

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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## BRIEFLY

**MeT predicts light rain, snow from Jan 25 in J&K**

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Weatherman has forecast light rain and snow at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir from January 25-27 in Jammu and Kashmir. While dry weather was likely to continue till January 24, a meteorological department official said that there is also the possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places from January 28-30. He said that there is going to be improvement in visibility and maximum temperature during the next 2 days over Jammu Division which is presently witnessing fog during the morning. Regarding the minimum temperature.

**India logs 269 New Covid-19 cases**

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): India saw a single-day rise of 269 new cases of COVID-19, while the number of active cases of the infection has declined to 2,556, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

Three deaths – two from Kerala and one from Maharashtra have been reported in the last 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

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

After December 5, a maximum of a single-day rise of 841 new cases was reported on December 31, 2023, which is 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

Of the total active cases, around 92 per cent are recovering under home isolation. "The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 sub-variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in the hospitalisation and mortality," the official source stated.

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

## Home Ministry cancels FCRA registration of Centre for Policy Research

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): The Government has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of prominent public think-tank, Centre for Policy Research for alleged violation of laws, officials said on Wednesday.

The move came nearly a year after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had suspended the NGO's registration under the FCRA.

The think-tank was under scrutiny after surveys carried out by the Income Tax department.

The MHA has cancelled the FCRA registration of the NGO for alleged violations of the provisions of the foreign funding law. The FCRA licence was suspended in February 2023 for 180 days and then the suspension was extended for another 180 days.

According to its website, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) has been one of India's leading public policy think-tanks since 1973.

It says that it is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent institution dedicated to conduct-



ing research that contributes to high quality scholarship, better policies, and a more robust public discourse about issues that impact life in India.

The donors of the CPR

of the CPR governing body include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, former chief justice of India late Y V Chandrachud, veteran journalist late B G Verghese.

When the CPR challenged its suspension in the Delhi High Court, the MHA had argued that the CPR's foreign funding needed to be stopped as it was receiving its foreign contributions for "undesirable purposes" likely to affect the country's economic interest. The MHA alleged that

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## Delhi: Over 170 flights affected, 20 trains delayed due to fog

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): The national capital continues to grapple with biting cold and fog, impacting visibility and causing delays and cancellations in flight and train operations on Wednesday morning.

Flight movement to and from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport remained affected with around 120 flights including international ones getting delayed by several hours. 53 flights were also announced cancelled on Wednesday due to fog and other operational issues.

According to the Delhi Airport Flight Information Display System (FIDS) data, the 120 affected flights included 21 international departures, 23 international arrivals, 33 domestic departures, and 43 domestic arrivals.

Apart from the 120 flights affected, a total of 53 flights have been cancelled citing fog and other operational reasons, as per the FIDS data recorded till 8 am on Wednesday. This

includes 21 domestic arrivals, 16 domestic departures, 13 international departures, and 3 international arrivals.

Meanwhile, around 20 passenger trains to Delhi were running behind schedule on Wednesday.

According to the Northern Railways, two trains namely Puri-Nizamuddin Purushottam Express and Hyderabad-New Delhi were delayed by around 6-6.30 hours.

Similarly, Azamgarh-Delhi Junction Kaifiyat Express and Ambedkarnagar-Katra were also running behind schedule and are likely to arrive late by around five hours.

A four-and-a-half-hour delay is expected on the arrival of the Katiyar-Amritsar Express, the railways' data mentioned.

Six trains namely, Rewa-Anand Vihar Express, Vasco-Nizamuddin Express, Bhopal-Nizamuddin Express, Khajarao-Kurukshetra, Amritsar-Mumbai and Manikpru-Nizamuddin are likely to

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**Climate change may claim 14.5 mn lives by 2050: WEF**

DAVOS, Jan 17 (Agencies): Climate change threatens to cause an additional 14.5 million deaths and \$12.5 trillion in economic losses worldwide by 2050, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report published here.

The report, jointly compiled by the WEF and the consulting firm Oliver Wyman, is based on "scenarios developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the most likely trajectory for the planet's rising average temperature, 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels", Xinhua news agency quoted a WEF statement as saying.

The report analysed six major consequences of climate change: floods, droughts, heat waves, tropical storms, wildfires and rising sea levels.

Flooding alone is estimated to cause 8.5 million deaths by 2050, posing "the highest acute risk of climate-induced mortality", according to the study.

Droughts, as the second leading cause of climate-related mortality, are forecast to claim 3.2 million lives.

Heat waves, on the other hand, are expected to cause the highest economic losses, an estimated \$7.1 trillion by 2050.

The report warned that climate crisis will further exacerbate global health inequality and the most vulnerable populations will suffer the most.

Regions such as Africa and southern Asia will remain particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, due to their limited resources such as infrastructure

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## Kashmir Sikh devotees pray for wet spell on Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday



SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Sikh devotees on Wednesday prayed for a wet spell

in Jammu and Kashmir as they celebrated the Guru Gobind Singh Ji's 357 birthday.

A major congregation was held at Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi in Rainawari Srinagar in this regard where special prayers were held. Devotees on the occasion prayed for peace,

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## 4 Punjab policemen killed in road accident in Mukerian

HOSHARPUR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Four policemen were killed and 13 others injured after a Punjab Police bus in which they were travelling in met with an accident in Mukerian on

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## Man arrested for allegedly raping his daughter in Rajouri

RAJOURI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly raping his daughter in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The accused has been identified as Mohammad Bashir Chowdhary son of Syed Mohammad resident of Panglar village of Khawas Rajouri.

Officials told agency that action was taken on



the basis of a complaint received by Police Post Teryath in which it came to fore that a girl aged 17 years has been sexually abused by her own father.

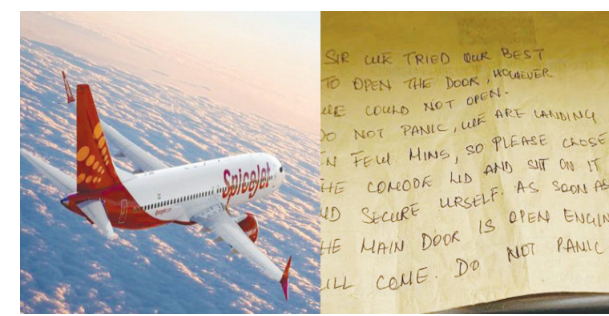
Police has taken cognizance of the matter and a case vide FIR No. 08/2024 U/Ss 376, 506 IPC, 4/6 POCSO Act have been registered at PS Dharamsal.

The accused has been arrested by police and further proceedings warranted under law have been initiated.

The incident has triggered anger among

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## Man on Mumbai-Bengaluru SpiceJet flight stuck inside toilet for entire journey; crew sends him paper notes asking...



BENGALURU, Jan 17 (Agencies): The crew of the Mumbai-Bengaluru

SpiceJet flight on which a male passenger underwent the ordeal

of being trapped in the lavatory for around an hour due to a malfunctioning lock, provided guidance and reassured the flyer throughout the journey using handwritten notes, the airline said in a statement on Wednesday.

The airline crew assisted the distressed passenger with handwritten

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## Three drug peddlers held in Baramulla: Police



SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police

substances from their possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party of Police Station Baramulla headed by SHO PS Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Jetty road Khawajabagh, intercepted one person. During his search, 25 grams of Brown Sugar like contraband substances was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Aqib Ahmad Bhat @ Ponty son of Abdul Salam Bhat resident of Sherwani Colony Khawajabagh. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Baramulla where he remained in custody.

Similarly, a Police

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9419143503



**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF & SORROW, IT IS INFORMED THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT SHAMRANI KOUL** W/O LATE SH TARA CHAND KOUL OF QAZIGUND KASHMIR RESIDENT OF LANE NO. 7, BLOCK 38, JAGTI AT PRESENT HOUSE NO. 743A, VINAYAK NAGAR SEC-3, MUTHI LEFT FOR HER HEAVENLY ABODE ON 13-01-2024.



**SMT SHAMRANI KOUL**

**THE TENTH DAY KRIYA** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 21-01-2024 (SUNDAY) AT AKHNOOR GATH AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GATH NEAR DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION OFFICE MUTHI.

**IN GRIEF:**

**SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW**

SH MAHARAJ KRISHAN KOUL & SMT SWEETY KOUL  
SH KAWAL KRISHAN KOUL & SMT LOVELY KOUL  
SMT KUNDAN BHAT W/O LATE SH ASHOK KUMAR BHAT -**DAUGHTER**

**DAUGHTERS & SONS-IN-LAW**

SMT TEJA BHAT & SH DEEP KUMAR BHAT  
SMT SARLA RAINA & SH KANHAYA LAL RAINA  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** DIKSHA, KOMAL, KUSHI, KAJAL KOUL  
**SAMASTH KOUL PARIWAR**  
**MOBILE NO. 9469552304, 9419808104**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **S. Narinder Singh Ji (Ex-Serviceman)** R/o W.No. 2 Simbal Camp, R.S. Pura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 9th of January 2024.



**S. Narinder Singh Ji**

**Aramb Shri Akhand Path Sahib** shall take place on 16-01-2024 (Tuesday) at 9.30 AM at our residence Tali Morh, Miran Sahib Opposite New National Higher Secondary School.

**Kirtan & Antim Ardaas** shall take place on 18-01-2024 (Friday) from 10.30 to 12.30 PM at Gurudwara Singh Sabha V.No. 4-5 Simbal Camp.

Followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**Grief Stricken**

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Sdn. Jagjeet Kour W/o S. Kulwinder Singh

Sdn. Devinder Kour W/o S. Jagmohan Singh

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Sdn. Gurmeet Kour W/o S. Tarlok Singh (Jammu Uni.)

Sdn. Talwinder Kour W/o S. Swam Singh

Sdn. Jaswinder Kour W/o S. Bhajan Singh

**Brothers & Sister-in-laws**

Sdn. Surinder Kour W/o Lt. Jaswant Singh (ZEO Retd.)

Sdn. Joginder Kour W/o Lt. Davinder Singh (Indian Airforce)

Sdn. Inderjeet Kour W/o S. Prithpal Singh (Lecturer Retd.)

**Brother-in-laws & Sister-in-laws**

Sdn. Tirath Kour W/o Master Harnam Singh

Sdn. Nirman Kour W/o S. Naranjan Singh Mastana

Sdn. Raj Kour W/o S. Gurdev Singh

**Contact No. 9419138742, 8803607659, 9596999197, 9419318953**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

"Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear."

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Girdhari Lal Kaul (George)** of Keni Mohalla, Rainawari, Kashmir presently residing at House No.- 162/B, Priyadarshini Nagar, Lane No.-3, Talab Tillo, Jammu; on 11.01.2024 at Jammu. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Akhnoor and Condolence Meet will be held at Muthi Ghat Jammu (Near Director Education Office) on 19.01.2024 at 12.30 p.m.



**Girdhari Lal Kaul (George)**

**IN GRIEF:**

Smt. Bharti Kaul (Wife)

Sh. Shanker and Anuja Kaul (Son and Daughter In Law)

Sh. Manish and Rashi Kaul (Son and Daughter In Law)

Ishan, Ansh and Yug (Grand Children)

**Grief Stricken:** Kauls, Duranis, Gagroos, Bakshis, Dhars, Rainas.

**982186394, 9831560081**

**KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchala Devi** W/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal Dogra, who left for heavenly abode on 5th January, 2024.



**Smt. Chanchala Devi**

**KRIYA** will be performed on 17-01-24 (Wednesday) at our residence at 12.00 pm.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 19-1-24(Friday) at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar road from 3:00-4:00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar & Mrs. Sheetal

Mr. Rajesh Dogra ( Advocate ) & Mrs. Sweetie Dogra

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Neelam Mehta & Mr. Dinesh Mehta

**Grand Children**

Shivani & Amit Manchanda

Charu & Jaideep Mehta, Nikhil Dogra,

Shivang Dogra, Ritanshi Dogra, Prithish Dogra

**Contact: 9419193000, 9419195349, 9460186825**

**BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sardar Mangat Singh Rism (Transporter)** R/o Singh Bagh, Baramulla, A/P Greater Kailash, Lane No.18 (Upper side) Jammu on 10-01-2024.



**SARDAR MANGAT SINGH RISM (TRANSPORTER)**

**Program at residence:**

Arambh Sri Akhand Paath: 17-01-2024 (Wednesday) at 9:30 AM.

**Bhog Sri Akhand Paath:** 19-01-2024 (Friday) at 9:30 AM.

**Program at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Nanak Nagar, Jammu.**

**Kirtan and Antim Ardas** from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM on 19-01-2024 (Friday). Followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**IN PROFOUND GRIEF**

**(Son & Daughter-in-Law)**

Er. Nirmal Singh (PDD) & Surjeet Kour

Moinder Kour & Prof. R.S.Bali (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Er. Sher Singh (PDD) & Harpreet Kour (Son & Daughter-in-Law)

Er. Satinder Kour (PDD) & Er. Neel Kanwal Singh (PDD) (Daughter & Son-in-Law)

Er. Gulzar Singh & Iqbal Kour (Son & Daughter-in-Law) (USA)

**Great Grand Children:** Jasjot Singh, Ridhan Singh, Krishna Kaur, Kavanjot Kour & Anhad Singh

**10TH DAY**

The **TENTH DAY** of our beloved **Sh. Lala Shiv Ram Gupta** will be held on 18-01-2024 (Thursday) at 11 AM-12 Noon at residence Rehal (Bishnah).



**Sh. Lala Shiv Ram Gupta (1942-2024)**

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Gupta Family (9419196577)**

**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/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Chanchala Devi** w/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal Dogra, who left for heavenly abode on 5th January, 2024.



**Smt. Chanchala Devi**

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 14-01-24(Sunday) at our residence (H.No.51, Mohalla Paharian, Jammu) at 11.00 am.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 17-01-24(Wednesday) at our residence at 12.00 Noon.

**UTHALA** will be performed on 19-1-24 (Friday) at Mahajan hall, shalamar road from 3:00-4:00 pm

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**Sons & Daughter-in-laws**

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar & Mrs. Sheetal

Mr. Rajesh Dogra ( Advocate ) & Mrs. Sweetie Dogra

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Mrs. Neelam Mehta & Mr. Dinesh Mehta

**Grand Children**

Shivani & Amit Manchanda

Charu & Jaideep Mehta, Nikhil Dogra, Shivang Dogra,

Ritanshi Dogra, Prithish Dogra

**Contact: 9419193000, 9419195349, 9460186825**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our revered & beloved mother **Smt. Laxmi Shori** W/o Late Radha Krishen Pandit of Briarigan (Uma Nagri), Anantnag at present H.No. 113, Sector - 4, Pamposh Colony, Janipur Jammu left for heavenly abode on 09-01-2024.



**Smt. Laxmi Shori**

The **Tenth Day Kriya** shall be performed on 18-01-2024 (Thursday) at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at Muthi Ghat around 11.30 am.

**Grief Stricken**

**Daughters-in-law & Sons**

Teja & Bansil Lal Pandit - 9018892224

Ashok Kumar Pandit - 7051735503

Desha & Rattan Lal Pandit - 7006199573

**Daughters & Sons-in-law**

Phoola & O.N. Koul - 8288819693

Vijay Raina - 9682116210

Rita & M.K. Koul - 9419120184

**Grand Children, Great Grand Children**

**Samast Pandit Parivar & Relatives**

**ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Milanpal Singh** S/o S. Pritam Singh R/o Nanak Nagar, Jammu (Amit Tent House wale).



**Sardar Milanpal Singh**

The **Antim Ardas** will be performed as per program given below: -

**PROGRAMME**

**Kirtan & Antim Ardas** will be performed at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Ji, Guru Nanak Nagar on 18.01.2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

(Father & Mother)

S Pritam Singh (Retd. IN) & Sdn. Gurjeet Kour

Sdn. Catuih Campos Singh (Wife)

Dr. Smit Kour & S. Avtar Singh (Sister & Brother-in-Law)

Lt Cdr. Amit Singh (Brother)

S & Sdn Gurcharan Singh (Taya & Tavi)

S & Sdn Ravinder Singh (Taya & Tavi)

S & Sdn Jasbir Singh (Chacha & Chachi)

S & Sdn Jeet Singh (Phua & Phuphar)

Late S & Sdn Sharanjeet Kour (Phua & Phuphar)

S & Sdn Surinder Singh (Bittu Mama)

S & Sdn Joginder Singh (Nindi Mama)

**7006056800, 9103138255**

**10TH DAY**

Those we love do not go away, they walk beside us everyday, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.



**SMT SUMAN KALA (PARSINO)**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Suman Kala (Parsino)** W/o Dr Karnail Singh on 09-01-2024 resident of Panjtoot Khour Jammu.

The **TENTH DAY (SATSANG FOLLOWED BY LANGER)** will be performed on 18-01-2024 (Thursday) 11.00 to 13.00 at our present residence Nirankari Niwas Ganesh Nagar Near TV Tower Patoli, Akhnoor Road Jammu.

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

Dr Neha Kala - Daughter

Mr Herjinder Singh - Son in Law

Mr Sahil Kala - Son

Mrs Prashi Kala - Daughter in Law

Mr Shubham Kala - Son

**Grand Son**

Aarav, Advik, Kiyansh, Nihaar

**MOBILE NO: 7006992988, 9596155389**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Shri Prem Nath Bhat** S/o Late Shri Shreedhar Bhat originally resident of Shangus, Anantnag, Kashmir at present H. No. 3-A, Shyam Enclave, Gopal Nagar Extension, Najafgarh, New Delhi on 11.01.2024.



**SHRI PREM NATH BHAT**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar, Gurugram, Haryana on 19.01.2024 (Friday) at 7:30 AM

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**(Daughter and Son in law)**

Mrs. Rakhi Koul & Mr. Bharat Koul

**(Son & Daughter in law)**

Shri Rakesh Bhat & Smt. Dimple Bhat

Abhishek Koul, Aniket Koul & Deeptanshu Bhat (Grand Sons)

**MOBILE NO. 9906725383, 9971096018**

**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 Tower Camp Road Talab Tillo, Jammu.



**Smt Raj Rani Thotha**

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 18-01-2024 (Thursday) at Muthi Ghat near the Office of Director, School Education, Muthi at 9.30 am.

**In Grief**

**Sons and Daughters-in-law**

Shuban Ji Thotha & Laja Thotha

Ashok Kumar Thotha & Veena Thotha

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Veena Nathoo & Bushan Lal Nathoo

**Mob.No. 9797374727 & 9149917239**

**TENTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Roopavati Wangoo**, wife of Late Shri Prithvi Nath Wangoo of Badiyaur Payeen Srinagar Kashmir, left for heavenly abode on 11 January 2024 at Jammu 3/113 Indra Vihar old Janipur Jammu. Our mother was an ardent disciple of Swami Lakshman Joo Maharaj of Ishber Nishat Srinagar - Kashmir.



**SMT. ROOPAVATI WANGOO**

The **10TH DAY** will be performed at Akhnoor on Friday 19 January 2024. Assembly will be held at 12 noon at 3/113 Indra Vihar old Janipur Jammu.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Nancy Goja and Dr Moti Lal Goja (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Ashok Kumar Wangoo, (Son)

Dileep Wangoo and Veena Wangoo (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Rakesh Wangoo (Son)

Ashesh Goja (Grandson)

Dr. Unnathi Goja (Granddaughter)

Kalhan Wangoo and Aarti Wangoo (Grand Son and Grand Daughter in law)

Sachin Wangoo and Pooja Wangoo (Grand Son and Grand Daughter in law)

Dr Divya (Grand Daughter), Divanshi (Grand Daughter)

Kapish Wangoo (Grandson)</



# Winter of despair for Kashmir's line Producers, Artists

SRINAGAR, Jan 17 (Agencies): As snowfall continues to elude the picturesque valley of Kashmir, local line producers and others associated with the Indian film industry are in a state of despair as shooting requests are drying up due to a snowless winter.

The mighty mountains of Pir Panjal region, which are draped in a thick white blanket of snow during this time of the season, are bare, highlighting the climatic changes gradually sweeping the Himalayan region.

"The dry spell in Kashmir has significantly impacted us. We've three projects lined up but they hang in balance. If snowfall doesn't occur, these projects may either get canceled, postponed, or relocated to places with snow. Snow holds immense importance for Kashmir, and we are fervently praying and hoping for it," Abid Hussain, casting manager at KG Production, said.

The snowless winter and the extended dry spell, Hussain said, has even led some people associated with the industry to experience depression due lack of work. He said the people associated with the film industry in Mumbai are also eagerly awaiting the snowfall in Kashmir to commence film shootings.



"Kashmir's fame is intricately linked to snow, and there's a substantial adverse effect on line producers this time due to absence of snow," he added.

Bismah Masoodi, a Line Producer, said some scheduled shoots have already been postponed due to the lack of snow in the valley. However, she expressed optimism that once snowfall occurs; filmmakers will travel to Kashmir for shooting.

"Our projects require meticulous planning, and we are optimistic that snowfall will happen, allowing filmmakers to come for shoots and enabling us to continue our work," she said.

Bismah, who has worked with famous celebrities like Karan Kundra, Amaan Malik and others and has contributed to various

ad films and biopics, said the dry spell not only stalls movie shootings but also hits locals offering catering services, transportation and hotels as well.

"The entire Kashmir region suffers due to this extended dry spell. The absence of snowfall has adversely affected our work, but we remain hopeful for snowfall to fulfill the plans of filmmakers visiting and shooting in Kashmir," she added.

Mir Sarwar, a popular filmmaker and actor from Kashmir, is also concerned with the unusual weather pattern as the valley is witnessing warm days in the harshest 40-day period of winter, locally called Chilai Kallan.

"I had plans for a short film requiring snow, but the dry conditions prevail. Nature's will is a factor, but human

responsibility for climate change can't be ignored. Kashmir's aura is synonymous with snow, attracting numerous filmmakers and tourists. Despite several projects being delayed, I believe some are exploring alternatives like Himachal," he said.

Bhawani Bashir Yasir, who played roles in movies like Haider, Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Kesari, and Jihad, said snowfall is important for many tourist activities.

"There is a huge impact of climate change in Kashmir, primarily affecting the economy and various professions, including the tourism industry. Film shootings in Kashmir benefit not only actors but also other sectors like transporters and hoteliers. When shootings are canceled, the entire system is crippled," he said.

Despite no snowfall and the persistent cold weather conditions, there is a glimmer of hope within the people associated with the valley's tourism sector, including the hoteliers.

Though Kashmir's main winter tourist attractions like Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam have been left without snow this season, the tourism players are optimistic that the falling snowflakes will draw a large number of tourists from India and abroad.

"The absence of snow does impact business but compared to last year, we are performing well. Tourists are visiting, albeit with some disappointment due to the lack of snow. However, looking at the positive side, it provides them a reason to return. Some scheduled shootings have been postponed, not necessarily cancelled, as filmmakers often adjust their schedules based on the landscape and snow conditions. We remain hopeful that they will return," said Asif Iqbal Burza, a prominent hotelier.

Last year, he said, Pahalgam was a prime location for film shootings, witnessing back-to-back big-budget films from mid-January to March.

"This year, we are in talks with many production houses, and once snowfall begins, they plan to shoot accordingly," Burza said.

# Sawhney leads Congress meeting for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency



## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: As per the directions given by AICC, Coordinator for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency and former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney, on Wednesday chaired a meeting with the District Presidents regarding the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

This was the first interaction focused on electoral strategy for both Level. The Congress leaders strategized on enhancing the party's presence at the grassroots level in the parliamentary constituencies. A comprehensive tour program was also devised for these areas, outlining plans to visit and engage with leaders and workers at the district and booth level.

It was decided during the meeting that tour program will start on 22nd January 2024 with Kulgam, Anantnag and Shopian District. Rajouri-Poonch will be covered on 24th and 25th January 2024.

Along with Yogesh Sawhney, Shabir Khan District President Rajouri, Mohd. Yusuf Hajji District President Shopian, Ali Mohammed Mantoo District President Anantnag, Amanulla Matoo District President Kulgam, Rajinder Singh District President Poonch were present at the meeting.

Yogesh Sawhney, Coordinator for Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, during the meeting, emphasized the importance of collaboration among party members to achieve success in the upcoming elections. He underscored the need for a cohesive strategy that aligns with the party's vision and resonates with the concerns of the local population.

Sawhney acknowledged the critical role played by District Presidents and office bearers in channeling the party's message effectively, urging them to work collectively towards the common goal of securing victory in Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency.

He said that the party under AICC guidance will try to unilaterally work towards strengthening the foundation at the grassroots level and connect with local people.

"We will strive to maximize outreach in the parliamentary constituency and further people's interest through the campaign and preparation," Sawhney said.

Furthermore, Sawhney outlined the tour program for the constituencies, devised with intent to personally engage with leaders and workers at the grassroots level.

He stressed the significance of direct interactions to understand the pulse of the electorate and tailor the electoral approach accordingly. Sawhney affirmed his commitment to a transparent and inclusive election campaign, encouraging open dialogue and feedback from all party members to refine the strategy for a stronger presence in the constituencies.

# Dimple leads protest for restoration of J&K Statehood

## Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Sunil Dimple, President Mission Statehood, led protest for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir state, emphasizing the reinstatement of Articles 370 and 35-A, and the implementation of the Instrument of Accession conditions both politically and judicially.

Dimple announced that the Supreme Court has ordered a verdict for the restoration and holding of assembly elections. However, he accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of being afraid to conduct these elections and claimed that they are delaying the restoration of the J&K Dogra state. Strongly criticizing Gulam



Nabi Azad's statement on Article 370, Dimple demanded the restoration of J&K state and the abovementioned articles, and disclosed plans for a meeting of like-minded parties to discuss the way forward on Article 370

in Jammu soon. Dimple alleged that BJP leaders and Gulam Nabi Azad are playing politics on Articles 370, 35-A, and manipulating the Article 370 verdict against the wishes of the people of Jammu

and Kashmir.

He stated that a review petition has been filed in the Supreme Court to continue the struggle for the abovementioned articles.

He further expressed the intent to unify J&K, Ladakh, POK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), Gilgit, and Baltistan in the J&K state assembly ordinance.

He also emphasized on the immediate restoration of J&K state, holding assembly elections alongside parliamentary elections under the J&K statehood.

Other leaders involved in this movement include Manjiet Anand, Rupesh Bhat, Sachin Soi, Bunty, Sat Pal, Anmol and Arjun.

# Congress politicising Lord Ram function: Tarun Chugh



JAMMU / CHANDIGARH, Jan 17 (Agencies): BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh today lambasted Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi for describing the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya a political function and said it reflected anti-Ram stance of the Congress leaders.

Chugh said the Congress had been always playing divisive politics much against the Indian cultural ethos.

The consecration function is a matter of national faith in which people of all castes and communities would be taking part. Lord Ram, he said, was a national pride but unfortunately it is Congress which

is politicising the ceremony by deciding to abstain from it.

Chugh said at a time when the entire country was resonating with chants of Lord Ram the Congress was sounding a disruptive note much against the popular sentiment.

He said invitations to the Ayodhya function have been sent to one and all regardless of political concerns yet Congress cannot help adding politics to it. The Congress should take a lesson from what prominent figures like senior Congress leader Karan Singh have to say on the matter.

Chugh urged the Congress to respect the popular faith of the people of the nation.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-02.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logan to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
10.01.2024	19.01.2024	02.02.2024/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender								
1.	366-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Continuous scour monitoring of foundation of Bridge No. 84 on JUC-FZR section ADEN-2/FZR.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19,94,972.67/-</td> <td>39,900/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>16 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	19,94,972.67/-	39,900/-	60 Days	16 Months
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19,94,972.67/-	39,900/-	60 Days	16 Months							
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"								
2.	370-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/FZR in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>28,64,919.23/-</td> <td>57,300/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>09 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days	09 Months
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28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days	09 Months							
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"								
3.	371-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/LNK in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>28,64,919.23/-</td> <td>57,300/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>09 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days	09 Months
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28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days	09 Months							
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"								
4.	372-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Misc. P-Way Works for track maintenance in the section of SSE/P-Way/FKA in the jurisdiction of ADEN-2/FZR.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>28,64,919.23/-</td> <td>57,300/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>09 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	28,64,919.23/-	57,300/-	60 Days	09 Months
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		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"								
5.	373-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Repair and maintenance of bridges in the section of ADEN-1/FZR under Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR.								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22,85,983.02/-</td> <td>45,700/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>04 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	22,85,983.02/-	45,700/-	60 Days	04 Months
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22,85,983.02/-	45,700/-	60 Days	04 Months							
		Similar nature of work :- "NIL"								
6.	374-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Crossing of 1200 mm dia DI K-7 Water supply pipe line passing through 1600 mm dia M.S. heavy duty casing pipe under the Railway Track ROB No. A-2 at km 3/5-6 on JUC-FZR section under ADEN-2/FZR								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>80,81,940.44/-</td> <td>1,61,600/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>04 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	80,81,940.44/-	1,61,600/-	60 Days	04 Months
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80,81,940.44/-	1,61,600/-	60 Days	04 Months							
		Similar nature of work :- "Construction of bridge with pipe & Box pushing technique/Crossing of under ground cable/pipe line etc."								

Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No:- 366, 370, 371, 372 & 374-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR & 373-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR Date: 15.01.2024 196/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT JAMMU  
B.C. ROAD, BUS STAND, JAMMU  
TELE: 0191-254330, 0191-254586, Makhech@jammu.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. PHEJ/JJM/156 of 2023-24 Dated: 15.01.2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, JAMMU invites e-tenders on item rate basis from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Ventures/ Consortiums of all classes, required to be registered with Jal Shakti (PHE) Department of UT of J&K apart from registration with JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other State / UT Government for "Construction of 250 Dia. Production Wells by any suitable method (Reverse/Direct/Dual Rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 02 Water Supply Schemes (03 nos. Tube wells) of District Kathua of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)". The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) two covers viz. Cover 1-consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2 shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Tender fee In INR	EMD	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of 250 mm Dia. Production Tube Wells by any suitable method (Reverse/Direct/Dual rotary) using Mud-Rotary Drilling Rig for 02 Water Supply Schemes (03nos. Tube wells) of District Kathua of JAMMU Province under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	1000/- for each tender ID (Total 02Nos. tender IDs floated for this e-NIT)	Rs. 0.50 Lacs for each tender ID (total 02Nos. tender IDs floated for this e-NIT)	As per Appendix "E"	180 days	As per bid document.

Position of funds: Available Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu.  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) Kathua

**Critical Dates:**

i	Publish Date	15.01.2024
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	15.01.2024
iii	Date of Pre-bid meeting	17.01.2024 (12:00 Noon)
iv	Bid submission start date	17.01.2024 (4:00 PM onwards)
v	Bid submission end date	29.01.2024 (6:00 PM)
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	30.01.2024 (3:00PM)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The pre-bid meeting shall held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu through virtual/online mode.
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders should download the bid document from the tender portal and submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Jammu.
- Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document and EMD as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table and shall be payable at Jammu.
  - EMD to be pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer (CAO), Jal Shakti PHE Department Jammu. EMD will be in the form of CDR/ FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bid. No exemption of EMD, of any kind shall be considered.
  - The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e-challan/ Receipt under Major Head, MH:0215 in favour of Chief Account Officer (CAO), Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu or by online payment via NEFT/RTGS as detailed below:-  
A/c Name : Chief Account Officer, PHE Jammu. Bank : J & K Bank Ltd.  
Account No: 0097010100002093 IFSC: JAKA0THALL  
Branch: Town Hall Jammu
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan/NEFT, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions thereof, the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).
- Queries by email if any, should be made at [ph@ceejammu@gmail.com](mailto:ph@ceejammu@gmail.com).

No: PHEJ/JJM/14065-77  
Dated: 15.01.2024

**DIP/J-13935/23**

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer,  
Jal Shakti, (PHE) Department Jammu.



## EDITORIAL

CONSERVE  
ELECTRICITY

Electricity is one of the most essential resources in today's time. We need it every day and this need is gradually increasing. Today our daily life depends on it. We all know that electricity generation is generated by coal or natural gas.

Today we have this resource in limited quantity, in today's time we all should conserve electricity. With this we can conserve our environmental resources and use them for a long time.

Today all work is possible in some form or the other with the help of electricity. We need electricity throughout the day, from the beginning of the morning till we go to sleep at night. Only with the help of electricity we are able to avail facilities and services.

If you want to live a comfortable life, you need electricity. Today, from cooking to sleeping at night, we need electricity somewhere, from getting up in the morning to doing office work, we are using electricity.

For example, surgeons in hospitals perform necessary operations with the help of electricity. Students use computers to study. Engineers in factories operate all their machines with electricity. Today many trains are operated with the help of electricity. Along with this, all other works are possible only with the help of electricity. Electricity has become an important part of our lives today, hence it is our responsibility to save it.

Electricity usage is important for us, but we can save it through some methods. Our small effort will not only save the country's electricity but will also save our money spent on electricity.

Today many people are saving electricity by using solar and wind energy, it is going to become a big source of energy in the coming times. Today, many solar energy powered appliances are available in the market, including household appliances, solar powered cars and many such big and small appliances, using which you can save electricity. You can save immense energy by using solar panels at your home, factory or office.

We should use more natural light in our homes or offices, so that we have to use minimum lights. If light is not required in the morning and afternoon, the light should be switched off because at this time sunlight is sufficient for us.

We all use electricity the most in our homes. If we try this way, we can save a lot of electricity. For example, when the house gets cold during summer, if we turn off the AC and the fan of the house, then many watts of electricity can be saved. By switching off lights and other appliances when you are not at home, you should not turn on your appliances like heater, oven, refrigerator unnecessarily. All these can save a large amount of electricity at home.

Maximum electricity is required in industry, if some changes are made here to save electricity then maximum electricity can be saved. For example, to get electricity from natural sources in the industry, they can install solar panels and windmills, due to which it is possible to save a large amount of electricity.

## Don't boycott the Maldives; send flood of Indians there

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

The remarkable exhibition recently of political leaders' lack of courtesy, dignity and grace, as shown by some junior ministers in the Indian Ocean archipelago of the Maldives who targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi in offensive language, only goes to show that in the arena of international relations, the old adage still holds true: "the more you try to change, the more it remains the same". This was seen way back in the 1950s with China's Chairman Mao Zedong, and in the 1970s from America's Watergate-tainted President Richard M. Nixon and his German-origin adviser Henry Kissinger (who damaged America permanently by handing over its economics, commerce and industry to Beijing), and who both had the blood of Bangladesh's gory liberation struggle on their hands.

First, a look back at history. When the suave, well-educated, cultured Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was trying to be cordial, using sophisticated diplomatic semantics to build friendly bilateral relations with China, the opposite was the idea of the uncultured and brutish Communist dictator Mao Zedong, who hurled the choicest abuses by calling the democratically-elected head of a neighbouring country the "running dog of imperialism". Not that it made any difference to the stature of a tall leader like Pandit Nehru, it only exposed the acute inferiority complex of an eternally grumbling Han overlord.

Again, in 1971, as Indira Gandhi faced an unprecedented assault from the US, China, and West and East Pakistan, leading to an avalanche of refugees flooding into India, an ill-informed US President Nixon called Mrs Gandhi a "bitch" and thought that Indians were "cowards". Why? It's because Nixon's national security adviser (and later secretary of state) Henry Kissinger called Indians "bastards". But how did Kissinger know all Indians are "bastards"? During Kissinger's July 1971 secret trip to Beijing to kowtow at the Communist durbar, Chinese PM Zhou Enlai presented him a copy of the infamous Neville Maxwell's India's China War, an India-bashing account of the 1962 war by the Australia-born London Times reporter which portrayed the Dragon as a saint and Delhi as the Satan. Kissinger was so impressed with the book that it coloured his views on the subcontinent, and all his advice to an ignorant US President revolved around painting India as the villain.

The reality, of course, was somewhat different: India's Prime Minister emerged a glorious victor in all four fronts in 1971; China ate humble pie; Pakistan faced a catastrophic defeat and the country's breakup and the Nixon-Kissinger duo looked like Alice in Wonderland at best.

The moral of the story for today's so-called rising powers is quite simple: money, armaments and military and geographical presence can give you pretensions about superpower status, but the use of obnoxious language won't provide the strategic superiority you so desperately crave. For that, the power of ideas is infinitely superior!

Now, to the unguided, uncontrolled and uncontrollable, vituperative and venomous verbal diarrhoea unleashed by a trio of deputy ministers from the island nation of the Maldives -- who referred to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "clown", "terrorist" and "puppet of Israel". Super poetic? Destructively divine? One is left amazed at such vast knowledge and deep wisdom, or the lack of it, of the three deputy ministers. After the three got promptly suspended

from their posts, in a damage control exercise by the government in Male after a flurry of Indians began to cancel their tourism and holiday plans in the Indian Ocean island, their newly-minted President, Mohamed Muizzu, in office for less than two months, was off on a five-day trip to China to beg and borrow funds and other assistance from Beijing's overlord Xi Jinping, and also to urge more Chinese tourists to visit, in place of the Indians opting out.

President Muizzu even went to Fujian province, where Mr Xi grew up and honed his skills in the tricks of the Communist power structure, straightaway seeking project investments and other handouts.

Obviously, the Maldivians don't as yet know how to conduct themselves in a complex international environment. They think, as ocean islanders, they can easily, and adroitly, play one big nation against another. That, unfortunately, doesn't usually happen because the islands are inherently more vulnerable and thus prone to voluntary subjugation, and become subservient to countries with a strong Navy than the small land powers. The Maldives leaders should immediately start to study a world atlas and examine how many small island nations can operate truly independently.

The real question for India, given the current international environment, is how to tackle these recent developments. Should it deploy the stick, or use the carrot instead? There is a long history of an Indian role in these islands, going back to 1980s when then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered the Indian armed forces to thwart a coup attempt against the legitimate government of the Maldives. These islands lie within this country's sphere of influence as an underbelly. How long will these hundreds

of tiny, uninhabited, scattered isles remain independent? Someone, one day, will definitely take possession of this strategic location. But India shouldn't try to do that.

Rather than encourage boycott calls, this is India's golden opportunity to send swarms of tourists around the year to pack the Maldives. Let people there know and distinguish between friend and foe. Let Indian tour operators and techies swim in the sea, set up outlets for rest and recreation, making the Maldives a centre of water sports, wining and dining.

Let more remote area facilities be created by Indians, and there is no dearth of Indians seeking adventure destinations. Vigorous and robust people-to-people contacts will enlighten the Maldivians, who are more at home with India rather than strangers from far away whose language, culture and traditions they don't share.

On the strategic front, New Delhi simply cannot afford to have its vast northern neighbour, already on the warpath in the South China Sea, to spread its tentacles further in the Indian Ocean. Indeed, the abusive words of the Maldivian ministers couldn't have come without the surreptitious instigation of President Mohamed Muizzu's best friend Xi Jinping. It remains a fact that every Indian Prime Minister, from Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi to Narendra Modi, has been abused by the leaders of Communist China or by Beijing's puppets. Indians thus need to avoid any knee-jerk reactions. The uncivilized words of the Maldives leaders are an opportunity for all Indians -- from techies to tourists, traders, bureaucrats, bankers and businessmen -- to help the island nation grow and prosper and show who are the best people to associate with in the neighbourhood.

## Scope and Opportunities in Career of Assistant Enforcement Officer



By: Vijay GarG

Assistant Enforcement Officer - as the designation of the post indicates the responsibility of an Assistant Enforcement Officer is to frequently visit and inspect various central government departments and enforce the laws of the land. It is the duty of an Assistant Enforcement Officers to hunt for those who are not working according to the rules and regulations made for, and bring them to the notice of their respective department heads so that they can be enforced to follow the rules and regulations and work according to the policies made for the working of the departments.

To be an Assistant Enforcement Officer one has to undergo a selection process of written and Oral exams conducted by Staff Selection Commission so that only the competent few among so many aspirants could be selected

Eligibility to become an Assistant Enforcement Officer

1. Educational Qualification

To be eligible for becoming an Assistant Enforcement Officer Inspector one should hold a Bachelor of any stream.

2. Age

The candidate must have attained the age of 18 years on 1st July of the year of examination and must not have attained 27 years of age on that date.

The upper age limit will be relaxed by 3 years for OBC candidates and 5 years for SC/ST candidates.

The upper age limit is also relaxed in favour of certain categories of employees working under the Government of India and Defense Services Personnel. How to become an Assistant Enforcement Officer?

To be an Assistant Enforcement Officer one has to follow the below-given steps:

Step 1

As a first step, the aspirant has to procure the "Application Form" along with required information from the employment newspaper generally published in the month of April. sent the filled Application form to the regional centres as mentioned.

Note: The notification for the examination with relevant details regarding rules and syllabus is published in the month of April in the 'Employment News' / 'Rozgar Samachar', 'Gazette of India', and in some leading Newspapers of the country.

Step 2

Preliminary Examination  
In the month of May or June, the aspirants have to take the "Preliminary Examinations" consisting of two papers. The papers are on:

Subject No. Of Question Marks Time

Part A

1.General Intelligence and General Awareness 100 100 2 Hrs.

Part B

2. Arithmetic 100 100 2 Hr.

Note: This exam is just a qualifying exam for the Final exam and scores obtained in this exam are not added to make the final result.

Step 3

Main Examination

Those candidates who are declared qualified in the "Preliminary Examination" are supposed to take the final exam.

The final exam consists of two part. Part A will be of written exam and second Part B will be of Personality Test

Subject Max. Marks

Duration

General Studies 200 Marks

3Hr.

English 200 Marks 2Hr. 20 Min.

Arithmetic 100 Marks 4Hr.

Language 100 Marks 2Hr.20 Min.

Communication Skill and writing 200 Marks 2Hr. 20 Min.

Step 4

Personality Test

Once you are through the final stage is the interview. The aspirants are grilled in the interview to test their personality and mental ability. Then the final list of the successful candidates is prepared

Assistant Enforcement Job Description

The job of an Assistant Enforcement Officer is full of pressure

and responsibilities, sometimes they have to deal strictly with their own colleagues and even seniors when they themselves are not working according to the laid down policies. Therefore this job is considered a tough one. But to discharge his duties one has to be very dedicated towards his work responsibilities, brave, hardworking, honest as well as tactful as he has to deal with so many high profile people that may use their influence in high echelons to save themselves and in turn prove the officer wrong or impartial.

Assistant Enforcement Officer Salary

An Enforcement Officer gets the pay scale of Rs.6500-10,500. The Government of India has fixed salary grades for its employees at various posts. Although they keep on changing with new pay commission.

Note: The above scales only provide an idea of the pay scales. Different branches of the service have different scales of pay. Even personnel of same branches may have different pay according to their area of posting and responsibility they are holding at a particular time. In addition to the salary Assistant Enforcement Officer receive various types of allowances such as Dearness Allowance, City compensatory Allowance, Leave Travel Allowance, Medical and subsidized housing.

(Vijay GarG Retired  
Principal Educational  
columnist Malout)



## Gurdwara Nanak Satsang Taraf Sanji Kathua celebrates Guru Gobind Singh's 357th Birth Anniversary

### Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 17: Gurdwara Nanak Satsang Taraf Sanji celebrated 357th birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh with full devotion and dedication.

A grand Kirtan Darbaar was organised on this occasion. On 15th January Shri Akhand Path sahib was started and today on 17th January Akhand Path Sahib Bhog was finalised.

Ragi Jatha Bhai Sahib Bhai Baljeet Singh Hauzri Ragi Singh Sabha District Gurudwara Kathua with his melodious voice recited Gurbani Kirtan on this occasion.

Biwi Tavleen Kaur, Manseerat Kour, Gursirat Kaur, Mansimar Kour and Anhadpreet Singh also recited Gurbani Kirtan on this occasion.



A number of preachers also expressed their views and threw light on the life and contribution of Guru Gobind Singh.

Bhajan Singh addressed devotees and threw light on the contribution of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

He said Guru Gobind Singh is inspirational figure in the history of world.

Guru Gobind Singh

was the son of the ninth Sikh guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur.

After his father execution by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Guru became a Sikh leader when he was merely nine years of age and throughout his life, he fought against cruel rulers and their cruelty.

Another preacher, Bhai Sahib Komalpreet Singh apprised the

devotees about the life and contribution of Guru Gobind Singh.

He said that Guru Gobind Singh became such a popular name not only because of his skills as a warrior, but because he lived his life to set an example for others. He not only mastered the art of fighting, but also focused on spreading his philosophical teachings in the Sikh community.

Another preacher Giani Tarlok Singh told that Guru Gobind Singh also started the tradition of 'Khalsa', which includes 'Kesh' (uncut hair), 'Kangha' (a wooden comb), Kara (an iron or steel bracelet worn on the wrist), Kripan (a sword or dagger), and 'Kacchera' (short breeches).

This tradition birthed a new ceremony for Sikh

warriors whose duty was to protect people from religious persecution.

This meant that a Khalsa Sikh was given the title of a Singh, whereas a female was called Kaur. The tradition of Khalsa in Guru Gobind's life became a way of life and the warriors had to follow a very strict code of conduct.

President Gurudwara Nanak Satsang Taraf Sanji committee Gurcharan Singh extended vote of thanks to Sukhmani Committee, Sikh Naujawan Sabha and Sangat of the village to extend their heartfelt support to make this celebration successful.

The proceedings of the celebration were conducted by Bhajan Singh Gen Secretary Gurudwara Nanak Satsang Taraf Sanji Kathua.

## AICTE New Delhi to organise 3 days FDP in Aryans on Universal Human Values



**DR. CHARANJEET MADAN** Regional Coordinator (NCCIP) | **DR. PRIYA DARSHNI** Expert UHV Activities and Projects | **DR. MANISHA GUPTA** Member Sub Committee of National Coordination Committee for Induction Program, AICTE | **DR. GARIMA JOSHI** Observer Faculty, UET, Panjab University, Chandigarh | **DR. PARVEEN KATARIA** Local Program Coordinator Director General Aryans Group of Colleges

### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi in collaboration with Aryans College of Engineering, Rajpura near Chandigarh is going to conduct a three-day face-to-face faculty development programme (FDP) under the supervision of National Coordination committee for induction program, AICTE on universal

human values (UHV) from 18 to 20 January.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group will preside over. Dr. Parveen Kataria, Director General, Aryans will be local program coordinator.

Dr. JK Saini, Director, Aryans College of Engineering while giving more information said that the regional coordinator of the program will be Dr. Charanjeet Madan while Dr. Priya Darshani, Expert, UHV Activities & Projects

would be the resource person. Dr. Manisha Gupta, Member, Sub Committee of National Coordination Committee for Induction Program, AICTE will be the Co Facilitator and Dr. Garima Joshi, Faculty, University of Engineering & Technology, Panjab University, Chandigarh will be the observer. FDP will be conducted in 12 different sessions for 80 participants from various educational institutions.

## BJP Talab Tillo Mandal concludes Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: BJP Talab Tillo Mandal under the presidentship of Keshav Chopra concluded its two and half month programmes of "Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan" on Wednesday at Mahajan Sabha Talab Tillo in which BJP Jammu District President Parmod Kapahi, JK UT BJP Secretary and Incharge Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan Talab Tillo Mandal Ayodhya Gupta, JK UT BJP Media Incharge Dr Pardeep Mahotra, BJP Senior Leader and

Prabhari Nowshera Zila Sanjay Kumar Baru, BJP Training Department Incharge Dr Parneesh Mahajan, Health and Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan, Former Dy. Mayor Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Former Councillors Neelam Nargotra, Sr Sucha Singh, BJP Senior Leader Veena Gupta addressed a large number of gathering.

Speaking on the occasion Parmod Kapahi said that BJP has started this Abhiyaan to make the people aware about

the people friendly schemes of Modi government, Kapahi also appreciated the work of Talab Tillo Mandal team.

While giving the details on the Abhiyaan, Keshav Chopra said that a total 20 programmes were organized in the mandal in which the main speakers reached the Ward and the Panchayat level to educate them about the splendid work done by the Modi government.

Speaking on the occasion Ayodhya Gupta hailed Prime Minister

Modi's Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas has fostered a sense of belonging by building confidence among the people of the country.

Dr Pardeep Mahotra asserted that Jan Samvad Abhiyaan is a successful programme to reach out to the common masses and get authentic feedback about the achievements of the Modi government.

District President SC Morcha Chaman Lal Bhagat, BJP Executive Member Rajesh Gupta, Pratibha Sharma, Jatin Sethi, Arun Dubey, Deepak Kumar, Rahul Nargotra, Parveen Ghai, Paramjeet, Bhupinder Gupta, Bhubhesh Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Rajesh Saini, Jatinder Khajuria, Shanti Swaroop Gupta, Omkar Verma, Vikas Gupta, Bablu Chand, Ghanasham Sharma, Ritesh Peer, Sanjeev Gupta, Ranju Vaid, Abhishek Sharma, Mangal Jyoti, Tony Sharma, Kali Bhagat and others were also present.

## NHM employees hold block level convention, frames Block Assar unit



### Top News Report

DODA, Jan 17: The employees of National Health Mission (NHM) on Wednesday organized a block level meeting cum convention of Block Assar at Trauma Hospital Khelani Doda.

The meeting was presided over by senior NHM representative of Jammu Division, Faizan A Trambo (Sr Vice President) and was graced by District President NHM Doda, Dr Nasir Masood Indrabi, Dr Younis Saleem (Vice President Doda), Dr Sadeeq Wani (Advisor), Mashhood Latif (Sr Advisor), Dr Mohd Haneef, Dr

Vijay Kumar (Advisor), Dr Sanjeev Kumar (Advisor), Ashok Shan (Vice President Block Ghat) besides Dr Manjeet Singh, Dr Faheem Wani and Medical Officers, Management and Paramedical Staff of the block was present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the issue of strengthening the organization at gross level.

During meeting, the employees urged the government to resolve all the pending issues including formulation of job policy, implementation of equal work equal pay policy, timely release and enhancement of salaries and

other genuine issues without any further delay.

Meanwhile, a block level body for Block Assar was also framed on the occasion in which Dr Shahnaz Akhter was elected as President, Dr Maheshwar Karoch as Vice President, Dr Abdul Rehman as General Secretary, Kanta Devi as Secretary, Shashi Kumar as Treasurer, Anjeet Kumar as Co Treasurer, Mushraf Hussain as Spokesperson and Saba Shafiqat and Nitika Singh as Coordinators where as in the block Advisory Committee Dr Anil Thakur was elected as Chairman while Dr

Baljeet Singh, Suman Sharma, Meenakshi Kachroo and Jyoti Kalyan were elected as members of the advisory committee of the new block union.

While speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President Dr Shahnaz Akhter thanked all the participants for honoring and entrusting her the responsibility of the Block President, promising to work sincerely and dedicatedly for the welfare of National Health Mission Employees of the Block Assar.

In their address, Sr Leaders of the Association stated that with the support of our fellow employees, we can work towards resolving the pending cases and particularly focus on the various concerns. They said the current Chief Secretary, Health Secretary and Mission Director NHM have shown a positive and proactive approach, and we believe we can collectively achieve positive outcomes for the betterment of the employees in the time to come."

## Governing Body of SMVDNSH holds 68th Meeting, reviews functioning of Hospital and plan for Medical College

### Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 17: The 68th Meeting of Governing Body of SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Kakryal (Katra) was held on 15th of this month under the Chairmanship of Dr Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB.

The Meeting was attended by Sh. Suresh Kumar Sharma, Member SMVDSB, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB, Viren Shetty, Group COO, NH and other senior functionaries of Shrine Board and Narayana Health.

After reviewing progress of its earlier decisions, the Members expressed general satisfaction regarding over-the-years gradual healthy growth of the Hospital.

This was manifested

in all major performance benchmarks such as patient footfall, bed occupancy, revenue, clinical augmentation of operational base / capabilities etc.

The Governing Body was informed that on an yearly basis, the Hospital provides IP-treatment to almost 50,000 patients across different specialties, besides OPD Consultations to almost 60,000 patients. Almost 1/3rd of treated patients are provided free treatment under the UT sponsored Ayushman Scheme.

As a matter of fact, SMVDNSH is the largest Ayushman service provider private Hospital in the entire State. As a mark of clinical reputation of the Hospital, the beds of the Hospital; particularly critical care beds, are in great

demand. Consequently the ICUs of Hospital are almost full at all points of time.

The Governing Body was also apprised that since the inception of Hospital in the year 2016, free treatments worth more than Rs. 40 crore have been provided to more than 80,000 beneficiaries under the Medical Support Policy of Board, aimed to benefit the poor and needy patients.

Another dimension of Board's benevolent gesture was sponsoring of life transforming Cochlear Implant Surgeries performed on congenitally deaf poor children belonging to economically deprived backgrounds.

The Board has sponsored as many as 23 Cochlear Implant Surgeries, transiting deaf



children to the world of sound and speech.

SMVDNSH is in fact the only Private Hospital in the entire state performing Cochlear Implant Surgeries requiring high-end clinical

capabilities / professional inter-departmental co-operation.

The Governing Body resolved to take further strides in alignment with the philanthropic vision of the Shrine

Board to ensure that the Hospital becomes useful for the society / region.

The CEO, Shrine Board also assured of Shrine Board's full support in this regard to

ensure that the hospital evolves as a state of art facility endeavoring to touch lives of vast sections of society.

Several important decisions concerning further growth of the Hospital with the introduction of "positive interventions" to strengthen the quality of patient care, were taken in the Meeting.

This included various decisions to address operational issues, critical review of progress of early expected Organ Transplant Programme of Hospital, finalizing plans for incurring capital expenditure for growth of Hospital upto 500 beds, extensive review of feedback / suggestions received from patients / attendants and firming-up of a road map for expanding services-framework

of Hospital's Jammu clinic.

The Governing Body also critically reviewed the progress of early setting up of fully funded Medical College of the Board for general development of the region.

Besides, several decisions having far reaching implications were also taken for the concurrent expansion of the Hospital's bed capacities for meeting emerging demands and further enhancing the operational capabilities of the Hospital.

Towards the end of the meeting, Dr. Bhan emphasized expediency of execution as the essence of future plans relating to the Hospital / upcoming Medical College of the Shrine Board.



## Singer Chitra faces cyber-attack over Lord Ram hymns chanting appeal

*'Wishing that the Almighty's blessings may be showered on everyone'*

National award-winning playback singer K S Chitra has come under social media attack for her recent video message urging people to chant Lord Ram hymns during the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22.

However, all major political parties, including the ruling CPI (M), opposition Congress and the BJP denounced the attack against the eminent singer and extended support to her, saying that she has the right to express her opinion.

The saffron party and right-wing outfits even started a campaign on social media platforms extending support to the singer and projecting the row as an example of "intolerance" in the left-ruled state.

In a brief video circulated on social media platforms in the last two days, the eminent singer asked everyone to chant the 'Sri Rama, Jaya Rama, Jaya Rama' mantra at 12.20 pm, when the consecration ceremony is held.

She also asked people to light five-wick lamps in their houses in the evening on the same day to mark the occasion.

The 60-year-old singer concluded her message by reciting the Sanskrit hymn "Loka Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu," wishing that the Almighty's blessings may be showered on everyone.

However, the video message from the singer didn't go down well with a section of netizens who vehemently criticised her for the action.

Many felt that she shouldn't have endorsed the Ram Temple, while others charged that she took political sides by delivering such a message.

There were many social media users who extended support to the singer, saying she has every right and the freedom to express her opinion.

In a Facebook post, writer Indu Menon criticised Chitra and asked her to implement the



ritual and lamp lighting in her home only.

She said Chitra has freedom of expression and freedom of stand on the sides she likes.

"Innocently celebrating a cause that led to genocide and racism may seem harmless, but it's actually a painful experience," Menon expressed in the Facebook post.

However, well-known singer G Venugopal, who strongly supported Chitra in the row, said the online remarks insulted her, which was 'disheartening'.

In a Facebook post, he requested the critics to forgive Chitra if they have any differences of opinion with her statements.

Major political parties, including the ruling CPI (M), the opposition Congress, and the BJP, reacted to the issue.

Senior CPI (M) leader and cultural affairs minister Saji Cheriyan said there is no need to make her statement a controversy.

"Hasn't the Supreme Court given permission (for Ayodhya Temple)? Those who have faith may go, and those without faith may not. There is no need to make Chitra's statement con-

troversial," he said, adding that anyone can express their opinion.

Strongly opposing the cyber-attack against the singer, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, V D Satheesan said those who cannot be assaulted physically are being attacked in the cyber space, and that is fascism.

"If Chitra has her own opinion, let her express that," he told reporters in Kannur.

Noting that we may not agree with her, the Congress leader said that everybody has the right to criticise, but if anyone says things that have never been said, that would be questioned.

BJP state chief K Surendran said the only reason for the cyberbullying against the eminent singer is that she believes in Sanatana Dharma.

In a hard-hitting Facebook post, he said that those who were unleashing cyber-attacks against Chitra were belonging to a "Left-Jihadi eco-system." The leader further wondered what was wrong in appealing to devotees to light lamps on the consecration ceremony day and asked the Kerala police to initi-

ate stringent legal action against those behind the attack.

"Appalled by cyber-attacks on the esteemed singer @KSChithra ji who appealed to light a lamp on Ayodhya Prana Prathista day, by left-jihadist groups. Under the rule of @pinarayivijayan in Kerala, things are such that a Hindu can't freely share her beliefs with fellow followers. It is shameful that @INCLIndia remains silent on this act," he said in his X handle.

Senior BJP leader and External Affairs Minister V Muraleedharan expressed shock over the news reports about cyberbullying against Chitra.

Speaking to the media, he said the singer has the right to express her opinions and beliefs.

A gifted singer is being attacked for just saying that the hymns of Lord Ram should be recited, Muraleedharan said, alleging that deliberate attempts were being made to insult the Hindu community over Ayodhya.

Backing Chitra, actor-turned politician and National Women's Commission member Khushbu Sundar cited cyberbullying as an example of "intolerance" in Left and Congress-ruled states.

"Intolerance is at its peak under the Communist & Congress ruled States.

They cannot respect one's beliefs and have the courage to learn the grace of acceptance. It's either my way or no way to them. Shame on them. I completely stand in solidarity with @KSChithra Chechi," she said in her X handle.

The cyber-attack against Chitra comes soon after actor Shobhana came under criticism from a section of people for participating in a woman empowerment programme organised by the BJP in Thrissur recently.

Popularly known as the 'Vanambadi' (nightingale) of Kerala, Chitra has sung thousands of songs in multiple languages and won several national and state awards.

## Vocalist Malkit Singh Jandiala to perform at Tagore Theatre on January 18



Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Malkit Singh Jandiala is set to mesmerise the audience with his soulful raga recital at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh on January 18. The performance is being organised by Polo Hindustani Art Heritage and Cultural Trust, along with Pracheen Kala Kendra.

Singh, an acclaimed Hindustani classical artist, is celebrated for his mastery over various ragas and his ability to infuse emotions into his performances. He says, "In my per-

formance there will be slow khayal, followed by dhruv khayal and then tarana. Each raga is a unique arrangement of ascending and descending musical notes. Ragas are very powerful; they encapsulate nine rasas like gambhir, bhakti, hasya, etc. These can generate intense bhav or feelings."

Amardeep Singh Dahiya, founder, Polo Hindustani Art Heritage and Cultural Trust, says, "Malkit's upcoming recital promises to be captivating as he will

take the audience on a melodic journey that transcends boundaries and resonates with the timeless essence of classical music. The objective of the evening is to make youth aware of Indian traditions and connect them to the rich Indian musical ethos."

Malkit, an MA and M Phil in Hindustani Classical Music and a PhD in Gurmat Sangeet, has done intense research on all four Vedas. According to him, "The first account of ragas is documented in Sam Veda, which is a sangeetak treatise. So ragas were born thousands of years ago." A devout Sikh, Malkit will sing a raga of Shri Guru Granth Sahib also.

"Music enthusiasts in Chandigarh can anticipate an evening of sublime melodies and artistic brilliance as Malkit Singh graces the Tagore Theatre stage on January 18," said Sajal Koser, secretary, Pracheen Kala Kendra. Along with the versatile raga singer Malkit Singh, the musical celebration will see national and international artists showcase their expertise in tabla, guitar, sarangi and harmonium.

## Huma Qureshi reigns supreme in Maharani 3 teaser

The makers of Huma Qureshi-starrer political series Maharani unveiled the teaser of Season 3, and it features the return of Rani Bharti with a powerful narrative wielding the weapon of education.

The one-minute-seven seconds teaser features Huma's character Rani Bharti clearing the intermediate examinations. She gets sweets distributed in the prison.

In the teaser, Rani is saying, "Even as a school dropout, I gave all of you a tough time. Once I graduate, what will happen to all of you?"

The show stars Huma as Rani, wife of Bihar's Chief Minister Bheema Bharti (played by Sohum Shah) character. It is partly inspired by several incidents that happened in Bihar in the 1990s when Lalu Prasad, who had to resign as Chief Minister after he was arrested



in the fodder scam, announced his home-maker wife Rabri Devi as his successor and got it endorsed by some 60 party legislators.

The story of season one is from 1995 to 1999 and is inspired by real-life events and characters like Ranvir Sena, left-wing extremism, Fodder Scam etc.

Maharani 3 is produced by Naren Kumar and Dimple Kharbanda,

created by Subhash Kapoor, and directed by Saurabh Bhav.

The gripping storyline, penned by Subhash Kapoor and Nandan Singh, features Huma Qureshi, Amit Sial, Vineet Kumar, Pramod Pathak, Kani Kusruti, Anuja Sathe, Sushil Pandey, Dibyendu Bhatnacharya, and Sohum Shah in pivotal roles.

It will soon stream on Sony LIV.

## Ardaas Sarbat De Bhale Di: Gippy Grewal on the go

Gippy Grewal's directorial Ardaas is all set for its third franchise, titled Ardaas Sarbat De Bhale Di. It recently went on the floors in Chandigarh.

The film starring Gippy Grewal along with Jasmin Bhasin, Gurpreet Guggi and Prince Kanwaljeet Singh is produced by Gippy Grewal, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Ravneet Kaur Grewal, Abhishek Pathak and Divay Dhamija and presented under banners Panorama Studios and Humble Motion Pictures.

Like the earlier two

franchises, Ardaas Sarbat De Bhale Di will also be a socially relevant family drama high on emotion and entertainment.

Gippy said, "Ardaas is very close to my heart as I became director with this film.

Audiences have given the franchise much love and I feel an added responsibility towards them, to give them a film that will entertain and touch a chord.

It's not a film for me, it's an emotion and I am glad to partner with Panorama Studios for the film."



The film will be released later this year.

With two releases last year, Gippy is gearing up for an eventful year with Warning 2 slated to

release on February 2 while Jatt Nuu Chudail and Carry On Jattiye have already wrapped up.

Last year Grewal's

Carry On Jatta 3 became a hit with the film grossing over Rs 100 crore at the box office worldwide, the first Punjabi film to do so.

## It's very challenging to shoot with a prosthetic baby bump, says Aditi Sharma

Aditi Sharma, who is leaving no stone unturned to do justice to her role of playing a pregnant woman in the show Rabb Se Hai Dua, has opened up on shooting with a prosthetic baby bump which is a completely new experience for her.

The show features Aditi as Dua, Karanvir Sharma as Haider and Richa Rathore as Ghazal.

In the upcoming episodes, the show will take a short seven-month leap where the Akhtar family will be seen hosting a baby shower for Dua.

The twist in the tale is when Ghazal makes a grand entry stating that she is also pregnant with



Haider's child.

Talking about the sequence, Aditi said, "This is the third time I am shooting with a baby bump as Dua is seven-months pregnant in the show. But this time the experience is very different from last two time."

"To be honest, it is very challenging to shoot with a prosthetic baby bump and move around with the added weight. I can only imagine how gruelling those nine months must be in a women's life. Of course, it comes with a lot of hope and excitement but hats off to women for being able to go through this phase with positivity," added Aditi.

Rabb Se Hai Dua airs on Zee TV.

## Nikki Sharma on her own bridal makeup for Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti

Nikki Sharma has opened up on her bridal look in the show Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti and shared how she has done her own makeup for the wedding sequence, calling it "refreshing". The drama stars Arjun Bijlani (Shiv) and Nikki Sharma (Shakti). In the recent episodes, viewers got to be a part of Shiv Shakti's wedding preparations.

On the other hand, Keertan (Gaurav Wadhwa) is keen on



breaking this union. While the wedding sequence of the show is going to be a high-octane drama, Nikki's flawless bridal look has caught everyone's eye.

Talking about the same, Nikki said, "Dressing up as a bride for a show is not a new experience for me, but doing my own makeup for this look has been very refreshing."

She has been praised for her commendable makeup skills. The show airs on Zee TV.



## PM Modi dedicates Rs 4,000 crore worth of projects to nation in Kochi

Projects comprise a 310-metre-long dry dock and the International Ship Repair Facility



KOCHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated projects worth Rs 4,000 crore to the nation, on Wednesday, including key strategic initiatives at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

and the International Ship Repair Facility, India's first fully developed pure ship repair ecosystem. Additionally, the dedication includes the IOCL's LPG import terminal.

and Ministry of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, reviewed the preparation of the projects at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) on Tuesday. The government anticipates that with the dedication of these projects, CSL is poised to double its turnover within the next four years to Rs 7,000 crores.

## Mahua Moitra receives 3rd notice to vacate government residence in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress Party (TMC) leader Mahua Moitra has received fresh notice to vacate her government-allotted accommodation in New Delhi on Wednesday.

This is the third notice served to Moitra by the Directorate of Estate, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, asking her to vacate her official bungalow and comes shortly after she was expelled from the Lok Sabha in connection with the 'cash-for-query' case. "The Applicant vide Letter dated 08.01.2024 requested to initiate eviction proceedings against, you under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971," the notice of Office of the Estate Officer and Assistant Director of Estates (Litigation), Directorate of Estates read.

The Ministry of Urban Development served the second notice to Mahua on January 11 this year.

The TMC leader had approached the Delhi High Court, seeking the quashing of the notice issued by the Directorate of Estate cancelling her government accommodation in the national capital. The plea stated that a notice had been issued to her on December 11, 2023, which directed her to vacate the house by 7.01.2024, failing which proceedings under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Act) 1971 ('PP Act 1971') will be caused to be initiated.

The plea prayed to allow her to retain possession of her government accommodation till results of the 2024 General Elections.

It also stated that the absence of government accommodation, however, poses a significant impediment to the



petitioner's ability to host and engage with party members, parliamentarians, fellow politicians, visiting constituents, key stakeholders and other dignitaries, which is essential, especially in the lead up to a general election.

Moitra was on December 8, 2023, expelled from the Lok Sabha after a discussion on the report of the Ethics Committee in the 'cash for query' that was tabled in the Lower House.

Moitra, who was not allowed to speak during the discussion inside the House, said that the Ethics committee broke every rule.

The expelled Lok Sabha MP alleged that she has been found guilty of breaching a code of ethics that 'does not exist'.

The Ethics Committee report probing 'Unethical Conduct' of the TMC MP had recommended that Moitra "may be expelled" from the Lok Sabha and called for an "intense, legal, institutional inquiry" by the central government in a "time-bound manner".

The report was adopted by a 6:4 majority in the panel last month. The report on Moitra's cash-for-query case revealed that she visited the UAE four times from 2019 to 2023 while her login was accessed several times.

## PM Modi offers prayers at Lord Krishna temple, attends party leader's family wedding in Guruvayur

THRISSUR, Jan 17 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday offered prayers at Kerala's famous Lord Krishna temple in Guruvayur and attended the family wedding of actor-politician Suresh Gopi, which saw top stars of Malayalam cinema in attendance.

The Prime Minister offered prayers at the temple dressed in the traditional attire of 'mundu' (dhoti) and a white shawl.

Thereafter, he changed his attire and attended the wedding of actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi's daughter.

A police officer deployed at the temple as part of the security arrangements, told a TV channel that Modi handed over the garlands to the couple which they exchanged. Malayalam film superstars,



including Mammootty, Mohanlal and Dileep were present there and the PM spoke to each of them, the officer added.

He also blessed and offered sweets to a couple which got married at the temple prior to the wedding of Gopi's daughter, the officer said.

The famous Lord Krishna

shrine was under tight police security since early morning ahead of the PM's visit.

Modi arrived in Guruvayur at around 7.35 am by helicopter which landed at the Sree Krishna College ground where hundreds of BJP supporters and workers were gathered for hours to welcome him.

People of all ages welcomed the PM at the helipad waving the BJP flags and wearing hats and caps in party colours.

From the helipad, Modi went to the Sreevalsam guest house where he changed into the traditional Kerala attire before going to the temple to offer prayers.

He will later offer prayers at Tripprayar Sree Rama Swami Temple in Thrissur district before returning to Kochi where he will be taking part in central government and party programmes.

The PM had arrived in Kerala on Tuesday evening on a two-day visit to the state.

On Tuesday, Modi had taken out a massive roadshow in Kochi, in an indication of BJP's focus to make inroads in the southern state in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls sailing on the PM's popularity.

## Congress launches website, email ID to seek people's suggestions for 2024 Lok Sabha poll manifesto

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): The Congress Party on Wednesday said that any decision on having a joint manifesto of the INDIA alliance parties will be taken by chiefs of all outfits, even as it launched a website and email ID for seeking people's suggestions for its own manifesto for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The Chairman of the Congress party's manifesto committee, P Chidambaram, while addressing a press conference, told media persons that at least one public consultation



per state will be held for seeking suggestions for the party's manifesto.

"INDIA alliance parties are welcome to participate in these public consultations," he informed reporters.

Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister T S Singhdeo said that

a decision on an INDIA alliance common manifesto will be taken by the chiefs of all alliance parties.

He added that all sections of society are welcome to give their suggestions for the Congress Party's manifesto, for which an email ID and a website called

"awaazbharatki.in" have been launched today.

Chidambaram said while two meetings have been held of the manifesto committee, the idea behind launching a website and email ID is to take as many suggestions from the general public as possible, since it's going to be a people's manifesto.

Asked about the deadline of finalising the manifesto, the former Finance and Home Minister said that ideally he would like to wrap up the exercise by February 15.

All the 15 members of the manifesto commit-

tee, Chidambaram said, will also be travelling to various states for seeking suggestions.

He further informed that the Congress party's manifesto will also have reference to all the unjust laws framed by the BJP-led Central Government, including the three criminal laws.

On being asked whether the document will have suggestions on the three criminal laws, Chidambaram said that his dissent note against the laws as well as of other Congress leaders are already available in public domain.

## Fresh violence erupts in Manipur; commando, woman killed as attackers use rocket-propelled grenade

IMPHAL, Jan 17 (Agencies): One Manipur Police commando was killed and three others injured when suspected militants attacked the security forces, who were on a search operation in different vehicles in Moreh under Tengnoupal district to nab the militants.

Somorjit hails from Malom areas in Imphal West district. Heavy exchange of fire between the security forces and the suspected militants were reported in three different locations in bordering Moreh areas since Wednesday morning, a police official said.

The militants had also fired Rocket-Propelled Grenade shells on the

security forces. Tension runs high in the bordering areas and additional security forces including Assam Rifles have rushed to the areas to quell the situation.

Apprehending fresh violence, the district administration imposed a total curfew in the trouble torn Tengnoupal district from Tuesday afternoon.

"Following inputs of likelihood of breach of peace, disturbance of public tranquillity and grave danger to human lives and property within the revenue jurisdiction of Tengnoupal district the total curfew was imposed in the district," a notification said.

Moreh is a very old and major trading town on the India-Myanmar border.

Meanwhile, a leader of the ruling BJP Hemkholal Mate (36) and a former soldier of the Army Philip Khaikhohal Khongsai (49) were arrested on Monday night from Moreh in connection with the killing of a Sub-Divisional police officer Chingtham Anand Kumar in October last year.

Upon the arrest of the duo, tribals at the border town on Tuesday demanded their release, while Imphal valley witnessed widespread protests demanding handing over the case to the

National Investigation Agency (NIA) and giving exemplary punishment of the detainees.

Since December 30, at least 10 Manipur Police commandos and a Border Security Force (BSF) trooper have been injured in different incidents of attacks by suspected Kuki militants at Moreh.

People from the Kuki, Meitei, Naga, Tamil, Panggal (Muslim), Gorkha, Sikh and other communities have been residing for decades in peace and harmony in Moreh, which is just four km to the west of Myanmar's largest border town Tamu and 110 km south of Imphal.

## Woman Found Dead At Greater Noida Home In Suspected Dowry Murder

NOIDA, Jan 17 (Agencies): A 25-year-old woman's body was found at her rented accommodation in Greater Noida in a suspected case of dowry killing, police officials said today.

The woman's husband, who works at a private hospital in Greater Noida, is missing and is believed to have strangled her, the officials said.

The couple hailed from Agra and had moved to Greater Noida just six days ago, Additional DCP Ashok Kumar Sharma said.

Knowledge Park police station officials were alerted about a woman's body having been found at a house in Tugalpur village.

The woman's family has been contacted. Her husband is missing and searches are on to arrest him," Mr Sharma said.

"After the information of the death, forensic experts along with local police went to the spot and carried out legal proceedings.

The body was then sent for autopsy," the officer said. Knowledge Park police

station in-charge Vipin Kumar on Wednesday said a written complaint has been received from the woman's family.

"On the basis of the allegations, the woman is suspected to have been killed due to dowry-related issues.

The couple got married three years ago," he said.

Mr Kumar said an FIR was being filed under relevant provisions of the law for murder and dowry-related offences.

Further investigation in the case is underway and the autopsy report is awaited, he added.

## IIM-Calcutta removes director-in-charge over sexual harassment charges by woman staffer; brings in new appointment

KOLKATA, Jan 17 (Agencies): The Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C) has removed its director-in-charge Sahadeb Sarkar over sexual harassment charges against him.

According to a statement issued by the institute on January 16, which surfaced on Wednesday, senior faculty member Saibal Chattopadhyay has been appointed as the new director-in-charge (DIC) with immediate effect.

As per the statement, Chattopadhyay replaced his predecessor Sahadeb Sarkar, against whom the internal complaints committee of the institute has received a complaint from a woman staff member.

Sarkar has not only been removed from the chair of DIC but also has been

relieved of all his duties with the institute.

It is learnt that he has been removed as per the provision of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

As per the statement, the internal complaints committee has ascertained that prima facie the complaint warrants a formal probe. A formal communication over the matter has also been sent to the Board of Governors of IIM-C, as per the statement.

It is further learnt that the decision to remove Sarkar from the chair of DIC was taken at a meeting on January 6 after accepting the recommendation of the internal complaints committee.

## Akhilesh Yadav not to join Congress' Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

LUCKNOW, Jan 17 (Agencies): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said he is "unlikely" to join Congress' "Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra" led by Rahul Gandhi.

When asked about this at a press conference at the party office here, Yadav said, "Neither the Congress nor the BJP invites us to their programmes."

Yadav, who flagged off "Samvidhan Bachao, Desh Bachao Samajwadi PDA Yatra" from the party office here, said that the yatra will spread the ideologies of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and Mulayam Singh Yadav down to the villages.



PDA stand for Pichada, Dalit, Alpsankhyak-Muslims (backward, Dalits and minorities, especially Muslims)

"We have taken a pledge to fulfil dreams of old socialists and the yatra will cover many districts of the state. It will attempt to unite backwards, Dalits, minorities and also upper castes," he said, adding that SP was the only party which was fighting to save consti-

tutional values and the constitution.

Yadav said that youths of the state were not getting employed as per their qualification. However, 2024 is the year of change and transformation. He also tried to corner the BJP government and asked about the Rs 40-lakh crore MOU, which it claimed to have signed in the investor summit, gone as youths were not getting employment.



## Pakistan warns of serious 'consequences' after Iran attacks terror bases in Balochistan

Two bases of Balochi militant group Jaish al Adl were targeted by missiles, reports Iranian state media

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17 (Agencies): Pakistan on Wednesday warned Iran of "serious consequences" after Tehran launched unprecedented missile and drone attacks on terrorist bases in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, which killed two children and injured three others.

Two bases of Balochi militant group Jaish al Adl in Pakistan were targeted by missiles on Tuesday, Iranian state media reported, a day after Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards attacked targets in Iraq and Syria with missiles.

Islamabad also summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires here and issued a strongly worded condemnation of Iran's "violation of its airspace", the Foreign Office said.

Iran's attack could potentially raise tensions in the Middle East, already roiled by Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

"Two key strongholds of the Jaysh al-Dhulm (Jaish al-Adl) terrorist group in Pakistan" were "specifically targeted and successfully demolished," Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said.

Claiming that the area targeted is called "Green Mountain", the agency said that the bases were targeted by a combination of missile and drone attacks.



The Jaish al-Adl militant group has previously mounted attacks on Iranian security forces in the border area with Pakistan, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The Foreign Office of Pakistan strongly condemned the attack, describing it as an "unprovoked violation of its airspace" by Iran. It said the attack killed two children and injured three others.

"Pakistan vehemently protests the violation of its sovereignty," the Foreign Office said, adding that it was "completely unacceptable" and may have "serious consequences".

It also expressed concern that the "illegal act took place despite the existence of several established channels of communication between Pakistan and Iran".

Pakistan also summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to

convey its "strongest condemnation of this blatant violation" of sovereignty.

"A strong protest has already been lodged with the senior official concerned in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran. Additionally, the Iranian charge d'affaires has been called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey our strongest condemnation of this blatant violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and that the responsibility for the consequences will lie squarely with Iran," the statement said.

The Foreign Office of Pakistan did not mention the location where the casualties took place. However, it is suspected that the bases were in Panjgur in Balochistan province.

Local authorities in Panjgur preferred to remain silent on the attacks, but some confided that the missile attacks also hit a mosque, partially damaging it

and injuring civilians.

"Pakistan has always said terrorism is a common threat to all countries in the region that requires coordinated action. Such unilateral acts are not in conformity with good neighbourly relations and can seriously undermine bilateral trust and confidence," the Foreign Office said.

Jaish al-Adl, or the "Army of Justice", is a Sunni militant group founded in 2012 that largely operates in Pakistan. Iran has fought in border areas against the militants, but a missile-and-drone attack on Pakistan would be unprecedented for Iran.

Last month, at least 11 Iranian police officers were killed in an attack overnight on a police station in the southeastern province of Sistan-Balochistan, according to Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi, who blamed the Jaish al-Adl for the incident.

He claimed the Jaish militants had entered Sistan from the Pakistan side near Panjgur.

Over the years, the troubled Balochistan province has become a hotbed for terror attacks, and many banned religious terror, and separatist outfits have also used its soil to carry out attacks against Pakistan's security personnel and installations.

## US, South Korea and Japan conduct naval drills as tensions deepen with North Korea



SEOUL, Jan 17 (Agencies): The United States, South Korea and Japan conducted combined naval exercises involving an American aircraft carrier in their latest show of strength against nuclear-armed North Korea, South Korea's military said, on Wednesday, as the three countries' senior diplomats were to meet in Seoul to discuss the deepening standoff with Pyongyang.

The training in waters off South Korea's Jeju island came as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continues a provocative run in weapon testing and threats that has raised regional tensions to their highest point in years.

At Pyongyang's rubber-stamp parliament this week, Kim declared that North Korea would abandon its long-standing commitment to a peaceful unification with South Korea and ordered a rewriting of North's constitution to eliminate the idea of a shared statehood between the war-divided countries.

His speech, on Monday, came a day after the North conducted its first ballistic test of 2024, which state-media described as a new solid-fuel intermediate range missile tipped with a hypersonic warhead, reflecting its push to advance its lineup of weapons targeting US military bases in Guam and Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chief of Staff said the trilateral naval drills, which completed its three-day programme on Wednesday, involved nine warships from the countries, including US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and Aegis destroyers from South Korea and Japan.

The exercise was aimed at sharpening the countries' combined deterrence and response capabilities against North Korean nuclear, missile and underwater threats, and also training for preventing illicit maritime transport of weapons of mass destruction, the Joint Chief of Staff said.

It didn't specify whether the training reflected concerns about North Korea's alleged arms transfers to Russia to help that country's war in Ukraine.

In Seoul, South Korean nuclear envoy Kim Gunn was scheduled to meet with Japanese counterpart Namazu Hiroyuki on Wednesday, a day before their trilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden's deputy special representative for North Korea, Jung Pak, to coordinate their response toward the North.

In the face of growing North Korean nuclear threats, the conservative government of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has been expanding military cooperation and training with the United States and Japan, which Kim has decried as invasion rehearsals.

Yoon has also sought stronger reassurances from Washington that it would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear capabilities to defend its ally in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack.

In his speech at the North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, Kim described the South Koreans as "top class stooges" of America who were obsessed with confrontation, and repeated a threat that the North would annihilate the South with its nukes if provoked.

## China's population drops for 2nd year, raises long-term growth concerns

HONG KONG, Jan 17 (Agencies): China's population fell for a second consecutive year in 2023, as a record low birth rate and a wave of COVID-19 deaths when strict lockdowns ended accelerated a downturn that will have profound long-term effects on the economy's growth potential.

The National Bureau of Statistics said the total number of people in China dropped by 2.08 million, or 0.15%, to 1.409 billion in 2023.

That was well above the population decline of 850,000 in 2022, which had been the first since 1961 during the Great Famine of the Mao Zedong era.

China experienced a dramatic nationwide COVID surge early last year after three years of tight screening and quarantine measures kept the virus largely contained until authorities abruptly lifted curbs in December 2022.

Total deaths last year rose 6.6% to 11.1 million, with the death rate reaching the highest level since 1974 during the Cultural Revolution.

New births fell 5.7% to 9.02 million and the birth rate was a record low 6.39 births per 1,000 people, down from a rate of 6.77 births in 2022.

Births in the country have been plummeting for decades as a result of the one-child policy implemented from 1980 to 2015 and its rapid urbanisation during that period. As with earlier economic booms in Japan and South Korea, large populations moved from China's rural farms into cities, where having children is more expensive.

Japan's birth rate was 6.3 per 1,000 people in 2022, while South Korea's rate was 4.9.

"As we have observed again and again from other low fertility countries, fertility decline is often very difficult to reverse," University of Michigan demographer Zhou Yun said.

Further denting appetite for baby-making in China in 2023, youth unemployment hit record highs, wages for many white-collar workers fell, and a crisis in the property sector, where more than two-thirds of household wealth is stored, intensified.

The fresh data adds to concerns that the world's No.2 economy's growth prospects are diminishing due to fewer workers and consumers, while the rising costs of elderly care and retirement benefits put more strain on indebted local governments.

India surpassed China as the world's most populous nation last year, according to estimates by the United Nations, fuelling more debate over the merits of relocating some China-based supply chains to other markets, especially as geopolitical tensions rise between Beijing and Washington.

Long-term, U.N. experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019.

China's population aged 60 and over reached 296.97 million in 2023, about 21.1% of its total population, up from 280.04 million in 2022.

**PENSION ISSUES**  
China's 2023 rate of 7.87 deaths per 1,000 people was higher than a rate of 7.37 deaths in 2022.

The country's retirement-age population, aged 60 and over, is expected to increase to more than 400 million by 2035 - more than the entire population of the United States - from about 280 million people currently.

The state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences sees the pension system running out of money by 2035.

Zhu Guoping, a 57-year-old farmer in northwestern Gansu province, said his annual income of about 20,000 yuan (\$2,779.59) leaves his family with meagre savings.

If they have a bad harvest there is not enough money to pay for fertilisers and pesticides for the next year, Zhu said.

He will receive a 160 yuan monthly pension in three years once he turns 60, the equivalent of \$22.

"The money is definitely not enough," Zhu said. "Maybe our children can provide us with some support in the future."

**LESS BABYMAKING**  
High childcare and education costs put many Chinese couples off having children, while uncertainty in the job market discourages women from pausing their careers.

Gender discrimination and traditional expectations that women assume the caretaker role in the family exacerbate the issue, demographers say.

President Xi Jinping said last year that women should tell "good family tradition stories," adding it was necessary to "actively cultivate a new culture of marriage and childbearing," which he linked to national development.

Local governments have announced various measures to encourage child-birth including tax deductions, longer maternity leave and housing subsidies. But many of the policies have not been implemented due to insufficient funding and a lack of motivation by local governments, said a Beijing policy institute, urging a unified nationwide family subsidy scheme instead.

China may get some relief next year from a pick-up in marriages in 2023, when the COVID backlog cleared. Marriages are a leading indicator for birth rates in China, where most single women cannot access child-raising benefits.

## Indian-origin Singapore lawyer suspended for falsely attesting documents

SINGAPORE, Jan 17 (Agencies): An Indian-origin lawyer who falsely attested that she had witnessed the signing of several property-related documents despite those not being signed in her presence was handed a one-year suspension.

The Law Society of Singapore argued for a 30 months' suspension for Kasturibai Manickam—a lawyer with more than 25 years' experience—acting for two siblings who were the registered owners of a condominium unit.

However, the Court of Three Judges, led by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, said this was an instance of a "grave error of judgement" rather than a character

defect, according to a report by The Straits Times.

There was no dispute that the documents were signed by the intended signatories, Chief Justice Menon said.

Kasturibai's error was to decide to attest that she witnessed the signing because she knew the parties and thought no harm would ensue, he said.

Santha Devi V Puthenveetil Kesava Pillay and her brother Raman Puthenveetil Kesava Pillay had sold the property in September 2020 to two individuals.

Kasturibai's firm—East Asia Law Corporation—had acted for the siblings in several matters prior to the sale of

the property. Raman's wife was also a long-time employee of the firm.

In the course of acting for the siblings, Kasturibai prepared six documents for the transaction, all of which were signed by Santha Devi.

Between September 7, 2020, and November 5, 2020, Kasturibai signed as a witness to Santha Devi's signature, even though the lawyer did not witness the signing.

Five of the documents, including a transfer instrument, were sent to the law firm acting for the purchasers.

Santha Devi later lodged a complaint with the Law Society of Singapore against Kasturibai and a disciplinary

tribunal was appointed in May 2022 to formally investigate the matter.

The tribunal's report, issued in October 2022, did not elaborate on the events leading to the complaint.

During the tribunal hearing, Kasturibai admitted that she signed as a witness to Santha Devi's signature despite not having witnessed the signing.

Senior Counsel N Sreenivasan, Kasturibai's lawyer, argued that she did not act for her personal benefit and that her motivation was to help her elderly clients avoid travel during the Covid pandemic.

He also argued that there was very little harm caused as the

transaction was legitimate.

The tribunal found that Kasturibai's act involved an element of dishonesty and constituted grossly improper conduct.

The tribunal found that the case was serious enough to be referred to the court, which has the power to suspend or disbar lawyers.

During the hearing on January 16, Sreenivasan said Kasturibai wanted to tender her deepest apologies to the court and to the profession.

The court allowed the suspension to take effect on March 7 to give Kasturibai time to find another lawyer to take over her files.

## New Zealand's first refugee lawmaker charged after resigning over claims of shoplifting



WELLINGTON, Jan 17 (Agencies): New Zealand's first refugee lawmaker was charged by police a day after resigning amid allegations she had shoplifted several times at local high-end boutiques.

New Zealand Police said Golriz Ghahraman, a former member of New Zealand's Green Party, had been charged, on Wednesday, with two counts of shoplifting at a store in Auckland's Ponsonby.

"Today, a 43-year-old woman has been summoned to appear in the Auckland District Court on two charges of shoplifting," a police statement said.

"These charges relate to incidents that allegedly occurred on December 21 and 23, 2023."

Ghahraman is expected to appear in

the Auckland District Court on February 1.

Ghahraman resigned, on Tuesday, without referring to the specific allegations, saying that "stresses relating to my work" led her to act "in ways completely out of character".

"People should, rightly, expect the highest standards of behaviour from their elected representatives. I fell short. I'm sorry," she wrote in a statement.

"It's not a behaviour I can explain because it's not rational in any way. After medical evaluation, I understand I'm not well."

"The best thing for my mental health is to resign as a member of parliament and to focus on my recovery and find other ways to work for positive change in the world." Local media had earlier accused Ghahraman of shoplifting two times at Scotties Boutique in Auckland, and once at Cre8vieworkz in Wellington in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

On Tuesday, the New Zealand Herald published CCTV footage of the 42-year-old appearing to steal a handbag from the Auckland-based store.

Ghahraman is an Iranian-born, Oxford-educated human rights lawyer who sought asylum in New Zealand after the Iran-Iraq war.

## Google to lay off 'a few hundreds' employees from ad sales team

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 17 (Agencies): After laying off nearly 1,000 employees last week, Google is reportedly slashing "a few hundred" more jobs in its advertising sales team as part of an ongoing restructuring exercise.

Philipp Schindler, Google's chief business officer, told staff in a memo that the fresh job cuts "were the result of changes to how Google's sales team operated", reports Business Insider.

A Google spokesperson also confirmed that "a few hundred roles globally are being eliminated" as part of the restructuring. The layoffs will primarily affect Google's Large Customer Sales (LCS) unit, a team that sells ads to large businesses.

The Google Customer Solutions team (GCS), which sells ads to smaller clients, will now become the "core" ad sales team. Google laid off some employees on its LCS team in October last year. "Every year we go through a rigorous process to structure our team to provide the best service to our Ads customers," a company spokesperson was quoted as saying. "We map customers to the right specialist teams and sales channels to meet their service needs. As part of this, a few hundred roles globally are being eliminated and impacted employees will be able to apply for open roles or elsewhere at Google," the spokesperson added.

Google had recently laid off workers in several departments, including hardware, central engineering teams, and Google Assistant. And January last year, Google cut its workforce by 12,000 people, or around 6 per cent of its full-time employees.

The tech giant also made other job cuts to its recruiting and news divisions later in the year.





Sikh devotees visiting Digiana Ashram Gurdwara to mark the celebration of 357th Prakash Utsav of 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh on Wednesday in Jammu. (Pic by AMAN SHARMA)

## Punjab wrestler Sandeep lifts 20th Sool-Pamote Dangal title

### Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 17: Wrestler Sandeep of Khanna of Punjab lifted 20th annual Sool- Pamote Dangal title 2024 by defeating wrestler Chota Gani of Hossiarpur of Punjab in a neck to neck contest at Village Pamote Nalla in district Reasi.

Sandeep was adjudged as the best wrestler in Dangal which was organised by Sool- Pamote Dangal committee on the eve of Maker Sankranti.

The winner of main bout wrestler Sandeep was given a cash prize of Rs. 71,000 while runner-up wrestler Chota Gani was awarded with cash Rs. 50,000.

Former Minister Jugal Kishore Magotra was the chief guest on the occasion who distributed cash prizes among the winner and runner-up wrestlers.

He also witnessed the Dangal and encouraged



the youth while SDM Katra Deepak Dubey and DDC member Panthaj Rajinder Kumar Mengi were the guests of honour.

Ex. BDC Panthaj Chander Mohan Singh, Ex Sarpanch Karnail Singh, Jarnail Singh, Rajinder Kumar Thapp, Ramesh Chander and Sohan Singh Thakur were also present.

There were 42 bouts were played in the one day Dangal and an expenditure of Rs.

3,80,000 has been incurred for the conduct of this Dangal.

The second main bout was won by Rashid of Domana Akhara Jammu who defeated wrestler Sunil of Harayana The winner wrestler Rashid was awarded with Rs. 41,000 while runner-up wrestler Sunil got Rs. 30,000.

The third bout was won by Nadeem of J&K Police of Doda who defeated wrestler Jatinder of Haraya-

na. Winner Wrestler Nadeem was awarded with Rs. 31,000 while runner-up wrestler Jatinder got Rs. 20,000.

The proceedings of the Dangal was conducted by Naresh Kumar (PappuLakri) and welcome address was presented by Raj Kumar Sharma (Babbu) President of Dangal Committee.

Members and technical officials who helped for the smooth conduct of the Dangal included (Raj Kumar Sharma (Babbu), President, Rattan Lal Sharma, Gian Chand, Joginder Kumar (Pappu) Mohan Lal, Nasib Singh, Kartar Singh (Numberdar), Bablu Dubey, Chain Singh, Kuldeep Kumar, Sohan Lal Verma and Anu Baigra.

The bouts were appreciated by Sat Paul Verma, Om Parkash Verma, Sunny Sharma, Raj Singh and Tulinder Kumar, Shiv Kumar Sharma.

## Locals thank BRO for construction, macademization of Bhadarwah Pathankot NH



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri has condoled the demise of Chanchal Gupta, mother of Working President Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) J&K, Rajesh Gupta, and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

In a statement issued here, Raman Suri said that Chanchal Gupta was a great philanthropist, who used to help the needy and the underprivileged in every possible manner. In her death, the society has lost a great woman, whose life will remain

an inspiration to many. The BJP J&K Executive member, in his message, prayed for peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family, which, according to him, has suffered an irreparable loss.

He also expressed his sympathies with her husband, Muni Lal Gupta, and prayed for courage to bear this personal loss.

He said that though Smt. Gupta was not well for past some time, but she was recovering. It was only on January 16 that she breathed her last in Jammu and left a void in the society as well as in the hearts of people.

## VHP J&K President Rajesh Gupta bereaved

## Raman Suri offers condolences to Gupta family

### Top News Report

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## FROM PAGE 1

## Home Ministry cancels FCRA registration of Centre for Policy Research

the CPR transferred foreign contributions to other entities and deposited the contributions in non-designated accounts in violation of FCRA.

When contacted, CPR president and Chief Executive Yamini Aiyar said the NGO will soon issue a statement.

## Delhi: Over 170 flights affected, 20 trains delayed due to fog

arrive late by around 2-2.45 hours.

In addition to these, eight long-distance trains are delayed by around 1-1.30 hours, as per the railways. This included Howrah-Kalka Mail, Saharsa-New Delhi Vaishali Express, Prayagraj-New Delhi Express, Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar, Chennai-New Delhi and JammuTawi-Ajmer, the railways said.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, visibility was recorded below 200 metres in several parts of the country including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, West Rajasthan, West and East Uttar Pradesh at around 5.30 am on Wednesday. Further, as per IMD, dense fog was observed in isolated areas of Delhi, East Rajasthan, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam on Wednesday morning.

## Climate change may claim 14.5 mn lives by

## 2050: WEF

and essential medical equipment. The WEF, in the report, called on global stakeholders to take decisive and strategic action to reduce emissions and mitigate the negative health impacts of climate change.

"Recent progress will be lost unless critical emission reduction and mitigation measures are improved, and decisive global action is taken to build climate resilient and adaptable health systems," said Shyam Bishen, head of the Centre for Health and Healthcare and member of the Executive Committee at the WEF.

## Kashmir Sikh devotees pray for wet spell on Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday

prosperity and wellbeing of all, besides divine mercy was sought to end the ongoing dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir.

Devotees told Greater Kashmir that amidst unusual weather conditions in J&K, people from every faith must turn to their religion and seek mercy from the Creator which is the only possible way to end this dry spell.

"Kashmir is famous for its natural beauty. Any absence of snow at this juncture may trigger catastrophic situation in future. So people from all communities must seek mercy from Almighty to end this dry spell," said a devotee.

Reports said that similar gatherings took place in other parts of Kashmir valley where member of the community rushed to Gurudwaras and prayed for peace and wellbeing.

## 4 Punjab policemen

## killed in road accident in Mukerian

Wednesday.

The bus, carrying 30 policemen, was going from the Punjab Armed Police institution in Jalandhar to Gurdaspur when the accident took place at around 7 am in Mukerian, 54 km from Hoshiarpur.

## Man arrested for allegedly raping his daughter in Rajouri

people in the region who are demanding strict action against the accused.

## Man on Mumbai-Bengaluru SpiceJet flight stuck inside toilet for entire journey; crew sends him paper notes asking...

paper notes asking him not to panic. Following the take-off of the flight at 2 am on Tuesday, a passenger sitting in the 14th row went to the toilet and got stuck inside during the entire flight over an hour.

A spokesperson of the airline confirmed the incident and in a statement said, "On 16 January, a passenger unfortunately got stuck inside the lavatory for about an hour on SpiceJet flight operating from Mumbai to Bengaluru, while the aircraft was airborne due to a malfunction in the door lock. Throughout the journey, our crew provided assistance and guidance to the passenger. Upon arrival, an engineer opened the lavatory door, and the passenger received immediate medical support."

The airline crew said that an engineer would come to open the stuck lavatory door as soon as the aircraft lands. He was also

asked to sit on the closed commode during landing.

"Sir we tried our best to open the door. However we could not open. Do not panic. We are landing in few minutes. So please close the commode and sit on it and secure yourself. As soon as the main door is open engineer will come. Do not panic," read one of the handwritten notes passed on to the trapped passenger.

Upon the flight's arrival at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, an engineer was rushed to address the malfunctioning lavatory door, which was successfully opened with the help of the engineering team, according to the spokesperson.

"Upon arrival, an engineer opened the lavatory door, and the passenger received immediate medical support. SpiceJet regrets and apologises for the inconvenience caused to the passenger," the airline said.

SpiceJet added that passenger is being provided a full refund of the fare.

Earlier on January 14, a passenger was seen hitting the pilot of an IndiGo flight while he was explaining the reasons for a delay in departure at the Delhi Airport.

Delhi police have registered a case and started an investigation into the matter based on a complaint filed by the co-pilot of the IndiGo aircraft.

## Three drug peddlers held in Baramulla: Police

Party of Police Station Kunzer headed by SHO Police Station Kunzer at a checkpoint established at Mulgam Kunzer intercepted one person.

During search 1.5 Kgs of contraband Cannabis Powder like substances was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh

son of Abdul Samad Sheikh resident of Mulgam Kunzer. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Kunzer where he remained in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station Baramulla & Kunzer and investigations have been initiated.

Meanwhile, during investigation of case FIR which was earlier registered in which drug peddler namely Hilal Ahmad Wani son of Gh Nabi Wani resident of Barzulla was arrested and 510 grams of contraband Charas & 11 syrups of Codiene Phosphate was recovered from him, it came to surface that one drug peddler namely Shabir Ahmad Sofi @ JK son of Ab Khaliq resident of Mazhoma Magam has supplied the contraband & psychotropic substances to him. Acting upon this a trap was laid to arrest him and at checkpoint established at Chichilooru the drug peddler was arrested and 55 grams of contraband Charas like substances was recovered from his possession. He was shifted to Police Station Kunzer where he remained in custody.

## India logs 269 New Covid-19 cases

At its peak, 414,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, there have been more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website. According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.



## Stock markets in free-fall: Sensex tanks 1,628 points, biggest losers...

The 30-share BSE Sensex settles at 71,500.76 with 24 of its constituents ending in the red

MUMBAI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Benchmark Sensex nosedived 1,628 points or 2.23 per cent on Wednesday, marking its biggest single-day slide in more than one-and-a-half years following an intense sell-off in banking, metal and oil shares triggered by weak global trends.

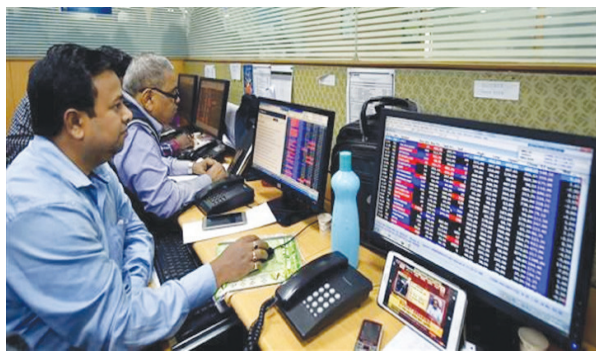
The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 1,628.01 points or 2.23 per cent to settle at 71,500.76 with 24 of its constituents ending in the red. During the day, it plummeted 1,699.47 points or 2.32 per cent to a low of 71,429.30.

The Nifty tanked 460.35 points or 2.09 per cent to settle at 21,571.95, falling for the second day in a row. Key stock indices suffered their worst single-day losses in percentage terms since June 13, 2022.

The heavy fall in the markets comes on the back of a recent record-breaking rally. The BSE benchmark hit its all-time high of 73,427.59 on Tuesday, and the Nifty also reached its lifetime peak of 22,124.15 on the previous day.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank fell over 8 per cent after its December quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

HDFC Bank on Tuesday reported a 2.65 per cent rise in consolidated net profit of Rs 17,258 crore for the October-December period against Rs 16,811 crore in the preceding September quarter.



Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, IndusInd Bank and State Bank of India were among the other major laggards.

HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Nestle and Larsen & Toubro were the gainers.

"A nosedive correction in banking stocks, along with concerns over delays in US FED rate cuts, impacted market sentiments. Given the elevated valuations, coupled with the fact that optimism regarding earnings and GDP growth for FY24 is already reflected in the market, triggered the correction," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

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

European markets were also trading with sharp cuts. The US markets ended in negative territory on Tuesday.

"Today's market fall is led by banks on the back of HDFC Bank results, showing heightened

levels of credit/deposit (CD) ratio beyond RBI's comfort levels. This is the case with most other banks as well. Thus, the markets expect either margin pressure, in case banks go in for aggressive deposit mobilization, a slowdown in lending growth, or both. This development can lead to some de-rating of the sector.

"After the significant up move we have witnessed recently, markets are taking a breather, especially since market valuations are higher than historical multiples," said Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer, Axis Securities PMS.

Snapping its five-day winning run, the BSE benchmark declined 199.17 points, or 0.27 per cent, to settle at 73,128.77 on Tuesday. The Nifty ended lower by 65.15 points, or 0.29 per cent, at 22,032.30.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.84 per cent to USD 76.85 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 656.57 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

## Ram Mandir: Over 20,000 jobs created in Ayodhya amid tourism, hospitality boom

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): The combined hospitality, travel, and tourism industry has created 20,000 jobs ahead of the much-anticipated 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony at Ayodhya's Ram Mandir on January 22, reported the news agency.

Anticipating a daily influx of devotees in the lakhs, experts in the industry foresee a sustained increase in job opportunities in the upcoming months.

Yeshab Giri, Chief Commercial Officer at Randstad India, told agency that the Ram Mandir will transform Ayodhya into a global tourism hub and expects a daily footfall of 3-4 lakh visitors.

The surge in tourist arrivals has led to an increased demand for accommodation and travel services, prompting a noteworthy expansion in Ayodhya's hospitality sector.

Meanwhile, Giri estimates the creation of 20,000-25,000 permanent and temporary jobs, with numbers projected to increase annually.

Balasubramanian A, Vice President at TeamLease, told the business daily that over the last six months, approximately



10,000 to 20,000 positions were generated in various roles related to hospitality, travel, and tourism, including hotel staff, cooks, servers, and drivers.

As the temple's inauguration approaches, several officials in the hospitality sector anticipate thousands of additional jobs in roles such as hospitality managers, restaurant and hotel staff, logistics managers, and drivers.

This demand is not limited to Ayodhya but is expected to extend to neighbouring cities like Lucknow, Kanpur, and Gorakhpur.

Industry executives note that a clearer picture of the everyday traffic at the temple and the corresponding demand for man-

power is likely to emerge in the next three to four months.

If the projected estimates of 2-3 lakh daily visitors to the Ayodhya temple hold true, experts suggest a need for additional manpower to address the stay, logistics, and food requirements of devotees.

The typical ratio of manpower demand in the hospitality industry indicates the potential for more job opportunities throughout the year.

While most of these jobs are temporary, industry experts stress the potential for fluctuations depending on the evolving demand and the actual number of devotees visiting the temple.

Nandivardhan Jain, CEO of

Noesis Capital Advisors, highlighted that Ayodhya's unique situation may expedite the demand for manpower within the next 18 to 24 months, given the possibility of fast-tracked permissions.

With only two major hotels currently in Ayodhya, hotel companies are closely monitoring the demand-supply situation. Patu Keswani, Chairman and MD of Lemon Tree Hotels, noted that many companies are adopting a wait-and-watch approach.

Rajeev Kale, President and Country Head at Thomas Cook (India), stated that the excitement over the temple's inauguration has greatly boosted temple tourism across various consumer segments.

Thomas Cook is witnessing a surge in demand not only in Ayodhya but also in nearby destinations like Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Allahabad.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) projects a turnover of close to Rs 1 lakh crore ahead of the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony, taking into account expenditures on goods, services, and various events related to the occasion.

## Google Pay signs pact with NPCI to expand UPI payments outside India



NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Google India Digital Services and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) have signed an agreement that will help expand UPI payments to countries outside India.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) will enable Indian travellers to make pay-

ments in other countries via Google Pay (also known as GPay), eliminating the need to carry cash or resort to international payment gateways.

"The MoU has three key objectives. First, it seeks to broaden the use of UPI payments for travellers outside of India, enabling them to conveniently make transactions abroad. Second, the MoU intends to assist in establishing UPI-like digital payment systems in other countries, providing a model for seamless financial transactions. Lastly, it focuses on easing the process of remittances between countries by utilizing the UPI infrastructure, thereby simplifying cross-border financial exchanges," Google Pay said in a statement.

The deal focuses on easing the process of remittances between countries by utilising the UPI infrastructure, thereby simplifying cross-border financial exchanges.

"This strategic partnership will not only simplify foreign transactions for Indian travellers

but will also allow us to extend our knowledge and expertise of operating a successful digital payments ecosystem to other countries," said Ritesh Shukla, CEO, NIPL.

The MoU will strengthen UPI's global presence, providing foreign merchants access to Indian customers who will no longer have to rely only on foreign currency and/or credit or forex cards for making digital payments and will have the option of using UPI powered apps from India including Google Pay. This development will also aid in simplifying remittances by reducing dependence on conventional money transfer channels.

Deeksha Kaushal, Director, Partnerships, Google Pay India, said, "UPI has demonstrated to the world the step change that happens in economies with the introduction of interoperable, population scale digital infrastructure and each economy that joins such networks will create impact beyond the sum of parts. We are very excited about the scope of this collaboration."

## Mobile phone users can watch live TV without internet from next year

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Mobile phone or tablet users will be able to experience live telecast on personal devices without internet connection from next year as D2M (Direct-to-mobile) technology will be available for commercial usage.

According to Abhay Karandikar, secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the tech-

nology is at a mature stage, and after doing citywise trials, the technology can be launched for the general public. D2M will enable users to watch live TV on personal devices such as phones, tablets and vehicle devices without the need for cellular networks.

"Technology is mature and available. However, some lab trials are being done. Now we have to

do city-wise lab trials. So its potential can be demonstrated... In a year or so, we can launch this technology (for the general public) with the indigenously developed system," Karandikar said.

The government believes that the technology will reduce the data traffic from the telecom operators as the majority of its users consume data to watch

videos.

For consumer wise, a fraction of the Indian population still uses a low-end smartphone.

However, both telecom operators and smartphone manufacturers have raised concerns over the technology. Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI), which has members including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reli-

ance Jio, is not in favour of this technology.

The industry body, in a statement said the draft policy document for D2M network requires re-evaluation on the aspects of level playing field, spectrum allocation, network integration, and regulatory and cost arbitrage in favour of the proposed PPP model and against the TSPs.

## Samsung announces exciting offers on Galaxy A05s, A54 5G, A34 5G



NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand today has announced exciting offers on the immensely popular Galaxy A05s, A54 5G, and Galaxy A34 5G smartphones.

As a special offer, consumers can buy the Galaxy A05s now with an instant INR 2000 discount. Originally priced at INR 13499 (4GB+128GB) and INR 14999 (6GB+128GB), consumers can get it for just INR 11499 and INR 12999 respectively. Powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 680 for exceptional performance and a massive 6.71" Full HD+ 90Hz display, Galaxy A05s is perfect for seamless multitasking and immersive viewing. Users can capture vibrant photos with its 50MP main shooter and enjoy long-lasting power with

a 5000 mAh battery supporting 25W Super-Fast charging. Galaxy A05s stays future-ready with 4 years of security updates and 2 generations of OS upgrades. Galaxy A05s is available across retail stores, Samsung.com, and other online players.

Consumers can now also purchase Galaxy A34 5G, originally priced starting at INR 30999, at an effective price of just INR 25999 with a cashback of INR 3500 and an additional bank cashback of INR 1500 for Axis Bank card users. Those looking to purchase the Awesome Galaxy A54 5G can now own the 8GB+128GB variant at just INR 33499, reduced from the initial price of INR 38999. This offer includes a cashback of INR 3500 and an additional INR 2000 for

Axis Bank card users. Additionally, consumers seeking enhanced affordability can take advantage of the convenient EMI schemes.

Galaxy A54 5G and Galaxy A34 5G are tough, offering spill and splash resistance with an IP67 rating. They withstand 1 meter of fresh water for 30 minutes and are dust-resistant, perfect for any adventure. With powerful cameras, including a 50MP OIS primary lens on A54 and 48MP on A34, plus a 5MP macro lens, they introduce the popular 'Nightography' feature. These stylish devices come with a floating camera setup, a color-matching metal camera deco, and a 5000 mAh battery lasting over 2 days on a single charge. Users can experience Samsung Wallet, Voice Focus, and dual Dolby-engineered stereo speakers for ultimate entertainment.

Consumers can experience true-to-life colors on Super AMOLED displays, 1000 Nits brightness, and a 120Hz refresh rate for smooth transitions. Secured with Samsung's Knox, they offer real-time data protection. With four OS upgrades and 5 years of security updates, Galaxy A54 5G and Galaxy A34 5G ensure enduring performance.

## Researchers discover mechanisms behind spread of ovarian cancer in ageing cells

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): Proteins secreted by ageing tissues could be attracting ovarian cancer cells, helping them spread more easily, research has found.

Exposing young and aged tissues to ovarian cancer cells, the researchers at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, observed that the cancer cells chose to settle down more on the aged tissues.

They found that the ageing cells and tissues were releasing proteins that settle down as the extracellular matrix (ECM) - the base on which the cells adhere

and grow - that were calling the cancer cells.

The researchers said this might be why aged population typically tends to have worse outcomes in cancer than younger populations.

"The fact is that chemotherapy also induces senescence (ageing), and that senescence can make things worse," said Ramray Bhat, Associate Professor at the Department of Developmental Biology and Genetics and corresponding author of the study published in Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences.

While scientists believe that ageing can increase the spread of

ovarian and other cancers, the underlying mechanisms were not fully clear, the researchers said.

For the study, the team first extracted tissues forming the lining of body cavities from mice models and induced senescence by exposing half of these tissues to chemotherapeutics used in treating cancer. Senescence is a state in which the cells stop replicating, but don't die.

They then exposed both young and aged mouse tissues and human tissue-like cell sheets to ovarian cancer cells and studied them under a microscope.

"What you might call

in a body ageing, in a cell or tissue you would call it senescence," said Bhat.

Using computer modelling to understand the interactions between the cancer cells and the ageing cells, the scientists found that it was the ECM, which was 'bringing the cancer cells there and allowing them to better attach near the aged cells and spread faster'.

The team also conducted experiments on human cells to find out if the predictions of the computer simulations replicated themselves.

They found that the cancer cells stuck strongly to the ECM

around the aged cells, and eventually cleared the aged cells away.

Further, the team also found the ECM formed by the ageing cells to have higher levels of protein such as fibronectin, laminin and hyaluronan compared to the ECM formed by the young cells. These proteins allowed the cancer cells to bind to the aged cell-ECM more strongly, they said.

The researchers also hoped that future research could help make drugs that killed senescent cells, as a combination therapy with chemotherapeutics to tackle cancer progression.



## R Praggnanandhaa Beats World Champion Ding Liren, Becomes Top Ranked Indian Chess Player

NEW DELHI, Jan 17 (Agencies): For the first time in his career, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has become India's top-ranked men's chess player, going past veteran Viswanathan Anand. Praggnanandhaa achieved the milestone after beating China's Ding Liren, the current world champion, in the 4th round of the Tata Steel Masters tournament on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Dutchman Anish Giri emerge as the sole leader heading into the first rest day, as far as the Masters Group is concerned.

Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, also lauded Praggnanandhaa on becoming the new no.1 Indian chess player.

Earlier this month, Praggnanandhaa's career is a major boost with backing from the Adani Group, which is committed to supporting sportspersons



as they go full throttle in their quest to bring glory to India. Speaking after meeting the young chess ace, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said, "We are extremely proud to support the dynamic Praggnanandhaa. The speed and efficiency

with which he has progressed in the sport is nothing short of remarkable, and truly an example to all Indians. There is nothing more noble than representing the nation and winning laurels at the highest levels, and the Adani Group is wholeheart-

edly devoted to supporting athletes in this journey."

"I am extremely keen on ensuring that my country does well on the global stage. Whenever I play, my sole aim is to win more laurels for the nation. I would like to thank the Adani Group for putting their trust in my abilities," said Praggnanandhaa.

In 2023, he became the world's youngest chess player to reach the World Cup final, and only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to achieve the feat. In 2022, the shy and soft-spoken teenager caused heads to turn in the world of chess by defeating Magnus Carlsen multiple times, shining the spotlight on India's progress. The Chennai-based Praggnanandhaa, who loves mathematics and unwinds by watching TV or listening to Tamil music, also won the silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

## Schoolgirl Andreeva living the dream after thrashing Jabeur at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Jan 17 (Agencies): Russian 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva put her school work to one side Wednesday and instead underlined her huge potential by crushing sixth seed Ons Jabeur in under an hour at the Australian Open. Playing her first main draw at Melbourne Park, Andreeva was electric in downing the three-time Grand Slam runner-up 6-0, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena in just 54 minutes.

Ranked 47, it was her first win over a top-10 player, having burst onto the scene when she reached the fourth round at Wimbledon last year as a qualifier.

"I was really nervous before the match, but I saw that she was nervous too. It kind of helped me, because I know I'm not the only one who is nervous before the match," said Andreeva.

"I decided to just enjoy, because it's Rod Laver Arena, I'm playing against the person that I like. I decided just to play, and I think I played

OK."

It was her second appearance on Melbourne's centre court after last year losing the girls final to fellow Russian Alina Korneeva.

She admitted it left her "super upset" and drove her forward against Jabeur.

"Today when I saw that I play on Rod Laver, I said that this time I have to take my chance and I have to win on the big court for the first time, and so I did," she said.

Andreeva made her Grand Slam bow at the French Open last year with a run to the third round after coming through qualifying, ahead of her exploits at Wimbledon.

In her only other Grand Slam, she lost in the second round of the US Open to eventual champion Coco Gauff.

She is pursuing her dream of a tennis career while still juggling school.

"I still have to do a lot of school. It actually started two days ago, so I have to do it," she said, adding "I don't like chemistry".

"Higher and higher"

At such a young age, Andreeva is restricted by the WTA Tour in the number of tournaments she can play and she said it was too early to be thinking about what how far she can climb up the rankings.

"I mean, I'm 16. Why do I have to think about the rankings? I'm going a bit higher, and so my goal is to go higher and higher, maybe for a little bit but still higher," she said.

"So I don't know. I just try not to think about that and just to think about tennis and that's it."

The first set against the Tunisian was a 20-minute demolition job, with 29-year-old Jabeur completely out of touch.

She won only eight points across the six games, and just three from the baseline, while making 10 unforced errors.

Her serve was not firing, with only 38 percent of first serve points won and just 13 percent on second serve.

Jabeur, who has made the final twice at Wimbledon and once at the US Open, finally held serve to get off the mark in the opening game of set two, raising her finger in celebration.

But the teenage Russian kept coming and broke again for a 2-1 lead, then made it 4-1 as Jabeur's shoulders slumped, knowing it was all over.

## Series in bag, India look to perfect new template in final T20

BENGALURU, Jan 17 (Agencies): With the series already in the bag, India will be eager to perfect their freshly-baked T20 template as a team and hope that skipper Rohit Sharma's bat finally fires when they face Afghanistan in the third and last match of the rubber here today.

This will be India's final T20 game ahead of the World Cup in June, and the team management wouldn't want any drop in intensity. India's identical six-wicket wins were marked by an ultra-aggressive mindset that

saw them chasing down 159 in 17.3 overs and 173 in 15.4 overs.

It was a clear deviation from their earlier approach of building the momentum for a final flourish in T20s. None showed this intent more brightly than Shivam Dube and Virat Kohli. Kohli was playing a T20I after 14 months, but he scored a 16-ball 29 at a strike rate of 181.

Dube reappeared in the Indian blue after a gap of three years when he was selected for the T20 series against Ireland last year. But after

playing in the subsequent Asian Games, Dube could not find a spot in the series against Australia and South Africa.

However, the scattered appearances did not prevent Dube from following the path set by the think tank. His two brutal fifties were too heavy to handle for Afghanistan, who did not have the services of injured star spinner Rashid Khan.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had missed the first match at Mohali with a groin



niggle, too showed the willingness to imbibe the pattern with a quick half-century in the last game.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh said that even though India have already sealed the series, they will go into the match

with intent. "The mindset as a team doesn't depend on what the series scoreline is and what happened in the last matches. We can look at improving and developing match skills," he said.

## NZ vs PAK, 3rd T20I: Finn Allen century guides New Zealand to 45-run win against Pakistan to seal T20I series

DUNEDIN, Jan 17 (Agencies): Finn Allen scored a record-breaking century to guide New Zealand to a 45-run win over Pakistan at the University Oval in Dunedin. With this win, New Zealand took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match T20I series.

Allen shattered a 12-year-old record held by former captain Brendon McCullum to register the highest individual score in T20I cricket for New Zealand on Wednesday, January 17. His century helped the BlackCaps post 224 for 7 in the first innings before the hosts restricted Pakistan to 179 for 7, winning the third T20I by 45 runs.

THE FINN ALLEN SHOW

Batting first, New Zealand got off to a positive start before Haris Rauf sent opener Devon Conway back in the fourth over. Then, Allen formed a massive 125-run stand with Tim Tim Siefert, with the wicket-keeping batter contributing with 31 runs before being dismissed by Mohammad Wasim Junior.

Allen continued smashing the Pakistan bowling attack around the ground, bringing up his second T20I century in quick time. He scored 137 runs off 62 deliveries, smashing five boundaries and 16 sixes before being dismissed by Zaman Khan



in the 18th over.

Glenn Phillips chipped in with a 15-ball 19 as the hosts ended with 224 for 7 on the scoreboard. Rauf, despite picking two wickets, proved to be very costly, leaking 60 runs in his four overs.

BABAR AZAM CONTINUES GOOD FORM

After losing the early wicket of opener Saim Ayub, Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam formed a 39-run stand to get the visitors back in the game. However, despite getting off to a good start, Rizwan couldn't convert his innings into a big one, falling at the hands of spinner Mitchell Santner in the 8th over, after scoring 24 runs off 20 deliveries.

Babar looked good once again and scored his third successive half-century in this series. However, wickets kept tumbling around him with Fakhar Zaman (19), Azam Khan (10) and

Iftikhar Ahmed (1) failing to move the scoreboard much.

With the required run-rate climbing, Babar tried to up the ante and lost his wicket at the hands of spinner Ish Sodhi in the 16th over. He departed after scoring 58 runs off 37 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries and a solitary six.

Mohammad Nawaz and Shaheen Shah Afridi played commendable cameos towards the end of their innings, scoring 28 off 15 and 16 off 11, but couldn't guide their team over the line. The visitors managed to score 179 for 7 in 20 overs, falling 45 runs short of the target.

With this win, New Zealand sealed the five-match T20I series, having gone 3-0 up. The two sides will now lock horns at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday, January 19 in the fourth match of the series.

## AUS vs WI, 1st Test: Steve Smith fails to impress in his first outing as Test opener for Australia

ADELAIDE, Jan 17 (Agencies): Australia batter Steve Smith failed to impress in his first-ever outing as a Test opener. Smith opened for the first time in Test cricket during Australia's match against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Wednesday, January 17.

Batting on Day 1 in their first Test against the West Indies, Smith was dismissed by debutant Shamar Joseph after scoring 12 runs off 26 balls. Smith edged Joseph's delivery outside the off-stump, which carried to Justin Greaves at third slip.

His dismissal came in the ninth over, leaving Australia reeling at 33 for 1. Interestingly, Smith was dismissed



off the very first delivery of Joseph's Test career.

Smith took up the mantle of opening the batting for Australia in Tests following the retirement of David Warner this month. The veteran left-handed batter called time on his Test career following Australia's win over Pakistan at his home ground in Sydney on January 6.

WEST INDIES BOWLED OUT ON DAY 1

It was an impressive display by the Australian bowling unit, led by skipper Pat Cummins on Day 1. After winning the toss and putting the visitors to bat first, the Aussies bowled West Indies out for 188 runs on Day 1.

Cummins kicked-off

proceedings in Adelaide, by dismissing openers Tagenarine Chanderpaul in the 10th over before sending Kraigg Braithwaite back in the 14th over with a brilliant delivery that completely beat the West Indies skipper, hitting the top of his off stump.

Fast-bowler Josh Hazlewood then joined the party for Australia and ran through the West Indian middle-order. He cleaned up Alick Athnaze in the 24th over before dismissing Kaven Hodge to leave the visitors reeling at 98 for 4.

Kirk McKenzie completed his half-century before being beaten by the extra bounce off a Hazlewood delivery, edging it into the safe

grasp of wicket-keeper Alex Carey. In his very next over, Hazlewood sent Greaves back to the pavilion, reducing West Indies to 108 for 6.

With this spell, Hazlewood completed 250 wickets in Test cricket, becoming just the 11th Australian to achieve the feat.

Cummins came back into the attack to dismiss wicket-keeping batter Joshua de Silva and Alzarr Joseph before Mitchell Starc picked the wicket of Gudakesh Motie.

With the visitors at 133 for 9, debutant Shamar Joseph and Kemar Roach formed a 55-run stand for the last wicket to drag their side to 188 before Lyon dismissed Joseph for 36.

## Fourth Seed Coco Gauff Cruises Into Australian Open Third Round

US Open champion Coco Gauff eased through to the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday, beating fellow American Caroline Dolehide 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

MELBOURNE, Jan 17 (Agencies): US Open champion Coco Gauff eased through to the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday, beating fellow American Caroline Dolehide 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

The fourth seed raced into a 4-1 lead on Margaret Court Arena before being reeled back by her

unseeded opponent. However, Gauff was relatively untroubled in the tie-break, winning it 7-2.

The second set went with serve until the fifth game, when Gauff broke.

She repeated the feat and survived multiple break points on her serve to clinch the match.



"I wasn't nervous today, I was just trying to play good tennis," said Gauff, 19.

"If you give her something short, she's going to punish you for it. So I think if I could go back, I would try to play more deeper, more heavy like I did in the second (set)."

She will play another American, Alycia Parks, in the third round.



## Sahitya Akademi organizes 'Gramalok' at Pouni



### Top News Report

REASI, Jan 17: Sahitya Akademi New Delhi organized a program 'Gramalok' at Pouni district Reasi in which six local poets participated with their marvelous poems.

Apart from these local talented poets few eminent writers of Dogri also accompanied from Jammu to witness and grace the function with their compositions.

The program Gramalok is designed by Sahitya Akademi in a

fashion to provide platform those talented poets, who are working in the field but deprived from the opportunities to show their skill.

In this aforementioned program, Darampal, Mohinder Das, Kasturi Lal, Sanjeev Sharma, K.C Sharma, Gopal Krishan Komal spell-bound the listeners with their poetry.

Guests from Jammu Purn Chander Sharma, Inderjeet Kesar, Randhir Singh Raipuria and Rakesh Verma also

made the program a special one with their compositions.

Mohan Singh Convener Dogri Advisory Board Sahitya Akademi spoke on the occasion as chairperson and told about the working style of Sahitya Akademi in the whole country and about the languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi.

Dogri is one of the recognized languages and Sahitya Akademi is committed for its development and Gramalok is a part of it, he said.

## Saima Jan appointed as VP J&K Pradesh Mahila Congress



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: DDC member Bk Pora Saima Jan appointed as Vice president J&K Pradesh Mahila Congress, locals hails the decision of Congress high command.

Saima Jan is young, dynamic and a bold voice of Jammu and Kashmir, well educated

and great spokesperson. Her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm to support and stand for the poor and unemployed youth unheard ones makes her different among others.

In her tweet, she said, "I am highly thankful and grateful to All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba, J&K PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani and President Mahila Congress J&K, Shameema Raina for granting me the position and responsibility of Vice-President J&K Pradesh Mahila Congress. I assure to deliver my best to strengthen the party and Mahila Congress."

## Abhinav Anand calls on Shahid Iqbal



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: Abhinav Anand President Traders Federation Trikuta Nagar And District Secretary BJP Jammu South called on Shahid Iqbal Choudhary Commissioner Secretary Department Rural Development & Panchayati Raj J&K UT at Civil Secretariat Jammu

and congratulated him for his new assignment and discussed various development issues.

Abhinav anand conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Traders Association and highlighted the anticipation of witnessing positive developments under Shahid Iqbal's leadership.

## MVD Kishtwar conducts awareness camp at Bhanderkoot



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 17: As part of the National Road Safety Month being observed from January 15 to February 14, 2024.

On the second day of National Road Safety Month, the Motor Vehicles Department Kishtwar organized a one-day awareness camp under the supervision of ARTO Kishtwar Saleem Mahas at Bhandarkoot Kishtwar Chhatroo Route.

The program witnessed a huge gathering of participation of Driver Conductor as well as Passengers

The main aim of the program was to sensitize the participants about the importance of road safety and how to become safer road users.

While addressing the participants, ARTO emphasized the crucial need to educate people about following traffic rules for the safety of all road users. he highlighted that over-speeding and negligent driving are major causes of

road accidents, emphasizing the importance of mass awareness among road users. The ARTO stressed the significance of adhering to traffic rules by involving various stakeholders.

Inspector Azad Hussain added that during the month-long observance, various activities are planned throughout the district to create awareness among the general public and provide opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute to the cause of road safety.

## Bhajan 'Ram Ram Gandha Jaya' released



### Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 17: In a cultural event, Pt. Karan Vashisth presented the enchanting "Ram Ram Gandha Jaya" Bhajan

at Bahu Fort Maa Kali Temple on Wednesday at 12:00 Noon.

The occasion, graced by special guest Manik Pujari from Kali Temple

Bahu Fort, celebrated the rich Dogra culture through soulful music.

This musical tribute serves as a prelude to the momentous Ram Mandir inauguration on January 22, 2024, a historic event initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The launch event not only pays homage to spiritual traditions but also reinforces the cultural fabric of the Dogra community.

## Security beefed up in Jammu ahead of R-Day, Ram Temple Event

JAMMU, Jan 17 (Agencies): Security has been beefed up in Jammu ahead of Republic Day and the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Security forces and the police have been put on alert across the Jammu region, including the Indo-Pakistan border, to ensure the deployment of fool-proof security in the region.

"The security measures have been beefed up ahead of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony on January 22 and also the Republic Day celebrations. Security setup has been put on alert," a senior officer said.



The security forces have intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of the city here as well as in other parts of the region, the officials said.

Jammu SSP Vinod Kumar led the review of the security on the

ground, including checking points and nakas, today, they said.

Nakas and mobile vehicle checkpoints (MVCP) have been established at intersections in the city, its entry and exit points and roads leading in the capital city, they added.

The police and paramilitary personnel of the CRPF have been deployed in important areas, the officials said.

Several high-level meetings have been held in the capital city and districts to review security measures ahead of these two

mega events during the past one week.

Additional DGP Anand Jain on Monday directed all the intelligence agencies to generate intelligence in advance so that anti-national and anti-social elements do not succeed in their nefarious designs in the Jammu region.

"Proper coordination be maintained among all the intelligence agencies and security organisations in their respective areas of jurisdiction to foil the nefarious designs of anti-national elements and ensure smooth and incident-free conduct of national events," the ADGP said.

## Anti drug symposium held at GDC Kishtwar



### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 17: GDC Kishtwar in collaboration with J&K Police organised an Anti Drug symposium in the Conference Hall in the college campus which was presided by Dr Sunil Gupta, DIG DKR Range who was accompanied by Khalil Poswal SSP Kishtwar. Prof NK Manhas was the guest of honour for the event.

21 students participated in the symposium in which different speakers expressed their opinions in different languages on

menace of drug abuse and how it spoils life of the individual, family and the society.

Prof NK Manhas encouraged the students to stay away from drug abuse and urged the students to spread the awareness among those who are ignorant about the evil that drug abuse can cause.

Khalil Poswal briefly addressed the audience about how district police is vigilant in controlling drug transportation and identifying the culprits.

Dr Sunil Gupta sought the cooperation of

people in general and students in particular, to make a drug free society. He said that the participants should act as ambassadors in creating awareness in curbing drug abuse.

Prof Satish Kumar, Prof Prithivi Raj and Prof Esrar Ayoub acted as jury members on the occasion, while comparing was done by Prof Vikram Singh. The vote of thanks was given by Prof Esrar Ayoub.

Shiveta Sharma, Abroo Wajid and Anurag Sharma won 3rd, 2nd and 1st prize, respectively.

## GDC Udhampur celebrates 27th National Youth Day Festival

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 17: In the time of the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, to commemorate Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day on 12th January 2024, the NSS Units of GDC Udhampur under the patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kr. Gupta, organized a week-long series of activities to invoke and epitomize the spirit of Vivekananda in the Youth of the college.

The week-long 27th

National youth festival was inaugurated on 12th January with the live telecast of the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Nasik Maharashtra. The program was witnessed by around 90 volunteers, NSS PO's, cadets of NCC, in the August presence of the Principal along with other staff members.

After witnessing the live telecast session/motivational speech of the PM, the patron Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kr. Gupta congratulated all

on the occasion of the Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and inspired them to follow his teachings and vision in letter and spirit.

He also emphasized on the college's commitment to foster holistic development of the volunteers and all the students of the college and accentuated on having more and more community engagement for strengthening the nation and also prepares the youth for the Viksit Bharat Sankalp@2047.

This was followed by many

other youth activities in and around the campus for the rest of the days of the week-long celebrations like youth haat, canteen main Yuva and Viksit Bharat pe Charcha, Class Room Discussions on How India can strategize and channelize the youth for Viksit Bharat@2047 etc.

On 15th Jan 2024 the NSS organized a symposium on the topic 'Swami Vivekananda's Teaching for Youth, Leadership, education and character building, in which Kulbinder, Akshay, Rohit,

Purshotam, and Pritam Kumar spoke to great length and motivated the other fellow volunteers to work in coordination and generate skill, build good moral character and work harder to strengthen our Nation and contribute to Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

The weeklong event concluded today with the felicitation of the NSS Volunteers who had participated in various events during the Week.

The valedictory function was attended by the worthy

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta along with NSS PO'S Dr. GurpreetKour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh, College staff Secretary Dr. Jagjeet Singh and NCC I/c Prof. Vijay Kumar.

In the beginning the Principal and the staff lighted the traditional lamp with a message to enlighten the Youth to work hard for future strengthening of the nation. The valedictory function commenced with the Pledge ceremony. After that NSS PO's Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh present-

ed their report on the Week long activities.

It was followed by a cultural programme in which senior Volunteer Nitish Kalotra, Ambica, Monica and Diwanshi performed powerful dance.

The Principal and the staff appreciated the NSS and NCC Units for their commendable efforts in organizing the event meticulously. The vote of thanks was presented by Monica.

The function formally concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.