

ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Parents should not impose their wishes on children, says Sara Khan



NATIONAL | 7

Protecting Constitution true tribute to freedom fighters: Rahul Gandhi

INTERNATIONAL | 8

China's Top Diplomat To Discuss Taiwan With US Security Advisor



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-26 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Light snowfall likely in some higher reaches of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 26 (Agencies): Upper reaches of the Kashmir valley, including the ski resort of Gulmarg, experienced light snow, resulting in the closure of Mughal Road and Srinagar-Ladakh Road on Friday.

Mughal Road connecting south Kashmir's Shopian with the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division and Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road connecting Ladakh were closed due to the accumulation of fresh snowfall on Friday as a precautionary measure, traffic police posted on

Turn to page 9

Republic Day 2024: President Droupadi Murmu unfurls Tricolour, takes ceremonial 21-gun salute

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu commenced the celebrations of the 75th Republic Day on Friday by unfurling the national flag at Kartavya Path.

President Murmu on her arrival at Kartavya Path was received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Simultaneously, the National Anthem was played and the 21 Gun Salute was presented to the President.

As per tradition, the National Flag was unfurled followed by the National Anthem with a booming 21-gun salute given with indigenous gun system 105-mm Indian Field Guns.

President Murmu and her French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, who is the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations were escorted by the President's Bodyguard- 'Rashtrapati Ke Angrakshak'.

The President's Bodyguard is the seniormost Regiment of the Indian Army. This Republic Day is special for this elite Regiment as the 'Angrakshak' has



completed 250 years of service since its raising in 1773.

The two Presidents arrived at Kartavya Path in the 'Traditional Buggy', a practice which made a comeback after a gap of 40 years.

The Commandant of the President's Bodyguard Colonel Amit Berwal, rode to the right of the President's Buggy, leading this elite body of horsemen. To the left of the President's Buggy is the Second-in-Command of the Regiment Lt Col Ramakant Yadav.

Four Mi-17 IV helicopters of the 105 Helicopter Unit showered flower petals on the audience present at Kartavya Path. This was followed by 'Aavaahan', a band performance by over 100 women artists playing various types of percussion instruments, symbolising Nari Shakti.

The Gun Salute was presented by the Ceremonial Battery of 871 Field Regiment (SHINGO) ex HQ 36 Artillery Brigade. The Ceremonial Battery is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Vikas Kumar, SM.

The Gun position officer is Subedar (AIG) Anoop Singh. The 21 Gun Salute was given with 105 mm Indian Field Guns, the indigenous gun system on Kartavya Path.

21 Gun Salute is the highest military honour presented to the National Flag from the Kartavya path. The gun salute is synchronized with three simultaneous actions viz-a-viz, unfurling of the National Flag, Playing of the National Anthem by the Service bands and the national salute rendered by the President's Bodyguard.

Last year, for the first time, the 21 Gun Salute was given with 105 mm Indian Field Guns replacing the vintage 25-pounder gun.

The 21 Gun Salute is presented during Republic Day, Independence Day and visits of foreign Heads of State.

The President's Buggy is being led by Risaldar Sunder Singh Tanwar astride ARJUN.

The President's Bodyguard is a unique Airborne Cavalry Regiment

Turn to page 9



Republic Day Greetings To All Our Readers. Offices of Top News of J&K will remain closed on January 27. Therefore, there will be no issue of our newspaper on January 27. -Editor

Huge turnout at Bakshi Stadium on Republic Day



SRINAGAR, Jan 26 (Agencies): Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar witnessed a significant

surge in attendance on Friday as crowds gathered to witness the

Turn to page 9



75th REPUBLIC DAY

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Let us take a pledge to empower common people and build a stronger Jammu and Kashmir

DIP/J-14354/23

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



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

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,
9558120509, 9796545666



Sh Omkar Nath

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Dilip Kachroo S/o Lt. Sh. Kashi Nath Kachroo originally from Langate Kupwara. At present House No 141 Lane no 2 Amar Colony Camp Road Talab Tillo Jammu.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Bhadra Ghat Devianag Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Thalwal Phallian Mandal Jammu on 01/02/2024 (Thursday).

Assembly Prayer meeting shall be held at our residence. Time 11:30am

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Rajni Kachroo -Wife
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Mr.Sunil Kachroo & Mrs.Kajal Kachroo
Mr.Rahul Kachroo
Brother & Sister-in-Law
Sh.Avtar Krishan Kachroo & Smt. Meenakshi Kachroo
Sh.Surinder Kachroo & Smt.Joyti Kachroo
Lt.Sh.Ashok Kachroo & Smt Sonia Kachroo
Sister & Brother-in-Law
Sh.Prathvi Nath Sadhu & Lt.Smt Rajni Sadhu
Sh.Satish Moza & Smt Veena Moza
Deeply Remembered by
Kachroo's, Sadhu, Moza, Pandits & Bhat's

Contact No: 6005342892, 7889776262, 7889482983, 9810914985



Sh.Dilip Kachroo

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is informed that our beloved Karamyogi Sh Kashi Nath Kandroo (Boba Ji) S/o Neel Kanth Kandroo Retd Secretary (TAC) Anantnag H/o Jai Kishori Kandroo 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 :

Jai Kishori Kandroo - (Wife)
Smt Durga Ji and Late Shri Brij Nath Koul (Sister)
Smt and Shri Rattan Lal Kandroo (Brother)
Smt and Shri Autar Krishen Kandroo (Brother)
Smt and Shri Tej Krishen Kandroo (Padam Ji) (Brother)
Dileep Kandroo 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 Kandroo (Boba Ji)

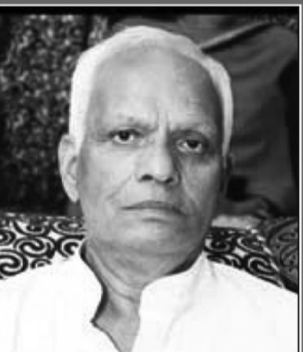
10TH DAY KRIYA

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

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved mother Smt. Roopawati W/o Late Sham Lal Bhat R/o Inder Pulwama, presently at House No. 119/A Sector - 3, Near Govt. Ration Depo Durga Nagar Jammu, who attained Nirvana on 24-01-2024.

10th Day will be performed at Mata Badrakali Asthapan Bhadra Ghat Thalwal.

Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.30 am on 2nd Feb. 2024.

Grief Stricken

Sons & Daughter-in-laws
Pran Nath Bhat & Mrs. Ratni Bhat - 7006284900, 9149603331
Shubam Krishan Bhat & Mrs. Rajni Bhat - 7006303889 / 7006043308
Smt. Jaya Koul - Daughter 7042241856
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt. Bimla Koul & Chaman Lal Koul - 9086620121
Smt. Girja Bhat & Chaman Lal Bhat - 8492848845
All Grand Children
Nears & Dears



Smt. Roopawati

**SHANTI PATH
RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA**

AT
K.C. Regalia,
Near Bahu Plaza, Jammu
On Saturday
27th January' 2024
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM



SMT. CHANCHAL GUPTA
(1942-2024)

GRIEF STRICKEN:
MUNI LAL GUPTA (Husband)
(Son & Daughter in law)
RAJESH GUPTA & RITIKA GUPTA
(Working President Vishva Hindu Parishad J&K Ladakh)
(Son in Law & Daughter)
ADARSH KALSOTRA (Retd. X.EN) & RAKHI KALSOTRA
Grand Children:
Dhimanshu & Tanu, Danish & Mehak,
Ankit & Dr. Ana, Satyam & Ananya

Resi. - 15 A/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu
M/S Hotel City Top, Below Gumat Jammu
M/S Jammu Batteries, Below Gumat Jammu
M/S Trikuta Motors, Kunjwani Jammu
Mb: 9796449999, 9018791270

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father, Sh. Ved Prakash Gupta, S/o Lt. Mulkh Raj Gupta, R/o 264, Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

UTHALA shall be held on Saturday, 27/01/24 at PANCH MANDIR, Sec. 2, Channi Himmat, Jammu from 2.00 pm-3.00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Bimla Gupta -Wife
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Manju and Suresh Gupta
Madhu and Rajesh Gupta
Sakshi and Munish Gupta
Shilpa and Naresh Gupta
Rajni and Rakesh Gupta- Daughter and Son-in-law
Grand Children:
Siddharth Gupta
Sona and Bisham
Sheena and Dilip
Manvi and Tanuj
Priya and Paras
Saloni and Rahul

Laksh, Tanya, Chirag, Jahnavi and Aaril.
M/s Mulkh Raj Ved Parkash, 45-C Ware house, Jammu
9419196699, 9419140562, 9419184740



Sh. Ved Prakash
Gupta
(21.07.1938 - 25.01.2024)

BARKHI

One year has passed since you have left us for heavenly abode. The pain of losing you will never fade, but your blessings are always with us and we always feel your gracious presence around us. You will forever live in our hearts guiding and inspiring us.

BARKHI of Smt. Raj Rani Gupta W/o Late Sh. Krishan Kumar Gupta (Mirpuri) shall be performed on Saturday, 27th January, 2024 at 12 Noon at our residence 58 Gurah Bakshi Nagar Jammu

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Sons & Daughter in laws
Sh Rajesh Gupta & Smt Seema Gupta
Sh Sanjeev Gupta & Smt Monika Gupta
Sh Rajeev Gupta & Smt. Namrata Mahajan
Daughters & Son in laws
Smt Prmla Gupta & Sh Anil Gupta
Smt Neena Gupta & Sh Satinder Gupta
Grand Children : Ashok and Suruchi , Shilpa and Mukul, Akhil, Aseem, Arush, Alankrit, Shivam, Aakriti, Shivang, Kritika
M/s KRISHAN KUMAR GUPTA AND SONS (9419162750)
M/s FANCY READYMADE GARMENTS (9419143713)
M/s FANCY OUTFIT (9419119197)
Raj Tilak Road (Purani Mandi)
Branding Elves
Via ENS (9797689768)



SMT. RAJ RANI GUPTA

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father Sh Ashwani Kumar (S/o (Late) Sh Radha Krishan Vaid & (Late) Smt Kaushalya Devi) R/o Lane No. 19 behind Friend Cement Traders Greater Kailash Jammu.

10th Day will be performed on 27-01-2024 (Saturday) at our residence from 11:30 AM to 12 noon.

Kriya will be performed on 28-01-2024 (Sunday) at our residence at 12 noon.

Uthala will be performed on 29-01-2024 (Monday) at Shiv Mandir near Petrol Pump Greater Kailash Jammu from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Grief Stricken :

Smt Kailash Devi (Wife)
(Sister-in-law & Brother)
Smt Smriti Devi and Sh Ram Gopal Vaid
Smt Oma Devi (Chachi Ji)
Smt Pushpa Devi (Mother-in-law)
Mr Vipul Vaid & Gautam Vaid (Sons)
Mr Rohit Vaid (Nephew)
Mob. 7889792474 & 6006834303



Sh Ashwani Kumar

BARKHI

A year has passed since he left us for his heavenly abode, but his presence is always felt in our hearts.

Barkhi of our beloved Maj. Gen(Retd) Ashok Padha shall be performed from 11:30 to 12:30, on 27th January 2024 at our residence House no. 88, Lane no. 10(Down), Greater Kailash, Jammu

GRIEFSTRICKEN

Anjana Padha (wife)
Akanksha Padha (Daughter)
Akhil Padha (Son)
Siddhant Chamola (Son-in-law)



Maj. Gen(Retd)
Ashok Padha

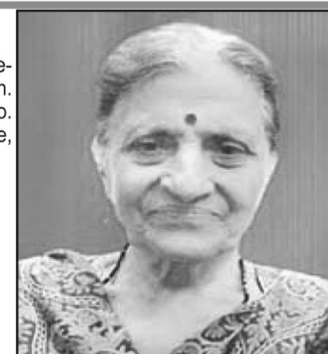
Brothers and Sisters
Romesh Padha
Vinod Padha
Suresh Padha
Sindhu Sharma

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother Smt. Mohini Mattoo W/o Sh. Triloki Nath Mattoo R/o Manigam (Ganderbal) at present H.No. 3, Lane No. 1, Laxmipuram Extn. (Opp. 7 Heaven) Chinore, Bantlab, Jammu on 24/1/2024.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Triloki Nath Mattoo (Husband)
Smt. Santosha Bhat (Sister-in-law)
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Jeetan Ji Mattoo & Smt. Veena Mattoo
Dileep Kumar Mattoo & Smt. Anjali Mattoo
Smt. & Sh. Naresh Kumar Mattoo
Smt. & Sh. Rajinder Kumar Koul
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sunita Raina & Sanjay Raina
Julliee Bhat & Sanjay Bhat
Ashok Kumar Dhar H/o Late Prana Dhar
Phone No.: 9419192718, 7006354587, 9999601466,
9596622698, 9149475583



Smt. Mohini Mattoo

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 Bhamna 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 Jaya 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)

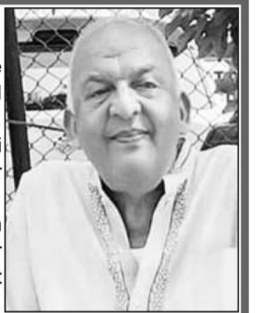
TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Mohinder Pal Regra S/o Lt. Sh. Bahari Lal Regra and Smt. Shankari Devi R/o Housing Colony, Udhampur on 18 Jan. 2024.

TENTH DAY shall be performed on Saturday 27.01.2024 at Shiv Mandir Housing Colony, Udhampur at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Kiran Bala - Wife
Lt. Mayank Regra - Son
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs. Megha Gupta & Mr. Mayur Mahajan
Grand Daughters: Maayukhi & Mayurika
& All Regra & Kalsotra Family
9419160364, 9419103975, 9419175687



Sh. Mohinder Pal
Regra

ADH BARKHI

Six months has gone since you left us for heavenly abode. Though you are not with us yet your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. We pray to Parmatma to give sadgati to your soul.

ADH BARKHI of our beloved mother Late Smt Santosh Kumari (Dagor Wale) W/o Late Sh. Om Parkash Magotra, will be performed on 28 January, Sunday at 12:00 PM at our residence house no. 6374 Channi Himmat, Jammu

DEEPLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY

Son & Daughter-in-Laws
Sh. Bimal Sharma & Smt. Sharda Devi
Late Sh. Ashwani Kumar Sharma & Smt. Sunita Sharma
DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW
Smt. Reva Sharma & Sh. Ram Pal Sharma
Grandchildren: Abhishek Sharma, Namit Sharma, Minakshi Sharma & Mitesh Sharma, Kanika Sharma & Gulshan Badyal, Priyanka Sharma & Ankit Sharma, Rahul Sharma & Sahil Sharma
Great-Grand Children: Manasyu, Ekashi & Omrasha



Late Smt Santosh Kumari
(Dagor Wale)

ADH-BARKHI

Six months have passed since you left us for your eternal journey. Your memories are still fresh and we feel your presence everywhere and everytime.

ADH-BARKHI of our beloved Late Smt. Santosh Chibber Bali W/o Sh. Charanjit Bali will be performed on 27th January (Saturday) 12 Noon at our residence H. No. 39 Sector G Sainik Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Charanjit Bali (Husband)
Smt. Sharda and Sh. Dev Raj Bali (Devrani and Devar)
Sh. Satpal Bali (Devar)
Smt. Sweeta Bali and Sh. Rajneesh Bali (Daughter-in-law and Son)
Sh. Amit Bali (Son)
Smt. Pushp Latta Chibber (Bhabhi)
Smt. Pawan Dabur and Sh. Gulshan Dabur (Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law)
Grandsons- Utsav and Aavyan



Late Smt. Santosh
Chibber Bali

TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA

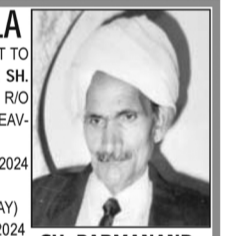
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED LATE SH. PARMANAND SHARMA S/O LATE SH. NATHU RAM R/O V.P.O KOT-181122, JAMMU WHO LEFT FOR THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 18-01-2024.

THE TENTH DAY SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 27-01-2024 (SATURDAY)

KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 28-01-2024 (SUNDAY)

UTHALA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 31-01-2024 (WEDNESDAY) FROM 3PM TO 4PM

AT OUR RESIDENCE V.P.O. KOT-181122, JAMMU



SH. PARMANAND
SHARMA

GRIEF STRICKEN

SMT. GEETA DEVI - WIFE
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON
MRS. RITTY SHARMA AND MR. DHRUB RAJ SHARMA (J&K BANK)
GRANDSON: MR. PIYUSH SHARMA, MASTER JEEVAN
MOBILE: 7006590772, 9419965977

BARKHI

One year has gone since you left us for heavenly abode. Though you are not with us yet your loving memories are still fresh in our hearts. We pray to God to keep your noble soul in heaven with peace.

BARKHI of our beloved Late Sh. Sham Lal Sharma S/o Late Sh. Thakar Dass will be performed on 27th Jan, Saturday 2024 at 12:30 PM at our residence, H.No. B/3 Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Goro Devi -Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Vinod Sharma & Smt. Madhu Sharma
Daughters & Son-in-law
Smt. Rimple Sharma & Sh. Satish Kumar
Smt. Vandana Sharma & Sh. Anil Sharma
Smt. Vidhika Sharma & Sh. Kamal Sharma
Smt. Shikha Sharma & Sh. Ajay Kumar
Smt. Mittal Sharma & Sh. Rohit Kumar
Brothers & Bhabhis
Sh. Kishore Kumar & Smt. Kailash Devi
Smt. Prem Lata W/o Late Sh. Kewal Kumar
Smt. Chandha Devi W/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Raj
Grand Children : Bhanu, Shantu, Vibhu, Raghav, Vasu, Aditi, Sagor, Tarunoy, Prithul
Mobile No: 9149515411, 9419107494



SH. SHAM LAL SHARMA
(1953-2023)
Retd Asst Director CAPD
Deptt J&K Govt Jammu

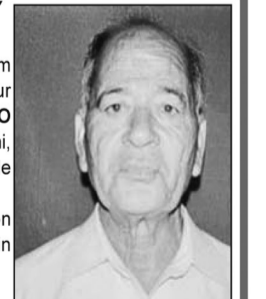
TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Father Sh. Om Nath (ZEPO Retd) S/o (Late) Sh Jagan Nath R/o Pouni, Reasi who has left for his heavenly abode on 20.01.2024.

TENTH DAY shall be performed on Monday (29/01/2024) at our residence in Pouni at 11 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

Smt Kamla Devi (Wife)
(Daughter in law & Son)
Divya & Pankaj Kumar
(Daughters & Son in laws)
Neeraj & Vinod Sharma
Bertha & Dr. Randeep Nayyar
(Grandchildren)
Yukta, Arunima, Aditya, Vansh, Piyush & Varun
RSVP - 9810926470, 9882399894, 8492835827



SH. OM NATH
(ZEPO RETD)

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."

LG Manoj Sinha Lays Wreath at Balidhan Stambh in Jammu

JAMMU, Jan 26 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday laid a wreath at the 'Eternal Flame' of the Balidhan Stambh War Memorial in Jammu to pay tribute to the fallen heroes on the occasion of 75th Republic Day on Friday.

The Jammu and Kashmir LG paid tributes with a ceremonial guard of honour in the presence of other ranks of the Tiger Division.

Taking to social media platform, X, Sinha said that the nation will forever remain indebted to the brave hearts for their supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the sovereignty of the motherland.



arts of Police, Army and CAPFs. The nation will forever remain indebted to the brave hearts for their supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the motherland,"

he wrote on X. Balidhan Stambh meaning 'Tower of Sacrifice', has been constructed to commemorate the sacrifice of soldiers who laid down their lives who attained

martyrdom in service of the motherland on soils of Jammu and Kashmir in various battles and counter insurgency operations since independence.

Being the country's tallest war memorial with the tower height of 60 meters, Balidhan Stambh was built in 2009 at a cost of Rs 12 crores expanding over 21 acres.

A necklace of 52 memorial pillars entails 7512 braveheart names and murals of nine Param Veer Chakras and 27 Ashok Chakras have been constructed on the inscription wall of the memorial. The historic day of January 26 is observed every year at Balidhan Stambh with pride to mark the 'Republic Day' celebrations.

ITBP Jawans Celebrate 75th Republic Day at peaks of Indo-China Border in Arunachal



A R U N A C H A L PRADESH, Jan 26 (Agencies): The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) soldiers deployed at the peaks of the Indo-China border in Arunachal Pradesh celebrated the 75th Republic Day of India.

Marking the occasion, Indian soldiers marched near the border area, waved the Indian flag and raised 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

India-China border near Arunachal Pradesh has been in headlines after a face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in the Tawang sector led to minor injuries "to a few personnel" from both sides, sources said and noted that both sides immediately disengaged from the area.

The sources said on December 9, 2022, PLA troops contacted the LAC in the Tawang Sector of Arunachal Pradesh which was contested by Indian troops in a firm and resolute manner.

India is meanwhile gearing up for a momentous platinum celebration of the country's Republic Day with an enthralling showcase of its military prowess and rich cultural heritage at the majestic 'Kartavya Path' in the national capital.

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the country in the grand celebrations in its journey of Amrit Kaal that began post the 'Azadi

Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of the country's independence.

Viksit Bharat's rich cultural diversity, the 'Aatmanirbhar' military prowess and the growing Nari Shakti are the dominating themes of the 90-minute parade that will be graced by French President Emmanuel Macron as Chief Guest.

For the first time ever, an all-women Tri-Service contingent is marching down the Kartavya Path. Women pilots will also enthrall the audience during the Indian Air Force's fly-past, representing Nari Shakti (women power).

The contingents of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will also consist of only women personnel.

The parade will be heralded by over 100 women artists playing Indian musical instruments. The parade would commence with the music of Sankh, Naadswaram, Nagada, etc., to be played by the women artists.

The ceremonial event will witness the classic display of the nation's defence forces with an exhilarating display of mighty cavalcades comprising mechanised columns, state-of-the-art equipment, marches of contingents and a display of varied culture and unity in the diversity of the nation.

Based on the twin themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki Matruka', this year's parade will witness the participation of around 13,000 special guests, an initiative which will provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to take part in the celebrations and encourage 'Jan Bhagidari' in this national festival.

The ceremony will start with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the National War Memorial, where he will lead the nation in paying solemn tributes to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries will head to the saluting dais at Kartavya Path to witness the parade.

After this President Murmu and her French counterpart Macron will be escorted by the President's Bodyguard, the senior most Regiment of the Indian Army. This Republic Day is special for this elite Regiment which has completed 250 years of service since its raising in 1773.

The two Presidents will arrive in the 'traditional buggy', a practice which is making a comeback after a gap of 40 years, the Defence Ministry said.

The National Flag will be unfurled, followed by the National Anthem with a booming 21-gun salute given with indigenous gun system 105-mm Indian Field Guns.

CCI celebrates 75th Republic Day with patriotic fervor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: Chamber of Commerce and



Industry (CCI), Jammu celebrated the 75th Republic Day with great fervour here today.

An impressive programme was organized at the Chamber House which commenced with the unfurling of National Flag by Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu in presence of other office bearers and senior members of the CCI.

On the occasion, Arun Gupta unfurled the National Flag after which the whole premises reverberated

with the singing of National Anthem amid salutations to the National Tricolour and the martyrs who laid down their lives while protecting the territorial integrity of the nation on the borders and the hinterland.

In his address, Arun Gupta threw light on the martyrdom of freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the cause of the nation and its people as a result of which the people of the World's largest Democracy are enjoying full freedom and self esteem having earned honour and dignity at the global level. He also said that it is a day to remember those who had sacrificed their lives to get the nation free from British rule.

Arun Gupta said that Republic Day is the most auspicious day for the whole nation and its people and being the most vibrant democracy of the world, it deserves to be celebrated like a festival with full enthusiasm and gaiety amid participation of people from diverse cultures as 'Unity in Diversity' is the hallmark of the Indian democracy.

The Chamber President assured that CCI members will leave no stone unturned in taking J&K on the glorious path of development and prosperity.



New Rehari Welfare Society members celebrated 75th Republic Day with full pomp and show at Rana Rajinder Singh Park, New Rehari Jammu.

Dulhasti Power Station celebrates 75th Republic Day

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 26: Dulhasti Power Station celebrated 75th Republic Day with full patriotic fervor and zeal.

Chief Guest of the event, M K Kashyap, Group General Manager (Incharge) unfurled the National Flag in a function organized at Administrative Building premises of the power station. He then

inspected the Guard of Honor of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) contingent.

Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager (In-charge) greeted everyone on the 75th Republic Day and called upon everyone to contribute with full honesty and hard work in the country's progress.

On this occasion, S

K Mishra, General Manger (Electrical), K V Sivakumar, General Manager (Electrical), Mukesh Kumar, Dy. General Manager (Mech.), Sanjay Kr. Gupta, Group Sr. Manager (Electrical), Davinder Koundel, Sr. Manager (HR) and Senior Officers & employees of Dulhasti Power Station along with, CISF personnel were present at the function.

AAP Jammu celebrates 75th Republic day



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: The AAP -J&K, Jammu celebrated 75th Republic day with great zeal & fervor, in its Jammu North office, on Friday. Sr. AAP leaders, Omparkash Sharma, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Ashni Mattoo, Suresh Bhagat, Adv. Arvind Bandral, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar Bhagat, S. Ranjodh Singh, Shaadi Lal, S Amrik Singh & Kuldeep Kumar Rao, unfurled the National flag in presence of, AAP leaders & volunteers.

Addressing the gathering, the Sr. AAP leaders said that with the advent of constitution in 1950, the country was officially known as the Republic of India-a "sovereign, socialist, secular & democratic republic" that "secures all its citizens justice, liberty, equality & fraternity" according to its preamble. They said that the freedom was

achieved, at the cost of innocent lives of more than 15 lakh besides execution of hundreds of Patriots irrespective of caste, creed & colour but unfortunately, as of now, the country has gone into the hands of people who are exploiting the people on the lines of casteism, regionalism & communalism simply to gain power forgetting everything about development, removal of poverty, hunger & unemployment etc as a result there is complete anarchy, chaos & confusion. They appealed the masses to maintain peace & communal harmony at all costs in National interest & cautioned them to put their everything to save the unity and integrity of the Nation, achieved by our National Heroes by spilling their blood and sacrificing lives for it.

75th Republic Day was also celebrated at AAP Party office Puni

Chak, Jammu, with great zeal & fervor & unfurled the National Flag in presence of, AAP leaders & volunteers at Party office, Pouni Chak, Jammu. While congratulating the countrymen, of all hues, from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, irrespective of caste, creed & colour, have cautioned them to put their everything to save the unity and integrity of the Nation, achieved by our National Heroes by spilling their blood and sacrificing lives for it & further underlined that need of the hour, for every countrymen, is to bind the Nation in the sacred thread of mutual love of communal harmony & mutual respect for every religion, brother hood & keeping high the age old Ganga-Yumana civilization by discarding & rejecting any design to create & promote communal divide between various sects of Great Nation-the INDIA.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.No.	1.	Tender No.	62245043	Due Date	26-02-2024
Description					
Set of window assembly for BVCM Wagons consisting of (i) Fabricated Window Complete to RDSO drg no. WD-15009-S-13 Alt.1, Item no. 6 Qty: 01 Nos/Set (Note-Window complete/Louver & Shutter sheets) to be supplied with Window Rest Cushion as per Drg.No.C/DW-2245 & Window Rest Cushion strip fitted with Brass screws as per Drg.No.C/DW-2246) (ii) Window Guide to RDSO Drg no. WD-15009-S-13, Alt.1, Item no. 7 Qty: 02/Sat (iii) Gravity Catch for Window Assembly to Drg. No. CA/DW-2200, Alt. Nil Qty: 06 Nos/Set. (Note-Body as per Drg.No.C/DW-2201 & Tongue as per Drg. No.C/DW-2202).					
					800 Sets.

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. ... 18/2023-24 Date: 25.01.2024
288/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE

Notice for engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialists at Northern Railway Firozpur Division

S.No.	Name of hospital	HVS	No. of posts
1	Divisional Hospital, Firozpur	Paediatrician	01
		Eye	01
		Physician	01
		Radiologist	01

Detailed terms and conditions governing the engagement is available on Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. Those interested doctors can submit their Bio-Data along with their professional work experience, option regarding 2 Hours/6 days/week and contact details to Chief Medical Superintendent, Northern Railway, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur-152001 (Punjab) up to 13.00 Hrs on 22.2.2024.

Chief Medical Supdt.,
N.R. Firozpur
291/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 17/2023-2024 Dated: 24.01.2024

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N. Rly. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1	62245005	High-Capacity Draft Gear with Follower for BVCM Wagons RDSO Drg No. WD-81010-S-03 alt.12, Item no. 19 & RDSO Spec:49-BD-08 with amendment 01 of sept-16	800 Nos.	22.02.2024

Note:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

281/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER
xenpwd@ecdiv.jammu@gmail.com

Fresh e-NIT No.EDJ/313 of 2023-2024 Dated 23-01-2024

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of document (in)	Earnest Money (in)	Time Allowed for complete e-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Providing and fixing of Outdoor type LED Video Wall with online UPS and other allied works at Directorate of tourism Jammu. (3rd call).	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	39.69	600/-	79380/-	Linked with Civil works.	06-02-2024 At or after (12:00 A.N)	OEM/Distributors/Firms (Fulfill eligibility criteria).

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-01-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-01-2024 to 05-02-2024, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-01-2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-02-2024 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	06-02-2024 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, at the time of allotment.
- Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021. No.:- EDJ/17157-64

Dated :-23-01-2024
DIP/J-14326/23
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Electric Division
Jammu

EDITORIAL

NATIONAL
FESTIVAL

Republic Day is a National festival of India which is celebrated every year on 26 January. India's 75th Republic Day is being celebrated this year in 2024. French President Emmanuel Macron is the chief guest for the year 2024. On this day in 1950, the Constitution of India was implemented by removing the Government of India Act (1935). It is one of the three national holidays of India, dedicated to the author of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

It was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and implemented on 26 January 1950 to become an independent republic and establish the rule of law in the country. The date of 26th January was chosen for its implementation because on this day in 1930, the Indian National Congress had declared India as Purna Swaraj.

Delhi is well decorated and a parade takes place with great pomp and show on Kartavya Path in which there are tableaux of various states and government departments.

People from every corner of the country come to Delhi to watch the 26 January parade. Indian Army weapons are displayed. On 26th January, the President's procession is taken out with great pomp and show and many interesting programs are organised.

Flag hoisting takes place in every corner of the country and many types of programs are organized. People of Indian origin spread across the world and the embassies of India also celebrate Republic Day with enthusiasm. It is celebrated in every corner of India, and a new enthusiasm for the country is seen.

Modi has set his target, does BJP know where it's headed?

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The newly-created Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980 needed to establish its identity and begin mass mobilisation to serve its larger purpose of constructing a grassroots movement to establish its popular presence and to differentiate itself from the Jan Sangh. The strategy it adopted combined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's mission of establishing a Hindu Rashtra, that is, an Indian State with an official religion, renamed as "Hindutva" to distinguish it from its predecessor, Hinduism, and using elections to power its politics.

The vehicle it boarded was the demand to build a temple where the deity Ram in Ayodhya, as the faithful believed was the city of his birth, and the likely capital of the ancient kingdom to which the prince Ram was heir. It worked perfectly to build momentum by raising the spectre of past Muslim oppression, because the site of the deity's birth was in the popular narrative obliterated by a mosque built by the Mughal king Babur and justified the movement to assert Hindutva nationalism and combine it with religious rejuvenation. Winning elections and acquiring the power of the State to fulfil its agenda was essential.

That agenda is now achieved. The temple is built on the razed site of the Babri Masjid. The January 22, 2024 consecration of the 51-inch idol christened "Balak Ram", to differentiate him from the nine-inch 1949 Ram Lalla metal statuette, completed the last but one labours that the BJP had set itself after it was created. The temple and Balak Ram, now "Virajman", are solid proof that Narendra Modi's guarantees do

work; selfies can be taken and posted on social media by pilgrims to prove it.

The almost 10-year government of Mr Modi was the fulfilment of the BJP's transformational agenda. He can declare that all the other boxes -- cancelling Article 370 and triple talaq, weeding out infiltrators from citizens -- on the checklist have been ticked. The gap between guarantee and delivery, however disappointing, does not cancel the task completed status of the list.

The Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the gruelling cross-country journey of the Ram Rath led by Lal Krishna Advani was political. The consecration of Balak Ram by Mr Modi is equally political. The message that followed the opening of the temple was entirely expected; the lord in the persona of Narendra Modi shall preside over the State -- "Dev se Desh, Ram se Rashtra". Predictably, he went through his usual routines of ritual performance that combines a protocol derived from possibly ancient texts suitably modified to fit the routines familiar to millions of Indians who gulped in the weekly episodes of the B.R. Chopra serial of the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. The inauguration of the new Parliament was the dress rehearsal, with priests, chants and symbols.

Where does the BJP go from here? Narendra Modi's target is set; to, at least, match the performance of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who served three terms. To build on the Ram Temple theme, Mr Modi contrived to patch a bit of the Ram lineage, Suryavanshi, to his commitments on climate change's goal of Lifestyle for

Environment by redesigning a solar energy scheme. Having installed himself as the representative of the people at the consecration, the next steps will to distribute munificence by raising numbers of "labharthi" beneficiaries to convey a sense of moving forward on the endless road to becoming "Viksit", or developed.

The BJP, however, has a different challenge. It has to find a new set of goals to take it forward. Its lesser order torch-bearers talk of more mandir-masjid reconstructions, from the Gyanvapi in Varanasi to the Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. The problem is that these are local missions confined to the politics of Uttar Pradesh. The other problem is, as Karl Marx once said: "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce". Simply put, anything that follows will be an anti-climax. Without its missions and slogans, the BJP is in danger of becoming a party with a past and nothing special to offer in the future. The synergies that powered the Ram Temple movement are missing.

Political parties without a popularly significant mission that keeps the masses engaged are always in danger of running out of steam. The Congress is a party that once captured the Indian imagination with its "Garibi Hatao" slogan, because it reflected the aspirations of the majority of citizens. The 2.0 version of the same slogan -- "Mera Bharat Mahaan" -- is remembered only by artists painting slogans on the backs of buses. Narendra Modi's slogan of Amrit Kaal to be ushered in by the Amrit Peedhi (cohort), Viksit Bharat and the \$5 trillion economy are another of his version of "Mera Bharat Mahaan".

Governments, past and present, have failed in getting to the point of policymaking that raises the income levels of almost all Indians, that is the poor and the median income population, to levels that make it unnecessary for long-term extensions of the free staples Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana or mass housing schemes or free health services schemes that state governments have rolled out. The failure to establish social security is a fact, regardless of the mumbo jumbo that is spouted about India's consumer spending and its global rankings.

By now it is perfectly obvious that Mr Modi is good at some things. He can galvanise the masses and hold out the hope of "vikas" that matches popular aspirations. His success isn't the same as radically transforming the political terrain as the Ram Rath and the Ram Janmabhoomi movement did.

Establishing a Hindutva Rashtra is and is not a radical change. Having incrementally altered the character of the government and made religious identity an integral part of political discourse, Mr Modi and the BJP will find it hard to electrify and awe citizens by repeating its formula of majoritarian nationalism.

The repetitiveness of the message of Hindutva and now "Dev se Desh, Ram se Rashtra", is not aspirational enough, not even for the devout, who will expect more, like becoming more affluent sooner rather than later. Winning the 2024 elections for Mr Modi and tinkering with the structure of governance -- "One Nation, One Election", hollowing out democracy by increasing autocracy -- are low hanging fruit that diverts from the fundamentals of delivering on the promise of Viksit Bharat, that in essence means poverty eradication. Past governments have failed. There is no guarantee that Mr Modi will succeed.

Importance of Parental Support to Manage Children's Stress during Examination

By Dr Rajkumar
Ranjan Singh(MoS for External Affairs
and Education)

In today's rapidly changing world, where students must compete in every aspect of their academic life, academic stress can be worrying for parents and students. Examination-stress leads to the unpleasant psychological situations that occur due to the educational expectations from parents, teachers, peers and family members along with the pressure due to academic achievement and existing examination system. Exam stress can increase anxiety due to the pressure of exams that affects the student before, during and after the exam. This is an important issue that students deal with throughout their academic lives. Exam stress can have a significant impact on students' mental health leading to anxiety, depression, and other emotional problems due to some anticipated frustration associated with academic failure or even an awareness of possibility of such failure.

There are various causes of stress in a student's life

such as too many assignments, competition with other students, failure, bad relationships, constant pressure to study, examination, future plans, etc. Specially, in exam time, there are few factors that can contribute to exam stress in students. They are as follows:

i) Strain to perform well :Some children due to understudies or family pressure might feel strain or tension while taking the pressure to perform well in examinations.

ii) Fear to be failed : There are a lot of students who worry about failing an exam, which can make them feel stressed and anxious. This dread can be particularly intense for understudies who battle with a specific subject or who have experienced issues with tests previously.

iii) Absence of readiness :Students who are not sufficiently equipped/prepared for an examination may experience tension and stressed out. This can be due to a lack of understanding of the material, a lack of study time, or other factors.

iv) Time restraints: Tests frequently have tight time imperatives, which can be

unpleasant for understudies who are not used to working under tension.

In fact, students experience academic stress because of their expectations of success, the expectations of their parents and teachers. It is evident that parents' expectations from their children put pressure to accomplish well in examinations. However, it is suggested that certain amount of examination stress can be considered to be operative and effective leading to attentiveness and cautious behaviour before the exams in children. But, keeping high expectations from children during examinations can be a basis for exam stress/pressure and poor performance.

It is generally recognized that parents play an important role in the cognitive, behavioural, emotional and social development of their children. In their role, parents provide children with socialization to cultural and societal norms and values, with the aim of preparing them to meet the needs of the communities as well as prepare them for future.

Parents also have an important role in guiding and managing positive or

negative influence of academic aspirations on children. Parents can help their children in handling the exam pressure by recognizing some physical, social, behavioural and psychological signs of exam stress.

Recognizing the Signs of Exam Stress in Children

It's likely that young people won't feel comfortable to discuss exam pressure and stress, but parents can look for any signs of stress in their children and talk to them about it. Educational or academic pressure can sometimes be difficult to detect, especially in more mature children who may not feel the pressure or lack the ability to express their feelings. Here are some of the most common symptoms of stress that can be seen in children through physical (e.g., headache, grinding teeth, high blood pressure, indigestion, fatigue, insomnia), psychological (e.g., anxiety, irritability, defensiveness, anger, mood swings, depression helplessness, hopelessness) and behavioural symptoms (e.g., overeating or loss of appetite, procrastination, withdrawal/isolation, poor personal hygiene).

3-Month Tally & Excel Skill Development Course concludes by DECC Kishtwar

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 26: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Kishtwar organized the successful conclusion of a 3-month skill development course in Tally & Excel. The valedictory ceremony, held at TRC Kishtwar, marked the culmination of the training program in which 30 candidates were trained.

The chief guest for the event, Dr. Khalid Husain Malik, Joint Director of Employment, Jammu addressed the gathering and highlighted the vast scope of the Tally & Excel course in enhancing employment opportunities for the youth of the district.

He urged the candidates to actively participate in upcoming job



fairs, emphasizing the importance of networking and showcasing their newly acquired skills to potential employers.

The AD Employment, Kishtwar, Shafiqat Ali Keen (JKAS) highlighted the significance of the training program, and encouraged the candidates to actively participate in counseling sessions, job fairs, and the AVSAR Scheme.

During the ceremony,

the Dr. Vinod Kumar, District Nodal Officer (DNO) of JKEDI, Kishtwar provided insights into the details of the skill development course. He also elaborated on the future prospects that the skill development course offers in Tally & Excel to the candidates in terms of employability and entrepreneurship.

Emphasizing the importance of staying abreast of industry

trends, he provided guidance on how the newly acquired skills align with the evolving needs of the job market, fostering a sense of preparedness among the participants.

Additionally, Vinod Shant, Employment Officer, DECC Kishtwar shared valuable information about the employment landscape and stressed the importance of candidates par-

ticipating in counseling sessions and various Mission Youth Schemes viz SEI, AVSAR.

He shared insights into the employment landscape, highlighting the schemes as avenues for further opportunities and support for individuals actively seeking employment

The valedictory ceremony concluded on a positive note, with candidates expressing gratitude for the valuable skills acquired during the 3-month Tally & Excel course.

The event served as a platform for networking and building connections with key figures in the employment sector, setting the stage for the candidates to embark on their professional journeys with confidence and competence.

75th Republic Day celebrated by Rich Harvest School



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: Indian Republic Day is the day when "We, the people of India", celebrate democracy, diversity and the collective spirit of India.

RHS NCC Contingent marched in glory in Samba stadium to celebrate the Day when India's constitution came into effect, making India a Sovereign Republic. During the celebration, stu-

dents presented a captivating dance on national integration.

In the School premises, the Tricolour was unfurled by the Chief Guest Th Gulchain Singhji Charak--Former minister R&B and Higher Education in the presence of the Managing Director of RHS, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, the staff and the head of the Institute, Anita Bhatia.

The Managing Director congratulated the

Staff & Students on virtual interface while emphasising the need to abide by the constitution for the progress of our Great Nation.

The Chief Guest urged the staff to enlighten the students about the importance of our constitution in channelizing their tender minds towards what is right and ethical.

The programme concluded with the thunderous rendition of the National Anthem.

PTTI Vijaypur celebrates Republic Day



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Jan 26: 75th Republic Day was celebrated at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

On the occasion, Shri Dushyant Sharma, SSP, Incharge Principal PTTI Vijaypur presided over the function and unfurled the National Flag in presence of Prominent citizens, Retd. Police personnel, staff and trainees of the Institute.

During function, the

contingents of staff/ Trainees of PTTI Vijaypur, NCC Cadets of MV International School Vijaypur, students of BBN Hr. Secondary School Vijaypur held March Past. Principal in his address highlighted the importance of Republic Day and remembered the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Country and Police Martyrs who laid their precious lives for protecting and safeguarding the sovereignty of the Nation.

He also congratulated

to all staff/ trainees and their families on this auspicious occasion of Republic Day.

Amongst others, Zia-Ul-Haq (Dy.SP Outdoor), Devinder Gupta (Dy.SP R&D), Surrinder Paul (Dy.SP Indoor/Tech), Asif Iqbal (Sr.PO), Sohan Lal (NCC Officer of MV International School), Sonia Sharma (Teacher), Rupali Slathia (Teacher), Varun Thapa (teacher), Mr. Manoj Pandit, Retd. Police personnel, staff and trainees of PTTI Vijaypur were present on the occasion.

Welfare Society Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu celebrated 75th R-Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: Welfare Society Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu celebrated 75th Republic Day with full pomp and show.

On the occasion National Flag was unfurled besides singing of National Anthem.

Sweets were also distributed among public. The Society has continued its policy to not to distribute small flags which later on lead to increase in plastic waste and dishonour of the same when they are thrown in trash.

Feelings of nationality patriotism, secularism,

unity in diversity, mutual growth & development and enlightenment were exchanged besides greetings of Republic Day.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Balwinder Singh Rinku President, Hardeep Singh Talwar Vice President, Sanjeev Talwar Vice President, Vikas Bhardwaj Vice President, Jatinder Kuma Secretary, Raju Katyal Jt. Secretary Harjeet Singh Cashier, Bhupinder Singh Tirthi, Malvinder Singh, Anil Gupta Sunil, Surjeet Singh, Pappu Bral, and others.

Patriotism Unfurls: IIM Jammu Marks 75th Republic Day with Zea



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) marked the historic 75th Republic Day with an inspiring celebration at its permanent campus in Jagti. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, and Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu.

The ceremony commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu accompanied by the resonating notes of the National Anthem, invoking a profound sense of pride and patriotism among the audience.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu expressed his happiness for the assembly gathered to commemorate this significant day. Highlighting the remarkable achievements in space exploration and the milestones India is achieving in all other domains, he shared insights into the role of sports in nation-building.

He encouraged students to embrace sports activities for developing discipline and resilience.

He emphasized IIM Jammu's commitment to the holistic development of students and underscored the importance of personal values in life.

He inspired the young generation, by stating, "The young generation seated here will witness India transform from a developing nation to a developed nation. With our commitment to Viksit Bharat, India will emerge as an economic powerhouse across various sectors, including industrial growth, manufacturing, automobiles, pharma, tourism, and the IT sector. As India progresses and attains significant achievements across diverse sectors, the pivotal role of academic institutions such as IIM Jammu becomes increasingly crucial in shaping the leaders of the future."

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, addressed the gathering with insightful words, recognizing the pivotal role citizens play in shaping the future of the nation.

He commended the students, faculty, and staff of IIM Jammu for their dedicated participation in the Republic Day celebration. He reiterated that, "India is undergoing a transformative journey under the current Government's visionary lead-

ership. In every domain, we witness the nation shaping the vision of Viksit Bharat, emerging as an economic power, and making significant strides on the global stage.

Today's celebration reflects our commitment to contribute actively to this remarkable journey and institute's role in nurturing future leaders who will contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation."

Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer, IIM Jammu, concluded the Republic Day celebrations with closing remarks, expressing gratitude to the entire IIM Jammu community for organizing a memorable celebration that instilled a deep sense of pride and patriotism.

He highlighted the significance of the defence forces in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty, expressing gratitude to the armed forces for their unwavering commitment and sacrifice. The event culminated with the national anthem, and the event was coordinated by CAO Office and Student Affairs, IIM Jammu. The event witnessed active participation from Faculty, officers, Staff members and Students of the Institute.

Central University of Jammu celebrates 75th Republic Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26 The 75th Republic Day of India was celebrated at the Central University of Jammu with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain unfurled the National Flag followed up by singing the National Anthem with this Republic Day events started.

On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain inaugurated the NCC Girls Wing, providing a platform for female students to actively participate in the National Cadet Corps activities.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, while greeting the university fraternity, highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence, research, Startups and fostering a spirit of national pride among its students.

Prof. Jain expressed his appreciation for



the dedicated faculty members who have consistently contributed to the university's academic excellence. He highlighted the significance of research projects undertaken by the faculty, emphasizing their impact on the academic and scientific community.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain mentioned in his speech about the University's upcoming "Tawi Dhara" Community Radio Station, a pioneering initiative by CUJ.

He underscored the importance of this plat-

form in fostering community engagement, disseminating knowledge, and promoting local culture. Earlier, at the arrival of the Vice chancellor, the Guard of honour was presented by the University Security guards led by the Security Officer.

Following that, a grand celebration was organised in the university's Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium with patriotic songs and other items by the students of NCC wing, Central University of Jammu. At last the program concluded with the national anthem.

Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K celebrates Republic Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: Dogra Sadar Sabha J&K celebrated Republic Day today with national fervour and patriotism. The people from the surrounding locality gathered at Sabha Bhawan for the celebrations of the national festival.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and president of the Sabha unfurled National Flag in the premises of Sabha Bhawan.

He congratulated the people of J&K UT on this national day.

While speaking on the occasion, he exhorted them to preserve the values of democracy, brotherhood and communal harmony. He paid rich tributes to lakhs of freedom fight-

ers for their struggle and sacrifices for our country.

The people present on this occasion recited the national anthem and congratulated each other to celebrate this auspicious day and pledge to follow the footprints of our great leaders and freedom fighters to preserve this hard earned freedom. In the end sweets were distributed among the children and those present on the occasion.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Col. Karan Singh, Vice President, Prem Sagar Gupta Gen. Secretary, Dr. Vidya Sagar Sharma, Ravi Singh, Pawan Sharma, Naresh Sharma, Deepak Khanna, Ritesh Langer, Rahul and others.

Satsang in memory of Rashpal Nandan held at Klassey Chack

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: A Satsang was organised at Village Klassey Chack in memory of Rashpal Nandan. A large number of people hail-

ing from different corners participated therein.

Religious Guru said, The Soul is free from elements, therefore it is ever pure, nirmal. water cannot wet it, fire cannot burn it air cannot dry it. Nothing can

enter or exit the Soul. Therefore Soul is immortal.

It is the body that is contaminated by wrong food, and mind contaminated by endless and excessive desires that needed purification.

However as per as the Soul is concerned both body and mind are bourdon. They further said, Satsang is nearness to the knower of Truth. A real Satguru has spiritual power that can free the Soul from mind and maya.

On Republic Day, celebrities talk about the rapid strides the nation is taking and how they cherish being an Indian

As India marks its 75th Republic Day, celebrities share sentiments of deep pride and admiration, acknowledging India's extraordinary journey from the shadows of colonialism to its current status as a flourishing and independent republic. They reflect on the recent accomplishments of the nation that have elevated its standing on the global stage.

Positive shift
Shantanu Maheshwari, Actor
"The international tie-ups with other nations reflect a positive shift, drawing attention to India's influential stance in international debates. When I got a chance to have a conversation with Army personnel, they told me how happy they were with the changes that have been made in provisions for their needs. Be it accessories or shoes or the connectivity, even the pension and the holidays they get; it was a moment of pride for me."

Flying high
Nikita Dutta, Actress
"Chandrayaan landing and the commissioning of INS Vikrant are significant milestones. While the Chandrayaan mission showcases India's growth in space exploration, equally inspiring is the commissioning of INS Vikrant in 2022. It represents India's first domestically built aircraft carrier. These feats show India's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing and highlight the Indian Navy's capabilities. The fact that my father serves in the Navy adds a personal dimension to my pride."



Beauty and oneness
Parul Gulati, Actress
"Being an Indian is more than just a tag. It's a profound feeling rooted in the warmth of the people, a relentless work ethic and a sense of community. While travelling abroad, the longing for India became a daily reminder of the nation's unique blend of beauty and oneness. And let's talk about the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in 2023 – that was a moment of collective pride for the entire nation."

Dynamic leadership
Madhu Chopra, Producer

"I have always been a proud Indian, irrespective of reasons. But today I hold my head high and feel so blessed to be born in India. It is our country's leadership that has played a pivotal role in shaping a positive global perception. The fact that we have become more self-reliant with 'Make in India' and also a powerful economy makes me very proud."

Ancient wisdom
Manasvi Mangai, Actress
"From political leaders like President Draupadi Murmu to influential ministers like Nir-mala Sitaraman or the women

in forces and aviation, the strong female presence in Mangalyaan and other space missions, it all makes me feel very inspired and proud. The economic development in India, while the West is facing recession, has made our nation the focus of the world. Also, our ancient wisdom on food, health, and wellness is now integrated into mainstream practices worldwide."

Big family
Rajpal Yadav, Comedian
"I am very happy about the G20 programme where the whole world felt like one big family. I feel very grateful that I got to witness the cricket World Cup; the way the Indian team performed was phenomenal! Indians are doing well in all fields."

Land of opportunity
Sahil Khattar, Entertainer
"In the acting business, films like 12th fail, OMG 2 and Sirf Ek Banda have performed remarkably well. It's gratifying to see how the people of this country are giving a chance to these projects to survive alongside major releases like Jawan and Pathaan. The thriving content in the OTT space is noteworthy."

Cherishing diversity
Digangana Suryavanshi, Actress

"I'm really happy and proud that Article 370 has been taken off. Now, people in Kashmir can apply for scholarships and other programmes based in other parts of India. They can also buy property there, creating more opportunities. I cherish the diversity of Indian culture."

Parents should not impose their wishes on children, says Sara Khan



Sara Khan, who has entertained us over the years with her acting skills in Bidaai, Ram Milaayi Jodi and Junoon – Aisi Nafrat Toh Kaisa Ishq, considers herself lucky to be able to make a career in a field which she loves. The actress says that parents must

support their kids, and not pressure them to choose particular career paths.

"I consider myself fortunate to have been given an opportunity before completing my studies or even determining my desired path. I believe it is unneces-

sary to impose parental wishes on children; rather, parents should guide and educate them on what is right and wrong, allowing the child to make their own decisions," she says.

She adds, "As I mentioned before, I have been fortunate in life and with the support of my family, pursuing my passion has become easier for me."

Talking about her struggle, she says, "When I was very young and gained fame, I did not fully grasp the situation and made incorrect decisions regarding money. I never allowed anyone to guide me, but now I have gained valuable experiences that have helped me understand the importance of money and relationships."

She adds, "It is important to listen to your elders and occasionally seek their guidance. They are not always wrong. Prioritise quality advice. I strongly believe in luck and that anything is possible with hard work and positive thinking. However, I do not believe in simply waiting for luck to come to me."

Aradhana Sharma does item number in Marathi movie Khurchi

Aradhana Sharma, who has performed a dance number in the Marathi film Khurchi, says that she is excited to see people's reactions. "I have performed an item song in Khurchi. I wanted to do an item song in a Marathi movie because I love dancing. I love glamour, and the combination of glamour and dancing is like a double dhamaka," says Aradhana.

Talking about the film, she says, "It's a movie about politics. It's about what people can do for power and position."

Ask her if she understands Marathi, and she says, "I understand Marathi, I can speak a little. I love the Marathi language and I am learning it because I



feel a certain power and charm in the Marathi

language; it's a very beautiful language."

This Republic Day, our proud television stars talk about the one change they would like to see happening in the country

More job opportunity
Gurpreet Singh

I feel proud of our diverse culture, united citizens, and the freedom outlined in the Constitution. We cherish the freedom to express ourselves and celebrate differences. More job opportunities, building new roads, addressing corruption and speeding up the legal system are also key areas for positive change.

Culture of harmony
Preet Dutta
Being an Indian is not just an identity. It's an emotion and a culture. That's what differentiates us from others. This is what I am proud of. Our culture creates harmony, unites all irrespective of caste, creed



and race.
Waste management
Monika Singh
I love the diverse culture and the delicious food and festivals in India! As for what could be improved, I think

better waste management would make a big difference.

No corruption
Kiran Khoje
I feel a deep sense of pride in the incredible diversity in our country.

The beauty lies in the unity within this diversity. It's mesmerizing to witness the variety in everything, from food to clothing, every 10 or 50 km offering a new experience. The multitude

of languages spoken in India is fascinating. The only downside I see is corruption, a universal issue, but if we could reduce it, life would be smoother, and people could thrive in a more balanced environment.

Positive changes
Sachin Parikh
When it comes to exploring places in India that are close to nature and offer scenic beauties, I am in awe of my country. No other country in the world has such a diverse landscapes as India. I feel a sense of pride as an Indian. We are making progress and I am optimistic that more positive changes will occur in the near future.

Sarah Jessica Parker's iconic Sex and the City tutu auctioned for Rs 43 lakh



The three-tiered tutu that Sarah Jessica Parker's character Carrie Bradshaw wears in the opening credits of 'Sex and the City' sold \$52K (Rs 43 lakh) and

its original cost was \$5 (over Rs 415). The skirt was one of many iconic items included in Julien's Unstoppable: Signature Styles Iconic Women In Fashion auc-

tion. It was also one of the biggest earners and featured items spanning 'from the Golden Age of Hollywood to today's trendsetting celebrities and influencers'.

The tulle skirt, a white, three-tier tutu with a satin waistband, was topped only by a velvet cocktail dress worn by Princess Diana, and the Givenchy ensemble Grace Kelly wore to meet President John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy, both of which sold for \$325,000.

The winning bid on Bradshaw's skirt was one of the auction's most shocking, as it was estimated to sell for \$8,000 to \$12,000, as SATC costume designer Patricia Field sourced the piece for just \$5 before the HBO series' 1998 premiere.

Aangan Aapno Kaa: Twist in the tale



In the recent episodes of Sony SAB's Aangan Aapno Kaa, the family was hit by a storm of revelations. After Pallavi (Ayushi Khurana) finds out that Akash (Samar Vermani) hasn't told his family about her preference for a ghar jamai, all hell breaks loose, leading to a heated argument between the two.

Ayushi Khurana, who plays the role of Pallavi Sharma, says, "Pallavi has always maintained the stand that while she is not against marriage, she will never leave her father alone. While she gets furious when she finds out that her father is planning to send her away after the marriage, she realises her mistakes and wishes to make things right. However, things don't turn her way and a tragedy strikes with Akash being shot at by a terrorist. Pallavi is left shattered."

Dakota Johnson pokes fun at her viral moment ahead of 'Saturday Night Live'

Actress Dakota Johnson joined in on the fun and joked about her viral 'limes' moment in a promotional clip for Saturday Night Live. Before the Madame Web actress' SNL hosting gig on January 27, she made fun of her viral March 2020 Architectural Digest house tour, and then the revelation that she had lied about her love of the fruit in a promotional clip for the show.

In the brief clip, the actress, 34, takes viewers on a tour of the Studio 8H. Johnson peeks into Punkie Johnson's dressing room where the SNL cast member and Devon Walker are furiously cooking for the actress. As the actress closes the door of the frantic dressing room, she stumbles on a bowl of limes. The actress



grabs the bowl, looks at the camera and declares: "Oh, I love

limes." The SNL team captioned the post, 'love limes'.

Prime Minister Modi pays tributes at National War Memorial on Republic Day

Leads the nation in paying solemn tributes by laying a wreath

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid floral tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial here on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day.

He led the nation in paying solemn tributes by laying a wreath.

The iconic memorial in the India Gate complex was inaugurated by Modi in 2019.

It is dedicated to soldiers killed during the India-China War in 1962, India-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, Indian Peace



Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka and in the Kargil Conflict in 1999, and also those in the UN peacekeeping missions.

Spread over an area of approximately 40 acres, the National War Memorial comprises four concentric circles, namely -- the 'Amar Chakra', 'Veerta Chakra', 'Tyag Chakra' and the 'Rakshak Chakra' with names of 25,942 soldiers inscribed in golden letters on granite tablets.

It also includes a central 15.5-m obelisk, an eternal flame and six bronze murals depicting famous battles fought by the Indian Army, Air Force and the Navy in a covered gallery (Veerta Chakra).

Protecting Constitution true tribute to freedom fighters: Rahul Gandhi



NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said protecting the fundamental principles of the Constitution is the true tribute to our freedom fighters.

Wishing fellow citizens on Republic Day, he said the Constitution, which unites the dreams of the freedom fighters, is the soul of the Indian Republic. "Our great Constitution, which unites the dreams of the freedom movement, is the soul of the Indian Republic."

"Protection of the fundamental principles of the Constitution and loyalty to them is the true tribute to the immortal freedom fighters," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"Best wishes to all the countrymen on Republic Day. Jai Hind," Gandhi said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh too called on his fellow countrymen to protect the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

"It is our duty to raise our voice against injustice and oppression."

"It is the responsibility of all of us to maintain the unity in diversity of the country," Ramesh said in a post in Hindi.

"Today on Republic Day, we reiterate our resolve to protect Baba Saheb's Constitution and democracy."

"We will continue to raise our voice until we get our right to justice," the Congress leader said.

Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra facing problems in getting permission for rallies in West Bengal: Congress

SILIGURI (WB), Jan 26 (Agencies): West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Friday said his party was facing problems in getting permission for organising some public meetings as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in West Bengal.

Speaking to reporters in Siliguri, Chowdhury said the party wanted to organise public meetings in certain places, but due to school examinations, the permission was not granted.

"In some places, we are facing roadblocks as we are not getting permission to organise public meetings, citing exams. The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra has faced problems in the Northeast, including Assam, and now it is facing problems in TMC-ruled West Bengal



as well," he said.

Speaking on the issue on Thursday night, Chowdhury had said that they thought they would get "relaxations" in some places in West Bengal for the public meetings but the administration "is saying that they can't give it".

The Rahul Gandhi-led Yatra, which began in Manipur on January 14, entered West Bengal from Assam on Thursday, and took a two-day break. It will resume on January 28.

The ruling Trinamool

Congress, however, claimed that the administration in West Bengal is free of political influences.

"Adhir Chowdhury is responsible for the INDIA alliance falling apart in West Bengal. Secondly, all opposition parties conduct programmes in the state, nobody faces any problems."

The administration must have taken the decision as there are board examinations in schools," TMC MP Santanu Sen said.

PM behaving like a puppet in the hands of RSS: Congress President Kharge

BENGALURU, Jan 26 (Agencies): Charging the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with behaving like a puppet in the hands of the RSS, Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the organisation and the BJP of conspiring to distort the Constitution. He also called upon Congressmen and party leaders to face the upcoming Lok Sabha polls with unity and protect the Constitution and democracy.

The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha was speaking after unfurling the national tricolour at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office here on the occasion of Republic Day.

"Probably if there was no Constitution for this country, it would not have been possible for us to save democracy. With lots of effort, leaders of our freedom struggle and the Constituent Assembly



members gave this country the Constitution," Kharge said.

Addressing Congress workers and leaders, he said the Constitution contains important principles like equality, fraternity, secularism and justice.

"The RSS and BJP are conspiring to distort this Constitution and to make changes to it. All efforts are being made by the BJP to destroy or weaken our autonomous bodies one by one. Especially as Modi is behaving like a puppet in the hands of RSS, our judiciary or our secularism is facing the brunt," he added.

State Congress President D K Shivakumar,

who is also the Deputy Chief Minister, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other senior party leaders were present.

The Congress party has fought for the freedom of the country, the AICC chief said, but the BJP is claiming to be the "only saviours" of this country. They speak about patriotism and are projecting to the youth that only they are true patriots, and rest all are traitors.

Recalling the struggle by the Congress and several of its stalwarts including Mahatma Gandhi in getting freedom for India, he said, "but today the BJP, the Prime Minister and Home Minister (Amit

Shah) are making all efforts to make it the puppet in their hands. So it is important for us to save our freedom and Constitution for the good future of our younger generation."

"If there is no democracy and Constitution, there will be no opportunity for any of us," he added.

Stating that B R Ambedkar on January 26, 1949 had spoken about the importance of good people implementing the Constitution, Kharge said, "what he had said then is coming true today, the people who have to implement the Constitution now are not good, so we are witnessing all that is happening in the country now."

Claiming that there is a threat to the Constitution and democracy, the Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka said inflation and unemployment is rising by the day.

"To control this, in the upcoming elections,

you will have to take loyal people into the party and strengthen it. It should not be that they join today and quit tomorrow....Think before inducting someone into the party, and checking their background and ideology is important," he said, adding that the Congress is bound by its ideology.

These comments from Kharge came a day after the former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar rejoined the BJP quitting the Congress. He had joined the Congress, quitting the BJP ahead of the Assembly polls last year on not getting a BJP ticket to contest the elections.

Appealing to Congressmen to stay united to protect the Constitution and democracy, he said: "In the upcoming elections too we have to show our unity. This is my suggestion and instruction to you. I'm confident that you will follow it."

Massive fire at Mumbai timber market, charred body of man found at spot

MUMBAI, Jan 26 (Agencies): The charred body of a man was found after a major fire broke out at a timber market in south Mumbai early on Friday, a civic official said.

The fire was confined to the wood stock in a large area in the Chor Bazaar locality of Grant

Road in south Mumbai, the official said.

The fire started at around 2 am, and 20 fire engines were deployed to douse the flames, he said.

Authorities vacated a nearby mall and a high-rise since the blaze, described as level 4' by the fire brigade, was



raging, an official said.

Besides the fire brigade, police, local civic ward officials, BEST staff and ambulances have also mobilised for the firefighting operation. A rescue operation was launched during which firefighters recovered the charred body of a man, he said.

Doors never permanently closed in politics: Sushil Modi amid talk of Nitish Kumar's return to BJP-led fold



NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday said doors are never permanently closed to anyone in politics amid indications that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar may revive ties with his former ally as his equations with INDIA bloc partners turn sour.

Sources in both the BJP and the JD(U) suggested such a possibility but it remained unclear if Kumar, the unquestioned leader of his party, has finalised a deal with the BJP top brass.

Speaking to reporters, Modi said, "As far as Kumar or the JD(U) are concerned, doors are never permanently closed in politics. Closed doors open when the time comes but whether they will open or not is for our central leadership to decide."

After Kumar snapped

his ties with the BJP in 2022, the party maintained that its doors were permanently closed to Bihar's longest-serving chief minister but its leaders have turned more conciliatory of late as the INDIA bloc lurches from one internal crisis to another.

Modi was deputy chief minister for a long time in governments headed by Kumar but was not repeated when the BJP-JD(U) alliance came to power after the 2020 assembly polls.

However, he has been part of the confabulations by the BJP top brass this time, in an indication that the seasoned politician may be trusted with a key responsibility if the two parties join hands again.

The Rajya Sabha MP enjoyed warm relations with Kumar when they were together but turned a staunch critic after the JD(U) leader dumped the BJP for a second

time in 2022.

The BJP has been in touch with its Bihar allies, including Chirag Paswan and former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, over the developments in the state but they have not been given a clear idea about the possibility of Kumar's return to their fold, the sources said.

An ally said the BJP did not rule it out but has not been categorical either.

"It is clear to me that the ground is being prepared for Kumar's return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)," he said.

BJP sources said the JD(U) joining their alliance will ensure that the NDA will sweep the Lok Sabha polls.

It won 39 of Bihar's 40 seats in the 2019 elections.

However, a section of BJP leaders from Bihar are not keen on aligning with Kumar, claiming that his stock is down and his diminishing credibility will harm their party and leave the field open to the RJD-led opposition to cash in on the anti-incumbency against him.

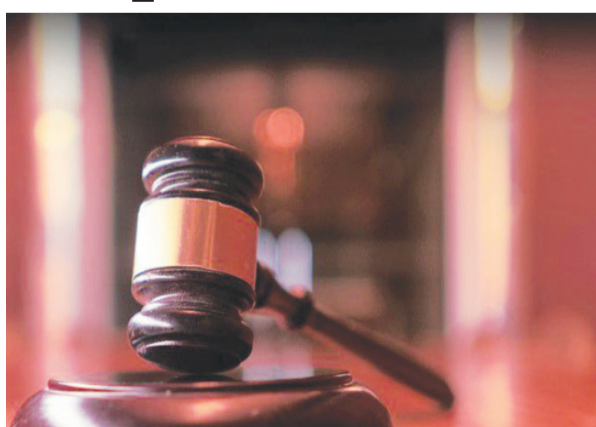
A BJP leader noted how the RJD-led alliance had put up a stiff fight in the 2020 assembly polls.

Father is higher than heaven': Jharkhand High Court quotes Mahabharata to describe son's duty towards parents

RANCHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): While delivering judgment in the case of a dispute between a man and his father, the Jharkhand High Court has quoted the Mahabharata and scriptures to highlight the role of a son towards his parents.

Justice Subhash Chand has mentioned the replies of Yudhishthira against the questions of the Yaksha God. The "father is higher than heaven" is one of the statements of the eldest Pandava brother in the Mahabharata.

A 60-year-old man, Deoki Sao, had filed a petition before the Family Court in Koderma seeking mainte-



nance from his younger son Manoj Sao. The court directed him to pay Rs 3000 per month to his elderly father.

Claiming that his father is money-minded and has several sources of income, Manoj filed a criminal revision in the high court challenging

the order of the Family Court.

Deoki Sao, who lives with his elder son, equally divided the agricultural land he owned between his two sons.

Justice Chand observed that it is the duty of a son to look after his parents.

The court order said: "In Mahabharat, the Yaksh asked to Yudhishthira: 'What is weightier than the earth itself? What is higher than the heavens?' Yudhishthira answered: 'The mother is weightier than the earth; the father is higher than the heaven.'"

Even if for the sake of argument, the father earns something; it is pious duty of a son to maintain his old aged father, Justice Chand observed in the order.

He also quoted from a scripture: "Father is your God and Mother is your Nature. They are the seed you are the sapling."

While deciding the case, the court dis-

missed the petition filed by Manoj and upheld the order of the Family Court directing him to pay Rs 3,000 a month to his father.

In an earlier order involving a distraught wife seeking maintenance from her husband, Justice Chand cited religious texts.

Quoting from a judgment of the apex court, Justice Chand stated that a wife is expected to be with her husband's family after marriage, unless there is a strong justifiable reason for separation.

He also used excerpts from the Rigveda, Yajurveda and Manusmriti in the order.

Republican National Committee plans to soon consider declaring Trump the 'presumptive 2024 nominee'

If approved, the measure would further solidify Trump's control of the party

COLUMBIA (US), Jan 26 (Agencies): The Republican National Committee is expected to consider a resolution next week to declare Donald Trump the party's "presumptive 2024 nominee", even though only two states have voted and the former president has nowhere near the requisite number of delegates to clinch the mantle.

If approved, the measure would further solidify Trump's control of the party and its operation at a time when former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is still competing against Trump for the GOP nomination.

The measure, according to a draft obtained on Thursday by The Associated Press, "declares President Trump as our presumptive 2024 nominee for the office of President of the United States and from this moment forward moves into full general election mode welcoming supporters of all candidates as valued members of Team Trump 2024".

RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel already has signalled her approval. On Tuesday, after Haley finished second to Trump in New Hampshire, McDaniel said that while she felt the former ambassador had "run a great campaign", Republicans "need to unite around our eventual nominee, which is going to be Donald Trump".

News of the resolution, first reported by The Dispatch, comes as officials prepare to gather in Las Vegas next week for the RNC's winter meeting, where it is expected to be discussed.

New Jersey Republican



National Committeeman Bill Palatucci, a longtime supporter of former GOP presidential candidate Chris Christie, called the resolution "silly".

"It's insulting to millions of primary voters who wait for the opportunity to get involved in presidential politics every four years," Palatucci said.

Regardless of what the RNC decides, the AP will not refer to any candidate as the "presumptive nominee" until he or she has captured the number of delegates needed to win a majority vote at the national party conventions this summer. The earliest that could happen is March.

But there are no party rules prohibiting the RNC from making such a move. If adopted, it would give the Republican Party a jump-start on planning a general election matchup with Democratic President Joe Biden, who has begun framing his reelection campaign as a 2020 rematch against Trump.

And there is precedent for the committee declaring a candidate the presumptive nominee before

winning the 1,215 requisite delegates to clinch the nomination. In May 2016, then-RNC Chairman Reince Priebus declared Trump the presumptive nominee before he had the appropriate share of delegates wrapped up.

Despite losing both the Iowa and New Hampshire contests to Trump, Haley has argued that her performance — outlasting all the other Trump rivals — shows the strength of her candidacy.

Trump currently has 32 delegates to Haley's 17. There is one delegate left to be assigned after the New Hampshire contest.

Neither the Haley campaign nor the Trump campaign returned messages seeking comment on Thursday. On Truth Social, Trump posted Thursday evening that, while he "greatly appreciated the notion, he felt, 'for the sake of PARTY UNITY, that they should NOT go forward with this plan, but that I should do it the Old Fashioned' way, and finish the process off AT THE BALLOT BOX".

During a rally Wednesday night in her home state of South

Carolina, Haley — the former governor — noted that her campaign had brought in more than USD 1 million since her second-place finish in New Hampshire. Trump followed up with a remark that appeared aimed at intimidating her donors.

"Anybody that makes a Contribution' to Birdbrain, from this moment forth, will be permanently barred from the MAGA camp," Trump wrote, using the nickname he has crafted for Haley and the abbreviation for his "Make America Great Again" slogan.

"We don't want them, and will not accept them, because we Put America First, and ALWAYS WILL!"

Trump's dismissal of any Haley donors had no effect on T.J. Petrizzo, a former top Capitol Hill staffer and now lobbyist who supports Haley.

"That's something out of a Godfather' movie. Never betray the family? Come on," he added. "You've got to play this through."

Petrizzo said he understands that some Republicans may be ready to pivot to a head-to-head contest between Trump and Biden, but he notes that there is a lot of time left before a general election.

"I've heard a lot of elected officials in the Republican Party, including the RNC chair, say, 'We need to rally around a candidate.' That this is going to be our candidate. It was chosen by Iowa and New Hampshire, so we must go ahead and rally around Trump," Petrizzo said. "Well, there's 285 days until the election. There's plenty of time on the clock."

China's Top Diplomat To Discuss Taiwan With US Security Advisor



BANGKOK, Jan 26 (Agencies): China's top diplomat Wang Yi will discuss Taiwan with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan during talks in Thailand this week, Beijing said Friday, as the two powers seek to improve relations after years of tensions.

Beijing and Washington have clashed in recent years on flashpoint issues from technology and trade to human rights, as well as over the self-ruled island and competing claims in the South China Sea.

In a bid to improve some of the worst relations in decades, President Joe Biden met Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November for talks that both sides described as a qualified success.

"Wang Yi will state China's position on China-US relations, Taiwan, and other issues, and will exchange views with the US on international and regional issues of common concern," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told

a regular press conference on Friday.

Earlier Beijing said Wang would meet Sullivan in the Thai capital and would stay in the country until Monday.

The US said the talks would take place over Friday and Saturday.

"This meeting continues the commitment by both sides at the November 2023 Woodside Summit between President Biden and President Xi to maintain strategic communication and responsibly manage the relationship," the White House said.

On Friday, Sullivan met with Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin and other top officials in Bangkok, both countries said.

They discussed "regional and global issues, including efforts to address the worsening crisis in Burma", where fighting has flared between the Myanmar junta and ethnic armed groups in the north of the country, the White House said.

Sources of tension Speaking in Beijing this month, Wang said that while the relation-

ship had encountered "serious difficulties", ties had "stabilised" last year.

But Wang's rosy assessment belied continuing sources of tension, with the two powers most recently butting heads over elections in the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims.

A delegation of US lawmakers visited the island this week, meeting with President-elect Lai Ching-te and reaffirming Washington's support for the democracy.

In the run-up to the recent poll, Chinese officials slammed Lai as a dangerous separatist who would take Taiwan down the "evil path" of independence.

And following a Washington missile congratulating him on his election, Beijing said it "strongly deplored" the statement, warning the United States against any support for what it called "separatist forces" on the island.

In Beijing, the foreign ministry complained Thursday that Washington had "carried out a series of negative words and deeds" since Lai's election.

Spokesman Wang Wenbin urged the United States to "immediately stop infringing and provocative actions" and "stop causing trouble for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait".

Amid Diplomatic Row, Maldives President's "Centuries Of Friendship" Greeting On Republic Day

MALE, Jan 26 (Agencies): Amid the ongoing diplomatic row between New Delhi and Male, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu extended his greetings to India on the occasion of 75th Republic Day.

He recalled the "centuries old friendship" between the two nations built on "mutual respect and a deep sense of kinship".

"President Mohamed Muizzu sent greetings and good wishes to the President and Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day of India. In separate messages to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Muizzu conveyed greetings and extended his heartfelt felicitations on commemorating the 75th Republic Day of India," the Maldives President office said in a statement.

President Muizzu also expressed hope for continued peace, progress, and prosperity for the Indian government and the people for the coming years.

"President Muizzu conveyed good wishes from the Government and the people of the Maldives to the Government and the people of India. He underscored the Maldives-India bond nurtured by centuries of friendship, mutual respect, and a deep sense of kinship. The President expressed hope for continued peace, progress, and prosperity for the Government and people of India for years to come," the statement added.



Former Maldives President Ibrahim Solih also congratulated India on the occasion of 75th Republic Day and called for the "unbreakable bond" between the two nations to go from "strength to strength".

"On the joyous occasion of India's 75th Republic Day I extend best wishes to Pres Murmu (@rashtrapati-bhvn), PM @narendramodi, the government and people of India. May the unbreakable bonds of friendship that have long existed between Maldives and India go from strength to strength," Mr Solih stated on X.

Notably, Mr Solih was one of the prominent Maldives leader to condemn the derogatory remarks made by some junior ministers which led to a diplomatic standoff between the two nations.

India and the Maldives on January 14 "agreed to fast-track the withdrawal of Indian military personnel" from the island nation, according to the Maldives' Ministry

of Foreign Affairs. The removal of Indian troops in the Maldives was the main campaign plank of Muizzu's party during the Presidential elections. Currently, there are around 70 Indian troops, along with Dornier 228 maritime patrol aircraft and two HAL Dhruv helicopters, stationed On the second day of assuming office, Muizzu officially requested the Indian government to withdraw its military personnel from the Maldives.

Apart from the call for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel, a massive row erupted after a Maldivian deputy minister, along with other cabinet members and government officials, made disparaging and unsavoury references to Primer Minister Narendra Modi's recent Lakshadweep visit and call to development the Indian archipelago as a global retreat for beach tourism.

The Maldives government, however, distanced itself from the remarks.

Alabama executes prisoner with new nitrogen asphyxiation method

Smith, convicted of a 1988 murder-for-hire, was a rare prisoner who had already survived one execution attempt

ATMORE, Jan 26 (Agencies): Alabama executed convicted murderer Kenneth Smith by asphyxiating him with nitrogen gas on Thursday, the first use of a new method of capital punishment that the state is advancing as a simpler alternative to lethal injections.

The state has called its new protocol "the most painless and humane method of execution known to man." United Nations human rights experts and lawyers for Smith had sought to prevent it, saying the method was risky, experimental and could lead to a torturous death or non-fatal injury.

Smith, convicted of a 1988 murder-for-hire, was a rare prisoner who had already survived one execution attempt. In November 2022, Alabama officials aborted his execution by lethal injection after struggling for hours to insert an intravenous line's needle in his body.

In Smith's second and final trip to the execution chamber on Thursday, executioners restrained him in a gurney and strapped a commercial industrial-safety respirator mask to his face. A canister of pure nitrogen was attached to the mask that once flowing, deprived him of oxygen.

The execution began at 7:53 p.m. (0153 GMT Friday) and Smith was declared dead at 8:25 p.m. (0225 GMT), prison officials said.

Smith appeared to remain conscious for several minutes after the nitrogen was activated, according to five journalists were allowed to watch the execution through glass as media witnesses.

He then began shaking and writing on the gurney for about



two minutes, and then could be seen breathing deeply for several minutes before his breathing slowed and became imperceptible, the witnesses said.

Alabama officials had said in court filings they expected Smith would be rendered unconscious in under a minute and die shortly after.

"It appeared that Smith was holding his breath as long as he could," Alabama Corrections Commissioner John Hamm said when asked at a press conference if the writhing had been expected.

"He struggled against the restraints a little bit but it's an involuntary movement and some agonal breathing. So that was all expected."

Before the nitrogen was switched on, Smith made a lengthy final statement that began: "Tonight, Alabama caused humanity to take a step backward."

His wife and other relatives attended and he gestured towards them. "I'm leaving with love, peace and light," he said, according to media witnesses. "Love all of you."

FAILED CHALLENGES Smith mounted legal challenges in federal courts arguing that Alabama's method amounted

to unconstitutional "cruel and unusual punishment," but he failed to cross the high bar needed to have a judge order a delay of his execution.

Smith's lawyers had told courts they feared the mask would not properly seal against Smith's face, allowing oxygen to seep in, delaying or even averting the moment of unconsciousness but risking serious brain injury. They proposed Alabama instead use a hood pre-filled with pure nitrogen, to be plunged over his head, or else to use a firing squad.

Smith's lawyers also told courts Smith had been repeatedly vomiting as his return to the execution chamber drew near. They raised fears he could be sick after the mask was strapped on and choke on his own vomit.

In response, prison officials said they would serve him his final meal on Thursday morning and forbid any solid foods after 10 a.m.

His final meal was steak, hash browns and eggs, prison officials said.

The US Supreme Court's conservative majority rejected Smith's final attempt to have his execution delayed to allow his legal challenge to continue on Thursday evening, and the execution began soon after.

The court did not explain its reasoning in denying Smith's appeal, but the three liberal justices offered written dissents.

"Having failed to kill Smith on its first attempt, Alabama has selected him as its 'guinea pig' to test a method of execution never attempted before," Justice

Sonia Sotomayor wrote, saying she would have granted the injunction. "The world is watching."

APPROVED BUT UNUSED IN OTHER STATES

US states that use capital punishment have found it increasingly difficult to get drugs for lethal injections, partly because pharmaceutical companies forbid supplying them to prisons to comply with a European trade ban on goods to be used in torture or executions.

Lawmakers in Oklahoma and Mississippi have also approved similar nitrogen-asphyxiation execution protocols in recent years, but have yet to put them into practice.

Smith was convicted of murdering Elizabeth Sennett, a preacher's wife, after he and an accomplice each accepted a \$1,000 fee from her husband to kill her, according to trial testimony.

Eleven of 12 jurors voted to sentence Smith to life in prison, but an Alabama judge overruled their recommendation under a law that has since been abolished as unconstitutional.

Several of Sennett's relatives attended the execution and they addressed the media after, saying they had forgiven Sennett's killers.

"Nothing that happened here today is going to bring mom back," Mike Sennett said. "It's a bittersweet day, we're not going to be jumping around, hooping and hollering, hooraying and all that, that's not us. We're glad this day is over."

75th R-Day celebrated at DPL Handwara

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jan 26 : In a splendid display of patriotism and unity, the 75th Republic Day was celebrated with immense fervor and enthusiasm at various Police establishments, government institutions, and offices across Handwara.

The main event unfolded at the District Police Lines (DPL), Handwara, where the entire community came together to honor the significance of this historic day.

The dignified ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of ADC Handwara and SSP Handwara, who jointly unfurled the Tricolour, symbolizing the sovereignty and resilience of the nation.



A heartfelt salute was accorded by diverse contingents representing JK Executive/Armed Police, Homeguards, SDRF, NCC, and students, showcasing the

diverse and united spirit of the region. The occasion witnessed a gathering of officers and officials from various departments, emphasizing the collective commitment towards upholding the principles of democracy

and the welfare of the citizens.

The disciplined parade and marching contingents added a touch of grandeur to the event, reflecting the professionalism and dedication of the security forces.

Notably, the celebration was not confined to the official circles; a substantial crowd of civilians also graced the occasion, demonstrating the shared pride and allegiance towards the nation. The atmosphere resonated with patriotic songs, fostering a sense of unity and national pride.

This Republic Day celebration exemplified the collaborative efforts of the entire community, underscoring the significance of preserving the values enshrined in the Constitution.

The event was a true reflection of the vibrant and harmonious coexistence of the people of Handwara.

75th R-Day celebrated with patriotic fervour across Chenab Valley



Top News Report

GANDOH, Jan 26: The 75th Republic Day was today celebrated with national fervor, enthusiasm and gaiety.

The main function of Republic day celebrations was held in the Sub-Division Gandoh where SDM Gandoh Ashraf pervaiz unfurled the National Flag at Hali Pad Gandoh in the presence of XEn Gandoh, CDPO Gandoh Ishtyak Ahmed, SHO Gandoh Sanjay Manhas, Range officer Gandoh Suresh Jamwal, Army, SSB

officers and social activist, prominent citizens, media persons.

SDM Gandoh Ashraf pervaiz inspected the parade and took the salute at an impressive march past which was J&K Police, SSB, students from different school participated in the celebration by dancing and singing on patriotic songs focusing on the history and culture of India.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Gandoh Ashraf Pervaiz greeted the people on this auspicious day and paid rich

tributes to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

The Chief Guest also distributed trophies among the participating contingents of March Past and cultural programme.

Republic Day were also held at different places in Thathri, Doda, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and other part of Chenab Valley. Tight security arrangements were made by Doda and Kishtwar police at all the venues for smooth and incident free celebrations.

75th Republic Day celebrated at Chhatabal by 20 RR

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 26: The 75th Republic Day unfolded in a grand tapestry of patriotic fervour and cultural richness at Chhatabal, Srinagar, orchestrated by the commendable efforts of 20 RR under the aegis of 31 Sub Area, Chinar Corps.

This momentous occasion witnessed an elaborate celebration, marked by a vibrant Patriotic & Cultural Event that brought together a diverse spectrum of performances and activities. Participants, brimming with enthusiasm, actively engaged in a multifaceted display of cultural expressions, including musical events, skits,

patriotic speeches, martial arts displays, and a riveting Military musical performance by the Pipe Band. The atmosphere resonated with unity as sweet distributions among the Awam further accentuated the sense of togetherness.

The Tiranga, unfurling majestically at the heart of Chhatabal, became a symbol of collective pride and a poignant tribute to the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers guarding our nation.

More than a mere celebration, this event served as an ode to democratic values enshrined in the Constitution. It underscored the resilience of the nation and the indomitable spirit of its people.

The day's festivities were not just a commemoration of historical achievements but a reaffirmation of the nation's commitment to unity, diversity, and the ideals that form the bedrock of the Republic.

As the echoes of the cultural performances and patriotic fervor lingered in the air, the celebration left an indelible mark on the hearts of the attendees, reinforcing the essence of the Republic and the shared responsibility of upholding its principles.

The 75th Republic Day at Chhatabal stands as a testament to the vibrant spirit of the nation, its unity in diversity, and the unwavering dedication of its armed forces.

Qureshi unfurls National Flag at Handwara Residence on Republic Day



Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 26: JK BJP District President Kupwara Javid Qureshi unfurled National Flag at Handwara Residence on Republic Day.

Speaking at the event, Qureshi expressed the party's commitment to transform India into a developed and self-reliant nation.

Qureshi described it as a reply to those who said no one would unfurl the flag after the reading down of Article 370 in 2019, an indirect reference to speeches of former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

Tiranga is in every hand today. This is what

every Kashmiri yearned for.

The huge participation in Today's Programme is a big reply to those who once claimed that none in the Valley would pick up the Tricolour, he added.

Javid Qureshi also conveyed his best wishes to the nation on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day and extended greetings to the nation and saluted all our freedom fighters, brave soldiers and constitution-makers.

The program was also attended by District Office Bearers, Morcha Presidents, Constituency Presidents and more than 900 Party Workers.

75th Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour in Dooru

Top News Report

ANANTNAG, Jan 26: 75th Republic Day was celebrated in Dooru Anantnag on Friday morning.

According to our correspondent the main function was held in the premises of Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School Dooru Anantnag, wherein Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dooru Shahab Parvez Rahim was the chief guest who unfurled the National Flag at 10:00 AM and took salute at an impressive march past police, CRPF and F&ES



of Dooru who took part in this national flag day wholeheartedly.

While congratulating gathering, Parvaiz Rahim said that the Constitution of independent India was implemented on 26th Jan 1950, which provides fundamental rights to every citizen of the country.

He reiterated that

on 26 January 1950, we the people of the Republic adopted the constitution that was framed by a committee headed by Dr. B.R Ambedkar. The constitution declares that India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic.

At the end of the ceremony, the officers who showed the best performance in Dooru Shahabad, including Dr. Raja Ishfaq Ahmad from the health department and Journalist Shah Hilal were honored with special awards.

Kaith Biradari stresses on spread of literary among children

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 26: At a meeting of the Kaith Biradari held at Kalyanpur today, R.L. Kaith stressed on the importance of education.

He said, education is a basic need for everyone in the modern day to live a good life. It plays an important role in enabling us to use technological systems and services. Well educated people can take up different jobs and become successful in life. With-

out a good education, one will lose out on the opportunity to earn well.

Also speaking, Manager Vijay Kumar Kaith, said, only that society can progress whose children are educated. It is the education that can help them differentiate between the good and the bad.

He further said, education opens new avenues in life for the children and helps them dispel the darkness of ignorance from their lives and attain

new heights.

During the course of the meeting, some children told the Biradari members that their parents are unable to send them to school due to the economic impact on their livelihood and earnings. As a result of this, they are at risk of remaining uneducated.

Biradari members went to their parents and convinced them effectively to send their wards to school. They also provided necessary stationery items to

children and promised to assist them monetarily too.

Among those who attended the meeting included Retired Divisional Manager, OIC Duni Singh, Honorary Captain Kamal Dass, Retired Inspector Sewa Ram, Lect. Deepak Kumar, Retired Sub Inspector Karan Kumar, Naib Subedar Kaku Ram (Retd), Rachhpal Kaith, Parma Nand, Daya Ram, Joginder Panch, Jeet Raj, Surinder Kumar, Hans Raj, Gurdial Singh and Susheel Dogra.

GDC Kishtwar celebrates Republic Day



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 26: GDC Kishtwar celebrated 75th Republic Day today in the College Campus. Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar, staff members, and non-teaching faculty members were present on this National occasion.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar unfurled the Tricolour in

the lawn of the Administrative Block, which was followed by the National Anthem.

Thereafter, the Principal in her speech gave the message of peace and brotherhood among the citizens and urged the staff members to work together in harmony for the upliftment of the institution and the nation.

This was followed by distribution of sweets and refreshment to everybody present in the event.

Other than the Principal, Prof Umar Din, Prof Waseem Rashid, Prof Jaideep Kumar, Prof Asma Javed, Prof Akhtar Rasool, Prof Bilal Ahmed and Prof Vikram Singh were present on the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

Republic Day 2024: President Droupadi Murmu unfurls Tricolour, takes ceremonial 21-gun salute

'and distinct amongst all Regiments not only in India but also in the whole world, as it performs a multitude of roles.

It is the senior-most Cavalry Regiment carrying out mounted ceremonial duties for the President.

The ceremonial escort under the Commandant consisted of two divisions, one in front of the President's Buggy and one in the rear. The 'Nishaan Toli' carrying the National Flag and two Nishaans of the Regiment were in the centre.

The front division was commanded by the Risaldar Major Ajay Kumar. Immediately behind the President's Buggy was the Trumpeter on his grey steed Alexander followed by the Nishaan Toli.

The National Flag was carried by Risaldar Bhawani Singh, Nishaan of the President's

Standard of Bodyguard, carried by Risaldar Kulbir Singh and the Regimental Standard was carried by Rajender Singh. The rear division was under the command of Risaldar Satnam Singh.

French President Emmanuel Macron is the chief guest at this year's R-Day parade. He is the fifth French leader to be the chief guest on Republic Day.

Huge turnout at Bakshi Stadium on Republic Day

Republic Day parade.

Unlike previous years, when public participation was limited and internet services were suspended as a security measure, this year's ceremony saw a departure from tradition as Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bidhuri invited members of the public to attend the event.

The enthusiasts, including men and women, were seen queuing up outside the stadium to witness the parade. "It is a healthy sign for the state. People are coming here without any fear. They are enjoying," said a local resident.

The absence of Internet suspension on

Republic Day, a departure from past practice aimed at preempting security threats, further signaled a shift towards normalcy and a renewed focus on facilitating public participation in national celebrations.

Light snowfall likely in some higher reaches of Kashmir

X.

The ski resort of Gulmarg received light snowfall overnight, much to the delight of the people and the tourists staying there, ending a long dry spell in the valley of meadows.

The upper reaches of the Kashmir valley, including Yusmarg, Gurez, Banihal, Sedow, Padawan, and Herpora areas of Shopian and Karnah in north Kashmir, also received light snowfall.

Dry weather and cold continued in the plains and other parts of Kashmir, with a considerable rise in nighttime temperatures.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said light rain and snow were experienced at a few higher reaches during the past 24

hours in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said the weather will remain partly to generally cloudy with light rain or snow at isolated higher reaches till afternoon and improvement thereafter today.

On January 27, the weather will be partly to generally cloudy, with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches towards late evening, while on January 28-29, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow at many places over Jammu and Kashmir.

There is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snow in many places from January 30 to February 3.

There will be a significant improvement in visibility and a rise in maximum temperature in the plains of Jammu Division from today onwards.

The weather office has also issued an advisory that the weather system may lead to the temporary closure of roads in higher reaches and important passes, including Sinthan Pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna and Razdan Pass, Zojila, etc., particularly during January 28-31. Travellers are advised to plan accordingly, the MeT office said.

Night temperatures improved in Kashmir

Valley on Friday, and Srinagar recorded a low of -0.5°C against the 3.6°C recorded the previous night. It was 1.8°C above normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season, the MeT office said.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 11.0°C on the previous day, which was 4.1°C above normal against 6.9°C.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded a low of 0.2°C against -4.2°C a day ago, while the picnic spot in south Kashmir's Kokernag settled at -0.1°C against the -1.6°C recorded the previous night.

Pahalgam remained the coldest place and settled at -0.4°C against the -6.3°C recorded a day ago. It was still 7.1°C above normal for the tourist hot spot of south Kashmir.

Gulmarg recorded -3.7°C against -4.5°C a day ago. However, it was 4.5°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir. Kupwara had a low of 2.5°C against the -3.7°C recorded the previous day. It was 5.4°C above normal for the frontier Kashmir district during this period of the season, the MeT office said.

Govt, RBI actively engaged on digital currency: FM Sitharaman

'We strongly believe it helps in cross border payments'

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Thursday, said the government and the Reserve Bank are actively engaged in improving the central bank digital currency (CBDC) so that it can be used for cross-border payments.

RBI began the pilot project wholesale CBDC and picked up nine banks—State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC. Besides, RBI has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of CBDC or e-rupee on December 1, 2022. The



e-rupee is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.

It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e.

banks. Users are able to transact with e-rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks.

"We strongly believe it helps in cross border payments. It will bring in greater transpar-

ency and traceability..." Sitharaman said while speaking at an event to mark 125 years of Hindu College.

It helps in speeding up payments with less cost, she said, adding it brings down cost for

inward and outward remittance. "Both the regulator and the government are working on it. We are actively engaged in it," she said.

Asked about priority sectors to make India 'Viksit Bharat', she said, focus areas would be manufacturing and agriculture. "Agriculture retains its primacy and we are looking at strengthening agriculture by modernizing some of the practices, post harvest practices and so on," she said.

In manufacturing, she said, the government had identified 13 sunrise sectors including renewable energy, semiconductor, machine learning, earth sciences and space.

'Rice, marine exports bear brunt for now, but Red Sea woes for India Inc. may worsen'



NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Indian exporters of rice and marine products are most adversely affected by the strife in the Red Sea, while a prolonged crisis on the key shipping route can affect the profitability and working capital cycle of export-oriented industries and trigger supply chain issues that could renew inflationary pressures, CRISIL Ratings has said.

Companies typically use the Red Sea route through the Suez Canal to trade with Europe, North America, North Africa and part of the middle-east—regions that accounted for almost half of India's exports and 30% of imports in 2022-23. Around 95% of India's goods trade volumes are shipped through sea.

Increasing attacks on ships sailing in the Red Sea region since November 2023 have persuaded shippers to consider the alternative, longer route past the Cape of Good Hope, which has not only stretched delivery time by 15-20 days, but also led to a substantial hike in transit costs with higher insurance premia.

In a credit alert issued on Thursday, the rating firm said Basmati rice exporters, who ship a third of India's produce to these regions, are feeling the pressure and are selling part of their inventory in the domestic market, while marine foods like shrimp and prawn could see a significant impact as 80%-90% of the production is exported, over half of which flows through the Red Sea.

While sectors like textiles, chemicals may not be severely impacted yet, a sustained disruption of trade channels could crank up working capital needs and dent operating profits for them as well as capital goods players, CRISIL warned.

On the import front, the impact is expected to be limited for import-dependent sectors like non-urea fertilisers at this point due to a lean consumption period, but a sustained uptick in sourcing costs would need higher subsidy payments from the government, the firm noted. "While the immediate impact of the crisis would be low for most of India Inc., a prolonged strife can affect the profitability and working capital cycle of export-oriented industries.

UPSSSC PET Result 2023 Live: UP PET result awaited

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): UPSSSC PET Result 2023 Live Updates: The Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) will announce results of the Preliminary Eligibility Test (UP PET 2023) on its official website, upsssc.gov.in. The

final/revised answer key has been released and results are expected next. Candidates can go to its official website, upsssc.gov.in, and check the answer keys of all exam days and shifts. The provisional answer key of the PET examination was released on Novem-

ber 6 and the objection window closed on November 15. The commission reviewed these objections to prepare the final key.

The examination was held on October 28 and 29. When released, the direct link to check UP PET results will be shared here.

Zomato Payments gets RBI authorisation to operate as online payment aggregator

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): The company had disclosed on August 4, 2021 about the incorporation of ZPPL, a wholly-owned subsidiary, to carry out the business as a payment aggregator and issuer of pre-paid payment instruments.

"We wish to inform that ZPPL has been granted certificate of authorisation dated January 24, 2024, from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an 'Online Payment Aggregator' in India with effect from January 24, 2024, as per the guidelines issued by the RBI," Zomato said in a regulatory filing.

Oil near 2024 high on U.S. economic growth, Mideast concerns

GAZA, Jan 26 (Agencies): Oil on Friday was trading near a 2024 high and heading for a second weekly gain as positive U.S. economic growth and signs of Chinese stimulus

0.6%, at \$76.87.

"The economy remarkably weathered the storm caused by past rate rises and it remains ebullient at the beginning of 2024," said Tamas Varga at

by the Iran-backed Houthis, or risk harming business relations with Beijing.

Still, previous interventions by U.S. and UK forces in the Red Sea did not prevent



boosted demand sentiment, while Middle East supply concerns added further support.

Data on Thursday showed the economy of the U.S., the world's biggest oil consumer, expanded more quickly than expected in the fourth quarter. Also this week, China, the second-largest user, announced a deep cut to bank reserves to spur economic growth.

Brent crude futures were down 46 cents, or 0.6%, to \$81.97 a barrel by 0907 GMT. U.S. Thursday's intraday high of \$82.57 is the highest price of the year so far. West Texas Intermediate crude was down 49 cents, or

oil broker PVM regarding the United States, adding that the Chinese reserves cut is "another welcome development".

For the week, Brent was set to rise 4.3%, while the U.S. benchmark was heading for a 4.7% gain. Both were on track for a second straight weekly rise and their biggest weekly increase since the week ending Oct. 13 after the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

Prices slipped on Friday on the prospect that oil shipping disruptions in the Red Sea may ease as Chinese officials have asked Iran to help rein in attacks on ships

attacks, leading investors to price in continued disruption, said Yeap Jun Rong, a market strategist at IG in Singapore.

Supply concerns are evident in the structure of Brent futures. The premium of the first-month contract to the sixth rose to \$2.58, the highest since November. This structure indicates a perception of tighter prompt supply.

Oil was also boosted this week by a larger-than-expected drawdown in U.S. crude stockpiles, and by concern of fuel supply disruption after a Ukrainian drone attack on an export-oriented oil refinery in southern Russia.

Scientists discover potential fountain of youth within our own bodies

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Scientists have unlocked a potential key to the fountain of youth that has eluded humans for centuries. The concept of an elixir granting eternal youth might not be so mythical after all, as researchers have discovered that the answer lies within our own bodies.

A team of researchers at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) has found that T cells, a type of white blood cell, can be reprogrammed to combat senescent



cells. These senescent cells are believed to be responsible for many age-related diseases that we face later in life. Senescent cells are cells that stop repli-

cating, leading to the accumulation of harmful inflammation as we age. To combat this, scientists have developed a "living" drug called CAR T cells, which are

genetically modified T cells capable of targeting and eliminating senescent cells.

In a series of experiments conducted on mice, the researchers found that when administered with CAR T cells, the mice experienced significant improvements in their overall health. They exhibited lower body weight, improved metabolism and glucose tolerance, and increased physical activity. Notably, these benefits were observed without any damage or

toxicity to the surrounding tissues.

The most remarkable finding was that a single dose of CAR T cells at a young age had lifelong effects. This singular treatment provided long-term protection against common age-related conditions, such as obesity and diabetes.

Lead researcher, Assistant Professor Corina Amor Vegas, emphasized the potential of CAR T cells, stating, "If we give it to aged mice, they rejuvenate.

Dollar holds ground ahead of key U.S. inflation data

WASHINGTON, Jan 26 (Agencies): The U.S. dollar held steady versus major currencies on Friday ahead of key inflation data later in the day, as traders weighed how the U.S. economy's faster than expected growth would influence Federal Reserve

rates.

U.S. personal consumption expenditures data – the Fed's preferred gauge of inflation – is due out at 1330 GMT on Friday.

The European Central Bank (ECB) held rates as expected on Thursday, and com-



thinking on interest rate policy.

Data on Thursday showed the world's largest economy grew more than forecast in the fourth quarter at 3.3% and showed price pressures were easing, adding to speculation the Fed would be in no rush to cut interest

ments from its president Christine Lagarde that seemed less worried about the inflation outlook added to bets on a rate cut in April.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, was last broadly flat on the day at 103.55.

Children born preterm linked with higher risks of mental disorders: BMJ Study

NEW DELHI, Jan 26 (Agencies): Children born prematurely have been associated with higher risks of having adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes, which can affect their behaviour and learning abilities, according to a study of over a million children.

Researchers compared the long term neurodevelopmental effects of children born at different gestational ages, particularly 32-33 weeks (moderately preterm) and 34-36 weeks (late preterm), compared with 39-40 weeks (full term).

The team of researchers, including those at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, found that the highest relative risk for moderately preterm-born children was for motor impairment (nearly five-fold increased risk), followed by epileptic impairment (nearly two-fold increased risk), com-



pared to full term-born children. While motor impairment refers to a physical disability and could result in muscle weakness, poor stamina, reduced balance, or poor co-ordination, epileptic impairment pertains to a disorder of the central nervous system.

They also found that the highest level of risks for neurodevelopmental impairments appeared from 32 weeks and then gradually declined until 41 weeks, with higher risks present even at 37-38 weeks than at full term. Their findings are published in The British Medical Journal (BMJ).

While previous studies have shown that children born early have higher risks of neurodevelopmental and behavioural disabilities throughout childhood and adolescence compared with children born at full term, few population-based studies have investigated the long term neurodevelopmental outcomes of these children, the researchers said.

As the children they studied comprise about 80 per cent of all pre-term births, these neurodevelopmental risks should not be underestimated, they said.

Messi to make his Super Bowl debut, set to appear in Michelob Ultra ad

Lionel Messi is a four-time Champions League winner, an Olympic gold medalist and has been part of 44 trophy wins, considered the most in soccer history

MIAMI (US), Jan 26 (Agencies): Lionel Messi has won global futbol's biggest prize. He'll now be part of American football's biggest day.

The Inter Miami star, World Cup champion and global soccer icon will headline a Super Bowl ad for Michelob Ultra, the brand announced Thursday. A teaser to what will be a 60-second spot shows Messi ordering a beer as he walks up to a beachside bar, and his reaction when the tap stops pouring.

"It'll be Messi's first Super Bowl commercial and adds to his massive advertising reach in the U.S. and globally. The game is on February 11 in Las Vegas.

"Having the GOAT himself, Lionel Messi, and the Super Bowl as a stage to kick it all off and start the year with a bang, that gets us incredibly fired up," Ricardo Marques, Ultra's vice president of marketing, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Messi needs no introduction. The power that he has, the impact that he had upon his arrival in Miami, in the world of soccer and beyond, he's clear-



ly a cultural icon right now." Messi's partnership with Michelob Ultra's parent company, Anheuser-Busch InBev, began in 2020. The Super Bowl spot is part of the beer's sizable investment in soccer. The ad follows the brand being revealed as the global beer sponsor of this summer's Copa América.

It's also expected Ultra will partner with the men's World Cup when the tournament is played in the US, Canada and Mexico in 2026 as Messi's Argentina aims to defend their title.

"When you put it all together, we clearly have a very exciting

road ahead of us in the context of soccer," Marques said.

Messi is a marketing dream with giant brands such as Adidas, Gatorade, Hard Rock International, Royal Caribbean and Apple TV among others all involved with him. His social media footprint is enormous, with nearly 500 million followers on Instagram.

Anheuser-Busch routinely spends millions on Super Bowl ads; last year's game brought an asking price of as much as \$7 million for a 30-second spot, with companies paying it to be on US advertising's biggest stage and with hopes of reach-

ing an expected audience of more than 100 million.

The beverage giant had a Michelob Ultra spot as part of last year's Super Bowl lineup, also with a sports theme — it was set at Bushwood Country Club, the fictional country club in "Caddyshack," and starred tennis great Serena Williams, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current TV analyst Tony Romo, Miami Heat standout Jimmy Butler, golfer Rickie Fowler, soccer player Alex Morgan and boxer Canelo Alvarez.

Messi has more than 800 goals for clubs and country, among the greatest scorers. He scored twice in the 2022 World Cup final that Argentina won against France on penalty kicks.

Messi is a four-time Champions League winner, an Olympic gold medalist and has been part of 44 trophy wins, considered the most in soccer history.

"The artistry that he brings to the pitch brings fans from all walks of life," Marques said.

"That's why we're excited about Lionel Messi, his partnership and where soccer is going in the US."

Hsieh Su-wei and Jan Zielinski win mixed doubles title at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Jan 26 (Agencies): Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan and Poland's Jan Zielinski are the Australian Open mixed doubles champions after beating Desirae Krawczyk of the United States and Neal Skupski of Britain 6-7 (5), 6-4, 11-9 on Friday.

It was the first championship final of the

15-day tournament that began on January 14.

Hsieh and Zielinski led 4-0 in the match tiebreaker before Krawczyk and Skupski fought back. The teams were tied 7-7, 8-8 and 9-9 before the winners pulled away with the final two points.

Hsieh has a chance for a second title — she will

play in the women's doubles final at Melbourne Park with Elise Mertens on Sunday. The mixed doubles win Friday was her seventh major doubles title, including four women's doubles titles at Wimbledon.

"I thought it was a really tough match, but we made it," Hsieh said at the trophy presentation. "But I thank you so much for the great match. It was really fun on court to play against you guys."

Krawczyk was attempting to complete the career Grand Slam in mixed doubles. She won Wimbledon in 2021 and 2022 with Skupski and the French Open and US Open, both in 2021, with Joe Salisbury.

Jannik Sinner Ends Novak Djokovic's Australian Open Reign To Reach Final

MELBOURNE, Jan 26 (Agencies): Jannik Sinner terminated Novak Djokovic's bid for tennis immortality at the Australian Open on Friday, ending the Serb's record 33-match winning run at Melbourne Park and his bid for a 25th Grand Slam title. The Italian fourth seed was unfazed by dropping his first set of the tournament against the king of Rod Laver Arena, winning 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 to reach a first Grand Slam final. He will face either third seed Daniil Medvedev or sixth seed Alexander Zverev in Sunday's title match.

"It was a very, tough match," said Sinner. "I started off really well.

He missed in the first two sets. I felt like he was not feeling that great on court so I just tried to keep pushing."

Ten-time champion Djokovic, who had not tasted defeat at the Australian Open since 2018, was gunning for a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title but Sinner ripped up the script in

spectacular fashion.

Djokovic had no answer to his 22-year-old opponent early in the match but did not help his own cause, hitting 29 unforced errors during the first two sets in an uncharacteristically sloppy showing, compared with just eight for Sinner.

The 36-year-old lacked his usual metronomic consistency as the super-cool Sinner, unconcerned at facing a man who had never lost a semi-final at Melbourne Park, raced into a 3-0 lead.

The Italian broke again in the sixth game and seized the set when Djokovic went long with a forehand.

The decibel count on centre court rose at the start of the second set and Djokovic settled himself with a convincing hold.

But his error count continued to mount and Sinner, who had beaten Djokovic in two of their previous three contests, broke in the third game to establish a vice-like grip on the match.

Djokovic urged the crowd to



come to his aid and cries of "Nole" rang around the packed stadium but he was broken again and slipped two sets down.

The match was paused at 5-5, 40-40 as medical staff treated a fan in the crowd but Djokovic brushed off the interruption to hold serve and the set went to a tie-break.

The Serb nudged ahead but Sinner came back to earn his

first match point, only to dump a forehand into the net.

Djokovic made no mistake when presented with his chance to take the set, raising his clenched fist to the crowd.

But the Serbian's serve came under renewed pressure again in the fourth set and he cracked to give Sinner a 3-1 lead.

The Italian kept his nerve to close out the match and end an era at Melbourne Park.

Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian Sukhbir Singh Gill battles for life

CHANDIGARH, Jan 26 (Agencies): One of the finest midfielders in India during the late 90's, 48-year-old Sukhbir Singh Gill is now battling for his life.

Chandigarh's first hockey Olympian's differently abled mother, wife and children are looking after Gill, who is now semicomatose. A brain tumour, detected in December 2006, has now turned aggressive. Despite undergoing a number of operations, including Gamma Knife radiosurgeries, since 2021, the disease has rendered Gill completely bedridden.

Gill, who is beset by official and public apathy, stands to lose the ones who have had his back through thick and thin, especially his 19-year-old daughter. Once known for making the ball dance with a hockey stick in his deft hands, Gill is no longer able to hold a feather now.

Gill, who first experienced some trouble breathing in 2006, was diagnosed with a brain tumour through a series of CT scans and an MRI test. He first underwent an operation for the same on December 19 the same year. It was



followed by a four-year-long uphill battle as he struggled to make his comeback in hockey. After recuperating, he tried playing in the 2007 edition of the Premier Hockey League. His mother, Daljeet Kaur, claimed despite being an Olympian, his son never sought benefits given to sportspeople by the Administration.

Gill honed his skills at Shivalik Public School, Sector 41, and later moved to DAV College, Sector 10. He represented Punjab University in the All-India Inter-University Hockey Championships before cementing his place on the Indian team. After hanging his boots, Gill ran an academy at Shivalik Public School, Mohali, and organised hockey championships every year for budding and professional players

alike.

Members of Gill's family have been running from pillar to post to get some support (non-financial) from the UT Administration, but to no avail. Gill, who has his medical expenses covered by BPCL, is yet to receive a word of comfort from the local authorities. His wife, Gurpreet, rued, "We had earlier met the Chandigarh Director Sports and urged the Administration to provide us some assistance in the form of a helper or a physiotherapist. We made that request at a time when he (Gill) was in dire need of such facilities. However, we had to make arrangements on our own. His situation is worsening with each passing day, and there's not even a single word from the Administration."

Indian Shooters Gear Up For Olympic Year's First ISSF World Cup

CAIRO, Jan 26 (Agencies): A 49-member Indian contingent is all set to fire its first bullets as the Olympic year's first ISSF World Cup begins in Cairo on Friday with the 10m air pistol finals for both men and women. While the rifle and pistol shooters will be eyeing a good performance to ensure a place in the national Olympic trials in May, the shotgun exponents will look to hold their place in the team and maintain high world rankings with as many as four spots -- two each in trap skeet -- still to be booked for Paris Games with a final qualifier event slated for April in Rio de Janeiro.

The men's and women's trap shooters will be first to take aim, with day one of qualifiers offering 75 targets to gun down.

In women's trap, Rajeshwari Kumari,



Bhavya Tripathi and Manisha Keer will be in contention for medals while veteran Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Bhowneesh Mendiratta will hold fort in men's trap.

In the women's and men's air pistol too, six Indian shooters will vie for podium finishes.

Ujjwal Malik, Ravinder Singh and Sagar Dangi will all aim for a great start and a first ever senior individual World Cup medal in the men's category, while Olympian Manu Bhaker, mixed pistol world champion Esha Singh and Anu-

radha Devi will carry Indian hopes in the women's event.

A few Indian shooters, like Vivaan Kapoor and Lakshay Sheoran in men's trap, Rhythm Sangwan in women's air pistol and Varun Tomar in men's pistol, will be shooting for ranking points only (RPO) and will not be in medal contention.

A total of 672 athletes from 66 countries will compete in the year's first combined ISSF World Cup stage where all 15 Olympic events will be held.

India beat New Zealand 11-1 to enter FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup semifinals

MUSCAT, Jan 26 (Agencies): Rutaja Pisal scored four goals while Deepika Soreng struck thrice as India hammered New Zealand 11-1 to enter the semifinals of the FIH Women's Hockey5s World Cup here.

New Zealand took the lead courtesy a goal from Oriwa Hepi (2nd minute) but India equalized within fifteen seconds as Deepika Soreng (2nd) found the back of the net with an astonishing finish.

Rutaja (9th) put India in the lead before Mumtaz Khan (10th, 11th) quickly fired back-to-back goals.

The goalfest continued with India again scoring two more quick goals, this time from Mariana Kujur (13th, 14th) as the first half ended with India leading 6-1.

India's control of proceedings continued and Rutaja (22nd) scored her second goal of the match. Deepika (25th) also brought up her second goal before Rutaja (26th, 28th) added two more goals to her tally.

Deepika (29th) then scored another goal to complete her hat-trick as India won the game 11-1.

India face South Africa in the semifinal.



IND v ENG: After Jaisball on Day 1, India grind England bowlers down on Republic Day for 175-run lead

HYDERABAD, Jan 26 (Agencies): India showed there is more than one way to skin a cat as they continued their march toward batting England out of the first Test on Friday, January 25. While Yashavi Jaiswal's entertaining knock of 76 highlighted the opening day's play, India adopted a more old-fashioned approach to batting as the pitch at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium took more turn but slowed down considerably.

Yashavi Jaiswal managed to add only 4 runs to his overnight score, but KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja hit fifty-plus scores while getting support from the likes of Shreyas Iyer (35), wicketkeeper Srikar Bharat (41) and Axar Patel (35 not out) as India headed to Stumps at 421 for 7, leading England's first innings total by 175 runs.

England's 246, a few pundits said, was a competitive total and India's surprisingly aggressive approach on Day 1 was seen as a well-calculated move to accumulate as many as possible before the pitch becomes unplayable. However, India batters showed once again that there are runs for taking on spin-friendly pitches, provided there is the will to apply and adapt to conditions.

Barring Shubman Gill, who looked ten-

tative in the middle, every other Indian batter looked comfortable, not allowing an inch to Ben Stokes-led England to come back into the contest.

Ravindra Jadeja, who enjoyed batting with the lower-middle order, looked confident in the middle while KL Rahul made wonderful use of the opportunity to bat at No. 4 in the absence of Virat Kohli, continuing his golden run with the bat in the middle order.

Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel made sure the Hyderabad crowd, which turned out in huge numbers on the national holiday, were entertained as they went after the England spinners towards the close of play.

The play was extended by half-an-hour and India made sure they took their total beyond 400 and lead to what looked a decisive 171.

Jadeja remained unbeaten on 81 as he added a 63-run unbeaten partnership with Axar as India flexed their all-round firepower even as Ashwin, who has 5 Test centuries, was run-out for 1.

England bowlers and fielders had tired look on their faces when Stumps was called in the late afternoon, knowing even 171 might be a bridge too far to cross for them when they are asked to bat again.



Glimpses of 75th Republic Day celebration at M A Stadium captured by Photo Journalist Aman Sharma on Friday. Lt Governor J&K UT Manoj Sinha unfurling the National Flag and cultural items and dare devil acts mark the celebration.

75th Republic Day celebrated at Leh

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 26: 75th Republic Day was celebrated by all ranks of Fire and Fury Corps with great zeal and enthusiasm.

On this occasion, Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, General Officer Commanding, Leh Sub Area and Officiating Chief of Staff, Fire and Fury Cors paid tributes by laying wreath at the iconic Hall of Fame War Memorial, Leh, in

honour of the bravehearts who have made supreme sacrifice in defending our borders.

Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh complimented the Indian Army for its devotion to duty and indomitable spirit while serving under trying and difficult conditions.

He acknowledged the Indian Army's invaluable contribution in maintaining sanctity of the Nation's borders in the Ladakh region with fortitude and courage.

वन्दे मातरम्

सभी देशवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

जय हिन्द

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी महराज हरि सिंह पं. प्रेम नाथ डोगरा

भारतीय जनता पार्टी जम्मू व कश्मीर