

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

SKUAST professor sentenced to 1-year RI imprisonment for sexual harassment of student

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): A local court has convicted a professor of Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) and sentenced him to one-year rigorous imprisonment for sexual harassment of a student in 2022.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Sopore, Adil Mushtaq Bandy today sentenced Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, head division of Agriculture Extension and Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, to one year rigorous imprisonment for sexual harassment of the student. The Court has also imposed a fine of Rs 15000 on the accused. "The accused has been sentenced one year rigorous imprisonment," Mirza Zahid Khalil, assistant public prosecutor, CJM Court Sopore said. He said the trial of the case was completed in nine months. The professor was placed under suspension after students of SKUAST Wadura campus protested and demanded action against him for sexual harassment of the student.

Drug peddler held in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered: Police

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (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 Boniyar at a checkpoint established at Boniyar, intercepted one vehicle bearing registration number JK05D-8299. During search, 110 grams of contraband Heroin like substances was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Idrees Shafi Khan son

Amit Shah urges J-K youth to become part of mainstream India

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said that Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed massive transformation post Article 370 abrogation, and urged youth to become part of mainstream India.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of e-buses in Jammu virtually.

Shah said that Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed massive transformation in every sector of life under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who abrogated Article 370 on August 05, 2019 to take J&K to new heights.



"In the past, bullets, stone pelting and strikes were normal in Kashmir but post 370 abrogation the situation has changed. Such things have been replaced by schools, medical colleges, industries etc.,"

Shah said. He said a new era of peace and normalcy has started in Jammu & Kashmir with the annulment of Article 370 which was used as a shield by political leaders to cheat common people.

"They (politicians) were saying that abrogation of Article 370 won't impact J&K affairs, but today everything has changed. There is a lot of improvement in law-and-order situation. Stone pelting has ended, hartals are over, innocent killings have been contained, development has taken pace, people are living their life in a peaceful way," he said.

The Home Minister praised the measures taken by PM Modi government in Jammu & Kashmir for containing terrorism and channels support terrorism through funds. "PM

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In 33 years, we lost 1600 policemen in Pak-sponsored proxy war, largest among security forces in J&K: DGP



SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, R R Swain on Thursday said that in 33 years, J&K Police have lost more than 1600 personnel in Pakistan sponsored proxy war which is largest among security

forces in J&K. DGP while talking to reporters at PHQ Jammu said that losing 1600 personnel is actually the benchmark and watermark in terms of demonstrating the commitment to the national security effort. DGP said that besides

sacrificing their life, many suffered injuries, displacement, and various forms of vilification and intimidation in the line of duty.

Many have suffered attacks on their families, have lost members of their family because of having worked in the police and because of having worked towards the national security effort in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

DGP said that they have acknowledged this and have many times underlined that a time has come when J&K Police and others would make an effort of

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CJI Chandrachud administers oath to Justice Prasanna B. Varale as SC judge



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday administered the oath of office to Justice Prasanna B. Varale as a judge of the Supreme Court.

With the swearing-in of Justice Varale, the Supreme Court is set

to function with a full strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.

The Centre on Wednesday issued a notification appointing Karnataka High Court's Chief Justice P.B. Varale as a judge of the apex court.

The name was cleared by the Centre within a

period of five days after CJI Chandrachud-led Supreme Court Collegium on January 19 recommended the name of Chief Justice Varale for elevation as a judge of the top court.

"While recommending his name, the Collegium has taken into

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J&K police top gallantry awards list this Republic Day, bag 72 medals

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir police have bagged 72 gallantry medals and has once again topped the medals' list this Republic Day.

According to details available with the news agency (KNO) the list includes Mohd Rafee Rather Dy SP GM . Dr. Shammie Kumar Dy SP GM . Zakir Hussain SCT GM Ishfaq Ahmad Insp. GM Muzaffer Ahmad Bhat HC GM . Sajad Ahmad Malik Dy SP GM Sukh Dev SI GM Manzoor Hussain Peer HO GM . Javid Ahmad Chopan HC GM Azad Ahmad Bhat SCT GM . Farooq Ahmad Bhat Follower GM . Qazi Shamas-UI-Muzaffar Amin Dy SP GM Mohinder Singh ASI GM Naseer Ahmad SgCT GM Mohd Altaf Baghat SgCT GM Tanushree, IPS SP GM Muzaffar Ahmad HC GM. Mohmd Hussain Sofi CT GM uresh Kumar CT GM Rohit Kumar Dy SP GM . Mohd Ashraf Dy SP GM . Amit Raina. ASI GM . Nazir Ahmad HC GM Sudhanshu Verma, IPS SP GM Mudassir Bashir Sheergojreey HC GM Mohan Lal



Dy SP GM Tariq Ahmad Laloo ASI GM Javid Ahmad Lone SI GM . Elyas Ahmad Khatana SgCT GM . Yogesh Singh SgCT GM . Mohmd Saleem Dar CT GM Aqib Bashir Dar CT GM Irfan Majeed Naik CT GM Faizan Ali Dy SP GM . Aftab Ahmad SgCT GM Mudassir Ahmad Malik CT GM. Sajad Ahmad Bhat CT GM . Rakesh Kumar Singh PSI GM Irfan Ahmad Bhat CT GM Aftab Ahmad SgCT 1st BAR TO GM Dilawar Hassan Magray SgCT

GM Shabir Ahmad SgCT GM Mansoor Ahmad Sheikh CT GM . Yasir Rashid Bhat Insp. GM Mushtaq Ahmad Wani CT GM. Abdul Rahman Khan . Farooq Ahmad Awan . Mumtaz Ali Insp. GM HC GM Dy SP GM Farooq Ahmad Awan HC 1 BAR TO GM. Mohd Ayaz HC GM Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh CT GM . Sumit Kumar Sharma Dy SP GM Amit Raina ASI 1 BAR TO GM . Farooq Ahmad Awan HC 2nd BAR

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Two persons arrested in Jammu, 6 booked for inciting posts on social media

JAMMU, Jan 25 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday night arrested two persons and booked six others for uploading objectionable contents on social media aimed to create communal tension between two communities in Jammu region, officials said.

Amit Sharma of Bajalta filed a complaint on behalf of the inhabitants of village Khana Chargal of Jammu district stating that two persons, Zaffar Hussain and Nusrat of Bajalta, have uploaded objectionable contents on social media platform Instagram, which can create communal tension between two

communities, a police spokesperson said.

A case was registered at Nagrota police station and the two were arrested. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

The police have taken cognisance against five youths accused of posting objectionable contents on social media platforms in Ramban district and registered cases against them, the spokesperson said.

The police also booked another person for a derogatory post in Kathua district.

The police said all social media platforms

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Night temperature rises in Kashmir, Rain and snow likely over next week in J&K

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir could see a prolonged dry spell with the forecast of rains and snowfall at scattered to widespread places over the next few days, officials said on Thursday.

The night temperatures in the Kashmir valley saw a rise owing to a cloud cover. Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, up from previous night's minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

The meteorological department has said Jammu and Kashmir's weather would remain generally cloudy on

Thursday with light snow at isolated higher reaches towards the night.

On Friday, there are chances of light rain over the plains and light snow at scattered higher reaches early morning, it said.

On Saturday, the weather is likely to remain cloudy with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches late evening, while light to moderate rain and snow is very likely over widespread places on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the MeT office said.

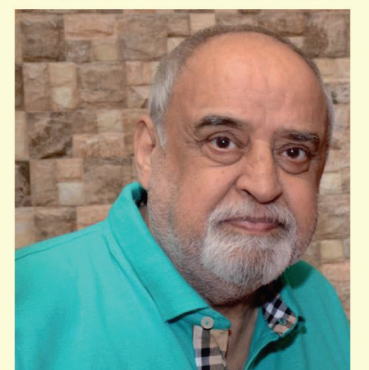
Light rain and snow could also occur at some places on February 1 and 2, it added.

The weather office has said the system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna and Razdan passes and Zojila Pass, particularly from January 28-31.

Meanwhile, there was improvement in the night temperature across the Kashmir Valley owing to a cloud cover. Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, up from previous night's minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

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CHOUBARSI



Sh. Purshottam Kumar Pandoh
Retd. Executive Engineer (Mechanical)

Choubarisi of our beloved **Sh. Purshottam 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. Boddh 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, 9419182518

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



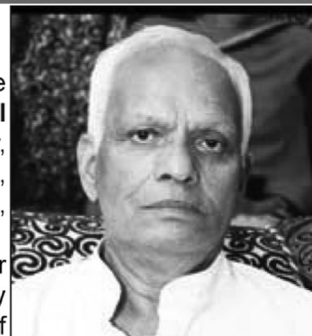
Pushpa Devi Ji (Pabi)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Bansil Lal 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 Akhnoor 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. Bansil Lal Koul

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 Sheerwani Colony Baramulla A/P H. No. 6, Shiv Vihar I.M.S Road, Gurah Bhranna Patoli Jammu on 18-01-2024.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Akhnoor 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 Jaiaja Bhat
Grand Children
Mrs & Mr. Sumit Bhat
Mr. Rohit Bhat
Mrs & Mr. Vishal Bhat
Mrs & Mr. Akshay Bhat
& **Smast Bhat Parivar**
Mobile No: 9469478231, 9419908962, 9596804779

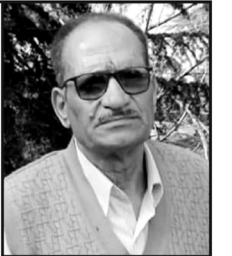


SMT JAIKISHORI BHAT (KISHNI JI)

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 Akhnoor Ghat. The Assembly will be at Muthi Ghat, Near Director School Education Jammu at 11 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Santosh Bhat - Wife
Smt. Deepi & Satish 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 Tufchi, Dhar, Pandita, Raina, Bhat, Koul Families
941922944, 9419122636, 9419136307, 7875090557



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 Sudhan 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 jaay.
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, 9315648154



Smt. Madan Mohini Bhat (Babi Ji)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Dev Raj Gorka (SP Retd)** S/o (Late) Sh Nand Lal R/o Jinder Melu R.S. Pura presently residing at H.No. 149B Jeevan Nagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day shall be performed on Friday (26/01/2024) at Sukh Sehaj Hall Digiana, Near Digiana Pulli.
Satsang shall be starting at 12:00 Noon followed by Tenth day.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Smt Vaishno Devi (Wife)
(Daughters in law & Sons)
Mrs & Mr Ajay Gorka
Mrs & Maj Anjum Gorka
(Daughter & Son in law)
Mrs Veenakshi & Mr Jagdish Raj
Mobile: 9906330187, 9026577255



Sh. Dev Raj Gorka (SP Retd)

ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sdrn Parkash Kour** W/o S. Himat Singh (Rajouri Wale) R/o S. Jagjeet Singh memorial enclave, Preet Nagar, Digiana, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 18-1-2024.

Antim Ardass will be performed at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu on 26-1-24 Friday from 11 am to 1.00 pm.
In Grief:
S. Himat Singh (Rajouri Wale) - Husband
Sons
S. Amarjeet Singh (Retd. Capt.) U.S.A
S. Parmjeet Singh (Patwari)
S. Gurmeet Singh Preacher and Vice President Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Guru Nanak Nagar
9419205270, 6006890388

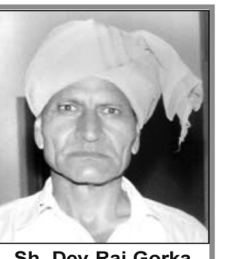


Sdrn Parkash Kour

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Dev Raj Gorka (SP Retd)** S/o (Late) Sh Nand Lal R/o Jinder Melu R.S. Pura presently residing at H.No. 149B Jeevan Nagar, Jammu.

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Satsang shall be starting at 12:00 Noon followed by Tenth day.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Smt Vaishno Devi (Wife)
(Daughters in law & Sons)
Mrs & Mr Ajay Gorka
Mrs & Maj Anjum Gorka
(Daughter & Son in law)
Mrs Veenakshi & Mr Jagdish Raj
Mobile: 9906330187, 9026577255



Sh. Dev Raj Gorka (SP Retd)

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vishnu Kumar Aggarwal** S/o Lt. Sh. Manohar Lal Aggarwal R/o 97/C, Partap Garh, Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 15 Jan 2024.

UTHALA shall be performed on Friday, 26th Jan 2024 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Aggarwal Sabha, Vivekanand Chowk, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sushma Aggarwal - Wife
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sheetal & Naresh Aggarwal
Neha & Vikas Aggarwal
Urvashi Aggarwal - Daughter
Grand Children : Ujjwal, Ritwik, Arnav, Aarav
M/s Manohar Lal Vishnu Kumar
M/s Manohar Lal Aggarwal & Sons
Nehru Market, Jammu
Mobile: 9622590151, 9086090151

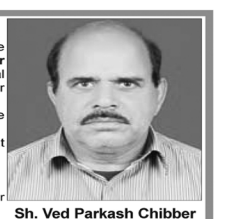


Sh. Vishnu Kumar Aggarwal

DHARAM SHANT/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ved Parkash Chibber (Retd. Asst. Veterinary Officer)** S/o Lt. Sh. Sukh Chain Lal R/o H.No. 132 Ext/D Janipur Colony Jammu (Near Vastar Tank).

Dharam Shant will be performed at our residence 12.00 noon at 26-1-2024.
Uthala will be held at Tri-nurti Mandir Janipur Colony at 3 pm to 4 pm on 26-1-2024.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Parja Devi Chibber W/o Late Sh. Sukhchain Lal Chibber
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Manoj Chibber
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Monika & Sh. Sanjeev Bhat
Smt. Nirdosh & Sh. Pushkar Raj Chibber - Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Aasha & Sh. Ashwani Kumar Chibber - Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Sangeta & Sh. Ravali Chibber - Bhabhi & Brother
Smt. Sudeesh Dutta W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj Dutta - Sister
Smt. Kanchan & Sh. C.S. Bhatt - Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Kamla Devi W/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Mohan - Sister-in-law
Smt. Sushma Mohan W/o Late Sh. Vijay Mohan - Sister-in-law
Smt. Sunita Mohan W/o Late Sh. Anil Mohan - Sister-in-law
Smt. Shama & Sh. Subash Sharma - Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Veena Dutta W/o Late Sh. Sham Lal Dutta - Sister-in-law
Mobile: 9419121374, 7006117536, 9858138088



Sh. Ved Parkash Chibber (Retd. Asst. Veterinary Officer)

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

With Profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Krishna Jamwall Ji** (Chairperson of Ranjeet Memorial High School) W/o Late Sh. Jagdish Singh Jamwall 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 Jamwall 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/10TH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED KARAMYOGI **SHRI ROSHAN LAL BHAT** S/O LT. VED LAL BHAT R/O WADIPORA, HANDWARA DISTT KUPWARA A/P H NO. 1 LANE NO. 9, SURIYA VIHAR; BOHRI JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 17-01-2024.

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED AT MATA BHADERKALI ASTHAPAN BHADERA GHAT THALWAL ON 26-01-2024 AT 9 AM AND ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT OUR RESIDENCE AT 11:30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
SMT VIJAY KUMARI BHAT (WIFE)
SMT MOHINI PANDITA (SISTER)
DAUGHTERS IN LAW & SONS
SMT RENU & SH SANJAY KUMAR BHAT- 9419709021
SMT ANJNA & SH ONEEL KUMAR BHAT- 7780935261
SMT ANITA & SH RAKESH BHAN- 9560068444 - DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
SMT BIMLA & SH SHIBEN KISHEN BHAT - 6005762228 - NIECE-IN-LAW & NEPHEW
SMT CHANDERKANTA & SH ASHOKE BHAT - NIECE-IN-LAW & NEPHEW
SMT SUMAN BHAT (7006060788) - NIECE-IN-LAW
SMT SUDESH & SH KANWAL KISHEN BHAT (9419190997) - NIECE-IN-LAW & NEPHEW
GRAND CHILDREN:
VARUNIKA, SAMARTH, MUSKAN, GARIMA, JENITA, VATSAL
SAMAST BHAT, PANDITAS, BHAN, KOUL, RAINA PARIVAR



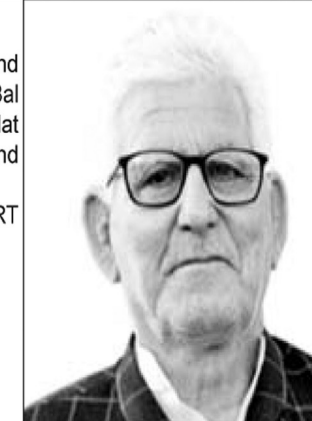
KARAMYOGI SHRI ROSHAN LAL BHAT

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



Sh Omkar Nath

RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA

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 Akhnoor Road, Opposite Last Pillar of Muthi Flyover, Near Indian Cake House, Udhewala link road, Jammu.

RASAM PAGRI / UTHALA will be performed at Prem Resort in between over head water tank and K. S Furniture after flyover landing at Muthi, Akhnoor Road on 26-01-2024 (Friday) at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Daughter-In-Law & Son
Smt Ruchi & Sh. Aditya 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
Sister-In-Law & Brother-In-Law
Smt. Shyama & Sh. Tardeep Dharmat
Smt. Ritu & Sh. Umesh Dharmat
Grand Children
Akshay, Aayushi, Aanandi
Mobile No- 9103099199, 7889548566



SH. HARSH VARDHAN SHARMA (Bathoo)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Sukhdev Singh (Retd ASI- J&K Armed Police)** S/o Late S. Sadhu Singh R/o Sant Nagar Upper Gadi Garh Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 17-01-2024.

PROGRAMME-
ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH at our residence on 24-01-2024 at 9:30 AM. **BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH** at our residence on 26-01-2024 at 10:00 AM. **KIRTAN AND ANTIM ARDAS** at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Dashmesh Nagar near MBS College from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sardarni Pritam Kour -Wife
S. Amarjeet Singh - Son
Sardarni Ravinder Kour - Daughter-in-law
S. Isher Singh- Brother
Sardarni Harbans Kour - Bhabhi
MOB: 9796463021, 6005061658



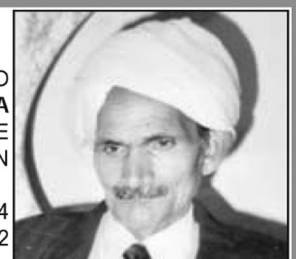
S. SUKHDEV SINGH (RETD ASI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED SH. PARMANAND SHARMA S/O LATE NATHU RAM VILLAGE & POST OFFICE KOT- 181122 JAMMU LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 19.01.2024 AT 02.45 A.M.

THE TENTH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 27.01.2024 (SATURDAY) AT OUR RESIDENCE V.P.O. KOT - 181122 (JAMMU) AT 11 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. GEETA SHARMA -WIFE
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON
SMT. RITTY SHARMA AND SH. DHRUB SHARMA (J&K BANK)
PIYUSH SHARMA - GRANDSON
JEEVAN
MOBILE NO. 9419965977, 7006590772



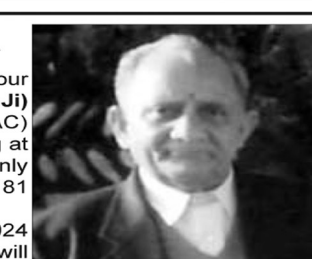
SH. PARMANAND SHARMA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our beloved Karamyogi **Sh Kashi Nath Kandaroo (Boba Ji)** S/o Neel Kanth Kandaroo Retd Secretary (TAC) Anantnag H/o Jai Kishori Kandaroo previously residing at Nazuk Mohalla Anantnag Kashmir left for heavenly abode dated on 18th Jan 2024 at present H No. 81 General Lane Saraswati Vihar Bohri Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be observed on 27-01-2024 (Saturday) at 8 AM at Akhnoor Ghat. The assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Muthi at 11.30 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN :
(Wife)
Smt Durga Ji and Late Shri Brij Nath Koul (Sister)
Smt and Shri Rattan Lal Kandaroo (Brother)
Smt and Shri Autar Krishen Kandaroo (Brother)
Smt and Shri Tej Krishen Kandaroo (Padam Ji) (Brother)
Dileep Kandaroo and Babli (Son and Daughter in law)
Pupli Dhar and Munoo Dhar (Daughter and Son in law)
Pummy and Kunal Koul -do-
Fancy and Sanjay Bhat -do-
Grand Children : Nikhil, Sukriti, Kanishk, Sheena, Shanty
And Samast Wattal's (Pandita's), Raina's, Dhar's, Bhat's, Koul's Parivar
Contact No's : 7889461818, 7780913124, 8377044938, 8825015714



Sh Kashi Nath Kandaroo (Boba Ji)

BJP top leadership interacts with first time voters in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) organised largely attended, impressive programmes at assembly constituencies across the Union Territory on the auspicious occasion of 14th National Voters Day falling on January 25.

The BJP had deputed senior leaders of the party at different venues to interact with the first time voters and address them.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina, interacted with the first time voters in a programme held at CLC Banquet Hall, Greater Jammu, in Jammu south assembly constituency. More than five hundred first time voters had reached the venue to meet and listen the BJP President.

Ravinder Raina, engaged in a ground breaking dialogue with the youth during this Nav Matdata Sammelan and spoke on the importance of the vote. He said that once someone gets registered in the voter list, he or she become a crucial member of the democratic process of the country. The value of a vote in the democracy carries great significance as every single vote matters in deciding the fate of the nation. Former MLC Vikram Randhawa also accompanied the State president and stressed upon the first time



voters to remain alert and become a judge to identify the parties promoting nepotism and corruption.

Union MoS, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while addressing a massive gathering of first time voters at Kalra Carnival in Udhampur East assembly constituency, said that the role of youth in every sphere of life is very important and they contribute a lot in nation building. He said that today's youth, the first time voter, is more informed and well acquainted with the developments in the country under the Modi's model of good governance.

Lok Sabha MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma along with former minister Priya sethi, in a programme at Brahman Sabha in Jammu East assembly constituency, said that youth is the backbone of any democracy and the first time voters play important role in bringing change in the political environment in the country. Priya Sethi spoke on the importance of gender

equality, adding that the Modi government has provided platform for the females to prove their abilities and capacities. Former Minister Sat Sharma interacted with first time voters at Luthra Higher Secondary School, Talab Tillo in Jammu West Constituency. He said that the youth should get registered as a Voter and also educate their friends and near dear ones to be enrolled as a voter.

Rajya Sabha former MP, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, while interacting with the first time voters in Jammu North assembly constituency, said that the youth of today takes deep interest in observing the political environment around him and plays decisive role in rejecting or strengthening any government on the basis of its policies.

General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul, interacted with first time voters in Amar Singh Club, Srinagar, said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has himself addressed the

first time voters through virtual mode, which itself is a testimony of the fact that the PM want to instil a sense of responsibility and participation of the youth of India in shaping the destiny of the nation. Former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, interacted with the first time voters in Durga Bhawan, Bahu assembly constituency and said that the new voters should not get misled by the pleasing slogans of the political parties but trust a party which has, time and again, proved its commitment to serve the nation and its people.

General Secretary and former minister, Dr. Devinder Manyal interacted with the first time voters in Ramgarh assembly constituency. General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta interacted with the first time voters in Rajouri city.

Similarly, former minister Sukhnandan Chaudhary interacted with first time voters in Marh constituency, former minister Sham Lal Sharma interacted with the first

time voters in Shiv Shakti Palace, in Khour assembly constituency.

Former Minister Surjeet Singh Slathia interacted with first time voters at RR Resort in Samba assembly constituency, Sham Chaudhary at Suchetgarh.

At Vijaypur former minister Chandrakant Prakash Ganga and at Jasrota, Rajeev Jasrotia interacted with the first time voters. Former ministers Ajay Nanda at Reasi, Shakti Raj Parihar interacted with the new voters at Doda West, Pawan Gupta at Udhampur West.

Vice President Pawan Khajuria at Udhampur East. Former MLA Devender Rana at Nagrota assembly constituency interacted with first time voters.

Ex MLAs Rajeev Sharma at Akhnoor, Neelam Langeh at Ramban, Dilip Singh Parihar at Bhaderwah, Balwant Mankotia at Chenani addressed the first time voters. Chand Ji Bhat addressed the Kashmir Displaced District at Jagti.

BJYM State President Arun Prabhat, while complimenting the Yuva Morcha activists in the entire UT for organising successful programs of first time voters, said that the efforts of constituency level youth of the party has succeeded in sending a message among the new voters that each one of them has a role in the society and the nation building.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu celebrates National Voters' Day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: National Voters' Day celebrated at Government Polytechnic College Jammu by organizing debate and Painting Competition in the college campus under the guidance Er. Arun Bangotra Principal.

More than 20 students of IRG took part enthusiastically in the Competition.

Speaking on the occasion Er Arun Bangotra Principal GPJ threw light on National Voters'

Day. The objective is to increase the enrolment of voters to make the universal adult suffrage a reality.

He said that the objective of National Voters day is to increase the enrolment of voters to make the universal adult suffrage a reality.

He advised staff and students to create awareness among the society as a whole about the importance of registration of votes and ensure their active participation in election

for stronger democracy in the country. All the staff and student took a pledge on occasion of National Voters' Day.

In debate Competition, student namely Suhani Adhikari stood first, Rizwan Mughal stood second and Ranjana Devi stood third. In Painting Competition, student namely Vaneeta Sekhri stood first, Riya Sharma stood second and Kajal Kumari stood third in the competition.

The Judges of the event are Er. Sukhdeep Singh H.O.D Civil Engineering Department & Er. Raj Kumar H.O.D Mechanical Engineering Department and the organizing members are Er. Sakshi Kapahi Lecturer I&C Engineering Department, Er. Ruchi Mahajan Faculty I&C Engineering, Er. Vicky Sharma faculty Electrical Engineering Department, Ar. HimaniDubey Faculty Architecture Department and Vinay Sharma Instructor IRG.

Deputy Drug Controller seizes drug-laden consignment disguised as medicines

SRINAGAR, Jan 25 (Agencies): In a significant operation, Nighat Jabeen, Deputy Drugs Controller in Kashmir, uncovered a consignment disguised as medicines.

The vigilant deputy controller, Nighat Jabeen and her team seized the shipment at Air Cargo Srinagar, acting swiftly upon receiving information from a tax officer and state excise officer.

"We caught this consignment under an informed tip from Air Cargo Srinagar. After we received the information, we took immediate action on it, and my team reached there. "During inspection, we got to know that the names on the box didn't match the actual recipient," Mrs Nighat Jabeen said.

"This consignment was not for him. It was meant for an auto driver currently in lock-up with a misleading label of 'ornaments' on the outside. It was drugs on the inside because we have now experienced it," she added.

This incident marks the fourth raid since last year, underscoring the persistent efforts to smuggle addictive drugs under the guise of innocent items.

Notably, a previous consignment, purportedly containing a nebulizer, unravelled to reveal addictive drugs valued at three and a half lakh rupees.

Further investigation is awaited.

GDC Vijaypur celebrates Republic Day

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 25: Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur celebrated Republic Day with great fervor and enthusiasm in the college premises.

The program started with the welcome address by Prof. Anita Jamwal, Convenor Cultural Committee where she briefed the audience regarding the importance of Republic day.

The event started with the lighting of lamp by the Principal and staff members of the college.

It was followed by Saraswati Vandana and students of the College presented various cultural events with great



enthusiasm, patriotic fervor and great zeal by recitation of National Song.

Audience was enthralled with group dance and patriotic songs sung by the students.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Ritu Bhagam and Prof. Poonam Kundan and co-ordinated by Dr. Naseem Chowdhary, Dr. Priyanka Ganjoo, Dr. Radhika Rasyal, Prof. Renuka Kundal.

National Voters' Day celebrated at IGNOU Regional Centre

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India and in order to commemorate the Foundation Day of the Commission, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu celebrated the 14th National Voters' Day on Thursday with enthusiasm and fervour at its main office in the Govt.



SPMR College of Commerce premises. Apart from the man-

agement and staff, the Academic Counsellors and a number of learn-

ers participated in the event as per the designated schedule.

The participants watched the Pledge taking ceremony virtually which was broadcast from the Maidan Garhi New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU.

Later the Regional Director, Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, administered a pledge to the participants gathered on the occasion and encour-

aged the young voters to participate in elections and spread awareness among voters to promote and participate in the electoral process.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Assistant Regional Director, said that the theme for this year is 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure', conveys an individual's feeling and aspiration towards participation in the electoral process through the power of their vote.

Shiv Sena demands local level appointments in Govt

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded appointment of staff at the local level along with free travel for women and Sr. Citizens in the e-buses operating on the roads of Jammu and Kashmir under the Smart City Project.

In a press conference organized at the party state office today, state chief Manish Sahni welcomed the flagging off of e-buses

in Jammu by Union Home Minister Amit Shah through virtual mode today.

Sahni said that under the Smart City Project, Tata Motors has been entrusted with the responsibility of supplying and operating 100 electric buses each in Jammu and Srinagar for 12 years.

Sahni said that this is a welcome step to stop the increasing deadly pollution in Jammu and Kashmir, but the operation of these buses is sure to cause



financial loss to the owners of mini buses plying on the roads of Jammu for decades and the clouds of unemployment. are loom-

ing over the drivers. Sahni said that we are not against development and technology but we do not accept sacrificing the

interests and rights of the local people for this.

Sahni demanded from the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure free travel for women and elderly people along with appointments to local people in Tata Motors e-buses. On this occasion president female wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, vice president Sanjeev Kohli were present.

GDC Mahanpur celebrates National Voters' Day

Top News Report

MAHANPUR, Jan 23: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur, in collaboration with Department of Political Science, organized a National Voters' Day programme on Thursday.

The event was organized under the supervision of Principal Dr. Sangeeta Sudan.

Dr. Sudan appreciated the effort and congratulated the students and staff. The programme was organized to celebrate National Voter's Day.

The main purpose of the programme was to create electoral awareness amongst students and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.



The entire programme was conducted under the supervision of the Principal of the College, Dr Sangeeta Sudan.

Program was organized by Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS PO and Dr. Mohammad Sardar Bhatti, HOD Political Science. The programme was initiated by Dr. Mohammad Sardar Bhatti. He elaborated

about the importance of voter day among students.

Other faculty members including Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Prof. Sapna Devi, Prof. Suman, Prof. Mohammad Sardar Bhatti, Prof. Nishu, Nisha Baghat, Prof. Hilal, Prof. Ajay, Prof. Anil Kumar, Sunny Sharma were also present on the occasion.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-Tender Notice						
Sr.DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.irps.gov.in with closing date 12.02.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.irps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.irps.gov.in						
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
Open	Works	Single Bid System	19.01.2024	29.01.2024	12.02.2024/15:00 Hrs.	
Details of Tender						
1	379-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Provision of cover shed at 6 LHS in severely waterlogged crossing No. 6 Shed at LHS No. 103, 27A, 114, 55, 58 & 59 on JUC-FZR Section in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR (160mtr cover shed over LHS at Level crossing as per NR type plan no. MIS-110/GT/Br.)	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			5,06,83,212.25/-	4,03,400/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
2	380-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Provision of cover shed at 7 LHS in severely waterlogged crossing No. 7 Shed at LHS No. 20, 23, 30, 32, 33, 39 & 42 on FZP-FKA Section in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR (160mtr cover shed over LHS at Level crossing as per NR type plan no. MIS-110/GT/Br.)	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			5,91,30,393.53/-	4,45,700/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
3	381-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Provision of cover shed at 6 LHS in severely waterlogged crossing No. 6 Shed at LHS No. 8, 24, 27, 82, 68, & 72 on FZP-FKA Section in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR (160mtr cover shed over LHS at Level crossing as per NR type plan no. MIS-110/GT/Br.)	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			5,06,83,212.25/-	4,03,400/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
4	382-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Provision of cover shed at 6 LHS in severely waterlogged crossing No. 6 Shed at LHS No. 16, 19, 22, 37, 44, & 52 on FZP-FKA Section in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-HQ/FZR (160mtr cover shed over LHS at Level crossing as per NR type plan no. MIS-110/GT/Br.)	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			5,06,97,571.93/-	4,03,500/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
5	383-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Raising/Extension of existing retaining walls, Epoxy grouting, adtl, Sump, Standard Hump along with regarding of the road surface of 05 LHS Nos C23, C75, C76, C80, C82, LHS under ADEN-1/FZR	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			3,66,30,021.15/-	3,33,200/-	60 Days	08 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
6	384-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Upgradation/Improvement at Kolkapura Goods shed under ADEN-1/FZR	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			96,89,238.98/-	1,93,800/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".						
7	385-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR	Replacement of 04 nos old type-IV quarters along with 04 nos type-III quarters against replacement of old DILAPIDATED quarters at Firozpur under Sr.DEN-HQ/FZR.	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			1,60,41,181.03/-	2,30,200/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Construction of building/quarters".						
8	386-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR	Replacement of steel girders of Br. No. 94 (2x2.66+1x4.27 mtr), Br. No. 101 (1x2.20 mtr) & Br. No.102 (2x2.20m) on FZP-HSW section, Br. No. 108-A (1x2.90m) on LDH-FZR section, Br. Nr. 107 (2x3.66m) on JUC-FZR section, Br. No.158 (11x1.83m) on PHR-LNK section under ADEN-2/FZR (Total Span 20 Nos)	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
			1,87,12,785.96/-	2,43,600/-	60 Days	8 Months
Similar Nature of work:- "Construction of any Bridge work".						
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.						
Tender Notice No:- 379,380,381,382 & 386-2023-24-ADEN-2-FZR & 383, 384 & 385-2023-24-ADEN-1-FZR						
Date: 19.01.2024						
Serving Customers With A Smile						
						274/2024

EDITORIAL

VOTE-
FOUNDATION
OF FUTURE

National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on 25 January in India. This day is important for every person in India. On this day, every person of the country should take a pledge to participate in every election of his country, because the vote of every citizen of the country forms the foundation of the future of the country.

Voting is a citizen's right, but it is also a duty. Through voting we shape the future of our country. With one vote, governments can change, the country can develop and society can change.

The right to vote is a fundamental right. This right has been granted to us by the Constitution. Through voting we elect the representatives of our country. These representatives form our government and rule our country. Therefore, it is important that we exercise our franchise and contribute to the development of our country.

Through voting we can bring change in the society. We can decide what kind of society we should have in our country. We can decide that the rights of women, children and Dalits are protected in our country. Therefore, it is important that we use our vote and bring change in the society.

Through voting we can shape the future of our country. We can decide in which direction our country should move. We can decide what kind of government we should have in our country. Therefore, it is important that we use our voting properly.

Through voting we can contribute to the development of the country. Electing a good government leads to the development of the country. There comes peace and prosperity in the country. Therefore, it is important that we exercise our vote and contribute to the development of the country.

Through voting, we can bring change in society. We can decide what kind of society we should have in our country. We can decide that the rights of women, children, and Dalits are protected in our country. Therefore, it is important that we use our vote and bring change in the society.

The Election Commission of India should make efforts to make awareness campaigns about the importance of voting more effective.

Education about the importance of voting should be included in schools and colleges.

The media should be encouraged to help raise awareness about the importance of voting.

National Voters' Day is an occasion when we make all citizens aware of the importance of their voting rights. It is a day when we inspire all the citizens to contribute to the development of our country. Therefore, all citizens should exercise their franchise and contribute to the development of their country.

Some officers in Punjab in limbo, others have too many portfolios

By: Dilip Cherian

Several IAS officers in Punjab find themselves in a state of limbo, awaiting postings for the past couple of weeks, as the Bhagwant Mann government is yet to assign them any administrative responsibilities. They include Nilkanth Avhad, Ajit Balaji Joshi and Neelima.

Sources informed DKB that Mr Avhad was secretary of the public works department but was replaced by Priyank Bharti in August last year and has been without a posting since then. Ms Neelima faced charges by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau in an alleged corruption case in January last year. Although she secured bail and returned to work, she too remains without a posting. Meanwhile, Mr Joshi is a Haryana cadre IAS officer who switched to Punjab and reported to the state two months ago. He is still awaiting his new assignment.

Even as these officers wait for assignments, others are burdened with excessive workloads. K.A.P. Sinha is managing the roles of financial commissioner (revenue) and financial commissioner (development), typically designated for two separate officers. Tejveer Singh looks after power, industries, rural development and panchayats, while Gurkirat Kirpal Singh is the administrative secretary for three crucial departments,

home, food and civil supplies and mining.

Chief minister Bhagwant Mann's commitment to addressing this issue is crucial for a balanced and effective administration. With his government already facing considerable heat from disaffected farmers and other sections, removing inefficiencies in the administration swiftly can rescue the situation.

Law and order reset: IPS officers reshuffle in Delhi

Just days before Republic Day celebrations, the unexpected large-scale transfers of senior IPS officers within the Delhi Police surprised many. Typically, major transfers of such scale are done after important occasions. While some observers diligently probe the motives behind this strategic move, others interpret it as a response to recently emerging threats, notably the parliament security breach and the second consecutive attack outside the Israel embassy.

The directive for these changes came from Delhi lieutenant governor V.K. Saxena, resulting in the transfer of 27 officers including 25 IPS officers and two DANIPS officers. Law and order divisions such as crime, traffic, special cell and security, are now being overseen by new special CPs. The national capital gets a new chief for the Anti-Terrorist Squad. Rajendra Pal Upadhaya, an IPS

officer from the 1991 batch, has taken charge of the Delhi police special cell. Dependra Pathak, who formally served as the special CP for law and order, will now lead the security wing. Additionally, Ravinder Yadav (IPS 1995 batch) and Madhup Tiwari have been appointed to head Zone 1 and Zone 2 law and order, respectively. Shalini Singh (IPS 1996 batch) now leads the Delhi police crime branch, which is the nodal agency for interstate coordination. Sagar Preet Hooda who was in the position of special CP, law and order has been transferred to PCR and communications.

The true impact of the move may only unfold with time, but its scale and timing undoubtedly speak to a deliberate and comprehensive approach to maintaining law and order in the national capital.

Fading footprint? Gujarat officers' waning influence

Contrary to common perception, the influence of Gujarat cadre officers at the Centre is waning. Until just three years ago, officers from the state held coveted positions of secretaries in the ministries of defence, education and commerce. They also occupied roles at the additional secretary and joint secretary levels within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), as well as the key ministries of finance and home affairs, and the appoint-

ments committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

In 2024, Gujarat officers have become conspicuously scarce within the Central government. Currently, only one secretary from the Gujarat cadre, Srinivas Kaikithala, holds the position of secretary for minority affairs. At the additional secretary level, only two Gujarat cadre officers remain — D. Thara, in the ministry of housing and urban affairs, and T. Natarajan, in the department of defence production within the defence ministry.

Notably, even within the mighty PMO, the Gujarat connection seems to be waning. P.K. Misra remains powerful as the principal secretary to the PM, but there is a noticeable absence of Gujarat cadre officers among advisors, additional secretaries and joint secretaries. But there are also exceptions, as Hardik Shah, the private secretary to the PM, and S.R. Bhavsar, an Officer on Special Duty (OSD), are still in the PMO. These babus started their careers in the Gujarat state service and were later promoted to the IAS after Mr Narendra Modi became Prime Minister.

However, some observers believe that the shift is logical. Given that these officers have spent a decade in Delhi and away from Gujarat, the connection has naturally weakened over time.

Scope in Career and opportunities in (Indian Revenue Services) IRS Officer

By: Vijay GarG

IRS officer is the fourth most respected officer of Civil Services after the IAS's, IPS's and IFS's. They are comprised of IRS (C&CE) and IRS (IT). IRS officers are concerned with the collection, administration and policy formation of direct (Income, Corporate, Wealth, FBT etc.) and indirect (Central Excise, Service Tax and even Customs Duty) taxes. These officers are the tax administrators of India. They are either under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) or the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

These are the officers who hold the responsibility of having a check on the proper collection of the revenue through taxes of the Governments whether Central or State which is a big source of income of the Governments concerned. It is the income which is used by the respective Governments for the welfare programmes to be implemented for the common people of the state. Thus one can say these officers are indirectly responsible for the proper functioning of the welfare schemes by generating requisite funds for them by way of collecting the revenue of the governments in an effective manner thus making this profession a highly important one.

This profession not only provides self-satisfaction to be at the very best, highly respected post in the Indian administrative system but also give you a chance to serve the society by taking head on some antisocial elements of the country.

But to reach this coveted position one has to be really diligent and hardworking. To reach to that level one has to really toil hard for nearly 2 years and pass through a rigorous test involving written tests and interview spreading throughout a year almost which requires self-discipline, patience, punctuality, commitment self-confidence and a burning desire to be at the top ladder of an important organization of the country. The is a kind of carrier which is ever demanding you cannot get relaxed after getting the post to infect you have to work harder after getting the job than before getting it.

To be an (IRS) officer is not a mean thing. If you enjoy power then you have also to accept the responsibility attached to the boundless power. To handle things effec-

tively a lot of hard work, stamina, alertness of mind, adaptability to follow difficult time schedules, good team spirit is required as this is not a time bound job. This is a carrier in which you are not only supposed to work yourself only but you have to make your team work hard for the society you have vowed to serve while joining this career.

Eligibility to be an IRS Officer

1. Educational Qualification
To be eligible for becoming an IRS officer the candidate must possess a degree from an Indian University or an equivalent qualification. Those in the final year of a degree course can also appear in the Preliminary Examination taken every year by UPSC.

2. Age
The candidate must have attained the age of 21 years on 1st August of the year of examination and must not have attained 30 years of age on that date.

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

The upper age limit is also relaxed in favour of Defense Services Personnel.

3. Other Eligibility Conditions

Since these services involve various kind of decision making so taking into account the sensitivity of the job the aspirants have to be eligible under certain specific conditions as given ahead.

a citizen of India, or
a subject of Nepal, or
a subject of Bhutan, or
a Tibetan refugee who came over to India before January 1, 1962, with the intention of permanently settling in India, or

a person of Indian origin who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Ethiopia and Vietnam with the intention of permanently settling in India.

How to become an IRS officer?

To be an IRS officer one has to follow the below-given steps:-

Step 1

As a first step, the aspirant has to procure the "Application Form" along with "Information Brochure" from any of the "Head Post Offices or Post Offices" spread throughout the country and sent the filled Application form to:

The Secretary,
Union Public Service Commission,
Dholpur House,

New Delhi - 110011.

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

Step 2

In the month of May or June, the aspirants have to take the "Preliminary examinations". Consisting of two papers. The papers are of

- | | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| S.No | Paper | Marks |
| 1 | General Studies | 150 marks |
| 2 | Optional Paper | 300 marks |

The optional subject for the second paper may be chosen from the following given subjects -1. Agriculture 2. Animal Husbandry and veterinary science 3. Botany 4. Chemistry 5. Civil Engineering 6. Commerce 7.Economics 8. Electrical Engineering 9 Geography 10. Geology 11.Indian History 12.Law 13. Mathematics 14.Mechanical Engineering 15. Philosophy 16. Physics 17. Political Science 18. Psychology 19. Public Administration 20. Sociology 21. Statistics 22. Zoology

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

Step 3

Those candidates who are declared qualified in the "Preliminary examination" are supposed to take the final exam (normally held in the month of October) having following papers

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------|
| S.No | Paper | Marks |
| 1 | 1 Essay type Indian Language Qualifying Paper | 300 marks |
| 2 | 1 English Qualifying Paper | 300marks |
| 3 | 1 General Essay type paper | 200marks |
| 4 | 2 General Studies papers | 300marks each |
| 5 | 4 Optional subjects papers | 300marks each |

Step 4

Once you are through the final stage is the interview. The aspirants are grilled in the interview to test their personality and mental ability. Then the final list of the successful candidates is prepared and the candidates who have secured very good rank out of 400-450(approx.) selected IRS Officer Trainees (nicknamed as OTs) undergo a 3 month foundational training with their fellow officers from All India Services and other Central Services (Group A) at Lal

Bahadur National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussorie (Uttarakhand) followed by a 15 month rigorous professional training in NACEN Faridabad for the officers of Customs and Excise or NADT Nagpur for officers of Income Tax, where they are intensively trained in principles, concepts and advances in Management, Taxation. Public Policy and Law.

IRS Officer Job Description

IRS Officers are concerned with the compilation, administration and policy formation of direct and indirect tax. Due to this reason, IRS officers are often called Tax administrators of India. The most important functions of an IRS Officer is to do a collection of revenue for development, security and governance. The basic job of IRS officers is a collection of Tax like Income Tax, Central Excise Tax, Customs Duty and now Service Tax. An IAS Officer is a top-ranked officer in the Civil Service of the executive division of the Government of India.

IRS Officer Career Prospects

Starting with the prestigious post of Assistant Commissioner (Starting of the ladder)

IRS officers rise up to Chief Commissioner with some fortunate ones reaching the post of Member/Chairperson - CBDT / CBEC (Apex of the ladder).

IRS Officer Salary / Pay Scale

1. The Government of India has fixed salary grades for IRS officers. Although keep on changing with new pay

Note: The scales only provide an idea of the pay scales. Different branches of the services have different scales of pay. Even personnel of same branches may have different pay according to their area of posting and responsibility they are holding at a particular time.

In addition to the salary IRS officers receive various types of allowances such as Dearness Allowance, City compensatory Allowance, Leave Travel Allowance, Medical and subsidized housing.

(VIJAY GARG
RETIRED PRINCIPAL
EDUCATIONAL
columnist Malout)

Director Horticulture inaugurates Mushroom training programme

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 25: Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare organised training programme on Mushroom cultivation at Doda wherein more than 75 farmers attended the training.

The programme was inaugurated by Ram Savak, Director Horticulture/Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu.

The programme aims to equip the farmers with Essential knowledge, skill and resources to enhance their Agricultural practices and meet up the future demands of sustainable Agriculture.

The Director asked



the participant to take benefits of the said programme and go for round the year cultivation of Mushroom viz Button, Dhingri, Milky and paddy straw Mushroom.

The cultivation of Mushroom provides ample opportunities for Crop Diversification and Farmers can enhance

their incomes three folds.

Earlier, The Director interacted with farmers and fruit growers at Jathi where he emphasised to bring more area under fruit and vegetables cultivation especially High Density plantation for fostering economic prosperity.

The area has vast

potential of Fruit and vegetables cultivation as it connects Kishtwar and Baderwah belt as the tourist passing through the areas has huge demands of local products and farmers can meet their demands and earn more during the Tourist season. He highlighted the need of continuous learning

and adoption of new Technology to meet the challenges of changing world.

The Director Command Area Development Shiv Kumar Gupta also visited Ghat area and reviewed and checked the ongoing Development works.

The Director Horticulture/ Agriculture also distributed sanction letters of WHT/ Tillers, Soil Health cards Vegetables Kit KCC among the farmers.

He was accompanied by Rakesh Kotwal Chief Horticulture Officer Doda, Anil Gupta Chief Agriculture officer Doda District Officers of Horticulture/Agriculture Department HDOS/AEOs and field staff.

AICTE approved three-day FDP concludes at Aryans



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: The three-day Face to Face Introductory Faculty Development Program on Universal Human Values (UHV), jointly organized by the All-India Council for Tech-

nical Education (AICTE) and Aryans College of Engineering, Rajpura, near Chandigarh was concluded under the supervision of National Coordination Committee for induction program (NCCIP), AICTE. Dr. Anshu Kataria,

Chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the faculty members on their participation in the FDP and said that he is confident that they would promote universal human values in their teaching and research.

GDC Udhampur celebrates National Voters Day

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 25: Department of Political Science of GDC Udhampur celebrated National Voters Day under the theme "Nothing like Voting, I Vote For Sure".

The event was organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta. The program started with the formal welcome address presented by Dr. Shaveta Sharma.

All the staff members assembled in the conference hall to take a pledge. The pledge emphasized the need to cherish democratic

traditions of the country and to carry out free, fair and peaceful elections with dignity, fearlessness and void of religious, racial, caste, lingual and communal influences.

The pledge was carried out successfully and acted as a reminder for the citizens to vote. Dr. Shaveta Sharma, HOD Political Science spoke about the virtue of the establishment of this day and how it aimed at the significance of individual voter's right to choose their political leaders.

About ten students took part in the symposium organised on the theme "Importance

of Elections in Indian Democracy". Several students also participated in the poster making competition to celebrate National Voters Day.

About 100 students at the college attended this awareness program. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Sumit Rana.

The program was graced with the presence of Prof. Babu Lal Thakur, Prof. Rajni, Prof. Ashok Kumar, Prof. Shivi Mehra and Prof. Anoksha Sharma.

The program ended with the formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Rayees Ahmad.

Samsung BKC Lifestyle Experience store opens doors

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics company, on Thursday inaugurated its first Online-to-Offline (O2O) lifestyle store in India at Jio World Plaza mall, the recently inaugurated ultra-luxury precinct for retail, leisure and dining in Mumbai, strengthening its commitment to India.

Samsung BKC, spread across 8,000 sq ft, in Jio World Plaza, is located strategically in Mumbai's central business hub of Bandra Kurla Complex and will showcase Samsung's top-of-the-line premium products through unique curated experiences and real-life scenarios.

This new store showcases Samsung's widest premium portfolio ranging from smartphones to televisions, refrigerators, washing machines and other products, leveraging the power of Samsung's AI ecosystem.

Catering to premium consumers and technology enthusiasts, Samsung BKC offers Samsung's latest AI experiences - from 'AI for All' for consumer electronics products to 'Galaxy AI' for mobile devices - all under one roof.

As the first Samsung O2O store in the country, Samsung BKC will re-imagine the retail shopping experience and unlock new possibilities for our customers by bringing the best of both online and offline worlds.

Through this retail innovation, Samsung BKC store extends the convenience of online by offering the widest selection of products with over 1,200 choices from an online digi-

tal catalogue while also enjoying assistance by in-store staff. Moreover, these products can be delivered not just in Mumbai but anywhere in the country.

In addition, customers in Mumbai also have the option to buy online from Samsung.com/in and take advantage of store proximity to pick up their products from Samsung BKC within two hours.

As it opens for customers, Samsung BKC will redefine flagship experience for customers with the latest Galaxy S24 series. The store will offer not only Galaxy S24 special edition colour options but also free first-of-its-kind Gen AI enabled personalization of their latest Galaxy AI smartphone.

Consumers will be able to experience and pre-book the latest Galaxy S24 series at Samsung BKC, starting January 23.

"Today's customers, especially Gen Z and millennials, are seeking premium products and unique experiences. They want to interact with the brand and its products, touch, feel and create.

This is what Samsung BKC is all about. We have curated never seen before experiences in eight unique zones that include all our AI experiences to excite people across segments. Here, customers will get a feel of our expansive connected devices ecosystem and our cutting edge technology," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung South-west Asia.

"Samsung BKC will also organize Learn @ Samsung workshops, bringing together Samsung's innovations with people's passions," he said.

National Girl Child Day celebrated at Anantnag



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 24: Under the directions of District Social Welfare Officer Anantnag Muzaffar Ahmad Malik an event was organized by the District Hub for empowerment of women Anantnag to celebrate National Girl Child Day at Aangan Wardi Centre Cheeni Chowk, Anantnag on Thursday.

The event marked the culmination of the Girl Child Week being celebrated in the district under the theme of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker highlighted the importance of creating awareness in the society about

the importance of girls. He said that strict legal provisions are in place to prevent sex determination prior to birth. He said that girls have proven their mettle in every field and there is no rational basis for gender bias. Syed Kashif also highlighted the role of girls in the society.

Coordinator District hub for empowerment of women Anantnag Tabasum Shafi giving a brief about the achievements of the department under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' said that this year the Male Female ratio has improved.

She said the dropout rate of girls is on the decline and enrollment

at the secondary level is increasing.

Tabasum said that there has been significant improvement in institutional deliveries, ANC registrations and coverage under Menstrual Hygiene Management.

On the occasion special kits distributed to mothers having more than two girls, educational kits among school going girls and hygiene kits distributed among adolescent girls. Later signature campaign and sticker campaign was also launched on the occasion.

The event was attended by staff, Anganwadi workers & helpers, ASHA workers and a good number of girls.

GDC R S Pura commemorates National Girl Child Day



Top News Report

R S PURA, Jan 25: National Girl Child Day, observed annually on January 24th in India, plays a pivotal role in highlighting the importance of empowering girls and addressing the challenges they face in society. Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this day marks a commitment to promote gender equality, empower girls, and protect their rights.

To commemorate the day and to raise awareness about the challenges girls face, Viksit Bharat club and NSS unit of GDC R. S Pura organized a poster making competition with

the aim to create awareness about the inequalities girls encounter and advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition.

The day serves as a reminder to champion the rights of girls and promote a world where they can thrive and fulfill their potential.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal of the college. She apprised that National Girl Child Day is a day to celebrate the potential and power of girls in India. It is also a day to remind ourselves of the responsibility and duty to ensure that girls are respected, protected,

and empowered. By investing in girls' education, health, and well-being, we can create a better and brighter future for them and for the society.

Let us join hands and pledge to support and encourage girls to achieve their dreams and goals.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Chanchal Angral (NSS PO) and co-ordinated by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch (Nodal Officer Viksit Bharat).

The faculty members who were present on the occasion were Dr. Rajinder Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Prof. Vijeeta Anand, Prof. Sankeet Gupta, Prof. Neelam Kumari and Dr. Rakesh Choudhary.

GDC R S Pura celebrates National Voters' Day



Top News Report

Political Science of Govt. Degree College (GDC) R.S. Pura celebrated National Voters' Day under the patronage of Dr. Rajni Bhagat and supervision of Dr. Chanchal Angral, HOD Zoology & NSS Programme Officer and Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, HOD, Political Science.

The day was celebrated by organizing the Pledge Ceremony which was taken by the Principal, staff and students of the college. The pledge was taken

to advocate the democratic customs of our country and to vote compulsorily in every election.

The voting power of every citizen is to be exercised for the development of Nation and not on the basis of religion, race, caste, community, language or any incentive.

A short lecture was delivered by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary on the theme 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure' where he emphasized the role of young voters in spreading the aware-

ness about compulsory and ethical voting and to make informed choices.

The pledge ceremony was followed by Poster making Competition on National Voters' Day in which students participated and raised awareness about the democratic credential of Indian State.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD, Department of Dogri coordinated the event.

Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the department and students for smooth conduct of the event.

PTTI Vijaypur observes National Voters' Day

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 25: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Pledge taking Ceremony in the Institute on Thursday to observe National Voters Day-2024. On

this occasion, all GOs/Police personnel/ trainees of the Institute took pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections.

Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur

reiterated the Pledge to staff and trainees and instructed them to vote in every election fearlessly and without any influence.

Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Devinder Gupta, Dy.SP (R&D), Inspr. Vivek Kalsotra, Inspr. Anil

Kumar, Inspr. Ram Lal, Inspr. Bhopinder Singh, Inspr. Tariq Mehmood, Inspr. Rakesh Kumar, Inspr. Kanwal Raina, Inspr. Mulkh Raj, Inspr. Himanshu Dutta, Inspr. Ashish Darmat, SI Sulinder Singh were present on the occasion.

What one year of 'Pathaan' means for Shah Rukh Khan, his fans and Hindi film industry

'Pathaan' touts as the 'highest grossing first day for a Hindi film' at the time of its release by Yash Raj Films

Propelled by a long absence and fans' desire to give a hero's welcome to an actor who had gone through professional and personal setbacks, 'Pathaan', which released a year ago, not only reinstated Shah Rukh Khan's superstardom but also breathed a new life to the Hindi cinema theatrical business.

Released on January 25, 2023, the high-octane action spy thriller completes one year of its release on Thursday. Directed by Siddharth Anand, it was the next chapter in the Yash Raj Films (YRF) spy franchise and also starred Deepika Padukone and John Abraham.

Before 'Pathaan', many believed the glory days of Bollywood were over as big titles such as 'Samrat Prithviraj', 'Shamshera' and 'Laal Singh Chaddha' failed to work at the ticket window in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. The rise of the South cinema and the boycott calls against Hindi movies also added to its woes.

According to trade expert Taran Adarsh, 'Pathaan' was the bona fide 'first biggie of 2023' which opened to Rs 55 crore in the Hindi version alone. Its Tamil and Telugu dubbed versions brought in additional Rs 2 crore on day one. It was touted as the 'highest grossing first day for a Hindi film' at the time of its release by YRF.

"One year of 'Pathaan' means a lot for both the Hindi film industry as well as Shah Rukh Khan, who made a solid comeback with the film. Those who had written off Shah Rukh, it was a shock to them when 'Pathaan' opened to such terrific numbers.

"For the film industry, it mattered a lot because we were going through a rough patch and this was the first biggie of 2023. The box office numbers



were so huge that it brought a lot of optimism, cheer and confidence back, and I think that was more important than anything else. It was a win-win situation for the industry as well as Shah Rukh Khan," Adarsh told agency.

The success of 'Pathaan' came after the actor went through a period of intense media scrutiny when his eldest son Aryan Khan was arrested in the Mumbai cruise drugs case in 2021. Aryan, who spent almost a month in prison, was cleared of all charges later.

During his time away as the leading hero, Shah Rukh had not one but three back-to-back cameos in 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', 'Laal Singh Chaddha' and 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva'. These special appearances only piqued interest about 'Pathaan', which raised over Rs 1,000 crore at the box office globally.

For Shah Rukh Khan fans, 'Pathaan' was that one film which brought them back to theatres.

NCR-based homemaker Nivedita Upadhyay said watching her favourite star on the big screen after a long wait was totally worth it.

"The success of 'Pathaan' was huge for Shah Rukh and

his fans. He was due for a hit for a really long time. Despite being a brilliant actor, people had started writing him off. Post pandemic, a lot of big-budget movies were just failing. People kind of stopped going to theatres. 'Pathaan' changed that," Upadhyay said.

Trade expert Girish Wankhede, also based out of Mumbai, said the spectacular box office performance of 'Pathaan' signalled that Hindi theatrical experience is here to stay.

"Before 'Pathaan' was released, there was a lot of tussle between OTT content and theatricals, and people had this idea that the days of the big screen are numbered. With 'Pathaan', the entire scene changed. Shah Rukh's charm, action genre and the great mounting of the film brought people back to the cinemas. 'Pathaan' was the first legitimate super-duper hit of 2023," Wankhede said.

According to Upadhyay, Shah Rukh fans also ensured he got "a new lease of life", especially after the Aryan episode. "The movie itself was far from SRK's best but his on-screen charisma solidified his regal stature in Bollywood and rightfully so," the admirer added.

The actor, who was recently

named the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year 2023, spoke about how fans, whether they liked his films or not, turned up in theatres to watch 'Pathaan' and his other two releases of the year—'Jawan' and 'Dunki', which were commercially successful as well.

"The last four-five years have been a bit of a ride for me and my family... Most of my films flopped, lots of analysts started writing my death knell. And then, at a personal (level), a little bit of bothersome and unpleasant things also happened, which made me learn a lesson: keep quiet and work hard with dignity.

"Some of you may have not even liked my films but I hope deep down inside you came there to support me and my family. I bow down to you and thank you for bringing cheer to my family and making me the star I am, yet again," Shah Rukh said in his impassioned speech recently. And fans believe that Shah Rukh deserved a great comeback after what he went through. Dev Manikchand, another sworn SRK fan, said his love for the actor and the wrongs done to the actor drove him to support 'Pathaan' in a Delhi theatre. "I personally liked the movie, but I say this with a caveat that it was far from his best and I, not for once, saw it raking in that many crores. That said, I was happiest to witness the movie's unprecedented success, knowing well that both Shah Rukh and Bollywood needed it desperately at that time. Of course, the wait for good cinema by him continues. I hope he is listening," a hopeful Manikchand added.

Shah Rukh is yet to announce his next release but fans are keeping their fingers crossed that it will not be a long wait this time.

Vidisha Srivastava shares her makeup mantra



Vidisha Srivastava, who portrays Anita in the sitcom Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, has elaborated on her makeup and styling in the show, and shared that she believes subtle makeup brings out natural features, conceals imperfections, and results in a fresh, glowing look.

Vidisha, known as gori mem in the show, is admired for her stylish portrayal of Anita bhabhi. She believes less is more, opting for subtle makeup to enhance her looks.

Vidisha's impeccable makeup skills and styling often earn her compliments.

Vidisha shares, "I frequently receive compliments for my portrayal of Anita bhabhi. When I'm out, people approach me, praising my chemistry with Vibhuti (Aasif Sheikh) and Tiwari Ji (Rohitashv Gour). Many young girls admire my appearance on the show, often asking about my makeup routine and the sarees I wear. Such praises bring me joy."

"Surprisingly, many are unaware I do my makeup, taking only 20 minutes to achieve the desired look. While Anita's strength lies in her robust personality, applying makeup accentuates my features. Despite the production team offering makeup artists, I prefer taking charge. For me, doing makeup and styling my hair is almost therapeutic. I steer clear of heavy foundations, maintain thick eyebrows, and avoid overdoing the makeup, letting the attire speak for itself," she said.

Vidisha said the pivotal factor in her makeover is accentuating her eyebrows and generously applying mascara.

"I believe that for any artist, the eyes talk louder than words. My makeup revolves around natural tones, using nude shades to enhance my features subtly. A neutral shimmer adds a glossy touch to my natural skin tone. Over the years, I've incorporated interesting makeup hacks, like mixing argan oil into my foundation for a radiant effect on camera," said the Yeh Hai Mohabbatein actress.

Shruti Haasan to star in Indo-UK co-production 'Chennai Story'

Actress Shruti Haasan will headline India-UK film co-production Chennai Story. She is all ready to take forward a culturally rooted story to an international audience. Shruti said: "Hailing from Chennai, a story showing the diversity and uniqueness of Chennai is so special to me. Working with Phil is something I'm so excited to experience, telling global and rooted stories through international collaboration is what making films is all about. I'm all up for Sunitha Tati's vision of taking a culturally rooted story to an international audience through Chennai Story."

Shruti Haasan, who is also a renowned musician, has acting credits across India's various language film industries.

In 2023, she was one of the leads in Salaar, one of India's biggest hits of the year, and led British thriller The Eye. In 2019, she had a key role in US series Treadstone.

Adapted from Timeri N. Murari's bestselling 2004 novel The Arrangements of Love, Chennai Story is a coming-of-age romantic comedy set against the backdrop of Wales and India where Haasan takes on the pivotal role of Anu, a spunky private detective.

The role was previously supposed to be played by Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is now taking a year's



sabbatical due to health reasons. The cast also includes Viveik Kalra, who was the lead in Blinded by the Light and is currently in Netflix heist thriller Lift. The film is written

and directed by BAFTA winner Philip John (Downton Abbey) and co-written by British Sri Lankan actor Nimmi Harasgama, who played the female lead in Funny Boy.

To Kill a Tiger director Nisha Pahuja tells a story of resilience

The documentary film To Kill a Tiger, directed by Indian-born Canadian filmmaker Nisha Pahuja, has been nominated for the upcoming edition of the Oscar awards. The film has been nominated in the Documentary Feature Film category. The other nominees include Bobi Wine: The People's President, The Eternal Memory, Four Daughters and 20 Days in Mariupol.

To Kill a Tiger follows the story of a family in



Jharkhand, India, who are campaigning for justice after their teenage daughter is brutally raped.

The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2022. It had its American premiere at the Lighthouse International Film Festival in June 2023.

The film's official website states about the story, "Ranjit goes to the police and the men are arrested. But Ranjit's relief is short-lived,

as the villagers and their leaders launch a sustained campaign to force the family to drop the charges.

A cinematic documentary, To Kill a Tiger follows Ranjit's uphill battle to find justice for his child."

The film is produced by Cornelia Principe and David Oppenheim. The 2024 Oscars will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles. It will be hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

There are no bad actors, but wrong casting, believes Mukesh Chhabra, the casting director who is in city to share his expertise

"There are no bad actors, it's always the wrong casting," believes Mukesh Chhabra, casting director, and these words explain why he is considered one of the best in business. Chhabra, who discovered faces like Rajkumar Rao, Sushant Singh Rajput, Mrunal Thakur, Pratik Gandhi, Sanya Malhotra, Fatima Sana Shaikh and more, sure has an eye for talent. As he sits in his newly inaugurated office in Sector 75, Phase 8A, Mohali, surrounded by aspiring actors, Mukesh shares, "As I am talking, I have been constantly observing a boy outside, who I believe fits in the role of young Ram in a mythology project based on Ramayana. So, the job of a casting director is 24/7 and you cannot switch it off. And, thankfully, I enjoy it very much."

Celebrated guest Mukesh Chhabra Casting Company (MCCC) was inundated by budding actors



and the celebrated guest on Wednesday was actor Varun Sharma. About his struggling days, Varun said, "It's important to audition no matter what. I believe had I thought about having perfect abs and chiseled face before auditioning for Fukrey, I wouldn't have landed the role of Choocha. During our

days, it was just some banquet hall at a hotel where auditions used to take place or we had shift base to Mumbai. An opportunity like this at your doorstep will streamline the auditioning process."

All praise for Varun, Mukesh said, "You have to stay happy at all cost. Varun is that happy

person and it helped him land opportunities faster than others I believe. If you are a sad person and let the rejections affect you, it would also impact your chances as an actor." Varun agreed with Chhabra and said one should keep trying and not let rejections affect you. In fact, he has done a movie, Chhichhore, on the same lines, and guess what, Chhabra was the casting director!

Talent pool On what made Chhabra seek a regional office, he says, "Punjab is full of talent and if you observe closely, half of the film industry's talent hails from North India. I believe that many talented people lose out on opportunities due to financial or family conditions. Not everyone can afford to struggle in Mumbai and some can't leave their hometowns. If we can bring Mumbai to Punjab, it could help aspiring actors. We also plan to arrange workshops on a regular basis."

Lok Sabha polls 2024: PM Modi asks youth of India to contribute to BJP's manifesto

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): A few months before the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended an invitation to the youth of the country to contribute to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) manifesto.

"I invite the youth of India to contribute to the BJP Manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Share your thoughts on the NaMo App. I look forward to meeting some of the contributors myself in the future," said PM Modi.

He also provided a link to the website narendramodi.in, where individuals can share their inputs for the BJP's manifesto. "Public participation in the



political process strengthens a sense of collaboration between the government and the people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged citizens to contribute

their suggestions and inputs for the BJP's election manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," reads the inputs page of the website.

It also mentions that PM Modi will personally meet some of the contributors to discuss the inputs shared.

Addressing a Nav Matdata Sannamela (New Voters Conference) virtually, PM Modi said that the youth of India must exercise their power to vote and express their opinions on the NaMo app.

"It is the youth who, through their Jan-Bhagidari (public participation), will not only shape the BJP's election manifesto but also influence the future policy course of India. Let us pledge not to leave anyone behind, urging everyone to vote," he added.

BJP to win all seats covered by Rahul during Yatra in Assam: Himanta



GUWAHATI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday claimed that the BJP will win all constituencies covered by Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam.

He also alleged that the holding of the Yatra in Assam during the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony was a political conspiracy to create communal tension.

"The BJP will win wherever he campaigns. The BJP needs him for that reason," Sarma said in an interaction with the media here.

Gandhi will be arrested after the Lok Sabha elections, the chief minister said.

The Assam police has filed a case against Gandhi and several other Congress leaders for allegedly provoking supporters to break barricades to enter Guwahati city, deviating from the approved route during the Yatra.

"On the day of the Pran Pratistha ceremony in Ayodhya, he (Gandhi) had chosen to travel through minority-dominated districts of Nagaon and Morigaon to provoke a communal clash," he alleged.

The Yatra of the Congress, which began on January 18 in the state, concluded on Thursday, as the march entered West Bengal.

French President Emmanuel Macron arrives in Jaipur; along with PM Modi to visit Amber Fort, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal

JAIPUR, Jan 25 (Agencies): French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday arrived in Jaipur. He is the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi.

He was received by Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at the airport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a visit to Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr, will also reach Jaipur later.

The leaders are scheduled to visit Amber



Fort, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal. They will hold a roadshow from Jantar

Mantar to Hawa Mahal before holding a meeting at Hotel Rambagh Palace in the evening.

Jagadish Shettar, ex-Karnataka Chief Minister, re-joins BJP, jolt for Congress

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who joined the Congress last year before the Karnataka assembly election, returned to the BJP on Thursday.

Shettar, who belongs to the politically influential Lingayat community, had ditched the BJP in April last year when he was denied a ticket. He subsequently joined the Congress, who promptly handed him a ticket to contest from the Hubli-Dharwad Central assembly constituency, a seat he represented when he was in the BJP.



However, he lost to BJP's Mahesh Tenginakai by a huge margin. The 67-year-old leader today joined the BJP in the presence of former Karnataka Chief Min-

ister and senior party leader BS Yediyurappa, his son and state party chief BY Vijayendra. The development came ahead of this year's Lok Sabha election.

On re-joining the BJP, Shettar said he came back to the party again with the belief that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be elected the Prime Minister again.

"The party gave me a lot of responsibilities in the past. Due to some issues, I went to the Congress party. In the last eight to nine months, there were a lot of discussions. BJP workers asked me to come back to the BJP," he was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

"Even Yediyurappa Ji and Vijayendra Ji wanted me to come back to the BJP. I am

rejoining the party with the belief that Narendra Modi ji has to become the Prime Minister once again," he said.

With Shettar's return to the BJP, this was a fresh jolt for the Congress, which is already reeling from the twin blows of the Opposition INDIA bloc's allies, TMC and AAP, deciding to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls alone. Both parties made the call due to issues in the seat-sharing talks.

After joining the BJP, Shettar met with party president JP Nadda in the national capital.

"Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury The Reason": Derek O'Brien On Trinamool-Congress Impasse

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien today held West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury solely responsible for an alliance not working out between the two parties in West Bengal.

The remark came a day after West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee announced that her party will fight

the Lok Sabha polls "alone" in the state.

Claiming that Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was "the reason" the alliance did not work out in West Bengal, Mr O'Brien said the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had many detractors but only two - the BJP and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury - have repeatedly spoken out against the bloc.



"After the general elections, if the Congress does its job and defeats the BJP on a substan-

tial number of seats, the Trinamool Congress will very much be a part of the front that believes

and fights for the Constitution," Mr O'Brien told reporters.

Mamata Banerjee's sudden comments yesterday forced the Congress to adopt a conciliatory approach with party general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh asserting that the opposition bloc INDIA "cannot be imagined without Mamata Banerjee".

12 killed as tanker plying on wrong side amid dense fog hits auto-rickshaw in Uttar Pradesh



SHAHJAHANPUR, Jan 25 (Agencies): Twelve people travelling in an auto-rickshaw died on Thursday morning in a head-on collision with a tanker plying on the wrong side of the road amid reduced visibility due to dense fog, police said here.

The accident occurred on the Bareil-

ly-Farrukhabad road near Sugsugi village in the Allahaganj police station area, Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena said.

He said the tanker hit the auto-rickshaw coming from the Jalalabad side, killing all 12 on the spot. The deceased included women, elderly people and children, he added.

The SP said he was on his way to the spot with District Magistrate Umesh Pratap Singh.

The victims are yet to be identified, he said, adding that the bodies were being sent for post-mortem.

Four of family, including 3 kids, killed in road accident in Karnataka

CHITRADURGA, Jan 25 (Agencies): Four members of a family, including three children, were killed on the spot in a road accident on Thursday near the Sanikere village in Karnataka's Chitradurga district.

Three other persons were seriously injured in the incident and were being treated at a hospital.

The deceased were

identified as two-year-old Sindhusree, 5-month-old Hayyalappa, three-month-old Raksha and 26-year-old Lingappa. All deceased belong to the same family.

Yallamma (30), Mallamma (20) and Nagappa (35) sustained severe injuries in the accident. The condition of Mallamma is critical.

According to police, the deceased and

injured were travelling in a car and the tragedy took place as the driver lost control over the vehicle and rammed into the bridge.

The victims are labourers from Dundammahalli village in Devadurga taluk of Raichur district.

They were travelling towards Bengaluru from Devadurga. Challakere police have taken up the investigation.

Couple found in compromising position in car runs over Bengaluru cop when confronted

BENGALURU, Jan 25 (Agencies): In a shocking incident, a couple engaged in an intimate act in their car near a park here on Thursday reportedly ran over a police officer who tried to approach them for questioning.

The incident took place under the Jnanabharathi police station, and the injured sub-



inspector, Mahesh, is currently hospitalised. Police are looking for

the couple who fled the scene. According to the police,

despite the presence of people around the park, the couple undressed and engaged in an intimate act in the vehicle. The sub-inspector, who was on duty in the area, approached them to issue a warning and instruct them to leave. While he was noting down the vehicle's registration number, the man abruptly started the

vehicle and moved it.

As the cop stood in front of the vehicle, he ended up on the bonnet. Disregarding this, the man reversed the vehicle and drove away. The sub-inspector was thrown off and received injuries upon falling from the moving vehicle.

The Jnanabharathi police are investigating the case.

Hopeful of finding solution to seat-sharing impasse with TMC: Jairam Ramesh

SILIGURI (WB), Jan 25 (Agencies): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh Thursday said the party is hopeful of finding a solution to the seat-sharing impasse with the TMC, a day after its supremo Mamata Banerjee made a surprise announcement of going solo in the Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal.

Ramesh, while speaking to reporters at the



Bagdogra airport here, maintained that the Congress cannot think of an INDIA bloc without Banerjee, as she is indispensable in the

fight against the BJP in the country.

"We all want Mamata Banerjee to be a part of the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' as our motto is

common... If we want to defeat the BJP in Bengal and India, she is very much needed.

Our leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have immense respect for Mamata ji," he said.

"I don't want to make any running commentary on seat-sharing, but we want this impasse to end and we will find a solution," he added.

Woman files for divorce after husband takes her to Ayodhya instead of Goa for honeymoon

CHANDIGARH, Jan 25 (Agencies): It was after 10 days a couple who returned home from their "honeymoon trip" to Ayodhya and Varanasi, the woman from Madhya Pradesh sought a divorce from her husband.

She—in her divorce petition to a family court—has alleged that her husband had promised her a honeymoon in Goa, but took her to Ayodhya and Varanasi instead. The strange case reached the Bhopal family court on January 19, according to a report by Free Press Journal.

The woman said that her husband works in the IT firm and gets a good salary. She said that she too is a working woman and makes good money so going abroad for a honeymoon was not a big deal for them.

She alleged that despite no financial restraints, her husband refused to take her abroad and insisted on vis-

iting a place in India itself. She said he told her that he has to take care of his parents and the couple agreed to visit Goa or South India for their honeymoon and not abroad. But he allegedly booked flights to Ayodhya and Varanasi, without telling her. She said that it was only a day before the trip her husband informed her of the changed travel plans to Ayodhya as his mother wanted to visit the city before the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony. She did not object to the trip then but once they returned, she approached the family court to seek a divorce from her husband.

In her statement, she also claimed that her husband took more care of his family members than her.

Meanwhile, her husband said that his wife was just making a big fuss. The couple is currently receiving counseling at the Bhopal family court.

Order on South Africa's request for order to halt Israel's Gaza offensive tomorrow

The United Nations' top court will issue a decision Friday on South Africa's request for interim orders in a genocide case against Israel, including that Israel halt its offensive in Gaza.

THE HAGUE, Jan 25 (Agencies): The United Nations' top court will issue a decision Friday on South Africa's request for interim orders in a genocide case against Israel, including that Israel halt its offensive in Gaza.

The decision is a preliminary stage of a case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice alleging that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide. Israel strongly rejects the accusation and has asked the court to throw out the case.

The court in The Hague, Netherlands, announced the timing of the interim ruling on Wednesday. South Africa's Foreign Ministry said Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor would travel to The Hague to represent the country at Friday's ruling.

Israel launched its massive air and ground assault on Gaza soon after Hamas militants stormed through Israeli communities on Oct. 7 and killed some 1,200 people, mainly civilians.

Israel often boycotts international tribunals and UN investigations, saying they are unfair and biased. But the country's leaders sent a high-level legal team to two days of hearings earlier this month. That was a sign of how seriously they regard the case and an indication of likely concerns that any court order to halt operations would be a major blow to the country's international standing.

If the court grants some or all



of South Africa's eight requests for so-called provisional measures, it is unclear if Israel will comply.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead with the offensive until "complete victory" against Hamas, which started the war with its assault across the border on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people and abducting another 250.

Gaza's Health Ministry says the offensive has killed at least 25,490 people — the majority women and children — and wounded another 63,354. Its count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. U.N. officials have expressed fears that even more people could die from disease, with at least one-quarter of the population facing starvation.

Israel's attacks have driven nearly 85% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million from their homes. Much of northern Gaza, including Gaza City, has been

reduced to rubble.

Friday's ruling will not be on the merits of South Africa's claims. Israel can still challenge the court's jurisdiction and the admissibility of the case before any hearings on the legal merits of the case.

For it to order so-called "provisional measures," the 17-judge panel must decide that the court appears to have jurisdiction in the case, that there is a dispute between South Africa and Israel about the 1948 Genocide Convention and that there is an urgent need to order emergency measures while the case continues.

At hearings earlier this month, South African lawyers said that acts by Israel's military and statements by senior officials demonstrated intent to commit genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

"The scale of destruction in Gaza, the targeting of family homes and civilians, the war being a war on children, all

make clear that genocidal intent is both understood and has been put into practice. The articulated intent is the destruction of Palestinian life," said lawyer Tembeka Ngcukaitobi.

He said the case's "distinctive feature" was "the reiteration and repetition of genocidal speech throughout every sphere of the state in Israel."

Malcolm Shaw, part of Israel's legal team at hearings in The Hague, rejected the accusation of genocidal intent and called remarks cited by South Africa "random quotes not in conformity with government policy."

Israeli legal advisor Tal Becker told the court that the country is fighting a "war it did not start and did not want."

"In these circumstances, there can hardly be a charge more false and more malevolent than the allegation against Israel of genocide," he added, noting that the horrible suffering of civilians in war was not enough to support an allegation of genocide.

The case strikes at the national identity of Israel, which was founded as a Jewish state after the Nazi slaughter of 6 million Jews during World War II.

South Africa's own identity is key to bringing the case. Its governing party, the African National Congress, has long compared Israel's policies in Gaza and the West Bank to its own history under the apartheid regime of white minority rule, which restricted most Black people to "homelands" before ending in 1994.

Japan's Spacecraft Makes Successful Pin-Point Landing On Moon



TOKYO, Jan 25 (Agencies): Japan's "Moon Sniper" craft landed around 55 metres (180 feet) from its target, the country's space agency said Thursday as it released the first images from the mission.

The unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), dubbed the "Moon Sniper" for its pin-point technology, had the goal of touching down within 100 metres (330 feet) of a specific landing spot.

That is much more precise than the usual landing zone of several kilometres.

"SLIM succeeded in a pin-point soft landing... the landing point is confirmed to be 55 metres away from the target point," space agency JAXA said.

Saturday's soft lunar landing made Japan only the fifth nation to achieve the feat, after the United States, Soviet Union, China and India.

But celebrations were muted because of a problem with the lightweight spacecraft's solar batteries, which

were not generating power.

JAXA decided to switch the craft off with 12 percent power remaining, to allow for a possible recovery when the sun's angle changes.

"If sunlight hits the Moon from the west in the future, we believe there's a possibility of power generation, and we're currently preparing for restoration," JAXA said earlier this week.

Before switching SLIM off, mission control was able to download technical and image data from the craft's descent and the lunar surface.

On Thursday, JAXA published the first colour images from the mission -- showing the SLIM craft sitting intact at a slight angle on the rocky grey surface, lunar slopes rising in the distance.

The mission was aiming for a crater where the Moon's mantle, the usually deep inner layer beneath its crust, is believed to be exposed on the surface.

By analysing the rocks there, JAXA hopes to shed light on the mys-

tery of the Moon's possible water resources, key to building bases there one day as possible stopovers on the way to Mars.

Two probes detached successfully from SLIM on Saturday: one with a transmitter and another designed to trundle around the lunar surface beaming images to Earth.

This shape-shifting mini-rover, slightly bigger than a tennis ball, was co-developed by the firm behind the Transformer toys and took the picture released by JAXA on Thursday.

SLIM is one of several recent lunar missions by governments and private firms, 50 years after the first human Moon landing.

But technical problems are rife, and the United States faced two setbacks this month in its ambitious Moon programmes.

Two previous Japanese lunar missions -- one public and one private -- have also failed.

In 2022, the country unsuccessfully sent a lunar probe named Omotenashi as part of the United States's Artemis 1 mission.

In April, Japanese startup ispace tried in vain to become the first private company to land on the Moon, losing communication with its craft after what it described as a "hard landing".

Japan issues death sentence to man for killing 36 inside anime studio

TOKYO, Jan 25 (Agencies): A Japanese man found guilty of carrying out an arson attack that killed 36 people at an anime studio in 2019 was sentenced to death on Thursday.

The blaze that ripped through the studios of Kyoto Animation four-and-a-half years ago was Japan's deadliest crime in decades and stunned the anime industry and its fans around the world.

Shinji Aoba, now 45, broke into the building, spread gasoline around the ground floor, lit it and shouted "drop dead" on the morning of July 18, 2019, survivors said.

"The act of pouring an enormous amount of gasoline and setting it ablaze is extremely likely to be fatal, and immolating people is truly cruel and inhumane," presiding judge Keisuke Masuda said in his ruling.

The victims "were engulfed in fire and smoke in the blink of an eye... They died an anguishing death as the studio instantly turned into a hell", he said.

Many of those killed were young, including a 21-year-old woman.

A number of victims were found on a spiral stairwell leading to the roof, suggesting they were overcome as they desperately tried to escape.

"There was a person who jumped from the second floor... but we couldn't rush to help because the fire was so strong," one woman told local media at the time.

More than 30 others were injured, with firefighters calling the incident "unprecedented" and saying that rescuing people trapped inside was "extremely difficult".

Death row



Japan is one of the few developed countries with capital punishment and polls show public support for it is high. As of December, 107 people were on death row.

Aoba, who was arrested near the scene, faced five charges including murder, attempted murder and arson, and prosecutors sought capital punishment.

His lawyers entered a plea of not guilty, saying he had a "mental disorder" but the judge rejected this.

Aoba believed that the studio -- known by its fans as KyoAni -- stole his ideas, prosecutors said, a claim the company has denied.

Aoba himself sustained burns on 90 percent of his body and only regained consciousness weeks after the fire, and the ability to speak later still. He reportedly underwent 12 operations for his injuries.

"Remain committed" Founded in 1981 by a husband and wife, KyoAni is a household name for anime fans, responsible for popular TV series including "The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya" and "K-ON!"

After the attack, there was shock and grief in Japan and worldwide, with Apple CEO Tim Cook among those tweeting his support and a crowdfunding campaign raising \$2.4 million to help the firm.

Hideaki Hatta, company president, on Thursday welcomed the verdict but said that the "thought of all our employees who perished... just breaks my heart".

Inside the courtroom packed with family members of the victims, one person cried and covered their eyes as the judge spoke, local media reported.

"A good number of young people joined our studio after the attack. We will remain committed to taking good care of people who work for us, and making sure each and every one of them can perform to their potential," Hatta said.

Dozens of KyoAni fans braved snow to stand outside the courthouse, with one of them Renji Kiriya, 27, recalling hearing about the fire on his car radio.

"With all the news reports about this case, I hope this will expose more people to KyoAni. If this spreads the name of KyoAni and brings its works to more people and more people know its name, I would be happy," he told agency. "I hope the verdict would ease the burden and anguish of the families even a little," said Kentaro Hatanaka, another fan.

"I hope KyoAni will again bring to the world kinds of animations that are filled with life as they did before this happened," he said.

Death toll in southwestern China landslide rises to 39, with 5 people still missing

BEIJING, Jan 25 (Agencies): The death toll from a landslide in a remote, mountainous part of southwestern China rose to 39 on Thursday, while five people remained missing, Chinese state media reported.

The disaster struck early Monday in the village of Liangshui in the northeastern part of Yunnan province.

Search and rescue operations continued amid freezing temperatures and falling snow.

More than 1,000 rescuers were working at the site with the help of excavators, drones and rescue dogs, the Ministry of Emergency Management said Tuesday. Two survivors were found Monday and were recovering at a local hospital.

State news agency Xinhua, citing a preliminary investigation by local experts, said the landslide was triggered by the collapse of a steep cliff top area, with the collapsed mass measuring around 100 metres (330 feet) wide, 60 metres (200 feet)



in height and an average of 6 meters (20 feet) in thickness. It did not elaborate on what caused the initial collapse.

Aerial photos posted by Xinhua showed the side of a heavily terraced mountain had spilled over several village homes. More than 900 villagers were relocated.

Zhenxiang county lies about 2,250 kilometers (1,400 miles) southwest of Beijing, with altitudes ranging as high as 2,400

meters (7,900 feet).

Rescuers struggled with snow, icy roads and freezing temperatures that were forecast to persist for the next days.

Heavy snow has been falling in many parts of China, causing transportation chaos and endangering lives.

Last week, rescuers evacuated tourists from a remote skiing area in northwestern China where dozens of avalanches triggered by heavy snow had

trapped more than 1,000 people for a week. The avalanches blocked roads, stranding both tourists and residents in a village in Altay prefecture in the Xinjiang region, close to China's border with Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

On Tuesday, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in a remote part of Xinjiang killed at least three people and caused extensive damage in freezing weather. Officials suggested the area's sparse population contributed to the "very strong" quake's low death toll.

In all, natural disasters in China left 691 people dead and missing last year, causing direct economic losses of about 345 billion yuan (\$48 billion), according to the National Commission for Disaster Reduction and the Ministry of Emergency Management. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Natural Resources implemented emergency response measures for geological disasters and sent a team of experts to the site.

Sri Lankan state minister Sanath Nishantha killed as his jeep hits container vehicle



COLOMBO, Jan 25 (Agencies): Sri Lankan State Minister Sanath Nishantha and his security official were killed in a road accident on Katunayake expressway on Thursday, local media reported.

The accident occurred when a jeep carrying Nishantha, his security officer and driver, hit a container vehicle and rammed into the road fence, Daily Mirror reported.

The jeep was proceeding from Katunayake towards Colombo. All of them were seriously injured and admitted to the Ragama hospital where Nishantha and police constable Jayakodi died on admission. The jeep driver is being treated at Ragama Hospital, police said.

Russia Trains For Nuclear Explosion, Develops Simulator For Its Forces

MOSCOW, Jan 25 (Agencies): Russia has developed a simulator that can mimic a ground-based nuclear explosion to train its ground forces. According to a report in Newsweek, the device will offer a visual simulation the impact effect, light flash and mushroom dust cloud resulting from such a nuclear explosion. Quoting Russian news agency TASS, the outlet further said that the simulator has been developed by researchers at the Russian Military Academy of Logistics. The simulator is expected to revolutionise the training of military units for combat operation in scenarios where there is a possibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

"The invention will be used in exercises and practical training with military units to improve the quality of training of the Ground Forces for combat operations in the context of the use of nuclear weapons, as well as radiation, chemical, biological ground reconnaissance units to determine the parameters and detect the centre of a nuclear explosion.", The simulator will replace Russia's IU-59 device, which is now considered "obsolete". Newsweek said

that Moscow's military also uses the IAB-500 nuclear simulator that visually simulates the use of an RN-24 - a thermonuclear bomb. "The disadvantage of the IAB-500 is that this model was developed only for front-line aircraft. For this reason, conducting practical exercises to train radiation, chemical and biological reconnaissance units was not economically feasible, as the cost was much greater than any benefit it could have provided. Also, the IAB-500 model was withdrawn from service in 1984 and is no longer manufactured.", Concerns around nuclear conflict have risen in recent years in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russian president Vladimir Putin sparked concern last year when he announced that the country has already stationed a first batch of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, where President Alexander Lukashenko has served as a close ally to the Kremlin. The US Defence Department (DoD) announced in October 2023 that Washington was working on the development of a new nuclear bomb with the capacity to hit unspecified.

SSP Kulgam conducts march in interiors of district, greets people on R-Day

Top News Report

KULGAM, Jan 25: To greet the people on the eve of Republic day-2024 and to commemorate the unique qualities of our nation; SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal along with DySP HQRS Kulgam, DySP PC Kulgam and other senior officers conducted foot march in Arreh, Mohammadpora, Okey, Nilloo, Awhatoo and other villages of Kulgam district. During the march, SSP Kulgam wished people a very happy Republic Day and said "It is a moment for intro-



spection, appreciation, and national pride as people unite to respect the principles of freedom, rights, and obliga-

tions that characterize India". He engaged with the respected citizens of these villages, provid-

ing them with an open platform to voice their concerns and grievances and greeted them on the eve of Republic day-

2024.

The community members welcomed the police officers warmly and expressed their concerns openly. SSP Kulgam patiently listened to their grievances and assured them that police is readily available to assist and serve the community whenever needed.

The response from the local population was overwhelmingly positive, who thanked and applauded the efforts of SSP Kulgam for his outreach, greetings and listening/redressing their grievances.

HDFC Bank starts 2024 with comprehensive Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: HDFC Bank as a part of its ongoing digital banking awareness drive, conducted a series of secure banking workshops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Bank started 2024 by organizing over 900 such workshops sensitizing over 28,000 citizens on safe digital banking practices.

These workshops were aimed at educating school cum college students, customers, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, self-help groups, and employees.

Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital

banking practices so that they don't fall prey to Cyber Frauds.

The workshop covered an array of pertinent topics, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of digital security: IFAW's Background: Attendees were introduced to the mission/role of International Fraud Awareness Week in advocating digital awareness. Cyber Fraud Awareness: Detailed discussions were held explaining common cyber threats like Vishing, Phishing, Smishing, remote device access, SIM swap, and UPI frauds. Real-life examples were used to deepen understanding. Secure Net-banking and Shopping Tips: The sessions highlighted best practices for secure online transactions, spotlighting the signifi-

cance of Vigil Aunty and offering invaluable tips for safe online shopping. Preventive Measures: Attendees were guided not to divulge sensitive information such as OTPs, CVVs, Debit/Credit card PINs, and UPI pins.

Commenting on this Manish Agrawal, Executive Vice President - Credit Intelligence and Control - HDFC Bank said, "Financial Education and Awareness about frauds while transacting play a vital role in the fast-evolving digital era. The objective of these awareness sessions is to educate participants on various modus operandi used by fraudsters and the secure banking practices that they need to follow. Awareness is the first step from falling a prey to cyber frauds."

Adv Daleep Kumar joins NC

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Daleep Kumar Advocate joined National Conference in presence of the party Provincial President Jammu Province Rattan Lal Gupta at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu on Thursday.

Welcoming Daleep Kumar Advocate into



the party fold, Rattan Lal Gupta described National Conference as a mass movement that has along stood for the just cause of the people of

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and strived for development and progress of the state with a sense of commitment. Gupta hoped that with

the joining of Daleep Kumar the party will be further strengthened at the grass roots level. "A strong National Conference is a key to steer Jammu and Kashmir to peace, progress and development besides meeting the challenges confronted to the state", he added. Daleep Kumar pledged to carry forward the mission of National

Conference in transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and progressive state with devotion and dedication. Those who were present on this occasion included Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Abdul Gani Malik Zonal President Udhampur Reasi and former Minister, Raja Rafiq and others.

GDC Darhal celebrates National Voters' Day

Top News Report

DARHAL, Jan 25: Govt. Degree College (GDC) Darhal celebrated National Voters' Day here today as a part of Viksit Bharat @2047 on the theme "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" with great fervor and enthusiasm.

The event witnessed active participation from students across all semesters, who took an oath to exercise their voting rights responsibly.

The event was coordinated by the Literary and Cultural Committee in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) wing of the college.

Chaired by the Principal, Prof

Musaraf Hussain Shah, the event was graced by the presence of all faculty members. Dedicating their time and support to this significant occasion, the faculty members, including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. M Saleem Wani, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Dr. Ahsan Ul Rehman Rizvi and Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, delivered insightful speeches to inspire and educate the students about their role as responsible voters in a democratic society.

National Voters' Day is celebrated annually on 25th January in India to promote the importance of voting in strengthening the roots of democracy. The objective is to empower and

encourage the youth, as they play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the nation.

The event at GDC Darhal commenced with a patriotic song performed by a group of talented students, reflecting the spirit of democracy and the pride of being a voter.

The students actively participated in discussions, debates, and interactive sessions, where they gained knowledge about the electoral process, voter registration, voter education programs, and the significance of exercising their voting rights.

Principal Prof. Shah expressed his gratitude to the students, faculty members, and organizers for successfully running the

event and creating an engaging and informative platform for the students.

He emphasized the importance of active participation in the democratic process, urging the students to exercise their voting rights as responsible citizens.

A large number of students and staff members participated in the program.

Dr. Mukhtar Hussain from Department of Sociology presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prominent among others present were Dr. Mohd Raiz, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Samana Qusar and Gh. Nabi Dar.

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah urges J-K youth to become part of mainstream India

Modi has done a commendable job. The terror finance channels in J&K have been nailed and properties and other assets of involved are being attached. Further ideological groups supporting terrorism have been banned in J&K, which led a drastic change on ground," said the Home Minister.

He said that J&K has started its journey on the path of peace, prosperity and development, and added "The UT will achieve further miles of peace and prosperity in times to come".

The Home Minister urged youth to enroll themselves in voter list and become part of mainstream India.

Congratulating the aspirants who received appointment letters during the function, the Home Minister Amit Shah urged them to set direction with commitment and determination as 'you have started a new journey of life' from today. "Today is your new beginning, so you must realise your duty and set your direction with full commitment and determination accordingly. You have achieved his position by merit," Home Minister added.

While taking a dig at local political leaders for making J&K a hub of corruption in their regimes, Shah said, "Earlier jobs were given through parochi (sufarish) instead of merit, but today there is no room for corruption and you have achieved this milestone through your merit".

He hailed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's efforts in J&K, saying the way he is dealing with the situation and taking efforts to slash down the figure of unemployment, the day is not far when we will be able to complete the backlog figure.

"After 370 abrogation, 34,440 posts were filled in Jammu & Kashmir, out of which 24,000 were of defense, 3900 for civil, 2637 in police, and 2436 in bank", Home Minister said and added, "No corruptive

practice was used in filling these posts". He said J&K government is taking every possible step to contain practices of corruption and in this regard the authorities have kept services online to ensure corruption-free transactions. "Earlier only 60 services were online but today there are over 1100 services who have been kept online to root out corruption practices in government departments," he said.

He hailed J&K government for rolling out e-bus service in Jammu areas and said the service is very much important from many aspects which will benefit common people hugely. "The government has invested 561 Cr rupees for its operations and maintenance for 12 years. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the government has taken tangible eco-friendly steps. India is the country which has opted this measure widely," he said.

Pertinently 100 e-buses have been rolled out during the event for Jammu areas. "The e-bus service will be convenient, cheap and durable for Jammu residents," Shah added.

In 33 years, we lost 1600 policemen in Pak-sponsored proxy war, largest among security forces in J&K: DGP

chronicling these stories, individual stories as well as the collective effort of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and members in the fight against terror.

DGP further said that these are tales, those are sagas of untold stories which actually are not well chronicled often.

He encouraged efforts to chronicle individual and collective stories in the fight against terror to recognize the contributions and challenges faced by those involved in the national security effort in Jammu and Kashmir.

DGP said that J&K Police has been honored with 72 gallantry medals by the Presi-

dent of India and the Government of India. "This recognition, as I learned from the Ministry of Home Affairs website, makes us the highest gallantry medal winners among state police forces," he added.

Expressing his admiration and congratulations, DGP R R Swain said he compliment all officers and men and congratulate the award winners.

Speaking about the security preparations for Republic Day, DGP assured that all security measures are in place. Meetings have been conducted at various levels, including discussions with the army, CAPF led by CRPF, and other intelligence agencies.

"We have ensured the security of the venue and considered all potential threat scenarios. We assure that the celebration will be peaceful, and we encourage citizens to celebrate it with full fervour", he added.

CJI Chandrachud administers oath to Justice Prasanna B. Varale as SC judge

consideration the fact that among the high court judges, he is the senior-most judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste and the only Chief Justice belonging to a Scheduled Caste among the Chief Justices of high courts across the country," the SC Collegium had said in a statement uploaded on the website of the apex court.

Justice Varale was appointed as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in July 2008 and was elevated as the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court on October 15, 2022.

Before his elevation to the bench, he practised at the bar for over 23 years in civil, criminal, labour, and administrative law matters in the district and sessions court and in constitutional matters at the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court.

The Collegium had decided to fill up the sole vacancy in the Supreme court by recommending his name after Justice Sanjay

Kishan Kaul retired on December 25.

J&K police top gallantry awards list this Republic Day, bag 72 medals

TO GM Aijaz Ahmad Khan HC GM Waseem Sulaman Yatoo SgCT GM Omer Hussain Wada HC GM Ghulam Nabi Bhat CT GM Mohamad Maqsood Lone HC GM Azad Ahmad Bhat SgCT BAR TO GM Zafar Mahdi Dy SP GM Mohd Ashraf Sheikh SgCT GM . Mohd Yousef SSP GM Parmeet Singh ASI GM. Ishtaq Ahmed Bhat CT GM Nissar Ahmad Darzi Dy SP GM . Azim Iqbal Insp. GM . Danish Allahi Rather SgCT GM Afaq Ali Dewani HC GM Rajan Kumar HC GM. Sajad Ahmad Talee CT GM 114. Mohd Shafi CT GM

Gallantry medals are awarded to policemen across the country for their meritorious and distinguished services on the eve of Republic Day every year.

Two persons arrested in Jammu, 6 booked for inciting posts on social media

are under constant watch and all posts and comments are being monitored keenly by the cyber cells.

"Strict actions will be taken against those who will post anything that is provocative and spreads hatred," the spokesperson said.

Night temperature rises in Kashmir, Rain and snow likely over next week in J&K

Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund town recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius and the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 1.6 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 3.7 degrees Celsius.

A dry and largely snowless winter in Kashmir has resulted in freezing nights and warmer than usual days. Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December. There has been no precipitation in most parts of the valley in the first three weeks of January.

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

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

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

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

Drug peddler held in Baramulla; Contraband substances recovered: Police

of Mohammad Shafi resident of Noorkhah Bijhama. He has been arrested and shifted to PS Boniyar where he remained in custody.

Accordingly, case under relevant sections of law have been registered at police Station Bijhama and investigations have been initiated.

Tesla sets sights on mid-2025 for production of next-generation vehicles

Tesla to launch highly anticipated 'Redwood' electric vehicle in 2025

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Tesla has reportedly informed its suppliers that it intends to commence production of its highly anticipated next-generation electric vehicle, codenamed "Redwood," in mid-2025. This exciting development aims to usher in a new era of mass-market electric vehicles for the renowned automaker.

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, confirmed this groundbreaking news during a post-earnings call on Wednesday. He revealed that the company plans to initiate production of the next-generation electric vehicle at its state-of-the-art factory in Texas during the second half of 2025. Subsequently, Tesla intends to expand production to Mexico and explore other factory locations outside of North America later this year. Musk acknowledged the challenges associated with scaling up production for this novel vehicle, emphasising the complexity of the task at hand.

Tesla has long been tantalizing its devoted fan base and investors with promises of affordable electric vehicles and self-driving robotaxis built on next-generation, cost-effective electric car platforms. This ambitious endeavor includes the creation of an entry-level \$25,000 car, positioning Tesla to compete with more economical gasoline-powered vehicles and an increasing number of affordable electric vehicles, such as those manufactured



by China's BYD.

Notably, BYD surpassed Tesla as the world's leading electric vehicle manufacturer in the final quarter of 2023, prompting Tesla to intensify its efforts to regain its position at the forefront of the EV market.

Tesla foresees its next-generation vehicle as a catalyst for substantial growth. The company's recent quarterly results report acknowledged that the vehicle volume growth rate in 2024 may be comparatively lower than the remarkable growth rate achieved in 2023. This is attributed to Tesla's dedicated teams focusing on the launch of the next-generation vehicle at Gigafactory Texas.

While the introduction of a \$25,000 car was initially promised by Musk in 2020, the plan was subsequently shelved and then revived. At present, Tesla's most affordable offering, the Model 3 sedan, starts at \$38,990 in the United States. Musk expressed concerns last year regarding the potential impact of high interest rates on consumer demand for significant purchases, such as automobiles.

Sources familiar with the matter revealed that Tesla had sent "requests for quotes" to suppliers for the "Redwood" model last year, with an estimated weekly production volume target of 10,000 vehicles. According to insiders, production is slated to commence in June 2025. All sources spoke on condition of anonymity due to the confidential nature of the matter.

The timing of the release of next-generation compact vehicles was among the most frequently asked questions posed by investors to Tesla before the release of its quarterly results report. It is anticipated that the report will forecast a 21% rise in deliveries for 2024, falling short of Musk's long-term annual target of 50%, which he set approximately three years ago.

In May, Musk shared that Tesla was actively developing two new products, potentially resulting in combined annual sales of 5 million vehicles. He expressed confidence in both the design of the products and the revolutionary manufacturing techniques that would set them apart from anything else in the industry.

According to Walter Isaacson's biography of Musk, released in September, Tesla plans to create an affordable robotaxi and an entry-level electric car priced at \$25,000, both based on the same vehicle architecture. Furthermore, Tesla aims to manufacture more cost-effective vehicles at its

Berlin factory and is exploring the possibility of establishing a manufacturing facility in India, signalling its commitment to producing affordable electric cars globally.

Tesla's track record of missing launch targets and pricing projections suggests that achieving volume production will require time and careful planning. The Cybertruck, for instance, has experienced delays and a slow acceleration in production, with its starting price of \$60,990 in the United States being 50% higher than initially advertised in 2019.

Musk, known for his optimism, acknowledged that the company's current schedule indicates the launch of production towards the end of 2025. He expressed unwavering dedication, stating that the company would be tirelessly working towards this goal.

While the profitability of these more affordable electric vehicles may pose challenges due to the costs associated with batteries and the production of quality inexpensive vehicles, Tesla has demonstrated its commitment to innovation by extensively studying a Honda Civic, priced at \$23,950 in the United States, to glean insights on manufacturing cost-effective cars.

The next-generation Tesla architecture, internally referred to as "NV9X," is expected to encompass multiple models, according to sources familiar with the matter.

BLS E-Services issue set to open for public subscription; all you need to know

MUMBAI, Jan 25 (Agencies): BLS E-Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of the listed company, BLS International Services Ltd, has announced that it has set a price band of Rs 129-135 per equity share for its Rs 310.90 crore initial public offering (IPO).

The shares are expected to be listed on both equity indices. The sole book-running lead manager is Unistone Capital Pvt Ltd and the IPO registrar is Kfin Technologies Ltd.

About BLS E-Services

BLS E-Services is a technology-enabled digital service provider that provides business correspondence services to several top banks in the country. Its New Delhi-headquartered parent company, BLS International, was founded in 2005 and currently serves 46 client governments across 64 countries.

In August 2018, BLS E-Services had acquired Delhi-based Starfin India Pvt Ltd, a banking business correspondent of the State Bank of India.

When will the issue hit capital markets?

The BLS E-Services issue will open for public



subscription on January 30 and close on February 1. Investors can bid for a minimum of 108 equity shares and in multiples of it thereafter, the company said.

The bidding for the anchor investors will open on January 29.

What does the IPO comprise?

The IPO comprises only a fresh issue of up to 2,30,30,000 equity shares. BLS E-Services has raised Rs 13.75 crore in a pre-IPO placement of 11 lakh equity shares at a price of Rs 125 each. Hence, the size of the fresh issue of equity shares has been reduced to 2,30,30,000 equity shares, as per the red herring prospectus (RHP).

At the upper end of the price band, the company will fetch up to Rs 310.90 crore.

The issue includes a reservation of up to 23.03 lakh shares for the shareholders of promoter BLS International Services.

The eligible shareholders will get these shares at a discount of Rs 7 per share to the final issue price.

What will the proceeds be used for?

The net proceeds from the IPO will be used to strengthen the company's technology infrastructure to develop new capabilities and consolidate its existing platforms, said BLS E-Services.

A part of the funds will be utilised to bring in organic growth by setting up BLS Stores and inorganic growth through acquisitions. A portion will be used for general corporate purposes.

Hyundai Motor's Q4 net profit rises 31%, misses forecasts

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co on Thursday reported a 31% rise in fourth-quarter profit that missed analyst expectations due to unfavourable exchange rates as well as one-off costs related to the sale of its Russia plant in December.

Hyundai Motor, the world's No.3 automaker by sales with its affiliate Kia Corp, reported a net profit of 2.2 trillion won (\$1.65 billion) for the October-December period versus a profit of 1.7 trillion won a year earlier. That compared with a 2.9 trillion won average forecast by LSEG SmartEstimate, which is weighted towards estimates from

analysts who are more consistently accurate.

Hyundai is targeting revenue growth of 4.0%-5.0% this year. It expects a 4.9% jump in North American vehicle sales but a 3.7% drop and 0.6% fall in vehicle sales in China and Europe, respectively. It predicted an operating profit margin between 8.0% and 9.0% in line with last year.

"Hyundai Motor expects the business environment will remain difficult to predict, due to macro uncertainties centered on emerging markets and a downturn in the real economy," Hyundai Motor said in a statement.

Analysts noted that like other automakers, Hyundai is grappling

with slowing growth due to a difficult economic environment, including high interest rates and inflation that have pushed vehicles out of the reach of some buyers.

"It appears that pent-up demand for vehicles from limited supplies has been disappearing as high interest rates eat away car buyers' willingness to purchase," said Lee Jae-il, an analyst at Eugene Investment & Securities.

Lee added that Hyundai Motor would likely manage its vehicle inventory level more tightly than previous years as pent-up demand has disappearing and excessive inventories would hurt its profitability.

Sensex, Nifty slump in early trade; Tech Mahindra falls nearly 4%

MUMBAI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Thursday dragged by IT stocks and continuous foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 227.72 points to 70,832.59. The Nifty dipped 55.7 points to 21,398.25.

Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra fell nearly 4 per cent after the company on Wednesday reported a 60 per cent decline in net profit to Rs 510.4 crore in the December



quarter.

HCL Technologies, Infosys, Wipro, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank were

among the other major laggards.

IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, and the State Bank of India were among the gainers.

"Volatility is expected

due to the January F&O contracts expiry.

Negative catalysts include FIIs selling, WTI oil spiking, and diminishing prospects of the US rate cuts," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

The BSE benchmark jumped 689.76 points, or 0.98 per cent, to settle at 71,060.31 on Wednesday.

The NSE Nifty ended 215.15 points, or 1.01 per cent, higher at 21,453.95.

Azim Premji gifts one crore Wipro shares to his sons

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Wipro founder Azim Premji has transferred 1.02 crore equity shares of Wipro held by him to his two sons Rishad Premji and Tariq Premji as 'gift', according to an exchange filing.

The Wipro scrip is currently valued at Rs 472.9 per share, and at roughly this value, the transferred shares will amount to a whopping Rs 483 crore. Tech magnate Azim Premji's son Rishad Premji currently helms Wipro as its Executive Chairman, and is a prominent face of the IT industry.

"I, Azim H Premji, wish to intimate you that 1,02,30,180 equity shares of Wipro Limited



held by me, amounting to 0.20 per cent of the share capital of the company were transferred to Rishad Azim Premji and Tariq Azim Premji in the form of gift," Wipro filing on Wednesday said.

The transaction, however, would not alter the overall promoter and promoter group shareholding in the company and it will remain the

same even after the proposed transaction.

In another filing by Wipro, Rishad Premji informed that 51,15,090 equity shares of Wipro Ltd has been received as a gift from Azim Premji.

A similar intimation was made for Tariq Premji, informing that he has also been gifted 51,15,090 equity shares of Wipro Ltd by Azim Premji.

Top lifestyle habits that raise risk of dementia

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Dementia is one of the most debilitating disorders of the brain that can wipe precious memories and can eventually steal the freedom of doing daily chores independently. It includes a wide spectrum of disorders including Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. Dementia is caused when nerve cells are damaged and their connections in the brain are disrupted. The symptoms can depend on the part of brain it has affected.

While it can be caused temporarily due to deficiency of certain vitamins, many forms of dementia are irreversible and progressive in nature. Lifestyle factors can greatly affect your chances of getting dementia. Certain lifestyle habits like leading a sedentary way of life, not socialising enough, eating processed foods, smoking, and alcohol can increase risk of the brain disorder.

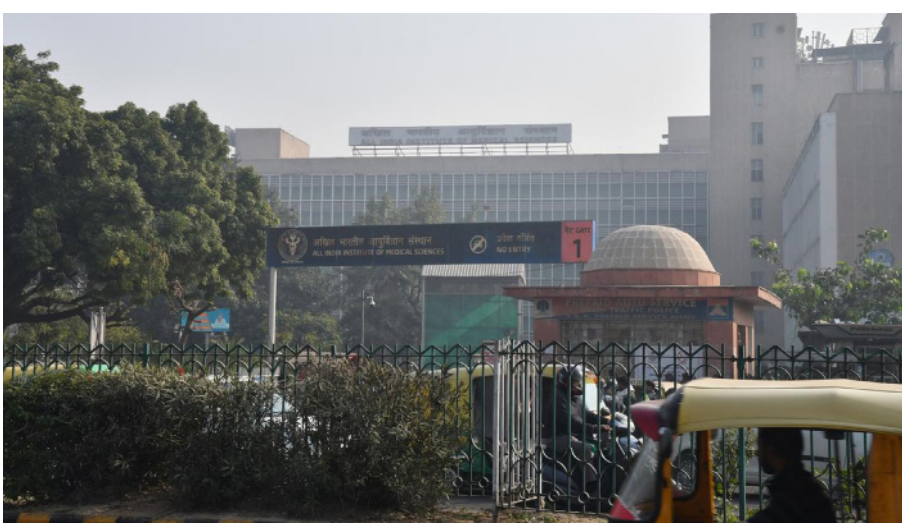
"Dementia, a progres-

sive neurodegenerative disorder, poses a significant public health challenge worldwide. As research has shed light on the intricate interplay between genetic predispositions and modifiable lifestyle factors that influence the risk of dementia. While dementia is not entirely preventable, certain lifestyle habits have emerged as potential contributors to its onset," says Dr Chirag Gupta - Consultant, Neurology, Yatharth Hospital Greater Noida.

Inactive lifestyle, a big culprit

"Leading an inactive lifestyle is a major risk factor for developing some form of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, later in life. Lack of regular physical exercise leads to problems like cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, and obesity - all of which negatively impact overall brain health over time," says Dr P N Renjen, Senior Consultant, Neurology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals.

AIIMS-Delhi Smart Card to cover all payments; no cash from April



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): No cash payment shall be accepted at any counters other than at the 'AIIMS Smart Card' top-up counters which shall be operationalised in multiple locations and shall operate on 24x7 basis, a statement issued by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences said on Wednesday.

The AIIMS Smart Card, which will start from March 31, began

as a pilot project in some departments of the premier health institute. In the order, AIIMS Director Dr. M. Srinivas referred to the office memorandum issued on November 17, 2022, advising that 'AIIMS Smart Card' facility for patients and their attendants shall be started with effect from April 15, 2023, in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

This was done to move to digital payments

mode and to improve patient convenience so that they do not have to stand in queues for making payments for various investigations and procedures or for getting snacks/food in cafeteria etc, the order stated.

It added that AIIMS Smart Card which has been started on pilot basis in few areas should be operationalised pan AIIMS New Delhi for all sorts of payments by March 31.

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden storm into their first-ever Australian Open final after hard-fought semi-final victory

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden have advanced to their first-ever Australian Open final after defeating ZZ Zhang and Tomas Machac at the Rod Laver Arena.

MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (Agencies): Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden have advanced to their first-ever Australian Open final after defeating ZZ Zhang and Tomas Machac at the Rod Laver Arena.

Bopanna and Ebden, who became the number 1 ranked men's doubles pair following their win in the quarter-final, overcame a stern test from Zhang and Machac to advance to the final of the 2024 Australian Open.

The Indo-Australian pair beat Zhang and Machac 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 to book a spot in the final. With this win, the pair reached back-to-back finals in Grand Slams, having reached the final of the 2023 US Open as well.

Bopanna and Ebden started the match on the front-foot, winning the first set 6-3. There was a brief rain delay in the second set, following which Zhang and Machac bounced back with a 6-3 win in the second set.

The pair of Zhang and Machac made an incredible comeback in the third and final set to take it



to the tie-breaker having been 1-4 down.

In an end-to-end clash in the tie-breaker, the duo of Bopanna and Ebden emerged victorious thanks to some incredible shot-making. Bopanna and Ebden won the tie-breaker 10-7 to book a spot in the final.

Bopanna and Ebden will now face either the all-Italian pair of Andrea Vavassori and Simone Bolelli or the German duo of Dominik Koepfer and Yannick Hanfmann.

The pair of Zhang and Machac had defeated the reigning US

Open champions Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury earlier in the tournament.

Speaking after their win, Bopanna said playing together with Ebden for so long helped them get through the difficult tie-breaker against Zhang and Machac.

"Playing those matches together and this partnership together got us through those tie-breaks. Even though they say tennis is an individual sport, there's a lot of stuff that goes on behind the scenes. A big team has helped me get to this stage,"

said Bopanna.

"When I decided to play with Matt (Ebden), I made sure that I focused on what I needed to be ready to play my best tennis. I was mainly focusing on mobility and recovery and not really looking to go an lift heavy weights. I've been doing some yoga and the mental strength definitely helps me to get through these tough matches," Bopanna added.

BOPANNA/EBDEN'S ROAD TO THE FINAL

Bopanna and Ebden overcame the all-Australian pair of James Duckworth and Marc Polmans 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 in the first round, before defeating John Millman and Edward Winter in straight sets in Round 2.

They then went on to beat Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Mektic 7-6, 7-6 in the third round. The Indo-Australian pair made easy work of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni of Argentina to reach the semi-finals, while also confirming their spot as the world No. 1 pairing in men's doubles.

Please correct this, I am not retiring, says Mary Kom after reports surface she has quit boxing

Reports earlier quoted her as saying that due to the age cut off of 40 years for amateur boxers, she has been forced to retire.



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (Agencies): Olympic bronze-medallist and six-time world champion MC Mary Kom on Thursday refuted reports that she had announced retirement.

The 41-year-old, who is already past the age eligibility to compete on the amateur circuit, said she still hadn't made any formal announcement of calling it quits. "I haven't announced

retirement yet and I have been misquoted. I will personally come in front of media whenever I want to announce it. I have gone through some media reports stating that I have announced retirement and this is not true," the Manipuri flyweight (51kg) category boxer asserted in a statement to agency.

Reports earlier quoted her as saying that due

to the age cut off of 40 years for amateur boxers, she has been forced to retire.

"I was attending a school event in Dibrugarh (Assam) on January 24 wherein I was motivating children and I said 'I still have hunger of achieving in sports but age limit in Olympics doesn't allow me to participate though I can carry on with my sport'," she said.

"I am still focusing on my fitness and whenever I will announce retirement I will inform everyone. Please do correct this," she added.

Mary Kom has not been seen in action since her pre-quarter-final loss in the Tokyo Olympics, which was her last appearance at the quadrennial showpiece.

India secure comeback win over United States at Hockey5s Women's World Cup

MUSCAT, Jan 25 (Agencies): Mariana Kujur and Deepika Soreng struck a brace each as India secured a 7-3 victory over the United States in their second Pool C game of the Hockey5s Women's World Cup here.

The goalscorers for India were Mahima Choudhary (17'), Mariana Kujur (20', 22'), Deepika Soreng (23', 25'), Mumtaz Khan (27'), and Ajmina Kujur (29').

Jacqueline Sumfest (4', 18') and captain Linnea Gonzales (14') got on the scoresheet for the United States in the match.

Sumfest gave the USA the lead with a reverse shot that found the bottom corner of the Indian goal.

United States' Captain Linnea Gonzales intercepted a clearance from the Indian defense and unleashed a close-range shot to double their lead.

The second-half began with India pegging the United States into their own half; the pressure resulted in a challenge which was converted by Mahima

Choudhary.

However, the United States were quick to bounce back with Sumfest striking from a thunderous strike from the half-line to restore the two-goal cushion for the United States.

As India looked to get back on level terms, Mariana Kujur was on her toes, deflecting a cross to breach Kealsie Robles's goal and put India within striking distance.

Mariana continued to hound the United States' defensive line in the second-half, pouncing on a loose ball in the opposition half and flashing a shot past Kealsie Robles to make it level at 3-3.

Deepika Soreng then scored from a tight angle to help India snatch a 4-3 lead.

Two minutes later, Deepika struck from a tighter angle to give India a two-goal lead.

Mumtaz and Ajmina then struck one each to cap their stunning turnaround.

India won their first match in Pool C against Poland 5-4.

AUS vs WI, Pink Ball Test: Mitchell Starc becomes 5th Australia bowler to pick up 350 Test wickets

BRISBANE, Jan 25 (Agencies): Australia's pacer Mitchell Starc completed 350 wickets in Test cricket and became the 5th Australian to reach the landmark. Starc achieved this feat during the Day and Night Test match against West Indies at the Gabba Stadium in Brisbane.

The left-arm quick needed 2 wickets to complete the milestone ahead of the 2nd Test match. In the 20th over, Starc got the better of Tagernarine Chanderpaul and removed him at 21. In the 22nd over, Starc dismissed the young batter Alick Athanze, who became his 350th Test scalp. In the 26th over, Starc dismissed Justin Greaves at 6 to rattle the West Indies batting lineup.

MILESTONE MOMENT FOR STARC

Shane Warne, with 708 wick-



ets, Glenn McGrath, with 563, Nathan Lyon with 512 wickets and Dennis Lille with 355 wickets are ahead of Starc in the elite list. Starc became the 3rd left-arm pacer to reach the milestone of 350 Test wickets. The 32-year-old is only behind Pakistan's legendary pacer Wasim

Akram, who has 414 wickets and Sri Lankan icon Chaminda Vaas with 355 scalps. The veteran pacer is playing his 87th Test and has picked up an outstanding 14 five-wicket hauls and two 10-wicket match hauls.

Starc has claimed 27 wickets so far against the West Indies in

7 Test matches.

The West Indies won the toss and opted to bat first, but couldn't make use of the favourable batting conditions as the quicks made use of the swinging pink ball. Josh Hazlewood drew the first blood for Australia by dismissing the skipper Craig Brathwaite at 4. Australian captain Pat Cummins picked up the wicket of Kirk McKenzie and the visitors kept on losing wickets at regular intervals due to poor shot selection. Australia were reduced to 5/64 in the 1st session.

The hosts had thumped the West Indies in the 1st Test match at Adelaide and would look for a clean-sweep by winning the 2nd Test. Australia already boast of an incredible record in the pink ball Tests.

India bowl out England for 246 on Day 1 of Hyderabad Test

India have selected KS Bharat as their wicketkeeper, and have included Axar Patel as the third spinner.

HYDERABAD, Jan 25 (Agencies): India bowled out England for 246 on the opening day of the first Test here on Thursday with the home team spinners sharing eight wickets between them.

England captain Ben Stokes won the toss and opted to bat first.

The visitors were off to a decent start with openers Zak Crawley (20) and Ben Duckett (35) adding 55 runs at a fairly good pace before Ravichandran Ashwin gave India their first breakthrough by having Duckett trapped in front of the wicket.

Stokes top-scored with 70 off 88 balls and was the last English wicket to fall, bowled by Jasprit Bumrah (28).

Jonny Bairstow contributed 37 off 58 balls before he was done in by a beautiful delivery from Axar Patel (2/33).

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and Ashwin bagged three



wickets apiece while there were two each for Axar and Bumrah.

Umpire Chris Gaffaney did not have to think long before raising his finger, and even a review could not save Duckett as England's opening stand ended at 55.

It was also, perhaps, the most reassuring phase in England's innings as they were able to give a peek into their Bazball' approach while scoring at five runs an over.

In fact, they milked 25 runs from the first four overs bowled by pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.

But once that partnership was broken, England failed to press on against Indian spinners as Ollie Pope, Zak Crawley, Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow stumbled badly.

Axar castled Bairstow with a peach after the England batter failed to cover the spin and the ball crashed on to the top of off-stump.

It also signalled the end of a 61-run alliance for the fourth wicket between Bairstow and Root, as it kept England afloat for a while even though not in the most assured manner.

However, the dismissal of Root would haunt the visitors the most among all the other dismissals.

Root is one batsman in the English line-up who can counter spin well, but here his approach was too pre-meditative to be successful.

The former captain

kept on sweeping the spinners and Jadeja hit a fuller length which resulted in a top-edge to short fine leg where Jasprit Bumrah did not have to strain himself much to complete the catch.

Ben Foakes has this reputation of being a fine player of spin but on this day only struggle was visible as he departed with a 24-ball four, offering a simple catch to KS Bharat behind the wickets off Axar.

It left captain Stokes, who employed conventional and non-conventional sweeps to counter spin, to wage a lonely battle in the company of tailenders and even looked solid during his stay in the middle as well.

But then on dire occasions like the one England encountered here, even a lion-hearted warrior like Stokes can only add a modicum of respectability to the total.

Australian Open 2024: Aryna Sabalenka avenges US Open defeat against Coco Gauff, storms into final



MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (Agencies): Aryna Sabalenka continued her title defence run in an emphatic manner after beating Coco Gauff in straight sets on Thursday, January 25 in the Australian Open 2024 women's singles semi-final.

At the Rod Laver Arena, World No.2 Sabalenka took an hour and 42 minutes to beat Gauff 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 and advance to back-to-back final at Melbourne Park.

Sabalenka will be up against either China's Xinwen Zheng or Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska in the final to take place on Saturday, January 27.

Sabalenka ends Gauff's unbeaten run Sabalenka also avenged her defeat against Gauff after losing against the Ameri-

can in the final of the US Open 2023 at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. Back then, Gauff rallied back from a set down to take down the Belarusian and clinch her maiden Grand Slam title.

However, this time around, the 25-year-old Sabalenka was more aware and closed out the match in straight sets. Moreover, she also brought an end to Gauff's unbeaten streak this year.

Last year, Sabalenka beat Elena Rybakina in the final after bouncing back from a set down. Regardless of who she faces, Sabalenka will go into the final in 2024 as the firm favourite. Sabalenka has won all 12 sets thus far in the ongoing hard court major.

Sabalenka dominant

once again Against Gauff, Sabalenka started with an early break of serve to take a 2-0 lead. But Gauff earned the break back immediately to pull herself out of the mini slump. Yet again, Sabalenka broke her opponent's serve to eventually take a 5-2 lead.

Gauff was tentative with her serves in the previous matches and that showed against Sabalenka as well. But then, she earned back-to-back breaks and was once in with a chance to serve the set out. However, Sabalenka was in no mood to throw in the towel as she took the set into a tie-break where she triumphed.

In the second set, Gauff looked in better shape as both players held their serve to make it 4-4. But then Sabalenka bagged a serve break to drill the final nail in the coffin.

Gauff saved a match point with a powerful forehand down the line, but a backhand error from her brought the curtains down on the match.

Atharva Foundation donates two ambulances for welfare of ex-servicemen

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Atharva Foundation donated two ambulances for the welfare of ex-servicemen of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday. The Foundation also gifted laptops to the daughters of martyrs.

This generous contribution aims to improve healthcare access and emergency medical services for the brave individuals who have served in the armed forces and kins of martyred soldiers.

Atharva Foundation led by its Chairman and Borivali MLA Sunil Rane has been actively involved in various phil-



anthropic initiatives, focusing on education, healthcare, and social welfare.

The organization's commitment to creat-

ing a positive impact in society has garnered widespread recognition and appreciation across the country.

Sunil Rane said, "Our

ex-servicemen have shown immense courage and dedication while serving the nation. It is our responsibility to ensure they receive the

care and support they deserve.

Through the donation of ambulances, we aim to enhance their access to healthcare and make a positive difference in their lives."

He also emphasized the importance of providing quality healthcare facilities to these heroes, stating, Recognizing the sacrifices made by armed forces personnel, ex-servicemen and their families.

The donation of ambulances and laptops are part of the foundation's ongoing commitment to ensuring the well-being of those who have dedicated their lives to protecting the nation.

Capsule Training Course for PSOs concludes at PTTI Vijaypur

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 25: 10 days Capsule Training Course for PSO" concluded at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Thursday.

The objective of the course was to enhance the capabilities and tactics of police officials to protect VIPs/protected persons.

On this occasion a Valedictory function was organized which was graced by Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur.

While speaking on the occasion, Principal PTTI Vijaypur said that this course would definitely help Police personnel in perform-



ing their field duties with VIPs/Protected persons as these trainees have been taught Crises management, Reaction Drill, Evacuation, Anti ambush techniques, Tactical position taking and medical contingency besides all required Do's & Don'ts including precautionary measures to be adopted

while performing PSO duties.

Among others, Zia-Ul-Haq, Dy.SP (Outdoor), Surrinder Paul Singh (Dy.SP (Indoor/Tech), Insp. Anil Kumar, SI Sulinder Kumar, ASI Naresh Kumar, ASI Mohd Rashid, HC Manoj Kumar were present during valedictory function.

Swaraj Yoga Institute to offers scholarship for J&K students for certified yoga courses

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: Swaraj Yoga Institute, a premier Authorised Yoga Study Centre with students all across Globe, is an authorised Training Centre for Indian Yoga Association (IYA) offering short term Courses by internationally recognised employable - Yoga Teacher Like Certificate course in Yoga (200 Hrs), Advance Certificate Course in Yoga (500 Hrs), YCB Level 1, Level 2 & Level 3 Program etc. The Founder of Swaraj

Yoga-Anil Swaraj who is also secretary Indian Yoga Association being from UT - J&K has announced a time bound certification program proposed to be conducted in February 2024 at their Jammu centre.

He said as UT-J&K has very less number of Certified yoga Teachers, there is a huge gap which our Institute wants to fill so that people and organisations looking for yoga teacher can get services of certified professionals.

These courses are

also a niche for sports, medical, paramedical fraternity, fitness & holistic health lovers.

To make it financially easy for J&K -UT students Swaraj Yoga has announced hundred percent Scholarship for economically deprived especially BPL & fifty percent scholarship for all others resident of UT J&K.

It's mandatory that the student should have minimum 10+2 qualification and a Fitness enthusiast can apply by contacting management Scholarship helpline

number 9796 47-1111 or e mailing swarajyogaoffice@gmail.com.

The aim of IYA and YCB certification is to produce Yoga professionals so that they will have minimum / basic common standards of Yoga knowledge and expertise irrespective of which institute he or she is certified from. These standards will become the hallmark of Yoga all over the world.

Minimum Qualification is 10+2 for Level 1 and 2. For Level 3 onward - One needs to be a graduate in any stream.

National Voters' Day celebrated at GDC Thathri

Top News Report

DODA, Jan 25: The Department of Political Science in collaboration with the College Literary Committee organised a guest lecture and a discussion programme on National Voters' Day.

The event was organised under the guidance and patronage of the College Principal Dr. Basharat Iqbal.

The guest speaker on the occasion was Prof. Arshad Ayoub, HoD Political Science who in his detailed presentation highlighted the significance, the integrity and the relevance of voting for the welfare of the Nation.

Prof. Ayoub also shared his thoughts about Viksit Bharat and the role of every citizen especially in the electoral process.



The lecture was followed by an informative question-answer session in which Prof. Arshad cleared the doubts and various queries of the students regarding the National Voter's Day.

The College Principal Dr. Basharat Iqbal in his address emphasised the need for every person to cast his/her vote and the difference it can make for the

future of our nation.

Dr. Basharat also lauded the efforts for organising such interactive and informative events on this day and motivated the students to spread awareness regarding the significance of voting.

The whole event was organised and managed by the convener College Literary Committee Prof. Deepak Raj who held a pledge taking

ceremony in the presence of college staff and students.

The event was graced by the HoDs of the departments of EVS, Urdu, Economics and Physical Education.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed, HoD EVS who congratulated everyone associated with the event for making it a grand success.

Yogi appeals for passage of J&K Temples & Shrines Bill forthwith

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: The overall condition of temples and Shrines in Kashmir Valley is pathetic and dilapidated after the forceful exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from their native places in Kashmir Valley.

Despite the passing of more than thirty-four years in exile, Kashmiri Pandits have been strongly demanding the passage of J&K temples and Shrines for the maintenance and upkeep of all temples

and shrines that have been either damaged, gutted or their lands illegally occupied by anti-social elements after our forceful migration in 1990 but no tangible action has been taken in this direction so far by the previous Governments.

In a statement issued on Thursday, senior KP leader M.K Yogi said that after a thorough survey, hundreds of temples and Shrines in the entire valley where Kashmiri Pandits used to live before migration

in Kashmir are either in a dilapidated condition or their lands have been illegally occupied which is a matter of serious concern and demands immediate action under immovable migrant property act 1997.

Yogi appealed to the Government of India to implement the J&K temples and Shrines bill forthwith for the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of our ancient temples and shrines so that our rich

cultural heritage, civilization, and ethos are saved.

Yogi appealed to Lt. Governor J&K to issue afresh directives to all the Dy. Commissioners of the Valley who are the sole custodians of migrant property to implement this law at the lower level with accountability in letter and spirit without any lapse as hundreds of migrant cases are lingering for want of disposal at the ground level still.

Nation's constitution guarantees fundamental and democratic rights to all citizens: Bukhari

Apni Party president extends R-Day greetings to people

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Thursday, extended warm greetings to the people of the country, especially the people of Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion of Republic Day, which is set to be commemorated tomorrow. In his message on

this special day, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "The nation is preparing to celebrate the 75th Republic Day with enthusiasm tomorrow. The day marks the adoption of the country's constitution, which came into effect on this day in 1950. This foundational document—the Constitution—stands as a beacon of



democratic principles, assuring citizens of fundamental rights including freedom of speech,

expression, religion, personal liberty, and the right to live with dignity. Thus, the day is festive for the citizens of the country."

He continued, "On this momentous occasion, I extend heartfelt greetings to the people, wishing that this day usher peace and tranquility into our lives and pave the way for prosperity for all."

GDC Kathua celebrates National Voters' Day

Top News Report

KATHUA, Jan 25: NSS Units in collaboration with Electoral Literacy Club and Literary Activities Committee of GDC Kathua celebrated 14th National Voters' Day on Thursday.

On this occasion of National Voters' Day, series of activities were organized on the theme of this year's voter's day "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure".

The whole event was organized under the patronage of Principal of the College Prof. Seema Mir.

The event started with the lighting of the auspicious lamp and formal welcome address by Dr. Pinky, NSS PO of the college.

A detailed introductory speech

was delivered by Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, HOD Urdu, where he highlighted the importance of Voters' Day.

Moreover, several NSS volunteers shared their views on the said topic. A skit was also presented by the students regarding the awareness of casting their crucial votes.

The Principal of the college also spoke on the occasion and stressed upon the need of enrolment of voters in the voter list and asked students not to miss their right to vote during elections and cast their vote judiciously.

Finally, a Voter's Pledge was observed in which worthy Principal along with senior faculty members and students took part

with great zeal and enthusiasm.

All these activities were conducted under the supervision of Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Convener Literary Activities Committee, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Member of Electoral Literacy Club and NSS Program Officers, Prof. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Kulbir Singh and Dr. Pinky. Prof. Sanjay Karulupia and Prof. RK Pandita senior faculty of the college along with other staff member namely Prof. JS Soodan, Prof. Charandeep Handa, Prof. Saumian various other faculty members graced the occasion.

The program was concluded with the formal vote of thanks by NSS PO, Dr. Kulbir Singh.

J&K saints attends Pran Pratistha of Ram Lala Janmabhoomi Temple Ayodhya

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 25: After a long wait of 500 years, the brave sacrifice of lakhs of Ram devotees and the efforts of crores of Ram devotees, Mahamandaleshwar Shri Rameshwar Das Ji Maharaj on behalf of Jammu Kashmir Sant Samaj participated in the divine grand consecration ceremony of



the newly constructed huge Ram Lala temple in Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya.

Swami Dinesh Bharti, Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Nand Kishore Das, Swami Gangadhar Maharaj, Dr. Mahant Satya Narayan Das and Kartik also witnessed and paid obeisance at the feet of Lord Ram Lala at Ayodhya.