

TOP NEWS OF J&K

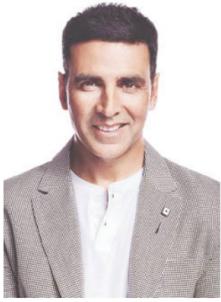
JAMMU, TUESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT | 6

NATIONAL | 7

INTERNATIONAL | 8



Akshay Kumar reacts to people's advice about limiting himself to one film per year



Amit Shah launches Bharatpol for international police assistance



"Since beginning of Kursk operation, enemy lost over 38,000 troops": Zelenskyy

e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-16 Issue-07 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Supreme Court grants interim bail to Asaram in 2013 rape case



NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to jailed self-styled godman Asaram in a 2013 rape case on medical grounds till March 31.

Notably, a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal directed Asaram not to meet his followers post release.

The top court said 86-year-old Asaram was suffering from various age-related health conditions besides a heart ailment.

The top court had sought Gujarat government's response on Asaram's plea for suspension of life sentence awarded to him by a Gandhinagar court in 2023.

The SC said it would only examine the issue on medical grounds.

On August 29, 2024, the Gujarat High Court rejected Asaram's plea seeking the suspension and found no case to grant him the reprieve.

The trial court in January, 2023, convicted Asaram in the 2013 case, filed by a woman who lived in his ashram near Gandhinagar when the alleged crime took place.

Asaram is currently lodged in a Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan in another rape case.

BJP's Sunil Sharma Calls Omar-Ruhullah Rift a 'Fixed Match'

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir BJP Legislative Party leader Sunil Sharma Tuesday claimed that the ongoing 'rift' between National Conference leaders Omar Abdullah and Aga Ruhullah is a calculated strategy to divert public attention from the ruling party's unfulfilled promises.

Sharma described the reported tensions within the NC as a "fixed match," accusing the party of using internal conflicts as a distraction from pressing issues

Turn to page 9

95 dead in powerful Tibet earthquake, tremors also felt in parts of India



BEIJING, Jan 7 (Agencies): A magnitude 6.8 earthquake rocked the northern foothills of the Himalayas near one of Tibet's holiest cities on Tuesday, Chinese authorities said, killing at least 95 people and shaking buildings in neighbouring Nepal, Bhutan and India.

The quake hit at 9:05 am (0105 GMT), with its epicentre located in

Tingri, a rural county known as the northern gateway to the Everest region, at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The US Geological Service put the quake's magnitude at 7.1.

At least 95 people were known to have been killed and 130 injured on the Tibetan side, China's state-run television

reported six hours later. There were no reports of deaths elsewhere.

Southwestern parts of China, Nepal and northern India are frequently hit by earthquakes caused by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Tuesday's epicentre was around 80 km (50 miles) north of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain and a

popular destination for climbers and trekkers.

Winter is not a popular season for climbers and hikers in Nepal, with a German climber the lone mountaineer with a permit to climb Mount Everest. He had already left the base camp after failing to reach the summit, Lilathar Awasthi, a Department of Tourism official, said.

Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said the tremors were felt in seven hill districts bordering Tibet.

"So far we have not received any information of any loss of life and property," NDRRMA spokesman Dizan Bhat-tarai told Reuters. "We have mobilised police, security forces and local authorities to collect information," he said.

Many villages in the Nepalese border area,

Turn to page 9

Indo-Pak War Veteran Havaldar Baldev Singh passes away in Rajouri at 93



JAMMU, Jan 7 (Agencies): Veteran soldier Havaldar (ret'd) Baldev Singh, who fought four wars against Pakistan, passed away at his residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a defence spokesman said on Tuesday. He was 93.

The revered war hero passed away due to natural causes in his hometown Naushera on Monday, the spokesman said, adding that his last rites will be performed with full military honours at his village later on

Tuesday.

Born on September 27, 1931, at Naunihal village, Singh was just 16 when he volunteered to join the Bal Sena Force under the leadership of Brigadier Usman, Commander of the 50 Para Brigade, during the battle of Naushera and Jhangar in 1947-48.

The Bal Sena, a group of local boys aged 12 to 16, served as despatch runners for the Indian Army in the critical moments of these battles.

Turn to page 9

Delhi to go to polls on February 5, counting of votes on February 8



NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced that the Delhi Assembly polls will be held on February 5. It added that the counting of votes will take place on February 8.

CRPF ASI shoots self in Reasi

KATRA/JAMMU, Jan 7 (Agencies): A CRPF assistant sub-inspector allegedly shot himself with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Tuesday, officials said.

Rajnath Prasad (55), a resident of Bihar, allegedly shot himself on the chest inside a makeshift Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) picket along the

Tarakote route leading to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, they added.

Prasad's colleagues rushed to the scene on hearing the gunshot and found him lying dead. Police have launched inquest proceedings, the officials said.

The exact motive behind Prasad taking his life is yet to be ascertained, they added.

Police attach property of drug peddler under NDPS Act in Anantnag



SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): In their continued crackdown against drug traffick-

ing and its financial networks, police have attached a residential house of an alleged drug

peddler under the Narco Act in Jammu Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Police on Tuesday said that a double-storey residential house built on 1 kanal of land and valued at approximately Rs 1 crore of Khurshid Ahmad Dar, a resident of Satkipora, was attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The house has been linked to proceeds of drug trafficking and was attached under section

Turn to page 9

Srinagar Police arrest fraudster posing as govt official

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): Police in Srinagar have arrested a fraudster who falsely claimed to be a government officer in order to defraud an individual of a substantial sum of money, promising to release a drug peddler detained under drug-related crime, officials said today.

"On 06/01/2025, a complaint was filed by Ms. Safiya Riyaz wife of Riyaz Ahmad Channa accusing Sadiq Hassan



Chaloo, a resident of Shaheedgunj, of impersonating a government officer and defrauding her of Rs.2 lakh," said a

police spokesman, in a statement.

"The accused person falsely claimed

Turn to page 9



Government Of India Certified Course



249 Days SPOKEN ENGLISH LIVE COURSE

Different batches for School/College Students & Professionals

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

Rs. 249/- Only

ENGLISH

You Will Learn:

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

Trainer holds 13 years of experience

249 Days of Learning
79 LIVE Classes
3 Sessions Per Week

Book Your Spot:
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

www.studykosh.com

REGISTER NOW Link in Description



SCAN QR CODE TO PAY

STUDY KOSH
studykosh595@fb

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Usha Pandita** W/o Late Sh Ram Krishan Pandita originally resident of Habba Kadal Srinagar on 1-1-2025 presently residing at House No. 82, Lane No 1, Prtam Nagar Paloura, Dhok Jammu. Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 09-01-2025 (Thursday) at Akhnoor Ghat & Mourning Assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education at 11.30 AM.



Smt Usha Pandita

Grieving Loved Ones
Son & Daughter-in-law
Rakesh Pandita & Rekha Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Machu Ganjoo & Rajinder Ganjoo
Grand Children: Aastha, Namita & Naman
Mob. 7889949658, 9596749279, 7006362475

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Sunny Choudhary** S/o Subash Chander R/o Purkhu Camp Domana Jammu.



Sh Sunny Choudhary

TENTH DAY will be performed on 10 Jan 2025 Friday at our residence at Purkhoo Camp, 11.00 to 12.00 AM Satsang.
GRIEF STRICKEN :
Sunita Devi & Subash Chander (Mother & Father)
Vansha Choudhary- Wife
Sarika- Daughter
Sisters & Brothers in law
Pooja & Vinod Kumar
Lakshmi Devi & Gurdas Singh
Arti Devi & Jaswant Singh
Satpaul Choudhary- Mama
Arun Choudhary- Cousin
Mob. 8082393343

RASAM PAGRI & KARAM

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Balbir Singh Jamwal** S/o Lt. Sh. Romal Singh Jamwal.



Balbir Singh Jamwal

Karam will be performed on Tuesday, 7th January 2025, at 11:00 PM
Venue: Our residence at Bhalwal Mandi
Rasam Pagri will be performed on Wednesday, 8th January 2025.
GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY:
Anju Jamwal - Wife
Manik Jamwal - Son
Mona Jamwal - Daughter
Davinder Singh Jamwal - Brother
Rajni Jamwal - Bhabhi
Arun Jamwal - Son of Davinder
Deepa Jamwal - Daughter of Davinder
Chatinya Jamwal, Rudransh Jamwal - Grand Sons

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **S. Inder Singh (Retd. DSP J&K Police)** S/o Late S. Dharam Singh R/o Ait Nagar H.No. 265, Sec-2, near Airport Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 2nd Jan, 2025.



S. Inder Singh (Retd. DSP J&K Police)

In loving memory of departed soul.
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 8th Jan, 2025 (Wednesday) at our residence at 10 AM.
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 10 Jan, 2025 at 9.30 AM.
Kirtan & Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Baba Ajit Singh Ji from 10 AM to 12 Noon followed by Guru Ka Langar.
Grief Stricken
Jeet Kour - Wife
Son & Daughter-in-law
S. Pritam Singh & Sdn. Mandeep Kour
Son-in-law & Daughter
S. Manjeet Singh & Sdn. Swaran Kour
S. Amandeep Singh (Insp JKP) & Sdn. Hardeep Kour
S. Manjeet Singh (JKP) & Sdn. Mandeep Kour
Mb. 7006389417, 7006163629

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Champa Rani** (W/o Lt. Shri Krishan Lal) Who left for heavenly abode on 31-12-2024. Tenth Day will be performed on Wednesday, 08-01-2025 at Ram Mandir, Sec-8, Nanak Nagar Jammu at 12:00 pm.



Smt. Champa Rani

Rasam Pagri & Uthala will be performed on 11-01-2025, 4:00pm at Ram Mandir Sec-8, Nanak Nagar Jammu
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr. Parvinder Kumar & Dr. Smiti Gupta
Mr. Rajinder P. Kumar & Mrs. Sonal Basotra
Mr. Ravinder Kumar & Mrs. Preeti
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs. Anita Kumari & Mr. Roop Lal
Grand Children - Anika, Atharav, Ayan, Pratham, Bimal, Tina, Divyansh, Himanshu
Mob:- 9419208769, 9419120517

TENTH DAY

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



Smt. Lalita Sharma

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

KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved son **Shivam** S/o Romi Kumar Nijhon original resident of Pampash Colony Natipora Srinagar A/P H. No. 563 Subash Nagar Jammu expired on 29/12/2024 Rahat Colony.



Shivam

10th DAY will be held on 09/01/2025 Monday at opposite AG office Shakti Nagar Ghat at 9:00 AM.
KRIYA shall be performed on Thursday 09/01/2025 at our Residence at 12 PM.
Uthala shall be performed on Thursday on Jan 2025 at Hari Mandir, Beharil Colony Jammu.
Timing 3:00 to 4:00 PM.
Grief Stricken
Romi Kumar Nijhon (Father)
Smt. Sham Kumari (Mother)
Ankit Kumar (Brother)
Smt. Vandana & Sh. Sushil Nijhon (Chacha & Chachi)
Maa Nalshi & Amit Kumar (Chacha & Chachi)
SAMAST NIJHON PARIVAR
Mobile No. 9086001090, 9419195967, 9086411972

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Sona Davi Gurtoo** W/o Sh. Jawahar Lal Gurtoo on 1-1-2025 originally from Chalpankocha, Zaina Kadal Srinagar presently at H No. 67 Colonels Colony Bohri Jammu.



Smt Sona Davi Gurtoo

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 10-1-2025 (Friday) at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly will be held at our residence at 12.30 PM.
Grief Stricken :
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Raj Kumar & Kiran Jee Gurtoo
Ravi Jee and Purnima Gurtoo
Daughter & Son in law
Lovely and Ramesh Matas
SAMAST GURTOO, MAWA, MAKROO, MATOO, KAKROO, MATAS LANGOO, BINDROO & RAYU PARIVAR

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Mohini Kakroo** W/o Lt. Sh. Girdhari Lal Kakroo D/o Lt. Sh. Shankar Bhat & Bonimalli Bhat R/o Tawi Vihar, Sidhra, Jammu on 30th December 2024.



SMT. MOHINI KAKROO

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
Kuldeep Kakroo & Rajini Kakroo
Sunil Kakroo & Asha Kakroo
Daughters and Son-in-laws
Sarita Safaya W/o Lt. Sh. A.K. Safaya
Subashni Kaul & Sh. R.C. Kaul
SAMAST KAKROO & BHAT PARIVAR

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden and sad demise of our beloved **S. Kulbir Singh (JKP)** S/o S. Inder Singh R/o Upper Bell Charna, Jammu on 02/01/2025.



S. Kulbir Singh (JKP)

RELIGIOUS RITES PROGRAMME:-
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib - Monday, 06/1/2025 09:30 am at Residence (Bell Charna Jammu).
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib - Wednesday, 08/1/2025 10:00 am at Residence (Bell Charna Jammu).
ANTIM ARDAS FOLLOWED BY GURU KA LANGAR - Wednesday 8/1/2025 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
IN GRIEF:-
Sdn. Harbans Kour and S. Inder Singh (Retd. Joint Registrar, JU) - Parents
Sdn. Gurmeet Kour (Wife)
S. Gurbir Singh (Son)
Sdn. Navneet Kour and S. Parulpa Singh, JKPS (Daughter and Son-in-Law)
Sdn. Parveen Kour and S. Iqbal Singh, JU (Bhabhi and Brother)
Sdn. Parvinder Kour and Adv. Jatinder Singh (Bhabhi and Brother)
S. Jagmohan Singh (Brother)
Sdn. Amargit Kour and S. Sujjeet Singh (Sister and Brother-in-law)
Ph. - 9419128548, 9419133092

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Reeta Bhat** W/o Sh. Kanya Lal Bhat R/o Wadwan Budgam, Present Address Neel Sheel Vihar Paloura Near Sacred Heart College Paloura Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 30 Dec, 2024.



SMT. REETA BHAT

The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 8th of January (Wednesday) 2025 at Muthi Ghat near Director office at 10.30 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sh. Kanya Lal Bhat (Husband)
Smt. Rama Bhat (Bhabhi) w/o of Lt. Roshan Lal Bhat
Mr. Ajay Bhat and Anu Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Rahul Bhat (Son)
Mr. Rohit Bhat & Rakhi Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Grand Children: Vansh, Aashi, Riyanshi
Mob. +91 99069 42971, 9419688620

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you about the sad demise of our beloved **S. Jagjit Singh Marwah** on 31st of December 2024, Tuesday.



S. Jagjit Singh Marwah

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on Monday, 06th January, 2025, Time - 10 am at their residence, H.No. 442, Bakshi Nagar.
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on Wednesday, 8th January 2025, Time - 10 am at their residence.
Antim Ardas on Wednesday, 8th January 2025, Time - 11:30 am to 1 pm Followed by Guru Ka Langar at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.
IN GRIEF:-
Sdn. Navinder Kour - Wife
S. Duginder Singh & Sdn. Damanjeet Kour - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sdn. Pawandeep Kour & S. Jaspreet Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law
S. Inder Singh & Sdn. Anrit Kour - Brother & Bhabhi
Sdn. Daljeet Kour W/o Late S. Lal Singh - Bhabhi
S. Parmeet Singh & Sdn. Gandeep Kour - Brother & Bhabhi
Sdn. Harjeet Kour W/o Late S. Prigal Singh - Bhabhi
Ms. JK Tent & Caterers (Bakshi Nagar, Jammu)
M.No: 700695737

TENTH DAY, KRIYA & UTHALA

We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Mohini Devi** W/o Sh. Girdhari Lal Kakroo, R/o New Complex, National Highway, Kanwara, Jammu. Tenth Day will be performed at Sajan Banquet Hall, Opposite Peri Mahal, Kanwara, Jammu, on 08 January 2025 (Monday) at 11:30 AM.



Smt. Mohini Devi

10th Day Kriya will be performed on 08th January 2025 (Thursday) at 11:30 AM at our residence, New Complex, National Highway, Kanwara, Jammu.
Uthala will be performed on 10th January 2025 (Friday) from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Shri Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Naibu Ram Gupta (Husband)
Smt. Sonal & Mohi Gupta (Daughter-in-law & Son)
Smt. Sangita & Lt. Sh. Kamal Kishore Gupta (Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Shilpi & Pawan Kumar (Daughter & Son-in-law (In-laws))
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Smt. Rama & Sh. Gulshan Mahajan (In-laws)
Lt. Smt. Vijay & Lt. Sh. Mahan Lal Gupta
Smt. Sneh & Sh. B.D. Gupta
Smt. Naheen & Lt. Sh. Kewal Krishan
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Lt. Smt. Sarbajit Langar & Lt. Sh. Rajinder Langar
Smt. Manu Rohwata & Sh. Kaladev Rohwata
Son-in-law & Brother
Lt. Smt. Shashi & Sh. Chander Mohan Gupta
Smt. Suran Gupta & Sh. Suraj Prakash Gupta
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Himi & Lt. Sh. Bina Bhushan Choudhary
Grand Son & Grand Daughters
Pooja, Akhil, Yash, Tanvika
Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law
Pragya & Anshu Gupta
Bhargavi & Nit Jyoti
Grand Grandsons
Rajvir Singh, Rishabh, Rihan, Akshay
Ms ANNE Enterprises, Kanwara, Jammu
Ms. Sneh Footwear, Upper Gumbat, Jammu
Ms. Gauri Traders, Kanwara, Jammu
Ms. Shree Lower, Lower Pahalwan Bazar, Jammu
Heml Shubam, Gurudwara Sunder Singh Road, Jammu
Fareast, Kanak Mandir, Jammu, 9419137071, 9419133091

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved mother **Smt Usha Kumari** W/o Late Sh. Mool Raj Shastri R/o Gyan Ganga bhawan near tube well Paloura Jammu, left for the heavenly abode on 30-12-2024.



Smt Usha Kumari

Tenth Day will be performed on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at our residence at 11.00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter in law
Uday Bhaskar & Shashi Sharma (Bureau Chief Punjab Kesari JK)
Brothers in Law & Sisters in Law
Sh. Vishwanath Sharma & Nirmal Sharma
Sh. Dawarkanath and Shakuntala Devi
Daughter's & Son in law
Radha Sharma & Ajay Sharma
Purnima & Dinesh Dubey
Preeti Late & Bhanu Parlap
Grand Children
9419186296, 7889416011, 7889418144

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Pyaray Krishan** S/o Lt. Sh. Tara Chand R/o Chandrigam, Aishwagram, Anantnag at present Vasuli Vihar, Near J&K Bank, Paloura, Jammu.



Sh. Pyaray Krishan

Tenth Day will be performed on Friday 10/1/2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Mourning Assembly at our residence at 11.30 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Raina Ji (Wife)
(Son & Daughter-in-law)
Sh. Sanjay Kumar Saha and Smt. Baby
(Daughter & Son-in-law)
Smt. Sweety Koul W/o Lt. Sh. Sunil Koul
Smt. Jyoti Koul W/o Sh. Kuldeep Koul
Grand Children - Anu, Binny, Ritik, Madhu, Sonu, Sachin & Rohit
Mob: 9797105749

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform that our beloved mother **Smt Kushilya Raina (Pyari)** W/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Raina of Nanil, Anantnag at present H.No 101, Phase -2nd Lower Muthi Akapur Road, Near Vishwa Bharti School Jammu, who left for heavenly abode on 1st of January 2025.



Smt Kushilya Raina (Pyari)

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 10th of January 2025. The **ASSEMBLY** will be held at Directorate Education Muthi at 12 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
SONS & DAUGHTERS IN LAW-
Ranjini Raina w/o Lt. Pradman Krishan Raina
Purna Raina & Kamal ji Raina
Reeta Raina & Bharat ji Raina
DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW-
Bimla Koul & Chand. Krishan
GRAND CHILDREN-
Priya Raina W/o Nishant Tikku; Meenu W/o Rahul Raina; Naveen, Neha, Anav, Sudanshu, Sakshi, Aditya & Rudhur
GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: Tanisha & Ivara
Mob: 9419 278635, 7006285236, 9906392641

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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



SH. RAKESH ROSHAN BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 08-01-2025 AT AKHNOOR GHAT & **MOURNING ASSEMBLY** WILL BE HELD AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 11:00 AM.
GRIEVING LOVED ONES.
SMT. SUNITA BHAT (WIFE)
RASHVA BHAT (DAUGHTER)
RISHAB BHAT (SON)
LT. SH. SK BHAT & SMT KANTA BHAT - BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
SH. CHAND JI BHAT & SMT KANTA BHAT - BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW
SMT LALITA RAINA & SH GIRDHARI LAL RAINA - SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW
7889593907, 9469280745, 9419206928

DISCLAIMER

"Top News of J&K" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

Sinha asks J&K Police to use innovative tools to counter disinformation

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday asked the police force to use innovative tools to deal with cross-border cyber threats.

Reviewing the Passing Out Parade of probationer DySPs at the Police Academy in Udhampur district, Sinha said, "Modern technology like AI tools has changed the security landscape."

"J&K Police, working under extremely challenging circum-



stances, is playing a significant role in the country's internal security, ensuring the integrity of the nation and safety of the citizens of Union Territory," said the Lieutenant Governor.

Stating that challenges of disinformation and deep fakes remain major concerns, Sinha stated, "J&K Police must use the innovative tools to enhance its capabilities in countering disinformation and dealing with cross-border cyber threats."

"My best wishes to all the police officers passing out today. I wish them victory in every mission," he added.

Restoration work continues apace in J&K's Snow-Bound areas, Says CM Omar Abdullah



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said restoration work was continuing apace in the Union Territory's snow-bound areas and added electricity supply had almost been restored

following snowfall.

The chief minister added the restoration work was being closely monitored by ministers, his advisors and senior officers, with regular reviews taken by the Kashmir divisional commissioner.

"Restoration works continue apace in the snow-

bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, monitored closely by ministers, my advisors and senior officers, with regular reviews taken by @DivComKash (Kashmir divisional commissioner). Today, focus will be on snow clearance on inner roads and lanes. Electricity restoration almost complete with 100 per cent of 33 kv and 99 per cent of 11 kv feeders restored," Abdullah said in a post on X.

The Kashmir valley and some areas in the Jammu division recorded moderate to heavy snowfall on Sunday, leading to road closures and snapping of electricity supply in many places.

NSS National Integration Camp volunteers countryside ecological visit to Mansar Lake



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: The day commenced early with a rejuvenating Zumba session led by Zumba Instructor Ms Kritika Sharma at GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The serene surroundings contributed to a peaceful atmosphere, allowing participants to embrace mindfulness and connect with their inner selves.

Following the Zumba session, all volunteers gathered for a countryside ecological visit to Mansar Lake.

NSS Volunteers of National Integration Camp explored the inner sites and embarked on a Swachhta rally at Mansar for one hour of Shram Dhan.

Participants were divided

into teams for the Swachhta rally around the lake to promote awareness about environmental conservation. The activity emphasises the significance of keeping our surroundings clean and appreciating the natural beauty of our heritage. The campers showed great enthusiasm and a spirit of teamwork.

After the rally, participants engaged in a lively game of Dodgeball.

The competition was fierce but friendly with teams showing greater sportsmanship. Contingent of Punjab emerged as a winner and Maharashtra grabbed the runner-up position. Laughter and cheers echoed everywhere. The activities provided an excellent physical workout and fostered

stronger bonds among the campers. Following an energetic sports session, everyone gathered for lunch. The meal included a variety of local and traditional dishes, ensuring the participants experienced the rich culinary heritage of Jammu.

As the sun set, the cultural evening commenced, showcasing the diverse talents of the participants. The program included folk dances and singing performances of different contingents that highlighted the various cultures represented at the camp. The evening not only served as a platform for showcasing individual talents but also reinforced the theme of National Integration, celebrating the rich diversity of a country.

MLA Ramgarh holds Public Darbar



Top News Report

RAMGARH, Jan 7: Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister Health and Medical Education J&K, conducted a Public Darbar today in Ramgarh to directly interact with the local community,

address their concerns, and understand their needs. The event was aimed at fostering transparency and ensuring that the concerns of the residents are effectively conveyed to the authorities.

During the Darbar,

Dr. Manyal was joined by senior district officers and block officials. DDC Ramgarh C, Anita Chaudhary, DDC Rajpura Asha Rani, DDC Ramgarh Sarbjeet Singh Johal and Ex. BDC Ramgarh were also present on the occasion, providing assistance and

answering various queries from the public.

The MLA emphasised the importance of resolving issues at the grassroots level and assured the public that the government remains committed to addressing their needs. He encouraged the residents to share their concerns, which will be taken up for timely resolution.

A variety of topics were discussed, ranging

from infrastructure improvements to social welfare schemes. Dr. Manyal assured that every effort would be made to resolve pending issues and improve the quality of life in the region.

The Public Darbar was part of an ongoing initiative by the MLA to ensure greater accessibility to government services and encourage active citizen participation in local governance.

MLA Banihal reviews restoration and developmental works in Ramsoo

Top News Report

RAMSOO, Jan 7: MLA Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen, convened a meeting today with Sub-Division level officers in Ramsoo to review the restoration works for roads, electricity, and water supply following the recent snowfall in the area. The meeting also focused on the status of ongoing developmental projects, including infrastructure, healthcare, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Health Engineering (PHE), education, and connectivity.

Emphasizing the importance of timely restoration, the MLA directed the concerned departments to expedite the work and ensure minimal disruption to public services during the harsh winter months. Officials were instructed to prioritize road clearance, restore power

supply swiftly, and address water supply issues on a war footing.

In light of the challenging winter conditions, the MLA also held detailed discussions with officers from the Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (CA&PD) department. They were directed to ensure adequate stocking of essential ration supplies across all depots in the region. The MLA stressed the need for uninterrupted delivery of ration to even the most remote areas to safeguard residents from any inconvenience during the severe winter.

The MLA reiterated their commitment to accelerating developmental projects, particularly those related to healthcare and education, to improve the overall quality of life in the region. They assured the public that necessary measures are being taken to address

immediate concerns while also focusing on long-term developmental goals.

The MLA called for close coordination among all departments to ensure seamless implementation of the directives and urged officials to work proactively to address the issues faced by the public.

Later in the day, the MLA conducted an extensive tour of Neel villages, engaging with local residents and taking stock of their problems. The visit provided an opportunity to directly hear the grievances of the people and assess the on-ground situation regarding public services and development. The MLA assured the people that their concerns would be addressed on priority and directed the concerned officials to resolve issues without delay.

Baseline Survey under Mission YUVA launched in District Ramban

Top News Report

RAMBAN, Jan 7: District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, formally launched the baseline survey under Mission YUVA during a mega event held at Government Degree College Ramban. The initiative aims to empower the youth and drive meaningful development in the district.

Principal GDC Ramban, Archana Koul, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer Ganesh Kumar, Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar, BDO Ramban

Tanzil Runyal, and various other senior officers participated in the programme.

In her address, Principal Archana Koul emphasized the significance of Mission YUVA in shaping the future of the youth. She highlighted the role of educational institutions in collaborating with the administration to ensure the successful execution of youth-centric programs like the baseline survey.

Interacting with the participants, DSEO Ganesh Kumar provided insights into the methodology and objectives of the baseline survey. He stressed the importance of accurate data collection to iden-

tify challenges faced by the youth and to develop tailored solutions for their growth and welfare.

Earlier, AD Employment, Amit Kumar underlined the importance of integrating employment-related data into the survey to identify gaps and create job opportunities for the youth. He also encouraged participants to engage actively in the survey process to achieve the mission's goals.

During the program, BDO Ramban Tanzeel Runyal, supervisors, and other participants deliberated on various issues regarding conduct of the baseline survey across the district.

Taking feedback from ground-level workers and supervisors regarding the baseline survey, senior officers also sensitized the participants about the mobile app specifically designed for the initiative. The app is expected to facilitate efficient data collection and enhance youth engagement, marking a significant step toward achieving the mission's objectives.

The officers also appealed to the public, especially the youth, to cooperate with enumerators visiting their areas to ensure the successful completion of the survey.

Artificial INTELLIGENCE Complete Course

AI market projected to reach \$17 billion by 2027

AI is the highest paid sector across the globe

Anybody Can Become An Expert

Make Your Career In A Rapidly Growing Sector

Course Designed By: IIT ALUMNI & INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Opportunity to Work on 10 LIVE PROJECTS

For: Earn & Learn Opportunity

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

LIVE Classes

Rs. 500/- Per Month

7087312888, 7087871871, 7087313888

www.studykosh.com

EDITORIAL

Reviving
MSME Sector

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a pivotal role in the Indian economy, contributing around 30% to the country's GDP and providing employment to over 110 million people. It is a key driver of economic growth, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional development. However, the sector faces significant challenges, including financial constraints, technological backwardness, and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reviving the MSME sector is essential not only for economic recovery but also for ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth.

One of the most pressing challenges for MSMEs is access to finance. Despite the presence of schemes like the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), many businesses struggle to secure adequate funding. A lack of collateral, insufficient credit history, and the perception of MSMEs as high-risk borrowers hinder their ability to access loans. This financial crunch often limits their capacity to invest in growth and modernization, creating a cycle of stagnation.

Another critical issue is the technological gap within the MSME sector. Many enterprises rely on outdated processes and machinery, reducing their productivity and competitiveness. In a rapidly digitizing world, the inability to adopt advanced technologies places MSMEs at a disadvantage, especially when competing with larger corporations or foreign firms. The lack of affordable technological solutions exacerbates this issue, preventing small businesses from fully leveraging the benefits of automation and digital platforms.

The regulatory and compliance burden is another significant hurdle. MSMEs often find themselves overwhelmed by complex regulations, multiple registrations, and frequent audits. These processes not only consume time and resources but also discourage many entrepreneurs from scaling their businesses. Simplifying these frameworks is essential to reduce the operational challenges faced by MSMEs.

The COVID-19 pandemic further compounded the challenges for MSMEs. Supply chain disruptions, declining demand, and prolonged lockdowns forced many businesses to shut down temporarily or permanently. While government interventions provided some relief, many MSMEs are still grappling with the financial losses and operational challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Despite these challenges, the government has launched several initiatives to support MSMEs. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, for instance, allocated 3 lakh crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to provide collateral-free loans. Other initiatives, such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and the simplified Udyam Registration process, aim to enhance manufacturing, ease compliance, and improve market access for MSMEs. However, the effective implementation of these programs remains critical to achieving tangible results.

To revive the MSME sector, a multi-pronged approach is essential. Enhancing access to credit is a priority. Expanding credit guarantee schemes like CGTMSE to include a broader range of MSMEs and encouraging digital lending platforms can improve credit flow. Fintech solutions can streamline the loan disbursement process, making it more efficient and accessible for small businesses.

Promoting technology adoption is another crucial step. Subsidized programs for technology upgradation can help MSMEs modernize their operations. Digital literacy initiatives can enable businesses to leverage e-commerce platforms, expanding their reach and customer base. Additionally, establishing innovation hubs and incubators for MSMEs can foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Simplifying regulatory frameworks is equally important. A single-window clearance system for registrations and compliance can significantly reduce bureaucratic hurdles. Regular reviews of existing regulations can ensure that they remain business-friendly and relevant to the current economic landscape.

Expanding market access is vital for the growth of MSMEs. Integrating MSMEs into e-commerce platforms and providing export incentives can help them tap into domestic and international markets. Trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, and digital marketplaces can serve as effective platforms for showcasing their products and services.

Addressing the skills gap is another critical area. Establishing skill development centers in industrial clusters and fostering industry-academia collaboration can bridge this gap. Tailored training programs that cater to the specific needs of MSMEs can enhance workforce productivity and efficiency.

Finally, a focus on reviving sick units is essential for the sector's overall recovery. A one-time settlement scheme for MSMEs burdened with debt can provide much-needed relief. Setting up a dedicated fund to support restructuring and revival efforts can help struggling businesses get back on their feet.

Government Employees & Pensioners left in lurch

By: Omkar Dattatray

The employees are the backbone of a government and it functions with the active involvement and participation of the employees. The pensioners had given their sweat, blood and measure part of their life to the government and have contributed their might to the administration. So both the employees as well as the pensioners have great hopes with the government and the government should try to satisfy the employees and pensioners. But as of today the life of the government employees and pensioners is deplorable and is a sad chapter and sad commentary on the functioning of the government viz a viz the employees and pensioners, the plight of both these important sections of the society is untenable and unwarranted with the government paying a blind eye to the needs, concerns and aspirations of both these sections of the society. During elections the political parties promise to provide relief to all sections of people including the salaried class, middle income group and pensioners but it is disturbing that after assuming power all Promises of the political executive fall flat and are not fulfilled, thus giving major jerk to the people including salaried class, lower middle income group and last but not least to the pensioners who are the senior citizens and require much attention by the rulers and the society. The prices of all most all goods and services and essential goods are soaring and skyrocketing. The rising prices that is inflation has broken the back of the common man, government employees and the pensioners as the brunt of increasing prices is tolerated by the middle income group, employees and the pensioners. Government employees, pensioners and poor people are caught in the cobweb of inflation and it has become very difficult for them to come out of the mess called in economic sense inflation and in the common mans language as rising prices. There is a mechanism in place with the finance ministry and the govern-

ment whereby it compensates its employees, pensioners and family pensioners by compensating for bearing the higher cost of living and rising prices. The government usually gives relief to its employees and pensioners by announcing increased dearness allowances preferably twice a financial year. The union cabinet had approved a 3% increase in the Dearness allowance of the central government employees and pensioners from January first 2024, thus making the total D.A 50% of the basic pay and now again the central government has increased D.A of its one crore employees from July first 2024 by another 3 percent giving a big relief to its employees, pensioners and family pensioners. There rates of D.A have also been given to its employees by various state governments and UT governments to its employees, pensioners and family pensioners. But to great dismay the J&K UT government has not announced any increase of DA to its employees, pensioners and family pensioners and so the two installments of dearness allowance at the rate of 3% due from first January 2024 and second installment of 3% due from first July 2024 is due but unfortunately pending troubling JK, UT employees, pensioners and family pensioners. So two installments of dearness allowance are outstanding by the JK, UT government. Non-announcement of dearness allowance by the Jammu and Kashmir government to its employees and pensioners has denied its due to the employees and pensioners, thus troubling them and putting them to great inconvenience. The non-seriousness of the UT government of J&K has caught the government employees between the devil and deep sea. They are bearing the brunt of continuously rising prices of goods and services and the cost of living is increasing. But the pertinent question is why the UT government has not yet announced two installments of dearness allowance to its employees and pensioners? Thus the government employees and pensioners as well as the family pensioners are feel-

ing suffocation, harassment and inconvenience as all of them are suffering because the Jammu and Kashmir government has failed to announce the two pending installments of the DA to its employees and pensioners, thus putting them to trouble for no fault of theirs. It seems that the UT government of J&K is in no mood to announce the two pending installments of dearness allowance to its employees and pensioners. In these days of soaring prices, the employees and pensioners are finding it very hard to make both ends to meet. The Jammu and Kashmir government employees as well as its pensioners are hard pressed and they are facing financial difficulties in the face of non-announcement of the dearness allowances. It seems that even on the eve of new year the J&K government is shying away from announcing two pending DA dues to its employees, pensioners and family pensioners so putting all of them to inconvenience. One feels that because of dual power centers in Jammu and Kashmir, the DA has not been announced as yet, thus troubling employees and pensioners. It sees that the LG's administration is passing the buck on the elected government so far as the release of the pending installments of DA are concerned. It is the ill luck of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, that there are two power centers in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and people are the sufferers. LG administration feels that release of pending DA is the prerogative of the elected government and the vice versa and the end sufferers are the people and in this case of non release of the outstanding dearness allowances the government employees, pensioners and family pensioners. Time and now the UT government of Jammu and Kashmir through its finance department is issuing orders and circulars concerning the pensioners and family pensioners and not few months ago in the scorching heat and humid climate the UT government had ordered its pensioners and family pensioners to undergo pension verification. For undergoing the pension verification the poor pensioners and

family pensioners were forced to have the rounds of visits to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank and the concerned treasury to get the pension verification done. That pension verification put the aged and old pensioners and family pensioners to unease and trouble. And few days after the pension verification, the meek pensioners and family pensioners were again asked to give life certificates and present themselves in the JK Bank branch. Someone has rightly said that PPO is not pension payment order but it can be said to be Pensioners prisoner order. Ladakh government also had since released 3% DA to its employees and has also increased medical allowance to its pensioners to Rs 1,000. It seems that the UT government of Jammu and Kashmir is hell bent to put its employees especially its pensioners to untold sufferings. The government is twiddling its thumbs and making no efforts to decide to announce the pending DA to its employees and pensioners. The UT government, LG Manoj Sinha and the elected chief minister and the finance minister all are requested and appealed to order the release of the two pending installments of DA to its employees and pensioners without any further delay and give some relief to them from soaring prices. But is any authority listening is the million dollar question? It can be opined that JK government Tas Se mas na hote hai so far as the decision to release the two pending installments of DA to its employees and pensioners is concerned. The government seems relentless so far as the order of the release of the pending DA is concerned. In short the UT government of J&K has left the employees and pensioners in lurch to fend for themselves and it has made the plight of government employees and pensioners plight deplorable.

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

Role of Parents during Exams

By: Vijay Garg

It is very important to have interaction between parents and children at all times. Parents have life experiences as well as plans for a better future for their children. Both these things are seen in every poor and rich parent. What is different is that they perform these things in their own ways. In today's hectic life, parents have no time to give to their children, while the children seem to be exhausted due to the heavy and busy syllabus of examinations. As soon as they get close, the teachers start putting pressure on the children by encouraging them to get more marks. By making the parents aware of the children's report from time to time, the education status of the child is cleared in advance. In clear terms, the school staff take their share or share half of their income burden. In some private schools, the school management also wants to prepare the children by giving extra time, but the problem of chil-

dren leaving before or after the time or 5 Reasons for non-coordination in the time of going to tutoring, many parents do not agree. In fact, as the exams approach, all these things put mental pressure on the children, while it is time to protect the children from coming under mental pressure. Whether parents are working or stay at home, their children need a lot at this time. Parents say one thing to the children even while walking - study and get ready for the exam. If you take it, it will become something. Later, the responsibility of his education is taken care of by the father, or else fear is created in the child by giving a scare. The responsibility of the parents is burdened until the child returns home from school, then from home to tutoring, and from tutoring to home, while the things in which the child needs parents are ignored. As the exams approach, parents should adopt a cordial attitude towards the children and talk to them in a light atmosphere. Trying to solve his problems:

KaranAlso, what kind of mentality is the child carrying towards studies, is he serious about his future or not, what does he think of doing if he gets more marks or is he disappointed by getting less marks and is he doing something wrong? Not even thinking about taking a step. It is very important for parents to study the child's mind. On the issue of studying in foreign countries, children, teachers and parents are safe from these concerns because according to the interest of the child, they are sent to the same area, but our parents have their own interest. For not completing their education, they want their child to fulfill their dream even if the child has no interest in it. Parents, whether both parents are working or less educated or more educated, they should not be in the role of a bus all the time, they should only be good parents, when the child has any problem, he can tell the parents like a friend. It is not the parents' responsibility to get admission in a reputed school, pay

high school fees, buy good uniforms and eat expensive tuitions. would have been What is taught by the teachers in the school, whether the child is doing well, whether he is doing well in the class tests or not, how he handles his clothes, these small things can tell about his interests. is Especially at the time of exams, parents should motivate their children to study well, through the speeches of eminent personalities, they should be inculcated in them, and the children's laughter should be increased. Belittle him by using inappropriate words. Instead of showing him, let him grow up on a small sin and increase his laughter. Taking care of these little things can save the future of any child.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Gali Kaur Chand MHR Mallot)

Family of Ravinder Singh appeals for fair investigation into Jan 3 firing incident



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: The family members of Ravinder Singh, who is allegedly involved in the firing incident that occurred on January 3, 2025, at New Plot, Jammu, in which Kanav Sharma, an advocate, was injured, have condemned the incident.

They have also extended their prayers for the speedy recovery of Kanav Sharma.

The family in a press conference issued a statement addressing the events, providing their perspective on the matter, and making an earnest appeal to the investigating agencies to conduct a fair and thorough inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the incident.

According to the family, the incident was not pre-arranged or planned but was a spontaneous occurrence.

They argued that the provocation came from Kanav Sharma when he allegedly dislocated Ravinder Singh's scooter without his knowledge

or approval.

Additionally, they said, Kanav Sharma reportedly snatched the keys of the scooter, showcasing what the family describes as "dadagiri" or hooliganism.

Instead of involving the police, the family claimed that Kanav Sharma called his friends and well-wishers to confront Ravinder Singh and teach him a lesson, escalating the situation further and taking the law into his own hands.

The family emphasized that the presence of Kanav Sharma's friends and a local crowd, who allegedly made life-threatening gestures, frightened Ravinder Singh, leaving him with no choice but to act in self-defense.

They stated that the gun was drawn to scare off the mob, not with the intent to cause harm. However, due to the chaotic nature of the confrontation, the gun went off accidentally when someone crashed into Ravinder Singh, as per his account.

The family maintained that Ravinder Singh had no intention to cause any physical harm to Kanav Sharma and that the incident was an unfortunate accident.

Furthermore, the family clarified that Ravinder Singh did not know the identity of Kanav Sharma but claimed that Kanav Sharma was aware of Ravinder Singh's identity as a government employee of the Power Development Department (PDD), who was on duty at the time of the incident.

The family argued that despite knowing this, Kanav Sharma still proceeded to confront Ravinder Singh and allegedly caused harm to him and his colleagues.

In their appeal to the Power Development Department (PDD), the family urged the relevant authorities not to be swayed by rumours spread by unscrupulous elements aiming to defame the PDD employees.

They requested the department to provide legal assistance to Ravinder Singh so that he can clear his name of the allegations related to the gun assault.

The family asserted that the incident was an act of self-defense in response to an unruly mob intending to cause harm to Ravinder Singh and his colleagues.

Five houses damaged in fire in Srinagar's Nowhatta

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): At least five houses were damaged in a massive fire in the Nowhatta area of Srinagar city today morning, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that fire broke out in one of the houses in the Baho-

deen Sahab locality of Nowhatta and soon engulfed the nearby houses.

He said that soon after, fire tenders rushed to the spot. "At least five houses were damaged in the massive fire. The cause of the fire is being ascertained," he said.

Sarkari Naukri Mela held



Top News Report

JAMMU/ PATIALA, Jan 7: Crack Academy's Sarkari Naukri Mela' concluded on a high note at Patran Patiala district on Tuesday.

The Mela served as a comprehensive platform for students to gain insights and strategies to excel in competitive exams such as UPSC, SSC, Banking, and Railways.

The event featured engaging workshops led by seasoned educators, covering essential topics like effective answer writing, time management, and tackling challenging exam patterns.

Attendees left equipped with actionable tips and a clearer

understanding of how to approach their preparation.

Neeraj Kansal, Founder and CEO of Crack Academy said, "Our mission was to create an environment where students could find clarity, motivation, and effective strategies to succeed. Seeing the enthusiasm and positive feedback from students reinforces the importance of such initiatives."

Mehak Singh, a participant in mela said, "The session on time management was a game-changer for me. It has given me a fresh perspective on how to tackle my preparation more efficiently. I feel more confident than ever."

Cold conditions persist in J&K as weather to remain dry for few days

SRINAGAR, Jan 7 (Agencies): Cold conditions persist in Jammu & Kashmir Srinagar with the weather generally to remain dry for the next few days, as per the weather department.

Vishnu, a tourist, who came from Jaipur said, "There is much cold. But one can enjoy a lot of things. Despite wearing a jacket, sweater and a cap, I am still feeling cold. I do not think the sun will come out."

He also said, there was a "lot of snow" in recent days and invited everyone to visit Kashmir.

Devendra another tourist from Rajasthan's Kota said, "Every year, I visit Kashmir. It is very cold here. Wear gloves,

and a cap and roam around. Every facility is available here. It is expensive."

He also suggested having a tour of Dal Lake, sipping Kashmiri 'kahwa' (flavour tea) and having fun.

As per, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the weather will remain generally dry on Tuesday and throughout January 8 and 9. A forecast of snow at a few or isolated places between January 11-12.

It has also issued a traffic advisory to tourists.

"Isolated cold wave & possibility of shallow/moderate fog over plains of KMR & JMU during 7-10Jan," it said on X on Monday.

For January 13 and January 15, the weather will remain generally dry, as per the forecast.

As per the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the current temperature across Srinagar was recorded at 1.9 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam recorded - 7.2 Celsius, Gulmarg recorded - 4.4 Celsius, Jammu recorded 8.3 Celsius, Katra 9.8 Celsius, Kupwara -0.4 Celsius and Banihal 4.6 Celsius.

The Srinagar city experienced the first snow of the season on December 27.

Meanwhile, a thick layer of fog continues to cover many parts of North India, leading to train delays.

Free Eye Check-Up Camp organized by Al Khaliq Optics at Kani Kadal



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: Al Khaliq Optics, in collaboration with Sharp Sight Eye Hospital, successfully organized a free eye check-up camp in the Kani Kadal area of Srinagar.

The camp, aimed at providing free eye care services to the community, was inaugurated by prominent social worker Syed Aijaz Kashani, Chairperson of Smile Foundation NGO Miss Masrat, and President of Smile Foundation NGO Mr. Sajad Ahmad Sholla.

The event witnessed

an overwhelming response from the local community, with numerous individuals availing themselves of the free eye check-ups and consultations offered by expert medical professionals from Sharp Sight Eye Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Aijaz Kashani emphasized the importance of such health initiatives in improving the quality of life for underprivileged sections of society. He praised the collaborative efforts of Al Khaliq Optics and Sharp Sight Eye Hospital for their commitment to serving

the community.

Sajad Ahmad Sholla expressed gratitude to the organizing team and stressed the need for more such initiatives to ensure accessible healthcare for all. Chairperson of Smile Foundation, Masrat, highlighted the importance of raising awareness about eye health and pledged continued support for similar programs.

Mudasir Naqeeb, representative of Al Khaliq Optics, expressed his commitment to organizing more such camps in the future, aiming to make eye care services accessible to every individual in need.

Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum holds protest, projects demands

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: A protest was held at Hari Singh Park, Jammu, under the leadership of Ajit Singh, Chairman of the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum.

The protest aimed to raise several critical issues related to the discrimination faced by retired police pensioners and J&K Fire Services personnel in pay anomalies and other welfare matters.

The forum emphasized that the effect of the pay anomaly order is being applied only prospectively, starting from the date of the order October 17, 2014, instead of being applied retroactively from 1996, when the 5th Pay Commission was implemented. This has left many pensioners without due benefits, and some have even passed away. Surviving



pensioners are seeking these benefits.

The forum demanded that medical facilities, similar to those provided to paramilitary forces, be extended to the Jammu and Kashmir State Police, as the police now come under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs following the formation of the UT.

A request was made for a 10% reservation

in professional colleges and recruitment for the children of police personnel, recognizing their service to the nation.

The forum sought the implementation of the recovery process for commuted pensions in line with the policies of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, and the Jammu High Court, which stipulate the cessation of recovery after 10 years

instead of 15 years.

There were concerns raised about the delayed processing of pension papers and formalities in the J&K Police Department. This delay causes financial hardship for retirees who are unable to access their pension and benefits immediately upon retirement.

Many retirees have not received their leave salary and gratuity for

over a year, and the forum urged the government to expedite the disbursement of these funds.

Despite the Central Government announcing a 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) increase for July 2024, J&K UT pensioners have not received it. Additionally, the DA increase for January 2025 is also pending, while Leh UT has already received its increase.

The forum highlighted a disparity in medical allowances between J&K UT and Leh UT. Leh UT increased the medical allowance to Rs. 1000, while J&K UT pensioners still receive only Rs. 300.

Ajit Singh, in his address, called for immediate attention to these issues and stressed the importance of fair treatment for retired police personnel and their families.

Awareness Camp on medicinal plants organized by National Medicinal Plant Board at Kanyala

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: An awareness camp on medicinal plants was organized today by the National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) at Panchayat Kanyala, Block Dansal, District Jammu. The event aimed at raising awareness about the cultivation of medicinal plants, focusing on their benefits and importance for the local community.

Dr. Waheed, Technical Advisor to the NMPB, was the chief speaker at the camp. He emphasized the need for increased cultivation of medicinal plants, particularly Shatavari, to mitigate the growing menace of monkeys that have been causing damage to crops in the region. Dr. Waheed highlighted that the cultivation of Shatavari not only offers a solution to

the wildlife problem but also provides significant economic benefits to farmers, as the plant is in high demand in the herbal medicine industry.

The awareness camp witnessed a large turnout, with several prominent local figures in attendance, including Vaidya Ved Prakash Riana Jee, Karan Dutt, Panch Thoru Ram, Panch Sanjay Kumar,

Subash and Mohan Lal Lambardar.

These respected community members, along with many farmers, engaged in discussions about the techniques and benefits of cultivating medicinal plants, especially those that could thrive in the local climate and offer sustainable solutions for farmers.

The event also provided valuable insights into

the potential of medicinal plant farming as an alternative livelihood, contributing to environmental sustainability and the local economy. The NMPB aims to continue its efforts to support farmers in the region and promote the cultivation of medicinal plants as a means to both address ecological challenges and improve economic resilience.

Top News Report

TANGDAR, Jan 7: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad Lone, convened a high-level meeting today at the Mini-Secretariat Tangdar to review and finalize preparations for the Republic Day 2025 celebrations. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officers from various departments, who were tasked with ensuring a grand and well-coordinated event.

During the meeting, the SDM emphasized the need for seamless coordination among departments to ensure the success of the celebrations. Key areas discussed included the

decoration of the venue, seating arrangements, cultural programs, security measures, and the provision of essential services like power, water, and medical facilities.

The SDM instructed the departments to focus on public participation, especially encouraging schools and educational institutions to contribute to the cultural programs. He stressed the importance of showcasing the region's diversity and patriotic spirit through performances and activities.

Officials were also directed to ensure proper transportation arrangements, particularly for students and local residents attending the event. The police and security teams were

tasked with maintaining law and order to guarantee the safety of participants and attendees.

The SDM called upon all departments to complete their assigned responsibilities well in advance and to maintain close communication for addressing any last-minute requirements. The meeting concluded with an assurance from the attendees to work diligently and make the Republic Day celebrations a memorable event for the people of Karnah.

The SDM expressed confidence in the collective efforts of all stakeholders and reiterated the significance of Republic Day as a unifying occasion that celebrates the nation's democratic values.

Panchayat 4 to Matka King, here is a lowdown on the most anticipated web series of 2025

OTT has become the biggest medium of content consumption in the recent past. These platforms allow viewers to enjoy a wide variety of stories from across the globe. However, there are certain web series whose popularity has surpassed others, and fans wait with bated breath for the new seasons. Today we will take a look at the most anticipated web series of 2025.

Four Seasons: Panchayat 4

Who among us has not watched Panchayat? This soothing tale from the heartland has already won numerous hearts with its past 3 seasons, and now the makers are all set to come up with season 4. Going by the official announcement from Prime Video, the latest instalment will be reaching the audience in 2025. Talking about the cast of the series, Panchayat 4 will see Jitendra Kumar, Raghubir Yadav, Neena Gupta, Sanvikaa, Chandan Roy, Durgesh Kumar, Ashok Pathak, Faisal Malik, and Sunita Rajwar as leads.

Old meets new: Paatal Lok 2

Another web series that enjoyed a tremendous response from the audience was Paatal Lok. Made under the direction of Sudip



Sharma, the crime thriller was released on Prime Video. Now, the viewers will get to see another season of this popular series in January 2025. While the show will feature some familiar faces from the previous season such as Jaideep Ahlawat, Ishwak Singh, and Gul Panag, it will also see some new members, including Tilotama Shome, Nagesh Kukunoor, and Jahnu Barua, in pivotal roles. Avinash Arun Dhaware will be directing Paatal Lok 2 under the banner of Clean Slate Filmz Production and Eunoia Films LLP.

Three's company: The Family Man 3

Acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee will once again be seen reprising his role as Srikant Tiwari in the third season of his spine-chilling thriller, The Family Man. Along with Manoj Bajpayee, Priya-

mani, Sharib Hashmi, Ashlesha Thakur, and Vedant Sinha will also be seen essaying their roles from the original drama. Along with them, Gul Panag has also joined the cast of the web show. While the makers have not announced the release date of The Family Man 3, the series will premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

Courtroom call: The Trial Season 2

Kajol left quite an impact with her performance in the courtroom drama, The Trial. Now, she will again be seen as lawyer Noyonika Sengupta in The Trial. Helmed by Suparn Varma, the show is expected to release on Disney Plus in February 2025. For the unversed, the show is inspired by Robert King and Michelle King's drama series The Good Wife.

Gamble on: Matka King

Another series that has created a lot of buzz among netizens is Matka King. With Vijay Verma as the lead, the show will revolve around a cotton trader in Mumbai who comes up with a new gambling game with the name of Matka. Coming to the cast of the series, Vijay Varma will be accompanied by Kritika Kamra, Sai Tamhakar, and Gulshan Grover. Nagraj Manjule has looked after the direction of Matka King produced by Roy Kapur Films.

Tihar saga: Black Warrant

Another member of the Kapoor clan is all set to join the entertainment industry. Shashi Kapoor's grandson, Zahan Kapoor, will be making his acting debut with Vikramaditya Motwane's Black Warrant.

Going by the reports, he will be seen as a jailer in Tihar. Slated for release on January 10, Black Warrant is a cinematic adaptation of the 2019 book Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury. Secret bet: Dabba Cartel

The lovers of woman-centric stories can check out Hitesh Bhatia's upcoming web series, Dabba Cartel. Set against the backdrop of 1960s Mumbai, the series tells the tale of five housewives operating a high-stakes secret cartel. Bankrolled by Farhan Akhtar and Excel Entertainment, Dabba Cartel stars Shalini Pandey, Shabana Azmi, Akashdeep Singh, Jyotika, Jisshu Sengupta, and Gajraj Rao in crucial roles.

Fantasy world: Rakht Bramhand: The Bloody Kingdom

The makers Raj and DK's highly anticipated next venture will be Rakht Bramhand. The fantasy drama will cast Aditya Roy Kapur, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Ali Fazal, and Wamiqa Gabbi in pivotal roles. Tumbbad fame director Rahi Anil Barve is helming the project that is likely to premiere on Netflix in 2025.

Akshay Kumar reacts to people's advice about limiting himself to one film per year



Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar recently addressed the advice he often receives from people, urging him to limit his film releases to one or two per year.

Speaking to the media at the trailer launch event of his upcoming film "Sky Force," the actor shared his thoughts on his work ethic and unwavering

dedication to his craft.

"This is not the first time this has happened. It has happened before as well," Akshay said, referring to the recurring advice to scale back his workload. "The best part is to keep working hard. A lot of people tell me to do one film a year, or a maximum of two, but I always say, if I can work, why shouldn't

I? I have built my entire career on this," he added.

The 'Airlift' actor also revealed that some have advised him to stop making content-driven films, but he remains firm in his resolve to continue pursuing such roles. "I don't want to stop. I want to do these kinds of films as well as others. I am very proud that I made the film Sarfira, even though it didn't work."

Veer Pahariya is all set to make his Bollywood debut alongside Akshay Kumar in "Sky Force."

At the trailer launch event, Veer shared his experience of working alongside the actor. "A week before the shoot, Dinesh sir introduced me to Akshay sir. Akshay sir was so kind and welcoming that he broke the ice in one second. From then on, we became great friends. He became an elder brother to me and guided me throughout, and we worked on scenes in different ways. Maybe we did thirty to forty rehearsals and takes, and he was very kind. I really had a blast working with him," Veer shared.

"Sky Force," directed by Sandeep Kewlani and Abhishek Kapur, also stars Sara Ali Khan as the leading lady. The film is slated to hit theatres on January 24.

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra makes his debut at Golden Globes

Celebrity fashion designer Manish Malhotra posed for the shutterbugs at the red carpet of the 82nd Golden Globe Awards, in what marked his first time at the ceremony.

The awards, which saw "Emilia Perez", "The Brutalist", "Shogun", "Hacks" and "Baby Reindeer" emerge as big winners, were held on Monday night (IST) at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California.

Malhotra, who was dressed in a monochrome suit designed by his label, shared a series of pictures from the red carpet event on his official Instagram page. "My first time @ goldenglobes and what an incredible night," he wrote in the caption. Filmmaker Payal



Kapadia, who was nominated for a Golden Globe in the Best Director Motion Picture category for her acclaimed film "All We Imagine As Light" but lost out to Brady Corbet ("The Brutalist"), opted for a black silk jumpsuit from

designer Payal Khandwala.

Kapadia's film was also nominated for the Best Motion Picture Non-English Language Golden Globe. "All We Imagine..." was bested by France's "Emilia Perez" in the category.

Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput reveals goals she aims to achieve in 2025

Shahid Kapoor's wife, Mira Rajput, known for her active social media presence, recently shared her goals for the year 2025.

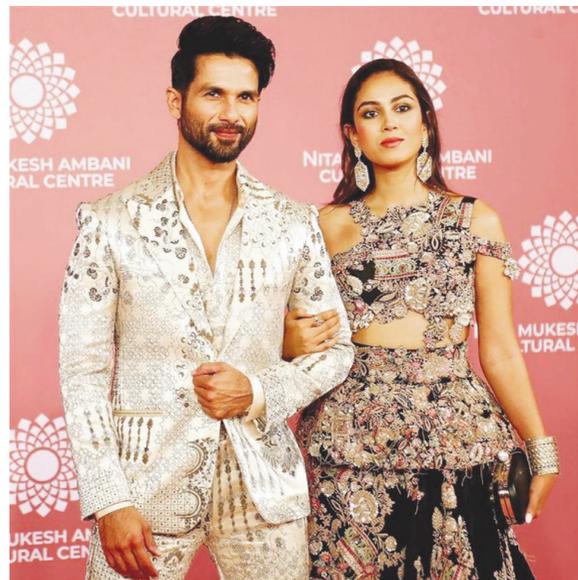
She took to Instagram to post a photo of herself at the gym. In the image, Mira is seen flaunting her washboard abs in a white crop top paired with black leggings and a jacket. The star wife is certainly setting some major fitness goals.

Alongside the photo, Mira wrote, "Goals need to be met in 2025."

Earlier, Mira had shared glimpses from her vacation in the Maldives, where she and Shahid, along with their children Misha and Zain, jetted off to the island paradise to ring in the New Year.

Mira Rajput also posted a romantic snapshot from her getaway with husband Shahid Kapoor, showing the couple holding hands.

Accompanying the photo, she wrote, "Come away with



me." In the picture, the 'Jab We Met' actor is seen shirtless while holding Mira's hand on the beach. Additionally, Mira

shared photos of delicious meals, including a pizza, with the caption, "No cheating. Share the most recent food photo from

your camera roll."

Shahid also shared a photo on his Instagram, where he is seen shirtless, sporting a rugged beard.

Mira Rajput recently dropped a heartfelt video reflecting on the treasured memories she created in 2024.

The video features her husband Shahid, their children Misha and Zain, as well as her brother-in-law, Ishaan Khatter.

It captures precious moments with Shahid, playful interactions with the children, and a sweet shot of Mira with Ishaan. In her caption, Mira wrote, "2024 was the year for new beginnings, family & a dream. 2025, I'm ready to fly."

On the professional front, Shahid is preparing for the release of his next action thriller, "Deva." On New Year's, the makers shared a striking new poster from the film showing Shahid in a rugged and intense look. The film is set to hit theatres on January 31, 2025.

Theatre stampede case: Allu Arjun visits injured boy in hospital

Top Telugu actor Allu Arjun on Tuesday visited the boy, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital here after suffering serious injury in a stampede at the premiere of his latest film "Pushpa 2".

Earlier, Arjun was scheduled to visit the hospital on January 5 but the plan was cancelled.

The actor is added as accused No 11 in the case filed after a woman died and her eight-year-old son sustained serious injuries in the stampede on December 4.

During Arjun's visit to the hospital on Tuesday, Telangana State Film Development Cor-

poration Chairman Dil Raju was also present. Security was enhanced at the hospital in view of the actor's visit.

The SHO of Ramgopalpet Police Station had issued a notice to Arjun regarding his proposed visit to the hospital and advised him to keep it confidential so that public order could be maintained in and around the hospital.

The SHO said police would make necessary arrangements for his visit.

The 'Pushpa' actor had earlier said that he remained deeply concerned about the boy, who is under constant medical care after the



incident. He wished the boy a speedy recovery and said he is looking forward to meeting him and his family, but was advised not to due to ongoing legal proceed-

ings. The stampede occurred at Sandhya theatre in Hyderabad on December 4 as fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the actor

during the "Pushpa 2" premiere.

Following the tragedy, a case was registered against Arjun, his security team, and the theatre management at the Chikkadpally police station. The charges were filed under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita based on a complaint by the deceased woman's family.

He was arrested on December 13 in connection with the case. However, the Telangana High Court granted him interim bail on December 14. He was granted regular bail by a city court on January 3.

Angelina Jolie attends Desert Palm Achievement Award with daughter Zahara after divorce

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie is glowing after the divorce battle between her and Brad Pitt reached a settlement. The actress recently posed for photos at the Palm Springs International Film Festival, which marked her first major event since she and Brad Pitt, 61, reached a settlement in their divorce. The actress parted her long, blonde hair to the side along with her new bangs. She kept her makeup neutral with a rosy, pink lip. The actress accepted the Desert Palm Achievement Award, which rec-

ognises her acclaimed performance as the titular opera singer in the Netflix biopic Maria.

"Jolie's extraordinary portrayal captures the heart and complexity of an artist whose life was as captivating as her music," said Nachhattar Singh Chandi, the Palm Springs International Film Festival's chairman, in a statement.

Jolie has collected praise for her emotional portrayal of Maria Callas' final days in Paris in the 1970s. She garnered her biggest headlines last week when news broke that her and Pitt's lawyers officially signed

off on the pair's divorce, concluding eight years of strained negotiations that included a battle over custody of their six children as well as the \$164 million French estate and winery they shared. The actress filed for dissolution of marriage on September 19, 2016, citing irreconcilable differences mere days after a flight on a private plane on which Jolie has claimed Pitt was abusive to her and their six children. After an investigation at the time, authorities did not charge the actor and Jolie declined to press charges.

Amit Shah launches Bharatpol for international police assistance

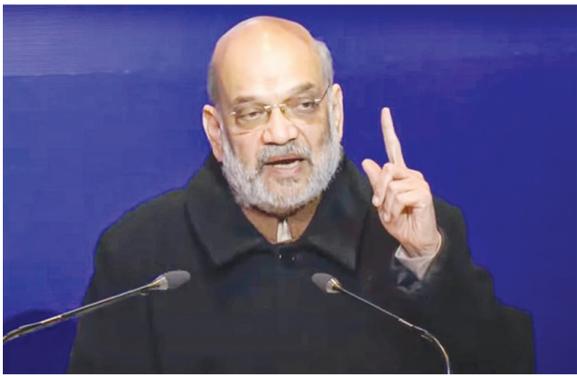
Calls the portal, developed by CBI, a transformative step in dealing with transnational crimes

NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Tuesday, launched Bharatpol, a portal developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which will significantly facilitate Indian law enforcement agencies to enable real-time information sharing for faster access to international police assistance.

"This is a step to take international investigation to a new level where every probe agency, every state police force can easily connect with the Interpol and can speed up their probe," Shah said.

Till now CBI facilitated international cooperation in criminal matters in collaboration with various agencies across the country, including law enforcement agencies.

At the Central, State, and Union Territory levels, this coordination is executed through INTERPOL Liaison Officers (ILOs), who are further linked to Unit Officers (UOs) at the level of Superintendents of Police, Commissioners of Police



and Branch Heads, within their respective organizations. Presently, communications among the CBI, ILOs, and UOs primarily rely on letters, emails and faxes.

The growing footprint of transnational crimes necessitated rapid and real-time international assistance in criminal investigations. Following this, the CBI has now developed BHARATPOL Portal, accessible through its official website, which will bring all the stakeholders on a

common platform.

"This portal has been developed after a detailed exercise. I believe this portal will become a transformative tool for probe agencies in dealing with crimes and security challenges," Shah said.

He said several criminals after committing crime in the country have for a long time remained out of the reach of Indian law as they fled to some other country.

"The time has now come that using a developed system, we

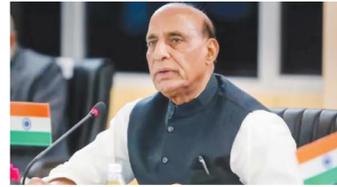
bring those criminals, who are sitting abroad after committing crime here, within the reach of Indian law," Shah said.

The Home Minister said that under the three new criminal laws, they have introduced "Trial in Absentia" provision. "With this provision, we can start a trial against any criminal who is sitting abroad. Moreover, if these criminals are convicted during the trial, then their process of deportation will also become easy," he said.

Notably, "trial in absentia" refers to conducting a criminal trial without the presence of the accused person in court. Earlier, Indian law did not allow trial, conviction or sentencing of any person in absentia even for heinous offences.

Under Section 355 of the BNSS, the Judge or Magistrate may conduct a trial of an accused in his absence if it is deemed that the personal attendance of the accused is not necessary in the interests of justice, or if the accused persistently disturbs the proceedings in court.

Rajnath Singh to meet Maldivian counterpart, focus on strengthening defence ties



NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with the Maldivian counterpart, Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon, in New Delhi on January 8. Maumoon will be on a three-day visit to India from January 8 to 10.

The bilateral talks will focus on reviewing and expanding various aspects of defence collaboration, including joint training, regular exercises, capacity-building initiatives, defence equipment supplies, and high-level workshops.

During the visit, Maumoon will also travel to Goa and Mumbai.

India and the Maldives share deep-rooted ties rooted in spiritual, historical, linguistic, and ethnic connections. However, the relationship has experienced ups and downs. Political shifts in the Maldives have influenced the dynamics of bilateral relations in recent years.

During the presidency of Abdulla Yameen (2013-2018), the Maldives leaned towards China, raising concerns in India about Beijing's growing influ-

ence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The election of President Ibrahim Solih in 2018 marked a positive turn in India-Maldives relations, with renewed focus on partnerships in areas like defence, infrastructure, and disaster management.

FOCUS ON DEFENCE COOPERATION

The upcoming meeting reflects ongoing efforts to deepen defence cooperation between the two nations. Key areas of collaboration include joint training, where the Indian Armed Forces enhance the operational capabilities of Maldivian personnel. India has also supplied patrol vessels and supported the modernization of the Maldives National Defence Forces. Regular bilateral exercises like "Ekuverin" further bolster interoperability between the two militaries.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

As key players in the IOR, India and the Maldives share a commitment to maintaining maritime security and addressing transnational threats such as piracy, trafficking, and terrorism. Enhanced defence ties align with India's broader goals of ensuring peace and stability in the region while countering the influence of external powers.

The visit of Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon signifies the growing importance of defence and security as pillars of India-Maldives relations.

3 Miners dead inside flooded Assam mine, army divers, choppers deployed

GUWAHATI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Three miners were feared dead inside a flooded coal mine in a remote district of India's north-eastern Assam state, authorities said on Tuesday, as rescue teams worked through the night to try to reach a total of nine men trapped inside.

Three bodies have been spotted by rescue teams but have not yet been recovered, the local government said in a statement.

Army teams deployed divers, helicopters and engineers to

help rescue the nine men, who have been trapped since Monday in the mine in Assam's hilly Dima Hasao district, the army said in a statement.

"The mine got flooded yesterday—the source was internal. They (the miners) probably hit some water channel and water came out and flooded it," Mayank Kumar, district police chief in Dima Hasao told agency.

Kumar said rescue teams from the army, national and state disaster relief forces were working to reach

the trapped miners.

Photographs shared by the army on social media showed rescue workers with ropes, cranes and other equipment standing at the edge of a large, vertical mine.

Coal mine-related disasters in the remote northeastern part of India are not uncommon. In one of the biggest disasters, in 2019, at least 15 miners were buried while working in an illegal mine in the neighbouring state of Meghalaya after it was flooded by water from a nearby river.

Two criminals killed in Patna police encounter, one arrested

PATNA, Jan 7 (Agencies): In the early hours of Tuesday, two notorious criminals were killed, and another was arrested following a gunfight with police in the Phulwarisharif area of Patna district.

A police sub-inspector, Vivek Kumar, sustained bullet injuries during the encounter and has been admitted to AIIMS-Patna for treatment.

Acting on a tip-off, a special police team cordoned off the Hinduni locality under the Phulwarisharif police station jurisdiction and launched a search operation. The criminals, hiding in a makeshift house after



parking their vehicle outside, opened fire on the police. In self-defence, the police retaliated.

Superintendent of Police Patna (West), Sharat RS, confirmed that two criminals sustained bullet injuries during the exchange of

fire and later succumbed. They were rushed to a nearby primary health center, where doctors declared them dead. The deceased were identified as Vivek and Laldahin, both residents of Nalanda district. The police reported that the

duo was involved in several cases of house robbery and dacoity in the Patna and Nalanda districts.

Another gang member, identified as Mantoo, surrendered to the police. However, 8-10 other members of the gang managed to escape, taking advantage of the dense fog in the area.

A forensic team visited the scene to collect samples for examination. Police recovered several used and live cartridges, along with illegal pistols, from the site. According to the police, the criminals had gathered in Hindu-

ni village with plans to commit a dacoity at a nearby house.

This incident comes on the heels of another police operation on January 4, in which a notorious criminal, Sushil Mochi, was killed during a gunfight at Tarbari village in Purnea district. Mochi, who had a bounty of 2 lakh on his head, was wanted in over three dozen cases of murder, loot, and dacoity across Bihar and West Bengal.

Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the remaining gang members who escaped during the Phulwarisharif encounter.

Bijapur Naxal attack: Chhattisgarh, CRPF top cops visit blast site

BIJAPUR, Jan 7 (Agencies): Chhattisgarh Director General of Police Ashok Juneja and CRPF DG Vitol Kumar on Tuesday visited the site in Bijapur district where eight security personnel and a civilian driver were killed after Naxalites blew up their vehicle, officials said.

In their biggest strike on security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, Naxalites on Monday blew up a vehicle using an improvised explosive

device (IED), weighing 60 to 70 kg, near Ambeli village under the Kutru police station area of the district.

Eight security personnel, four each from the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters units, travelling in the SUV and the vehicle's driver died on the spot, located around 70 km from the district headquarters.

Chhattisgarh DGP Juneja and Central



Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Kumar on Tuesday visited the site sepa-

rately and took stock of the incident, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav

told reporters here.

Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundaraj P and senior CRPF officials accompanied Director General Kumar, as per officials.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and other senior state leaders paid homage to the deceased security personnel and their vehicle driver at the wreath-laying ceremony held at Police Lines, Karli, in Dantewada.

Senior citizen dies, another man hospitalised after fire in Mumbai highrise

MUMBAI, Jan 7 (Agencies): A senior citizen died and another person was hospitalised after suffering from suffocation following a fire in a multi-storey residential building in Mumbai's Andheri area, officials said on Tuesday.

The blaze erupted in a flat on the 11th floor of the 13-storey Sky Pan building in Oberoi Complex at 10 pm on Monday, they said.

It was doused after nearly four hours at 1:49 am on Tuesday, the officials said.

Two persons suffered from suffocation due to smoke following the fire and

they were rushed to the nearby Kokilaben Hospital.

One of them, identified as 75-year-old Rahul Mishra declared "brought dead", while the other person, Raunak Mishra (38), was undergoing treatment, he said.

The fire was confined to the electric wiring, electric installations and household articles in the flat, another official said.

Prima facie, the fire brigade suspects a short-circuit could have triggered the fire, but the exact cause was under investigation, he said.

Bajrang Dal leader held for raping woman in Kanpur

KANPUR (UP), Jan 7 (Agencies): Bajrang Dal leader Dilip Singh Bajrang has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman on the pretext of marriage, police said here on Tuesday.

Additional DCP (South) Mahesh Kumar said Bajrang was arrested after he attempted suicide by pouring kerosene on his face outside the Govind Nagar Police Station on Monday, alleging that he was implicated in a false rape case.

On November 5,



2024, a woman lodged an FIR at Collectorganj Police Station against Bajrang alleging that he befriended her, took her to a hotel at Ghanatagar and raped her on the pretext of marriage, Kumar told agency on Tuesday.

The woman claimed

that Bajrang also made obscene videos of her and uploaded them on social media.

Following this, a probe was launched in the matter.

However, Bajrang, who was a former district convenor of the Bajrang Dal in Kanpur,

went absconding, he said.

On Monday, Bajrang along with his supporters and Bajrang Dal workers arrived at the Govind Nagar Police Station and attempted to set himself on fire while doing live streams on social media, the police said.

Bajrang's self-immolation bid outside the police station amidst public prompted police to lodge another FIR on charges of obstruction in discharging official duties and suicide attempt, the officer said.

BPSC exam row: SC refuses to hear plea over alleged irregularities, police action

NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to examine a plea over the alleged irregularities in the BPSC exam held on December 13, 2024, and the consequent police action on protestors.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan asked petitioner to move the Patna High Court with the grievances.

The counsel appearing for petitioner, Anand Legal Aid Forum Trust, urged the bench to consider the plea, saying the country witnessed Bihar police's brutally on peaceful protestors who sought cancellation of the contentious Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam.

"We are asking you to go to the Patna High Court," the CJ said.

The counsel, however, said, "This paper leak is happening as a daily matter."

"We understand your sentiments attached...but we cannot be the court of first instance," the CJ said, "and we feel it will be appropriate and more expeditious that the petitioner approached the Patna High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution."

The lawyer informed the bench the place where police led a charge with batons on protestors was near the Patna High Court chief justice's official residence and a suo-motu note could have been taken.

Bihar police allegedly used force to control civil service aspirants

who demanded the cancellation of the BPSC examination held on December 13, 2024.

The state public service commission ordered a re-exam held on January 4 at 22 centers in Patna for certain candidates.

Of the 12,012 candidates eligible for the retest, a total of 8,111 downloaded their admit cards, and 5,943 appeared for the examination.

Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor, who was on an indefinite fast in Patna's Gandhi Maidan, raising the same demand was arrested and later released on bail. He was moved to the ICU of Medanta Hospital in the city on Tuesday over health complications.

North Korea confirms testing of hypersonic missile under Kim Jong-un's supervision

SEOUL, Jan 7 (Agencies): North Korea announced on Tuesday that it had successfully test-fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) equipped with a hypersonic warhead, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing state media.

According to North Korea's state media Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the missile travelled approximately 1,500 kilometres at a speed 12 times faster than sound during a test conducted the previous day under the supervision of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un via a monitoring system.

Kim stated that the development of the missile was intended to enhance North Korea's nuclear deterrence by "making the weapon system to which no one can respond to the linchpin of strategic deterrence."

"The hypersonic missile system will reliably contain any rivals in the Pacific region that can affect the security of our state. The system can deal a



serious military strike to a rival while effectively breaking any dense defensive barrier," Kim said, according to KCNA

The KCNA reported that the hypersonic glide vehicle atop the IRBM reached its first peak at an altitude of 99.8 kilometres and a second at 42.5 kilometres, successfully completing a 1,500-kilometre flight path and striking its designated target in the sea.

This missile test, North Korea's first provocation in roughly two months, occurred less than two weeks before US President-

elect Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20.

However, the South Korean military dismissed the North's claim as a "deception," saying there was no second peak.

"The flight range analysed by South Korea, the US and Japan was around 1,100 kilometre and (the missile) did not reach a second peak," JCS spokesperson Col. Lee Sung-un told a regular press briefing, noting the North has a track record of "exaggerating," Yonhap reported.

"North Korea probably intend-

ed to flex its muscle against the United States. As it said the latest launch was a test-firing, the weapons system does not appear to be completed, pointing to demand (to further develop) in terms of military technology," an official at South Korea's unification ministry told reporters.

Notably, North Korea fired a hypersonic missile into the East Sea on Monday. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) reported detecting the launch of a suspected intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) from the Pyongyang area around noon yesterday.

The missile travelled approximately 1,100 kilometres before landing in the sea, Yonhap reported.

Although the missile's flight range was below the typical 3,000 to 5,500 kilometres covered by IRBMs, a JCS official had noted that it appeared to share features with North Korea's intermediate-range hypersonic missiles tested in January and April last year.

"Since beginning of Kursk operation, enemy lost over 38,000 troops": Zelenskyy



KYIV, Jan 7 (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday highlighted progress in Ukraine's ongoing counteroffensive in the Kursk region, marking five months since the operation began.

Zelenskyy emphasised the creation of a buffer zone on Russian territory and the destruction of Russian military assets, noting more than 38,000 enemy losses in the area, including approximately 15,000 "irrecoverable losses."

Sharing a post on X early Tuesday, Zelenskyy said, "Today marks exactly five months since the start of our actions in the Kursk region, and we continue to maintain a buffer zone on Russian territory, actively destroying their military potential there. During the Kursk

operation, the enemy has already lost over 38,000 soldiers in this single direction alone, with approximately 15,000 of them irrecoverable losses."

Zelenskyy added, "The Russians have deployed their strongest units to Kursk, including soldiers from North Korea. Importantly, all this manpower cannot now be redirected to other fronts--neither to the Donetsk region, nor against Sumy, the Kharkiv region, or Zaporizhzhia."

Praising the Ukrainian forces for their efforts, Zelenskyy said, "I thank all our warriors who are bringing the war back home--to Russia--and giving Ukraine more security and strength."

Ukraine on Sunday carried out a counterattack in Kursk, warning that Moscow is "getting what it deserves," CNN reported.

Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the Ukrainian Center for Countering Disinformation, an official body, announced that Ukrainian forces had launched surprise attacks against Russian forces in various locations in Kursk, months after conducting its incursion in the region.

In a short post shared on Telegram, the head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, Andriy Yermak said, "Kursk region, good news, Russia is getting what it deserves."

The Ukrainian military first conducted an incursion into Kursk in August and has held much of the territory it took, despite efforts made by Russian forces and recently deployed North Korean soldiers to send back Ukrainian troops across the border.

In a statement shared on Sunday, the Russian Defence Ministry said that the Ukrainians had conducted counterattacks to stop a Russian offensive, CNN reported, citing TASS news agency. It said that both had been repelled and added that the Ukrainian assault including two tanks and 12 armoured vehicles was defeated near Berdin village, which is located some 15 kilometers from the border.

National Sheriffs' Association backs Kash Patel for FBI Director

WASHINGTON DC, Jan 7 (Agencies): The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) has endorsed Kash Patel as the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee leaders that also railed against the state of law enforcement under the Biden administration.

"We are pleased to give our enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Patel's nomination to be the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and urge the Committee hold hearings expeditiously. We believe there will be broad support for Mr. Patel and we look forward to his swift confirmation by the full United States Senate," NSA President Kieran Donahue wrote in a letter Monday to Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the chair and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, respectively.

The NSA is a professional association that boasts roughly 10,000 active members.

President-elect Trump nominated Kash Patel as FBI director in November. Patel is an outspoken crusader against the "deep state." In a book published last year, he explicitly called for revamping the FBI in a chapter dubbed "Overhauling the FBI," and moving the FBI's headquarters out of Washington, DC.

In his letter to the senators, Donahue lauded Patel's resume as evidence he has the "credentials, skills, temperament, commitment, and experience for this critical position."

Patel hit the national radar during Trump's first administration, including when he worked as the national security adviser and senior counsel for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence under committee Chair Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif.

"Mr. Patel's service will undoubtedly prioritize the restoration of confidence in the Bureau through increased transparency, integrity, collaboration, and commitment to excellence. Mr. Patel promised NSA - if confirmed - his unwavering dedication to working hand in glove with local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement at the rank-and-file and leadership levels. His commitment to the reciprocity of access-to-advise is essential to combating the most serious security and policing challenges ahead. We are certain Mr. Patel's engagement will result in vital and effective partnerships nationwide to protect communities large and small," Donahue wrote.

The sheriff group's leader also took direct aim at policies affecting law enforcement that were rolled out under the Biden administration, which he said has "undermined the rule of law and burdened our

nation with great risk and vulnerability."

"Equally detrimental are the border policies that permit unchecked access to our homeland. These two factors have sadly but predictably granted domestic and international criminals unprecedented opportunity to victimise or endanger the citizens and residents of our nation. As a result, countless communities across America are under siege. Through the exploitation of these vulnerabilities, complex criminal and terror schemes are taking hold and flourishing. The blind spot created by inadequate border control and law enforcement policies has facilitated criminal activity that falls under multiple jurisdictions and therefore demands a robust and coordinated response," he wrote to the senators.

The sheriff continued that local law enforcement agencies want to work more closely with federal leaders in order to combat the infiltration of cartels and organized crime groups in the US, but have "been denied direct unfiltered access to the President" in the last four years.

"As a result, there is a perception within law enforcement and the public that our national leaders do not comprehend the ground truth about criminal trends and lack the will, policy tools, and resources to thwart the criminal activities undermining the security of our nation,"



he wrote. "Our federal law enforcement hierarchy, armed with knowledge gained through local collaboration, must be heard by the decision makers in Washington. In this time of uncertainty, it is critical the Federal Bureau of Investigation be led by someone who has the complete confidence of the President," he continued.

Patel previously served as a public defender in Florida's Miami-Dade area, where he tried "scores of complex cases ranging from murder, to narco-trafficking, to complex financial crimes in jury trials in state and federal courts," according to his Defence Department biography. He also won a DOJ award in 2017 under the Obama administration for his prosecution and conviction of 12 terrorists responsible for the World Cup bombings in 2010.

Patel served as the former Chief of Staff to Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher

Miller and is responsible for leading the Secretary's mission at the Department, including his executive staff and providing counsel to the Secretary on all matters concerning the Department's operations, according to the US Department of Defence.

Previously, Patel served as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism (CT) at the National Security Council (NSC). In that capacity, Patel oversaw the execution of several of Trump's top priorities, including eliminating ISIS and Al-Qaeda leadership such as al-Baghdadi and Qasem al-Rimi, and the safe repatriation of numerous American hostages.

Patel also served as Principal Deputy to the Acting Director of National Intelligence, where he oversaw the operations of all 17 intelligence community agencies and provided the President's Daily Briefing.

Britain to make creating, sharing sexually explicit "deepfakes" a crime

LONDON, Jan 7 (Agencies): Creating and sharing sexually explicit "deepfakes" will become a criminal offence in Britain, the government said on Tuesday, in a bid to tackle a surge in the proliferation of such images, mainly targeting women and girls.

Deepfakes are videos, pictures or audio clips made with artificial intelligence to look real, and such technology can be used to digitally alter pornographic images into the likeness of someone else.

Publishing intimate photos or videos without consent and with the intent to cause distress - so-called revenge porn - was criminalised in Britain in 2015, but that legislation does not cover the use of fake images.

Data from UK-based Revenge Porn Helpline showed image-based abuse using deepfakes has increased more

than 400% since 2017. Under the new offence to be introduced by the government, perpetrators could be charged and face prosecution for both creating and sharing these images.

"There is no excuse for creating a sexually explicit deepfake of someone without their consent," the justice ministry said in a statement.

The previous Conservative government, which lost power to the Labour Party in July, announced similar plans to make sexually explicit deepfakes a criminal offence. Under its proposal, offenders would face fines and even jail time.

The justice ministry said further details of the new offence would be set out in due course.

The government said it would also create new offences for the taking of intimate images without consent and the installation of equipment with

intent to commit these offences. Those found guilty could face up to two years behind bars.

"This demeaning and disgusting form of chauvinism must not become normalised," said Victims Minister Alex Davies-Jones.

Technology minister Margaret Jones said tech platforms hosting abusive images would face tougher scrutiny and significant penalties.

"Intimate-image abuse is a national emergency that is causing significant, long-lasting harm to women and girls who face a total loss of control over their digital footprint, at the hands of online misogyny," said campaigner Jess Davies.

The new offences will be included in the government's Crime and Policing Bill, which will be introduced to parliament. A date is yet to be set.

Taiwan holds military drills as concerns rise over possible defense budget cut

HSINCHU, Jan 7 (Agencies): Taiwan began three days of military drills on Tuesday as concerns rose over potential cuts to the defense budget due to legislative wrangling between the island's two major political parties.

The drills began in the north with tank maneuvering at a base in Hsinchu featuring outmoded CM-11 tanks, which are gradually being replaced by newly purchased Abrams M1A2T from the U.S. The replacement marks a huge upgrade despite some complaints over the weight of the new tanks and their likely effectiveness at preventing a possible Chinese landing.

Troops arrived on armored personnel carriers, while Apache and S-70 helicopters whirled over-

head, providing reconnaissance and covering fire.

With the equipment Taiwan currently operates, the communication officer is on the ground to coordinate airborne attacks, said Army Captain Chuang Yuan-cheng of the 542 Armored Brigade in Hsinchu county just south of the capital of Taipei. That allows them to guide the helicopters so that "ground fire and airborne fire are synchronized," Chuang said.

On Wednesday, the army will show off its Patriot III anti-missile system aimed at countering one of China's most potent weapons against the island of 23 million. And on Thursday, anti-submarine exercises will be held off of Taiwan's largest port of Kaohsiung, considered China's best conduit



for resupplying its troops should it establish a beachhead in the heavily defended region.

The annual drills are held in the run-up to the Lunar New Year holiday to reassure the population of Taiwan's ability to meet China's

threats and to boost recruitment. Taiwan has a backlog of orders from the U.S. for about \$20 billion in weapons systems, while it upgrades its M-16 fighters and develops its own submarines. It has also extended compulsory

military service to one year.

However, the government has warned that new legal amendments being considered could force a 28% cut in the defense budget by altering the way funds are distributed between the central and local governments.

That in turn could reduce the willingness of the U.S. and its allies such as Japan and the Philippines to assist Taiwan in the event of an armed clash with China, National Security Council Secretary-General Joseph Wu told legislators last month.

The legislation is being pushed by the main opposition Nationalist Party, which has joined with the tiny Taiwan People's Party to oppose the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's legislative

agenda.

Taiwan currently spends about 2.4% of its GDP, or roughly \$20 billion, on the military annually.

China has responded furiously to all U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, saying unification with the island is inevitable and warning that Washington is "playing with fire." However, apart from regularly sending planes and warships into areas near the island, it has done little more than blacklist companies and executives involved in the production and sales of such equipment.

Neither military intimidation, economic coercion nor appeals to their common Chinese ancestry seem to be working on Taiwan's population, the vast majority of whom favor the current status of de-facto independence.

Civil Society in collaboration with Gandoh admin organize Vyapar Mandal election



Top News Report

GANDOH, Jan 7: The Civil Society Gandoh in collaboration with Gandoh administration organised Vyapar Mandal election is being held at Food Store Gandoh. The elections were held for the post of President, Vice president, General Secretary and Cashier. Total 9 candidates participated in election process as contestants. The elections were conducted transparently

and smoothly under the supervision of SDM Gandoh, SDPO Gandoh and Mohd Ashraf Kholi. The SDM Gandoh vide his order No. SDM/order/2024/262-73 dated December 30, 2024 requested the SDPD Gandoh to deploy sufficient police personnel for smooth and hassle free conduct of election and maintaining law and order. Out of 380 eligible votes, total 368 votes were polled by voters. In

president Shah Nawaz Ahmed won the election with the margin of 77 votes. In vice president Mohd Arif won the election with the margin of 46 votes and In Gen. Secretary Ch. Shabir Ahmed won the election with the margin of 2 votes. Further, the Civil society Chairman presented a vote of thanks to the Administration Gandoh & Police department for their relentless effort & support in conducting the election process peacefully. The Civil Society election Chairman congratulated the winning candidate and requested work hard to get re-elected after 02 years. The winning candidate assured the election chairman that he will work hard for this tenure of two years and resolving the problems of shopkeepers of Gandoh.

BJP leader Sahil Gupta lauds PM Modi's development initiatives in J&K

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: BJP leader and former Councillor of Municipal Committee Bishnah, Sahil Gupta, has commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ushering in transformative developments in Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on the establishment of a new Railway Division in Jammu and the upcoming launch of a train service to the Kashmir Valley. In a statement, Gupta hailed these projects as monumental steps in integrating the Union Territory with the rest of the nation. He highlighted that the establishment of the new Railway Division in Jammu reflects the government's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and streamlining railway operations in the area. "This move will not only improve the efficiency of railway services but also create job opportunities and boost the local economy," Gupta remarked. The BJP leader also expressed enthusiasm about the new train service to the Valley, calling it a "game-changer" for tourism, trade, and cultural exchange. He pointed out that the upcoming train service will reduce travel time, making the Valley more accessible to visitors and fostering closer ties between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country.

Gupta credited Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership for these transformative projects, emphasizing that such initiatives are part of the broader development saga unfolding under his guidance. He further stated that these steps signify the government's unwavering resolve to ensure progress, prosperity, and peace in the region.

Concluding his remarks, Gupta urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to support these initiatives wholeheartedly and to work collectively toward achieving the goal of a self-reliant and vibrant Union Territory. "The era of neglect is over; this is the time for action and growth," he said.

The new Railway Division and the upcoming train service are being seen as pivotal milestones in the region's journey toward modernization and enhanced connectivity.

Vi strengthens its annual recharge portfolio with SuperHero, offers 12am-12pm Unlimited data everyday

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: Leading Telecom operator Vi recently launched an industry first proposition "SuperHero" that offers unlimited access to data between 12 AM to 12 PM, designed keeping in mind the ever-increasing need for more high-speed data. To further sweeten the deal for customers looking for yearly packs or value for money offers, Vi has three Best in Value Annual Recharge options which not only deliver upto 25% savings compared to monthly plans, but also cater to the entertainment & uninterrupted mobile data requirements throughout the year.

Vi's Annual Recharge plans offer Half day Unlimited Data from 12 AM to 12 PM in addition to 2GB daily data quota for the remaining 12 hours of the day. Not just that, Vi SuperHero packs also offer Weekend Data Rollover, which allows users to carry forward unused weekday data and use it during the weekend. Add to it, these plans also offer emergency data top-up with the Data Delight feature, which provides an unconditional additional 1GB data, twice a month. With all this, Vi's Annual Super Hero packs are designed to deliver unmatched value.

In addition to these benefits, users can also enjoy OTT subscriptions like Disney+ Hotstar & Amazon Prime Lite for a full year.

Costing as low as Rs 10 per day, Vi's Annual SuperHero packs deliver upto 25% savings which is almost over Rs1100, when compared to monthly recharges. They are a great choice for customers who want the best value for their money along with the convenience of a single recharge.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan enlightens scholars on Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar's Legacy in Music Educational

Top News Report

JAMMU/ JAIPUR, Jan 7: Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Head of the Department of Music at Giridhari Lal Dogra Memorial Government Degree College, Hiranagar, Kathua, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the transformative music education system pioneered by Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar at University Maharani College, Jaipur.

Organized by Dr. Anshu Verma, Assistant Professor of Music at Maharani College, the event drew an enthusiastic audience of music scholars and aficionados.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan delved deeply into Pandit Paluskar's visionary contributions that reshaped the

landscape of Indian classical music education.

Pandit Paluskar's establishment of Gandharva Mahavidyalaya marked a historic shift, integrating formal training and certification with the essence of the guru-shishya parampara (teacher-student tradition).

During his lecture, Dr. Bhushan highlighted the enduring relevance of Pandit Paluskar's methods, emphasizing the significance of balancing traditional values with contemporary approaches in music education.

His discourse shed light on the institutionalization of Indian classical music and its global recognition as a structured and respected field of study.

The interactive session

following the lecture further enriched the experience, with Dr. Bhushan addressing questions from an engaged audience and offering nuanced insights into the life and legacy of Pandit Paluskar.

The event was graced by the presence of the college's Principal, who commended Dr. Bhushan's profound knowledge and impactful delivery. The Principal also appreciated Dr. Anshu Verma for her efforts in organizing such an enlightening session.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan's lecture served not only as a tribute to Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar but also as a call to preserve and adapt his visionary ideals to the evolving landscape of music education today.

Pausha Putrada Ekadashi Vrat to be observed on Jan 10: Mahant Rohit Shastri

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: The fast of Pausha Putrada Ekadashi, a significant religious observance, will be observed on Friday, January 10, 2025.

This fast, observed annually on the Ekadashi of the Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the moon) in the month of Pausha, is especially important for women, who pray for the long life and well-being of their children.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya, and President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, provided insights on the importance of the fast. According to him, Pausha Putrada Ekadashi holds a unique significance as it is believed to bless devotees with virtuous offspring. Devotees observe the fast to honor Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the universe.

This year, the Ekadashi tithi of Pausha Shukla Paksha will begin on Thursday, January 9, at 12:23 PM and end on Friday, January 10, at 10:20 AM. The fast will be observed on January 10, 2025, as the Ekadashi falls on sunrise that day. Pausha Putrada Ekadashi is one of the two times this fast is observed each year, the other being during the Shukla Paksha of Shravan month.

Mahant Shastri



emphasized that the Ekadashi fast teaches devotees how to maintain balance in life by rising above material desires and following the path of dharma, ultimately attaining moksha (salvation). The fast can be observed by both men and women, and it can be kept either without food (nirahar) or with fruits (phalahar). After performing Lord Vishnu's worship in the evening, devotees may consume fruits. The fast is broken on Dwadashi (the following day), and it is customary to offer food to a needy person or a Brahmin and make donations.

Religious scriptures advise against consuming rice, tamasic (impure) food, alcohol, and intoxicants on Ekadashi. Only sattvic (pure) food should be consumed to maintain the spiritual sanctity of the fast.

Mahant Rohit Shastri provided guidance on the rituals for Pausha Putrada Ekadashi. He emphasized the importance of maintaining both mental and physical purity. The worship should begin in the morning with the husband and wife together praying to Lord Lakshminarayan. After a bath, they should prepare a clean altar in the puja room or a sacred space in the house, placing idols or pictures of Lord Ganesha and Lord Lakshminarayan. The altar should be purified with Gangajal (holy water) or cow urine.

A Kalash (sacred pot) made of silver, copper, or clay should be placed on the altar, filled with water and covered with a coconut, marking the Kalash Sthapana (installation). Worship should include offerings to the deities present in the Kalash, the Navgrahas (nine planets), Yoginis, and city deities.

The devotees must take a vow for the fast and perform Shodashopachara (16-step worship), which includes offerings such as invocation, seat, water for washing feet, arghya (holy water offering), water sipping, bathing, clothes, sacred thread, sandalwood, turmeric, flowers, incense, lamps, naivedya (food offerings), fruits, betel leaves, Dakshina (monetary offering), aarti, circumambulation, and mantra-pushpanjali (flower offerings with chants).

Chanting the Santan Gopal Mantra and narrating or listening to the fasting story completes the puja, followed by the distribution of prasad (sacred food).

Two days training programme for Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under NALSA begins

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a two days Training Programme for the Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 which was held on Tuesday at Conference Hall Lawyer's Chamber District Court Complex Janipur, here under the chairmanship of Y. P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Jammu and supervision of Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The resource person of the training programme was Anant Kumar Asthana, Child Rights Advocate, who is practising Advocate in Delhi.

The Resource person has an extensive experience in the field of child rights and has dealt with numerous cases involving Children in Conflict with Law.

Moreover, the resource person is a Child Rights Lawyer, Practitioner, Scholar and Technical Teacher and Trainer on various Child Protection Laws and Policies and has Specialization in Child Rights Law (Juvenile Justice, Sexual Offences against Chil-

dren, Child Protection, Child Labour, Human trafficking), Human Rights Law, Public Interest Law, Constitutional and Criminal Law.

Anant Kumar Asthana is also working as Advisor, Delhi State Legal Services Authority on "Victim Compensation to Children" and Rejuvenation of Legal Aid to Children" since July 2022. Member in Committee constituted for drafting bill on Amendments in JJ Act 2000 and for drafting Bill on "Special Adoption Act", constituted by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He was also associated with the process of drafting of this NALSA Scheme.

The resource person was welcomed by Y. P. Bourney Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge, Jammu by presenting a plant sapling as token of affection and regards.

Further, Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu in her address to the gathering welcomed the resource person and all the participants.

Secretary DLSA Jammu highlighted the importance of the training programme in understanding the various provisions of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

The training programme was attended by Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Anil Sharma, Adv. Gurdeep Singh Gill, Adv. Deepali Arora,

Adv. Shahla Rafiqi, Adv. Upasana Thakur, Adv. Maheen Shah, Adv. Ranjana Manhas, Adv. Rita Kumari are all Panel Lawyers of District Legal Services Authority Jammu and PLVs Bhajan Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Bogal, Sahil Khosla, Joginder Lal, Gourav Sharma, Happy Sharma, Ankush Singh Chib, Parminder Kour and Suman Lata.

The aim of two days training programme is to enhance the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and ensuring access to Justice for Children.

The resource person of the programme highlighted the Laws regarding Children and the importance of implementation of child rights to the members of the unit including Panel Lawyers and PLVs.

The resource person emphasized while addressing the participants that Children represent the most vulnerable members of the society and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard their rights and provide them with the support they need to navigate the complexities of the legal system.

This new scheme reaffirms NALSA's unwavering commitment to creating a legal framework that is sensitive to the unique needs of children, ensuring they receive timely, compassionate and effective legal assistance.

FROM PAGE 3

95 dead in powerful Tibet earthquake, tremors also felt in parts of India

which are sparsely populated, are remote and can only be reached by foot.

The impact of the quake was felt across the Shigatse region of Tibet, home to 800,000 people. The region is administered by Shigatse city, the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhism.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said all-out search and rescue efforts should be carried out to minimise casualties, properly resettle the affected people, and ensure a safe and warm winter.

More than 1,500 local firefighters and rescue workers have been dispatched to the affected areas, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

Some 22,000 items including cotton tents, cotton coats, quilts and folding beds have also been sent to the quake-hit region, it said.

TREMORS, AFTERSHOCKS Villages in Tingri, where the average elevation is around 4,000-5,000 metres (13,000-16,000 feet), reported strong shaking during the quake, which was followed by dozens of aftershocks with magnitudes of up to 4.4.

Crumbled shop fronts could be seen in a video on social media showing the aftermath in the town of Lhatse, with debris spilling out onto the road.

Reuters was able to confirm the location based on nearby buildings, windows, road layout, and signage that match satellite and street view imagery.

There are three townships and 27 villages within 20 km (12 miles) of the epicentre, with a total population of around 6,900, and more than 1,000 houses have been damaged, Xinhua reported.

Local government officials were liaising with nearby towns to gauge the impact of the quake and check for casualties, and China closed the Everest region to tourists after the quake, it added.

The Tingri tremor was caused by a rupture in what is known as the Lhasa block in an area under north-south compression and west-east stress, CCTV reported, citing Chinese experts.

Since 1950, there have been 21 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or above in the Lhasa block, the largest of which was the 6.9-magnitude quake in Mailing in 2017, according to CCTV.

Mailing is located in the lower reaches of Tibet's Yarlung Zangbo river where China is planning to build the world's largest hydropower dam.

A magnitude 7.8 tremor struck near Nepal's capital Kathmandu in 2015, killing about 9,000 people and injuring thousands in the country's worst ever earthquake. Among the dead were at least 18 people killed at the Mount Everest base camp when it was hit by an avalanche.

On Tuesday, tremors were felt in Kathmandu, some 400 km (250 miles) from the epicentre, and residents in the city ran out of their houses.

"The bed was shaking and I thought my

child was moving the bed ... I didn't pay that much attention but the shaking of (a) window made me understand that it's an earthquake," said Kathmandu resident Meera Adhikari. "I'm still shaking out of fear and am in shock."

One person was injured in Kathmandu when he jumped off the top of a house after feeling the strong tremors, Nepal Police spokesman Bishwa Adhikari said. The man was being treated in hospital.

The quake also jolted Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, and the northern Indian state of Bihar which borders Nepal.

So far, no reports of any damage or loss to property have been received, officials in India and Bhutan said.

Indo-Pak War Veteran Havaladar Baldev Singh passes away in Rajouri at 93

In recognition of their bravery, the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru honoured the Bal Sainiks, presenting them with gramophones, watches, and the opportunity to join the Army.

Singh enlisted in the Army on November 14, 1950, and served the force with dedication and valour for nearly three decades, the spokesman said.

His service spanned multiple wars, including the 1961, 1962, and 1965 India-Pakistan wars.

Despite retiring in October 1969, Singh was recalled during the India-Pakistan war of 1971, when served in the 11 JAT Battal-

ion (25 Infantry Division) for an additional eight months before returning to civilian life, the spokesman said.

Throughout his career, Singh received numerous honours for his service, including recognition by Nehru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former vice-president Hamid Ansari, and several other distinguished leaders, he said, adding that Singh's contributions to the nation serve as an inspiring testament to patriotism and courage.

"Singh's legacy lives on as a living legend, deeply respected for his service to the country," the spokesman said.

Police attach property of drug peddler under NDPS Act in Anantnag

68-F of the Narco Act, they said. The accused is implicated in a major narcotics case registered under FIR No. 47/2019 at Police Station Srigufwara, involving the recovery of substantial quantities of contraband substances.

"This decisive step underscores Anantnag Police's commitment to eradicating the drug menace and dismantling the economic framework supporting illegal narcotics trade," police said, adding, "The action aims to deter criminal activities and protect society from the adverse effects of drug abuse."

Police also urged citizens to support their efforts in creating a drug-free society and reiterated their resolve to take stringent legal actions against those involved in drug-related crimes.

Srinagar Police arrest fraudster posing as govt official

influence to facilitate the release of her husband, who had been arrested on 19/11/2024 by Police Station Rajbagh in a narcotics case. After she discovered the deception and demanded the money back, the accused person returned only a partial amount and denied the rest."

In this connection, case under Sections 318(4), 319 and 351(2) of the BNS Act has been registered and the fraudster has been arrested. The investigation is ongoing, said the spokesman.

It is pertinent to mention here that the husband of the applicant, Riyaz Ahmad Channa had been booked under PIT NDPS Act and is presently lodged in Sub Jail Badawah.

BJP's Sunil Sharma Calls Omar-Ruhullah Rift a 'Fixed Match'

such as unemployment, unfulfilled commitments of free electricity, and the restoration of Article 370.

Sunil Sharma said: "National Conference MLAs are increasingly unhappy with Omar Abdullah's leadership. This dissatisfaction has forced him to delay the much-anticipated cabinet expansion, as any such move could expose and deepen the internal divisions within the party."

PM Forum, the world's largest community of professional services marketers, launches India chapter

With this launch, PM Forum UK will onboard members from India, handling all membership and commercial aspects.

MUMBAI/DELHI/LONDON, Jan 7 (Agencies): International best practices to help power India's export growth engine. PMF India Permanent Founder Member Committee instituted, comprising Ankit Utreja, Anand Mohan, Maya Desouza, and Rahul Gossain.

UK-based PM Forum, the world's largest community of professional services marketers, with over 4,000 members across 40 countries, announced the launch of its India Chapter, PM Forum India (PMFI), with the opening of memberships and the institution of the India Core Committee (CC). The founding members Ankit Utreja (Chair), Anand Mohan, Maya De Souza, and Rahul Gossain adopted the India member engagement charter that will govern and drive engagement for PM Forum members in India, starting with a launch event in January 2025, in line with PM Forum's international practices.

Announcing the

launch of PM Forum's India Chapter, Richard Chaplin, Founder of PM Forum, UK, said, "PM Forum India is set to go places with a great core committee in place to facilitate and huge growth opportunities on offer, with demand set to grow multifold for professional services marketing professionals with a global outlook and the ability to seamlessly integrate local market understanding with international best practices."

With this launch, PM Forum UK will directly onboard members from India, handling all membership and commercial aspects, to ensure members can access the same valuable knowledge, insights, inspiration, platform access, and broader experience as their international counterparts.

Alongside, the CC, working on a pro bono basis, will drive member engagement and facilitate participation.

The PMFI Management Committee will



now be constituted to govern India member engagement, rotating PM Forum India committee members, and a PM Forum UK representative.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, Ankit Utreja, Chair of PM Forum India (PMFI), said, "The committee and I are excited to build the PM Forum India community. Given the increasingly critical role of professional services in India's economy and the implied importance of marketing, it is the perfect time for the PM Forum's India Chapter to take shape. I'm look-

ing forward to building collaboration and facilitating networking and knowledge-sharing among industry professionals in India."

that PM Forum will play a key enabling role in building a dynamic community for professional services marketing specialists that will facilitate collaboration, learning, and the exchange and integration of international practices."

Professional services and consulting is the fastest-growing and second-largest category of services exported from India, with over an 18% share of total services exports. This highlights the critical role being played by professional services marketers in the growth sector, which requires specialist knowledge-based marketing capabilities.

PM Forum's global network includes leading individuals and firms from law, accountancy, property, engineering, consultancy, and specialist sectors like real estate and healthcare.

In India, PMFI will begin with the legal and consulting space and expand to other sectors like healthcare, real estate, advocacy, and public policy.

Commenting on the launch in India, Neha Sawjani, Regional Director, PM Forum, UK, said, "I am confident

Vodafone Idea to launch its 5G network in phased manner: CEO Akshaya Moondra



NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), India's third-largest telecom service provider, is set to launch its 5G network in a phased manner. In a letter to subscribers, Chief Executive Officer Akshaya Moondra stated that by March 2025, thousands of new sites will enhance the connectivity of Vodafone Idea's network.

"The future is here! We are preparing for the phased rollout of 5G, bringing you blazing-fast and unparalleled experiences," said Moondra in the letter.

Vodafone Idea is

the only private telecom operator yet to announce a commercial 5G network in the country. Its competitors, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, have already rolled out their 5G networks nationwide.

Vi had earlier announced that it would launch its 5G network by March 2025. In the letter, the company highlighted its partnerships with global leaders such as Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung.

By March 2025, thousands of new sites will enhance connectivity, elevating the network experience to extraordinary heights. Moon-

dra also noted that the company added over 46,000 new sites in 2024, enhancing its network like never before. Additionally, the capacity at over 58,000 sites was boosted, enabling customers to do more online, faster.

"A lot more of our network is now using Indoor Coverage Plus technology, which significantly improves indoor coverage and quality whether you're at home, in the office, or at a mall," said Moondra.

The telco has also launched cutting-edge SPAM detection solutions to provide a seamless and secure experience. Vodafone Idea is also introducing new, first-of-their-kind tariff plans designed with customers' usage in mind. The telco claims to have India's best 4G network, as recognized by OpenSignal, the global leader in network testing. Vi has excelled across all performance metrics, including 4G download and upload speeds, 4G video and gaming experiences, and 4G voice app calling performance.

Markets rebound in early trade after sharp decline in previous session

MUMBAI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Tuesday after a sharp decline in the previous session driven by buying in blue-chip stocks like Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 422.62 points to 78,387.61 in early trade. The NSE Nifty climbed 160.2 points to 23,776.25.

From the 30-share

blue-chip pack, Titan, Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Power Grid and Tata Motors were among the biggest gainers.

Zomato emerged as the only laggard. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo traded in the positive territory, while Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted lower.

US markets ended mostly higher on Monday.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 2,575.06 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.14 per cent to USD 76.19 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark tanked 1,258.12 points or 1.59 per cent to close below the 78,000 level at 77,964.99 on Monday. The Nifty slumped 388.70 points or 1.62 per cent to 23,616.05.

Microsoft to invest \$3 billion in India, to train 10 million people in AI by 2030

BENGALURU, Jan 7 (Agencies): Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella on Tuesday announced \$3 billion investment in India over the next two years for cloud and AI infrastructure.

Speaking at the company's AI (artificial intelligence) event here in Bengaluru, Nadella said the investments reaffirm our commitment to making India AI-first, and will help ensure people and organisations across the country benefit broadly. India



is rapidly becoming a leader in AI innovation, unlocking new opportunity across the country, he said.

He also announced that the company will train and skill 10 mil-

lion people in AI skills in India by 2030. This training is part of the second edition of its ADVANTA(I)GE India program.

Last year the company launched the

ADVANTA(I)GE India initiative with the goal of training two million people in AI skills by 2025.

It has now surpassed this target with 2.4 million individuals trained in within a year. About 65% of the participants were women, and 74% came from tier II and tier III cities.

Microsoft will also expand its cloud and AI infrastructure across datacenter campuses in India. It has three data-center regions in the domestic market, and

the fourth will go live in 2026.

Its investment in the country aims to develop a scalable AI computing ecosystem to meet the growing demands of the country's rapidly expanding AI start-ups and research community, the company said.

Talking about GitHub platform, the CEO said India will have the largest developer community on GitHub by 2028. The country's contributions to GenAI projects stands at 30,594, next to the US.

Diet, lifestyle influences chances of age-related brain disorders: Study

WASHINGTON, Jan 7 (Agencies): The scientists at the Allen Institute for Brain Science have identified the molecular changes that occur in the brains of ageing mice and located a hot spot where most damage is centralized. The cells in the area are also connected with metabolism, thus suggesting a connection between diet and brain health.

Scientists at the Allen Institute have identified specific cell types in the brains of mice that undergo major changes as they age, along with a specific hot spot where many of those changes occur. The discoveries are published in the journal Nature.

The study found that in ageing brains, genes associated with inflammation increased in activity while those related to neuronal structure and function decreased.

"Our hypothesis is that those cell types are getting less efficient at integrating signals from our environment or from things that we're consuming," said Kelly Jin, Ph.D., a scientist at the Allen Institute for Brain Science and lead author of the study.

"And that loss of efficiency somehow contributes to what we know as ageing in the rest of our body. I think that's pretty amazing, and I think it's remarkable that we're able to find those very specific changes with the methods that we're using."

Through this study, scientists discovered a possible connection between diet, lifestyle factors, brain ageing, and changes that can influence our suscep-



tibility to age-related brain disorders.

They found a specific hot spot combining both the decrease in neuronal function and the increase in inflammation in the hypothalamus. The most significant gene expression changes were found in cell types near the third ventricle of the hypothalamus, including tanycytes, ependymal cells, and neurons known for their role in food intake, energy homeostasis, metabolism, and how our bodies use nutrients.

To conduct the study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), researchers used cutting-edge single-cell RNA sequencing and advanced brain-mapping tools developed through NIH's THE BRAIN Initiative to map over 1.2 million brain cells from young (two months old) and aged (18 months old) mice across 16 broad brain regions.

The aged mice are what scientists consider to be the equivalent of a late middle-aged human. Mouse brains share many similarities with human brains in terms of structure, function, genes, and cell types.

The scientists believe that the result of this study could pave the way for future therapies to slow or manage the ageing process in the brain.

Why patients worry more after seeing incomprehensible medical test results

NEW YORK, Jan 7 (Agencies): Medical reports worldwide are not written with patients in mind, which increases their overall level of worry as they find test results hard to understand, according to researchers.

For example, a standard pathology report is written by a pathologist for a clinical specialist like a surgeon or a cancer doctor or for other pathologists to read, said Cathryn Lapedis, of the Department of Pathology at University of Michigan Health in the US.

In a study published in the journal JAMA, Lapedis and her colleagues tested whether people could understand standard pathology reports and whether a patient-centred report might improve patient understanding.

A patient-centred pathology report gives important information on the patient's diagnosis in a clear format that minimises medical terminology, she said.

For example, a standard pathology report will include a term like prostatic adenocarcinoma, but the patient-centred report will simply call it prostate cancer.

The team recruited 2,238 adults, aged 55 to 84, who had a prostate but no history of prostate cancer. Participants were provided with a hypothetical scenario in which they were seeking care due to troubling urinary symptoms, received a biopsy and then would receive results from that test through their patient portal.

They were also asked to report their level of worry based on the results.

"We found that most people cannot get basic information — like whether or not they have prostate cancer from standard pathology reports. For example, in our participants reviewing the standard University report, only 39 per cent could accurately identify that the report showed cancer," said Lapedis.

However, 93 per cent of those who received the patient-centred pathology report accurately identified that the report showed prostate cancer.

Participants' level of worry was more closely associated with their risk level.

The study authors recommend that hospital systems consider including patient-centred pathology reports with standard reports to improve patient understanding.

Anti-obesity class of drugs related with fewer post-surgery complications: Study



NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Taking the 'GLP-1 receptor agonist' class of anti-obesity drugs is related with lower rates of post-surgery complications in people with diabetes, according to a study.

GLP-1 receptor agonist, or GLP-1 RA, drugs help treat diabetes by weight loss, improving blood glucose levels and increasing insulin sensitivity, low levels of which are a risk factor for diabetes.

Researchers, led by those at Weill Cornell Medicine, the US, analysed hospital records of over 74,400 surgical procedures performed from February 2020 to July 2023 on nearly 22,000 patients with diabetes.

Patients taking the anti-obesity drugs had

about 12 per cent lower risk of hospital re-admission within a month of surgery, compared to those not taking these medications, according to the findings published in the journal 'Annals of Surgery'.

The team also found 29 per cent lower risk of wound re-opening within six months of surgery, and about 56 per cent lower risk of haematoma—when blood collects in a tissue due to an injury at the surgery site—in this group of patients.

"These findings from such a large number of patients and procedures suggest that taking these drugs shouldn't worsen overall post-surgical complications, and may even reduce the likelihood of some of them," senior author

Dr Jason Spector, chief of the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery and a professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, said.

For the analysis, the researchers recorded the rates of 30-day hospital re-admissions and post-surgical adverse events during the follow-up period of at least six months. The rates were compared among patients with and without active GLP-1 RA drug prescriptions.

The results showed that the patients who were prescribed GLP-1 RA drugs were modestly less likely to require hospital re-admission within 30 days of surgery, implying fewer overall complications.

"An active perioperative GLP-1 RA prescription in patients with diabetes was associated with significant reductions in risk-adjusted readmission, wound dehiscence (re-opening), and haematoma, and no difference in infection and bleeding rates," the authors wrote.

Shastri, Ponting question Shami's injury management, say his inclusion could have boosted India

SYDNEY, Jan 7 (Agencies): Questioning Mohammed Shami's injury management, former greats Ravi Shastri and Ricky Ponting said the veteran pacer could have tilted the series in India's favour had he been added to the squad in the second half of the five-match Border-Gavaskar series.

India's decade-long stranglehold on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy ended after they went down by six wickets in Sydney to lose the series 1-3.

The pacer, after recovering from an ankle injury, returned to action for his home state Bengal and impressed in all the three formats—Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 and Vijay Hazare one-dayers, raising hopes of a late inclusion.

But he was officially ruled out before the fourth Test in Melbourne with the BCCI medical team citing a knee swelling, though both Ponting and Shastri believe a trip to Australia and a return late in the series could have been pushed.

"To be honest, I was very surprised with the communication going on in the media as to what exactly happened to Mohammed Shami," the former Indian head coach stated in The ICC Review.

"Where is he when it comes to recovery? He's been sitting in the NCA for I don't know how long. Why can't proper communication come out on where he



stands? A player of his ability, I would have brought him to Australia."

"Absolutely, there's no question about that (Shami could have tilted the series in Melbourne or Sydney)," Shastri added.

The 62-year-old further said it would have been beneficial if Shami had, at least, travelled with the group in Australia.

"I would have kept him part of the team and made sure that his rehabilitation was done with the team," said Shastri.

"And then if we thought by the third Test match that no, this guy can't play the rest of the series, I would let him go. But I would have brought him with the team,

kept him, monitored him with the best of the physios and best of the advice even from international physios who are in Australia and seeing how he went. But I would have kept him in the mix." Shastri believes the fast bowler could have provided adequate help to Jasprit Bumrah, who too struggled with fitness at the end of the series and could not bowl in the second innings of the Sydney Test.

"It got so tight at 1-1 going into Melbourne," he said.

"You just needed that experience and support. For all you know, he might have raised the bar as well. And it would have been the two guys there (Bumrah and Shami).

"Pat Cummins couldn't have done it on his own. Scotty Boland had to step in. So you needed a bowler of his experience. You know, as hard as Mohammed Siraj tried, you needed Shami's experience there." Echoing Shastri's views, Australian World Cup-winning captain Ponting said: "I was really surprised when he wasn't flown out even halfway through the series, two Test matches in." "India's make-up obviously had Nitish Reddy there. So you had another seam bowling all-rounder anyway."

"So, if Shami, even if he wasn't fully fit, if he had to bowl fewer overs in a day, you had a backup seam bowling option to help him out and I think he could have been the difference."

"When you asked me (in an earlier The ICC Review) at the start about what I thought the result would be, I said 3-1 Australia because Shami wasn't there. That was the first thing I said. That's how important I felt he was to India."

"If Shami, Bumrah and Siraj were in their starting team, I think things could have been completely different here in Australia." Shami is currently playing in the domestic one-dayers for the Vijay Hazare Trophy and it remains to be seen if he's included for the England home series ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy in February.

Don't feel I was in race for opener's slot in Border-Gavaskar Tests: Renshaw



SYDNEY, Jan 7 (Agencies): Australian Test batter Matt Renshaw said on Tuesday that he had no idea if he was in the race to replace retired opener David Warner in the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar series against India, which the hosts won 3-1.

Several names, including Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris, Nathan McSweeney, Sam Konstas and Renshaw, were discussed by Cricket Australia as potential options for opening the innings.

McSweeney and Konstas made it to the playing XI, with the former playing the first three

Tests and the latter getting included in the last two.

Renshaw felt he figured way down in the Australian selection pecking order for the opener's slot.

"I probably wouldn't say that I got caught up in the opener race. I don't think I was in it at all," Renshaw told SEN Radio.

"I'm probably further away than a few of the boys (to be selected) but most of my Tests have been in Asia so I've got a fair bit of experience there if called upon," added Renshaw, who would be fancying his chances as Australia select the squad for the Test series against Sri

Lanka later this month.

Renshaw said he just wants to enjoy his cricket without bothering too much about selection issues.

"It's been me trying to play my cricket the way I want to and I've really enjoyed it. (I'm) feeling really good about my cricket and how my batting is going and obviously there's aspirations there but I'm really enjoying my cricket right now."

Renshaw, 28, who has played 14 Tests, said opening the batting was a specialists' job and not everyone is cut out for the role.

"Opening is a specialist position, it's one of the toughest jobs in world sport," said Renshaw who last played a Test in February 2023 in the tour of India.

"If Steve Smith goes up the top and doesn't have the experience he would like, you can tell it's pretty difficult. I feel like I could bat anywhere if that opportunity came but I'll keep opening for Queensland because it brings me the most satisfaction when you succeed."

Asian Games gold medallist Bahadur Singh Sagoo elected as new Athletics Federation of India President

NEW DELHI, Jan 7 (Agencies): Bahadur Singh Sagoo has been elected as the new president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday.

The Asian Games shot put medallist replaced the outgoing Adille Sumariwalla as the president of the Indian athletics federation. Sagoo was elected as the new president during the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the federation in Chandigarh.

With the arrival of Sagoo, Sumariwalla's stint as the AFI president, which lasted for more than a decade will conclude. The 67-year-old became the AFI president in 2012.

Sagoo is a one-time Asian medallist and two-time national champion. The 51-year-old won a gold medal in the 2002 Busan Asian Games in the shot put. He also competed in the 2000 and 2004 Olympics. His best attempt of 20.40m came in 2004 in Koncha-Zaspa, Kyiv.



Meanwhile, Sandeep Mehta who held the position of senior joint secretary was elected as the secretary of the body during the AGM.

During Sumariwalla's reign, India rose to new heights in athletics. Neeraj Chopra stood out among those athletes. He won back-to-back Olympic medals in the javelin throw event. In the Tokyo edition, he won the historic gold for India. In the Paris edition, he followed it up with a silver medal.

The news Athletics boss will have his hands full with India set to host the World Athletics Continental Tour level

event for the first time on August 10.

The bronze-level Continental Tour athletics event will take place in Bhubaneswar, according to AFI's 2025 season competitive calendar, as per Olympics.com. The meet is named as 'Indian Open'. The Continental Tour is an annual series of track and field competitions, that comes under the second tier of global meetings after the elite-level Diamond League. It was launched in 2020 as a successor to the World Challenge Series and features four levels, gold, silver, bronze and challenger.

Home whitewash bigger than BGT loss; unfair to target Rohit, Virat: Yuvraj

DUBAI, Jan 7 (Agencies): World Cup-winning former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has said that being whitewashed at home by New Zealand was a bigger low for Team India than the loss of Border-Gavaskar Trophy but refused to join the chorus of criticism against embattled veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

India have endured a difficult last few months in the five-day format, going down 0-3 to an under-strength New Zealand at home, which was a first in the team's Test history. This was followed by a 1-3 drubbing by Australia in the away edition of the Border Gavaskar series.

Both the debacles have been largely attributed to the team's batting frailties, especially those of Rohit and Kohli.

"According to me, losing (to) New Zealand is more hurting (sic). Because they are losing 3-0 at home. You know, that is not acceptable. This (losing BGT) is still acceptable because you have won two times in



Australia. And this time you lost," Yuvraj told agency in an interview here.

"Australia has been a dominant side for the last so many years, that is my thought," the 43-year-old hero of India's 2011 World Cup triumph said.

While Kohli managed at least a hundred during the series despite continuing to be dismissed whenever he was baited outside the off stump,

of the greatest cricketers of this time. Okay, they lost, they did not play good cricket. They are getting hurt more than us," he added.

Hopeful that India would bounce back strongly, Yuvraj said he has full faith in not just Rohit and Kohli but also new head coach Gautam Gambhir, who was his former teammate as well.

"I feel that Gautam Gambhir as a coach, Ajit Agarkar as a selector, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, they are the best minds in cricket right now," he asserted.

"And they have to decide what's the way for Indian cricket in future," he said.

The big-hitting former batter also lauded Rohit for dropping himself from the Sydney Test, saying it was a selfless act. "I think it is a big thing. I have never seen in the past that the captain's form is not going well and he himself has gone out. And this is Rohit Sharma's greatness that he has kept

the team ahead of himself," Yuvraj said.

"I think he is a great captain. Whether win or lose, he will always be a great captain. And in his captaincy, we have played the (ODI) World Cup final. We won a T20 World Cup. We have achieved a lot," he pointed out.

He urged the critics to exercise restraint while dissecting the team's performance.

"I was a student of the game and now I am a student of the game. The amount of cricket I have played, they have played more cricket than me," said the man, who played 304 ODIs, 40 Tests and 58 T20 Internationals for India, amassing 11,000 runs across formats.

"I can give my opinion. And my opinion is that when players are not performing, it is easy to say bad about them. But it is very difficult to support them. Media's job is to say bad about them. My job is to support my friends and brothers. For me, they are my family. Simple," he signed off.

SA's Rabada draws battle lines as WTC final against Australia confirmed

The Proteas closed out their bilateral cycle with a 10-wicket win over Pakistan in Cape Town, completing a clean sweep against Shan Masood's side following their earlier two-wicket win in Centurion.

CAPE TOWN, Jan 7 (Agencies): Following his side's series win over Pakistan at home, South African pacer Kagiso Rabada hinted that plans are already in the works to battle Australia in the ICC World Test Championship final in June, saying that Proteas know "how to beat" Aussies, the ICC Cricket reported.

The Proteas closed out their bilateral cycle with a 10-wicket win over Pakistan in Cape Town, completing a clean sweep against Shan Masood's side following their earlier two-

wicket win in Centurion. Bowling Pakistan out a second time after asking the tourists to follow on, David Bedingham brought a swift end to proceedings, scoring 47 from just 30 balls to chase down the target of 58 in just 7.1 overs.

Rabada, who claimed six wickets in the win to help the Proteas to a seventh straight Test victory, said he and his side are already looking ahead (at their Lord's meeting with Pat Cummins' men in June).

"It is actually quite some distance away, but a big occasion like

the World Test Championship Final gets you up for it," Rabada said on SuperSport's television coverage after the Test as quoted by ICC.

"South Africa versus Australia has always been an intense rivalry, because we play cricket quite similarly. We play hard - and they are going to come hard at us, and we know that. "But we also know how to beat them. Test cricket is our best format that we have been playing right now," Rabada added.

"When you look at South African cricket and all our legends,



they have all been great Test cricketers. The world's best players are Test cricketers, and this series against Pakistan has been a wonderful advertisement for Test

cricket, especially in South Africa," he concluded.

South Africa finished with 69.44 per cent of possible points across the cycle for table-top-

ping bragging rights, with fellow finalist Australia (63.73 per cent of possible points) unable to eclipse the figure even with a clean sweep victory in their upcoming series against Sri Lanka.

South Africa do not have a Test match scheduled between now and the final, though Proteas coach Shukri Conrad has outlined potential preparations.

"We are going to try and get a Test match, possibly in the UK, against Ireland or Afghanistan, whoever is free," Conrad said.

"And if unsuccessful,

we will obviously go out a couple of days earlier, and make sure we camp there really well, probably in Canterbury," he added.

Following the victory, Conrad saluted the work of captain Temba Bavuma, leading the team with aplomb and scoring two centuries and three half-centuries across the team's home Test summer.

"He has played unbelievably well this summer, and full marks to him," Conrad said.

"I think any captain who wants to lead from the front, they want to

lead through performance as well, and that is what Temba's done exceptionally well.

He has not lost a game as captain of South Africa (winning eight out of nine Tests). Leading from the front, turning out the performances he has had, he is probably in the form of his life," he added.

"I have not seen him play any better, and that obviously gives you a lot of confidence when you're captaining as well. I wouldn't want anyone else to be captaining us," he concluded.

Dimple to hold protest at Jantar Mantar in February for restoration of J&K's statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, held a press conference where he made several demands to the Chief Election Commission of India.

He called for the immediate announcement of election dates for the four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, the by-elections in Nagrota and Budgam, and the simultaneous holding of Jammu and Srinagar corporation ULB and municipal elections alongside the Delhi elections.

Dimple also urged the



alliance government to nominate a Dogra candidate from Jammu for the Rajya Sabha seat, highlighting the absence of Jammu district representation in the alliance government.

He expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of constituency development funds for

MLAs despite the provision of luxury cars and other privileges to them. Dimple further criticized the dual power centers in the region for creating confusion among the youth and the people.

He demanded the immediate nomination of members for the Rajya Sabha seats, includ-

ing one Dogra candidate from Jammu, and requested that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah nominate five MLAs, including two women, two Kashmiri Pandits, and one West Pakistan refugee.

Dimple also urged the Chief Election Commission and the Jammu and Kashmir government to hold local body elections, including Panchayat elections, to restore complete democracy. He emphasized the need for free electricity, drinking water, 12 free LPG cylinders, double rations for all J&K residents, and an employment pack-

age for the unemployed educated youth.

Additionally, he announced plans for a strong protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi in February for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Articles 370 and 35-A, and the Instrument of Accession conditions. Dimple also noted that all political parties are in contact to fight unitedly for the restoration of J&K's statehood. Senior leaders present at the press conference included Sudershan Sharma, Mohan Lal, Bishan Das, Rinku Sharma, Sanjay Kumar, and Brahma Dutt.

Complete development works in planned manner: MLA Bishnah

Top News Report

BISHNAH, Jan 7: Dr Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MLA launched multiple development works in Panchayat Lower Sarore and Kiryal Brahmana amounting to Rs.46 lakh to upgrade the living standards of the people for providing full facilities in their door steps.

Dr Rajeev said that suggestions from public representatives should be taken in public-relat-

ed works.

Therefore, all departmental officers should communicate with local public representatives regarding the construction works of their respective departments, take suggestions from them, and also implement these suggestions.

He said that the construction works which provide immediate relief and convenience to the public should be completed on priority.

While addressing the public meeting at Upper Sarore and Kiryal Brahmana Dr.Rajeev impressed upon the Rural Development Authority to put forward their best efforts as a Model Constituency and new DPR shall be made for Cluster Model villages of the Bishnah Constituency, the officers assured the MLA the works shall be identified for the new projects at the earliest.

Sun Pharma inaugurates sewing training-cum-production centre at Samba

Top News Report

SAMBA, Jan 7: As a part of its CSR vision to bring about the holistic development of under-served communities in a sustainable manner, Sun Pharma, a pharmaceutical company, inaugurated a sewing training-cum-production centre today in Samba near Jammu in collaboration with the NGO Usha International.

This initiative aims to empower 25 women from low-income groups in the area, by enhancing their skills and promoting micro-enterprises.

As part of the program, participants will receive

25 days of intensive training in sewing and stitching.

They will also be guided on establishing village-level sewing enterprises, encouraging self-reliance and driving social change within their communities. The participants will be provided continuous skill enhancement and ongoing support through regular follow-ups and market linkages.

This initiative seeks to uplift the socio-economic status and quality of life of participating women, improve access to education and healthcare for their families, and create employment opportunities



at the village level.

The inauguration event was graced by Chand-er Prakash Ganga, MLA Vijaypur Constituency, Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries and Commerce, Jammu, and Miss Parul Khajuria, Block Development Officer,

Block Bari Brahmana, who appreciated the efforts for women through skill development.

Commenting on the launch, Chandrashekhar Gowda, AVP - Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, said, "At Sun Pharma, we are deeply

committed to promoting social change and economic self-reliance.

By equipping women with essential skills and opportunities we aim to foster resilience, economic independence and greater gender equality. Sun Pharma is working closely with local and district administration to ensure the success of this initiative".

Through its partnership with Usha International for this Usha Silai School program, Sun Pharma underscores its commitment to driving meaningful societal change and fostering the development of communities in need.

Bye-polls for Budgam, Nagrota to be announced later: CEC

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 7: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced that it would hold bye-elections in Jammu & Kashmir later due to snowy conditions. The ECI stated that they still have time to conduct the elections.

Addressing a news conference, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, said that they are not announcing the schedule for bye-polls in Budgam and Nagrota today due to the snowy conditions in the region.

The CEC mentioned that they have until

April 20 to hold the electoral exercise.

Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat on

October 21, while the Nagrota seat became vacant on October 31 following the demise of Devender Singh Rana.

According to section 151A of the Representation of Peoples Act-1951, a bye-election for filling any vacancy must be held within six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy.

While the BJP is likely to field Devender Singh Rana's daughter, Devyani Rana, as its candidate for the Nagrota seat, there

is widespread curiosity about who the NC's candidate for the Budgam seat will be.

The NC has not provided any hints about its candidate, evoking interest among political observers and voters alike.

In the 2024 J&K polls, Omar Abdullah won the Budgam seat by defeating Muntazir Mehdi, son of separatist leader Agha Hassan, by a margin of more than 18,000 votes.

Devender Singh Rana won the Nagrota seat by defeating Joginder Singh of the National Conference by 30,472 votes.

Narinder, Karan pay floral tributes to PDP founder on his death anniversary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 7: PDP incharge RS Pura Jammu South Narinder Sharma and PDP incharge Suchetgarh constituency Karan Singh today paid floral tributes to former J&K Chief Minister Late Mufti Mohd Sayeed on his death anniversary at party headquarter in Gandhi Nagar on Tuesday.

Earlier both the leaders addressed party cadre at Kotli Shah Doula before leaving for party headquarter in Gandhi Nagar to attend grand tribute programme to pay tributes to founder of PDP.

Narinder paying tributes to Late Mufti Mohd Sayeed said that responding to the people's innermost yearning for peace with dignity, Mufti after assuming charge as the Chief Minister of J&K in 2002, crusaded the "Healing Touch" policy to repair the people's hurt psyche, salvaging their bruised dignity, rekindling a new hope in their hearts and motivating them to mould their destiny through a participatory political and democratic process.

The result was there for all to behold and fortunately, the country's leadership, at that time also understood and appreciated the rejuvenating and hopeful political transformation in the State and responded to it in good measure.

Seen as a visionary leader, a smart political strategist and masterful politician, Narinder said Mufti's arrival on the stage in J&K in 2002 and his deft handling of the delicate political equations resulted in an almost instant change in the situation, both within the State and in the regional context.

His invitation to the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to address a rally in Srinagar, first ever for a Prime Minister in nearly two decades,

from the PDP stage, triggered a new wave of peace efforts which culminated in withdrawal of forces from forward areas, ceasefire along the borders, disbanding of instruments like STF and SOG, scrapping of POTA and release of political prisoners.

It also led to a direct engagement between India and Pakistan and of the Central Government with the separatist leaders in Kashmir, added Narinder.

Narinder further said that Mufti Mohammad Sayeed believed that facilitating free movement of goods and people through the traditional cross-LoC routes in Jammu & Kashmir would help the policymakers on the two sides of the divide to facilitate the political changes that the people in the region so badly need. He saw the opening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote roads along the LoC as a stepping stone towards forging a new economic alliance in the region.

Within the State, Mufti's political focus was on connecting communities and regions into one conglomerate of harmonious diversities. His emphasis on improving the trust levels between two main regions of Kashmir and Jammu has remained the driving force for his party PDP's political engagement in all the regions and sub-regions that it could emerge as a unifying force that offers channels of aspirations and representation to each one of them.

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was a strong votary of friendly relations between India and Pakistan, which he believed was critical to the political stability in J&K as well the Subcontinent.

He was a staunch believer in the democratic polity and was responsible for introducing political

competition in the state, added Narinder.

Speaking on the occasion, Karan Singh said Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, had an illustrious political career, that culminated when he became the Chief Minister of the state for the first time in 2002.

He was sworn in for the second time as Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir on March 01, 2015. Mufti Sayeed had also earlier served as Union Home and Tourism Minister. One of the last politicians in Jammu & Kashmir, who had grown into the mould of an upright and unblemished statesman, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed represented courage of conviction and a lifelong political struggle spanning over five decades.

His vision for the state of Jammu & Kashmir as a distinct feature of the idea of India is complemented by the clear-cut democratic construct of his political thought, an inclusive polity and ingenious development, added Karan Singh.

Karan Singh said late CM distinguished himself through remarkable political acumen and vision. Throughout his life, Sayeed worked for the socio-political transformation and betterment of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In his passing away, we have lost an outstanding public figure who was always in touch with the grassroots of society.

Sayeed's contribution to Jammu and Kashmir and India through long years of public service will be always remembered. Senior politician Mufti Mohammad Sayeed came a long way from being the man with little popular connect and someone who couldn't win elections outside his south Kashmir stronghold to twice become the chief minister of a state scarred by decades of violence.



Government Of India Certified Course

MASTER MATHEMATICS

with the Power of Vedic Maths

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

100% LIVE

249 Days Course

Rs. 249/- Only

249 Days of Learning
79 LIVE Classes
3 Sessions Per Week

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

Book Your Spot:
7087312888, 7087313888, 7087871871

Link in Description



SCAN QR CODE TO PAY