

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Raveena Tandon says 'Kamma Calling' put all her skills to test



NATIONAL | 7

"Won't Let Any Piracy Happen": Navy Chief Amid Red Sea Attacks

INTERNATIONAL | 8

Singapore's Indian-origin minister pleads not guilty to graft charges



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-18 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Four residential houses gutted in Baramulla blaze

SRINAGAR, Jan 18 (Agencies): Four residential houses were gutted in a massive fire in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said.

Quoting officials, the news agency KNO reported that fire broke out in one of the houses today morning and soon engulfed nearby houses.

He said that in the incident at least 4 houses were gutted, while some livestock also were charred in this massive blaze.

Locals, however, alleged that due to poor condition of the road fire tenders couldn't reach the spot in time, resulting in significant damage to residential houses.

The cause of fire was being ascertained, the official said.

COLD wave intensifies in Kashmir, Srinagar shivers at Minus 4.6 Deg C

SRINAGAR, Jan 18 (Agencies): Night temperatures dropped at most places in Kashmir as the cold-wave conditions intensified again after a day's respite, officials said here on Thursday.

Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, dropping from the previous night's minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, they said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 0.8 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

A dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual

Turn to page 9

Ayodhya Ram Mandir | Centre declares half-day holiday for Central Government offices on January 22

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Government employees and students of state-run schools may get a half-day leave on January 22 so that they can watch live telecast of the grand consecration ceremony at Ram Temple in Ayodhya, sources have said.

While Union Minister Jitendra Singh has already confirmed that government offices will



have a half-day, a confirmation on state-run schools is awaited.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is learnt,

Turn to page 9

ED attaches properties worth Rs 36.57 Cr in mediclaim insurance policy for J&K Govt Employees, PSU's Employees & Pensioners



JAMMU, Jan 18 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate has attached property worth over Rs 36.57 crore in the case of M/s Reliance General Insurance Pvt. Ltd.

(RGIPL) and M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Private Limited (TRBL) linked to health insurance of employees in Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, the ED

said that case is linked to awarding of tender of Mediclaim Insurance Policy for the J&K Government Employees, PSU's employees & pensioners fraudulently to Reliance General Insurance by J&K Finance Department in collusion with Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited (Insurance Broker).

The statement reads that the ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the CBI, ACB,

Turn to page 9

No restrictions will be in place on Republic Day: Div Com Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 18 (Agencies): Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday said that no restrictions will be in place on the occasion of Republic Day this year. He appealed to people to join the celebrations in large numbers like the last year.

Talking exclusively to Greater Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir clarified that there will be no restric-



tions in place on January 26 occasion this year. He said that gone are those days when restrictions were imperative for maintenance of law and

order. "Today, there is a vast improvement in overall situation and so no restriction will be put in place on January 26 occasion this year," he said.

He said January 26 occasion is very important for us from many angles. "Last time the celebrations took place in Bakshi Stadium wherein large number of people participated with zeal and zest. As

Turn to page 9

Kashmiri civilizational ethos incomplete without the return of Kashmiri Pandits: Ashok Bhan

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, Jan 18: Ashok Bhan, Chairman of Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group (KPSG) on Thursday emphasized the urgency of bringing closure to the prolonged phase of devastation, death, and destruction in the larger South Asian region, especially in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking on behalf of KPSG, he highlighted the group's continuous efforts in facilitating intra-civil society dialogues through webinars, meetings, and social media interactions.

"Without KPs Kashmiri civilizational ethos is incomplete in these modern time and in Naya Kashmir Vision of idea of India," he said.

Bhan said said the roup has been continuously holding (KATH-BHAAT); a dialogue by way of intra-civil society webinars, meetings and interactions through social media platforms, emphasising on



the dire need for giving a closure to the sordid and brutal phase of societal devastation, death and destruction that has engulfed the larger south Asian region in general and Jammu & Kashmir in particular.

"The Kashmir Valley carries a historical burden in a social context. The people are carrying the burden as victims of conflict from 1947 and continuing consequences of armed insurgency resulting

in exile of the religious minority and killings innocent civilians in the violence perpetrated by non State actors, others brutalised anti human groups including the State actors," he said.

Bhan said on the eve of holocaust day the 19th which is a black day in Kashmir's glorious history. On this day the whole population of Kashmiri Pandit Community was exiled by gun toting terrorists and since then are legal vings as refugees in their own Country.

"KPSG has always urged Union Government to engage with KPs and plan their safe and dignified return back home. 34 years of exile is brutal, long and traumatic. They are the aborigines Kashmiri and are the prime stakeholders in the Kashmir affairs. Without KPs Kashmiri civilizational ethos is incomplete in these modern time and in Naya Kashmir Vision of idea of India," he added.

Turn to page 9

Agniveer martyred, two injured in mine blast near LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU, Jan 18 (Agencies): An 'Agniveer' was martyred and two others were injured in a mine blast along Line of Control in Nowshera sector in Rajouri district, an official said.

The official said that a mine blast took place along forward area, leaving three soldiers injured.

All the three, the official said, were evacuated to Command Hospital Udhampur, where one succumbed to his injuries.

More details awaited....

Criminal held under PSA in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 18 (Agencies): A man wanted in many criminal cases was arrested by the police under the Public Safety Act (PSA) here, officials said on Thursday.

Acting on a tiff off, police conducted a raid and arrested Flex Matoo on Wednesday, they said.

Police had submitted a dossier against him to the district magistrate, who approved his detention under the PSA, they said.

The accused was allegedly involved in cases of attempt to murder, thefts and snatching. Various raids were conducted at different locations by the Jammu Police to nab him.

Eight such cases, including one under the Arms Act, have been registered against him in various police stations here, they said.

Suspicious tunnel found near IB in Samba



JAMMU, Jan 18 (Agencies): A suspicious tunnel has been found near International Border (IB) at Jarai village in J&K's Samba

district. However, there is no official confirmation of presence of such tunnel yet.

Reports have said that a suspicious pit like deep

tunnel has been discovered by Border Security force personnel today at Jarai village in Lala Chak Tehsil Rajpura of Samba district, after its discovery the sniffer dogs have been put into service to examine it.

The J&K police, security forces, intelligence agencies have launched a search operation in the area to check whether some terrorist have crossed into this side of

Turn to page 9

North India feels the chill, as fog hits flight services, delays 18 Delhi-bound trains

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Severe cold continued to prevail across North India, with the mercury recorded in single digits in several states and dense fog and low visibility affecting commuters in the early hours of Thursday.

According to an official release by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), 'very dense fog' was observed in isolated parts of Punjab, Haryana, West Rajasthan and Bihar at 5.30 am on Thursday.

Similar heavy fog was also reported in isolated parts of Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam while moderate fog was observed in isolated parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, according to IMD.

The Met agency informed further that shallow fog was also experienced in isolated parts of eastern Rajasthan, eastern Uttar Pradesh and western Madhya Pradesh.

The IMD also forecast dense to very dense fog for a few hours late night and morning over many parts of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh between January 18 (Thursday) and 20 and in isolated parts on January 21 and 22.

Further, as per the IMD, a rise in minimum temperatures by about 2 degrees Celsius is very likely over Northwest India over the next 24 hours but there will be no significant change thereafter.

Turn to page 9

Eyewitness identifies JKLF Chief Malik as shooter behind 1990 killing of 4 IAF Men

JAMMU, Jan 18 (Agencies): A crucial eyewitness in a special CBI court on Thursday identified JKLF chief Yasin Malik as the main shooter firing at Indian Air Force personnel in Srinagar in 1990.

Four IAF personnel, including a squadron leader, were killed and

22 injured on January 25, 1990, at Rawalpura on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Rajwar Umeshwar Singh, a former IAF staffer and a witness for the prosecution, identified Malik who was produced before the court through video from Del-

hi's Tihar Jail where he has been incarcerated for several years.

"This is an important development in the case... The prosecution witness has identified Malik as the man behind the shooting," said Senior Public Prosecutor for CBI Monika Kohli.

Crystal
Telecom - Security - Software

CRYSTAL NEXA/SN SERIES

CRYSTAL CLARITY, ELEVATING CONNECTIONS, INTERCOM REIMAGINED

Ports	4Ports - 64 Ports
Trunks	4 - 10 Trunk's
FND	Tri-Color
Scheduler	Small, ABS Body
KTS	Pluggable Add on
Paging	Yes
Hotel Fn	Yes
MMOH	Pluggable Add on

www.crystalpbx.com

CADNICA ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

CS for ensuring functionality of assets created for rural sanitation

Also reviews the plan for carbon neutrality of panchayats here



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday while reviewing the updated scenario of Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) here impressed upon the concerned authorities to carry out frequent field visits to the nook and corner of the UT for having first hand appraisal about the utility and functional status of the assets created for sanitation of rural areas.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, RDD; DG, Rural Sanitation besides other concerned officers of the Department.

While taking cognizance of the status of door to door collection of waste in rural areas the Chief Secretary emphasized upon adopting sustainable models keeping in view the significance of this national mission. He maintained that after achieving the status of

ODF+ Model category for the UT, it is imperative to maintain it without any slackness creeping in our approach.

He advised to conduct a study of all the assets created across the villages of the UT to evaluate their utility and maintenance for their operational readiness round the year. He stressed on their proper upkeep and maintenance for their operational readiness round the year. He urged the department to evolve a roadmap to receive the real time information about the utility of these assets in these villages.

Dulloo ensured the concerned that the LG administration would extend every possible assistance in maintenance of these rural assets. He asked them to come up with a suitable plan for their optimum use and operation to make sanitation a hallmark of our villages here.

Regarding the promul-

gation and execution of carbon neutral plan for the panchayats of the UT as envisioned by the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary upheld that interdepartmental coordination and synergy should be shown to make it successful. He also encouraged them to conduct the survey of the villages by experts to estimate the carbon these villages produce and the possible remedial measures to be taken there.

In his presentation the Secretary, Rural Development Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhury gave an in-depth description of the measures and achievements registered by the department in implementation of the mission. He revealed that all the 6650 villages of the UT have been declared ODF+ in August last year after complying with the guidelines for the same.

He further apprised

the meeting that both the Solid Waste and Liquid Waste Management in these villages have been upgraded and drainage facilities provided to the villages either. It was revealed that a total of 2,36,137 SWM assets, 923331 assets for Grey Water Management (GWM), 80 Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMU), 7 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants and 3 Gobar Dhan Plants including 17,20,765 individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been raised by the department in rural areas.

Moreover it was given out that the department has created 28,077 IHHLs and 565 CSCs as per the demand from districts. It was informed in the meeting that the department is in a process of establishing 8 Gobar Dhan Biogas plants in the UT besides completing 76 more PWMUs which would take the tally to 218

blocks for taking care of the plastic waste generated there.

While discussing the carbon neutral panchayat project it was said that the energy emission format was prepared in coordination with the Department of Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing with inputs from IIT Delhi, IIT Jammu, Kashmir University, and Jammu University. In addition to the pilot project for declaring Pallini district Samba a Carbon Neutral Panchayat was also discussed.

It was said that this Panchayat has been provided with 10 Biogas plants, 1 Govardhan plant, distribution of solar cookers, planting 25000 trees, introduction of organic farming, constructing an Amrit Sarovar, organising catch the rain campaign, crop diversification and other clean energy measures had been initiated by the department there in convergence with others.

Further the finalization of Energy Emission Template for other panchayats, development of an online portal for conducting surveys based on energy Emission format, Capacity Building of field functionaries under RGSA for conducting the surveys, calculations of Emissions and formulations of panchayat wise carbon neutral plans were also discussed in this meeting.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan; JU organizes 'De-Addiction Dialogue on Drugs'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: The Community Service and Social Justice club of "Utsaah" University of Jammu during its ten day's Multi Arts Festival "Protsaahan" on Thursday organised a De-Addiction Dialogue on Drugs under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The purpose behind the programme is to discourage the use of drugs among the youth. Under the direction of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu, University is aiming to promote the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The program was organized to promote the societal outreach vision of University of Jammu by inspiring students to utilize their energies and other resources in positive and social development. Shakti Pathak DIG Jammu, Kathua, Samba range was the Chief Guest of the programme.

In his address, Pathak appreciated the initiative of conducting the drug De-Addiction Dialogue at the University level. He very impressively related the theme by stressing upon the word

"SHE" where Security, Health and Economy was related with drug awareness.

Harish Kumar, Asstt. Director from Narcotics Central Bureau, Jammu zone was the guest speaker.

Prof Satnam Kour, Convenor, Utsaah presented the welcome address. She apprised the audience about the various activities conducted by the different clubs during the last one year.

The resource person Harish Kumar, Assistant Director, Narcotics Central Bureau in his lecture on drug de-addiction elaborated at length on the problems, concerns and measures to be adopted to stay away from intoxicating substances.

After the presentation of the resource person, the dialogue started with a very fruitful discussion held between the students.

It is pertinent to mention that the community service and social justice club provides all space to the student volunteers to come out with their constructive ideas for serving the community.

The students presented a wonderful stage

performance "Nashe Se Tauba" directed by Sumit Sharma, Drama Instructor, DSW, University of Jammu.

Prof. Suman Jawwal, Prof. Lalit Sen, Prof. Virender Koundal, Prof. Manoj Batt, Dr. Chhinmoye and staff members of the campus were present in the function.

The vote of thanks was presented by the Coordinator of the Community Service and Social Justice Club, Dr. Shashi Prabha.

The programme was conducted by Suman Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography.

Earlier on the 17th January, the Photography Club had organised a Heritage and Street photography in Mubarak Mandi and Old Jammu City.

The photography club being coordinated by Dr Pritam Singh is aiming to train the students in the techniques of photography and also educate them about using this medium for various themes and concerns. More than 50 students had participated in this photography and explored their city through the eye of the lens.

DDC Reasi finalises arrangements for R-Day celebration



Top News Report

REASI, Jan 18: District Administration Reasi on Thursday finalized the arrangements for the celebration of Republic Day 2024, here at a meeting chaired by District development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan held in the Conference Hall of DC office complex.

The meeting decided that the main function will be held at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium, where the chief guest will unfurl the National Flag, while similar functions would be held at sub-division and Tehsil levels also.

The celebration of the National Day event will start with the playing of 'Shehnai Vadan' at Mini Secretariat Complex by District Information Centre Reasi.

The DC issued directions with regard to the arrangements viz security, traffic management, cleanliness and sanitation, seating arrangement, drinking water, power supply, Medicare facilities, refreshment, arrangement of prizes, road clearance, arrangement of fire tenders, distribution of invitation cards etc.

The Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure arrangements for the March Past, cultural programme for the Day.

Security agencies were instructed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements at all the venues where functions in this regard will be held across the district.

Heads of departments were also instructed to organise march past / rally of their respective departments showcasing their schemes and allied activities for the general public.

It was also given out that the contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, students from educational institutions will participate in the march past parade. Besides various cultural programmes would also be part of the celebrations.

The Municipal Committee was entrusted with cleanliness in and around the venue and in the town as well and Tricolour illuminating of key areas viz Main Market, prominent Chowks, Bhim Ghar Fort along with their official Building.

The full dress rehearsal will be held on 24th January 2024, the meeting was informed.

ADC Reasi Abdul Star, CPO Sunita Kanchan, ACR Anshumali Sharma, PO Poshan Mohd. Anwar Bandy, CEO, ARTO, DIO (Info), Dy.SP Hqrs, Neeraj Padyar and officers of line departments were also present.

DC Rajouri lays foundation stone for Jhulla Bridge at Argi in Dhangri Block

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 18: In a significant development for the region, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, on Thursday laid foundation stone for the much-anticipated Jhulla Bridge at Argi, spanning over Dalhori Nallah. This vital infrastructure project, estimated at a cost of 9.5 lakh, aims

beyond the construction itself, as it is poised to bring about a transformative impact on the lives of residents in seven villages located in the vicinity. The completion of the bridge promises to facilitate smoother commutes and improved connectivity, fostering economic and social development in the adjoining areas.

tion to meeting the infrastructural needs of the community for inclusive growth in the region.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of completing the Jhulla Bridge project well before the set deadlines. He directed the concerned officer to expedite the construction process in order to provide necessary benefits to the public as soon as possible.



to enhance connectivity and accessibility in the area.

Executive Engineer of the Rural Engineering Wing (REW), Zahir Khan, shared insightful details about the project. Notably, the construction is anticipated to be concluded by 31st March, marking a milestone towards the development of local infrastructure.

The significance of this initiative extends

The Deputy Commissioner expressed optimism about the positive impact this development will have on the lives of the local population, ushering in a new era of connectivity and accessibility for the region. He highlighted the significance of the bridge in improving connectivity and accessibility for the local residents and stressed the commitment of the administra-

As the wheels of progress set in motion, the Jhulla Bridge project stands as a testament to the dedication of the administration to foster inclusive growth and addressing the infrastructural needs of the community.

Among others, the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing, Zahir Khan; Block Development Officer Dhangri, Heena Kouser, concerned officers and locals were present on the occasion.

Reasi: Rent Assessment Committee settles 9 cases

Top News Report

DDC asks departments to prefer vacant government buildings for office accommodation

REASI, Jan 18: District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) on Thursday approved 9 rent cases pertaining to different departments here at a meeting chaired by District Development Commissioner



Vishesh Mahajan.

The rent cases pertaining to

FCS&CA, Health, and Social Welfare besides other departments were approved by the committee. The Committee discussed the fixation of rent of the structures in which various government offices are functioning across the district.

A total of 16 cases were taken up for discussion in the meeting, out of which 9 cases were approved.

The DDC directed the con-

cerned authorities to prioritize Government buildings for official accommodation and opt for private rented buildings as the last resort.

The meeting was attended by ADC Abdul Star, ACR Anshumali Sharma, PO Poshan Mohd. Anwar Bandy, SE PWD, CMO, XEN PWD, DIO (Info) besides other concerned officers of various departments.

EDITORIAL

TAKE STEPS
TO REDUCE
UNEMPLOYMENT

Day by day unemployment in our country is becoming a serious problem for the country. Efforts are also being made by the government in many ways. But unemployment has not been brought under control yet. The government has also expressed concern regarding unemployment because the unemployment rate has increased significantly in the last several years.

Keeping this in view, the government has tried to provide many facilities like unemployment allowance. But unemployment cannot be eliminated just by getting government allowance.

Considering the way unemployment is increasing across the country, efforts are being made by the government to reduce unemployment. But along with the government, we all should put forward our hand in reducing unemployment. To reduce unemployment, lack of education has to be reduced and by reducing lack of education, unemployment can be reduced to a great extent.

At the same time, we all have to spread awareness in the country on population control and take strict steps towards population control. Due to population control in the country, unemployment will reduce to a great extent.

The way unemployment is increasing in the country today, if unemployment continues to increase in the future too, then many types of problems will arise in the country in the future.

Even today, there are lakhs of poor people sitting in India. But if unemployment continues to increase in this way, the number of poor people in the country will increase, which will become a matter of biggest concern for the country in the future. Even today, crime is increasing day by day in many corners of the country and due to increase in unemployment, crime is expected to increase further in the future. Because when a person gets tired while searching for a job, then he finds some wrong path and in such a situation, cases like theft and robbery will increase.

In the beginning the student tries hard to get a government job. But due to not getting a job, the mental pressure on the student's mind increases and in such a situation the person becomes a victim of mental stress and mental illnesses and we all will have to face these diseases in the future also.

This increasing unemployment in the country is a matter of concern for the country. Efforts are also being made by the government to reduce the number of officers. We all should work shoulder to shoulder with the government and try to reduce unemployment.



By: Vijay GarG

It is often seen that when the exams are about to start, students face a lot of problems in preparing the syllabus completely. This problem comes especially to those children who do not study anything throughout the year. Then they search the internet for answers to questions like how to prepare for papers in one or months. There are many children who start studying when they feel that there is no other option but to study. This is completely wrong because so much It cannot be completed in a few days due to the large syllabus. Therefore, one should keep preparing for whatever is conducted in the class throughout the year so that there is no trouble in the papers. Never assume that you will read near the papers. Well new year acts as an alarm for students to wake up kids, now your exams are near. Let's know about the ways, by which you can

Examination Season has come

study more in less time. Make a schedule and read.

The most important thing to keep in mind The only thing that happens is the schedule. Time table is the easy way. which helps you to use the time to study properly. Here it is important that every student should make his own personal schedule. If possible, it should be pasted on the wall in your room. The schedule should be such that your personal responsibilities can also be accommodated and you don't have any problem in working accordingly. Whatever you do in your daily life. Prepare the schedule keeping that in mind. It is morning time appropriate All the materials you have available related to different subjects, keep them together in one place. After this you have to choose a time when you can concentrate only on studies. By the way, the morning time is the most suitable for reading because at that time what is read is remembered quickly, but whatever time you think is right and appropriate, give it priority.

Distance from social

There are some students who are not interested in studies at all. In today's time, this The reason can be social websites, watching videos on mobile, online games etc. Therefore, it is important to create a conducive environment for learning. In such a situation, it is necessary to stay away from

these social sites for some time and read in a peaceful environment. Family members should also not visit the child's room frequently if he is studying. Relax for a few minutes while reading Breaks in between reading time are also important because you are not a robot who can read for hours without rest. According to experts, 45 minutes from reading a 10-15 minute break is necessary afterwards.

If you do not understand some things even after repeated reading, then you can take the help of your teacher or classmate. While studying, don't think that this subject is very difficult, I won't be able to read it, so leave it, but study with our heart to get good marks. Ask yourself the question instead of memorizing any lesson, try to understand it, so that it does not leave your mind. Never read while. Lying down because that way you will read less and sleep. Repeat instead of ending new in the last days Pay attention to the e. f any important information is found, write n your copy and underline t. Solve various model test papers. Ask yourself how hard you are working onwards the goal you want to Achieve it down for not, why so?

Take care of health Also take special care of your health during the papers. Stay away from any kind of stress. 7-8 hours of sleep is very important because with a tired body

he mind is not interested in studying. Do not waste time on difficult questions in the exam. Which questions you well as hey come, do them first. Mentally prepare yourself what if something comes out of the syllabus in the paper, if you don't remember what you have read then. Low to solve it instead of Janicking. Give more time o difficult subjects In school, you get equal time or every subject, whether out find it easy or difficult, But at home you can give more time to that subject, in which you think that you leed more effort in it. Sometimes it is seen that many children eat and drink when the exams are approaching. They also leave They should not do this at all as doing so can harm our health. If you fall ill when you will not be able to prepare well for the exams. Do not be afraid of exams. We should always understand he objective of the exam. Don't be afraid of exams. If you study carefully when you can never fail and have good syllabus in less time. You can pass with good marks by preparing. Always remember one thing that the harder the struggle, the more glorious will be his victory.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)*

Face Scrubs for Glowing Skin



By: Shahnaz Husain

Dull, dry, lusterless skin is result of regular exposure to dirt, dust and pollution in environment which accumulates toxins in deep pores.

While washing and cleansing help get rid of superficial build up on face but misses out dead skin cells, blackheads and whiteheads. Face scrubs are must to clear dead cells and remove toxins from deep within pores for radiant, clear and flawless skin.

Packed with the goodness of natural ingredients and essential oils, face scrubs can provide your skin with deep exfoliation to give you smooth and clear skin. Scrubs not only improves skin texture, but also stimulates circulation and encourages toxins to escape through the unclogged

pores. When skin is clean and exfoliated, it can absorb the beneficial ingredients in treatment and moisturizing products much more effectively.

Scrubs play an important role by keeping the pores free of clogged oil, thus preventing blackheads and pimples. Some scrub ingredients, like lemon juice, lemon peels, curd, milk, turmeric, ground almonds, help to brighten the skin and lighten skin colour over a period of time. Natural cooling ingredients can be used to make scrubs, like multani mitti, rose water, sandalwood, fruits, cucumber, aloe vera, while natural antiseptics helps to prevent rashes. These are neem, tulsi, pudina. Other home ingredients for scrubs are ground almonds, oats, rice flour, wheat bran (choker), cucumber or pumpkin seeds, dried orange and lemon peels and eggs.

For dry skin, use a scrub only once a week. If the skin is sensitive, with reddish patches or rash, avoid scrubs. For normal to oily skin, scrubs may be used more often.

For oily skin with enlarged pores: Mix oatmeal with egg white and apply on the areas. When it dries, dampen with water and rub gently with circular movements, wash-

ing off with water. Both egg white and oatmeal also help to reduce oiliness.

Mix 3 parts rice powder with 2 parts gram flour. Add curd and a little turmeric to mix into a paste. Apply on exposed areas of the body. Leave on for 10 minutes. Rub gently on the skin and wash off with water.

Ripe papaya has a cleansing action and contains an enzyme called papain, which helps to remove dead skin cells and brighten the skin. Add oats and curd to papaya. Apply on the face and rub gently on the skin, washing off with water.

Take 2 parts coarsely ground almonds and one part yogurt. Add a little turmeric. Mix together and apply on the body. After 5 minutes, rub gently and then wash off with water.

Take sesame seeds (til), dried mint (pudina) leaves and honey. Crush the sesame seeds coarsely and powder the dried mint leaves. Mix them with a little honey and apply on the skin. Leave on for 5 minutes. Rub gently and wash off with water. Sesame seeds actually have sun protective properties and also soothe sun-damaged skin. Or, mix ground almonds with

yogurt. Apply on the face. Leave on for 15 minutes. Then moisten with water and rub gently. Wash off with plenty of water.

Dried and powdered lemon and orange peels, along with dried and powdered mint (pudina) leaves can be added to facial scrubs to help add a glow. In fact, mint also helps to keep the skin clear and prevent eruptions. Apply the mixture on the face and leave on for a few minutes. Then, rub gently, with small circular movements, washing off with water.

For all skin types, make a powder of green tea leaves and mix it with curd and aloe vera gel in equal quantities. Apply on face leave on for a few minutes. Rub gently and wash off with water.

Take one cup olive oil and mix with Epsom salts or sugar. Add a little grated lemon rind. Apply on the face and rub gently. Wash off. The remaining scrub may be kept in the fridge in an airtight jar.

*(The author is
international fame
beauty expert and is
called herbal queen of
India)*

Shiv Sena starts campaign against sale of liquor near educational, religious places

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit and Vande Bharat Social News Channel on Thursday launched a joint campaign against the sale of liquor near educational institutions and religious places in Jammu.

This campaign was started in a Parade Chowk near Girls College, special talks were held with the college students, nearby shopkeepers and common people regarding the



liquor shops opened near Parade Girls College and Shiv Mandir. Their opinions and

anger were broadcasted with the help of a social media news channel. Shiv Sena state chief

Manish Sahni said that people have expressed deep anger over the liquor shops opened near the college and Temple.

100 percent of the people who interacted with him believed that these shops should be closed or shifted with immediate effect.

Sahni said that Jammu and Kashmir is the land of sages, saints and prophets, where the world famous Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and the holy Amarnath temple. Jammu city was called

the city of temples, which has today been converted into a city of liquor.

Sahni said that such shops have been identified in areas like Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur etc. and with the help of Social News Channel, the opinions of the people around these shops will be captured on camera every second day.

He said that this campaign will prove to be a step towards prohibition of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir.

National Road Safety Month campaign; GDC Kathua organizes door to door campaign

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 18: In continuation to its activities under National Road Safety Month campaign, Road Safety Club GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS Units organised door to door campaign in the college premises.

Campaign was mainly organised on College Main gate where volunteers interacted with the students of the college and aware them about Road Safety and Traffic rules.

Volunteers appealed the students to Wear Helmet while driving two wheelers. Don't drink and drive, wear seat belt while driving four wheelers, don't use mobile while driving, follow traffic signals, avoid modified silencer bikes, avoid wrong parking of vehicles, drive within speed limit, don't drive without licence, Avoid tripping on two wheeler, Pillion rider also use helmet, overtake from



the right, maintain a safe distance, give way for emergency vehicles, maintain lane discipline, avoid distractions etc.

Volunteers also appealed them to become youth ambassador to carry forward this campaign in their respective localities also.

On the very first day, Road Safety Club Govt Degree College Kathua organised Slogan Writing competition on Road Safety measures in which more than thirty volunteers participated.

The event was organ-

ised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervised by Prof Manmohan Singh Convener Road Safety Club GDC Kathua and NSS Prog Officers Dr Kulbir Singh, Dr Arvind Kumar and Dr Pinky.

NCC Cadets and other students also participated in this awareness campaign. Senior most faculty members Prof Ram Singh, Prof Anil Verma, Dr Jagmohan Sharma, Dr Sunil Dutt Sharma etc also participated in the campaign to create awareness among the students of the college.

Workshop on Research Methodology inaugurates at SMVDU



Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 18: A three-day National Workshop on Research Methodology and Current Research Trends has been inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The workshop is being organized by the School of Languages and Literature in collaboration with the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The workshop has been designed to meet the academic requirement of the research community with the intention of knowledge-building on the fundamentals of research concepts, methodology

and research process, particularly for the researchers working in the area of humanities and social sciences.

Dr. Anurag Kumar, Head, School of Languages and Literature delivered the opening remarks in the inauguration session.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Prof. Paragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, in his address, emphasised that the researcher must follow the research ethics while conducting the research and must not compromise on the quality of the research and research ethics while, keeping in mind the time constraints to finish the research.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by

Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Director, Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, SMVDU, who highlighted the need to follow the NEP 2020 guidelines.

Prof. A. K. Das, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Guest of Honour advised the participants in his address to make appropriate use of the available resources.

The workshop is being convened and coordinated by Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi and Dr. Isha Malhotra respectively.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the School of Languages and Literature in conducting this workshop.

Fabindia welcomes spring with 'The Big Spring'

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: As the season unfolds, Fabindia invites fashion and lifestyle enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a celebration of style, craftsmanship, and sustainability with the "Big Spring".

Spring is all about freshness and what better time to launch the Spring campaign than at the beginning of the new year.

It is a celebration where fashion meets traditional handicrafts and quality meets affordability. And it's all happening across their 350+ stores and online on fabindia.com and the fabindia App, from 9th Jan 2024 onwards.

The Big Spring represents a fusion of tradition and elegance, offering a curated range that not only captures the vibrant spirit of spring but also echoes Fabindia's commitment to artisanal fashion.

Whether you are revamping your office wardrobe, attending a ceremony or planning a vacation, their latest deals and styles have got you covered.

Complete the look with trendy accessories including fine Indian jewellery, bags



and footwear. The choices also extend to the fab Home collection on home linens, décor and gifting concepts. And of course, Bigger Bags lead to Bigger Savings.

Talking about the Big Spring at Fabindia, Ajay Kapoor, President Retail, Fabindia said, "The onset of Spring has always held a special place for our patrons to upgrade their wardrobes and home décor. We would be offering cotton and fine linens adorned with Indian hand block prints and traditional crafts in everyday apparel for work, at home and on the move to premium woven silks and silk blends celebrations and weddings. We look forward to making the shopping experience for our customers all the more unforgettable across all our stores. This Spring will certainly be Big on Style, Bigger on Offers and the Biggest on Smiles."

Braham Jyot, others hold cleanliness drive at Jammu West Temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Ahead of Pran Pratishtha at Ram Mandir Ayodhya, PM Narendra Modi has appealed for the 11 days religious rituals ceremonies across India.

In this regard, Braham Jyot Satti (Senior leader BJP OBC Morcha) along with social activists organised cleanliness drive at Temple, Shakti Nagar, Jammu West.

Perveen Badyal (Dist Vice President OBC), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President OBC), Bharat Bushan (social activist), Panku Sharma, Anshu Sharma and others were present on the occasion. They cleaned the whole temple and then performed Pooja.

Speaking on the occasion, Braham Jyot said that after 3 days on



22nd of January pran Pratishtha will be held at Ram Mandir, Ayodhya and it is not less than Diwali for Hindus and all devotees of Lord Shri Ram because we are getting Ram Mandir with the fight of various decades and life sacrifice of various Karsewaks.

He said as world-class infrastructure is built in Ayodhya, the temple town would see a convergence of tradition and modern Vikas (development), which from the ruling BJP's

viewpoint is a must for a country's "national greatness".

He said that whole world was waiting for the "historic" Ram temple consecration ceremony on January 22, and appealed to people to celebrate this as Diwali.

He said "If any country wants to develop, it has to protect its heritage.

We are moving forward with the old and the new. Once, Ram Lalla was in a tent in Ayodhya.

GDC Vijaypur celebrates National Youth Day



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 18: In continuation with the series of programmes being organized by Red Ribbon Club of Govt. Degree College Vijaypur in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society organized Essay writing competition on the eve of "National Youth Day" under the guidance of Principal Dr. Vandana Gupta.

Students of the College actively participated in the events enthusiastically with great interest and zeal by putting their ideas and thoughts in their writings.

Program started with the welcome address by Prof. Poonam Kundan (Convener, Red Ribbon Club) where she briefed students about the objective of celebrating National Youth Day.

The celebration holds great significance as it aims to share the thoughts and principles

of Swami Vivekananda among the youth of India.

It serves as a means to awaken the enduring energy of the youth and encourage their significant efforts towards the development of the country.

Nearly 35 students of GDC Vijaypur participated in the Essay writing competition. First position was secured by Kajal Choudhary of B.Com Sem-VI second position was secured by Sharda Devi of B.A Sem-IV, third position was achieved by Kavya Charak of B.Com Sem-VI and consolation prize was attained by Chandan Kumar of BA Sem VI.

The competition was adjudged by Prof. Anita Jamwal (HOD Political Science), Prof. Ritu Bhagat (HOD Education), Prof. ManojHeer (HOD Dogri) and Prof. Sonia Devi (HOD Hindi).

Principal of the col-

lege Dr. Vandana Gupta in her address emphasized upon the teachings and ideals of Swami Vivekananda and also said that every year youth day is being celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of this great educationist and world leader. She also advised the students to follow the path of truth and Non-violence as advocated by Swami Vivekananda.

The competition was coordinated by Prof. Poonam Kundan (Convener, Red Ribbon Club) and co-coordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, Prof. Renuka Kundal, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo and Dr. Radhika Rasyal.

Trophies and certificates were distributed to all the participants and winners of Painting and Essay writing competition. The refreshment was also distributed to the students during the programme.

HDFC Bank announces financial results for Qtr & 9 months ending Dec 31, 2023

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank Limited approved the Bank's (Indian GAAP) results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023, at its meeting held in Mumbai.

The accounts have been subjected to a 'Limited Review' by the statutory auditors of the Bank.

The Bank's consolidated net revenue grew by 113.5% to Rs 717.7billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 from Rs 336.2billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. The consolidated profit after tax for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 was Rs 172.6billion, up 35.9%, over the quar-

ter ended December 31, 2022. Earnings per share for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 was Rs 22.7 and book value per share as of December 31, 2023 was Rs 576.0.

The consolidated profit after tax for the nine months ended December 31, 2023 was Rs 464.4billion, up 39.0%, over the nine months ended December 31, 2022.

The Bank's net revenue grew by 25.8% to Rs 396.1 billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 from Rs 314.9billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 grew by 23.9% to Rs 284.7 billion from Rs

229.9 billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

Core net interest margin was at 3.4% on total assets, and 3.6% based on interest earning assets.

Other income (non-interest revenue) for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 was Rs 111.4 billion as against Rs 85.0 billion in the corresponding quarter ended December 31, 2022.

The four components of other income for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 were fees & commissions of Rs 69.4 billion (Rs 60.5 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year), foreign exchange & derivatives revenue of Rs 12.1 billion (Rs 10.7billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous

year), net trading and mark to market gain of Rs 14.7 billion (gain of Rs 2.6 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year) and miscellaneous income, including recoveries and dividend, of Rs 15.2 billion (Rs 11.1 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year).

Operating expenses for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 were Rs 159.6 billion, an increase of 28.1% over Rs 124.6 billion during the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Pre-provision operating profit (PPOP) at Rs 236.5 billion grew by 24.3% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 were Rs 42.2 billion as against Rs 28.1 billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2022. Total provisions for the current quarter included contingent provisions of Rs 12.2 billion.

The total credit cost ratio (excluding the contingent provisions mentioned above) was at 0.49%, as compared to 0.74% for the quarter ending December 31, 2022.

Profit before tax (PBT) for the quarter ended December 31, 2023 was at Rs 194.3billion. After providing Rs 30.6billion for taxation, the Bank earned a net profit of Rs 163.7billion, an increase of 33.5% over the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

Celebrities look forward to inauguration of Ram Mandir

January 22 is a significant day for India as the Ram Mandir will be inaugurated at Ayodhya. Celebs, who are looking forward to the event, tell us about their plans to visit the temple.

Historical moment
Nikhil Nanda

I am fortunate to be one of the witnesses to the 500-year-history of our era. I will personally visit there and witness this programme. The celebration of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple has created a wonderful atmosphere across the entire country.

Making a plan
Sheeba Akashdeep

I was lucky enough to visit the temple during Navratri and Dussehra to participate in Ram-leela and perform Nyotiya. Now, with the grand opening making headlines, it promises to be an incredibly exciting event. If I wasn't shooting that day, I would have loved to be there. However, this year, I am definitely planning to make a trip back and witness the outstanding temple in all its glory.

Going with peace



Sara Khan

I want to congratulate India for the inauguration of Ram Mandir with peace. Although I believe that God is within us, for others it is important to go to a sacred place where they will be heard more clearly!

Excitement in the air
Rohit Choudhary

The excitement for January 22 isn't just mine; it's shared by the entire Hindu community. A big event is happening—the inauguration of Lord Ram's temple. Many celebs are attending the event. Whether you have an invitation or not, I encourage everyone to visit Ram Janmabhoomi and the Ram Temple in Ayodhya later on. I'm definitely going.

Heartfelt wishes
Gurpreet Singh

Due to my work commitments, I won't be able to attend the Ram Mandir inauguration ceremony. However, my heart is with the auspicious occasion, and I send my best wishes for its success. May the spirit of Shri Ram continue to inspire and bring prosperity to our nation.

Shreya Ghoshal collaborates with music duo Sachin-Jigar for Tu Meri Hai



Singer Shreya Ghoshal has collaborated with music duo

Sachin-Jigar for the song Tu Meri Hai. The song marks an

exciting collaboration between Sachin-Jigar and Shreya after the 2011 super-hit Saibo from Shor in the City.

Sharing their excitement about the upcoming song and collaborating with Shreya, the duo in a statement says, "Tu Meri Hai is such a beautiful song and we can't wait for audiences to experience it. Collaborating with the very gifted Shreya Ghoshal after a long span of 13 years feels wonderful. There's always extremely positive and brilliant creative energy working with her. She is one of the best we have and with our new song, we have tried to recreate the magic yet again. We are truly excited and look forward to everyone's response to Tu Meri Hai."

Tu Meri Hai will be out on January 19.

Raveena Tandon says 'Karmma Calling' put all her skills to test

Raveena Tandon, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming streaming show Karmma Calling, has shared that her character of Indrani Kothari in the show put all her skills as an actress to test.

The actress said that the character is so far from what she is in real life and it required her to go the extra mile to portray the character to perfection.

Raveena said, "Indrani Kothari did put all my skills to test because she is completely different to what I am as a person. It is the journey of a woman who has reached a certain place in her life and there are circumstances that have made her the way she is. It's very



challenging to portray a character when you don't even have one

trait in common with that character and it is so far from you in real life."

Badi Heroine Banti Hai is quirky romantic comedy with hint of mystery

The makers of Prerna Lisa, Rajeev Siddhartha, Nehal Chudasama and Utkarsh Kohliin-starrer Badi Heroine Banti Hai unveiled the trailer of the quirky romantic comedy series, which has a glitzy backdrop of the high-profile fashion world, and a mysterious twist in a classic storyline of how opposites attract.

Created by Gul Khan, the show is packed with romance, drama and glamour.

The trailer takes the viewers through the life of Kajal, who is drawn into the glamorous world of fashion, with her life taking a turn as she gets fired on the first day of her job. Here, Kajal meets the



charismatic CEO of the fashion house, Advait Singhania.

The riveting trailer gives a glimpse of their crazy love story, which has nok-jhok, passion, drama and suspense. With an engaging plot-

line, it is set to be a battle between these two opposite personalities, a series of comedy of errors.

Talking about the series, Gul says, "With the increase in popularity of rom-coms among

viewers and their high demand for captivating love stories, the series will be a delightful watch with an unforeseen twist. Bringing two opposite personalities together under the glamour of the fashion world, the narra-

tive will unfurl their fates as they get tangled in love, fame, and blame."

Adding to this, Rajeev, who plays an integral role in this series, says, "I feel elated to be a part of such an amazing and well-written show. Being part of the show has been an overwhelming experience for all of us owing to all the hard work everyone has put in."

"Badi Heroine Banti Hai is a full package with a blend of romance, drama, laughter, thrill and suspense. I am playing the character of Advait."

The show will be streaming on Amazon miniTV from January 19.

I'm the kind of artiste who often ignores sensible advice, says Dot



Indie musician and actress Aditi Saigal also known as Dot is the most engaged Gen Z actor-artist of the country. With a staggering engagement rate of 24-26 per cent on her posts, Dot, who shot to fame with her acting as

well as musical talent in Zoya Akhtar's directorial The Archies, has emerged as a breakthrough artiste of the year.

She composes, sings and writes the lyrics of all her songs. Dot has been topping the Indian

music charts with her Archies songs too. She has written and sang all four Dear Diary themes picturised on Khushi Kapoor, as well as lent her voice to the character of Betty (Khushi), singing and composing the song Asymmetrical.

She has also sung the other two chartbusters Dhishoom Dhishoom and Sunoh. These two songs are among the top-listened songs of India across all music platforms.

Dot says, "I've always said that I've been lucky enough that social media has always been kind to me. Since the beginning, the kind of love I've gotten from people for my music has been nothing but heartwarming. I used to call it 'my little corner of the internet'. Of course, since The Archies, it's definitely expanding."

"Whether it's music, more films, or some other venture, it's hard not to look back at it and be grateful to the people following along. Especially since I'm the kind of artiste who often ignores sensible advice and does whatever in the world she feels like," she adds.

Dot has recently released a new single, titled Girls Night.

Adarsh Gourav to be seen in Ridley Scott's Alien prequel



Amid the success of Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, Adarsh has bagged a new project. As per a statement, Ridley Scott's Alien franchise is heading to the television and it will feature Adarsh in a pivotal role.

The four-month-long shooting schedule in Thailand will see Adarsh alongside a talented ensemble cast, including Sydney Chandler, Alex Lawther, Samuel Blenkin and Essie Davis. Ridley Scott, the mastermind behind the Alien legacy, serves as the executive producer, adding his visionary touch to the project.

Excited about it, Adarsh says, "The allure of working on a project of this magnitude, in a picturesque location like Thailand, is truly exhilarating. Noah Hawley's creative genius combined with Ridley Scott's legendary touch makes this an extraordinary venture, and I am eager to bring this story to life." The Alien prequel, under the direction of Noah Hawley, promises a fresh perspective by unfolding 70 years before the events of the original 1979 film.

Dua Lipa axes music video that includes demolition and explosions amid the Israel-Hamas conflict

Singer Dua Lipa reportedly pulled a music video worth hundreds of thousands of pounds as she apparently decided it was "insensitive" amid the conflict in Gaza, which erupted on October 7.

In a cover chat on the latest issue of Rolling Stone, she says, "I feel so bad for every Israeli life lost and what happened on 7 October."

"At the moment, what we have to look at is how many lives have been lost in Gaza, and the innocent civilians, and the lives that are just being lost."

Lipa talks about how important it is to engage in current affairs. "It's probably easier to be apolitical. I think there's no kind of deep discussion about war and oppression. It just is something that we've seen happen time and time again. I feel like just being a musician and posting about something doesn't make enough of a difference, but hopefully, just showing solidarity, which is sometimes all you feel like you can do, is important."

She apparently axed a pricey music video amid the Israel-Hamas



conflict as it included explosions as well as fighting crowds. A music insider says the promo, shot before the war, was pulled after "emergency meetings" among Dua's team.

"At its heart the video was playful but contained themes of chaos

— including car crashes, demolition, explosions, fireworks and crowds fighting. Dua and her team decided that it would be insensitive for the video to come out given what has happened on and since 7 October," says the source.

Lord Ram binds entire humanity above caste, religion, regions: PM

'Across countries and civilisations there has been a great enthusiasm about Ramayana'

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a strong pitch for Lord Ram as a deity revered and worshipped around the globe and Ramayana being an Epic of influence for various cultures spanning nations and regions.

"Conversations related to Lord Ram, Ma Sita and Ramayana are associated with the life of every single person.

These are beyond the boundaries of time, societies, castes, religions and regions. Even in the toughest of times Ramayana set examples of sacrifice, unity and courage and remained a testament to the victory of love.

That is why it binds the whole of humanity to itself," PM said after releasing six commemorative stamps on Ram Mandir and elements related to the temple which he said would serve as historical bridges to the future and communicate the majesty of the Ram Temple to upcoming generations.

At a time when the opposition leaders have accused the ruling BJP led by the PM of converting the January 22 Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya into a political event, the prime minister today said Lord Ram transcended all these artificial barriers



ers and Ramayana had globally remained a centre of attraction. "Across countries and civilisations there has been a great enthusiasm about Ramayana. Today's stamp releases reveal how Lord Ram, Ma Sita are seen with pride worldwide," PM said.

He said the young generation of today will find it very interesting to watch how different countries have issued postal stamps dedicated to Lord Ram.

"America, Canada, Australia, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Thailand, Guyana, Singapore, and many other

countries have, with a lot of affection, issued postal stamps on various aspects related to Lord Rama's life," the PM said stressing the global appeal of Lord Ram.

The PM said Lord Ram is as much of a great ideal worldwide as in India.

"Lord Ram's deep influence, Ramayana's great influence on cultures worldwide will be revealed by this album being released today. It will take people on a mini tour to the lives of Lord Ram and Ma Sita," PM said.

He recalled Maharishi's Valmiki's words that Lord Ram's per-

sonality will live and flourish till there are mountains and rivers on the face of earth.

The PM was speaking after releasing six special postage stamps dedicated to Lord Ram and an album featuring stamps on Lord Ram issued by other countries.

"We all know the importance of postal stamps. They are not mere tickets. Postal stamps work as bridges to the future to communicate to the coming generations the historical events that have passed. When we send a letter to someone, we actually send a piece of history," PM said.

He said postal stamps are miniatures of history.

"With today's postal stamps youngsters will get an opportunity to know and learn about a lot.

These stamps feature elements from the Ram Mandir which signal good wishes for the nation's welfare, the image of the Sun which blesses the world to shine, the image of Saryu river which gives us the message to keep flowing.

Nuances of the temple have been craftily embossed on these stamps," PM said.

ED summons 'illegal', BJP wants to stop me from campaigning in general election: Arvind Kejriwal



NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the ED summonses issued to him were "illegal" and part of a political conspiracy to stop him from campaigning in the upcoming general election.

He alleged that the entire exercise of serving him summonses was being carried out to arrest him before the

high-octane polls, expected in April-May.

The chief minister said he was issued a summons by the Enforcement Directorate last week for the fourth time, and asked to appear before the agency on January 18 or January 19.

"The BJP is running the ED. They only intend to arrest me so that I cannot campaign for the upcoming gen-

eral election," he said.

Kejriwal said he had sent his reply to the central agency.

"The four notices sent to me are illegal in the eyes of the law. Such general, non-specific notices have been quashed in the past by the courts. I have repeatedly written to the ED saying the notices are illegal but they have not replied to me," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event.

Alleging that the notices are being sent under a "political conspiracy," he said the probe into the excise policy case has been going on for two years but "nothing" has been found yet.

"False statements are being extracted out of people by beating them," he said.

Man kills ex-girlfriend, then ends his life; clue in his suicide note leads police to woman's body after 34 days

THANE, Jan 18 (Agencies): A 19-year-old woman who had been missing for 34 days was found murdered in Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai, with the prima facie probe revealing that she was killed by her jilted lover who died by jumping in front of a local train, the police have said.

The man had left behind a "code" in a suicide note that was retrieved from his mobile phone. After toiling for days, investigators decoded it, which was the number of a tree marked by forest officials. The code helped the cops trace the woman's body, he said on Wednesday.

The woman was allegedly strangled to death in Kharghar hills by the accused who was angry over her snapping ties with him, an official said. The woman left for her college in Sion on December 12 and never

returned, following which a missing person case was registered at Kalamboli police station.

During the investigation, police received a message that one Vaibhav Burungale, a resident of Kalamboli, had killed himself by jumping in front of a local train at Juninagar railway station on December 12, following which a case was registered, the official said today.

Meanwhile, Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Milind Bharambe set up a special task force to investigate the case.

Police found a suicide note saved in the mobile phone of Burungale saying he had murdered the woman and was going to die by suicide, the official said.

The official said code words such as 'L01-501' were used in the suicide note which was decoded by the police to crack

the case. The code was the number of a tree, marked by the Forest Department, where Burungale dumped the body of the woman.

"The investigation revealed that the woman and Burungale were present in Kharghar Hills area on December 12. Police took the help of voluntary rescuers from Lonavala and collaborated with the Fire Brigade and Forest Department to look for the woman's body. Drones were also used," police said in a release.

The breakthrough came when the body was spotted lying in bushes in a dumping ground in the Owe Camp area in Kharghar, it said.

The body was identified based on the dress the woman was wearing when she had left for college, the wristwatch, and the ID card.

Further investigation is under way, police said.

8 criminals sustain gunshot wounds after encounters with police in UP's Chandauli

CHANDAULI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Two encounters broke out between police teams and criminals wanted in cases like attempt to murder, gangsterism, robbery, extortion, assault, and drug smuggling in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli late on Wednesday night. Eight criminals sustained gunshot injuries in the encounters.

Confirming the incidents, Chandauli Superintendent of Police (SP) Dr Anil Kumar said the encounters took place under the jurisdiction of two police stations and the eight criminals in

custody were residents of Shahjahanpur. He said, however, some of the criminals managed to escape and police are trying to arrest them.

The senior police official said the criminals used to conduct recce in the area during the day and commit thefts at night by breaking into shops and houses. The gang had recently conducted a robbery at a house and subjected the owner to serious injuries as soon as he woke up and tried to stop them.

He said the gang had several other cases of theft, robbery, attempt to murder and other crimes

registered against them in other districts of the state.

He said police received a tip-off that the members of the gang were planning to carry out thefts in the Alinagar and Sakaldiha areas.

Acting on the information, police set up checkpoints in both areas and called in more forces from other police stations.

Police said the first encounter took place near the Bhojpur railway crossing in the Sakaldiha police station area around 2:30 am, in which four criminals were injured in the



police firing. The second encounter took place around 3:30 am near the Ring Road in the Bhupauli area of the Alinagar police station.

Four criminals sustained gunshot wounds,

while three others took advantage of the darkness and managed to escape.

The injured criminals from both encounters were detained and admitted to the hospital for treatment.

PhD student at IIT Kanpur dies by suicide, 3rd incident in a month

KANPUR, Jan 18 (Agencies): A PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-Kanpur) was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her hostel room on Thursday morning. It was the third such incident in the institute in a month.

According to the police, the research scholar, Priyanka, hailed from Dumka in Jharkhand.

The matter came to light after Priyanka's father, Narendra Jaiswal, contacted the manager of her hostel, informing her that his daughter was not answering his calls.

When the hostel manager, Ritu Pandey, reached her hostel room, she found the door locked from inside. When Priyanka did not open the door for a long time, Pandey was forced to break into her room. Pandey found the student hanging from a ceiling fan and informed police immediately.

Police officials along with a forensics team rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it for a post-mortem examination.

According to sources at the IIT-Kanpur administration, Priyanka had joined the institution's PhD programme in chemical engineering on December 29, 2023. Priyanka's family was informed about the incident and they left for Kanpur soon after.

Last December, a research scholar was found hanging from a fan inside her hostel room in IIT Kanpur on Tuesday. Pallavi Chilka was pursuing her post-doctoral research from the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering at IIT Kanpur. As per a report by PTI news agency, a cleaning staff had knocked on Chilka's door late in the afternoon and there was no response. The person then peeped inside and found Chilka hanging.

"Won't Let Any Piracy Happen": Navy Chief Amid Red Sea Attacks



NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Amid the recent drone attacks by suspected Houthi rebels in the Red Sea and the deployment of Pakistan vessels along the Indian coastline, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar on Thursday said that the job of the Navy is to ensure that "we protect, promote, pursue the National interest of Bharat".

"We are not going to permit any piracy to happen," the Navy chief added.

Speaking to media persons on Thursday, the chief of Naval staff said incidents of piracy in Indian waters were reduced to 'almost zero' till the end of last year. "We are ensuring that

our national interests are preserved and protected. We have our deployments. We have had ongoing operations in the Indian Ocean Region, including anti-piracy operations since 2008. If we see since 2008, we have deployed 106 ships to combat piracy. The job of the Navy is to ensure that we protect, promote, and pursue the national interests of Bharat. Till last year, piracy was reduced to almost zero. However, subsequently, we saw a resurgence. It was probably a result of the disturbance happening because of the drone attacks in the Red Sea. So we have taken action and deployed an adequate number of

assets. We are not going to permit any piracy to happen. We are taking appropriate measures," he said.

He added that the Indian Navy was working with other partners in the region to keep the waters safe.

"A lot of disturbance has been happening but there has been no attack on any India-flagged merchant vessel. Last time there was a pirate attack on a ship carrying a large number of Indian crew. We responded to that immediately and deployed our troops. We are working with other partners in the region. Many partners want to ensure that the Pacific is free, open, inclusive, rules-based, safe and secure. We will collaborate with all our partners, even smaller countries in the region," the Navy chief added.

Responding to the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Defence sector, Samir V Kamat, Secretary of Department, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said they are working col-

laboratively with lots of academic institutions in developing AI-based techniques to detect Cyber intuitions.

"AI is a technology which has several applications. In the military and defence sector, it helps in preventive maintenance, surveillance, and cybersecurity. It is now playing an important role in offensive action. This technology is going to make a big difference in the days to come in not only improving and enhancing military services and actions but will also increase its efficiency and effectiveness," he said.

"The major threat from AI to the country is in the cyberspace. Lots of cyber attacks happen through bots that work on AI but the same AI can also be used in cyber defence. We are working collaboratively with lots of academic institutions in developing AI's AI-based techniques to detect cyber intuitions. We are working with countries which are friendly to us," he added.

Student preparing for civil services collapses in coaching class, dies



INDORE, Jan 18 (Agencies): A 20-year-old student preparing for the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) exams died after collapsing in his coaching class in Indore. Identified as Raja Lodhi, a resident of Sagar district, he was reportedly struck by sudden chest pain and fell unconscious moments later.

CCTV footage from the classroom captured the entire incident. The video shows Lodhi sitting upright and focused on his studies. Suddenly, as the video shows, he begins clutching his chest, expressing visible distress. Within

seconds, he loses his balance and falls from his chair.

According to his friend, who was studying alongside him, Lodhi initially complained of discomfort before the pain intensified, leading him to collapse.

Panicked classmates rushed him to the closest hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Lodhi's death marks the fourth such incident in Indore recently, prompting concerns about a possible pattern of "silent heart attacks" among young citizens. The exact cause of the young man's death is under investigation.

7 killed as Pakistan conducts 'precision military strikes' against 'terrorist hideouts' in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province

A number of terrorists reportedly killed during the intelligence-based operation codenamed 'Marg Bar Sarmachar'

ISLAMABAD, Jan 18 (Agencies): Pakistan on Thursday conducted "precision military strikes" against what it called "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province that killed seven people, a day after Islamabad recalled its ambassador from Tehran and suspended all planned high-level bilateral visits in the wake of Iranian missile and drone strikes in Balochistan.

"This morning, Pakistan undertook a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes against terrorist hideouts in Sistan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran," the Foreign Office said in a statement on Thursday morning.

It said a number of terrorists were killed during the intelligence-based operation codenamed 'Marg Bar Sarmachar'.

Citing a security official, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency reported that seven people -- three women and four children -- were killed in the missile attack launched by Pakistan on a border village.

"At 4.50 am on Thursday, several explosions were heard in the area of Saravan city, and after the investigations, we found out that Pakistan had targeted one of Iran's border villages with a missile," senior official Alireza Marhamati was quoted as saying by the news agency.

There was also an explosion near Saravan city where there were no casualties.

Iran's attack and Pakistan's retaliatory strikes have raised tensions in the volatile region, already roiled by Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the targeting of the merchant ships in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthis.

"Over the last several years, in our engagements with Iran, Pakistan has consistently shared its serious concerns about the safe havens and sanctuaries enjoyed by Pakistani-origin terrorists calling themselves Sarmachars on the ungoverned spaces inside Iran. Pakistan also shared multiple dossiers



with concrete evidence of the presence and activities of these terrorists," Pakistan's Foreign Office said in the statement.

"However, because of lack of action on our serious concerns, these so-called Sarmachars continued to spill the blood of innocent Pakistanis with impunity. This morning's action was taken in light of credible intelligence of impending large-scale terrorist activities by these so-called Sarmachars," it added.

"This action is a manifestation of Pakistan's unflinching resolve to protect and defend its national security against all threats.

The successful execution of this highly complex operation is also a testimony to the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces," the Foreign Office said, adding that Pakistan would continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the safety and security of its people which is "sacrosanct, inviolable and sacred".

Sources in Pakistan said that shortly before 0600 hours (local time) on Thursday, the Joint Staff Headquarters of the Pakistan Armed Forces ordered lethal counter-insurgency-specific precision airstrikes inside Iran, pre-authorised by the Government of Pakistan, to preemptively target and eliminate imminent terrorist threats to Pakistan.

"These strikes were conducted successfully using Pakistan Air Force fighter jets using stand-off extended range munitions, while they remained inside Pakistani airspace," a source said.

The target locations, seven in total, were tagged for a strike after the presence of multiple

high-value terrorist targets was confirmed following extensive aerial reconnaissance via unmanned aircraft.

The Pakistan Air Force's aircraft today after the break of dawn, engaged seven targets inside Iran with precision-guided air-to-ground munitions, where the Balochistan-centric terrorist organisation Balochistan Liberation Force was based. These targets were over 80 kilometres inside Iranian territory, sources said.

No Iranian civilians or military personnel were targeted, they added.

They said the Government of Iran had been made aware of these terrorist activities for quite some time but they refused to cooperate for joint investigation and action.

The air-to-ground operation was conducted as a preemptive strike option exercised by Pakistan against the BLF terror organisation.

On Wednesday, Pakistan recalled its ambassador to Iran and suspended all planned high-level bilateral visits, hours after Tehran launched unprecedented missile and drone strikes on what it said were directed at the bases of a terrorist group in the restive Balochistan province.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch in a terse statement read out to the media on Wednesday said that the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan who is currently visiting Iran may not return to Islamabad for the time being. Pakistan also reserves the right to retaliate to the provocation by Iran, she had said.

Two bases of the Sunni Baloch

militant group 'Jaish al-Adl' in Pakistan's unruly Balochistan province were targeted by missiles and drones on Tuesday, Iranian state media reported, a day after Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards attacked targets in Iraq and Syria with missiles.

Jaish al-Adl, or the "Army of Justice", is a Baloch 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.

On Wednesday, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani told his Iranian counterpart that the unprecedented attack by Iran seriously damaged the ties between the two nations.

Jilani, who is currently leading the Pakistan delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kampala, Uganda, in a telephonic conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stressed that the attack conducted by Iran inside the Pakistani territory on January 16 was not only a serious breach of Islamabad's sovereignty but also an egregious violation of international law and the spirit of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran, the Foreign Office said in an earlier statement.

The Pakistani foreign minister added that his country reserved the right to respond to this provocative act.

Stressing that terrorism was a common threat to the region and required concerted and coordinated efforts to combat this menace, Jilani underlined that unilateral actions could seriously undermine regional peace and stability.

"No country in the region should tread this perilous path," the minister told his Iranian counterpart. Traditional warm ties between the two neighbours nose-dived to the lowest ebb after the unprecedented attack by the Iranian forces in the country's southwest.

Singapore's Indian-origin minister pleads not guilty to graft charges



SINGAPORE, Jan 18 (Agencies): Singapore's Indian-origin transport minister S. Iswaran on Thursday pleaded not guilty to 27 charges in all -- two of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, one of obstructing justice and 24 of receiving gratification as a public servant under the Penal Code.

Iswaran, 61 and also Minister in charge of Trade Relations, arrived at the State Courts at about 8 am on Thursday. He did not respond to questions from reporters during his walk to the court entrance, according to a Channel News Asia report.

He has been Minister for Transport since May 2021. His political career spans more than 26 years since he was first elected in 1997 as a Member of Parliament.

Iswaran was arrested on July 11 last year as part of an investigation by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB).

The arrest was made public on July 14, although no details were provided on the nature of the investigation, according to media reports.

What was known was that property tycoon Ong Beng Seng had been arrested as well and asked to provide information in relation to his interactions with Iswaran, according to the reports. Ong also owns the rights to the Singapore Grand Prix and is chairman of race promoter Singapore GP.

Iswaran had been actively involved in the government's engagements with F1, including

making appearances at press conferences where announcements about the event's future have been made.

Before he was appointed to the Cabinet in 2006, he served on several government parliamentary committees and was the Deputy Speaker of Parliament from September 2004 to June 2006.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has placed Iswaran on a leave of absence due to the CPIB investigation.

Lee later revealed in parliament that Iswaran had his pay cut to SGD8,500 (USD6,390) a month until further notice. But he was allowed to draw the full annual MP allowance of SGD 192,500.

It prompted the opposition Progress Singapore Party (PSP) to file a motion requesting that Iswaran be suspended as an MP.

The PSP motion was rejected in parliament last September, with MPs voting instead to consider the matter when investigations against Iswaran conclude. Iswaran from the ruling People's Action Party.

On January 9, Education Minister Chan Chun Sing said in a written parliamentary response that CPIB had completed its probe into Iswaran. At the People's Action Party's (PAP) conference in November, Lee spoke about the need to keep Singapore's system clean. He also pledged that PAP's commitment to honesty and incorruptibility was "absolutely non-negotiable".

Without referencing Iswaran, he told

party members, "If you wear white, you must be white (a traditional all-white worn by PAP members). Whether in your party responsibilities or private dealings, never bring yourself or the party into disrepute.

"Do not abuse your position. Do not accept any favours, still less ask for them. It is shameful, it is wrong," Lee was quoted as saying.

Lee, who is the party's secretary-general, added that the PAP must prove itself especially when it is tested, by putting principles into action "regardless of any embarrassment or political cost" and dealing with the issues "without fear or favour" while getting to the bottom of the matter.

Iswaran told the court he intends to claim trial, according to a report by The Straits Times.

Court documents show that most of the offences he faces involve property tycoon Ong Beng Seng, who brought Formula One to Singapore in 2008.

In September 2022, Iswaran had allegedly corruptly obtained from Ong gratification with a total value of about SGD 145,434 as inducement for advancing his business interests in matters relating to a contract between Singapore GP and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), according to The Straits Times report on Thursday. He also allegedly obtained from Ong gratification valued at SGD20,848.03 in December 2022 for advancing his business interests in matters relating to a contract between Singapore GP and the STB and a proposal for a contract with the STB.

He had also allegedly obtained, as a public servant, valuable things with a total value of about SGD218,058.95 from Ong between Nov 2015 and Dec 2021.

Iswaran had also allegedly obstructed the course of justice on or about May 25, 2023.

China Offers To Mediate Between Pakistan And Iran After Missile Strikes



BEIJING, Jan 18 (Agencies): China said it is willing to mediate between Pakistan and Iran following an exchange of fire against terrorist targets in their border region, including a strike that Tehran said killed at least seven civilians.

"The Chinese side sincerely hopes that the two sides can exercise calm and restraint and avoid an escalation of tension," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular press conference.

"We are also willing to play a constructive role in de-escalating the situation if both sides so wish," she said.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan and neighbouring

Iran are both battling simmering insurgencies along their sparsely populated border regions.

On Thursday, Pakistan said it carried out strikes against militant targets in Iran.

Tehran said it had summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in response to the attack, which killed at least seven people.

Both countries are close partners of Beijing and members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Mao reiterated Iran and Pakistan were "friendly countries to China, and countries with important influence".

Dozens killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza; 16 dead in single strike on a house

JERUSALEM, Jan 18 (Agencies): Israeli strikes killed dozens more people overnight, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Thursday, including in the territory's south where Israel has intensified operations.

The renewed strikes came as medicine for hostages held by the militants and fresh aid for civilians entered the Palestinian territory under a newly brokered deal, mediator Qatar said.

The ministry said 93 people had been killed, including 16 in a single strike on a house in the southern city of Rafah, where many people have fled.

"The strike left 16 killed, among them women and children, and 20 injured," the ministry said.

The Hamas government reported dozens of strikes, including on the southern city of Khan Yunis and Palestinian refugee camps in central Gaza.

Plumes of black smoke rose over Khan Yunis at dawn after the strikes.

Fighting has ravaged the Gaza Strip since Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attacks on Israel that resulted in the death of about 1,140 people, mostly civilians, according to an agency tally based on official Israeli figures.

At least 24,448 Palestinians, most of them women, children and adolescents, have been killed in Israeli bombardments and a ground offensive, according to figures from the health ministry.

Hamas and other militants seized about 250 hostages during the October 7 attacks, and around 132 remain in Gaza, including at least 27 believed to have been killed.

The fate of those still in captivity has gripped Israeli society, leading to pressure against the government for their release.

A broader humanitarian crisis in

besieged Gaza is marked by the threat of famine and disease, fuelling international calls for a ceasefire.

Late Wednesday Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari said on X, formerly Twitter, that medicine for hostages and aid entered Gaza "over the past few hours" under the agreement announced on Tuesday following French and Qatari mediation.

Two planes earlier arrived in the Egyptian city of El-Arish near the Gaza border with 61 tonnes of aid provided by Doha and France, including medicine and food, Qatar said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross welcomed the deal as "a much-needed moment of relief", under which 45 hostages are expected to receive medication.

France said the drugs would be sent to a hospital in Rafah, given to the Red Cross and divided into batches before being transferred to the hostages.

"Our life is gone"

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the army was hitting Gaza's main southern city of Khan Yunis particularly hard to dismantle the Hamas leadership, which the army says has already been done in northern Gaza.

Israel's army announced the death of one soldier on Wednesday, bringing to 193 the total number killed in Gaza since ground operations began in late October.

At the Abu Yussef Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah, Palestinians stood in front of bodies wrapped in shrouds, mourning loved ones killed in Israeli bombardment.

Hassan Gebril Franjee, a resident of central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, returned to find his home had been destroyed.

"I wish they would stop the war because the situation is devastating. Our youth is gone. Our whole life is gone," he told agency.

The United Nations says the war has displaced roughly 85 percent of Gaza's people, many of whom have crowded into shelters and struggle to get food, water, fuel and medical care.

At Israel's Nir Oz kibbutz, where about one in four residents was killed or kidnapped in the Hamas attack, Yossi Schneider is clinging to hope for his relative Kfir Bibas, a baby, despite Hamas's announcing his death.

The youngest hostage kidnapped by Hamas was less than nine months old on October 7 and would be celebrating his first birthday this week.

"We are thinking about them every day, every second, every minute," Schneider said of Bibas and his missing brother and mother.

West Bank violence

Since October 7 violence has also surged in the Israeli-occupied West Bank to a level not seen since the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, between 2000 and 2005.

Israeli army raids and attacks by settlers have killed around 360 people in the territory, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Israeli forces killed 10 people in the West Bank on Wednesday, the Palestinian health ministry and the Israeli army said.

Five were killed inside Tulkarem refugee camp, according to the ministry, while Israel's military confirmed an air strike that killed "a number of terrorists" during a raid there.

Separately, Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the armed wing of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, said five

of its fighters died east of the city of Nablus.

Among them was Ahmed Abdullah Abu Shalal, a Palestinian militant, both sides said.

The Israeli army said he was killed following intelligence "of his cell's intentions of carrying out an imminent terrorist attack".

Fears are mounting the Israel-Hamas conflict will trigger an all-out war across the Middle East, with growing violence involving Iran-aligned groups.

Israel has exchanged regular cross-border fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement since the start of the war.

Military chief Herzi Halevi warned on Wednesday the likelihood of war on Israel's northern border with Lebanon in the coming months was "much higher".

US forces late Wednesday said they conducted a fourth round of strikes on areas of Yemen controlled by Iran-backed Huthi rebels. United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said forces struck 14 Huthi missiles that were loaded to be fired.

The latest strikes came after Washington said it would re-designate the Huthis as a "terrorist" entity, for their attacks on merchant vessels in the Red Sea vital to world trade.

The Huthis vowed to continue their attacks against what they deem Israeli-linked shipping and said they had hit another vessel on Wednesday, following the US designation.

CENTCOM said a US-owned and operated, Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier had been hit but was still sailing.

The United States and Britain bombed scores of targets inside Huthi-controlled Yemen last week in response to attacks by the rebels.

Neurotherapy Annual Convention to start from Jan 23, 2024

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Neurotherapy Annual Convention is being organised by Lajpat Rai Mehra Neurotherapy Research and Training Institute at Jammu Teerth Yatri Bhawan, Haridwar, Uttarakhand from January 23 to 26, 2024.

Giving this information, Treasurer of the Organization, Sumit Mahajan said that this programme will start from January 23 with written examination and practical will be taken for the candidates coming from all over the country and the training of in-charges of 35 study centers across the country will be conducted from January 23 at 10:00 AM to January 24 at 12:00 Noon.

The program will be inaugurated after lunch on 24th January at 3:00



pm by Dr. Anil Yogi, Principal, Madhav University, Rajasthan, Dr. Saurabh Charai, Dean, Vocational Studies, Om Sterling Global University, Hisar and Jaydev Singh Roy, Patron of the Institute, Dr. Lajpat Rai Mehra (Guruji) will be done by lighting a lamp in front of the picture of the father of Neurotherapy.

In the inaugural session, everyone will be given information about introduction and how to do graduation, master and PhD courses in Neurotherapy.

After this, a session will be given only about diet related to these diseases i.e. what should be eaten and what

From the second session till 25th January evening, the theme of this program will be related to the digestive system.

Detailed information about the causes, symptoms and neurotherapy treatment of diseases will be given by 7 experienced teachers for more than 250 neurotherapists present there from about 20 states. Will be beneficial.

On January 26, 2024, in the morning, after the flag hoisting program by the President of the Organization Birendra

should not be eaten. Apart from this, presentation of projects from all over the country will be done by our neurotherapists from different states.

The chief guest of the program on January 25 will be Sumit Banerjee MD Health World Hospital West Bengal, Ashutosh Pandey President Purvanchal Utthan Sansthan, Swami Alok Giri Maharaj Shri Balaji Dham Siddhabali Hanuman Narvdeeshwar Mahadev Temple Haridwar and Ramchandra Kanojia President Press Club Haridwar.

Dr. Kulwant Singh Bhau will give information to Everyone about the Diseases Occurring in Children due to Poor digestive system.

Prasad Chaurasia and General Secretary Ajay Kumar Kushwaha, the post movement will be flagged off by Dr. Kulwant Singh Bhau, Associate Professor of Surgery and Ajay Gandhi, Patron of the Organization.

It will be headed by Ram Gopal Parihar, Patron Organization. After that, the teachers will be honored by the organization. students who have completed their internship will be given diploma certificates. Neurotherapists who have completed 5, 10, 15 and 20 Years in Neurotherapy will be given Experience Certificates and Participation Certificates will be given to all the people by the organization.

Also some new announcements will be made about the major programs to be organized in 2024.

Army inspires youth with motivation lecture at Mughal Maidan



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 18: To ignite the spirit of patriotism and service, the army organised a stirring motivational lecture at village Mughal Maidan of district Kishtwar.

The event aimed to inspire young minds to consider a noble and fulfilling career in the army.

The lecture emphasized the pivotal role played by the army in safeguarding the nation's integrity and promoting peace. Participants were captivated by the tales of bravery and selflessness.

The event provided valuable insights into the various career opportunities available within the army, encouraging

individuals to contribute to the nation's defence. 18 enthusiastic participants from village Mughal Maidan and nearby areas participated in the event.

The army remains committed to fostering a sense of duty and pride among the youth and event like these serve as a bridge between armed forces and people.

Prof. Rajesh elected staff secretary of GDC Billawar

Top News Report

BILLAWAR, Jan 18: Government Degree College (GDC) Billawar conducted elections for the staff secretary for the session 2023-24 and Prof. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Professor of Zoology has been unanimously elected for the post.

The newly elected staff secretary nominated his team, including two Joint Secretaries namely Dr. Fraz Ahmed Assistant Professor of Botany and Dr. Manu

Sharma, Assistant Professor of English and

Professor of Zoology. The Election Commission



Treasurer Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Assistant Pro-

vision of the college had notified for the election

of the staff secretary on January 16 and the election was conducted on Thursday.

The Chief Election Commissioner for the election of Staff Secretary, Prof Raj Kiran, Associate Professor of Physics, declared the results.

Principal GDC Billawar, Prof. Alka Sharma congratulated the newly elected Staff Secretary and his team by presenting a bouquet. She also wished them good luck for future endeavours.

DC Rajouri inaugurates Medical Camp at Dalhori

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 18: In a commendable initiative aimed at promoting community well-being, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat on Thursday inaugurated a Medical Camp organized by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) here at Dalhori.

As the chief guest, Deputy Commissioner underscored the significance of such health camps for fostering a culture of preventive healthcare within the community. He elo-

quently outlined the primary objectives of the camp, emphasizing the crucial role it plays in ensuring accessible healthcare services for the residents of Dalhori and its surrounding areas.

The Medical Camp served as a vital platform for the screening of individuals, enabling timely detection of health issues and provision of necessary medical services. The dedicated medical professionals and support staff worked tirelessly to cater to the diverse healthcare needs of the attendees.

Deputy Commissioner Bhagat, in his address, lauded the proactive role of the CRPF in organizing such community-centric initiatives and highlighted the positive impact these efforts have on public health.

The Medical Camp, beyond its immediate healthcare services, served as a testament to the spirit of community engagement and shared responsibility. The event not only witnessed the provision of essential health services but also exemplified the harmonious

collaboration between the civil administration and the CRPF in fostering a healthier and more resilient community. As the medical camp concluded successfully, it left an indelible mark as a symbol of collective dedication to the well-being of the people of Dalhori and its surrounding areas.

Among the others CO, 72 Bn CRPF, Ram Meena, and 21C, 72 Bn CRPF, Vivek Saksena and other CRPF officers, officials and public in large numbers were present on the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

Ayodhya Ram Mandir | Centre declares half-day holiday for Central Government offices on January 22

has taken feedback from ministers about the preparations for the grand event. The ministers have been told to light lamps at their homes and feed the poor. They have been asked to celebrate the day like Diwali.

The ministers have also been told to arrange trips to Ayodhya for the people of their constituencies when the temple is opened to the public after the January 22 event. They have been asked to oversee the preparations and accompany residents of their constituencies to Ayodhya on these trips.

Suspicious tunnel found near IB in Samba

the border or not. The army is also using sophisticated tools to surveil the international border in Samba because such tunnels had been used earlier by the terrorists for infiltration to disrupt peace in J&K.

ED attaches properties worth Rs 36.57 Cr in mediclaim insurance policy for J&K Govt Employees, PSU's Employees & Pensioners

Srinagar for commission of offences under various sections of PC (Pari-Materia to sections 120-B & 420 of IPC) and JKPC (Pari-Materia to sections 13(1) (d) read with 13(2) of PC Act), on the basis of complaint filed by the J&K government against Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited, Reliance General Insurance Company Limited and unknown Public Servants & private persons.

It reads that the investigation revealed that J&K Finance Department deliberately awarded the tender for engagement of intermediary for designing, floating the tender for and implementation of the Health Scheme for government employees & pensioners of J&K by dubious or questionable selection and shortlisting process to TRBL without holding the essential eligibility cri-

teria. "Moreover, the tender for engagement of IRDAL registered insurance company was awarded through M/s TRBL to the said Insurance Company which was already blacklisted by Govt. of Chhattisgarh by modification and deletion of essential eligibility criteria even though the company had less presence in J&K and bare minimum experience, as pre requirement of the tender, during the stipulated period," it reads.

It added that in this way, Rs 63.53 Crores was fraudulently disbursed to these companies and out of this amount, medical claims of Rs. 17 crore had been disbursed by the M/s RGIPL.

"ED has attached land worth Rs 4.04 Crore in the name M/s Globus Trade Links Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of M/s TRBL and FDRs to the extent of value of Rs 32.53 Crore, pertaining to M/s Reliance General Insurance Pvt. Ltd.

North India feels the chill, as fog hits flight services, delays 18 Delhi-bound trains

Meanwhile, according to the national weather forecaster, cold to severe cold day conditions prevailed on Thursday in most parts of Bihar and East Uttar Pradesh, many parts of West Uttar Pradesh, some parts of Haryana and isolated parts of Uttarakhand, West Rajasthan, north Madhya Pradesh and Gangetic West Bengal.

The visibility at 5.30 am on Thursday was recorded below 500 metres.

Biting chill and poor visibility were also reported in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, West Rajasthan, East Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh, East Uttar Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Assam.

Amid dense fog prevailing in several parts of the country, as many as 18 trains were reported to be running behind schedule in Delhi, according to the Northern Railways.

Three trains—Bhubneshwar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, Ambedkarnagar-Katra and Muzaffarpur-Anandvihar—were delayed by around 3-3.45 hours.

Further, according to the Railways, the Puri-Nizamuddin Purushottam Express is also expected to arrive six hours later because of the fog.

Similarly, Rewa-Anand Vihar Express is likely to arrive late by around 4.30 hours and Azamgarh-Delhi Junction Kaifayat Express was delayed by about 5.30 hours, the Railways informed.

At least nine more trains were running

late by around 1-1.15 hours, according to the Railways. These were Jammu-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express, Pratapgarh MLDP-Delhi, Dehradun-Delhi Junction, Chennai-New Delhi Express, Ferozpur-Mumbai Express, Amritsar-Mumbai Express, Kamakhya-Delhi Junction and Jammu-Tawi-Ajmer Pooja Express.

Many passengers were stranded at railway stations and airports as flight and train movement was affected extensively due to fog.

Passengers were seen huddling and sleeping on platforms at New Delhi Railway Station late on Wednesday night.

Several flights were also delayed and a few were cancelled due to the prevailing fog.

"I arrived from Bahrain and my (connecting) flight is delayed by one hour," a passenger at Delhi's IGI airport said.

According to IMD data, flight services at the Indra Gandhi International Airport were affected due to dense fog, with visibility reduced to between 50 and 100 metres from 12 am to 6.30 am on Thursday.

The IMD, subsequently, put out a release saying that conditions improved marginally with visibility recorded at 300 METRES AT 8 AM.

No restrictions will be in place on Republic Day: Div Com Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor J&K has already invited people for the occasion, I also reiterate my invite to the people to come and join the celebration in large numbers on January 26 this year like they participated in the last year," he said.

He appealed to people to reach the venue on time so that celebrations will be held successfully.

To a query, he said, "The internet services will remain operational without any disruption".

Kashmiri civilizational ethos incomplete without the return of Kashmiri Pandits: Ashok Bhan

Bhan quoting NHRC said the crimes committed against the Kashmiris and the native pandits was with intention to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnic and religious groups.

"The death & destruction suffered by

people is akin to Genocide. The objective of perpetrators is and was to separate the state from secular socio-political union of India and integrated it with Islamic State of Pakistan," he said.

The Chairman further said that it is the talent, commitment to right to life and resilience of KPs that has failed terrorists and their masters who could not destroy this strong and viable entity the -Pandits the day is not far when this community will return home and contribute in revival of their recorded history and engraved roots.

"For this they need full and liberal political and economic support by the Union government.

The PM Narendra Modi while speaking in and outside Parliament on the eve of abrogation of article 370 said "Come let us all bring in a big change in the lives of people by ushering in new modern economic development and make it a resolve to solve all issues in JK affairs," he said.

Bhan described it as Naya Kashmir mission. He said all those displaced from valley due to terrorism and political turbulence will receive all the logistical and liberal economic support to return to their homeland for full enjoyment of peaceful & secured life and liberty.

"The honourable Supreme Court in its legal and institutional wisdom has shown a way forward; The Apex Court speaking through a Constitution bench recently while delivering judgement on the article 370 said, while the judgment of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India regarding Article 370 will continue to invite intense scrutiny and analysis by legal and political pundits, the broader message from the honourable judges is loud and clear:

"Move forward and focus on the future of Jammu and Kashmir rather than brood over its sordid past!"

The Kashmir Valley carries a historical burden in a social context. The people are carrying the burden as victims of conflict from 1947 and continuing consequences of armed insurgency resulting in exile of the religious minority and killings innocent civilians in the violence perpetrated by non State actors, others brutalised anti human groups including the State actors.

While delivering the unanimous judgment on the jurisprudence on the inoperability of Article 370 of the Constitution, the honourable Judges have empathically held a view that social fabric is waning and inter generational trauma has already fractured the Kashmiri Society. In order to heal the wounds and make a forward movement and restore coexistence, tolerance, mutual respect and communal & societal harmony.

Bhan said a truth and reconciliation commission should be set up expeditiously. The Commission will investigate and report on the human rights violations by non state and state actors perpetrated in Jammu & Kashmir at least since 1980s and recommend measures for reconciliation.

"Honourable Judge said before the memories fade and escape the exercise shall be time bound. The loud and clear message thus is that constitute a truth and reconciliation commission.

"Engage with Stake holders and particularly the Exiled Kashmiri Pandits And; Union Government shall create a time bound Plan for the safe dignified and with political empowerment-Return of the exiled natives back in the Valley," he said.

Bhan said it is time to revive the ASTITV of JK people that is hurt by bifurcation of the state and restore the statehood.

"Hold the elections and keep moving the Institutional democracy. In constitutional democracy election is a rule and governor rule is temporary as an exception," he added.

COLD wave intensifies in Kashmir, Srinagar shivers at Minus 4.6 Deg C

days as Srinagar day temperatures were over eight degrees above the normal temperature for this time of the year, officials said here.

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

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

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

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amounts of snow.

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

Markets tumble in early trade; fall for 3rd day running

Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Asian Paints, Wipro, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, and JSW Steel were the major laggards

MUMBAI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tanked in early trade on Thursday, falling for the third day running, as investors continued to book profits after the recent record-breaking rally.

Also, fresh foreign fund outflows dampened the mood. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 561.05 points to 70,939.71. The Nifty plunged 165.6 points to 21,406.35.

The heavy fall in the markets comes on the back of a recent record-breaking rally. The BSE benchmark hit an all-time high of 73,427.59 on Tuesday, and the Nifty also reached its lifetime peak of 22,124.15 the same day. Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Asian Paints, Wipro, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, and JSW Steel were the major laggards.

Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors and Reliance Industries were the gainers.



In Asian markets, Shanghai quoted lower while Seoul, Tokyo, and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory.

The US markets ended lower on Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,578.13 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"At elevated valuations the market needs only a trigger for a sell-off and yesterday this trigger came in the form of HDFC Bank's worse-than-expected results.

It is also important to understand that there was a sell-off in other emerging markets like Taiwan and Korea indicating that this is an emerging market correction driven by FPI (Foreign Portfolio Invest-

tors) outflows.

"The FPI sell figure in India yesterday was huge at Rs 10,578 crore. In the context of rising bond yields in the US, FPIs may sell again. But this is likely to be countered by DII (Domestic Institutional Investors) buying in fairly valued large caps with growth potential," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark plunged 1,628.01 points, or 2.23 per cent, to settle at 71,500.76. The Nifty tanked 460.35 points or 2.09 per cent to settle at 21,571.95.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.26 per cent to USD 78.08 a barrel.

Akasa Air places order of 150 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at WINGS India 2024

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): India's newest carrier - Akasa Air - on Thursday announced a firm order of 150 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at WINGS India 2024, Asia's largest civil aviation event being held at Hyderabad this week.

The latest order, comprising of 737 MAX 10 and 737 MAX 8-200 jets will provide the airline a steady aircraft delivery stream through 2032, cementing the company's domestic and international expansion plans, the carrier said.

This is the third biggest order for planes Indian carriers have made in the last one year. India's largest airline IndiGo in June last year placed a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. This deal overtook Tata Group-owned Air India's mammoth order of 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus placed in March 2023.

Akasa Air claims that it has become the only Indian airline in the history of civil aviation



to reach an order book of over 200 aircraft within a span of 17 months of commencing operations.

Vinay Dube, Founder and CEO, Akasa Air said "This large and historic aircraft order puts Akasa on a path of becoming one of the top 30 leading airlines in the world, by the turn of this decade."

"These additions to our fleet will help us bolster the strength of our operations as we expand our footprint and foray into international skies in the very near

future... We are at a cusp where it is natural for our ecosystem to celebrate our financial stability, growth potential and market share," Vinay concluded.

In 2021, Akasa Air had placed its initial order of 72 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, which was followed up with an order of 4 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft in June 2023. This new deal in January 2024, takes the airline's order book to a total of 226 aircraft. The planes are powered by CFM LEAP-1B engines.

Akasa Air currently operates

a fleet of 22 aircraft and will receive deliveries of a total of 204 aircraft over the course of eight years.

Since the carrier launched its first commercial flight on 07 August 2022, it has served over 6.3 million passengers and connects with 18 cities across India, namely Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Delhi, Guwahati, Agartala, Pune, Lucknow, Goa, Hyderabad, Varanasi, Bagdogra, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Port Blair and Ayodhya.

While Boeing's 737 MAX family provides greater range and fuel efficiency, it has been in the news for safety concerns for the last few years. Earlier this month, aviation regulators worldwide increased inspection of 737 Max planes after an emergency exit door of Alaska Airlines's B737-9 Max aircraft (flying from Portland to Ontario) blew out soon after takeoff, putting the lives of 177 passengers on board at risk.

Tesla's India entry faces hurdle, local firms resist lower EV import tax: Report



NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Global electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing giant Tesla's hopes of entering the India market hangs in balance as the government is yet to make up its mind on lowering import taxes on EVs, reported news agency quoting a top government official.

The official's statement comes amid reports that a new policy to lower import tax on EVs has been proposed for car-makers that commit to local manufacturing.

Rajesh Kumar Singh, a top bureaucrat at the Department for Industry and Trade Promotion, told the news agency that Tesla would likely

try to bring cars to the market in India in the range of \$24,000 to \$36,000 because they know "that's where the volumes" will be available.

"The issue is raising resistance from domestic industry because they are also in that (EV price) segment," Singh said late on Wednesday.

"It's a very contested area and we've not been able to take a final call on this so far."

Local automakers oppose lower EV import tax

In meetings held with government officials last year, Tesla committed to making a significant investment towards local manufacturing in

the country, provided it initially gets the benefit of lower import tax on EVs.

Tesla has been demanding lower taxes due to India's high import duty on imported vehicles, including EVs. But the government has strictly maintained in official communications that no such proposal has been under consideration.

However, Tesla's proposition to the government seems to be facing resistance from domestic automakers who are not only concerned about Tesla's potential entry in the market, but also worried about the fact that such concessions would

attract other global car-makers and lead to stiff competition.

It is worth noting that the government has been working on a proposed policy to slash the high 100 per cent EV import tax to as low as 15 per cent for auto-makers that commit to investing and manufacturing locally in India over a period of time.

While Singh did not name any domestic automakers, news agency Reuters had earlier reported that auto-makers such as Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have opposed lower import taxes. The two companies are the most popular domestic EV manufacturers in India.

Just a few days ago, Mahindra & Mahindra Managing Director Anish Shah said a level playing field is needed between domestic and foreign EV automakers, adding that the country must promote local manufacturing.

Without lower taxes on EV imports, Tesla's entry into India could be put on hold, similar to what happened the first time

the EV giant tried to start selling its vehicles in the country.

At the time, Tesla CEO Elon Musk demanded lower import taxes, saying they were the "highest in the world by far of any large country".

"There have been some discussions on whether you lower the tariff for a short period of time but he (Musk) also accepts fairly significant investment and domestic value addition criteria," Singh told the news agency.

He added that this would allow the EV giant to at least bring a limited number of vehicles for a short period of time, but added that this would also require "cast iron commitments" from Elon Musk to invest in India.

Of the 40 lakh vehicles sold in India last year, just 82,000 were EVs. On a positive note, the segment has seen a strong growth of 115 per cent in the previous year. To further boost adoption, the government is trying to deploy better charging infrastructure across the nation, added the top official.

Foxconn to partner with HCL Group for semiconductor facility in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Taiwanese contract electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn is joining forces with HCL Group to establish a semiconductor assembly and testing facility in India, marking a significant move in the global tech industry. The development was announced by Foxconn in a regulatory filing.

The collaboration involves the creation of an outsourced assembly and testing (OSAT) unit within the country. OSAT units play a crucial role in the semiconductor manufacturing process by packaging, assembling, and testing silicon wafers, ultimately transforming them into fully functional semiconductor chips.

According to the regulatory filing, Foxconn's India unit will hold a substantial 40 per cent stake in this joint venture, committing an investment of \$37.2 million. "Through this investment, the partners aim to build an ecosystem and foster supply chain resilience for the domestic industry," Foxconn said in a statement.

On the other hand, HCL Group has

not disclosed the financial details of its involvement in the partnership.

Despite the significant development, the exact location for this semiconductor facility has not been disclosed.

However, Foxconn has expressed broader ambitions in India, as it is also exploring the establishment of a semiconductor fabrication plant. The government's offer of \$10 billion in incentives to promote local chip manufacturing has encouraged such ventures.

It's worth noting that Foxconn encountered challenges in its semiconductor initiatives in India in the previous year. The company faced a notable setback due to a high-profile split with local conglomerate Vedanta on a \$19.5 billion chipmaking joint venture.

However, Foxconn's current collaboration with HCL Group signifies a renewed effort to establish a foothold in the rapidly growing Indian semiconductor market. The move also aligns with India's aspirations to become a significant player in semiconductor manufacturing and technology development on the global stage.

Novel contact lenses to diagnose glaucoma developed

NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): Researchers have developed new contact lenses to diagnose glaucoma, an eye condition that can cause irreversible loss of vision if not treated.

Glaucoma effects around 70 million people worldwide, but around half of those living with the condition are not aware of it.

Usually developing slowly over time, many cases of glaucoma are only picked up during routine eye tests, by which time lasting damage may already have been caused, the researchers said.

The new contact lenses developed by researchers at the Northumbria University in UK, and Bogazici University in Turkey, can detect changes in eye pressure, which signals possible glaucoma.

Glaucoma occurs when the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, becomes damaged, usually by a build-up of fluid in the front part of the eye, which increases pressure inside the eye—known as Intra-Ocular Pressure (IOP).

The new contact lenses contain micro-sensors that monitor changes in IOP over a period of several hours, sending the data collected wirelessly so it can be analysed by an ophthalmologist and a diag-



nosis given, the researchers said.

The research, published in the journal Contact Lens and Anterior Eye, sets out the findings from an initial pilot study of six participants.

Having determined that the technology works successfully, the researchers now plan to carry out a further study with a larger group of participants, which would take place over the next year.

The lenses would then be made commercially available through their spin-off company GlakoLens, they said.

One of the benefits of using the GlakoLens contact lenses to diagnose glaucoma instead of carrying out a traditional examination is that measurements can be taken more easily over a longer period of time, giving a more accurate diagnosis, according to the researchers.

"IOP can vary greatly over a 24-hour period, so it is important to monitor the patient either at inter-

vals or ideally continuously for a whole day to get the best insight into the health of their eyes," said Professor Hamdi Torun, of Northumbria University.

"Traditional methods for measuring IOP involve initially going to a clinic for a single measurement in a day, the result of which can be misleading due to the natural variation of IOP," Torun said.

The benefit of the contact lenses is that once placed in the eye, the patient can then go about their day as normal while their IOP measurements are recorded and sent to a doctor for analysis once the 24-hour period of testing is complete, the researchers said.

The new system has been tested with six healthy volunteers, during which time they were asked to drink 1.5 litres of water and lie flat to intentionally increase their IOP levels, they said.

The GlakoLens contact lenses use an electrically passive sensor embedded in a disposable soft contact lens and a wearable electronic readout system to collect, store, and process the data—making the lens more comfortable and allowing the patient to go about their day as normal, the researchers added.

New glowing Covid test prototype produces results in a minute

TOKYO, Jan 18 (Agencies): Japanese researchers have developed a new test that could quickly determine whether you have Covid-19 with a glowing chemical.

Using a molecule found in crustaceans, the team from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) developed a rapid approach that detects SARS-CoV-2 protein comparably to one used in vaccine research.

From fireflies to lantern fish, many animals possess the chemical tools to produce light. Typically, this reaction requires the substrate luciferin and the enzyme luciferase.

However, a class of less discriminating luciferins, known as imidazopyrazinone-type (IPT) compounds, can glow when encountering other proteins, including ones that aren't considered enzymes, the researchers reported in the journal ACS Central Science.

Previous research suggests that IPT luciferins could serve as the basis for a new type of medical test that uses luminescence to announce the presence of a target protein in a specimen.



The team led by Ryo Nishihara and Ryoji Kurita from JST suspected that an IPT luciferin could react with the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which allows the virus particles to invade cells and cause Covid -- and open the door to develop a glowing test.

The team first investigated 36 different IPT luciferins' abilities to react with a single unit of spike protein. Only one molecule, which came from tiny crustaceans from the genus Cypridina, emitted light.

The researchers then tested the luciferin's activity with the spike protein in its natural state, as three units folded together.

They found that, over the course of 10 minutes, an adequate amount of light could be detected.

A commercially available luminescence reading device was required; the light could not be

seen by the naked eye.

Additional experiments indicated that the IPT luciferin was selective because it did not glow when exposed to six proteins that occur in saliva.

They define this specific luminescence reaction by non-luciferase biomolecules as "biomolecule-catalysing chemiluminescence (BCL)".

Finally, the team found that the luciferin could detect the amount of the spike protein in saliva with the same accuracy as a technique currently used in vaccine development.

However, the luciferin system delivered results in one minute — significantly faster than the current rapid point-of-care tests.

This BCL-based approach could serve as the basis for a simple "mix and read" test in which the IPT luciferin is added to untreated saliva from someone suspected of having Covid-19, according to the researchers.

They note that a similar approach could be adapted to detect other viruses that possess spike-like proteins, such as influenza, MERS-CoV and other coronaviruses.

India clinches T20 series against Afghanistan in dramatic double super over finish

India clinches 3-0 T20 series win against Afghanistan in a double super-over thriller, with Rohit Sharma's stellar century and remarkable resilience on display.

BENGALURU, Jan 18 (Agencies): Skipper Rohit Sharma donned the glittering cap of saviour thrice in the night, first with a situation-defying hundred in regulation time and then with two mini assaults to help India fight past a feisty Afghanistan in a dramatic double Super Over finish in the third and final T20.

The result meant that India won their final series before the T20 World Cup with a satisfying 3-0 margin.

Before Super Overs kicked in, Rohit (121 not out, 69b, 11x4, 8x6) and his perfect sidekick Rinku Singh (69 not out, 39b, 2x4, 6x6) shared 190 runs for a stellar unbeaten fifth-wicket stand as India came back from a flaky 22 for four to post a massive 112 for four after opting to bat first.

The Afghans started gamely through openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz (50, 32b) and Ibrahim Zadran (50, 41 balls) as they added 93 runs in 11 overs, building a solid foundation for the chase.

Their departure saw spinners Washington Sundar (3/18) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/31) tightening things a bit but the experienced Gulbadin Naib (55 not out off 23 balls) played some twinkling shots to keep his side in the hunt.

Naib knocked off 18 runs of the required 19 off the final over bowled by pacer Mukesh Kumar, dragging the match into a Super Over.

The visitors made 16 for 1 in the first Super Over bowled by Mukesh and India equalled the score with Rohit making 13, and it stretched the game to the



second Super Over.

In this phase, India made 11 and Rohit made all those runs before getting run out.

Afghanistan lost both Mohammad Nabi and Gurbaz to leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi as they failed to score any runs in the second Super Over, signalling the end of a winding match.

Rohit remained the star of the night among all that commotion, also silencing those who doubted his suitability to be in India's T20 scheme of things.

A strike-rate of 175 often will give the picture of manic hitting but his innings was anything but that.

His top-order colleagues' calousness while playing the pull shot meant that Rohit had to restrain himself in the initial part of his stay.

Even Rinku displayed his destructive instincts judiciously and that gradually-building crescendo was the trademark of their alliance.

The Afghanistan spinners found a hint of grip from the surface, and Rohit had to bring out

a rather rare shot from his arsenal, reverse sweep to unsettle opposition spinners.

In fact, a reverse sweep off leg-spinner Qais Ahmad fetched him a T20 fifty off 41 balls, a first since October 2022.

But even a restraint Rohit can be a sight for sore eyes.

There were those inevitable and archetypal pulls that make a Rohit innings such a compelling watch.

Perhaps, a message for other top-order batters on the safe execution of that shot.

The Mumbaikar's on-one-leg pull off pacer Mohammed Saleem that sailed into second tier was an astounding shot.

But once he felt that India had reached a safer shore, Rohit unleashed himself on the Afghans as 71 runs flowed from the next 28 balls he faced.

The fifty soon blossomed into a hundred off 63 balls, Rohit's first in T20 since his 111 against the West Indies at Lucknow in 2018.

This was also Rohit's highest score in T20s, surpassing his

118 against Sri Lanka at Indore in 2017.

At the other end, Rinku had the simple job of keeping his end up and the left-hander did that job with maturity.

Rinku, though, vented his belligerence when the opportunity presented itself, such as a flicked six off Saleem over square leg and carried on to register his second T20 fifty as the Afghans wilted under continuous onslaught.

However, it was not entirely a smooth ride for the Indians as their top-order caved in against a sprightly Afghan new-ball bowlers.

Yashasvi Jaiswal was the first to depart as left-arm pacer Fareed Ahmad cramped him for room, and the opener's top-edged pull was snuffed by Mohammed Nabi in the deep.

Virat Kohli lasted just one ball.

Entering the field to a rapturous welcome from a packed stadium, Kohli could not negate a climbing delivery from Ahmad, slicing the pull to Zadran just inside the circle.

Sanju Samson too lasted just a ball, a mistimed pull off Azmatullah Omarzai ending in the hands of Nabi.

Amidst the pulling frenzy of his top-order colleagues, in-form Shivam Dube wanted to push one down to the vacant third man space, but all he could do was to nudge the ball to Gurbaz behind the stumps.

Ahmad ended his first spell with impressive figures of 3-0-10-3 as India ended the power play at a vastly underwhelming 30 for four.

IND vs ENG: India to begin preparation for Test series from January 20, confirms head coach Rahul Dravid



NEW DELHI, Jan 18 (Agencies): India head coach Rahul Dravid confirmed that the team would begin their preparation from January 20 with a training camp in Hyderabad for the all-important 5-Test series against England. India completed a clean sweep of their T20I series against Afghanistan in a dramatic Double Super Over thriller in Bengaluru.

The Test regulars who were part of the T20I side will have a two-day break before they join the India camp in Hyderabad. Captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan are the ones who need to quickly switch from T20I to Test mode.

The 5-Test series will get underway from January 25. India will

play a 5-Test series at home for the first time since England's visit to India in 2018. Their 5-Test series in England in 2021 saw an interruption as the 5th Test was rescheduled due to Covid-19 pandemic and later played in 2022.

Rahul Dravid highlighted that a 5-Test series is going to take a lot out of the players and he hopes that the team will put on a good show.

England have had a training camp in the UAE as they gear up to face one of their toughest challenges away from home. The team, led by Ben Stokes, has been on a good run, having played a fearless brand of cricket, famously known as Bazball.

Head coach Brendon McCullum will be keen on making a mark as the biggest test for Bazball awaits the visiting English side.

"Really looking forward

it, it's going to be an interesting series. England is a good side, they have been playing some very good cricket off late. 5 matches is a lot of cricket over the next couple of months. It's been a long time since any of us have played a 5-match Test series. It's going to take a lot out of us," Rahul Dravid said in a chat for JioCinema.

"Looking forward to getting back with the group on the 20th, have a few days of lead-in preparation and hopefully play some good cricket over the next couple of months. In 5 venues, hopefully, people come out and really support Test cricket," he added.

India have not lost a home Test series since an Alastair Cook-led side beat an MS Dhoni-led team 2-1. However, India will be wary of the England side's threat in terms of taking on challenges under their new leadership group of Stokes and McCullum.

India Squad for England Test Series

Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), KS Bharat (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Avesh Khan.

Australian Open 2024: 5th Seed Jessica Pegula Crashes Out In 2nd Round, Loses To France's Clara Burel

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (Agencies): USA's Jessica Pegula suffered an embarrassing second-round defeat in the Australian Open 2024 to crash out of the season's first Grand Slam on Thursday. She suffered a straight-sets defeat to France's Clara Burel. The 22-year-old Frenchwoman achieves her biggest victory when she takes out world No. 5 Pegula and advances to the first round of the Australian Open for the first time in her career.

Earlier, WTA World No. 1 Iga Swiatek admitted she was mentally "at the airport" before staging an astonishing comeback against Danielle Collins to stay alive in the Australian Open on Thursday as Carlos Alcaraz returned to action.

The Polish world number one was up a set and a break in her second-round match before faltering badly and slipping to a 4-1 deficit in the deciding set.

But just as she appeared to be heading home, she reeled off five straight games to win 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 and extend her winning run to 18 matches.

"Oh my God, I was at the airport already," joked Swiatek, who has never won the Australian Open.

"I wanted to fight until the end. I knew she played perfectly but it would be



hard for anybody to keep that level, so I wanted to be ready for if the mistakes would come from the other side.

"It wasn't easy. I felt like I had the momentum going and then she started playing suddenly two times faster and I had no idea how to react to that for a couple of games. I came back, and I thought the only thing I could focus on was myself."

Four-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek, who will face unseeded Czech player Linda Noskova in the third round, reeled off 36 winners against 35 unforced errors.

Despite her dazzling comeback, she will know that she has to move up a gear and find more consistency if she is to progress further.

AUS vs WI, 1st Test: Travis Head's rapid hundred, Josh Hazlewood put Australia on cusp of big win in Adelaide

ADELAIDE, Jan 18 (Agencies): Travis Head once again proved to Australia's savour as the World Cup hero hit a rapid hundred on Day 2 of the opening Test against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval. Head hit 119 off 134 balls, hitting 3 sixes and 12 boundaries as he notched up his 7th Test hundred, his second at his home ground - Adelaide Oval.

Head's sensational hundred put Australia on top and West Indies' meek surrender with the bat in the second innings means the Adelaide Test is set for an early finish.

Josh Hazlewood shone with a 4-wicket haul in the second innings as West Indies were reeling at 73 for 6 at Stumps. Hazlewood has taken his tally to 8 wickets in the match. West Indies will rely on wicketkeeper Joshua de Silva to delay the inevitable on Friday.

Australia were in a spot of bother as the West Indies pacers were spot on and reduced 129 for 5. Debutants Shamar Joseph and Justin Greaves were keeping Australia under check after the West Indies were rolled over



for just 188 in their first innings.

However, Travis Head unleashed a counter-attacking onslaught as he put the pressure right back on the West Indies bowlers. Head had very little support from the rest of the batters, but he made sure Australia got to 283 and sealed a handy 95-run lead.

Usman Khawaja was the second-highest scorer for Australia with 45, while none of the other batters managed to go past 30. Nathan Lyon chipped in with a 34-ball 24.

Travis Head's century came

off just 122 balls, showcasing his aggressive batting style and his knack for stepping up when his team needs him the most. By the time he was dismissed, caught by Hodge off the bowling of Alazarri Joseph for 119, Australia had reached a total of 255 for 8.

Head has made it a habit to rescue Australia out of tough situations, across all formats of the game. The World Cup final hero made sure the West Indies bowlers did not get the upper hand, ruining their hard work on Day 2.

SHAMAR JOSEPH SHINES

While Head's batting was the highlight for Australia, the West Indies had their moments to celebrate as well, particularly with the debutant Shamar Joseph making an immediate impact. Joseph's debut was marked by an impressive five-wicket haul, becoming the first West Indies pacer to achieve the landmark on debut Down Under.

Shamar Joseph bowled with plenty of intensity, sending down 20 overs and registering figures of 94 for 2. He got a bit of tap from Head after the left-hander got to his hundred.

However, Joseph completed his 5-wicket haul when he got the wicket of Lyon in the 81st over.

Shamar Joseph began his Test career with the wicket of Steve Smith in his first delivery as he ruined the Australia star's first knock as opener in whites. He then got the wicket of Marnus Labuschagne. Shamar's victims included Cameron Green, Mitchell Starc and Lyon.

Justin Greaves and Kemar Roach picked up 2 wickets each.

Australian Open: I was at the airport already, says Iga Swiatek after incredible comeback win vs Danielle Collins

Australian Open 2024: World No. 1 Iga Swiatek fought back from 1-4 down in the deciding set to beat familiar foe Danielle Collins and progress to the third round of the women's singles competition in Melbourne.

MELBOURNE, Jan 18 (Agencies): With a strapping on her left knee, Iga Swiatek came up with a gladiatorial battle against her familiar foe Danielle Collins as the Rod Laver Arena was treated to an incredible women's singles match early on Thursday. The World No. 1 was on the brink of an early exit from Australian Open 2024, but she found the energy and the mental resolve to complete a sensational fight back and win 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in 3 hours and 14 minutes.

Iga Swiatek was down 1-4 in the decid-

ing set as Danielle Collins was raising her game, riding on the momentum that she got from the second-set win. Collins had beaten Swiatek in the 2022 Australian Open semi-final to reach her only Grand Slam final and she had the previous experience of denying the Polish star. However, Collins did not expect the flick of switch from Swiatek who did not drop a game from thereon.

Iga Swiatek showed why she is the numero uno in women's singles as she found her mojo and precision back, hitting



winners at will to go from 1-4 down to 6-4 in the final set.

"Oh my god. I don't even know. Honestly,

I was at the airport already," Iga Swiatek said, when asked to describe her emotions before the comeback.

The World No. 1 also shed light on her knee issue, saying she has been dealing with it since the start of the season and that she is hopeful of managing it for the rest of her stay in Melbourne.

After sealing the match point, Iga Swiatek let out a roar in a rare showcase of emotions on the court after a second-round win. Notably, Iga avoided one of her earliest exits from a Grand Slam tournament after

the incredible late fightback in Melbourne.

Despite losing to Iga Swiatek, Danielle Collins is the first player to take Iga Swiatek to three sets in the opening three rounds of a Grand Slam on hard court since Anett Kontaveit at US Open 2021, according to Opta Ace.

Iga Swiatek also continued her impressive run against 30-year-old Danielle Collins, taking her head-to-head record to 5-1. She also completed her 13th win in 14 matches against opponents from the United States in Grand Slam events.

Samaj Rattan Award conferred to Devender Jain

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Gachchhadipati Shantidoot Acharyashree Nityanand Suriswar ji Maharaj conferred "Samaj Rattan" award to a social activist, philanthropist Devender Jain.

Acharyashree recalled the achievement and dedications towards the human being and Atmanand Jain Sabha.

His felicitation was performed at Jain Snatak, Jain Nagar, Talab Tiloo, here on the eve of Partistha Mahotsava of Shree Kalyan Parasnath Temple.

Devender Jain is a philanthropist in real sense at par excellence, possess the most important and best quality is generosity. He is always will-



ing to give his time, energy and resources to support the cause to care about the causes most needful. He always donated charities worth lakh of rupees

for the welfare of the society. The National Dignitaries present on the occasion were Narinder Bamb, North India President Shri Atmanand Jain Sabha,

Shubh Kant, Secretary Roopnagar Delhi, Anil Jain, President SAJS Gugaon, Parveen Duggal Sankranti Mandal Ludhiana, Raj Kumar Oswal, President Palitana Punjabi Dharamshala, Rajneesh, President Jandiala Guru, besides office bearers from Rajkote, Bombay, Thana & Mukerian also blessed the Samaj Rattan.

Devender donated substantial financial resources to promote wellbeing of humankind's social problems. His purpose of charity is to ease immediate sufferings of needy section of the society.

Jyoti Jain conducted the proceedings of the programme while Vinod Jain State President presented a vote of thanks.

CEO Shrine Board holds security review meeting ahead of Republic Day celebrations at Katra



Top News Report

KATRA, Jan 18: To assess security and operational preparedness of Shrine area for hassle-free pilgrimage prior to Republic Day celebrations at Katra, Chief Executive Officer, Anshul Garg today presided over a meeting with security agencies and other stakeholders at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

Laying focus on the smooth regulation of Yatra in line with the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), CEO said that the security measures needs to be fortified ahead of the Republic Day celebrations. He underscored the imperative of collaborative efforts among the stakeholders to forge a robust security framework in sync with requirements.

CEO stressed for action on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage in the coming days including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management, augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working

out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area and all time surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras. He further exhorted all security agencies to remain more vigilant so that no pilgrim without frisking and valid registration enters the track for their pilgrimage.

CEO also reviewed various components of the disaster management measures and directed to make regular announcements and implementation of joint patrolling by the stakeholders.

During the meeting it was revealed that the main function of Republic Day celebrations will be organised in the Shrine Board's Sports Complex Katra where CEO Shrine Board will unfurl the Tricolor and take the salute of the March past contingents from JKP, CRPF, Shrine Security, NCC and school children, besides a colorful cultural programme will also be presented by the school children.

A slew of directives

were also issued by the Chair to the concerned quarters for movement of vehicles, sanitation and drinking water arrangements and illumination of dark spots at Katra town, besides, physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination.

Superintendent of Police Katra and Commandant, CRPF informed that foolproof security arrangements will be made for smooth and enthusiastic celebration of the National Day and presented a detailed security grid to be put in place besides, deployment of QRTs (quick response teams) and a multi-tier security grid comprising Police, CRPF and other paramilitary forces.

Among those present in the meeting were, Additional CEO, SMVDSB; SDM, Bhawan; Jt CEO; Dy CEO, Asstt CEO SMVDSB, Tehsildar Bhawan; ACF, SDPO Bhawan & Katra, and officers from Army, IB, CID, SMVDSB and other intelligence agencies.

Sham Langer urges people to celebrate Jan 22 like Deepawali

Slams Congress for denying to attend consecration ceremony



taking such a stand. He said that prior to their decision to attend or not to attend it was clear that INDIA block would ultimately make an unnecessary issue of it as most of its constituent parties uttered statements that reflected that they had been caught in a Catch-22 situation.

Lauding the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for setting the tone for the sacred event at Ayodhya, Sham Langer said that the whole world is waiting today for the historic moment. He said that this event is undoubtedly an occasion of joy, pride, and self-satisfaction for crores of Sanatan believers. Moreover this temple is a future Rashtra Mandir that embodies Bharat's cultural, spiritual, and social unity, he added. In such a situation the stance of the opposition parties is highly condemnable especially when Ram belongs to each and every individual and not to a particular cult or community.

Sham Langer reiterated his appeal to the people to celebrate the occasion by lighting special Diyas, Shri Ram Jyoti in their homes making the celebration of the day of 'Pran Pratishtha' at Ram temple just as Deepawali.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: Sham Lal Langer, Convener Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Trade Cell, Jammu and Kashmir while asserting that BJP will leave no stone unturned to make the grand Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22 a memorable event, appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the occasion at their home places with great sanctity and enthusiasm. In a statement issued to the media here today, the senior BJP leader said that the consecration ceremony is a historical occasion for the nation and its people. However he condemned the opposition parties under the INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) bloc for denying the invitation to the sacred event by politicizing it to gain political mileage. He said that the aforesaid parties are not going to gain anything from

Chander Mohan, Vikas, Dil Bahadur listen to public grievances



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: J&K BJP Vice-President Chander Mohan Gupta (former Mayor), accompanied by party secretary Vikas Choudhary and Incharge of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal listened to the grievances put forth by visiting individuals and deputations at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While attending to the grievances of the visiting people and deputations, Chander Mohan Gupta reiterated BJP's commitment to attend to the issues of the common people. He said that every BJP activist is duty bound to serve the needy and the underprivileged people following the principle of "Nation first, party second and self-last". He insisted that other political parties only serve their self-interests and have consistently exploited the gullible population for decades and decades, while the BJP under

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided direct benefit to every needy and neglected section.

Individuals and deputations of people from Ganderbal, New Plot, Kathua, Jammu Krishna Nagar, Purani Mandi, Gandhi Nagar, Mahanpur Plail, Bhatyari block Bishnah, Kachi Chawni, Mera Mandrian Akhnoor, Seri Gharota, Bohri Jammu, Trikuta Nagar, Bajalta, Nanak Nagar, Lakhanpur and other places had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances.

Issues related to the construction of lanes & drains, new installation & repair of street lights, installation of new Mark 2 Hand Pumps, construction of road at Seri Panditan, retirement benefits JAKFED employees, non-submission of Challan by Bajalta Police, liability dues of PWD department, land issue of Kookernag, issue in planning department, repair of tubewell at

Lakhanpur electricity bill issue, scarcity of water I ward 32 & sector A Gandhi Nagar, tender issue of PWD department in Billawar etc. were presented before the senior party leaders. Vikas Choudhary stressed on the persistent efforts of Modi government to empower the poor and the needy sections through multiple channels.

He specially focused on the party's commitment to specific sections like women and youth to steer the nation to the new standards of development.

Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal shared that about three dozen deputations visited the party office.

He, on the occasion, appealed the people to contribute in the nation building process and also asked for their contribution in making the Bharat Swachh especially asking for their contribution in the cleanliness of the religious and community places on the call of PM Modi.

Badlaav Yatra concludes on 8th day with overwhelming response, several join AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: The "Badlaav Yatra" initiated by AAP Jammu which covered several rural & urban areas of Districts Jammu, Samba and Kathua, almost covered the surrounding area of the National Highway to Kunjwani including Jewal, Talab Tiloo, Marh, Jhiri, Bawa Talab, Akhnoor, Khour, Ghrota-Sari, Bantalab, Janipur, New Plot, Amphalla etc.

The people welcomed AAP with great enthusiasm and support the AAP Yatra.

The AAP- Jammu started its 8th day "Badlaav Yatra" from Wave Mall to Matador Stand Sunjwan, organized by Safer Choudhry, where more than 200 people joined AAP in the presence of Safer Choudhary, Nirmal Mahna,



Jeevan Jyoti, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Adv. Ibrar Chowdhary, Karan Attri and Altaf Hussain Shah.

The Badlav Yatra initiated by AAP Jammu which covered three Districts, Jammu, Samba & Kathua concluded at Press Club Jammu where senior leaders & organizers addressed the media persons &

highlighted the false promises of ruling dispensation made to the people in 2014.

While addressing media persons at Press Club, Jammu, Senior Leaders said that people wanted a "Badlao" in 2014 to get rid of corruption at the hands of Government at the time but the false and deceptive slogans of BJP leadership are now fully exposed before the

masses and are badly fed up with the divisive and false deceptive slogans simply for vote catching in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

Referring to the controversy over inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on 22nd January, AAP leaders remarked that construction of Ram Mandir is always welcome but its inauguration halfway is not approved by the Hindu

top preachers.

They added that involvement of BJP and Sangh Parivar leaders further makes it a political function of one Party when hardly 40% of construction is complete and then pursuing it forward in hush-hush manner, particularly in view of general elections.

Those who spoke & participated at Press Club, Jammu include Nirmal Mahna, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Agya Kour, Sanjeev Sareen, Amit Langer, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Ashni Matoo, Suresh Bhagat, Sandeep Parhiar, Rajesh Pangotra, Amrik Singh Sasan, Dr. Rajinder Thappa, Virji Kachroo, Amrik Singh, Mehar Singh, N.P Singh, Shadi Lal and Robin Singh.

Keshav organises voter awareness camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 18: To create awareness among the people regarding the importance of the three tier local electoral system and to enhance people participation in the voting system, Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra along with Ex Sarpanch Raj Kumar Sharma on Thursday organised a voter awareness camp at Trilokpur, registration for voter IDs of a large number of youth were done during the Camp.

Speaking during the camp, Keshav Chopra expressed gratitude towards Election Commission, JKUT Administration and especially Booth level officers for working tirelessly.

The motive of Samvedna Society is to reach out to New Voters who have reached the require age setup by Election Commission and going to cast their vote for the first time.

The process of Voter awareness through our campaign helped even if in small way to strengthen local governance at Panchayat level, Keshav further added.

Speaking on the occasion Ex Sarpanch Raj

Kumar Sharma emphasized on the importance of voting right.

He also thanked Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra for organizing the voter awareness camp so that maximum people can take advantage of this camp and register themselves as voters.

Booth Level Officer Raj Kumar, Omkar Verma, Anil Rakwal, Tilak Raj, Ratan Lal, Sandesh Kumar, Ganesh Sharma, Divyansh Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Sourav, Vikas Kumar, Ritesh Peer and others were also present during the Camp.