

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, JANUARY 03, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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Trump to hold victory rally in Washington DC on Jan 19, day before inauguration



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BRIEFLY

Army detects IED on Mahore-Gulabgarh road in Reasi, area secured

JAMMU, Jan 3 (Agencies): Security forces have detected an improvised explosive device (IED) on the Mahore-Gulabgarh road near Angrala here. The Indian Army said that the IED was neutralized and the area was secured.

"Alert troops of Rashtriya Rifles detected an IED on the Mahore-Gulabgarh road near #Angrala, #Reasi. The area was secured, in conjunction with @JmuKmrPolice and the IED was neutralized, ensuring the safety of civilians and troops," the army said in a post on X.

More information is awaited.

Baramulla Police arrest four individuals for smuggling of illegal timber, drugs

BARAMULLA, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Baramulla Police on Friday said it arrested four individuals involved in smuggling of illegal timber and drug peddling in the district.

As per the Police handout, Baramulla Police intercepted a Tata 207 vehicle carrying nine timber logs at Drung Crossing during naka checking.

"Upon inspection, it was revealed that the vehicle was transporting timber without the necessary permissions. The vehicle and illicit timber has been seized," the handout reads.

The Police said three individuals involved in the act were arrested on the spot and have been identified as Mehraj Ahmad Khan, son of Abdul Majeed Khan from Nowgam Khag, Mohammed Amin Lone son of Abdul Gaffar Lone of Drung and Owais Ahmad Parrey son of Abdul Ahad Parrey from Soibugh Budgam.

"A case has been registered by Baramulla Police under FIR No. 01/2025, invoking Section 26 of the Forest Act and Sections 303 and 329(1) of the Indian Penal Code in PS Tangmarg," the Police in an official handout said.

"Investigations are underway to determine the source and

Special inspection train to run from Kashmir to Jammu on January 5



SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): A special inspection train is set to operate from Srinagar to Jammu on January 5, marking a historic

milestone in the region's railway development.

Sources revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce

the establishment of the Jammu Railway Division via video conferencing on January 6. The event will also feature Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. This is a modal window. The media could not be loaded, either because the server or network failed or because the format is not supported.

On January 5, the Union Railway Minister is scheduled to inspect the Srinagar Railway Station and the USBRL section of the Kashmir rail project.

Additionally, on January 7 and 8, CRS Dinesh Chand Deshwal will carry out an inspection of the Reasi-Katra section of the Kashmir rail project.

Sanjay Bhatia assigned J&K, Jairam Thakur Ladakh, Dr. Jitendra Singh Himachal for BJP elections



NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Sanjay Bhatia, Jairam Thakur, and Dr. Jitendra Singh to lead the organizational elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh,



and Himachal Pradesh, respectively.

These leaders are tasked with supervising the election of state presidents and National Assembly members, which are critical steps in the BJP's organiza-



tional framework.

The party's constitution mandates that elections in at least 50% of states be completed before the national president is elected, with a deadline of January 15, 2025.

SC Advocates permanent setup for Jammu CAT, Questions outsourced staff

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday batted for a permanent building, along with permanent staff, for the Jammu and Kashmir Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), saying it will be prudent for the government not to deploy outsourced staff in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was informed by the Centre that a building has been taken on rent for the functioning

of the CAT, Jammu and there will be deployment of outsourced staff.

"It is highly desirable that there should be a permanent building, along with proper courtrooms, chambers, offices and staff of the tribunal. It may not be prudent to deploy outsourced staff in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, where maintenance of records, confidentiality and updating of records are day-to-day challenges," the bench said in its order. During the hearing of

a PIL filed by one Achal Sharma, the bench was informed by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, that the government is filling up the vacancies by outsourcing.

The bench said of the 58 sanctioned posts, 26 are filled up on a regular basis, whereas 10 are filled up by outsourced staff.

Justice Surya Kant said recently, a member of a tribunal met him and he was told that even

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Over 100 flights delayed at Delhi Airport due to bad weather

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): More than 100 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport on Friday morning due to bad weather conditions, an official said.

The national capital witnessed dense fog resulting in low visibility. The official said over 100

flights have been delayed but there are no diversions so far.

"While landing and takeoffs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconve-

nience caused is deeply regretted," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a post on X at 6.35 am.

CAT III facility allows aircraft to operate in low visibility conditions. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), operated by DIAL, handles around 1,300 flight movements daily.

Indian man crosses over illegally into Pakistan to marry Facebook friend, lands in jail

LAHORE/ALIGARH, Jan 3 (Agencies): A young Indian man crossed over illegally into Pakistan to meet a Facebook friend he wanted to marry, but instead found himself behind bars. And the woman told the local police she does not want to tie the knot.

Badal Babu from the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh was arrested on December 28 in the Mandi Bahauddin district of Pakistan's Punjab province (some 240 kms from Lahore).

Babu, who is in his 20s, crossed the border to meet the Facebook friend with whom he wanted to marry.

Pakistan Police have recorded the statement of Babu's Facebook friend Sana Rani, 21, who said she wasn't

interested in marrying him.

"In her statement to police, Sana Rani says that Babu and she have been friends on Facebook for the last two-and-a-half years. But she is not interested in marrying him," a Punjab police officer, Nasir Shah, told agency on Thursday.

He said Babu illegally crossed the border and reached Sana Rani's Maung village in Mandi Bahauddin, where he was arrested by law enforcers.

When asked whether Babu met Rani, the police officer said he couldn't confirm this.

It is also not independently confirmed whether Rani gave a statement to the police refusing

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Dense Fog engulfs parts of Kashmir, Hits flight operations at Srinagar Airport



SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): Dense fog engulfed large parts of Kashmir, affecting flight

operations at Srinagar airport, as visibility fell to about 300 metres, officials said on Friday.

The minimum temperatures rose in most places of the valley, they said.

They said the thick layer of fog that engulfed Kashmir hit air traffic to and from the valley. Several flights were delayed while one was diverted as the visibility fell to about 300 metres.

The visibility required to run flight operations is around 1,100 metres. However, operations resumed around noon

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TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Usha Pandita** W/o Late Sh Ram Krishan Pandita originally resident of Habba Kadal Srinagar on 1-1-2025 presently residing at House No. 82, Lane No 1, Pritam Nagar Paloura Dhok Jammu.



Smt Usha Pandita

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 09-01-2025 (Thursday) at Akhnor Ghat & Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.30 AM.
Grieving Loved Ones
Son & Daughter-in-law
Rakesh Pandita & Rakha Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Machu Ganjoo & Rajinder Ganjoo
Grand Children: Aastha, Namita & Naman
Mob. 7889949658, 9596749279, 7006362475

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of **Sh Kanaya Lal Razdan** S/o Late Kashinath Razdan originally resident of Mattan Anantnag at present Block 04 Nagrota on 26-12-2024.



Sh Kanaya Lal Razdan

Mourning is being held at Community Centre TRT Nagrota.
10th Day Kriya will be performed on 4th January 2025 at 10.30 AM at TRT Nagrota.
Grief Stricken
Smt Kiran Jee Razdan - Wife
Sh Honey Razdan - Son
Brother & Bhabhi
Sh Shubhan Krishan Razdan & Jeeta Razdan
Murari Jee Razdan
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Smt Phoola Jee Dhar W/o Late Janki Nath Dhar
Sh Pran Nath Pandita H/o Late Nancy Pandita
Smt Munni Jee Dhar & Sh Ravinder Dhar
Sister-in-law
Smt Nimi Bhat & Sh Sanjay Kumar Bhat
Smt Lovely Raina & Sh Sanjay Raina
Contact No. 7889376912, 7006969043, 8713018589, 9622855535, 9796411576, 8713038706

TENTH DAY



Sh. Ajay Dogra (Kuku)

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved
Sh. Ajay Dogra (Kuku)
S/o Lt. Sh. Ishar Dass R/o Pacci Dhakki A/p 714-A, Opp. Ramliha Ground, Janipur Colony, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 26-12-2024.
Tenth Day will be performed on 4th Jan 2025 (Saturday) at Trimurti Mandir Janipur colony, Jammu at 12.00 Noon.
Grief Stricken:
Jyoti Dogra (Wife)
Mohit Dogra (Son)
Mehak Dogra (Daughter)
M: 7006586693, 8899213118, 7006928544

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Gunwati Wangoo** W/o Lt. Sh. Racha Krishan Wangoo R/o Drangabal, Pampore, at present H.No 501, Vinayak Nagar Muthi Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 27th Dec, 2024.



SMT. GUNWATI WANGOO

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 5th of January (Sunday) 2025 at Muthi Ghat near Director office at 11.00 AM.
Mobile no. 9622079330/ 7889517455
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Lt. Sh. Ashok Kumar Wangoo - Son
Sh. Ramesh Kumar Wangoo - Son
Smt. Vijay Wangoo - Daughter-in-law
Smt. Pushpa Wangoo - Daughter-in-law
Smt. & Sh. Baby Koul - Daughter

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform about the sad demise of **Smt. Lalita Sharma** W/o Lt. Sh. Ghan Shyam Raina R/o 35 Choughan Fattu Jammu on 22nd Dec, 2024.



Smt. Lalita Sharma

Tenth Day will be performed on 31st Dec. (Tuesday) from 11 AM to 12 NOON at Rani Park Jammu.
Rasam Pagni/Uthala will be performed on 10th Jan. 2025 (Wednesday) from 4 PM to 5 PM at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar Road, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Sudarshan Sharma W/o R.P. Sharma
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Smt. Lovely Raina W/o Sh. Anil Raina
Sh. Sunil Raina & Vandana Raina
Sh. Ashwani Kr. Raina & Vishal Raina
Sh. Deepak Raina & Asha Raina
Sh. Subash Raina & Arti Raina - Nephew & Niece in law
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Paridhi & Suyash
Grand Children : Sudhanshu, Deevun, Tej svi, Danish, Akshat, Utkarsh, Arya, Sarthak, Adhyan

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **Master Yuvraj Khajuria** S/o Advocate Rakesh Khajuria and Meenakshi Sharma R/o Lakhampur Kathua



MASTER YUVRAJ KHAJURIA

Tenth Day will be performed on 4-1-2025 (Saturday) at our residence at 11.00 AM.
Kriya will be performed on 5-1-2025 (Sunday) at our residence at 12.30 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Krishna Khajuria - Dadi Ji
Sh. Rakesh Khajuria - Father
Smt. Meenakshi Khajuria - Mother
Sh. Kamal Kishore Khajuria - Tau Ji
Smt. Monika Khajuria - Tai Ji
Brother & Sister: Ansh, Abhiraj & Avni
Mobile No: 8419129196, 9796222809

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Anchal Singh** S/o Late Sh. Dhamul Singh (R/o H.No. 153 Narwal Pain Ward no 1 Jammu Cantt., Satwari) on 24th Dec, 2024.



Sh. Anchal Singh

10th Day will be performed on 2-1-2025 (Thursday) at our residence (H.No. 153 Narwal Pain Ward No 1 Jammu Cantt., Satwari) at 10 am.
Kriya will be performed on 5-1-2025 (Sunday) at our residence.
Grief Stricken
Smt. Ratno Devi - Wife
Sons and Daughters in law
Sh. Inderjit Singh and Smt. Chandan
Sh. Prem Singh and Smt. Naresh
Sh. Kamal Singh and Smt. Anita
Sh. Rameshwar Singh and Smt. Jyoti
Daughter and son-in-law
Smt. Sushma and Sh. Kuldeep Singh
Contact: 9906327104

TENTH DAY

Tenth Day of **Sh Balbir Singh Jamwal** S/o Lt Sh Romal Singh Jamwal shall be performed on Saturday, 4 January 2025 at our residence Bhalwal Mandi at 11 am.



Balbir Singh Jamwal

GRIEF STRICKEN
Anju Jamwal - Wife
Manik Jamwal - Son
Mona Jamwal - Daughter
Davinder Singh Jamwal - Brother
Rajni Jamwal - Bhabhi
Son of Davinder
Arun Jamwal
Daughter of Davinder
Deepa Jamwal
Grandsons
Chatinya Jamwal
Rudransh Jamwal

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Karamyogni Smt. Kamalawati Tikoo (Babi)** W/o Lt Sh. Shamoo Nath Tikoo R/o Rohama, Baramulla Kashmir on 26-12-2024 at present: Block 168, Flat 14, Lane no 26, Jagti Township.



Karamyogni Smt. Kamalawati Tikoo (Babi)

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 04-01-2025 at 9 AM.
Assembly will be held at Jagti Township in Lane 26 near Block 168, Flat 14.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
Sh. Brj Nath Tikoo & Smt Desha Tikoo (Son & Daughter in law)
Sh. Ashok Kumar Tikoo & Smt. Tili Tikoo (Son & Daughter in Law)
Sh. Makhan Lal Nehru and Smt Babji Nehru (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Sh. Chatter Ji Bhat & Smt. Sarojini Bhat (Son-in-law & Daughter)
Grand Children:
Sandeep & Kiran,
Sachin & Sakshi,
Amit & Kanana,
Aarti, Bhawana,
Manvi & Rohit.
Great Grand Children:
Master Nakshatra,
Master Arnav,
Master Riyan
Relatives and Friends
8329593635, 9622077358

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SMT. SHARDA BAKSHI** W/O LATE SH. JAWAHAR LAL BAKSHI (RETD. DRILLING ENGINEER GEOLOGY AND MINING DEPTT. J&K) R/O 295 JULAKHA MOHALLA JAMMU, WHO LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 30TH DECEMBER AT 4.30 AM CREMATION WAS HELD AT JOGI GATE, JAMMU ON 30TH DECEMBER 2024.



SMT. SHARDA BAKSHI

10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 7TH JANUARY 2025 AND MOURNING ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU AT 11.30AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SH. OM PARKASH BAKSHI (SON) Mob.9419141979
(DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND SON)
MRS. MUKTI AND MR. RAM KRISHAN BAKSHI
Mob. 9797377764, 9419117827
MRS. URMIL AND MR. RAVINDER MATTOO (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
MRS. VEENA AND MR. PRAN NATH KAUL (SISTER-IN-LAW AND BROTHER)
MRS. NANCY AND MR. AVTAR TICKU (SISTER-IN-LAW AND BROTHER)
MRS. KRISHNA AND MR. PRAN NATH RAZDAN (SISTER AND BROTHER IN-LAW)
MRS. BIMLA RAINA (SISTER)
MRS. MAHAJ AND MR. ABHISHEK BANGROO (GRAND DAUGHTER AND GRAND SON-IN-LAW)
AKSHAY, AYUSH, ARYAN, MOKSHA (GRAND CHILDREN)
BAKSHI, TICKU AND ZUTSHI PARIWARS

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tej Krishan Zadoo (Bairaj)** S/o Late Sh Jia Lal Zadoo, originally resident of Nai Sarak, Gunde Ahlmaar, Srinagar at present H no 26, Lane No. 4, Sector B-2, Laxmipuram, Chhinore (Near Posh Babi Ashram) Jammu on 1st Jan 2025.



SH. TEJ KRISHAN ZADOO (BAIRAJ)

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on 9th January, 2025 (Thursday) at Akhnor Ghat and Assembly shall be held at our residence at 10.30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Smt. Vijay (Nee Ganju) Zadoo - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sh. Chetan and Smt. Ruchista Zadoo
Brother: Sh. Ratan Lal and Smt. Kirti Zadoo
Sister: Smt. Usha Handoo (W/o Late P.N Handoo)
Sister: Smt. Lalita and Sh. Balj Revoo
Sister: Smt. Meera and Sh. Mahesh Krishan
Brother-in-Law: Sh. Ramesh Ganjoo
Brother-in-Law: Sh. Satish and Smt. Sunil Ganjoo
And Samast Pariwar Zadoo's, Handoo's, Revoo's, Pandita's, Raina's, Ganjoo's.

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved **Shri Kanaya Lal Kasid**, husband of Smt Veena Kasid, S/o Late Sarvanand Kasid, originally from Karfali Mohalla, Habbakadal, Srinagar and presently residing at Flat No. 1029, Tower 2, GH-07 Crossing Republic Ghazalabad, left for heavenly abode on 27/12/2024.



Shri Kanaya Lal Kasid

10th Day will be performed on 05/01/2025, Sunday 10.00 am at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Veena Kasid (Wife)
Ashwani Kasid (Son)
Anisha and Ashwan Ganju (Daughter and Son in law)
H L Kasid (Brother)
B L Kasid and Santosh Kasid (Brother and Sister-in-law)
S K Kasid and Rajni Kasid (Brother and Sister-in-law)
Kasids, Razdans, Dhars, Ganjus, Kaws, Kotrus, Koulis
Phone No: 9999724567, 9958092192, 9810867990, 9818069202

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform you the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Basanti Devi** W/o Late Sh Mohan Lal R/o H.No. 38 Mohalla Naranan Exchange Road Jammu on 26-12-2024.



Smt Basanti Devi

10th Day will be performed at our residence on 04-01-2025 (Saturday)
Sabara - 12 Noon to 2 PM at Mugh Sabha Ob. Rehan Exchange Road Jammu on 04-01-2025 (Saturday).
Grief Stricken
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Surinder Kumar & Smt. Kamla Devi
Sh. Rajinder Kumar & Smt. Poonam
Sh. Anil Kumar & Smt. Geeta Devi
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Smt. Sheela Devi & Sh. Girdhari Singh
Smt. Anita Devi & Sh. Som Nath
Grand Sons & Grand Daughters-in-law
Mr. Anil Kumar & Mrs. Sarjara Bhat
Er. Arun Kumar & Mrs. Meenakshi Bhat
Grand Daughter & Grand Son-in-law
Mrs. Manisha Dogra & Mr. Gourav Dogra
Grand Daughter: Mrs. Sakshi Bhat
Grand Son: Arjun Kumar
Great Grand Sons & Daughters
Reshmi, Reshvi, Rajwan, Vinika
Mob: 9005542300, 9469809642, 6005041622, 7006095265, 9906307040

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT** ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF KARRAN KULGAM, PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO-5, LANE-3A, ROOP NAGAR ENCLAVE JAMMU.



SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 08-01-2025 AT AKHNOOR GHAT & MOURNING ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 11:00 AM.
GRIEVING LOVED ONES.
SMT. SUNITA BHAT (WIFE)
PRANVA BHAT (DAUGHTER)
RISHAB BHAT (SON)
LT. SH. SK BHAT & SMT. KANTA BHAT - BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
SH. CHAND JI BHAT & SMT. KANTA BHAT - BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
SMT. LALITA RAINA & SH. GIRCHARI LAL RAINA - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
7889593907, 9462807455, 9419206928

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J&K has not come to normal yet: CM Omar Abdullah reacts to Home Minister's remarks

SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister on Friday said that the J&K was yet to come to the normal as reports about the attacks were still coming from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The CM Omar Abdullah was responding to the remarks of Home Minister Amit Shah that Article 370 was giving space to separatism and post abrogation of Article, J&K completely integrated with India.

"We still receive reports of attacks from different places. Even today, Jammu and Kashmir is yet to see complete normalcy. Nevertheless, it is a process and let us see what happens in the future," Omar



Abdullah told reporters.

About the steps taken to improve the electricity supply, the chief minister said the government was giving its best as much as can be done.

"This year, electricity is better than last year. But there are

some cuts we acknowledge that. We are trying to provide electricity as per the schedule. We see cuts in the electricity supply when there is a problem in the system. But we will fix it as soon as possible," he said. About the government prepara-

tions for the winter season, the chief minister said that the government was ready and will deal with it.

"We convened meetings many times. And after the last snowfall, we have gained some experience. Wherever we did well, similar things will be repeated and if there were some shortcomings or weaknesses, those will be corrected," he said.

The chief minister further dispelled the rumours about changing the name of Kashmir valley.

"There is no such thing. I think it was a channel or newspaper which reported it and later they clarified it as well. There is no such thing and this cannot happen without the permission of the J&K government," CM Omar Abdullah said.

We are fighting for special status, statehood restoration: Deputy CM



added. Choudhary also lauded the introduction of advanced machinery, including the innovative spider accelerator, which he described as a breakthrough in snow removal technology.

"The new machinery is incredibly effective. The spider accelerator, for example, performs like no other. It's a leap forward for our operations," he remarked.

Acknowledging the difficulties posed by severe winters, he said, "It's unrealistic to expect roads to be entirely snow-free at all times, but the progress we've achieved is remarkable. This is a testament to the dedication of our government."

The Deputy CM assured citizens that the government remains focused on addressing their needs and resolving issues. "The trust of the people drives us to continue working for their welfare. Challenges exist, but we are determined to overcome them," he said.

Choudhary concluded by reiterating the NC government's commitment to its political mandate under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. "We are here because the people have voted for us, and we will answer to them through our actions and policies," he said.

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 3: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Friday that 'they are fighting for the special status and statehood restoration'.

Speaking to reporters, Choudhary stated, "We are fighting for the restoration of special status and statehood. The National Conference (NC) government remains committed to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, and we seek the support of the public in this journey."

Responding to criticism from opposition parties, he said, "The NC is dedicated to serving the people, and criticism from others will not deter us. When they were in power, they made empty promises. The people have placed their trust in us, and we will continue to

work for their welfare." During a visit to the mechanical department's control room, Surinder Choudhary reviewed snow clearance operations following heavy snowfall in the region. He praised the department's efforts and credited Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's leadership for ensuring smooth operations.

"I'm impressed with the progress. The Chief Minister has chaired numerous meetings to ensure effective snow clearance, which has prevented hardships for the people," Choudhary said.

He highlighted the success of snow clearance in areas like Pahalgam, where roads remained accessible despite challenging winter conditions. "The biggest credit goes to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his leadership and vision, which made these operations efficient and timely," he

District Ramban gears up for weather alert: Essential Departments on high alert

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 3: In view of the weather advisory issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), forecasting significant rainfall and snowfall from January 2 to 8, 2025, the District Administration Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has put essential services departments on high alert to ensure public safety and uninterrupted services.

The public is strongly advised to adhere to safety guidelines issued by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and avoid unnecessary travel during this period to minimize disruptions and ensure safety.

Departments including Revenue, PWD (R&B), PWD (Mechanical Engineering), PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, JPDC, Jai Shakti, and

Health & Medical Education have been directed to ensure readiness for snow clearance and related logistical support. Field staff from these departments are instructed to remain stationed at their respective headquarters for immediate assistance.

The District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), located at the DC Office Ramban, is operational 24x7 to address emergencies and provide assistance. The public can reach out for support through the helpline numbers: 01998-295500 / 01998-266790.

The Deputy Commissioner has urged residents to cooperate with authorities, prioritize safety, and limit outdoor activities during adverse weather conditions. Essential services and emergency response teams are on standby to mitigate any challenges during this period.

Man shot at, injured after scuffle over parking issue in Jammu



JAMMU, Jan 3 (Agencies): A man was shot at, and injured after a scuffle broke out over parking issue in New Plot area of, Jammu district on Friday.

The officials identified the injured as Kanav Sharma, who was rushed to GMC Jammu for medical attention.

The condition of the injured is stated to be stable, the official said.

GOC White Knight Corps, Ace of Spades division visit forward posts, reviews preparedness of troops

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 3: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, accompanied by the GOC of the Ace of Spades Division, visited forward posts along the Line of Control (LOC) in the Poonch and Rajouri sectors.

During the visit, the senior officers reviewed the preparedness of troops deployed in these critical border areas. Commending the soldiers for their unwavering commitment to peace and national security, the GOC lauded their dedication and emphasized the need for constant vigilance amidst evolving challenges.

In a parallel engagement, the GOC also held an insightful interaction with trainee IAS officers.

"Discussions revolved around national security, effective governance, and fostering civil-military synergy to build a stronger and more cohesive India".

The session highlighted the importance of collaboration between the armed forces and civil administration in addressing contemporary challenges and ensuring the nation's overall progress.

Two J&K teachers to receive National Award



SRINAGAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): Two teachers from Jammu and Kashmir have been selected to receive National award which

will be conferred to them in New Delhi.

The teachers to be awarded are Rehana Kaunsar head teacher Government Boys

Middle School Yarikalan in zone Chadoora Budgam and Javed Ahmad Bandy Principal Boys Higher Secondary School Beerwah.

The teachers will be awarded at the National Level Conference of National School Leadership Conference (NSLC) organised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi. The function is scheduled from January 8 and 10 of 2025.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL
DIVISION RAJOURI
Tele/Fax: 01962-261654/E-Mail - xenphemrajouri@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No. PHE/MDR/ 358 of 2024-25 Dated:-02/01/2025

For and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri invites e-tenders from Approved contractors/ Registered firms /Original pump manufacturer/ their authorized dealer/ Workshop owners having experience in Electromechanical Works for following jobs: -

S. No.	Name of work	Qty	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Estimated cost (in lakh)	Class of contractor
01.	Providing installation testing and commissioning of pumping machinery alongwith allied electro-mechanical works at different pumping stations of PHE Mechanical Sub Division Rajouri	01 Job	Rs. 200.00 (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan or under Major Head, MH: 0215 (Revenue head) or through RTGS in J&K Bank branch Rajouri bearing bank A/C No 002001020000096, IFSC code JAKAORADISH in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mech Division Rajouri	30 Days	2.50 lacs	Registered/ Reputed firms/Workshop owners having experience in Electro-mechanical Works

- The bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **02/01/2025 (18:00 PM) to 10/01/2025 (14:00 PM)**. Bidding document contains instruction for bidders, bill of quantities, general terms and condition and other details.
 - The Bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **04/01/2025 (10:00 AM) to 10/01/2025 (14:00 PM)**.
 - The complete bidding process will be through electronic mode.
 - A pre-bid meeting will be held on **03/01/2025 (15:00 PM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri to address any queries from the firms.
 - Cover-I of the bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **11/01/2025 (12:00 PM)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Rajouri in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- As per the Govt. Order No. O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dated. 07-06-2018.**
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-Tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidders who is declared as L1 after opening of Financial Bids
 - The cost of the tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan by simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/Receipt.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding document.
- The guidelines regarding submission of bid in electronic mode can be downloaded from website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>
- The bidders shall go through the tender specific instructions sheet also.
- The bidders for any clarification can contact the department through e-mail xenphemrajouri@gmail.com

No:- PHE/MDR/9406-08
Dated: 02-01-2025

sd
Executive Engineer
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EDITORIAL

Foreign
Trade Policy

The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 of India, unveiled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is a forward-looking framework designed to propel India's international trade landscape into the future. The policy is part of the government's broader vision to enhance India's global trade presence, with a target of achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. FTP 2023 emphasizes simplifying trade processes, fostering sustainability, and providing targeted support for key sectors, including manufacturing, services, and small enterprises. This policy comes at a crucial time as the world economy continues to evolve, and India seeks to adapt its trade strategies in response to global dynamics and emerging opportunities.

One of the primary objectives of the FTP 2023 is to create a more business-friendly environment by enhancing the ease of doing business for exporters. This includes simplifying compliance procedures, reducing documentation requirements, and integrating digital tools into the export-import process. A key aspect of this is the effort to transition most trade-related paperwork into a fully digital format, making it easier for businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to engage in global trade. By streamlining processes, the government hopes to reduce transaction costs, improve efficiency, and attract more businesses into the export sector. Additionally, the policy introduces changes to customs procedures and aims to automate key functions of the trading process, thus reducing delays at ports and other checkpoints.

To further enhance India's export performance, FTP 2023 introduces an expanded focus on both merchandise and services exports. The policy sets ambitious goals for the services sector, including Information Technology (IT), business services, and healthcare, which have long been key drivers of India's export growth. With the advent of new technologies and digitization, India is positioned to leverage its competitive advantage in these sectors, and the FTP encourages policies that will support their growth. The government is particularly keen on promoting the export of green and sustainable products, aligning with global trends towards environmental responsibility. Exporting renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, and sustainable agricultural practices will be critical to positioning India as a leader in these high-growth global markets.

In tandem with supporting established sectors, the FTP 2023 places considerable emphasis on fostering new sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and renewable energy. By incentivizing the growth of these emerging industries, the policy aims to not only diversify India's export base but also increase its integration into the next generation of global value chains. The focus on emerging technologies is expected to create new avenues for innovation, job creation, and high-value exports. In particular, the policy encourages Startups and MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), who have traditionally faced challenges in international trade, by offering tailored support and fostering a more conducive environment for their global operations. By improving the participation of SMEs in exports, FTP 2023 aims to ensure that the benefits of international trade are shared more equitably across India's economic spectrum.

Another key focus area of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 is the improvement of infrastructure to support exports. This includes upgrading port facilities, enhancing logistics capabilities, and improving the digital infrastructure to facilitate smoother cross-border trade. As India's trade volume grows, modernizing trade infrastructure is essential to handle the increased demand efficiently. The government also aims to improve transportation networks, including roads, railways, and airports, to ensure that goods can move quickly and efficiently to and from international markets. Additionally, the policy encourages the adoption of new technologies such as blockchain and AI to optimize supply chains and create transparency in the export process.

The FTP 2023 also seeks to address India's historical trade imbalances by promoting market diversification. The policy calls for a more robust engagement with new and emerging markets in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, while continuing to strengthen trade relationships with traditional partners like the United States, the European Union, and the Gulf countries. By diversifying its trade partnerships, India aims to reduce its dependency on a few countries and increase its global influence. The government also plans to sign more Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs) with strategic partners to improve access to foreign markets, reduce tariffs, and foster stronger economic relations.

"A PERSON ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SUCCESS OR FAILURES, JOY OR SORROWS"

By: Kundan Kashmiri

In the vast tapestry of life, one truth stands supreme, every individual is the architect of their destiny. A person alone is responsible for their successes and failures, joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats. This fundamental principle of self-accountability is both empowering and humbling. It challenges us to embrace our potential while confronting our shortcomings with honesty and determination.

Responsibility is not just a burden; it is a privilege. It signifies maturity and the realization that we are the creators of our circumstances. Blaming external factors, be it luck, fate, or others, is an evasion of this truth. True progress begins when we accept that every decision we make, every action we take, shapes our present and future.

Life presents us with endless choices, each carrying consequences. Some choices propel us forward; others may lead us astray. Yet, every choice offers a lesson. By reflecting on our decisions, we gain the wisdom to make better ones in the future. A student who dedicates themselves to study reaps the rewards of knowledge and success. Conversely, one who squanders time faces the consequences of unpreparedness. The outcome is not a matter of luck but the direct result of their choices.

Self-awareness is the compass that guides us on the path of accountability. By recognizing our strengths

and weaknesses, we can harness our potential while addressing areas for growth. This introspection requires courage and humility but leads to transformative self-improvement. Life is a journey of constant evolution. Mistakes and failures are inevitable but should not define us. Instead, they serve as stepping stones for growth. A person with a growth mindset views challenges as opportunities to learn, adapt, and excel.

Blaming others or external circumstances for our predicaments is a common yet destructive tendency. It not only absolves us of responsibility but also stunts our growth. To thrive, we must own our actions and decisions, accepting that we alone determine our path. "You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself. That is something you have charge of," said Jim Rohn.

Define what you want to achieve and the steps required to get there. Commit to actions that align with your goals, even when they require sacrifice. Accept setbacks as part of the journey and bounce back stronger. Learn from others to gain new perspectives and improve. Take time to evaluate your progress and adjust your course as needed.

Many spiritual teachings emphasize that we reap what we sow. This concept of karma underscores the importance of our actions and intentions. By living consciously and responsibly, we align ourselves with

the universal laws of justice and harmony.

Be honest with yourself. Authenticity is the foundation of accountability. Do not wait for opportunities; create them. Success is the fruit of consistent effort. While taking responsibility, also recognize your impact on others.

To truly master the art of accountability, we must cultivate discipline and perseverance. Discipline builds character, enabling us to resist distractions and focus on long-term goals. Perseverance helps us stay resilient, even in the face of adversity. Together, these qualities transform ordinary individuals into extraordinary achievers. By embracing responsibility, we also inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect that uplifts society as a whole.

You hold the pen to your life story. Whether it is a tale of perseverance, achievement, and joy or one of regret and missed opportunities depends entirely on your choices. Accepting responsibility for your life is not a burden but a profound act of empowerment. It is a declaration that you, and you alone, are the master of your fate and the captain of your soul.

As you navigate life's journey, remember: the power to succeed, to rise, and to transform lies within you. Own your actions, embrace your potential, and create a legacy that inspires others. Let this truth guide you: It is not the circumstances but how you respond to them that

defines who you are.

Our lives are a testament to the choices we make and the principles we uphold. Every challenge, every setback, and every opportunity is a mirror reflecting our inner strength and resilience. When we take responsibility for our lives, we unlock an unparalleled sense of freedom—freedom to grow, evolve, and live authentically. This freedom becomes a source of profound happiness, enabling us to face life with courage and grace.

Let us embrace this responsibility not just for ourselves but for the generations to come. By demonstrating accountability and perseverance, we set an example for others to follow. Our actions can inspire those around us to take charge of their lives, creating a collective force for positive change. In doing so, we contribute not just to our personal growth but to the betterment of society and the world at large.

(President Awardee Kundan Kashmiri)

Kashmir Watcher, freelance writer & President Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC)

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India must rethink strategy at borders to contain China

By: Abhijit Bhattacharyya

With the dawn of 2025, amid the rising instability in our neighbourhood and beyond, India should take a fresh look at its political handling of the situation in our border states. August 1947 saw multiple birth pangs to our east and west, followed by the massacre of civilian populations. The end of the killings could not halt the simmering thoughts of revenge, which got embedded in the psyche of both Hindus and Muslims across the subcontinent, jeopardising the survival of minorities in several areas amid chronic confrontation. When the natural, seamless geography became the line of physical demarcation, separating the composite demography evolved over centuries, it gave birth to sub-human hatred, hostility and feelings of revenge.

What lay in the pages of history is resurfacing as scary reality in pockets of South Asia today; as India faces one of the most challenging times of the revenge of geography, an outcome of 1947's Partition. India's land border, as is well known, has always been a soft target for outsiders. Continental theorist Halford Mackinder had perceptively observed: "In the British Empire there's but one land frontier: the Northwest Frontier of India". Mackinder's was an astute observation, but today it can be expanded further, and include the whole of the northern and eastern borders of India. The efforts to fence the Pakistan and Bangladesh frontiers is laudable, but it loses effectiveness due to the non-fencing of the Myanmar and Nepal borders. The country can't be protected by guarding two frontiers and two others unguarded.

Otherwise, the inevitable revenge of physical geography will be back to hit the politi-

cal geography hard, through myopic local politician-instigated restless and reckless demography, leading to more future Partition-like crises of mass killing. One may just look at India's neighbourhood of the earlier smaller, friendly states. Does the present scenario inspire mutual trust and confidence as in the past? All of them have faced political coups or upheavals, and the forced entry of the Communist Party of China, openly or by the backdoor, in a sub-Himalayan zone which was never its area of geopolitical interest. A country of India's size, or any country with some position and location features, can't ignore reality of geography. Society, the polity, economy, sociology, history, culture, civilisation, traditions -- all are geography-guided, geography-influenced and geography-fed.

Today, the leadership of India's northern landlocked neighbour Nepal has inexorably shifted its vision to the Pacific Ocean, despite being an integral part of South Asia's intertwined dynamics. Nepal joining CPC dictator Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative is the ultimate red line for India. All the more because the 1,750-km India-Nepal open land border constitutes the worst nightmare as a number of hostile elements from China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are bound to penetrate India's hinterland with ease. New Delhi has understandable concerns about the vulnerability of the Siliguri Corridor or the so-called "Chicken's Neck". But will an enemy only exploit the well-known Chicken's Neck to target New Delhi? Or will he make use of other easier routes to exploit the vulnerability of the vast open space spanning 1,750 km? Won't they follow Sun Tzu's Art of War of "surprise, deception, mobility"? To our west, India's immediate neighbour has its polity in a state of perpetual tsunami

due to its own making. There's nothing in sight as yet for that tsunami's self-destructive mode to reduce its mass or velocity. Far from it, it's now an unguided missile. Doesn't the scenario of a "Reunited Pakistan", with Dhaka back as the eastern wing of a "Greater Pakistan", seem like an attempt to give India a taste of revenge for December 16, 1971? For the eastern neighbour, the best of times is obviously past; the present looks like a nightmare. Despite the inherent vibrancy and versatility of the population, the frequent changes in the political mood always led to suicidal violence in Dhaka. India is well aware that the challenge of geography in the east always originated from unpredictable psychological vibrations. Hence, the changes in its polity invariably happens with electric speed. India can expect more of it. Further to the east, there are diverse and varied ethnic groups whose differences with each other has given an opportunity to hostile external forces to exploit divisions and sow mischief. This kind of behaviour by the Han-dominated CPC is unlikely to cease anytime in the foreseeable future. The turbulence of the polity in India's Northeast has given room to the CPC to deepen its penetration of the South Asian land mass. Going south, towards the great Indian Ocean, the tranquillity and serenity of some island nations is getting harder to preserve. The naval dragon is reluctant to allow port, big or small, to operate in India's vicinity without being gobbled up under the ambit of the CPC's Belt and Road Initiative. For this and other reasons, the CPC finds Hindustan to be the easiest of targets. It just has to play the waiting game effectively. This is why the Indian government, the political system and the people

in general need to do a major rethink on our border strategy: on the division of existing states and the creation of new border states, particularly in the north-eastern region. Key threats to India's national security originate from the internal disturbances triggered by political disunity, putting the whole system into disarray by deflection from the "real issues". Strangely, Indians haven't learnt the lessons of the 1947 Partition. One must consider the strange phenomenon that almost every Indian state bordering Nepal and Tibet (occupied by the Chinese Communists in 1950), has been internally partitioned and broken into new states. The state of Jammu and Kashmir became two Union territories; Punjab was broken into three states; Uttar Pradesh was split into two, as was Bihar; and the single state of Assam was carved into five states. The creation of smaller states may serve short-term political interests, but has anyone calculated the devastating strategic dimension of partitioning states which border China, Nepal and erstwhile East Pakistan? Won't it only help neighbours expand their reach into the sub-Himalayan terrain to expand their zone of influence across South Asia? Does such partitioning create stability or sow the seeds of enduring mutual hostility? Does it help India build a stable polity or enable China the opportunity to sow seeds of perpetual internal conflict and disharmony? India must conduct a long-term cost-benefit analysis of the geographical parcelling of border states due to internal bickering, hatred and hostility, enabling hostile powers to fish in troubled waters and destabilise her polity and destroy its economy. The matter is urgent, there's no time to be lost.

Kalpna Kala Kendra, NDS call for action to empower differently-abled individuals on Braille Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Braille Day, observed on January 4, commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the visionary who created the Braille system, empowering millions of visually impaired individuals worldwide.

This occasion underscores the significance of accessibility and equal opportunities for differently-abled individuals.

In light of this, Kalpna Kala Kendra and Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) socially driven organizations, submitted a memorandum to the Government of India and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on the 33rd International Disability Day (December 3, 2024).

The memorandum highlighted critical issues faced by the differently-abled community and pro-

vided actionable recommendations to address them. Despite these efforts, there has been no response or visible action from the authorities.

The memorandum emphasizes the mandatory use of white canes for visually impaired individuals to enhance public awareness and safety. It calls for revised policies for government employees, advocating for postings within a 10-kilometer radius of their homes, increased medical allowances, and pensions rising from 50% to 70% after age 60.

Additionally, it stresses the importance of simplifying the UDID registration process, making it mandatory for railway and airline bookings while organizing regular camps to facilitate the issuance of UDID cards.

Other recommendations include accessibility audits of government buildings, ensuring ramps and wheelchair-friendly facilities, and renovating public washrooms at key locations such as bus stands and railway stations.

The proposal also highlights the urgent need for tactile tiles on footpaths, accessible websites, talking ATMs, and inclusive education policies integrating Braille and sign language.

Kalpna Kala Kendra and Nami Dogri Sanstha advocates for mandatory sign language training for professionals in key sectors such as law enforcement, healthcare, and education to foster effective communication.

It seeks representation for differently-abled individuals in

governance and the establishment of a Disability Commission to promote inclusive advocacy.

The memorandum further underscores the necessity of sports development facilities and coaching for differently-abled athletes to excel on international platforms.

As Braille Day approaches, Kalpna Kala Kendra and Nami Dogri Sanstha urges the Government of India, the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, and relevant authorities to prioritize these recommendations.

This is not merely about convenience but upholding the fundamental rights and dignity of differently-abled individuals.

The organization calls upon the media, civil society, and citizens to join in advocating for these changes, fostering a more inclusive and accessible India.

BJP pays floral tributes to Savitribai Phule



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Mahila Morcha, J&K BJP led by its President Sanjita Dogra, paid floral tributes to legendary social reformer Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, Priya Sethi, BJP NEM & Headquarter Incharge, Veenu Khanna, Secretary, J&K BJP and many senior leaders of Mahila Morcha paid tributes on the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while paying tributes, said that born in 1831 in Maharashtra, Savitribai Phule led a strong movement against the unbending society, during a time when women and

certain castes were not given education and oppressed. She began this process with reforms in education, caste equality, and women empowerment along with her husband, Jyotirao Phule. He said that the combined efforts from both of them were the beginning of progressive changes that are still occurring up to the present time. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also working on the mission mode to achieve a society that is free from the social evils.

Priya Sethi, in her address said that Savitri Bai Phule also committed herself to social causes beyond women's education. She worked tirelessly for the cause of self-respect of

the Dalits who were suffering at that time. She made the society aware of the plight of Dalits. She opposed untouchability and worked towards molding society to become more inclusive and equitable.

Sanjita Dogra, in her address said that families and societies could tread the path of progressive ideals only through women's education, something for which both Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule underwent a lot of struggle, pain and hardships.

Neha Mahajan, General Secretary Mahila Morcha conducted the proceedings of the tributes programme.

Reema Padha, General Secretary Mahila Morcha presented the note of thanks.

Sat Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi felicitates roller-skating champions

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, felicitated young Roller-skating champions hailing from the Jammu city area.

Sat Sharma, President along with Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, Narottam Sharma, ex corporator, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge and other senior leaders of party felicitated Kartikeya aged 21 and Puneesh aged 14 in presence of their father Ratnesh Puri.

Puneesh became national champion in a 62nd RSFI national championship in speed skating held at Mysore, Karnataka from 5th -15 December 2024. He received 2 gold and 1 silver in 1500-meter road race, 1000-meter



ring race and 500-meter ring race.

Kartikeya earlier stood as no 1 ranked player in speed skating in whole nation in 2023 and had earlier received special cash reward of 1 lakh rupees from the LG of J&K.

Sat Sharma, while felicitating the young performers recommended their skill, and dedication, which enabled them to achieve the feat. He commended the

youth of Jammu & Kashmir which has channelized their energies in the sports keeping their energies focused on the constructive works. He said that their achievements have made their parents proud and also brought laurels to the city and whole of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that these achievements also serve as the inspiration for the rest of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir to excel in their respective

fields. He also called for the improved facilities in the sports complex for the budding players which will enable them to earn more medals of the region.

Yudhvir Sethi, while felicitating the Kartikey and Puneesh, stressed on the contribution of their father in their careers. He said that as the combined efforts, the both skaters are set to scale more achievements in their future

competitions.

Narottam Sharma, said that the young players have made all proud with their hard work and achievements. Their efforts along with the dedication of their father has brought laurels to the family and region.

Dr Pardeep stressed on the need of complete technical staff, and state of art facilities for the sports persons to train professionally.

Kartikeya and Puneesh thanked the senior leadership of party for their gesture and requested for the increasing the facilities at the stadium like increasing the Bentrack Rink Size from 150 mtrs to 200 mtrs National / International level. Also, Road circuit to be made available for long Marathon races in the same game.

Yudhvir, Surinder holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President, J&K BJP & MLA Jammu East and Surinder Bhagat, MLA Marh held a public darbar at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

A number of deputations chiefly hailing from the areas 'in and around' Jammu approached the

BJP headquarters and presented their grievances in front of BJP MLAs.

Among other issues, 5 deputations presented the issue of construction and repair of lanes and drains in Gole Gujral, Trikuta Nagar, Narwal, and Marh areas. 3 deputations presented the issue of repair and installa-

tion of street lights in Talab Tillo and Trikuta Nagar. A deputation presented an issue related to revenue department. A deputation raised concern of erratic water supply.

The senior leaders of party, resolved many issues on the spot, while communicated in oral and written way with the concerned department officials.

Yudhvir Sethi, while listening to the grievances of the deputations, said that the BJP believes in serving the people on the ground level and does not mislead the public on mere political sloganeering.

"NC and other political parties have consistently misled people by making hoax promises. NC government in Jammu & Kashmir has also failed on all the fronts, while it promised moon to the people of Jammu & Kashmir in the Assembly elections through its political manifesto, it proves itself to be 'a bunch of lies' even after the 2 months of government formation in Jammu & Kashmir", said Yudhvir Sethi.

Surinder Bhagat, on the occasion, said that the BJP stands fully committed to the people in serving them and mitigating their issues. He urged the people to come forward and present their issues in the public Darbar so that their problems can be resolved at the earliest.

Omar Abdullah prioritizing concerns of a terrorist's son rather than a terrorist's victim is highly condemnable: Pawan Sharma



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Pawan Sharma, senior BJP leader and Prabhari for District Doda, has criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for prioritizing the concerns of a terrorist's son over those of a terrorist's victim. This criticism comes amidst Omar Abdullah's statement expressing concern for the son of a terrorist and those who have supported terrorism in Kashmir. Sharma condemned Abdullah's stance, emphasizing the importance of empathy towards the victims of terrorism rather than their perpetrators.

Sharma emphasized that Abdullah's statement is a stark reminder of the National Conference leader's priorities, which appear to be skewed in favor of those who have perpetuated violence and terror in the region. By contrast, the victims of terrorism and their families continue to suffer in silence, Sharma

noted. Sharma's condemnation is part of a broader narrative of political tensions in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has witnessed significant developments in recent times, under the astute leadership of PM Narendra Modi at the Centre, including the launch of various developmental projects and initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

Sharma further remarked, "The NC government has been in power for almost three months, but their performance has been disappointing across the board. They have failed to deliver on their manifesto promises, which included 12 free gas cylinders, 200 units of free electricity, 10 kgs rice, one lakh jobs, and regularising daily wagers."

Sharma denounced the chief minister for making a U-turn on his commitments. "U-turns have been a long-standing tradition of Abdullah and NC governments. In opposition, they promised to dispose of electricity meters in the Tawi and Jhelum rivers. Now, in power, they assert that uninterrupted electricity will be supplied only upon achieving 100 percent metering," Sharma noted.

It's worth noting that Sharma has also been vocal about other issues affecting the region, such as the need for better infrastructure and amenities in snow-affected areas. His criticism of Abdullah's statement should be seen in the context of these broader concerns and the ongoing political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir.

Second edition of Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League to begin in Ladakh

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 3: The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League (REIHL) returns to Ladakh for its second season, scheduled to take place from January 4 to 13, 2025 at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium, Leh. This year's league aims to build on the momentum of its inaugural edition, which saw a total of 6000 spectators, once again bringing together local talent from across the region.

The Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League 2025 will feature a total of 30 matches – 23 in the men's category and 10 in the women's, over a span of 10 days. The men's

tournament is structured into two groups of five teams each, with the top two teams advancing to the semi-finals. The women's tournament will also follow a two-group round-robin format, with three and two teams in each group, followed by semi-finals and then finals on January 12. The men's championship final is set for January 13.

The League, set to take place following the Losar festivities, aims to provide a sense of community engagement while encouraging players to remain active during the winter months. The initiative is part of Royal Enfield's Social Mission in Ladakh to showcase local talent



and also foster the development of ice hockey as a key sport in the region.

Men's Teams: Changla Blasters, Kangs Sing, Zangskar Chadar Tamers, Maryul Spawo, Shakar Chiktan Royals, Sham Wolves,

Purig Warriors, Changthang Shans, United Nubra and Humas Warriors.

Women's Teams: Maryul Spawo, Sham Eagles, Changla Lamo, Skara Chiktan Queens and Humas Queens.

In preparation for the league, Royal Enfield conducted extensive training and scouting camps across Ladakh, including Drass, Zanskar, Nubra, Kargil, Shakar Chiktan, Leh, and Changthang. The players were trained by coaches who underwent specialised training in Delhi in December 2024 under the mentorship of Darryl Easson, an IIHF-certified coach-instructor who has previously coached for the national teams in the UK and Hungary.

Royal Enfield's ongoing commitment to the development of ice hockey in Ladakh includes several

interventions, ranging from grassroots learn-to-play programmes and train-the-trainer initiatives to essential equipment support. Two skate-sharpening machines have been provided to the Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh, addressing a critical need for players who previously faced logistical challenges in accessing such facilities, mainly available only in Leh.

Match schedules, results, and behind-the-scenes updates will be available on the official website and social media channels. Follow @royalenfieldsocialmission on Instagram for exclusive content and updates.

Sara Ali Khan's enjoys first dinner of 2025 with her "mommy jaan"

Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan recently revealed that she spent the first dinner of 2025 with her "mommy jaan," Amrita Singh.

Sara welcomed the new year in Goa, accompanied by her mother.

Sharing this beautiful moment, she posted a collage on Instagram Stories featuring her "Mommy Jaan" as they enjoyed their first dinner of the year together. The mother-daughter duo radiated joy as they posed for the pictures. The Simmba actress shared some lovely selfies with her mother, Amrita.

In the pictures, Sara looked stunning. Sara captioned the post, "First dinner of the year with Mommy Jaan."

Atrangi Re star expressed her gratitude for the year 2024. In an emotional post, she reflected on



the unforgettable moments that made the year special.

Sara wrote, "Thank you 2024 for all the sunrises, sunsets, movies, masti, full moon rises, starry skies, pools, treks, friends, memories, saag, coffees, flights,

workouts, mommy's laughter, Iggy's joy, doston ka Sahara, Kedarnath ki yatra, Rajdhani ke chakkar, Jaisalmer ka sand, cruise ke waters, behti hui Ganga, Ma ka UK, mera Uttarakhand aur itni sukh, shaanti.

2025 can't wait to cherish all the moments of bliss I eagerly await while currently cherishing and reminiscing the moments that create this year."

On the professional front, Sara is set to star in Sky Force, where she'll share the screen with Akshay Kumar, Nimrat Kaur, and Veer Pahariya.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan, Amar Kaushik, and Jyoti Deshpande, the film will explore a lesser-known chapter of India's history. It is set to release in theatres on January 24, 2025.

Additionally, she will appear in Anurag Basu's upcoming anthology Metro In Dino, alongside an ensemble cast including Aditya Roy Kapur, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

Sonu Sood says actors' bodyguards are trained to intentionally attract attention at public places



Actors are often accompanied by multiple bodyguards who provide protection at airports or public events. Numerous videos of bodyguards pushing fans have surfaced online. A week earlier, in an interview with agency, Sonu Sood opened up on how these bodyguards are trained to bring the public's attention towards the actor.

Sonu Sood shared his thoughts on how some actors intentionally attract attention in public

spaces. He explained, "Bodyguards and entourages are often trained to create a scene, especially at places like airports. So, even those minding their own business, turn and see who's coming. That's how they get attention. The same actor, walking alone, could easily pass through with only a few fans asking for photos. But when chaos is created, it ensures they get noticed."

Recalling an incident,

Sonu Sood said, "I was at the gym when a friend came to pick me up. A car stopped nearby, and a bodyguard stepped out, pretending there was a huge crowd. He started shouting, 'Step back,' even though no one was around. The actor then followed and entered the building amidst this. The truth is, if you simply walk into a crowd, most people won't bother you. I have bodyguards too, but I always instruct them to avoid pushing anyone. Even when walking in a chain, I tell them try not to push anyone. The public is generally well-behaved and harmless. However, maximum people have a problem that why they don't do anything. So, they make public active with these tricks. That's the reality."

Sonu Sood's upcoming movie

Sonu Sood is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming movie, Fateh. Produced by Shakti Sagar Productions, and Zee Studios and co-produced by Ajay Dhama, the action-thriller marks Sonu Sood's directorial debut and also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz, Naseeruddin Shah and Dibyendu Bhattacharya in key roles. It is set to release in theatres on January 10.

Dalljiet Kaur: 'I lived in denial for 2-3 years after my divorce from Shalin Bhanot'

Actress Dalljiet Kaur made headlines throughout 2024 after her second marriage to Kenya-based Nikhil Patel ended in just ten months. Before marrying Nikhil in 2023, Dalljiet was married to actor Shalin Bhanot, with whom she shares a son, Jaydon. However, her marriage to Shalin ended in 2015 after she accused him of domestic violence. Recently, on the latest episode of SCREEN's Dear Me, Dalljiet opened up about the aftermath of her divorce from Shalin.

Talking about her and Shalin's love story, Dalljiet said, "Shalin and I did Kul Vadhu, and then Nach Baliye. When we won Nach Baliye, it became very obvious that we were a couple. We were obviously in love, so it was understood that we would get married to each other. After Nach Baliye, we got married within a couple of months. I was working on two shows

when I met Shalin, so we would barely meet for an hour for coffee or something. The so-called dating was not like getting to know each other, but more like spending time together. We didn't get that luxury of getting to spend a lot of time with each other. I wish I would have gotten to know more about him, then these things wouldn't have happened."

Sharing how she coped with the end of her first marriage, Dalljiet said, "After the first marriage fell apart, I was scared to be in a relationship for 9 years, and I missed that happy family life for that long. I took my own sweet time. I was in denial for more than 2-3 years that my marriage broke. The divorce word would not go down well with me; I would just break down and keep crying. At that time, Jaydon was an infant; it was not easy at all. Back then, I would get so offended if anyone

flirted with me because I was still married in my head. Then, I started looking out because I wanted Jaydon also to see a normal family. After this, I was on every dating website and kept looking."

When asked if Shalin Bhanot was involved in Jaydon's life during those nine years, Dalljiet Kaur said, "Shalin was around in those 9 years. It was not like he was taking care or making decisions, but he would meet once in a while. Jaydon grew up seeing him around, calling him dad. I thought it was healthy for him to at least keep meeting Jaydon. So anytime Shalin asked to meet him, I would allow it. But today, if you ask Shalin how old is Jaydon, he wouldn't know."

Dalljiet also revealed how her son's longing for a father played a role in her decision to remarry. "Jaydon was craving for a dad. He would see his friends having their



dads around when he went for stayovers or even on Father's Day, so he wanted that.

He was thrilled for the second marriage because he, of course, missed having a father around at all times. It was a nightmare seeing Jaydon go through what he did. I protected him for 9 years. I took a decision back then to protect him, and then this hap-

pened. It felt like I failed. Jaydon didn't deserve all of this; no child on this earth does."

While Dalljiet Kaur is now focusing on rebuilding her life, she is also supporting her son through this challenging period.

Meanwhile, actor Shalin Bhanot is rumoured to be dating Bigg Boss 18 contestant Eisha Singh.

Anurag Kashyap reveals why he's leaving Bollywood for South cinema & what it means for his career

Anurag Kashyap is one of the most popular filmmakers in the Indian film industry. Known for his raw storytelling, Kashyap is most famous for movies such as Gangs of Wasseypur, Return of Hanuman, and Dev.D. While he made a name for himself in Bollywood, the director is no longer interested in working in Bombay. As an actor, he has already been playing roles in the Southern film industry in the past few years.

He starred in the Tamil films Leo and Maharaja, and most recently in the Malayali film Rifle Club. Furthermore, he is set to star in upcoming Tamil films Viduthalai Part 2 and One 2 One. But what prompted Kashyap to leave Bombay and move to the South for his cinematic journey?

Anurag Kashyap's body of work has always stood apart in Bollywood. However, the filmmaker has often voiced his frustration with Bollywood's increasing focus on formulaic content and reluctance to embrace unconventional narratives. He believes that the industry is only focusing on minting prof-



its, unlike the Malayali industry and the pan-Indian films where they "create newer ideas and push boundaries", and that "they have a healthy competition with each other".

Talking at the International Film Festival of Kerala, Kashyap said "They take influences [from around the world] and localize it so much that it creates a very different language altogether." Kashyap also explained the problem with the Hindi cinema. "The problem with Hindi cinema is that we think we have to create the next big blockbuster.... Instead of focusing on

making the film, we started focusing on being treated like stars," Kashyap continued, "It's difficult for me to experiment now because it comes at a cost and that makes my producer think about profits. Before we make a film, it's all about how we sell it. The joy of filmmaking is sucked out."

In the end, Kashyap revealed that he was planning to leave Bombay and go to the South.

While it may mean fewer or no Bollywood films from the director, it promises a new era of storytelling for Indian cinema.

Wayne Osmond, singer and guitarist for The Osmonds, dies at 73

Wayne Osmond, a singer, guitarist and founding member of the million-selling family act The Osmonds, who were known for 1970s teen hits such as "One Bad Apple", "Yo-Yo" and "Down By the Lazy River", has died. He was 73.

Sibling Merrill Osmond posted on his Facebook page that Wayne died this week at a Salt Lake City hospital after suffering a "massive stroke".

"I've never known a man that had more humility. A man with absolutely no guile," Merrill wrote. "An individual that was quick to forgive and had the ability to show unconditional love to everyone he ever met."

Wayne Osmond was the fourth oldest of nine children raised in



a Mormon household in Ogden, Utah, and the second oldest among the musical performers. The siblings' career began in the 1950s when Wayne, Alan, Merrill and Jay sang as a barbershop quartet.

Their popularity grew in the 1960s after being supported by singer Andy Williams, and they peaked as a quintet in the early 1970s, with younger brother Donny Osmond the breakout star.

"One Bad Apple" and other songs were often compared to the music of The Osmonds' contemporaries, the Jackson 5, and Donny was positioned as the white counterpart to the Jacksons' lead singer, Michael Jackson.

The Osmonds' popularity faded by the mid-1970s, although Donny and Marie Osmond both enjoyed successful careers as solo performers and as a brother-sister duo.

In the 1980s, Wayne Osmond

regrouped with Alan, Merrill and Jay as a country act and had a handful of hits, including "I Think About Your Lovin'".

But in the mid-1990s he was diagnosed with a brain tumour and lost much of his hearing from the surgery and treatment. A stroke in 2012 left him unable to play guitar.

"I've had a wonderful life. And you know, being able to hear is not all that it's cracked up to be, it really isn't," he told the Desert News in 2018. "My favourite thing now is to take care of my yard. I turn my hearing aids off, deaf as a doorknob, tune everything out, it's really joyful." Wayne Osmond married Kathryn White in 1974. They had five children.

Singer Armaan Malik ties the knot with girlfriend Aashna Shroff

After dating for a couple of years, singer Armaan Malik and his girlfriend Aashna Shroff have now solemnized their relationship in a traditional wedding ceremony.

On Thursday, Armaan and Aashna took to Instagram and shared the good news by sharing images from their intimate ceremony.

"Tu hi mera ghar (red heart emoji)," Armaan captioned the post.

For their special day, Aashna

opted for a radiant orange-coloured lehenga designed by Manish Malhotra.

She complemented her bridal look with exquisite jewellery from the same designer. Armaan, equally stylish, was dressed in a bespoke Manish Malhotra outfit that perfectly complemented Aashna's, creating a harmonious and elegant look.

Armaan released a special wedding EP with Aashna, capturing the essence of their relationship



through song. Armaan shared his thoughts about the EP in a press note, "This EP is my heart laid bare. It's a love letter to Aashna and to everything we've built together.

From the sacred vows in Seven, to the playful, high-energy vibes of 50/50, and the raw, deep connection in Ghar and Saanvarey, each song is a chapter of our story. I wanted to blend Indian sounds with fresh beats, keeping things soulful, honest, and real.

It's about how love isn't just a

feeling—it's everything: the quiet moments, the big celebrations, and the way we share every joy and sorrow.

This EP is the soundtrack to our journey, and I'm excited to share it with you."

Armaan and Aashna's wedding was held in the presence of their family members and close friends.

Armaan's musical journey began in 2005 with Zee TV's singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs.

President Droupadi Murmu hails NIMHANS for its integrated medicine services

BENGALURU, Jan 3 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Friday hailed NIMHANS for its integrated medicine services as she considered it as a model for all.

According to her, the application of Yoga and Ayurveda in the promotion of mental health and well being is worth emulating.

"The integrative medicine services of NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) has been a model for all to examine the applications of Yoga and Ayurveda in the promotion of mental health and well being, and in that treatment of psychiatric and neurological disorders," Murmu said during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Institute here.

On the occasion, she inaugurated the Psychiatry Specialty Block, Central Laboratory Complex and Bhima Hostel at NIMHANS. The President also dedicated state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities



the advanced 3T MRI Scanner and DSA System to the nation.

She said different kinds of meditations are also useful in countering negative mental forces, and added that they are being integrated in the Mental health care models. She underlined the importance of using traditional approaches that are beneficial for all.

Murmu said, "Our scriptures tell us that the mind is at the root of everything we perceive in the world." She underlined that greater focus on mental health promotions will become even more important in the years

ahead.

In the past, issues and concern of mental health had not received enough attention in some societies, the President said, adding that in recent times, awareness about mental health has been rising.

She further said that the unscientific belief and stigma associated with mental illnesses are a matter of past, making it easier for those suffering from various ailments to seek help.

"This has been a welcome development, especially at this juncture, because a variety of mental health issues are taking epidemic proportions around the

world. The COVID 19 pandemic in particular led to a spike in such concerns," Murmu pointed out.

According to the President, working professionals face more stress, and a large number of the elderly people suffer from loneliness due to social challenges.

"Women bearing the burden of domestic responsibilities and care giving for the family are prone to a range of mental illnesses that usually go unnoticed. However, it is truly heartening to note that the rising awareness has made it possible for patients to open up and share

their problems," she said.

Stating that many organisations have started putting mechanisms in place to respond to such issues, Murmu lauded initiatives of NIMHANS like Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) which facilitates counseling anywhere at anytime.

She also appreciated the Institute's SAMVAD platform which addresses child and adults and mental health problems. The President also stressed upon the healthy marriage, saying it is the foundation of a healthy society.

Expressing her happiness about the gender ratio at NIMHANS, she highlighted that 79.7 per cent of the undergraduate students and 61.4 per cent of post graduate students are women.

"I believe that women can add a unique perspective in mental health care, in care giving, as well as in research," she said.

PM Modi launches Delhi projects, attacks Kejriwal's 'sheesh mahal'

Likens AAP to 'aapda' for Delhi, calls for its defeat in polls



NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday slammed the AAP as an "aapda" for Delhi, saying this "aapda" has taken the national capital in its grip in the past 10 years.

Addressing people after launching a slew of infra projects in the national capital, including in housing and education sectors, he hit out at the city government led by AAP and said the situation in the national capital would worsen if its reign continued.

On the one hand, the Centre is making a lot of efforts; on the other, the Union Territory government stands for brazen lies, he said,

accusing the AAP government of committing corruption in a host of sectors ranging from school education to fighting pollution and liquor trade.

With the assembly elections set to be held in the city next month, the prime minister said Delhi had launched a war on this "aapda (disaster)" and decided to get rid of it.

"This year will usher in a new politics of nation-building and people's welfare. Therefore, 'aapda' has to be removed and the BJP brought in," he said.

Due to the city government not allowing the Centre's signature health insurance scheme, Ayushman

Bharat, and other programmes in the national capital, Modi said he was unable to help the people living here fully despite his efforts.

If highways are being built in the capital and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been able to make houses for the poor, it is because "aapda" does not have much role in these sectors, he added.

Taking a swipe at former Delhi chief minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, Modi said he could also have built a "sheesh mahal" for himself but his dream was to ensure homes for everyone in the country.

"These people commit corruption and then glorify it," he said, accusing AAP of shamelessness and making false promises.

The BJP has been targeting Kejriwal for allegedly spending a huge amount of money on his official residence when he was chief minister, and described his erstwhile home as "sheesh mahal".

Those indulging in politics over my apology seek unrest: CM Biren

IMPHAL, Jan 3 (Agencies): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, on Friday, claimed that those who are indulging in politics over his apology, to the people on the 20-month-long ethnic conflict, are seeking unrest in the state. He added that his government's priority is to restore peace.

Claiming that "past is past", Singh appealed communities to sit together and find a permanent solution to the conflict that has plagued the state since May 2023.

"Those who are indulging in politics over my statement are seeking unrest.

The opposition has no ideology. What I said was an expression of sadness and grief...My



apology was to those who have been suffering and have lost their loved ones.

Why should I say sorry to terrorists? I am saying sorry to the innocent people and those who were displaced from their homes," Singh said.

The chief minister, on Tuesday, had apologised for the ethnic conflict in the state.

The conflict claimed more than 250 lives and rendered thousands homeless.

"I convey my peace message to the community members residing in the state. Again, let us forgive and forget. Past is past.

We should sit together and bring a permanent solution. Priority should be the restoration of peace," he added.

Modi government should be asked hard questions on Christian minorities: TMC's Derek O'Brien

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): TMC leader Derek O'Brien on Friday said the Narendra Modi government must be asked 'hard questions' about the Christian community, including why the FCRA had been 'weaponised' and the people of Manipur 'ignored'.

He also sought to corner the church on the issue, days after Prime Minister Modi attended a Christmas celebration hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) in Delhi.

In a blog post on Friday, O'Brien said voices were coming up from the Christian community that should be raised to the Union government.

"These are the hard questions that must be asked of the prime minister of India, Narendra Modi. Many Christmases have gone by, now answers have to be demanded," said the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) leader in the Rajya Sabha.

"Why did you attempt to turn Christmas Day into 'Good Governance Day'? Why are you weaponising the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) to specifically target institutions run by the Christian community?," O'Brien asked.

"Why have you totally ignored the people of Manipur? Why are you encouraging and passing anti-conversion laws that violate fundamental rights under Article(s) 14, 15 and



25 of the Constitution? Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan".

O'Brien also asked why the government was pushing the Waqf bill and 'playing minority versus minority', especially in Kerala.

"Why don't you ever say a word condemning hate speeches and crude communal slurs?" he further questioned.

The TMC leader alleged that attacks on institutions run by minorities were on the rise and asked why incidents of violence against Christians were increasing.

"Why did India's National Human Rights Commission lose its United Nations accreditation twice since 2014? Do you remember Father Stan Swamy? Sipper? Straw? Death?" he added.

Swamy, an 84-year-old tribal rights activist and Jesuit priest, died in custody in July 2021 from cardiac arrest after contracting COVID-19.

He was arrested in October 2020 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and spent eight months in a Mumbai prison. He was denied bail on medical grounds several times.

"In my two decades in public life, including three terms in Parliament, I have written columns on a range of subjects but never one on the church in India. This is a first. It needed to be written. More silence on the subject would make me complicit," O'Brien said.

Modi had attended a celebration hosted by the CBCI in the national capital ahead of Christmas.

Earlier in December, several Christian MPs, in a meeting with the organisation, had raised concerns over the state of affairs concerning minorities.

O'Brien said several issues were raised by the Christian MPs at the meeting called by the CBCI, during which they urged the church body to 'stop photo-ops'.

"The Christian leadership should take a stand to call out those who are not protecting the Constitution," the TMC leader added.

'Medical seats can't remain vacant': SC asks Centre to hold talks with stakeholders

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (Agencies): Seats in medical courses cannot remain vacant, the Supreme Court on Friday said and asked the Centre to hold a meeting with the relevant stakeholders, including the states, and consider the recommendations of a committee appointed over the issue.

A bench of Justices B

R Gavai and K V Viswanathan was hearing the matter when it observed, "Seats also cannot go vacant." In April, 2023, the apex court flagged the issue of super speciality seats in medical courses remaining unfilled. The Centre had then proposed to appoint a committee, consisting of all the stakeholders including

representatives of states and private medical colleges, under the chairmanship of director general of health services to resolve the issue.

On Friday, the Centre's counsel said the committee comprising the stakeholders was constituted and it had given its recommendations on the issue. It would be appropriate if the Centre

held a meeting with the stakeholders and came out with a concrete proposal, the counsel said.

The bench therefore directed for the meeting to be held by the Centre.

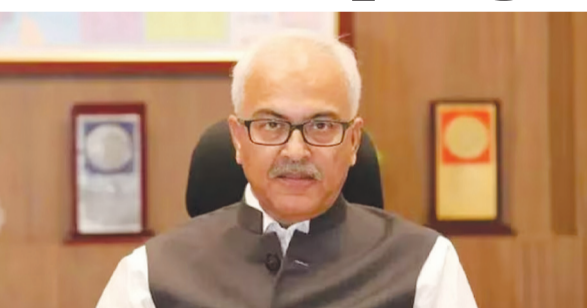
The apex court said the needful be done within three months and posted the matter in April.

In April, 2023, the top court said the plea

before it depicted a "very sorry picture" given 1,003 precious super speciality seats were going to waste as no admissions could take place for the seats.

"On the one hand, we find that there is always a shortage of super speciality doctors and on the other hand these precious seats remain unfilled," it said.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla sworn in as Manipur governor



IMPHAL, Jan 3 (Agencies): Former union home secretary

Ajay Kumar Bhalla took oath as the 19th governor of Manipur during

a function at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday.

Bhalla was administered the oath of office by Manipur High Court Chief Justice D Krishnakumar in the presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

He inspected the guard of honour by Manipur Rifles personnel.

Hari Babu Kambhampati takes oath as Odisha governor

BHUBANESWAR, Jan 3 (Agencies): Hari Babu Kambhampati was sworn in as the 27th governor of Odisha during a function at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday.

Orissa High Court Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh administered the oath of office to Mr Kambhampati in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, state



ministers, MLAs, MPs, BJP leaders and other dignitaries.

Mr Kambhampati succeeded Raghubar Das, who resigned from the

post recently.

He was accorded a guard of honour immediately after the swearing-in ceremony.

Mr Kambhampati

arrived here on Thursday afternoon.

Soon after landing here at the airport, he along with his family members visited the Jagannath Temple in Puri and sought the Lord's blessings for the welfare of the state and its people.

Mr Kambhampati, a former governor of Mizoram, was appointed as the governor of Odisha by President Droupadi Murmu on December 24 last year.

Car driven by minor rams into religious procession in Jaipur, four injured



JAIPUR, Jan 3 (Agencies): An SUV rammed into a religious procession, injuring four people here in Jaipur, and people angered by the incident vandalised the vehicle, police said on Friday.

The driver, a minor, was detained by police after the incident near Panchvati Circle at the Rajapark

area where a Nagar Kirtan was being held by members of the Sikh community on Thursday night, they said.

According to police, the car had a MLA sticker pasted on the windshield, which is being verified.

Six challans have been issued for speeding.

Policemen stationed there signalled the SUV coming at high speed to stop but the driver allegedly accelerated, ACP Lakshmi Suthar said.

Police said the driver allegedly

did not stop the car even after hitting people.

About 100 metres ahead, the crowd stopped the car.

Four boys got down and started running, but people caught the driver.

Three other youths present in the car managed to escape, police said.

A woman and a girl were among those injured in the incident.

Adarsh Nagar Police has registered a case in the matter and is investigating the case further.

Israeli strikes kill 50 in Gaza as Netanyahu OKs delegation to talks in Qatar

War has caused widespread destruction and displaced some 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, many of them multiple times

DEIR AL-BALAH, Jan 3 (Agencies): Israeli airstrikes killed at least 50 people, including several children, across the Gaza Strip, hitting Hamas security officers and an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone.

As the bombardment continued on Thursday and into Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he had authorised a delegation from the Mossad intelligence agency, the Shin Bet internal security agency and the military to continue negotiations in Qatar toward a ceasefire deal.

Israeli media said the delegation would depart on Friday. There was no immediate Hamas comment. The US-led talks have repeatedly stalled during 15 months of war.

The Israeli strike in the seaside humanitarian zone known as Muwas occurred as hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have been huddling there in damp winter weather.

"Everyone was taking shelter in their tents from the cold, and suddenly we found the world turning upside down. Why, and for what?" said Ziyad Abu Jabal, displaced from Gaza City.

The early morning strike killed at least 10 people, including three children and two senior Hamas police officers.

Israel's military said it targeted a senior police officer, saying he was involved in gathering intelligence used by Hamas' armed wing in attacks on Israeli forces.

Another Israeli strike killed at least eight people in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. The



men were members of local committees that help secure aid convoys, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies. An Associated Press journalist there confirmed the toll.

There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

In southern Gaza, the military killed five policemen in eastern Khan Younis. Israeli government spokesman David Mencer said the strike targeted the head of the Hamas internal security force in southern Gaza.

"Where did we find him? Where else, but of course hiding in the humanitarian zone in Khan Younis, where Gazans are sheltering from this war," Mencer said.

Israel has repeatedly targeted Gaza's police during the war, contributing to a breakdown of law and order that has made it difficult for humanitarian groups to deliver aid. Israel accuses Hamas of hijacking aid for its own purposes.

The Hamas-run government

had a police force numbering in the tens of thousands that maintained a high degree of public security before the war, while also violently suppressing dissent. Now officers have largely vanished from the streets in many areas.

Meanwhile, three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike that hit a group of people walking in the street in Maghazi in central Gaza. Their bodies were taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

Late Thursday and early Friday, Israeli strikes in central Gaza, including Maghazi and the Nuseirat refugee camp, killed at least 24 people, including children, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

The war was sparked by Hamas-led militants' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel. The militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third believed to be dead. Israel's offensive in retaliation

has killed over 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which says women and children make up more than half the dead. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in their tally.

Israel's military says it only targets militants and blames Hamas for civilian deaths because its fighters operate in dense residential areas. The army says it has killed 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war has caused widespread destruction and displaced some 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, many of them multiple times.

Hunger is widespread. Children, some barefoot or in sandals, waited in line with metal pails or other containers at a food distribution center in Deir al-Balah on Thursday.

Netanyahu leaves the hospital after surgery

Netanyahu was released from the hospital Thursday after having prostate surgery Sunday.

Doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital said Netanyahu was recuperating well, although he has a period of recovery ahead. Despite doctor's orders to remain hospitalized, the 75-year-old leader briefly left the facility to participate in a vote in Israel's parliament on Tuesday.

Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead in Gaza until Hamas is destroyed. But the militant group, while greatly weakened, has repeatedly regrouped in parts of the territory — notably the largely isolated north — after Israeli forces withdraw.

Plane crashes into roof of building in California; 2 dead, 18 hurt



FULLERTON (US), Jan 3 (Agencies): Two people died and 18 were injured when a small plane crashed through the roof of a sprawling furniture manufacturing building in Southern California where at least 200 people were working, police said today.

The identities of the people who died, and whether they were in the plane or on the ground, was not yet known, said Kristy Wells, a Fullerton police spokesperson.

The plane crashed less than two minutes after taking off from the Fullerton Municipal Airport in Orange County, located just six miles (10 kilometers) from Disneyland, according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware.

Security camera footage from Rucci Forged, a wheel manufacturer

across the street, shows the plane was tilted on its side as it dove into the building, causing a fiery explosion and black plume of smoke.

Firefighters and police arrived on scene and battled the blaze and evacuated surrounding businesses, Wells said.

Chris Villalobos, an airport operations worker, came to the warehouse to see what had happened after receiving a phone call about a plane going down nearby.

He said the owner of the aircraft was a regular at the airport and has frequently taken off from there.

"He has a hangar here and everything," Villalobos said.

Villalobos said that after taking off, the pilot told air traffic control he was going

to turn around to make an emergency landing, but it was unclear what the issue with the plane was.

The building was occupied by Michael Nicholas Designs, a furniture upholstery manufacturer, according to a sign on a door, and there appeared to be sewing machines and textile stock inside.

Ten people were taken to the hospital, while eight were treated and released at the scene, police said. There were two confirmed deaths, according to Wells.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane was a single-engine Van's RV-10, a four-seat aircraft.

The airport in Fullerton has one runway and a heliport. Metrolink, a regional train line, is nearby and flanks a residential neighborhood and commercial warehouse buildings.

Another four-seat plane crashed into a tree a half-mile from the airport last November while making an emergency landing right after takeoff, the Orange County Register reported. Both people on board suffered moderate injuries.

Fullerton is a city of about 140,000 people some 25 miles (40 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles.

Trump to hold victory rally in Washington DC on Jan 19, day before inauguration

FLORIDA, Jan 3 (Agencies): Donald Trump is expected to hold a big Washington rally the day before he's sworn in as the nation's 47th president.

The victory rally, as it's being billed, will be held at the Capitol One Arena in the District of Columbia on January 19. Trump has always preferred rally-style events where he can freewheel and joke with his supporters. He'll be inaugurated in a formal ceremony at the US Capitol on January 20th.

"This is President Trump's VICTORY RALLY the DAY before being sworn in as the 47th President -- the crowd needs to be HUGE!" read an email to supporters advertising the event.

The rally is indoors -- Trump's big outdoor events were limited in the months following an assassination attempt. The arena seats roughly 20,000 people.

Security will be tight; the inauguration is considered a national special security event which frees up federal funds and increased ease on collaboration with local law enforcement.

Trump invited Chinese President Xi



Jinping and other world leaders to his inauguration -- an unorthodox move that would fold US allies and adversaries into a very American political tradition. It's not clear if any leaders will actually attend.

The incoming president has pledged to begin a mass deportation effort as soon as he takes office. He's also vowed to levy massive tariffs against the United States' chief economic competitor, China, as well as neighbours Canada and Mexico unless those countries do more to reduce illegal immigration and the flow of illegal drugs such as fentanyl into the United States. He's also pledged to move quickly to end Russia's nearly three-year war in Ukraine.

South Korea's impeached president defies warrant after hours long standoff

Yoon's defence minister, police chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested over their roles in period of martial law

SEOUL, Jan 3 (Agencies): South Korean investigators left the president's official residence after a nearly six-hour standoff during which he defied their attempt to detain him in the latest confrontation of a political crisis that has paralysed South Korean politics and seen two heads of state impeached in under a month.

The country's anti-corruption agency said it withdrew its investigators after the presidential security service blocked them from entering President Yoon Suk Yeol's residence for hours due to concerns about their safety. The agency expressed "serious regret about the attitude of the suspect, who did not respond to a process by law."

Yoon, a former prosecutor, has defied investigators' attempts to question him for weeks. The last time he is known to have left the residence was on Dec 12, when he went to the nearby presidential office to make a televised statement to the nation, making a defiant statement that he will fight efforts to oust him.

Investigators from the country's anti-corruption agency are weighing charges of rebellion after Yoon, apparently frustrated that his policies were blocked by an opposition-dominated parliament, declared martial law on Dec 3 and dispatched troops to surround the National Assembly.

Parliament overturned the declaration within



hours in a unanimous vote and impeached Yoon on Dec 14, accusing him of rebellion, while South Korean anti-corruption authorities and public prosecutors opened separate investigations into the events.

A Seoul court issued a warrant for Yoon's detention on Tuesday, but enforcing it is complicated as long as he remains in his official residence.

Yoon's lawyers, who filed a challenge to the warrant on Thursday, say it cannot be enforced at his residence due to a law that protects locations potentially linked to military secrets from search without the consent of the person in charge.

The office said it will discuss further actions, but did not immediately say whether it would make another attempt to detain Yoon. The warrant for his detention is valid for one week.

Yoon's lawyers have also argued that the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and military investigators, lacks the authority to investi-

gate rebellion charges. They said that police officers don't have the legal authority to assist in detaining Yoon, and could face arrest by either the "presidential security service or any citizens." They didn't elaborate further on the claim.

If investigators manage to detain Yoon, they will likely ask a court for permission to make a formal arrest. Otherwise, he will be released after 48 hours.

Thousands of police officers gathered at Yoon's residence on Friday, forming a perimeter around a growing group of pro-Yoon protesters who braved sub-freezing temperatures for hours, waving South Korean and American flags while chanting slogans in his support.

There were no immediate reports of major clashes outside the residence. Nearly five hours after dozens of investigators and police officers were seen entering the gate of the residence in Seoul to execute a warrant for Yoon's detention, the dramatic scene appeared to have developed into a standoff.

Two of Yoon's lawyers, Yoon Kap-keun and Kim Hong-il, were seen entering the gate of the presidential residence around noon.

Seok Dong-hyeon, one of several lawyers on Yoon's legal team, confirmed that the investigators arrived at the building but said it was unlikely that they would be able to detain the president on Friday. He said the agency's efforts to detain Yoon were "reckless" and showed an "outrageous discard for law."

The anti-corruption agency didn't immediately reply to questions about whether investigators successfully entered Yoon's residential building, but South Korea's YTN television reported scuffles as investigators and police confronted the presidential security forces.

South Korea's Defence Ministry confirmed that the investigators and police officers got past a military unit guarding the residence's grounds before arriving at the building. The presidential security service, which controls the residence itself, refused to comment on whether its members were confronting investigators and whether they planned to block the detention attempt.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party called on the country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, to order the presidential security service to stand down. Choi didn't immediately comment on the situation.

"Do not drag the upright staff of the presidential security service and other public officials into the depths of crime," said Jo Seung-jae, a Democratic lawmaker. Choi must "remember that swiftly addressing the rebellion and preventing further chaos is your responsibility," Jo said.

Yoon's defence minister, police chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested over their roles in the period of martial law.

Yoon's presidential powers have been suspended since the National Assembly voted to impeach him on Dec. 14. Yoon's fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which has begun deliberations on whether to uphold the impeachment and formally remove Yoon from office or reinstate him. At least six justices on the nine-member Constitutional Court must vote in favor to remove him from office.

The National Assembly voted last week to impeach Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who became acting president after Yoon's powers were suspended, over his reluctance to fill three Constitutional Court vacancies ahead of the court's review of Yoon's case.

Facing growing pressure, the new acting president, Choi, appointed two new justices on Tuesday, which could increase the chances of the court upholding Yoon's impeachment.

200 Designer bags, 75 watches: This country's PM declares over \$400 million



BANGKOK, Jan 3 (Agencies): Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared more than \$400 million in assets on Friday, her party said, including more than 200 designer handbags worth over \$2 million and at least 75 luxury watches, valued at almost \$5 million.

The youngest daughter of telecom billionaire and ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn took office in September as the fourth member of the clan to lead a Thai government in 20 years.

She was obliged to declare her assets and liabilities to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

She identified 13.8 billion baht (\$400 million) in assets, a document posted on media websites showed.

Her investments were worth 11 billion baht and she had another billion baht in deposits and cash, her declaration said.

Her other assets included 75 watches valued at 162 million baht and 39 more timepieces, plus 217 handbags worth 76 million baht, as well as property in London and Japan, among other holdings.

She also declared liabilities of nearly five billion baht, according to the NACC document posted by local media, giving her a net worth of 8.9 billion baht (\$258 million).

A representative from the Pheu Thai Party confirmed to AFP that the figures reported by local media were accurate. The prime minister's father and predecessor Thaksin -- who once owned Manchester City football club -- has a net worth of \$2.1 billion, according to Forbes, making him the 10th richest person in Thailand.

Thaksin used the wealth generated by his Shin Corp telecommunications empire to propel him into politics, and his family has remained influential even during his years in exile following his ousting in a coup.

SHG reflect potential of women-led development in India: Dr Jitendra

Top News Report

JAMMU / ANDHRA PRADESH, Jan 3: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the importance of "women-led development" as a key priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance agenda while addressing a congregation of nearly 3,000 women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Moragudi village. He said, the Self Help Groups reflect the potential of women-led development in India.

While continuing his three-day visit to Kadapa under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), the Minister's engagements underscored key developmental priorities, including women's empowerment, education, infrastructure, and tourism.

Dr. Jitendra Singh travelled to Moragudi village, where he engaged with women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups are playing a transformative role in empowering rural women by promoting financial literacy, food processing, and the production of handloom and millet-based products. Supported by central schemes such



as the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), these SHGs represent a beacon of hope for economic self-reliance. The Minister lauded their efforts and encouraged further skill development through programs like SEEDAP, which aim to enhance employability and entrepreneurial opportunities in the region.

Prior to the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh visited an exhibition showcasing a diverse range of products, including local food items and small utility products. The display highlighted the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the participants, emphasizing the importance of promoting indigenous goods and self-reliance.

Education and infrastructure development were also key priorities during the visit. At the Zilla Parishad High School in Moragudi, Dr. Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone for a central kitchen. This facility will cater to the nutritional needs of school children, ensuring the effective delivery of midday meal programs. He also inspected ongoing infrastructure projects, including roads, drainage systems, housing, and access to clean drinking water. These initiatives are pivotal in laying the groundwork for long-term, sustainable development in the district.

Later in the day, Dr. Jitendra Singh visited Gandikota, a historic site

known for its stunning landscapes and cultural significance. During discussions with local officials, he emphasized the potential of tourism as an economic driver for the region. By developing Gandikota into a prominent heritage destination, the government aims to create employment opportunities while preserving the site's unique charm and history.

Reflecting on his engagements, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the importance of the Aspirational Districts Programme in fostering equitable growth. "The ADP has shown us that with focused governance and collaboration, we can uplift even the most underdeveloped regions and

provide their residents with opportunities on par with the best-performing districts in the country. This is a testament to the vision of our Prime Minister, who believes in an inclusive and progressive India," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh's visit to YSR Kadapa not only highlighted the achievements of the district under the ADP but also shed light on the challenges that remain. His detailed assessments and interactions with various stakeholders will help inform strategies to address these gaps, ensuring the district continues on its path toward holistic development.

The Minister's proactive approach reflects the government's resolve to turn policies into impactful actions. Through programs like the ADP, the administration remains committed to empowering local communities, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering innovation, creating a roadmap for sustainable progress across India. YSR Kadapa's transformation is not just a story of growth for one district but a vision for the future of equitable development in the nation.

Roshani Foundation organizes awareness program at Ramban



Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 3: Residents and beneficiaries of Anganwadi Centre Bhatyari were aware about different schemes of the Social Welfare department which includes, SMAS, Old age Pension, Widow Pension, Scholarships, Sponsorship, Child Protection Service, One stop centre for Women's, ICDS and DHEW.

Child helpline Counsellor Pooja Devi educates people, especially children, about their rights and the laws that protect them. She explained that children have the right to education, healthcare, and protection from harm.

Zaheer Abas supervisor CHL made participants aware that child marriage is illegal and can have serious consequences for the child's health, education, and well-being.

Arti Devi (Paramedical) explains to them about One Stop Centre (OSC) She said that One stop centre is intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace.

Those Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse, irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status,

race and culture will be facilitated with support and redressal.

During the program Hand wash Activity were also held, residents, parents and caretakers play an important role in teaching children to wash their hands. Hand-washing can become a lifelong healthy habit if you start teaching it at an early age said by Kajal Devi AWW.

Arti Devi (Paramedical Person) explained to the kids five easy steps for handwashing and the key times to wash hands.

Moreover, they inform children about the Child Helpline 1098, a toll-free service that provides assistance and support to children in distress.

MLA Banihal chairs meeting to review essential services in Banihal-Gool



Top News Report

BANIHAL, Jan 3: MLA Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen, on Friday chaired a high level meeting to review the status of essential services in the Banihal constituency.

Convened at the IRCON Office by the Sub Divisional Magistrate Banihal, the meeting was attended by officers and field staff from key departments, including PDD, PWD, PMGSY, JPDC, Jal Shakti, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Services, and Fire and Emergency Services.

While reviewing road

connectivity, water and power supply, healthcare, and emergency services, Sajjad Shaheen commended the Sub-Divisional Administration and its field teams for their swift response in restoring utility services, particularly in remote areas, during the recent snowfall.

He acknowledged their dedication and hard work under challenging conditions and urged them to maintain the momentum in the coming days.

"The efforts of the administration and field staff in restoring essential services during the

recent snowfall deserve appreciation. I urge you all to remain alert and proactive, as the weather forecast predicts more snowfall in the coming days," Shaheen said.

The MLA also directed the departments to prioritize public grievances, ensure uninterrupted services, and enhance coordination to tackle any weather-induced disruptions. Specific focus was laid on road clearance, addressing power outages, and ensuring healthcare availability in remote and snowbound areas.

Shaheen instructed the administration for timely follow-ups and preparedness to handle adverse weather conditions.

He reaffirmed his commitment to improving public services and addressing the challenges faced by the residents of Banihal constituency.

Aryans Brand Ambassador JK Para Cricketer Amir Hussain motivates students in Rajpura

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Para Cricketer & Brand Ambassador, Aryans Group of Colleges Amir Hussain Lone visited Manzil Institute & Chaudhary Computers, Rajpura. Rajan Choudhary, Managing Director of both institutes was present.

Amir thanked Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, and while addressing faculty and students, said that Believe in yourself, your abilities, and your dreams. Surround yourself with positive influences and keep moving forward. you'll overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness.

Rajan Choudhary thanked Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group for organising this visit. He said Amir story is real inspiration not only for the nation but entire world. All stu



dents must take inspiration from Amir story.

Dr. Garima Thakur, Deputy Director, Aryans Group said that Amir is inspiring millions not only in India but abroad too. Despite not having arms, he has not let his passion for cricket. For that Sachin Tendulkar & Adani Group has also honored him.

For all his hard work Chairman Aryans Group announced him Brand Ambassador of Aryans.

Born in 1990 in the village of Bijbehara, JK, Amir met with a horrific accident that resulted in the loss of both his arms. God of Cricket, Sachin Tendulkar has invited Amir Hussain to play first ball of Indian Street Premier

League (ISPL).

Virat Kohli, Harbhajan Singh, Navjot Sidhu, Ashish Chopra, Ajay Jadeja have also appreciated his passion for cricket. The cricketer has a unique playing style. He bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck.

It is to be mentioned that established in 2007, Aryans Group is running 8 different colleges including Engineering, Law, Management, Agriculture, Nursing, Pharmacy, Education, Physiotherapy etc.

The group is spread over 20-acre lush green land on Chandigarh-Patiala Highway, near Chandigarh and catering over 4000 students from different parts of the country. The organization is committed to provide high quality education to its students.

FROM PAGE 3

SC Advocates permanent setup for Jammu CAT, Questions outsourced staff

high-stake case files are being handled by outsourced staff.

"In court, you need to have somebody who is completely responsible," he said, adding that in the case of Jammu, there was always a bench of the CAT.

Justice Surya Kant further told the ASG, "Why don't you create permanent infrastructure? Tomorrow, this landlord will file an eviction petition, then again, same problem. The courtroom should have an aura. It should not function from a private house, in a drawing room converted into a courtroom."

In August last year, noting a lack of infrastructure at the CAT, Jammu, the top court directed the tribunal's judicial member to file a status report on the requirements, so that its day-to-day functioning is not hampered.

It had noted that the functioning of the tribunal was affected due to a shortage of the supporting staff.

Indian man crosses over illegally into Pakistan to marry Facebook friend, lands in jail

to marry Babu under pressure.

However, a source told PTI that officials of a Pakistani intelligence agency quizzed Rani and her other family members over her relationship with Babu.

Upon his arrest, Babu narrated his "love story" to the police. Babu was detained under Pakistan's Foreign Act sections 13 and 14 as he was travelling without any legal documents.

Later, he was produced before a court, which placed him in judicial custody for 14 days. The next hearing is on January 10. Babu's father Kirpal Singh, who lives in Khitkari village under the Barla police station area in the Aligarh district, told the local media that the family learned of his arrest via social media.

"We couldn't believe it. For us, till this moment, we knew that he was working in Delhi, but the next moment, we were shocked to discover that he's in a Pakistani jail. It's like something out of a movie," he said in disbelief.

The family has now appealed to the Indian government, particularly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to intervene for Babu's release.

"We want our son back. We don't know how to bring him home. We are calling on the prime minister to help us," Babu's mother told local reporters.

"He was a simple boy. He never did anything like this before," she added.

Aligarh Superintendent of Police (Rural) Amrit Jain confirmed that they had received a memorandum from the family and would be taking the matter up with the Ministry of External Affairs.

"We will approach the proper channels to provide whatever assistance is neces-

sary and work towards establishing contact with Babu. Our primary goal is to secure his release from custody in Pakistan," Jain said in a statement.

According to family sources, Babu was very active on Facebook, where he reportedly connected with a girl from Pakistan. After informing his parents that he would be heading to Delhi for work, Babu left his village after Raksha Bandhan in August.

Just before Diwali, his family received a video call on WhatsApp, in which Babu reassured them that he was safe, had found a job and was using a friend's phone because he could not afford his own. His family later learned that Babu had somehow crossed the international border near Jammu, although these details remain unconfirmed, the Indian sources said.

This is not the first time someone from India has crossed into Pakistan to meet a love interest developed through social media.

Previously, an Indian woman named Anju travelled to Pakistan to meet her lover. She converted to Islam and married a Pakistani man, Nasrullah.

Last year, Seema Haider, a woman from Pakistan, befriended an Indian man through the PUBG game. She crossed into India via Nepal with her four children and later married him.

Similarly, last year, 19-year-old Pakistani girl Iqra Jiwan developed a friendship with 25-year-old Indian national Mulyam Singh Yadav through an online game. Iqra and Mulyam later married in Nepal.

Dense Fog engulfs

parts of Kashmir, Hits flight operations at Srinagar Airport

after visibility improved at the airport. The morning's first flight landed in Srinagar at 11:48 am, the officials said.

They added that people also faced difficulties while commuting due to the fog.

The Met office said light snow at isolated higher reaches was possible on Friday.

On Saturday, a moderate to strong western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and light to moderate snow at most places is possible, with the peak activity from Saturday night till Monday morning.

In a related development, the night temperature rose at most places in Kashmir.

Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 8.6 degrees, the Met office said.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, registered a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius.

In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius against the previous night's minus 2.6 degrees.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 7.3 degrees Celsius and was the coldest place in the valley, while Konibal in Pampore town recorded a low of minus 4.6 degrees.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered

a minimum temperature of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded minus 5.5 degrees.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the harshest period of winter — that began on December 21. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30. It is followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurud (small cold)' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha (baby cold)'.

Baramulla Police arrest four individuals for smuggling of illegal timber, drugs

intended destination of the illegal timber," the handout reads.

Meanwhile, the Baramulla Police also arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. The drug peddler was apprehended after a Police party headed by SHO Police Station Uri established at checkpoint at Paraneelan-Bandi Crossing Uri.

"During the checking one person identified as Mohammad d Showkat Awan son of Atta Mohammad resident of Dawaran was intercepted. During his search, 1.700 kgs of contraband Cannabis powder like substances was recovered from his possession," the Police handout reads.

Police have arrested the accused and a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Uri while investigation has been initiated.



Impressive Nagar Kirtan taken out in Jammu ahead of Guru Gobind Singh's Birth Anniversary - Pic By. Aman Sharma.

NSS National Integration Camp 2025 inaugurate at GCW Gandhi Nagar, GCW Parade

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: 7 Day NSS National Integration Camp (NIC), 2025 approved by Regional Director Delhi, Ministry of Youth Affair and sports Govt. of India organized under the aegis of Higher Education Department, J&K Government, UT of Jammu & Kashmir on the theme "Women Empowerment and Emancipation" symbolizing "Nari Shakti" through NSS jointly by GCW, Parade Ground & PSPS, GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on Friday.

The National Integration Camp (NIC) is an annual event conducted as a part of the National Service (NSS) to promote national unity, social and communal harmony and inclusive spirit among the youth of India.

This Mega event brought together participants from diverse cultural, linguistic and geographical backgrounds, highlighting the country's rich diversity and collective identity. 25 NSS PO's, 200 NSS Volunteers and 18 contingents participated in the NIC Camp.

The Inaugural Ceremony took place at PSPS, GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu commencing with National Anthem and Saraswati Vandana.

The guests performed the traditional ritual of lighting the lamp symbolizing the removal of darkness and ignorance followed by Bouquet presentation. The Welcome address was given by State SNO, Director Colleges Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Wazir.

He stated that the NSS has been a beacon of aspiration, creativity and service in our community, and it is a platform that embodies the spirit of selfless service among the youth. Service to humanity is a calling that transcends boundaries, be it social, economic or geographical. NSS Volunteers represent



the very best of our youth- their compassion, hard work and commitment in making a meaningful life of others.

He appreciated the efforts of NSS Volunteers and Faculty for making this event fruitful. The NSS Camp Commander and NSS Program Officer GCW Parade, Dr. Gurpreet Kour gave the brief introduction about the NSS NIC Camp 2025.

The event was graced by Shri. Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner(Addl. Secretary), Higher Education Dept., Prof. L.K. Magotra, Chairman Governing body, GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu, Prof. K.S. Chandra Sekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University, Jammu, Col. Muneesh Jasrotia, Commanding Officer, 2 J&K Girls Bn, NCC, Principals, Deans & NSS PO's of all the Colleges of Jammu Division and Members of Advisory Committee of NSS NIC.

NSS song was sung by NSS Volunteers. The event was spirited with Cultural performances that showcased various regional dances and songs, celebrating India's diversity.

Shantmanu, Chief Guest, stressed upon that through NSS, individuals are encouraged to actively participate in various initiatives that address the pressing needs of the soci-

ety. Whether, it be through education outreach, environmental conversation, or health awareness campaigns, their involvement has the potential to make a profound impact. The role of youth in addressing these issues cannot be over stated.

Students are the young leaders of today, have the power and the responsibility to forge a future that reflects the values of empathy, inclusivity and respect for diversity.

On this occasion Prof. KS Chandra Sekar, Guest of Honor, VC Cluster University of Jammu stated that NSS has long been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change in our society. It embodies the spirit of selfless service, fostering not only individual growth but also community development.

It is a testament to the idea that each one of us holds the potential to effect change, no matter how small our contributions may seem. The NSS provides a platform to not only serve but also to learn and grow as individuals.

The vote of thanks was presented by the Nodal Principal, Jammu Division, Dr.S.P. Saraswat, Principal PSPS, GCW, Gandhi Nagar. To evoke a sense of patriotism and National pride National Anthem was sung.

The proceedings were con-

ducted by Prof. Sugandha Mahajan and Dr. Gurpreet Kour.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner J&K Govt. New Delhi on the event at GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu, stated that in today's world, where challenges such as inequality, climate change and public health crises loom large, the role of NSS becomes all more imperative.

NSS Volunteers involvement in various social programs, community development projects, and awareness campaigns fosters a sense of responsibility and instills values that help to shape a better society.

An Orientation Program on National Integration and NSS was held in the Conference Hall, Maitreyi Block, GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu. Orientation Program included discussions and lecture by Dr. Hema Gandotra, working as an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Sociology, Jammu University. She has more than 22 years of teaching experience and more than 18 years of Research Experience. Presently she is also the NSS, Program Coordinator, University of Jammu.

She has completed two projects and is working on a project funded by University of Jammu under TRDS. She has published papers in many journals and book.

She indicated that NSS plays a crucial role in shaping the character of students while contributing to the social and economic development of communities across India. Through various activities and programs, it fosters a spirit of service and National Integration among youth.

In the cultural evening at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar, Jammu the participants came together to celebrate Unity in Diversity, fostering camaraderie and cultural exchange among the attendees.

Three days World Hindu Conference begins in Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU / DELHI, Jan 3: The three days World Hindu Conference started in Delhi on Friday with the pledge to intensify efforts to safeguard rights of Hindus across the world.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ajay Singh, International President of World Hindu Federation expressed concern at the plight of Bangladeshi Hindus.

"What is more upsetting is that there is no strong voice supporting Hindus in Bangladesh who are facing prosecution at the hands of the Jihadi forces", Singh said, voicing concern of Hindus in other countries are in minority.

"Nepal was the only Hindu country but due to foreign pressure this country's constitution was unfortunately changed few years ago", said Parmanand Jha, former Vice President of Nepal, expressing concern at the country turning secular at the cost of values and rights of Hindus.

"Hindus do not believe in violence despite the fact there is mention of weapons for self protection in Hindu scriptures", Hemanand Giri, first lady Shanarachiya of Nepal said, adding, "Hindus believe in spirituality, non violence and peace.

While stressing the need for unity among

Hindus, the first lady Shankarachariya of Nepal said that Hindus feel proud in performing their bounden duty to working for entire humanity.

In his address, Ganeshyam Gupta Javeri, Chairman Khatu Shyam Trust highlighted the importance of Khatu Shyam dham spread in 35 acres of land in Delhi where the World Hindu Conference is being held.

"This dham in Delhi has been built to spread Hindutava", Javeri said, adding, "Khatu Shyam dhams everywhere take initiatives contributing towards Hindus, humanity and the nature.

World Hindu Federation (WHF), an organization focusses on advocating for the rights and interests of Hindu communities globally. WHF has actively worked on issues such as countering anti-Hindu sentiments, promoting Hindu culture, and advocating for the designation of Nepal as a Hindu state.

Ajay Singh has emphasized that Nepal, with its Hindu majority population, has the democratic right to reclaim its status as a Hindu nation, comparing it to countries that function as Islamic or Christian states within democratic frameworks. He has called on political leaders across party lines in Nepal to support this movement, arguing

that it aligns with the nation's cultural and historical identity

World Hindu Federation has been working for Hindu cause globally for the last some decades with global conferences being held at different countries highlighting concerns of Hindus.

The three day world Conference is being attended from representatives from different countries like Malaysia, Nepal, Suriname, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia etc.

World Hindu Federation as per its International President Dr Ajay Singh works for hindu concerns worldwide with focus on cultural preservation, religious freedoms, social equity, and Hindu advocacy etc

Among those who were felicitated with Hindu Gaurav Samman included Ashok Aggarwal, Naresh Chand Shastri, Rajinder Goenka, Ganeshyam Gupta Javeri, SS Aggarwal.

Among those present included Brijesh Shukla Singapore, Dr Dilwar Singh Australia, Prabhu Dharmayesh Indonesia, Prem Laskari international Vice President Nepal, Parmanand Jha, former Vice President Nepal Prem Bahadur, ex Minister Nepal and Member of Parliament, Kanda Velayuthan, Rajaretnam.

Army organises Medical Patrol for local youth

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 3: To provide medical assistance to the public residing in the far-flung areas of Poonch and Rajouri districts, an initiative was undertaken by the Indian Army.

A medical patrol was conducted at Bhattawali Moh, Lassana, and Sial-sui on Friday to provide basic medical facilities and conduct a health checkup for the local population.

A total of 84 locals, including 37 women, 27 children, and 20 men, benefited from the medical services provided by the Battalion.



The medical facilities included BP monitoring and distribution of medicine for minor ailments. The local populace appreciated the selfless efforts of the Indian Army.

Civilians stated that

such events not only assist in bringing medical aid to their doorstep but also help in building synergy between the Indian Army and the people towards the development of the region.

Army organises Beautician Course for women empowering at Palma

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 3: The Indian Army's beautician course, currently underway in the southern Pir Panjal region of Jammu and Kashmir, is already making a significant impact by transforming the lives of local women and empowering them with new skills that are helping them gain financial independence and break societal barriers.

Located in a remote and often isolated part of the region, southern Pir Panjal has long faced challenges in terms of access to education, employment, and opportunities for

women.

Recognizing this gap, the Indian Army introduced the beautician course, providing women with a chance to acquire practical skills in skincare, hair-styling, makeup artistry, and nail care. Already in progress, the beautician course is proving to be a game-changer for women in this area.

Many participants, previously restricted to household responsibilities, are now learning to create their own livelihoods by entering the beauty industry.

The hands-on training equips them with the confidence and exper-



tise needed to either open their own beauty salons or offer services in their local communities.

The course is offered free of charge, making

it accessible to women from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Upon completion, participants are awarded certification, which adds to their credibility in the

beauty industry and further enhances their employment prospects.

As the beautician course continues to make waves, its impact is being felt across the region.

Women who have completed the course are already offering their services, creating businesses, and inspiring other women to join the program.

The Indian Army's initiative is not only improving the lives of individual women but also uplifting entire communities by fostering a sense of independence and entrepreneurship.

5th Test: Australia 9/1 at stumps on Day 1 after bowling out India for 185

India reach 107 for 4 at tea, lose the remaining six wickets for 78 runs in the final session

SYDNEY, Jan 3 (Agencies): Rohit Sharma "opted to rest" in the team's interest but the same old script unfolded on a new day for Indian batters as they surrendered meekly for a paltry 185 in the face of some hostile seam bowling from Australia on the opening day of the fifth and final Test here.

Virat Kohli (17 off 69 balls), whose form and technical weaknesses are also under the scanner, was for the seventh time dismissed in the corridor of uncertainty in the tour, a problem that seems incurable at the moment.

At stumps, Australia were 9 for 1 with stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah sending the woe-fully out-of-form Usman Khawaja (2) back in the hut.

Teenage sensation Sam Konstas was unbeaten at 7 after hitting Bumrah for a first-ball four. The 19-year-old also had an animated exchange with the Indian star.

Bumrah opted to bat under overcast conditions and the ultra-defensive approach by Indian batters only compounded their problems with Scott Boland's (20-8-31-4) immaculate length and tremendous discipline leaving them in a disarray.

Mitchell Starc (18-5-49-3) and Pat Cummins (15.2-4-37-2)



were equally relentless giving the Indians no room for release shots.

If Rohit's decision to "rest" was a forward thinking move, the persistence with Kohli is proving to be detrimental and the celebrated batter might just have one more Test innings left to save his place in the traditional format.

If one takes away the second innings hundred at Perth out of his last 20 Test innings, Kohli has managed an average of 17.57.

He could have been out off Boland's first delivery but tried to battle hard. However, it has always been that one moment in which his hands and the willow magnetically follow a delivery in the corridor of uncertainty.

Pant curbs natural instincts for a session

Having copped criticism from all quarters for his bizarre shot selection in Melbourne, Rishabh Pant (40 off 98 balls), for a change, copped body blows, trying to curb his natural game.

The big-hitter in him came out only on a couple of occasions with one of them fetching him a straight six off Beau Webster.

Pant put his head down and endured nasty blows on his bicep, helmet and twice in the sensitive abdominal area. He and the dogged Ravindra Jadeja (26 off 95 balls) defended dourly as they added 48 off 151 deliveries for the fifth wicket.

Only 50 runs were scored in the second session and trying not to be adventurous proved

counter-productive with most batters retreating in a shell letting Boland and company dictate the terms of play.

Finally, Pant's patience ran out and one pull shot too many became his undoing.

India realised they haven't scored enough runs and lost a lot of wickets. The defensive tactic in the second session when the ball got old ended up costing them dearly.

There wasn't much swing on offer despite cloudy conditions but a decent grass cover ensured that Boland's back-of-length deliveries proved enough.

As far as Pant was concerned, the "honest conversations" with head coach Gautam Gambhir seemed to have worked with the southpaw respecting the game situation for most part.

If Pant was disciplined, Shubman Gill's judgement on the last delivery before lunch did cause trouble for India.

Gill (20 off 64 balls) did all the hard work for close to couple of hours before stepping out to Nathan Lyon on the last ball of the session only to be caught at first slip.

In the morning KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal came in to open the innings but didn't last long and the saga of first innings failures continued.

We've probably seen Rohit Sharma for last time in Test cricket: Gavaskar



SYDNEY, Jan 3 (Agencies): Rohit's place in the Test team is highly uncertain for the next cycle of the World Test Championship beginning July this year with the tour of England.

The beleaguered captain opting out of the crucial fifth match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy does not necessarily mean that it is the end of the road for him in Tests. It just means that the out-of-form batsman has made way for others for this match.

But it's a rarity in Indian Test cricket team set-up. Former India captain and commentator Sunil Gavaskar on Star Sports said it has probably happened for the first time in Indian Test team.

Rohit has probably played his last Test at Melbourne. India would be looking for someone who can lead a side in the next WTC cycle (2025-2027) for two years, he added.

Speaking on Triple M Cricket, former Australia captain Mark Taylor opined, "He's no doubt, he's been dropped."

As a captain, Rohit Sharma led the side in 24 Tests, won 12, drew three, and lost nine. Rohit's reign as a Test captain is rated very good in home conditions.

Away from home in eight Tests, Rohit won two, drew two and lost four.

But it is as a batsman where Rohit Sharma's troubles began.

The opener has been dismissed in single digits ten times in the past 15

innings this year and averages 10.93 in the last eight matches. This is the most for a top-seven batter in a season. Virat Kohli has nine single-digit dismissals this season.

Under Rohit, India lost five Tests this season, the most for an Indian captain in a season, a rarity that occurred only under Sachin Tendulkar's captaincy in 1999-2000.

The 38-year-old's diminishing reflexes, flaws in his already minimal footwork, finally led him to stand down at Sydney. Rohit had always been like this, but despite all of it, he was a prolific scorer as well.

In 67 Tests, he scored 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57 with 12 centuries. It is his six-hitting skills and an ability to accelerate right from the start which made him a 'Hitman' among the Indian cricket fans.

The problem began when runs stopped coming off his bat for the past one year. After a loss in the MCG Test, Rohit accepted that runs were not coming off his bat as the way it should be and it is mentally disturbing.

Rohit's legacy as a Test captain is that of playing fearless cricket upfront by giving quick starts and forcing results in India's favour at home.

Having taken over Test captaincy from Virat Kohli in 2021, he Mumbai-kar discarded the traditional approach to guarded starts in the Tests and chose the 'attack-first' game.

He was prepared to take occasional failures in his stride and said he would back the team going for the kill every time. His insistence on playing the pull shot, a way of countering the short balls, despite getting out several times, is just a reflection of this approach.

As a captain and a Test opener, he was successful in rubbing off this approach to the youngsters in the team as well.

Arsenal ease past Brentford to close gap on Liverpool



LONDON, Jan 3 (Agencies): Arsenal showed they can cope without the injured Bukayo Saka as they began the year in style by recovering from an early sucker-punch to beat Brentford 3-1 away and move back into second place in the Premier League. Forward Saka, arguably Arsenal's most influential player this season, has been ruled out for at least two months after hamstring surgery, dealing a blow to the club's title hopes.

A visit to a Brentford side who have been impressive at home this season felt like a must-win game for Arsenal but things began badly as Bryan Mbeumo gave his side a 13th minute lead with the home side's first attack.

Arsenal did not panic, though, and Gabriel Jesus continued his recent resurgence to equalise before half-time. Mikel Arteta's side came out firing in the second half and Mikel Merino put them ahead five minutes after the restart after Brentford failed to deal with a corner.

Three minutes later Gabriel Martinelli produced a clinical volleyed finish to put Arsenal in complete control.

The victory lifted Arsenal above Chelsea and Nottingham Forest with 39 points from 19 games with leaders Liverpool on 45 from 18. Injury-hit Brentford's second home defeat of the season left them in 12th spot with 24 points.

Virat Kohli - out or not out at Sydney cricket ground? Experts divided on decision

SYDNEY, Jan 3 (Agencies): First day of the ongoing fifth Test between India and Australia grabbed a lot of limelight due to multiple reasons. The day with Rohit Sharma missing the match and giving the captaincy to Jasprit Bumrah. As everyone was coping with Rohit's absence, another row escalated after star batter Virat Kohli got embroiled into a controversial call with the third umpire. The incident took place in the 7.5 over of India's first session when Virat Kohli walked in as he replaced Yashasvi Jaiswal on the crease.

Kohli faced Australia pacer Scott Boland for his first ball. The Aussie pacer delivered a length ball which took an edge from Kohli's bat and went to Smith in the slips. He scooped it up



but the ball just touched the turf before it was taken by Marnus Labuschagne at gully.

The on-field umpire immediately went upstairs, to the third umpire, Joel Wilson who had a good look from all the camera angles and gave his decision in favour of India.

This decision fetched mixed reviews from many former cricketers. Former Test umpire Simon Taufel said that the ICC protocol on fair

catches says that if the third umpire sees the fingers underneath the ball, that's good to maintain a fair catch.

Speaking to Channel 7's coverage of the Sydney Test, Simon Taufel explained why the review was hard to judge.

"Depending upon which side of the fence you sit on you could probably build a case for either decision to be given. Listening to Joel Wilson's language

there (making the decision), where he said the fingers were underneath the ball and then he's seen it roll on to the ground, by his own language he is telling us that he believes he's seeing that ball on the ground," Taufel was quoted by ICC as saying.

maintain a fair catch," he added.

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting completely disagreed with the third umpire's decision.

"As far as I was concerned, if (the ball) had've come out of (Smith's) hand, he wouldn't have been able to scoop it up. That's what I'm saying, I think his fingers are clearly underneath the ball ... look where his pointer figure is there, it's still underneath the ball," Ponting said on-air during the commentary with 7Cricnet.

However, former India all-rounder backed Kohli and stated that the umpire's decision was absolutely right.

"Virat Kohli was not out which was rightly called NOT OUT. will explain during the break," Pathan wrote on X.

Awful decision: Washington Sundar shocked after controversial DRS call in Sydney

SYDNEY, Jan 3 (Agencies): The Border-Gavaskar Trophy between India and Australia has been marred by controversial umpiring calls, with players and pundits questioning the use of technology. On Day 1 of the fifth Test in Sydney, two contentious decisions involved third umpire Joel Wilson, who had already faced criticism for his on-field decisions in the Melbourne Test.

Earlier in the day, a debatable decision went in favour of Virat Kohli, but later, Joel Wilson adjudged Washington Sundar out caught behind following an Australian review of an on-field decision by umpire Saikat Sarfuddoula. Wilson took considerable time examining replays to determine whether Sundar had gloved the bouncer from Australia captain Pat Cummins.

In real-time replays, the dismissal looked questionable as Washington Sundar attempted to pull Cummins' short delivery. However, the Snick-



ometer, a technology used to detect edges, showed a spike when the ball was close to the gloves. One frame of the replay appeared to show no spike when the ball was nearest to the glove, but the subsequent frame captured a spike on the Snickometer.

Umpire Joel Wilson required conclusive evidence to overturn the on-field umpire's decision, and he deemed the spike in the relevant frame sufficient.

When the 'OUT' decision was displayed on the big screen, Washington Sundar appeared incredulous. The all-rounder tried to protest the call but was directed to leave the field. The Australian crowd began booing Sundar, who was dismissed for 14 runs.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan expressed his shock at Joel Wilson's decision to give it out.

Former India batter Robin

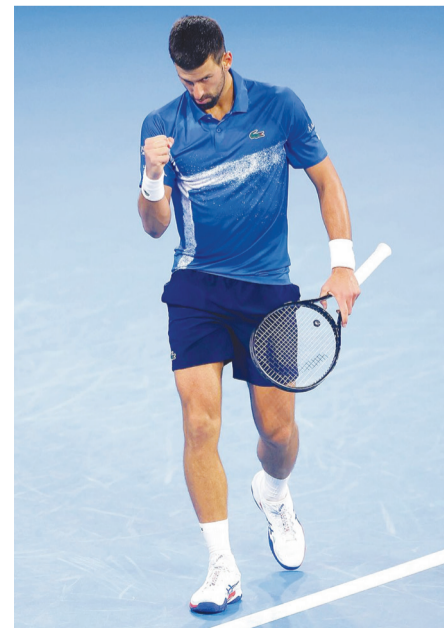
Uthappa was more forthright, calling the decision "crap" as scrutiny of Wilson's judgement intensified.

"I'm sorry, but that's a crap decision! Sure, there was a spike, but from the side angle, there was a clear space between the ball and the glove. There is a lot of ambiguity with these kinds of decisions. The benefit must go to the batter," Uthappa said.

However, former umpire Simon Taufel, one of cricket's most respected voices, defended Wilson's call, explaining the reasoning behind it.

"What Joel Wilson's looking for here is that spike up to one frame past the glove, and he's got that spike. There's nothing else out there, and the ball is underneath the glove. The third umpire is well and truly within his rights, according to the protocols, to determine that's conclusive evidence for ball on glove," Taufel said, as quoted by Channel 7.

Djokovic continues Monfils dominance to reach quarters



BRISBANE, Jan 3 (Agencies): Novak Djokovic's bid for a 100th ATP Tour title gained momentum as the Serb thumped fellow veteran Gael Monfils 6-3 6-3 to reach the Brisbane International quarterfinals.

The 37-year-old, who is looking to join Roger Federer (103) and Jimmy Con-

nors (109) as players who have won at least a century of titles, breezed through the first set on the back of a solitary break in the fourth game. Djokovic never looked back from there as he powered through the second set to extend his win-loss record against the French player to 20-0, nearly two decades after their first encounter in the opening round of the 2005 US Open.

"We've been playing for many years," said Djokovic, who will be gunning for an 11th Australian Open title when the season's opening Grand Slam begins later this month. "I've known Gael since I was 15. We played quite a bit at juniors and on Tour and have had a good score against him but we have had some incredible battles. He's one of the best, if not the best, athlete in our sport over the years."

Djokovic takes on big-serving American Reilly Opelka in the next round.

Opelka got past Matteo Arnaldi 7-6(9) 7-6(4) while Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, another player who can blow away his opponents with booming serves, upset fourth seed Frances Tiafoe 6-4 7-6(4).

Advisor to CM says Omar Abdullah Govt will fulfill manifesto implementation

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 3: Nasir Aslam Wani, advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on Friday dismissed opposition criticism regarding the promises made after the abrogation of Article 370.

He said the National Conference's commitment to delivering on its manifesto promises and bringing substantial change to

the region.

"People have elected us for five years. It's only been two months and a few days. Each promise in our manifesto will be fulfilled, and more than that," Wani told reporters.

The advisor highlighted the open environment fostered by the National Conference under Omar Abdullah's leadership, citing it as a significant change in governance. "Yesterday's

open press interaction is itself a reflection of the transformation we aim to bring. Such transparency and dialogue have rarely been seen before," Wani added.

Responding to opposition allegations that the promises made post-370 have not been visible, Wani reiterated, "Development was discussed at length yesterday, and we are fully committed to achieving the goals laid out in our agenda. Critics should

evaluate us over the full term, not just two months."

When asked about a recent tweet by an MP suggesting potential protests in Delhi if promises are not met, Wani downplayed the need for such measures. "I believe there will be no need for protests. We are dedicated to addressing the region's needs without delay," he assured.

Shiv Sena questions Union Govt when state status be restored



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni demanded the return of 'state status' from the Union Home Minister and asked, 'When will you return what has been taken away'.

While reacting to the statement by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah on Thursday at the release of a book in Kashmir that 'we will soon regain what we have lost' regarding Jammu-Kashmir, Shiv Sena (UBT) State President Manish Sahni said that Modi government is in power in the country for the last 11 years (since 2014), but POK is still under the occupation of Pakistan.

At the same time, under the guise of abrogation of Section 370, 35A, the state status was taken away from Jammu-Kashmir and it was divided into two parts.

Sahni said that the Union Home Minister of the country should first tell the people of Jammu-Kashmir when our wait for the restoration of state status will end. As far as taking POK is concerned, who is stopping the Union Home Minister?

Along with this, Sahni demanded special privileges for Jammu and Kashmir under Section 371 to protect the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir and restore the rights of the sons of the soil.

JKNGHEU delegation meets Director Horticulture, discusses non-gazetted employees' issues.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: A delegation of JKNGHEU led by UT President Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Provincial President

(Jammu) Sanjay Khajuria along with other executive members met with Director Horticulture Jammu CL Sharma and Deputy Director (Central) Jammu.

The delegation pay congratulated to both Director and Deputy Director Jammu for conducting of DPC of NGH employees. The other issues such

as BHT and Pay Anomaly were also put in discussion with Director. The Director and DDC Jammu heard the delegation patiently and

assured that he will do his best for resolving the issues of NG Horticulture employees on priority basis. Few of the issues were solved right in the meeting.

JKTF meets MLA Ghulabgarh to discuss issues affecting education sector

Top News Report

REASI, Jan 3: A delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) Zone Arnas recently met with MLA of Ghulabgarh, Er Khursheed Ahmed, to discuss a range of pressing issues affecting the education sector.

The delegation, led by Zonal President Parshotam Singh, submitted a memorandum highlighting nine key demands that require urgent attention for the betterment of the educational system.

The delegation's demands included the opening of a new education zone at Thuroo (Dharmari) to address the growing educational needs of the area.

They also called for a justified distribution of teaching staff, ensuring that schools with higher enrollments receive adequate staff to maintain a balanced and effective learning environment.

Another major issue raised was the need for a comprehensive transfer policy for teachers appointed under the ReT (Rehbar-e-Taleem) pattern, which would offer greater transparency and fairness in the transfer process.



In addition, the teachers demanded the restoration of the old pension scheme for teachers appointed under the National Pension Scheme (NPS), as the current system has raised concerns among the teaching community.

They also called for the immediate filling of vacant posts such as ZEOs (Zonal Education Officers), Headmasters, and Principals to ensure the smooth functioning of educational institutions across the region.

The delegation further requested that vacant posts for Teachers Grades-II be identified and allocated as per Government Order No: 20-Edu of 2019, to promote fair staffing and career progression.

A significant demand also revolved around the introduction of an online submission system for pre-facto and post-facto

permission files. This system would ensure that teachers from far-flung areas do not face difficulties in submitting required documents and applications.

Lastly, the delegation urged the MLA to expedite the ATD 2024 process, as online applications had been invited in August but no progress had been made to date.

MLA Er. Khursheed Ahmed listened attentively to the delegation's concerns and assured them that all the issues raised were genuine.

He promised to discuss these matters with the concerned departments and work towards their swift resolution.

The teachers expressed optimism that these pressing demands would be addressed promptly, contributing to the improvement of the education system in the region.

IGNOU makes mandatory for students seeking fresh admission to create DEB ID

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 3: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has released the guidelines for creating a DEB (Distance Education Bureau) ID. DEB ID is a mandatory step for students who wish to enrol in an OD/Online programme at the university. The university notified that DEB ID shall be created by all learners as per the UGC guidelines. The DEB ID is a unique number which will be provided by the University to each student seeking admission in the University for OD/Online programmes.

The admission portal of IGNOU is already open till January 31, 2025 and can be accessed on <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in/>.

The UGC mandates every student enrolling into online and distance education courses to register for DEB ID. Students who are planning to apply for any of the IGNOU programmes are now required to create a DEB ID at the time of admission. DEB ID is helpful when students plan to change their university and transfer their accumulated credits to the new university. Students who have dropped out of their course can continue from where they left

off within 7 years of their dropout year, if they have a valid DEB ID.

Students first need to register for the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC ID), then use it to create their DEB ID. This is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, with a sole purpose of creating a digital medium for students for their academic credits. This system is beneficial for those students who need to change their college after one or two years, or even those who dropout of college and decide to take re-admission after some time. The Academic Bank of Credit system is a digital credit storage system where

with every semester, candidates can store their earned credit and use this later on, if required. It is worth noting that the ABC system is not only useful for storing credit, but it also works as a mode of student verification, maintaining an authentic and confidential way to manage student credits.

"The purpose of the DEB-ID is to ensure that students are taking admission in the Open and Distance Learning/Online programmes of the Higher Educational Institutes which are recognized by the UGC", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

Education Dept bids farewell to Prahlad Bhagat, Principal DIET Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 3: The Education Department of Kishtwar organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony to honour Prahlad Bhagat, Principal DIET Kishtwar, on the occasion of his retirement.

A distinguished educationist and former CEO Kishtwar, Bhagat has been a beacon of dedication, compassion, and philanthropy throughout his illustrious career by serving under different roles.

The event witnessed an outpouring of gratitude and admiration as colleagues, staff, and students came

together to celebrate his remarkable contributions to the education sector.


Known for his unwavering commitment to excellence and a visionary approach, Prahlad Bhagat has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students and educators across the district.

In his farewell address, Bhagat expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the department and his colleagues for their support and cooperation throughout his journey. He emphasized the importance of education as a transformative force and encouraged everyone to continue striving for excellence.

The department extended its warmest wishes to Prahlad Bhagat for a fulfilling and joyful retirement, filled with peace, happiness, and well-deserved relaxation. His legacy of selfless service and exemplary leadership will continue to inspire generations to come.

"Your dedication and contributions have enriched the education sector in Kishtwar. Wishing you a new chapter of life filled with contentment and joy. Your legacy will forever guide us," shared a senior official.

The farewell ceremony concluded with a presentation of mementos and heartfelt prayers for Sh. Bhagat's prosperous post-retirement life.



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