

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT | 6

Dimple Hayathi reveals she was on bed rest for 3 months after major surgery



NATIONAL | 7

PM Modi highlights Maha Kumbh's grandeur in 'Mann Ki Baat'

INTERNATIONAL | 8

North Korea's Kim Jong Un call for "toughest" US strategy at key party meet



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-15 Issue-359 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Kashmir University defers exams because of snow

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Kashmir University has postponed all exams scheduled for Monday in view of the inclement weather.

The information was shared by the varsity in a statement on Sunday.

The varsity spokesperson said fresh dates for the postponed papers will be notified later separately.

Kashmir received heavy snowfall on Friday and Saturday, resulting in some areas of the valley getting cut off.

While snow has been cleared from main highways and arterial roads, the work is still on in some of the remote areas of the Union Territory.

Fire damages furniture manufacturing company and commercial building in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): A furniture manufacturing company and a commercial building were damaged in separate overnight fire incidents in Srinagar, officials said.

The Fire and Emergency service officials said that fire broke out around 11.10 pm last night in Essque Furniture Works at the industrial estate of Baghe-Ali Mardan Khan in Nowshar area of Srinagar causing extensive damage to the property.

They said as soon as the fire call was received, several fire tenders were rushed to the spot from the city centre stations to douse the leaping flames.

No one was injured in the incident, they said adding the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

A commercial building was also gutted in the overnight fire incident at Fruit Mandi while a four storey residential house also suffered extensive damage in the fire incident at Firdous Abad Bata-maloo in Srinagar.

The cause of the fire at both the places is being ascertained, they said.

Jammu-Srinagar highway reopens after day-long closure due to snowfall

JAMMU, Dec 29 (Agencies): The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway was on Sunday reopened for vehicular traffic after a day-long closure due to heavy snowfall, allowing stranded vehicles to

Turn to page 9

LG Manoj Sinha addresses annual day function of Jammu Sanskriti School



JAMMU, Dec 29 (Agencies): Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the Annual Day function of Jammu Sanskriti School "Karmanya-The Power of Good Deeds", at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Jammu University.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the school management, teachers and students on its annual day. Over the years, many eminent teachers and educationists

have contributed to high reputation the Jammu Sanskriti School enjoys today. It is an occasion to remember all of them with gratitude, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the prime objective of school education is to ignite the intellectual capacity of children.

"The future of a nation is decided in school campus. The overall goal of our education system is to provide unique opportunity to every unique personality so that they can create

something new and contribute to nation building with their unique talent," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized the role of teachers and educational institutions in developing a conducive environment to boost the confidence of the students and motivate them to continue their quest to learn new skills.

"In today's era of rapid change, when new technological advancements are taking place every day, only one skill will be relevant in the future and

that is - Lifelong Learning Skill," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the primary and secondary education is an interesting phase of positive change in a student's life. He said, this is the time when knowledge and influence around affects his mind and body.

Whatever a child learns in this impressionable age stays for long years. It is during this period when a child develops

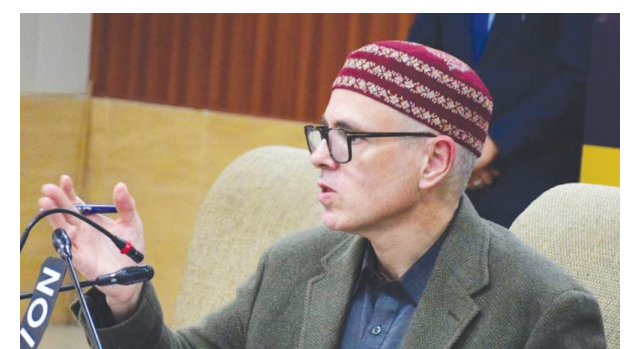
Turn to page 9

Rechristen Navyug Tunnel as Dr Manmohan Singh Tunnel: CM Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said that the Navyug tunnel connecting Qazigund with Banihal on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway should be dedicated to the late Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

Talking to reporters here, the J&K Chief Minister, said that the late Prime Minister did a lot for Jammu and Kashmir.

"Four laning of Srinagar-Jammu National



Highway was taken up during Dr Manmohan Singh's regime. Today the distance between Jammu and Srinagar is covered within 5 hours and it's his contribu-

tion." The Chief Minister said that the Navyug Tunnel should be rechristened as Dr Manmohan Singh tunnel. "Let anyone

Turn to page 9

60% terrorists killed by security forces in J&K in 2024 are Pakistanis: Army Officials

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Notwithstanding the economic issues faced by it back home, the Pakistan Army is fully backing the terrorist infrastructure as 60 per cent of terrorists killed in Jammu and

Kashmir this year were Pakistanis.

The local recruitment of terrorists in the Pakistan-sponsored terror groups is also very low as only four locals have joined these groups this year, Army officials said.

In different encounters and operations, the security has been able to eliminate around 75 terrorists in different regions of the state including the Jammu region and the

Turn to page 9

Katra remains shut for 5th day against ropeway project; BJP MLA joins protesters

REASI/JAMMU, Dec 29 (Agencies): Katra, the base camp for the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir, remained shut for the fifth consecutive day on Sunday in protest against a proposed ropeway project in the Trikuta hills, with BJP MLA Baldev

Raj Sharma threatening to sit on a hunger strike if those detained are not released within 24 hours. Jammu local businesses, Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Meanwhile, five men continue to sit on a hunger strike, demanding the release of those detained by police during



earlier demonstrations in the holy town.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, which has called for the shutdown, announced that all activities in Katra

would remain suspended during the bandh.

Shops, restaurants and business establishments remained closed for the fifth day in Katra,

Turn to page 9

Kashmir's Gulmarg, Pahalgam reel under subzero temperatures



SRINAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Gulmarg and Pahalgam in Kashmir continued to experience severe subzero temperatures while the rest of the valley saw slight relief from the cold wave, officials said on Sunday.

Gulmarg, a tourist

resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.0 degree Celsius, the Meteorological department said.

The base camp for annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, Pahalgam, registered a minimum of minus

8.5 degree Celsius, the department said.

In Srinagar the mercury dipped to minus 0.2 degrees Celsius on Saturday night - two degrees above the normal temperature for this time of the year, it added.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 0.4 degree Celsius, while Konibal in Parampora recorded a low of minus 1.0 degree Celsius, the weather office said.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered minus 1.0 degrees Celsius while in south

Turn to page 9

Government Of India Certified Course

249 Days SPOKEN ENGLISH LIVE COURSE

Different batches for School/College Students & Professionals

Your journey to Fluency Starts Here - Speak Confidently, Dream Bigger

Rs. 249/- Only

Trainer holds 13 years of experience

You Will Learn:

- Fluently express yourself in English conversations.
- Master public speaking and presentation skills.
- Enhance your vocabulary effortlessly.
- Build confidence for seminars, webinars, and interviews.

249 Days of Learning

79 LIVE Classes

3 Sessions Per Week

Book Your Spot: 7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

www.studykosh.com

REGISTER NOW

Link in Description

SCAN QR CODE TO PAY

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you the sad demise of **Mithun Prashar** (J&K Bank) S/o Late Sh. Ram Murti Sharma R/o Bhagwati Nagar, Kathua.
10th Day on 30-12-2024.
Time 10:30 am at Home
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Anita Sharma (Mother)
Chachi & Chachu
Smt Savita Sharma & Pawan Kr Sharma
Smt Savita Sharma & Kewal Krishan Sharma
Smt. Priya Sharma (Wife)
Smt. Indu and Sh. Ankur Prashar (Bhabhi and Brother)
Smt. Megha Prasher and Sh. Ranbir Singh (Sister and Brother in law)
Master Ayan Prashar (Son)
9906339395



Mithun Prashar

OBITUARY

With profound grief and heavy hearts, we share the sad news of the passing of **Sh. Dharni Dhar Sharma** (Former, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Chairperson, Dharmik Yuvak Mandal), beloved son of Late Pt. Manorath Ram Sharma R/o H.No.1, Amar Manorath Market, Purani Mandi, Jammu at present at H. No. 23, Sec-6, JDA Colony, Upper Roopnagar, Jammu, left for his heavenly abode on 24th Dec. 2024. **Tenth Day** will be performed on 01-01-2025.
IN GRIEF:
Smt. Sukha Sharma - Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Shreedhar Sharma & Shifali Sharma
Vasudhar Sharma & Riya Sharma
Devdhar Sharma - Son
Brothers & Sisters-in-law
Late Sh. Shakti Prakash & Late Smt. Krishan Kanta
Late Sh. Ram Krishan Sharma & Late Smt. Kanta
Late Sh. Narayan Sharma & Smt. Sushela
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Late Smt. Vimla & Late Sh. Hira Lal
Late Smt. Shanti Devi & Late Sh. Swami Dayal
Smt. Pawan Bala & Sh. Kulbhushan Sharma
Smt. Dev Bala & Late Sh. Ashok Sharma
Smt. Jagriti & Sh. Ved Bhushan Seth
Grand Children: Vedant Sharma
Contact Numbers: 9149639597, 9419200222, 9622100222



SH. DHARNI DHAR SHARMA

TENTH DAY / UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved and revered **Sh. Surinder Singh Slathia** S/o Lt. Sh. Madan Singh Slathia R/o H.No. 51, New Plot, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 19/12/2024.
10th Day will be performed on 27/12/2024 (Friday) at present address our residence at Sec. 1, H.No. 167, Shafla Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu at 10:00 am.
(13th) Uthala also will be performed on 30/12/2024 at our same residence at 2:00 pm.
GRIEF STRICKEN
(Mother)
Smt. Rano Devi W/o Late Sh. Madan Singh Slathia
Smt. Asha Devi (Wife)
Smt. Reenu & Sh. Narinder Singh Slathia - Sister-in-law & Brother
Smt. Shalini and Varinder Singh Slathia - Daughter-in-law & Son
Jannu Slathia (Son)
Priyanka Slathia and Arun Jammal - Daughter & Son-in-law
Veerdev Singh Slathia & Harsh Dev Singh - Nephew
Grand Children: Saanvi Slathia, Aditya and Advil Jammal



Sh. Surinder Singh Slathia

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Aneel Bhushan Zalpuri** S/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Zalpuri, original R/o Habbakadal Srinagar, currently residing at 14A, Roop Nagar Enclave B Jammu
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at 9 am, at Muthi Ghat Near Directorate of Education, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Raj Kumari Zalpuri (Wife)
Prem Lata Zalpuri W/o Lt. Yugesh Raman Zalpuri (Sister-in-Law)
Priyanka Zalpuri & Akhil Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Pritisha Zalpuri & Kaamil Nakhas (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Nisha & Chetram (Family Members)
Kanhaiya, Anshu, Aarav & Ridit (Grand Children)
Samast Zalpuri, Wali, Koul Parivar
Contact No: 9622360918, 959658861



Sh. Aneel Bhushan Zalpuri

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Pitty Pandita (Pyari)** W/o Late Shri Jagar Nath Pandita on 21.12.2024 (Saturday), originally resident of Hakcherpora (Hatmulla) District & Tehsil Kupwara, presently at Lane No.17, Block No. 84, Flat No. 19 Mini Township Jagti Colony Nagrota, Jammu. The **MOURNING** is being observed at Lane 17 Community Hall, Mini Township Jagti near BSNL Tower.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on Monday, 30.12.2024 at Akhnoor Ghat and assembly will take place at 11:00 AM, Lane 17 Community Hall, Mini Township Jagti near BSNL Tower.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SAMAST, PANDITA, BHAT PARIVARS
CONTACT NOS: 9419250786, 9419250781, 9469650834, 9622320893



Smt. Pitty Pandita (Pyari)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Sri Kanth Raina (Papa Ji)** S/o Lt. Keshow Ram Raina R/o Razdan Mohalla Handwara A/p 3/50 Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 23/12/2024.
Tenth Day will be performed on 1/1/2025.
GRIEF STRICKEN
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Vijay Pandita & Sh. Choni Lal Pandita
Smt. Asha Hastu & Sh. Shubhan Krishan Hastu
Smt. Rajni Chatta & Sh. Vinod Ji Chatta
Sandeep Hastu & Kalpana Hastu
Arun Hastu & Ridhama Hastu
Vasundhra Chatt, Shyla, Aadriti
Mob. No.: 7889828291, 9469547670



Sh. Sri Kanth Raina (Papa Ji)

OBITUARY

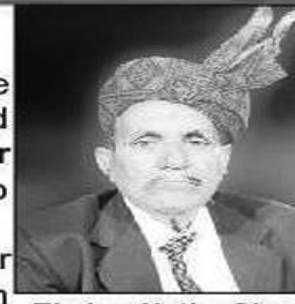
With profound grief and anguish we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Roshan Lal Raina** S/o Late Gopi Nath Raina resident of Bungalow No-19, Sai Shradha Pisoli Pune-60 (originally Gogjibagh Srinagar) left for his heavenly abode on 25-12-24 at 07:30 pm.
Shradanjali Prayers will be performed on Friday 3rd January 3pm, at his residence in Pune
In Grief:
Lalita Raina (Wife)
Rohit & Anjul (Son & Daughter in Law)
Rakesh & Fabienne (Son & Daughter in law)
Luca, Ariv, Noah & Arsh (Grandchildren)
Raina's, Ambardar's, Badam's & Lago's



Sh. Roshan Lal Raina

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Thakur Natha Singh Charak** R/o Jallo Chak, Jammu.
10th Day will be performed at our residence Jallo Chak, Jammu on 2/01/2025, at 11:00 am (Thursday).
Grief Stricken
Smt Guddo Devi -Wife
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Shamsher Singh Charak & Bhavana Charak
Naresh Singh Charak & Anuradha Charak
Daughter & Son-in-law
Neelam Manhas & Ranjit Singh Manhas
Contact Number: 7780917224, 9682350844, 9419129777



Thakur Natha Singh Charak

10TH DAY KRIYA

Our hearts ache with sadness, and many tears still flow
What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know
We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain to walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.
Our beloved mother the soul of our family passed away peacefully to merge with eternity on 23rd December 2024.
The **10TH-DAY KRIYA** will be held at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar, UP. On Jan 1st, 2025, at 9:30AM
GRIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS:
Bal Krishan Ganju (Brother-in-law)
Phoola Harndoo (Sister-in-law)
Raman & Sunita Ganju (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Rahul & Meenakshi Ganju (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Jyoti & Kuldeep Raina (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Vijay Khan (Sister)
Nancy Yachoo (Sister)
Mishela, Novie, Piyusha, Yash (Grandchildren)
THE ENTIRE GANJU, RAINA, KHARU AND YACHOO FAMILIES, ALONG WITH RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND WELL-WISHERS.
CONTACT INFORMATION:
FLAT NO. 7, PLOT NO. 1, SHALIMAR GARDEN EXT-1, GHAZIABAD
PHONE: 9810042965
EMAIL: RAMANGANJU@HOTMAIL.COM
WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF SARLA WITH US



SARLA GANJU
11 November 1945 till eternity

TENTH DAY

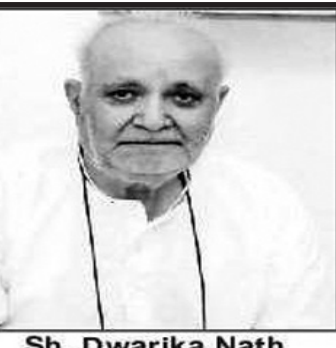
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Raj Rani** W/o Late Prem Nath Bhat of Zangalpora Devsar, Kulgam at present H.No. 332, Dina Nagar, Barri Near Rama Event on 22/12/2024.
The **Tenth Day** will be performed on 30/12/2024 (Monday) at Akhnoor Ghat and the Assembly will be held at our residence at 11:30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Prem Nath Bhat and Lalita Pandita (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-law
Suryaj Bhat and Mehak Pandita
Doly Bhat and Ram Krishan Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Daughter & Son-in-law
Pinkey Pandith and Pradman Krishan Pandith
Grand Children: Shweta Bhat, Kavita Bhat, Anur Rana, Amit Pandith, Swati, Suraj, Sumit
Mobile: 7006893175, 8825080131, 7780849501, 9419209111



Smt. Raj Rani

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandita** S/o Late Sarwanand Pandita, originally from Rajghat, Baramulla, Kashmir on 22nd December 2024 at his residence 1218, Sector 17, Faridabad.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Nashik, Maharashtra on 31st December 2024.
IN GRIEF
Sanjogta Pandita and Pawan Ji Pandita (Daughter and Son in-law)
Smt. Santosh Pandita (Bhabi)
Smt. Veena Pandita and Sh. Jawahar Lal Pandita (Bhabi and Brother)
Smt. Raj Dulari Pandita and Sh. Bushan Lal Pandita (Bhabi and Brother)
Mrs. Pummy Pandita and Mr. Ajay Pandita
Mrs. Ritika Pandita and Mr. Anmol Pandita
Miss Tapasya Pandita
SAMAST PANDITA AND BHAT PARIVAR



Sh. Dwarika Nath Pandita

OBITUARY AND TENTH DAY

It is with deep sorrow that we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Karmayogi Sh. Omkar Nath Bagati (Tathya)** S/o Late Sh. Shiv Ji Bagati erstwhile resident of Tekipora, Lolab, Kashmir, who left us on 22nd of December, 2024. He breathed his last peacefully at his Jammu residence H.No 38, Lane No 2, Anand Nagar Bohri.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Akhnoor Ghat on 31st December, 2024, Tuesday and assembly shall be held at our residence at 11:00 AM.
Grief Stricken:-
Brothers and Bhabhis
Smt. Jaikishori & Sh. Sohan Lal Bagati (9622274996)
Smt. Gudi W/o Late Sh. Hira Lal Bagati
Smt. Priya W/o Late Sh. Aular Krishna Bagati
Smt. Lovely & Sh. Bhaskar Nath Bagati
Sisters and Brothers in Law
Smt. Jaya W/o Late Sh. Bushan Lal Kachroo
Smt. Sheela W/o Sh. Ashok Ji Thusoo
Smt. Shama W/o Pyarey Lal Kachroo
Smt. Nirmala W/o Sh. Hira Lal Bhat
Smt. Baby W/o Sh. Krishan Ji Pandita
Smt. Lovely W/o Sh. Billoo Ji Padroo
Smt. Girja & Sh. Sanjay Pandita - Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt. Sumita & Dheeraj Pandita - Daughter and Son-in-law
Son & Daughter in law
Smt. Rumeela & Sh. Kewal Bagati (Ph. 8825018308, 9797596776, 9682125864)
Grand Children: Shivesh, Dilsha, Suvani, Ayush, Koshika, Parth and
Samast Bagati Parivar



Karmayogi Sh. Omkar Nath Bagati (Tathya)

ANTIM ARDAS

IN LOVING MEMORY
SMT. JOGINDER KAUR
W/o Lt. Sardar Ajit Singh (IAS)
PROGRAMME:
Arambh Akhand Paath: 28/12/24, Sat, 10:30 AM at Gurudwara Fateh Singh Ji, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
Bhog: 30/12/24, Mon, 10:30 AM
Kirtan & Antim Ardas 11 AM - 12 NOON, followed by **Guru Ka Langar.**
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Col. Davinder Singh Trehan & Family
Dr. Harinder Singh & Family
Engr. Mr. Jatinder Singh & Family
Engr. Mr. Pushvinder Singh & Family
Mob. No.: 9419193419, 9906023131



SMT. JOGINDER KAUR

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Bachan Singh (Retd. PDD)** S/o Late Pt. Arjan Das R/o Basti Gobindpura Simbal Morh, R.S. Pura Jammu who left for his heavenly abode on 21.12.2024.
IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEPARTED SOUL
ARAMBH SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: on 28.12.2024 (9.00 AM) Saturday at our residence.
BHOG SRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB: on 30.12.2024 Monday (9.30 AM) at our residence.
KIRTAN & ANTIM ARDAAS: 10.30 AM - 12.30PM at Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha Basti Gobindpura Simbal Morh, R.S. Pura.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sdr. Pritam Kour (Wife)
Sons and Daughters in law
S. Manpreet Singh (Vicky) and Sdr. Gursharan Kour.
S. Kamaljeet Singh (Bunty) J.E. and Sdr. Harvinder Kour.
S. Kulwinder Singh (Shunty).
Daughters and Sons in law
Sdr. Manmeet Kour and S. Kulwant Singh.
Sdr. Jagmeet Kour and S. Paramjeet Singh.
Mobile: 7006172269, 9419111799, 9419646300



S. Bachan Singh (Retd. PDD)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY

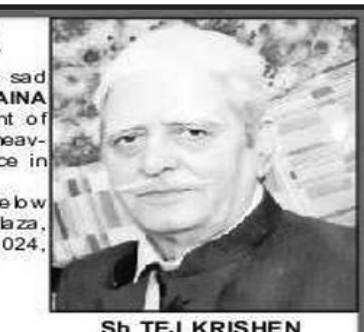
With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Keemta Shori Dhar** W/o Late Sh. M.L. Dhar on 24-12-2024 originally from Batapora Shopian, presently residing at H.No: 53/2, Pamposh Colony, Janipur, Jammu.
Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 01-01-2025 at Akhnoor and Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat at 11 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Ravinder Kumar Dhar & Smt. Sarojni Dhar
Sh. Shashi Bhushan (Pintoo) & Smt. Pinki ji
(Son-in-laws & Daughters)
Sh. Sanjay Bagati & Smt. Pankajam Ji (Bubby)
Sh. Rajinder Raina & Smt. Aruna Ji (Bunty)
Grand-Son-in-law & Grand Daughter
Mr. Anurag Rawat & Mrs. Meghna Dhar (Megha)
Grand Children: Akash, Suraj, Himanshu, Simran, Aryan & Bhavesh
Rsvp: Samast Dhar Parivaar
Mobile: 9086171893, 8803914064, 9419103083



SMT. KEEMTA SHORI DHAR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

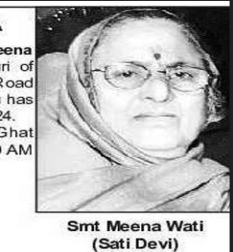
With Profound Grief & Sadness we announce the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. TEJ KRISHEN RAINA** S/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Raina originally resident of Habbakadal/Channapora Srinagar, who left for his heavenly abode on 21st December 2024, at his residence in Mohali.
Tenth Day Kriya will be held at Ropar Nehar, Below Steel Canal Bridge, Bye Pass Road, Near Toll Plaza, Ropar Nagar, Punjab On Monday, 30th December 2024, at 10:00 AM.
IN GRIEF:-
Vicky Raina (Elder Son)
(Younger Son & Daughter in Law)
Vipin Raina & Cathy Raina
Brothers & Bhabhi:
Shri G.L. Raina & Late Mohini Raina
Shri M.K. Raina & Smt. Bimla Raina
Shri R.K. Raina & Smt. Kishni Raina
Shri B.K. Raina & Smt. Vee na Raina
Shri P.K. Raina & Smt. Thanna Raina
Sisters & Brother In Law:
Smt. Sarfa & Shri Suman Ji Bhan
Smt. Pinki & Shri Bharat Kaul
Cherica Raina (Grand Daughter)
And Entire Raina Parivar, Bhan's, Kaul's, Sapru's, Fotedar's & Saraf's.
Mob No:- 8130309080, 8283802266
Address: HNo-1075, Gillico Heights, Gillico Valley, Sector 127, Kharar.



Sh. TEJ KRISHEN RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief, it is informed that **Smt. Meena Wati (Sati Devi)** W/o Lt. Sh. Dina Nath Zalpuri of Sagam Anantnag alp Vishwa Bharti School Road Opp Nandkishwar Mandir, Akalpur Road Jammu has left for her heavenly abode on 23 December 2024.
Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 1st January. Assembly will be held at 9:30 AM at Muthi Ghat.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Rani Zalpuri - Sister in law
Daughter in law and Son
Smt. Suman Ji W/o Lt. Durga Nath Zalpuri
Smt. Usha and Sh. Pravej Lal Zalpuri
Smt. Beauty and Sh. Sanjay Zalpuri
Daughter and Son in law
Smt. Vijaya Hangoo W/o Lt. Ashok Hangoo
Smt. Bimla and Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat
Smt. Baby and Sh. Durga Nath Bhan
Smt. Soema and Sh. Ranvi Raaz
Smt. Champa and Sh. Sunil Jalla
Smt. Neetu and Sh. Diljeet Bhat
Grandson and Grand Daughter in law
Smt. Rinki and Sh. Vivek Zalpuri
Contact: 9797717190, 7889555615



Smt. Meena Wati (Sati Devi)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Shanta Nehru** W/o Late Bushan Lal Nehru, originally resident of Aragam Bandipora Kashmir residing at H.No. 163, Lane 6, Kabir Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu at present H.No. 421, Sector 21-D, Faridabad Near Housing Board on 22-12-2024 at Faridabad.
The Tenth Day will be performed on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at Chota Haridwar Murad Nagar U.P. Assembly will be held at our Faridabad residence on 30-12-2024 (Monday) at 2 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sanjay Nehru & Anjali Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob. 9910085421
Pawan Nehru & Purnposhi Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law) Mob. 941919135 / 7006488031
Prideman Krishan Koul & Bhawana Koul (Son-in-law & Daughter) Mob. 991022989
Vijay Nehru (S/O of Late Harday Nath Nehru) & Neelam Nehru (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Krishna Nehru W/o Late Prem Nath Nehru (Sister-in-law)
Smt. Anil Nehru W/o Late Nishikant Nehru (Sister-in-law)
Smt. Asha Koul W/o Late Bushan Lal Koul (Sister-in-law)
Smt. Bimla Lidhoo W/o Late M.K. Lidhoo (Sister-in-law)
Smt. Nirmala Pandita W/o Sh. S.C. Pandita (Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)
Sh. Vinod Koul S/o Late Dina Nath Koul (Nephew)
Grandchildren: Ayushman, Anubhav, Amisha, Anshuman, Archit



Smt. Shanta Nehru

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."

MLA Bishnah Dr Rajeev Bhagat calls on LG Manoj Sinha

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MLA Bishnah called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Jammu and submitted a comprehensive memorandum outlining demands pertaining to Bishnah constituency.

The primary agenda was to advocate for enhanced infrastructural development in the constituency and also discussed several important matters of public importance pertaining to Bishnah Constituency.

The prominent demands of Bishnah constituency comprises of creation of New Degree College at Arnia for the youth of Border Villages, Creation of New ITI College at Bishnah, Special package for beautification of two Bishnah and Arnia towns, Drug De Addiction Centre, Upgradation of PHC Arnia to Emergency Hospital, Special recruitment drive for Border Villages, Double Lane



road from Kunjwani to Arnia, Separate Feeder for Farmers for Agriculture Pump Sets, Birdges on AIK, Sanction of ENT, Orthopedic and Dermatologist posts at SDH Bishnah, Sports Stadium each at Bishnah and Arnia, Improvement of Irrigation system for Agriculture purpose upto Jabowal so that irrigation water to be provided to the farmers for irrigation purpose, Bifurcation of Family Ration Cards, Waiver off the electricity bills to the weaker section of the soci-

ety those who not in a position to pay i.e. Widow, Handicapped, Orphan etc., Guest House to be constructed at BDO Office Bishnah, Improvement of Dak Bunglow Pandorian and Canal Front view from Chack Avtara Circular road to RKS School Bishnah. Dr Rajeev apprised the Lieutenant Governor of other public concerns and grievances stemming from the infrastructural deficit in Bishnah constituency. The Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to MLA and

assured him that all the major demands put forward would be redressed on priority. Expressing satisfaction over the visionary approach of LG towards changing the perception about J&K in the rest of world, Dr Rajeev said that he is grateful to LG for tireless efforts in engaging with the people of J&K towards early solution of their various problems.

He said that LG has inspired renewed confidence and brought positive changes on the ground through his initiatives. He thanked Hon'ble LG for his tireless efforts in championing their cause.

Dr Rajeev have a dream that he made Bishnah constituency as a model of constituencies of the state and desired that he provide every facilities to the people of his constituency in coming years and he also stated that people voted him for development and he wants to be full fill their dream and put every efforts on his parts.

AIKS pays reverence to Guru Tegh Bahadur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits based on All India Kashmiri Samaj and led by its President, Ravinder Pandita, visited Gurdwara Rak-abgunj today to pay reverential homage to the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, Sabibzadas Veer Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh on their martyrdom. The Kashmiri Pandit delegation interacted with the office bearers of the Gurudwara and promised to work together to honour the memory of the Sikh Gurus.

Speaking in the occasion, Ravinder Pandita said that Guru Tegh Bahadur had not only saved Kashmiri Pandits, he had also stood as a rock against the Mughal injustices against all



non-Muslims of India.

He further said that the Guru ji stood for justice, for freedom of choice to practice any religion and against high handedness of the Mughal rulers. He added that in the entire history of the world, we cannot find any instance of an entire family, including children of tender age, sacrificing themselves to uphold Dharma.

That is why Guru Tegh Bahadur was called

Hind Ki Chadar. Ravinder Pandita asserted that in the hour of darkness that had enveloped the nation during that critical hour, it was Guru ji's sacrifice that had lighted up the country by the halo that Guru ji created.

He further said that Kashmiri Pandits will always bow in front of our savior, Guru Tegh Bahadur and shall endeavor to live upto his principles.

Senior Congress leaders support ongoing protest in Katra

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 29: Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney, along with J&K Congress Sewa Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, joined the ongoing protests in Katra to extend their support to the protesters. While joining the protest, they demanded the immediate release of 18 protesters who were detained by the administration in earlier protests against the ropeway project.

The J&K Congress leaders said that they will show solidarity to the protesters on this issue as they are fighting for their right, and while the world is happily celebrating the new year to come, the families of the detained protesters are in distress due to the administration's



actions. The protesters were energized by the support of senior Congress leaders, vowed to continue their peaceful demonstration until their demands are met.

Addressing the issue, Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney criticized the administration for suppressing the voices of people fighting for their rights. They expressed their disappointment over the arrests, calling it a blatant misuse of power and an infringement on

democratic values. The proposed project which is being resisted by the local traders will hamper the livelihood of thousands of families who earn their bread and butter from the pilgrimage.

It is very shocking that the administration instead of listening to the genuine concerns of the traders who are major stakeholders in this issue, they are detaining and arresting the protesters. This is highly condemnable.

Sawhney further said that while the world is preparing to celebrate the New Year with joy and hope, it is deeply saddening that here in Katra, people demanding their rightful dues are being silenced by detentions.


The administration's actions are unjust and unacceptable. These individuals have committed no crime; they were merely exercising their constitutional right to protest.

Sawhney urged the

government to release the detained individuals immediately and address the concerns of the protestors.

Also speaking on the matter, Congress Sewa Dal Chief Vijay Sharma stated that the Congress party has always stood with the people and for the people.

"We cannot remain silent when such injustice is being meted out to innocent citizens. The administration must remember that democracy thrives on dialogue and understanding, not on high-handed tactics. We demand that the detained members be released unconditionally and the grievances of the protestors be addressed at the earliest. We will continue to question administration's handling of dissent, and its commitment to democratic principles," Vijay Sharma said.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY PC & PNDDT
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE JAMMU
(Near MLA Hostel, Indira Chowk, Jammu-180001)
E-Mail: cmojammu@gmail.com daapepndtjmu@gmail.com


NOTICE

All registered Ultrasound Clinics/ Centres/ Imaging Centres/ Genetic Clinics of Jammu District are directed to follow the below mentioned instructions and implement the norms in letter and spirit;

1. Regularly file Form "F" online without any fail as per prescribed guidelines. The Proprietors shall ensure the regularity in filling Form "F" online which is mandatory under PC&PNDDT Act. Any violation shall invite action as warranted under rules.
2. The Proprietors shall submit the form for renewal of registration along with requisite documents **30 days before the expiry of previous registration.**
3. **The Ultrasound Centres/Clinics/ Imaging Centres/ Genetic Clinics shall ensure that public information in the languages Hindi, Urdu & English is displayed on board with size 3 Ft.* 2 Ft. with white background and red paint with text "SEX SELECTION/DETERMINATION IS NOT DONE HERE, DISCLOSURE OF SEX OF THE FOETUS IS PROHIBITED UNDER LAW".** Public information should be displayed on the four walls of waiting area/foot end of patient table, prominent areas of the Clinic/Centre/Imaging Centre/Genetic Clinic.

Sd/-
District Appropriate Authority
PC PNDDT Act, CMO Jammu

DIP/J-8682/24



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
E-MAIL: eastdivisionjammu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 90 of 2024-2025/Jammu East Dated 27-12-2024

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	Advertisement Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Installation of automatic Scrub Stations in Pediatric Surgery operation Theatre in SMGS Hospital Jammu	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	4.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 03-01-2025	A, B, C & D

Position of AAA : Accorded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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	27-12-2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-12-2024 to 02-01-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	31-12-2024 at 1200Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	27-12-2024
5	Bid Submission End Date	02-01-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-01-2025 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** at the time of allotment.

No :-
Dated :-

(Er. Satish Bhagat)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

DIP/J-8684/24



Artificial INTELLIGENCE Complete Course

Anybody Can Become An AI Expert

AI market projected to reach \$17 billion by 2027

AI is the highest paid sector across the globe

Make Your Career
In A Rapidly Growing Sector

Course Designed By:
IIT ALUMNI & INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Opportunity to Work on **10 LIVE PROJECTS**

For: **Earn & Learn Opportunity**

- Python
- Data Science
- Machine Learning
- R Programming
- Probability & Advanced Statistics
- Deep Learning
- AI Tools & Framework

LIVE Classes

Rs. 500/- Per Month

7087312888,
7087871871
7087313888

www.studykosh.com

EDITORIAL

Climate Change: Need for Urgent Action

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is an urgent crisis that is already impacting every aspect of life on Earth. The planet is experiencing rising temperatures, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and disrupted ecosystems, which have far-reaching consequences for humans, wildlife, and the environment. Despite this, global action has been slow and insufficient. To effectively combat climate change, there is an immediate need for urgent action and greater accountability from governments, corporations, and individuals.

The signs of climate change are impossible to ignore. Average global temperatures have risen by approximately 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, a shift that is causing irreversible damage to the planet. The Arctic ice is melting at unprecedented rates, contributing to rising sea levels that threaten low-lying regions and island nations. Wildfires in Australia, California, and the Amazon rainforest, floods in Bangladesh and Germany, and devastating hurricanes and typhoons across the globe all highlight the destructive power of climate change. These extreme events are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of climate instability caused by human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

Moreover, the biodiversity crisis is closely linked to climate change. As temperatures rise, many species are forced to adapt, migrate, or face extinction. Coral reefs, often referred to as the "rainforests of the sea," are particularly vulnerable to warming oceans and acidification. The loss of biodiversity further exacerbates the climate crisis, as ecosystems become less resilient to environmental stress and lose their ability to provide essential services like pollination, water purification, and carbon sequestration.

Governments around the world have a critical role to play in addressing climate change. International agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, set the framework for collective global action. However, progress has been slow, and many countries have failed to meet their emission reduction targets. While some nations have made strides in transitioning to renewable energy sources, others continue to rely heavily on coal, oil, and gas, contributing to the growing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

One of the key obstacles to addressing climate change at the governmental level is the lack of political will and the influence of powerful interest groups, such as fossil fuel industries. Governments must enact stronger policies, including carbon pricing, renewable energy incentives, and stringent emissions standards, to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. Additionally, climate change must be incorporated into all areas of policy, from transportation and agriculture to urban development and finance, ensuring a comprehensive approach to mitigating its effects.

Furthermore, accountability is crucial. Countries that have historically contributed the most to global emissions, such as the United States and European Union member states, have a moral obligation to take leadership in climate action. These nations should not only reduce their own emissions but also support developing countries in their climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through financial aid and technology transfer.

Corporations, especially those in the fossil fuel, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors, are among the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The extraction and burning of fossil fuels remain the primary driver of global warming, and industries that contribute to deforestation, pollution, and waste generation exacerbate the crisis. Companies must be held accountable for their role in driving climate change and be incentivized to adopt sustainable practices.

Corporate responsibility goes beyond reducing emissions. It includes adopting sustainable supply chains, ensuring that products are made from renewable resources, and committing to circular economy principles. Companies must also be transparent about their environmental impact and report their carbon emissions, water usage, and waste management practices. There is an increasing demand from consumers, investors, and governments for businesses to take action on climate change, and those that fail to act will face reputational damage and potential regulatory penalties.

Manmohan brought decency into public life; restored faith in the political system

By: Shivshankar Menon

I first met Dr Manmohan Singh when he was finance minister and he came to Tokyo in 1991. The Indian economy was in crisis and Japan had helped us. Even in trouble, and with a weak hand, I was impressed by the calm and self-respecting way in which the minister made his points and achieved results. My role was peripheral and limited to being a message carrier. The Taiwanese had sensed opportunity in our crisis and were offering financial help in return for political favours.

Dr Manmohan Singh was clear in his response. While economics might be discussed, there could be no political strings attached. This combination of pragmatism with political clarity in the midst of crisis, free of overt moralising, impressed me. I got to know Dr Manmohan Singh better when we spent 14 hours together talking. He represented India at former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral in Israel in 1995. I met him at his aircraft in Amman, Jordan, drove with him to the funeral in Jerusalem, and then saw him back to the airplane. The conversation was an absorbing lesson in policy-making, economics and living history. I shamelessly exploited the opportunity to question a finance minister who had

brought revolutionary change to the Indian economy. And he, who must have longed for some peace and quiet after the stresses of New Delhi in perpetual crisis, patiently spoke to me through that special day. It was only later that I realised that in his own quiet way, Dr Manmohan Singh had quizzed me on my beliefs, on Israel and the situation in West Asia, on China and its economy, and a host of other issues central to Indian foreign policy. He had also, in his answers, given me clear directions for our future work in Israel.

In many ways, this was typical of the man. His decency and his professorial persona led him to humour a young opinionated diplomat while he was pushing policy forward. His gentle manner cloaked one of the sharpest brains I have ever met. Little did I know then that my respect for him would only grow as I worked more closely with him subsequently. While I was in Sri Lanka, China, and Pakistan, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee encouraged me to brief the then Leader of the Opposition in the Upper house, Dr Manmohan Singh.

As we negotiated a free trade agreement with Sri Lanka, Dr Manmohan Singh, who seemed to know all the economists I was negotiating with, was consistently supportive and made constructive suggestions to over-

come hesitations at home. It was the same when it came to politically more difficult issues with China and then Pakistan. Those were the years when China under Jiang Zemin and Pakistan under Gen. Pervez Musharraf saw utility in engagement with India. That collegial style of governance in India, taking the Opposition into confidence on major issues and initiatives, was common to the three Prime Ministers -- P.V. Narasimha Rao, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh. Apart from resulting in better policy, it has the advantage that the world sees that it is dealing with a united India and cannot try to play our politics.

It was easy to be misled by Dr Manmohan Singh's gentle and polite manner into underestimating the steel beneath the velvet. One well known occasion was his willingness to stake the future of his government on what he believed and had promised while bringing the civil nuclear agreement with the United States to fruition. In our negotiations with China over the Depsang intrusion in 2013, or with the US on the lifting of sanctions, or with France on defence issues, he would go into the issues in detail, and then, once convinced, would insist that we stay firm to obtain the best result possible for India's national interests. It was also thanks to him that our

relationship with the United States was transformed. Cooperation between our navies in the aftermath of the tsunami of December 2004, and the bilateral defence cooperation agreement of 2005 led to the formation of the Quad in 2007 with the US, Japan and Australia. The landmark civil nuclear agreement with the US and the waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2008, both of which owed much to Dr Manmohan Singh's tenacity, opened the way to the close cooperation that we enjoy today. What always impressed me was also his abstemious personal manner. His standards of personal probity and integrity were unquestioned and higher than I have seen with any other political leader. That this must have imposed a strain on his family was certain, but they bore it cheerfully and set us an example in public life that I hope has some effect on others. Indeed, this is the lesson that I personally take from Dr Manmohan Singh's life and manner -- that it is possible to be good and in politics, and to achieve great positive change too. In that sense, his life restored faith in politics and the political system, just as he brought balance and decency into our public life while holding India's most powerful office. For that I will always be grateful to him.

Tips for Supercharging Memory Retention in JEE mains/NEET UG-2025 Preparation

By: Vijay Garg

Memory retention is a crucial aspect of NEET UG (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Undergraduate) preparation. The ability to absorb and recall vast amounts of information is essential for success in this highly competitive exam. Whether you are a first-time aspirant or gearing up for a retake, enhancing your memory retention can significantly boost your performance. In this blog, we will explore ten power-packed tips to help you supercharge your memory and optimize your JEE MAIN/NEET UG-2025 preparation.

Active Learning Techniques: Passive learning, such as reading and rereading, is less effective than active engagement. Incorporate techniques like flashcards, mind maps, and summarization to actively process and reinforce information. These methods stimulate various parts of the brain, making it easier to remember and recall details.

Create a Structured Study Schedule: Establish a well-organized study schedule that allocates specific time for each subject. This helps in maintaining focus and prevents information overload. Break down your

study sessions into manageable chunks, allowing for regular breaks to enhance concentration and retention.

Utilize Mnemonics and Acronyms: Mnemonics and acronyms are powerful memory aids. Create memorable phrases or associations to link complex information. This technique not only makes learning more enjoyable but also aids in recalling details during the exam.

Regular Revision: The key to long-term memory retention is regular revision. Space out your study sessions and revisit previously covered topics. This strengthens neural connections and reinforces the information in your memory, preventing forgetfulness.

Practice with Previous Years' Papers: Familiarize yourself with the exam pattern and types of questions by solving previous years' papers. This not only enhances your problem-solving skills but also exposes you to the format and structure of the JEE mains/NEET UG exam, making it easier to recall information during the actual test.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices: A healthy body supports a healthy mind. Ensure you maintain a balanced diet, stay hydrated, and get an adequate amount of sleep. Physical exercise also plays

a crucial role in improving cognitive functions and memory retention.

Mindfulness and Meditation: Make time each day for mindfulness and meditation. These practices help reduce stress, improve concentration, and enhance overall cognitive function. Information can be learned and retained more easily when the mind is clear and concentrated.

Teach the Material to Others: The best way to solidify your understanding of a topic is to teach it to someone else. Whether it's a study group or a friend, explaining concepts in your own words reinforces your knowledge and helps identify areas where you need further clarification.

Utilize Multiple Learning Resources: Diversify your learning sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subjects. Combine textbooks with online resources, videos, and interactive simulations. This multi-modal approach caters to different learning styles and strengthens your memory by presenting information in various formats.

Stay Positive and Manage Stress: Maintain a positive attitude throughout your preparation. High-stress levels can hinder memory retention and cognitive func-

tion. Practice relaxation techniques, take breaks when needed, and stay optimistic. A confident and stress-free mind performs better during exams.

Final Thoughts:

In the demanding journey of JEE mains/NEET UG preparation, a strong memory is your greatest asset. By incorporating these ten tips into your study routine, you can enhance your memory retention, boost your confidence, and improve your overall performance on exam day. Remember, it's not just about the quantity of study hours but the quality of your learning approach that will set you apart from the rest of the aspirants. Embrace these strategies, stay disciplined, and watch your memory retention soar to new heights.

*(Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
columnist street kour
Chand MHR Malout
Punjab)*

BJP leaders listen to 117th episode of Mann Ki Baat Program at Jammu West



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: BJP leaders, including Bawa Sharma (State Protocol Secretary, BJP), Brahm Jyot Satti (Senior Leader and Incharge, BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu and Kashmir), and Zorawar Singh (Senior Leader BJP), along with prominent citizens listened to the 117th edition of "Mann Ki Baat" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ward No 29, Rajpura Shakti Nagar, Jammu. The program was organized by Kamal Kishore.

Other notable attendees included Hira Lal Sharma (Shakti Kendra Pramukh), Suresh Kumar (Mandal Treasurer), Perveen Badyal (Vice President, OBC), Sanjay Verma (Mandal President, OBC), Renu Chowdhury (Mandal Vice President, Mahila Morcha), Susma Sharma, Anju Sharma, Anuradha (Booth President 35), Pawan Sharma, Ashok Kumar Prajapati, and other prominent citizens.

During the 117th episode of "Mann Ki Baat," Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the preparations for the

upcoming Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, emphasizing its vastness, diversity, and message of unifying spirit.

The Prime Minister noted that preparations for the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj are progressing at full pace. He highlighted the event's inclusiveness, stating, "Crores of people gather, thousands of traditions, hundreds of communities, and various Akhadas. There is no discrimination - no one is big or small. Such unity in diversity is not seen anywhere else in the world."

PM Modi also highlighted the upcoming milestone of 75 years since the adoption of India's Constitution, which will be celebrated on January 26, 2025. To commemorate these 75 years of the Constitution, the Prime Minister mentioned year-long activities starting from this year's Constitution Day on November 26.

A dedicated website, (link unavailable), has been launched to engage citizens, especially students, with the legacy of the Constitution. The Prime Minister urged young Indians to partici-

pate in these celebrations and deepen their understanding of the Constitution's values.

PM Modi also hailed Raj Kapoor for his contribution to films, saying Raj Kapoor introduced the world to the soft power of India through films. The Prime Minister also praised Rafi Sahab's voice, saying it had a magic that touched every heart.

Brahm Jyot Satti and Zorawar Singh explained the summary of the whole episode to the public and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dynamic leadership.

They said India is growing rapidly under his leadership and that "Mann Ki Baat" is PM Modi's platform to discuss crucial national issues with Indian citizens.

They also emphasized that India is blessed to have a Prime Minister like Narendra Modi, who works for every segment of society and remembers the valour and martyrdom of the country's forces.

They concluded by saying that "Nation First" is the ideology of the BJP, and every BJP worker is working on the ground level, serving humanity.

Farooq Andrabi expresses outrage over lack of dialysis centre in Chadoora

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 29: Apni Party Senior Leader and Media Advisor, Farooq Andrabi, on Sunday expressed concern over the absence of a dialysis centre in Chadoora. He also voiced his anguish over the lack of necessary facilities at the local hospital, stating, "In Chadoora, we have a so-called Sub-District Hospital (SDH), which technically operates as a Community Health Centre (CHC) and lacks adequate facilities for patients."

In his statement issued here, Andrabi said, "The

government has recently allocated several dialysis centres in Budgam district, but none in Chadoora, even though the administration had officially announced the allocation of a dialysis centre here one and a half years ago. Despite being one of the largest constituencies in terms of population, Chadoora is struggling with a lack of adequate medical facilities for its residents."

Andrabi urged the government to allocate a dialysis centre for Chadoora and ensure the required healthcare facilities at the hospital.

Congress has habit of doing politics on dead bodies: Chandel

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Senior Hinduist BJP leader Guruji Raju Chandel while talking to journalists said that Congress party always does politics on dead bodies and asks for proof. When the country's glorious army did surgical strike on Pakistan, even then Congress asked the army for proof of surgical strike.

It is a matter of shame that Congress did not even believe in the valor and valor of the army and started asking for proof. Despite our BJP's central government officially announcing to build a memorial of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Congress is not refraining from doing cheap politics.

Chandel said that it is well known who and which party got the Sikhs massacred in 1984. Bharatiya Janata The party has always respected the Sikh community and will continue to do so. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was not the Prime Minister of any party, he was the Prime Minister

of India. The BJP government respects him with full respect and will also build a memorial for him with respect"

Chandel said that the Congress party covers up its misdeeds. After the demise of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, it is the same Congress party which did not give even two yards of land to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and neither did it build a memorial for him. It was the BJP which released a fund of 197 crores for Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar in Delhi and built a grand memorial and dedicated it to the public"

Chandel said that the BJP never discriminates and our glorious Prime Minister and our government performed the last rites of our former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with the respect of the entire state, in which the entire cabinet and the entire BJP participated enthusiastically"

Late Manmohan Singh has been the glorious Prime Minister of our India. It is the responsibility and duty of all of us to respect him.

Haji Tasleem takes oath as President of Beopar Mandal Karnah

Top News Report

KARNAH, Dec 29: In a significant development for the business community of Karnah, Haji Tasleem officially assumed office as the President of Beopar Mandal Karnah during a grand oath-taking ceremony held at the Mini-Secretariat Karnah. The event witnessed the participation of prominent community leaders, traders, and members of civil society.

Along with Haji Tasleem, a team of 60 members took their oaths for various key positions in the organization. The newly appointed office bearers include the Deputy President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Media Incharge, forming a full-fledged organization aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the

business community in the region.

In his inaugural address, Haji Tasleem expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and pledged to work tirelessly for the welfare of traders and the local economy. "Our goal is to foster unity, ensure smooth coordination, and resolve the issues affecting businesses in Karnah. Together, we will bring positive change," he said.

The event was hailed as a landmark moment, with attendees emphasizing the importance of having a structured body to represent and advocate for the concerns of local traders. The Beopar Mandal Karnah is expected to play a vital role in strengthening the region's trade sector and contributing to its overall development.

84 Bn CRPF organizes "Fit India Sunday on Cycle Rally"



Top News Report

JAMMU Dec 29: As a nationwide fitness mission, Fit India Cycling on Sunday, 84 Bn has organized a 10 km long Cyclothon from Bn Hq Chatha Jammu to SKAUST Chatha Jammu and back on 29 Dec 24 Sunday.

The Cyclothon was flagged off by N Ranbir Singh Commandant 84 Bn CRPF @ 0900 h, in presence of Suma K P Dy Cdt.

The event was participated by around 40

school students of R V Public Hakkal Chatha, The Seminary High School Chatha and Wazir Janki Nath Memorial School Rani Bagh and CRPF personnel of 84 Bn.

Avtar Singh Sarpanch Chatha, P P Singh a former International Hockey player and coach, Surbi Sharma Principal Seminary High School Chatha, Advocate Jasmeet Kour Pandey Principal R V Public School Chatha and Corporator Jammu Cantonment Board also

attended the event.

While speaking during the flag off ceremony, Commandant 84 Bn emphasized the need for a Fit and Healthy society.

The young students, who are the future pillars of the nation, should make efforts to stay fit by taking up different physical activities.

Cycling is a low-impact, eco-friendly, fun and cheap activity that can be undertaken, by both young and old, on regular basis to stay healthy.

The Sarpanch and School principals thanked 84 Bn CRPF for organizing such positive activities for the school children of Chatha area.

The participant school children were served light refreshment and presented mementos by 84 Bn CRPF, after successful completion of the Cyclothon.

Willing Soul NGO warms hearts with Warm Winters 2.0 Initiative

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 29: Willing Soul, a youth-driven NGO based in Doda, has successfully concluded its much-vaunted Warm Winters 2.0 campaign.

Under the tagline "Let's Walk Together to Warm Their Feet," the initiative provided warm socks and shoes to over 190 underprivileged children, ensuring their comfort and protection during the harsh winter season.

Building on the success of last year's Warm Winter initiative, where the NGO distributed warm clothes and jackets to children,

women, and men across the region, this year's campaign focused on providing essential footwear to those in need.

The shift in focus highlights the NGO's commitment to addressing varied and pressing winter challenges faced by underprivileged communities.

This year, the dedicated team extended their reach to the far-flung areas of Doda as well as Doda town, delivering warmth and smiles to children in need. The efforts of the NGO have been widely appreciated for their commitment to addressing

basic needs in challenging weather conditions.

Willing Soul continues to inspire young people in the region by taking impactful actions to improve the lives of the underprivileged. Their work reflects the spirit of community and empathy, making a real difference one step at a time.

The NGO expressed gratitude to all supporters and volunteers who made this initiative a success. They aim to take their future projects to even greater heights, bringing hope and relief to more lives in the region.

Faisal Hussain welcomes Vivek Bali in Mumbai, discussions focus on Real Estate in J&K held

Top News Report

JAMMU / MUMBAI, Dec 29: Prominent real-estate businessman Faisal Hussain welcomed J&K prominent political leader Vivek Bali in Mumbai today.

The two engaged in an extensive discussion focusing on the real estate sector of Jammu and Kashmir and explored opportunities for growth and investment in the region. During the meeting, Vivek Bali emphasized the importance of bringing industrial projects, factories, and corporate investments to Jammu and Kashmir.

He highlighted that such initiatives are crucial for creating sustainable employment opportunities for the youth and boosting the economic landscape of the Union Territory.

Faisal Hussain expressed interest in

exploring investment avenues and assured full cooperation in contributing to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Both agreed on the need for collaborative efforts between stakeholders to unlock the region's economic potential.

The discussions also centered around the development of tourism infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on creating world-class amenities and facilities to attract high-end tourists.

Vivek Bali stressed the need for sustainable tourism practices that prioritize environmental conservation and community engagement.

Faisal Hussain and Vivek Bali also explored opportunities for investing in the region's agriculture and horticulture sectors, with a focus on promoting organic

farming practices and creating value-added products.

They agreed on the need for providing training and support to local farmers to enhance their productivity and competitiveness.

Furthermore, the two leaders discussed the potential for developing Jammu and Kashmir as a hub for IT and IT-enabled services, leveraging the region's talent pool and competitive costs.

They agreed on the need for creating a conducive business environment and providing incentives for IT companies to set up operations in the region.

This meeting marks a significant step towards fostering partnerships that could drive industrialization and create a brighter future for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

JKEEU South President expresses gratitude to PDD employees for restoring 95% electricity amid snowfall

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 29: Circle President Syed Reyaz Ahmad Jammu and Kashmir Electric Employees Union South Circle Bijbihara thanks all the Employees working as PDLs, TDLS, regular Employees working in filed and SDOs, Exens and Employees working at R Stations in South Circle Bijbihara KPDC that despite the heavy snowing we all unitedly inspite of Rank and work went to fields and restored 95 present

power supply in such a natural Calamity.

"This all success of providing services goes to all employees who despite of their health, family problems, other department works went to fields and worked tirelessly for the betterment of KPDC and public. This Unity and spirit in service has shown the results without any delay and odds. The Incharge High rank officials of UT Government must remember of our round the clock services and make sure the regu-

larization of PDL TDLS and provide promotions in time as per the CSR. The South Circle President hopes that this spirit of work shall be continued with the due cooperation of Senior Officials and under the mentorship of Superintendent Engineer South Circle Bijbihara", he said.

The President also thanks the Superintendent Engineer South Circle Bijbihara for empowering and boosting the employees working in fields.

Salman Khan unveils action-packed teaser of 'Sikandar'

Brimming with charisma, power and his trademark swag, a teaser of Salman Khan's much-anticipated movie "Sikandar" was unveiled.

The actor is playing the titular action hero in the movie, directed by AR Murugadoss of "Ghajini" and "Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty" fame.

The teaser showcases Khan taking on adversaries with intensity and style. In the short clip, he says, "Suna hai ki bahut saray log mere peechay pade hai, bas mere mudne ki der hai." Khan, who made cameo appearances in two movies this year "Singham 3" and "Baby John", said he hopes fans and his admirers would like the teaser of "Sikandar".

"Thank u all for your birthday wishes... much appreciated. Hope you like the teaser of Sikandar.... #SikandarTeaser," the 59-year-old star wrote.



The teaser was earlier supposed to be released on Khan's birthday on Friday but was postponed following the demise of former prime minister Manmohan Singh.

The movie is produced by Khan's long-time collaborator and close friend Sajid Nadiadwala under his banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

The production house said the teaser is a gift to all the fans of Khan.

"Ab intezaar hua khatam. Here's pre-

senting a glimpse of the world of Sikandar.

A gift to all the fans who have been waiting to see the First Look! Thank you for all the love and patience... See you all in cinemas this Eid."

Also, featuring "Pushpa: The Rise" star Rashmika Mandanna, the movie is set to be released in theatres on Eid 2025.

Besides "Sikandar", Khan and Nadiadwala are set to reteam on the second part of their 2014 blockbuster "Kick".

Gurmeet Choudhary: This year presented me as an action hero to the audience

Gurmeet Choudhary had a double bonanza this year as he made his OTT debut with Commander Karan Saxena and followed it with Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhe season 2. Both the shows emerged successful and the actor says, "I felt Durga maa ki taakat in 2024, and next year, I am going to step it up. This year, the era of Gurmeet Choudhary has started and I will kill it in 2025. I always wanted to be an action hero and this year presented me to the audience in that avatar."

Ask him why he took this long to make his OTT debut and he shares, "I left TV in 2013-14, and I had been getting OTT offers since then. But I had done the show format, so I was more pulled towards seeing myself on the 70 mm. I wouldn't get as excited for web shows, but now the audience has also increased on the web today, and there are so many interesting people working here. I



didn't want to do typical OTT shows, thus, I waited."

While he played an army man in Commander Karan Saxena, which he says is an

ode to his father who was from the army, in YKKA, Gurmeet was the new entrant. Having always played the lead in any medium, were their apprehensions to

take on a parallel lead to actor Tahir Raj Bhasin in this show? "My character Guru is a hero in himself. He has his own heroism. So, it was like the entry of a second hero in season 2. Also, Debina (Bonnerjee, actor-wife) was an avid viewer of season 1. So, when the offer came, I told her and she told me, 'sochna bhi mat, seedha kar le,'" he responds.

Both these shows came after a long absence from screen post Covid for Gurmeet, and he addresses it, saying, "I had done romance, drama, action and everything on TV, but I wasn't getting those opportunities in films. Even though some of my films worked, it wasn't the work that I wanted to do. So, I said no to many films that came in between. Although, I kept working on myself throughout to be ready for an action role as that's what I wanted to do. That's when both the shows came to me."

In this while, the actor took on his life's most important role, of being a father to his two daughters Lianna and Divisha. While he is a proud father, he asserts that people around him still discriminate on the basis of gender: "We live in 2024, a big city and in a modern world, but when we had our second daughter, many people said to us 'ladka hona chahiye tha'. Debina and I faced a lot through that time. I even cried hiding in the bathroom after Divisha's birth because I would get calls from my own people saying 'Oh, firse beti hui hai.'" But he is unperturbed by any of those words, and is now working for them. "Till now, I was working for myself, but now whenever I close my eyes, I see Lianna and Divisha. All I want is that when they grow up, they should be able to proudly mention my work and say our dad did this. So, now I am choosing work for them," he ends.

Dimple Hayathi reveals she was on bed rest for 3 months after major surgery

Actor Dimple Hayathi has been MIA from Telugu films this year, and it looks like she had a good reason for it. The actor posted a 'happy note' on her Instagram, along with a bunch of pictures and videos of her struggling while working out. One of the videos she posted sees her in a hospital bed hooked up to a saline.

What happened to Dimple Hayathi?

Dimple got candid about struggling with her health this year. She wrote that it has been 25 days since she began working out again, "Been 25 days Started my fitness journey again with this year being difficult with health going over a roadie for a while, then going through 3 months of bed rest over a major surgery constant and frequent visits to hospi-

tal has been a ride."

The actor added that her health issues led to hormonal imbalances and a 'good amount of unhealthy weight', which led to inflammation and 'training wrong'. She added, "Getting my body strained with (shoulder pain, ankle pain, right side lower back pain) and lots of stiffness and Skin breaking out and what not uff quite a roller coaster .. but it's important to know even a regular healthy person can go wrong at some point constant track of health is quite a asset these days."

Dimple then thanked her fitness trainers, Kuldip Sethi and Ssuminder Sethi, stating that her back pain has 'already reduced by 70%' and that her mobility is better. "Good healthy diet to reduce inflam-



mation and I'm back to normal again," she wrote, adding, "Being an actress it takes courage to put it out in public but I'm sure that might help someone out there who's been dealing with themselves and courage to open up .. I wish im atleast taking one step to inspire you'll back at it."

She ended the note by promising her fans an update as her health progresses and wishing them a good 2025.

Recent work Dimple, who debuted in 2017 with the Telugu film Gulf, gained fame with the song Jarra Jarra in the 2019 film Gaddalakonda Ganesh. She also debuted in Hindi with the 2021 film Atrangi Re. She was last seen in the 2023 film Ramabanam and is yet to announce her upcoming projects.

Hansa Singh says 2024 has been a great year for her



For actress Hansa Singh, 2024 has been

perfect as it has ended with her film Despatch,

starring Manoj Bajpayee.

The actress, who is known for her projects like Human and Criminal Justice 3, says she is someone who likes to go with the flow. "With time, lessons also change. I just believe in doing my best and leaving the rest. As for satisfaction, I am never satisfied as I am always trying to do better," she says.

She adds that it is important to focus on health and well-being. "With changing times, one has to know his or her bandwidth. Most important is your health. In the process of earning money and putting work first, one should never compromise on health. Bad times come and go. Nothing is forever. One just has to flow with it, with a smile, peace, and with gratitude," she beams.

Pradnya Motghare is having a great time essaying her role in Mohrey

Pradnya Motghare, who essays the role of Asmi in Amazon MX Player's recently released show Mohrey, says her character and the experience of working with the cast was amazing. "I deeply resonate with Asmi's fearless nature and ability to stand up for herself. Her journey takes her through extraordinary challenges where she must rise above adversity and courageously fight for what's right. Essaying this role has been an incredible experience—I had the privilege of working with an amazing cast and filming in diverse locations, as my character is constantly searching and exploring. It was both a fun and enriching journey, and I'm truly grateful for it."

Mohrey boasts of an ensemble cast featuring Jaaved Jaaferi, Neeraj



Kabi, Aashim Gulati, Pulkit Makol, Gayatri

Bhardwaj and Pradnya Motghare.

Uorfi Javed breaks silence on walking out of Samay Raina's show: 'It's not cool'

Uorfi Javed walked out of the show hosted by comedian Samay Raina called India's Got Latent. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Uorfi has now addressed the situation and shared that two contestants on the show abused her and debased her in front of everybody, prompting her to walk out. She also added that the team of the show consoled her and she has nothing against Samay Raina.

"I'm not ok with anyone abusing me"

In a series of Instagram Stories, Uorfi addressed the controversy on the show and explained why she decided to leave the show midway. She began, "I think I missed the memo, nowadays people think it's cool to abuse someone or just s**t shame someone for some views. I'm sorry but I'm not



ok with anyone abusing me, s**t shaming me for my body counts (which they don't know but they just assumed it must be high). All this for what? For 2 mins of fame? The guy who abused me wasn't even joking, he got legit mad at me when I asked him why he was faking being handicapped! He just abused me on the stage in front of so many people."

"I was disgusted" She continued, saying: "The next one was just trying to be cool, s**t shaming me comparing me to Mia Khalifa expressing his displeasure over my high body count. I was disgusted. I should've said something to these men but I didn't cause the place I was at, everyone thought this was cool. No it's not. It's not cool." In another post, she

wrote: "Also in no way I blame @maisamayhoo! He is a friend, I'm talking about the contestants! The entire team came and consoled me. Samay has nothing but nice to me since then."

Uorfi also clarified that she is not keen to do paid PR on these matters. "Everyone who thinks I did paid pr on this, I never said anything to any media portal. This was in front of a live audience, I've not paid anyone to write anything in favour of me or against anyone!"

Uorfi has appeared on the show previously for an episode. The other guests on the show include Poonam Pandey, Bharti Singh, and Avika Gor among others.

Uorfi had her own show Follow Kar Lo Yaar release on Prime Video earlier this year.

PM Modi highlights Maha Kumbh's grandeur in 'Mann Ki Baat'

The PM also highlights the upcoming milestone of 75 years since the adoption of India's Constitution, which will be celebrated on January 26, 2025

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 117th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', on Sunday highlighted the preparations for the upcoming Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, stressing its vastness, diversity and message of unifying spirit.

The PM noted that preparations for the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj are progressing at full pace.

Recalling his recent visit to Prayagraj, he said, "A few days ago, I had the opportunity to see the entire Kumbh area from a helicopter. It was overwhelming – so massive, so beautiful, so grand. The Maha Kumbh is special not just because of its vastness but also due to its



diversity."

The Prime Minister highlighted the event's inclusiveness, stating, "Crores of people gather, thousands of traditions, hundreds of communities, and various akhadas. There is no discrimination – no one is big or

small. Such unity in diversity is not seen anywhere else in the world. That is why our Kumbh is also a 'Maha Kumbh of Unity.' This year's Maha Kumbh will further strengthen the mantra of unity."

The PM also highlighted the

upcoming milestone of 75 years since the adoption of India's Constitution, which will be celebrated on January 26, 2025.

"This is a moment of immense pride for all Indians. Our Constitution, crafted by visionary makers, has stood the test of time. It is our guiding light," he said.

To commemorate this milestone, the Prime Minister mentioned year-long activities starting from this year's Constitution Day on November 26. A dedicated website, Constitution75.com, has been launched to engage citizens, especially students, with the legacy of the Constitution.

He urged young Indians to participate in these celebrations and deepen their understanding of the Constitution's values.

Gandhi family has never accorded respect to non Gandhi Congress leaders: Pralhad Joshi



AGARTALA, Dec 29 (Agencies): Union minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday alleged that the Gandhi family has never accorded respect to non-Gandhi Congress leaders.

He dismissed the Congress accusation that the Centre insulted Manmohan Singh, the country's first Sikh prime minister, by performing his last rites at Nigamboodh Ghat instead of a designated spot that could be turned into his memorial as "unfortunate and cheap politics".

"Despite our ideological and political differences with former prime minister Manmohan Singh, he is the most respectful person. Union Home Min-

ister Amit Shah following the wish of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken all possible initiatives to accord full state honour to Singh's funeral", he told agency.

He claimed, "Not only former prime minister (Manmohan Singh), the Congress did not accord due respect to another former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao and former president Pranab Mukherjee. Now Pranab Mukherjee's daughter said that the Congress did not convene a CWC meeting after the death of her father."

"In fact, the Gandhi family has never given respect to the non-Gandhi Congress leaders. They did not even give the Bharat Ratna award to former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao and respect to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Gandhi family must introspect on all these", he added.

Joshi, the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy, is on a two-day visit to Tripura to review the centrally sponsored schemes of his ministries.

4 die after inhaling toxic gas at chemical plant in Gujarat's Bharuch

BHARUCH, Dec 29 (Agencies): Four workers died after inhaling toxic gas at a chemical plant at Dahej in Gujarat's Bharuch district, police said on Sunday.

They fell unconscious after inhaling the toxic fumes leaking from a pipe at a production unit of the Gujarat Fluorochemicals Lim-

ited (GFL) at around 10 pm on Saturday, Dahej police station inspector BM Patidar said.

The four workers were rushed to a private hospital in Bharuch. Three of them died at around 3 am on Sunday while the fourth died at 6 am, the official said.

"The incident occurred at around 10 pm when

the four workers fell unconscious due to gas leakage from the pipe passing through the ground floor of the company's CMS plant. They were rushed to a private hospital where all four died," he said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem and a probe is under way, the official said.

Siang project not just for generating power but mitigating flood risks posed by China: Arunachal CM

ITANAGAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), estimated to cost Rs 1.13 lakh crore, was being planned by the Centre not just for generating electricity but to maintain the natural flow of the river all year round and mitigate risks of flooding if China released excess water.

Khandu's remarks came in the wake of China approving the construction of the world's largest dam, at a cost of USD 137 billion, on the Brahmaputra river in Tibet close to the Indian border. The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra river makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

"The SUMP, with an estimated installed capacity of 11,000 mw, is not just about generating power, but also about maintaining the natural flow of the Siang river and mitigating potential flood risks from water releases by China," Khandu told PTI in an interview.

Describing SUMP as a project of national importance, he said hydropower generation is only the secondary goal of it.

"The real objective of the project is to save the Siang river and the



communities that have depended on it for generations," he said.

The survey for preparing the pre-feasibility report of the projects is yet to be done amid stiff opposition from locals who are concerned about displacement, loss of livelihoods, and environmental impact of the mega dam.

Warning of severe consequences if China's project moves ahead "without safeguards", Khandu said the neighbouring country's plans to divert water from the Brahmaputra into its arid regions could drastically reduce the flow of the Siang river during winters.

"In such a scenario, the volume of water could decrease so much that one might be able to cross the mighty river on foot," he claimed.

"The proposed Siang project would create a reservoir capable of storing 9 billion cubic meters of water. This would ensure the river maintains a consistent flow, even during dry seasons. Additionally,

the reservoir would act as a buffer in case of sudden water releases from upstream Chinese dams, potentially averting catastrophic flooding in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Bangladesh," he said.

Acknowledging the ongoing bilateral discussions between India and China, the CM cautioned against "complacency".

"China is unpredictable and can do anything," Khandu said, underscoring the need for India to remain vigilant.

"We cannot take chances when it comes to national security and the welfare of our people," he said.

The Chinese government approved the construction of the hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo river, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra. It is expected to generate more than 300 billion kWh of electricity each year – enough to meet the annual needs of over 300 million people.

The total investment in the dam could exceed one trillion yuan, which would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on the planet, including China's own Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world.

On the concerns of the locals, Khandu said the government would conduct extensive surveys before finalising the plans.

"Only after these studies, we will know the exact location of the dam, its height, and the submergence area," he said, adding that a public hearing will be held to listen to people's concerns.

The CM said India was a democratic country, and it does not believe in "forcing" things on its people.

However, he criticised activists, accusing them of spreading misinformation among villagers about the project.

He claimed that these activists were instigating people without providing accurate information about the project's benefits.

"I urge people to come forward and get their confusions addressed through dialogue," he said.

Khandu also spoke about the state's broader hydropower development plans.

He said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently sanc-

tioned ₹1,750 crore for the 186 mw Tato-I Hydro Electric Project and ₹1,939 crore for the 240 mw Heo Hydro Electric Project in the Shi Yomi district.

The CM said the state has signed agreements with NHPC, NEEPCO, THDCIL, and SJVN to develop 13 hydropower projects with a combined capacity of over 11,000 mw. Once completed, these projects are expected to generate substantial revenue for the state.

The Centre has also approved a significant equity support scheme to boost hydropower development in the Northeast, he said.

Under this initiative, ₹4,136 crore has been allocated to northeastern states to develop hydroelectric projects with a cumulative capacity of 15,000 mw by 2032.

"This initiative will transform the hydroelectric landscape of Arunachal Pradesh and the northeast region," Khandu said, adding the Centre has also agreed to increase the Local Area Development Fund contribution from power projects to over 2 per cent.

"We are taking steps to ensure that Arunachal Pradesh becomes a powerhouse for the nation while protecting the interests of our people and environment," he added.

Kejriwal accuses BJP of manipulating electoral roll

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday accused the BJP of trying to manipulate voter list in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, Kejriwal claimed the BJP was trying to win elections through "unfair means" after failing to present strong candidates or issues.

"BJP has already lost the elections. They don't have a chief ministerial face or even proper candidates. They only aim to win through manipulation, but we won't let them succeed," Kejriwal said.

The former Delhi chief minister also alleged that the BJP had filed 11,000 voter deletion applications in one constituency alone, but the move was halted at Chief Election Commissioner's intervention. "We exposed this, and thankfully, it was stopped."

Kejriwal said that a large-scale operation began on December 15, with 5,000 voter deletion applications and 7,500 addition requests filed so far in his assembly constituency, New Delhi.



He claimed this could alter 12 per cent of the constituency's votes.

The total number of voters in the constituency, he said, is 106,873, as per the voter list published on October 29 after the summary revision, which was conducted between August 20 and October 20.

"Operation Lotus has now reached my constituency. They are attempting to manipulate the electoral rolls to change the election outcome," Kejriwal alleged.

"This kind of manipulation undermines democracy. We appeal to the Election Commission to continue its strict monitoring to prevent such malpractice," he said.

The BJP is yet to respond to the allegations.

3 pilgrims dead as bus overturns in Odisha

The incident took place at 5.30 am when the bus was en route to the Gupteswar temple as it lost control on a sharp turn in the hilly terrain of Daparighati. The injured include women and children.

BHUBANESHWAR, Dec 29 (Agencies): At least three pilgrims were killed and over 30 others critically injured after a bus carrying nearly 50 passengers overturned near Odisha's Koraput district on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place at 5.30 am when the bus was en route to the Gupteswar temple as it lost control on a sharp turn in the hilly terrain of Daparighati. The injured include women and children.

Rescue operations were carried out by local police and officials with the assistance of villagers.

The injured were rushed to the nearby Boipariguda Medical Centre, where they are currently



being treated.

The condition of several passengers remains critical, reports indicate. The exact cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained.

Soon after the accident, Chief Minister Mohan Mahji expressed his condolences and announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the families of the victims.

10-year-old boy who fell into borewell in MP's Guna dies

BHOPAL, Dec 29 (Agencies): A 10-year-old boy, who fell into a 140-ft-deep borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, lost the battle for life despite hectic efforts by multiple agencies for 16 hours to save him, officials said on Sunday.

Sumit Meena slipped into the open shaft of the borewell at around 5 pm on Saturday at Pipliya village under Raghogarh assembly segment, located 50 km from the Guna district headquarters.

He was unresponsive when he was brought out at around 9.30 am on Sunday, the officials said.

The boy was rushed to a hospital in Raghogarh on life support system, Guna SP Sanjeev Sinha told agency.

"Sorry to say, he is no more," Guna district chief medical and health officer Dr Rajkumar Rishish-



war told reporters at the hospital.

"The child was in the narrow borewell for the entire night in the chilly weather. His hands and feet were drenched and swollen. His clothes were also wet and mud was found in his mouth," he said.

Doctors examined whether the body parts froze due to hypothermia (a condition that occurs when the core body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit), he said.

Rescuers worked through the night and dug a parallel pit to reach the boy via a passage between the pit and borewell, Raghogarh Congress MLA Jaivardhan Singh told agency over phone from the spot earlier in the morning.

The boy was trapped at a depth of 39 feet in the borewell, which is around 140-ft deep, Guna Collector Satendra Singh said on Saturday.

The borewell did not strike water, and hence no casing had been put on it, he said.

The NDRF team reached there from Bhopal on Saturday night and helped in the operation.

The boy's family panicked on Saturday evening when they did not see him for long.

A search was carried out and then they realised that he had fallen into the borewell, a local said.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un call for "toughest" US strategy at key party meet

Kim Jong Un's speech to top officials "clarified the strategy for the toughest anti-US counteraction to be launched aggressively."

SEOUL, Dec 29 (Agencies): North Korea will launch its "toughest" ever strategy to counter the United States, state media said Sunday, reporting on a key year-end party meeting overseen by leader Kim Jong Un.

The nuclear-armed state held a five-day party meeting last week as part of a drive to chart the country's course for 2025, the official Korean Central News Agency reported in a lengthy English dispatch.

"The US is the most reactionary state that regards anti-communism as its invariable state policy," the report said.

It slammed growing ties between South Korea, the US and Japan, saying it had "expanded into a nuclear military bloc for aggression".

It also said South Korea had "turned into an out-and-out anti-communist outpost of the US".



"This reality clearly shows to which direction we should advance and what we should do and how," KCNA said.

Against this backdrop, Kim's speech to top officials "clarified the strategy for the toughest anti-US counteraction to be launched aggressively", the report said without providing details.

The meeting reviewed the response to widespread flood-

ing earlier this year, and also included a vow to boost ties with "friendly" countries.

Such party meetings, and Kim's speeches to officials, are typically used by Pyongyang to make key policy announcements.

The KCNA report comes after Seoul's military claimed that more than a thousand North Korean soldiers had been killed or wounded since they entered

combat in Ukraine as part of a military deal between Pyongyang and Moscow.

North Korea and Russia have strengthened their military ties since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

A landmark defence pact between Pyongyang and Moscow -- signed in June when Russian President Vladimir Putin North Korea -- came into force this month.

Putin hailed it as a "break-through document".

North Korean state media said Friday that Putin sent a New Year's message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying, "the bilateral ties between our two countries have been elevated after our talks in June in Pyongyang".

Ukraine's allies have called Pyongyang's growing involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine a "dangerous expansion" of the conflict.

Suicide bomber kills police officer, wounds another in southern Iran



TEHRAN, Dec 29 (Agencies): A suicide bomber killed a local police officer and wounded another in a southern Iranian port city, home to a large Sunni Muslim community, local media said

on Sunday.

The hard-line Javan Daily, a newspaper close to the country's powerful Revolutionary Guard, said the attacker stopped Capt. Mojtaba Shahid's car Saturday evening in

Bandar Lengeh in the province of Hormozgan before detonating his vest.

Shahid's deputy, who was also in the car, has been hospitalized in critical condition, the paper reported, describing the attack as an act of terrorism.

The city, some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) south of the capital Tehran, has no recent history of militancy.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but some local news outlets claimed Ansar al-Furqan, an Al-Qaeda-linked Sunni militant group, was behind it.

Trump says he's 'in favour' of H-1B visas amid MAGA row over foreign workers

WASHINGTON, Dec 29 (Agencies): US President-elect Donald Trump has waded into an escalating debate among his supporters and tech leaders, expressing support for the H-1B visa programme, which allows highly skilled foreign workers to enter the United States.

"I've always liked the (H-1B) visas. I have always been in favour of the visas, that's why we have them," Trump told the New York Post, his first public remarks on the issue since it blew up this week.

The statement places Trump at the centre of a fiery row that has split his base. On one side are traditional anti-immigration Trump loyalists, while on the other are prominent Silicon Valley

leaders like Elon Musk, who advocate for the visas as essential for maintaining America's technological edge.

Musk, the CEO of Tesla and once an H-1B visa holder himself, has been a vocal proponent of the programme.

"There is a permanent shortage of excellent engineering talent. It is the fundamental limiting factor in Silicon Valley," Musk wrote on December 25 on X, his social media platform.

The controversy erupted after Laura Loomer, a right-wing influencer and staunch immigration critic, lashed out at Trump's decision to appoint Indian-origin tech executive Sriram Krishnan as his artificial intelligence adviser.

Loomer called the move "not America First

policy," drawing support from some conservative Republicans, including former GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley.

Musk and his ally, Vivek Ramaswamy, co-leader of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), have defended the tech industry's reliance on H-1B workers.

"American culture has venerated mediocrity over excellence," Ramaswamy wrote on X. "If we pretend like 'normalcy' cuts it, we'll have our asses handed to us by China."

The exchange highlighted a broader division within the Republican Party. Musk called out "hateful racists", warned of a "MAGA civil war", and aggressively responded to H-1B critics online.



"I will go to war on this issue the likes of which you cannot possibly comprehend," the billionaire tweeted.

The H-1B visa programme, used extensively by tech giants to hire engineers from nations such as India and China, has been a contentious topic. During his first term, Trump restricted the program, citing its potential to undercut American workers.

However, his renewed

openness to H-1B visas signals a potential shift in immigration policy under his leadership, setting off hardliners and MAGA supporters who view it as a betrayal of Trump's 'America First' agenda. The debate comes as the US Department of Homeland Security introduced new regulations to modernise the H-1B programme, set to take effect on January 17, 2025, just days before Trump takes office.

Pakistan Army fences over 98pc of Pak-Afghan border after skirmishes with Afghan Taliban, TTP

ISLAMABAD, Dec 29 (Agencies): Amidst the rapidly deteriorating bilateral relations, increasing incidents of terror attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP), and open cross-border skirmishes with the Afghan Taliban forces, the Pakistan Army has fenced over 98% of the Pak-Afghan border, virtually cutting off all transit between the two countries. A part of the Western Border Management Regime, the fencing aims to curb illegal cross-border activities, and safeguard Pakistan's western frontiers.

Additionally, 91% of fencing along the Pakistan-Iran border has also been finished, covering a total of approximately 3,217 km, according to Samaa TV.

This has resulted due to the frequent standoffs between personnel of the Pakistan Frontier Corps and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. To counter unauthorised movements and bolster security, the government has prioritised the construction of fortified structures. Nearly 92% of fortification along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and 40% on

the Pakistan-Iran border are complete, with remaining work progressing rapidly.

The move is a part of broader border management efforts, with the Pakistan Army clearing over 72% of tribal areas from landmines and unexploded ordnances.

Furthermore, a reported 815,000 Afghan nationals who had been living in the KPK province and its adjacent regions for decades are being repatriated to Afghanistan, a move that has stirred the ire of the Taliban regime in Kabul.

Helicopter makes emergency landing near Kathmandu after being hit by bird



KATHMANDU, Dec 29 (Agencies): A helicopter en route to Kathmandu carrying five US nationals had to make an emergency landing at Banepa, 50 kilometres east of the capital, after it was hit by a bird on Sunday.

The 9N-AKG chopper, belonging to the private Heli Everest airlines, was coming from Lukla, gateway to Mt Everest, when it was struck by the bird at 11 am, an official said.

The pilot managed to land the aircraft safely, the official added.

According to the airline, the helicopter was carrying five US nationals as passengers and one Nepali pilot.

Although the helicopter did not suffer any damage, it would go through a technical test before it becomes ready for another flight, the airline said.

A Palestinian was shot dead in her West Bank home, her family blames Palestinian security forces

RAMALLAH, Dec 29 (Agencies): A Palestinian woman was shot and killed in her home in the volatile northern West Bank town of Jenin, where the Palestinian Authority is carrying out a rare campaign against militants.

The family of Shatha al-Sabbagh, a 22-year-old journalism student, said she was killed by a sniper with the Palestinian security forces late Saturday while she was with her mother and two small children. They said there were no militants in the area at the time.

A statement from the Palestinian secu-

rity forces said she was shot by "outlaws" — the term it has been using for local militants who have been battling Israeli forces in recent years. The security forces condemned the shooting and vowed to investigate it.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority exercises limited self-rule in parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. It is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, largely because it cooperates with Israel on security matters, even as Israel accuses it of incitement and of generally turning a blind eye to militancy.

In a statement, the al-Sabbagh family accused the Palestinian security forces of having become "repressive tools that practice terrorism against their own people instead of protecting their dignity and standing up to the (Israeli) occupation."

Palestinian security forces launched a rare operation earlier this month in Jenin, which has seen heavy fighting between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces in recent years. The Palestinian Authority says the operation is aimed at restoring law and order, while critics charge it with aiding the

occupation.

Violence has flared in the West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Gaza triggered the war there. At least 835 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank since then, according to the Palestinian Authority. Most appear to have been militants killed in clashes with Israeli forces, but the dead also include civilians and participants in violent demonstrations. Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want it to form the main part of their future state.

One dead, one injured in light plane crash in eastern Australia



SYDNEY, Dec 29 (Agencies): One person died, and another was seriously injured in a light plane crash north of Sydney on Sunday, police said.

Emergency services, including police, ambulance crews and a rescue helicopter, were deployed to reports of a recreational aircraft crash at an airfield on Palmers Island, over 500 km north of Sydney in the state of New South Wales (NSW), at about 11:20 a.m. local time.

NSW Police said in a statement that the pilot died at the scene. He has not yet been formally identified but is believed to be a man aged in his 60s, police said.

The sole passenger — a man believed to be in his 30s — was treated at the scene for serious injuries before being transported to a nearby hospital.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the plane crashed just off the airfield's runway.

Police have established a crime scene to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident and have urged members of the public to stay away from the area.

MLA Randhawa inaugurates Regalo Kitchen Showroom in Sainik Colony



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today inaugurated the state-of-the-art Regalo Kitchen Showroom along the National Highway in Sainik Colony, Jammu. The new showroom, a venture by Rajesh Gupta and Deepak Gupta, promises to bring innovative kitchen solutions to the people of Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior BJP leader applauded the entrepreneurial spirit of the owners, emphasizing the importance of such ventures in boosting the local economy. He remarked, "The opening of Regalo Kitchen Showroom is not just a step towards enhancing consumer convenience but also a

testament to the growing business acumen of our youth. Rajesh Gupta and Deepak Gupta have set an example for aspiring entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir."

Randhawa said that the opening of this showroom is a shining example of how local entrepreneurship can play a pivotal role in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). He emphasized that such initiatives not only boost economic activity but also empower individuals to become self-reliant and contribute meaningfully to society. "The establishment of this showroom underscores how local talent can harness opportunities to contribute to the region's economic progress. This

aligns perfectly with the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, encouraging our youth to explore innovative avenues and create employment opportunities within the Union Territory," he added.

The MLA further reiterated the BJP's commitment to fostering a pro-business environment in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that young entrepreneurs receive adequate support in their endeavors. "Under PM Modi's leadership, schemes like Mudra Yojana and Startup India are paving the way for a brighter future for our youth," he added.

Rajesh Gupta and Deepak Gupta expressed their gratitude to Randhawa for his encouragement and support, vowing to deliver premium quality products and exemplary customer service.

Yudhvir pledges comprehensive development for all sections of society

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today addressed a large public meeting at Javed Rana in Belicharana area of Ward No. 71, where he listened to the grievances and aspirations of the residents.

During the interaction, the people apprised the MLA of pressing issues, including upgradation of lanes and drains, schools, street lighting, etc. They also highlighted the urgency of addressing these challenges to improve the quality of life in the area.

Responding to the concerns, Yudhvir Sethi assured the residents of his unwavering commitment to resolving their problems. "For the next five years, as your MLA, I am fully dedicated to the development of every section of society, irrespective of caste, color, or religion. My mission is to ensure holistic progress across all corners of my constituency, and your trust fuels my determination," he said.

Sethi emphasized that his approach to governance is deeply inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. "Under PM Modi's leadership, India has witnessed unprecedented development and progress. My aim is to replicate this success in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that every individual benefits from Modi government's welfare initiatives," he added.

The BJP leader highlighted the transformative impact of various Central Government schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat, which have uplifted the underprivileged and improved living standards. He also urged the public to actively participate in the development process by providing suggestions and monitoring progress. "Development is not a one-way street. Your suggestions, support, and involvement will strengthen our resolve and ensure effective governance," he added.

He assured the residents that the issues raised during the meeting would be addressed on a priority basis. He also announced plans to initiate development projects in Belicharana, including upgrading infrastructure and improving basic amenities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, party workers, and community leaders, who expressed confidence in Sethi's leadership and his ability to bring about meaningful change in the constituency. He reiterated his dedication to making East Constituency a model of progress and harmony.

Sahib Bandagi organizes spiritual Satsang in Ranjri



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Sahib Bandagi organized a special three-day program and spiritual Satsang in Ranjri, Jammu, to mark the occasion of New Year 2025. The event saw lakhs of devotees from all corners of the country gathering to visit Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj and partake in the divine nectar of satsang. On the first day of the program, Sadguru Ji delivered a profound spiritual discourse, emphasizing the importance of the true name of the Guru in the journey of life.

Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj highlighted the analogy of darkness and light, stating that just as light is the only remedy for darkness, the true name of the Guru is the only way to escape the cycle of life and death. He explained that those who attain the true name of the Guru are untouched by death. Drawing a comparison to a gambler who regrets his losses, Sadguru Ji pointed out that a person with-

out the name of Sadguru will regret immensely at the end of life, as death will claim him, and he will have no one to save him from it.

Sadguru Ji emphasized the rarity and preciousness of the human body, urging people not to take it for granted. He remarked that despite the teachings of religious scriptures, many individuals ignore the importance of spiritual awakening because they are entangled in the enemies within—their desires, ego, and attachments.

Addressing the current state of the world, Sadguru Ji spoke of the "minor deluge" humanity is experiencing, with floods, storms, and changing seasons, signaling a period of turmoil. He noted the changing position of the North Pole, which is shifting towards Russia by 40 kilometers every year, causing disruptions to navigation and challenging the very rules of nature. He also pointed to the devastation caused by global events such as

the COVID-19 pandemic, which claimed millions of lives, as an example of the world going through a mini-cataclysm.

Sadguru Ji further explained that this world is a perishable one, sitting on a heap of sand. He described the earth as being plagued by sorrow, with everyone facing challenges and suffering in life. While the world is full of suffering, Sadguru Ji reassured the devotees that true happiness exists only in the soul's realm, beyond the body. He echoed the words of spiritual teachers like Jesus Christ, who spoke of human suffering being a consequence of sins, and affirmed that all beings are here due to the karmic consequences of their actions.

In his discourse, Sadguru Ji also addressed the misconceptions in the present age, especially in Kaliyug, where some great personalities claim that there is no need for a Guru to attain God. Contrasting this with the Vedic teachings, he reaffirmed that salvation cannot be attained without the guidance of a true Guru, underscoring the timeless wisdom of the Vedas. Through his words, Sadguru Ji urged the gathering to seek the true name of the Guru and the path of spiritual awakening to find liberation from the sufferings of the material world.

Shopian's Nehal Zubair strikes silver at Junior World Pencak Silat Championship

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Dec 29: Nehal Zubair, a rising star from Shopian, Jammu and Kashmir, has brought glory to India by winning a silver medal at the prestigious 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship 2024, held at the ADNEC Centre in Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 22.

Competing against the world's top young athletes, Nehal's extraordinary performance showcased her dedication, skill, and determination,

solidifying her position as one of India's brightest prospects in the sport of Pencak Silat.

This silver medal marks a landmark achievement for Indian Pencak Silat, highlighting the growing prominence of the sport in the country. Nehal's exceptional journey from Shopian to the global stage is a testament to her relentless hard work and the support she has received along the way.

Expressing his pride, Mohammad Iqbal, coach of the Indian Pencak Silat Federation, said, "Nehal's silver medal is



a momentous occasion for Indian sports. Her dedication and passion for Pencak Silat are truly commendable. This achievement will inspire

many young athletes to take up the sport and aim for excellence."

The championship drew participants from around the globe,

making Nehal's victory even more significant. Her achievement has been widely celebrated across India, with top officials and sports

administrators applauding her success.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, congratulated Nehal, saying: "This is a proud moment not just for Shopian or Jammu and Kashmir, but for the entire nation. Nehal's accomplishment will inspire countless young athletes to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals."

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, also extended her heartfelt congratulations and reiterated the

council's commitment to supporting young athletes in the region.

The J&K Sports Council played a vital role in sponsoring the Indian team's participation in the championship, enabling athletes like Nehal to compete on a global platform. Their support underscores the importance of nurturing young talent and providing them with opportunities to excel in international arenas.

Nehal Zubair's achievement is a beacon of hope and inspira-

tion for young athletes across the country. Her success in Abu Dhabi is not only a personal milestone but also a moment of pride for the nation. As Pencak Silat continues to gain recognition in India, Nehal's journey serves as a powerful example of what can be accomplished with hard work and determination.

As she returns home with her silver medal, Nehal carries the hopes and dreams of a new generation of Indian athletes eager to follow in her footsteps.

FROM PAGE 3

LG Manoj Sinha addresses annual day function of Jammu Sanskriti School

instincts to make decisions and the sense of understanding between good and bad, right and wrong. Our focus should be to develop primary and secondary education as per the needs of the modern world, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor gave seven resolutions to the educational institutions across the UT of J&K to adopt new technologies in education, focus on both knowledge and values and to stimulate students' intellectual capacity.

"The first resolution is to make the digital learning system interactive and encourage children to actively participate in the learning process. We must focus on one-to-one mentoring instead of information delivery, and offer field experience to students outside the classroom.

Teachers must share their life experiences with the students, encourage them for data interpretation and problem solving, and provide them with the freedom to explore new ideas. Our focus should also be on project-based learning so that children develop the ability to use their skills in different situations.

The seventh resolution is to ensure regular training and capacity building of teachers and provide them the opportunity to learn new things continuously," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further impressed upon the youth to imbibe the ideals of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

National Education Policy 2020 is a great opportunity for you. Kindle the curiosity within you and discover new frontiers in real life through independent thinking, creativity and problem solving, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the

students who excelled in academics and diverse fields. He also released the latest edition of school magazine.

Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Harpreet Singh, Chairman, Jammu Sanskriti School; Rohini Aima, Principal of the school, teachers, students and parents were present.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, heads of various institutions and senior officials of Civil and Police Administration were also present on the occasion.

Rechristen Navyug Tunnel as Dr Manmohan Singh Tunnel: CM Omar Abdullah

take the credit for new tunnels on the highway but we should remember that process to develop Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was initiated by the late Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh."

The Chief Minister termed Dr Manmohan Singh as a true statesman and said his contribution towards J&K will be remembered forever. "It was during Dr Singh's regime that Round Table Conference was held on Kashmir, interlocutors were appointed, cross LoC trade was started, special scholarship scheme for J&K students was introduced, concrete steps were taken for rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and many other initiatives were taken to accommodate J&K people.

He never spoke about his achievements but he will always be remembered as a true son of soil," he added.

60% terrorists killed by security forces in J&K in 2024 are Pakistanis: Army Officials

Kashmir valley along with the firefights that take place during infiltration attempts by terrorists on the Line of Control, they said.

Notably, Pakistan has traditionally been seen as one of the biggest hubs for exporting terrorists to almost all parts of the world with a main focus on India.

Islamabad has tried to give a strong push to terrorism in the Jammu region since last year but the activities of the Pakistani terrorists in this area of Jammu region including districts in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua and Reasi govern been curbed with additional deployment of troops and filling up of the vacuum created thereafter withdrawal of the Uniform Force of Rashtriya Rifles from there for the China border deployments.

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and Northern Army Commander Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar have been laying focus on eliminating the terrorists from the area looked after by the White Knight Corps of the force.

Katra remains shut for 5th day against ropeway project; BJP MLA joins protesters

and traffic was off the roads following the samiti's call for the protest.

The bandh, which began on Wednesday, has disrupted normal life in the busy town of Katra, where thousands of pilgrims arrive daily to pay obeisance at the cave shrine of Vaishno Devi.

Sharma, who joined the protesters on Sunday, warned the administration of a chain hunger strike if the detained samiti members are not released within 24 hours.

"I will sit on a hunger strike with my people if the administration does not release those detained. The administration should immediately release them," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA told the protesters.

He praised the unity shown by the people

of Katra. "The residents of Katra have proven that we stand together in this fight. I thank youngsters and women for supporting this protest," Sharma said.

He added that the BJP has raised the issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders in Delhi.

"Our representatives went to Delhi and the home minister has taken cognisance of the issue. The leadership has been asked to find a solution. That is why I am here with you," he said.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti initially called for the shutdown on December 25. On Friday night, it extended the bandh by 72 hours to press its demands, including shelving the proposed ropeway project and releasing the detained protesters.

Five men are sitting on a hunger strike, demanding the release of the 18 samiti members detained during a protest march against the proposed ropeway project.

Several protesters, including two samiti leaders — Bhupinder Singh and Sohan Chand — were detained by police during Wednesday's protest and taken away in a police vehicle.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board announced plans last month to install a ropeway to facilitate access to the temple for senior citizens, children and others who find the 13-km track to the cave shrine challenging.

The proposed Rs 250-crore ropeway project will connect Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat, leading to the cave shrine in Reasi district.

Kashmir's Gulmarg, Pahalgam reel under subzero temperatures

Kashmir, Kokernag recorded 1.8 degrees Celsius, the office said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the harshest period of winter — which began on December 21.

During the 40 days of Chillai-Kalan, the

chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

It ends on January 30 next year, but the cold wave continues even after that. The 40 days are followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Jammu-Srinagar highway reopens after day-long closure due to snowfall

proceed to their respective destinations, officials said.

However, several other important inter-district routes, including the Mughal Road, Sinthan Pass, Sonamarg-Kargil inter-UT road, and Bhandarwah-Chamba inter-state road, remained closed for vehicular traffic due to heavy snowfall.

"The highway has been reopened today following the clearance of snow accumulated on various stretches of the road," a traffic official said.

The stranded vehicles along the highway are being cleared, he added.

"Passenger traffic is plying on the highway. Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, as overtaking may cause congestion," J-K Traffic Police said in an advisory.

It also advised commuters to drive cautiously, as the road is slippery between Banihal and Qazigund.

The Mughal Road, which serves as an alternative link to the Kashmir Valley from Jammu region's Poonch district, remained shut due to snow accumulation, officials said.

Similarly, the Sinthan Pass in Kishtwar has been closed for vehicular traffic due to heavy snowfall.

In addition, the Sonamarg-Kargil inter-UT road and the Bhandarwah-Chamba inter-state road are also closed owing to heavy snowfall.

Efforts are underway to clear these roads and make them trafficable, officials said.

AlphaNeon Group and Urja-Adani Join Hands for Strategic Expansion in India's Financial Trade Sector

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): With a vision to leverage opportunities through a robust seven-year strategic plan, AlphaNeon Group and Urja-Adani are collaborating to make significant strides in the financial trade domain. The partnership is planning to set to restructure and expand the operations of Nedumparambil Group (NCS), a Kerala-based financial institution. The collaboration aims to implement long-term strategies to enhance and reorganize the business.

This initiative includes an ambitious plan to integrate and develop the business of the proposed new company (NBFC) over the next seven years. The initiative is being taken by Minesh Kirtal Adani, Amit Upadhyay and Girish S Pillai.

The partnership is planning to consolidate NCS's existing operations, gaining customer trust, and establishing a nationwide presence in financial trade. Key initiatives include restructuring and due diligence to ensure compliance with legal frameworks (including Buds Act, RBI, ROC, PF, ES, Government of Kerala regulations, court mandates, and statutory audits), while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders.

The initiative will involve



statutory auditing all branches and the head office, ensuring due diligence, and adhering to all legal requirements. Investor interests will be protected throughout the process.

The joint mission is to revitalize the company and unlock its full potential, ensuring sustainable growth for both current and future stakeholders.

The Seven-Year Progressive Plan

1. Strengthening Core Operations & Stabilisation:

In the initial phase, the partnership will focus on stabilizing the company's financial health, streamlining operations, and enhancing governance practices to establish a robust foundation.

2. Innovative Business Expans-

sion:

Introducing new revenue streams by diversifying the product portfolio and incorporating cutting-edge financial technologies tailored to meet evolving market demands.

3. Integration of the New Company (NBFC):

A structured approach to incorporate a new company's (NBFC) business operations, leveraging its existing strengths while aligning with the long-term vision of the partnership.

4. Customer-Centric Approach:

A key pillar of the plan is to ensure that no investor/customer, whether existing or new, faces financial losses. Through strategic planning and regular updates, we aim to instill confidence and maintain trust among

all stakeholders.

5. Financial Transparency: Regular communication and reporting to all stakeholders to ensure clarity, accountability, and alignment with the shared goals of profitability and growth. Maintain clarity, accountability and alignment with shared goals of profitability and growth. Conduct regular communication and reporting to all partners. The liabilities of the existing investors are to be fulfilled subject to regulations over a period of seven years.

6. Technology-Driven Transformation:

Adopting modern technologies to digitize processes, enhance customer experiences, and increase operational efficiency.

7. Sustainable Growth and Value Creation:

Over the seven-year timeline, the partnership will focus on delivering consistent returns, growing market share, and creating long-term value for investors, employees, and clients alike.

This visionary collaboration between AlphaNeon Group and Urja-Adani represents a transformative step toward reshaping the financial trade sector, delivering innovation, sustainability, and trust to stakeholders across the nation.

BTL EPC Ltd. Announces Strategic Acquisition of MBE-CMT to Strengthen Product Business

KOLKATA, Dec 29 (Agencies): BTL EPC Ltd., a flagship company of the Shraichi Group, has announced the acquisition of MBE Coal & Mineral Technology India Pvt. Ltd. (MBE-CMT), formerly known as Humboldt Wedag India. The acquisition marks a strategic milestone in BTL EPC Ltd's growth journey, with MBE-CMT being merged as a new unit of the company.

MBE-CMT is a pioneer in the manufacturing of centrifuges, crushers, screens, and feeders—equipment essential to various bulk material handling and beneficiation processes. The addition of MBE-CMT's expertise and manufacturing capabilities positions BTL EPC Ltd as a stronger player in the product business area.

State-of-the-art Facility in Kharagpur:

As part of the acquisition, BTL EPC Ltd gains access to MBE-CMT's modern manufacturing facility in Kharagpur, an industrial hub with

excellent connectivity. The facility's advanced infrastructure and large open area for future expansion, provides an ideal foundation for broadening BTL EPC Ltd's product portfolio and delivering innovative, high-quality solutions.

Strategic Advantages:

The acquisition of MBE-CMT aligns with BTL EPC Ltd's long-term vision of growth and diversification. It enhances the company's manufacturing capabilities and product offerings, particularly in the fields of bulk material handling and mineral beneficiation, leveraging the acquired expertise in centrifuge, crusher, screen, and feeder technologies.

Commenting on the acquisition, Ravi Todi, Managing Director, BTL EPC Ltd., said, "This acquisition is a significant step forward in our journey of growth and innovation. MBE-CMT's legacy and expertise, combined with our own strengths, will enable us

to deliver even greater value to our clients and solidify our position. We are excited about the opportunities this acquisition brings in expanding our product business by strengthening our manufacturing capabilities."

BTL EPC Ltd. offers end-to-end EPC solutions in Bulk Material Handling, Ash Handling, Mineral Beneficiation, Chemical Plants, and more, serving key sectors like power, steel, and mining. With over 60+ years of experience, BTL EPC Ltd has successfully delivered 30+ large-scale projects, achieved Rs.641 Cr. revenue in FY 2023-24 (24% growth), and is targeting a projected order booking of Rs.2000 plus Cr. for FY 2024-25.

BTL EPC Ltd.'s engineering expertise, focus on innovation, and commitment to timely project execution have been key drivers of its sustained growth and success across diverse industrial sectors.

Cooking garlic, onions at high heat may be harmful to your heart, reveals study

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Cooking garlic and onions in vegetable oil at high temperatures can generate trans-fatty acids (TFA) and can prove to be detrimental to heart health, claims a study by Japanese researchers.

TFAs are harmful fats that can accumulate along artery walls, restricting blood flow and increasing the risk of heart attacks.

While TFAs are commonly present in processed foods, evidence suggests that they can also be created at home during cooking. Studies indicate that unsaturated fatty acids (UFAs), usually considered beneficial, can undergo trans-isomerisation—a molecular reconfiguration that transforms them into TFAs when heated at 150 degrees Celsius or higher.

To explore, researchers from Meijo University assessed the role of isothiocyanates and polysulfides—sulphur-containing compounds found in vegetables like garlic, leeks, onions, scallions, and shallots—in promoting the trans-isomerisation of vegetable UFAs during cooking.

The team first evaluated the effects of sulphur compounds on triacylglycerols (TAGs) in a model system using reagents. Then they tested garlic, onion, leek, cabbage, horseradish, broccoli sprouts, and vegetable oils like soybean and olive oils to simulate actual cooking processes.

The results, published online in the journal Food Research International,

showed that sulphur compounds significantly promote heat-induced trans-isomerisation of UFAs in vegetable oils. This occurs especially when cooking temperatures are above 140 degrees Celsius.

Further, the team also assessed the role of antioxidants such as alpha-tocopherol in reducing the isomerisation of UFAs in triglycerides like triolein and trilinolein.

While the addition of antioxidants significantly reduced the promotion of UFA's isomerisation by isothiocyanates, they did little to inhibit the promotion of isomerisation by polysulfides.

"This explains that cooking polysulfide-rich vegetables such as garlic and onions in vegetable oil at high temperatures can generate TFAs. The study demonstrates that garlic and onions significantly promote the trans-isomerisation of UFAs," said the team led by Dr. Masaki Honda at Meijo University.

On the other hand, the release of TFAs under normal cooking conditions is minimal.

"Cooking with ingredients rich in natural sulphur compounds may increase the risk of TFA intake," the researchers said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), TFAs are responsible for over 278,000 annual deaths worldwide. The global health body recommends that TFA consumption should be limited to less than 1 per cent of daily energy intake.

Societal inequality may reduce brain health, finds study

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Socio-economic disparities may cause changes in brain structure and connectivity associated with ageing and dementia, according to a study.

The study, led by an international team of researchers led by Trinity College Dublin, found that higher levels of inequality are linked to reduced brain volume.

It can also lead to disrupted connectivity, especially in temporoposterior and cerebellar regions—crucial for memory and cognitive function.

The findings also revealed that people with Alzheimer's disease face the most severe impacts.

This suggests that environmental demands linked to structural inequality may exacerbate neurodegeneration in ageing populations.

In contrast, the researchers observed milder effects in frontotemporal lobar degeneration. It may be due to a more significant genetic influence.

"Reduced brain volume and connectivity are frequently observed in patients with dementia and are associated with disease progression and severity," said the team in the paper, published in the journal Nature Aging.

Notably, the team found a link even

after accounting for individual factors such as education, age, sex, and cognitive ability. This underscores the independent role of macro-level factors in shaping brain health.

"This research highlights the critical role of structural inequality in shaping brain health," said Dr Agustin Ibanez, Professor in global brain health at Trinity College.

"Considering dementia rates rise particularly in low- and middle-income countries, our findings emphasise the need for targeted interventions to address the root causes of brain health disparities, which appear to be specific to each region," Ibanez added.

The findings stress the need to integrate social and physical variables along with individual social determinants of health into global brain health research.

These may include variables such as democratic governance, air pollution, migration, climate change, and access to green spaces.

Identifying and addressing these region-specific modulators could lead to targeted interventions that mitigate accelerated brain ageing and reduce the dementia burden in disadvantaged communities.

Study shows flu vaccine effective against severe illness in kids

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Influenza vaccine is effective for preventing severe influenza illness, including hospitalisation among children, according to a study.

The study led by researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed having at least one dose of influenza vaccine was estimated to be over 50 per cent effective in protecting children against influenza-related emergency department and hospital visits.

"Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect children against influenza and its complications, includ-



ing severe illness and hospitalisation," said the researchers in the paper.

"Improving vaccine uptake in children may reduce influenza illness and, subsequently, emergency department and hospital visits in a

time of increased respiratory virus co-circulation," they added.

For the study, published online in the JAMA Network Open, the team analysed data from 15,728 children aged 6 months through 17 years who presented

for care with acute respiratory illness.

About 17.2 per cent of participants had positive influenza tests, while 82.8 per cent had negative.

Overall, 49.5 per cent of the children in the influenza test-positive and test-negative groups were vaccinated.

Among children of all ages, receiving at least one influenza vaccine dose was estimated to have vaccine effectiveness of 55.7 per cent for preventing influenza-associated emergency department visits or hospitalisations.

Across severity levels, the estimated vaccine effectiveness was similar: 52.8, 52.3, and 50.4

per cent for emergency department visits, non-critical hospitalisation, and critical hospitalisation, respectively.

Notably, the estimated influenza vaccine effectiveness was found to be the highest among children from 6 months to 8 years of age, ages at which children are at the highest risk for severe illness.

"These findings indicate that it is important for children to receive an annual influenza vaccine to protect against all levels of influenza illness severity, ranging from emergency department visits to critical hospitalised illness, during the influenza season," the team said.

Digital consultations not sufficient for treatment of tonsillitis: Study

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): Even as digital healthcare consultations are becoming more common, a study showed it may not be enough for a safe assessment of tonsillitis.

Tonsillitis is a painful infection of the tonsils—two lymph node-rich glands in the back of the throat. Symptoms of tonsillitis include swollen tonsils, sore throat, and difficulty swallowing.

The study showed that digital assessment may not be reliable, thus increasing the risk of over or under treatment of a sore throat.

As tonsillitis is commonly treated with antibiotics, digital assessment may not be as reliable as physical examinations in determining whether antibiotic treatment is warranted, said the team from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

To determine whether a patient needs antibiotic, doctors use the so-called Centor criteria—fever, tender, and swollen lymph nodes in the angles of the jaw, and inspection of the tonsils. However, it has been unclear how well these criteria can be assessed during digital health-

care consultations compared to traditional in-person consultations, said the researchers.

"Our study shows that although digital healthcare consultations are convenient for many patients, they are not reliable enough to assess tonsillitis. To ensure a correct diagnosis and treatment, it is still important to conduct a physical examination," said Patrycja Woldan-Gradalska, a doctoral student at Sahlgrenska Academy at the varsity.

The study, published in the journal Infectious Diseases,

included 189 patients who sought care at healthcare clinics and urgent care clinics in Sweden, between January 2020 and October 2023.

Each patient in the study underwent two assessments: a digital medical assessment via video and a physical examination conducted by another doctor.

The results show that digital healthcare consultations are not sufficient to assess some of the most important criteria, such as tonsil inspection and lymph node examination.

New method of scanning shows effects of treatment on lung function

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): A novel way of scanning lungs can demonstrate the impact of treatment on lung function in real-time, allowing experts to observe the functioning of transplanted lungs. This could help doctors detect any deterioration in lung function earlier.

The scan method has enabled the team, led by researchers at Newcastle University, UK, to see how air moves in and out of the lungs as people take a breath in patients with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and patients who have received a lung transplant.

Publishing two complementary papers in Radiology and JHLT Open, the team explained how they use a special gas, called perfluoro propane, which can be seen on an MRI scanner.

The gas can be safely breathed in and out by patients, and then scans are taken to look at where in the lungs the gas has reached.

The project lead, Professor Pete Thelwall is Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics and Director of the Centre for In Vivo Imaging at Newcastle University.

He said, "Our scans show where there is patchy ventilation in patients with lung disease, and show us which parts of the lung improve with treatment."

For example, when we scan a patient as they use their asthma medication, we can see how much of their lungs and which parts of their lung are better able to move air in and out with each breath."

Using the new scanning method, the team are able to reveal the parts of the lung that air doesn't reach properly during breathing.

By measuring how much of the lung is well-ventilated and how much is poorly ventilated, experts can make an assessment of the effects of a patient's respiratory disease, and they can locate and visualise the lung regions with ventilation defects.

Demonstrating that the scans work in patients with asthma or COPD, the team comprising experts from across Universities and NHS Trusts in Newcastle and Sheffield published the first paper in Radiology.

The new scanning technique allows the team to quantify the degree of improvement in ventilation when patients have a treatment, in this case, a widely used inhaler, the bronchodilator, salbutamol.

This shows that the imaging methods could be valuable in clinical trials of new treatments for lung disease.

AUS vs IND: Melbourne Test set for cracking finish as India eye Gabba-esque miracle

Australia vs India, 4th Test: Steely Australia recovered from 91 for 6 to close Day 4 at 228 for 9. India need to script the most successful chase in the history of Tests at MCG if they are to go 2-1 up. On Day 5, all four results are possible.

MELBOURNE, Dec 29 (Agencies): The Boxing Day Test has lived up to the billing. After four days of intense back-and-forth action, all three (pr even four) results are possible on the final day of the Test match. There was nothing to separate the two teams on Day 4 in Melbourne as they threw punches at each other on a day that ebbed and flowed, much like the way the series has panned out Down Under.

The session pie on Day 4 might show both India and Australia shared honours, but deep down, India will know they let go off an opportunity to take Australia by the scruff of the neck. Australia were reeling at 91 for 6 in the second session, but their never-say-die attitude shone through in helping them finish with 228 for 9, and with a lead of 333 runs.

On a day when Virat Kohli evoked nostalgia by inspiring the team by stepping up as a leader, Jasprit Bumrah delivered another mesmerising spell, taking his tally in the series to 29 wickets and surpassing the 200-wicket milestone in his career. Mohammed Siraj also bounced back with an improved performance, but India struggled to show the decisiveness needed to wrap up the Australian innings.

In the final over of the day, Jasprit Bumrah had Nathan Lyon caught in the slip cordon, only for it to be called a no-ball.



Lyon responded by flicking the very next delivery off his pads in a manner reminiscent of Virat Kohli—a moment that symbolised India's mixed fortunes in the last session.

Marnus Labuschagne did a Cheteshwar Pujara, taking blows and blunting the bowling attack to hit a gritty 70. Captain Pat Cummins frustrated India for the second successive time with the bat in the Test, chipping in with a crucial 41 while Nathan Lyon, who will be expected to play a major role with the ball on Monday, frustrated India along with No. 11 Scott Boland.

Australia's last four wickets added 137 runs as Lyon and Boland went on to add 55 runs and remained unbeaten. The off-spinner needs nine runs to get to a fluent fifty.

It's a fair assessment that Lyon and Boland's resistance swung the momentum in Australia's

favour and India's positive mindset took a hit. Yashasvi Jaiswal's drop catches, including the one that allowed Labuschagne a reprieve at 46, might prove to be decisive in the Test match.

DID AUSTRALIA MISS DECLARATION TRICK?

It was somewhat surprising, however, to see Australia refrain from declaring their innings despite holding a significant lead. Pundits had expected Pat Cummins to call Lyon and Boland in with half an hour remaining in the day's play. Whether this decision reflects a defensive mindset, acknowledging the depth of India's batting line-up, or a calculated move based on confidence in Australia's bowling attack, remains to be seen.

The highest total chased at Melbourne Cricket Ground is 332 and India now need a record chase to win the Test. No

team in the past 96 years has successfully chased a target exceeding 300 at the MCG. Over the last 50 years, 183 remains the highest successful chase at the iconic venue.

Yet, Australia will know they cannot discount India. Merely three years ago, India pulled off a remarkable chase of 329 at the Gabba in Brisbane, shattering Australia's 32-year unbeaten streak at the fortress.

A fortress was breached at the Gabba then, and India must now conquer Mount Melbourne to go 2-1 up in the series.

A draw cannot be ruled out either. However, India need clarity in their approach when they begin their innings on Day 5, regardless of when Australia decide to declare. Captain Rohit Sharma and coach Gautam Gambhir face tough questions:

Can the team bat through 90-odd overs, given their recent form?

Should they adopt an aggressive approach from the outset and aim for victory? Is there someone capable of replicating Cheteshwar Pujara's heroic resistance at the Gabba, batting for 50-odd overs to lay a foundation? One could hardly ask for a more fitting climax to what has been a thrilling contest of grit and determination, played in front of some of the largest crowds in MCG history.

India's Koneru Humpy wins World Rapid chess Championship



NEW YORK, Dec 29 (Agencies): India's Koneru Humpy bagged an epochal second World Rapid Chess Championship title, beating Irene Sukanandar of Indonesia here on Sunday.

Humpy had won the event back in 2019 at Georgia and the Indian No 1 is only the second player after China's Ju Wenjun to clinch the title more than once.

The 37-year-old Humpy finished the tournament with 8.5 out of 11 points.

"I'm very excited and I feel very happy. In fact, I expected it to be a very tough day, like some sort of tie-break. But when I finished the game, I only got to know when the arbitrator told me, and it was a tense moment for me," said Humpy, who began with black pieces, after her victory.

"So, this is quite unex-

pected because the whole year I have been struggling a lot and I had very bad tournaments where I just ended up in last place.

So, this came as a surprise," she added.

Humpy's achievement capped a sensational year for Indian chess after D Gukesh defeated China's Ding Liren to emerge champion in the classical format World Championship recently in Singapore.

In September, India had won its first-ever gold medals in Open and Women's categories in the Chess Olympiad in Budapest.

The seasoned Humpy admitted that she was not thinking about the title after her first-round defeat here.

"I think, after the first round loss, I was nowhere thinking about the title, but things turned out well, especially yesterday winning

the four games in a row helped me," she said.

However, Humpy faced some challenges off the board too as well because of the big time-gap between India and the USA.

"Yeah, off the board, it was very difficult for me because of the time difference. I was lacking sleep. Literally, I haven't slept properly since coming here. So, it wasn't easy to play restlessly, but I'm happy that I managed to do it," she added.

Humpy has always excelled in the Rapid worlds as she had won a bronze medal in the 2012 edition of the event held in Moscow, while finished with a silver last year at Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Humpy said her victory will now prompt other Indians to take up chess.

"I think it's high time for India. We also have Gukesh as world champion and now I got the second world title in the rapid event.

So, I think this will motivate a lot of youngsters to take up chess professionally," she concluded.

World Championships Rapid and Blitz: Champion Carlsen disqualified for turning up in denim trousers

NEW YORK, Dec 29 (Agencies): Five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen was first fined and then disqualified from the World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship for his refusal to comply with the FIDE's dress code after turning up in jeans.

Defending champion Carlsen was fined \$200 for wearing jeans, which are "explicitly prohibited" under tournament regulations and when he refused the request to change his attire right after the eighth round by chief arbiter Alex Holowczak, he was disqualified. He was not paired for Round 9 of the rapid championship, taking place at Wall Street.

The Norwegian ace had agreed to follow the dress code from the next day but was not ready to do it immediately. "I would rather be at someplace with better weather," was how Carlsen summed up his disqualification from the championship, which he won the last two years.

In a statement, the game's global governing body FIDE emphasised that the dress code rules are well-communicated to all participants and designed to ensure professionalism. "The dress code regulations are drafted by members of the FIDE Athletes Commission, which is composed of professional players and experts. These rules have been in place for years and are well-known to all participants and are communicated to them ahead of each event," FIDE said in the statement, posted online. "FIDE has also ensured that the players' accommodation is within a short walking distance from the playing venue, making adherence to the rules more convenient."

Earlier, Russian Grandmaster Ian Nepomniachtchi was also penalised for a similar violation but he complied by changing his attire, allowing him to continue in the event.

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand said FIDE didn't want to disqualify Carlsen but the Norwegian left them with no choice. "He simply refused to follow the rules, left us with little choice," Anand, the deputy president of chess' global governing body, said. "Obviously, it was not a step we wanted to take."

Meanwhile, "upset" with the turn of events, Carlsen said he won't participate in the blitz section of the championship as he is "pretty tired" of FIDE's dress code policies. "I am pretty tired of FIDE, so I want no more of this. I don't want anything to do with them. I am sorry to everyone at home, maybe it's a stupid principle, but I don't think it's any fun," Carlsen said. "I said I don't want to bother changing now, but I can change tomorrow. But they didn't want to compromise. I've reached a point where I am pretty upset with FIDE, so I didn't want to either. Then that's how it goes," he added.

The Carlsen dress code fiasco is being seen as a signal to the chess world about his keenness to develop the faster version of the game that he considers as a "real skill" as well as his personal interest about developing the "freestyle chess" for which he recently raised \$12 million. In freestyle chess, chess pieces can be shuffled in any order. This was an idea propagated by the great Bobby Fischer.

Indian Sports in 2024: Year of monumental victories, breakthroughs, and near misses

NEW DELHI, Dec 29 (Agencies): A cricket World Cup, half a dozen Olympic medals and two chess world championships. Year 2024 gave the average Indian sports fan unprecedented reasons to celebrate as peaks outnumbered the valleys in a confident march towards a promising future. Tales that bear repeating were many but the year going by will primarily be remembered for four dates -- June 29, July 30, December 12 and December 28. A big step towards the future was the formal expression of intent to host the 2036 Olympics, a move that has the potential to change the sporting landscape of the country.

When sport shone through in its purest form On a humid and nery June evening in Barbados, the Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team won a long-awaited World Cup title after more than a decade of heartbreaks in knockout matches of ICC tournaments, the feat matching the country's undisputed status as the game's most influential voice.

A month later, effervescent pistol shooter Manu Bhaker became India's first athlete post independence to win two Olympic medals in a single edition, showing incredible mental fortitude to exorcise her Tokyo demons and write one of the best redemption stories at the Games.

Also in Paris, one of India's greatest ever, unassuming javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra embodied excellence like few others and climbed into a galaxy of his own by winning a silver medal, three years after his historic gold at Tokyo Games.

India had hoped for a gold from the reigning world champion, but it was ultimately not to be as he lost to Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem who bettered a Games record that had stood for 16 years, not once but twice.

In the last four months, the chess board became India's happy hunting ground with both the men's and women's teams knocking off Olympiad gold medals for the very first time in September. Individually, D Gukesh and Koneru Humpy then scaled new heights with world titles in December.

While Gukesh dethroned China's Ding Liren to become the youngest ever world champion at 18 on December 12, the 37-year-old Humpy won the women's rapid world title for a second time in her career, continuing to be an inspirational tale of perfect balance between motherhood and professional success.

Things like this do not happen often. Speaking of that, another major highlight of India's Paris campaign was the hockey team's second successive

medal (bronze), proving that lightning can in fact strike twice.

But then six near-misses in the French capital were also a reminder that plenty more needs to be done before being duly recognised a sporting powerhouse.

Also leaving a lasting impression were the para athletes with their record-breaking feats at the Paris Paralympics, and veteran tennis star Rohan Bopanna's Australian Open men's doubles title victory at 44.

Also scripting history was the women's table tennis team of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Suthiritha Mukherjee, and Diya Chitale. They secured India's first-ever medal (bronze) at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan.

But before the success in the Olympics, the Paralympics, Chess Olympiad and the FIDE World Championship, the Indians were rejoicing in a magnificent title triumph in cricket, which came about after years of disappointments in global tournaments.

Indian cricket reigns supreme on and off field

Displaying absolute dominance, India imposed their collective will upon the world to win a trophy that they so desired, much to the delight of the team's millions of fans across the globe.

However, while they ended their winless run in global events, India's 12-year streak of not losing a Test series on home soil snapped in the most embarrassing manner -- a 0-3 whitewash to a New Zealand side missing its talisman Kane Williamson.

Amid the euphoria over a massive World Cup triumph, cricket's financial superpower also tightened its vice-like grip on the game's governance with Jay Shah's ascent to the ICC chairmanship after the BCCI reported an overall revenue of Rs 20,686 crore for the 2024 financial year, which is almost Rs 4200 crore more than their revenue in 2023.

Gukesh defies description in memorable year for chess

In winning the FIDE world championship as a teenager, Gukesh shattered the record held by Garry Kasparov, who was 22 when he got the better of Anatoly Karpov in 1985.

Gukesh's triumph in Singapore, as also the country's double gold medal-winning effort at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, demonstrated India's growing stature in the game of 64 squares.

And if anymore validation was needed, Humpy provided that in her second world rapid title in New York. She first won it back in 2019, which was followed by a maternity break. The 38-year-old's inspiring comeback could not have gone

better as she While Gukesh almost defied description by achieving a feat as big as this at such a young age, the likes of Arjun Erigaisi (21), Vidit Gujrathi (30) Divya Deshmukh (18) Vantika Agrawal (21), Chennai's Grandmaster siblings R. Praggnanandhaa (19) and R. Vaishali (23) and veteran Tania Sachdev (38) all showed their wares while playing for sides with frightening depth.

All of them are expected to be the dominant names in international chess, making true Kasparov's quip after Gukesh' Candidates win -- "Vishy's children" are on the lose.

Most of them truly are his proteges. The semi-retired Viswanathan Anand, who is also a FIDE vice president now, quietly watched these exploits from behind after single-handedly revolutionising chess in India.

He had a definitive hand in shaping their careers and the players have duly acknowledged his role too.

A striking aspect of these success stories in chess, including the world championship wins, was that none of them came as a surprise thanks to a structure that is probably one of the best in the world.

Six medals and as many near-misses India could have rewritten Olympic history in Paris but eventually settled for a 71st position among the 206 participating nations with six medals, including one silver and five bronze.

The Games will be remembered as much for the six medals as the six fourth-place finishes that resulted in heartbreaks. Most of the medals missed were by a whisker.

This is the joint-second best haul along with London 2012 and one behind last time's Tokyo, where seven, including a gold, were won.

There were also silver linings such as shooting getting back among the medals and back-to-back bronze from the men's hockey team, something that happened after a long gap of 50 years.

Having missed on the final after a narrow loss to Germany, Harmanpreet Singh's India regrouped to beat Spain 2-1 and claim their second successive Olympic medal.

After her individual success, Manu partnered Sarabjot Singh to win the bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Swapnil Kusale continued shooting's resurgence by winning India's first medal in the 50m 3 Positions -- a bronze.

The 21-year-old Aman Sehrawat maintained wrestling's medal streak -- since 2008 Beijing -- by finishing third

on the podium in men's 57kg freestyle. The list of near-misses comprised, among others, Lakshya Sen, Mirabai Chanu, Arjun Babuta and Bhaker herself as she stood a great chance of becoming the first ever Indian athlete to win a hat-trick of medals at an Olympic Games.

Then, what seemed like a definite gold medal slipped through Vinesh Phogat's grasp due to a cruel twist of fate as she ended up being disqualified for being 100gm overweight on the morning of the final, leading to a protracted legal battle which did not pan out in the manner she had wanted it to.

The never-ending administrative chaos in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) also had a hand in pulling down what was once a flourishing sport in the country.

The unstoppable rise of para athletes It was a year of validation for those who have supported the Paralympic movement in India. The country's contingent bagged 29 medals at Paris 2024 for their most successful campaign ever at the Games.

India finished 18th on the overall medals table, and in all, they won seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze.

The likes of Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Sheetal Devi, Nitesh Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Navdeep Singh, Sheetal Devi, Harvinder Singh and Dharambir to name a few from the contingent of 84 athletes, emerged as new heroes after their exploits in Paris.

Mixed bag off the field On the administrative front, the ambitious bid to host the Olympics was set in motion and a long-pending national sports bill entered the final phase of being shaped into a policy but there was no end to the bickering and turf wars that have become the hallmark of Indian sports.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has been a faction-ridden body for the longest time and the PT Usha-led current dispensation has been no exception.

The sprint legend found herself pitted against 12 members of the 15-strong Executive Council, and an ugly spat over the appointment of a CEO marred the whole of 2024.

But as has been case for many years, Indian sports has managed to flourish despite the system, riding on the sacrifices of individuals and their families most often.

The challenge going forward would be to ensure that the system steps in before it's too late.

IIM Jammu hosts transformative angel investor masterclass

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, hosted the second session of its Angel Investor Masterclass series, at the STEM program being organised in association with SIDBI. Organized in association with Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) of IIM Jammu, the session brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, angel investors, and industry leaders to explore the nuances of angel investing and startup funding. The event featured an exceptional lineup of speakers led by Suraj Malik, a Private Client and Funds Structuring Expert. It was joined by Pranav Obhroi, Syndicate Lead Manager at Alluvium Capital. Naveen Jain, Founder of Centriti and Co-Manager at Atrium Angels and Saurabh Sharma, Investment Funds Specialist and Angel Investor. The session was moderated by Vivek



Sharma, CIO Jammu, IIM Jammu, who served as a bridge between the esteemed speakers and participants. His ability to simplify the complex topics and foster meaningful dialogue created an engaging and interactive atmosphere, ensuring the session's success. Suraj Malik played a pivotal role as the facilitator, contributing significantly to the session's organization and execution. The event commenced with insights from Pranav Obhroi, who shared his extensive experience evaluating over 100 startups and investing in more than 10 early-stage ventures in the past year. He emphasized the dynamic nature of India's

startup ecosystem, highlighting the importance of understanding regional variations- "the many mini Indias within India." Discussing key evaluation criteria for pitches, he stressed the significance of a founder's vision, competition analysis, industry trends, and the startup's unique value proposition. Drawing from his journey, he advised participants to cultivate an independent perspective and diversify investments to manage risks effectively. A highlight of the event was the mock pitch session, where Naveen Jain presented Centriti, an end-to-end e-procurement solution tailored for the HoReCa sector, to Pranav Obhroi, who acted as the investor.

This session offered participants a real-world glimpse into the dynamics of startup pitching, challenges, and strategic solutions. Following the mock pitch, an engaging discussion unfolded. He shared insights on managing business intricacies, addressing seasonality in the HoReCa industry, and scaling businesses to new locations. Saurabh Sharma provided valuable perspectives by analysing major competitors and illustrating how businesses can manage and leverage data effectively to gain a competitive edge. The masterclass provided attendees with actionable insights on crafting compelling,

investor-ready pitches while addressing challenges in the HoReCa sector and uncovering potential opportunities. Participants gained a strategic understanding of thriving as a startup in emerging markets, equipping them with essential tools to navigate today's competitive landscape. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session led by Saurabh Sharma and other angel investors, exploring sector-specific investment opportunities. Contributions from STEM (Skill to Enterprise Module) members enriched the discussions further. The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of IIM Jammu, in collaboration with STEM members, extends its gratitude to the speakers, participants, and angel investors for making this session an outstanding success. The masterclass demystified angel investing and empowered participants with actionable insights to navigate their entrepreneurial and investment journeys.

SMVDU faculty delivers talk in AICTE ATAL FDP at Telangana

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 29: Prof. (Dr.) Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, Professor in School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, delivered Resource Person talk in AICTE ATAL FDP entitled 'Recent Advances in Energy System for Sustainable Development' organised by the Department of Electrical Engineering Kamala Institute of Technology Singapuram, Telangana. Prof. Eswaramoorthy delivered a talk about 'Solar Thermal System and its Applications.



Various insights about the need for solar thermal systems and its applications to become India are Energy Independent by 2047. Concentrating and non-concentrating solar thermal systems with various thermal energy storage for low, medium and high temperature

applications were discussed. Supercritical CO₂ power cycles, Organic Rankine Cycle and Solar Solid Particle Receiver are enlightened to the participants. 50 AICTE ATAL FDP participants, MTech and BE students and about 60 students participated and interacted. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) K.R. Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof.(Dr.) Yatheshth Ananad, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering of SMVDU, has congratulated and wished him for his outreach activities.

Aryans Group expresses condolences on demise of former PM

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh expressed grief at the passing of the former PM Dr Manmohan Singh. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group has met him few years back and got the chance to take guidance for education sector. He said its the immense loss for The education fraternity of Nation. Entire students and faculty of Aryans Group is mourning the loss of



Singh who served as India's Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 and played a key role in bringing transformative education reforms in

India. Kataria further added that he was a great mentor, academican, economist and Indian Politician.

NDS organises Shahidi Samagam to pay tribute to Teg Bahadur

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Safar-e-Shahadat: Vishesh Shahidi Samagam was organized at Gurudwara Teg Bahadur Ji by Nami Dogri Sanstha (Regd) to pay homage to the supreme sacrifices of the Sahibzade of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj. The solemn event was a heartfelt tribute to the unparalleled courage and devotion of the Sahibzade, who remain eternal symbols of righteousness and bravery. The program featured the soulful recitation of Gurbani by Parvinder Singh, popularly known as "Apple," along with his group. Kulpreet Kour's melodious voice further enhanced the devotional aura of the event. They were accompanied by Chander Dhari Kesar on the Violin and Harpreet Singh on the Tabla, whose performances added a deep spiritual resonance to the occasion.



The gathering saw the participation of members of Nami Dogri Sanstha and prominent figures from various fields. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President of NDS, while Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron of NDS, Presided over the Event and Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary, played key roles in the proceedings. Eminent singer Mrs. Jetinder Kour, Vigyan Bharti Executive Member Achhar Singh, and cultural activist Davinder Bakshi were among the dignitaries present. The program served as a platform to reflect on the values upheld by the Sahibzade and to inspire

the Younger Generation with their unparalleled legacy of sacrifice and devotion to humanity. The organizers emphasized the importance of remembering such historical sacrifices and ensuring their relevance in contemporary times. Speaking at the event, Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila highlighted the need to preserve and promote the teachings of the Gurus and their sacrifices, which continue to guide humanity on the path of truth and righteousness. The Safar-e-Shahadat concluded with prayers for peace and universal harmony, leaving the attendees deeply moved

and inspired. Nami Dogri Sanstha extended heartfelt thanks to all participants for making the event meaningful and successful. The Samagam not

only paid homage to the Sahibzade but also reinforced the timeless principles of bravery, faith, and selflessness, serving as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

Natrang presents political satire 'Topian'



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 29: Natrang presented a hardest political satire 'Topian' written by Mani Madhukar under the direction of Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its studio. Most appropriate and timely presentation on the contemporary political scene of the country, the play is a dig on the lusty politicians who can change colors faster than a chameleon just to ensure that they remain in power. For them, the mission is to befool the public and for that they have the requisite theatrical art, know-how, expertise and the excellence to transform themselves to any color or attire as per the situation and the requirement. Human civi-

lization has witnessed a lot of social and political revolutions, each time thinkers and philosophers have sold new political thoughts and doctrine of governance. But ironically the same faces have made their way to power just by hiding real faces in new masks. They have been changing the color of their caps and not their mind set. In the backdrop of the story of two neighbors who pledge to change the political scene are shown looking for alternatives. Each time they come across a person they meet only those wearing different caps and attire offering them a variety of manifestos. Each time they identify him as a different person and expect a different ideology from him. This way they succumb to his tactics. Over

time when they find that nothing is changing, the slogans of socialism are furthering the divide between rich and poor, quality of life is deteriorating day by day and the security of life and property is at the mercy of God. Both muster courage and strip the person selling those dreams. Surprisingly inside clothes they find that he is the same person and every time he used to come to them in different attire. The playwright has successfully portrayed that the politicians are the same; they only change their caps and their colors just to befool the public. They can be friends and enemies at the same time, their equations and confrontations change for lust of power. This absurd play posed a big challenge before the young actors of Natrang but interestingly their handling of the characters surprised many. The roles of two neighbors were played by Kartik Kumar and Adaksh Bagal whereas Aryan Sharma rendered equal support to them. The lights of the play were designed by Neeraj Kant whereas Mehak Chib scored the music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.



Government Of India Certified Course

MASTER MATHEMATICS

with the Power of Vedic Maths

Enhance Your Child's Interest in Maths!
20+ years Experienced Trainer

100% LIVE 249 Days Course

Rs. 249/- Only

249 Days of Learning
79 LIVE Classes
3 Sessions Per Week

Speedy Calculations
Mental Maths for class 5th onwards
Creative Problem-Solving
Helpful for all entrance exams (UPSC/PCS/CLAT/Banking/JEE/Army etc.)

Book Your Spot:
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

REGISTER NOW Link in Description



STUDY KOSH
studykosh595@fbj