

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Injured in road accident, Bandipora youth succumbs

BANDIPORA, Jan 24 (Agencies): A 26-year-old youth, who was injured in a road accident at Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district, succumbed to his injuries after three months on Wednesday morning. An official said that the youth sustained injuries in a road accident when a speeding tipper collided with the motorcycle he was riding, leaving him in critical condition. "He was undergoing treatment at SKIMS Soura for over a month, and this morning, he succumbed to his injuries at home," the official added. The official identified the deceased as Ashiq Hussain Raina Son of Mehraj-u-din Raina a resident of Gundpora Bandipora. The official also said that a case under relevant sections of laws was already registered in this regard.

Drug peddler held in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered: Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested drug peddler in North Kashmir's Baramulla district and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A Spokesperson said that a police party of Police Station Uri headed by SHO PS Uri at a checkpoint established at Dani Syedan Uri, intercepted one person. During his search, 9.46 Kgs of contraband Cannabis Powder like substances was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Noor Hussain Shah son of Mehboob Shah resident of Choolan Kalsan Uri. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Uri where he remained in custody.

"Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station Uri and investigations have been initiated", he said.

Republic Day parade dress rehearsals held across Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Full dress rehearsals of the Republic Day parade were held across Kashmir, including at Bakshi Stadium — where the main function will be held — on Wednesday, officials said.

Full dress rehearsals were held at the district headquarters across the Valley, they said.

The rehearsal for the main function at Bakshi Stadium was presided over by Divisional Commissioner (Kashmir) VK Bidhuri. Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Range) VK Birdi was also present, they added.

The deputy commissioners presided over



the full dress rehearsals at their respective district headquarters, the officials said.

Stringent security arrangements were put in place for the rehearsal, with Bakshi Stadium enveloped by a multi-tier security apparatus, they added.

Divisional Commissioner Bidhuri appealed to the public to partici-

pate in the celebrations and said, "People have worked very hard for this function and we request everyone to join." Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the rehearsal, Valley police chief Birdi said security arrangements are in place in Srinagar and other districts.

"The police are coordinating with other forces

also. The security grid is vigilant and active," he said.

While the security arrangement is stringent, directions have been passed to the security forces so that the general public does not face any inconvenience in joining the celebrations, he said.

Asked if there would be any restrictions, including on mobile Internet, the Valley's police chief said, "I don't think there would be such kind of situation." "Since it is January 26, everyone is invited and they can come freely to take part in the celebrations," he added.

To a question on any specific input about

■ Turn to page 9

Senior Army Officer visits forward areas in J&K, reviews operational preparedness



SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): A senior army officer visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez sector of Jammu and Kashmir to review the preparedness of the counter-infiltration grid ahead of Republic Day, officials said here on Wednesday.

General officer Com-

manding of the Army's 15 Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai visited the forward areas in Gurez sector of Bandipora district on Tuesday to review counter-infiltration grid and operational preparedness, they said.

Security officials are concerned over the possibility of infiltration of terrorists into the valley

due to lack of adequate snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir this winter.

The mountain passes along the LoC usually are blocked during the winter months due to heavy snowfall, reducing the chances of infiltration of terrorists. However, dry winter has prompted the counter-infiltration grid to step up the vigil along the LoC.

Lt Gen Ghai, during his interaction with the troops, exhorted them to remain "in a high state of operational readiness" in extreme weather conditions and terrain.

Director General of Police R R Swain on Tuesday said cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir remains a

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Security measures well in place in Srinagar, Elsewhere ahead of Republic Day: IGP Kashmir



SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone VK Birdi Wednesday said that security measures are

well in place in Srinagar and other districts of Kashmir region ahead of Republic Day celebrations.

He said Jammu and

Kashmir Police and other security agencies are well-coordinated to each other to ensure smooth conduct of Jan 26 celebrations.

Talking reporters at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar, IGP Kashmir said police have coordinated with other forces well for smooth Republic Day function in Srinagar and other districts as well. He said entire security grid is vigilant while well security arrangements

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Farooq, Omar leave for Saudi Arabia for Umrah

JAMMU, Jan 24 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, both former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, have departed for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, also known as the "minor Hajj".

Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, posted a



picture of his father with him in a flight on various social media platforms.

"O Allah, I intend to perform Umrah, so make it

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After long dry spell, Weatherman predicts snowfall in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Even as intense dry cold gripped Kashmir and Jammu recorded below normal temperatures on Wednesday, the MeT department said that the long dry spell was likely to end by this weekend.

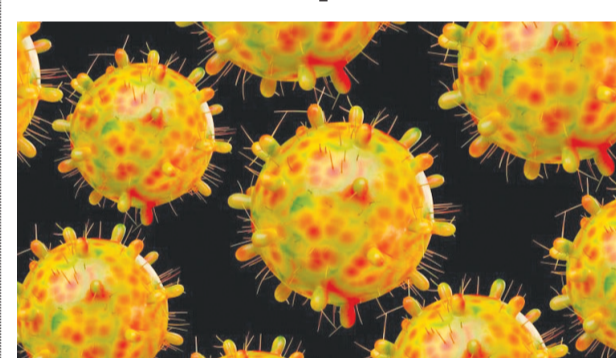
The Meteorological (Met) department has forecast snow/rain in plains as well as in the higher reaches between January 26 to February 1.

"After the long unbroken dry spell, there is some good news round the corner. Snowfall is expected in Kashmir between January 26 to February 1.

"Between January 28 and 29, light to moderate snowfall in lower, middle and higher reaches is likely to occur at many places while light to moderate snowfall is likely at widespread places between January 30 and 31", a MeT

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India records 160 fresh Covid Cases, Two deaths in 24 Hours



NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): India has logged 160 fresh cases of Covid, while the number of active cases of the infection stood at 1,886, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

Two new deaths — one each from Karnataka and Kerala — have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till Decem-

ber 5, 2023 but they again began to increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

A single day rise of 841 new cases were 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, a large majority of these (around 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation.

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ACB arrests SDH Sopore official in bribery case

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Branch on Wednesday said it arrested an official of sub district hospital Sopore for demanding and accepting bribe for issuing a birth certificate.

An official said that ACB arrested one Mehraj U Din Wani while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. 3,600 from one Farooq Ahmad Misger.

He said that Misger approached Wani to get birth certificate issued for his daughter, and Wani taking advantage of his position demanded the

■ Turn to page 9

24 trains, several flights delayed due to dense fog in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): The movement of flights and passenger trains to and

from the National Capital continued to remain affected on Tuesday due to fog and adverse

weather conditions.

Delhi airport is experiencing heavy delays in flight operations due to dense fog and bad weather. 22 international departures are delayed, 20 international arrivals delayed, 31 domestic arrivals, and 46 domestic departures, said an official from Airport Delhi

Around 24 long-distance trains to Delhi were also running

behind schedule by up to five hours or more due to fog. The Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (22823) is delayed by 6 hours and 30 minutes, according to Indian Railway.

The Puri-New Delhi Purushottam Express (12801), Rewa-Anand Vihar Express (12427), and Azamgarh-Delhi Jn Kaifiat Express (12225) are all delayed by over

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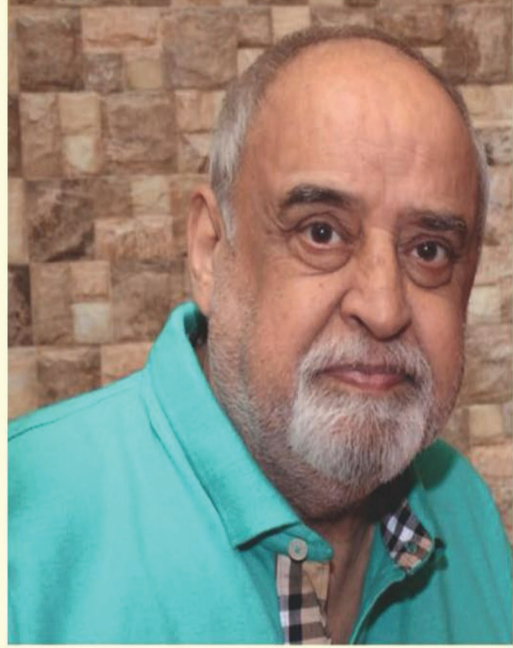
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Contact Person Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

9419143503

CHOUBARSI



Sh. Purshottam Kumar Pandoh
Former Executive Engineer (Mechanical)

Choubarisi of our beloved **Sh. Parshotam Kumar Pandoh S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath Pandoh** will be performed on **Friday, 26th January 2024 at 12.00 noon at 3-Aikta Ashram, New Rehari, Jammu.**
Followed by Preeti Bhoj (Lunch)

Deeply Remembered by:

Vijay Pandoh (Wife)

Brother & Sister in Law

Santosh & K.K Pandoh

Son & Daughter in Law

Bhawna & Yogesh Pandoh

Deepika & Kartavya Bharti Pandoh

Daughter & Son in Law

Monika & Rajesh Gandotra

Sonika & Atul Khullar

Bhawna & Samir Sharma

Shivani & Atin Gupta

Brother in Law

Sh. Bodh Raj Verma

Brother in Law & Sister in Law

Usha & Bhagwan Das Gandotra

Nandesh & Ram Pal Gandotra

Grand Daughter & Son in Law

Atisha & Paras Gupta

Grand Children

Vanshika, Anadika & Shivaansh

All Nears & Dears

DEE DEE REPROGRAPHIX

M: 9419181240, 941912518

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansilal Koul S/o Late Tika Lal Koul R/o Motiyar, Rainawari, Srinagar at present House No 19, Lane No 11, Gurha Keran, Barnai, Bantalab, Jammu.**

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnour Ghat on 27th, January 2024 and the Assembly shall be held at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 10:30 A.M

GRIEF STRICKEN

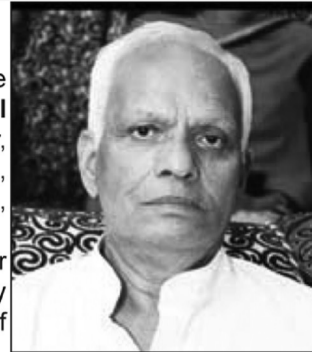
Sons & Daughters in Law-

Deepak Koul & Sunita Koul

Vinod Koul & Vandana Koul

Grand Children : Sheen, Shireen, Shehjar

Ph- 7387013931, 9766405511, 9596898988



Sh. Bansilal Koul

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. J S Malhotra (Retd. Principal KVS and treasurer TVRWA Sidhra)** who left for heavenly abode on 17th Jan 2024.

ANTIM ARDAS and **KIRTAN** will be held at Gurudwara Kalgidhar, Rehari Chungi, Jammu from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on 25-01-2024 (Thursday).

IN GRIEF

Jasbir Kour (Wife)

S. Jasmeet Singh (Brother)

S. Jaydeep Singh & Srd Amanjot Kaur (Son & Daughter in law)

Srd Karminder Kour & Pranav Bali (Daughter & Son in law)

Manchet & Sehraj (Grand Children)

Ph: +91 6005002116, +91 9018045854



DR. J S MALHOTRA
(Retd. Principal KVS and Treasurer TVRWA Sidhra)

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Harsh Vardhan Sharma (Bathoo) S/O Lt. Sh. Om Prakash Sharma originally from Tangewali Gali (Kachi Chawni) at present R/O H. No-3, Lane -1, Poonch Lines Akhnour Road, Opposite Last Pillar of Muthi Flyover Near Indian Cake House, Udheywala Link Road Jammu on 15th January 2024.**

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence on **24-01-2024 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM.**

KRIYA will be performed at our residence on **25-01-2024 (Thursday) at 12 Noon.**

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Son & Daughter-in-Law

Sh. Aditya & Smt. Ruchi Sharma

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Smt. Shivangi & Sh. Munish Dogra

Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Shakti W/o Lt. Sh. Arun Sharma

Sisters & Brother-in-Law

Smt. Kusum W/o Lt. Sh. M. C Sharma

Smt. Madhu & Sh. Ashok Avasthi

Smt. Suman & Sh. Tilak Raj Khajuria

Smt. Juhi & Sh. Anil Sharma



SH. HARSH VARDHAN SHARMA
(Bathoo)

Brother-in-Law & Sister-in-Law

Sh. Tardeep & Smt. Shyama Dharmat

Sh. Umesh & Smt. Ritu Dharmat

Grand Children

Akshat, Aayushi, Anandi

Contact Nos. 91030-99199, 78895-48566

MASWAR & VAHARWAR

A year has passed since you departed from our midst, a fact that still seems unreal as your memories remain vivid and your presence is felt in all aspects of our lives. We pray to God, to grant eternal peace and Sadgati to your pious and Noble Soul.

We are Commemorating **Maswar and Vaharwar** of our Beloved Mother **Smt Sheela Chakoo** on 24th and 25th January at our Bohri Residence.

Fondly Remembered by:

Veena Raina & Kuldeep Raina- Daughter and Son-in-Law

Ramesh & Manju, Anil & Neena- Son's and Daughter in Law

Grand Children: Mona & Amit, Aman, Nitin, Ritesh and Shreya



Smt Sheela Chakoo

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound sorrow and grief, we inform the sad demise of our dear and beloved **Pushpa Devi Ji (Pabi)** wife of Late Sub. Sansar Singh who passed away on 14th Jan 24

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 23rd Jan (12:30 pm)

13th Day will be performed on 26th Jan (10 am onwards) at our residence C-99 Shiv Nagar, Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Multan Singh - Shushila Kumari

Shamsher Singh - Manisha

Col. S.S.Manhas - Saroj

Smt. Rani Jamwal (W/O Late Sh. Chander Mohan Singh Jamwal)

Grandchildren:

Rajinder and Shweta

Ankush and Deepti

Dr. Sindhu and Dr. Vandana

Er. Shishu and Kirti

Manish and Shilpa

Manu and Prince

Ishaan, Ishita, Artham



Pushpa Devi Ji (Pabi)

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Jamwal Ji** (Chairperson of Ranjeet Memorial High School) W/o Late Sh. Jagdish Singh Jamwal ji D/o Capt. Diwan Singh ji, Daughter in Law of Late Thakur Haqiqat Singh Jamwal ji R/o Peeli Kothi Ward No. 65 Suramgarh Barnai.

Kriya will be performed on (Tuesday) 23-01-2024 at 12.00 noon & **Preeti Bhoj** 1.30 pm,

Rasam Pagri will be performed on (Friday) 26-01-2024 & **Preeti Bhoj** 1.00 pm at our residence Peeli Kothi Barnai, Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Mr. & Mrs. Bhupinder Singh Jamwal and Family

Mr. & Mrs. Davinder Singh Jamwal and Family

Mr. & Mrs. Narinder Singh Jamwal and Family

Mrs. Sudershan Wazir and Family

Mrs. Usha Wazir and Family

Mrs. Pinky Jamwal and Family

Mrs. Subhagya Singh and Family

Ph Nos 9906274972, 9419200321



Smt. Krishna Jamwal Ji
(Chairperson of Ranjeet Memorial High School)

TENTH DAY KRIYA-VENUE CHANGE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Rattan Rani Aima W/o Late Pt. Kashi Nath Aima** on 17th January 2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Bhadrakali Mandir (Gath) Thalwal, 4th Tawi Bridge Road Shanti Prayers will be held at 1-A/B Gandhi Nagar at 3 PM - 4 PM on 26th January 2024.

Grief Stricken

Aima's, Munshi's, Kitroo's, Shishoo's,

Mucku's, Koul's, Dhar's, Sapru's, Singla's

Mobile No. 9810236864, 9070990000, 9419204457

9419109823, 9419193649



Smt Rattan Rani Aima

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Sh Omkar Nath S/o Bal Jee** originally resident of Doonigund, Noorpora Tral A/P Flat 24, Block-133, Lane-21, Jagti Township Nagrota on 22nd January 2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 30-01-2024 near TRT Nagrota. Assembly will be held at residence.

Grief Stricken

Smt Pyari Sharma -Wife

Sh & Smt Rakesh Sharma -Son & Daughter-in-law

Sh & Smt Soni Bhat -Daughter & Son-in-law

Sh & Smt Sheetu Raina -Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Rani Pandita -Sister-in-law

Smt Veena Jee -Sister-in-law

Sh & Smt Sanjay Pandita

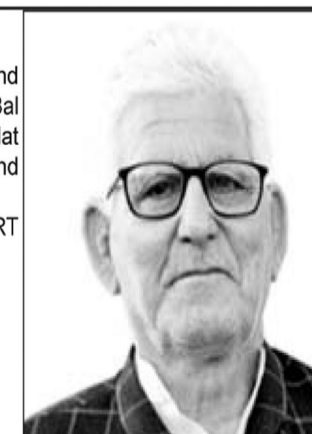
Sh & Smt Ramesh Pandita

Sh & Smt Ravi Sharma

Sh & Smt Rajni Bhat

Sh & Smt Minu Sharma

Sh & Smt Shivani Mattoo



Sh Omkar Nath

Samast Sharma Parivar
Mob. 7006538252, 9596692271,
9858120509, 9796545666

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt Jaikishori Bhat (Kishni Ji)** W/o Late Sh. Kashi Nath Bhat R/o Sheenwani Colony Baramulla A/P H. No 6, Shiv Vihar I.M.S Road, Gurah Bhamra Patoli Jammu on 18-01-2024. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Akhnour Ghat on 27-01-2024 at 9:30 AM and Assembly will be held at our residence at 11.00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW

Sh. Ramesh Kumar Bhat & Smt Bimla Ji

Sh. Daleep Kumar Bhat & Smt Jaya Bhat

Grand Children

Mrs & Mr. Sumit Bhat

Mr Rohit Bhat

Mrs & Mr Vishal Bhat

Mrs & Mr Akshay Bhat

& Smtast Bhat Parivar

Mobile No: 9469478231, 9419908962, 9596804779



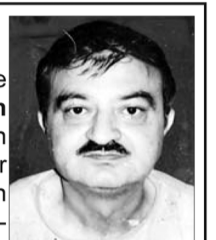
SMT JAIKISHORI BHAT
(KISHNI JI)

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ashok Kumar Bakshi S/o Pran Nath Bakshi R/o H No. 33 Kabir Nagar Poonch House** on 16th Jan 2024. The **10th Day** will be performed at Haridwar on 25 Jan 2024.

GRIEF :

BAKSHI, GANJOO, RAINAS



Sh Ashok Kumar Bakshi

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Narinder Singh Jammwal (Kuku) S/o Late Sh. B.S Jammwal of Village Bansi Jammwal (Jandi) Tehsil Hiranagar Distt Kathua.** **10TH DAY** will be performed on 22-01-2024 (Monday) **Kriya** will be performed on 25-01-2024 (Thursday)

GRIEF STRICKEN

Neelam Jammwal- Wife

Son & Daughter in Law

Navdeep Jammwal and Shilpa Jasrotia

Daughter & Son in Law

(Timmy) Jasmine & Sh. Joginder Singh Sambyal

Brothers & Bhabies

Surinder Singh Jammwal & Anita Jammwal

Manjeet Singh Jammwal & Prem Lata Jammwal

Sister & Brother in Law

Shashi & Late Sh. R.S Baloria

Reva & Late Sh. Jaipal Singh Baloria

Ranju & Sh. Kavinder Singh Sambyal

MOBILE NO: 8451849519, 9419796552



LATE SH. NARINDER SINGH JAMWAL (KUKU)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Harday Nath Bhat S/o Lt. Dr. Maheshwar Nath Bhat of Hari Pari Gam, Tral** presently at 17B, 1/C, Trikuta Nagar Extension, Marble Market, Near Divine Health Clinic, Jammu, on 17-01-2024.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 26-01-2024 at Akhnour Ghat. The Assembly will be at Muthi Ghat, Near Director School Education Jammu at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Santosh Bhat - Wife

Smt. Deepi & Salish Bhat - Daughter-in-law & Son

Sh. Umesh Bhat - Son

Smt. Kishni Bhat, Pyari - Aunty

Smt. Sushma & Sh. B.L. Bhat - Bhabhi & Brother

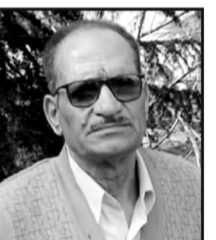
Smt. Rashmi & Sh. P.N. Bhat - Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Sarla Ji & Sh. T.K. Bhat - Bhabhi & Brother

Smt. Reena Ji & Sh. M.K. Bhat - Bhabhi & Brother

Samast Tulchi, Dhar, Pandita, Raina, Bhat, Koul Families

941922944, 9419122636, 9419136307, 7875090567



SH. HARDAY NATH BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA

The **Tenth Day Kriya** of our beloved Mother **Smt. Madan Mohini Bhat (Babi Ji)** W/o Late Shri. Madhu Suchan Bhat R/o Wachi Shopian Kashmir, presently at 6/1 South Patel Nagar, New Delhi will be performed on 26th January 2024 at Shree Gauri Shankar Mandir, New Palam Vihar.

The Assembly will be at 12.00 Noon at our residence Patel Nagar, New Delhi. The venue previously decided has been changed because of Republic Day traffic restrictions.

Our beloved mother was the epitome of love and inspiration for all of us.

Vaikunthas manz aisenus jay.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:

Sons and Daughter-in-laws

Ashok Kumar & Veena Bhat

Ramesh Kumar & Usha Bhat

Virender & Shashi Bhat

Daughter & Son in Law

Reeta Raina & R.N Raina

Samast Bhat & Raina Parivar

Phone No. 9999287544, 8095639064, 93156481

BRO Chief Lt Gen Srinivasan calls on Dr. Jitendra

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 24 : Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Chief, Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan today called on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and briefed him about the Chattergala tunnel project as well as the other upcoming Road & Bridge projects in the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency.

Dr Jitendra lauded the BRO for undertaking and completing a maximum number of projects in his Lok Sabha constituency including a number of difficult road and bridge projects in the last nine and a half years on the request of public representatives or demand of the public. For the first time, the BRO had accomplished road connectivity up to the Zero Line on the International Border (IB), he said.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Chief, Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan today called on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and briefed him about the Chattergala tunnel project as well as the other upcoming Road & Bridge projects in the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency.

Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency had witnessed unprecedented progress in road and bridge construction in the last over nine years, the notable among them being the Atal Setu at Basohli, Keediyar Gadyal and Juthana bridges in Kathua, Devika Bridge at Udhampur, new National Highway from Khilani-Marmat in Doda to Sudhmahadev, Kaljugar tunnel etc.

Over one year back, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled, seven BRO bridges were e-inaugurated by



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Kathua district alone in one-go which included Jantriya, Konyali-I, Konyali-II, Chenab Badi, Pakka Kotha, Challa Nallah and Benadi. Of these, the Benadi bridge had been constructed in just 90 days which is a record in itself, he said.

About the proposed Chattergala tunnel, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he had been pursuing the project for a long time but because of financial, topographical and other constraints including the Covid, it had got delayed. This vital tunnel, he said, will connect district Kathua with district Doda enroute the new Highway via Basohli-Bani through Chattergala to touch Bhaderwah and Doda.

This is a historic landmark project providing all-weather alternate road connectivity between the two distant regions and reducing the travel time from Doda to Lakhampur to just around four hours, he said.

Chattergala Project envisages a 6.8 Km long tunnel for which the Feasibility Survey has already been conducted by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and an exercise was undertaken by BEACONS which is an agency under BRO. The

tunnel is likely to take about 4 years for completion after the execution work starts and its construction cost is around Rs. 3,000 to Rs 3,500 crore.

The Minister was briefed that the BRO has undertaken the work of Road Sarthal - Chattergala for development from single lane to double lane, including construction of 16 bridges. Out of a total of 165.85 Km of road, about 137 km has been black topped to NHDL specification. The work on the balance 28 Km road to Chattergala is under fast pace of progress by BRO. Construction of this road will unlock the tourism potential of the area, including the remote sector of Sarthal, Chattergala and Guridanda. In effect, tourism has increased manifold in the region due to persistent efforts of BRO in keeping the roads maintained to the highest standards and with the deployment of modern snow clearance equipment.

Since the BRO was facing some constraints of funds, Dr Jitendra Singh had also met the Union MoRTH Minister, Nitin Gadkari and requested for financial support to BRO through Bharatmala or any other appropriate channel from the MoRTH. Gadkari's response was posi-

tive and he issued instructions to work out how best this could be done, he added.

Dr Jitendra impressed upon the BRO Chief Lt Gen Srinivasan to expedite the Chattergala project as fast as possible. He said, Chattergala is going to be a revolutionary game changer, particularly for the districts Kathua and Doda. He said, this will not only generate revenue but also job generation. Moreover, the all-weather road connectivity will bring ease of business, shorten the travel time and also provide a unique opportunity for places like Bani and Bhaderwah to emerge as tourist destinations of national repute, he added.

Dr. Jitendra said, the demand for the tunnel at Chattergala had been pending for several years, but somehow not taken up by earlier governments because of their different priorities.

Dr Singh informed that while Benadi bridge had been constructed in just 90 days by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) which is a BRO record till date, the Pakka Kotha bridge, which is 181 metres long multi span bridge, had been built in 102 days. The BRO projects also included construction of Ramban bridge and Brihnon bridge.

The other BRO projects in this constituency include road from Bhagwa to Lal-Darman to Masal-Dushnan in district Doda, Chkramore-Maharajpur-Rajbagh-Haria Chak road in district Kathua and upgradation of Phatala to Jakhani road in district Udhampur. Gen Srinivasan also gave Dr. Jitendra Singh briefed about new BRO road and bridge projects coming up in this Lok Sabha constituency.

Several persons booked in Rajouri, Reasi for objectionable posts related to Ram Temple event

JAMMU, Jan 24 (Agencies): Several people in Rajouri and Reasi districts have been booked for allegedly posting "objectionable content" related to the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya on social media, police officials said.

Amid the consecration ceremony of Ram temple, some people have posted "sensitive content" on social media which has the potential to "disturb peaceful atmosphere" in Rajouri district, they said.

Police has viewed it seriously and registered a case for insulting religious feelings of a community against them, they

said.

In a similar case in Reasi, police registered another case against a person for allegedly posting "objectionable content" on social media, police said.

SSP Reasi Amit Gupta advised people to refrain from posting any objectionable content on social media that disturbs the peace and harmony in the area.

"All social media platforms are being watched and all posts and comments will be monitored. Strict action will be taken against a person who posts anything that is provocative and spreads hatred," SSP said.

Shopkeeper's Association Rehari Jammu elects new body



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Shopkeeper's Association Rehari Jammu on Friday elected body comprises of over 80 members with Dr. Satish Kenue as Chairman. Prem Sharma was elected as President,

Vishal Mahajan as General Secretary, Shiv Kumar as Senior Vice President, Rajinder Gupta, Pawan Balaria, Rajeev Kapoor and Harjinder Singh as Vice Presidents, Sunny Gupta and Sahil Sharma as Secretaries, Manik Gupta, Shammi

Kundal, Kapil, Anurag Gupta, Talvinder Singh, Kuldeep Sanyal and Hitesh Mahajan as Joint Secretaries, Nagashwar Narayan as Organizing Secretary, Vikas Gandotra and Bunty Kumar as Cashiers and Ashu Dutt and Puneet Chawla as Media Secretaries.

CCI delegation calls on Commissioner State Taxes Deptt, discusses issues of business community

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: A delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) led by its President Arun Gupta called on the Commissioner State Taxes Department P.K.Bhat, and apprised him about the various issues / problems being faced by the Business community which include enhancement of present limit of e-way bills from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 1 lac, goods shifted from go-downs/cold storage to the shops be treated at stock transfer and the GST reimbursement to the Industrial Units should be in a time bound manner.

Arun Gupta also requested the Commissioner State Taxes that the members who could not claim the reimbursement of GST from 2017 onwards due to some unavoidable circumstances should be given one last chance to apply for reimbursement claims and there should be no need to generate a fresh e-way bill if shifting of stock is mentioned on the bill as it is a technical points and needs to be understood.

Further he briefed the Commissioner State Taxes that some businessmen who were doing their business since VAT



regime by carrying the goods for delivery in other districts door to door are not allowed to carry on their business after the introduction of GST, these businessmen should be allowed to carry on their business with some specific guidelines. He also said that the scrap dealers who collect the scrap from door to door and are paying GST at the time of selling their goods should not be harassed unnecessarily. He also pointed out that there should be no penalty on technical fault and also take decision regarding e-way bill expiry with no penalty on humanitarian grounds.

Arun Gupta further briefed

the Commissioner State Taxes about restructuring of GST for Dhabas, Halwaies, Tea Stalls and Bakeries and requested him to reexamined the whole issue and consider charging of GST at 1% of their sales or charging of a lump-sum amount from these traders as was being charged before implementation of GST.

Arun Gupta further requested the Commissioner State Taxes to take up the matter with the Union Finance Minister for allowing opening of one time window as an amnesty for sending the information of e-invoices on the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) for the dealers

having annual turnover of Rs. 100 crore or more.

Arun Gupta also requested the Commissioner State Taxes to take up the issue with GST Council that if any seller does not file his return GST-1, the buyer does not get the input of that bill. This is a punishment to the honest taxpayers and this should not happen as he has a proper bill in this regard and a change in the law is required.

The Commissioner State Taxes assured the delegation that the issues raised by Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu are well taken and we will see that no innocent businessmen are harassed unnecessarily and the issues pertaining to the GST council shall be taken up with the concerned authorities for their early redressal.

He also said that the revenue collection in the shape of penalties is not our motto, we just want to educate the business community to work and pay the taxes honestly.

The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Manish Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.



Tele/FAX NO. = 01912578774
TRAFFIC POLICE



OFFICE CITY
JAMMU



EMAIL ID: ssptfrcjmu@jkpolice.gov.in
NO: TPO/JPA/RD/2023/1796-1810
Dated: 23-01-2023

TRAFFIC POLICE ADVISORY ON THE EVE OF REPUBLIC DAY-2024

The Republic Day celebrations will be held at M.A Stadium Jammu on 26th January-2024. The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir will take the salute at M.A Stadium and large number of VIPs/ Senior Officers/ guests/ spectators/ School Children were expected to witness the national festival. In order to ensure smooth movement of general public the general public especially the motorists are requested to follow the traffic police advisory as mentioned below:-

PARKING SLOTS FOR PASS HOLDERS

- All the pass holders shall enter to their respective parking slots issued to them by Civil Administration and get their vehicle parked accordingly in the allotted parking Slot.
- Car passes shall be pasted on the left side of front windscreen of the vehicles to get entry as per the allotted parking pass on first come first serve basis.
- No other parking slot /short cut approach towards the allotted parking slot shall be allowed to avoid last moment confusion.

PARADE PARTICIPANTS PARKING	CONTINGENTS / G.G.M. SCIENCE COLLEGE PARKINGS
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- All vehicles carrying parade contingents/Participants coming from Akhnoor and Talab Tillo side, will turn towards Commerce College, old University Lane and shall enter from the rear gate of Science College and park their vehicles near Boys Hostel GGM Science College.
- Other such vehicles coming from South side will take Dogra Chowk, Jewel Chowk take turn towards Commerce College, Old University lane and shall enter from the rear gate of Science College and park their vehicles Boys Hostel GGM Science College.
- Vehicles carrying parade contingents/ Participants coming from City North shall also be diverted via Maheshpora / Jewel towards Commerce College from where they shall be using Old Univ. Lane to reach Boys Hostel GGM Science College.

ARMY / VEHICLES CARRYING FAMILIES	PARA MILITARY AT OLD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS via CANAL ROAD
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- All army vehicles coming from Bikram Chowk (South side) shall adopt Tawi Bridge to reach Dogra Chowk-Jewel Chowk Science college road and shall park their vehicle inside old University campus in systematic manner.
- All Army / Para Military vehicles carrying families coming from Nagrota/Bantalab side shall be diverted from Shakuntala crossing towards Maheshpora Chowk, Bakshi Nagar Bazar, Bakshi Nagar Pulli, Canal Head. From Canal Head they will take immediate right turn towards rear gate of old University campus and shall park their vehicle inside old University campus.
- All Army Vehicles coming from Akhnoor side shall proceed towards Canal head from where they will take right turn toward rear gate of Old University Campus and shall park their vehicles in University campus.

ESCORT VEHICLES PARKING	1) PARKING AT DRY FRUIT MARKET JEWEL CHOWK 2) JDA PARKING AT JEWEL CROSSING
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- Escort vehicles accompanying protected persons will be parked at Dry Fruit Market and adjacent JDA Parking at Jewel crossing. All such escorts will detach at Dogra Chowk and will straight way go to the parking places.
- Escort vehicles coming from Canal Road, B.C Road or City North (North of River Tawi) shall peel off at Jewel Chowk and park their vehicles inside Dry fruit Market/JDA (Parking Jewel Chowk)
- All Protection/ Escort Vehicles/PSOs will be peeled off at Jewel Chowk/ Dogra Chowk and will not be allowed to proceed ahead.
- The PSOs/ drivers of the Escort vehicles shall remain available /present in their respective vehicles.

PARKING FOR GENERAL PUBLIC W/O PASSES	NEW JDA PARKING INDIRA CHOWK/WAREHOUSE/BIKRAM CHOWK
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- Light vehicles belonging to general public w/o car passes coming from City South intending to witness Republic Day Function will be allowed up to Bikram Chowk and get their vehicles parked at Ware House Bikram Chowk wherefrom they shall proceed on foot up to Venue.
- Light vehicles belonging to general public w/o car passes coming from City North intending to witness Republic day function will be allowed to park their vehicles in JDA Indira Chowk parking area.
- Light vehicles belonging to general public w/o car passes coming from Nagrota intending to witness Republic day function shall opt Panjthirthi-Parade Shalamar route up to Indira Chowk parking and will be allowed to park their vehicles in Indira Chowk parking area .
- Vehicles w/o passes coming from Talab Tillo side shall be parked Convention Centre Canal Road / JDA land near Bhagwati Nagar Rotary.

FERRY VEHICLES ENGAGED BY CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

- All ferry vehicles coming from City South Jammu shall drop the spectators at **Bikram Chowk** and the spectators will move on foot. The drivers of the ferry vehicles will go back and shall park the vehicles at Ware House.
- All ferry vehicles coming from Talab Tillo/Akhnoor road shall drop the spectator **Canal Head** and spectators will move on foot from Canal Head. All such vehicles shall be diverted back form Canal Head and shall remain parked on Bhagwati Nagar road.
- All ferry vehicles coming from Nagrota side shall be allowed to move up to **Indira Chowk** via Panjthirthi-Parade and shall drop spectators at Indira Chowk to move on foot upto the Venue. All such vehicles shall remain parked on Indira Chowk / JDA Parking Opp. Ranbireswar Temple / Parade.
- All ferry vehicles coming from Bathindi /Narwal will be allowed to move up Bikram Chowk and shall drop the spectators at **Bikram Chowk** and get their vehicles parked in Ware house / University Road.

CUT OFF POINTS FOR VEHICULAR MOVEMENT :-

- Bikram Chowk
- Canal Head
- Vivekananda Chowk
- Indira Chowk
- Shakuntala Crossing

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS /DIVERSION

- During the celebration of the National festival till 1300 Hours strict diversions shall be applied on ground all general vehicular movement and vehicles shall terminate accordingly from nearest routes and get their vehicles parked in appropriate parking slot to avoid any inconvenience.
- No public/private vehicles except valid parking pass holders shall be allowed to proceed ahead from cut off points i.e Canal Head, Vivekananda Chowk /Fortune Rivera Cut, Indira Chowk, Shakuntala Crossing and Bikram Chowk
- All PSVs/ Buses/ Mini Buses operating bound for Jammu City from Kathua , Samba, Bari Brahmana, Bishnah, Gangyal ,R.S. Pura, Miran Sahib, Mandal Phyllan for the will be diverted to alternate routes v.i.zKunjwani Chowk, Narwal, Bagh-e-Bahu Crossing , Satwari Chowk , Main stop Gandhi Nagar , Asia Crossing to adopt 4th Tawi Bridge, Baghwati Nagar Rotary, Bakshi Nagar , Canal Head and Toph Bridge.
- All PSVs/ Buses/ Mini Buses bound for Jammu City from Srinagar, Udhampur, Katra, Doda, Banihal Ramban will also be diverted accordingly from alternate routes viz, TCP Nagrota.
- All PSVs/ Buses/ Mini Buses bound for Jammu City from Rajouri, Poonch, Akhnoor, Mishriwala, Purkhoo., GhoManahasa and adjoining areas will be diverted at Canal Head/ Bakshi Nagar Pulli.
- General Public who intend to go from City North towards Railway Station/Airport / South side of Jammu City shall opt following routes during the restriction period:-**
 - Indira Chowk, JP Chowk, Vivekananda Chowk, Gujjar Nagar Bridge and onwards
 - Panjthirthi to Circular Road towards Gujjar Nagar Bridge and vice versa. Same routes can be adopted by people willing to go from South to North side
 - Moreover, people who intend to go Akhnoor, Talab Tillo, Paloura etc shall adopt 4th Tawi Bridge via Bhagwati Nagar/ Canal head and vice versa.

GENERAL

For the convenient movement of General Public coming from South to North and North to South side, shall opt Gujjar Nagar Bridge, SidhraBridge and 4th Tawi Bridge which are kept free from restrictions but they will follow the advisory issued by the Traffic Police Jammu regarding diversions.

RESTRICTED AREAS(Routes)

- Fly Over (Arterial Express Way) both the tubes upto Bikram Chowk.
- Jewel Chowk to J.P Chowk - stretch between Bhagat Singh Chowk to Jewel Chowk - Vinayak Bazaar--Dogra Chowk -Bikram Chowk
- PHQ Crossing to P/S Bagh-e- Bahu Crossing (both tubes)

Inconvenience to General Public is regretted. People are requested to contact TCU Jammu on 0191-2459048, 9419147732 in case of any emergency.

DIP/J-14244/23

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Jammu

EDITORIAL

NATIONAL
GIRL CHILD
DAY

National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on 24 January as a national work day for the girl child. The objective of this day is to give self-reliant and important status to girls in the country. The aim of celebrating this day is to increase awareness among the people to eliminate the inequalities faced by the girl child in the society. Discrimination against the girl child is a big problem which spreads in many areas like inequality in education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, safety, respect, child marriage etc.

Celebrating National Girl Child Day was started by the Indian Government in the form of National Girl Child Development Mission. This mission increases awareness among people across the country about the importance of girls' advancement. It enhances girls' meaningful contribution to the decision-making process through effective support from other community members and parents. This day is celebrated to improve the life of girls among the social people and to promote the status of girls in the society. It is very important to completely remove various types of social discrimination and exploitation from the society which girls face every day in their lives.

It is very important for girls to get an empowered, safe and better environment. They should be aware of every truth of life and legal rights. They should know that they have the right to good education, nutrition, and good health. To have their fair rights in life and to face all the challenges, they should be well aware of the laws including Domestic Violence Section 2009, Child Marriage Prevention Act 2009, Dowry Reckoning Act 2006 etc.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched "Dhanlakshmi Yojana" under which basic needs like deworming, birth registration, school enrollment are met through cash transfer to the family of the girl child. That is why National Girl Child Day is celebrated keeping in mind the awareness among the people of the country to give equal status to the girl child.

It provides new opportunities for the girl child in the society and is celebrated as a national event with a view to increasing the consciousness of the people. The importance of National Girl Child Day is to remove inequality towards the girl child. The objective of this day is to ensure that every girl child is given due respect and importance in the Indian society. It should be ensured that every girl child in the country should get all her human rights.

Working against child sex ratio in India and changing people's minds about girl child through this day. The couple will be initiated towards the girl child by increasing awareness about the importance and role of the girl child. By discussing issues related to their health, dignity, education, nutrition etc., the girl child will get due respect in the country. The biggest importance of this day is to promote gender equality among the people in India.

The objective of this day is to give self-reliant and important status to girls in the country. The aim of celebrating this day is to increase awareness among the people to eliminate the inequalities faced by the girl child in the society. To improve the condition of the girl child in India, the Indian government has reserved one-third seats in the local government for women. Anti-MTP, anti-sati law and anti-dowry acts have also been brought by law to improve the status and employment opportunities of women.

Narrow the gender gap in usage of digital tech

By: Patralekha Chatterjee

By now, everyone is aware that nearly 25 per cent of rural youth in the 14-18 age group in India cannot read a Class 2 level text "fluently", even if it's in their regional language, and that more than half struggle with division (3-digit by 1-digit) problems. These are among the many data points from the recently-released Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 "Beyond Basics" survey that grabbed the headlines. ASER 2023 is a rural household survey, and was carried out in 28 districts across 26 states in India, covering 34,745 youth in the 14-18 age bracket. One rural district was surveyed in each major state, except for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where two rural districts were surveyed.

As one reads the nearly 250-page report, other trends leap out.

One trend worth emphasising pivots around the paradoxes permeating the lives of teenaged girls in rural India. There is a stark gender gap, including in the digital space, which can potentially impact their adult lives and their prospects in the changing world of work.

This is extremely important given the big picture. The world of work is changing rapidly and the female labour force participation rate in the country remains extremely low.

The report explores critical questions: Are our youth adequately prepared for the path ahead -- for further education, work, and life? What are they currently doing? Are they well prepared to handle literacy and numeracy tasks in everyday situations? Can they do simple financial calculations? Are they familiar with common digital devices and usage?

What is clear from the ASER report

is that girls are keen to study, staying inside the classroom for longer, but when it comes to tasks that require skills that are useful and in demand in the labour market, they lag. This means young girls can potentially remain deprived of new opportunities in a labour market, even when such opportunities arise, simply because many reach adulthood lacking the knowledge and skills to go forward.

As ASER 2023 notes, females (76%) do better than males (70.9%) in reading a Class 2-level text in their regional language. Males do better than their female counterparts in arithmetic and English reading, the survey reveals.

Females are less likely to be enrolled in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) stream. Against 28.1 per cent females, around 36.3 per cent males were enrolled in the stream.

When it comes to digital awareness, nearly 90 per cent of youth have a smartphone in the household and know how to use it, but twice as many males (43.7%) than females (19.8%) can use a smartphone.

Looking at some of the other data gives a sense of the underlying factors behind the numbers. They have a lot to do with girls spending more time at home, doing household chores, thus losing out on exposure to other everyday practical tasks. Social norms, family and community expectations also lead to more restrictions on their mobility outside the home and less access to digital devices. More females (86%) reported working at home as compared to males (66%).

Amid all the talk about Digital India, it is amply clear that though the overall penetration of smartphone technology in rural India has grown enormously in recent years, girls and young women have far

less access to it than males and that impacts their ability to do digital tasks. One example: out of those surveyed, 49 per cent males and 25 per cent females knew how to use Google Maps.

"Girls are staying in school longer and wanting to continue studying even longer. These are very welcome trends. But they reflect a conundrum. Girls are staying in school longer, but this does not imply that they are gaining the knowledge, skills, or confidence needed to successfully negotiate their lives as adults. Other than basic reading proficiency, sampled males outperformed sampled females on every single assessment task," it points out.

ASER Centre research director Suman Bhattacharjee wrote in an essay in the report: "What accounts for this enormous gender gap in outcomes? We examine three dimensions of the answer to this question: familiarity with the technology, familiarity with the type of task, and self-confidence in attempting tasks that may be difficult or unfamiliar... Looking first at familiarity with smartphones, at first glance it appears that youth of both sexes have the necessary exposure to the technology. As many as 95% males and 90% females reported knowing how to use a smartphone -- a gap of just five percentage points... However, what it means to 'know how to use a smartphone' looks very different across males and females. For example, males were more than twice as likely to own their own smartphone than females, and therefore were likely spending far more time using the device and using it for a wider variety of tasks."

Says ASER 2023: "Among girls, socioeconomic context makes an enormous difference."

Arguably, there are sharp varia-

tions between different states and districts in the country on every score, reflecting the huge diversity in India. Consider basic numeracy-related skills like financial calculations. In Assam's Kamrup district (rural), in the 17-18, age-group, 67.9 per cent males can manage a budget, against 48.7 per cent for females. In Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag (rural) district, the corresponding figures for the same task and for the same age group are 79.4 per cent for males and 66.8 per cent for females.

Other reports covering a wider population across the country have also flagged the sharp gender divide in access and skills. The Oxfam's Digital Divide-India Inequality Report 2022 points out that Indian women are 15 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone, and 33 per cent less likely to use mobile Internet services than men. The report further states that women tend to use mobiles and the Internet differently than men. For example, they use cheaper, less sophisticated handsets, they use a smaller range of digital services, and their Internet consumption is far less. When it comes to online banking and digital payments, 69 per cent men and only 31 per cent women use these facilities. The official data corroborates the gender divide. According to the National Family Health Survey 2019-2021, ownership of a mobile phone that women themselves use increases with age, from 32 per cent among women in the 15-19 age group to 65 per cent among women between 25 and 29, and decreases among older women.

These are not mere numbers. They are critical to the lives of millions of India's girls and women. India can't achieve its full potential unless the gender divide narrows.

Why Experts Focus On High-Demand Skill Sets In PGDM Programmes For New India

By: Vijay GarG

The diverse array of PGDM and diploma courses, particularly in areas like International business, Insurance Management, Retail Management, and AI/Data Science, reflects a proactive response to the evolving demands of the job markets

By 2027, companies predict that 44 per cent of their workforce's core skills will be compromised as technology advances faster than companies can design and scale training programs. Six out of 10 workers will need training by 2027, but the report suggests only half of workers currently have access to adequate training opportunities.

However, businesses recognise the need to upskill and reskill their workforces, with 82% planning to invest in on-the-job learning and training.

Considering this trend, companies will seek employees who are familiar with AI concepts and methodologies and can apply their knowledge and skills to workplace management. There are multiple PGDM and diploma courses in India and abroad that are being offered by institutes and management colleges for building the New India.

Dean (Academics) and Chairperson Centre for Online Studies - COOLS Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) has shared some insights on why high-demand skill sets in PGDM programmes for new India.

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT

These programs represent a fusion of academic diversity, with students from various backgrounds: 39 per cent from Commerce, 18 per cent from Engineering, 30 per cent from Management, 7 per cent from Science, 8 per cent from Humanities, and an additional 8 per cent from

various other disciplines. This diversity fosters a dynamic learning environment, encouraging cross-disciplinary collaboration and the exchange of ideas.

The dual specialisation programmes offer students a comprehensive blend of Functional Specialisation and Industry Specialisation, nurturing a well-rounded and adaptable skill set.

Functional Specialisation explores areas such as Marketing, Finance, HR, Strategy and Consulting, and Operations, providing an in-depth understanding of the chosen field.

PGDM: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT-INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

This program provides extensive opportunities for international business across sectors such as Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals, Automobiles, IT, and Electronics. With a dual specialisation focus, students explore Functional Specialisation areas, including Marketing, Finance, Operations, Decision-Making, and Strategy and Consulting. Industry Specialisation modules cover BFSI/IT-ITeS, Business Analytics, and Digital Business, ensuring graduates develop a versatile skill set for success in the global business arena.

Observations for these programmes indicate a diverse student composition, with 33 per cent from Commerce, 13 per cent from Engineering, 24 per cent from Management, 14 per cent from Science, 6 per cent from Humanities, and 10 per cent from various other disciplines.

PGDM: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT - INSURANCE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Several institutes offer a 2-year residential/online diploma program that aligns with industry standards, providing valuable exposure through joint certifications such as

those with Swiss Re and the Risk Insurance Management Society-USA. Additionally, strategic partnerships, including the MoU with Swiss Re and the "PG Plus" Programme with CII-UK, coupled with academic collaboration with the Institute of Risk Management (UK) India Affiliate, contribute to a globally oriented educational approach.

Observations for this program indicate a diverse student composition from past academic years, comprising 50 per cent from Commerce, 3 per cent from Engineering, 22 per cent from Management, 5 per cent from Science, 8 per cent from Humanities, and 12 per cent from other disciplines, fostering a rich and inclusive learning environment.

PGDM: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT - RETAIL MANAGEMENT

Recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects a 3 percent growth in employment within the retail industry from 2020 to 2030. This growth is fueled by the increasing demand for personalised shopping experiences, urging retailers to maintain competitiveness in an ever-changing market landscape.

Adhering to industry standards, numerous institutes offer a 2-year full-time residential diploma program that underscores the importance of consistent industry interaction. The programme integrates key components such as Summer Internship (SIP), On-Job Training (OJT), and Leadership Experience and Attitude Development (LEAD).

Additionally, many institutes have established strategic partnerships with the Retailers Association of India (RAI), further enhancing the overall learning experience.

PGDM: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA SCIENCE

According to a recent report from Nasscom, investments in generative AI in India experienced a 12-fold year-over-year growth in 2022. The report highlights that many generative AI startups in India utilise closed-source models along with customised visualisation tools, indicating a trend towards non-relational databases.

Several institutes adhere to industry standards, offering a 24-month program that ensures participants develop proficiency in technical expertise, analytical capabilities, and decision-making abilities. The program fosters decision-making skills, analytical insights, and research competence, providing a comprehensive skill set.

PGDM ONLINE: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT

Online PGDM is an exciting model for reskilling working executives. Leading institutions have started PGDM in an online model, which is also nudged by the NEP 2020 to increase the gross enrollment ratio of Higher education students. The hybrid delivery model of these programs gives them flexibility in terms of time and travel, and reduced opportunity cost as they can continue with their job.

One interesting fact we noticed is that a very significant chunk of these online learners are women, many of them with family responsibilities, which makes this mode ideally suited. Many come from B-class towns and cities where reskilling opportunities are much less compared to the metros.

*(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist malout)*

GDC Kathua organizes road safety awareness programme

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 24: To reduce the menace of accidents, Road Safety Club GDC Kathua in collaboration with NSS Units GDC Kathua organised road safety awareness programme in the college campus under National Road Safety Month w.e.f 15th January to 14th February 2024.

Under this campaign, a signature campaign was organised. Signature Campaign was started with the signature of the today's Incharge Principal Prof R K Pandita.

Prof Pandita also addressed the students and volunteers. In his address to the volunteers and students, he threw light on the do's and don'ts of traffic rules.



He appealed the volunteers to always wear helmet while driving two wheelers and seat belt while driving four wheelers, drive with in the speed limit, keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead, maintain lane discipline, etc.

Further he appealed to avoid mobile phone while driving vehi-

cles, don't drink and drive and don't break red signals.

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

The senior most faculty members Prof Dinesh Jasrotia, Dr Yashpaul Sharma, Dr Shiwani

Kotwal, Dr Ambica Rajput, Dr Gautam Singh, Dr Amreek Singh, Dr Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Dr Kaurab Singh and Dr Sandeep Sharma also participated in the signature campaign to promote and support the road safety measures under National Road Safety Month.

They all congratulated the Road safety club members and NSS Programme officers for organizing this awareness event.

All activities under National Road Safety Month are being organised under the patronage of Principal Prof Seema Mir and supervision of Convenor Road safety Club Prof Manmohan Singh and NSS Program officer Dr. Kulbir Singh, Dr Pinki and Dr Arvind Kumar.

Road Safety Month: RASTA initiative launch in Kokernag

Top News Report

KOKERNAG, Jan 24: Continuing the awareness campaign in connection with Road Safety Month, the district administration of Anantnag on Wednesday launched a roadside traffic accident prevention initiative for the citizens to become good Samaritans.

A "Raasta" awareness campaign was also conducted at Budget accommodation Kokernag in which stakeholders and drivers participated besides the respected citizens of the area.

The focus was on educating bike riders about the imperative need for wearing helmets, emphasizing the importance for both



the rider and the pillion rider during driving. Additionally, participants were enlightened about ensuring the safety of pedestrians on the road.

The primary objective was to enhance awareness among commercial and personal drivers regarding safety while driving.

Program conducted under the supervision of SDM Kokernag, Suhail Ahmad, emphasizing the community's

commitment to promoting road safety and preventing accidents.

On this occasion, SDM Kokernag Suhail Ahmad Lone urged people not to allow minor children to drive motorcycles or vehicles.

He urged people and especially drivers to pay special attention to traffic rules to prevent road accidents. Later first aid Medical kits distributed among shopkeepers.

JNV Batote organizes painting competition under Pariksha Pe Charcha

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 24: The painting competition was organized on 23.01.2024 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Ramban under Pariksha Pe Charcha.

The themes of the painting competition were based on the mantras of Prime Minister of India from "Exam Warriors," the life of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Aditya L1.

About 50 students from various schools of district Ramban & JNV Batote had participated in the competition. The competition started at 10.00 AM in the campus of JNV Batote, Ramban.

The students had participated in painting competition with great enthusiasm,



they sketched different portraits on the life of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Aditya L1.

Painting competition was concluded at 12.00 noon and the jury of experts/educationists from reputed institutions having knowledge of art and craft had selected the best 05 paintings by students. On the basis of experts'

result, the Vidyalaya had awarded certificates to best students.

After finalization of competition, Principal of JNV Batote District Ramban, Romesh Chander addressed the students for the importance of this competition and vote of thanks was given to Guests presented in the competition.

Para Cricketer Amir to become brand ambassador of Aryans Group of Colleges

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: "I am really happy to be a part of Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, near Chandigarh who is also known as Mini Kashmir of Punjab". This was said by Captain, Para Cricket Team, JK, Amir Husain Lone while addressing a press conference.

He thanked Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group for inviting him in Aryans.

He said he is visiting Aryans Group of Colleges and will be a part of many students' activities at campus near Chandigarh.

He further said, "I am well aware that out of 3500 students, more

than 2000 Kashmiri students are studying in Aryans in various courses and are continuously bringing laurels not only to their parents but to valley too."

He showed his happiness that Aryans is only campus outside Kashmir having majority of Kashmiri students.

It is to be mentioned that Amir Husain Lone, the 34 years old from Kashmir's Anantnag is scoring runs and fame, drawing attention of God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar and Industrialist Gautam Adani.

The cricketer has a unique playing style. He bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck.

Empowering Unity: Self-Help Groups in Boniyar stitch National Flag for R-Day



Top News Report

BARAMULLA, Jan 24: Amidst the picturesque landscapes of Boniyar in Baramulla District, North Kashmir, a transformative initiative unfolds, highlighting the ingenuity and resilience of local women and young girls who take center stage.

Nestled in the remote villages of Boniyar tehsil, near the Line of Control (LoC), self-help groups nurtured by

the Indian Army have become instrumental in a remarkable endeavor resonating with the spirit of Republic Day.

On this auspicious occasion, the Tricolor National Flags come to life, skillfully crafted in women's tailoring centers and tailor classes initiated by the Indian Army at the Chinar Nau Jawan Club in Boniyar. Beyond being symbols of patriotism, these flags embody empowerment.

Local women actively engage in this collaborative effort, not only fostering sustainable development but also highlighting the armed forces' unwavering commitment to community upliftment. As the nation celebrates Republic Day on the 26th of January, Boniyar stands united in this collective endeavor, bridging communities and proudly showcasing the resilient spirit and talent of its women.

India Selfie Point inaugurated at Uri



Top News Report

URI, Jan 24: Indian Selfie Point was inaugurated by Paramjeet Sethi, President, FWO Dagger Division in the presence of SDPO Uri and Tehsildar Uri.

This innovative and interactive space is set to revolutionise the way visitors capture and share their memorable moments while visiting the remote border region of Uri in Baramulla district.

The India structure has been gifted by an acclaimed artist Rouble Nagi. Nagi is an artist, author and a social worker. Her Art foundation is known for undertaking women empowerment projects in rural Kashmir through skill development and creating village entrepreneurs. Her gesture of gifting the structure stands as a testimony to rising nationalism in the valley.

The Selfie Point was conceptualised with

an aim to provide a unique engaging environment for individuals and groups alike.

Situated along NH 44, its strategic placement ensures that locals and tourists can easily access and enjoy the captivating scenery with Jhelum river in the background and feel proud of being citizens of India.

This initiative embodies Indian Army's commitment towards enhancing community engagement and providing a space that truly resonates with the spirit of Vibrant India. The India Selfie Point is not just a photo spot, it's an immersive experience that encourages self-expression and celebrates the beauty of Uri.

Whether one is a photography enthusiast, a social media influencer, or simply someone looking to capture a special moment, this space is designed to inspire.

President JTC/SKF meets Asstt Comm Relief, discusses Jagti migrants issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Shadi Lal Pandita, President Jagti JTC/SKF met the Assistant Commissioner Relief Riaz Ahmed and informed him about the problems being faced by the migrants of Jagti township.

Pandita informed

about the dilapidated condition of Jagti quarters and demanded that the outer walls of Jagti migrant township buildings be painted first before the upcoming Maha Shivratri.

The JTC chief also informed him about the dilapidated condition of Jagti streets, parks,

transformers, community halls etc.

Pandita told him that the Jagti migrants are getting dirty water to drink due to which they are getting sick. The Assistant Commissioner Migrants Relief Rehabilitation assured that the genuine demands will be resolved at the earliest.

CBI arrests hospital employee in bribery case in Baramulla

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): The CBI on Wednesday arrested a hospital employee in connection with a bribery case in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, the agency said.

The CBI has arrested an official of Sub-District Hospital, Sopore, in the north Kashmir district, in a bribery case

related to issuance of date of birth certificate, the investigating agency said in a statement.

A case was registered on a complaint against an official working in the date of birth section of Sub-District Hospital, Sopore, on the allegations of demanding a bribe from the complainant for issuance of birth certificate in favour of his daughter, the Cen-

tral Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said.

It was further alleged that the accused initially demanded a bribe of Rs 5,000 which was reduced to Rs 3,600 after negotiation, the statement said. The CBI caught the accused after accepting a bribe of Rs 36,00 from the complainant through online transaction, the agency said.

Sunrise Educational Trust celebrates Int'l Girl Child Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Sunrise Public School Institute of Education Coaching Centre unit of Sunrise Educational Trust, Channi Himmat Jammu celebrated International Girl Child Day.

Ritu Mahajan, teacher, explained about the importance of this day to children and said girl child day focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and promote girl's empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights.

She also said girls have the right to a safe, educated and healthy life not only during their formative years, but also as they mature into women.

If effectively supported and educated, girls have the potential to change the world.

Ruchi Narain, director of upcoming series *Karmma Calling*, believes adaptation is not translation but an art form in itself

Ruchi Narain is calling again... as the *Guilty* director gets ready for her lush and plush series *Karmma Calling*, she is waiting with bated breath for audiences' reaction. "Pata nahi mere din kaise katenge till January 26," she quips with an infectious smile.

As the series happens to be an official adaptation of the American drama *Revenge*, comparisons are a given. But she reasons, "In Oscars there is a special category for adapted screenplays. Adaptation is not translation; it's an art form in itself." Precisely why, the title is *Karma* and not the literal translation *Badla*.

Indeed, *Karmma Calling* is a 'cheeky take' and not only does it refer to karma as we understand it in the Indian context, but it also happens to be the name of one of its key characters. She shares how the catchy name of the series came from her lead heroine Raveena Tandon. Reasons for casting 'ravishing' Raveena as the uber-rich billionaire woman were pretty obvious. "She looks the part, Indian and rooted and also a well-travelled woman of the world. Besides, she packs a punch."

Being a billionaire
As the series delves into the top layer, nay speck, of society whose lives most of us are not even privy to, she nods, "Indeed, even I had a sideways peep into



the ways of billionaires not just in India but across the world, and I feel they have a different set of values and ways of doing things." Interestingly, the idea to transpose the drama onto the Indian soil came to her many years ago, as she thought the story of the American television series lands well in the Indian milieu.

On whether we are rather judgmental while assessing the rich, she feels, "On the contrary we look up to them." One of the reasons why she thought the series would find an audience is that it would give them their fair share of 'guilty pleasure'. To those who may have seen the original, she promises a very desi interpretation. As for the naysayers who are likely to be rather uncharitable while assessing, she says, "Some people are likely to be

unkind whatever you may do."

Prior to *Revenge*, Ruchi has always done original work. Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi, which she wrote for Sudhir Mishra, for instance won her many plaudits. Whether the gifted director Mishra has left any indelible impact on her directorial signature is for others to say. All she knows is that when she later worked with Karan Johar, the maker of extravagance, she found no contradiction. Actually she has known Johar ever since his Kuch Kuch Hota Hai days and he even offered her associate director's position for the film. But as destiny would have it, she was to work with him much later when Dharmatic, the digital arm of the Dharma Productions, was born.

OTT space

OTT, for which she has also directed a web series, *Hundred*, she agrees has opened doors for makers like her who do not belong to filmy families. "But a level playing field for women directors," she insists, "is still a distant dream." Never mind, she is confident, "We will get there soon." Indeed, apart from the strong possibility of many seasons of *Karmma Calling*, her production company R.A.T Films, which she formed with Ashutosh Shah and Taher Shabbir, has many projects in the pipeline.

Working on different subjects comes naturally to this maker whose animation film *Hanuman: Da' Damdaar* had Salman Khan giving the voice over. While she would like to be known simply for 'good and impactful work', to aspirants, especially outsiders, her advice is simple, "There is no substitute for hard work." Ruchi has worked through ordeals like her late father's sickness. She observes, "Don't get carried away by the red carpet looks; industry is much more than stardom."

Meanwhile, she is all set to offer you the ultimate slice of glamour, creating which, needless to add, has involved oodles of hard work and dedication. (*Karmma Calling* streams on Disney+ Hotstar from January 26).

Padma Lakshmi talks about her 'big issue' with *Top Chef*



India-born supermodel, TV host, author and actor Padma Lakshmi served as a host for the show *Top Chef* from 2006 until 2023. Although she enjoyed the food, she said that it was still a 'big, big,

big issue' for her. "I mean the food is great but when you have to eat that much of it, it's really hard. So I'm happy not to have ... that was a big, big, big issue, yeah," Padma said when asked if she

missed eating the food. She also shared that she'll miss her *Top Chef* colleagues. The model likened the show's crew to a 'family'. She said, "I miss my friends. I miss the whole crew — they're like family to me."

Last year, Padma outlined her reasons for quitting the show after 17 years. The runway star — who also hosts *Taste the Nation*, a travel and food show — told the *Awards Circuit* podcast, "I had been on location for eight months out of the year. And when I wasn't on location, I was in pre-and-post-production for both my shows. And I was looking at edits of one show while on the set of another show. It was just exhausting and untenable for me to continue that way."

Padma also said that her busy schedule was harming her personal life. She shared, "I haven't had a relationship in a long time because I'm always working. I don't know when I think I was going to meet anybody. I'm surrounded by people I either employ or those who employ me, and neither of those people are appropriate for a romantic relationship."

Nicole Kidman to star in and produce the film *Mice*

Hollywood star Nicole Kidman is set to star in and produce the film *Mice*, the feature film adaptation of author Gordon Reece's debut novel. The film will be directed by Justin Kurzel from a script adapted by Shaun Grant. The two have worked on the Cannes-winning *Nitramand* and the upcoming TV series *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*.

Mice, which was published in the US and the UK in 2011, follows Shelley and her mother who are pushed to their limits as they confront their moral convictions, and the line between right and wrong in the face of bullying, violence and fear. Kidman will also produce the movie through her banner Blossom Films, alongside Bruna Papandrea of *Made Up Stories*, and Kurzel and Grant of *Thirdborn*. Blossom's Per Saari, *Made Up Stories*' Steve Hutensky and Jodi Materson will also produce *Mice*. Jeanne Snow will executive produce the film along with Nicole O'Donohue and Harriet



Warner. Kidman is currently awaiting the release of her latest series *Expats*. Created by Lulu Wang of *The Farewell* fame,

the show will also feature Ji-young Yoo, Jack Huston, Sarayu Blue and Brian Tee. It will be released on Prime Video on January 26.

Oscars 2024: 'Oppenheimer', 'Poor Things' and 'Killers of the Flower Moon' lead the race

Christopher Nolan's summer blockbuster "Oppenheimer" emerged as the top contender at the 96th Academy Award nominations where it is closely followed by Yorgos Lanthimos' "Poor Things" and another much-buzzed title of 2023, Martin Scorsese-directed "Killers of the Flower Moon".

"Oppenheimer", an ambitious biopic of J Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atom bomb, earned 13 nods, including top categories of best picture, director for Nolan and actor for Cillian Murphy.

"Poor Things", which entered the race later, was the second favourite film for Academy voters who gave the wacky comedy a lot of love by nominating it in 11 categories, while Scorsese's relook at one of the bloodiest chapters in American history, "Killers..." followed with 10 nods.

Greta Gerwig's "Barbie", another summer mega hit that released with "Oppenheimer" and sparked the "Barbenheimer" phenomenon amongst fans, earned eight nominations, including a best picture and a twin nod in original song category.

Other than these four films, the best picture list also includes "American Fiction", "Anatomy of a Fall", "The Holdovers", "Maestro", "Past Lives" and "Zone



of Interest", showcasing Academy's attempt to balance the big movies with intimate independent films this year.

The directing list has giants like Scorsese, Nolan as top contenders. The other nominees are: Lanthimos, Justine Triet for "Anatomy of a Fall" and Jonathan Glazer for "The Zone of Interest".

Murphy is believed to be the frontrunner for the actor in a leading role Oscar but he will have to fight it out with Bradley Cooper ("Maestro"), Paul Giamatti ("The Holdovers"), Colman Domingo ("Rustin") and Jeffrey Wright ("American Fiction"). Leonardo DiCaprio was a clear omission in the list.

Lily Gladstone's standout performance in "Killers..." rightfully earned her a nod in the actress in a leading role category alongside equally talented performers in Emma Stone for "Poor Things", Annette Bening for "Nyad", Carey Mulligan for "Maestro" and Sandra Huller for "Anatomy of a Fall".

It's Robert versus Robert in the supporting actor category with Robert De Niro ("Killers..."), and Robert Downey Jr for "Oppenheimer" battling it out alongside other contestants like Sterling K Brown for "American Fiction", Mark Ruffalo for "Poor Things" and Ryan Gosling for "Barbie".

Actresses in supporting roles are Emily Blunt for "Oppenheimer", America Ferrera for "Barbie", Jodie Foster for "Nyad", Danielle Brooks "The Color Purple" and Da'Vine Joy Randolph for "The Holdovers".

Though India's official entry "2018" is out of the international feature film race, "To Kill a Tiger", set in a small Indian village, secured a nomination in documentary feature category at the 2024 Academy Awards. It is directed by Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker based in Toronto. The documentary is nominated alongside "Bobi Wine: The People's President", "The Eternal Memory", "Four Daughters", and "20 Days in Mariupol".

"Past Lives", one of the most loved films of 2023, directed by debutante Celine Song, not only earned a nomination in best picture category but also one in the original screenplay category. This segment also featured "Anatomy of a Fall", "The Holdovers", "Maestro" and "May December".

"Barbie" is competing in the adapted screenplay category alongside "American Fiction", "Oppenheimer", "Poor Things" and "The Zone of Interest".

The nominees in the international feature category are "Io Capitano" (Italy), "Perfect Days" (Japan), "Society of the Snow" (Spain), "The Teachers' Lounge" (Germany) and "The Zone of Interest" (United Kingdom).

The nominations were also announced in animated feature and short categories, song, score, production design, visual effects, cinematography, film editing, production design, makeup and hairstyling, costume design, sound, documentary short film and live action short film.

The 96th Academy Awards will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles. Jimmy Kimmel is returning to host the ceremony for the second consecutive year. He has hosted the ceremony four times.

Somy Ali talks about the birth of No More Tears

Somy Ali, who helps rehabilitate the victims of human trafficking and rape through her NGO No More Tears, took to Instagram to share a throwback picture of the year she began her venture.

She says that she feels grateful to have been able to help so many people over the years.

"This was the birth of @nomore-tearsusa in 2007. We had an extremely tiny office where I would meet victims and plan out their futures. It's hard to believe that now we are going on our 17th year and have saved over 42,000 children, women, men, and members of our LGBTQ Community. As the founder, I thank our donors, our

board and our fundraising committee for all that they have done," she wrote.

She added, "Without any of the people mentioned above, we wouldn't still be saving lives. Please know that it is you who keeps us afloat and helps us continue our mission."

January is human trafficking awareness month and I urge everyone to educate themselves of the prevalence of this perpetual and lethal pandemic.

We are eternally grateful to all, who have participated in keeping us alive, especially the victims who are now survivors because you cared."



Actor Boman Irani to receive a special honour from British Parliament

Actor Boman Irani, who is known for *Munna Bhai* franchise, *3 Idiots*, *Khosla Ka Ghosla*, and others, will be conferred with a special honour by the British Parliament for his contribution to Indian cinema.

The actor has also been invited as a featured speaker at Oxford University and The London School of Economics. Boman will be travelling to London today with his family for the events.

On January 25, he will deliver speeches at the aforementioned venues. With this memorable achievement, Boman has now joined the ranks of esteemed speakers at Oxford, following in the footsteps of Shah Rukh Khan



and Shashi Tharoor.

Boman expressed his gratitude for the opportunity and honour, as he said: "It's truly humbling to represent India on such esteemed global platforms and receive this recognition, especially as my family will be present with me to witness this gratifying moment." He added, "I look forward to sharing my life experiences and the wisdom gained throughout my two-decade career with other bright minds there."

Taking a piece of India with me, I'm truly grateful for this opportunity." Boman was recently seen in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Dunki*.

My government has walked on path shown by late Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur: PM Modi

PM says Thakur's relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in people's lives

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, who has been named for the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna, on his birth centenary on Wednesday, and said he left an unforgettable imprint on Indian society and politics.

Modi said Thakur's relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in people's lives.

Sharing his write-up on the pioneering backward caste leader, Modi posted on X, "I bow to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji on his birth centenary. On this special occasion, our Government has had the honour of conferring the Bharat Ratna on him. I've penned a few thoughts on his unparalleled impact on our society and polity."

Overcoming numerous obstacles, Thakur achieved a lot and worked for societal betterment, the Prime Minister said.

Thakur's most significant contributions to India was perhaps his role in strengthening the affirmative action apparatus for the backward classes, with the hope that they were given the representation and opportunities they deserved, he said.

His decision was met with heavy opposition but he did not bow to any pressure and his policies laid the groundwork for a more inclusive society, where one's birth did not determine one's fate, the prime minister wrote in an article which appeared in many newspapers



on Wednesday.

Modi said his government over the last 10 years has walked on Thakur's path, bringing in schemes and policies that have brought transformative empowerment.

The Prime Minister said, "He belonged to the most backward strata of society but he worked for all the people. He had no trace of bitterness in him, which is what makes him truly great."

He said the life of 'Jan Nayak', as Thakur came to be known as, revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice, and his simple lifestyle and humble nature resonated deeply with the common people till his last breath.

"Those who worked with him recall how he preferred to spend his own money for any personal matter, including his daughter's wedding. During his tenure as Chief Minister of Bihar, a decision was taken to build a colony for political leaders but he himself did not take any land or money for the same," he said.

When Thakur passed away in

1988, several leaders went to his village to pay tributes and were moved to tears seeing the condition of his house, he noted.

Looking at his torn kurta at an event to mark the birthday of socialist icon Jayaprakash Narayan in 1977, Chandrashekhar, another political stalwart, asked people to donate some money so that Thakur could buy a new kurta, but the then Bihar chief minister donated the amount to the CM Relief Fund, he recalled.

Modi said social justice was most dear to Thakur and his political journey was marked by monumental efforts to create a society where resources were distributed fairly, and everyone, regardless of their social standing, had access to opportunities.

He took a distinctly anti-Congress line because he was convinced very early on that the Congress had deviated from its founding principles, Modi said.

Education was a subject very close to his heart and he

worked throughout to improve education facilities for the poor, the prime minister said.

One of the biggest tragedies of our polity has been that barring a few leaders like Thakur, the call for social justice was restricted to being a political slogan, he said.

Modi added, "Inspired by Karpoori Ji's vision we implemented it as an effective governance model. I can say with confidence and pride that Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji would have been very proud of India's feat of freeing 25 crore people from the clutches of poverty in the last few years."

Today, when people from OBC, SC and ST Communities are becoming entrepreneurs due to MUDRA Loans, it fulfills Thakur's vision of economic independence, he said.

"Likewise, it was our government which had the privilege of extending SC, ST and OBC reservation. We also had the honour of setting up the OBC Commission (which was opposed by Congress, sadly), which is working on the path shown by Karpoori Ji," he added.

As a person belonging to the backward classes himself, Modi said, he has much to thank Thakur for.

He said, "Unfortunately, we lost Karpoori Ji at a relatively young age of 64. We lost him when we needed him the most. Yet, he lives on in the heart and minds of crores of people due to his work. He was a true Jan Nayak!"

In a big setback to INDIA bloc, Mamata Banerjee rules out any alliance in West Bengal



NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): In a much-anticipated move that will deal a massive blow to the INDIA bloc ahead of the general election, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday called off the coalition's seat-sharing talks in West Bengal and declared that she would go it alone in the state.

The declaration came hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi dismissed reports of tension in the INDIA alliance in Bengal and also state Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's accusations that Mamata is an opportunist.

"My party and I are very close to Mamata ji. Talks are going on smoothly and there will be an outcome soon. These comments are routine. Sometimes their leaders say something, sometimes ours do that," Gandhi said on Tuesday. Mamata was not

34-year-old politics has been anti-Left.

In fact, Mamata had quit the Congress to form the TMC precisely to protest against the Congress diffidence in respect to the then ruling Left which was targeting Congress workers.

Mamata said her proposal to the Congress to contest 300 Lok Sabha seats out of 543 and leave the rest to regional parties was not accepted.

"We have had no seat-sharing talks with the Congress and will fight alone," she said, adding that the regional parties were together in the INDIA bloc.

Mamata's snub to the Congress could further weaken the grand old party's bargaining hold in other states like Punjab and Delhi where the Congress and AAP are engaged in hectic seat-sharing negotiations as part of the INDIA alliance.

Mamata feels the Congress needs to accord due importance to regional players in seat-sharing discussions if defeating the BJP is the goal.

The TMC itself needs to consolidate in Bengal where the BJP came uncomfortably close to it in 2019 winning 18 seats as against TMC's 22 and Congress's two.

impressed. On Wednesday morning, she said she had no idea that Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra was going to pass through Bengal. She said she would contest alone in Bengal and defeat the BJP.

"I had no discussions with the Congress party. I have always said that in Bengal, we will fight alone. I am not concerned about what will be done in the country but we are a secular party and in Bengal, we will alone defeat the BJP. I am a part of the INDIA alliance. Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Yatra is passing through our state but we have not been informed about it," she said.

Mamata is not willing to cede more than two of the state's 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal to the Congress though the Congress is asking for six.

The TMC is also not willing to work with the CPM, with Mamata declaring that her

I don't care about cases being registered against me, they are free to file more FIRs, says Rahul Gandhi during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam

GUWAHATI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Reacting to the registration of an FIR against him and other party leaders for allegedly provoking party workers to clash with police in Guwahati on Tuesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said he is not worried about such FIRs.

"They had booked me earlier too. I was suspended from Parliament and had to vacate my house. But I was not scared of them and they are free to register more FIRs against me," Rahul told a gathering in Barpeta district.

"I don't need their



house. I live in the hearts of millions of people of this country," he added.

Rahul took a dig at Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, saying he was working in the directions of Union Home Minis-

ter Amit Shah and that the Assam government was being run from New Delhi.

Rahul told the gathering that the BJP-RSS wanted to attack their culture and traditions, but the Congress would not allow that.

Mayawati demands Bharat Ratna for Kanshi Ram, welcomes one for Karpoori Thakur

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Welcoming the Bharat Ratna for late OBC icon Karpoori Thakur, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday demanded the highest civilian honour for BSP founder Kanshi Ram.

"Today, on his 100th birth anniversary, tributes to the great leader Shri Karpuri Thakur ji, who fought hard throughout his life to ensure a life of social justice and equality for the extremely backward classes in the country, especially their constitutional rights. Welcoming the belated decision of the Central government to honour the great personality of the country Shri Karpoori Thakur



ji, who was the Chief Minister of Bihar twice, with the title of Bharat Ratna. Hearty congratulations and best wishes to his family and all his followers for this highest civilian honour of the country," Mayawati said.

BSP chief and former UP CM Mayawati said the contribution of Kanshi Ram ji, the father

and founder of the BSP, in making Dalits and other neglected people live with self-respect and make them stand on their feet is historic.

"In line with the aspirations of crores, it is essential to confer Bharat Ratna on Kanshi Ram ji," she said.

By conferring the top honour on Thakur, the ruling BJP has signalled solidarity with the late Bihar CM who was the first to moot the concept of quotas in government jobs for OBCs to politically empower them.

His reservation policy in Bihar altered the political equations pushing a once powerful Congress mostly dominated by upper castes to the electoral margins and setting the stage for OBC assertion.

Even after his demise, the JDU and RJD led by Nitish Kumar and Lalu Yadav, respectively, continued to consolidate on the foundations of OBC politics laid by Thakur.

Like Thakur in Bihar, Kanshi Ram worked to

consolidate upwardly mobile underprivileged sections under the Bahujan Samaj and paved the way for the rise of Dalit politics in UP.

His protege Mayawati went on to become the Uttar Pradesh chief minister four times.

With the BJP's recent expansion to cultivate the underprivileged constituency through government benefits on the one hand and broader Hindu consolidation on the other, the BSP finds itself on the margins in UP.

She has now announced plans to contest the 2024 general election on her own to regain the lost ground.

6 dead, 9 injured after truck overturns amid heavy rainfall in Odisha



BARIPADA, Jan 24 (Agencies): At least six people died and nine others were injured on Wednesday after a truck carrying them overturned amid heavy rainfall in Mayurbhanj district, police said.

The accident took place at Dharsuni ghat

area on National Highway-49 in the morning, they said.

The driver managed to escape from the spot, a police officer said.

The injured were admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital, Baripada, he added.

Aviation watchdog DGCA slaps Rs 1.1 crore penalty on Air India for safety violations

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Aviation watchdog DGCA has slapped a fine of Rs 1.1 crore on Air India for safety violations with respect to flights operated on certain long routes.

The regulator carried out a detailed probe after receiving a voluntary safety report from an airline employee alleging safety

violations of flights operated by Air India on certain long range terrain critical routes, according to a release on Wednesday.

Since the investigation prima facie revealed non-compliance by the airline, the DGCA said a showcause notice was issued to Air India.

The safety report pertained to

leased aircraft operated by Air India.

"Since the said operations of the leased aircraft were not in line with regulatory/OEM performance limits, the DGCA has initiated enforcement action and imposed a penalty of Rs 1.1 crore on Air India," the DGCA said in the release.

ED conducts fresh raids at TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh's residence in North 24 Parganas

KOLKATA, Jan 24 (Agencies): Nineteen days after an Enforcement Directorate team was assaulted by a mob, ED officials again conducted a raid at the residence of absconding TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh in North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday morning in connection with its probe into the alleged multi-crore ration distribution scam, an officer said.

Accompanied by over 120 per-

sonnel of the Central Armed Police Force, the ED officers broke open the collapsible gate of the residence of Sheikh in Sandeshkhali area in the presence of local police and two locals as witnesses, the officer said.

"We will search Sheikh's house today. We will also try to talk to the residents there", the ED officer told agency.

After entering the house, the ED officers locked the gates from

inside and started searches, he added.

On January 5, a team of ED officers was assaulted by a mob when it tried to enter the residence of the TMC leader.

Three officers were injured in the attack. The district police and Sheikh's family members had lodged a complaint against the ED officers.

Sheikh, however, is absconding till date.

6 jawans injured as Assam Rifles soldier fires at colleagues in Manipur before shooting himself



IMPHAL, Jan 24 (Agencies): Six Assam Rifles personnel were injured as a soldier opened fire at them before killing himself in Manipur's Chandel district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Sajik Tampak area on Tuesday night as the Assam Rifles jawan fired at his colleagues, they said.

He later shot himself dead, a police officer said. "This unfortunate incident should not be correlated with the ongoing ethnic conflict, given the fact that none of the injured are from Manipur. Investigation into the incident has been ordered to ascertain the facts," the Manipur Police said on X.

The injured personnel, who are undergoing treatment, are reported to be in a "stable condition", the officer said.

Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities kill 18, says President Zelenskiy

Moscow has increasingly employed a mix of air- and land-based missiles that are more difficult to shoot down

KYIV, Jan 24 (Agencies): Russian missiles hit Ukraine's two largest cities, killing 18 people, injuring more than 130 and damaging homes and infrastructure, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said as Moscow's war approaches its third year.

The eastern city of Kharkiv suffered three waves of attacks.

There were strikes on Kyiv and in central Ukraine and the southern region of Kherson, subject to constant shelling.

Zelenskiy, in his nightly video address, said Russia had launched nearly 40 missiles of different types in "another combined strike to try to circumvent our air defence system".

More than 200 sites were hit, including 139 dwellings, with many deaths in "an ordinary high-rise apartment building."

Ordinary people lived there," he said.

Kharkiv's mayor and the governor of Kharkiv region said eight people had been killed in the city, which has been subjected to repeated attacks in 23 months of war.

Ukraine's Emergency Services posted online a video of teams sifting through a shattered apartment building. Police said search operations were suspended before midnight as there was a danger of debris falling on rescue squads.

Kharkiv regional Governor Oleh Synehubov said more



than 100 high-rise blocks had been damaged in the first two attacks. He said there were three hits in the evening on an apartment block and other infrastructure, injuring seven.

Ukraine's General Staff said the country's armed forces had destroyed 22 of 44 missiles of various types. Nearly 20 had been shot down over Kyiv, the city's military administration said.

The strikes coincided with Defence Minister Rustem Umerov telling the latest international ministerial meeting on Kyiv's defence needs that Russia was stepping up missile attacks.

Over the past two months, he said, Russian forces had used more than 600 missiles and more than 1,000 drones.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said after the

meeting that Berlin would send six "Sea King" helicopters to Ukraine later this year, the first delivery of its kind.

WOUNDED IN KYIV

In Kyiv, emergency services said 22 people, including four children, had been wounded across at least three districts. At one site, rescuers tended to dazed and groaning victims as workers swept away debris and broken glass.

"There was a very loud bang, and my mother was already running outside, shouting that we need to leave. We all went to the corridor," said Daniel Bolukh, 21.

"Then, we went on the balcony to have a look, and saw all these buildings were on fire."

Emergency services said apartment buildings, medical and educational institutions were damaged in Kyiv. Some

of the damage occurred next to the United Nations office, resident coordinator Denise Brown said in a statement.

The Kremlin, asked to comment on the strikes on Kyiv and Kharkiv, said the Russian military does not target civilians.

Kherson regional Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said Russian aircraft had pounded his region throughout the day. Officials said two people had died. One person was killed in the southeastern city of Pavlohrad, the regional governor said.

The attacks damaged a gas pipeline in Kharkiv and thousands were left without power after infrastructure was hit.

Russia has carried out regular air strikes on cities and civilian infrastructure far behind the front lines since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Its troops, meanwhile, are attacking along the sprawling eastern front and seeking to seize the initiative, Ukraine's military says.

Russian forces have increasingly employed a mix of air- and land-based missiles that are more difficult to shoot down.

Moscow accused Kyiv on Sunday of shelling the Russian-occupied eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, killing 27 people. Ukrainian forces said Russia bore responsibility for the attack.

The Russian defence ministry said on Tuesday it had struck enterprises producing missiles, explosives and ammunition.

Truck carrying 60 tonnes of gas explodes after ramming car in Mongolia, 6 dead



ULAANBAATAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Six people died and 14 others were injured after a truck carrying 60 tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) collided with a car and exploded early on Wednesday in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar.

In a statement, the Mongolian National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said on its website that three people and three fighters were killed. Fourteen others were sent for medical treatment, NEMA said, news agency reported.

Of the 14 injured, 10 were taken for treatment for burns, while one child was being treated

for poisoning. Three other infants were kept under observation.

The fire was extinguished after rescue teams were sent to the spot.

Pictures showed the remains of the truck and the car that collided with each other and widespread damage to a street. The explosion also resulted in windows blowing out at a nearby school.

According to NEMA, residents of a nearby apartment block were temporarily relocated and roads around the affected area were shut as authorities were clearing up debris, agency reported.

Militants attack check post in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 3 killed

PESHAWAR, Jan 24 (Agencies): Unidentified militants attacked a security check post in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least three persons and injuring two, police said today.

The attack took place on Tuesday. The militants attacked the Aba Shaheed check post in the Dikhan district bordering South Waziristan.

Two labourers and one security personnel were killed in the attack, police said, adding that the presence of militants was spotted through thermal vision cameras.

The dead bodies were found during a

search operation on Wednesday.

The two labourers injured have been shifted to Dera district hospital, police said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has seen a resurgence of attacks by armed groups since 2022 when a ceasefire between the outlawed group Pakistan Taliban (TTP) and the government broke down.

More than 300 attacks have hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in 2023 alone, according to official data, with a vast majority of them claimed by the TTP, which was founded in 2007.

'Canada is best country in world': Justin Trudeau amid all-time low approval ratings

OTTAWA, Jan 24 (Agencies): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau described his country as the "best in the world" and said his government was always taking "serious" and "responsible" decisions, even as his approval rankings dipped to an all-time low in the run-up to next year's federal election.

"We know we are facing challenging times in the world. We have a government that continues to roll up its sleeves and take serious, responsible and steady decisions. We are there to support Canadians and to build a strong and prosperous future for them," Trudeau said in a video statement posted on his X handle.

Asserting that Canadians needed a "government with a plan", Trudeau said his administration had the capacity to continue deliver-



ing in such challenging times.

"Canada is the best country in the world. And it's up to all of us to work hard and make it even better. That is what we're focused on and that is what we'll continue to do," he further said.

According to a survey conducted by Leger, a Canadian research and strategic marketing firm, 63 per cent of the people said they were dissatisfied with the Trudeau government compared to just 30 per cent.

Over one-quarter of Canadians (27 per cent) believe that opposition

leader Pierre Poilievre of the Conservative Party would make the best Prime Minister, putting him well ahead of Justin Trudeau (17 per cent) and his ruling Liberal Party, the survey noted.

According to the survey, 51 per cent of people wanted Trudeau to resign before the next election to make way for a new leader. 72 per cent of Canadian voters believed they wanted to see a new Prime Minister with Justin Trudeau in office for the past nine years.

Trudeau has been in power since 2015, leading the ruling Liberal

Party with a majority. However, in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, the Canadian Prime Minister lost his majority and popular vote share as well.

The 52-year-old leader has faced criticism for his handling of the housing affordability crisis, which his government blames on an influx of migrants and international students, fuelling demand for homes. Recently, the Trudeau government announced a two-year cap on international student permits as part of efforts to address a severe housing crunch.

Since last year, Trudeau has also been in the eye of the storm for his allegations that India was involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil, sparking angry reactions from New Delhi and triggering a diplomatic row.

Trump wins New Hampshire Republican primary; Nikki Haley vows to fight on

Haley hoping a strong showing in South Carolina could propel her into March 5 Super Tuesday contests



WASHINGTON, Jan 24 (Agencies): Donald Trump has defeated Indian-American politician Nikki Haley in the New Hampshire Republican primary, continuing his march toward the party's presidential nomination and a possible final contest with President Joe Biden in the November 5 election.

With three-quarters of the votes counted, Trump, 77, was leading 55 per cent to 44 per cent.

Although only two states have voted so far, Trump's victory in Tuesday's primary underscored his dominance of the Republican Party.

The former president won a landslide in Iowa's caucuses last week.

Trump's victory is remarkable, considering he faces 91 criminal charges, including those related to seeking to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

But Haley, 52, the former South Carolina governor and ambassador to the United Nations, vowed to fight on, giving a feisty speech to supporters on Tuesday night in which she questioned the former president's mental fitness and warned Republicans that renominating Trump would lead the party to defeat.

Speaking after the results, Haley -- who campaigned hard in the state -- congratulated Trump, saying he "earned it". But she said the race was "far from over" with "dozens of states left to go". "I'm a fighter, and I'm scrappy," Haley,

Trump's last remaining rival in the Republican nomination race, said.

Haley said when she started, there were 14 of them in the race, and she was polling at two per cent in the polls.

"And now we're the last one standing next to Donald Trump," Haley said.

"A Trump nomination is a Biden win and a Kamala Harris presidency," she said.

"And the next one is my sweet state of South Carolina," she said.

Haley is hoping a strong showing in South Carolina could propel her into the March 5 Super Tuesday contests.

Trump said that Haley "had a very bad night" and was "doing a speech like she'd won" when she lost.

Trump called her "delusional".

"Who the hell was that impostor that went up on that stage that went before and claimed victory?" he asked.

Team Haley hit back almost immediately, describing his speech as a "furious and rumbling rant".

Notably, Trump is the first non-incumbent Republican presidential candidate to win both the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire primary back-to-back.

Trump is the only Republican candidate to have won the New Hampshire primary thrice.

"This is a decisive win for Donald Trump tonight," former Republican presidential candidate Vivek

Ramaswamy told Fox News in an interview. He said that Haley must withdraw from the race in favour of Trump.

In a statement, the Trump campaign asked Haley to drop out of the race.

Haley does not have a path to victory. Instead, if Haley stays in the race, she will play an active role in advancing the re-election of Harris-Biden, it said.

"Nikki Haley said she's running to stop the re-election of Harris-Biden. Yet, without a viable path to victory, every day she stays in this race is another day she delivers to the Harris-Biden campaign," said Taylor Budowich, CEO of Make America Great Again Inc.

"It's time for unity, it's time to take the fight to the Democrats, and for Nikki Haley: it's time to drop out," Budowich said.

On the Democratic side, President Biden, 81, won easily, even though his name did not appear on the ballot because the party had decided to bypass New Hampshire and start its primaries next month in South Carolina.

In a statement, Biden's campaign indicated that its attention was now focused on Trump, dismissing Haley's prospects as a Republican contender in the general election.

"Tonight's results confirm Donald Trump has all but locked up the GOP nomination, and the election-denying, anti-freedom MAGA movement has completed its takeover of the Republican Party," the statement said.

Make America Great Again or MAGA is an American political slogan and movement popularised by Trump during his successful 2016 presidential campaign and is used to refer to his political base.

"While we work toward November 2024, one thing is increasingly clear today: Donald Trump is headed straight into a general election matchup where he'll face the only person to have ever beaten him at the ballot box: Joe Biden," she said.

US asks China to urge Iran to curb Red Sea attacks by Houthis: Report

WASHINGTON, Jan 24 (Agencies): The United States has asked China to urge Tehran to rein in the Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels attacking commercial ships in the Red Sea but has seen little sign of help from Beijing, agency reported on Wednesday, citing US officials.

The US has repeatedly raised the matter with top Chinese officials in the past three months, the report said.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and his deputy, Jon Finer, discussed the issue in meetings this month in Washington with Liu Jianchao, head of the International Liaison Department of China's Communist Party, the newspaper said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also raised the issue with his Chinese counterpart, the report said, adding US officials believe there was little evidence that China had put any pressure on Iran to restrain the Houthis beyond a mild statement Beijing issued last week.

Earlier on Wednesday, the US military carried out strikes in Yemen, destroying two Houthi anti-ship mis-



siles that were aimed at the Red Sea and were preparing to launch.

On Monday, US and British forces carried out a round of strikes in Yemen, targeting a Houthi underground storage site as well as missile and surveillance capabilities used by the Iran-aligned group against Red Sea shipping.

The Houthi attacks have disrupted global shipping and stoked fears of global inflation. They have also deepened concern that fallout from the Israel-Hamas war could destabilize the Middle East.

Man gets a new lease of life after limb salvage surgery for rare hip-bone cancer

Top News Report

JAMMU / CHAN-DIGARH, Jan 24: A 47-year-old Punjabi lecturer at Kurukshetra got a new lease of life after his rare kind of bone cancer patient was treated successfully by doctors at Max Hospital, Mohali recently.

The patient had a pain in the left groin and hip region along with a limp while walking for almost 3-4 months. The condition was gradually worsening over time. He visited many centers earlier, where he was given painkiller medications but was not able to get any relief. At Max, a thorough detailed examination



was done by a team of experts and the x-rays showed the hip socket being eaten up with the tumors.

Dr. Rajat Gupta, senior consultant orthopedic oncology said, "A probable diagnosis of bone cancer was made and the patient was subjected to CT-guided percutaneous needle biopsy. A small chunk of bone

was taken with the help of a needle and was sent for analysis under a microscope, which confirmed the diagnosis of a rare kind of bone cancer 'chondrosarcoma' of the acetabulum. Thankfully, the patient reached us on time and the cancer had not spread to any other part of the body."

The patient was taken

up for limb salvage surgery where the cancerous hip socket was removed in one piece.

Dr. Pankaj Arora, director radiation oncology informed that the hip socket was sent to radiation oncology department where a very high dose of radiation was given which killed all cancer cells. He further said that

the cleaned-up bone was then obtained back and was fixed back with plates and screws.

The patient was kept on physiotherapy protocols and advised for follow-up. The patient is now disease-free and can carry out all his daily routine activities.

Dr. Rajat said, "The timely intervention by a bone cancer specialist was the key to a successful outcome in this case. Bone cancer can bring anyone's life to a standstill mainly because of the misconceptions associated with it and ignorance about the disease, not only among the patients but also among the clinicians".

Galaxy S24 series secures record 2,50,000 ore-bookings in 3 days

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Samsung, India's largest electronics company, on Wednesday announced that its recently-launched flagship Galaxy S24 series has secured record pre-bookings, making it the most successful S series ever. More than 250,000 customers in India have ordered a Galaxy S24 smartphone since pre-bookings opened in the country three days ago on January 18. For comparison, Samsung had secured 250,000 pre-bookings for its Galaxy S23 series over a three-week period in India.

"Galaxy S24 series, powered by Galaxy AI, ushers in a new era of mobile revolution and puts the power of AI in the hands of consumers to open up new possibilities. With Galaxy S24, consumers can transcend the barriers of communication and maximize their productivity and creativity to

empower their everyday lives. The huge success of Galaxy S24 series demonstrates that Indian consumers are early adopters of new technology. I would like to thank our consumers for their overwhelming response to Galaxy S24 series", said Raju Pullan, Senior Vice President, MX Business, Samsung India. The 'Made in India' Galaxy S24 Ultra, Galaxy S24+ and Galaxy S24 smartphones enhance and redefine the phone's most fundamental role - communication - with Live Translate, Interpreter, Chat Assist, Note Assist and Transcript Assist features. AI built into Samsung Keyboard can also translate messages in real-time in 13 languages, including Hindi. In the car, Android Auto will automatically summarize incoming messages and suggest relevant replies and actions. Galaxy S24 marks a milestone in the his-

tory of search as the first phone to debut intuitive, gesture-driven Circle to Search with Google. Users can circle, highlight, scribble on, or tap anything on Galaxy S24's screen to see helpful, high-quality search results. For certain searches, generative AI-powered overviews can provide helpful information and context pulled together from across the web.

The new Instant Slow-mo can generate additional frames based on movements to smoothly slow down action-packed moments for a more detailed look. Super HDR reveals life-like previews before the shutter is ever pressed. Galaxy S24 Ultra is equipped with Snapdragon®8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform for Galaxy that delivers remarkable NPU improvement for incredibly efficient AI processing. In all three Galaxy S24 models, 1-120 Hz adaptive refresh rates improve performance efficiency.

Delhi to host India's largest corrugated packaging machinery expo from March 7

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: The Corru Pack Print India Expo 2024, an exhibition dedicated to the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Industry, is set to unfold from March 7 to March 9 at the India International Convention and Expo Center in New Delhi. Jointly Organized by the Indian Paper Corrugated & Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association (ICPMA) and the Futurex Group, this event stands as the singular exhibition facilitated by India's foremost Corrugated Packaging Machinery Association.

This expo will feature leading manufacturers in the Corrugated Packaging Machinery sector, showcasing their latest products with live demonstrations of cutting-edge machines. The event aims to bring together the entire spectrum of the Corrugation Industry, presenting a comprehensive display of products that cater to the Packaging and Corrugated Industries.

In his statement, Hitesh Nagpal, the President of ICPMA, highlighted the unique significance of Corru Pack Print India as a specialized event catering exclusively to the corrugation segment. He emphasized that this exhibition marks a pioneering effort by the association, making it the first of its kind in bringing together Corrugated Packaging Machinery manufacturers.



ICPMA, as India's first Paper Corrugated & Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association, has been a driving force since its inception in 2014 at New Delhi. It stands as a modern and dynamic forum that provides valuable opportunities for Indian manufacturers engaged in the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Business on a global scale.

Hitesh outlined the association's ethos, underscoring the active involvement of its members in advancing the technological landscape of the corrugated industry in the country. He further expressed the association's vision of fostering growth for its members, ensuring that each participant in the association contributes to improving their business for the benefit of future generations. The ICPMA remains dedicated to its mission of enhancing the technological prowess of the country's corrugated industry through collaborative efforts and continuous innovation.

Corru Pack Print India 2024 promises to be a hub for networking among packaging

peers, expanding industry networks, and learning about new packaging trends. With over 150 live machineries in action, attendees can engage in face-to-face interactions, fostering collaborations and knowledge exchange.

Namit Gupta, Director of Futurex Group said, "It's a strategic confluence of innovation and business acumen. By bringing together industry leaders, we aim to create a fertile ground for meaningful collaborations, fostering technological

advancements and driving the Corrugated Packaging Machinery Industry to new heights."

The Corrugated Packaging industry in India is experiencing substantial growth, fueled by increased demand for consumer products and the burgeoning e-commerce landscape. As a vital component of the packaging sector, corrugated packaging is playing a crucial role in ensuring the protection of products during distribution, developing brand identity, and managing shipping costs.

National Academy of Medical Sciences

JK & Ladakh Chapter constituted

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: National Academy of Medical Science (NAMS) was established in 1961 by the government of India to support and promote science, academics, and research across the medical fraternity in India.

Recently, the J&K and Ladakh chapter of NAMS has been constituted with Prof. M Ashraf Ganie sub-dean research SKIMS, Srinagar, J&K, who has been nominated as state convener of NAMS and Prof. Dr. Vishal R. Tandon from Govt Medical College Jammu has been conferred with the responsibility of state nodal officer.

"AIIMS-Jammu a milestone in healthcare"

Emergency services at GMC Jammu need upgradation: Dr Varinder

Top News Report

Professional Cell at BJP J&K, extended congratulations to AIIMS-Jammu Director, Professor Dr Shakti Gupta, for nearing completion of the prestigious medical college and hospital in Vijaypur, set to be inaugurated this February.

Dr Sharma commended Dr Gupta's exemplary efforts in establishing this vital healthcare institution, ensuring the recruitment of top-notch faculty and doctors, and providing invaluable guidance throughout the project's execution, tailored for the benefit of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing the significance of the new AIIMS in Jammu, Dr Varinder Sharma noted that this fulfills a long-standing demand, making healthcare facilities more

accessible to the general public.

He appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to enhance emergency conditions at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Bakshi Nagar which are not up to the mark and emphasised that a hospital's emergencies are its face and should meet high standards of care.

He said beginning from parking to patient care everything needs streamlining on war footings.

He urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to improve the conditions of emergencies of Government Medical College and Hospital at Bakshi Nagar besides at other hospitals so that patients are not neglected or left to fend for themselves.

He added that the emergency of a hospital is its face and they

all must be made up to the mark.

Dr Sharma also applauded Dr Shakti Gupta for hosting an international delegation in Jammu, featuring Professor Y K Gupta, President of AIIMS-Jammu.

The recent UK Government Chevening Award workshop on "Healthcare Leadership, Operational Excellence, and Digitalization" in Jammu is highlighted as a transformative initiative, providing medical professionals with insights into the latest technologies and breakthroughs in medical sciences.

In addition, the workshop introduces a mentorship program for young healthcare professionals in India, offering co-developed learning materials and resources on medical leadership.

FROM PAGE 1

Republic Day parade dress rehearsals held across Kashmir

anti-national elements trying to disrupt the celebrations, Birdi said the security agencies always scan such situations. "The Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to pin down such situations," he said.

Senior Army Officer visits forward areas in J&K, reviews operational preparedness

challenge for the forces, but the security situation is under control.

"Yes, it is a challenge for us that a few terrorists are coming in from outside. They are infiltrating and then along with some people here, they try to vitiate the atmosphere. It is a challenge - one which we see with a different perspective.

"We see it the way that our own boys are not joining them, or a smaller number of them are. A few people can be with them, but a majority of the public is not. We keep that in mind when we say that we have control over the security (situation)," Swain said.

Security measures well in place in Srinagar, Elsewhere ahead of Republic

Day: IGP Kashmir

are in place. To a query he said there will be no restrictions on Jan 26 and everyone is invited to take part in the celebrations.

"Instructions have been passed for free-movement of people so that they will attend and take part in celebrations in a smooth manner," IGP added.

After long dry spell, Weatherman predicts snowfall in J&K

department statement said. Srinagar had minus 5.3. Gulmarg minus 4.8 and Pahalgam minus 6.3 as the minimum temperature.

Leh town in Ladakh region had minus 11.5 and Kargil minus 10.1 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu city had 2.3, Katra 4.6, Batote 1.5, Bhanderwah minus 1 and Banihal minus 1.8 as the minimum temperature.

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

India records 160 fresh Covid Cases, Two deaths in 24 Hours

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

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

At its peak, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 4.5 crore people have got infected and over 5.3 lakh people have died across the country due to the infection.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

ACB arrests SDH Sopore official in bribery case

bribe. The official said that further investigating into the case has been initiated.

Farooq, Omar leave for Saudi Arabia for Umrah

easy for me and accept it from me," posted Omar.

Both NC leaders were draped in 'ehraam', two pieces of unstitched cloth draped by Muslim pilgrims while performing Haj and Umrah.

24 trains, several flights delayed due to dense fog in Delhi

6 hours.

Several other trains, including the Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (12301), Rajendra Nagar-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp (12309), Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani (12313), Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp (12423), Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp (22691), Kanpur-New Delhi Shaurajkranti Exp (12451), Kathihar-Amritsar Express (15707), Saharsa-New Delhi Vaishali Express (12553), Prayagraj-New Delhi Express (12417), Rajendra Nagar-New Delhi Exp (12393), Banaras-New Delhi Express (12559), Ambedkarnagar-Katara Express (12919), Chennai-New Delhi Express (12615 and 12621), Hyderabad-New Delhi Express (12723), Kamakhya-Delhi Jn Brahmaputra Mail (15658), and Manikpur-Nizamuddin Express (12447) are delayed by between 1 and 4 hours, said Railway.

The Jabalpur-Nizamuddin Express (12192) is delayed by 30 minutes.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 8.3 degrees Celsius. The recorded minimum temperature in Delhi on Tuesday morning was 6.9 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, due to the cold wave and severe cold in Haryana, the holidays of students from classes 1 to 5 have been extended till January 27. The IMD has predicted moderate fog until

January 26 in the National Capital. Meanwhile, dense to very dense fog conditions are likely to prevail in the morning over parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Uttar Pradesh until January 26, according to the IMD.

Earlier on Tuesday, the IMD said that shallow fog affected the Jammu division, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand, contributing to visibility challenges.

"Visibility challenges were evident at various locations. Visibility recorded (at 0530 hours IST of today) (<=200 metres): Punjab: Patiala-25; Haryana: Ambala-25; West Uttar Pradesh: Agra-0, Bareilly-25, Jhansi-200; East Uttar Pradesh: Varanasi and Prayagraj-25 each, Bahraich and Lucknow-50 each, Gorakhpur-200; Delhi: Palam-50, Safdarjung-200; East Rajasthan: Jaipur-50; Bihar: Patna and Gaya-50 each, Purnea-200; Tripura: Agartala-50; West Rajasthan: Ganganagar, Churu and Jaisalmer-200 each; East Madhya Pradesh: Satna-200," said IMD.

"Visibility recorded (at 0830 hours IST of today) (<=200 metres): Punjab: Ludhiana-50, Patiala-200; Haryana-Chandigarh: Ambala, Karnal- 25 each, Chandigarh-50, Hissar, Bhiwani- 200 each; Delhi: Ridge, Palam, Ayanagar-50 each, Safdarjung-200; Rajasthan: Jaisalmer-25, Churu-50, Jaipur-200; Uttar Pradesh: Bareilly, Lucknow, Fursatganj, Varanasi-25 each, Meerut, Baharich, Gorakhpur-50 each; Madhya Pradesh: Khajuraho-50; Bihar: Muzaffarpur, Patna, Gaya-50 each, Bhagalpur, Purnea-200 each; Sub-Himalayan West Bengal: Cooch Behar-50; Assam: Tezpur-25, Dhubri-50, Jharkhand: Dallong-ganj-200," the IMD added.

Sebi's new disclosure norms not to impact large number of FPIs

MUMBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Market regulator Sebi does not expect a large number of foreign portfolio investors to be impacted by the new beneficial ownership disclosure norms, according to sources.

The norms are set to come into effect from February 1 and against this backdrop, the equity market has witnessed significant volatility, with the benchmark Sensex crashing over 1,000 points on Tuesday after shedding early intraday gains.

The sources in the know said FPIs which may be required to provide enhanced disclosures are expected to be significantly less than estimated in the consultation paper and the Sebi board note of October 2023.

"Exemption from enhanced disclosures



have been provided to FPIs that are SWFs (Sovereign Wealth Funds), listed companies on certain global exchanges, public retail funds, and other regulated pooled investment vehicles with diversified global holdings," one of the sources told PTI on Wednesday.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been dumping shares in recent trading sessions.

In the past four trading days alone, FPIs have sold shares worth over Rs 27,000 crore after pumping in huge money that had also pushed

the market indices to record highs.

"There is no risk of MPS norms violation in concentrated FPI holdings in companies with no identified promoter. Exemptions from enhanced disclosures take this into account. But for companies with no promoters like the HDFC group or ICICI group, the new disclosure norms will be effective," the source said.

MPS refers to Minimum Public Shareholding.

The sources said the problem is when a fund which is not regulated

in any jurisdiction but has a regulated fund manager. There is no way that Sebi can find the source or the end user of the funds, they added while explaining about the new disclosure norms.

Further, the sources said there is no immediate deadline or cliff for FPIs to liquidate any holdings from February 1 when the new norms will be effective.

FPIs that met the criteria for enhanced disclosures as of October 31, 2023, had time till January 31 2024 to rebalance their holdings if they so wished.

If they continue to meet the criteria for enhanced disclosures as of January end, they would have an added 10 to 30 working days to provide the additional details required, the sources said.

Even thereafter, if

they fail to provide any details, the sources said such FPIs would have a further six months to reduce their holdings.

One of the sources also said the 7 days reporting time for an entity to disclose the change in the holding or end beneficiaries will be enhanced to 30 days.

Both the regulators -- the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Reserve Bank of India -- recently tightened both funding and end-user disclosure norms for foreign funds and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

The Indian equity market has been doing well in recent months and scaled record levels multiple times amid positivity about the domestic economy even as global economic and geopolitical uncertainties continue to impact investor sentiments.

DGCA imposes Rs 1.1 crore penalty on Air India over safety violations on long range routes



NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has slapped a whopping penalty of Rs 1.1 crore on Air India for safety violations.

The aviation regulator, which carried out a detailed investigation following a voluntary safety report from an airline employee, said the violations occurred on flights operating on certain long-range

terrain critical routes. The safety report was regarding a leased aircraft operated by airline. DGCA had issued a show-cause notice to Air India after the probe prima facie revealed non-compliance by Air India.

This comes a week after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) slapped a fine of Rs 1.2 crore on IndiGo days after a January 14 viral video showed

its passengers having food on the tarmac at the Mumbai airport.

Mumbai airport operator MIAL was also fined Rs 60 lakh by BCAS and Rs 30 lakh by DGCA in separate orders on January 17. DGCA on January 17 had also imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh each on Air India and SpiceJet for their failure to comply with the rostering of pilots for operating flights in low visibility conditions.

Sensex, Nifty plummet in early trade, Axis Bank and Asian Paints among laggards

MUMBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices witnessed a saw-saw movement in the early trade on Wednesday amid high volatility, as investors rushed to book profit in high-value stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 316.75 points or 0.45 per cent to 70,053.58 points in the opening trade but soon regained the lost ground to trade with a gain of 60.70 points or 0.09 per cent at 70,431.25 points.

The broader Nifty, which initially declined 51.50 points or 0.24 per cent to 21,187.65 points, recovered quickly to trade at 21,265.95 points, 27.15 points higher or 0.13 per cent at 0951 hours.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Tata Steel and Infosys were trading with a gain of up to 1.84 per cent.

HCL Tech, JSW Steel and PowerGrid were other major gainers. On the other hand, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, TCS and M&M lost up to 3.79 per cent in the morning deals.

Maruti, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

As many as 21 stocks of the 30-share benchmark were trading in green, while 32 constituents of the broader Nifty showed gains.

According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, "the valuations in the broader market had become excessive and unsustainable as pointed out many times recently. The trigger for the correction came mainly from the



sustained selling by FII who have sold equity worth Rs 27,830 crore during the last five days."

In the US markets, the Dow closed 0.25 per cent lower, while the S&P 500 settled 0.29 per cent higher and tech-heavy Nasdaq closed Tuesday's session 0.43 per cent higher.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 was trading with a loss of 1.00 per cent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.84 per cent. China's Shanghai Composite was down by 0.14 per cent.

European markets closed largely lower on Tuesday with Germany's DAX and CAC 40 of France losing 0.34 per cent each. London's FTSE 100 also fell 0.03 per cent.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading lower by 0.18 per cent to USD 79.41 per barrel on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Sensex fell 1,053.10 points or 1.47 per cent to settle at 70,370.55. Nifty also declined 330.15 points or 1.53 per cent to close at 21,241.65.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,115.39 crore, according to exchange data.

ONGC gets Petroleum Ministry's nod for green energy subsidiary

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies): The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has approved the formation of a subsidiary company of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for green energy and gas business.

The company will engage in businesses related to green hydrogen, hydrogen blending, renewable energy solar, wind and hybrid etc., biofuels, biogas business and LNG.

This was informed in the ONGC's board meeting on Tuesday.

As per the outcome of the board meeting, the proposed name of the company is "ONGC Green Limited" which is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, government



of India. "In continuation of our filing dated 13.02.2021, it is hereby updated that the Company has received approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) on 05.12.2023 for the formation of a wholly-owned subsidiary

company," the outcome of the meeting read.

"The wholly-owned subsidiary company shall be engaged into the business of value-chains of energy business viz. Green Hydrogen, Hydrogen blending, Renewable Energy (Solar, Wind and Hybrid

etc.), Bio-fuels/ Bio-gas business and LNG," it added.

During the meeting, the Board has also accorded its in-principle approval for the formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) with NTPC Green Energy Limited. The JVC shall

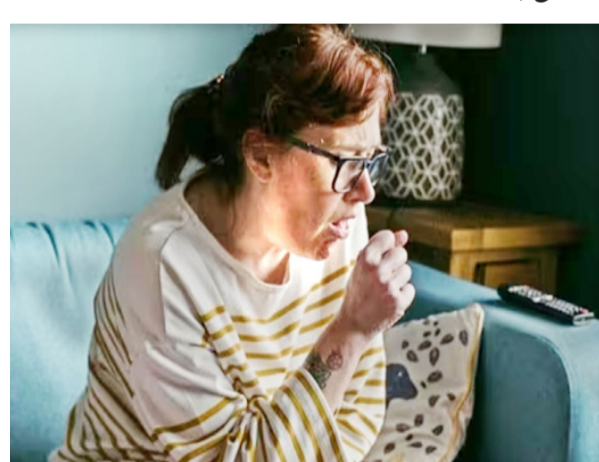
be engaged in the business of Offshore Wind Energy and other Renewable Energy.

India committed to an ambitious five-part "Panchamrit" pledge at COP26 held in 2021. They included reaching 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity, generating half of all energy requirements from renewables, and reducing emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030. India also aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent. Finally, India commits to net-zero emissions by 2070.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, is dependent on crude oil from various sources in the global market to meet its domestic demand.

11 ways to prevent common cold, flu and other winter illness

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (Agencies) During the winter season, a number of ailments have a tendency to become more common as a result of lower humidity, colder temperatures and more time spent inside. The



chance of getting sick can be considerably decreased by being aware of the frequent wintertime ailments and by adopting preventive actions.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Amol Naikawadi, Joint Managing Director and Preventive Healthcare Specialist at Indus Health Plus, highlighted 5 common wintertime ailments -

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Common Cold: A viral infection that affects the upper respiratory tract is the common cold. A sore throat, coughing, sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, and occasionally a low-grade fever are among the symptoms.

Influenza (Flu): Influenza viruses produce the flu, a respiratory disease that is highly contagious. In addition to the

typical cold, symptoms might be more severe and include fever, sore throat, exhaustion, body pains, coughing, and congestion.

Norovirus: The highly contagious norovirus is the source of gastroenteritis, which manifests as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and cramping in the stomach.

Bronchitis: Frequently brought on by viruses, bronchitis causes inflammation of the bronchial passages, which can produce a chronic cough, discomfort in the chest, and occasionally a low temperature.

Boost Immune System: To strengthen your immune system, eat a well-balanced diet full of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Maintain Good Respiratory Hygiene: To stop the spread of respiratory droplets, cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.

Keep Yourself Hydrated: Keeping your body adequately hydrated can support the proper function of your immune system.

Annual Vaccination: To lower your chance of catching the virus, have a flu shot every year.

Proper Handling

the symptoms.

He suggested the following preventive measures to keep common winter illnesses at bay -

Hand hygiene: Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers or wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Limit Close Contact: To prevent the virus from spreading, try to avoid close contact with sick people and, if you are unwell, try to avoid being around them.

Boost Immune System: To strengthen your immune system, eat a well-balanced diet full of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables.

Maintain Good Respiratory Hygiene: To stop the spread of respiratory droplets, cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.

Keep Yourself Hydrated: Keeping your body adequately hydrated can support the proper function of your immune system.

Annual Vaccination: To lower your chance of catching the virus, have a flu shot every year.

Proper Handling

Techniques: To stop the virus from spreading, wash your hands frequently, try not to contact your face, and routinely clean surfaces that you touch a lot.

Remain at Home if Sick: If you're feeling under the weather, stay at home to recuperate and prevent the sickness from getting worse.

Sanitise Surfaces: Frequently clean and sanitise surfaces, particularly in spaces where food is produced.

Isolate When Sick: If you're sick with the norovirus, don't get in close contact with other people.

Prevent Smoke Exposure: Reduce your exposure to air contaminants that can irritate your respiratory system, such as tobacco smoke.

He concluded, "Preventing winter illnesses involves practicing good hygiene, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, getting vaccinated when recommended and taking precautions to avoid close contact with sick individuals. These strategies can significantly reduce the risk of falling ill during the winter months. However, it's essential to go for regular health check-ups to prevent the onset of disease."

6 ways to use honey for dry skin: DIY scrub to night serum

MUMBAI, Jan 24 (Agencies): Embrace the natural goodness of honey as a skincare staple, unlocking its potential to nourish and hydrate. Here are 6 ways to use honey for dry skin

Honey is a natural humectant with moisturising and nourishing properties, making it an excellent ingredient for dry skin. The therapeutic properties of honey are known by most households, as it is often used to replace sugar to make any edible item healthier but with its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties we need to know more about this magical ingredient that is like a flowing stream of goodness.

Saffron and honey as face wash: Creating a saffron and honey face wash is a wonderful way to utilise the benefits of these natural ingredients for your skin. Saffron gives your skin the radiant glow that you want, while honey is a natural moisturiser that brightens and repairs dry, chapped skin. This face wash evens skin tone, brightens dark spots and enhances texture. It lessens the appearance of dark spots, pigmentation and other



skin imperfections. It hydrates and exfoliates the skin naturally to get rid of dead cells. This face wash is suitable for all skin types and is free of harsh chemicals like silicone, sulphate and paraben.

Honey as a lip balm: Honey lip balm will nourish your lips. The hydrating balm shields your lips from the harm that inclement weather may do.

It moisturises the lips naturally, giving them a glossy, youthful appearance. To prevent chapped lips, use this lip balm before applying lipstick. Honey lip balm hydrates lips and freshens your lips all day. It gives your lips a subtle sheen. It moisturises and nourishes the lips for a consider-

able amount of time. It leaves lips smooth and supple by moisturising parched and dry lips. All skin types can use a honey lip balm because it is free of harsh ingredients. However, make sure that the honey you use is free from chemicals, especially sulphate, parabens and silicone. As it is suitable for all skin types, one can safely use it during the impending winter season and enjoy the happy changes that are brought about by a change in seasons.

Bringing her expertise to the same, Makeup Artist Pallavi Sohal, suggested transforming dry skin into a radiant canvas with the golden elixir - honey and encouraged embracing the natural goodness of honey as a skincare staple, unlocking its potential to nourish and hydrate, in the following ways -

Honey Mask Magic: A simple honey mask for parched skin. Mix a tablespoon of raw honey with a teaspoon of yogurt and apply it to your face. Leave it on for 15-20 minutes, allowing the honey's humectant properties to moisturize and revitalize.

'Oldest World No. 1' Rohan Bopanna Makes History, Enters Australian Open Semis With Matthew Ebden

Rohan Bopanna became the oldest No. 1 player in tennis history as he and partner Matthew Ebden qualified for the Australian Open men's doubles semi-final.

MELBOURNE, Jan 24 (Agencies): India star Rohan Bopanna made Grand Slam history as he progressed to the semi-finals of the Australian Open 2024 men's doubles event. Bopanna and his partner Matthew Ebden reached the semi-finals with a straight-sets win against the Argentine pair of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni on Wednesday. Courtesy of the quarter-final win in the Australian Open, Bopanna will become the No. 1 men's doubles player in the world, at the age of 43. When the rankings are updated, he will become the oldest player in the sport's history to clinch the numero uno spot.

The feat comes less than a year after Bopanna became the oldest man to qualify for a grand slam final in the Open era, when he and his partner Ebden lost the US Open 2023 final. Bopanna had made his debut more than 20 years ago.

Bopanna entered the Australian Open with a career-high ranking of No. 3. Having progressed to the semi-finals of the year's first Grand Slam, the veteran Indian is assured of



becoming the new No. 1 when the rankings will be updated next week. His men's doubles partner Mathew Ebden, is assured of the No. 2 spot in men's doubles rankings.

It was for the first time in 17 attempts that Bopanna managed to enter the semi-finals of the Australian Open.

The 43-year-old and his partner recorded a comfortable 6-4, 7-6 (5) win over sixth seeded

Argentinian duo of Máximo González and Andrés Molteni in the quarterfinals that lasted an hour and 46 minutes.

The second-seeded Indo-Australian pair will cross swords with unseeded Tomas Machac and Zhizhen Zhang in the semi-finals.

Earlier, Rajeev Ram of the USA was the oldest player to be ranked world no. 1 when he had achieved the top ranking in

October 2022 at the age of 38 for the first time in his career.

Bopanna, who had achieved the highest rank was world No. 3 for the first time in 2013, is the fourth Indian after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza to take the world number one rank in doubles.

He will take over the top position from USA's Austin Krajicek, who and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig lost in the second round.

Bopanna won the mixed doubles title at French Open in 2017 alongside Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski. However, a title has eluded him in men's doubles, having finished runner-up twice at the US Open in 2010 with Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq Quresh and 2023 with Ebden.

In fact, Bopanna's feat at the US Open last year made him the oldest-ever Grand Slam finalist.

Bopanna is also the oldest player to claim a men's doubles title at a Masters 1000 event. He achieved the feat last year at the age of 43 with Ebden, winning the prestigious Indian Wells tournament.

Ukrainian qualifier Yastremska reaches her first Grand Slam singles semifinal at Australian Open

The 93rd-ranked Ukrainian, who had to qualify for the main draw, wraps up victory in 78 minutes



MELBOURNE, Jan 24 (Agencies): Dayana Yastremska reached her first Grand Slam singles semifinal on Wednesday after beating Linda Noskova 6-3, 6-4 at the Australian Open.

The 93rd-ranked Ukrainian, who had to qualify for the main draw, wrapped up the victory in 78 minutes as she set up a match with either 12th-ranked Zheng Qinwen or Anna Kalinskaya in the last

four.

The Ukrainian is only the second qualifier to reach the women's singles semis at the Australian Open in the Open era, after Christine Storey in 1978.

"It's nice to make history because at that time I was not born, I'm 2000," she said. "I'm super-happy, very tired."

Noskova beat top-ranked Iga Swiatek on her way to the quarter-finals.

Later Wednesday, men's No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz and No. 3 Daniil Medvedev attempt to set up a blockbuster semifinal. Alcaraz plays sixth-seeded Alexander Zverev in the night match while Medvedev faces No. 9 Hubert Hurkacz in the afternoon session.

ICC U-19 World Cup: More intent expected from Indian batters against Ireland

BLOEMFONTEIN, Jan 24 (Agencies): India's young turks would be aiming for a more proactive approach while batting when they take on Ireland in the second group league encounter of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Thursday.

While India disposed of Bangladesh by 84 runs in what turned out to be an easier than expected opener, Ireland game will provide them with an opportunity to play differently before tougher opposition comes calling during the Super Six phase starting next week.

Ireland are coming into the game with a defeat against Bangladesh after beating minnows USA in the opening game.

For India, more than battling the opposition, it will be about raising the bar for themselves and playing the 50-over game, keeping the modern approach in mind, compared to the early 1990s style of play. The skipper Uday Saharan, who scored 64 and top scorer Adarsh Singh (76), had strike-rates of 79 and 68 respectively, which is slightly unacceptable in modern times.

That India had two terrific but vastly different



left-arm spinners Saumy Kumar Pandey and Musheer Khan doing a fantastic job for them meant coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar didn't have much to worry about.

One hopes that Saumy, easily the best bowler by a distance in the first game, doesn't have too much of a shoulder problem that forced him to take a temporary break in the first game in between his first and second spells.

On a slowish Bloemfontein track, Indian batters would need to rotate the strike better and also find more gaps in the Powerplay overs.

There would be a lot of talent scouts, who are keenly watching the 'Boys in Blue' and with a mega IPL auctions lined up next year, people like

Saharan, Adrash and Priyanshu Moliya will need to up their game in order to grab eye balls from men who matter.

Something only Sachin Dhas was able to do in first game with his cameo that took India past 250-run mark.

All eyes will be on Priyanshu, especially, as he is the only player in the side, with two Ranji Trophy tons for Baroda already under his belt. His defensive mindset in the first game was baffling.

For Ireland, their new ball bowlers Oliver Riley, Reuben Wilson and Carson McCullough could ask some probing questions and both Arshin Kulkarni, who has an IPL contract, and Sarfaraz Khan's younger sibling Musheer are due for a big score.

India's Spinball vs England's Bazball: Rohit's men bank on spin for first strike

HYDERABAD, Jan 24 (Agencies): India's unalloyed dominance at home over the last 12 years will be put through its most unique examination till date when Rohit Sharma's side faces a trend-defying England in the first match of what promises to be a stirring five-Test series from Thursday.

No team has been as invincible as India at home since their 1-2 defeat against the Three Lions led by Alastair Cook in 2012, stitching together a bull run of 16 successive series wins, including seven series sweeps.

If one further breaks down the stats, India have lost just three Tests out of 44 they played in their own backyard in this phase, and this is a power walk even beyond the all-conquering West Indies in the '80s or Australia of the turn of the century.

Several factors have contributed to this astonishing run over the last decade, including favourable pitches, bowlers who knew how to exploit those tracks and batters who churned out runs like popcorn from a vending machine.

But two players have stood head and shoulders above the rest in these conquests—off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

From Thursday, the Ash-Jaddu duet will be on show here at the RGI Stadium, where the pitch is expected to turn and grip as the match moves towards its conclusion.

England already have a taste of what these two can do from their past visits here, and they will be worried, particularly about Ashwin.



The 37-year-old still retains the burning zest of a 17-year-old to keep improving his craft and since 2012, Ashwin has grabbed 283 wickets from 46 Tests averaging a shade over 19.

Jadeja might often get viewed as a supporting act to Ashwin, but in his own right, the Saurashtra man is a potent threat, and his deliveries that dart on straight could confuse the batters on a turner.

Jadeja has taken 191 wickets from 39 Tests in the period where Ashwin kicked up a bedlam in opposition ranks to ensure that they don't get breathing space from both the ends. Together, they have bagged 500 wickets at an average of 21.

In all likelihood, India will also include a third spinner to the combination in the form of either Axar Patel or Kuldeep Yadav, with the former having a better chance at the moment.

England will be aware that no amount of preparation involving scruffing up pitches some 1600 miles away in Abu Dhabi will be enough to tackle this real menace, and in that sense, they will also need to tame the demons inside their own minds.

What could work for them is that India will not have the presence and solidity of Virat Kohli at No. 4, as he has skipped the opening two Tests owing to personal reasons.

He is a towering presence against England in Test cricket. The star batter has made 1991 runs against them from 28 matches with five hundreds, but more than the numbers, his ability to master grand occasions will be missed.

Middle-order batter Rajat Patidar is expected to join the squad as a replacement for Kohli for the Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam matches, though India's No.4 and 5 will be Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul with KS Bharat doing the wicket-keeping duties.

Despite their talisman's absence, India is still a tall hurdle for the 'Bazball-ing' England to cross over.

Of course, they have won a Test series in Pakistan 3-0 in late 2022 but a set of proven match-winners offer the visitors a far tougher challenge here.

The whole furor over the return of young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir after the delay in processing his Indian visa too might

have disturbed them ahead of an important fixture. Skipper Ben Stokes has already stated that he is "devastated" for the 20-year-old rookie.

But this is not to say that England are totally incapable of pulling off a miracle. Under Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, they have been able to dish out a really fascinating brand of cricket.

Notwithstanding that, the visitors need more than one element to come together for a meaningful fight—big runs from veteran Joe Root and Stokes, a few wickets upfront from the ever-green James Anderson and their spinners who have no significant experience in these conditions.

On the periphery, it is asking for too much.

But Test cricket is a strange and unpredictable beast and it has the history of producing some truly extraordinary spectacles.

Will Hyderabad offer one or will it be an all too familiar Indian romp? The wait is on.

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

England: Ben Stokes (Captain), Rehan Ahmed, James Anderson, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Dan Lawrence, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Tom Hartley, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Mark Wood.

Siraj's warning: If England play Bazball, the match might get over within two days

HYDERABAD, Jan 24 (Agencies): India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj believes England's much-hyped 'Bazball' strategy won't work in Indian conditions and if the visitors go with their ultra-aggressive approach then the match may get over within two days.

'Bazball', a hell-for-leather attacking batting approach, coined after Test team head coach

Brendon McCullum, has given England tremendous success last year but it will face its baptism by fire on sub-continental tracks, which offer turn and bounce in equal measure.

"If England play Bazball in Indian conditions, the match might get over within a day-and-a-half or two. It's not easy to hit every time here as the ball turns sometimes and straightens

on other occasions," Siraj told 'Jio Cinema' on the eve of the opening Test beginning here on Thursday.

"So, I think it'll be difficult to see Bazball here. But if they play it, it'll be good for us as the match may get over quickly."

Talking about his preparations for the tour, Siraj said: "On their previous tour to India, the matches were getting over quickly. In that



series (in 2021) I think I played two matches.

"In the first innings of one of these, I bowled

five overs and took two wickets of Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow. So, the aim will be to control runs in how many ever overs I bowl.

If I get wickets fine, but I'll have to stay patient and continue building pressure on the batsmen." England are set to play five Tests against India.

The 29-year-old Siraj has taken 68 wickets so far in 23 Tests since

making his debut a little three years back in Australia.

He said focusing on consistently hitting the right spot irrespective of the format and conditions has helped him in his career.

"I bowl with the new ball, so my line and length remain the same. I don't change things whether it's the white ball or the red ball. You have to bowl that

length of five-six metres, because with the new ball, you have to pitch it up to get wickets," he said.

"If the ball doesn't swing, you have to adjust the length slightly. So, I try to find consistency and keep pitching the new ball at the same spot. That's what I focus on whether it's the new ball or the old ball. That consistency has helped me take wickets till now."

75th R-Day celebrations; full-dress rehearsals held at DPL Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 24: Ahead of 75th Republic Day, full-dress rehearsals were held, on Wednesday, at District Police Line Kulgam in which ADDC Kulgam Showkat Ahmad Rather unfurled the National Flag, inspected the parade and took salute during the march past, giving a glimpse of the grand spectacle to unfold on Friday.

The rehearsal is a precursor to the actual Republic Day parade scheduled to be held on January 26.

On the occasion, various contingents of security agencies took part in the parade including J&K Police, J&K Armed Police, Indian Reserve Police, Central Reserve Police Force, SSB



besides Home Guards, Fire & Emergency contingent, NCC cadets and students.

Later, ADDC witnessed various cultural programmes based on cultural and patriotic songs

presented by different artist groups, troupes and students to enthuse the spirit of patriotism among the people.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC highlighted efforts

and achievements made by the district under various priority areas including education, healthcare, languishing, back to village, district capex, agriculture and allied sectors, women and youth empowerment, MGNREGA, JJM, water and electricity supply to Anganwadi Centres and schools, rural development, macadamisation and road connectivity, social welfare, Nasha Mukht Bharat, industries, self-employment, Nasha Mukht Bharat and creation of durable and sustainable assets.

Among others present in the full dress rehearsal function were ADC, ACR, CMO, CEO, DYSSO and senior officers from security departments and line departments.

JKBS members express condolence over demise of Puro Devi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Batwal Sabha members at a condolence meeting held here today expressed deep grief over the demise of most respected woman Smt. Puro Devi who left for her heavenly abode in the morning today.

Members said, She was well mannered and religious minded. She would take care of others when they needed her and speak honestly without taking sides and hurting others' feelings.

Members prayed to Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give immense strength to the bereaved family to bear this immeasurable loss boldly.

Among others present in the condolence meeting included JKBS Chairman Dilay Ram Kaith, Deputy Chairman Havildar Des Kaith, President Rachhpal Kaith, Senior Vice President Birender



Kaith, Vice President Tilak Raj Bassa, General Secretary R.L. Kaith, Financial Secretary Mohinder Singh Motan, Duni Singh Motan, Hans Raj Loria, Naresh Kumar Kaith and Jagdish Raj Kaith.

DRDO to showcase Nari Shakti & indigenous critical systems & technologies during R-Day parade

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Many critical systems/technologies developed by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) will be showcased during the 75th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path on January 26, 2024.

As an enabler of 'Aatmanirbharta', the valuable contribution of women scientists of DRDO in core areas of Defence Research has been significant. The DRDO tableau is based on the theme 'Women power in protecting the nation by providing the defence shield in all 5 dimensions namely Land, Air, Sea, Cyber, and Space'.

Women's involvement in Defence R&D will be prominently highlighted in the tableau. Outstanding Scientist Sunita Devi Jena will be the Contingent Commander. The tableau displays Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile, and Agni-5, Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS), Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR), Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA', Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), Astra, Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas', 'Uttam' Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar (AESAR), Advanced Electronic Warfare System 'Shakti', Cyber Security systems, Command Control Systems and the Semi Conductor Fabrication Facility.

Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile used in Mission Shakti was a major breakthrough in demonstrating the nation's



anti-satellite technology and precision strike capability. India is the fourth country to acquire such a specialised and modern capability. Agni-5 is the surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of striking targets with high degree of accuracy.

Indigenously developed MPATGM is a third generation ATGM with 'Fire & Forget' 'Top Attack' and night operational capability. It is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight. NASM-SR is the first indigenous air launched anti-ship missile system. VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges.

Helicopter-launched Nag is the third generation, fire and forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile that can engage targets in direct hit mode as well as top attack mode. The system has all-weather day and night capability and can defeat battle

tanks having conventional as well as explosive reactive armour.

The QRSAM is all-weather, Air-Defence system that provides mobile air defence cover to mechanised assets of the Indian Army in the Tactical Battle Area. ASTRA, is a state-of-the-art beyond visual range air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets.

LCA Tejas is indigenously developed lightweight and multirole 4+ generation tactical fighter aircraft which can carry laser guided bombs and modern missiles to cause extreme damage to the target.

Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar (AESAR) is a multimode, solid-state active phased array fire control radar with scalable architecture that can be adapted for various types of fighter class of aircraft. Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) System 'Shakti' has been designed and

developed for Indian Navy for the interception, detection, classification, identification and jamming of conventional and modern Radars.

Many other systems/technologies developed by DRDO will also be displayed at Kartavya Path in various contingents of the Armed Forces. This includes Pinaka, Nag Missile System, mobile bridging system 'Sarvatra', Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), Weapon Locating Radar 'Swathi' etc. The fly past of the Indian Air Force will include LCA Tejas and AEW&C developed by DRDO.

The DRDO is a design and development agency for the Armed Forces and to reinforce the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhara Bharat', it is partnering with all stakeholders of defence ecosystem including academia, industry, MSMEs, start-ups and Services in developing state-of-the-art defence systems.

HC issues notice to Election Commission in petition filed by Vilakshan Singh

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court issued notice to the Election Commission of India in a petition filed by Vilakshan Singh, President J&K National Panthers Party.

The notice was issued by J. Rajesh Sekhri after hearing Vilakshan Singh in person.

In the writ petition filed before the High Court, Vilakshan Singh

had stated that after the death of Prof. Bhim Singh he was elected as the President of J&K National Panthers Party.

He has also asserted that P K Ganju had also declared himself to be the President of J&K National Panthers Party.

Singh, in his petition, had further stated that while he and P K Ganju were negotiating to come on one platform, Harsh Dev Singh, who

was not even a formal member of the party, illegally declared himself to be the President of the party.

Singh said that later on he and P K Ganju resolved their dispute and the Working Committee of the party once again elected Vilakshan Singh as the President of the party for a term of two years.

In his petition Vilakshan has also stated that he had filed detailed objections to the false

claim made by Harsh Dev Singh before the Election Commission of India. Singh urged before the High Court that the Election Commission of India despite the lapse of one and half year has not decided the matter.

He said that if the decision is not made by the ECI in a time bound manner, J&K National Panthers Party won't be able to effectively participate in the ensuing parliamentary elections.

Ravinder launches Congress Party's Lok Sabha Campaign in Chenab Valley

Top News Report

BATOTE, Jan 24: AICC Coordinator, Senior Vice President, and Party's Media Incharge for Jammu and Kashmir, Ravinder Sharma, along with prominent leaders, former legislators, and PRLs of Chenab Valley, kicked off the party's campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

The event aimed at fostering a strong opposition voice in the region.

Sharma raised poignant questions regarding the freedom of opposition leaders to move freely and fearlessly in the streets and enter places of worship under the BJP's and Prime Minister Modi's envisioned "Ram Rajya."

Expressing deep concern, he strongly condemned the recent attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Nyay Yatra in Assam, where he was denied entry into a temple.

Pointing to the incident occurring on the day of Prime Minister Modi's



participation in Pran Prathistha at Shri Ram temple, Sharma questioned if this is the Ram Rajya envisioned by the BJP and RSS.

He emphasized that Shri Ram holds a special place in the hearts of every Hindu and many others who revere Maryaada Parshotam, and such incidents on sacred days unveil the true nature of BJP's, especially Modi ji's, Ram Rajya.

Accompanied by Vice President PCC & AICC Coordinator for Jammu Lol Sabha, Naresh Gupta, and PYC President Akash Bharat, Sharma engaged in a day-long interaction with senior party lead-

ers, former legislators, PRLs, and District Presidents of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban at Batote & frontal wings.

Earlier in the day, the gathering paid rich tributes to Netaji Subash Chander Bose on his birth anniversary, observing two minutes of silence to honor his legacy.

Prominent attendees included Ex-MLAs Ashok Dogra, Dina Nath Bhagat, Ex-MLC Sham Lal Bhagat, General Secretary PCC Imriaz Khandey, Pyare Lal Shan, Riyaz Sheikh, DCC Presidents Sheikh Mujeeb, Asif Naqib, Riyaz Wani, Firdous Mingnoo, Feroz Khan, Nadeem Niaz (DDC)

Anju Kajal, Rasheed Malik, Bashir Naik (DDC), Prof Pardeep Bhagat, Bisht, Janak Singh, Ranjeet Manhas, Tariq Ahmed, and others.

Detailed conversations were held between Ravinder Ji and the three concerned district party presidents - Adv. Mohd Asif Naqeeb (President District Congress Committee Kishtwar), Sheikh Mujeeb (President District Congress Committee Doda), and Parvaiz Wani (President District Congress Committee Ramban), discussing various issues and outlining future work plans for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 24: Sunil Dimple, the President Mission Statehood, demanded the return of Jammu and Kashmir as a princely Dogras state and the reversal of decisions made after August 5, 2019, including the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A.

Dimple highlighted rising unemployment and poverty in Jammu and Kashmir as key election issues. He expressed the intention to focus on these issues in the upcoming elections.

He requested the Election Commission of India to hold

Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections concurrently with parliamentary elections, using ballot papers in the region.

Dimple mentioned that the Supreme Court has issued directives to hold the assembly and restore Jammu and

Kashmir as a state.

Dimple appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore Jammu and Kashmir before the assembly elections.

Dimple questioned the BJP's stance on holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir,

given their actions in demolishing the state, abrogating Article 370, and constructing the Ram Temple.

Dimple accused the BJP of intending to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) after the

construction of the Ram Temple, aiming to polarize voters on religious grounds. He emphasized his commitment to protecting the identity, culture, demography, and history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dimple proposed the imple-

mentation of the Instrument of Accession conditions signed between Jammu and Kashmir and India as a way forward for the happiness and progress of the people.

Dimple called for political parties to unite against the BJP, accusing them of destroying Jammu and Kashmir's history, identity, culture, and demography.

Dimple demands restoration of statehood before elections