

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-19 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

MeT predicts rains, snow next week in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Kashmir's long dry spell is likely to end next week as the Meteorological (MeT) department on Friday predicted wet weather from January 25.

MeT director Mukhtar Ahmad said the wet phase is likely to begin from Thursday as light snow is expected at isolated higher reaches on January 25.

For the next two days—from January 26-28, light rain or snow is expected over scattered places, he said.

"From January 29-31, as per indications of different models, the possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at many places is very likely," he added.

The Kashmir Valley is currently grappling with an alarming situation due to prolonged dry spell and the absence of rainfall and snowfall has triggered alarm bells among the residents and the government in the region.

The 40-day long period of harsh winter cold known as the 'Chillai Kalan' is ending on January 30 and so far, there has been no major snowfall anywhere in the Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures dropped further last night.

The MeT official said Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius as against minus 4.6 degrees Celsius during the previous night.

Pulwama at minus 6.9 degrees Celsius was the coldest place in Kashmir.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.3 degrees, while Kokernag recorded a minimum of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, in south Kashmir recorded a minimum of minus 5 degrees Celsius.

In North Kashmir, the mercury plunged in the ski resort of Gulmarg to a low of -3.6°C and Kupwara recorded -5°C.

Fog in Punjab leads to vehicle pile-up in Doraha near Ludhiana; 20 vehicles damaged

LUDHIANA, Jan 19 (Agencies): Around 20 vehicles were damaged in a pile-up on the national highway near here amid dense fog on Friday morning, police said.

Khanna Deputy Superintendent of Police

EPFO not to consider Aadhaar as valid DOB document

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has informed that Aadhaar will be no more valid as date of birth (DOB) proof, and excluded it from the list of acceptable documents for establishing the date of birth proof.

The EPFO communicated this information on Jan 16, through circular No. WSU/2024/1/UIDAI Matter/4090 and comes in adherence to a directive from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), as outlined in Circular No. 08



of 2023. Previously, various e-KYC User Agencies and Aadhaar authentication agencies acknowledged Aadhaar card or e-Aadhaar as a suitable document for verifying the date of birth.

However, the UIDAI

has clarified that while Aadhaar serves as unique identification proof, it does not qualify as evidence of date of birth under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.

The circular stressed that this decision aligns

with the directives of Table-B of Annexure-1 of the Joint Declaration SOP issued earlier.

The decision received approval from the Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC).

UIDAI's circular referenced the Aadhaar Act of 2016 and the corresponding regulations governing the enrolment and update procedures, explicitly stating that Aadhaar cannot be considered valid proof of date of birth.

This aligns with the stance presented in the office memorandum issued on December

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Anti-militancy operations to remain top priority: ADGP Jammu Zone



JAMMU, Jan 19 (Agencies): Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone Anand Jain Friday said that anti-militancy operations in the region will remain top priority for police and security forces.

ADGP Jammu Zone expressed these remarks while chair-

ing a security and crime review meeting at Conference Hall DPO Poonch. He was accompanied by DIG Rajouri Poonch Range Dr. Haseeb Mughal.

During the meeting SSP Poonch gave a detailed briefing on PPT to ADGP regarding the steps being taken to carry out the anti-militan-

cy operations and flush out the militancy from the district.

The aim and objectives of the meeting was to discuss the recent attack on security forces.

It is evident that the terrorism is showing revival trend in the district, but, both police and security forces have to

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Dense fog in parts of Delhi; 22 Trains delayed

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A layer of fog, stretching from Punjab to West Bengal, lowered visibility over the Indo-Gangetic plains starting Thursday night, affecting road and rail traffic, officials said on Friday.

Satellite imagery showed fog developing over parts of Punjab, Haryana, north Rajasthan, and west Uttar Pradesh starting at 8 pm on Thursday.

An official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said dense to very dense fog blanketed parts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, and Tripura. Moderate fog prevailed in parts of Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

At 5.30 am, visibility levels stood at zero metres in Bathinda and Bikaner; 25 metres in Amritsar and Patiala; 50

metres in Ganganagar, Churu, Hisar, Palam, Safdarjung, Jaipur, and Agartala; and 200 metres in Ambala, Dehradun, Sultanpur (east UP), Purnea, Bhagalpur, Ranchi, and Jharsuguda.

A spokesperson for the Indian Railways said 22 trains arriving in Delhi were delayed by up to six and a half hours due to the foggy weather.

The IMD reported that

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Drug peddler arrested with psychotropic substances in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police has arrested drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered psychotropic substances from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Sheeri headed by SHO PS Sheeri at a checkpoint established at Gantamulla Colony, intercepted one person.

"During his search, 72 capsules of Spasmo Proxyvon Plus psychotropic substances was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Gowhar Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Mohd Bhat resident of Pehlharan. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Sheeri where he remained in custody," he said.

Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station

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HM Militant Sent to 14-Day Judicial Custody in Delhi Court



SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Delhi's Patiala House Court sent a Hizbul Mujahideen militant Javed Mattoo, an accused in 11 militant attack cases in Jammu and Kashmir, to 14-day judicial custody, the agency reported here on Friday.

Mattoo, an A++ category terrorist carrying a reward of more than Rs 11 lakh and wanted for 13 years for his involvement in terror cases, was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police earlier in the month.

Notably, the court allowed another application of the police seeking the release of an accused Mohd Rafi Nazar in the case as there is no "incriminating evidence had surfaced against him during interrogation." Nazar, who was arrested on the disclosure statement of Mattoo will now remain in custody in a case of the NIA.

As per the remand papers, Mattoo had disclosed during interrogation that Nazar, one of his associates in Hizbul

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Kashmir Student Dies in Punjab

SRINAGAR, Jan 19 (Agencies): A student from Kashmir, pursuing BTech at a private institute in Khanna Punjab was found dead in his hostel room under mysterious circumstances on Thursday, agency reported.

The student, originally from north Kashmir's Baramulla, was in the second year of his BTech programme at Gulzar Group of Institutes in Libra village, Khanna.

According to fellow students, he was unwell and did not wake up on Thursday morning, prompting his roommates to raise an alarm, causing concern in the hostel.

He was shifted to a nearby hospital, where

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India reports 355 New Covid-19 infections, active case tally now 2,331

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): India has registered a single-day rise of 355 new COVID-19 infections and the number of active cases of the disease in the country now stands at 2,331, the Union health ministry said on Friday.

Two deaths — one each from Karnataka and Kerala — were reported in 24 hours, according to data updated

by the ministry at 8 am.

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

After December 5, the highest single-day rise of 841 new cases was reported on December 31, 2023, which is 0.2

per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said.

Of the total active cases, around 92 per cent of patients are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in

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AIKS advocates for minority space on 34th anniversary of Kashmiri Pandits' exodus

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): On the 34th anniversary of the painful exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir on January 19, 1990, the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) convened a significant meeting at its Faridabad office in Haryana. Presided over by Dr. Ramesh Raina, the AIKS president, the gathering focused on the pressing issues faced by the displaced community, particularly their prolonged displacement

and homelessness.

During the meeting, Dr. Raina emphasized the urgent need for the government's serious attention to the existential challenges confronting Kashmiri Pandits. He underscored that after 34 years in exile, the time had come for authorities to address their concerns, especially as their future is intricately linked to Kashmir.

Dr. Raina reiterated the AIKS Ambala Declaration-2023, advocat-

ing for the "creation of a legitimate Minority space for KP's in Valley" as a crucial step towards their long-term sustainable rehabilitation in Kashmir.

The declaration recognizes the factorial importance of Kashmiri Pandits in the socio-cultural fabric of Kashmir and envisions minority space as a means to ensure equity, inclusion, identity, and representation.

The essential features of the Ambala Declaration include declar-

ing KPs as a minority, constituting a Minority Commission, fostering a conducive minority environment, political empowerment, enacting the Temples and Shrine Bill, and establishing three smart townships in Srinagar, Anantnag, and Baramulla.

Dr. Raina reaffirmed that January 19, observed annually as Holocaust Day, is an occasion for Kashmiri Pandits to

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EDITORIAL

GIVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Life in both rural and urban areas has its own positive and negative aspects. Life in both the areas is quite different from each other. Traditionally, India is mainly a rural country as Mahatma Gandhi also said that real India lives in villages.

There are many festivals and fairs in the villages. Here festivals are celebrated in the traditional manner with a feeling of brotherhood. Be it Holi, Baisakhi, Pongal, Onam, Dussehra, Diwali or Eid, the entire village dances together to the tunes of folk music. Everyone in the village lives bound by the bonds of community and they share the circumstances of life with each other, be it sorrow or happiness.

Although their lifestyle is not as developed as that of urban people, rural people are still warmer and more cordial. They take great care of each other and everyone in the entire village recognizes each other. They do not live in a state of isolation like in metropolitan cities.

The natural beauty of villages in India is also worth seeing. The lush green fields are covered with flowers all around and the intoxicating fragrance spreads far and wide. Birds chirping happily around the fields, barns and houses in the village. Simplicity is the identity of rural life.

Unfortunately, due to the search for jobs and the glamor of comforts and luxuries, people are migrating from rural areas to urban areas on a large scale. However, now villages in the country are also progressing in terms of living standards and urbanization is happening at a fast pace. Facilities like electricity, water, concrete roads, telephones, mobile phones, computers, education and medical care are now easily accessible in many parts of rural India.

Farmers are also now using modern farming equipment, and are now plowing the fields with tractors instead of oxen.

Village people depend on the sale of their agricultural produce like grains, fruits and vegetables in urban markets and also urban people cannot survive without the supply of essential commodities for life from rural areas. People from villages travel to the city every day to buy essential items and latest luxuries of modern life, watch movies, have fun and get jobs in urban establishments. In fact, the overall development of India is impossible without the harmonious development of villages and cities as both complement each other.

Life in cities has its own negative aspects – it is full of pressure, stress and anxiety. People here have many comforts and facilities but they do not have mental peace. They are so busy in work related to personal and professional life that they are not even aware of the happenings in their neighborhood.

Will waterways boss be next MP chief secy? But it's still uncertain

By: Dilip Cherian

The abrupt recall of senior IAS officer Sanjay Bandopadhyay from his role as chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has sparked speculation among observers and babus about the underlying reasons for this unforeseen move. Mr Bandopadhyay, previously occupying a secretary-equivalent position at the Centre, has been swiftly reassigned to his parent cadre in Madhya Pradesh, effective immediately.

Within MP's babu circles, murmurs suggest that his recall may be tied to a potential appointment as the next chief secretary of the state. However, uncertainties arise given the impending retirement of the current chief secretary Veera Rana in March of this year, with the prospect of her tenure extension remaining uncertain.

Adding complexity to the situation is the recent change in leadership with a new chief minister in Madhya Pradesh and a fresh electoral mandate, all transpiring under the Centre's watchful eyes. The circumstances surrounding Ms Rana's appointment before the Assembly polls further contribute to the uncertainty

surrounding her continued role as chief secretary.

An alternative perspective posits that the consecutive placement of Mr Bandopadhyay under shipping secretaries junior to him might have played a role in this decision. Despite this, as one of the senior-most officers in the cadre, and with a service tenure extending until August 31, 2024, Mr Bandopadhyay remains a potential contender for the chief secretary post in Madhya Pradesh.

Outsider babu's strategic return to J&K

The Centre has reaffirmed its faith in retired IAS officer Satish Chandra by appointing him as the chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (J&K RERA). Mr Chandra, who concluded his term as chairman of the J&K Public Service Commission initiated in June 2021, steps into a significant role that has remained vacant since September 2022, following the abrupt resignation of the first RERA chairperson, Parimal Rai, within 50 days of his appointment.

The decision to bring back an outsider babu – Mr Chandra is from the Andhra Pradesh cadre – into another pivotal position indicates

the Centre's endorsement of Mr Chandra's abilities, utility and effectiveness in this sensitive region. Sources have informed DKB that appointing an outsider can enhance an administrator's efficacy. Mr Chandra's consecutive appointments, first as chairperson of the J&K PCS and now as RERA chairperson signal a deliberate effort to infuse fresh perspectives and administrative expertise to address the unique challenges facing the J&K region.

As the Centre grapples with the intricate governance issues in Jammu & Kashmir, not the least of which is to possibly hold assembly elections a few months after the Lok Sabha polls, Mr Chandra's appointment reflects a need to leverage experience, competence and an outsider's viewpoint to steer the administration.

Centre hunts for new UT adviser in Chandigarh

The Centre is reportedly taking a fresh approach to providing the Chandigarh administrator with a regular adviser. Departing from its initial proposal to transfer Puducherry chief secretary Rajeev Verma to Chandigarh, the focus has now shifted to considering another IAS officer for this

post.

Sources have informed DKB that Manish Kumar Gupta, a 1991-batch UT cadre officer, the former DDA vice-chairperson and the current additional chief secretary of industries in the Delhi government, has emerged as the frontrunner for the Chandigarh assignment. The position of UT adviser has been under ad hoc arrangements since the retirement of Dharam Pal in October last year.

There are some insiders, however, who are sceptical about the feasibility of this new approach. Some argue that the additional charge arrangement is working fine for the administration, with administrator and Punjab governor Banwarilal Purohit reportedly expressing satisfaction with Nitin Kumar Yadav, the incumbent principal secretary, home, who is also serving as the interim adviser.

The emergence of this point of view raises questions about the strategic considerations behind the potential appointment and the nuances involved in selecting the right candidate. Of course, it is for the Centre to take the final call, but until then babus will continue to speculate.

Education in India is passing through, once again, a seminal phase in its Growth

By: Vijay GarG

India's education system faces critical challenges, particularly in postgraduate education, and raises questions about policies' coherence

Education in India is passing through, once again, a seminal phase in its growth. Since 1947, it has passed through several phases of change and each phase has had its own tale to tell.

Generally, education is seen in three phases: school education, college education and postgraduate education. School education is broadly divided into three areas, classes 1 to 5, generally known as primary school; classes 5-10 middle school, and classes 10-12, secondary school. These are not rigid levels but are loosely used for classification and easy communication.

The college-level education is from 1st year to 3rd year, which leads to a bachelor's degree and 4th year and 5th year, which leads to a postgraduate degree. The doctoral education could thereafter follow. Institutions are known to specialise amongst these various segments and acquire a brand for that. In school education, some do offer class 1 to class 12 education, and there are others who also offer pre-class 1 education which can be termed as a nursery stage.

Postgraduate education,

especially after a master's degree has been normally followed by at least 1 year pre-Ph.D work and at least 2 years of PhD work if one has to go through it. Periodic changes have taken place and continue to take place. Illustratively, a formal 1 year pre-Ph.D work which could lead to a terminal M.Phil degree has been recently abolished. This kind of decision clearly has implications because it will affect the career prospects of those who had an M.Phil Degree but did not go for a PhD degree. This act of doing away with an M.Phil award was sudden for a lot of people, and it affected many careers including those that were in the middle of the 1 year M.Phil course. One of the bigger problems was rendering, useless, a whole year of work without prior notice. This kind of jerk and jolt can have arbitrary effects.

This is an aberration which needs to be understood and perhaps modified. One of the questions that remains is that education is a concurrent subject. This means, technically, about a degree like M.Phil, the UGC may legislate something but equally, technically the state legislature could continue a different mandate. The UGC could then refuse to give it cognizance for grants. This could lead to complications. That is another story.

The history of degrees and their awards across the length

and breadth of the country has been at times chequered, yet rarely a few have made it a public issue out of this. Thus, it is that the nation coasts along the narrative of the 5th, the 6th and the 7th pay commission. This happens in different regions concurrently. There are certain States where the State Universities have 62 as the age of retirement whereas the Central Universities in the same State have 65 as the age of retirement. This creates artificial pulls and pressures in the flow of talent of the Faculty and others in a given direction. This also affects the availability of talent in the Central Universities of a given State or the State Universities in a given State.

These are not minor matters to be trifled with. However, these issues continue to be treated by default in most situations.

In the meanwhile, the so-called discussion on the National Education Policy continues to go on unabated. Most of the comments being made on the National Education Policy, on what it has stated, are so far positive. This is rightly so because the National Education Policy within the limitations of the announcement has indeed given a higher sense of purpose.

This keeps the education movement going forward.

What does not seem to be

noticed, equally, is that there are many aspects of National Education that need an all-India consideration. The above paragraphs given the categories of education at the school stage, the college stage and the university stage, also need some reflection. This is a need that is not yet sufficiently widely understood or appreciated. The greater is the worry because even the commentaries on this in the press are few and far between.

That having been said there is a need to keep the discussion on education alive. All said and done, the Parliament needs to find time to take up some of these collateral issues on a truly comprehensive level.

The form in which the National Education Policy has been enunciated makes for many valid points. Amongst them number the emphasis on the indigenisation of education and finding the Indian roots of many intellectual traditions. This is valid in science, technology, management, literature, medicine, music and more. This is not going to come easy because Indian intellectual traditions are so much a part of life that one gets away even by ignoring their scholastic tradition in formal educational efforts. This state of dualism where something is recognized as a part of life but does not have its due place in the curriculum, is a hiatus that needs to be bridged.

35 Infrastructure Development Projects inaugurated by Raksha Mantri: Project Sampark

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: 35 Projects were inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri on Friday at Dhak Bridge site in Uttarakhand. The Dhak Bridge was physically inaugurated by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, while the other projects were inaugurated virtually by establishing online connection to each of balance 34 sites.

In line with government policy of providing last mile connec-



tivity, project Sampark has embarked on rapid development of infrastructure in Poonch, Reasi & Rajouri districts. Out of 35 Infrastructure projects inaugurated, Project Sampark dedicated 10 newly constructed bridges costing approx 64 Crores to the Nation on 19 Jan 2024 the details of the same are as follows :-

The inauguration of the most of above bridges took place virtually. Maj Gen Shailendra Singh, SM, Chief

of Staff HQ 16 Corps inaugurated the Balini Bridge at Km 15.66 on road Jammu-Srinagar. Expressing deep gratitude towards dedication of ten bridges to the Nation, Brig Neeraj Madan, Chief Engineer Project Sampark assured of giving renewed impetus to the projects under progress which would not only facilitate faster induction of troops into border area, but would also play a major role in socioeconomic deployment of the Nation.

VDG Union holds protest, demands honorarium at par with counterparts

Top News Report



DODA, Jan 19: Village Defence Guard (VDG) Union Doda under the leadership of its president Jagdev Singh Thakur today held a protest demonstration and demanded honorarium at par with the paid VDGs.

The VDG members alleged that the UT administration has given step motherly treatment to the VDGs. They said that the VDCs now called VDGs have been doing hard job in the militancy infested

areas across the entire Chenab Valley since their establishment but unfortunately the government has divided them in two fractions. The VDGs formed before 1992 are being paid but those received weapons after 1992, are performing their duty regularly with honesty and dedication but are not being paid till date.

Thakur demanded immediate release of honorarium in favour of the unpaid VDGs at par with their counterparts.

Plantation drive held in Lohlu, Dangdoro of District Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 19: A spectacular mega plantation drive unfolded on Friday at Lohlu, Dangdoro, in the Sounder Forest Block of Dachhan Range.

This initiative aligns with the Biodiversity Management Plan executed by Marwah Forest Division for the year 2023-24.

Organised by Forest Division Marwah in collaboration with District Administration Kishtwar, Pollution Control Board Kishtwar, CVPPL, Pakal Dul HEP, and Dangdoro Kishtwar under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Kishwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from authorities, officers, and high-ranking officials from various organizations, alongside the local inhabitants.

Under the Biodiversity Management Plan of CVPP(P)L-Pakal Dul HE Project, the Forests & Environment Division, Marwah, organized this mega plantation drive in compartment number 35/D, Near Ikhala Temple, Lohlu, Dachhan forest area.

The total target of 5500 plant saplings, including Conifers and naked roots saplings (3000) suitable to the local geography, as well as fruit-bearing saplings (2000), are to be planted within the month of January.

Under the banner of the Green J&K Drive, the beginning was made by planting 1000 poly bagged saplings with the help of local residents along with employees of Forest Division, J&K Pollution Control Committee Kishtwar, and CVPPPL.

The mega plantation drive, spread over an area of 10 hectares, was led by Vijay Kumar, DFO Marwah, in the presence of Arindom Chakraborty, DGM (Geology), and Raghunath Jhoor, Sr. Manager (PR) from Pakal Dul HEP, as well as various other officials from CVPPPL, JKCC, and Forests Division.

The Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle Doda, Dr. Jatindra Kumar Singh, and senior officials of CVPP were witnesses to the green drive through video conferencing facility, and at the end of the drive, the CF also addressed the local gathering, encouraging them to extend full cooperation to the Forest Department in ensuring maximum plantation and monitoring the progress of these saplings on a daily basis.

Apart from physical monitoring, this plantation zone will also be monitored through satellite imagery from time to time.

Also during the event, Divisional Forest Officer, Marwah, Vijay

Kumar, delivered a comprehensive speech, outlining the plantation goals for the year - aiming to plant poly-bagged plants and Naked Root (NR) plants in the specified Closure. He emphasized the replication of such events in other locations within the Dachhan Forest Range.

Addressing the gathering, the contractor responsible for plantation works was directed to adhere strictly to the designated procedures and ensure both qualitative and quantitative excellence in execution.

Expressing gratitude for the event's success, the local inhabitants were urged to refrain from littering, particularly during the prolonged dry spell prevailing in the area.

DFO Marwah encouraged the community to spread awareness and collaborate with the Forest Department in safeguarding and preserving the invaluable public property.

Pertinent to mention here that CVPPPL provides funding to the Forest Department under the Environment Management Plan of Pakul Dul HEP.

Accordingly, a Biodiversity Management Plan was approved by the Govt. of J&K in the year 2021 with a financial implication of Rs. 18.00 Cr. to be spent over the plan's duration of seven years.

GDC Chatroo celebrates National Road Safety Month

Top News Report



KISHTWAR, Jan 19: Government Degree College (GDC) Chatroo in collaboration with Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic department and 11 RR Chatroo jointly celebrated Road Safety Month.

The whole program was organised under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ved Kumar, Principal of the college.

GDC Chatroo is actively participating in National Road Safety Month, advocating for safer roads and responsible driving. Commencing with a ceremonial lamp lighting followed by the National Anthem, the event was graced with a captivating extension lecture by Dr. Haqnawaz Ahmad - Lecturer of Political science at GDC Chatroo, shedding light on crucial measures to enhance road safety and delivered an enlightening presentation on the proactive steps and precautions necessary for ensuring road safety.

His insights touched upon key issues such as responsible driving habits, adherence to traffic rules, and the importance of vehicular maintenance.

Mohd Saleem Manhas - ARTO Kishtwar graced the occasion with his enlightening lecture motivated and awarded the presentees about various road safety measures. The lecture was followed by question answer which left the attendees with deep understanding and awareness.

GDC Chatroo's commitment to community well-being was evident as students, faculty, and local residents gathered to engage in discussions on fostering a culture of responsible and safe driving. The institution believes that education and awareness are pivotal in reducing

road accidents and creating a safer environment for all road users.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Haqnawaz Ahmad sharing his expertise with us during National Road Safety Month. It is a crucial initiative and his valuable insights will undoubtedly contribute to making our roads safer for everyone," stated Prof. (Dr) Ved Kumar - Principal GDC Chatroo in his presidential address.

Prof.(Dr.) Ved Kumar further stressed on responsible driving habits, adherence to traffic rules, and the importance of vehicular maintenance.

The event saw active participation from the

audience, with discussions emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring road safety. GDC Chatroo plans to continue its efforts in promoting awareness and education around road safety throughout the month.

As National Road Safety Month progresses, GDC Chatroo remains dedicated to fostering a sense of responsibility among individuals and contributing to the broader goal of reducing road accidents and fatalities.

At conclusion of the program, Pledge regarding road safety was taken by the attendees. The program's coordination and vote of thanks was led by Dr. Jaswant Singh - Physical Director GDC Chatroo, with a presidential address delivered by Prof.(Dr.) Ved Kumar.

Ajeet Bhagat demands black-topping of link road from Pochhal to Arsi

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 19: Jammu and Kashmir National Confrance Senior Leader Ajeet Bhagat said that the



dilapidated condition of the link road from Pochhal to Arsi, Naranagadi, and Machgadh and Camp Ground Pochhal to Saras where essential services are not able to move freely due to inattention of District Administration and Representatives,

due to which the people are facing severe problems for their basic and emergency needs.

The Jammu and Kashmir NC leader Ajeet Bhagat urged upon the authorities to black topping and repairs the roads which is in dilapidated condition and in need of repair.

Bhagat said that we have seen this roads in dilapidated condition from last many years and authorities have always remained mum on this issue.

Bhagat have urged upon Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Remesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Devansh Yadav to look into the genuine issues.

Poverty reduction figures wrong, conspiracy to deprive crores of people from Govt schemes: Vijay Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Congress Seva Dal Jammu Kashmir President Vijay Sharma Babbi has said that the figures given by the government regarding 24.82 crore people coming out of multi-dimensional poverty in the last nine years are completely wrong.

The discussion paper of NITI Aayog on the basis of which BJP is making this claim has

been prepared apart from the global standards.

Even till now no international agency has confirmed this figure. BJP is making false claims to mislead people in view of the elections.

The purpose of releasing such a report just before the elections is nothing other than depriving 25 crore people of free food grains and other government schemes.

Vijay Sharma said that according to the discussion paper of NITI Aayog, multi-dimensional poverty in the country was 29.17 percent in 2013-14, which will reduce to 11.28 percent in 2022-23. With this, 24.82 crore people have come out of this category during this period.

He said that after the release of the report all leaders of BJP are counting it as an achievement of the government but in

reality it is a conspiracy under which 25 crore people were thrown out of multi-dimensional poverty.

He said that on one hand the government claims that India is becoming a developed nation, on the other hand the Prime Minister in his every rally is claiming to give free food grains to 80 crore people if people in India are coming out of the poverty line. Then why do 80 crore people

need free ration. This is a conspiracy somewhere to deprive 25 crore people of free ration. The Congress government had taken 27 crore people out of the poverty line, but that report was completely based on data and was released by the World Bank, whereas this report of the Central Government has been prepared while sitting in a room and watching the elections.

JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PWD(R&B) JMC Division Jammu
e-NIT No. PWD(R&B)DIV/JMC/71 of 2023-24 Dated:- 16-01-2024

For and on behalf of The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, The Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) Division JMC Jammu invites Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K (CPWD, Railways, MIS and other State / Central Govt. for each of following works are as under:-

Sr. No	Name of work	Advertised Amount (In Rs.)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	EMD 2%	Class of contractor	Time of completion (In Days)
1.	Premixing of road near h/o Sh. Mehtab Ahmed Sunjwan at ward 74 Jammu Part-A	06.38	600/-	2% of advt. cost	A,B,C,D & Hot Mix Plant	60 DAYS
2.	Upgradation of lane / drain near h/o Sh. Mehtab Ahmed Sunjwan at ward 74 Jammu part-B	7.48	600/-	2% of advt. cost	A,B,C & D	90 DAYS
3.	Upgradation of lane by way of paver tiles near h. no 4 in Mirza Lane near Makkah Masjid Bathindi at ward 74 Jammu	2.39	600/-	2% of advt. cost	A,B,C & D	60 DAYS

- Position of AAA : Accorded
- Position of T.S : Sanctioned
- Major Head : GIA 2023-24,
- JMC Division : Ex. Engineer PWD(R&B) JMC DIVISION JAMMU

- The Complete bidding process will be online.
- The bids can be uploaded in electronic format on the departmental websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in
- The Bidding documents consists of :-
 - Qualification information;
 - Eligibility criteria;
 - Specifications;
 - Bill of quantities (BoQ);
 - Set of terms and conditions of contract; and other details can be seen/ downloaded from department web sitehttp://jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

S.No	Sequence of Activities	Date and Time
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	16-01-2024
2	Bid submission start date	16-01-2024 from 14:00Hrs
3	Bid submission End date	05-02-2024 upto 16:00 Hrs
4	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (Online)	06-02-2024 at 12:00 Hrs in the Office of Ex. Engineer PWD(R&B) JMC Division Jammu
5	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (Online)	To be notified after Technical Evaluation is completed.

- Documents required to be uploaded online for Technical Bid:
- (Note: Non-Submission of any of the below mentioned required document's Online shall rendered the bidder as Non-responsive and his financial bid shall be out rightly rejected)
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copy of all the necessary document's mentioned in the e-NIT and S.B.D as a part of Technical Bids:-
- Note: - all the documents Scanned on 100 dpi with black and white options.

1. Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to

PWD(R&B) Division Jammu Municipal Corporation Jammu /tender fee receipt mentioning the eNIT No. & Serial No. of the work through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>. (Note: The date of challan should must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date. The Bid fee of old e.NIT of the same work if not opened shall also be considered)

2. Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape CDR/FDR/BG pledged to PWD(R&B) Division JAMMU Municipal Corporation Jammu, @ 2% of Advertised Cost of Work.

(Note: The date of issuance of E.M.D (in any of above three forms) should must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date).

3. Scanned Copy of GST Card—Previous QTR And Last Month.
4. Scanned Copy of PAN Card
5. Copy of Renewal Registration certificate of Contractor/ Firm for the current Financial year 2023-24 upto 31st March 2024.
6. Scanned Copy of duly filled Annexure "A", "B" & "C"

Note: Non-submission of any of the above documents online shall render the bidder as non-responsive and his financial bid shall not be opened.

DIP/J-4935-P/23 Sd/-
(Er. Lokesh Gupta)
Executive Engineer PWD(R&B)
JMC Division Jammu

No.: PWD(R&B)/JMC/5582-91
Dt: 16-01-2024

'Jai Sri Ram': Actor Nayanthara apologises for 'Annapoorani' controversy after makers are accused of hurting religious sentiments

Actor Nayanthara has offered sincere and heartfelt apology over her latest Tamil film 'Annapoorani', a week after the makers were accused of hurting religious sentiments and the movie was pulled from streaming service Netflix.

In an Instagram post on Thursday night, the 'Jawan' star said the film was made to "uplift and inspire, not to cause distress".

"Jai Sri Ram. I am writing this note with a heavy heart and a genuine desire to address the recent turn of events concerning our film, 'Annapoorani'. Crafting 'Annapoorani' was not just a cinematic endeavour but a heartfelt pursuit of inspiring resilience and instilling the spirit of never giving up.

"It aimed to mirror life's journey, where we learn that obstacles can be overcome with sheer willpower...In our sincere attempt to share a positive message, we may have inadvertently caused

'Annapoorani' featured the 39-year-old actor star as a young woman who aims to become the best chef in the country but in order to realise her dream, she has to cook non-vegetarian food.

Directed by Nilesh Krishnaa, the movie was released in the-



atres in December last year, before it started streaming on Netflix four weeks later. Last week, the movie kicked up a row after two complaints were filed against Nayanthara and the makers over allegations that certain scenes in the film hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

The complaints alleged that the film makes controversial

remarks about Lord Ram and also promotes 'love jihad'. Amid the controversy, the film was removed from Netflix by the makers.

In her post, Nayanthara said the team wanted to share a positive message and never expected that the movie, which was showcased in theatres, would be removed from a streaming platform.

"My team and I never intended to hurt anyone's sentiments and we understand the gravity of this issue. Being someone who wholly believes in God and frequently visits temples across the country, it is the last thing I would intentionally do.

"To those whose feelings we've touched, I extend my sincere & heartfelt apologies. The intention behind 'Annapoorani' was to uplift and inspire, not to cause distress. Over the last two decades, my journey in the film industry has been guided with a singular intention - To spread positivity & foster learning from one another," she said.

After the complaints, the police in Maharashtra's Thane district registered a case against eight people, including Nayanthara, last week.

The station house officer at the Naya Nagar police station said a case was registered against eight people, including the actor and the film's producer, under Sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings) and 505 (2) (offence committed in place of worship) read with 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

Shubhangi Atre explores AI avatar of Angoori



Shubhangi Atre, who plays the role of Angoori in the sitcom Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, says she

always tries to do something different to come out of the comfort zone. She recently played the AI version of her character.

"Whenever I get to do something different, try something out of my comfort zone, I get many chances.

Recently, I played the Artificial Intelligence (AI) version of Angoori and I have explored as an actor," says the Havan actress. Shubhangi thinks every medium has its own set of audience.

The urban population is into OTT, and rural and townships are into TV or films.

"Mediums do not matter to me. I love doing my job, that is to act. 'Angoori is a beautiful character. It's a treat for an actor," she says.

Calling comedy a serious business, Shubhangi adds, "No matter what is happening in your life you have to make people laugh. To making people cry is easy. I have done family drama and very emotional scenes also. But now I realise that making people laugh is not easy."

Bhumi Pednekar plays investigative journalist in Bhakshak



Bhumi Pednekar is set to portray an investigative journalist in the upcoming streaming film Bhakshak. The film is a crime drama

inspired by true events, and is directed by Pulkit. It also stars Sanjay Mishra, Aditya Srivastava and Sai Tamhankar in pivotal roles.

Bhakshak explores the journey of an unwavering woman's quest to seek justice.

Bhumi Pednekar, as Vaishali Singh, portrays the role of an investigative journalist who wants to bring to light a heinous crime, laying bare the ground reality of crimes against women.

Director Pulkit said, "Our aim was to shed light on the harsh realities of society and spark conversations that lead to meaningful change. I'm looking forward to more people joining this important dialogue."

The film, produced by Red Chillies Entertainment, will drop on February 9 on Netflix.

Matthew Perry honoured



Friends actor Matthew Perry received an emotional tribute during the 75th Emmys' 'In Memoriam' segment, which also included late stars such as Len Goodman, Andre Braugher, Lance Reddick, Paul Reubens, Barbra Walters, Kirstie Alley and more.

Sayli Salunkhe: 'I relate to my character'

Sayli Salunkhe, who plays Vandana in Baa-tein Kuch Ankahee Si, says that she loves the feedback she is getting for the show. The actress says that she was quite apprehensive initially.

"At first, I was scared whether people would be able to connect or not. But I am receiving some great responses. The best thing that people tell me is that they could relate to Vandana. When I started playing Vandana, I could relate to her emotions. Whatever Vandana and Sayli think, their emotions are very similar," she says.

Talking about detached from her character once she is out



of the sets, she says, "It's difficult to detach. If you are playing that character for 15 hours then it's difficult to do so. Even if I take my character home then I don't have any problem

as Vandana is a very sweet and innocent girl and I think that Sayli has been able to control her anger because of Vandana. Vandana's character has a positive impact on my life."

With a string of OTT series and films lined up for 2024, including Mirzapur 3, The Family Man 3 and Heeramandi, binge-watchers are surely in for a field day. Here's a quick check

Killer Soup, starring Manoj Bajpayee and Konkona Sen Sharma, is already out and Rohit Shetty's digital debut series Indian Police Force releases today. So, the inaugural month of 2024 is already a treat for binge-watchers. We list some other most-anticipated Hindi web series and OTT films that will keep you engrossed the whole year!

Cop story
Indian Police Force
Director Rohit Shetty and actor Sidharth Malhotra will be making their OTT debut with this series. This action thriller will release today. Sidharth plays the role of a police officer from Delhi, Kabir Malik, who embarks on a journey to battle the insidious terrorist Zarrar. The series also stars Isha Talwar, Vivek Oberoi, Shilpa Shetty, Sheeta Tripathi, Nikitin Dheer and Sharad Kelkar.

Crime zone
Mirzapur 3
It was one of the most

anticipated series of 2023, but Prime Video postponed the release to 2024. With characters like Kaleen Bhaiya, Guddu Bhaiya and many more, this show has engaged the audience for the past two instalments and continues to create a buzz. The latest season will be released sometime this year and feature Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Rasika Dugal, Harshita Shekhar Gaur, Amit Sial and Anjum Sharma.

Fast pitch
Chakda Xpress
Anushka Sharma's comeback film after her first pregnancy, this one is a biopic on fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, who was a part of the Indian Women's Cricket Team. The film is being directed by Prosit Roy.

Spy games
The Family Man 3
Brace yourself for another Manoj Bajpayee series, after Killer Soup was released recently. The Family Man franchise comes from the stable of directors Raj &



DK. In the series, Manoj plays Shrikant Tiwari, a senior agent in Threat Analysis and Surveillance Cell. Season 3

will focus on a conflict in the North East and is expected to release by the end of this year. The shooting for the The

Family Man 3 will begin in February, 2024. Love and betrayal Heeramandi Sanjay Leela Bhansali

will make an OTT debut this year with his ambitious project Heeramandi. The series will focus on stories of love

and betrayal in the lives of courtesans in pre-Independence India. The cast includes some famous names like Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sanjeeda Sheikh and Huma Qureshi.

Scandal point
Call Me Bae
This one will be Ananya Panday's debut web series and she will be seen opposite Varun Dhawan. A playful teaser was shared by Varun recently. The series will also star Vir Das and Gurfateh Pirzada. It is a series about self-discovery wherein Panday plays the lead role of a billionaire fashionista, Bae, who is disowned by her ultra-rich family following a scandal.

World of women
Do Patti
Another female-centric OTT film, Do Patti stars Kajol, Kriti Sanon, Tanvi Azmi and Shaheer Sheikh. It is directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi. It's the maiden production of screenwriter

and Kriti Sanon under their production banner Kathha Pictures and Blue Butterfly Films.
Inside the industry Showtime
This series will focus on the real mahaul of Bollywood. It features the power struggle and off-the-camera fights as well as relationships of actors in the industry. Created by Sumit Roy, it stars Emraan Hashmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Mouni Roy, Mahima Makwana, Shriya Saran and Rajeev Khandelwal.
Real to reel
Amar Singh Chamkila
This Netflix biopic has been directed by Imtiaz Ali and stars Dilijit Dosanjh. It narrates the rise of Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila, who was shot while he was performing in a village. Parineeti Chopra plays the role of Chamkila's wife.
Sequels on way:-
Maharani 3, Aashram 4, Panchayat 3, Paatal Lok 2, Farzi 2.

My government draws inspiration from Lord Ram, PM Narendra Modi says in Maharashtra's Solapur

Lays the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth Rs 2,000 crore in the state

SOLAPUR, Jan 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said his government is inspired by Lord Ram's principles of governance with honesty and urged people to light Ram Jyoti on January 22, stressing that it would be an inspiration to remove poverty from their lives.

"Modi's guarantee means 'guarantee puri hone ki guarantee'. Lord Ram taught us to honour commitments made and we are fulfilling all goals we set for the welfare of the poor and their empowerment," he said.

The PM was addressing a gathering in Maharashtra's Solapur after laying the foundation stone of 8 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) projects worth Rs 2,000 crore in the state.

He also dedicated more than 90,000 houses completed under



PMAY-Urban in Maharashtra.

The Prime Minister dedicated 15,000 houses of Raynagar Housing Society in Solapur, whose beneficiaries comprise thousands of handloom workers, vendors, power loom workers, rag pickers, beedi workers and drivers.

He also kick-started the distri-

bution of first and second instalments to 10,000 beneficiaries of PM-Svanidhi in Maharashtra during the programme.

In a choked voice, the prime minister said he wished he had had the opportunity to stay in such houses when he was young.

"Happiness comes when peo-

ple's dreams come true. Their blessings are my biggest investment," he said.

Urging people, who got the houses, to light Ram Jyoti on January 22, when the consecration of the Ayodhya Ram temple will be held, Modi said it would be an inspiration to eradicate poverty from their lives.

"Lord Ram did the work that made his people happy. My government is dedicated to the welfare and empowerment of the poor.

We launched schemes to mitigate their hardships," he said, adding that the role of middlemen had been completely eradicated in his government's welfare schemes.

Modi said homes and toilets had been constructed in 10 years as the lack of these amenities was insulting the poor, especially women.

One nation, one election against basic structure; Kharge writes to panel head Kovind



NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): The Congress on Friday strongly opposed the idea of holding simultaneous elections in the country and said it goes against the guarantees of federalism and the basic structure of the Constitution.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge party also demanded that the idea be abandoned and the high-powered committee formed in this regard be dissolved.

In a letter to the secretary of the committee on one nation, one election, he requested former President Ram Nath Kovind, who heads the panel, not to allow his persona and the office of the former president to be "abused" by the central government to "subvert" the Constitution and Parliamentary

democracy.

"The Indian National Congress is strongly opposed to the very idea of 'One Nation, One Election'. For the sake of maintaining a thriving and a robust democracy, it is imperative that the entire idea must be abandoned and the high-powered committee dissolved," Kharge said in his letter to Niten Chandra, the secretary of the committee.

"On behalf of the Congress party and the people of the country, I humbly request the Chairman of the high-level committee not to allow his persona and the office of the former president of India to be abused by the Union government to subvert the constitution and parliamentary democracy in this country," Kharge said in his letter.

His letter came in response to Chandra's letter of October 18 where he had invited suggestions for consideration of the high level committee constituted by the government for the purpose of one nation, one election.

"The government, parliament and ECI should work together to ensure people's mandate is respected rather than divert people's attention by talking about undemocratic ideas like simultaneous elections," Kharge said.

Republic Day: Dispose of paper flags with dignity, in private, says home ministry

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Ahead of Republic Day on January 26, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a circular to states and union territories, urging them to ensure that Indian national flags made of paper, used by the public during important national, cultural, and sports events, are not discarded or thrown on the ground after the event.

The home ministry said that the Indian national flag represents the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country, and the paper tricolours are to be disposed of privately, consistent with the dignity of the flag.

"As per clause (x) of Paragraph 2.2 of Part-II of the Flag Code of India, the National Flag made of paper may be waved by the public on occasions important to national, cultural, and sports events. You are requested to



ensure that flags used by the public, made of paper, are not discarded or thrown on the ground after the event. Such flags are to be disposed of in private, consistent with the dignity of the flag," the letter by the ministry, issued to all the states and union territories, read.

On January 26, 2024, India will observe its 75th Republic Day, with French President Emmanuel Macron set to be the chief guest at the parade in Delhi.

Not just in Ayodhya, a Ram Mandir will be inaugurated in Odisha too on January 22

ODISHA, Jan 19 (Agencies): Amid grand preparations for the 'pran pratistha' of the idol of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, another temple dedicated to Lord Ram will be inaugurated in Odisha on January 22.

A ceremony to mark the inauguration of a Ram Temple built in the Fatehgarh village of Odisha's Nayagarh district will take place on Monday, coinciding with the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The temple is located atop a hill and was constructed using the 'Baulamala' stone.

Lush greenery surrounds the soon-to-



be-inaugurated Ram Temple in Odisha.

The construction of the temple began in 2017. It is located 1,800 feet above the sea level in Fatehgarh, while the height of the temple is 165 feet.

More than 150 workers were involved in the construction of the Ram temple in Odisha for seven years.

The idea of the Ram Temple in the district has historical significance. Lord Govardhan has

been worshipped on this mountain for decades. Moreover, in 1912, during the Navakalebar of Lord Jagannath, Lord Sudharshan's tree was collected from Fatehgarh. To commemorate this, the villagers took

an initiative and formed a committee - Shri Ram Seva Parishad.

Social worker and Bapur block vice chairperson started the temple work after being appointed the committee's president.

India Today has learnt that the inauguration process will commence from January 21 onwards. Puri Sankaracharya and the Maharaja have been invited to attend the temple's grand occasion.

Furthermore, invitations have been sent to the officials of various temples, along with those at Puri's popular Jagannath temple.

In a first, 48 Agniveer Vayu women to participate in Republic Day Parade

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A total of 48 Agniveer Vayu Women would be part of the Indian Air Force's Republic Day contingent, officials told India Today TV on Friday.

The IAF marching contingent will be led by Squadron Leader Rashmi Thakur with Squadron Leader Sumita Yadav, Squadron Leader Pratiti Alhwalia and Flight Lieutenant Kirti Rohil as supernumerary officers, they said.

In addition, 15 women pilots of the IAF will also operate various air assets of the IAF during



the aerial flypast.

The theme of the IAF's Republic Day tableau would be "Bharatiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar". FLYPAST TO DISPLAY INDIA'S MILITARY MIGHT

The aerial display during this year's Republic Day celebrations will display the military might of India with 29 fighter aircraft, 8 transport aircraft, 13 helicopters and one heritage aircraft roaring

in the skies above the Kartavya Path.

One of the main attractions of the flypast would be the recently inducted C-295 transport aircraft which will participate for the first time in the Republic Day celebra-

tions.

The Indian Air Force will also depict the famous 'Tangail air-drop' of the 1971 victory over Pakistan with one Dakota aircraft and two Dorniers flying in a 'Tangail formation' during the celebrations.

The indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas will also be making its debut at the Republic Day parade with four of them flying in a 'Tejas formation' at the parade.

In addition, six Rafale fighter jets will also be flying in a 'Vajraang formation' in this year's parade.

Hours after fire in Delhi's Pitampura leaves 6 people dead, police register FIR against unidentified people



NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Hours after a fire in a residential building in Delhi's Pitampura left six people dead, the police have registered an FIR against unidentified people, officials said on Friday.

The fire broke out in a multi-storey

building in the northwest Delhi locality on Thursday evening.

A case under Sections 304-A (causing death by negligence), 285 (negligent conduct) and 336 (endangering lives) of the IPC was registered at the Maurya Enclave police station, they said.

The six people, including four women, who died in the incident belonged to two different families and were staying on rent on the first, second and third floors of the building, police said.

According to the information received from the hospitals, those who died were identified as Rakesh Gupta (62), Renu Gupta (62), Shweta (30), Shanu Verma (27), Santosh (25) and Kirti (25).

The cause of the fire, which broke out on the first floor of the building, is yet to be ascertained, a police officer said, adding that the matter was being investigated.

Having failed to get relief from Delhi High Court, Mahua Moitra vacates her government bungalow

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): Former TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Friday vacated her government accommodation here, her lawyer said.

The Directorate of Estates (DoE) had in the morning sent a team to get the official bungalow vacated and the area around it was barricaded, an official said.

"House number 9B on Telegraph Lane occupied by Mahua Moitra was vacated by 10 am this morning before the authorities arrived. No eviction took place," Moitra's counsel Shadan Farasat told reporters. The possession of the house had been handed over to the DoE officials, Farasat said.

Earlier this week, the DoE issued an eviction notice to Moitra, who was



expelled from the Lok Sabha last month.

On Thursday, Moitra failed to get any relief from the Delhi High Court which refused to stay the DoE notice and asked her to vacate the government bungalow.

Justice Girish Kathpalia said no specific rule had been brought before the court that dealt with the eviction of MPs from government accommodation after they ceased to be lawmakers.

Childless Man Kidnaps Toddler From Delhi Street, His Wife Goes To The Cops

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): A 39-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping an 11-month-old child in southeast Delhi's Jaitpur area, officials said today.

The child was returned to police by the man's wife following which the accused was arrested from his house, they said.

Police said the accused kidnapped the toddler since he did not have any child. The accused has been identified as Naveen Mishra.

"On Wednesday, we got a PCR call from a woman regarding kidnapping of her 11-month-old son. The complainant told the police that she runs a beauty parlour in Jaitpur and has two children," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) Rajesh Deo said.

According to the mother, around 8 pm on Wednesday, her son started crying so she



asked her eight-year-old daughter to take him outside the parlour for sometime. Some time later her daughter informed that a man took the toddler away on a motorcycle, she said in the complaint.

"An FIR was registered and an investigation was taken up. We checked CCTV footage and found one person carrying the kidnapped

child on a motorcycle. We checked the registration number and found that it has been registered in the name of a woman," the DCP said.

The officer said while the police were tracing the suspect intensively, on Thursday around 10:40 am, the woman - Mishra's wife - reached the police station to hand over the child.

Police questioned her and later they arrested Mishra from his house. During interrogation, he told police that he kidnapped the child as he did not have any children, the officer said.

Mishra, who is employed at the accounts department of a store in Noida did not have any previous criminal record. "Further investigation in the case is in progress," the DCP said.

US ducks questions on reports Pakistan consulted Washington before striking back at Iran

State Department Spokesperson Miller says US is concerned about escalating tensions in the region

WASHINGTON, DC (US), Jan 19 (Agencies): The US evaded a question on whether Pakistan held prior consultations with Washington before conducting retaliatory air strikes on Iran.

On media reports claiming Pakistan consulted the US before conducting strikes in Iran, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller, during a regular press briefing in Washington, said, "I do not have any private conversations to read out." Miller said the US is concerned about the escalating tensions in the region and has urged restraint on all sides.

He said there is no need for escalation in the matter and that the country has noted the Pakistani government's comments about the importance of "cooperative relations between Pakistan and its neighbours."

In response to a question on how the US administration reads the situation between Iran and Pakistan, Miller said, "We are concerned about escalating tensions in the region. It's been something we have spoken a number of times, we've focused on. We've been incredibly concerned about the potential for escalation since October 7." "That's why we have engaged in intense diplomatic efforts to try to pre-



vent escalation. We noted the comments from the government of Pakistan, about the importance of cooperative relations between Pakistan and its neighbours. We thought those were productive useful statements, and certainly, there's no need for escalation and we would urge restraint on all sides in this case," he added.

Matthew Miller called Iran a major funder of Hezbollah and a principal supporter of Hamas for years.

In another query about the ongoing tensions between Iran and Pakistan after strikes and counterstrikes, Miller said, "I think I made pretty clear yesterday what we think about Iran's attacks, not just the strikes that were launched in the past three days against three of its

neighbours but its long history of funding terrorism, funding instability and sowing discord in the Middle East. That's something we have seen contribute to conflict in Gaza." Iran's strikes in Pakistan came after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched missiles into Iraq's Kurdistan region at what it called an Israeli "spy headquarters" and at alleged ISIS-linked targets in Syria, Al Arabiya News reported.

In response, Pakistan on Thursday launched missile strikes into Iran and codenamed it operation 'Marg Bar Sarmachar'.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in a statement said it had undertaken a series of "highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision

military strikes against terrorist hideouts" in the Siestan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran.

"A number of terrorists were killed during the intelligence-based operation codenamed 'Marg Bar Sarmachar,'" it said.

Meanwhile, US State Department spokesperson Miller said: "You have seen Iran as the principal supporter of Hamas for years. They are the major funder of Hezbollah. They are one of the major funders of the Houthis. We have seen the consequences of the actions that Iran has taken to add to regional instability and that's why we continue to take actions to hold Iran accountable and also send clear very messages to Iran that we don't believe this should escalate in any way, shape or form." "Pakistan is a major non-NATO ally of the United States, and that will remain the case, but we would urge restraint in this case. We do not want to see escalation and don't think there's a need for escalation," he added.

US National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, John Kirby, said the US is monitoring the situation regarding Iran and Pakistan "very very closely" and they do not want to see escalation.

North Korea says it tested underwater nuclear attack drone in response to rivals' naval drills

South Korea's military insists the North has exaggerated capabilities of the drone



SEOUL, Jan 19 (Agencies): North Korea said on Friday it had tested a purported underwater nuclear attack drone in response to a combined naval exercise between South Korea and the United States and Japan this week, as it continues to blame its rivals for raising tensions in the region.

The alleged drone test came days after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un declared he would scrap his country's long-standing goal of a peaceful unification with South Korea and that his country would rewrite its constitution to define South Korea as its most hostile for-

eign adversary.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years with Kim accelerating weapons demonstrations and threatening nuclear conflict and the US and its Asian allies responding by strengthening their combined military exercises.

North Korea's alleged nuclear attack drone, which the North first tested last year, is among a broad range of weapon systems demonstrated in recent years as Kim expands his arsenal of nuclear-capable weapons. South Korea's military has insisted the

North has exaggerated the capabilities of the drone, which is supposedly designed to carry out strikes on enemy vessels and ports.

The North's military said it conducted the test in the country's eastern waters in response to the US, South Korean, and Japanese naval drills, which wrapped up its three-day run on Wednesday in waters south of Jeju island.

"Our army's underwater nuke-based countering posture is being further rounded off and its various maritime and underwater responsive actions will continue to deter the hostile military maneuvers of the navies of the US and its allies," the North's Defence Ministry said in a statement.

"We strongly denounce the US and its followers for their reckless acts of seriously threatening the security of the DPRK from the outset of the year and sternly warn them of the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by them."

10 people dead after a landslide buries a house in the southern Philippines

DAVAO, Jan 19 (Agencies): A landslide set off by days of heavy rain buried a house where people were holding Christian prayers in the southern Philippines, killing at least 10 people, including five children, officials said on Friday.

Two people were injured, and at least one more villager remained unaccounted for following the landslide in a remote mountain village in the gold-mining town of Monkayo in Davao de Oro province, Ednar Dayanghirang, the regional chief of the government's Office of Civil Defence, said.

Three more bodies were found on Friday, after the search was

paused mid-afternoon Thursday due to the risk of another landslide.

"They were praying in the house when the landslide hit," Dayanghirang told the news agency by telephone Thursday night. "It's sad but it's the reality on the ground."

People living near the village were ordered to evacuate due to fears of more land- and mud-slides due to intermittent downpours, Monkayo Mayor Manuel Zamora said.

Days of heavy rains also flooded low-lying villages and displaced more than 36,000 people in Davao de Oro and three other



provinces, the Office of Civil Defense said. The weather began to clear on Friday in some areas.

The rains were sparked by what local forecasters call a shear line, a point where warm and cold air meet.

At least 20 storms and typhoons lash the Philippine archipelago each

year, especially during the rainy season that starts in June.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest to hit on record, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages, swept ships inland and displaced more than 5 million in the central Philippines.

Israel bombs Gaza as disagreements with US simmer

GAZA, Jan 19 (Agencies): Israel bombarded southern Gaza on Friday after it publicly sparred with its main ally the United States over the possibility of a Palestinian state, the creation of which Washington sees as the only pathway to a lasting peace.

Witnesses reported gunfire and air strikes early on Friday in Khan Yunis, the main city in the south of the Gaza Strip, where Israel says many members and leaders of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas are hiding.

The Palestinian Red Crescent reported "intense" artillery fire near the Al-Amal hospital, while Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said 77 people were killed and dozens injured overnight.

The Israeli military said its Givati Brigade was fighting as far south as its troops had reached so far in the campaign.

"The soldiers eliminated dozens of terrorists in close-quarters combat and with the assistance of tank fire and air support," it said.

The United Nations says the war, which began with the unprecedented Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7, has displaced roughly 85 percent of Gaza's 2.4 million people.

Many are crowded into shelters where they struggle to get food, water, fuel and medical care. UN agencies say improved aid access is needed urgently as famine and disease loom.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said overnight it had counted 24 cases of hepatitis A and "thousands" of cases of jaundice likely linked to the

spread of the viral liver infection.

"The inhumane living conditions -- almost no drinking water, clean toilets or ability to keep the surroundings clean -- will allow hepatitis A to spread further," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X, formerly Twitter, describing the health crisis as "explosive".

Hamas's October 7 attacks resulted in the deaths of about 1,140 people in Israel, most of them civilians, according to an agency tally based on official figures.

Militants also seized about 250 hostages during the attacks, around 132 of whom Israel says remain in Gaza. At least 27 hostages are believed to have been killed, according to an agency tally based on Israeli figures.

Israel has vowed to "annihilate" Hamas in response and its relentless air and ground offensive has killed at least 24,620 Palestinians, around 70 percent of them women, children and adolescents, according to figures from the Hamas-run health ministry.

"We will not be satisfied with anything less than total victory," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a news conference on Thursday, warning that "victory will take many months".

Total victory meant "the elimination of terrorist leaders, the destruction of Hamas's operational and military capabilities, the return of our hostages to their homes", as well as the demilitarization of Gaza, he said.

A Palestinian state? Washington supports Israel's campaign in

Gaza, but despite otherwise close ties, the two allies publicly aired differences again this week over the way forward.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken used the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to renew his call for a "pathway to a Palestinian state".

But Netanyahu again flatly rejected the suggestion on Thursday.

"Israel must have security control over the entire territory west of the Jordan River," he said. "This is a necessary condition, which contradicts the idea of (Palestinian) sovereignty."

Netanyahu maintained that "a prime minister in Israel should be able to say no, even to our best friends".

Washington believes that the creation and recognition of a viable Palestinian state is necessary to achieve security for Israel.

"We obviously see things differently," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said when asked about Netanyahu's comments.

Responding to Netanyahu's remarks, the official spokesperson for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, said that without an independent Palestinian state "there will be no security and stability in the region".

"The entire region is on the verge of a volcanic eruption due to the aggressive policies pursued by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights," Nabil Abu Rudeineh said, according to the official Wafa news agency.

Abbas's Palestinian

Authority exercises limited rule in the occupied West Bank, where the Israeli army also carried out raids overnight, notably in Tulkarem.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health has counted at least six deaths in the city since Wednesday.

Houthi attacks

The international community already fears that the war in Gaza could spill over into the wider region, with daily exchanges of fire on the Israeli-Lebanese border, an increase in attacks by Houthi rebels on merchant ships in the waters around Yemen and the subsequent intensification of US strikes there in response.

The Iran-backed Houthis have launched attacks against what they deem Israeli-linked vessels in the vital shipping lanes of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

They have also said US- and British-linked ships were fair game since the two countries launched air strikes against targets in Yemen over the past week.

The Houthis claimed responsibility early on Friday for another attack on a US-owned and operated ship in the Gulf of Aden.

The US military's Central Command said two missiles were launched at the Marshall Islands-flagged Chem Ranger, but the vessel and its crew were safe and proceeding to the next port.

While vowing the rebels would continue such attacks, a senior Houthi official promised safe passage through the Red Sea for Russian and Chinese vessels in an interview published by the Russian outlet Izvestia on Friday.

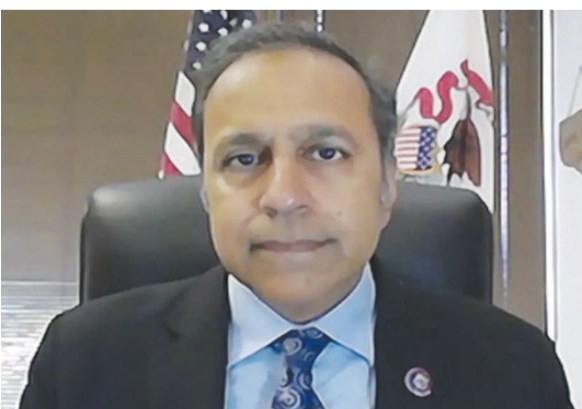
US Congressman Condemns Trump For Alleged "Birther" Claims Against Nikki Haley

Donald Trump reposted a post from conservative *The Gateway Pundit*, which claimed that Haley might be ineligible to be the US president or the vice president as her parents were not a US citizen when she was born in 1972.

WASHINGTON, Jan 19 (Agencies): Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has condemned former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, for the alleged 'birther' claims against his primary challenger Nikki Haley.

Last week, Trump reposted a post from conservative *The Gateway Pundit*, which claimed that Haley might be ineligible to be the US president or the vice president as her parents were not a US citizen when she was born in 1972.

Indian-American Haley automatically became a US citizen as she was born in the



country. "It's sadly no surprise that Donald Trump is back at it with more false and racist 'birther' claims," Indian American Congressman Krishnamoorthi, who is a Democrat, said in a statement.

"As a proud Indian American immigrant, the hateful attacks the

former president is launching against Nikki Haley are all too familiar to me. Any Republican who claims to support the South Asian community should condemn this rhetoric," Krishnamoorthi said.

As per the US Constitution, the qualifications to run for presidency are: They must be at

least 35 years old, be a "natural-born" citizen and have been a resident of the United States for 14 years.

Section Three of the 14th amendment, approved after the Civil War, added that anyone who engaged in or aided an "insurrection" against the United States after taking an oath to support the Constitution was ineligible to "hold any office, civil or military." The *New York Times* reported.

Trump had previously raised the question of the birth of former US President Barack Obama and the current vice president Kamala Harris. Trump has also called for an end to birth-right citizenship.

SDRF 2nd Bn celebrates Annual Raising Day

SSP hails Jawans for commendable work

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 2nd Bn. Jammu on Friday celebrated its 12th Annual Raising Day here at Bn. Headquarters.

Zahid Naseem Manhas, SSP, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu inspected the Bn. Quarter Guard and took salute.

While speaking on the occasion, the officer congratulated all the officers, Jawans of the Bn on the occasion of 12th SDRF Raising Day. The Commandant highlighted the achievements of SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu during the year-2023, especially excellent work of rescuing 98 trapped persons during flash floods in river Ujh,



Kathua and a woman from Chenab river near Khallani on the same day. He further mentioned the search and rescue operation conducted by SDRF teams after a portion of Ranbireswar Temple collapsed due to heavy downpour. The timely

action by the SDRF teams saved the property of the Temple.

Besides, various rescue operations were also conducted during road accidents in Jammu province. The officer also appreciated the SDRF personnel for their dedication and

professionalism shown during various rescue operations and other allied duties performed by the Jawans from time to time.

Dy.SP Daljeet Singh, Dy.SP Mohinder Pal and ASI Surinder Singh of the Battalion were decorated with DGP

Medal-2022-23 by the Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu.

A live demonstration on rescue of trapped victims from the High Rise Buildings and Ropeway Bridge during the Fire Incident were also presented by the SDRF personnel. Moreover, an exhibition of High Value Equipment/Photo Gallery was also displayed.

Among others present were Aijaz Ali, SP (S), SO (Tgrs.) to Commandant, General, HG/CD & SDRF J&K, Gurvinder Kour, Dy.SP, Arvinder Kotwal, Dy.SP, Nazir Ahmed Dy.SP (S) ADO Directorate of HG/CD & SDRF J&K and GO's/ staff of this organization were present on the occasion.

46 Bn CRPF organises medical camp at Sadura



Top News Report

QAZIGUND, Jan 19: Continuing their commitment to community well-being, the 46th Battalion CRPF conducted free medical camp this time at 46 Bn HQ Sadura area of Anantnag.

The camp, inaugurated by Syamal Bhowmik, Commandant (CCD) CRPF 46 Battalion Sadura, in presence of R N Singh Deputy Commandant 46Bn CRPF and other officers of the unit.

The camp was aimed to provide essential medical check-ups and distribute medicines

to the local populace, especially the elderly.

The medical team comprised of three doctors including two from PHC Qazigund nominated by BMO Qazigund and one from CRPF. They offered free consultations and treatments to the villagers who attended the camp

A total of 250 villagers from Sadura and adjoining areas benefited from the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Syamal Bhowmik, Commandant (CCD) CRPF 46 Bn said that "CRPF remains committed to enhancing community health and

looks forward to continued support from local partners in these endeavors".

He added that they will continue to conduct such Civic Action Programs for the benefit of the local public in future also.

"This camp marks the fifth medical camp organized by unit from last one week at different spots like Akhran, Mirbazar, Vessu, KP Colony Vessu and followed at Sadura", he said.

He further added, "Around 1250 patients were provided free medical checkups, consultations, and free medicines during these camps organized by the Unit from last one week".

Locals expressed their gratitude to the CRPF for their efforts in extending health-care services to those in need.

JU organizes two days workshop on techniques of film making

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: A comprehensive two-day workshop, organized by the Film Club was inaugurated on Friday.

The workshop is dedicated to the understanding of intricate nuances inherent within the expansive realm of Cinematic Craftsmanship. This immersive event was seamlessly woven into a broader cultural tapestry, unfolding over a ten-day period under the resplendent appellation 'Protsahan.'

Functioning as a commemorative ode, this workshop served as a reverent acknowledgment of the auspicious anniversary of the venerable Utsaah Club, marking the penultimate chapter within the rich ten-day canvas celebrating the multifaceted expressions of Fine Arts.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome note by Prof. Suman Jamwal, Coordinator, Film Club who also took the occasion to felicitate Prof. Satnam Kaur, Chairperson of Utsaah, and the resource persons of the workshop, notably Dharminder Kohli and his illustrious team.

Following the felicitations, Prof. Jamwal adeptly steered the discourse, delineating the blueprint of the workshop that

promised to be a crucible for the amalgamation of indispensable knowledge and skills germane to the cinematic craft. Script-writing, directing, editing, cinematography, and production emerged as the cardinal pillars underpinning the edifice of this enlightening workshop.

Prof. Jamwal also underscored the pivotal role played by such clubs in students' lives, emphasizing the prodigious impact anticipated from the imminent workshop and how it aligns with the basic philosophy of NEP.

The stage was then graced by the eloquence of Prof. Satnam Kour, extending her gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, for his sagacious vision underpinning Utsaah and his catalytic role in fostering the club's endeavors.

Prof. Kour further extended her heartfelt thanks to Prof. Suman Jamwal, the harbinger of the Film Club's initiatives, for orchestrating this cinematic odyssey and inspiring participants to immerse themselves in this font of skill enhancement.

As the workshop unfolded, the erudite resource persons unfurled the esoteric tapestry of practical cinematic techniques before the eager participants.

Dharminder Kohli, a luminary



with an illustrious 28-year pedigree in the television domain, regaled the assembly with his prodigious repertoire, including 2000 serial episodes, documentaries, and short films.

His opus "Pegam" had received accolades at the 5th National Science Film Festival.

Another luminary in the constellation, Pankaj Khajuria, a thespian virtuoso and luminary in the Dogri film cosmos, showcased his directorial prowess with the creation of the Dogri cinematic gem "Reet," while his thespian finesse graced numerous cinematic canvases.

The multifaceted Rajesh Khajuria, a luminary director and cinematographer hailing from Jammu, shared his cinematic odyssey, culminating in the global acclaim of his recent

creation "Ek Anjaan Rishte Ka Guilt," earmarked for a prestigious release on an international OTT platform.

The panel was rounded off by the erudite Prashant Singh, a distinguished editor whose nimble fingers have left an indelible mark on the regional cinematic tapestry, contributing significantly to Dogri language and culture.

The unveiling of this cinematic sojourn was anchored with erudite finesse by Dr. Jasleen Kour.

The other luminaries who attended the workshop included Dr. Chinmoyee Maharna and Dr. Madhulika Singh.

The workshop culminated with a sonorous vote of thanks rendered by Shubham Singh Sambyal, expressing profound gratitude to the resource persons.

DC flags off awareness Rally on National Road Safety in Reasi

Top News Report

REASI, Jan 18: District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, on Friday flagged off a rally from the DC Office Reasi to mark the commencement of the month-long National Road Safety Awareness campaign in the district.

Addressing the students, DDC Vishesh Mahajan emphasized the critical importance of strict adherence to traffic rules for the safety of drivers, passengers and pedestrians. He urged the public to prioritize safe driving practices, including the use of helmets, seat belts, and adherence to speed limits. The rally, which traversed through markets of Reasi, prominently displaying Road Safety related messages to raise awareness among the community.

Highlighting the aggressive one month awareness campaign,



he stressed on laying focus on educating all stakeholders about the necessary precautionary measures. He underscored the alarming number of lives lost and permanent disabilities resulting from road accidents each year, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to curb such incidents.

To address road safety concerns specific to Reasi, the district administration is actively identifying vulnerable and black spots, monitoring overloading on all routes and informing the public about potential blind curves.

Immediate measures will be implemented in these areas to prevent accidents and enhance road safety.

The rally concluded successfully at the Bus Stand in Reasi, where ARTO Tare Mani and Inspector MVD expressed gratitude to all participants and departments for their support in organizing the event.

ACD Anirudh Rai, Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh and other concerned officers and officials were present on the occasion.

DC flags off Road Safety Awareness rally; urges public to prioritize safe driving



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sachin Kumar Vaishya, in presence of Transport Commissioner, J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara, on Friday flagged-off an awareness rally from Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Gandhinagar as part of ongoing National Road Safety Month 2024.

Speaking at the event, the DC underscored the crucial need for strict adherence to traffic rules. He urged the public to prioritize

safe driving and emphasized on precautionary measures such as wearing helmets, seat belts, and adhering to speed limits for the safety of all road users. The DC also stressed on educating drivers and pedestrians about necessary precautions. Recognizing the alarming rate of road traffic accidents and associated fatalities in the country, he stressed the importance of collective efforts to minimize such incidents.

Besides, the Deputy Commissioner administered the Road safety Pledge among the stu-

dents, teachers and Motor Vehicles department officials.

During the event, Transport Commissioner, J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara specifically urged the youth to avoid rash driving, underscoring the need for responsible behaviour on the roads. He further asked the students to promote a culture of compliance with traffic regulations and foster safer driving habits, especially among the younger generation.

The rally that has about 250 students traversed through the Apsara road, Gandhi Nagar featuring displays of Road Safety messages to enhance awareness among the general public, finally culminated at Green belt, Gandhinagar where the participants were given refreshment.

Earlier, Regional Transport Officer, Jammu Pankaj Bhagotra, formally welcomed the guests.

Among others, Chief Education Officer, Jammu J.K Padha, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (HQ) Rehana Tabbasam, JKAS, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Board of Inspection (Goods), Esha Chib, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Board Of Inspection (P), Kuldeep Singh, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Flying squad, Neeraj Sharma MVIs, Lecturers and large number of students were present on the occasion.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: IEC Van reach panchayats of Siot, Rajouri & Sunderbani blocks



Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 19: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has emerged as a driving force in the implementation of various government schemes and ushering in comprehensive development in Rajouri district. The ambitious initiative is strategically crafted to transform Rajouri by extending its reach to underserved areas and ensuring the effective execution of government programs, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Central to this endeavor is an Information,

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

The VBSY has recorded notable success in the implementation of various government schemes in Rajouri District. These schemes, crafted to elevate living standards and provide

essential services, have been executed with exceptional efficiency on the ground. Consequently, the community has experienced tangible improvements and witnessed positive changes in their daily lives.

Today, the VBSY IEC vans traversed through the panchayats of Hathal-B, Patrara, Swani, Atti, Chawa, Gurdhan Balla, Fatehpur Danna and Fatehpur Gurrian of block Siot, Rajouri as well as Sunderbani. This strategic journey highlights the Yatra's commitment to reaching every corner of the district and ensuring that the benefits of gov-

ernment initiatives are felt at the grassroots level.

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

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

After MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, R Ashwin gets invite for Ram temple 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): India cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin received an invitation to attend the Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha ceremony, scheduled for January 22 in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. R Ashwin was invited to the much-anticipated temple consecration at his residence in Chennai on Friday, January 19.

Tamil Nadu's BJP State Secretary Dr. SG Suryah and vice-president Venkatraman C handed over the invitation to R Ashwin. A photo of Ashwin receiving the invitation has been widely shared on social media. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has been handling the job of sending invites to over 6000 people in the country for the ceremony. Several popular figures, including cricketers and actors, have been invited to attend the ceremony in Ayodhya on Monday.

Notably, World Cup-winning former India captain MS Dhoni received an invite for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony earlier



in the month. Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma were also invited while batting great Sachin Tendulkar received an invitation at his residence.

Dhoni, who has been training in Ranchi to gear up for Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, was invited by Dhananjay Singh, co-province secretary of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Jharkhand state Organization General Secretary of BJP, Karmaveer Singh earlier in the week.

On Friday, the Ram Lalla idol was installed inside the sanctum as part of the rituals in the run-up to the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple on Monday. The 51-inch idol, sculpted by Mysuru-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj, arrived at the temple on Thursday.

It remains to be seen if India cricketers, especially those in the Test squad, will attend the Ram temple Pran Pratishtha on Monday. India's Test regulars are expected to assemble

in Hyderabad by January 20 to begin preparation for the upcoming 5-Test series against England, starting January 25.

Head coach Rahul Dravid, who spoke to the broadcasters after the recent T20I series win against Afghanistan, confirmed that India's pre-series camp will get underway on January 20 in Hyderabad, the venue of the first Test. "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.

India are set to play a 5-Test series after a period of over 5 years as they welcome a spirited England side, led by Ben Stokes. The visiting team prepared for the series by setting up a camp in the UAE.

Athletes priority for IOA in Paris



NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): With the buzz around the build up for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the Indian Olympic Association is trying to learn from past experiences and prioritise athlete comfort to ensure that they are at their peak for the event. From getting accommodation closer to the venues to actively engaging the athletes with experts in mental wellness and sleep therapy, the Indian body is taking necessary steps to provide athletes an "optimal condition" to compete at the highest

level. "Unlike the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), where Indian golfers faced the unique challenge of daily travel exceeding one hour to reach the golf venue, the IOA has taken decisive action for Paris 2024. The Indian golf team will be accommodated in a hotel in close proximity to the golf venue, alleviating the stress of daily travel and allowing athletes to focus entirely on their game. Understanding the importance of sports science in modern-day athletics, the IOA is actively

engaging with experts in mental wellness and sleep therapy to provide comprehensive support to the Indian team," the IOA said in a statement.

The IOA is also in discussion with the organising committee to implement high-performance interventions at the Olympic Village which includes strategic placement of additional rehabilitation equipment, catering specifically to the needs of Team India athletes, inclusion of traditional Indian meals in the menu and more. "Our commitment is not just to participate, but to excel. We have learned from past experiences, and this time, we are leaving no stone unturned to ensure our athletes are comfortable, supported, and ready to make the nation proud," Dr PT Usha, IOA President, said.

"Very Impressive": Josh Hazlewood Praises West Indies' Debutant Shamar Joseph

ADELAIDE, Jan 19 (Agencies): Following Australia's whopping 10-wicket victory over West Indies in the first Test match in Adelaide on Friday, speedster Josh Hazlewood showered praise on the Caribbean pacer Shamar Joseph and said that he had an impressive debut. While speaking after the first Test match, Hazlewood joked after the game ended on the third day and said "Nice to have the weekend off". When asked about Joseph's performance, he added that it was nice for the Caribbean pacer to dismiss Steve Smith on his first ball.

Talking about the second Test match in Brisbane, he added that the new ball will play a "big part" in the game. "Nice to have the weekend off. It was nice to bowl on a wicket like that. (On whether he's ever bowled any better) Probably not, I felt I bowled well in the first



part of the summer without much reward. I think the wickets throughout have been really good. (On Shamar Joseph) Amazing debut, very impressive and to start off by getting Smithy first ball is just great. (On next time) Last time in Brisbane, going to be a bit weird. The new ball will play a big part in that game as well, so I'm excited for that game," Hazlewood said.

Recapping the match, Josh Hazlewood's career-best haul of 9-79 in red-ball cricket guided the Aussies to a thumping 10-wicket victory in the first Test over the Caribbean Team at

Adelaide.

The Caribbean side resumed the third day with a score of 73/6 trailing by 22 runs. Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood in the first six overs combined to bag three wickets.

Shamar Joseph came at the end and showed his skills with the bat by finding the boundary line thrice with composure. He looked poised to play a couple of more shots, but Nathan Lyon's spin got the better of the 24-year-old. West Indies managed to put up 120 on the board leaving the hosts a paltry target of 26.

India Look For Winning Start In U-19 World Cup Opener vs Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): The most successful team in the Under-19 World Cup history, defending champions India will embark on a quest to add another trophy to their collection when a fresh bunch led by Uday Saharan takes on Bangladesh in their tournament-opener in Bloemfontein on Saturday. Placed in Group A, the five-time winners will begin their campaign against the Asian rivals here at the Manguang Oval before they head into the other group fixtures against Ireland and the USA. Having won their first trophy in 2002 under Mohammad Kaif, Indian teams have since gone on to win the U-19 World Cup in 2008, 2012, 2018 and 2022.

The event, which was moved from Sri Lanka to South Africa in a late adjustment by the ICC, features four groups of as many teams each.

The top three teams in each group will qualify for the Super Sixes, followed by the semifinals on February 6 and 8 with the final to be played at Benoni on February 11.

With prodigious talent in Maharashtra all-rounder Arshin Kulkarni, wicketkeeper-batter Aravelly Avanish, left-arm spin-



ner and vice-captain Saumy Kumar Pandey and Saharan, India will feel they have adequate arsenal to go the distance.

Among these players, Kulkarni (Lucknow Supergiants) and Avinash (Chennai Super Kings) have already landed IPL deals and will be keen to make their mark on the biggest stage before they graduate to top-flight cricket.

Saharan, who hails from Rajasthan but has led Punjab across age groups, has scored in excess of fifty in his last three innings which also includes a century against South Africa.

Last November, the right-handed batter who shifted base from Rajasthan to Punjab, cracked 297 runs in just four matches of the U-19 Challenger Trophy at 99 with four fifties.

Not far behind him was Mumbai's Musheer Khan, another promising talent in this Indian side who raked up 268 runs at 89.33 with one century and two fifties in the domestic tournament.

Among bowlers, each of Aaradhya Shukla, Pandey and Kulkarni were among the top wicket-takers in the U-19 Challenger Trophy before the Indian team made its way to South

Africa.

The team's form also favours India with this bunch winning each of their four matches in the U-19 tri-nation series in South Africa. The final against the hosts was washed out.

But India will also guard against complacency against Bangladesh having lost the U-19 Asia Cup semifinal in a largely one-sided contest in December. The team defeated Australia in its final warm-up game.

Squads: India: Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh, Rudra Mayur Patel, Sachin Dhas, Priyanshu Moliya, Musheer Khan, Uday Saharan (C), Aravelly Avanish Rao (wk), Saumy Kumar Pandey (vc), Murugan Abhishek, Inness Mahajan (wk), Dhanush Gowda, Aaradhya Shukla, Raj Limbani, Naman Tiwari.

Bangladesh: Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby (C), Ashiqur Rahman Shibli (wk), Jishan Alam, Ariful Islam, Mohammad Shihab James, Ahrar Amin (vc), Shiekh Parvez Jibon, Wasi Siddiquee, Maruf Mridha, Chowdhury Md Rizwan, Adil Bin Siddik, Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, Md Rafi Uz-zaman Rafi, Rohanat Doullah Borson, Iqbal Hossain Emon.

IND vs ENG: Rehan Ahmed ready for challenge in India Test series, says 'have accepted it's going to be hard'

Rehan Ahmed said that he is ready to return to Test cricket when England lock horns with India in the five-match Test series from Thursday, January 25.

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 (Agencies): England spinner Rehan Ahmed said that he understood the challenges of playing Test cricket on Indian soil. Starting Thursday, January 25 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, England and India are set to lock horns in a five-match series.

Back in December 2022, Rehan made his Test debut against Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi. He picked up seven wickets in that game, including a five-wicket haul, but hasn't played a Test match since then.

After missing all the Tests that England played in 2023, Rehan made his return to the national team. He is one of the four spinners for the visiting team on

the tour of India, along with Shoib Bashir, Tom Hartley and Jack Leach. "I've accepted it's going to be hard. I'll try my best. That's all I can control. I'm just looking forward to playing Test cricket again. The least I could do is make sure I'm fully ready for whatever I can be for England," Rehan was quoted as saying to The Telegraph.

"There's a lot of time for IPL and stuff if I get the chance again, and if I don't get the chance to do it, I'm fine with that as well. I spoke to a couple of people - if you want a long career, you don't want to burn out too soon. Just being ready for England is my main priority," he stated.

Rehan Ahmed inspired by Shane Warne's flippers



Rehan also said that he would look to bowl flippers after taking inspiration from the legendary Shane Warne.

"I don't like focusing on new things while in competition - I keep it as simple as I can. But I'm sure when I have two or three weeks off I can put my head down and work on something special. I think the flipper's a nice ball to have, especially in T20 cricket - even Test cricket, the way it's going right now. Flip-

per's a nice ball to have, seeing Warne the way he used to bowl it as well, the way he used to set batsmen up," Rehan added.

Rehan has 24 wickets in first-class cricket from 13 matches at an economy rate of 3.73 with two five-wicket hauls to his name.

Apart from bowling leg-breaks, Rehan is also handy with the bat, having scored one century and four half-centuries.

Australian Open 2024: 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva into 4th round after sensational comeback, Tsitsipas rolls on

MELBOURNE, Jan 19 (Agencies): 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva produced the mother of all comebacks on Friday in Melbourne as she rallied back from 1-5 down in the deciding set of her women's singles match to down Dianne Parry at Australian Open 2024. With the victory, Mirra became only the fourth player in the last 30 years to reach the women's singles fourth round before turning 17 at both Wimbledon and the Australian Open after Martina Hingis, Tatiana Golovin, and Coco Gauff, according to Opta Ace.

Mirra Andreeva, the Russian prodigy faced a daunting 1-5 deficit in the deciding set against French player Diane Parry. With her back against the wall and facing a match point, Andreeva's resilience shone through as she clawed her way back into the match with an extraordinary display of skill and mental fer-



titude.

She reeled off consecutive games, showcasing a series of backhand winners and forcing errors from her opponent to eventually triumph in a nail-biting match tiebreaker, sealing the victory with a scoreline of 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10-5). This remarkable turnaround not only propelled her into the fourth round but also solidified her reputation as one of the tour's most exciting young talents.

Andreeva was hard on herself when things were not going her way as used it to fuel her incredible comeback on Friday.

TSITSIPAS SETS UP FRITZ CLASH

Earlier in the tournament, Andreeva had already made waves by securing her first top-10 win over sixth seed Ons Jabeur. Displaying a level of play beyond her years, she dominated the match, dispatching Jabeur in straight sets with a score of 6-0, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Greek tennis sensation Stefanos Tsitsipas continued his impressive run at the Australian Open 2024 with a commanding third-round win. The No. 7 seed effortlessly dispatched his opponent, World No. 79, Luca Van Assche in straight sets,

6-3, 6-0, 6-4, showcasing his exceptional talent and reinforcing his status as one of the top contenders for the title.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, who reached the final of the Australian Open last year, will take on 12th seed Taylor Fritz in the fourth round. Fritz came up with a hard-working win over unseeded Fabian Marozsan 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 to continue his impressive run in Melbourne.

"I had a great start to the match. I am happy with today's performance. Things worked out for me pretty nicely at moments that I needed it the most," Tsitsipas said.

Unlike Thursday, top seeds got the job done at the Australian Open on Friday as Aryna Sabalenka, the defending champion, double bagged her opponent, Lesia Tsurenko, to reach the fourth round. Coco Gauff also secured a straightforward win to reach the second week.

Apni Party leaders call on JDA VC Bhawani Rakwal



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Apni Party leaders today called on Jammu Development Authority (JDA) Vice Chairman, Bhawani Rakwal and discussed various issues. As per a press release, the Apni Party lead-

ers led by State General Secretary, Youth Wing, and Spokesperson, Abhaya Bakaya, and Provincial Vice President, Youth Wing, Joginder Singh. During their meeting with the JDA Vice Chairman, Abhay informed

him about the problems of shop owners at Bahu Plaza and other related issues of JDA colonies that affect the people. After hearing them patiently, the Bhawani Rakwal assured that he would look into the issues and would resolve them.

ASER report alarming situation for country education system: Dr. Preeti Bhagat



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Social activist Dr. Preeti Bhagat has expressed concern over the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and has raised demands from the government to improve the education system in the country. She said that at this time in the country, instead of Amrit Kaal, there is the greatest need for Shiksha Kaal. She said that this report has made a shocking revelation. According to the report, 56.7 percent of students aged 14 to 18

years in rural India cannot solve third grade mathematics. 26.5 percent of students in this age group still cannot read second grade level text fluently in their regional language. 25 percent of youth in the age group of 17 to 18 years have stopped education due to 'lack of interest'. The report also says that more than half of the children are not able to solve 3-digit quotient problems properly. Only 43.3 percent children of this age group are able to solve such problems correctly. These questions are usually for children of third and fourth class. She said that if 14-18 year old children cannot read even a second class book fluently and cannot do third or fourth class arithmetic problems, then it is not very difficult to estimate the status of education. She said that the government should take this report seriously and take serious steps to improve the level of education.

JKNHMEA delegation calls on NHM Mission Director, demand resolution of problems



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: A delegation of All Jammu and Kashmir NHM Employees Association (JKNHMEA) met newly appointed Mission Director National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu Nazim Zai Khan on Friday.

The delegation discussed long pending issues confronting the employees.

The delegation included Dr. Raman, Secretary of the All India NHM Employees Association; Dr. Nazir Hussain, MO, District President of NHM Employees Kishtwar; Rohit Seth, Vice President of the All India NHM Employees Association; Dheeraj Singh, District President of Kathua; Surinder Khajuria, District President of Jammu; Mohd Amir Iltto, District President of Ramban; Rajesh Parkash, District President of Samba; Pandeep Singh, Vice President of Ramban; Imtiyaz Ahmed, Vice Block President of Banihal; Nasir Ahmed, Block President of Banihal; Mohd Azam of Reasi; Reetesh Singh, District Vice President of Samba; and Vijay Kumar, Block President of Bishnah. The delegates wel-

comed the director in his new role and expressed hope for positive engagement on the pressing issues faced by NHM employees, a release said.

"Timely disbursement of salaries, wage parity and regularization, classification of 'Hard to Reach' areas for additional incentives and improved leave benefits were among the key issues that were raised," said Dr. Raman. He added, "We are hopeful that under new director, these long pending concerns will finally be addressed."

The release said that Dr. Nazir Hussain, MO echoed the delegation's optimism, saying, "We see the new Mission Director's proactive approach as a positive sign. We are confident that his leadership will translate into concrete improvements for NHM employees in Jammu and Kashmir."

The delegation emphasized the crucial role of NHM employees in healthcare delivery and urged for their regularization as regular government employees with salaries equivalent to their counterparts in other departments. They highlighted the significant disparity in wages between NHM

staff in Jammu and Kashmir compared to other states like Delhi and Haryana and called for equal pay for equal work, timely disbursement of Salaries, leave benefits on par with other states and clarification on the Employee Provident Fund (EPF) deductions from their salaries with no clear communication of account details or deposit confirmation, transfer Policy and provision of Allowances, Sunday and Holiday Duty etc.

The delegation expressed their anxiety about the long-term uncertainty surrounding their job security and future prospects, release said adding that the current hard-to-reach area incentive scheme for Primary Health Centers (PHCs), Health and Wellness Centers, and Sub Centers be made applicable to NHM employees.

They further emphasized the plight of MLHPs (Mid-Level Health Providers) and CHOs (Community Health Officers) working in health and wellness centers.

The delegation expressed hope that the department will bring about positive changes for NHM employees in Jammu and Kashmir, release further added.

Bhadrakashi Darshan Calendar 2024 released



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: The Bhadrakashi Darshan Calendar 2024 (Third edition) was released at Bhadarwah and Jammu simultaneously on Thursday.

According to a press note, in Bhadarwah, the calendar was released by CEO Bhadarwah Development Authority (BDA) Bal Krishan in presence of Dil Mir Choudhary (ADC) Additional District Bhadarwah, Sameer (2IC 4th Battalion based at Bhadarwah), Ramneek Singh Manhas (Founder Bhadrakashi FPO), Ravi Thakur (Chairman ABTA) Chandrabhaga, founder of social active stand in coordination with Rajat Kotwal (Social activist and

Founder Chandrabhaga Helping Hands).

At Jammu, the same calendar was released by Swami Vishwanathan (Senior Parachar Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) accompanied by Abhay Pargal Gupta (National Joint Secretary Saksham), Satish Singh Manhas (J&K columnist multiple leading newspapers of J&K and promoter of culture and language and IBS team, press note said.

It further added that the calendar was designed by a US based IT engineer Virender Thakur founder of International Bhadarwah Society (IBS) along with his digital crew, Engineer Sanjeet Rakwal (Sr. Advisor), Administrators including Mohit

Kumar, Harshita Thakur, Seema Sharma, Arun Thakur(IT) and Ashish Kumar(engineer).

Abhay Pargal (National Joint Secretary Saksham) on this occasion said that the Bhadrakashi Darshan Calendar 2024 (Third edition) would highlight culture of Bhadarwah, tradition and language.

"The Rajma of Bhadarwah and literature will look up to it. This calendar is not only promoting the culture but also the tourism of Bhadarwah," Pargal said and added, "Because the job of tourism is to promote culture and traditions, through this calendar, we will bring the Nag culture, tradition and language of Bhadarwah to national and international level".

Shiv Saniks seek to declare public holiday on Jan 22



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit today sang in the praises of Ramnaam along with the local people at the Shiv Mandir in Lower Roop Nagar.

Along with this, State Chief Manish has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to issue instructions for one day public holiday and complete closure

of meat and liquor shops on January 22 on the consecration ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya.

Party state chief Manish Sahni said that the central government has announced only half-day leave for its employees.

He said that this auspicious opportunity has come after waiting for hundreds of years. Devotees of Lord Shri Ram want to remain in Rammay the whole day.

Haq Insaaf Council commemorates 10th Foundation Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 19: Haq Insaaf Council commemorated its 10th Foundation Day at Press Club here, with a resounding commitment to advancing the cause of Right and Justice in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.

The event brought together eminent personalities, including Chief Guest Mohd Aijaz Asad, Administrative Secretary, and distinguished speakers such as Veteran Journalist Pardeep Dutta, Advocate Parvez Nazir (High Court Srinagar), Prof Shujaat Khan, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Advocate Dinesh Sharma, and Advocate Adil Bhat



and others.

The program commenced with a two-minute silence in remembrance of victims caught in the cycle of violence, including security forces personnel and Kashmiris who endured exodus.

Mohd Aijaz Asad acknowledged and

appreciated the relentless efforts of Haq Insaaf Council over the past decade.

He congratulated the organization on its successful journey and emphasized the importance of National Integration, Communal Harmony, and Coexistence in the Union Territory.

Each speaker delved into the critical topics of National Integration, Communal Harmony, and Coexistence, emphasizing the need for fostering unity and understanding in the diverse cultural landscape of Jammu Kashmir.

Advocate Syed Zeshan, Chairman of Haq Insaaf Council, passionately pledged to channelize the energy of the youth, urging them to join the movement for Right and Justice. Choudhary Owais adeptly managed the proceedings as the stage secretary, ensuring the smooth flow of the event.

The program concluded

with Mohd Mashooq and Tahir Mustafa Malik delivering a heartfelt vote of thanks. As a symbolic step towards embracing the digital era, the dignitaries launched the official website of Haq Insaaf Council: www.haqinsaaf-council.in.

Delegates from across Jammu Kashmir, including Aamir Malik, Aamir Mir, Sohail Ahmed Bhat, Naseeb Ahmed, Zahid Ahmed Lone, Javed Aziz, Shahid Gul, Zahid Ahmed Rather, Ishrat Ayoub, Touseef Ahmed, Shifait Shah, Bashrat Hussain, Sawal, Kamran Ali, Advocate Zaheer Khan, and others, enriched the event with their presence.

Security beefed in Kulgam ahead of Republic Day



Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 19: Ahead of the Republic Day celebrations, security has been beefed up across South Kashmir's Kulgam district,

officials said on Friday.

Checkpoints have been erected in many places in Kulgam and frisking has been intensified. Security personnel are seen at many places stopping and checking the vehicles.

Kulgam police intensified search ahead of Republic Day on the direction of SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal from last few days, the process of searches have been going on various places including Mirbazar.

The Republic day functions will be held in district headquarter of Kulgam on Jan 26.

Principal PTTI Vijaypur inaugurates training courses

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 19: Five days course on "Official working/Basic Computer" commenced at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur in which 33 Police personnel including NGOs of Police Headquarters are participating.

Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur inaugurated the course,

who while briefing the trainees told that in pursuance to the directions received from Police Headquarters, this five days Basic Computer course has been designed with a motive to familiarize police personnel with official working and to refresh them with basic knowledge of computers in order to sharpen their skills and increase working capabilities.

Besides this, Principal

also inaugurated six weeks "Disaster Management Course" in which police personnel of various units of Police Department are participating.

While briefing the trainees, Principal told that earlier the duration of this course was of 05 weeks which from the instant course has been increased by one more week by Police Headquarters on the request put forth by this



Institution with a motive to enhance the capabilities of trainees by exploring them to make use of latest gadgets and machinery.

He laid stress on the emerging challenges and emphasized to adopt professionalism and innovative methods in rescue operations during natural calamities, accidents and other untoward incidents.

Among others Zia-Ul-Haq Dy.SP (Outdoor), Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Admn.), Surinder paul, Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech.), Asif Iqbal, Sr.PO, Inspr. Surinder Singh (CDI), Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra, Inspr. Ram Lal (CLI), Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta (CTI), SI Veer Ji Bazaz, SI Susheel Sharma and others were present on these occasions.