

narcotics and mobile

phones from the inmates of Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal.

Notably, few days ago, jail authorities also recovered one mobile phone from the possession of Lashkar-e-Taiba militant lodged in the jail.

"A smartphone was recovered from a prisoner identified as Habib of Haria Chak in Kathua and was handed over to Jammu and Kashmir Police. We are trying to look into this security breach that how this smartphone got inside the jail," sources said.

The recovered smartphone is from a Chinese manufacturer 'POCO'.

Habib chargesheeted by National Investigation Agency in January last year in case pertaining to interception of drone (Hexacopter) and recovery of drone (Hexacopter) and rounds of UBGL and Magnetic Bombs from near Dhalli area under the jurisdiction of district Kathua.

According to jail sources, Habib also made a bid on his life inside the jail but it was prevented timely with an intervention of the authorities.

He was to be taken on Police remand to investigate the matter of recovery of mobile phones, they said.

Notably, on November 22, 2023, consignment of drugs was recovered from inside a cricket ball in the jail, on November 28, narcotics was seized, on January 2, mobile phones and earphones were recovered from inside the jail premises, on January 9, a mobile phone was recovered from the possession of a prisoner, on

Turn to page 9

Omar condemns shooting of TV show inside J&K assembly complex



SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah on Friday came down heavily on the Jammu and Kashmir administration for allowing shooting of a TV serial inside the legislative assembly complex, calling it an

"absolute shame". Maharani, a Hindi-lanquage TV series starring Huma Qureshi, was shot inside the assembly complex in Jammu in June last year. The

NEW DELHI, Jan 12

(Agencies): The number

of cases of COVID-19

sub-variant JN.1 has

crossed 1,000 mark with

Uttar Pradesh becoming

the latest state to join the

list of 16 states and UTs

which have detected its

presence, according to

The data compiled by

the Indian SARS-CoV-2

Genomics Consortium

(INSACOG) showed

Karnataka has reported

the highest number of

cases at 214, followed

by Maharashtra (170),

Kerala (154), Andhra

Pradesh (189), Gujarat

Telangana and Rajas-

than have recorded 32

JN.1 cases each, Chhat-

tisgarh has recorded 25,

(76) and Goa (66).

INSACOG.

series is inspired by political turns in Bihar in the 1990s when the then chief minister Lalu Prasad, who has been mired in the infamous fodder scam, installed his wife Rabri Devi as

"The true face of 'the mother of democracy', where once elected representatives of the people from all parties, religions, backgrounds & parts of J&K legislated on matters of great importance now actors &

COVID-19 Sub-Variant JN.1: Number

Tamil Nadu 22, Delhi

16, Uttar Pradesh 6,

Haryana five, Odisha

three, West Bengal two

and Uttarakhand one,

A total of 1,013 cases

of JN.1 have been

detected till now across

the 16 states and UTs.

The Centre has asked

the states and Union

territories to maintain a

constant vigil amid an

uptick in the number of

Covid cases and the

detection of the JN.1

sub-variant in the coun-

The states have

been urged to ensure

effective compliance

of the detailed opera-

tional guidelines for the

revised surveillance

strategy for COVID-19

according to the data.

of cases cross 1,000 mark

his successor.

extras use it as a set for TV dramas," the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K said in a post on X.

He said it was a "shame that the BJP driven government in J&K has reduced the symbol of democracy. where they once sat and governed, to this sorry state of affairs".

Abdullah further wrote, "They even have a fake CM coming out of an office I was privileged to occupy for 6 years. What an absolute shame!!!!"

The J-K legislative assembly was dissolved by the Governor on December 20, 2018.

The Mehbooba Muftiled coalition government was reduced to minority following withdrawal of support by the 25-member BJP in the

Turn to page 9

shared with them by the

Union Ministry of Health

The states have also

been asked to regu-

larly monitor and report

district-wise cases of

Influenza-like Illness

(ILI) and Severe Acute

Respiratory Illness

(SARI) from all health

facilities for an early

detection of a rising

The World Health

Organisation (WHO)

has classified JN.1 as

a separate "variant of

interest" given its rap-

idly-increasing spread,

but said it poses a "low"

global public health risk.

The JN.1 sub-variant

of the coronavirus was

■Turn to page 9

previously classified

trend of cases.

and Family Welfare.

Every train passenger **gets 55%** concession: Ashwini Vaishnaw



NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Every passenger gets 55 per cent concession on train journeys, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said regarding demands to restore pre-Covid fare concessions for senior citizens and media persons.

Without giving any direct reply to questions by media persons on the restoration of concessions, Vaishnaw said, "The Indian Railway is already offering 55 per cent concession on train fares to every train passenger." Vaishnaw was in Ahmedabad to review the progress of the ongoing bullet train project among other things.

Before the COVID-19 lockdown imposed in March 2020, the Railways offered 50 per cent concession on train fares to senior citizens and government-accredited journalists.

Railway operations were completely shut down during the lockdown but when its fullfledged resumption in June 2022, the Railway Ministry didn't restore these concessions and since then the issue has been raised on various platforms, including in

both houses of **Turn to page 9**

Anantnag Police arrest three with contraband substances

ANANTNAG, Jan 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police said it has recovered 9.27 kilograms of charas powder and 867 bottles of illicit alcohol, along with the arrest of three persons in Anantnag district.

Following their arrest a case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and different sections of the Excise Act at the Mattan police station. Further investigation is underway, an official statement said.

Two vehicles and a motorcycle, along with cash worth Rs 13,325 were also seized from the possession of the accused, as per the statement.

The statement added that Anantnag Police

received information through reliable sources that a family comprising a father, Mother and son, namely Mohd Ramzan Ganai, Shahzada Akhter and Zubair Ramzan Ganai, all residents of Seer Hamdan Mattan, "under a well-planned criminal conspiracy are continuously indulging in the illegal trade of illicit

nabis charas powder." The statement further said that the trio has concealed a huge quantity of illicit alcohol as well as illicit cannabis charas powder in specially made hideouts in their residential house and vehicles.

alcohol as well as can-

A search team comprising Anantnag Police and the Executive Magistrate concerned

■Turn to page 9

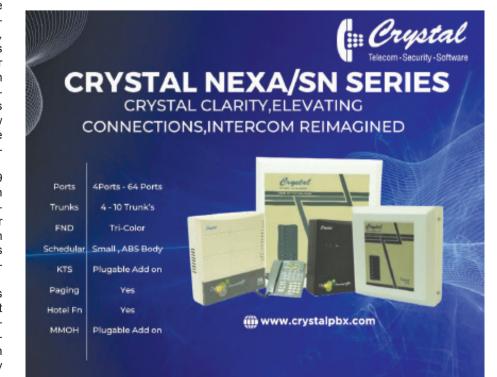
Police committed to ending narco-terror in Kashmir: IGP, VK Birdi

SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to ending the menace of narco-terror and such cases are being pursued on priority, a senior officer said on Friday.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Birdi called on people to help police in the fight against drug abuse.

"J&K Police is committed to controlling such things (narco-terror). Police have pursued such cases on priority and acted against drug peddlers under

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

Smt. Kanta Devi

Shri Ramesh Kumar

Raina

LATE SH.TARACHAND

GUPTA

Sh Omkar Nath Bhat

Shri Tej Ram Parihar

Sh. Ram Kumar Gupta

EX- Minister- Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh- Son Mobile Nos.: 94191-50074, 99060-98663

10TH DAY KRIYA

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN Sudha Raina -Wife

Son & Daughter in law & Grand Daughter

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

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

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

Ravi Ji Raina & Girja Raina Munu ji Raina & Fancy Raina

Vijay Raina & Kamna Raina - Brother & Sister in law

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

Mobile Nos - 9425302538, 9753589936, 9419795215

TENTH DAY & KRIYA/UTHALA

As we navigate through this difficult time without Late Sh.Tarachand Gupta R/o 19-B New Karan Nagar Jammu, We seek the presence of all those who were dear to him. Please join us in honouring his memory during Tenth day & Kriya/ Uthala. TENTH DAY will be Performed on Wednesday (10/01/24) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Ved Mandir

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

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

GRIEF STRICKEN: Son & Daughter in Law: Manohar Gupta & Sunita Gupta Contact: 9419183779

Daughters and Son in Laws:

Sudershana & Yoginder Gupta, Neelam & Ashok Gupta Veena & Kasturi Lal Gupta

Pinkey & Rakesh Modi Brothers & Sister-in-laws:

Smt. Geeta Devi & Sh. Madan Lal Gupta

Smt. Rani Devi (W/O Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta)

Smt. Rohini Devi (W/O Lt. Sh. Mukand Lal Gupta) Sister: Vaishno Devi.

10TH DAY/KRIYA Sh Omkar Nath Bhat

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

Baltana, Chandigarh. With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our respected father who went to

heavenly abode on dated 4th Jan, 2024. 10th Day Kriya will be performed at Shani Mandir Sect-21 Panchkula at 8 am on 13 January 24.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Ravi & Shashi Kaul -Son & Daughter-in-law Sanjeev & Soni Kaul -Son & Daughter-in-law Neety & Sanjay Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law

Grand Children: Aditya, Karan, Tanvi, Neeral, Bhoomi Yatarth Kauls: 9877140450, 9316601047, 9915844707



With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Tej Ram Parihar** (Retired District & Sessions Judge), R/o 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, on 3rd January, 2024. Tenth Day shall be performed on Friday. January at Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar at 10:00 AM.

Kriya shall be performed on Monday, 15th January at our residence 28-A, D/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at 1:00 PM

GRIEF-STRICKEN: Sons & Daughters-in-law:

Shri Jagdish & Smt. Kanta Parihar Shri Koushal & Smt. Asha Parihar Shri Ashok & Smt. Suman Parihar Daughters & Sons-in-law

Smt. Sushma & Shri Ravinder Kotwal Smt. Sushila & Dr. Vinod Bhutyal



GRIEF STRICKEN: Smt. Savitri Devi (Mother) Smt. Shashi Gupta (Wife)

Daughters & Son-in-laws Meena Gupta & Rakesh Gupta Arti Gupta & Deepat Mahajan Komal Mahajan & Ankush Gupta Rijul Mahajan (Son)
Brothers & Sister-in-laws

Sh. Vijay Kumar & Smt. Geeta (9419161228)

Jeevan Kumar (9596817453)
Deleep Kumar & Smt. Kamlesh (9419808476)

Sh. Kewal Kumar & Smt. Kiran (9596695953) Sisters & Brother-in-laws

Smt. Kanta Gupta & Sh. Sudesh Gupta Smt. Usha Gupta

Smt. Babli Kumari & Sh. Kiran Kumar Gupta
M/S VIJAY BUILDERS, R.A. ENFIELD

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and sudden demise of **Smt. Vinod Mahajan (Guggi)** Wife of Sh. Darshan Mahajan R/o H.No. 42, Upper Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu on 02-01-2024.

TENTH DAY shall be performed on 11 01-2024 (Thursday) at 12.00 Noon to 1.00 PM at Kotli Bhawan, Near Hari Mandir, Rehari, Jammu.

KRIYA shall be performed on 14-01-2024 (Sunday) at 11 AM at our residence H.No.

42, Upper Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu. DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY: Smt. Vinod Mahajan

Sh. Darshan Mahajan- Husband Sons & Daughter in Law:

Sahil Mahajan & Payal Gupta Akhil Mahajan

Palvi Mahajan & Vicky Gupta- Daughter & Son in Law:

Sh. Satpal Mahajan & Smt. Prem Lata- Jeth & Jethani Late Sh. Pawan Kumar Mahajan & Smt. Jyoti Mahajan- Devar & Devrani Grand Children: Daiwik, Prashrey, Lavik, Anaya Mobile: 7006654613, 9906341613

OBITUARY

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform about the sudden, and untimely demise of our beloved Chand Krishan Koul S/o Late Hakim Prem Nath Koul, Proprietor Chand Studios Muthi of village Peth Kanihama Magam - Budgam presently residing at H.No 458 Sector-2, Lovely Lane Vinayak



Nagar- Muthi, Jammu on 09-01-2024. Chand Krishan Koul

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed

on 18-1-24 Thursday at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near DSE-Jammu at 12 Noon, on 18-1-24. IN GRIEF

Samast Koul and Saproo Parivaar of Peth Kanihama Magam-Budgam

Phone Number- 9419148738.7836858015.7889826594

TENTH DAY KRIYA & SHRADHANJALI SABHA

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

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Jeo Pota Ghat, Akhnoor on Jan 13,

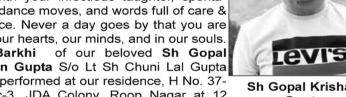
Smt Shanta Miskeen 2024 (Saturday) at 10 AM. This shall be followed by a

Shradhanjali/ Prarthana Sabha at 136, Lower Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal, Jammu at 3 PM.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY Miskeens, Warikoos, Chagtoos, Tutus, Kauls, Jangis and Khers. Mob: 7006788690, 9419193594

ADH-BARKHI

It's been 6 months since you left us for your heavenly abode. Our houses are no longer filled with your infectious taughter, spontaneous dance moves, and words full of care & juidance. Never a day goes by that you are not in our hearts, our minds, and in our souls. Adh Barkhi of our beloved Sh Gopal Krishan Gupta S/o Lt Sh Chuni Lal Gupta will be performed at our residence. H No. 37-N, Sec-3, JDA Colony, Roop Nagar at 12



Sh Gopal Krishan Gupta

Mr. Kunal Sharma

(Kanu)

LATE SH.TARACHAND GUPTA

(Warikoo)

Grief Stricken: Smt Kanta Kumari - Mother Smt Vandana Gupta- Wife

Noon on 13/01/2024 (Saturday)

Shri Lalit & Nutan Gupta-Brother & Bhabhi

Children:

Aagosh, Swantika, Shivan Koul Evansha, Tvisha & Aneek

Contact No. 9419785514/ 9622142113

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mr. Kunal Sharma (Kanu)** S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Sharma & Ritu Sharma. KRIYA will be performed on 13th January 2024 (Saturday) at our residence R/o H.No. 269 Chowdhan

Salathia Panitirthi Jammu. Uthala will be performed at Sh. Banwari Dass Mandir Near Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Mubarak Mandi from 04:00 pm to 05:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN Father & Mother

Sh. Pawan Kumar Sharma & Smt.Ritu Sharma Ms. Koshika Sharma -Sister

Chacha & Chachi

Sh. Sanjay Sharma & Smt. Suman Sharma Mobile: 7889624648, 9906243115, 9086080901, 7780952647, 9419150680

KRIYA/UTHALA

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

KRIYA will be performed on Saturday (13/01/24) t our residence at 12pm. UTHALA will be held on Saturday (13/01/24) at Trikuta Yatri Niwas Ved Mandir Road Ambphala from 4pm to 5pm.

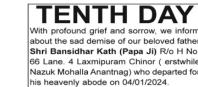
GRIEF STRICKEN:

Son & Daughter in Law Manohar Gupta & Sunita Gupta Contact: 9419183779 Daughters and Son in Laws : Sudershana & Yoginder Gupta Neelam & Ashok Gupta /eena & 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)



(Guggi)



FONDLY REMEMBERED BY

TENTH DAY will be performed at Akhn 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. Vishal and Ruby Kath (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob No. 9212758025 Smt. Vaishali and Sh. Dinesh Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children: Aakriti, Jhanvi, Dea, Shiv SAMAST KATH & KOUL FAMILY

TENTH DAY & KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Sushma Sharma** W/o Late Sh Kamal Rattan Sharma R/o H No. 68, Subasi Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu, who left fo eavenly abode on 04-01-2024. **Tenth Day** shall be performed or Saturday (13-01-2024) at 11:00 am

(At Residence).

Kriya shall be performed on Sunday 14-01-2024) at 01.00 pm (At Residence)

GRIEF STRICKEN : Sons and Daughters-in-law

Kanav Shukla and Sakshi Sharma Tarun Shukla and Garima Sharma

Grand Children

Bhagyavardhika and Bhagyoday

Barkhi of our beloved Lt. Smt. Prem Lata Gupta W/o Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta will be per

Mob: 9419131242, 9070161777, 9796467789

IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF **Ashok Kumar Shalla** Your love and wisdom will forever guide us and your memory will be cherished in our hearts.

enth Dec.

1 Gouri Shankar Tempie, Inc.

1 Four Stricken

Jarna Shalla - Wife

Manish and Poonam Shalla - Son & Daughter-in-law

Neelakshi and Vineesh Thukral - Daughter & Son-in-law

Prisha and Praneel - Grand Children

Deeply Missed By:

Thukrals, Kallas, Chandras, Kalias and Revoos

9812315860 and 9811817100

ONE YEAR HAS GONE SINCE YOU LEFT FOR THE HEAVENLY ABODE. BUT WE ALWAYS FEEL YOUR PRESENCE EVERY WHERE. MEMORIES WILL REMAIN WITH US

BARKHI OF OUR BELOVED LATE SH JOGINDER LAL GUPTA S/O LATE SH MUN SHI RAM GUPTA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT 12.00 NOON ON 13TH OF JANUARY, 2024 (SATURDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE F-28, NEAF POLICE POST TALAB TILLO JAMMU

DEEPLY MISSED BY : Smt Chanchal Gupta -Wife CA Lalit Kumar Gupta -Son

Dr. Sonia Gupta -Daughter-in-law

Daughter & Son-in-law Mrs Meenakshi Gupta & Er. Suket Gupta (Principal Govt. Polytechnic) Mrs Sakshi Gupta & Mr. Kundan Gupta (Kundan Bharat Medicos M/S R.C. GUPTA & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS MOBILE NO. 7006900972, 9419188649, 9796700015

TENTH DAY KRIYA

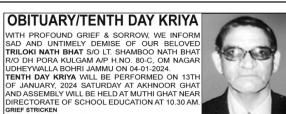
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Rani Thotha** W/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Thotha on 09-01-2024 presently residing at Govind Nagar Sector-2, H.No.306 near Reliance Towe Camp Road Talab Tillo, Jammu. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed

on 18-01-2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat near the Office of Director, School
Smt Raj Rani Thotha Education, Muthi at 9.30 am.

In Grief

Veena Nathoo & Bushan Lal Nathoo

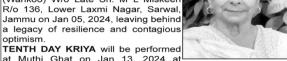
"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for

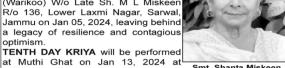


DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 10.30 AM. GRIEF STRICKEN
SMIT RAI DULARI BHAT -WIFE
SMIT RAI DULARI BHAT -WIFE
SMIT SARIA & SH SURINDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT JUSSY BHAT & SH AMIT KAW -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT BHART RANI BHAT WO LT OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMIT BHART RANI BHAT WO LT OPENDER BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMIT SHANDA & SH S C BHAT -BHABHI & BROTHER
SMIT PHOOLA & SH S K KOUL -SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
SMIT SHANDO BHAT & SH AMIT BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMIT SHANDO BHAT & SH AMIT BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
SMIT SHANDO BHAT & SON
SMIT SHEIKHA & SH SHUBABH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT ASHIM & SH LOVELASH BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHUBAR BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHUBAR BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHUBAR BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHUBAR BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHUBAR BHAT -DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON
SMIT RASHIM & SH SH SHORDER KACHIROO
SMIT SHEETAL & KAMILESH KANDROO
SMIT SHEETAL & KAMILESH KANDROO
SMIT SHEETAL & KAMILESH KANDROO



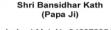
With profound sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Shanta Miskeen** (Warikoo) W/o Late Sh. M L Miskee







Shri Bansidhar Kath



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

Mob No. 9459814315



Smt Sushma

7006979972, 9796079351

BARKHI

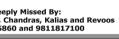
Gupta wwo of 13. Ved Farkash Supra win be performed on 13/01/20/24 at 12 Noon at our redence, H.No. 131, Sarwal Colony Jammu a Hawan will start at 10 AM.
Deeply Missed & Remembered By:-Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta (Husband)
(Sons & Daughter- in- Laws)
Sh. Neeraj Gupta and Smt. Santosh Gupta Sh. Ashwani Gupta & Smt. Vanita Gupta
Daughters & Son-in-Laws
Smt. Kiran Bala & Sh. Sublash Gupta
Smt. Pankaj Gupta & Sh. Sunil Gupta
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law
Sh. Rahul Gupta & Smt Sonali Gupta
Sh. Ritesh Gupta (Bupta Excelsior Correspond & Smt. Rashi Gupta Sh. Manik Gupta & Smt Vasundhara
Sh. Ashisht Gupta (Smt Vasundhara Sh. Abhisht Gupta, Master Krishana Gupta Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Smt. Vishali & Sh. Sumeet Sharma
Smt. Suman & Sh. Ankush Gupta
Ms Mehak, Ms Khushi & Ms Neha
And All Gupta Family formed on 13/01/2024 at 12 Noon at our resi

LT. SMT. PREM LATA GUPTA (RTD. GOVT. TEACHER) 9-10-1944 TO 25-12-2022

Mohan Lal Ved Parkash (Talab Khatikan) Lal Dyal Garments (Raj Tilak Road)

With heavy heart and great sadness, we announce the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Shri Ashok Kumar Shalla** S/o Shri Som Nath Shalla original resident of Habbakadal Srinagar and presently residing in 41, Adarsh Nagar, Rohtak on 4th January 2024. **Tenth Day Kriya:** 10th Day Puja is being performed on 13th Jan at Gourl Shankar Temple, New Palam Vihar, Gurgaon at 9.30 am. **Grief Stricken**











Sons and Daughters-in-law Shuban Ji Thotha & Laja Thotha Ashok Kumar Thotha & Veena Thotha Daughter & Son-in-law

Mob.No. 9797374727 & 9149917239

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Ashok Koul releases BJP calendar



Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, along with BJP Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi, Publication Department Incharge Rajnish Jain, Literature Department Incharge Pawan Sharma, former MLC Vikram Randhawa and State Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, released party's calendar for the year 2024.

Ashok Koul, while briefing about the salient features of the

calendar, said that it will not only have mention of holidays of all the twelve months like other calendars but carry dates in separate column of national holidays and party's six important festivals. He said that the calendar will be distributed among the party cadre upon booth level so that the festivals of the party remain in their minds and are celebrated.

Ashok Koul said, while the BJP celebrates Republic Day on January 26, it also organizes colourful programmes on another national festival, the Independence Day on August 15. Similarly, the party's six festivals include Samarpan divas on the martyr day of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayay on February 11, BJP Foundation Day on April 06, Samrasta Divas on April 14, on Ambedkar Jayanti, June 23 as Balidan divas of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday on September 23, Pt. Deen Daval Upadhayay Jayanti on Septem-

ber 25, Mahatma Gandhi Jay-

anti on October 02, Khel Divas

on Pt. Premnath Dogra Jayanti on October 24, J&K's Accession Day on October 26 and Good Governance Day on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Jayanti on September 25, besides other days when supreme sacrifices were made by the Bravehearts to save the society and the nation.

Pawan Sharma, on this occasion, said that the BJP comes out with its calendar every year. The main objective of preparing and releasing the calendar is to provide adequate space for the publication of party's festivals and national festivals. He said that this year's calendar has a photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party's symbol, the Lotus.

Rajnish Jain said that the calendar would keep reminding the party cadre about the important days to be observed and celebrated as festivals in honour of the great legends.

Yudhvir, Randhawa appeal people to initiate a cleanliness drive in local temples



ny of Ram Lalla in the

newly built temple in

Ayodhya on January 22,

Yudhvir Sethi expressed

gratitude to Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi for

the historic accomplish-

ment after 500 years of

struggle and determi-

nation. He emphasized

Prime Minister Modi's

call for citizens to initi-

ate cleanliness drives

in their local temples,

especially for those

who may not be able to

participate in the main

Sethi outlined the

celebratory plans, stat-

ing, "We will mark this

occasion no less than

Diwali. Local markets

will be adorned, Bhan-

dara events will be

organized, and Deep

Utsav will illuminate all

temples as part of this

Vikram Randhawa,

programme Co-conve-

nor, informed that this

'Swachhta Sankalp'

campaign aims to unite

communities in the spirit

of cleanliness, cultural

pride, and environmen-

tal responsibility, making

a positive impact on the

overall well-being of the

region. He appealed to

the people of Jammu

and Kashmir to partici-

pate this campaign and

make it a great success.

Incharge Dr Pardeep

Mahotra, Swachhta

Abhiyaan Convenor

Dil Bahadur Singh and

Abhiyaan Co Convenor

TK Sharma were also

present in the press

conference.

J&K BJP Media

historic moment."

event.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of J&K Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and programme convenor for events related to Swachhta Sankalp on Pran Pratishtha of Shree Ram idol at Ayodhya, today announced the commencement of a comprehensive cleanliness campaign as Swachhta Sankalp, in preparation for the upcoming consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple. This initiative will cover all temples, pilgrimage centres, and various religious sites throughout the Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir. The announcement was made during a press conference held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, where Yudhvir Sethi addressed the media alongside ex-MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa and other senior leaders of the Party.

Yudhvir Sethi said that the cleanliness campaign, from January 14 to 22, is aligned with the BJP's nationwide initiative and reflects the party's commitment to cultural and environmental stewardship. The campaign aims to encourage citizens to actively participate in maintaining religious spaces, fostering a cleaner and healthier environment.

Highlighting the significance of the upcoming consecration ceremo-

DSRS JU organises lecture on "Different Dimensions of Ongoing Israel-Hamas: Responses and Lessons Learnt"

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12- The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu organised a lecture on "Different **Dimensions of Ongoing** Israel-Hamas: Responses and Lessons Learnt", on 12th January, 2024 in the seminar hall of the DSRS. Lecture was delivered by the Senior Journalist Sh. Pradeep Dutta who has recently visited Israel and covered the war related events in the war affected areas.

While explaining the reasons of war, Pradeep Dutta argued that Hamas was interested show its existence and also highlighted the Palestine issue as these had become insignificant in international relations in the recent times. Besides, Hamas had become unpopular in Gaza and was losing its influence in the area. Hamas selected strategic timing of 7th October, 2023 for attack to contain the element of



holiday in Israel, its intelligence agencies were not focusing on Hamas activities and, hence, were not aware of potential Hamas attack. Moreover, at that time, Israel was also suffering from internal problems. However, after the Hamas attack, Israel has responded to the attack the way a state responds to an attack on its territory and citizens by its adversaries.

Dutta talked about the cruelties committed by the Hamas against the innocent people and argued that both sides have faced huge causalities and destruction

of the property. While talking about the gains of the war for Israelis, the Speaker opined that Hamas attack and war resulted from it has united the Israelis as the even the

civilians are motivated to fight against the 'Hamas terrorists' and giving unconditional support to their security

Dutta also discussed China's interests in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

He concluded that in the contemporary international relations "a war of narratives" is also happening. Hence, India should project its narrative in international relations to protect and promote its national interests.

The lecture was attended the faculty members Dr. Mohamad Monir Alam, Dr. Suneel Kumar, Dr. Surinder Mohan, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Ranjan Sharma alongwith research scholars and students of the Jammu University.

Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will raise issues of common man of country: Vijay

Top News Report

surprise as there was

JAMMU, Jan 12: Congress Seva Dal President Vijay Sharma Babbi said that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nvav Yatra will focus

The government's entire focus is only on its propaganda and false statements. They are not concerned with the problems a common man is going through.



Rahul Gandhi wants to join hands with the people of the country and raise their issues. Through this yatra, the voice of such people will be raised who are losing everything due to the indifferent policies of the government.

The purpose of starting this journey from Manipur is to bring the suffering of the people there in front of the world because Manipur has been burning in the fire of violence for the last several months but the entire attention of the government is towards the event.

With this visit, Rahul Gandhi has proved that he is not concerned about power but about the common man of the

BJP concludes 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan' on Swami Vivekanand's birth anniversary



Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of the great son of the soil, Swami Vivekanand, Jammu and Kashmir BJP concluded its two and half month programmes of 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan' on Friday at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP State president Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul and State General Secretary & former MLC Vibodh Gupta laid wreaths on the portrait of Swami Vivekanand and paid rich tributes to the great ideologue and youth icon. They also addressed a large gathering of the party activists of 25-40 years of age, who have rendered their services at the booth levels as main speakers in the 'Booth Jan Samyad Abhiyaan' programmes during the last two and half months from October 24 to January 12, this month.

Ravinder Raina, while paying tributes to Swami Vivekanand, said that he was an institution in himself, who devoted his life to inspire youth to be part of nation building and strengthening the social fabric in society. Raina asked the youth to follow the life of Swami Vivekanand and adopt his principles in life.

Ravinder Raina also applauded the splendid performance of the main speakers in the 'Booth Jan Samvad' programmes across the

Jammu and Kashmir UT. Ashok Koul, on this occasion, spoke on the future programmes and stressed that the youth have an important role in reaching the people at their doorsteps and garnering public support for the party. He said that the main speakers in the 'Booth Jan Samvad' programmes have to remain in touch with the people at the booth level and keep sharing the splendid works of the Modi government.

Vibodh Gupta, also State Incharge of 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan', gave a clarion call to rise, follow the target and not rest it till the goal is achieved. He said that the youth is a great strength, full of enthusiasm and ever ready to take on challenges in life. They must always be in working mode at the front and contribute in fulfilling the mission of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the target set by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He said that it becomes all the more imperative on the youth to take India from Amrit Kal to Swarn Kal, an era of complete development, peace, progress and prosperity. He also counted a number of mega projects of Narendra Modi government, which have the potential of bringing vast changes in infrastructure and public welfare.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by BJYM state president Arun Prabhat Sinah.

NORTHERN RAILWAY									
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav E-TENDER NOTICE									
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only.									
Tender No.	251-Ele	-Elect-T-63-2023-24							
Name of the Work		rision of 750 V AC HOG testing facility at FZR & CIA coaching of for LHB Rakes							
Approx. Cost (₹)		₹1,83,47,843.48	Earnest Money(₹)	₹2,41,700.00					
Completion period		04 Months							
Opening of tender		01.02.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.							
Website Particulars		www.ireps.gov.in							
No.: 251-Elect./T.Notice No. 50-Elect/2023-24 Dated : 11.01.2024 141/2024									
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE									

	NORTHERN RAILWAY									
Γ	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Amif Mahotsav									
No.22-Med/WS/Testing Dated 05.01.20										
Chief Medical Supdt. Northern Railway, Firozpur for an on behalf of the President of										
India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-										
1	Name of Expression of interest from NABL accredited laboratories for empanelment for testing of water samples (E.coli and Chemical analysis under 80 parameters) of Firozpur Division									
2	Completion period		Two years from the Date of starting.							
3	App. Cost of the work		N.A.							
4	4 Bank Guarantee		Rs.2 Lakhs (For successful bidders)							
5	Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form/tender document		Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly.Divisional Hospital, Firozpur up to 07.02.2024 upto 13.00 Hrs.							
6	Place of submission of bids		Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly.Divisional Hospital, Firozpur up to 08.02.2024 up to 11.00 Hrs.							
7	Place o	f opening	Office of Chief Medical Supdt/N.Rly./Firozpur on 08.02.2024 at 11.30 Hrs							
	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 105/24									

<u>JALSHAKTIDEPARTMENT,JAMMU</u>

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

0191-2543654(Fax)

E-Mail:-xenphecity1@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM e-TENDER E-NITNo.JS/PHECD-I/ 113 of 2023-24

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender(In Rs)	Cost of Tender document Fees (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Improvement of water supply system to Town Hall/Jammu Muncipal Corporation under Grant in Aid.		Rs.500	Rs.12740/-	A to D	60 days

Position of funds : Approved Position of Ts: Accorded

- Position of AAA: Accorded 1. Date of publishing:-10-01-2024 (1800Hrs)
- 2. Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 10-01-2024
- 3. The bids shall be uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 10-01-2024 (1800Hrs) to 18-01-2024 upto (1200Hrs).
 - The complete bidding process shall be online.
- 5. The technical bids received shall be opened online on 18-01-2024 after (1500Hrs). or any other convenient later date in the office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) CityDivisionNo-1,Jammu.
- Furnishingofhardcopiesofbidsimmediatelyaftersubmissionofe-tendershasbeendispensed with as per Govt. order no. OM No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018. The same shall be obtained only from the bidder, who isdeclaredasL1afteropeningoffinancialbids.
- 7. A copy of CDR/FDR duly pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti(PHE) City Division No-I Jammu, against the earnest money deposit, should be uploaded by the bidders, However before allotting the work, the original CDR shall be obtained from the bidder declared as lowest bidder and shall be kept in record till the allotment process is finalized. The earnest money shall be released on receipt of the performance security or CDR/FDR against the EMD can be retained after accepting the balance amount in the shape of CDR/FDR to meet the requirement of the amount of the Performance security. The CDR / FDR used for one tender shall not be entertained for other tender; which are under the process of tendering and the validity of such CDR / FDR shall remain till the outcome of such tender only. The CDR /FDR used for one tender shall have to be released from the Divisional Office before using for another tender.
- 8. The Lowest Bidder shall be intimated through e-mail on his registered e-mail ID to deposit the performance Security equivalent to the 5% of the allotted amount.
- Cost of bidding/tender fees receipt in the shape of e-challan/ single window challan of $JMC shall have to be paid on line, through the JMC link \underline{http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html} and no cash$ entertained at Further, any cost. tomentionnameoftheworkupontheparticularChallan//e-

receipt. Under unavoidable circumstances if the work is retendered, The contractor need not to deposit the Tender documnum of the contractor of the contraent Cost for rebidding for the same work.

10. Any such Challan deposited on back dates or any irrelevant date shall not be accepted.

No: PHECD-I/ 7169-7174 Dated:-10-01-2024

DIP/J-13765/23

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

on the real issues and problems of the people of the country. After the year 2014.

everything has changed in the country, the government does not care about the problems of the common man.



He said that even in the first edition of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, he met every section of the society and learned about their problems. This is also the objective of the second edition of this

tingency besides all required Do's & Don'ts including precautionary measures to be adopted while performing PSO duties. He further said that these courses would definitely help Police personnel in

performing their field duties.

Among others, Khushwant Singh, DySP (Admn), Surrinder Paul Singh (Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech). valedictory function.

PTTI Vijaypur holds valediction of two courses

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 12: Two training Courses concluded at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Friday. The concluded courses are "10 days Capsule Training Course for PSOs" and One week Traffic Induction Course", in which police personnel from various units of J&K Police have participated.

The objective of these courses was to hone the skills of Police personnel and enhance their capabilities in handling various technical equipments being used in Police Department.



was graced by Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur.

While speaking on the occasion,

the officer said that the trainees of Capsule Course for PSOs have been taught Crises management, Reaction Drill, Evacuation, Anti ambush techniques, Tactical position taking and medical conInspr. Ram Lal (CLI & Course Coordinator of PSO Course), Inspr. Javed Hussain (Course Coordinator of Traffic Induction Course), Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, SI Susheel Sharma were present during

EDITORIAL

POSITIVE THINKING

hatever we think, we can fulfill it very easily, to fulfill that thought we all do our best. Positive thinking is a belief that increases your confidence in good things as well as bad things.

Positive thinking plays a special role in the success of any person. It is also said that life is full of thorns and difficult and difficult situations keep coming in the life of every person and the person who overcomes it due to his self-confidence and positive thinking is always happy.

Positive thinking is such a power of the human body, which inspires you to do something rather than the good and bad consequences of all the people. The positive Satyanam energy will help all of you to build and transform yourself in real life.

If we work with positive power then positive power will help all of you with special mindset to seek happiness, health and happy ending. There are many people who have been successful in their life and they say that the key to their success in life is nothing else but positive thinking. Positive thinking will completely transform all of you from personal and showy life. In this way, all of you will remain positive in your difficult situations and because of positive thinking, you will achieve your goal very soon.

If you all want to listen to everyone in your life, then you all have to remove negativity from your life. There are many people, in whose life something bad has happened and they are surrounded by negative thoughts forever, so in such a situation, you all should not be surrounded by negativity, but to remove negativity, you should increase your self-confidence. Along with this, positive thinking has to be awakened. Whatever bad has happened in your life, you do not have to run away from it, but fix it. Friends, by going away from stress, all of you will be able to remove negativity from your mind.

Friends, we are happy to tell you all that the people of our India always like to be happy and that is why they find ways to be happy along with positive efforts in their life. All of you have to be psychologically free from stress and always remain happy so that you all can use your positive power when needed and move towards your success. Stress can be removed by positive thinking and it helps a lot.

We all should think about our future and while thinking about our future, we all should take the best decisions. We all have to always have positive thinking while taking good decisions regarding the future.

If we keep thinking negatively, we will never be able to take good decisions for our future and our destruction will be certain in the future. Friends, if you have positive thinking then it will inspire all of you to take decisions and will also stimulate you to take a good decision.

Every person in the world should always start his day with positive thinking. With positive thinking we all can achieve every milestone in our life. It is also said in the old story that whatever we all think positively will happen in our future

Therefore, we all should always have positive thinking and to move ahead, we should start our day with positive thinking. If you all want to be successful in your life, then you should always bring the best things to your attention and we should remove the bad things from our heart and mind and throw them away. This will mean that all of us will be able to live our present very well in the times to come and create a future for our children.

How 'selfie booths' are changing India politics

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

ndia could well be the only country where the "selfie" is Lthe medium and the message and where railway stations have "selfie booths" to enable passengers to take a photo of themselves with a life-size reproduction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Railway stations in the country do not always offer a huge variety of recreational options in case a train is running late. Understandably, some passengers passing through, or likely to pass through the railway stations where these 3D selfie booths have been installed, are thrilled. And it is not just railway stations. In October last year, the ministry of defence directed its various departments to set up selfie points, to highlight the work done by the government, and said this "may contain" photos of the PM.

In the run-up to the general election, questions are bound to be raised when it comes to light that all this comes at a cost to the public exchequer. The Union government has reportedly spent nearly Rs 6.25 lakhs on every permanent 3D selfie booth with Mr Modi's image at various railway stations, according to a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application. Each temporary selfie booth costs Rs 1.25 lakh.

The matter has reached the Delhi high court. Additional solicitor-general Chetan Sharma, representing the Union government, told the court that "engagement in the selfie system is a gift of technology... let's make use of it...The physical construct of selfie points enables people to engage effectively, thereby having a greater impact".

"The person (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) has been elected by the people and is holding a constitutional post. He may be someone's political rival but if this is being used for last-mile connectivity of beneficial schemes, you cannot have a grievance with that," the court said. The next hearing is due on January 30.

Unsurprisingly, reactions to the headline-grabbing 3D selfie booths are along predictable lines. Are various government departments installing 3D selfie points with the PM's image boosting Brand Modi ahead of the elections, or is it about instilling pride in the minds of citizens about India's achievements in the past decade?

Mr Modi's supporters agree with the government view linking the 3D selfie booths with generating greater public awareness about feats of "New India" under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. His political rivals and critics within civil society find them "over the top" and see them as a brazen misuse of public funds.

In a deeply polarised country, the response to the "selfie booth", much like the response to the 3D hologram featuring Mr Modi, depends on who you talk to.

But no one who has been closely following the Modi government is really surprised. Whatever be one's view, one thing is clear -- the "selfie booth" has emerged as a political branding tool, and part of the ruling BJP's communications quiver, much like the hologram deployed in the run-up to the 2014 general election. Mr Modi, then the BJP's PM candidate, appeared at hundreds of campaign rallies, sometimes at the same time, by using a computergenerated holographic image.

We now live in the age of the selfie. The selfie in its multiple avatars is firmly embedded in political arenas across the world, with increasing recognition of the importance of visual political communication. In a 2019 essay, scholars Darren Lilleker, Anastasia Veneti and Daniel Jackson argued that "visuals are thus central to the politics of our time, for good or ill, with the power to stimulate emotions and elicit engagement -- among an often disengaged and apathetic".

The selfie snugly fits into what some experts call the "spectacularisation" of politics. It draws the attention of citizens towards the personality of the leader.

Needless to say, the BJP needs no lessons in this game.

Scholars across the world now keenly study Mr Modi's penchant for the selfie, use of the social media and all things tech while sledgehammering political and ideological messages.

"Although photographs have always played an important role in Indian electoral campaigns, Modi's use of selfies to connect with his support base was unprecedented. However, this was not the first instance in which Modi effectively used technological means of dissemination for political leverage," wrote academic Anirban Baishya in a 2015 essay titled "NaMo: The Political Work of the Selfie in the 2014 Indian General Election" in the International Journal of Communication.

Mr Baishya pointed out that in 2012, for instance, "Modi's campaign mobilised three-dimensional holography to project a 10-foot-tall image of him delivering a speech across several BJP rallies and public meetings in the country. The use of 3-D holographic technology revealed a keen understanding of the impact of techno-spectacular media and the benefits of the ostensible 'omnipresence' that they accorded "

In 2015, in the run-up to the Delhi

Assembly elections, the BJP set up over 2,500 "Selfie with Modi" booths across the city. People were urged to click their photos with a "virtual Narendra Modi". The "Selfie with Modi" was the BJP's pitch to young voters in the city. The BJP lost to the Aam Aadmi Party but did not discard the politics of the selfie.

In a world where the line between self and the selfie is blurring, the BJP's Mahila Morcha has run a selfie programme for women beneficiaries of the Modi government's schemes. In April 2023, when Prime Minister Modi visited Chennai to inaugurate development projects, he met S. Manikandan, a speciallyabled BJP worker, took a "special selfie" with him, and went on to post it on the social media.

Researchers say selfies establish a sense of proximity between politicians and their voters. It is a lesson Opposition politicians can ignore only at their peril. They are not averse to selfies. But unlike the BJP, no Opposition party seems to have a coherent strategy on how to effectively leverage the tool.

The 3D selfie booths at the centre of the current political storm take the BJP strategy a step further. By positioning the Prime Minister's life-size replicas in the selfie booth in the context of the government's various schemes and India's achievements in the last decade when Mr Modi has been in power, BJP strategists have inserted the selfie into the narrative of governance. This potentially leads to conflating the act of taking a selfie with patriotism and critiquing the selfie booth thus becomes the opposite.

In the coming weeks and months, those pitching counters to the Modi selfies and selfie booths must factor these issues in. With the country and a world relying more and more on visual rather than verbal communication, criticism is not enough.

How to attempt Question Paper in Board Exams



By: Vijay GarG

ttempting the question paper properly in 10th board examinations can help you score high marks. Paper presentation is an important aspect and you must attempt the paper in a way that not only make an impact on the checker but also makes him read your paper easily.

Following are some points you must take care when attempting 10th board paper:

attempting 10th board paper:
1. First read the question paper well

The first thing to do read your paper well, understand it well. When writing the answers, you first need to understand what is being asked and how much marks it contains. The answer should be written accordingly-logically and comprehensively.

2. Use the first 15 minutes effectively

You get a good 15 minutes in the beginning to read the question paper -- use this time to do just that, READ. Read all the 30 questions in 15 minutes. While reading, mark the ques-

tions into categories wise easy, manageable and tough. This is done to have an overall idea about the questions and make a rough plan.

3. Don't worry about the tough ones

The moment you find that there are a few tough questions; it is natural that you start worrying about them. This is not required and will only harm your performance.

The fact is that they may look a bit tough on the surface, but when you actually work on them you will find most of them to be much easier than they seemed. So be happy about the easy ones and don't get unduly worried about the tougher lot.

4. Prioritise your attempt

Always attempt the easy questions first and then move on to the manageable ones and ensure that you complete them before taking on the difficult ones. This will ensure that you are not leaving any question that you know.

Once you successfully attempt all the easy and manageable questions, your confidence will grow and you will be mentally ready to take on the more challenging questions.

5. Ensure speed and accuracy Use quicker methods in calculations to ensure that you are not wasting time and your answers are correct. For example, if you make an error in the sign of a term (+/-), you may not be able to solve questions involving quadratic equations

or linear equations. Therefore avoiding silly mistakes is very important to save time. Always follow the tricks we discussed in speed strategies.

6. Keep an eye on your watch Keeping an eye on your watch is of course not to increase your stress. This is just to see that you are broadly adhering to the time allocation we discussed in the beginning. A minor variation is not at all a reason to worry.

7. Avoid thinking too much about a question

Thinking about the questions before you attempt them is essential; but not to such an extent that you waste a lot of time on one question.

Also you need not write a very lengthy answer to a question just because the question is easy and you know it very well. Remember, you need to just answer the question and nothing more. Any overattempt will be a mere waste of time.

8. Revise your answers

Usually the question papers are set in such a way that even after attempting all the questions, students should be left with 5-10 minutes in the end to revise their answers. Do not waste your time and revise all your answers.

9. Select your options wisely In certain questions you will be provided multiple choices. Do not hurry and make your choice smartly. Read questions carefully: Before you begin writing answer, read question carefully. See what is being asked in the question.

10. Use easy language
While writing your answer,
make sure that you use easy
to understand language.
An examiner will rather be
impressed by a conceptual
answer written in simple language than with one without
any conceptual language but
written in flowery language.

11. Follow word count

For questions, especially in language and literature papers, where word count for the answer is provided, stick to word count. Do not over exceed the word limit. Also do not be a miser and wrap up your answer in very less word count.

12. Be neat and clean

Write your answer in a clean and legible handwriting. Not everyone has a beautiful handwriting but anyone can write answers with proper space and punctuation and in a legible handwriting. Remember that if your answer sheet is not clean and handwriting illegible, it will be unfavorable to you. Use margin wherever necessary.

13. Avoid using slangs

Remember that written English is different from spoken English. Using slang words or SMS language will be counted as spelling mistake and you will be penalized for the same.

(Vijay GarG Retired Principal Educational columnist malout Punjab)

JU signs MoU with Growbyte IT Providers Private Limited Hyderabad

Academic Affairs, University

of Jammu, and former Vice

Chancellor, Cluster University,

Jammu, while congratulating

the initiative, appreciated the

consistent efforts made by

the department to provide the

high end opportunities to the

students to learn industrial

skills. Prof. Anju Bhasin further

added that such initiatives shall

enhance the capabilities of the

students to meet the challenges

Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean

Research Studies and Former

Director, IIM, Sirmaur, HP, while

speaking on the occasion, wel-

comed the officials of the cor-

porate sector and emphasized

that such mutual collaborations

of academia and industry shall

enable the institutions of higher

learning to get an exposure in

the latest IT trends in field of

of fast growing IT sector.



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Jammu and M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, on Friday at University of Jammu (JU). Under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, JU, the Department of CS & IT, has moved one more step forward in building the industryacademia collaboration in form of MoU which is fourth of its kind in the recent times.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, on behalf of the University of Jammu and Madhu Vadlamni, Director, M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad. The objective of the MoU is to provide technical and developmental opportunities for software development, organization of faculty development programmes, provide project assistance, conduct of seminars and workshops on recent trends in the emerging areas of Computer Science, which will mutually benefit the students, scholars, and faculty members of the Department.

Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Research Planning, and presently, holding the charge of Vice Chancellor, while appreciating the efforts made by the department, expressed the sincere hope that such interactions with the corporate sector shall not only confine to the fraternity of Computer Science Department but also such expertise shall be extended in setting up of latest digital facilities like creation of

incubation centres at JU. Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Department of Computer Science & IT, apprised the dignitaries about various initiatives

Prof. Pawanesh Abrol, Head,

academics and research.

taken by the department including organization of workshops, FDPs, invited lectures etc., from time to time. Prof. Abrol further briefed the dignitaries present about the MoU and the academic initiative taken up by the Department in the latest domains like AI, ML, IoT, Cyber Security, Advance Networking etc. Prof. Abrol further said that the department is also planning to set up the Al/IoT labs in the

near future. M/s Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, is a global IT consulting company with in-depth expertise in providing end-to-end solutions especially, working in the area of Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) working on the diverse projects in desktops and web-enabled applications, service oriented and complex enterprise architecture etc.

Prof. Vibhakar Mansotra, Prof. Vinod Sharma, Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma, Dr. Shubhnandan Singh Jamwal, Jasbir Singh, Dr. Suresh Rao, Dr. Haneet Kour, Dr. Rajneet Kaur, and Namrata Karlupia, Ayushi Gupta among others attended the MoU signing event in the Vice Chancel-

lor's Secretariat.

Renowned Skydiver inspires NCC Cadets in Nagrota

Top News Report

NAGROTA, Jan 12: The air crackled with excitement at the NCC training academy in Nagrota where cadets of the 5 J&K Battalion NCC are undergoing their Combined Annual Training Camp.

Today, however, the usual training exercises took a backseat as an exceptional guest speaker took the stage, Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh.

A figure revered in the world of skydiving, Group Captain Oberh boasts an impressive 150 jumps to his name, a feat that pales in comparison to his pioneering spirit. He holds the distinction of being the first Indian to skydive over the unforgiving landscapes of Antarctica and the Arctic region, pushing the boundaries of human courage and endurance.

Oberh's address wasn't a mere recount of his daredevil escapades. It was a master class in motivation, a tapestry woven with tales of unwavering determination, meticulous planning, and the unyielding pursuit of excellence. He painted vivid pictures of hurtling through the icy in winds of the poles, the



adrenaline rush coursing through his veins as he breached the bound-

aries of gravity. But beyond the adrenaline rush, Oberh emphasized the meticulous planning and rigorous training that underpin each jump. He spoke of the intricate calculations, the weather monitoring, and the constant risk assessment that precede every leap. He instilled in the young cadets the importance of discipline, focus, and the ability to make quick decisions under pressure.

His words resonated deeply with the cadets. Their eyes, wide with admiration, reflected the spark of inspiration igniting within them. Oberh wasn't just sharing his experiences; he was planting seeds of courage, resilience, and a thirst for pushing boundaries in their hearts.

The lecture wasn't just

about skydiving. It was a metaphor for life itself. Oberh urged the cadets to face their fears, embrace challenges, and never shy away from taking calculated risks. He reminded them that just like in skydiving, success in life requires meticulous planning, unwavering focus, and the courage to take the

As the lecture concluded, the applause that erupted from the cadets wasn't just for a renowned skydiver; it was for a mentor, an inspiration, and a man who had shown them the power of human potential. Today, at the NCC Training Academy in Nagrota, Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh didn't just speak about skydiving; he spoke about soaring through life, and the cadets, with ears agog and hearts ablaze, were ready to take flight.

JKSTIC approves funding for **SMVDU Research Projects**



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Jammu and Kashmir Science and Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology, UT of J&K has approved funding to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) for the six research projects in various emerging areas.

The projects have been granted to Dr. Yathesth Anand, Dr. Mir Irfan UlHaq, and Dr. Ankush Raina from the School of Mechanical Engineering, Er. Ashish Suri and Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta from the School of Electronics

and Communication Engineering and Dr. Sanieev Anand from the School of Mechani-Energy Management as the Principal Investigators.

The grant, totalling a budget of Rs 39.35 lakhs, was announced as part of the JKSTIC scheme for 02 years.

The selected projects span various emerging domains, showcasing a strategic alignment with the latest advancements and societal needs.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, expressed gratitude for the support from JKSTIC, emphasiz-

ing the pivotal role such grants play in advancing research capabilities within the university.

He highlighted the collaborative nature of the projects, which involve multidisciplinary teams from SMVDU working on innovative solutions.

The projects cover a diverse range of emerging areas, including UAVs, Electric Vehicle technology, Nano Tribology, 3D Printing etc. addressing challenges and opportunities on both regional and global scales.

The grants are expected to boost SMVDU's position as a leading research institution and contribute to the advancement of science and technology in the Jammu and Kashmir

region. The university, known for its dedication to academic excellence, is poised to make significant strides in emerging areas, with the support of funding agencies like JKSTIC's visionary funding initiatives.

Dozens of Cong, NC activists join BJP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Over three dozen prominent activists of Congress and National Conference (NC) of Panchayat Keincha, Mandal Kahra, Doda, joined BJP in a programme held at village Bunjoura. They were welcomed into the party fold by BJP senior leader & VDC Cell Convenor Basant Raj Thakur and BJP Nanaji Deshmukh Library Co-Convenor

Ramesh Katoch. Basant Raj Thakur, on this occasion, said that with each passing day. the prominent leaders NC and other parties are joining BJP in large numbers. It is due to the growing popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the rise in graph of Bharatiya Janata party in entire length and breadth

of the UT. He said that the good governance model of Narendra Modi has made people realize the need to strength BJP and return modi as PM for third consecutive term. He assured the new entrants that each one of them will get due respect in the party and their services will also be utilized to reach people in their

respective areas with the programmes and policies of the BJP.

Ramesh Katoch, while speaking to the new entrants, said that BJP is a big family having people from all faiths in its fold, who are working with dedication to educate and help the people in availing the benefits of various welfare schemes of the union government, which have brought changes in the lives of the poor, the women, farmers, down trodden and needy population of the UT, like other

parts of the country. Prominent among those who joined BJP Included Shabir Ahmed, Taseem Pathania, Majid Hussain, Akram Ahmed, Zafrula Butt. Rashid Ahmed Mandir Ahmed, Parvaz Peerai. Shamash Din. Yasar Hussain, Shabir Ahmed, Imran Hussain, Ishrat Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed, Mohd. Sharief, Abrar Ahmed, Tariq Hussain, Reyaz Ahmed, Mohd. Magbool, Imtiyaz Ahmed, Mohd Fageer, Saif Din, Yousaf Mugal Gulam Mahidin Shah, Shoki Parray, Mohd Fageer Pathan, Saleem Akhter, Mohd. Hussian, Parvaz Ahmed, Mohd. Yousaf and Zakir Hus-

Army conducts of Ex-Serviceman Rally



Top News Report

DODA, Jan 12: Indian Army conducted an annual Ex-serviceman Rally at Sports Stadium, Doda aimed to address the needs & problems of Ex-serviceman and Veer-Naries related to pension, emoluments, health and orient them on various benefits and schemes. The event was aimed at providing a platform for veterans to share their experiences and to connect with each other and to show appreciation for the contribution and sacrifices made by veterans of the

The rally was attended by a large number of Ex-servicemen from the Doda region

A total of 165 Exservicemen. 10 Veer-Naries, 04 Widows and 371 civilians attended the event. The Army ESM rally and interacted with Ex-servicemen and felicitated the Veer-Naries and veterans of Doda region and ensured them timely resolution of their grievances

He also highlighted the contribution of the Ex-servicemen for their country and expressed gratitude and admiration for their families. The Indian army has always been committed to the welfare of its veterans and their families.

The Indian army's dedication to the welfare of Ex-servicemen is a testament to its commitment to serving and protecting the nation.

The Army is proud of its veterans and is committed to providing them with the support they need to lead fulfilling lives after their service to the nation. The gathering was also briefed about the welfare schemes by Zila Sainik Board and ECHS department.

The Ex-servicemen expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts to organize such rallies and provide support to veterans. They also shared their experiences and offered suggestions for improving the welfare of Ex-servicemen.

For enhanced accountability, display information boards at site of work being executed under Defect Liability Clause: Balvinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: S Balvinder Singh renowned RTI Activist stated that amidst the prevailing practices in government construction projects, there arise a crucial need to address concerns related to defect liability periods of the works executed.

As of now every government's construction work carries the defect liability clause ranging from one year to three years whereby contractors ten percent amount of the bill is withheld for that defect liability period and is released only after the defect liability period is over.

While fostering accountability, this practice highlights the essential requirement for transparent and accessible mechanisms to address defects.

Singh strongly urge the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) administration to take proactive measures in guiding



engineers to implement visible provisions at construction sites governed by the defect liability clause. This involves installing informative boards, prominently displaying details such as the contractor's name, Name of nodal officer along with his/her contact number & date covering the defect liability period. The proposal underscores the need for appointing a nodal officer in every department to facilitate a streamlined process for defect reporting

As per Balvinder Singh this groundbreaking initiative aims to empower the public, providing them with a direct channel to voice concerns about defects

to designated officials through contact information prominently displayed on these boards.

As one of the RTI reply of Balvinder Singh, revealed that in majority of the cases, where defects developed during the defect liability clause, concerned Junior Engineer has not reported the matter to the higher officers like Assistant Executive Engineer, Executive Engineer or Superintendent Engineer.

Singh earnestly request the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and instruct Heads of Departments (HODs) in each engineering department, especially PWD (R&B), to promptly install these information boards.

This strategic step not only ensures timely defect rectifications but also nurtures a culture of transparency and accountability, ultimately benefiting citizens and enhancing the development landscape of the region.

VBSY: IEC Van Traverses through panchayats of block Nowshera & Seri in Rajouri District

Top News Report

armed forces.

RAJOURI, Jan 12: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has become a driving force in the implementation of various government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development in Rajouri district.

Central to this endeav-

or is an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van, a dynamic mobile platform designed to effectively communicate and create awareness about the diverse initiatives undertaken as part of the Yatra. The van plays a pivotal role in engaging with local communities, imparting crucial knowledge, and empowering residents to avail themselves of the benefits offered by government schemes.

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

lives. Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Handan, Langhar, Kalsian, Bhawani-A, Deeing, Gakhrote, Mangal Devi-A and Mangiote of block Seri as well as Nowshera. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the district and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives are felt

at the grassroots level. The impact of the Yatra is evident in enhanced access to healthcare. education, and basic amenities, contributing to the overall progress of Rajouri District. Meticulously planned and executed, this initiative aligns with the core objective of holistic development, leaving a lasting and positive impact on the commu-

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

When Zeenat Aman said Deepika Padukone would be perfect choice for 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'; this is what she meant

With her acting prowess, actress Deepika Padukone has found a home in the hearts of moviegoers. Even veteran actress Zeenat Aman is an admirer of her work.

In the latest episode of Disney+Hotstar's 'Koffee with Karan 8', Zeenat Aman marked her gracious presence with Neetu Kapoor. The two went down memory lane as they discussed their busy work life, costars, marriage, motherhood, and even grandmotherhood with host Karan Johar.

Interestingly, during the rapidfire segment, Karan went on to ask Zeenat about her choice of actress who would be appropriate to play the role of Rupa in the seguel to Satvam Shivam Sundaram (1978). Without any second thought, she took the name of Deepika Padukone.

'Satyam Shivam Sundaram' is a 1978 romantic drama film produced and directed by Raj Kapoor and written by Jainendra Jain. It starred Shashi Kapoor and Zeenat Aman in the lead roles. In the film, she played the



role of Rupa with a disfigured

During the episode, Zeenat recalled how she got the role in the iconic, albeit controversial film. directed by Raj Kapoor.

Zeenat Aman recalled, "I didn't think that he would even think of casting me in this kind (Rupa) of role. Because she is the daughter of a priest. One day we were shooting at Esel Studios, which is on the road to RK (RK Studios). After packing up, I just dressed myself up



in my version of what I thought he (Raj Kapoor) would think of Rupa." On how she prepared for the role, she added, "With tissue paper stuck on my face. And make-up, and choti (braid), and ghagra-choli. Then I went to RK Studios. He had this man on Friday. John, and then I said, John, please tell sir that Rupa has come. So he said, Rupa? Who is Rupa? Then he (Raj Kapoor) called me inside his cottage, and I went. Then he was gobsmacked," Zeenat

Zeenat Aman shared what Raj Kapoor said later to his wife, Krishna Raj Kapoor.

"He said that this girl is a huge star. She doesn't need to do this. It's her passion for this that makes me want to give her the part. You know what he did: on an old song of Nargis ji, Jago Mohan Pyaare, he shot a whole reel with his vision of Rupa. It was so exquisite what he shot. Better than the entire film." She added that he showed the clip to film distributors.

"He wanted to show them, yes, Zeenat Aman can be Rupa. All territories were interested," she added.

Zeenat Aman is now all set to make a comeback to the silver screen with Manish Malhotra's film 'Bun Tikki', which also stars Abhay Deol and Shabana Azmi. The film is directed by Faraz Arif Ansari and also stars actor Abhay Deol. Jyoti Deshpande, Dinesh Malhotra, and Marijke Desouza will produce the film under the umbrella of Manish Malhotra's Stage 5 Productions.

Neetu Kapoor on why husband Rishi Kapoor stopped bullying people in his last days



Actor Neetu Kapoor in a recent episode of the chat show 'Koffee with Karan 8' talked about late actor Rishi Kapoor's relationship with his children Ranbir and Riddhima.

Neetu graced the coffee couch along with veteran star Zeenat Aman.

During a conversation with the show's host Karan Johar, the 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' star recalled the time she spent with her late husband in New York when he was receiving treatment for cancer.

She said, "So Karan for me, I don't like to remember the sad part. I like to remember the good part of our relationship and of our time in New York. So New York was really sad, but we had the best year, I had the best year of my life."

She also revealed how the 'Karz' actor

would rarely be casual and friendly with his kids but that changed in the final

"Because you know Chintu Ji (Rishi Kapoor) is a very loving person. He had a lot of love in him. But there was something he never really showed his love. He always kept his distance and bullving people, not show his love. Especially with me and my children, he was like a big thing. Respect and all and with that he lost out on a lot with his children. He was never a friend to them," she said.

She added, "But that year, he opened up. He showed love, went towards me also he was so lovely. We had the best time." Rishi Kapoor passed away on April 30 in the year 2020 at the age

He was suffering from leukaemia. He was in New York for a considerable amount of time for his treatment. Neetu was there for him as a rock-solid partner through thick and thin.

Rishi and Neetu got married on January 22, 1980, and share two children, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and superstar Ranbir Kapoor.

Back in the 70s and 80s, the couple starred in several hits together, like 'Amar Akbar Anthony', 'Khel Khel Mein', 'Rafoo Chakkar', 'Kabhi Kabhie', 'Besharam' and many more, and inspired generations with both their onscreen and off-screen romance.

Kareena Kapoor Khan does not seek validation from social media

Kareena Kapoor Khan has been in the Hindi film industry for over two decades and enjoys a massive fan following. In 2020, the diva made her debut on social media.

Kareena currently enjoys a fan following of 11.4 million on Instagram. About the importance of social media, Kareena said, "I enjoy using social media, but for me it is a way to connect with my fans and give them a glimpse into my life. I don't seek validation from social media at all, but I'm happy that I get a lot of love from my fans."

"As an artiste, I'm stepping into the shoes of powerful characters and that's validation enough for me. So, while I appreciate the love on Instagram, my true validation comes from the roles I take on, the stories I tell, and the legacy I'm building as an artiste in the world of entertainment," she added.

However, there have been good and bad



days in her journey in Hindi cinema, which began in 2000 with the film Refugee.

Kareena also revealed that the toughest part of being a superstar was, "Lack of privacy."

In characteristic Haryanvi lingo, actor Randeep Hooda, in Chandigarh, left the audience in splits and also spoke about his upcoming film Veer Savarkar girl, "I didn't have a

Randeep Hooda — the Haryana lad who made it big in not only Bollywood, but also shone in Hollywood film Extraction — was in Chandigarh on Wednesday to unveil the trophy of the fifth edition of Chitra Bharti Film Festival. The festival will be held in Panchkula this February.

Like a proud Haryanvi, his opening lines for the jam-packed crowd at the Tagore Theatre. Chandigarh, were, "Sab ne Ram Ram bhai."

Keeping the mahaul light, Hooda made a sarcastic comment about his bad memory as he forgot the names of those present alongside him on stage! He later said, "I have a strong belief that a good film leaves a deep and long-lasting impact on the minds of people."

On a witty note As he talked about films, festivals and their significance, the



reference to Manipur enthused the crowd! Randeep, who recently married actress and his long-time girlfriend Lin Laishram, from Manipur, said, "Stories are everywhere; so, a film about Kerala should be watched in Haryana or a story from Haryana in Manipur or one based in

North-East in J&K.

As a voice from the crowd asked about Lin not making an appearance with him, Hooda gave a witty reply in Haryanvi, "Unne layyaun tha, Par une dhaar cadd ni thi." To engage the audience further, Hooda shared why he didn't marry Haryanavi sarkari naukari."

Real to reel

About his mostanticipated film of the year, Swatantra Veer Savarkar, where he plays the titular role, he said, "When the role of Savarkar ji came to me, I knew so little about him. But when I read books, especially English ones, I witnessed how there were just two paragraphs on the Strong Revolution (Sashakt Kranti) against the British and how the sacrifice of these heroes was undermined. In fact, there are so many untold stories of revolutionaries and their contribution to

the freedom struggle. On taking to direction and production for this film, Hooda said, "I was happy portraying Savarkar ii and knew could perform well, but donning the director's hat was a whole new experience. I was the first one to arrive on sets and the last one to leave."

Things were no different when due to unforeseen and undisclosed circumstances, Hooda had to also produce the film. "It was actually like being the father of a bride, who is worried about everything. The cast and crew would use the property, but it was the producer who had to keep a tab on damage to property and other logistics. However, desire and determination kept me going." Hooda also said in

addition to entertainment, a film should carry a social message too. "These days, more than feature-length films, people find reels entertaining. My friends asked how I would bring masses to the theatres to watch Savarkar ji's story, as nobody knew him. So, my idea was to make it entertaining and message-oriented

Celebs give their opinion on the Maldives-Lakshadweep controversy

In recent years, the Maldives has become a favourite destination for Indian celebs. Now, that the Maldives-India controversy has flared-up, we ask celebs whether they are likely to include the Maldives in their travel plan.

Only for the rich Ismail Umar Khan

I am aware of the controversy, and action has been taken against the official who made racist and derogatory comments. Many Indians may not even know that the Maldives exists, but after this controversy, people will be aware of it. All these destinations are for the rich, whereas most of us are happy with our Indian beaches. As far as I'm concerned, the Maldives was never on my cards. Let me first explore my country; the rest can wait.

Won't tolerate it

Charrul Malik The Maldives' economy depends on tourism, and more than 25 per cent of tourists are from India. When they attack India, it's an attack against their economy.

Well, this is very pleasing to see celebrities promoting India. Definitely, this will only do better for the Indian economy and people. I have never been to either the Maldives or Lakshadweep. I would love to go to Lakshadweep. It's on my bucket list. I really don't get influenced by any controversy and don't pass judgments. But against our country, against our PM, if anyone speaks a single wrong word, we won't tolerate, and of course, we won't go there... come what may.

Lakshadweep it is Rinku Ghosh

I think the entire world needs to learn from India, to be humble and modest. We have everything. From mountains to sea, from forest to desert, from river to forest. India is complete. India doesn't believe in putting someone down just to put oneself up. The Maldives' tourism is largely dependent on India. Such kind of derogatory statements are not acceptable. I have not visited the Mal-



dives. When we have Lakshadweep, why do we need to visit the Maldives?

Looking inwards Lokit Phulwani

I personally believe that the freedom of expression should be exercised in a democratic and responsible manner, and in ways that do not spread hatred, negativity, and hinder close relationships, especially between international partners. India in itself is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world offering the best, be it mountains, desert, or pristine beaches. Have plans to explore within before looking at anything outside.

Create an alternative Nikhil Nanda

The Maldives has been a beautiful destination. I have visited it, but after the controversy caused by the distasteful statements made by the ministers there, no Indian should ever visit the Maldives anymore. We should only be creating an alternative for the Maldives and luxury.

Yami Gautam: Got to do something different which I'd been longing to do as an actor with 'Uri'



As the blockbuster film URI: The Surgical Strike completed five years of its release on Thursday, actress Yami Gautam said that she got to do something different in the film. Yami expressed: "It's been five years of URI, and I

must say it's undeniably a very special film for me." Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film starred Vicky Kaushal, Yami Gautam and Paresh Rawal.

Yami said: "URI was our modern-day cinematic version of the

living legend, our Indian Army. Everyone who was associated with this film cherished the thunderous response we received from every corner of the world.

"To be part of URI, a story that celebrates the bravery of our Indian Army and the nation's spirit, was an honour for me. It was a film where I got to do something different, which I'd been longing to do as an actor."

Yami Gautam, who portrayed the character of Pallavi Sharma in the film, added: "The film was the result of the hard work of every department, which worked day and night to deliver a one-of-a-kind cinematic experience to the audiences. Forever grateful to Aditya for making it all happen and leading the film with unmatched passion and sincerity. Pallavi Sharma is and will always hold a special place in my

I am emotional for first time in life, says PM Narendra Modi as he begins 11-day religious exercise ahead of **Ram temple consecration**

Says it is his good fortune that he will be a witness to the auspicious occasion

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that ahead of the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he would undertake a strict code of conduct for 11 days and dedicate himself to the will of God.

"I have decided to start an 11-day religious meeting exercise before the consecration rituals on January 22 and am fortunate to begin my exercise today from Nasik Dham Pandhvati, the divine land where Lord Ram spent a lot of time," said an emotional prime minister in an audio message to the people whom he urged to immerse themselves in Ram worship in the coming days.

Describing himself as fortunate to be the chosen one to represent 140 crore Indians and their faith through consecration of the idol, the PM said he was feeling emotional for the very first time in his life.

The PM remembered Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary today and how he spent his life trying to awaken a slumbering Indian consciousness. "That same self-confidence is



before us today in the form of a grand Ram temple which is our identity," the prime minister said urging people to share their feelings on the occasion through the Namo app.

The PM who is in Mumbai on Friday to inaugurate the longest bridge on sea, Atal Setu, also saluted Jija Bai, the mother of

Shivaji who, he said, had a tremendous role in shaping a sovereign India as we see it today.

"It is also natural for me to remember my mother today. She worshiped Sita-Ram till the end of her life," the PM said.

While counting himself as blessed to be representing all Indians when he enters the sanctum sanctorum of Ram temple on January 22, the PM said though he would witness the divine moment in person, all 140 crore Indians would be with him.

"All Ram worshippers will be with me. That moment will be a moment of our collective realisation. I will carry with me the inspiration of innumerable people who sacrificed their lives for the Mandir, the inspiration of endless tales of nameless people and their valour and of the resilience shown over a long wait of 500 years," Modi said, adding that he would enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple with the energy of everyone and would feel their presence.

The 11-day social and moral code of conduct the PM entered into on Friday is prescribed in Hindu scriptures as a mandatory exercise ahead of a task like consecration of an idol.

The code of conduct involves a range of tasks, including fasting, and observance of a set of values.

Called Yam Niyams, these codes are strict and require tremendous self-discipline.

Next-generation air-defence missile Akash tested successfully

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of the New Generation Akash (AKASH-NG) airdefence missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on

The AKASH-NG is a state-of-the-art missile system capable of intercepting high speed, agile aerial threats.

"The successful flight test has paved the way for user trials," the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

'User trials' means the missile and AKASH-NG system have moved to second stage as the forces would conduct its trials at their level. The Indian Air Force already has inducted the Akash Missile system. The AKASH-NG is an upgrade of that.

The flight-test was conducted against a high-speed unmanned aerial target at a very low altitude. During the flight-test, the target



was successfully intercepted by the missile and destroyed. It has validated the functioning of the complete weapon system consist-

ing of the missile with indigenously developed radio frequency seeker, launcher, multi-function radar and command, control and communica-

The system performance was also validated through the data captured by a number of radars, telemetry and electro optical tracking system deployed by the ITR. The flight-test was witnessed by senior officials from the DRDO, IAF, Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the DRDO, IAF, public sector undertakings and the industry for the flight-test.

Bhushan Steel Bank Fraud Case: Enforcement Directorate Arrests 5

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has arrested five persons in connection with an alleged 56,000 crore bank loan fraud linked money laundering case against erstwhile Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL), official sources said Friday.

Those taken into custody on Thursday are Pankaj Kumar Tiwari, the former vice president banking of the company, former



VP accounts Pankai Kumar Agarwal, ex-chief financial officer Nitin Johri, Ajay Mittal, the

brother-in-law of former promoter Neeraj Singal, and Ajay Mittal's wife and sister of Neeraj Singal, Archana Mittal.

After completing the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP), Bhushan Steel was taken over by Tata Steel Ltd in

According to the Enforcement Directorate. Bhushan Steel Limited's former Managing Director Neeraj Singal and his associates

formed several shell companies and the promoters and entities linked to BSL "rotated funds from one company to another through a chain of multiple entities" as part of an alleged bank loan fraud.

The money laundering case stems from a charge sheet filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), an investigative agency under the ministry of corporate affairs.

PM Modi inaugurates Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge in Mumbai



MUMBAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Rs 17,840 crore Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, the longest bridge as well as the longest sea bridge in the country connecting south Mumbai with Nhava-

Sheva in Navi Mumbai. The six-lane transharbour bridge is 21.8 km long with a 16.5 km long sea-link.

The bridge will provide faster connectivity to the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport and reduce the travel time between Mumbai and Pune.

It will also improve connectivity between the Mumbai Port and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

The foundation stone

of the bridge had been laid by prime minister Modi in December

The PM on Friday also laid the foundation stone of an underground road tunnel connecting the Eastern Freeway in eastern Mumbai to Marine Drive in south Mumbai.

The 9.2 km tunnel will be built at a cost of more than Rs 8700 crore.

After state govt shoots down Imphal venue, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to begin from private ground in Manipur's Thoubal: Congress



IMPHAL, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday said the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra would be flagged off from a private ground in Manipur's Thoubal district on January 14, instead of from the state capital Imphal.

Congress's Manipur president Keisham Meghachandra said permission was sought to begin the Yatra from the Hapta Kangjeibung ground in Imphal but the state government gave the go-ahead with certain conditions, forcing them to move the venue around 34 km at the last moment

"We had proposed to the state government on January 2 that Hapta Kangjeibung public ground in Imphal be allowed for flagging off the Bharat Jodo Nyav Yatra. We had also announced that the Yatra would start from Imphal, and culminate in Mumbai," he said.

"We met Chief Minister N Biren Singh on January 10 but were told that the permission would not be given. Later that night, an order was issued which gave permission for Hapta Kangjeibung ground but with a limited number of participants," he added. Meghachandra said a team of the state Congress again met Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi in the presence of DGP Rajiv Singh, and the deputy commissioner and SP of Imphal East.

"We were told that not more than 1,000 people would be allowed at the venue. As the permission was not given, we were in an alarming situation. Late on Thursday night, the Thoubal DC gave permission for flagging off the Yatra from a private land in Khongjom area of the district," he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would flag off the Yatra from there, he said.

Another state Congress leader said there would be no change in the route even though the venue had to be changed.

After beginning in Manipur on January 14, the Yatra will culminate in Mumbai on March 20. It is scheduled to cover 6,713 km in 67 days while passing through 110 districts in 15 states.

Bihar minor found naked under flyover, uncle arrested for rape

GOPALGANJ, Jan 12 (Agencies): A man in Bihar's Gopalganj has been arrested on charges of raping his minor niece.

The incident occurred when the mother of the minor found her under a flyover near her house. in a naked state.

The accused, Jitendra Shah, took his niece and daughter to a shop, where he bought them snacks.

He later sent his daughter home, taking his niece towards a river, where the accused committed the crime.

The family of the rape survivor began a hunt for her after she did not return home for quite some time. As she enquired with the locals, the minor's mother was told her daughter was seen going towards the river along with her uncle.



Upon reaching the spot, the woman found her daughter crying under a bridge, in a naked state.

The accused man, who was also found in a naked state nearby, fled the spot.

He was later arrested and action against him was taken under the POCSO Act.

Meanwhile, the victim was taken to a hospital for treatment, from where she was referred to another hospital.

Karnataka charged with gangrape HAVERI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Seven men who allegedly barged into a hotel room and attacked an interfaith couple during their stay in this district have been said. charged with gangrape

them, police said on Friday. In the case of moral policing, three men, who also belong to a minority community, have been arrested in connection with the incident that

happened on January

8, they said.

after the victim com-

plained that she was

sexually assaulted by

"On Thursday afternoon, the victim's statement was recorded in front of a magistrate wherein she alleged that she was gang raped by seven men who also abused and assaulted her. So, based on her claim, we have added

section 376 D (gangrape) to the existing FIR. We have arrested three men in connection with the incident so far," a senior police officer

"Another suspect is hospitalised due to an accident he met a day after the alleged incident. So, once he is discharged, he will be taken into custody. Our teams are trying to trace the remaining suspects in the case. We have identified all of them," he said.

Earlier, the woman alleged the involvement of six men, and later she also mentioned other suspects who were accomplices, so the police were trying to secure all of them, he

According to the police, on January 8, at 1 pm, a 26-year-old

married woman who belongs to a minority community checked into the hotel room with a KSRTC driver aged 40, with whom she has been in a relationship for the past three years.

Men who assaulted interfaith couple in

The entire assault which happened inside the hotel room was filmed by the gang.

The videos later became viral after they got circulated on social media platforms, police said.

In one of the videos, six men could be seen knocking on the door of a room.

When a man opens the door, the assailants could be seen barging in and heading towards the woman.

The gang verbally abused the couple, assaulted them and filmed the woman while she tried to cover her face with a burga.

According to police, when the couple entered the hotel, they were spotted by an auto-rickshaw driver.

Seeing the woman clad in a burqa with a man from another community, he immediately alerted the gang of local men who also belonged to the minority commu-

They allegedly barged into the hotel room and started attacking the couple.

They also eventually dragged them out of the room, a senior police officer said.

The gang who arrived on three motorcycles drove the couple to an isolated place which was about a kilometer away from the hotel. Upon reaching there, they started thrashing the couple. They also abused the woman and hit her with sticks, he said.

The woman alleged she was also gangraped by them, he added.

Thereafter, the gang gave her Rs 500 and told her to go to her native place. She later went to Sirsi where her husband lives, the police officer said.

The accused members are not affiliated to any organisation, police said, adding that those arrested so far do not have any criminal background, but that needs to be verified.

Besides gang rape, other IPC sections included in the FIR are those pertaining to kidnap and assault, according to the police.

Houthis claim 5 killed, 6 injured in US, UK-led strikes in Yemen

DUBAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): US-led airstrikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels in response to their attacks on Red Sea shipping pulled the world's focus Friday back on the yearslong war raging there, even as tensions rise across the Middle East already torn by Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The strikes killed at least five people and wounded six, the Houthis said, without elaborating on what was targeted.

As the bombing lit the predawn sky over multiple sites held by the Iranian-backed rebels, Saudi Arabia quickly sought to distance itself from the attacks as it seeks to maintain a delicate détente with Iran and a ceasefire in the Yemen war from which it hopes to finally withdraw.

The attack also threatened to ignite a regional conflict over Israel's war on Hamas, which the Biden administration and its allies have been trying to calm for weeks.

Meanwhile, the US Navy acknowledged an attack days earlier on a ship in the far reaches of the Indian Ocean-- an attack that may signal Iran's willingness to strike vessels as part of a wider maritime campaign over the Israel-Hamas conflict. Tehran on Thursday separately seized another tanker involved in an earlier crisis over America seizing oil targeted by international sanctions on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

It remained unclear how extensive the damage from the US strikes were, though the Houthis said at least five sites, including airfields, had been attacked. The United Kingdom described its strikes hitting a site in Bani allegedly used by the Houthis to launch drones and an airfield in Abbs used to launch cruise missiles and drones.

Hussein al-Ezzi, a Houthi official in their Foreign Ministry, acknowledged "a massive aggressive attack by American and British ships, submarines and warplanes."

"America and Britain will undoubtedly have to prepare to pay a heavy price and bear all the dire consequences of



this blatant aggression," al-Ezzi wrote online.

Mohammed Abdul-Salam, the Houthis' chief negotiator and spokesperson, separately described the US and Britain as having "committed foolishness with this treacherous aggres-

"They were wrong if they thought that they would deter Yemen from supporting Palestine and Gaza," he wrote online. Houthi "targeting will continue to affect Israeli ships or those heading to the ports of occupied Palestine," he wrote.

Since the attacks began in November, however, the Houthis have begun targeting vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for global trade.

The Houthis' military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, in a recorded address, said 73 strikes hit five regions of Yemen under their control, killing five and wounding six. He did not elaborate on who was killed.

"The American and British enemy bears full responsibility for its criminal aggression against our Yemeni people, and it will not go unanswered and unpunished," Saree said.

In Saada, the Houthis' stronghold in northwest Yemen, hundreds gathered for a rally Friday. The crowd shouted at times the Houthi slogan: "God is the greatest; death to America; death to Israel; curse the Jews; victory to Islam."

Yemen has been targeted by US military action over the last four American presidencies. A campaign of drone strikes began under President George W. Bush to target the local affili-

ate of al-Qaida, attacks that have continued under the Biden administration. Meanwhile, the US has launched raids and

other military operations amid

the ongoing war in Yemen. That war began when the Houthis swept into the capital, Sanaa, in 2014. A Saudi-led coalition including the United Arab Emirates launched a war to back Yemen's exiled government in 2015, quickly morphing the conflict into a regional confrontation as Iran backed the Houthis with weapons and other support.

That war, however, has slowed as the Houthis maintain their grip on the territory they hold. The UAE even came under Houthi missile fire multiple times in 2022. After the Emirates left the war. Saudi Arabia reached a Chinese-mediated deal with Iran to ease tensions in hopes of finally withdrawing from the war.

However, an overall deal has yet to be reached, likely sparking Saudi Arabia's expression Friday of "great concern" over the airstrikes.

"While the kingdom stresses the importance of preserving the security and stability of the Red Sea region, ... it calls for restraint and avoiding escalation," its Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Iran, which has supplied weapons and aid to the Houthis, condemned the attack in a statement from Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani.

"Arbitrary attacks will have no result other than fueling insecurity and instability in the region," he said.

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, also backed by Iran

and engaged in cross-border fire with Israel, criticized the strikes as showing America as being a "full partner in catastrophes and massacres committed by the Zionist entity in Gaza." Hamas as well condemned the attack.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning called on nations not to escalate tensions in the Red Sea, asking all countries and parties to exercise restraint.

"We hope that all parties concerned will play a constructive and responsible role in the security and stability of the Red Sea region, which is in the common interest of the international community," she said.

The Red Sea route is also crucial for energy shipments. Benchmark Brent crude traded up some 2.5% Friday at over \$79 a barrel.

Meanwhile Friday, the US Navy confirmed an attack days earlier near the coasts of India and Sri Lanka. The chemical tanker Pacific Gold was struck Jan. 4 by what the Navy called "an Iranian one-way attack" drone, causing some damage to the vessel but no injuries.

"Iran's actions are contrary to international law and threaten maritime security and stability," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, the head of the Navy's Mideastbased 5th Fleet.

The Pacific Gold is managed by Singapore-based Eastern Pacific Shipping, a company that is ultimately controlled by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer. Eastern Pacific, as well as naval officials in India and Sri Lanka, had not responded to multiple requests for comment from The Associated Press over the attack. Eastern Pacific previously has been targeted in suspected Iranian attacks.

A private security official previously acknowledged to the AP that the attack took place. The attack had been first reported by the Lebanese broadcaster Al-Mayadeen, a channel politically affiliated with Hezbollah that has previously announced other Iran-linked attacks in the region. Iran itself has not acknowledged carrying out the attack.

China exports fall in 2023 for first time in seven years

BEIJING, Jan 12 (Agencies): China's exports fell last year for the first time in seven years, data showed Friday, as tensions with the United States and a stuttering global economic recovery compound Beijing's struggles to kickstart growth at home.

Overseas shipments have traditionally been key to feeding GDP expansion over the past four decades and the figures came as a separate report showed the country in danger of slipping into a deflationary spiral that could further complicate officials' plans to stimulate activity.

The reading also highlighted a geopolitical pivot as annual trade with the United States fell for the first time in four years, while commerce with Russia hit a record high despite international pressure to isolate Moscow over its war in Ukraine.

And customs officials warned that there would be more hurdles to come over the next 12 months.

"The complexity, severity and uncertainty of the external environment are on the rise, and we need to overcome the difficulties and make more efforts to further promote the growth of foreign trade," vice minister of the General Administration of Customs Wang Lingjun said.

Exports rose in November for the first time since April, and while December also saw an on-year increase of 2.3 percent, the data compare with the low base of 2022 when the impact of zero-Covid policies were being felt

Overall, exports fell 4.6 percent in 2023, the first annual drop since 2016. Deflation threat

The report also showed imports dropped 5.5 percent last year.

The weak demand for goods from overseas was reflected in data showing the consumer price index (CPI) fell 0.3 percent last month, the third straight monthly drop and the longest streak since October 2009, according to Bloomberg News.

For the whole year inflation came in at an average of 0.2 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) figures showed.

China slipped into deflation last July for the first time since 2021 and following a brief rebound the following month, prices have been in decline since September.

"Ongoing low core CPI inflation likely reflects dampened domestic demand due to ongoing property downturn and stressed labour market," Goldman Sachs analysts wrote in a note.

Beijing has unveiled several targeted stimulus measures aimed at supporting key sectors, particularly the troubled property industry.

"Fiscal and monetary policies started to move in the right direction in the fourth quarter 2023, but it takes time for these policies to be transmitted to the economy," Zhiwei Zhang from Pinpoint Asset Management wrote in a note.

"It is also unclear if these policies are strong enough to offset the deflationary pressure in the economy.

While deflation sug-

gests goods were cheaper, it poses a threat to the broader economy as consumers tend to postpone purchases, hoping for further reductions.

A lack of demand can then force companies to cut production, freeze hiring or lay off workers, while potentially also having to discount existing stocks -- dampening profitability even as costs remain the same.

The NBS also said producer prices sank 2.7 percent, the 15th consecutive month of declines.

The PPI index, which measures the cost of goods leaving factories and provides an insight into the health of the economy, fell three percent in November.

Record Russian trade China-Russia trade in 2023 reached more than \$240 billion, according to customs data, overshooting a goal of \$200 billion set by the neighbours in bilateral meetings last year.

The figure is a record for the two countries, who have grown closer politically and economically since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Beijing has drawn criticism from Western countries for its stance on the Ukraine war.

China insists it is neutral in the crisis but has refused to criticise Moscow's invasion.

The trade figures represented a year-on-year increase of 26.3 percent, according to the data.

In contrast, trade between the United States and China fell 11.6 percent to \$664 billion last year, the first fall since 2019.

UK To Give \$3 Billion Military Aid To Ukraine, Largest Since Russia War

LONDON, Jan 12 (Agencies): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak travelled to Kyiv on Friday to announce an increase in military funding to help Ukraine purchase new military drones, including surveillance, long-range strike and sea

London has been one of Kyiv's staunchest supporters since Russia's invasion and Mr Sunak said Britain would increase its support in the next financial year to 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.19 billion), an increase of 200 million pounds on the previous two years.

Britain said it would provide the largest delivery of drones to Ukraine from any nation, with most of them expected to be manufactured in Britain.

"The Ministry of Defence will work with international partners to significantly scale up the number of drones provided for Ukraine's defence," the government statement said.

Rishi Sunak's office said the two countries would also sign a historic UK-Ukraine Agreement on Security Cooperation, following on from an agreement by the Group of Seven nations to



provide Ukraine with bilateral security assurances.

Britain said the agreement "formalises a range of support the UK has been and will continue to provide for Ukraine's security, including intelligence sharing, cyber security, medical and military training, and defence industrial cooperation".

Mr Sunak said Ukraine had been fighting for the principles of freedom and democracy for two years.

"I am here today with one message: the UK will also not falter," Mr Sunak said in a statement. "We will stand with Ukraine, in their darkest hours and in the better times to come.'

In Taiwan's election Saturday, who are the three candidates trying to become president?

TAIPEI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Taiwan is holding its presidential election on Saturday, a race that China has called a choice between war and peace. China considers the self-ruled island about 160 kilometers (100 miles) off its east coast a breakaway province and has threatened to take control over it, by force if necessary.

Taiwan's election is closely watched internationally due to the potential for rising military tensions across the Taiwan Strait. At home, voters are concerned with more practical issues such as the sluggish economy and expensive housing in addition to Beijing's

Here are the three candidates: LAI CHING-TE

Lai Ching-te, who also goes by William, is currently Taiwan's vice president from the Democratic Progressive Party, which rejects China's sovereignty claims over the island.

Years ago, the 64-year-old described himself as a "pragmatic worker for Taiwan independence," drawing criticism from Beijing.

China bristles at any claims of independence by Taiwanese politicians and opposes Taipei having formal ties with other countries. Beijing has repeatedly rejected offers to hold talks with Lai and Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

Lai says he remains open to speaking with China without conceding Taiwan's right to rule

"As long as there is equality and dignity on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan's door will always be open," he said in









A physician who studied public health at Harvard University, Lai has held public office for the past 25 years, including as a legislator and mayor of the southern city of Tainan.

During his and Tsai's tenure, Taiwan increased arms acquisitions from the United States, which is bound by its law to provide the island with weapons needed to protect itself.

If elected president, Lai has pledged to strengthen national defense and the economy and to continue in the policy direction set by Tsai.

His running mate is former U.S. envoy Bi-khim Hsiao. HOU YU-IH

Hou Yu-ih is the candidate from Taiwan's main opposition party Kuomintang, or KMT, whose government retreated to the island in 1949 after losing a civil war against the Chinese Communist Party.

The KMT is generally friendlier to China than the DPP, though it strongly denies being pro-Beijing. Traditionally, the party has favored unification with China, though it has shifted its stance in recent years to reflect the preference for maintaining the status quo.

Hou served as the head of the island's police force before transitioning to politics in 2010. The 66-year-old is currently the mayor of New Taipei, a position from which he took leave to run for president.

Hou has described himself as an atypical KMT member and said he would not pursue unification with China if elected. He has said that Taiwan's future needs to be decided by its people.

Hou has pledged to strengthen national defense and restart dialogue with Beijing through cultural and civil society exchanges at first — as part of his "3D strategy," which stands for deterrence, dialogue and deescalation.

He describes himself as more likely to convince China to hold talks than Lai, whom he accuses of pushing Taiwan to war.

Hou's running mate is former legislator and TV commentator Jaw Shau-kong.

KO WEN-JE The third presidential candidate, Ko Wen-je, represents the

smaller Taiwan People's Party, which he founded in 2019.

An outspoken surgeon-turnedpolitician, Ko advocates for a middle road in relations with Beijing. He has said he would be open to holding talks with China, but his bottom line would be that Taiwan must be able to preserve its democracy and civil freedoms.

He describes himself as the only candidate who would be acceptable to both the U.S. and China.

The 64-year-old was mayor of Taipei between 2014 and 2022 and has cooperated in the past with both the DPP and KMT. An initiative to run on the same ticket as Hou in Saturday's election failed after the two couldn't agree on who should be the presidential candidate.

Ko is the most popular candidate among younger voters, who praise his straightforward approach and focus on practical issues such as housing and education.

His running mate is Cynthia Wu, a business executive who hails from one of Taiwan's wealthiest families.

earthquakes in less than 24 hours Friday. According to the National Center

Afghanistan hit by three

KABUL, Jan 12 (Agencies): A new earthquake hit Afghanistan, hours after

an earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the

Richter Scale hit the Hindukush region of Afghanistan in the early hours of

for Seismology, the latest earthquake occurred at 9.40 am and was at a depth of 180 kilometres.

Earlier, the earthquake occurred at 4.51 am and was at a depth of 17 kilo-

There were no reports of damages or casualties. Yesterday, an earthquake of mag-

nitude 6.1 jolted the same region in Afghanistan at 2.50 pm.

Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu celebrates National Youth Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: In commemoration of the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - The Icon and Ideal for the Youth of India, National Youth Day was celebrated across the Nation. In district Jammu, the event was organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the GCW Parade at GCW Parade ground Jammu in which more than 200 students, NYK volunteers, youth club members and volunteers of District Youth Service and sports took part.. Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma,

(Jammu - Poonch) was the Chief Guest of the event whereas Dr S P Saraswat, Principal, GCW College presided over.

Member Parliament Jugal Kishor Sharma while presenting his address appraised about the teachings and preaching of Saint Swami Vivekananda ji on his birth anniversary and also narrated the importance of National Youth Day. He said that Swami Vivekananda Ji appealed the youth of nation to develop our Country and same as on the pattern our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji is working to make Viksit Bharat@2047. He also flagged off the Road Safety Week Campaign led by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan on the same occasion.

The live screening of Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to the nation during the National Youth Festival at Nashik Maharashtra today on 12th January at 12.15 PM has been viewed by all the participants and MP.

Various Insightful Sessions including Expert Resource Sessions and Cultural Programs were held as part of this pro-

Hundreds of youth participants were enthralled by the cultural presentations during the event.

Certificate of appreciation and participation distributed to the winners and participated students.

Nisar Ahmed Butt

State Director while presenting his remarks thanked the MP for gracing the event as Chief Guest. He also thanked Principal GCW Parade Dr S P Saraswat and the staff and Volunteers of NSS for their support in making

the event successful.

Others present during

the event were Gurpreet Kour Program Officer NSS GCW Parade, Bimlesh Kaur, APA, NYKS, staff and faculty members of the college. Additional Activities in Anganwadi centres are also organised by Shaveeta Sharma and Mamta Khajuria NYV of Block Nagrota and Bishnah.

Simultaneously another programme pertaining to National youth Day and Declamation

Safety Programme was organised in GDC Vijaypur in Samba District in which more than 75 participants took part.

Prof Anita Jamwal, Incharge Principal was the Chief Guest whereas Inspector Rattan Singh, Traffic Police Department presided over .During the programme Inspector Rattan Singh also trained the participants about Road Safety Norms.

Arshdeep Kour, Richa and Gazal Preet kour adjudged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd winner in Declamation Contest in Jammu district whereas Vikas, Geetika, Shavi Verma adjudged as 1st , 2nd and 3rd winner in **Declamation Contest in** Samba district.

SEC notifies revision schedule for updation of Panchavat Electoral Roll-2024 attained age of 18 and

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: State Election Commission (SEC) has notified the dates for updation of Panchayat Electoral Roll-2024 in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the revision schedule issued on Friday by the Commission, the publication of draft Panchayat Electoral Roll will start from 15th January 2024. Besides, 1st January 2024 has been kept as qualifying date for all those who have

have become eligible for registering their name in the Panchayat Electoral Roll-2024. Similarly, the period for filing of claims, objections for additions, deletions, corrections and transposition will be from 15th January to 5th February 2024. The date for disposal of claims and objection by **Electoral Registration** Officer (ERO) would be 16th February 2024 while the final publication of the Electoral Roll 2024 would be done on 26th February 2024.

It has also been informed in the schedule that special camps would be held at polling booth locations. The Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) comprising Village Level Workers (VLWs), Multi Purpose Workers (MPWs) and Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) along with Assembly Booth Level Officers shall remain available with requisite forms and Panchayat Roll for guidance of electors on 27-28th January and 3rd -4th February 2024

Secry RDD discusses roadmap for inclusive development and citizen empowerment

Reviews schemes implemented by RDD & PR Deptt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Dr Shahid Igbal Choudhary on Friday conducted a detailed interaction with the heads of department to discuss action plan for rural development and citizen empowerment through various initiatives and schemes in the Union Territory. Detailed presentations were made by the HoDs about performance under various schemes, issues therein and interventions required.

Dr Shahid underscored the need for strengthening the institution District **Development Councils** and Local Self Government, innovation in rural development, convergence with other departments for maximisation of outcome based development in villages, fast track disposal of service related matters, conduct of DPCs, public grievance redressal and outreach, and effective inter-sectoral coordination. He laid out the vision of Lt Governor Sh Manoj Sinha for measures to effectively ensure citizen engagement, tangible infrastructure development,

alised sections. Secretary in RDD, Tariq Zargar made a

youth empowerment,

public outreach and

inclusion of margin-

about the status of MGNREGA implemen-

tation, administrative and financial status of schemes, challenges related to staffing and other issues. He informed that against the total outlay of Rs 1250 Cr during the FY 2023-24 funds to the tune of Rs 697 Cr were made available to the department out of which 97% expenditure has been registered. District wise performance corresponding to key indicators of the CSS were also discussed. It was informed that 2371 panchayats out of 4291 have been covered under Amrit Sarovar and efforts are being made

for saturation. Director General, Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra made a presentation about the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission- Grameen in the UT, including flagship initiatives and interventions. It was informed that under the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWM) 5979 villages have been covered while under the Greywater Management (GWM) 3009 villages have been

Kashmir Rural Development Department is also endeavouring for Republic Tableau on the Swachhata mission.

Mission Director, Rural Livelihood Mission Indu Kanwal Chib made a presentation informing that the program is being implemented in 285 blocks across 20 districts, under which rural households have been mobilised into 87,563 SHGs, 6046 Vos and 538 Cluster Level Federations. Rs 422.39 Cr capitalization has been provided to the community-based organisation. She elaborated on the plan to expand the SHGs footprints into service sector

and commodity trade. CEO IWMP Bharat Bhushan, made a presentation about implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Directors Rural Development Jammu Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, Director Kashmir Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Director Panchayati Raj Sham Lal Sharma, made presentation about the sectoral initiatives, progress under CSS and UT CapEx.

Awareness camp on Nasha Mukt Bharat, BBBP held at Muttal

Top News Report

Hon'ble Member Par-

liament Lok Sabha

UDHAMPUR, Jan 12: The Department of Social Welfare Udhampur orchestrated an impactful sensitization program on "Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan," BBBP and other women-centric initiatives here on Friday at Panchayat Muttal. Held under the adept guidance of District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta, the program primarily focused on combating drug abuse among the youth.

Account Assistant Sonali Devi and Finan-

cial Literacy Specialist (DHEW) Mission Shakti played a pivotal role in raising awareness about the deleterious impact of drugs.

They emphasized positive actions among the youth and championed the slogan "SAY NO TO DRUGS" under the "NASHA MUKT BHARAT" campaign. Sonali Devi also elucidated on BBBP and various women-centric schemes operating in District Udhampur, encouraging community

participation. The program witnessed the active par-

ticipation of PRI members, AWWs, senior citizens, and other local residents, totaling 40 participants. During the event, DHEW and OSC staff passionately urged parents to empower girls through education,

emphasizing the pivotal

role education plays in

societal well-being. As a tangible commitment to community wellbeing, the Department concluded the program by providing baby kits to newborns and medical kits to senior citizens, reinforcing their dedication to the holistic health

DC Kathua finalises arrangements for smooth conduct of JKSSB exam

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 12: In view of the upcoming JKSSB OMR-based written examination for the post of Accounts Assistant scheduled on January 28, Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas chaired a crucial meeting in the DC Office complex on Friday, bringing together all stakeholders to finalize arrangements.

During the meeting, the DC extensively discussed the comprehensive arrangements required to ensure the seamless execution of the JKSSB's Accounts

Assistant examination. It was given out in the meeting that as many as twenty-five (25) examination centers are being established in the district, accommodating sand aspirants.

The meeting meticulously discussed and finalised arrangements pertaining to essential aspects such as drinking water facilities, power supply, seating arrangements, security

protocols, and videography procedures.

of the community.

Deputy Commissioner Minhas emphasized the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, urging them to work collaboratively to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the examination across all centers. He also briefed officers about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the efficient execution of the JKSSB examination throughout

DC Kathua reviews Republic Day arrangements

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 12: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas presided over a crucial meeting of officers of different departments here on Friday to strategise and coordinate arrangements for the District level Republic Day 2024 celebration function.

The focal point of the celebration will be the Kathua Sports Stadium, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag, followed by a parade comprising 46 contingents from J&K Police, PTS, Home Guards, NCC cadets, and students from both government and private educational institutions. The festivities will commence with a melodious Shehnai Vadan by the Information department in the wee hours of the day.

Comprehensive discussions were held on the key aspects, including drinking water provisions, power supply, sanitation, barricading, security measures, traffic regulation, seating arrangements, firetenders, medical teams, and the illumination of government buildings

and important landmarks.

Emphasizing the importance of meticulous planning, the **Deputy Commissioner** urged departmental heads to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place well ahead of time, fostering a seamless and enthusiastic atmosphere for the National event.

He directed officers to enhance coordination efforts, underscoring the need for collective action to ensure the grand success of the celebration.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner called upon district and sectoral officers to oversee the arrangements for flag unfurl ceremonies in all government offices across the district.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including DC State Taxes Ranjit Singh, ADC Kathua Ranjeet Singh, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, XEN Jal Shakti, XEN PDD, and other senior officers from Civil Administration and Police, reflecting a collaborative and integrated approach to organizing this significant event.

FROM PAGE 1

central university, a distinction that even **Terrorism taking its last** breath in J&K, investing in ut means investing in **India's Unity: LG Sinha**

Sinha said since the abrogation of Article 370, which provided special status to J&K, several big changes have taken place there and tourist arrivals have risen significantly, including from overseas with coincided with India's presidency of G20, during which several meetings were held across the country, including in the Union Territory.

"Only J&K can become a hub of medical tourism for Gulf countries. In a very short time of 3 to 4 years, we have improved rail, road and air connectivity.

Development works worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore are underway for highways and tunnels. In 2020, 32 flights were operating in the region, which has now increased to 126," he further said.

All needs of industries are being made available and with PM Modi's desire and contribution, J&K is moving ahead on the path of industrialisation, the Lieutenant Governor stated.

"There was a report a few days back that J&K has left behind Switzerland to emerge as the most searched global (tourist) destination. It is indicative of the fact that tourists' interest in J&K has increased as has investors' confidence regarding investment opportunities," he said.

Sinha said Srinagar and Jammu have witnessed significant urban transformation. Jammu has become the only city in the country to house all premier educational institutes, including IIT, IIM, AIIMS and

Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai or Kolkata do not have. Economic stability, skilled labour, easy availability of raw materials, host of incentives, enabling and safe business environment, infrastructure and transparency are the factors that should attract investment in the UT, he said.

the district.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, he claimed the J&K administration was providing the maximum number of incentives in the country for investors, and power was also cheaper there.

He said the event in Gujarat will help realise Rs 2.500-3.000 crore investment for Jammu and Kashmir.

Another mobile phone recovered from prisoner's possession in Central Jail

January 9 itself, three mobile phones were recovered from the jail premises and on January 11, a mobile phone was recovered from a prisoner inside the jail.

Omar condemns shooting of TV show inside J&K assembly complex

former state on June 20, 2018. The assembly was kept under suspended animation till December 19, 2018 before imposing Governor's as the former state

had plunged into a political crisis. There have been no assembly elections in J-K which was bifurcated into two Union

territories - J-K and Ladakh - on August 5. 2019. The Centre also annulled Article 370 of the Constitution which accorded a special status to the erstwhile state. Ladakh is a Union Territory without assembly.

Every train passenger gets 55% concession: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Vaishnaw maintained a similar stand in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on various occasions when questioned by many fellow parliamentarians.

On Thursday, when media persons raised it during a press briefing in Ahmedabad, Vaishnaw said, "If a train ticket to a destination costs Rs 100, Railway is charging only Rs 45. It is giving Rs 55 concession.' Earlier, responding to an RTI application filed by Madhya Pradesh-based Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the Indian Railways said that it earned about Rs 2,242 crore from approximately 15 crore senior citizens in the financial year 2022-23.

Anantnag Police arrest three with contraband substances

was constituted to search the house, as per the statement.

"During the search, about 9.27 kg of charas powder and 867 bottles of illicit alcohol were seized on the spot. All three accused persons were arrested. Further investigation in the instant case continues,' the statement added.

The police have, according to the statement, requested that people come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in the vicinity.

Police committed to ending narco-terror in Kashmir: IGP. V K Birdi

PIT-NDPS Act and NDPS Act," Birdi told reporters in Baramulla during a visit to a drug de-addiction centre.

He lauded Baramulla police's action against drug peddlers.

"A lot has been done but we need to do a lot more and (do it) strictly so that the drug menace is uprooted from society," the IGP

Kashmir said. Before legal intervention, Birdi said, there is a need for societal intervention.

"I also appeal to the people to bring it to our notice if anyone is indulging in such activities. We need the cooperation of society to uproot this menace," he said.

COVID-19 Sub-Variant JN.1: Number of cases cross 1,000 mark

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

Western Disturbance likely to affect J&K. **Bring light snowfall**

than 6 degrees Celsius above the normal for this time of the year.

The Valley continued to experience subzero night temperatures with the mercury settling below the normal for this time of the year.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night – a notch up from the previous night.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees and the ski resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 3.2 degrees Cel-

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

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, while it was minus 4.4 degrees Celsius in Kupwara. Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period during which a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent rain deficit was recorded for December. There was no precipitation in the first week of January.

There has been no snowfall in most plains of Kashmir while the upper reaches have received lesser-than-usual amounts of snow. '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).

Sensex, Nifty surge to lifetime highs; powered by rally in IT stocks

30-share BSE Sensex jumps 999.78 points to reach a new record of 72,720.96 during the fag-end trade

MUMBAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged to their fresh all-time highs on Friday, driven by a sharp rally in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 999.78 points to reach a new record of 72,720.96 during the fag-end trade.

The Nifty climbed 281.05 points to reach its fresh record peak of 21,928.25.

Among the Sensex firms, Infosys jumped nearly 8 per cent after the company's December quarter earnings came in line with market expectations.

Tata Consultancy Services climbed nearly 4 per cent after the largest software exporter reported an 8.2 per cent growth in net income for the December quarter at Rs 11,735 crore, driven by a massive growth in the home market that offset to a large extent the impact of a 3 per cent degrowth in the US



market.

The other prominent gainers were Tech Mahindra, Wipro, HCL Technologies and State Bank of India.

Power Grid, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

The BSE Information Technology index jumped 4.99 per cent, the most among the sectoral indices. Teck also gained over 4 per cent.

"With inline results from Infosys and betterthan-expected results from TCS, IT stocks will see some action today. Even though there is no positive message from the management commentary, the market is likely to respond positively to the absence of any bad news," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said earlier in the

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 865 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 63.47 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 71,721.18 on Thursday. The Nifty gained 28.50 points or 0.13 per cent to 21,647.20.

Tata Motors commences production at Sanand plant it acquired from Ford

The plant, which would be the company's second in Gujarat, would roll out both Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and electric models.

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Tata Motors on Friday said it has commenced production at its new production facility at Sanand in Gujarat.

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, a unit of Tata Motors, had acquired the facility from Ford India for Rs 725.7 crore in January last year.

"We have successfully retooled the factory in the shortest span of 12 months, taking it to a new level to accommodate a wide range of existing products and future new models to come," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) MD



Shailesh Chandra said in a statement.

The facility will play a pivotal role in steering Tata Motors,

especially TPEM, towards achieving newer feats, he added.

"With existing capacities near

saturation, this new facility will unlock an additional manufacturing capacity of 3 lakh units per annum which is scalable to 4.2 lakh units per annum," Chandra said.

The plant, which would be the company's second in Gujarat, would roll out both Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and electric models.

The plant currently has more than 1,000 employees.

Tata Motors said it will create 1,000 additional jobs in the next 3-4 months in the region, in line with the production ramp-up

BlackRock reduces Byju's valuation to mere USD 1 billion



LONDON, Jan 12 (Agencies): US-based investment firm Black-Rock has once again cut the value of its holding in Byju's, reducing the

edtech major's valuation to a mere USD 1 billion from USD 22 billion in early 2022.

BlackRock, which owns less than 1 per

cent of Byju's, has valued its shares at about USD 209.6 apiece, down from the peak of USD 4,660 in 2022, reports Tech-Crunch.

Byju's did not immediately comment on the latest valuation cut. This isn't the first time Black-Rock has cut the worth of its holding in Byju's. Investment firm Prosus, which owns nearly 9 per cent in Byju's, has also marked down the value

of its stake in Byju's to less than \$3 billion, representing a decline of more than 86 per cent from the previous funding round valuation of \$22 billion.

In November last year, Prosus first slashed the fair value of Byju's to \$5.97 billion.

"Byju's is facing multiple headwinds. We and other shareholders are working every day to improve the situation. We are in close

discussions with the company every day," a senior Prosus executive was quoted as saying in reports late last year. Byju's was preparing to go public in early 2022 through a SPAC deal that would have valued the company at up to USD 40 billion.

According to reports, Byju's needs at least Rs 500-Rs 600 crore to pay off dues of employees and vendors.

Former CBIC head calls for more clarity on GST on online gaming

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): In a recent interaction, John Joseph, former chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and currently Strategic Adviser with DeepStrat, shared critical insights regarding the evolving landscape of GST regulations within the online gaming industry. Amidst the ongoing discussions and debates surrounding the retrospective and prospective implementation of the new amendments, Mr. Joseph emphasized the crucial need for legal certainty and clarity from the government and the GST Council. Shedding light on the impact of these amendments, he highlighted the industry's prior taxation practices and addressed the substantial changes brought forth by the recent amendments, offering a comprehensive analysis of their implications.

It is important for the government and the GST Council to provide legal certainty on the matter, especially for the industry, investors, and its many employees. The minutes of meetings of the GST Council and the notifications which brought about the recent amendments to the GST Acts do not talk of any retrospective application. It is for the Council to use the guidance/clarificatory statements as an effective tool to communicate its intention to the field officers and restore legal certainty in the interests of the economy and meet revenue objectives which served as the bedrock for the decision taken by the GST Council.

The intent of the GST Council, which has been discussing the valuation of online gaming since 2019 was to increase the effective rate of taxation on this new age industry. The industry wide practice adopted was to pay GST on their platform fee/commission. There are numerous instances of such clarifications earlier when trade practice adopted was different due to lack of clarity in the GST laws.

On the recommendation of the GST Council, the government has amended the GST Acts with effect from 1st October 2023. These amendments essentially have done four things – (1) introduced specific definition of "online money gaming", (2) fixed rate of tax at 28% and (3) the taxable value i.e., the value on which 28% tax rate will be imposed is deemed to be the full value of deposit made into the wallet (4) included online gaming in 'specified actionable claims', which are taxable. It is also important to note that prior to the amendments actionable claims for games not in the nature of gambling, betting were not taxable.

These amendments are applicable prospectively from 01.10.2023. The minutes of the meetings and the Press Releases of the GST Council also suggest that the recommendation of the Council was to enforce the new tax regime of 28% pro-

spectively. However, it appears that Central authorities have issued notices demanding GST at 28% on the prize pool from 01.07.2017 – thereby interpreting that the said amendments on taxing actionable claims in online gaming retrospectively.

If we were to say that the amendments were applicable retrospectively then it would give rise to tax demands running into lakhs of crores of rupees and defeat the intent of the GST Council as the platforms lack the ability to pay & legal certainty that the government had brought in for the smooth functioning of the industry and the economywill be redundant.

Earlier, three important things were different. One "online money gaming" was not explicitly defined in the GST Act. Two, actionable claims not in the nature of gambling, betting were exempt from GST. Three, online gaming was covered as services under OIDAR category. Therefore online gaming companies which were not in nature of gambling, betting, were paying 18% GST on the platform fee alone. So let us say a customer deposits INR 500 on a platform & joined a game of INR 100 where INR10 was the platform service. Then the company would pay GST at 18% on such INR 10 i.e., INR 1.8. Due to multiple redeployments the tax collected was in the range of 6-8% of the deposit i.e Rs 30-48. The GST was payable every time the customer joined a new game. But after the amendment, the entire deposit of INR 500 will be subject to tax at 28% i.e., GST would be 140 Rs in this case.

The online gaming industry has emerged as an exciting new business globally and Indian policy makers are aptly and swiftly responding to the challenges of administering this emerging beast. The GST Council deliberated the taxing models and amended the GST Act and introduced specific definition of "online money gaming" and laid out that they will be taxed at 28% on the full value of deposit with effect from 1st October 2023. So, in my assessment, there has been legal certainty after the amendment. If the government and GST Council can issue a clarification on the prospective applicability of the amendment, the legal certainty will be upheld. I think that is very important for the industry and the revenue department for it to be able to meet its goals from

this change in the GST regime. The amendment has definitely increased the tax burden on the online gaming companies. If we were to compare with the international practice, then taxing the full deposit is not in line with what most countries practice. But that is a policy call and it would be prudent for the Council to also review the impact of such measures on the economic health of the industry in due course and consider revisiting the decision.

US Development Finance Corporation mulls strategic funding of green energy projects with NIIF

US DFC effectively seeks to build alternative supply chains for critical industries that are over-reliant on China like electric vehicles and renewable power.



CHENNAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is exploring options with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), an investment platform backed by the government of India, to support investment in renewable energy projects all over the country, according to its Chief Executive Officer Scott Nathan.

The fund has invested around Rs 4 billion in India in the 2023 financial year (Oct- Sept.), accounting for 10% of its global portfolio and sees India as an important market in terms of growth prospects and strategic importance.

US DFC focuses on US foreign policy objectives which include, secure and transparent supply chain, in critical industries," he said. It effectively seeks to build alternative supply chains for critical industries that are over-reliant on China like electric vehicles and renewable power. He was speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of US-based First Solar's plant in Chennai.

"For the development of the industries of the future, (like) green and reliable energy. It's critical that we don't end up in a position of dependence. Oil has created dependencies based on where oil is. Let's not replace that dependence on one country for critical materials and the critical equipment necessary for that."

The agency has invested 500 million USD for First Solar's manufacturing facility and lent 425 million USD for the upcoming Tata's TP Solar Limited solar module manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu. Its financing in India includes a 35 million USD equity investment in SAEL Industries for solar and waste-to-energy power generation, a 10 million USD loan to Upgrid Electrilease, a battery swapping network for two-wheelers and three-wheelers.

It also made a 30 million USD loan for waste recycling and 15 million equity funding in a venture capital firm to take a slice in Indian tech startups. Its projects range from healthcare, agribusiness, infrastructure and financial sectors, apart from climaterelated deals which represent 3.5 billion USD. Nathan didn't comment on the outlook for investments in FY 2024.

Ban on point-of-sale tobacco advertising, smoking zones: Heath experts

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): On the eve of National Youth Day, health experts and youth icons converged to stress the critical need for safeguarding India's youth from the clutches of tobacco addiction.

They underscored the importance of implementing tobacco warning rules on over-the-top (OTT) platforms, akin to the regulations previously enforced for film and television.

Additionally, there were calls for the prohibition of surrogate advertisements, point-of-sale tobacco

ads, and smoking zones.

Experts emphasised the critical importance of shielding the young population from the allure of tobacco during the webinar titled 'Viksit Bharat- Tambaku-mukt Bharat,' organised by 'Tobacco Free India,' a citizens' initiative, on Thursday.

International wrestler Sangram Singh, brand ambassador for the Government of India's "Fit India" programme, said more than 50 per cent of the country's population is aged under 25, while over 65 per cent are below 35 years.

"This young population is particularly vulnerable to the hazards of tobacco, making the implementation of tobacco warnings crucial," said Singh, who plans to return to professional wrestling from next

Epidemiologist and public health expert Dr Chandrakant Lahariya referred to findings from the GYTS-India Survey conducted by the Union Health Ministry and said, "Approximately one-fifth of individuals aged 13-15 had used some form of tobacco product, and this proportion was even higher among older age groups."

Dr Lahariya emphasised that on-screen tobacco warnings not only have a direct impact on the youth but also result in a reduction of tobacco-related scenes in the media. He also cited the Health Ministry's report on India's tobacco-free film and television policy, illustrating the positive outcomes of implementing such warnings.

He stated, "Following the implementation of these warning rules in films, the prevalence of smoking scenes in Indian cinema decreased from 89 per cent in 2005 to 48 per cent in 2015, underscoring the effectiveness of regulatory mea-

Dr Lahariya also stressed that even a 10 per cent reduction in tobacco use among these individuals through warning rules could potentially save up to 20 million lives in the long run.

Dr Alok Thakar, Head of the National Cancer Institute, Government of India, and Professor at AIIMS, Delhi, brought attention to "the alarming surge in cancer cases associated with tobacco consumption".

He noted that "in the past year, there has been a proliferation of surrogate advertisements, particularly for smokeless tobacco products".

Dr Thakar expressed his appreciation for "the government's proactive measures aimed at controlling media exposure, as they glamorise tobacco and entice young people to engage in its use."

Urvashi Prasad, Director of NITI Aayog, emphasized the profound damage tobacco inflicts on wellbeing, with a definite link to diseases like cancer. She urged adopting a healthier lifestyle and commended the government's initiatives.
Dr Uma Kumar, Head of department of Rheumatology at AIIMS, Delhi, noted that the median age for initiating tobacco product use is between 10 to 11.5 years, putting young individuals at risk of lifethreatening diseases like cancer.

She called upon public figures to responsibly wield their influence and cited the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, revealing that 52 per cent of school-going children aged 13-15 had observed anti-tobacco messages in films and TV.

Dr Dodul Mondal, Director of Radiation Oncology at Max Super Specialty Hospital, said, "I appreciate the proactive stance of the Government of India in addressing the pressing issue of tobacco consumption. The proposed amendments to the tobacco control Act 'Cigarettes and Other Tobacco

Products Act (COTPA)' reflect the government's unwavering commitment to fortify tobacco control measures."

It bears recall that the Government of India extended COTPA rules to OTT platforms, effective from September 1, 2023. These rules mandate all OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco health spots, prominent static messages, and audio-visual disclaimers regarding the ill-effects of tobacco. This move received commendation from various public health organizations and experts, including WHO, positioning India as a global leader in tobacco control measures.

The webinar was moderated by senior health communicator Mukesh Kejriwal, who emphasized the importance of stringent media rules, including tobacco warnings.

Chennai Quick Guns to take on Gujarat Giants in Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 final

CHENNAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Chennai Quick Guns reached the final of Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 with a 31-29 victory over Telugu Yoddhas in the second semifinal at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Cuttack on Thursday. They will take on Gujarat Giants, who beat defending champions Odisha Juggernauts in the first semifinal.

Despite Telugu Yoddhas seizing an early advantage, Chennai Quick Guns clawed their way back into the match with an impressive attacking performance in the final turn.

Ultimate Kho Kho, promoted by Amit Burman in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India, became the first Indian sports league to secure Series A funding, courtesy the UK-based BNP Group. The semifinals featured a number of guests, including Shri VK Pandian, chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha, Shri Vineel Krishna, Sports Secretary, Odisha and Nasreen, the Arjuna Award-winning Indian Kho Kho team captain.

"Odisha is at the forefront of promotion and development of sports including indigenous sports like Kho Kho. Apart from having a franchise in Ultimate Kho Kho, it is also setting up a high performance centre for Kho Kho with AM/NS India," said Shri VK Pandian on the occasion.

All eyes were on the in-form Ramji Kashyap going into Turn 1, but it was another big name player who grabbed all the attention. Telugu Yoddhas skipper Pratik Waikar was in regal form, scoring a whopping ten points for his team in turn. Chennai Quick Guns' first batch — Ramji, Vijay Shinde and Madan — earned the customary couple



of dream run points. But that was all that the Telugu Yoddhas attackers led by Waikar allowed their opponents. At the end of the turn, Telugu Yoddhas had a 14-2 advantage.

Telugu Yoddhas consolidated the advantage in Turn 2 with their first batch of Waikar, Aditya Ganpule and Avdhut Patil staying on the mat for four minutes and seven seconds, and getting three dream run points. The first innings ended with the score at 17-14 in favour of Telugu Yoddhas.

Waikar continued his superb show in Turn 3, taking just four seconds to send back his first victim. The first Chennai Quick Guns batch lasted just two minutes and 11 seconds. That allowed Chennai Quick Guns' prime batch of Ramji, Shinde and Madan to come on the mat. They did their job, spending four minutes and 18 seconds on the mat and earning three dream run points. Telugu Yoddhas held a 29-17 lead going into the final turn.

The Chennai Quick Guns attackers however came to the party in Turn 4, sending back the first two Telugu Yoddhas batches in quick time and levelling the scores. And with Laxman Gawas sending back Avdhut Patil, the Chennai Quick Guns had the points they needed.

Earlier, Gujarat Giants marched into the final, overcoming defending champions Odisha Juggernauts 29-27 in the

first semifinal.

Gujarat Giants dominated the first innings as their opponents seemingly switched off. Odisha Juggernauts put in an improved show in the second half, but the nine-point advantage they conceded in the first proved too much to overcome. Suyash Gargate and Sanket Kadam were the pick of the attackers for Gujarat Giants with six points each

Odisha Juggernauts made a nightmare start to the match. They not only lost their review for the first innings within a matter of minutes but conceded five dream run points to the first Gujarat Giants batch of Suyash Gargate, Deepak Madhav and Shubham Thorat. With one member of the next batch staying unconquered, Odisha Juggernauts led 10-5 after the first turn.

Things went from bad to worse for them in Turn 2. The Gujarat Giants attackers were rampant, not letting their opponents have a single dream run point. At the end of the first innings, their team had a ninepoint advantage with the scores standing at 19-10 in their force.

in their favour. Odisha Juggernauts, though, came back strongly in Turn 3.

They sent back the first two Gujarat Giants batches in just over four minutes. The likes of Dipesh More and Avinash Desai suddenly seemed infused with energy.

Asian Olympic Qualifiers: Sheoran clinches gold in men's 50m rifle 3 positions. Aishwary Pratap claims silver

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian shooters Akhil Sheoran and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar claimed gold and silver respectively in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event of the Asian Olympic Qualifiers, on Friday, continuing the country's dominant show in

of the individual competition comfortably with Aishwary taking second, Sheoran third and Swapnil (584) the fourth qualifying spots, as China's Yu Hao topped the 44-strong field with a 589.

Sheoran reaped the rewards for consistent



the continental event. Sheoran shot 460.2 to emerge victorious in the eight-men final, while Tokyo Olympian Tomar finished second on the podium with a score of 459.0.

Thailand's Thongphaphum Vongsukdee settled for the bronze medal after managing 448.8. The duo of Sheoran and Tomar combined with Swapnil Kusale to also win the team gold medal in the same event ahead of Chinese and South Korean teams. The Indians aggregated 1758 points, a huge 14 points more than the secondplaced team

In the individual qualification, Tomar was placed third with a total score of 588, while Sheoran finished sixth with 586.

India's Niraj Kumar Chain Singh also participated in the qualification but for gaining ranking points only and was not eligible for entry into the final. The medals won Friday took India's tally to 10 gold, eight silver and six bronze in the evn. In the 50m rifle 3 positions, all three Indian men made the finals

final and was in the reckoning after every position. He went from strength to strength, breaching 153 in the first kneeling position, 154 in prone and then shot 100.9 over the first 10 standing shots to zoom to second place. Besides Tomar, Thailand's Vongsukdee was engaged in an intense competition as the final five single shots in the standing position ensued, and Sheoran produced three big scores to wrest the gold ahead of his challeng-

At least a couple of Indian men have also put themselves in serious contention for the one Paris Olympics quota place that they can win between themselves in the 25m rapid-fire pistol event.

After the first day of qualification, Adarsh Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu were in the sixth and seventh spots respectively with identical scores of 288. Gurpreet Singh was further down with 281.

The top six qualify and at least three shooters above them from Korea and Japan are ineligible for quotas at this stage.

Ranji Trophy: Former Amazon executive Koushik Vasuki making up for lost time with K'taka

KARNATAKA, Jan 12 (Agencies): Koushik Vasuki remembers the time — nearly a decade ago - when he took up late night shifts at Amazon just so he could play cricket in the morning. In his early 20s and vet to graduate to zonal cricket, he didn't have much choice. Cricket his boyhood love since the time he played with a plastic bat and ball with his father in the Yelahanka railway quarters — was still plan A. But that in itself wasn't enough.

"Coming from a middle class family, you need to have a backup," he tells The Indian Express as his prime reason behind taking a longer route to make a profession out of his passion. Hence, the mechanical engineering course from Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering in Bengaluru, a year working in the corporate world, and eight years and counting as an employee at Central Tax and Customs. "It was never one thing at a time. During engineering, I did not play a lot of club matches because it was clashing with my exams, which is why they never picked me for zonals. When I had Karnataka Premier League games, I used to take up night shifts. Corporate jobs don't give you additional leaves for playing. It took a toll on my body,"

he says.
Reminiscing on the days of hard grind in early 2024, the 31-year-old sits as one of the standout performers at the start of the Ranji season after an impressive outing in the Duleep



Trophy final. It was Koushik's seven wicket burst on day one of the Ranji Trophy season which put Karnataka in position to snatch a win against Punjab. With just 10 first-class games under his belt, the late bloomer has come good with 49 wickets.

"I believe few things are destined to happen," Koushik says. "If given a chance, I'd be thinking three to four times before redoing this. If you ask me, my prime was between 2014-2020, when I was 22-28. I lost a good three-four vears. But the competition was very high until 2018-19. You had three of the greatest fast bowlers who have played for the Karnataka side - the batch of R Vinay Kumar, Abhimanyu Mithun and Sreenath Aravind. It was only after they retired or went away from the game that we got a chance."

There's another reason, Koushik believes, that might have delayed his arrival on the domestic scene. A lower back issue that he suffered when he was 17 meant he had to cut down on pace when he played in the KPL. Mostly operating below 130kmph, he was deemed a bit slow.

To make up for the lack of pace, he would focus on accuracy, taking a cue out of his idol Glenn McGrath. "I started developing other skills... being accurate, trying to swing the ball instead of going for pace. It was about discovering what works for me and I was getting wickets. Last two years, I've been the highest wicket-taker for Karnataka in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. In the last Ranji season, I played five matches and picked up 24 wickets. At the end of the day, that is what matters. Having missed out on

the zonal and junior age group state cricket, Koushik credits the state's T20 league as his big launchpad into the senior team. "Guys like KC Cariappa, who was picked by Kolkata Knight Riders for a huge amount. He was a revelation at the time. In 2018, when I was picked for the state team, it was based on my performance in the KPL, where I was the most economical seamer. Our team also made it to the finals," says Koushik, who first featured in the KPL during the 2010 season for Shamanur Davangere Diamonds

'Who's Virat Kohli? A player?': Ronaldo reacts after being asked about India cricketer

AHMEDABAD, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian cricket talisman Virat Kohli may have an army of followers on social media but there are still some corners of the world that he is not easily recognisable. According to Statista, Kohli is the 13th most followed celebrity on Instagram with a follower count of 265 million. Footballers like Cristiano Ronaldo (with 616 million followers) and Lionel Messi (496 million followers) are easily on the top of the



list, Kohli is the most followed Indian on the social media platform. However, there are still some who don't know who he is. Recently, in a conversation with a YouTuber, Darren Jason Watkins Jr who runs the handle Show-Speed and is known as Speed, Brazil football legend Ronaldo was asked what he thought about Kohli.

Former England star 'terrified' of what awaits Stokes and Co. in India without warm-up games: 'That's inexcusable'

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): England will be touring India for the first time since they radically changed their approach to Test cricket under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum.

India host England in a five-match Test series starting on January 25. It will be England's first Test tour of India since their radical change in approach to the format under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum. While England took the world by storm in the initial series in which they showcased what has since come to be called 'Bazball', they failed to take the Ashes for the first time since 2015, being held to a 2-2 draw at home by Australia. England have been pre-

paring for the series with an 11-day training camp in Abu Dhabi and will not play any warm-up matches in India before the first Test. (Reuters) It meant that they ended 2023 with just one Test series win, which came in a one-off Test against Ireland. England now tour India for their first Test series in 2024 but former batter Mark Butcher has brought their preparation. England have been preparing for the series with an 11-day training camp in Abu Dhabi and will not play any warm-up matches in India before the first Test. They will arrive in Hyderabad three days before the start of the first match. "Frankly I'd be a little

bit terrified if I was playing. Most of the guys haven't played any long form cricket since July. Very few of the squad were involved a great deal in the rundown of the County Championship which finished at the back end of September. We're now three months down the road with nobody having had any sort of middle practice at all," said Butcher on the Wisden Cricket Weekly podcast. "I would be a little bit concerned about not having felt that competition, being out in the middle and taking guard on something where the runs you make and your wicket are important,"

he said.
Butcher pointed out that England suffered for the lack of match practice against Australia. They will now be facing India in a Test series, widely regarded as one of the most difficult challenges in the sport. England have beaten India in India just once in this century, having stunned them in the 2012/13 series. They lost the last



two series 4-0 and 3-1. "They did a similar thing leading into the Ashes series at home during the course of this summer and were 2-0 down before they got going. You certainly couldn't say for sure that this England side with a lack of experience, or a lack of hot shot spin bowling options in particular, would be in a position to do anything like they did against Australia, coming

back from 2-0 down, against this India team who simply do not lose

series at home.
"The only thing with it is, it puts you under an enormous amount of pressure should it go badly. People have been delighted with Bazball, unbelievably happy with the way England have played under Ben Stokes and it's been nothing but good vibes and good stories really, barring the odd

Comeback man Sumit Nagal completes sensational return to Australian Open

New Delhi, Jan 12 (Agencies): Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal continued his sensational return to the sport on Friday as he qualified for the 2024 Australian Open main draw after a gritty 6-4, 6-4 win against Alex Molcan of Slovakia at the Melbourne Park. This will be Nagal's second main draw appearance at the Australian Open, first in three years, and fourth overall at a Grand Slam tournament. Nagal, ranked 139th in the world, made the statement clear early on as he broke Molcan in his opening service game to race away to a 3-0 lead in the first set before his 26-year-old opponent broke back to level the score at 3-3 as the Indian lost his rhythm, registering 17 unforced errors in the first six games.

India vs Afg T20I series: Dube excels with bat and ball, T20 regulars play their roles as hosts record facile win

MOHALI, Jan 12 (Agencies): On Wednesday evening, Shivam Dube didn't even pad up at the nets. He spent his two hours bowling in small spells to different batsmen, before taking a few throwdowns from Raghu. It was a clear sign that the Mumbai man was not in contention to play in the first of

Jitesh Sharma, saw Rinku Singh do his thing from the other end, and reached his second T20I fifty in 38 balls as India coasted to the target of 159 with two and a half overs to spare for a six-wicket win.

Dube's fortunes

Dube's fortunes changed after he joined Chennai Super Kings, where MS Dhoni's



three T20 Internationals, but an injury to his Yashasvi Jaiswal gave him an opportunity, and the all-rounder grabbed it with both hands. With his military medium

pace, Dube kept the run flow in check and even got the wicket of Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran. He walked out to bat when India had lost both their openers, and the visitors were sensing a route back into the contest. Dube first steadied the ship with Tilak Varma who scored a sedate 26, played the perfect foil to

advice turned his career around. "Mahi Bhai once told me something and those are the most encouraging and motivating words for me. He said, 'You're good. Just be fearless,'" Dube had told CSK TV during the last IPL season.

It would be harsh to compare Dube with Hardik Pandya, because the 30-year-old is not a proper all-rounder. Dube is a batsman who can chip in with a few overs. Yes, he did return with a six-wicket haul against Bihar in the

Ranji Trophy recently, but Dube is not someone who can do what a fit Pandya can. Dube is undoubtedly not the most fluent batsman while fronting up to pacers and his struggles against shortpitched bowling are well documented. Yet, Chennai and Dhoni were able to maximise his potential as he was used to destroy spinners in the middle overs. On Thursday, the left-hander remained unbeaten on 60 off 40 balls and took his team home.

On a cold January evening, in front of a packed PCA Stadium in Mohali, Rohit Sharma's comeback to India's T20 team with the bat lasted two balls.

The India captain, who was playing his first game for the country in the format in 14 months since the Adelaide loss to England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal, was sold down the river by his opening partner Shubman Gill. It has been a tough couple of days for Rohit. who joined the Indian team late after his flight got delayed due to fog. Then he dropped Azmatullah Omarzai, whose 68-run stand with veteran Mohammad Nabi helped Afghanistan post

women folk in particular

and make best use of

their emotions for elec-

While referring to the height of hypocrisy in the

toral gains.

AAP Jammu starts Badlao Yatra from Kunjwani



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The AAP-Jammu started its second day Badlao Yatra from Kunjwani to Bhori, Jammu. On the way, the AAP volunteers interacted with all sections of society, including senior citizens, house wives, educated youths, shopkeepers, from Kunjwani Chowk to Bhori, Talab Tilloo, about the Delhi Model of governance which has become talk of the town across the country.

The Sr. AAP volunteers said that the AAP has taken its birth to the service of common man, the workers, laborers, farmers and exploited

class of the society. They congratulated Delhi and Punjab people for their wisdom & foresightedness who voted Kejriwal to serve the people, who has, because his visionary

pro- people politics & programs, revolutionized and galvanized the Delhi UT & given a new concept of governance in politics-i,e; "governance to serve & not to

They added that Delhi type of governance is a death blow to communalism and hate policy of certain political parties. They claimed that same facilities can be introduced in J&K too if voted to power.

The AAP volunteers

were raising slogans

against ruling dispensation for their utter failure on all fronts and asked Modi government to boldly place its 10 year's report card before the Nation instead of hiding itself behind the proposed inauguration of Holy "Ram Mander" at Ayudhya, without its completion as highlighted by Shanker Acharya

& many other PUJARI's

part of BJP in general & PM Modi in particular where, Modi in his open speech in Bhopal, M.P.

on 27 June, 2023, he thumped his own chest and gave a guarantee to the country that will soon take action against in social media. the corrupt persons but The AAP volunteers to the astonishment of also reminded that one and all, he inducted people were smartly 9 cabinet Ministers in befooled in 2014 Parlia-Maharashtra government by breaking NCP mentary election, promising Rs 15 lakh into including Ajit Pawar the accounts of each against whom ED and house hold, doubling CBI have registered the income of farmers cases in 70,000 crores by ending 2022, MSP to most infamous Irrigation the benefit of farmers, 2 scam, Chhagan Bhucrore jobs every year, jbal, Dhananjay Mudey, removing corruption, Hassan Mushrif etc decriminalization of poliagainst whom several tics, lowering prices of cases are underway but Diesel, Petrol, domestic the PM, Modi crossing gas, sand, Bajri, stones, all limits of shamelessmaking 100 smart cities, ness gives guarantee running of Bullet trains, of taking action, what a height of hypocrisy, they

> claimed. They added that BJP has now openly declared that all the corrupt should come to its fold & get cleaned off their sin in BJP's washing machine.

> The AAP volunteers said that on one hand BJP is arresting political opponents on fake cor

ruption charges while they themselves are on an MLA purchasing spree.

Hard-earned public money is being misused to quench BJP's thirst for power, the AAP volunteers alleged.

They further said that the BJP & Prime Minister Modi cannot talk about fighting corruption now; the tainted leaders under the scanner of ED and CBI for corruption have been put into "washing machine" and BJP's detergent washing powder cleans all spots in seconds.

Prominent among those who joined the Yatra include Meharaj Malik, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Nirmal Mahna, Amit Langer, Rajesh Pangotra, Dr. Rajinder Singh, Mehar Singh, Jayeesh Gupta, Dixit Gupta, Amrik Singh Sasan, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Adv. Sanjeev Sereen, Adv. Sandeep Sharma, Ashni Matoo, Suresh Bhagat, Shadi Lal, Karan Attri, Omparkash Sharma, Sameer Choudhary, N.P. Singh, Asif Gill, Amrik Singh, Sandeep Singh Parihar, Ranjodh Singh, R.K Lalotra, Bachan Lal, Jagdish Chander

NSS unit of GDC R S PURA celebrates National Youth Day



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 12: On the occasion of National Youth Day, NSS UNIT in collaboration with Eco (Yuva) Club) of Govt. Degree College, R.S Pura, celebrated National youth Day on Friday.

The programme started with a Live telecast of Honorable Prime minster, Narender Modi's speech where college Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat, NSS coordinators Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS Members Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Renu Sharma, Prof. Vishal Sharma and Prof. Shafali Abrol (Convener Eco- Yuva Club) were present along with the

NSS volunteers. The same was uploaded on my Bharart Portal. A guest lecture cum symposium was also organized on the topic

"Swami Vivekananda teaching on youth, leadership education, Character, building etc.

About, fifty students along with faculty members attended the programme and near about fifteen students participated in the symposium which was judged by Dr. Rajinder Sharma (HOD, Botany) and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra (HOD Music).

Vishakha Sharma of semester 3rd bagged 1st position whereas 2nd and 3rd positions were bagged by Neetu Kumari and Malvi Sharma of 3rd and 1st semester respectively.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed among the participants.

In the second session a guest lecture was delivered by Dr. Vinod Bakshi, Director Physical Education and sport , GGM Science College,

National Youth Day activities held at GDCW Kathua

Jammu with the primary objective to strength and motivate the youth of the college to show case their talent in different spheres of life.

Dr. Bakshi emphasized on the role of youth in shaping the destiny of the nation.

Dr. Chanchal Angral convener NSS also spoken on the event and she motivated the student to grab the opportunity coming their way and to prove themselves by acting as catalyst for the service of the nation.

The programme was organized under the patronage of Dr. Rajni Bhagat (Principal), Principal of the college and was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS PO) and her team and the formal voted of thanks was presented by Dr. Hari Singh NSS Member and the stage was managed by Dr. Renu Sharma.

KC College of Education celebrates Lohri

Top News Report

JAMMU. Jan 12: The cultural club of K.C. College of Education in collaboration with the NSS unit of the college organized a cultural event on the eye of Lohri festival

It is believed that this festival commemorates the passing of winter solstice. Dr. Puja Sharma, Convenor cultural club and Priya Gupta, NSS Program Officer arranged a special assembly in the college premises which was attended by all the faculty, staff and students with much zeal and enthusiasm.



constructing 1 model

village in each constitu-

The AAP leaders cau-

tioned the masses that

BJP has smelt rat of

eating humble Pie in

2024 Lok Sabha elec-

tion and that is why they

are turning every stone

to divert the attention of

the public of the country

in general and youth and

ency every year etc.

The event started with a speech on religious, cultural and historical significance of Lohri festival by Taranjeet Kour, senior most faculty.

Thereafter, students presented colourful cultural items. Everyone celebrated the festival with songs and dance especially Lohri songs.

ture of Lohri, was kept alight throughout the celebration, lighting up the spirit of joy, happiness and togetherness. Principal of the college, Dr. Sanjay Tickoo appreciated the students and play a vital role in keeping the tradition and culture alive by celebrating such kind of festivals.

Top News Report

and Jamit Lal.

KATHUA, Jan 12: GDCW Kathua's NSS Unit marked National Youth Day with fervor and intellectual engage-

Dr. Ritu Kumar Sharma, NSS Program Officer, delivered an insightful lecture on the life and history of Swami Vivekananda, attended by 50 enthusiastic volunteers.

The Red Ribbon Club orchestrated a touching tribute, with volunteers paying floral respects to Swami Vivekananda. This was followed by a lively group discussion



where volunteers delved into the profound impact of Swami Vivekananda's

In a collaborative effort, both NSS and Red Ribbon Club volunteers united to witness a live streaming of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's speech at the National Youth Festival, fostering a sense of national unity and pur-

pose. These impactful activities were conducted under the patronage of Dr. Savi Behl, the Principal of the college, who piayed a pivotai role in orchestrating a memorable National Youth Day celebration at GDCW Kathua.

NSS volunteers watched live telecast speech of PM at GDC Marheen



Top News Report

MARHEEN, 12: The NSS volunteers and the students of GDC, Marheen on Friday watched the live telecast speech of Narendra Modi, PM of India on the occasion of the celebration of National Youth Day.

During his speech he emphasized and endevoured to mobilize the NSS volunteers, Youth and the students of India, elaborating and emphasizing the need to create Amrit generation

(Youth)which keeps the national interest paramount

He stressed the need to go beyond education and skills and called for alertness for the national interest and civic sense among the citizens.

He suggested the youth of India that they should work as per their interest and try to achieve their set goals in their life.

He also conveyed the youth that the Govt. of India shall provide them the right platforms as per their capability and their field of interest as well.

The entire programme was organized under the Patronage of Dr. Anupama Gupta, principal of the college. The programme was managed by Dr Arun Dev Singh NSS Programme officer of NSS unit of GDC Marheen.

The faculty members who were present on the occasion Pardeep, Prof Anoop Sharma, , Dr Shallu, Prof Preeti, Prof Surbhi, Dr Barneet Kour, Dr Reemi, Dr Haseena and others

Rich Harvest School celebrates Lohri, **Makkar Sankranti**

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Rich Harvest School (RHS) scholars celebrated Lohri, the festival of warmth, which marks the beginning of the harvesting season, gives hope of Spring and bids farewell to the harsh winter.

A bonfire was lit on 12th January to make the students aware about the importance of Lohri and Makkar Sankranti. Students sang songs and danced with joy to mark the occasion.

Senior students participated in the kite flying competition bringing cheers from the juniors.

Prasadam in the form of groundnuts and revari was offered to Agni Devta and distributed to students and staff.

The Director of the School Ruchi Charak and Head of the Institute Anita Bhatia congratulated the Students and Staff and wished them peace and prosperity.



Shiv Sena asks youth to stay away from drugs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: On National Youth Day, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit sent message to the youth to stay away from drugs.

Under the leadership of party state chief Manish Sahni, Shiv Sainiks distributed quotes to stay away from drugs and tokens of blessing to the youth at Dogra Chowk, Jammu.

State Chief Manish Sahni said in his address that along with terrorism, narco terror is emerging as the biggest problem in Jammu and Kashmir and what is even more worrying is the increase in the number of drug addicts. The present young generation is becoming a victim of drug addiction. In the last few years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of youth taking drugs.

The drug trade in Jammu and Kashmir is increasing with every passing day.

The population of drug addicts in Jammu and Kashmir is shocking. The number of drug addicts has reached 15 lakh, touching 10-12 percent, and 90% of these people are in the age group of 17 to 33 years. Sahni said that today is the birth anniversary of spiritual guru and inspiration for youth, Swami Vivekananda, which is celebrated as National Youth Day. Let us take a pledge together that we will not get addicted to drugs but will get addicted to hard work, success, patriotism and

General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Charman Rakesh Gupta and many others were present.

humanity.

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