TOP NEWS OF J&K



JAMMU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 05, 2025

16

ENTERTAINMENT

Kareena Kapoor Khan concludes an emotional trip to Switzerland



Won't tolerate AAPda, only 'Modi, Modi' chants in Delhi: PM

Daily Evening Newspaper **INTERNATIONAL** 8

> **Russian, North Korean** troops suffer heavy losses in Kursk, Zelenskyy claims



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Banihal bypass to open for 4-lane Traffic

Regd. No. JK-435

17

Vol.-16 Issue-05 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

10 flights cancelled as fog hits operations at Srinagar Airport

SRINAGAR, Jan 5 (Agencies): Ten flights were cancelled at the Srinagar International Airport on Sunday due to poor visibility caused by fog, officials said.

"Early morning visibility at the Srinagar airport was 50 metres, which has affected the air traffic. All airlines pushed their flights after 10 am," an Airports Authority of India official said.

With little improvement in the visibility, 10 flights have been cancelled so far, the official said.

Dense fog hit operations at the airport on Saturday as well, leading to flight delays and diversions.

Night temperature dips in Kashmir Valley, **Kokernag Coldest** at minus 8.1 degrees

JAMMU, Jan 5 (Agencies): Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has announced that the newly constructed 4-lane, 2.35 km bypass to Banihal town on the Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44 will be fully operational for 4-lane traffic within 15 days. Built at a cost of Rs 224.44 crore, the bypass features 4 via-

within 15 days: Nitin Gadkari ducts spanning 1,513 meters and 3 culverts,

addressing persistent bottlenecks caused by roadside markets and shops. In a post on X (formerly

Twitter). Gadkari shared that traffic will initially be released on 2 lanes before transitioning to 4 lanes following the completion of junction development.

"This critical infrastructure enhances regional connectivity, strengthens national security logistics, and improves Turn to page 9

Four killed, Two missing after vehicle falls into river in Kishtwar

district of Jammu and

Kashmir on Sunday,

Two persons, including

the driver, are missing

and a rescue operation

police said.



JAMMU, Jan 5 (Agencies): Four people were killed after their vehicle skidded off the road. rolled down a hill and fell into a river in Kishtwar

is underway. The accident took place in the Paddar area, a police official said.

Police did not immediately identify the vehicle. Udhampur MP and Union minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

"Saddened to learn just now that 4 of the passengers travelling in the vehicle have been found dead on the spot. Two other persons, including the driver, are not

Turn to page 9

Govt launches 2 special categories Visas for International Students



NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): India has launched two special category visa for international students intending to pursue higher education in academic institutions in the country. The 'e-student visa

and 'e-student-x' visa have been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and all applicants will have to use the Study in India (Sil) portal launched by the government, officials said.

The e-student visa facility can be availed by eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal while e-studentx visa is offered to the dependents of those holding e-student visas, they said.

The SII portal facilitates the admission process of international students who wish to pursue either long-term or short-term courses in India.

Students will need to apply for a visa separately on the portal https://indianvisaonline. gov.in/ but the

Turn to page 9

Amit Kumar from erstwhile J&K Cadre among four IPS Officers empaneled as IGPs

JAMMU, Jan 5 (Agencies): The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the empanelment of four AGMUT Cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, including Amit Kumar from the erstwhile J&K cadre, to hold the rank of Inspector



General of Police (IGP) at the Centre. Amit Kumar, a 2006 batch IPS officer, has previously served in Jammu and Kashmir, holding key positions during his tenure and he is currently on a central deputation.

Turn to page 9



celsius

SRINAGAR, Jan 5 (Agencies): The night temperature in the valley dipped sharply, with Kokernag town in south Kashmir freezing at minus 8.1 degrees Celsius, officials said on Sunday.

In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, the Met said. Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, registered a minimum temperature of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius while Konibal in Pampore town recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees. Kupwara in north Kashmir registered a night temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 8.1 degrees and was the coldest place on record in the valley 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

Turn to page 9

Third successive foggy Morning in Delhi, 51 trains delayed

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): A thick layer of fog enveloped several areas of Delhi for a third consecutive morning, leading to 51 trains being delayed, officials said on Sunday

The Met office said there was zero visibility at Palam between 4 am and 7:30am. On Saturday, Palam had recorded a nine-hour spell of zero visibility.

At Safdarjung, the visibility dropped to 0.50 metres at 5:30 am.

General visibility at the Palam and the Safdarjung airports was reduced to zero in very dense fog at 7:30 am. In a related development, the national

capital's air quality was in the 'very poor' category, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 372 at 9 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board data.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The minimum temperature settled two notches above normal at 9.4 degrees Celsius. The humidity level was recorded at 95 per cent at 8:30am.

The Met office has predicted dense to very dense fog during the day. The maximum temperature is likely to settle around 18 degrees Celsius.

J&K | Conman arrested for duping person with false promise of Police favour

ed in connection with

Case FIR No. 55/2024

under Sections 8/20 of

the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substanc-

It is pertinent to men-

tion here that Sajad

Sheikh, a resident of

Sheikh Colony, Hawal,

was lawfully arrested by

es (NDPS) Act.

SRINAGAR, Jan 5 (Agencies): Police have arrested a conman in Srinagar for duping an individual by falsely promising to secure the release of his brother from police custody.

Police on Sunday said that on a written complaint from one Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Zahid Pora-Hawal, alleging therein that a conman, identified as Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Sheikh Colony, Makhdoom Sahib, had fraudulently taken Rs 30,000 from him to secure the release of his brother Sajad Sheikh from the custody of police.



Police Station Nowhatta in the aforementioned case

However, the accused person, Fayaz Sheikh. exploited the situation by falsely claiming influence to arrange the release of the complainant's brother from custody, thereby fraudulently Turn to page 9

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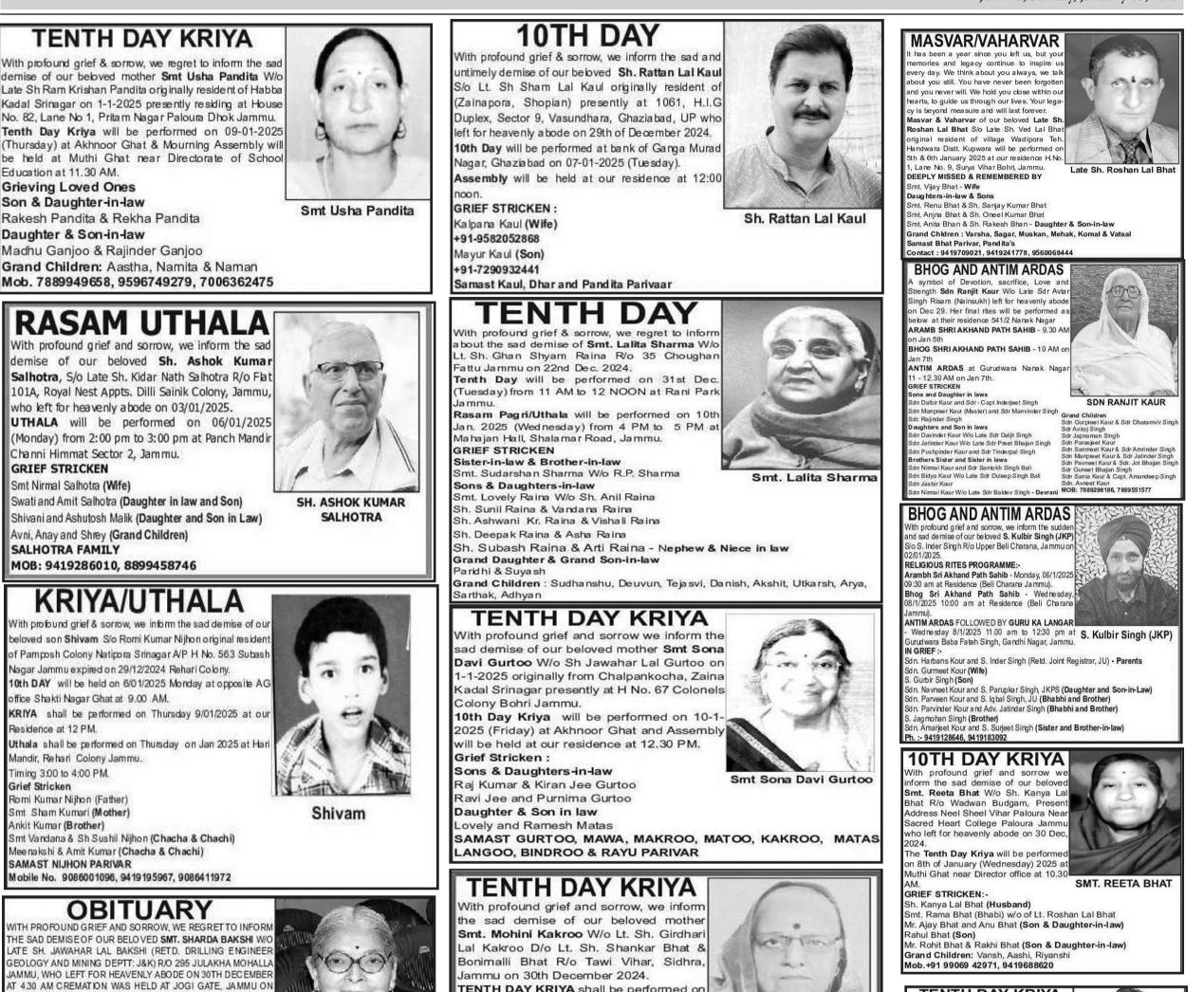
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OBITUARIES

Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, January 05, 2025



10TH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 7TH JANUARY 2025 AND MOURNING ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT MUTHIGHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION JAMMU AT 11.30AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN**



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

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on Wednesday, the 8th of January 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly shall be held at our residence, H.No.6, Lane No-24, Tawi Vihar, Sidhra, Jammu at 12 Noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons and Daughter-in-laws

Sunil Kakroo & Asha Kakroo

Daughters and Son-in-laws

Subashni Kaul & Sh. R.C. Kaul

Kuldeep Kakroo & Rajini Kakroo

Sarla Safaya W/o Lt. Sh. A.K. Safaya

SAMAST KAKROO & BHAT PARIVAR

TENTH DAY

SMT. MOHINI KAKROO

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Smit. Umawati (Yaya Moj) wife of well-known renowned personality Late Sh. Ram Jee Pandita from Villagam (Kupwara) Kashmir A/P Sharda Colony, Poni Chak Jammu on 28-12-2024. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Deviangan Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Thalwal Phallian Mandal Jammu (gps 32,7094 17, 74,778667) on 6th January 2025 (Monday) at 9:30 AM followed by ASSEMBLY at 11 AM at our Jammu residence near Sh Mandir Poni Chak Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-**



who left for heavenly abode on 03/01/2025. UTHALA will be performed on 06/01/2025 (Monday) from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Panch Mandir

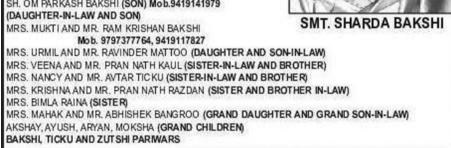
GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Nirmal Salhotra (Wife)

Shivani and Ashutosh Malik (Daughter and Son in Law)

MOB: 9419286010, 8899458746

SALHOTRA FAMILY



ENTH DAY KRI

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

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on 9th January, 2025 (Thursday) at Akhnoor 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 Rucheeta Zadoo Brother: Sh. Ratan Lal and Smt. Kirti Zadoo

Sister: Smt. Usha Handoo (W/o Late P.N Handoo) Sister: Smt. Lalita and Sh.Balji Revoo

Sister: Smt. Meera and Sh. Maharaj Krishen

Brother-in-Law: Sh. Ramesh Ganjoo

Brother-in-Law: Sh. Satish and Smt. Sunita Ganjoo

And Samast Pariwar Zadoo's, Handoo's, Revoo's, Pandita's, Raina's, Ganjoo's.

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Sh. Naseeb Chand Bhagat (Retr Snr Manager J&K Bank Ltd) Slo Lt Sh Dina Nath

Tenth Day will be performed on 6th January 2025 (Monday) at our residence at H No.59, Shiv Nagar Lane No. 1 Talab Tillo, Jammu at 11:30 AM. Kriya will be performed on 7th January 2025 (Tuesday) atour residence at 12 Noon GRIEF STRICKEN Smt Krishna Kumari Bhagat (Wife) Son & Daughter in law Sh Ajay Kumar Bhagat & Shallu Bhagat Daughters & Sons in law Smt Asha Bhagat & Sh Madan Lal (Adv) Smt Sneh Bhagat & Sh Deepak Kumar Smt Mitali & Sh Raineesh Sharma Brother & Sister in law Sh Pratapo & Late Smt Satya Brothers in law & Sisters in law Er. D.R. Kalotra (Chief Engineer Retd) & Lt Smt Kiran Lata Sh Krishan Lal & SmtAnju Bala

Grandchildren: Aahan, Ajlash, Diya, Ananya, Simran

Contact no:- 7298097084, 9622134144



(Retr Snr Manager J&K Bank Ltd)

Sh. Naseeb Chand Bhagat

GRIEF STRICKEN: SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW-Ranjini Raina w/o It. Pradaman Krishen Raina Puma Raina & Kamal ji Raina Reeta Raina & Bharat ji Raina

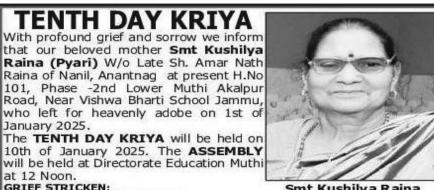
Bimla Koul & Chand Krishan GRAND CHILDREN -Priya Raina W/o Nishant Ticku; Meenu W/o Rahul Raina; Naveen, Neha, Arnav, Sudanshu, Sakshi, Aditya & Rudhur GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: Tanishq & Ivana

DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW-

Mob: 9419278635, 7006285236, 9906392641

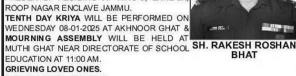
Grand Children : Anu, Binny, Ritik, Madhu, Sonu, Sachin & Rohit

TENTH DAY KRIYA











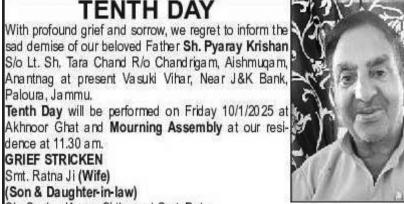
TENTH DAY KRIYA WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT DRIGINALLY RESIDENT OF KAKRAN KULGAM PRESENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO-5, LANE-3A



SMT. SUNITA BHAT (WIFE) PRANVA BHAT (DAUGHTER) RISHAB BHAT (SON) T 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 GIRDHARI LAL RAINA - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW 7889593907, 9469280745, 9419206928

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Sh. Pyaray Krishan

ister-in-law & Brother-in-law .t. Smit. San tosh Langer & L.t. Sh. Rajin der Langer Smit. Meena Rohmetra & Sh. Kalidass Rohmetra Sister-in law & Brother

Lt. Smt. Umawati Pandita 07-06-1934 - 28-12-2024

Sons & Daughters-in-Law Sh: Vinod Ji Pandita & Smt Kiran Pandita (7006879359) Sh. Ashwani Pandita & Smt. Pinky Pandita (9818840312) Sh. Rajesh Pandita & Smt Veena Pandita (9796086523) Daughters & Sons-in-Law Smt. Phoola Ji Bhat W/o Lt. Sh. Kanaya Lal Bhat

Smt. Menakshi Reshi & Sh. Vijay Kumar Reshi (7006372576) Grand/Great-Grand Children: Arti & Sandeep Koul, Vikram & Neha, Dushant Bhat & Neha Amit Reshi, Arun Reshi, Ashish, Ankush, Ruchika, Samiksha, Aayansh

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

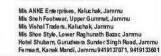
TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA We regret to hom the sad demise of our belowed Smt. Mohini Devi Wo Sh. Nahu Ram Gubp, Ro Anke Complex, Nahoral Highway, Kaluchak, Jammu. Tenth Day will be performed at Sasan Banquet Hol, Opposite Peri Mahal, Kurjiwani, Jammu, on 6h January 2025 (Monday) at 1130 A.M. 13th Day Kriywa Willo performed on 09h January 2025 (Thicaday) at 1100 A.M. at curreaidence Arke Complex, National Highway, Kaluchak, Jammu. Uthala willo performed on 10h January 2025 (Cristady) form 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 PM. at Shir Mandr, Sactor 3, Trkuts Nagar, Jammu. GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. Na fu Ram Gupta (Husband) Smt. Sonal & Maha Gupta - Dughter In-Iaw& Son Smt. Sarges B.L.Sh. Kamin Kohano Gupta - Dughter & Son-In-Iaw Smt Barries B.L.Sh. Kamin Kohano Gupta - Dughter & Son-In-Iaw Smt Kama & Sh. Guldhan Mahajan (Ex-Corporate)

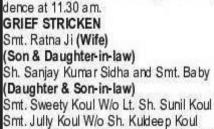
ix Corporator) t. Smt. Vijay & Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal Gupta mt. Sneh & Sh. B.D. Gupta mt. Neelam & Lt. Sh. Kewal Krishan

Smt. Mohini Devi

Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law Pragna & Ankuch Gupta Sugandha & Rivit Jandyal Great Grandisons Prayanksh, Reyansh, Rihaan, Ahiarav

t. Smt. Shakii & Sh. Chander Mohan Gupta nt. Suman Gupta & Sh. Suraj Prakash Gupta Sister & Brother-in -law Smt. Nimal & Lt. Sh. Bharat Bhushan Choudhary Grand Sons & Grand Daughtens Paarvi, Akhil, Yuvraj, Tavisha





Paloura, Jammu.

Mob.: 9797105749

January 2025.

at 12 Noon.

SH. TEJ KRISHAN ZADOO (BAIRAJ)

LOCAL/ADVT PMJAY aims to provide

CM Omar Abdullah secures approval for housing aid to fire-affected families in Mulwarwan. Kishtwar

GoI sanctions 85 houses under Special PMAY-G Project for FY 2024-25



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: The Government of India has approved a special project under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to provide housing assistance to the fire victims of Mulwarwan village in the Warwan Valley of Kishtwar district.

A devastating fire on October 15 last year destroyed numerous houses, leaving several families homeless. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who assumed office on October 16, promptly visited the affected area

the following day and assured the victims of long-term rehabilitation. He also pledged to secure assistance from the Central Government to help the families rebuild their homes and restore their lives.

The approval for this special housing package follows Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's appeal to the Central Government, requesting additional financial assistance for the longterm rehabilitation of the affected families.

The Chief Minister emphasized the urgency of housing aid under

PMAY-G to help the families rebuild their homes and return to normalcy. In this regard, the Ministry of Rural Develop-

ment, Department of Rural Development (Rural Housing Division), has formally communicated this approval to the Secretary of the Department of Rural Development, UT Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the communication, up-to 85 houses (including 7 earlier PMAY-G beneficiaries) have been allocated under the special project for the financial year 2024-25.

health for all: Keshav Card helps individuals to **Top News Report** access healthcare bene-JAMMU, Jan 5: Samfits and store their medical vedna Society Chairman

Keshav Chopra on Sunday account. provided Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) free health insurance golden cards and Abha Cards to the people

at Talab Tillo. Keshav Chopra while interacting with the beneficiaries said that Ayushman Bharat Scheme has provided free hospitalization benefits to millions of people.

This is like an ATM Card that will keep giving benefits to them every year, PMJAY is the largest health insurance scheme in the world which has worked as a big troubleshooter for poor, he said adding that similarly ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)

information digitally in one Therefore, an ABHA ID

card is one-stop identification for all healthcarerelated activities. It makes it easier for individuals to access and manage their overall wellness.

Keshav said that he has been continuously involved in the procurement and distribution of Golden Cards since the start of the scheme and Samvedna Society is committed to provide the benefits of govt sponsored schemes

to the common people at their doorstep Anju, Abhishek Gupta, Manoj, Sourav Gupta, Parshotam Lal, Nandu, Sushil Gupta, Vishal Verma and others were also present



Commissioner JMC conducts surprise visit in Ward 25



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation conducted a surprise visit in ward no. 25 Rehari Colony Jammu to take stock of sanitation facilities being provided by JMC and also checked the attendance of sanitation staff of the ward and directed the health wing to ensure proper sanitation to every nook and corner of the ward.

He interacted with the residents of the ward and requested for public participation and cooperation to maintaining better sanitation in the city.

Commissioner appealed the people not to throw the garbage/ refuse in the lanes and drains. He emphasized the importance of ensuring proper sanitation in municipal jurisdiction to maintain hygiene and prevent the accumulation of waste, without community involvement is not possible to achieve the goal of swachh Bharat mission up to its desired level.

The Commissioner also instructed the Health and Sanitation wing of JMC to regularly verify the attendance of sanitation workers through App to ensure the punctuality so that efficient service delivery is ensured, adding that any lapses in maintaining sanitation would not be tolerated. He directed the sanitation staff to clean lanes and drains on regular basis to avoid accumulation of refuse in the wards so that the rank of the Jammu City is improved in respect of Swachhta Sarvekshan.

Dr. Shreyansh Jain presents poem at launch of 'Atharvved – Aik Digdarshan' by RBPS

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: The Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti released the anticipated book 'Atharvved – Aik Digdarshan', written by the late Dr. Gangadutt Shastri 'Vinod' and edited by Dr. Ram Kumar Sharma.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, with Padma Shri Dr. Jitender Udhampuri, retired Director of Doordarshan, as the Chief Guest, and Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, retired Chancellor of the Sanskrit University, New Delhi, presiding over the function as President. Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, General Secretary of Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, welcomed the participants, dignitaries, and guests

Dr. Ram Kumar Sharma

the editor of the book and a scholar from Shri Vyas Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Raghunathpuram, Kullu, elaborated on the creation of 'Atharvved – Aik Digdarshan'.

He shared how the absence of a comprehensive yet accessible guide on the Atharvaveda inspired him to compile this work, ensuring that its teachings are presented in a manner relatable to both scholars and common readers.

Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, in his presidential address. highlighted the immense importance of the Vedas, particularly the Atharvaveda. He emphasized that while the other three Vedas primarily focus on spiritual knowledge and rituals, the Atharvaveda encompasses a wide range of subjects

including medicine, state-

Union Territory of Jar



Udhampuri, known for his

poetic prowess, described

the essence of the book in

a poetic manner, captivat-

ing the audience with his

words

craft, peace, prosperity, and well-being Padma Shri Dr. Jitender

daily life. He urged the audience to adopt the teachings of the Vedas, explaining how they serve as a timeless quide to a harmonious life, ethical governance, and personal

He commended the efforts of Dr. Ram Kumar Sharma and the late Dr. Gangadutt Shastri for bringing forth a valuable literary work that bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary understanding.

Adding a cultural touch to the event, Dr. Shrevansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, presented a self-composed poem dedicated to the dignitaries and the subject of Vedic knowledge

This poetic tribute was presented to Shri Bharat Bhushan Sharma, son of the late Dr. Gangadutt Shastri, in honor of his father's contributions to Vedic literature.

Prof. Sanjay Singh Sambyal extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the esteemed guests and participants for their presence and support. The event proceedings were skillfully conducted by Anita Mehta, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all attendees

The Atharvaveda, the

fourth and final Veda, holds a distinct place in Vedic literature due to its practical approach to life. Unlike the other three Vedas that primarily focus on rituals and spiritual practices, the Atharvaveda deals with real-world issues such as health, wealth, protection, marriage, and societal well-being. It contains hymns, incantations, and philosophical discussions that address every aspect of human existence. The teachings of the Atharvaveda remain highly relevant today, offering solutions for physical, mental, and societal harmony.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, in his introductory remarks, reiterated the relevance of the Atharvaveda in today's fast-paced world He explained how the book

'Atharvved - Aik Digdarshan' is a humble yet profound attempt to bring the teachings of this ancient scripture into the mainstream, enabling readers to understand and incorporate its wisdom into their daily lives

The release of 'Atharvved - Aik Digdarshan' marks a significant milestone in the promotion of Vedic knowledge and its application in modern life. The event not only celebrated the literary legacy of the late Dr. Gangadutt Shastri but also served as a platform to reaffirm the timeless relevance of Vedic wisdom. The Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, through this initiative, has once again demonstrated its commitment to preserving and propagating India's ancient heritage.



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION NO. IST, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU. Email/Fax : <u>ifcjmuxenid1jmu@gmail.com</u>

nmu & Kashmir

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER Fresh e-NIT NO : 33 of 2024-25 DATED : 03.01.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutant Governor of UT Jammu & Kashmir e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K for the following works

SL.	Name of Work	Advt. cost of work (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money (in shape of CDR/FDR in Rs)	Time of completion (In days)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Documents under MH 0702 in the shape of Try challan/DD
1	Silt Clearance from distributary 5A of Main Ranbir Canal between Rd 50 to 6200M.	5.42	2% of the adv.cost.	25	ABCD	500.00
2	Silt Clearance of distributary 3C Rd 50 to 1710M.	1.61	2% of the Advertised	10	BCD	200.00
3	Silt Clearance from Disty 3E RD 50 to 2000M	1.92	2% of the adv.cost.	10	BCD	200.00
4	Silt Clearance from Disty 7A of MRC between RD 50-1500M	1.27	2% of the adv.cost.	10	BCD	200.00
5	Silt Clearance from Disty 7B of MRC between RD 50-1200M	1.09	2% of the adv.cost.	10	BCD	200.00
6	Silt Clearance from Disty 5C of MRC between Rd 40 to 2650M	2.90	2% of the adv.cost.	20	ABCD	200.00
7	Silt Clearance of Hakkal khul, Satwari Khul Rd 0 to 320M Mlitary Farm Rajpura to covered portion at RD 975M downstream trash racks at under culverts at places.	2.16	2% of the adv.cost.	20	ABCD	200.00
08	Desilting of Bhagatpur khul Rd 0 to 2750M	1.61	2% of the adv.cost.	10	BCD	200.00
09	Desilting of Bhadrore Supply Rd 0 to 2850M	2.97	2% of the adv.cost.	20	ABCD	500.00
10	Desilting of Lord Shiva branch and MLA branch of new Ghou Manhasa khul.	0.98	2% of the adv.cost.	10	DEE	200.00
11	Silt Clearance from Harmkund Flora Khul Rd 0 to 380M Dhatriyal khul RD 40 to 3050M and LIS Dhatriyal RD 0 to 100M.	4.54	2% of the adv.cost.	25	ABCD	500.00
	Silt Clearance and other allied works of distributary No.9A between RD 1300 to 2825M.	2.60	2% of the adv.cost	20	ABCD	200.00

Position of AAA : C

Accorded Position of T.S :

DIP/J-8934/24

Under Process

The Bidding documents Consisting of quailing information, eligibity criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <u>http://jktenders.gov.in</u> as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03.01.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03.01.2025 to 08.01.2025 (6.00 PM).
3	Pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Div.I Jammu.	04.01.2025 at 11.00 AM
4	Bid Submission Start Date	03.01.2025 (2PM)
5	Bid Submission End Date	08.01.2025 upto 6.00 PM
5	Date and time of opening of Technical bids (online)	09.01.2025 at 11.00 AM (Subjective) in the offic of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Divisio No.I, Canal Road Jammu.
7	Date and time of opening of Financial bids (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
.The	complete bidding process will be online.	
Did	documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website http://	Istanders gov in hid documents contain qualifying oritoria

No : JID-I/E-NIT No.33 of 2024-25/6099-6111 dated : 03.01.2025

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division No: I, Jammu.

OP-ED

EDHORIAL

Protecting Scientific Legacy

ndia has long been a land of innovation and discovery, contributing significantly to global knowledge in fields ranging from mathematics and astronomy to medicine and metallurgy. Ancient Indian scholars and scientists, such as Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, and Sushruta, made groundbreaking advancements that laid the foundation for much of modern science. However, over the centuries, the country's scientific legacy has faced periods of stagnation, colonial exploitation, and underinvestment in research and development. As India moves into the 21st century, it is imperative to not only revive this scientific heritage but also protect and nurture it to ensure continued progress and global leadership in science and technology.

India's scientific history is replete with pioneering contributions. The concept of zero, the decimal system, and the development of algebra can be traced back to ancient India. Aryabhata, in the 5th century, formulated the concept of the Earth's rotation on its axis, while Sushruta, often referred to as the father of surgery, performed complex surgeries and detailed the use of surgical instruments. These contributions were ahead of their time, laying the groundwork for future scientific advancements.

In medieval India, scholars like Bhaskaracharya (Bhaskara II) expanded on astronomical theories, and the ancient universities of Nalanda and Takshashila were hubs of scientific learning. Unfortunately, the colonial period disrupted this growth. British rule systematically drained India's resources, both intellectual and material, leading to a decline in indigenous scientific progress. The colonial administration's focus on extracting wealth rather than fostering scientific innovation stunted India's potential in research and development.

After India gained independence in 1947, there was a concerted effort to revive the country's scientific potential. Institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) were established to spearhead India's scientific and technological renaissance. The launch of India's first satellite, Aryabhata, in 1975, marked the beginning of the country's space journey, and ISRO has since achieved several milestones, including the Mars Orbiter Mission, which made India the first Asian country to reach Mars orbit.

However, despite these successes, India still faces significant challenges in maintaining and expanding its scientific infrastructure. The country's scientific community is often hampered by insufficient funding, bureaucratic red tape, and a lack of innovation-driven policies. While the government has increased its investment in scice and technology in recent years, the focus has often been on high-profile projects, such as the Make in India initiative, without adequate support for basic research and the cultivation of a strong innovation ecosystem. Reviving India's scientific legacy requires a multi-pronged approach that fosters creativity, collaboration, and long-term commitment to research. First, India must prioritize the establishment of world-class research institutions that encourage cutting-edge innovation in diverse fields. While India has a strong base of scientific institutions, many still face challenges in terms of infrastructure, faculty, and funding. By investing in these areas, India can ensure that its researchers are equipped with the tools they need to compete on the global stage. Additionally, it is crucial to build a culture of collaboration between academia, industry, and government. The best scientific breakthroughs often come from interdisciplinary research and partnerships between the private sector and research institutions. For instance, the recent development of India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine was a result of such collaborations, demonstrating the potential for rapid innovation when the public and private sectors work together. Expanding such collaborations across other scientific domains, from biotechnology to artificial intelligence, will help India maintain its competitive edge. One of the most important ways to protect India's scientific legacy is by safeguarding its intellectual property (IP). India has a wealth of traditional knowledge in areas such as Ayurveda, yoga, and agricultural practices. Protecting this knowledge through patents and international recognition is essential to preserving India's cultural and scientific heritage. At the same time, India must also strengthen its patenting and IP infrastructure to ensure that its modern scientific discoveries are protected from exploitation. The government must also create policies that incentivize innovation. These policies should not only focus on supporting large-scale industries but also provide a platform for small-scale entrepreneurs and researchers, especially in rural and underserved regions. By empowering local innovators, India can harness its vast human resources and create a more inclusive innovation ecosystem.

By: Omkar Dattatray

oday ,5th January 2025 is the national birds Day .Every year on 5th January India as well as the international community celebrates national bird Day .It is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of birds to the ecosystem and to protect them from endangerment .The Avian Welfare Coalition first observed National Bird Day in 2002 and since then ,it is observed and celebrated annually on 5 January. The day aims to highlight the value of birds ,and the threats they face from habitat destruction ,climate change ,and reduced food sources .It also aims to establish a healthier relationship with birds and to show that they should not be kept as pets or caught for entertainment .National Birds Day ,which has American origin ,has been celebrated annually on January 5 since its inaugural event in 2002. This particular day was chosen because January 5 also happens to be the day of the yearly "Christmas Bird Count ."This yearly national holiday has been observed in the USA for quite some time .National Birds Day is observed on 5 January to raise awareness about birds that are captured or produced in captivity for monetary gain or pleasure .The day prompts reflection on the interconnectedness between humans and these awe-inspiring creatures ,emphasizing the need for global unity in their conservation .It is celebrated also to make people aware about the value of tiny tweets in the ecosystem .The Avian Welfare Coalition ,which works hard to promote awareness for birds that are captured or produced in captivity for either financial gain or for human amusement ,is behind this initiative .Due to their close resemblance to the evolution of dinosaurs ,birds are regarded as living relics of the past .They are frequently keystone species

in ecosystem and indicators of their health and vitality .The Avian Welfare Coalition created National Bird Day in order to raise awareness of the struggles and plight of these significant animals as well as the ways in which we can start the change that is required to establish a healthier ,more sustainable relationship with them .The 850 bird species that live in the United States are among the many different bird species that are honored on National Bird Day. Yes, they all have a beak ,two wings, and feathers .But after that ,there are notable differences. .National Bird Day falls on the same day as three-Week -long Christmas Bird Count ,the world's largest citizen science project that counts wild birds in the United States .Climate change ,habitat loss ,deforestation ,and other factors that have a devastating impact on life are putting birds in danger .These common crimes against birds are discussed and addressed in public on National Bird Day. People from America ,India and other countries of the world participate in this event because raising awareness is one of its main purposes .A day when birds should be treated with utmost respect is indicated by this .We all have a chance on this day to spread the word about bird preservation and how to protect birds. The world's bird population totals over 9800 species .An individual cannot possibly see every single one of them! But on National Bird Day ,anyone with an interest in birds can use this occasion to get a glimpse of the various bird species that are found nearby .National Bird day is an annual holiday with half a million adherents who celebrate through bird watching ,studying birds ,and other bird-related activities .National Birds Day has been dedicated at least in part to raising awareness about birds that are held in captivity .Birds have profound religious and mythological importance in India. Because of its profound religious and mythological

National Birds Day dicators of their health vian Welfare Coalition rd Day in order to raise truggles and plight of

in 1963, because the Hindu god Kartikeya rides on its back ,this bird is revered by Hindus.A brief note on Dolphin Declared National Aquatic Animal. The peacock was named the National Bird of India in 1963 because it is the most auspicious animal that embodies our country's fauna and has a long history of religious and legendry significance in Indian culture .The peacock is a magnificent creature with its beauty and grace ,and it embodies the national spirit whose colors are connected with Indian identity .The National Birds Day is observed and celebrated to raise awareness about bird conservation and promote the appreciation of avian biodiversity. The day also aims to prevent the extinction of bird species and highlight their importance in ecosystem .The National Birds Day can be celebrated in following ways-1 Read a book about birds ,such as Sibley Guide to Birds or H for Hawk. -2-Read a novel that features birds, such as I know why the Caged Bird sings by Maya Angelou.-3 -Watch some birds.-4-Invite someone to join you in celebrating.-5- Post on social media using the hashtag National Bird Day .The national bird of India is the Indian peacock - Pavo cristatus .Dr Salim Ali is known as the Birdman of India for his contributions to ornithology and bird conservation. Many bird species in India are threatened by habitat loss ,pollution, and hunting .Wetlands are home to many species of birds in India and are vital to sustaining the ecosystems that feed local bird populations .The day aims to raise awareness about the threats birds face ,such as illegal trade ,climate change, and habitat destruction .National Bird Day is celebrated because we have used birds for their feathers ,as pets, and even as food .In India ,we also celebrate 12 November as National Bird Day as it is the birthday

of Salim Ali the birdman of India .The National Bird Day which is observed on 5 January every year reminds us of the need to protect birds and their habitats ,and to raise awareness of the threats they face .Bird adoption is a particularly important National Bird Day activity .According to the newspaper Atlanta Journal -Constitution ,many bird enthusiasts celebrate by adopting birds and by educating future bird owners about the special issues involved with taking care of birds, including their" screaming ,biting constant cleanups, the need for daily interaction and a varied diet. "The Avian Welfare Coalitions National Bird Day campaign aims to improve the welfare of parrots and other birds by discouraging their purchase as pets ,and encouraging the support of wild bird habitat conservation programs and captive bird rescue organizations and sanctuaries .In short we humans should play our role in conservation and protection of various birds and encourage awareness about their conservation .Let us all take due care of birds and do nothing which results in threatening birds .Birds are an important part of the ecosystem and we should recognize and understand the necessity of wild life and other birds for human life .So we should treat birds with due care and caution .On the national bird day let us resolve to protect and conserve birds and this will lead to a befitting care for the birds and their rearing and upkeep as well as look after. We should learn to respect and in fact respect birds for their and our own good because after all there is interdependence between humans and birds.

(The author is a columnist, social,KP activist and freelancer)

Rise of AI in digital learning compared to traditional learning methodologies

By: Vijay Garg

The conventional teaching methods towards modernisation brought about through the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI). IBEF has published statistics indicating that the Indian edtech market is expected to grow from a value of \$700-800 million in 2021 to \$30 billion by 2031. This growth shows the penchant for digital learning solutions that rely on AI to provide more personalised, efficient, and accessible education. Besides, a report by KPMG says that India is now the second-largest market for e-learning, after the United States, clearly indicating the country's strong digital learning transformation.

the shortage of this level of teachers, AI-powered platforms can serve as virtual teaching assistants, helping bridge the gap by providing students access to learning course books, personalised guidance, and more interactive learning experiences.

Beyond just the technological progress, AI also stands as a powerful tool that has the capability to democratise education. Tools like adaptive learning technologies can modify lessons for individual students, enhancing their educational journey. Adaptive learning, a fundamental aspect of AI in education, allows platforms to adjust the difficulty of the material based on a student's progress. Popenici and Kerr (2017) describe how the applications of AIED are rapidly evolving, reshaping how education is delivered. Generative AI technologies, which create interactive and engaging content, are attracting significant investment and are instrumental in the growing development of the AIED industry. AIED's adaptive learning techniques have proven to boost test results by 62%, with AIdriven learning improving overall student performance by 30% and reducing anxiety by 20%. The edition of ChatGPT has been specifically designed for the higher education institutions. Its fundamental idea is to boost the privacy features along with security. This signifies that how AI is flexible and adjusting to the education scenario. These innovative offerings imply that how AI can bring a paradigm shift the future classrooms. Such innovations clearly reflect the potential of AI to shape future classrooms. It makes learning experiences efficient, tailored, and engaging at the same time. In fact, our country, AI could be just what the education system has desperately craved for. With the high growth rate in population, facilitating quality, low-cost education becomes a hurdle. AI thus presents a promising solution. It helps to scale learning opportunities, making them more accessible and affordable. AI-based platforms create personalised learning paths tailored to each student's needs, interests, and experience, unlike traditional classrooms that use a one-size-fits-all approach.

abilities, tools like text-to-speech and speech recognition give them the chance to interact with lessons in ways that suit their needs. AI also helps non-native speakers by translating educational content into different languages, removing language barriers that often hold students back. In many cases, traditional classrooms can't fully address the unique needs of all students, especially those with disabilities or language difficulties. AI fills in these gaps, making sure that education reaches more people and is more inclusive. It's not about replacing teachers or changing the core of learning but about giving more students a better chance to succeed, regardless of their abilities or language skills. AI also augments the process of assessment. Through adaptive assessments, AI can adjust the level of difficulty of tests and quizzes based on previous submissions. Students are constantly given the prospect and motivation to learn and improve in specific areas, as they receive timely and relevant feedback on what needs to be changed. On the other hand, traditional evaluations are more static and it offers minimum feedback. It doesn't offer any bigger scope to self learning. Also, for a teacher in a traditional classroom set up, to closely monitor each student's progress and learning style, especially in large class sizes. However, AI enables platforms to monitor each student's learning patterns, evaluating how they interact with the content and making recommendations for improving learning outcomes. It is nearly impossible to duplicate this level of thorough understanding in a conventional learning environment. AI provides quicker, more accurate support while also saving time for both teachers and students. AI has much more unique features than traditional methods in the form of gamified learning and interactive content. AI technologies can formulate content that recreates a stimulating environment in which students are more than passive recipients of information while learning something new. We are very much aware that the traditional learning is mainly restricted to classroom lectures and textbooks, but AI enables to engage in much effective way to comprehend

some of the complex subjects. This method helps students only to keep the information in a better way but also inspire and motivates them.

Moreover, the rise of AI in education does not mean that it will replace teachers; rather, it improves their role. By handling tasks like grading and administrative duties, AI frees up educators to focus on mentoring and personalised student interactions-areas where human connection is essential. In other ways, we can simply put out that AI is like an instructor in the classroom, which provides real-time recommendations/suggestions and feedback to help the students. AI eliminates the hurdles which the traditional learning usually faces. These are restricted due to cost and location. Moreover, it encourages more inclusive and accessible educational experience. The best part is that students can have this opportunity to learn as per their wishes. Conventional classroom education methods bank on lectures which is not always the best way to learn, but AI tools are able to meet the needs of all students. Time and the availability of the teacher also become limitations for today's traditional classrooms. On the other hand, technology allows students to access learning materials whenever they want. Traditional forms of evaluation are unable to provide detailed feedback on the student's performance, but AI enables students to get immediate feedback and understand how to improve even before the action. As India gets ready to flag its position in the global edtech market, AI can help overcome important education challenges like teacher shortages and high costs. By making use of AI, India can offer quality education to millions of students, making learning fairer and more effective for everyone. The future of education is digital, and AI is leading the way.

Artificial intelligence

One of the problems which India is witnessing is the imbalance between school enrolment and higher education enrolment. Interestingly, about 25 crores students take admission in the schools every year, and just about 28% continue the higher studies, as per the TG Sitharam, chairman of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). This lag is primarily due to the economic constraints. The majority of the students find it extremely difficult to deal with the massive fee for higher studies, leaving millions of bright minds outside the opportunity spectrum. Perhaps, AI is the medium through which this problem can be addressed. It is providing affordable, accessible, and high-quality learning platforms. Students can pursue higher education irrespective of their geographical or financial limitations through AIenabled platforms. It can potentially increase the percentage of higher education enrolments and offer more equitable access to learning.

Also, another issue that poses a significant challenge is the shortage of quality teachers. According to the UNESCO study, India has over 1 million unfilled teaching vacancies, and approximately 1.1 lakh schools carry out functions with only a single teacher. This problem mainly exists in remote regions across the country. Sadly, about 65% to teaching staff remains unfilled in these towns. Now, AI's role in this scenario becomes extremely useful, as it acts like a supplementary teaching tool. With

AI is making education much more accessible. For students with dis-

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

LOCAL/ ADVT

Heart Health in aging, managing cardiovascular disease in elderly home-aged patients-strenuous task: Dr Sushil

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: Keeping on alive the practice of serving all sections of society with utmost dedication and care Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Home for the aged and Infirm Ambphalla, Jammu so as to screen elderly at high risk , educate them about cardiac friendly lifestyle and provide them with necessary medications

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major health concern among elderly individuals, particularly those residing in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The aging process, combined with the high prevalence of comorbidities in this population, significantly increases the risk of developing CVD. Managing these conditions in elderly homeaged patients requires a comprehensive, mul-

tidisciplinary approach tailored to their unique needs and vulnerabilities. The most common forms of cardiovascular disease in the elderly include coronary artery disease (CAD), heart failure, arrhythmias, hypertension, peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and valvular heart disease. These conditions are often driven by a combination of non-modifiable risk factors, such as age and genetic predisposition, and modifiable factors, including smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol levels. He elaborated that the

aging process itself contributes to cardiovascular risk through structural and functional changes in the heart and blood vessels. For example, arterial stiffness and endothelial dysfunction increase with age, promoting atherosclerosis and hypertension. In addition, the presence of comorbid conditions such as chronic kidney disease or diabetes exacerbates

the burden of cardiovascular disease in this population. Caring for elderly home-aged patients with cardiovascular disease presents unique challenges. One significant issue is poly pharmacy, as these individuals often require multiple medications to manage not only CVD but also other chronic conditions. This increases the risk of drug interactions, side effects, and medication nonadherence. Furthermore, frailty, characterized by reduced physiological reserves and increased vulnerability to stressors, complicates disease management and heightens the risk of adverse outcomes. Elderly patients often present with atypical symptoms

of CVD. For instance, instead of experiencing classic chest pain during a myocardial infarction, they may report fatigue, confusion, or shortness of breath. Cognitive impairment, common in nursing home residents, further complicates diagnosis and treatment

by limiting the patient's

quantity of contraband sub-

ability to communicate symptoms or adhere to prescribed therapies.

He added that Effective management of cardiovascular disease in elderly home-aged patients requires a holistic and patient-centered approach

Lifestyle modifications, such as a heart-healthy diet, moderate physical activity, and smoking cessation, should be encouraged within the patient's physical and cognitive capabilities. Pharmacological treatment is often essential for controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood glucose levels. Anti hypertensives, statins, and anticoagulants are commonly prescribed, but their use must be carefully monitored to minimize side effects. For patients with heart failure, medications such as diuretics and beta-blockers can improve symptoms and quality of life. Regular monitoring is crucial for early detection of disease progression or complications. Blood pressure, cholesterol levels,

and symptoms such as edema or breathlessness should be routinely evaluated. Additionally, vaccinations against influenza and pneumococcal infections are recommended to prevent illnesses that can exacerbate CVD, he said.

Management Committee of the Home I D Soni Vijay Bhagotra, R C Vaid, Vijay Gupta and Satpal Gupta appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting Cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their premises and shows their heartfelt gratitude. Others who were part of this Camp includes Dr Arvind Kohli (Vascular Surgeon) and Dr Dhaneshwer Kapoor. Paramedics and volunteers includes Kamal Sharma, Rajkumar, Makhan Sharma, Jatin Bhasin, Arun Singh, Akshay Kumar, Gourav Sharma, Nirvair Singh Bali, Paramveer Singh, Shubham Sharma, Amish Jamwal and Vikas Kumar

Kuldeep flags off Junior National kabaddi teams



Jammu.

The members of the

screening committee

of Jammu & Kashmir

Sports Council cleared

both the teams in boys

and girls section before

participation in Junior

National Championship.

The sports kits were

also distributed to the

players by the asso-

ciation members in

the presence of Ajay

Gupta, Dr, Jagandeep

Singh, Physiotherapist,

Surinder Mohan, Aman

Singh, Sikanadar Lal,

Nisha Devi and Archana

In the meantime, Pres-

ident of the Association,

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: Kabaddi boys and girls teams of Jammu and Kashmir will participate in collaboration with J&K Sports Council in the 50th Junior National Kabaddi Championship for boys and girls which is going to be held at Haridwar from 8th to 11th January 2025.

The selected boys and girls teams were given a formal send off by General Secretary of the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association, Kuldeep Kumar Gupta from Kabaddi Stadium,

Anil Gupta conveyed his warm wishes to both the teams.

Selected boys are Rohit Singh (Captain), Vanshit Sharma, Mir Danish Manzoor, Deepak Kumar, Vansh Sharma, Moomim Qayoom, Aqaib Hussain, Rakesh Kumar, Rahul Chib, Shivanshu Singh Jasrotia, Karun Sharma and Ritik Singh. Mohd. Amin is the coach, Arshad Ahmed Rather is the physical trainer and Sikandar Lal is the manager of the team.

Selected girls are Divya Chouhan (Captain), Naysa Singh, Kanika Sharma, Tajamul Islam, Varsha, Ishika, Rashika, Ayman Khursheed, Komal Sharma, Vaibhavi Sharma, Sania Rajput and Sherish Rashid. Nisha Devi is the coach, Arshad Ahmed Rather is the physical trainer and Archana Koushal is the manager of the team.

Police arrests four drug peddlers; Contraband substances recovered

In Sopore, a police team

led by SHO Police Sta-

tion Dangiwacha at a

checkpoint established at

Laiser Crossing intercept-

ed a vehicle (Ecco) bear-

ing registration number

JK05M-4854 driven by

Muneeb Jabar Dar son of

Abdul Jabar Dar resident of

Mugam Shaheedmir Bomai

Sopore. Upon searching

the vehicle, police team

was able to recover 1.028

kilograms of a substance

resembling charas. Vehicle

used in the commission

of crime has also been

In Srinagar, a police team

of Police Post Tengpora at

checkpoint established at

Tengpora near Flood Chan-

nel apprehended two suspi-

cious persons namely Love

Kumar and Vipin Kumar.

both residents of Delhi.

During search, substantial

seized.

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 5: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 04 drug peddlers in separate incidents in Pulwama, Sopore & Srinagar and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Pulwama, acting on credible intelligence, a police team of Police station Pulwama at a checkpoint established at Muchpona Pulwama apprehended a drug peddler identified as Ishfaq Majeed Wani son of Ab Majeed Wani resident of Pulwama. During the search, 18.70 grams of heroin were recovered from his possession. Subsequently, he has been arrested and a case under relevant provisions of law was registered in Police Station Pulwama. Further investigation is underway to uncover potential links and networks involved in the illegal trade.

stance was recovered from their possession. During the course of investigation, upon the disclosure of both accused persons, more quantity of contraband substance was recovered in the instant case

All the accused have been arrested. Cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigations have been initiated.

Police urged the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112.

People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

KULGAM, Jan 5: In a major crackdown on illegal hoarding and black marketing, Police in Kulgam have successfully recovered huge quantity of kerosene oil and arrested an individual involved in the illegal trade.

Top News Report

A police party of Police station Qaimoh at a checkpoint established at Khudwani Bypass intercepted a vehicle (load carrier) bearing registration No JK18-7728 driven

Army organises Ex-Servicemen

meet at Sarsoti

Top News Report

RAJOURI, Jan 5: The

Indian Army organ-

Police foils illegal hoarding, black marketing of kerosene oil, accused arrested by Hilal Ahmad Guru son of Abdul Rahman Guru resident of Kawaki Bazar Qaimoh. During checking, officers were able to recover 1400 litres of ille-

gally acquired Kerosene oil which he was trans-

porting for hoarding and black marketing. Kerosene oil along with vehicle used in commission of crime were seized and the accused was arrested. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 01/2025 under

relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Qaimoh and investigation has been initiated. Police urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities

Koushal

or illegal practices they come across. Such information can be crucial in curbing criminal activities and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL), Jammu **Power Development Department** CIN NO: U40300JK2013SGC003898

(e:mail: xenstd1@yahoo.co.in) Tel. Fax 0191-2543343

e-NIT No: STD-I/JPDCL/Tenders/2024-25/31/5935-38 dated:03-01-2025.

INVITATION:-1.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, JPDCL Jammu, hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Short Terms Tender Notice for Re-orientation of 33 KV Feeders (G-4 and Canal -Company Bagh Line) for interconnection with under construction 2x10 MVA, 33/11 KV Receiving Station Company Bagh under Smart City along with associated works" in respect of Sub-Transmission Division-I, JPDCL, Jammu.

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

Army organizes ex-servicemen rally at Dul form for Ex-Servicemen,

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Jan 5: In a remarkable initiative to reconnect with its veteran community, the Indian Army organized an Ex-Servicemen Rally at Dul, Kishtwar.

The event, graced by Brigadier Jai Bhagwan Singh Rathi, Commander, 5 Sect ASSAM RIFLES, aimed to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and its retired personnel while addressing their concerns and welfare needs

The rally was instrumental in providing a plat-

Veer Naris, and widows from the area to voice their grievances and gain insights into various welfare schemes. The event also showcased the Indian Army's continued commitment to the well-being of its extended family.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, and widows across the region. They expressed gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in addressing their needs and fostering a sense of belonging. Brigadier Jai Bhagwan

ing the rally, emphasized, "The Indian Army's bond with its veterans and their families is eternal. This rally is a testament to our unwavering commitment to their welfare, ensuring they receive the respect and support they truly deserve." The rally successfully bridged the gap between

the Indian Army and its veteran community, creating a platform for dialogue and support.

Positive feedback from the attendees underscored the effectiveness of the initiative, with many thanking the Indian Army for organizing such events.

Army organises outreach event to strengthen bonds with Ex-servicemen at Akhnoor

Singh Rathi, while address-

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 5: The Army, in its ongoing commitment to fostering strong relationships with the local populace, organized a special outreach event today in the border areas of Pallanwala.

The event was dedicated to addressing the concerns and grievances of exservicemen, widows of ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris (war widows), while also acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the nation.

Conducted in close coordination with civil authorities and local sarpanches, the event served as a platform for meaningful discussions on areas for improvement and the welfare of this esteemed community.

Several grievances were addressed on the spot, while others were duly noted for further action.

The Brigade reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. The presence of civil administration and local representatives underscored the collaborative approach towards resolving issues and creating a supportive environment for these families.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's ethos of service beyond duty and its dedication to strengthening the bonds with those who have contributed selflessly to the nation's security and progress.

ised an Ex-Servicemen Meet at Sarsoti, District Rajouri, highlighting its commitment to the welfare of veterans. The major highlights of the event were interactions with ESMs, Sparash registration, and a grievance counter

The event brought together over 28 Exservicemen and served as a platform to address grievances and disseminate information about various welfare schemes

An assistance booth was established to resolve queries and provide guidance on accessing benefits like the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme and Canteen Stores Department related issues.

The Indian Army expressed gratitude to the veterans and their families for their sacrifices, emphasizing the Indian Army's unwavering support.

The event also highlighted that such initiatives strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and its ex-servicemen, ensuring their welfare and honoring their legacy.

The Ex-servicemen Meet was a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to its veteran community, demonstrating respect, gratitude, and an enduring commitment to their well-being

2. The tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

А	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	04-01-2025 (Saturday) : 06:00 PM	
В	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	11-01-2025 (Saturday) : 02:00 PM	
С	Clarification Start Date	04-01-2025 (Saturday) : 06:00 PM	
D	Clarification End Date	08-01-2025 (Wednesday): 04:00 PM	
Е	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	04-01-2025 (Saturday) : 06:00 PM	
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	11-01-2025 (Saturday) : 02:00 PM	
G	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	11-01-2025 (Saturday) : 04:00 PM	
Η	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	14-01-2025 (Tuesday) : 02:00 PM	
Ι	Pre Bid Meeting	08-01-2025 (Wednesday): 02:00 PM	
J	Venue of Pre Bid Meeting	Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, JPDCL Jammu	
К	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.	
L	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, JPDCL Jammu	
Μ	Tender Value	Rs. 25,00,575/-	
Ν	Cost of e-Bid document (e-challan)	Rs.1000.00 (Non-Refundable)	
0	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.50,012/-	

3. The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, JPDCL, Jammu, payable at Jammu. The e-chalan shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-I, JPDCL, Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the e-challan must be uploaded along with the e-Bids.

No: - STD-I/JPDCL/Tenders/2024-25/31/5935-38.	DIP/J-3471-P/24	Executive Engineer
Dated:03-01-2025		Sub Transmission Division-I,
atcu.05-01-2025		JPDCL, Jammu

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(All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City).

ENTERTAINMENT

role.

Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, January 05, 2025

Payal Kapadia's 'All We Imagine As Light' secures spots in BAFTA 2025 longlists

BAFTA Film Awards to be held on February 16

Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light" continues its remarkable run on the international awards circuit, securing spots on the BAFTA Film Awards longlists in three categories, including Best Director. The British Academy shared

the results of the first round of voting across 25 categories for its upcoming awards gala.

Kapadia's Malayalam-Hindi movie, which scripted history by becoming the first Indian movie to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes in May, has made it to three longlists of 10 movies each—Best Film Not in English Language, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay.

Besides "All We Imagine As Light", Sandhya Suri's "Santosh" and Karan Kandhari's "Sister Midnight" are nominated in the longlist for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer.

Indian-origin British actor Dev Patel has also found a mention in the longlist for his directorial debut "Monkey Man". Patel is nominated in the Leading Actor longlist.

According to BAFTA, the films mentioned in the longlists will advance to the nominating stage of voting, which started on Friday and will conclude on January 10.

The three nods for Kapadia's



forbidden love affair.

Through their friendship, the

film captures themes of love,

identity, and the contradictions

of life in the city. It also features

Chhaya Kadam in a pivotal role.

thriller "Santosh" had its world

premiere at the 2024 Cannes

in the Un Certain Regard sec-

tion. It has been named Britain's

Oscar entry in the international

Starring Shahana Goswami

and Sunita Rajwar, "Santosh"

revolves around a newly wid-

owed housewife as she inher-

its her late husband's job as a

police constable and becomes

embroiled in the investigation of

Kandhari's "Sister Midnight" is

a "dark physical comedy" with

Radhika Apte playing the lead

a young girl's murder.

feature category.

Suri's Uttar Pradesh-set police

movie comes weeks after it picked up two nominations at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards. The Malayalam-Hindi film, which marks Kapadia's feature directorial debut, is nominated for Best Motion Picture Non-English Language and the Best Direction - Motion Picture at the awards gala, which will be held on January 6.

The movie was recently named the Best International Film by New York Film Critics Circle and won an award in the same category at the Gotham Awards.

It explores the intertwined lives of two Malayali nurses in Mumbai —Prabha (Kani Kusruti), a straitlaced woman yearning for her absent husband, and Anu (Divya Prabha), her outgoing roommate entangled in a domestic skills, who lives in her husband's cramped one-room flat. "Trapped in an unending domestic hell, she sets out to explore the city on her own, only to embrace fresh impulses and desires," read the film's official plotline. The movie also features Ashok Pathak and Chhaya Kadam in

It is about Uma, a disillu-

sioned newlywed with zero

pivotal roles. "Monkey Man" marks the directorial debut of Patel, the star of multiple Oscar-winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire" as well as films like "Hotel Mumbai", "The Personal History of David Copperfield" and "The Green Knight".

Inspired by the legend of Lord Hanuman, "Monkey Man" is set in Mumbai and features Patel as Kid, a man on a quest for vengeance against the corrupt leaders who murdered his mother and continue to systemically victimise the poor and powerless. The movie features a host of Indian actors, including Sikander Kher, Sobhita Dhulipala, Makarand Deshpande, Pitobash

and Vipin Sharma. The final nominations will be announced on January 15. The 2025 BAFTA Film Awards will be held on February 16.

Kiara Advani not hospitalised, advised to rest: actor's representative



Bollywood star Kiara Advani has been advised to rest following an excessive work schedule, her representative said, dismissing reports that the actor has been hospitalised. Reports of her hospitalisation surfaced after Advani skipped the trailer launch event of her upcoming film "Game Changer".

"Kiara Advani has not been hospitalised, she's been advised to rest due to exertion as she's been working non stop," the representative told agency.

Advani was last seen in 2023's "Satyaprem Ki Katha" where she starred alongside Kartik Aaryan.

"Game Changer", a political action thriller directed by S Shankar, reunites her with Telugu star Ram Charan after their appearance in the 2019 movie "Vinaya Vidheya Rama".

Written by Karthik Subbaraj, the film also stars S J Suryah, Anjali, Jayaram, Sunil, Naveen Chandra and Samuthirakani. The movie is slated to hit the theatres on January 10.

Janhvi Kapoor's New Year's diet includes a giant 'ladoo'

Bollywood actor Janhvi Kapoor has wished everyone a "Happy New Year" and even gave a peek of herself indulging in a giant, festive 'ladoo'.

Janhvi took to Instagram, where she posted a string of pictures of herself. In the first image, the actor is seen wearing traditional Indian wear. She is standing with her back to the camera, her face gracefully tilted toward the lens. The backdrop has a picturesque view of the mountains. She then shared two selfies of herself in a hotel room. The actor could be seen smiling at the lens as she clicked the picture. The last photograph had her sitting and gorging on a big ladoo.



Andrew Garfield, Anya Taylor-Joy among presenters for Golden Globes



6

Janhvi captioned the image, "Happy new year!"

Last month, she was seen at a Christmas party with her sister Khushi Kapoor and brother Arjun Kapoor. The 82nd Annual Golden Globes awards are around the corner. Creating excitement among the fans, the organisers recently announced the presenters for the upcoming edition.

As per reports, presenters for this year's Golden Globes include Andrew Garfield, Anthony Mackie, Anthony Ramos, Anya Taylor-Joy, Ariana DeBose, Aubrey Plaza, Auli'i Cravalho, Awkwafina, Brandi Carlile, Catherine O'Hara, Colin Farrell, Colman Domingo, Demi Moore, Dwayne Johnson, Edgar Ramirez, Elton John, Gal Gadot, Glenn Close, Jeff Goldblum, Jennifer Coolidge, Kaley Cuoco, Kate Hudson, Kathy Bates, Ke Huy Quan, Kerry Washington, Margaret Qualley, Melissa McCarthy, Michael Keaton, Michelle Yeoh, Miles Teller, Mindy Kaling, Morris Chestnut, Nate Bargatze, Nicolas Cage, Rachel Brosnahan, Rob McElhenney, Salma Havek Pinault, Sarah Paulson. Seth Rogen, Sharon Stone, Vin Diesel, Viola Davis and Zoe Kravitz.

The ceremony will be held on January 5. Comedian Nikki Glaser is hosting the evening, which celebrates both film and television. Glaser is set to make history as the first woman to host the Globes solo.

Netflix leads the pack in the Golden Globes nominations for 2024 on both the TV and film side, while A24 and HBO are

well represented.

Viola Davis will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award. Davis won a Supporting Actress Oscar and a Golden Globe for 2016's Fences. She also has six other Golden Globe noms, most recently for 2022's The Woman King. India is also eying an award with filmmaker Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light obtaining two prestigious nominations at the Golden Globe Awards.

Kareena Kapoor Khan concludes an emotional trip to Switzerland

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan recently shared an emotional post as she bid farewell to Switzerland, where she had been enjoying a memorable holiday with her family. Accompanied by her husband Saif Ali Khan and their two children. Taimur and Jeh, the actress took to social media to express her feelings about leaving the picturesque destination.

Bebo posted an image of the beautiful snowcapped mountains on her Instagram stories, writing, "Au revoir. Always hurts to leave..."

The Khan family had been vacationing in the scenic Swiss Alps, making the most of their time together and creating lasting memories in the winter wonderland. The 'Udta Punjab' actress also shared a series of adorable pictures from Taimur and Jeh's skiing session. In one of the photos, Taimur looked adorable in a red and green outfit, fully geared up for skiing as he stood outdoors. Kareena captioned the post, "Mera beta (my son)."

In another snapshot, little Taimur was seen looking down at the ground, and Kareena humorously wrote, "Don't ask me if I ski! I take my son's pictures someone needs to."

In another photo, Jeh was seen lying on the snow, crying while dressed in a black outfit and red helmet. Kareena captioned it with, "Meanwhile..."



In a subsequent picture, Jeh was curled up Th with his eyes closed, ing

still lying on the snow. The actress joked, writing, "Does this count as skiing?"

Kareena also shared heartwarming photos from her intimate Christmas celebration with her family, including husband Saif and their two sons. The couple has made it a tradition to celebrate the festive season in this special way, and this year was no exception.

In her post, Kareena mentioned that she had been so immersed in the holiday festivities with her loved ones that she hadn't had the chance to share earlier, but she wanted to extend her warm wishes to everyone now.

The post was captioned, "Sorry was too busy enjoying my day love and happiness. People keep searching for magic."

Tiger Shroff shares a glimpse of his intense training regimen in his latest video



Apart from his acting skills, Tiger Shroff is well-known for his impeccable fitness, jaw-dropping action sequences, and stunning dance moves.

The actor shared an insight into his intense training on social media. Tiger took to his official Instagram account and posted a video doing an extremely impressive kick. He can be seen jumping in the air as he lands a powerful kick on his trainer. It would be interesting to see him try something like that on the big screens.

Along with the video, the Baaghi actor wrote a note that read, "Not usually proud of any of my skills..but this is one where i wonder how TF i did havent seen this one on... yet .. bhaijaan g**e bach gaye sorry @nadeemkhiladi786."

Tiger Shroff is known to shell such motivating videos from his fitness journey on the internet from time to time.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Tiger Shroff is currently gearing up for his upcoming action entertainer, Bhaaghi 4. The fourth installment in the popular Baaghi series will see Sanjay Dutt, Sonam Bajwa and Harnaaz Sandhu as the primary cast.

Made under the direction of A Harsha, the movie will be released in the cinema halls on September 5 this year.

Sajid Nadiadwala bankrolled the drama under the banner of Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, while Swamy J. Gowda has looked after the cinematography.

NATIONAL

Won't tolerate AAPda, only 'Modi, Modi' chants in Delhi: PM

Ahead of the Delhi elections, PM Modi accused the AAP leadership of pushing the national capital into one crisis after another.

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a rally in Delhi today accused the AAP of "wasting" the last 10 years. PM Modi claimed that Delhi's development is essential for India's aspirations and only BJP can achieve that. "AAPda is clear to the people of Delhi, so only 'Modi, Modi' resounds here. We won't tolerate AAPda, we will bring change," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the 13-km Delhi section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor, connecting Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh to New Ashok Nagar in the national capital. This stretch is part of the larger 55-km Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor, designed to enhance regional connectivity.

PM Modi also rode the Namo Bharat train from Sahibabad station to New Ashok Nagar



station.

"We are in the year 2025. Twenty-five years of the 21st century have passed. That means a quarter of a century has passed. During this time, probably two to three generations of youth in Delhi have grown up. Now the coming 25 years are very important for the future of India, and for the future of Delhi," PM Modi said. In a swipe at AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, PM Modi accused the former Delhi chief minister of spending ludicrous sums of money on the official residence of the Chief Minister of Delhi - which the BJP calls 'Sheeshmahal'. Two days ago, PM Modi had claimed that he could have constructed a 'Sheeshmahal' for himself but chose instead to prioritise building homes for the people. Responding to AAP's accusations that the BJP government at the Centre is impeding AAP's work in the national capital, PM Modi today said, " It is a false allegation that the Centre does not let them work, 'Sheeshmahal' is an example of their lies."

The Delhi Assembly elections are scheduled for this year. Ahead of the polls, PM Modi accused the AAP leadership of pushing the national capital into one crisis after another and claimed their governance was defined by corruption and mismanagement.

"I want to appeal to the people of Delhi to give an opportunity to BJP for the bright future of Delhi, It is BJP which can develop Delhi. Now, we can only hear 'AAPda nahi sahenge, badal ke rahenge' in Delhi. Delhi wants development and the people of Delhi have trust in BJP," PM Modi said.

Four Naxalites, cop killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh



DANTEWADA, Jan 5 (Agencies): Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, a senior police official said on Sunday.

A head constable of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was also killed in the face-off, he said.

The gunfight broke out on Saturday evening at a forest in south Abujhmaad along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts when a joint team of the DRG and Special Task Force (STF) was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, the official said.

After the exchange of fire stopped late Saturday night, bodies of four Naxalites and automatic weapons, including AK-47 rifle and self loading rifle (SLR), were recovered from the spot, he said. DRG head constable Sannu Karam was also killed in the gunfight, the official said, adding that search operation

was still underway in the area. The anti-Naxalite operation, compris-

ing the DRG teams from Narayanpur, Dantewada, Kondagaon and Bastar districts, was launched on Friday. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on

Sunday said the fight will continue to end the Naxal menace.

"So far, there is news of four Naxalites being killed in an encounter between security forces and Naxalites in the south Abujhmaad region bordering Narayanpur and Dantewada districts," Sai said in a post on X.

The chief minister expressed grief over the policeman's death in the gunfight.

"DRG head constable Sannu Karam was also martyred in the encounter. His sacrifice will not go in vain. Security forces have been fighting very strongly against Naxalism and the fight will continue till the menace is eliminated," he said.

On January 3, a Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district, which falls in Raipur division.

Last year, 219 Naxalites were neutralised by security forces in separate encounters in the state, according to police.

The state's Bastar region comprises seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur.

2 BJP leaders killed as dumper hits car in Odisha, ex-MLA alleges deliberate collision

SAMBALPUR, Jan 5 (Agencies): Two BJP leaders were killed after a dumper hit their car in Odisha's Sambalpur district in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Debendra Nayak and Muralidhar Chhuria. Nayak was BJP's Goshala mandal president while Chhuria is a former sarpanch. Both of them were close to senior BJP leader Nauri Naik.

The incident happened around 1.30 am on National Highway-53 in the Burla police station area. There were six people in the car, including the driver, and they were returning home in Kardola from Bhubaneswar, police said. All six of them were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared two of them dead. The injured were undergoing treatment there.

Suresh Chanda, who was injured in the accident, alleged, "The vehicle hit our car from behind twice. Suspecting someone trying to hit our vehicle

intentionally, the driver turned the car towards a rural road from the highway near Kantapalli Square. Still, the dumper chased our vehicle and hit it badly. As a result, the car overturned." Chanda said he was conscious till the dumper hit their car twice on the highway, but lost sense when it hit the third time.

"I am sure that someone intentionally caused the accident. By mistake, one can hit a vehicle once. Why would someone be hit thrice from behind?" asked the injured BJP worker.

After visiting the injured persons, Naik, a former MLA of Rengali, alleged that it was not an accident but a deliberate collision. "Someone has deliberately hit their vehicle thrice," he claimed.

SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo said, "We have seized the dumper and detained its driver. As the family members of the deceased persons alleged that it was done intentionally, we will investigate that angle."

VHP says acquittal of Nanded blast accused 'tight slap' on Congress

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): The VHP on Sunday termed the acquittal of the 2006 Nanded blast accused a "tight slap" on the Congress' face and asked the party's top leadership to apologise to Hindu society.

The reaction came after a sessions court in Maharashtra's Nanded acquitted on Saturday all nine surviving accused in the 2006 blast case.

"The Congress' dream of proving Hindus to be terrorists in the 2006 Nanded blast case stands exposed, with the court acquitting all the persons made accused in the case



during Congress rule," Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said.

He claimed the Congress and the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism

Squad (ATS) had already been "exposed" in the Malegaon blast case.

"After 19 years, the Nanded court acquitted all the accused and slapped the Congress hard on its face for its anti-Hindu misdeeds," Bansal said.

"At least now, the top leadership of the Congress should apologise to Hindu society," he added.

The case pertains to an explosion at the home of Laxman Rajkondwar - allegedly a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker in Nanded city ---on the intervening night of April 4 and 5, 2006. His son Naresh

Rajkondwar and VHP activist Himanshu Panse were killed in the blast, allegedly while assembling an explosive device, the investi-

gators had claimed. The case was ini-

tially investigated by the Maharashtra ATS before being transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). According to defence

lawyer Nitin Runwal, 49 prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial.

However, the prosecution could not prove that the incident was a "bomb blast" and not the explosion of a gas cylinder or some other inflammable object, he told agency.

The Congress was in power at the Centre and in Maharashtra at the time of the incident.

Govt launches 2 special categories visas for international students

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): India has launched two special category visa for international students intending to pursue higher education in academic institutions in the country.

The 'e-student visa' and 'e-student-x' visa have been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and all applicants will have to use the 'Study in India' (SII) portal launched by the government, officials said.

The e-student visa facility can be availed by eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal while e-student-x visa is offered to the dependents of those holding e-student visas, they said.

The SII portal facilitates the admission process of international students who wish to pursue either long-term or short-term courses in India.

Students will need to apply for a visa separately on the portal https://indianvisaonline. gov.in/ but the authenticity of their application will be checked by SII ID.

Hence it is mandatory for students to apply to Indian higher educational institutions through



project of the Ministry of

Education which hosts

international students

seeking higher educa-

tion through its 600+

partner institutes offer-

ing more than 8000+

diverse courses in dis-

ciplines such as engi-

neering & technology,

management, agricul-

ture, sciences, arts and

humanities, language

studies, commerce, law,

paramedical sciences

covering pharmacy,

nursing, and select

niche courses like Bud-

dhist Studies, Yoga, etc.

Furthermore, they are

available in different

levels, from Undergrad-

uate (Bachelors), Post-

graduate (Masters),

Doctoral level (PhD)

and certification-based

Due to the availability

of an array of options (in

courses), the students

have the flexibility to

choose the course of

courses.

SII website, the officials cials said. The SII is a flagship said.

Students may apply for the visa after receiving an admission offer letter from any of the SII partner institutes.

The e-student visa will be granted to such foreign nationals who obtain admission to studying in India and who wish to pursue such studies, regular, full-time, courses of under graduate, post graduation, PhD and such other formal programmes at educational institutes duly recognised by the statutory and regulatory body in India, the officials said. Student visas are issued for up to five years, depending on the duration of the course. They can also be extended in India. Further, those having valid e-student visas can enter India from any desired port of immigration check post, the offitheir interest and study in premier Indian institutes.

Furthermore, the process to get on board with SII is relatively easy and can be done through its online application submission, seeking admission to students' choice of programmes and further processing of applications for seeking admission, the officials said. Students can get started right away by completing the first step to apply, i.e. registration, by clicking on the 'Reg-

The students are required to fill in simple details such as name, country, date of birth, mobile number and email ID.

ister Now' tab.

Every student aspiring to complete their higher education in India and applying to study in India must have their unique student SII ID as this ID is what will help them to access their dashboard, track the progress of college and course applications, visa/e-visa, and other higher education in India-related processes.

No student SII ID means no chance of studying or moving to India, the officials added.

Drone over Jagannath temple in Puri triggers security scare, probe on

BHUBANESWAR, Jan 5 (Agencies): An investigation was started after a drone was spotted over the revered Jagannath temple in Puri in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The drone was spotted over the temple around 4:10 am and it kept hov-

ering for nearly half an hour, raising security concerns as the area is a no-flying zone. Different teams have been formed to investigate the incident, a

police officer said.

Expressing concern,

raj Harichandan said, "Flying a drone over the temple is illegal and not acceptable. Strong legal action would be taken against the person who

ana this morning.

Law Minister Prithvi-

drone will be seized." he added

Harichandan said to ensure that such an incident does not happen in the future, the government is planning to deploy police personnel round the clock at the four watchtowers around the temple complex.

"It was suspected that some vlogger may have flown the drone above the temple.

However, ill intention behind it cannot be ruled out," he said.

4 Dead in multi-vehicle collision due to fog on highway in Haryana



CHANDIGARH, Jan 5 (Agencies): A multivehicle collision on the Hisar-Chandigarh National Highway

place early morning when a car crashed into a divider on the highway due to reduced visibility because of fog. A car coming from behind crashed into the vehicle at the Surewala Chowk in Uklana.

breached the security.'

"The Puri SP has

formed teams and start-

ed an investigation into

the incident. I hope that

the person concerned

will be identified and the

rescue the injured and were standing in the middle of the road when a truck ran over them and four people died. The truck fell on a Hyundai car and at and a Hyundai car were involved in the crash, visuals showed.

People had to break the glass to pull the driver of the truck out after it fell on one side. The police reached the spot and cleared the highway. The victims are yet to be identified.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert for dense fog during the morning hours, warning of reduced visibility across several cities in north India.

People rushed to

resulted in the death of four people who came to rescue them in Haryleast three vehicles, a Maruti Baleno, a Dzire The accident took

INTERNATIONAL

Biden honours Hillary Clinton, George Soros, Lionel Messi with Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON, Jan 5 (Agencies): Outgoing President Joe Biden has presented the US' highest civilian award to 19 people, including former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, football superstar Lionel Messi, controversial philanthropist George Soros and actor Denzel Washington, for their contributions to America and the world.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavours.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Argentinian football star Messi could not be present in person at the White House to receive the award from the US president.

"For the final time as President, I have the honour of bestowing the Medal of Freedom on our nation's highest civilian honour on a group of extraordinary, truly extraordinary people who gave their sacred effort, their sacred effort, to shape the culture and the cause of America," Biden said at a glittering function in the East Room of the White House

Former president Bill Clinton, several of his Cabinet members including Defence Secretary Loyd Austin along with several celebrities were present in the East Room of the White House during the awards ceremony.

"This group of people leave an incredible mark on our country with insight and influence that can be felt around the globe in major cities and remote areas of life, finding us closer as people and showing us that what's possible as a nation, nothing beyond our capacity," Biden said.

"As cultural icons, ... humanitarians, rock stars, sports stars, you feed the hungry, you give hope to those who are hurting, and you craft the signs and sounds of our movements



and our memories. It's amazing...you inspire, and you bring healing and joy to so many lives that otherwise wouldn't be touched," the President said.

"You answer the call to serve and lead others to do the same thing. You defend the values of America even when they're under attack, which they have been," Biden said after which he presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Fannie Lou Hamer, who transformed the struggle for racial justice in America, Ashton Carter, who served as the 25th Secretary of Defence, Robert Francis Kennedy remembered as an Attorney General who fiercely combatted racial segregation, and George W Romney, a businessman who served as the chairman and president of American Motors Corporation, were awarded posthumously.

The medals were received by their family members.

Hillary Clinton was the only recipient to get a standing ovation.

"As a lawyer, she defended the rights of children. As First Lady, she fought for universal health care and declared women's rights are human rights," a military aide read the citation as she was presented the medal by the president.

"As Senator, she helped New York rebuild after September 11, 2001. As Secretary of State, she championed democracy worldwide. Her nomination for president broke barriers and

them," according to the citation. Alex Soros accepted the award on behalf of his father George Soros, an investor, philanthropist, and founder of the Open Society Foundations.

"Born into a Jewish family in Hungary, George Soros escaped Nazi occupation to build a life of freedom for himself and countless others around the world," said the citation as read by the military aide

"Educated in England, he settled in America as he became an investor and philanthropist supporting key pillars of open societies, rights and justice, equity and equality, freedom now and in the future," it said. "As an immigrant who found

freedom and prosperity in America, I am deeply moved by this honour," George Soros said in a statement.

"I accept it on behalf of the many people around the world with whom the Open Society Foundations have made common cause over the past 40 years," he said.

However, Biden was slammed by Make America Great Again (MAGA) supporters and Republican leadership for giving the award to Soros.

"Giving George Soros the Presidential Medal of Freedom is another slap in the face of America after reducing the sentences of murderers and pardoning his son. 16 days is a long time until the Inauguration. What is he capable of sliding in next? January 20th can't come soon enough," Republican leader Nikki Haley said. "George Soros spent millions electing soft-on-crime politicians that let criminals wreak havoc in our major cities," Montana Senator Tim Sheehy told The New York Post.

Tech entrepreneur Elon Musk said that Biden giving Soros the Medal of Freedom is a "travesty,".

Alex who received the award on behalf of his father said his father is an American patriot who has spent his life fighting for freedom and human rights. On George Soros, the White House said, "Through his network of foundations, partners and projects in more than 120 countries, Soros has focused on global initiatives that strengthen democracy, human rights, education, and social justice."

Soros, 94, in the recent past has spoken openly against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ruling BJP believe that he tried to interfere in Indian elections.

Other awardees include conservationist Jane Goodall; longtime Vogue Magazine editor-inchief Anna Wintour; American fashion designer Ralph Lauren; American Film Institute founder George Stevens Jr.; entrepreneur and LGBTQ+ activist Tim Gill; scientist Bill Nye and David Rubenstein, co-founder of The Carlyle Group global investment firm.

Spanish-American chef Jose Andres, Irish singer-songwriter and activist Bono, Canadian-American activist and retired actor Michael J Fox, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and LGBTQ rights activist Tim Gill and legendary retired basketball player Earvin "Magic" Johnson were also among the recipients of the award.

Biden administration was one of most pro-India administrations in decades: Expert

'murder for hire' inci-

dent - were not allowed

to derail the partner-

ship. India's concerns

- whether Pakistan or

China – were borne in

mind and the US pro-

When asked about

India-US relationship

during the incoming

Trump administration,

she said India remains

one of a handful of

countries that continues

to enjoy bipartisan sup-

"President-elect Trump

has a good relation-

ship with PM Modi and

has an overall favour-

able view of India. His

nominees for key posi-

tions - Rep Mike Waltz,

Senator Marco Rubio

- have long expressed

pro-India positions and

that is likely to ensure

that most policies will

continue. It was during

Trump 1.0 that the Indo

Pacific policy, the Quad

and sharing of high

technology (STA-1)

with India was started so

most of these are likely

"Similarly, Trump 2.0's

desire to pushback or

contain China's rise -

economic, technologi-

cal, and military - will

to continue," she said.

a question.

port.



WASHINGTON, Jan 5 (Agencies): The outgoing Biden administration was one of the most pro-India administrations in decades and will be a tough act to follow, an eminent expert has said, observing that Trump 2.0 administration will be one that believes in great power politics, not strategic altruism.

"The outgoing Biden administration was one of the most pro-India administrations in decades and will be a tough act to follow for any presidential administration. Ties with India were cemented because of the belief that India's rise is in and of itself important to American national security interests," Aparna Pande, director, Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia at the prestigious Hudson Institute think-tank, said in an interview.

There was a deepening of relations on the security and defence realm, including high technology, something India has sought for decades, said Pande, author of several books, including from 'Chanakya to Modi: Evolution of India's Foreign Policy'.

"Irritants - like democratic backsliding and the issue tied to the help ensure that India is seen as a partner in this endeavour. When it comes to Pakistan, we will have to see how things pan out but as of now, there is no sign that things will improve. With respect to India-China relations, the Trump 2.0 is likely to continue its policies and the Biden administration policies of support for India. Things may improve on the Bangladesh front and the two countries may be able to work together," Pande said. At the same time, she noted that there will be challenges - the long-

vided intelligence and other support to India with respect to China. standing trade disagree-Bangladesh was one ments, high illegal immicountry over which the gration from India, and impact on even legal two continued to disagree, even publicly," immigration from India she said in response to (and most countries).

"Further, there may be a quid pro quo asked for in return for sharing of high technology. whether that is in the trade realm or defence sales area. What policy the incoming Trump administration takes on human rights and religious freedom will remain to be seen. However, the 'murder for hire' incident is as of now unlikely to go away but it will remain to be seen how much of focus remains on it. The Trump 2.0 administration will be one that believes in great power politics, not strategic altruism," Pande said. Trump, 78, would be

sworn in as the 47th president of the United States on January 20. He has nominated Florida Senator Marco Rubio and appointed Congressman Mike Waltz as his National Security Advisor. Both are Chinahawk and India-friendly.

Russian, North Korean troops suffer heavy losses

South Korean protesters brave cold to demand impeached

inspired generations. Through it all, her career has been dedicated to an eternal truth. America's ideals are sacred, and we must always defend and live by

in Kursk, Zelenskyy claims

KYIV, Jan 5 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian and North Korean forces suffered heavy losses in fighting in Russia's southern Kursk region.

Ukrainian and Western assessments say that some 11,000 North Korean troops are deployed in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces occupy swathes of territory after staging a mass cross-border incursion in August.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy quoted a report from top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskyi as saying that the battles had taken place near the village of Makhnovka, not far from the Ukrainian border.

"In battles yesterday and today near just one village, Makhnovka, in Kursk region, the Russian army lost up to a battalion of North Korean infantry soldiers and Russian paratroops," Zelenskyy said. "This is significant."

The president provided no specific details. A battalion can vary in size but is generally made up of several hundred troops.

Zelenskyy last week reported heavy North Korean losses in Kursk region, saying their forces were not being protected by the Rus-



sian forces they are fighting alongside. He said North Koreans were taking extreme measures to avoid being taken prisoner and in some instances

were being executed by their own forces In his latest remarks, Zelenskyy also said "fierce battles" had raged along the entire 1,000-km (620-mile) front line, with the most difficult situation near

the city of Pokrovsk. Russian forces, he said, "continue to expend vast numbers of their own personnel in assaults".

A Ukrainian military spokesperson earlier said Pokrovsk remained the "hottest" frontline sector, with Russian troops launching fresh attacks near the town in an effort to bypass it from the south and cut off supply routes to Ukraine's troops.

The city, home to a mine that is the sole supplier of coking coal to Ukraine's once-giant steel industry, had a pre-war population of some 60,000 people. Ukraine estimates that around 11,000 of them remain in the city.

president's ouster

Hundreds of South Koreans, bundled up against freezing temperatures and snow, rallied overnight into Sunday near the residence of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol

SEOUL, Jan 5 (Agencies): Hundreds of South Koreans, bundled up against freezing temperatures and snow, rallied overnight into Sunday near the residence of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol, calling for his ouster and arrest, as authorities prepared to renew their efforts to detain him over his short-lived martial law decree.

Dozens of anti-corruption agency investigators and police attempted to execute a detainment warrant against Yoon on Friday but retreated from his residence in Seoul after a tense standoff with the presidential security service that lasted more than five hours.

The one-week warrant for his detention is valid through Monday. There were no immediate indications that anti-corruption authorities were ready to send investigators back to the residence as of Sunday afternoon. Staff from the presidential security service were seen installing barbed wire near the gate and along the hills leading up to Yoon's residence over the weekend, possibly in preparation for another detention attempt.

A Seoul court last Tuesday issued a warrant to detain Yoon and a separate warrant to search his residence after the embattled president repeatedly defied authorities by refusing to appear for questioning and obstructing searches of his office. But enforcing them is complicated



as long as Yoon remains in his official residence

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

If the anti-corruption agency manages to detain Yoon, it will likely ask a court for permission to make a formal arrest. Otherwise, Yoon will be released after 48 hours.

The Corruption Investigation for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and military investigators, says detain-

ing Yoon would be "virtually impossible" as long as he is protected by the presidential security service. The agency has urged the country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, to instruct the service to comply with their execution of the detainment warrant, but Choi has yet to publicly comment on the issue.

The chiefs and deputy chiefs of the presidential security service defied summonses on Saturday from police, who planned to question them over the suspected obstruction of official duty following Friday's events.

Hundreds of anti-Yoon protesters rallied for hours near the gates of the presidential residence from Saturday evening to Sunday, voicing frustration over the failed detention attempt and demanding stronger efforts to bring Yoon into custody. Separated by police barricades and buses, pro-Yoon protesters were gathering in nearby streets, denouncing his impeachment and vowing to block any efforts to detain him.

Yoon's lawyers have challenged the detention and search warrants against the president, saying they 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 — which would be Yoon. They also argue the anti-corruption office lacks the legal authority to investigate rebellion charges and that police officers don't have the legal authority to assist in detaining Yoon.

While the presidential security act mandates protection for Yoon, it does not authorize the presidential security service to block court-ordered detainments.

The service's attempts to block the execution of the warrant may amount to an obstruction of official duty, according to Park Sung-bae, an attorney specializing in criminal law. While the president mostly has immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason

The agency said its outnumbered investigators had several scuffles with presidential security forces that threatened their safety and expressed "serious regret" that Yoon was not complying with the legal process.

After getting around a military unit guarding the residence's grounds, the agency's investigators and police were able to approach within 200 meters (yards) of Yoon's residential building but were stopped by a barricade comprising around 10 vehicles and approximately 200 members of the presidential security forces and troops. The agency said it wasn't able to visually confirm whether Yoon was inside the residence

The Defense Ministry says the troops at Yoon's official residence are under the control of the presidential security service. Kim Seon-ho, the acting defense minister, conveyed his concern to the presidential security service, saying that deploying military personnel to block the execution of the detention warrant would be "inappropriate" and requesting that the troops aren't placed in a position where they might confront police, according to the ministry.

Yoon's defense 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.

LOCAL/CONTD....

Samajwadi Party holds protest highlighting public issues

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: The Samajwadi Party (SP) of Jammu and Kashmir held a peaceful protest near the Press Club in Jammu today.

A large gathering, including members of the SC/ST/OBC (Pishda Dalit Alpsankhyak-PDA) communities, displayed placards to voice demands on various public issues.

The protest was led by Jia Lal Verma. State Head of the SP, along with prominent leaders such as Rakesh Verma (President, District Jammu Rural), Kuldeep Chalotra (PDA Leader), Sudershan Singh (Ex-Member, South Kashmir), Geeta Manhas (State Vice President, Women's Cell), Saviha Akbar (State General Secretary), Lakhvinder Pal (Vice Presi



dent), Inderjeet (District President, Samba), Sat Pal (State General Secretary), Saksham Singh (District President, Jammu Urban), Kamaljeet, and Kapil Virdhi (State President, Youth Wing). The key demands

raised included conducting an OBC census, restoring the Darbar Move, an apology from Union Home Minister Amit Shah for remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambed

kar, restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, generating employment for youth, regularizing daily wagers, replacing EVMs with traditional ballot systems, and banning online shopping to protect local businesses. Addressing the protest, Jia Lal Verma highlighted the Samajwadi Party's commitment to

addressing the region's

major issues, including

the preservation of

labor laws by the current administration, which he said undermines workers' rights and conditions

Verma emphasized the importance of restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to revive democratic rights and regional autonomy. He

Jammu's cultural and

He expressed concern

over the rising unem-

ployment rate among

youth and the neglect of

historical identity.

also stressed the need for an OBC census, similar to the one conducted in Bihar in 2023, to ensure equitable representation and resource allocation.

Verma assured the gathering that the Samajwadi Party is dedicated to the welfare of marginalized groups, particularly the Pishda, Dalit, and Adivasi (PDA) communities. He expressed opti-

mism about the India Alliance coalition, led by Akhilesh Yadav, which he believes offers a hopeful platform for addressing Jammu and Kashmir's challenges and bringing about meaningful change. The protest concluded with the SP reaffirming its commitment to advo-

cating for the rights and welfare of the people in the region.

with respect to all com-

Despite the immense

challenges of his time

marked by oppres-

sion and tyranny, Guru

Gobind Singh emerged

as a beacon of courage,

wisdom and spirituality.

He adorned the Sikhs

with the five K's and

transformed them into

a martial community for

the protection of human-

ity without any bias of

He sacrificed his

whole family in the fight

against injustice includ-

ing his children, mother

and father for the cause

of peace, prosperity

On the occasion of

Gurupurab, APSCC

also prayed for peace

and prosperity of J&K.

and humanity.

cast, creed or religion.

munities.

JKTJAC holds monthly meeting, demands resolution of teaching fraternity issues



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Jan 5: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) convened its monthly meeting in Udhampur on January 5, 2025, under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting witnessed participation from executive and apex body members representing all zones of the district. The primary agenda focused on addressing the genuine and pressing issues faced by the teaching fraternity, particularly teachers appointed under the ReT scheme. In his address, Vinod Sharma emphasized the urgent need to implement Government Order No. 469 Edu of 2014, dated June 25, 2014, which pertains to the inclusion of the 5-year ReT period for seniority benefits and the transfer of the ReT cadre. Highlighting recent directives from the Hon'ble CAT, Sharma stressed that regularized ReTs are equivalent to general line teachers and must not face discrimi

nation based on their recruitment mode. He expressed optimism that the government would enforce the order, ensur-

ing equity for ReTs. The meeting also underscored the demand for restoring the Old Pension Scheme for employees appointed on or after January 1, 2010. Sharma urged the government to address this long-standing demand to safeguard the welfare of the teaching community. Additionally, he called for the regularization of ReTs who have completed their five-year tenure and the parts in other Union Territories, granting earned leave for teachers engaged in summer and winter camps, and filling vacant ZEO, Principal, and Headmaster positions in headless zones and schools.

Raj Parihar highlighted local challenges, urging the Chief Education Officer of Udhampur to expedite the completion of service records for teachers in various zones and release pending dues. He also raised concerns about the non-release of carriage charges under the Mid-Day Meal scheme, which has created logistical difficulties for teachers managing transportation of supplies.

District President Lekh

The transparent and efficient adjustment of recently promoted teachers to masters by the Director of School Education Jammu was lauded by Vinod Sharma, who urged the

director to hold another

APSCC greets Sikh community on birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh well being of humanity,

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) on the eve of birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, founder of Khalsa Panth, greeted the whole Sikh community especially the Sikhs of J&K.

As we step into 2025, the celebration of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurupurab once again brings together millions of Sikhs and admirers of his remarkable legacy from across the world. APSCC Chairman Jagmohan singh Raina, on the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, said that we should follow his foot prints and

learn from his sacrifices which he made for the

MLA Devsar visits residence of ZEO Devsar to offer condolences

Chief Secretary assesses grievance disposal quality on 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Sunday convened a meeting of all Administrative Secretaries and **Deputy Commissioners** to assess the quality of disposal of grievances by different departments and offices of Deputy Commissioners on 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had live demonstration of the 'JK Samadhan' grievance portal to view certain grievances registered by the citizens. He took this occasion to assess the timeline by which the grievances had been resolved besides the quality of responses given by the concerned departments. He enjoined upon the administrative heads to appoint Nodal officers not below the rank of Deputy Secretaries to monitor the quality of disposal of grievances against their departments. He called for seeking clarifications from the citizens instead of prematurely closing the public grievances the grievances, in case portal to the Chief Secthe material of grievancretary. He revealed that es is not satisfactory for a more comprehensive taking further action. AI based version 'JK The Chief Secretary Samadhan 2.0' is curalso impressed upon the rently under developdistrict administration to ment through BISAG-N

increase the traction of which is going to be 'JK Samadhan' portal ready by February this among the residents so year. that grievance registra-Regarding the action tion is eased for them. taken report on directions given earlier by He further asked them to increase the registrathe Chief Secretary, he made out that an analyttion of citizens besides uploading all the grievical dashboard was creances on the portal, including grievances received in physical mode.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the Department of Public Grievances to give super access to the Administrative heads and DCs to analytical dashboard pertaining to their respective departments and districts. He enjoined upon them to be ready with the Al based updated version of the portal by February this year. On the occasion Secated and its demonstration of was also made in the meeting. He also gave out that DCs had also been given access to view all grievances registered in their districts for their monitoring and quick disposal. It was added that the capacity building programmes were held for Master trainers and nodal officers as per the previous directives. Moreover the offline training sessions in

districts to enhance

the capacity of officers and officials is going on retary, Public Grievthrough the resource persons of this Departances, Aijaz Asad gave the demonstration of ment.

Natranbg stages Hindi play 'Do Kalakaar'

a situation where both

are forced to use their

creative energies in

creating situations and

cooking stories just to

escape the harassment

of their landlord who

has not been paid the

rentals of a dingy room

for the last six months.

The playwright has

beautifully portrayed

the tragic fate of the



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: Do Kalakaar, a play in Hindi written by Bhagwati Charan Verma and directed by Neeraj Kant was staged here today at Natrang Studio in its weekly Sunday Theatre series. Though coated with a thick layer of comedy, the play had

a very relevant mes-

sage to share with the

audience which was

revealed very artistically.

mani' and 'Martand' are

two friends, both are

artists (one poet and

another painter) they

had once aspired to

rule the Bollywood with

their respective creative

strengths. The poet

had dreamt of becom-

ing the top Hindi Film

lyricist and the painter

had set a goal for him-

self to become the most

sought after art director

of the tinsel town. But

destiny lands them in

In the play, 'Chura-

at the corner both take shelter of their creative mind and start cooking highly logical excuses to impress the landlord so he allows them to continue till they are able to realize their unfulfilled dreams.

Both sell him the dreams to the extent that the room rented out to them will once become a museum which once hosted the great genius of the world of poetry and painting. Finding the distance beyond measurement between their dreams and reality, the landlord refuses to buy their arguments and throws them out of the room to face further rejection and dejection of the society. Both the

conversion of RRFTs into Teachers Grade II and III.

DPC to address the remaining backlog. Several other issues Prominent members were raised during the who contributed to the meeting, including grantdiscussions included ing cash in lieu benefits, Ashok Seth, Ravinder converting headteacher posts into non-plan posts of masters, and conducting another

Singh Rathore, Bhushan Khajuria. Shamsher Singh, Vijay Sadotra, Suresh Sharma, and Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) several others. The meeting concluded with to clear the backlog of a collective appeal to the teacher-to-master promotions. The attendees government to resolve also appealed for the the issues raised, ensuring the welfare and prorelease of time-barred arrears for teachers and fessional growth of the masters, raising grade teaching fraternity in pay to match counter-Jammu and Kashmir.



Top News Report

DEVSAR, Jan 5: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah on Sunday visited Chowgam village, the house of ZEO Devsar to offer the condolences over the demise of his

mother Shah expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of ZEO for the irreparable loss. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and

moment of grief.

expressed solidarity with the family in their

FROM PAGE 3

visas can enter India from any desired port of immigration check post, the officials said.

The SII is a flagship project of the Ministry of Education which hosts international students seeking higher education through its 600+ partner institutes offering more than 8000+ diverse courses in disciplines such as engineering & technology, management, agriculture, sciences, arts and humanities, language studies, commerce, law. paramedical sciences covering pharmacy, nursing, and select niche courses like Buddhist Studies, Yoga, etc.

Furthermore, they are available in different levels, from Undergraduate (Bachelors), Post-graduate (Masters), Doctoral level (PhD) and certification-based courses.

Due to the availability of an array of options (in courses), the students have the flexibility to choose the course of their interest and study in premier Indian institutes.

Furthermore, the process to get on board with SII is relatively easy and can be done through its online application submission, seeking admission to students' choice of programmes and further processing of applications for seeking admission, the officials said.

Students can get started right away by tab.

details such as name, country, date of birth, mobile number and email ID

Every student aspiring to complete their higher education in India and applying to study in India must have their unique student SII ID as this ID is what will help them to access their dashboard, track the progress of college and course applications, visa/e-visa, and other higher education in India-related processes.

studying or moving to India, the officials added

Amit Kumar from erstwhile J&K Cadre among four IPS Officers empaneled as IGPs

The other officers empaneled are Pushpendra Kumar, Vikramjit Singh, and Jatin Narwal, all from the 2006 batch.

creative people who are expected to create magic and electrifying artistic experience through their unlimited creative energies are shown wasting their creativity just to ensure survival. The play opens at a situation where both the poet and the painter have locked themselves in a room which is being visited by the landlord to collect the rent from them. The landlord forcefully makes his entry despite all-out unsuccessful efforts to

hold him back are made

by them. When caught

poet and the painter get this realization at this point of the time that despite having a civilization of thousand years at our back this world is not meant for creative people.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Mihir Gujral, Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal and Akrit Sharma. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the presentations were done by Manvi Devi. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Banihal bypass to open for 4-lane Traffic within 15 days: Nitin Gadkari

tourism prospects in Jammu & Kashmir," Gadkari stated. He highlighted the project's transformative impact under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, contributing to economic growth and elevating the region's status as a premier tourist destination.#PragatiKaHighway #GatiShakti," he wrote.

Four killed, Two missing after vehicle falls into river in Kishtwar

traced as yet. My sincere condolences to the bereaved families," he said in a post on X.

The minister said he contacted Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan immediately after receiving the report about the accident.

"Rescue teams have been put into action.

Govt launches 2 special

I am regularly receiving the updates," he

categories Visas for International Students

authenticity of their application will be checked by SII ID.

Hence it is mandatory for students to apply to Indian higher educational institutions through SII website, the officials said. Students may apply for the visa after receiving an admission offer letter from any of the SII partner institutes.

The e-student visa will be granted to such foreign nationals who obtain admission to studying in India and who wish to pursue such studies, regular, full-time, courses of under graduate, post graduation, PhD and such other formal programmes at educational institutes duly recognised by the statutory and regulatory body in India, the officials said.

Student visas are issued for up to five years, depending on the duration of the course. They can also be extended in India. Further, those having valid e-student

completing the first step to apply, i.e. registration, by clicking on the 'Register Now' The students are required to fill in simple

No student SII ID means no chance of

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

J&K | Conman arrested for duping person with false promise of Police favour

taking Rs 30,000 from the complainant. Taking cognisance of the complaint, Police Station Nowhatta registered case FIR No. 01/2025 under Section 318 of BNS.

During the investigation, police successfully recovered the entire amount from the accused person. Further investigation into the case is going on, they said.

Night temperature dips in Kashmir Valley. **Kokernag Coldest at** minus 8.1 degrees

celsius

10

BUSINESS/HEALTH

Coal sector achieves highest ever production & dispatch in CY 2024

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): The Ministry of Coal stated that the coal sector has achieves highest ever production and dispatch in Calendar Year 2024.

According to the Coal Ministry coal production reached an all-time high of 1,039.59 million tonnes (MT) (provisional) in 2024, marking a significant 7.28 per cent growth compared to the previous year's total of 969.07 MT.

This growth reflects the Ministry's strategic efforts to enhance domestic coal availability and meet growing energy demands, the ministry stated in a release.

The Coal Ministry stated that it has reported exceptional progress in coal production and dispatch for the calendar year 2024, reinforcing its dedication to achieving energy security and supporting the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India).

Similarly, coal dispatches in 2024 also hit a record highest,



with 1,012.72 MT (provisional) dispatched across the nation, surpassing the 950.39 MT recorded in 2023 by an impressive 6.56 per cent.

"This consistent growth in both production and dispatch underscores the sector's commitment to ensuring timely availability of coal for power generation and other industries, further bolstering national energy security," the release added.

The Ministry's continued focus on optimizing coal production and infrastructure development

aligns with the goal of reducing dependence on coal imports, strengthening the country's selfsufficiency, and contributing to long-term sustainable growth, the release added.

The Ministry, in December 2024 stated that under the Integrated Coal Logistics Plan the government has targeted Coal production of 1.5BT by FY 2030. Under the "Mission Coking Coal" initiative, the Ministry of Coal is targeting domestic raw coking coal production of 140 MT by 2030. For FY 2023-24,

production stood at 66.821 MT, with a target of 77 MT set for FY 2024-25.

Key measures include- modernizing ageing washeries under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), monetizing old washeries to enhance operational efficiency and auctioning 14 coking coal blocks to private players, expected to commence production by 2028-29.

The Ministry has implemented several reforms to streamline operations and promote transparency. In 2024, the 7th tranche of the NRS e-auction saw 17.84 MT of coal booked. Four tranches under the SHAKTI B(VIII-A) policy facilitated the auction of 23.98 MT of coal.

A revised pricing mechanism for coal gasification projects was introduced, with the ROM price for regulated sectors now applicable to gasification projects commissioning within seven years.

Now, withdraw EPS pension from any bank, 68 lakh holders to benefit

another even when the

pensioner moves from

one location to another

or changes his bank or

branch. This would be a

great relief to pension-

ers who move to their

hometown after retire-

Announcing the roll-

out, Union Minister Dr

Mansukh Mandaviya

said, "The full-scale

implementation of the

CPPS across all region-

al offices of EPFO is a

historic milestone. This

ment.

CHANDIGARH, Jan 5 (Agencies): Benefitting over 68 lakh pension holders, retirement fund body EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organisation) has completed Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS) rollout in all its regional offices across the country.

The CPPS is a paradigm shift from the existing pension disbursement system that is decentralised, with each zonal or regional office of EPFO maintaining separate agreements with only threefour banks. In CPPS, not only the pensioner will be able to take pension from any bank, but also there will be no need for pensioners to visit the bank for any verification at the time of

commencement of pentransformative initiative sion and the pension empowers pensioners shall be immediately to access their pension credited upon release seamlessly from any Also, the CPPS system bank, any branch, anyfrom January would where in the country. ensure disbursement It eliminates the need of pension throughout for physical verification India without any need visits and simplifies the for transfer of Penpension disbursement sion Payment Orders process." (PPO) from one office to The first pilot of CPPS

was successfully completed in October in Karnal, Jammu and Srinagar regional offices with the pension disbursement of about Rs 11 crore to more than 49,000 EPS (Employee Pension Schme) pensioners. The second pilot was taken up in November, in 24 regional offices in which around Rs 213 crore in pension was disbursed to more than 9.3 lakh pensioners.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India sees 32 pc sales growth, reaches 6 crore milestone



NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) said its total sales for 2024 stood at 58,01,498 units, registering a 32 per cent growth (yearon-year) over 2023.

This included domestic sales of 52,92,976 units and 5,08,522 units exports last year.

For the month December, the total sale stood at 3,08,083 units. This included domestic sales of 2,70,919 units and 37,164 units exports, the company said in a statement. HMSI said it has accomplished an achievement of 6 crore domestic sales in the country.

new third assembly line at its fourth two-wheeler plant at Vithalapur in Gujarat.

The company also added a new state-ofthe-art engine assembly line at its global resource factory in Manesar, Gurugram, with a focus on CKD (completely knocked down) exports. HMSI also introduced 'ACTIVA e:' and 'QC1' in

SP125, SP160, and Unicorn with advanced features. Starting its retail oper-

ations in June 2001, Honda has been delighting the Indian customers for over two decades. Additionally, Honda's 125cc motorcycles 'Shine & SP125' crossed over 30 lakh customers in eastern India.

The company also

RIICO approves Direct Land Allotment Scheme to expedite affordable allotment for investors

JAIPUR, Jan 5 (Agencies): Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd (RIICO) has approved Direct Land Allotment Scheme to facilitate expedited affordable land allotment to the investors in the state, according to an official release.

Through this scheme, the investors who signed investment proposals with the Government of Rajasthan during the recently concluded 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024 will get industrial land parcels allotted for their respective projects at an expedited pace as per their eligibility. RIICO has also devel-



investment proposlines of Chief Minister als into running projon this matter, RIICO ects, attract investment has prepared a direct and provide incentives allotment scheme that to the investors, the will not only provide Government of Rajasland to industries at an than has formulated a affordable price but also policy framework and ensure its allotment on launched 10 new polia priority basis to the cies including the Rajindustrial projects with asthan MSME Policyhigh potential. This 2024, Rajasthan Export scheme will also expe-Promotion Policy-2024 dite the setting up of the and Rajasthan One District One Product Policy-2024 among others. Ajitabh Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce and Chairman, RIICO, Government of Rajasthan said, "From a very long time, investors have demanded that the government should initiate direct land allotment along with e-auction to facilitate the land allotment at a reasonable price and

and guidelines, so that the allotment of land in industrial areas can be settled within a fixed

time frame.' Eligible investors who have signed the MoU will be able to apply online for a maximum of 3 plots of different areas (in order of preference) at the prescribed reserve rate of the plot in the identified industrial areas of RIICO.

The online registration can be done through their respective project report and EMD. An investor will have the option to apply for a maximum of three plots either in the same industrial area or in different industrial areas in order of preference as per their interest, the release said All the applications will

be evaluated on fac-

cant securing maximum marks will be allotted one land plot as indicated on top of their respective preference order. The investor will only be allotted one plot through the process.

In case of two investors securing identical maximum marks, the land parcel will be allotted to the investor/project proposing maximum investment.

If first preference applications are not received on any land parcel, then the second and third preference applications will be considered respectively for the allotment.

As a special measure towards MSMEs, 50 per cent of the saleable industrial land (including reserved plots) in **RIICO-established new** industrial areas will be

In another step towards bolstering the 'Make in India' initiative, HMSI inaugurated a the electric vehicle (EV) segment.

"Bookings for the same began on January 1, 2025, and their deliveries will commence from February 2025 onwards. The prices of these allnew electric scooters will be revealed at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo later this month," said the company.

The automaker said it has launched the 'OBD2B' compliant models of Activa 125,

announced its remarkable feat of crossing 10 million customer mark for Activa in southern India. Driven by rising private consumption and dis-

posable incomes, India saw vehicle retail sales increase by at least 9 per cent in 2024 (yearon-year) to cross 26 million units.

This surpasses the pre-Covid peak of 25.4 million units in a single vear in 2018.

tors will be able to apply online through their SSO ID, the release added.

oped an online portal

for the easy allotment

of plots, on which inves-

The 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit-2024, organised in Jaipur from 9 to 11 December 2024, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Investors, industry captains, diplomats and global corporates had participated in the global summit that facilitated the signing of record

industrial projects in the state," he stated.

Inderjeet Singh, MD, RIICO, said, "The allotment of land will be done with complete transparency and on the basis of merit, for which applications will be sought through online portal. Guidelines related to the scheme have been prepared. Along with this, the unit offices of RIICO have also been made aware of the direct allotment scheme

tors such as proposed capital investment, estimated employment generation, production time limit, prior experience of running the business units, export-oriented outlook of the proposed unit, turnover and the requirement of land for future expansion of the existing unit among others as mentioned in their submitted project report. Subsequently, after the

evaluation, the appli-

lance system is in place

to monitor influenza-like

illness (ILI) and severe

acute respiratory illness

Physicians from hospi-

tals confirmed that there

is no surge in respiratory

illness cases in the last

"The Indian Council

of Medical Research

(ICMR) network also

(SARI) cases.

few weeks.

allotted to the MSMEs that signed MoUs during the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024 through online e-lottery at the prevailing industrial area land rate located in identified subdivision or rural areas.

The application submitted by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for land allotment will also be evaluated on the basis of the submitted project report.

A quarter of Indian population can access stroke facility in an hour

JAIPUR, Jan 5 (Agencies): Roughly a fourth of the Indian population has access to a rehabilitation centre within an hour of experiencing an ischaemic strokecaused when a blood clot affects supply to the brain, a study found.

The research, published in the International Journal of Stroke, also estimated that there is less than one ischaemic stroke centre per million population.

Ischaemic stroke is the most common, accounting for about 70-80 per cent of all strokes in India, according to a September 2024 study, published in the journal Scientific Reports.

In the recent study, researchers, including those from the US'

Ascension Health and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Hyderabad, found that a total of 566 stroke centres equipped with the 'intravenous thrombolysis' method of treatment (which breaks up blood clots) were spread across 26 states and

union territories. Of the 566, over 60 per cent (361) were found to be also equipped with endovascular therapy for stroke patients, considered superior.

Typically, an ischaemic stroke patient was 115 kilometres away from the nearest intravenous thrombolysis treatment centre and about 130 kilometres away from the nearest endovascular therapy centre, the researchers found.

Further, a little over 26 per cent of the Indian population can access intravenous thrombolysis centre in under an hour, while about a fifth can access endovascular therapy centre.

The data on "intravenous thrombolysis capable (IVT-C) and endovascular treatment capable (EVT-C)" stroke centres were collected in March 2021 from medical devices and pharmaceutical industry providers. Time taken to drive to the nearest stroke care centre was estimated using the application 'Google Dis-

tance Matrix API'. "Access within one hour to an IVT-C and an EVT-C centre was available to 26.3 per

cent and 20.6 per cent of the Indian population, respectively," the authors wrote.

"The average stroke centres per million (SCPM) population was 0.41 and 0.26 for IVT-C and EVT-C, respectively," they wrote.

Further, "median (typical) distances to the nearest IVT-C and EVT-C centres were 115 kilometres and 131 kilometres, respectively."

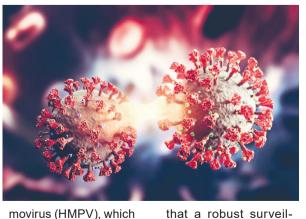
The authors said establishing stroke facilities equipped with intravenous thrombolysis and endovascular treatments in poorly served regions in India is urgently needed to increase access and improve outcomes for stroke patients.

No unusual spike in respiratory illness cases: Health ministry amid China HMPV spread

NEW DELHI, Jan 5 (Agencies): A Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) meeting was convened to discuss the rising cases of respiratory illnesses in China.

The meeting, chaired by Directorate General of Health Services Dr Atul Goel, concluded that the situation in China is not unusual given the ongoing flu

season. According to the Health Ministry, India is closely monitoring the situation, and surveillance data shows no surge in respiratory illnesses. The ministry attributed the rise in cases in China to influenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus, and human metapneu-



movirus (HMPV), which are common pathogens during the flu season. The government is keeping a close watch on the situation, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been requested to provide timely updates. The ministry assured that these viruses are already in circulation globally, including India, and

tests for other respiratory viruses such as adenovirus, RSV, HMPV etc. and these pathogens also do not show an unusual increase in the tested samples. As a precautionary measure, the number of laboratories testing for HMPV will be enhanced by ICMR, and it will be monitoring trends of HMPV for the entire year," officials in the ministry said.

Experts from the WHO, Disaster Management Cell, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), ICMR, Emergency Medical Relief Division, and hospitals, including AIIMS-Delhi participated in the meeting.

SPORTS

5th Test: Australia beat rudderless India by 6 wickets to reach World Test Championship final

Out-of-sorts India lose Border-Gavaskar trophy after 10 years

SYDNEY, Jan 5 (Agencies): Out-of-sorts India were knocked out of the World Test Championship final as Australia cruised to a six-wicket victory in the fifth Test here on Sunday to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years, leaving the visitors with several points to ponder in a difficult transition phase

Australia won the five-match series 3-1 and also qualified for the World Test Championship final against South Africa slated at the Lord's from June 11 to 15. A target of 162 could have been trickier had new Test captain Jasprit Bumrah been in a position to bowl despite painful back spasms but once Virat Kohli led the team out, it was as clear as the Sydney skyline that defending the total would be next to impossible.

Bumrah deservedly claimed the player of the series honour for his astonishing haul of 32 wickets in five matches but that was hardly a consolation for the shambolic team performance that India managed.

"Little frustrating but sometimes you have to respect your body, you can't fight your body. Disappointing, probably missed out on the spiciest wicket of the series," Bumrah said of his inability to bowl in the second innings during the post-match presentation ceremony.

Prasidh Krishna (3/65 in 12 overs) and Mohammed Siraj (1/69 in 12 overs) were not a patch on Bumrah and despite multiple breakthroughs, they bowled too many poor deliveries to make it easy for the hosts to canter home in just 27 overs. Usman Khawaja (41), Travis Head (34 not out) and debutant Beau Webster (39 not out) completed the formalities, putting an end to India's misery in a tour that has exposed all of the team's batting frailties and an unhealthy reliance on Bumrah.



Once Bumrah was ruled out after he tried some shadow bowling during the morning warm-up session and didn't feel comfortable, the writing was on the wall

The magnificent Scott Boland (6/45) and the ever-reliable Pat Cummins (3/44) polished off the Indian tail for just 157 in 39.5 overs. If one takes out Rishabh Pant's feisty 61 and Yashasvi Jaiswal's 22, the other nine players collectively contributed a mere 74 runs.

The series would leave the men who matter in Indian cricket establishment with a lot on their minds when they deliberate on ways to get the house back in order.

With six of the completed innings yielding less than 200 runs, one doesn't need a soothsayer to tell what went wrong on the tour.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma and batting talisman Virat Kohli flopped with technical issues troubling them throughout the season.

Jaiswal (391 runs) was the top-scorer despite three ducks followed by rookie Nitish Kumar Reddy (298 runs), KL Rahul (276 runs) and Pant (255 runs). As much as one wants to take a nuanced view of Rohit and Kohli's poor form but it is undeniable that both veterans are finding it increasingly difficult to stem the rot that has set in their batting.

There are a few good youngsters in the fringes and the new World Test Championship cycle would demand that they be given a chance to develop over time.

While a tough call on Kohli and Rohit is awaited, the BCCI brass also needs to seriously look at whether coach Gautam Gambhir is the right man to be in-charge across formats.

Under Gambhir, India have lost six Tests out of 10 during the season going by apart from being defeated in an ODI series in Sri Lanka.

If Kohli and Rohit are held accountable, Gambhir can't be let off merely because the team is in transition

The head coach's head-strong approach is an open secret and it is not earning him too many friends in the dressing room. Ravichandran Ashwin's retire-

ment after Brisbane and Rohit's eventual call to drop himself happened in a manner that can best be described as abrupt.

Messing with a player's gameplan isn't the best way to manage as Rishabh Pant demonstrated by oscillating between too careful at times that only disrupted his natural rhythm. But more than batting, it would be the bowling – both pace and spin that would be a huge concern for the national selection

management. Bumrah's absence showed what India missed on the final day even though it was heavily tilted towards Australia.

committee as well as the team

As Glenn McGrath put it, had Bumrah not taken 32 wickets, there was no chance that India would have managed a 1-3 margin.

In Brisbane, they were saved by rain and in Melbourne, Rohit let the game drift away during the final session on day four. It has taken Mohammed Siraj

36 Test matches to complete 100 wickets and these are not exactly great figures.

Akash Deep is still raw but has potential while Prasidh Krishna can swing between bowling unplayable deliveries and pedestrian work.

Harshit Rana is simply not prepared for this level and would need to play loads of Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and India A games to get ready for big Tests.

In the spin department, Ravindra Jadeja is now more of a batter and less of a spinner unless the wicket has something to offer from day one like it happens in India.

Washington Sundar's 12 wickets in Pune should be looked in isolation and he is also more of a batter than a competent off-spinner on batting-friendly wickets

Only silver lining of the series is Jaiswal taking over the mantle as the next batting superstar and the raw talent exhibited by Nitish Reddy.

Reddy's bowling, if it develops, would give India a chance to play three spinners at home on decent tracks

lington day.

the powerplay.

On a green-tinged

pitch, New Zealand's

pacers exploited the

conditions to devastat-

ing effect, reducing Sri

Lanka to 23 for 4 inside

Matt Henry led the

charge with a sensa-

tional spell, finishing

with 4 for 19 from 10

overs. He removed

Pathum Nissanka with

a full, seaming delivery

that induced a leading

SCG track: Gambhir praises 'spicy' and 'result-oriented' wicket, Gavaskar calls it 'not ideal'



SYDNEY, Jan 5 (Agencies): The SCG track was "not ideal" for a Test match, according to batting great Sunil Gavaskar but India head coach Gautam Gambhir praised the wicket as "spicy" and "result-oriented", which had something for everyone.

As many as 26 wickets fell on the first two days, while four Indians and as many Australians were dismissed on day three as bowlers largely dominated the proceedings.

"It's been some really nice wickets. It's good for Test cricket as well. There was enough for the bowlers, and there was enough for the batters as well. But that is what's going to keep Test cricket alive," Gambhir said during the press conference after India lost the fifth Test.

"And this was not the typical Sydney wicket, what we normally are used to or we've seen in the past as well. But then this is how Test cricket needs to be played. Result-oriented wickets. I know we talk a lot about turning wickets when we go back home, but this was as spicy as probably what we get back home.'

However, Gavaskar had criticised the SCG track during the final session on Saturday. "When I saw the pitch, I did say the cows could

have gone and grazed on it," Gavaskar said on ABC Sport.

"This is not the ideal Test match pitch because you want it to go into the fourth or the fifth day. Unless there is rain, I don't see us being here on day four." Gavaskar said it would have attracted criticism from Australian and England cricketers if a similar wicket had been provided in India.

"All hell would have broken loose. There would have been all kinds of innuendos, comments about 'Is this a good pitch?'" he said. "Even former players who played on this pitch before were so surprised. We had Glenn McGrath saying he'd never seen that much grass on the pitch. The point is, when you go overseas, you have to be prepared to play on

the surface.' We are not moaners; we are not whingers

The 75-year-old former batter also criticised former players for complaining about tough Indian pitches. "Over the years, have

vou ever heard a former Indian cricketer complain about conditions? They accept that's what playing overseas is all about," Gavaskar said. "We are not moaners; we are not whingers. When we go (abroad) and play cricket, we will tough it out, and if we are beaten, we are beaten. We understand that overseas, it's very difficult to beat home teams. You'll never find us complaining.

"But 15 wickets in a day in India, man, there would be hell."

It's frustrating but you have to respect your body: Jasprit Bumrah

SYDNEY, Jan 5

to Australia, they fought

Head, who emerged as

the highest run-scorer

in the series with 446

runs, heaped praise on

"He's a great perform-

er, he had an excep-

tional tour. It is the best

individual performance I

have seen in Test crick-

Winning captain Pat

Cummins described

his team's 3-1 victory in

the five-match series as

"unreal" and expressed

immense pride in regain-

"Unreal. A few of us

didn't have this Trophy.

Lived up to all the hype.

Just been clear with

our plans. We tried to

be proactive, and ulti-

mately, it worked out.

Immensely proud," he

The star pacer also

"We weren't at our best

in Perth, but we had a

lot of fun playing along-

praised the camaraderie

within the squad.

et," Head said.

ing the trophy.

said.

Travis

really well."

Bumrah.

NZ vs SL: Young, Henry star as New Zealand thump Sri Lanka in 1st ODI

WELLINGTON, Jan 5 (Agencies): New

edge, while conceding ing 50 while adding 87 just six runs in his first for the fifth wicket with Liyanage. The pair capitalized on the reduced lateral movement, finding boundaries square of the wicket and handling the short ball effectively. However, Liyanage's dismissal for 36, mistiming a Santner delivery to deep midwicket, signaled the beginning of the end. Wanindu Hasaranga contributed a brisk 35, and Chamindu Wickramasinghe chipped in with 22, but New Zealand never relinquished control. Exceptional fielding, led by Mark Chapman's agility at point, compounded Sri Lanka's struggles as they were bowled out for 178 in the 44th over. The target of 179 was made to look trivial by New Zealand's top three. Rachin Ravindra set the tone with a flurry of boundaries through

(Agencies): Laid low by a back spasm, Jasprit Bumrah was frustrated at missing out on bowling on the 'spiciest' wicket of the series, but the premier India pacer emphasised that sometimes it becomes imperative for a player to respect his body.

Bumrah could not bowl on day three when India needed to defend a small 162-run target on a tricky wicket.

Australia needed just 27 overs to overhaul the target and claim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years as they took advantage of Bumrah's absence.

"It was really frustrating but sometimes you have to respect your body, can't fight it. Disappointing, probably missed out on the spiciest wicket of the series," Bumrah said, who was named Player of the Series for his 32 wickets in the series, during the post-match presentation.

"Felt a bit of discomfort during my second spell in the first innings and had to check it out."

Resuming day three at 141 for six, India lost their remaining four wickets for 16 runs to be all out for 157 in their second inninas.

Asked about the discussion in the morning, Bumrah said, "The chat this morning was about the same thing, about having belief and showing character. Lots of



ifs and buts, the whole series was fought hard. We were in the game today as well, not like we were out of it. This is how Test cricket goes." "Being in the game for long, creating and absorbing pressure, and playing to the situation are all important. You have to adapt to the situations. These learnings will help us in the future."

Bumrah added that the experience of playing in Australia will help young players like Nitish Reddy and Harshit Rana in future.

"They've (youngsters) gained a lot of experience, they'll go from strength to strength. We've shown that we have a lot of talent in our group.

"Lot of the youngsters are keen; they're disappointed that we haven't won but they'll take learnings from this experience. It was a great series. Congratulations

playing with these guys. Such a special group. I feel privileged to be part of such a team. Three debutants in this series fitted in well and contributed at different times." Reflecting on his own

side each other. I love

performance, Cummins called the series "one of my most favourite Test series"

"Pretty happy with how I played. I had a fresh start coming into this series. These are the big series you prepare for. There were some keen moments when our mainstays really stood up. You need to do that to beat a side like India. Our guys put their hands up. It would go down as one of my most favourite Test series," he added.

Adjudged Player of the Match for his impressive 10 for 76, Scott Boland expressed his satisfaction after playing a key role in Australia's 3-1 win.

He had replaced injured Josh Hazlewood in the squad.

"It's been a really enjoyable couple of second innings.

"It was awesome, to win 3-1 against India, hasn't been done for a while. I am just happy to play the part whenever possible."

Zealand dominated Sri five overs.

At the other end, Lanka in a commanding Jacob Duffy added to nine-wicket victory at the carnage, unsettling the Basin Reserve, with their fast bowlers dis-Kusal Mendis with a mantling Sri Lanka's top sharp bouncer that the order before a clinical batter inside-edged onto batting display sealed his stumps. Kamindu the chase. Will Young's Mendis compounded unbeaten 90 off 86 balls Sri Lanka's woes with capped a comprehena reckless run-out, as sive performance on a Mitchell Santner's pinchilly, wind-swept Welpoint underarm throw hit the stumps.

Captain Charith Asalanka fell for a duck after being undone by Nathan Smith's shortpitched delivery, confirmed on review to have brushed his bat. By the time Janith Livanage joined Avishka Fernando, Sri Lanka was reeling, struggling to mount

a recovery. Avishka Fernando led a valiant fightback, crafting an enterpristhe off-side during the powerplay, while Will Young punished anything short with authoritative pulls and hooks. The hosts raced to 70 without loss after 10 overs, capitalising on Sri Lanka's inconsistent lines

Ravindra departed for 39, trying to flick a legside delivery but falling to a simple catch. However, Young remained imperious, driving and pulling with confidence as he brought up his tenth ODI fifty. Mark Chapman supported him with a steady 32*, and the duo's unbroken partnership of 87 ensured a smooth finish. Zealand reached the target with 23.4 overs to spare, underscoring their dominance with both bat and ball.

"Just because I'm an Indian...": Sunil Gavaskar on not being invited to present **Border-Gavaskar trophy**

SYDNEY, Jan 5 (Agencies): The legendary Sunil Gavaskar on Sunday expressed his displeasure after not being invited to present the trophy, named after him and Allan Border, to Australia following their win over India in the highvoltage five-match rubber.

Australia reclaimed the the Border-Gavaskar trophy after 10 years with a six-wicket win over India in the fifth and final Test.

Border presented the trophy to the home team but Gavaskar, despite being at the venue at the same time, was inexplicably ignored.

"I certainly would have loved to have been there for the presentation.

After all it is the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and it is about Australia and India," Gavaskar was quoted as saying by Code Sports.

"I mean, I am here on the ground. To me it should not matter that Australia won when it comes to the presentation. They played better cricket so they won. That's fine." "Just because I am an Indian. I would have been happy to present the trophy with my good friend Allan Border," he added.

Both India and Australia have been competing for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy since 1996-1997 and the rivalry has grown to become one of the biggest in Test cricket.

The five-match series that Australia won drew record crowds at multiple venues and broke an 87-year-old attendance record at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last week.

months. I didn't think I would take too much part in the series. But I was prepared. Just got my body right, did some gym work and here I am," said Boland, who took six for 45 in the

Top News of J&K Jammu, Sunday, January 05, 2025

LOCAL/ADVT

Subsidized Rice and Atta Distribution Camp organized by Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: The Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS), in association with the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) Jammu, organized a subsidized Bharat rice and atta distribution camp for the residents of Trikuta Nagar Colony, Jammu. The event saw active participation from the community and was graced by Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), as the chief guest.

Dr. Vinod Sharma engaged in an interactive session with the executive members of TNWS to address JMC-

related issues, including street lighting, sweeping services, road blacktopping, and drainage systems. Mr. Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of TNWS, welcomed the chief quest and attendees, lauding the efforts of the JMC team in Trikuta Nagar. However, he pointed out areas needing fur



ther improvement. During the session, Dr. Sharma patiently listened to the concerns raised by TNWS members and issued on-thespot directions to his team for immediate resolutions. He also shared JMC helpline numbers and assured residents of prompt action on their grievances. A significant

concern raised by the society was the removal of large garbage piles dumped in the center of the colony. Despite multiple written complaints to the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and JMC, no action had been taken so far.

Er. Ashok Kumar Arora. Patron of TNWS, delivered the vote of thanks. expressing gratitude to the chief guest, the media, and the attendees for their support and participation.

The event saw a large gathering, including notable figures such as Shailja Gupta, Indu Puri, Vijay Gupta, Kewal Sher, Anil Sharma, S. Amarjeet Singh, K.K. Majajan, O.P. Sharma, Krishan Lal Gupta, Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta, R.K. Kakroo, R.K. Tikoo, and Som Nath Kaul, who actively participated in the interaction session.

The camp highlighted the collective efforts of the TNWS and JMC in addressing the community's needs while underscoring the importance of continuous collaboration to improve living conditions in Trikuta Nagar Colony.

Madhuparamhans delivers religious sermons

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 6: Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi shared profound insights during his discourse in Akhnoor, Jammu, where he emphasized the transient nature of the world. He explained that scientists, intellectuals, saints, and mahatmas unanimously agree that the world is perishable, despite its seeming permanence.

Delving into the fundamental elements of nature, he described how water is derived from fire, fire from air, and air from the sky



element. These five and a sweet taste, as evidenced by children elements-earth, water, fire, air, and sky-are instinctively tasting mud. referred to as physical Sadguru Ji challenged elements, each posscientific notions by sessing unique attriasserting that water has butes such as color, both taste and color. He pointed out that water, movement, and taste. For instance, the earth often described as colelement is yellow, with a orless and tasteless by circular movement scientists, can be distinguished by its salty taste and white color. Through simple examples, he demonstrated that humans can identify water even with closed eyes, proving its distinct taste and color.

He further elaborated on the characteristics of other elements: air, with its green color and sour taste, often causes nausea during travel due to the formation of gas. The sky, he noted, is black in color, aligning with the scientific concept of dark matter that forms the basis of the universe. Despite the sun's light, most of the universe remains in

darkness, with the sun illuminating only a fraction. Fire, on the other hand, has a pungent

and spicy taste. Through these observations, Sadguru Ji highlighted the limitations of scientific understanding and emphasized the deeper truths of existence. He concluded by asserting that the realm of the soul transcends these physical elements, existing in a dimension beyond the material world. This realm, he said, is free from the constraints of elements, offering a glimpse into the ultimate reality.

(Treasurer).

missioner/Secretary that only 10% of the filed claims had been released and urged the immediate disbursement of the remaining

AoI delegation meets with Commissioner Secretary, I&C



balance for the vear

existing industries from

2021-22 to prevent the

further decline.

NCSS scheme.

They suggested for-

mulating a fresh pack-

age of incentives for

new industries while

ensuring operational

incentives for existing

units are aligned with

the benefits extended

Another significant

request was the conver-

sion of leasehold indus-

trial land into ownership

rights, as previously

The delegation pointed

out that entrepreneurs

had already paid a

premium equal to the

market rate of the land

at the time of allotment.

The delegation further

STUDY KOSH

studykosh595@fbl

to new entrants.

promised.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 5: A delegation from the Association of Industries (Regd.) Gangyal, Jammu, led by its President, Virendra Jain, met with the Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, IPS, to discuss pressing issues faced by the industrial sector. The delegation included Sanjay Langar (General Secretary), Ajay Mahajan (Secretary), and Jatinder Singh

During the meeting, Jain emphasized the need for the timely implementation of announced incentives such as the Turnover Incentive and reimbursement of SGST.

He informed the Com-

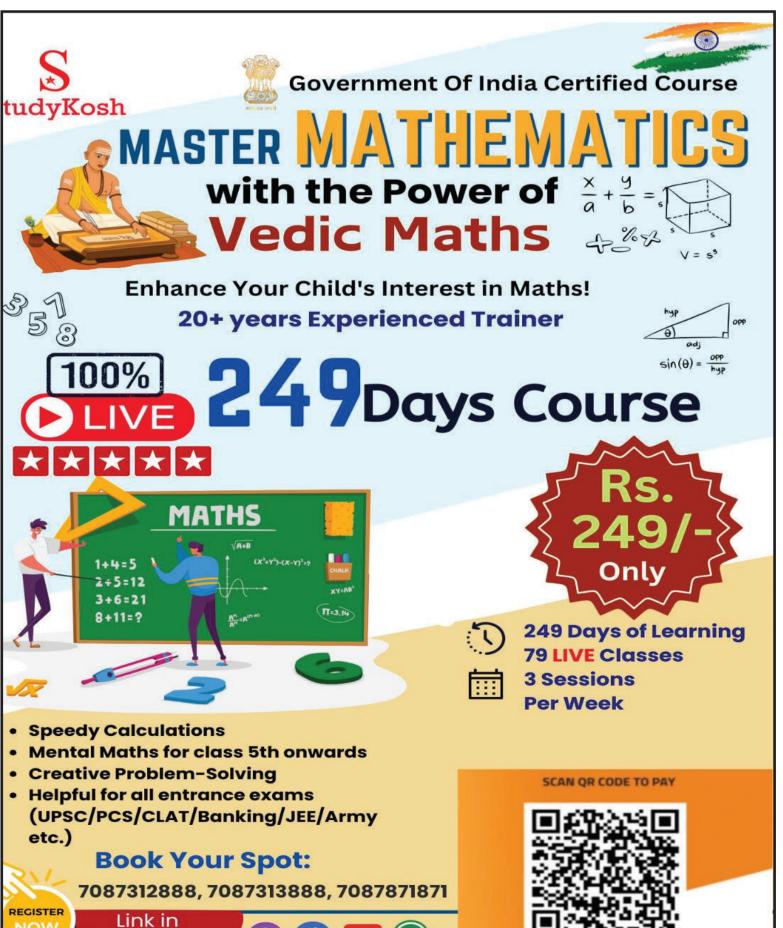
stressed the need for market support from the government, highlighting that units manufac

turing materials for The delegation also government agencies called for equitable rely heavily on governtreatment of existing ment procurement. industries by providing A critical concern them with incentives on raised was the plight of par with those offered to new industries under the

the cricket bat industry in rural areas, which has been struggling due to the denial of licenses for running Band Saws.

Jain urged the Commissioner/Secretary to direct the Forest Department to issue licenses to ensure the smooth operation of these units. The Commissioner/ Secretary listened attentively and assured the delegation that the government was aware of these challenges and committed to addressing them.

He promised to consult stakeholders before finalizing any new incentive packages and reiterated the government's support for resolving the issues raised.



MLA Banihal throws open single stretch of Banihal bypass flyover



Expressing gratitude to the National Highways Authority of India (NHIA), project management, engineers, and field staff for their hard work, the MLA commended their dedi-

Top News Report

BANIHAL, Jan 5: National Conference (NC) leader and MLA Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen, on Sunday inaugurated the single stretch of the Banihal Bypass Flyover, marking a significant milestone in easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity on the JK National Highway.

The MLA highlighted the importance of the project, calling it a landmark development for road commuters, including passengers, tourists, and especially the residents of Banihal. The

flyover is expected to decongest the town significantly, reduce travel times, and contribute to the region's economic growth.

"This project, initiated under the leadership of late Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the National Conference-led government headed by then Chief Minister Mr. Omar Abdullah in 2010, and later carried forward by the present regime under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflects a shared commitment to progress and devel-

cation and efficiency in completing the project. The MLA proposed naming the Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel as Dr. Manmohan Singh

Tunnel to honor the former Prime Minister's visionary leadership in advancing infrastructure development. He further suggested naming the Banihal Bypass Bridge as Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge to commemorate Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's pivotal contributions to Jammu and Kashmir's history and progress.

"These names will serve as lasting tributes to two leaders whose legacies have profoundly impacted the development of our nation," Shaheen stated.

Police issues advisory for tourists visiting Doodhpathri/ Yousmarg

opment," the MLA

remarked.

Top News Report

BUDGAM, Jan 5: In view of the weather advisory given by Meteorological Department of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and challenging road conditions in the tourist resorts, Budgam Police issues advisory for general public and tourists through the medium of this advisory to be very cautious while travelling to Doodhpathri and Yousmarg tourist resorts in coming days.

Instructions may be strictly adhered and

adopted while travelling to these tourist destinations: Only 4x4 vehicles & those with anti-skid chains shall be allowed to travel from the main town of Khanshaib towards Doodhpathri; Ensure your vehicle is in optimal condition, focusing on brakes, lights and defrosters to prevent mechanical failures on icy roads; Drive slowly and steadily, avoid using cruise control and remain calm while steering carefully in case of skidding; Carry essential supplies such as warm

clothing, food, blankets, a flashlight and a phone charger. Share your travel plans with trusted contacts and enable location sharing; Drivers shall avoid blocking of roads and refrain from standing their vehicles along the roadsides and shall not overtake; and Avoid driving in snow storm at all costs.

In case of emergencies dial the national helpline 112 and local helplines include PCR Budgam: 6006751939, 8082567612.

NOW

Description