

TOP NEWS OF J&K

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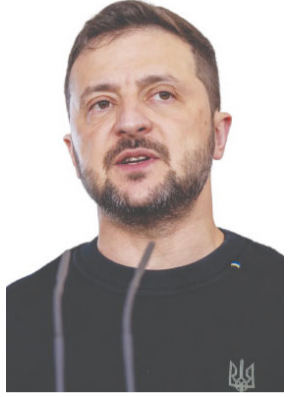


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BRIEFLY

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 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

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

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 viaducts 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

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



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

district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said.

Two persons, including the driver, are missing and a rescue operation

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

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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

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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.

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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

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.



Sajad had been arrested in connection with Case FIR No. 55/2024 under Sections 8/20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

It is pertinent to mention here that Sajad Sheikh, a resident of Sheikh Colony, Hawal, was lawfully arrested by

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

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EDITORIAL

Protecting Scientific Legacy

India 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 science 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

Today, 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

connection in Indian traditions, the peafowl was proclaimed India's national bird 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 legendary 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.

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 AI-enabled 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

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. Pope-ni 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 AI-driven 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.

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

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.

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

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



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

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.

Suri's Uttar Pradesh-set police thriller "Santosh" had its world premiere at the 2024 Cannes in the Un Certain Regard section. It has been named Britain's Oscar entry in the international feature category.

Starring Shahana Goswami and Sunita Rajwar, "Santosh" revolves around a newly widowed housewife as she inherits her late husband's job as a police constable and becomes embroiled in the investigation of a young girl's murder.

Kandhari's "Sister Midnight" is a "dark physical comedy" with Radhika Apte playing the lead

role.

It is about Uma, a disillusioned newlywed with zero 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 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.

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.



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



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 Hayek 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 eyeing 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 snow-capped 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 'Uda 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 with his eyes closed,

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 .. bhajjaan g**e bach gaye sorry @nadeemkhilladi786."

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.

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.



related issues, including street lighting, sweeping services, road blacktopping, and drainage systems. Mr. Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of TNWS, welcomed the chief guest 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-the-spot directions to his team for immediate resolutions. He also shared JMC helpline numbers and assured residents of prompt action on their grievances. A significant

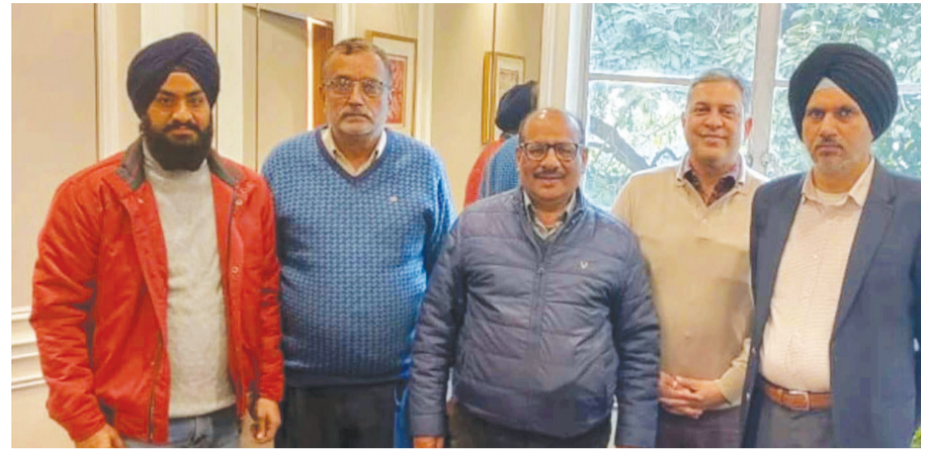
concern raised by the society was the removal of large garbage piles dumped in the center of the colony. Despite multiple written complaints to the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and JMC, no action had been taken so far. Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, Patron of TNWS, delivered the vote of thanks,

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, 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.

AoI delegation meets with Commissioner Secretary, I&C



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 (Treasurer).

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

balance for the year 2021-22 to prevent the existing industries from further decline.

The delegation also called for equitable treatment of existing industries by providing them with incentives on par with those offered to new industries under the NCSS scheme.

They suggested formulating a fresh package of incentives for new industries while ensuring operational incentives for existing units are aligned with the benefits extended to new entrants.

Another significant request was the conversion of leasehold industrial land into ownership rights, as previously promised.

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

stressed the need for market support from the government, highlighting that units manufacturing materials for government agencies rely heavily on government procurement.

A critical concern raised was the plight of 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.

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 elements—earth, water, fire, air, and sky—are referred to as physical elements, each possessing unique attributes such as color, movement, and taste. For instance, the earth element is yellow, with a circular movement

and a sweet taste, as evidenced by children instinctively tasting mud. Sadguru Ji challenged scientific notions by asserting that water has both taste and color. He pointed out that water, often described as colorless and tasteless by scientists, can be dis-

tinguished 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.

MLA Banihal throws open single stretch of Banihal bypass flyover



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 development," the MLA remarked.

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

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.



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