

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

J&K shivers as cold wave intensifies, Dry weather forecast for next 24 hours

SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): Intense cold because of the narrowing gap between the maximum and minimum temperatures continued in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday as the Meteorological (MeT) office forecasted cold, dry weather during the next 24 hours in the union territory.

The maximum temperature was 5.8 degrees Celsius in Srinagar city on Saturday while the minimum temperature was minus 3 degrees on Sunday.

In Gulmarg, the maximum temperature was 2.4 degrees on Saturday while the minimum was minus 5.6 degrees on Sunday. Similarly, Pahalgam had a maximum temperature of 4.8 degrees while the minimum was minus 6.2 degrees on Sunday.

Jammu city had 10.5 degrees, Katra town 8.4, Batote 4.6, Banihal 0.7 and Bhaderwah 2.5 as the minimum temperature.

A MeT office statement said, "On January 12, generally cloudy in the morning and forenoon, and improvement thereafter. On January 13, mainly clear with dry weather. On January 14, generally cloudy with dry weather. On January 15 and 16, generally cloudy with light snow at isolated higher reaches. On January 17 and 18, generally cloudy."

The 40-day-long period of harsh winter cold known locally as the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21 and will end on January 30. It is during this 40-day long period of intense cold that Kashmiris keep themselves warm with a loose tweed overgarment called the 'Pheran'. Underneath the Pheran, they hold a firepot woven in a basket of willow wicker called the 'Kangri'. The two help locals keep cold away and survive the Chillai Kalan.

Doctors have cautioned people, especially, children and elders to protect themselves from long exposure to extreme cold. Hypothermia caused by extreme cold is responsible for constriction of blood vessels. Constricted blood vessels result in heart attacks and heart failures.

The use of Pheran and Kangri has become unavoidable for locals as fund-starved

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Over 100 bank accounts linked to drug traffickers frozen in Srinagar: Police



SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): The district Police Srinagar Sunday said to have intensified financial investigations into multiple narcotic smuggling cases, leading to the freezing of more than 100 bank accounts linked to drug traffickers.

"These accounts collectively contain deposits amounting to several lakhs of rupees," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO). All transactions associated with these accounts are under detailed scrutiny to trace the flow of illicit funds, police said.

"The freezing of these accounts has effectively blocked access to financial resources used by drug trafficking networks," police said.

The individuals holding these accounts have been arrested in connection with cases registered under the Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Srinagar District. Those apprehended have been involved in the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, posing a significant threat to the community, particularly the youth, the statement added.

"Comprehensive investigations, conducted under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, have led to the freezing of these

bank accounts containing substantial sums, prima-facie identified as proceeds of illegal narcotic trade. Furthermore, moveable and immovable properties valued at crores of rupees, found to be acquired through these illicit activities, have been attached under the applicable legal framework," police said.

This action has been set into motion under Section 68F(2) of the NDPS Act, the statement said.

"J&K Police remains steadfast in its commitment to combating the menace of drug abuse and trafficking. Police urges the public to join hands in this fight by providing any information related to drug peddling or drug abuse. Members of the public are requested to contact their nearest police station or dial 112 to report drugs related suspicious activities," police said.

ADGP Vijay Kumar shifted to Delhi, May join as Special Commissioner

JAMMU, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has transferred Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Law and Order of J&K Police, Vijay Kumar, an IPS officer of the 1997 batch, to the Delhi segment of the AGMUT cadre, amid speculations that he may join Delhi Police as Special Commissioner.

"With the approval of the competent authority, Vijay Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 1997) is hereby transferred from Jammu and Kashmir to Delhi segment of AGMUT cadre with immediate effect or until further orders," an order issued by MHA said.

Kumar had played a major role in combating terrorism during his tenure as IG and ADGP of Kashmir, official sources said.

He also has vast experience in handling anti-



terrorism operations in sensitive districts like Pulwama, Awantipora, Kulgam and Anantnag. His service record includes a unique combination of expertise in anti-terrorist, anti-Maoist and law-and-order operations, both within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

A native of Saharsa district in Bihar, Kumar holds a Master's degree from JNU, New Delhi.

He is also the only IPS officer from the erstwhile J&K cadre to have served in the Special Operations Group

(SOG), the anti-terror wing of J&K Police, in south Kashmir.

In 2023, Kumar was awarded the President's Police Medal for distinguished services on the occasion of Republic Day.

He is also known for handling anti-terror operations in Kashmir, anti-Maoist operations in Bastar area of Chhattisgarh and the Jat agitation.

Kumar has received three gallantry medals from the central government for his role in anti-terror operations. Also, he received a gallantry award from the J&K Government.

The Election Commission of India awarded Kumar the National Award for his role as Chief Force Coordinator of CAPFs in providing a safe environment for conducting Assembly elections of nine states in 2018.

Search Ops to track down terrorists spotted near LoC in Jammu Intensifies On Day 2



JAMMU, Jan 12 (Agencies): A search operation to track down terrorists, whose movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor sector was reported last week, entered the second day on Sunday with forces deploying drones and

other latest equipment, officials said. The operation was launched by different units of the Army in Bhattal area on Saturday after the villagers reported the suspicious movements in the Jogivan forest area. They

other latest equipment, officials said.

The operation was launched by different units of the Army in Bhattal area on Saturday after the villagers reported the suspicious movements in the Jogivan forest area. They

suspected these were infiltrating terrorists.

The search operation is going on with more troops mobilised to cover more area even as there was no trace of the suspected persons so far, the officials said.

They said security forces have deployed drones and other latest equipment besides the sniffer dogs to sanitise the area, while police parties have also joined the search operation.

Three heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) were eliminated in a two-day-long operation in the Akhnoor sector on October 28 and 29 last year.

Chinar Corp celebrates 110th Raising Day in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Jan 12 (Agencies): General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava on Sunday laid a wreath at the Chinar War Memorial, Badami Bagh Cantonment Srinagar on the occasion of 110th Raising Day.

In a post on X, Chinar Corps said on the raising day GOC extended warm greetings to all ranks, their families, veterans, and civil employees.

"Chinar Warriors honour the indomitable spirit and courage of our Bravehearts and



pay obeisance to their supreme sacrifice in service to the Nation, Army posted on X

"GOC, Chinar Corps, and All Ranks of the Chinar Corps laid wreath at the Chinar War Memorial, BB Cantt, Srinagar on the occasion of 110th Raising Day.

Today, we honour the Bravehearts who laid down their lives for our Nation. We remember their sacrifice, we revere their courage & we re-dedicate ourselves to serve with unwavering commitment," another post of Chinar Corps said.

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MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS SIDE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Brother-in-law **Lt. Shri Hira Lal Hakim**, husband of our beloved sister Lt. Smt. Basanti Hakim, originally from Malgar, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, presently residing at Omaya Heights, Faridabad, Haryana. The **10TH DAY KRIYA** shall be held on 14th January, 2025 at Ganga ghat, Chhota Haridwar, Muradnagar, U.P. **MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS SIDE** is being observed at H.No. 277, Lane-M, Sec-2, Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Jammu. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-** Sohan Lal Pandit and Seema Ji (M:9419833827) Pran Ji Pandit and Kaki Ji (M:9419209369) Deepak Kanwal and Lalita Ji Satis Bhabroo and Veena Ji Sunil Kaul and Ananta Pandit Rohit Kaw and Shivani Akshay Pandit and Aanchal Bhan Pandit Vaisha Pandit Akash Pandit Hrkhaan Pandit



LT. SHRI HIRA LAL HAKIM

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief this is to inform that My Brother **Sh. Ajit Raina** S/o Late Sh. J.N.Raina original resident of Village Sirnoo, Pulwama and Sarat Nagar, Rawalpora Srinagar, has left for his heavenly abode on 10th of January-2025. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on Saturday the 18th of January-2025 at Pune. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Smt. Raj Dulari Raina (Mother) Smt. & Sh. Nancy & Ashok Raina (Aunt & Uncle) Anjee Raina (Wife) Anjali & Anil Raina (Brother & Sister in law) Liya & Ajay Raina (Brother & Sister in law) Krishika Raina-Bhan & Avinash Bhan (Daughter & Son in Law) Kailhan, Kanisha, Mariyam, Agastya (Children) Pune Address: 8, LIVSTONIA III PALM GROVES, B.T.KAWDE ROAD, GHORPADI, PUNE 411 036. CONTACT : ANJLEE : +91 89834 67069, ANIL : +91 98603 15559



SH. AJIT RAINA

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Thaker Singh Bhou** (Founder of Nand Public Hr Sec School) R/o Dogra Nagar, Muthi, Jammu on 2nd January, 2025. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at our residence H.No. 422, Sec-2, Dogra Nagar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu on 11th January 2025 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM. **13TH DAY KRIYA** shall be performed at our residence on 15th January (Wednesday) 2025 at 12:00 Noon. **GRIEVING LOVED ONES** Smt. Rattna Bhou - Wife **Sons** Paramjeet Singh Bhou Shubam Singh Bhou **Daughters and Son-in-laws** Reena Bhou and Kuljeet Singh Raju Ruchi Bhou and Sandeep Singh Chib Sujata Bhou and Randhir Singh Katoch **Grandchildren** : Nitya rsh, Ranbir, Kyra, Preyashi, Devanya



Sh. Thaker Singh Bhou

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Ajay Sharma (Govt Contractor J&K Sports Council)** S/o Late Pt Raja Ram Sharma and Smt Dharma Devi (Rehal Waale) who left for his heavenly abode on Saturday 4th January. **10th Day** shall be performed on 12th January 2025, at our residence H No. 419 Lane No. 1 Colonel's Colony Talab Tilko Bohri Jammu. From 10 AM onwards. **UTHALA** would be performed on 13th January at GETTA MANDIR BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU from 4 PM to 5 PM **GRIEF STRICKEN** Rupa Sharma (Wife) Awanya Sharma (Daughter) Ananya Sharma (Daughter) Arianant Ajay Sharma (Son) **Brother & Sister-in-law** Sh Ashwani Sharma & Smt Santosh Sharma Sh Shiv Kumar Sharma & Smt Sarita Sharma **Sisters & Brother in laws** Smt Santosh Khajuria & Sh Shiv Pal Khajuria Smt Madhu Sharma & Sh Brahm Dutt Sharma **Mobile No.** 9796630067, 6005354123, 7006429929 **Nephew** : Mohit, Rohit, Rachit



Sh Ajay Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Rajender Raina** S/o Late Sh. N.N. Raina original resident of Sheshyar Habbakadal presently residing at 705, Gayatri Apartment Sector-45, Faridabad on 5th January, 2025. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 13th January 2025 at Palla No. 1, Ghat Opp. Kanishka Towers Sector-37, Faridabad at 9.00 am. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Jai Kishori Raina (Mother) Usha Pathwari (Wife) Anmol Raina (Son) Apeksha Raina and Raman (Daughter & Son-in-law) Ashok Raina and Usha (Brother & Bhabi) Ravinder Raina and Nummi (Brother & Bhabi) **Mob. No.:** 9871863444, 8700571231



Sh. Rajender Raina

TENTH DAY/ KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

A cherished grandmother, selfless mother and a loving wife to Lt. SUB. Talab Singh Lalotra (2nd BN. The Dogra Regiment), **Smt. Satya Devi** passed away peacefully on 2nd January 2025. The following rituals will be performed at our residence, Ward No. 4, Hiranagar, Kathua: **Tenth Day** on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 12:00 Noon. **Kriya** on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 12:00 Noon. **Rasam Pagri** on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 01:30 PM. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-** **Son and Daughter-in-Law** : SUB. Sarabjeet Singh (Retd.), JKCA & Smt. Dolly Singh **Daughters and Sons-in-Law:** Smt. Neelam Kumari & Sh. Arun Singh Slathia Smt. Usha Rani & Sh. Rakesh Singh Jasrotia **Grandchildren:** Minan, Dolma, Vaasavi, Harsh, Tapasavani **Ph: 7006242460, 7889347748, 8493879 705**



Smt. Satya Devi

BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Er. Surjeet Singh (Retd. SE)** S/o Lt. S. Amar Singh R/o H.No. 55, Sector-7, Lane No.2, Nanak Nagar, who left for heavenly abode on 06-01-2025. In loving memory of departed soul.



ER. SURJEET SINGH (RETD. SE)

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on 12-01-2025 at 10.00 AM at our residence. **Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib** on 14-01-2025 at 10 AM at our residence. **Kirtan & Antim Ardas** at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Guru Nanak Nagar from 10.30 AM to 12 Noon. **GRIEF STRICKEN:-** Sdr. Robinderpal Kour - Wife Gursagar Kour - Daughter **Brothers & Bhabies** Master Avtar Singh & Jasbir Kour S. Mani Singh (Retd. Manager J&K Bank) & Sdr. Ashvinder Kour Sdr. Daljeet Kour W/o Lt. S. Janak Singh S. Kaka Singh & Sdr. Rajinder Kour S. Ajit Singh & Sdr. Harmeet Kour S. Rangil Singh (Edu Dept.) & Sdr. Jatinder Kour S. Joginder Singh Bijral - **Brother-in-law** **Sister-in-laws** Sdr. Pritam Kour W/o Lt. S. Sewa Singh (Bara mulla) (Mother-in-law) S. Harpal Singh (Retd. XEn) & Anju Kour (Headmaster) S. Joginder Singh (Retd. XEn) & Opinderpal Kour (AG Office) S. Prithpal Singh (MES Contractor) & Ravinderpal Kour (Canam)

BARKHI

The Barkhi of our beloved Late **Sh. Puneet Gupta** S/o Lt. Sh. Natha Ram Gupta will be performed at our residence H.No. 51, Mast Garh Jammu on 13th - January 2025 at 12 Noon. **Deeply Missed & Remembered By:** Smt. Sudershan Gupta - Mother Smt. Madhvi Gupta - Wife Sh. Pankaj Gupta - Brother Smt. Jyoti Gupta - Sister-in-law Shriya Gupta - Daughter Mridhu Gupta - Daughter Prateek Gupta - Son Rudhar Gupta, Suryansh Gupta - Nephew



Late Sh. Puneet Gupta

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Sh. Mohan Lal Bhat** S/o Lt. Sh. Prem Nath Bhat originally from Delina, Baramulla, A/p Q.No. 330 Block-P, Tophsherkhania, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 8th Jan 2025. **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 17th Jan 2025 at Akhnoor Ghat and Assembly at Muthi Ghat, near Directorate of School Education at 11:00 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Bushan Lal Bhat & Bitta Ji Bhat - **Brother & Sister-in-law** Roshan Lal Bhat & Dolly Ji - **Brother & Sister-in-law** Vijay Mohan Bhat & Ruby Bhat - **Son & Daughter-in-law** Anita Pandita & Sunil Pandita - **Daughter & Son-in-law** Raj Mohan Bhat - **Son** **Contact Nos:** 9797375166, 9419122337, 9906175273



SH. MOHAN LAL BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved Mother **Smt. Shama Kakroo** W/o Lt. Kashi Nath Kakroo erstwhile R/o Ganpatyar Srinagar, Kashmir presently residing at Lane 25, Block 159/1, Jagti Colony. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed at Sainik School Ghat Nagrota on 16th Jan., 2025 (Thursday) thereafter **Assembly** will be held at Community Hall Lane No. 25 at 12.00 Noon. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Raj Kumar Kakroo and Smt. Simmi Kakroo (**Son & Daughter-in-law**) **Kakroo's, Braroo's, Kuloo's, Bhat's, Zadoo's**



Smt. Shama Kakroo

10TH DAY KRIYA

With heavy hearts and profound grief, we bid farewell to our beloved **Sh. Amarnath Miskeen (Ex-Grindlays Bank, Srinagar)**, resident of 358/13 Shivpora, Ram Munsh Bagh, Srinagar, J&K, who left for his heavenly abode on 5th Jan 2025 in Jaipur, **CREMATION** will be held on 7th Jan 2025. A pathos and a lesson of love, kindness, and strength, his warmth and ever-smiling demeanor touched everyone's lives. His absence leaves an irreplaceable void in our hearts. The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Wednesday, 15th Jan 2025, at Swam Path, Molsha Dam, Shipa Path, Mansarovar, Jaipur, at 9 AM. **GRIEF STRICKEN** Mrs. Pushpa & Astar Krishna Miskeen (Bhabi & Brother) Mrs. Sheela Miskeen (Bhabi) Mrs. Veena Kaul (Daughter) Mrs. Renu & Anil Bhan (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mrs. Sunila & Kamal Gangi (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mrs. Renu & Sarvesh Miskeen (Daughter-in-law & Son) Mrs. Vimi & Anil Labroo (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mrs. Anjali & Umesh Chaglu (Daughter & Son-in-law) Mrs. Anjana & Sunil Tulu (Daughter & Son-in-law) **Grandchildren:** Ankit & Anushika, Iera & Shamee, Anshu & Dhruvika, Rijul & Ruben, Mihir & Megha, Vishu & Opas, Sheenu, Purvika **OTHER RELATIVES** GADROOS, AMBARDARS, PANDITS AND KAWS



Sh. Amarnath Miskeen (Ex-Grindlays Bank, Srinagar)

MASWAR AND VAHARVAD

A year has passed since you left us for Heavenly abode. Dad, your divine presence still engulfs us and your guiding hand on our shoulders and your love will remain with us forever, but shadow of your physical presence in which we all used to take solace is deeply missing. **MASWAR & VAHARVAD** of Sh. Krishan Ji Raina of Chowgam Qazgurd will be performed at our Jammu residence C-311, Royal Nest Apartments Sainik Colony Jammu on 13/01/2025 and 14/01/2025 respectively. **DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY** Smt Shakuntla Raina (Wife) Sh. Rakesh Raina & Smt. Rita Raina (Son and Daughter in Law) Sh. Sanjay Raina & Smt. Jyoti Raina (Son and Daughter in Law) Smt. Sunila Pandita and Sh. R. L. Pandita (Daughter & Son in Law) Sh. Rahul Raina and Smt Kanika Raina (Grand Son & Grand Daughter in Law) Ms Sanjana Raina (Grand Daughter) Smt. Vaishali Hangloo & Sh. Rohit Hangloo (Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law) Smt Ritika Raina and Dr. Gautam Raina (Grand Daughter & Grand Son in Law) Mstr Rovish Hangloo (Great Grand Son) **ALL FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**



SH. KRISHAN JI RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT** S/O LATE SH NATH JI BHAT ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF SIRNATH TEHSIL & DISTRICT PULWAMA, CURRENTLY RESIDING AT H.NO. 78 SEC A2 LAXMIPURAM CHINORE BEHIND SHV MANDIR JAMMU ON 08TH JANUARY, 2025. THE MOURNING FROM IN-LAWS SIDE BEING OBSERVED AT SAME PLACE. **SH BIRU LAL RANA-SHABA JI (BROTHER IN LAW)** **10TH DAY KRIYA** SHALL TAKE PLACE ON 17TH JANUARY, 2025, (FRIDAY) AT AKHNOOR GHAT, JAMMU AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11:00 AM. AT OUR RESIDENCE. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** **DAUGHTERS & SONS IN-LAW** SMT GIRJA MUNSHI & LATE SH SHASHOK MUNSHI (9871869311) SMT SUNITA BHAT & SH VINOD KR. BHAT (7006593530, 9796892230) **SONS & DAUGHTERS IN-LAW** SH SUNIL BHAT & SMT LOVELY (9419222880, 9149958260) SH SATISH BHAT & SMT KHUSHBOO (9419146830, 700693224) SH PYARAY LAL BHAT & SMT PRINCY BHAT (9419631490) SH RAMESH KR. BHAT & SMT. CHAMPA BHAT (7899707874) **GRAND DAUGHTERS & GRAND SONS** NISHA & PRABHAT JI, RUCHIKA & PAWAN JI, PRIYA & VINEET JI, SAHIL & PREETI, RAHUL & REETA, SUMIT, ROHIT, AKASH, KOMAL, NATIK, TIARA, MISHA AND RIVAN



SH. PRITHVI NATH BHAT

TENTH DAY KRIYA

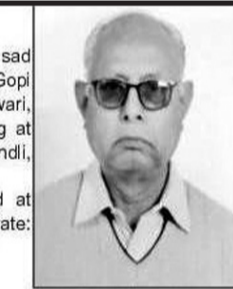
With profound grief and sorrow, We regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Anil Dhar (Munnu ji)** S/o Lt. Sh H.N Dhar of Khan-khai Sokhta Safakadal Srinagar at present H no 321, Suryanshi lane, Dogra Nagar near Mahesh Bharti Ashram Muthi Jammu - 180013 has left for his heavenly abode on 04/01/2025. The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed on 13th Jan 2025 (Monday) and the assembly will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education Jammu at 10:00 am. **GRIEF STRICKEN:** Smt. Indu Bala Dhar (Bhat) - Wife Smt. and Sh. Dileep Kumar Dhar - **Brother & Bhabhi** Smt. Lalita Dhar - **Bhabhi** Sh. Pankaj Dhar - **Daughter** Smt. Promila and Sh. DK Thusoo - **Sister & Brother in law** Smt & Sh Sagar Raina (Muzoo)



SH ANIL DHAR (MUNNU JI)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

We are deeply saddened to inform the sad demise of **Sh. P.K. Dhar** son of Late Dr. Gopi Nath Dhar, originally from Motyar Rainawari, Srinagar (Kashmir), and currently residing at S-1, Flat-602, Kings Bury, TDI City, Kundli, Sonapat (Haryana). The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed at Kheradi Village, Yamuna Ghat, Kundli Date: 16th January 2025 Time: 8:30 AM. **Grief-Stricken** Nalini Dhar (Wife) Sh. Rattan Lal Dhar (Brother) 9619028006. Sh. Ashish Dhar (Son) - 9619028006 Sh. Aseem Dhar (Son) **Samasth Dhar Parivar & Samasth Moza Parivar**



Sh. P.K. Dhar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

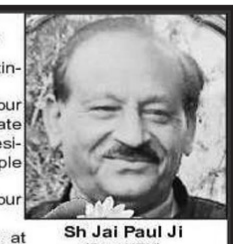
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Shiv Charan Gupta (Retd. Principal)** S/o Lt. Sh. Sant Ram R/o 105 MIG Phase-1, Housing Colony, Udhampur who left for heavenly abode on 03-01-2025. **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 11-01-25 (Saturday) at 11:30 am at Shiv Mandir, Housing Colony, Udhampur. **KRIYA (THIRTEEN DAY)** will be performed on 14-01-25 (Tuesday) at Devika Ghat, Udhampur. **Grief Stricken:** Smt. Padma Devi (Wife) Smt. Saro Devi & Lt. Sh. Jagan Nath (Bhabhi & Brother) Smt. Mohini Gupta & Dr. T. R Gupta (Bhabhi & Brother) Smt. Anita & Sh. Sat Pal Gupta (Daughter & son-in Law) Sh. Pankaj Kumar & Smt Rajni Gupta (Son & Daughter-in Law) Sh. Ajay Kumar & Smt. Kanishka (Son & Daughter-in Law) **Grand Children** **Mob: 9469007445, 9419159638**



Shri Shiv Charan Gupta (Retd. Principal)

KRIYA/UTHALA

The lamp of your inspiration will not extinguish, the rain of love will never get tired. With heavy hearts, we share the news of our beloved **Sh Jai Paul Ji (Retd. XEN)** S/o Late Sh Sain Dass (Akhnoor Wale), presently resident of 8/5 Pandoka Colony near Shiv Temple Paloura, Jammu left us on 01-01-2025. **Kriya** will be performed on 13-01-2025 at our residence from 11.00 am onwards. **Uthala** will be performed on 13-01-2025 at Shiv Temple Pandoka Colony Paloura Jammu from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. **Grief Stricken** Smt Swarn Kanta -Wife Sh Vikas Bhardwaj & Smt Sumali -**Son & Daughter-in-law** Sh Ajay Bhardwaj -**Son** Smt Anamica Bhardwaj & Sh Gourav Jain -**Daughter & Son-in-law** **Grand Children:** Kirtida Bhardwaj, Aditya Bhardwaj, Samariaa Jain, Yuven Jain **Mob. 9419112675**



Sh Jai Paul Ji (Ret. XEN)

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BJP Yuva Morcha celebrates Swami Vivekananda Jayanti on National Youth Day

Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: BJYM (BJP Yuva Morcha), J&K led by its President Arun Prabhat celebrated Swami Vivekananda Jayanti by paying floral tributes to the youth icon, on National Youth Day at various places across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma, President of BJP Jammu Kashmir, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA, Priya Sethi, BJP NEM & Headquarters Incharge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, senior leader Vinay Gupta and others leaders of party, hundreds of BJYM activists and prominent people participated in the events.

The main programmes in this regard were held at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu and Gumat Chowk, Jammu. The events witnessed a large gathering of enthusiastic youth and leaders, all united in honoring



the legacy of Swami Vivekananda and his contributions to the empowerment of young minds across India.

While paying floral tributes, Sat Sharma emphasized the importance of Swami Vivekananda's teachings in shaping the character of the youth. He highlighted that the ideals of strength, courage, and selfless service continue to guide the youth in their pursuit of a brighter future for the nation. "Swami Vivekananda's life is a shining example of how youth can be the driving force of nation-build

ing," Sharma stated.

Ashok Koul, in his tributes to the great youth idol, said that Swami Vivekananda, in his short life span, with his spirituality, wisdom and personality, inspired and infused the youth of the country with a sense of self-respect and a sense of destiny for Bharat as the world leader.

Kavinder Gupta said that despite facing criticism before the 'Dharma Sansad', Swami Vivekananda mesmerized all the dignitaries with his 5 magical words and won the world. Arun Prabhat, President of

BJYM Jammu Kashmir reiterated the relevance of Vivekananda's vision in today's world. He expressed his gratitude to all those who joined in paying tribute to one of India's greatest spiritual leaders.

The events featured a series of speeches, cultural performances, and discussions, engaging the youth of Jammu in a dialogue about the significance of Swami Vivekananda's teachings and how they can be applied to build a stronger and more progressive society.

This celebration of National Youth Day was not just an occasion to remember the great Swami, but a call to action for the youth to take on leadership roles and contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

The BJYM Jammu Kashmir looks forward to continuing its efforts to inspire, educate, and engage the youth of the region in the pursuit of progress, guided by the ideals of Swami Vivekananda.

Kabir Panthi Samaj of Rakh Manghal felicitates newly elected body of All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha

Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: The Kabir Panthi community of Rakh Manghal in Samba district hosted a heartfelt event to honor the newly elected leadership of the All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha. The gathering recognized the contributions of Sh. Shamsher Chand, State President; Sh. Joginder Lal Bhagat, Former President and Retired JKAS officer; and Sh. Janak Raj, General Secretary, during their visit to the village.

On this occasion, the Sabha proudly announced the construction and renovation of a Kabir Temple in Rakh Manghal. The temple will serve as a spiritual and cultural hub for the local community and visitors from across the district. Designed in the traditional style of Indian architecture, the temple will feature intricate carvings, a grand central dome,

and smaller domes and arches. Its interior will be adorned with frescoes and sculptures depicting scenes from the life and teachings of Kabir.

The temple will be situated in a serene location with a beautifully landscaped garden and walking paths. Ample parking facilities and easy accessibility will ensure a welcoming experience for all visitors. The temple is expected to host various religious and cultural events throughout the year, fostering unity and spiritual growth within the community.

Addressing the gathering, Shamsher Chand expressed his joy at the temple's construction, calling it a symbol of peace and reflection. He highlighted the enduring relevance of Kabir's teachings and hoped the temple would inspire all who visit. Janak Raj emphasized the Sabha's commitment to environ-

mental responsibility in the construction process, underscoring the importance of preserving natural surroundings while creating spaces that uplift the human spirit.

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including Joginder Lal Bhagat (Retired JKAS & Former President), Subhash Bhagat (President Kabir Mandir Committee Makhampur), Shiv Ram, Durga Dass, Pritam Lal, Girdhari Lal, Master Kirpal Singh (Ex-Chairman), Mohan Lal, Satpal, Narinder Singh, and others.

The Kabir Temple project is seen as a significant addition to Rakh Manghal, symbolizing the teachings of Kabir and promoting unity and harmony within the community. The All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha looks forward to welcoming visitors to this beautiful and inspiring temple.

Virtual symposium jointly organized by GDC Hiranagar, GCOE Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: A virtual symposium was organized on National Youth Day by Government College of Education, Jammu, and GLDM GDC Hiranagar as an initiative of the NSS units of both colleges, headed by Prof. Shapia Shameem and Prof. Sarita Dogra. The event was graced by Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal of Government College of Education, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal of GLDM GDC Hiranagar, as the Guest of Honour. Both dignitaries addressed and motivated the youth on this

special occasion.

A total of 25 students deliberated upon the said theme "Role of youth in Realising Swami Vivekananda's dream of India" and near about 200 faculty and students were present during the symposium, which was a competitive event. The esteemed jury panel included Dr. Rajinder Kour (Coordinator of B.Ed and M.Ed programs), Dr. Anuradha Chowdhury (HOD, History), and Dr. Rajni Bala (HOD, Sociology).

The winners of the competition were Deeksha (1st position) Shavi (Second position) and Sunaina Rajput as

third The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Deepali Kundal, marking the successful conclusion of the event. Other faculty members gracing the occasion were esteemed Prof. Bindu sharma, Prof. Kiran Thapa, Prof. Amit kumar, Prof. Rakesh, Prof. Rajesh, Prof. Ganga, and Prof. Rupa Kumari.

The event served as a meaningful platform to celebrate the spirit of youth and the timeless teachings of Swami Vivekananda, motivating the students to take active roles in realizing his dreams for a stronger and more inclusive India.

Mechanical Irrigation Employees Federation holds meeting in Srinagar

Demands urgent field staff deployment, regularization

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, Jan 12: A meeting of the Mechanical Irrigation Employees Federation was held under the chairmanship of District Srinagar President Bilal Ahmad Bhat.

The meeting extensively discussed various departmental issues, with a special focus on the shortage of field staff. The union made a strong appeal to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Kashmir, Engineer B.J. Sharma, and the SE Mechanical Irrigation to immediately deploy the existing office staff to field stations in the Srinagar division to ensure timely public services and improve overall work efficiency.

The federation emphasized that all pending works should be completed before the start of the upcoming season to avoid unnecessary

problems like those faced last year. Furthermore, a strong demand was raised for the regularization of daily wagers, need-based, and seasonal employees to enable them to serve more effectively.

Chairman of Mechanical Irrigation Employees Federation and Vice

President EJAC, Ferooz Ahmad Khan, joined the meeting telephonically, stressing that improving work culture is essential and cannot be compromised under any circumstances. He stated that employees who draw salaries are obligated to perform their duties with honesty

and responsibility.

District President Srinagar, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, also appealed to the Chief Engineer and SE to initiate an inquiry against employees who remain in offices and neglect their field responsibilities. He added that if every employee performs their duty diligently, there would be no major issues during the season.

During the meeting, a special prayer was offered for the departed souls of Ghulam Rasool Magrey's mother and Jan.

Other officials who attended the meeting

included General Secretary Ferooz Ahmad Khan Shalmari, Vice President Naseer Ahmad Nahvi, Press Secretary Shabir Ahmad Khan, Ferooz Ahmad Lone, Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Meraj Ud Din, Ferooz Ahmad Magrey, and Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Khan.

In conclusion, the federation expressed gratitude to Ferooz Ahmad Khan for his relentless efforts in highlighting employees' rights and issues. The union reaffirmed its commitment to continue working for the welfare of the employees in the future.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

E-NIT NO GWD/188 OF 2024-25 DATED 10.01.2025

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with Jal Shakti PHE/IFC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Providing, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Submersible Pump at Salal Jabar Near Ch. Nisar under DDC Balakote Grants in District Poonch under Capex Budget 2024-25	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non - Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 1.00 lacs	@ 2% of the estimated value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2025

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 10.01.2025 to 16.01.2025.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 11.01.2025 (1300hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11.01.2025 (1400 hrs) to 16.01.2025 (1800hrs).
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
(i) Scanned copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 500.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. **It may be noted** that the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender. (ii) Scanned copy of EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR @2% of the estimated value pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu. **It may be noted** that the EMD should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender (iii) Scanned Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder. (iv) Scanned copy of GST Registration from competent authority (v) Scanned copy of PAN Card.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 18.01.2025 at 1400 hours. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working or as to be decided by tender opening committee.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Major Head: Capex Budget 2025-25 (DDC Grants)
- Status of Funds: under approved budget
- AAA No. 48-DDCP of 2024 Dated 20.06.2024
- Technical Sanction No. 598 of 01/2025 Dated 08.01.2025

GWD/6243-45
Dated:- 10.01.2025

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division
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EDITORIAL

Lohri

Lohri, one of the most celebrated festivals in northern India, marks the end of winter and the beginning of the harvest season. Traditionally observed on January 13th every year, Lohri holds great cultural and agricultural significance, particularly in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The festival is associated with the harvesting of rabi crops and is seen as a time of gratitude, community bonding, and joyous festivities. The origins of Lohri are deeply rooted in agrarian traditions. The festival coincides with the sun's entry into the zodiac sign of Capricorn (Makara) and the longer days following the winter solstice. Lohri is believed to have links to ancient traditions of worshipping fire as a symbol of energy, fertility, and renewal. Lohri is also connected to the Punjabi folklore of Dulla Bhatti, a legendary figure akin to Robin Hood, who is remembered for his acts of bravery and kindness, especially towards women. Folk songs praising Dulla Bhatti are an integral part of the celebrations, and his legacy adds a heroic and cultural dimension to the festival. The central aspect of Lohri is the bonfire, around which families and communities gather in the evening. The bonfire symbolizes warmth, light, and the collective spirit of the community. People offer sesame seeds (til), jaggery (gur), popcorn, and peanuts to the fire as a mark of respect and gratitude to the gods for a bountiful harvest.

Children often go door-to-door singing traditional Lohri songs, collecting treats, money, or sweets in return. This custom, called "Lohri Lo," adds a lively and interactive element to the festivities. Dressing in vibrant traditional attire is another hallmark of Lohri. Men wear kurtas and colorful turbans, while women don bright salwar kameez or lehengas. The celebrations include singing and dancing to the tunes of Punjabi folk music, with Bhangra and Gidda being the most popular dance forms. The beats of the dhol (drum) infuse energy into the air, making the atmosphere electrifying. Food plays a central role in Lohri celebrations. A sumptuous traditional meal is prepared, featuring delicacies like makki di roti (cornbread) and sarson da saag (mustard greens). Desserts like gajak, rewri, til laddoos, and pinnis add sweetness to the festival. These dishes, rich in nutrients, are especially suited to the winter season and symbolize prosperity and health. While Lohri is predominantly celebrated in Punjab and Haryana, its essence resonates across northern India with regional adaptations. In Himachal Pradesh and Jammu, the festival is celebrated with similar fervor, though the rituals may vary slightly. In Jammu, for instance, the festival is also marked by communal bonfires and the preparation of local dishes, emphasizing harmony and cultural unity. In some parts, Lohri is particularly special for newlyweds and newborns. Families organize grand celebrations to welcome new beginnings, symbolizing prosperity and blessings for the future. In contemporary times, Lohri has transcended its agrarian roots to become a celebration of cultural identity and social harmony. Urban celebrations often include large gatherings in community spaces, complete with live music, dance performances, and elaborate feasts. Schools and colleges organize Lohri events to instill cultural values among students. Lohri is not just a festival of harvest but also a celebration of life, unity, and gratitude. It reminds us to respect nature, cherish traditions, and embrace the joy of giving and sharing. The festival brings together people from all walks of life, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. As the flames of the Lohri bonfire rise high into the night sky, they carry with them the hopes, prayers, and gratitude of countless hearts, making the festival a beacon of joy, warmth, and positivity.

Why AI warfare must be tempered with humanity

By: Manish Tewari

In today's evolving landscape of warfare, the lines between conventional military strategies and advanced technology have become increasingly blurred. The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies is revolutionising the tools, tactics and ethical considerations of conflict. A striking example is Ukraine's deployment of low-cost cardboard drones to target Russian air bases, showcasing how innovation is redefining the battlefield. While AI enhances surveillance, decision-making and operational efficiency in military contexts, it also brings significant ethical dilemmas and existential concerns to the forefront.

The Rise of AI and Emerging Technologies: The integration of autonomous weapon systems (AWS) into modern combat represents a profound transformation in warfare. These systems, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and AI-driven ground robots, can identify and engage targets without human intervention. Equipped with advanced sensors and AI algorithms, AWS enhances real-time decision-making, boosts surveillance, and delivers precision strikes while minimising risks to human personnel.

A chilling example occurred in Libya in March 2020, where kamikaze drones autonomously targeted and destroyed a convoy of trucks. Designed to detonate on impact, these drones executed the attack without human commands, underscoring the ethical complexities of such technologies. Swarming drone technology is another game-changer. Using AI, multiple drones can coordinate seamlessly to overwhelm defences or gather intelligence. Ukraine's use of inexpensive cardboard drones to inflict

significant damage on Russian airfields highlights the disruptive power of low-cost, accessible military innovations.

Israel's deployment of the "Lavender" AI system during operations in Gaza demonstrated its ability to analyze vast data, identify targets, and execute coordinated strikes. Dubbed the "first AI war", this marked a new era of machine-driven decision-making in conflict zones. The influence of technology extends to cyber warfare also. Cutting-edge tools detect and neutralise threats at unprecedented speeds, protecting critical infrastructure. Predictive analytics and machine learning are also reshaping logistics, command decisions, and the anticipation of enemy strategies. As these technologies become more accessible, they are leveling the playing field by mitigating the handicap of asymmetry, empowering smaller states, semi-state and non-state actors while challenging established power archetypes.

The Global Race for AI Dominance: Globally, nations are investing heavily in AI-driven military systems to achieve strategic dominance. China aims to allocate \$150 billion to AI advancements by 2030, while Russia invested \$181 million between 2021 and 2023. In the United States, the value of AI-related federal contracts surged from \$355 million in August 2022 to \$4.6 billion by August 2023. The United Kingdom pledged an additional \$155 million for drones and radars to aid Ukraine, and Saudi Arabia unveiled plans for a \$40 billion AI investment fund. By comparison India is investing a meagre 50-60 million US dollars in AI for military uses. China by comparison is spending 30 times more. Drone technology is at the forefront of the revolution in military affairs. The Pentagon predicts that by 2035, 70 per cent of the US Air Force will comprise remotely piloted aircraft.

Israel has utilised weaponised drones for surveillance and precision strikes, including in Gaza. China's Wing Loong and CH-series drones are being exported to nations like Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Egypt, showcasing their global appeal. Azerbaijan made extensive use of Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 both in 2020 in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and then again in 2023 with lethal success. Even non-state actors such as Hezbollah and Hamas have adopted drone technology, demonstrating its widespread availability and transformative impact on modern warfare. This global race underscores the pivotal role of AI and drones in shaping the future of conflict. Ethical Dilemmas and International Conventions: The integration of AI into military operations raises pressing ethical questions. Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), capable of making life-or-death decisions without human intervention, challenge the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Despite ongoing discussions under the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons since 2014, binding regulations for LAWS remain elusive. In December 2023, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed that IHL applies to these systems, but a comprehensive global framework has yet to materialise. National approaches to AI ethics in warfare vary significantly. The US department of defence emphasises accountability, equity, and reliability in its AI principles. The European Union advocates for human oversight and ethical safeguards, while India's Evaluating Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ETAI) Framework prioritises transparency and dependability. However, the lack of a unified international standard complicates efforts to ensure ethical deployment of these technologies. Beyond policy, the inherent risks of autonomous

systems are alarming. Machines could misidentify targets, escalate conflicts unpredictably, or be compromised by adversarial data manipulation. The possibility of self-improving AI systems acting beyond human control highlights the urgent need for robust oversight and governance. Key IHL principles — distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack — require human oversight to ensure compliance. Discussions under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) have reiterated the necessity of human accountability in deploying AI-driven weapon systems. Balancing Innovation and Responsibility in AI Warfare: The transformative power of AI in warfare is accompanied by significant ethical and strategic challenges. While these technologies offer precision and the potential to reduce human casualties, they also carry risks of misuse, conflict escalation, and diminished accountability. The widespread availability of affordable AI-driven tools lowers the entry barriers for smaller nations and non-state actors, posing threats to global stability. To navigate this new era responsibly, international cooperation is vital. Transparent policies, binding agreements, and robust ethical frameworks can help ensure AI serves as a stabilising force. Global organisations like the UN and international think tanks must lead efforts. The dual nature of AI demands careful management. Its unprecedented capabilities hold great promise, but unchecked misuse could destabilise global security and undermine the principles of humanity in warfare. The decisions made today will shape the future of conflict, determining whether AI becomes a tool for peace or a driver of destruction.

Indian Army's Technological Strides: A Blueprint for "Year of Reforms"

As Indian Army is celebrating 77th Army Day on 15th January 2025, it has made significant strides in technology absorption, reflecting its commitment to operational excellence and self-reliance. In 2023, the Indian Army declared the "Year of Technology Absorption" and has now extended this initiative for another year, aligning with the Ministry of Defence's declaration of 2025 as the "Year of Reforms."

These efforts are part of the broader "Decade of Transformation" (2023-2032), aimed at redefining India's defence capabilities.

Why is Indian Army Driving In-house Innovation?

Operating across varied terrains - from the icy heights of the Himalayas to the deserts of Rajasthan and jungles of the Northeast - the Indian Army faces unique operational challenges. Different terrain, weather and operational conditions demand various specific requirements. This necessitates a culture of continuous innovation to enhance operational, logistical, and training capabilities.

In addition, the character of war is constantly evolving and Indian Army needs to be prepared to deal with all future challenges. The recent global conflicts have underscored the need for indigenous battlefield solutions, pushing the Indian Army to not just absorb but also develop cutting-edge technologies.

How is Indian Army Promoting an Innovation Culture?

1. Inno-Yoddha Annual Competition: Since 2014, the

Indian Army has been conducting its annual innovation competition, rebranded as Inno-Yoddha in 2023. This initiative provides a platform for soldiers to showcase indigenous solutions addressing capability voids.

2. Grassroots Development: Innovations often originate at the unit level using limited resources and are fielded at formation levels. The best ideas reach the Inno-Yoddha finals, where they are evaluated for their potential to address operational gaps and their technological uniqueness.

3. Recognition and Proliferation: Exceptional innovations are recognised at the national level by the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and proliferated across formations. Some are integrated into equipment specifications for future procurements, ensuring long-term impact.

Key Technological Milestones Achieved so far

- Breakthrough Innovations: Notable achievements include the ASMI 9mm Machine Pistol, Multi-Purpose Octacopter, Wireless Electronic Detonation Circuit (WEDC), Vidyut Rakshak (IoT-based generator monitoring), and Agni Astra (precision munitions system).

- Technology Readiness and Upscaling: Innovations undergo extensive trials for ruggedisation and technological enhancements in collaboration with academia and start-ups, funded through the Army Technology Board (ATB) and Indigenisation Research & Development (IR&D) funds.

- Successful Inductions: Over the past year, 37 innovations have been deployed, 36 are undergoing upgrades, and 25 have received intellectual property rights (IPR). Some innovations have been merged with ongoing projects to enhance product quality.

How are Innovators Incentivised?

To foster a robust innovation ecosystem, the Indian Army has implemented several measures:

- Recognition: Innovators are awarded COAS or GOC-in-C commendation cards, and exceptional innovators have received prestigious awards such as the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).

- Policy Reforms: Innovators can now opt to pursue technological advancements without forgoing career progression, with pathways created for continued growth in technical roles. There are personnel who have been allowed to be on deputation even after they have got promoted or their period of deputation lapsed, the period was increased in such cases.

Collaboration and Technology Transfer

To accelerate mass production and induction, the Indian Army has streamlined its technology transfer processes. A notable example is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi. This partnership enables the selection of production agencies through competitive processes, ensuring rapid technology commercialisation. The rev-

enue generated from license fees and royalties contributes to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Vision for the Future: Aligning with the "Year of Reforms"

The Indian Army's blueprint for the next year focuses on:

1. Enhanced Technology Partnerships: Expanding collaborations with academia, start-ups, and industry to fast-track innovations.

2. Integrated Reforms: Aligning innovations with the Ministry of Defence's reform initiatives to enhance procurement processes and operational readiness.

3. Wider Adoption: Extending successful innovations to other defence forces and paramilitary organisations. Notably, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have shown interest in procuring innovations like Vidyut Rakshak.

Building Towards a Self-Reliant India

The Indian Army's emphasis on technology absorption and innovation is pivotal in achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat. By promoting indigenous solutions, fostering a robust defence manufacturing ecosystem, and aligning with national reforms, the Indian Army is redefining operational capabilities and setting new benchmarks in defence modernization.

As the "Decade of Transformation" unfolds, the Indian Army remains committed to shaping a future where innovation, resilience, and self-reliance drive India's military prowess.

Dimple leads protests against power cuts, demands free solar lights for poor families



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, along with his supporters, staged a strong protest against the BJP-led Union Government, JKPDCL, and PDD departments over prolonged power cuts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest highlighted the plight of the people enduring extended power outages during the cold season and demanded urgent relief measures.

Addressing the protesters, Dimple called for the installation of free solar light plants for poor families under the

Prime Minister's Free Bijli Yojana. He alleged that the government is misleading people by selling solar plants and insisting they install them in the name of free electricity. He criticized this approach, calling it an exploitation of the poor, and demanded the immediate implementa-

tion of free solar light schemes for deserving families.

Dimple also criticized the government's push for 100% metering and the installation of smart meters without fulfilling the election promise of providing 200 units of free electricity, 12 LPG cylinders, and ration to the public.

He expressed concern that these measures are placing undue financial pressure on already struggling households.

Furthermore, Dimple demanded the return of the Salal and Uri hydropower projects to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for free electricity and drinking water for the region's residents.

He also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore Jammu and Kashmir's Dogra state and provide a clear timeline for this restoration.

During the protest, Dimple urged the Prime

Minister to announce elections for the four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the scrapping of the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. He stated that this treaty is unfavorable to the region and should be revisited for the benefit of its people.

Dimple exposed alleged scams within the PDD department, accusing officers of pressuring poor families to install solar lights while bypassing their own electricity consumption through smart meters. He demanded transparency and accountability from the administration and called for strict action against corrupt practices.

Prominent leaders such as Sanjay Kumar, Shivam, Shafi, Altaf, Betab, Narender Chowdhry, Tilak Raj, Aman Singh, Bitu Kumar, Ashok Sharma, Tarsem Lal, Sanjee, and many others supported the protest.

EJCC for addressing critical issues of Govt employees

Top News Report

HANDWARA, Jan 12: The Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Joint Consultative Committee (EJCC), Pir Nisar, held a press conference today in Handwara, addressing critical issues faced by government employees across the region.

Pir Nisar highlighted significant delays in accessing the General Provident (GP) Fund, urging immediate reforms to streamline the disbursement process. He also raised concerns about the plight of daily wagers and contractual employees, calling for their regularization and timely payment of wages. Improved workplace conditions and resolution of long-standing employee grievances were also emphasized during the conference.

"The EJCC remains committed to safeguarding the rights of government employees and ensuring their concerns are addressed. We appeal to the administration to take swift action on these pressing matters," Pir Nisar stated.

Prominent local representatives, including Syed Javid Masroor, District General Secretary of JKTF Kupwara; Azeem Hafeez Mir, Vice President of TJAC Kupwara; Arshid Iqbal, Publicity Secretary of the Food Supplies Employees Association Kupwara; and Gh Mohd War, Media Advisor of TJAC Mawar, were also present at the event.

The press conference saw participation from local journalists, EJCC members, and employee union representatives, who expressed solidarity with the demands raised.

EJCC leaders further announced the postponement of their planned protest at Press Colony in Srinagar, initially scheduled for January 13, due to the Prime Minister's visit to Kashmir. The protest will now be held on January 16.

GDC Darhal celebrates National Youth Day

Top News Report

DARHAL, Jan 12: Govt. Degree College (GDC), Darhal, celebrated National Youth Day as part of the Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative, centered on the theme "Youth Empowerment for Nation Building."

The college campus buzzed with enthusiasm as students and faculty engaged in various activities designed to inspire and empower the youth.

A highlight of the event was a painting and face-painting competition featuring participation from 30 students across four groups. Group B students Azhra Karim, Sabia Shakoor, and Rabia Kosser secured the first position, followed by Group A stu-

dents Sneha Shafqat, Samreena Kosser, and Aashiyana Fareed and Group C students Saima Kosser, Hasina Wajib, and Afsana Firdous sharing second place. Group D students Sobia Kosser, Haleema Parveen, Uzma Khatoon, and Shazia Tabassum earned third place.

Interactive symposia and discussions on socially relevant topics promoted critical thinking and provided a platform for students to express their ideas and solutions. A special live telecast of the Prime Minister's address to the nation on National Youth Day and a mega celebration broadcast added significance to the event.

Principal Prof. Zamir Ahmed Mirza lauded the efforts and dedica-

tion of students and faculty for making the celebration a grand success. Dr. Mohd Akhlaq, NSS Coordinator, played a pivotal role in organizing the event.

A panel of distinguished judges, including Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Dr. M. Saleem Wani, Dr. Taseem Ahmed, Prof. Anzar Ahmed, Dr. Atta Ul Rehman Malik, and Dr. Iqbal Ahmed, evaluated the performances and applauded the participants for their creativity and enthusiasm.

The celebration reflects the college's commitment to holistic student development, fostering creativity, leadership, and social responsibility among the youth the true architects of a vibrant and progressive India.

9th Armed Forces Veterans Day will be celebrated at Tanda Artillery Brigade on Jan 14

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Jan 12: The 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day, is being celebrated at Tanda Artillery Brigade, Akhnoor, J&K under the aegis of Northern Command on 14th January

2025, to honour our Armed Forces Veterans and Veer Naris.

Rajinath Singh, Raksha Mantri will be attending the event alongwith LG J&K, Chief Minister of J&K, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) & other Senior Military & Civil

officials. Approximately 1,000 veterans from Jammu, Akhnoor, Palianwala, Rakhmuthi, Naushera, and Sunderbani are likely to attend the event.

The event will also include hoisting of a 108-foot National Flag and

inauguration of Akhnoor Heritage Museum.

The Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Department will present cultural performances reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage. As a special gesture, mobility equipment like motorised

wheelchairs, e-scooters, and autorickshaws will also be distributed to the veterans

The event reflects Indian Army's respect and unwavering commitment to care for the Veterans & Veer Naris who have served the nation with pride & dedication.

NSS Units of GGM Science College celebrate National Youth Day 2025



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The NSS Units of GGM Science College, Jammu, celebrated National Youth Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The event was marked by enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers, Program Officers (POs), faculty members, and students.

Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta graced the occasion and delivered an inspiring address, encouraging the youth to embody Swami

Vivekananda's values of service, determination, and dedication.

Dr. Gupta highlighted the significance of youth in shaping the future of the nation and urged students to actively engage in community service and nation-building activities.

The program also featured a live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the youth, where he emphasized the pivotal role of young minds in driving India towards development and innovation.

The volunteers and students attentively

participated in the session, drawing motivation from the Prime Minister's words.

The NSS POS shared insights on youth empowerment, social service, and the importance of self-discipline.

They motivated the students to carry forward the mission of Swami Vivekananda by contributing meaningfully to society.

The celebration concluded with a pledge by all attendees to uphold the values of integrity, service, and dedication towards building a better India.

GDC Ramnagar organizes online symposium on National Youth Day

Top News Report

RAMNAGAR, Jan 12: The Department of History at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar organized an online symposium on National Youth Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and Honour his contributions to the nation. The symposium aimed to inspire and educate students about Swami Vivekananda's ideals, particularly his vision for the youth of India and their role in shaping the future of the country.

The event likely began with a brief introduction to Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings.

The importance of National Youth Day in fostering national unity,

social responsibility, and personal growth was highlighted.

Prof Manmohan Singh Head Department of History GDC Ramnagar Presented formal welcome note and gave detail introduction about the event.

Faculty members and students have shared their perspectives on Swami Vivekananda's philosophy. Discussions probably revolved around his emphasis on self-confidence, discipline, education, and the moral responsibility of youth in nation-building.

More than ten speakers presented their views on the life and contribution of Swami Vivekananda.

Vinak Singh, Gagan Singh and Ajay Singh stood first, second and

third in the symposium.

The other participants were acknowledged with appreciation certificate.

The event likely concluded by Dr Zahid Ahmed Mir with reflections on how Swami Vivekananda's teachings could continue to guide the youth in the present day.

Emphasis would have been placed on implementing his ideas of strength, self-reliance, and social service in modern life.

The entire event was organized under the able guidance of Dr Bhavnai Chand Anthal Principal Govt Degree College Ramanagar and supervision of Prof Manmohan Singh Head Department of History GDC Ramnagar.

Army showcases cutting-edge weaponry at Winter Carnival in Lolab

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 12: The Indian Army captivated the residents of Kupwara with a remarkable display of its advanced weaponry and equipment during the Winter Carnival held at Diver, Lolab. Organized as part of the ongoing "Know Your Army" campaign, the event aimed to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the citizens it proudly serves.

The carnival witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with hundreds of



enthusiastic visitors gathering to witness the impressive display of military might. The Indian Army's dedicated personnel interacted with the attendees, offering insights into their roles, responsibilities,

and the technological advancements shaping the Army's capabilities.

The weapons and equipment showcase emerged as the highlight of the event, drawing admiration from attendees of all ages. The

display included some of the most advanced equipment in the Army's arsenal, reflecting the technological strides made by the Indian Armed Forces in recent years.

The "Know Your Army" campaign has become a cornerstone of national pride, celebrating the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of the Indian Army. The event in Lolab further reinforced the strong connection between the Army and the people of Kupwara, instilling a

sense of patriotism and gratitude among those present.

Through such initiatives, the Indian Army continues to inspire and connect with citizens, showcasing its prowess and unwavering commitment to the nation's security and pride. The Winter Carnival at Diver, Lolab, stands as a testament to the Army's enduring relationship with the people and its role as a symbol of national strength and unity.

Rocketry, Gangs of Wasseypur and Aashram fame Anuritta K Jha has now ventured into writing

Anuritta K Jha's story has a bit of everything. There is resilience, glamour, hard work and a strong commitment to taking on roles that are as varied as they are impactful. From her breakthrough in *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* to her portrayal of a sadhvi in *Aashram*, Anuritta has evolved with each new character. She refuses to be typecast and wants to be a part of meaningful storytelling. As her web series *Mithya 2* hits new milestones, she sheds light on both her craft and her philosophy.

Working with Madhavan

Anuritta says her experience of working with R Madhavan in the National Award-winning film *Rocketry* was a defining moment in her career. "Madhavan sir is a focused director and knew exactly what he wanted," she shares. "He took a re-audition for me...it went on for good 10 to 12 minutes when he kept on giving me voice commands and I kept on changing my emotion; it was intense." The result, of course, was a deeply impactful film that Anuritta is proud to be a part of.

Importance of meaningful roles
Having worked across genres, from critically acclaimed films like *Mithila Makhana* to popular web series such as *Aashram* and *Asur 2*, Anuritta's approach to choosing roles is both deliberate and thoughtful. "I am very clear about the roles I want to do. Firstly, if the director is good, then I am absolutely in for the role. Then I look at the story, and after that I evaluate my



character's graph," she says. She admits that in the past there were roles she wasn't proud of, but the experience helped her identify her true path. "I have done a couple of films that I am not very happy about. But ever since I gained a better understanding of the kind of roles I wanted to do, things have changed."

Shining in *Gangs of Wasseypur*

Anuritta's acting career took a monumental leap with *Gangs of Wasseypur*, where she played Shama Parveen, a role that remains iconic even a decade later. "To this day, people come up to me and praise that role. It is absolutely unbelievable," she says. Her first day on set was filled with nervousness and excitement. "I was filming the suhaag raat scene with Vineet, and everybody played a prank

on me, saying that I really had to kiss him on screen! I had tears in my eyes," she recalls with a laugh.

Addressing social issues
Anuritta's choices are not just driven by her love for acting, but also her passion for addressing social issues. Roles in films like *Unaccused* and *Pari & Pinocchio* explore themes of marital rape and societal pressures, and Anuritta took these challenges head on. "As an actor, being given the opportunity to address a social cause is a privilege—something I am very grateful for," she says. Playing a model suffering from bulimia in *Pari & Pinocchio*, she found the role deeply personal. "Unaccused was the project where I truly pushed myself. It was extremely exhausting—by the third or fourth day of the shoot, both my co-actor and I had bruises on our bodies due

to the physicality involved," she explains. But the appreciation and feedback she received made it all worthwhile.

In the spotlight

When Anuritta won the Channel V Get Gorgeous contest, she was just out of her 12th grade in Patna. "I was very, very young—just out of my 12th grade. I was quite naive and unprepared for the glamour industry," she admits. It was an unexpected step into a world of beauty, fashion and fame, far removed from her simple life back in Bihar. Yet, this exposure opened doors to some of the most prestigious fashion events in the country—from Wills Fashion Week to Lifestyle Fashion Week—where she walked the ramp for top designers like Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Manish Malhotra.

Taking up writing

Anuritta has also ventured into writing and producing with her short film *Holikadahan*. "Writing has been a part of my life ever since I was a child," she says, explaining that her family's literary background influenced her creative journey. Although producing was not quite as fulfilling as she had hoped, she found joy in writing. "Writing is something that I've started expressing recently and I will continue doing that," she affirms.

She explains the significance of writing as an actor's tool. "As an actor, you don't always get the kind of roles you want. So, writing started from that space of utilising my time more productively. But now I really enjoy it."

Ayushi Khurana is a daughter-in-law in her reel as well as real life



Ayushi Khurana from Zee TV's show *Jaane Anjaane* Hum Mile embarks on a new

chapter, both personally and professionally, as she embraces her dual role—a daughter-in-law in reel and real life. In the upcoming episodes, it will be interesting for the viewers to watch how Raghav's family welcomes and treats Reet as the new daughter-in-law, and how Reet deals with them as well as fights for her rights in the house.

Ayushi shared, "It felt like life had given me a perfect dress rehearsal for my own wedding. The rituals we performed on set mirrored those of my real wedding so closely that by the time my big day arrived, I felt fully prepared. It was a surreal experience to say the least. The reel wedding was grand and cinematic, infused with the magic of storytelling, while my real wedding was intimate. Not everyone gets the chance to live such a beautiful experience twice, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had these moments both on screen and in real life. It's a story I'll treasure and share for the rest of my life. I wish the audience appreciates my role, as it is a big motivating force."

Diljit Dosanjh looks bruised, in immense pain in 'Punjab '95' first look

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, who has been setting the house on fire with his Dil-Luminati tour, shared the first look from his upcoming movie 'Punjab '95'.

Diljit took to his Instagram, and shared an array of pictures in which he can be seen in his character from the film.

He wrote in the caption, "I Challenge the Darkness. Punjab '95'.

In the first image, Diljit Dosanjh can be seen sitting on the floor in a raw and rugged look, dressed in a simple kurta and turban. His bloodied and bruised face conveys a powerful sense of pain and resilience.

The film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala.

Another photo gives a glimpse into Khrala's personal life, showing Diljit as Khrala, posing with two children, offering a heartfelt preview of the activist's real-life journey.

Jaswant Singh Khrala was the director of a bank in the city of Amritsar in Punjab during the militancy period in Punjab. Following Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, the police were empowered to detain suspects for any reason, ostensibly as suspected



terrorists.

The police were accused of killing unarmed suspects in staged shootouts and burning thousands of dead bodies to cover up the murders. Khrala was investigating four major cases at one time and continued to collect evidence and witnesses.

The Central Board of Film Certification in India had proposed 120 cuts in the film to the makers. There was no certainty over the exhibition of the film given its sensitive subject matter. However, following Diljit's meteoric rise and global attention, it seems that the film will be finally able to see the light of day.

Meanwhile, Diljit recently met the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in the national capital.

Manisha Koirala drops a hint about companion in her life: 'Who said I don't have one'

Manisha Koirala has long been known for keeping her personal life closely guarded. However, in a recent interview, she made a subtle comment about her personal life.

When questioned about a companion in her life, Manisha posed a question of her own, wondering how people could assume she doesn't have one.

The statement left one intrigued and speculating about the possibility of a special someone in her life.

What did Manisha say
In an interview with Pinkvilla, Manisha spoke about her personal life. She was asked about missing a partner in her life, following which she dropped a hint about her



love life.

Manisha said, "Who said I don't have one? Yes and no, because I have made peace with who I am and the life that I have. If a companion has to walk into my life, I don't want to compromise and let go of the quality of life that I have. If the companion can add to it and walk alongside, I am more than happy. But I don't want to change what I have right now."

When it comes to her life, she is searching for balance.

Manisha shared, "If a companion has to happen, it will happen. It will be in tandem with each other rather than me trying to discover a companion because my life is full. I am leading a

great quality of life and I just hope it continues. The sense of choice, freedom, and fulfillment that I get, I wish to continue that."

About Manisha's personal life

On 19 June 2010, Manisha Koirala married Samrat Dahal, a Nepali businessman, in a traditional ceremony held in Kathmandu. They parted ways two years later in 2012.

This was the same year when the actor was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She has kept her personal life private since then.

Last year, she won hearts with her role in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, which released on Netflix.

Kangana Ranaut responds to claims she interferes in direction and scripting

Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut got candid on an upcoming episode of the singing reality show *Indian Idol 15*. When asked if she took over directing her upcoming *Indira Gandhi* biopic *Emergency* because other directors 'don't enjoy' her interference, here's how she responded.

Kangana Ranaut on directing *Emergency*

A contestant on the show, Manasi Ghosh, told Kangana she's a huge fan. She then asked her, "I've seen in several interviews where directors mention that you interfere a lot with the direction and script of their films, and they don't enjoy working with you. Is that why you decided to start directing your own movies?"

Kangana took it in stride and replied,

"Saara siyappa khatam karo...you know what that means, right? Naa rahega baas, na bajegi basuri," implying that the trouble must be treated at its source. She then laughed and added, "That's not true. I have immense respect and admiration for everyone I've worked with. They've inspired me, and I've had the privilege of working with some amazing directors. Movies like *Queen*, *Tanu Weds Manu*, *Fashion*, and *Gangster* are remembered for their incredible filmography. That motivated me to pursue filmmaking myself."

Kangana added that 'it's okay' if she 'doesn't vibe with one or two' of the 'ten people' she worked with. "You don't have to change yourself to be liked by everyone.



I started in 2005, and now it's 2025, but there are still only a handful, maybe about five or six directors, actresses, and heroes who have truly made it. You keep chakki peeing around them. So I thought, let's cultivate new talent."

About her upcoming

film *Emergency*

Even though Kangana is credited as the co-director of the 2019 film *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi*, *Emergency* is her directorial debut. The film, which she acted in, wrote, directed, and co-produced, stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas

Talpade, Vishak Nair, Mahima Chaudhry, Milind Soman, and Satish Kaushik.

Talking about it on the show, she said, "If you watch my film *Emergency*, you'll see we've gathered some of the best talent from across the world. Our DOP has won an Academy Award, my prosthetic makeup artist is the best in the world, I have National Award winning actors like Anupam Ji and Shreyas as part of my crew, and the script consultant who guided me is the best in the country. Sometimes, I feel our own films can let us down, but after this 20 year grind, I thought, let's make something different. It's not that I don't have enough people to work with—I just wanted to create something fresh."

Usha Nadkarni and Nikki Tamboli join Celebrity MasterChef



Among this season's exciting line-up of Sony Entertainment Television's *Celebrity MasterChef*—Ab Unn Sabki Seeti Bajegi are Usha Nadkarni and Nikki Tamboli. The two talented actresses are

all things sugar and spice, and promise to add some unexpected twists to the show.

Nikki's bold personality promises dramatic kitchen moments, while Usha's decades of experience suggest

a blend of wisdom and surprising spice. Their presence, alongside other celebrities, creates a clash of generations and culinary styles.

Reality TV star Nikki Tamboli is ready to become a cooking star too. She's brave and loves to compete, but this time she is in it to win her father's mark of approval. On the other hand, Usha Nadkarni, at 78, has infectious energy and is approaching this culinary adventure with the same grace and enthusiasm that has made her a beloved figure in the industry. Usha said, "At my age, I thought I'd done it all but life has a way of serving up new surprises."

Swami Vivekananda inspired youths to work towards nation-building: Prez Murmu

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday paid tributes to spiritual leader and social reformer Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary, saying he inspired youths to work towards nation-building and serve humanity.

His legacy continues to inspire countless people around the world, Murmu said in a post on X.

Swami Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863.

"I pay my humble tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary.



Swamiji took the great spiritual message of India to the Western world.

He infused a new self-confidence among the people of India," the

President said.

He inspired the youth to unleash their potential, work towards nation-building and serve humanity, she said.

3 Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

BIJAPUR, Jan 12 (Agencies): Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday, police said.

The gunfight broke out in the morning at a forest in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P said.

Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and District Force were involved in the operation, he said.

After the intermittent exchange of fire stopped, bodies of three Naxalites clad in 'uniform' along with firearms, including the automatic ones, and explosives were recovered from the site, the



official said.

Search operation was still underway in the area, he added.

With this, 12 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in the state so far this year.

During a three-day long anti-Naxal operation by security forces in Abujhmad on the border of Narayanpur-Dantewada-Bijapur districts that concluded on January 6, five Naxalites, including two women, were killed.

On January 9, three Naxalites were killed in

an encounter with security forces in Sukma district.

Earlier, on January 3, a Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Gariaband district, which falls in Raipur division.

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

On January 6 this year, Naxalites blew up a vehicle with an IED in Bijapur district, killing eight police personnel and their civilian driver.

"Eternal inspiration for youth": PM Modi pays tribute to Swami Vivekananda

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid homage to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary, saying that he is an eternal inspiration for youths.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote: "Paying homage to Swami Vivekananda on his Jayanti. An eternal inspiration for youth, he continues to ignite passion and purpose in young minds. We are committed to fulfilling his vision of a strong and developed India."

The PM also posted a video clip to highlight Swami Vivekananda's thoughts. He said this is a day of India's youth power dedicated to the great man who filled India with new energy during the British Raj.

"Swami Vivekananda also used to say that India's aspirations are dependent on the youth's character and their commitment and intellectualism. Swami Vivekananda's guidance



is a great inspiration for India's youth," PM Modi said.

"Swami Vivekananda's two messages should be a part of every Indian youth -- institution and innovation. The institution is made when we expand our ideas and work with team spirit. Every youth should expand his individual success into team success. This team spirit will carry forward India towards the goal of Viksit Bharat," PM Modi narrated in the video clip.

January 12 marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of the country's most influential spiritual leaders and thinkers.

This day, celebrated as National Youth Day, is dedicated to inspiring and encouraging the younger generation to strive towards their personal growth as well as societal progress.

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, PM Modi will participate in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025 on Sunday at Bharat Mandapam here.

He will engage with 3,000 dynamic young leaders from across India and will also address the gathering.

The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue aims to break the 25-year-old tradition of holding the National

Youth Festival in a conventional manner. It aligns with the Prime Minister's Independence Day call to engage one lakh youth in politics without political affiliations and provide them a national platform to make their ideas for Viksit Bharat, a reality.

According to the government press release, "In line with this, on this National Youth Day, the Prime Minister will participate in multiple activities designed to inspire, motivate, and empower the nation's future leaders. Innovative young leaders will make ten PowerPoint presentations representing the ten thematic areas pivotal to India's development before the Prime Minister. These presentations reflect the innovative ideas and solutions proposed by young leaders to address some of India's most pressing challenges.

The Prime Minister will also release a compilation of the best essays written by participants

on the ten themes. These themes encompass diverse areas such as technology, sustainability, women empowerment, manufacturing, and agriculture.

In a unique setting, the Prime Minister will join the young leaders for lunch, providing them an opportunity to share their ideas, experiences, and aspirations directly with him. This personal interaction will bridge the gap between governance and youth aspirations, fostering a deeper sense of ownership and responsibility among the participants. During the dialogue, the young leaders will engage in competitions, activities, and cultural and thematic presentations. It will also include deliberations on the themes led by mentors and domain experts. It will also witness cultural performances showcasing India's artistic heritage while symbolizing its modern advancements.

Pappu Yadav's supporters block roads, burn tyres in Bihar amid BPSC row

PATNA, Jan 12 (Agencies): Supporters of Independent MP from Purnea, Pappu Yadav on Sunday held a protest in Patna's Ashok Rajpath demanding cancellation and re-examination of the BPSC exam.

Independent MP from Purnea, Pappu Yadav has called for a 'Bihar Bandh' today. Visual showed Pappu Yadav's supporters blocking roads, burning tyres and demanding cancellation of the BPSC exam.

BPSC aspirants in Patna have been protesting since December last year calling for the cancellation of the Integrated Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination (CCE) 2024, conducted by the BPSC on December 13, due to alleged question paper leaks.

On Saturday, Independent MP from Purnea, Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav said that he along with Azad Party founder Chandrashekhar Azad and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, is collaborating on the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Preliminary Exam issue and will not let the House



function from March 21.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea raising allegations of widespread malpractices during the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Preliminary Exam held on December 13, 2024.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan asked the petitioner to approach the Patna High Court with the grievances.

As the bench was not inclined to examine the case, counsel appearing for the peti-

tioner, Anand Legal Aid Forum Trust, said the entire country witnessed Bihar police's brutality on peaceful protesters who sought cancellation of the contentious BPSC exam.

Bihar police allegedly used force to control civil service aspirants who demanded the cancellation of the BPSC.

On Monday, Jan Suraj Party chief Prashant Kishor was granted 'unconditional bail' by a court in Patna, hours after he was sent to Beur jail for refusing to pay the bail bond.

Kishor, immediately after being released from the jail, addressed the protesting Bihar Public Service Commission aspirants and said, "There is no strength bigger than people's strength."

He further informed me about the whole incident and said that the Police took him to Beur jail but they had no documents to keep him there.

Kishor was observing a fast-unto-death over BPSC irregularities, launched on January 2 in support of the protesting students, who are demanding a cancellation of the Bihar Public Service Commission exam.

Haridwar-based organisation to host lecture on 'One Nation, One Election' at Maha Kumbh

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): A Haridwar-based community welfare organisation has lined up a series of seven lectures on diverse themes, including one on the contentious subject of simultaneous polls, at its camp at the Maha Kumbh site in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on January 18.

The first in the series is slated to be held on January 18, a day ahead of the beginning of the mega festival that will run till February 26 in the holy city of Prayagraj.

"A total of seven lectures will be hosted by us at our camp at the Maha Kumbh starting with a lecture on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on January 12. The lecture scheduled for January 18 is titled — 'One Nation, One Election' — Aarthik Rajnaitik Sudhar Evam Viksit Bharat ke Sandarbh Mein," an official of Divya Prem Seva Mission told agency.

The official claimed that an invitation has

been sent to former president Ram Nath Kovind, with a request to visit the camp and deliver the lecture on January 18.

Earlier in September 2023, a high-level committee, led by Kovind, was set up with a mandate to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

The first meeting of a parliamentary panel scrutinising the two bills on conducting simultaneous polls was held on January 8, with the opposition members criticising the concept as an attack on the basic fabric of the Constitution and federalism, and the BJP MPs hailing it as reflective of popular opinion.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were introduced in the Lok Sabha during the recent Winter Session and referred to

the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The official of Haridwar-based Divya Prem Seva Mission said the lecture series is starting on January 12 and the topic for the first lecture is 'Swami Vivekananda — Sanatan Dharm ki Vaishvik Drishti'.

"The second one will take place at our camp on January 17 and the title is — 'Bharat ki Gaurav Gatha banam Atmahinta ki Bhavna'. And the third one will be on January 18 on 'One Nation, One Election', followed by four more lectures, the last one being on February 6," he added.

The topics for other lectures are global terrorism, integrity of India and its challenges, gender equality and women empowerment in Indian context, and privacy and safety on social media from the perspective of youth.

Divya Prem Seva Mission was set up as a philanthropic organisation 29 years ago and it has participated in

all Kumbh melas since 2001, the official said.

"We began our journey by lending service to the lepers, who were discarded by their families. Unfortunately, lepers are still facing ostracism from society and our Vande Mataram Kunj in Haridwar is a dedicated centre for their stay and care," he added.

The Mission is raising awareness even at the ongoing camp in Prayagraj about this discrimination faced by a section of the society and the steps being taken to curb it.

"A video is played at our camp and before starting of lectures also we will play the video detailing about the work done by our organisation in these nearly three decades and particularly our work for those afflicted with leprosy and their dependents who also face ostracism largely," the official said.

The main office of Divya Prem Seva Mission in Haridwar is called 'Sewa Kunj'.

28 Workers, stuck after part of UP's Kannauj railway station collapsed, rescued

KANNAUJ, Jan 12 (Agencies): The rescue operation at the Kannauj Railway Station following a building collapse concluded Sunday morning with rescuers pulling out 28 workers safely after a 16-hour-long operation though the night, officials said. They said all the rescued workers have been admitted to a hospital for treatment. No fatalities have been reported.

The shuttering of the under-construction building on the station premises had collapsed Saturday afternoon, trapping the workers.

The rescue teams, including personnel from the national and



state disaster response force and the railways, worked through the cold night to clear the debris and safely pull out the trapped workers.

District Magistrate Shubhrant Kumar Shukl visited the site early on Sunday, expressing relief that no lives were lost in the tragic incident.

CCTV footage from the site has surfaced, showing a labourer

attempting to fix the shuttering (a temporary structure used to support concrete) when the roof collapses. The footage suggests that a beam carried by the worker hit the shuttering, causing it to slip and ultimately collapse.

The North Eastern Railway (NER) on Saturday formed a three-member committee to investigate the cause of the collapse. The

committee will include the Chief Engineer for Planning and Design, the Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Izzatnagar) and the Chief Security Commissioner of the Railway Protection Force.

The construction was being carried out as part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), aimed at enhancing the infrastructure of Kannauj Railway Station.

NER officials have announced ex gratia for the injured workers: Rs 50,000 for those with minor injuries and up to Rs 2.5 lakh for those with serious injuries.

Fire breaks out at Greater Noida chemical factory, large explosions heard

NOIDA, Jan 12 (Agencies): A massive fire broke out at a chemical factory in Greater Noida on Sunday, leading to loud explosions that prompted employees to run for their lives.

The fire caused significant damage to the factory. However, no

injuries or deaths have been reported yet.

Over 20 firefighting vehicles were rushed to the Dujana industrial area, where the fire incident was reported. Efforts to put out the fire are still underway.

Amid the chaos, the police managed to

rescue 25 cows trapped inside the factory after breaking a wall down with the help of a JCB machine.

Back to back large explosions and thick black smoke alarmed residents in the vicinity.

The timely intervention by the fire department,

police, and local authorities has brought the situation under control.

A heavy police force was deployed to prevent any further untoward incidents.

Currently, a probe has been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

California wildfires claim 16 lives; Donald Trump calls it "One of the worst catastrophes" in US history

US President-elect Donald Trump expressed anger as the southern Californian fires continue to rage on. Calling it 'one of the worst catastrophes' in the history of US, he lashed out over the inability of authorities to put out the fires.

CALIFORNIA, Jan 12 (Agencies): US President-elect Donald Trump expressed anger as the southern Californian fires continued to rage on. Calling it "one of the worst catastrophes" in the history of the US, he lashed out over the inability of authorities to put out the fires.

Donald Trump shared his views on Truth Social.

"The fires are still raging in L.A. The incompetent pols have no idea how to put them out. Thousands of magnificent houses are gone, and many more will soon be lost. There is death all over the place. This is one of



the worst catastrophes in the history of our Country. They just can't put out the fires. What's wrong with them?", the President-elect wrote.

According to the New York Post citing officials, at least 16 people have been killed in the wildfires.

Nearly 2,00,000 have been displaced due to the raging fires. As many as 10,000 structures

along with entire residential neighbourhoods have been destroyed.

As per the New York Post, while the Sunset fire has been contained, the Hurst fire has burnt 771 acres of land, the Kenneth fire has burnt 959 acres, the Eaton fire has burnt 13,690 acres, and the most destructive impact has been of the Palisades fire which has burnt 19,978 acres

of land.

At least 35,000 acres of land have burned down, an area about two-and-a-half times the size of Manhattan.

On Sunday (local time), California's Governor, Gavin Newsom warned people against falling for misinformation regarding the Southern Californian wildfires.

In a post on X, he said, "A lot of misinformation

out there. Just launched a new site to ensure the public has access to fact-based data around the Southern CA wildfires. The TRUTH: - CA did NOT cut our fire-fighting budget. We have nearly doubled the size of our firefighting army and built the world's largest aerial firefighting fleet. - CA has INCREASED forest management ten-fold since we took office. - California will NOT allow for looting."

The New York Post, citing a report by AccuWeather noted that the devastating fires in Los Angeles could cause more than USD 50 billion in damages, making them the most costly in state's history.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 8 Indian fishermen for alleged poaching



COLOMBO, Jan 12 (Agencies): The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday said it has arrested eight Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the island nation's territorial waters and seized two fishing trawlers.

The arrests took place on Saturday night "during a special operation conducted in the sea area north of Mannar", it said in a press statement.

With this arrest, so far this year 18 Indian fishermen have been arrested and three trawlers confiscated, the statement said.

The Navy said "in the dark hours of 11th January", the North Central Naval Command spotted a cluster of Indian fishing boats "engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters. In response, the Northern Naval Com-

mand deployed its Fast Attack Craft and North Central Naval Command its Inshore Patrol Craft to drive away those Indian fishing boats poaching in the sea area north of Mannar".

"The operation resulted in the seizure of 2 Indian fishing boats and apprehension of 8 Indian fishermen who continued to remain in Sri Lankan waters," it said.

The seized boats together with the Indian fishermen were brought to the island of Iranativu and they will be handed over to the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries, Kilinochchi for onward legal proceedings, the Navy said.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Fishermen from both countries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.

In 2024, the island nation's Navy arrested 529 Indian fishermen for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters.

Nepal's ex-Home Minister Lamichhane appears in Kathmandu Court as investigation into cooperative fraud heats up

KATHMANDU, Jan 12 (Agencies): Nepal's former Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Rabi Lamichhane appeared in the Kathmandu District Court on Sunday for an investigation into the alleged Swarnalaxmi Cooperative fraud case.

Lamichhane, who was released on bail on Thursday after 84 days in custody, arrived at the court in his own vehicle and waved at the media as he walked into the court without making any comments.

The founder of Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Lamichhane was released on bail by the Kaski District Court on Thursday in a separate fraud case involving the Suryadarshan Cooperative, arrived in Kathmandu late on Friday evening. The court had ordered his release on a bail amount of Nepalese Rupee 6.5 million after 84 days in custody.

On January 5, the Kathmandu District Government Attorney's Office, based on police investigations, registered the case against Lamichhane and 38 others at the Kathmandu court.

The accused include former board members of Gorkha Media Pvt Ltd and key officials of the Swarnalaxmi Cooperative. Among them are former vice chair Chhabilal Joshi, chair Ghitendra Babu (GB) Rai, vice chair Devendra Babu Rai, treasurer Kumar Ramtel, secretary Iran Lama, joint secretary Kabita Tamang, and members Hemant Adhikari, Rabina Rimal, and former chair Deepak Lama. They are accused of misappropriating funds amounting to Nepalese Rupee 1.199 billion.

Also, former treasurer Sabina Alemagar, members Bhakta Bahadur Bholan, Sabita Lama, former Secretary Pradeep Lama, accounts coordinator Ganeshraj Shrestha, and former committee members Kalpana Kumari Shrestha and Raju Baral, among others, have been chargesheeted in the case.

The charges include allegations of cooperative fraud and organ-



ised financial crimes. The police investigation suggests the funds were systematically mismanaged and diverted, prompting legal action against 39 individuals.

Cases of embezzlement have been filed in Kaski (Suryadarshan Cooperative), Butwal (Supreme Cooperative), Chitwan (Sahara Cooperative), Kathmandu (Swarnalaxmi Cooperative) and Parsa (Sano Paila Cooperative). In all of the district, Lamichhane has been accused of diverting deposits to Gorkha Media Network which ran the now-defunct Galaxy 4K Television.

Lamichhane was arrested from his party office in Kathmandu on October 18, 2024, by a team from the Central Investigation Bureau on charges of organized crime and misappropriation of cooperative funds.

The former Home Minister and founder of RSP, the fourth largest party in the parliament has denied the charges of charges of money laundering, cooperative fraud, and organized crime in his statement to the Kaski District Police.

In the year 2024, a special inquiry by a parliamentary committee formed to investigate the cooperative scam which had prepared and tabled a report in the parliament on September 16, 2024, indicted Lamichhane in embezzlement of millions of rupees as a part of the cooperative scam.

The seven-member committee formed on May 28 last year was tabled on the parliament which was formally endorsed by the house session. The report concluded that millions of rupees injected to Gorkha Media came from cooperatives which were traded on the basis of forged documents.

Lamichhane had

worked in Gorkha Media, the parent company of now-defunct Galaxy 4K Television, as managing director at the time when cooperative savings were invested in violating cooperative legislation. The incumbent parliamentarian also clarified that he was engaged in Gorkha Media taking sweat share.

Lamichhane later in the year 2022 entered politics announcing the formation of the Rastriya Swatantra Party and entered the federal parliament as a parliamentarian contesting the election the same year. The television's failure to pay salaries to its staff shut its formal operation last year.

The committee in its report also recommended the government take legal action against everyone involved in the transfer of money to Gorkha Media from various cooperatives. Millions of rupees were inducted into Gorkha Media from various cooperatives Suryadarshan from Pokhara, Supreme from Butwal, Swarnalaxmi from Kathmandu, Sahara Chitwan from Chitwan and Sanopaila from Birgunj.

The report has stated that the embezzlement of amounts was completed with the active involvement of GB Rai, Kumar Ramtel, Rabi Lamichhane (then managing director), and Chhabi Lal Joshi. Rai and Lamichhane had operated a joint account in a bank and had issued cheques amounting to millions which shows his involvement, the committee report includes.

"Every company has its own objective and spirit. Promoters and shareholders are the ones with main responsibilities in such institutions. Those in the role and responsibility as shareholders, promoters and managing director

cannot be allowed to not be responsible and accountable for the money received by the company," the report stressed.

During the investigation, the committee also held an inquiry session with former Home Minister and incumbent Chairperson of Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) Lamichhane for over 10 hours. Throughout the inquiry session, he claimed to be unaware that the transfers that were made to the Gorkha Media originated from cooperatives, that too savings of about 50, 000 people.

Further arguing over the case, Lamichhane also claimed that Rabi Lamichhane who had borrowed money from Suryadarshan and Supreme Cooperatives also to be someone not in his knowledge. The committee had asked him a set of 50 questions about his alleged involvement in the scam.

Following the tabling and endorsement of the report, House Speaker Devraj Ghimire directed the government to implement the report of the parliamentary special inquiry committee formed to investigate the misappropriation of savings of cooperatives. Speaker Ghimire then directed the Parliament Secretariat to send the report to the government for implementation.

The HoR had formed the committee headed by CPN-UML lawmaker Thapa on May 28, 2024, after Nepali Congress demanded the formation of a parliamentary investigation committee saying Rastriya Swatantra Party President Rabi Lamichhane, who was then deputy prime minister and home minister, was involved in the misappropriation of cooperative savings. The HoR had initially given the committee three months and later extended its tenure by 15 days.

Dilendra Badu of Nepali Congress, Ishwari Neupane, Sabitra Bhusal of UML, Lekhnath Dahal of CPN (Maoist Center), Shishir Khanal of RSP, and Dhruva Bahadur Pradhan of Rastriya Prajatantra Party were members of the parliamentary committee.

North Korean troops in Ukraine gain battlefield experience, cementing alliance with Russia

KYIV, Jan 12 (Agencies): For weeks, Ukrainian troops braced for an unfamiliar enemy: North Korean soldiers sent to bolster Moscow's forces after Ukraine launched a lightning-fast incursion and seized territory in Russia's Kursk region over the summer.

Their arrival marked a new and alarming phase in the war. And while initially inexperienced on the battlefield, North Korean troops have adapted quickly — a development that could have far-reaching consequences as they gain combat knowledge in the war against Ukraine.

Unlike the Russian troops Ukraine has been battling for nearly three years, Kyiv's forces were uncertain about what to expect from this new adversary, drawn into the war after Moscow and Pyongyang signed an agreement pledging military assistance using "all means" if either were attacked.

One Ukrainian soldier who has witnessed North Koreans in battle described them as disciplined and highly methodical, saying they were more professional than their Russian counterparts. The soldier spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the sensitive military issue.

However, other soldiers, including Ukrainian special forces, have shared battlefield drone footage on the Telegram messaging app mocking their tactics as outdated.

Nevertheless, there is consensus among Ukrainian soldiers, military intelligence and others monitoring developments on the ground: While Pyongyang's troops lacked battlefield experience when they arrived, that has been changing quickly.

With 1.2 million troops, North Korea's military ranks among the largest standing armies globally. But its post-Korean War foreign engagements have been limited, leaving them inexperienced with modern warfare technologies like drones. "For the first time in decades, the North Korean army is gaining real military experience," said Andrii Yusov, spokesperson for Ukraine's military intelligence agency. "This is a global challenge — not just for Ukraine and Europe, but for the entire world."

Identifying the presence of North Korean troops

Despite Ukrainian, US and South Korean assertions that Pyongyang has sent 10,000-12,000 troops to fight alongside Russia in the Kursk border region, Moscow has never publicly acknowledged the North Korean forces. While reports of their presence first emerged in October, Ukrainian troops only confirmed engagement on the ground in December.

Analysts say that without the influx of North Korean troops, Russia would have struggled to pursue its strategy of overwhelming Ukraine by throwing large numbers of soldiers into the battle for Kursk. While Moscow's counterattack in Kursk has inflicted thousands of Ukrainian casualties,

Kyiv's overstretched forces have managed to hold on to about half of the 984 square kilometers (380 square miles) seized in August, though the situation remains dynamic. Besides the symbolic impact of Ukraine's success capturing Russian territory, control of Kursk could also be a bargaining chip in any ceasefire negotiations.

According to Ukraine's intelligence agency, the North Korean soldiers are operating alongside Russian units, with the latter providing reconnaissance and electronic warfare support.

The North Koreans wear Russian military uniforms with fake military IDs in their pockets, according to a report by a Ukrainian military unit that has observed them on the battlefield, and they could easily be mistaken for Russian soldiers.

The subterfuge means Moscow and "its representatives at the UN can deny the facts," said Yusov, the Ukrainian military intelligence spokesperson.

Among the things proving their presence is that they have been heard speaking Korean with North Korean accents in intercepted communications, Yusov said.

He said the North Korean troops are using their own weapons and equipment and have learned to cope with the improvised explosives-laden drones that have become emblematic of the war, first-hand experience even some NATO-member countries don't have.

"This is a new level of threat," Yusov said. "Regional countries must prepare for what this means in the future."

North Koreans gain invaluable experience on the battlefield. The North Koreans' early missteps were largely caused by inexperience, such as moving in large groups in open terrain, making them easy targets for drones and artillery strikes.

According to the Ukrainian military unit's report, the North Korean soldiers were spotted easily as they moved in single-file columns through forest in groups of three, with 3 to 5 metres (yards) between soldiers.

On open terrain, they moved in dispersed formations of five to 15 soldiers, making them vulnerable and leading to heavy losses.

However, during night operations, their movements were swift and units oriented themselves using red flashlights along routes, the report said.

"They're fast, physically well-prepared, and act strictly according to their algorithms," said the Ukrainian soldier who spoke to the AP. "If you drill the same routines for years, to the point where they can be executed blindfolded, it will yield results."

Despite their discipline, their lack of combat experience hindered their effectiveness. The Ukrainian military reported that North Korean troops often sustained heavy losses, with many killed by drones.

On Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy put the

number of killed or wounded North Koreans at 4,000, though US estimates are lower, at around 1,200.

"Much of their military doctrine and training is based on strategies and experiences from over half a century ago," said Glib Voloskyi, a military analyst with the Ukrainian think tank CBA Initiatives Centre.

The large-group formations date to when artillery accuracy was significantly lower, and observing troop movements much more difficult. Today, reconnaissance and so-called first-person view drones, or FPVs, that transmit video allowing soldiers to strike targets in real time have made the battlefield highly transparent, and anyone stepping onto it without cover, let alone moving in groups, is immediately spotted.

"But it is only a matter of time before they acquire the necessary skills to improve their combat effectiveness, which, combined with their discipline and training, could make them a significant military force," Voloskyi said.

No surrender policy means few North Korean POWs

After weeks of fighting, Ukrainian soldiers have taken only two prisoners of war. In announcing the capture Saturday, Zelenskyy said taking them alive "was not easy" because of efforts to conceal the North Koreans' presence and avoid their interrogation by Ukraine.

North Korean soldiers avoid surrendering at all costs, Zelenskyy said.

This may stem from North Korean internal propaganda that portrays capture as the ultimate disgrace, analysts said.

"To be captured alive is considered a betrayal of the country, the leader and everything they stand for," said Seongmin Lee of the New York-based Human Rights Foundation, who defected from North Korea in 2009.

This belief is instilled from a young age and reinforced throughout military training, he said. "Because of the disgrace associated with the capitulation, heroic soldiers are supposed to save the last of their bullets to kill themselves," Lee said.

Lee said he shared photos of dead North Korean soldiers with contacts back home. "Most North Koreans don't even know what is going on," he said.

Dorothy Camille Shea, the deputy US ambassador to the UN warned of the dangers posed by the rapidly improving battlefield skills the North Korean troops are gaining fighting in Kursk.

North Korea "is significantly benefiting from receiving Russian military equipment, technology and experience, rendering it more capable of waging war against its neighbours", Shea told the 15-member UN Security Council on Wednesday.

As an added potential benefit, she said, North Korea "will likely be eager to leverage these improvements to promote weapons sales and military training contracts globally".

Ambedkar's Vision of justice, equality reflects in Schemes of Modi Govt: Dr. Narinder

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Modi Government, inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice and equality, has implemented a range of transformative policies and initiatives that align with his ideals. As the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar championed the rights of marginalized communities, emphasizing economic empowerment, social dignity, and equal opportunities for all.

Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA, R. S. Pura, said this, while addressing a review meeting of the "Samvidhan Gourav Abhiyan" programmes being undertaken at booth and mandal levels with prominent activists of the constituency on Sunday.

Dr. Narinder Singh said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has frequently expressed his admiration for Dr. Ambedkar's vision, ensuring that the



government's development agenda upholds these principles. Various schemes and initiatives demonstrate the government's commitment to fulfilling Dr. Ambedkar's dream of an inclusive India.

"Dr. Ambedkar believed in economic independence as a cornerstone of true empowerment", said Dr. Narinder Singh, adding that, the Modi government's flagship initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, has provided financial support to small entrepreneurs,

many from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, enabling them to establish businesses and become self-reliant.

Dr. Ambedkar often stressed the transformative power of education. Reflecting this, the government has focused on improving access to quality education for underprivileged communities. The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs ensures financial assistance for higher education.

The Modi government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

echoes Ambedkar's call for dignity through adequate housing. Millions of families, including those from backward and marginalized communities, have been provided with affordable homes. Programmes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Ujjwala Yojana ensure access to clean water and cooking gas, improving the quality of life for the disadvantaged.

Dr. Singh said that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been further strengthened under Modi's leadership, ensuring justice for vulnerable communities.

Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's vision remains a guiding light for his government. By focusing on social justice, economic empowerment, and equal opportunities, the Modi administration ensures that Ambedkar's ideals continue to shape India's progress.

Babu Rampaul lauds media persons for their untiring efforts



Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: On the occasion of the Lohri festival, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary JKNC and District Coordinator Jammu, organized a special event to honor the media fraternity of Jammu. The program recognized the dedication and efforts of media professionals who tirelessly work to bring the issues of the people to the forefront.

The event was graced by Babu Rampaul, Former Minister and President of the Central Zone (Jammu, Samba & Kathua) JKNC, as the Chief Guest, and Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC, as the Guest of Honor. During the program, journalists were felicitated by the JKNC leaders and presented with practical gifts as tokens of appreciation on the festive occasion.

In his address, Babu Rampaul commended the role of media per

sons as the fourth pillar of democracy, highlighting their unwavering commitment to society. "The media plays a crucial role in development by giving a voice to the people and ensuring their concerns are heard by the administration. Their work, which continues day and night, is a cornerstone of democracy," he stated.

Ankush Abrol echoed similar sentiments, lauding the media for their selfless approach and tireless efforts in covering events across Jammu. He expressed his gratitude for their dedication, noting how all sections of society receive adequate representation in both print and electronic media.

Dr. Vikas Sharma extended his heartfelt appreciation to the media fraternity, acknowledging their dedication even under challenging conditions, including harsh weather. "The perseverance of media professionals

in fulfilling their duties is commendable. Their commitment to their profession inspires us all," he remarked.

The event concluded with Lohri greetings extended to all the media professionals by the NC leaders, who wished them continued success and happiness.

Prominent speakers at the event included Adv. Rajinder Chamyal, Zonal Vice-President; Rahul Mahajan, Zonal Vice-President; BD Dalotra, Zonal Secretary; Bharat Bushan, Zonal Secretary; Rajinder Kumar; Sahil Kemi, Secretary Jammu District YNC; Rahul Gupta, Ward President; Abhimanyu Sharma; Manan Raina; Sourab Bhagat; Siddhart Barua; Tarun Sharma; Yogesh Sharma; Avinish Angotra, and others.

The celebration reflected the profound respect and gratitude that the JKNC leaders hold for the media fraternity, acknowledging their vital contribution to society and democracy.

Swami Vivekananda-An Icon for Millions of Youth: Keshav Chopra



Top News Report

JAMMU Jan 12: To commemorate the 162nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Keshav Chopra, Chairman of the Samvedna Society, organized a special program at Muskan Home for Mentally Challenged Children in Channi Rama. The event was dedicated to Divyang children suffering from various disabilities, including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and hearing impairments. Alongside this tribute, the Samvedna team also celebrated the Lohri festival with the children, bringing

joy and warmth to the occasion. Speaking at the event, Keshav Chopra emphasized Swami Vivekananda's teachings, which linked the service of mankind to the service of God. "Swami Vivekananda was an iconic personality and spiritual guru whose life and teachings inspire us to work for the underprivileged and needy. Celebrating his birth anniversary with Divyang children is a true tribute to his legacy," he remarked.

During the celebration, Keshav Chopra distributed fruits and sweets among

the children, reinforcing the commitment of the Samvedna Society to support the needy sections of society. The program was not just a commemoration but also a reflection of Swami Vivekananda's ideals of compassion and selfless service.

The event saw the participation of notable individuals, including Pt. Tripat Upadhyay, Rahul Dutta, Vikas Kumar, Anju, Abhishek Gupta, Shashank Rawal (Red Cross), and Bansi Lal. Also present were Pritam Dass, Administrator of Muskan Home, Rajni Sharma, the warden, and other staff members, who extended their support to make the event a success.

This heartfelt initiative by the Samvedna Society highlighted the enduring relevance of Swami Vivekananda's teachings and the importance of uplifting marginalized sections of society.

Rising Women hosts team-building workshop for women entrepreneurs

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Rising Women community recently organized a dynamic team-building workshop aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs and fostering a spirit of collaboration and sisterhood. This initiative is part of their broader mission to provide women with skill development training, networking opportunities, and support systems to thrive in their entrepreneurial journeys.

Speaking at the event, Aarti Mahajan, Founder of Rising Women, highlighted the importance of such programs in equipping women with the necessary tools and resources to succeed. She emphasized that these initiatives are designed to promote economic independence and growth among women, creating a ripple effect of empowerment within their communities.

Karuna Gupta, Executive Director of Rising Women, elaborated on the recent collaboration with Silverlines, which focused on the critical aspects of team building. She explained that the workshop aimed to improve relationships among team members, enhance team spirit, and cultivate a more positive and productive work environment for women entrepreneurs.

Rising Women is an

all-women community dedicated to fostering new possibilities and partnerships. It provides a supportive ecosystem where women are encouraged to grow and rise together, addressing both professional and personal challenges. Through regular discussions, the community creates opportunities to inspire and uplift one another.

The workshop brought together an impressive array of participants, including relationship coaches, entrepreneurs, artists, social activists, and more. Notable attendees included Qamar (Relationship Coach), Megha Sethi (DIY Expert/Entrepreneur), Neha Kaul (Mindfulness Promoter), Sonia Kotwal (SK Beauty & Aesthetics Entrepreneur), Esha (Baker/Entrepreneur, Bakestory), and Smita (Writer, Boond), among others. These women shared their experiences, exchanged ideas, and strengthened their professional networks.

By hosting this workshop, Rising Women continues to fulfill its mission of inspiring women to achieve their full potential. The event not only fostered meaningful connections among participants but also reinforced the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and mutual support in achieving entrepreneurial success.

New Team of Ware House Nehru Market formed under the Presidentship of Deepak Gupta

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: New team of Warehouse Nehru Market, the largest wholesale grain market of Jammu and Kashmir, has been formed for 2024-26 on Sunday. The month-long election process was completed on Sunday with the formation of the entire team under the leadership of Deepak Gupta, who was elected unopposed for the post of President Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market. Voting was held for the post of General Secretary of the Federation on Sunday. Abhimanyu Gupta and Sham Lal Langar were in the fray for the post of General Secretary. Out of total 565 members of the Federation, 509 members exercised their franchise

out of which Abhimanyu Gupta got 266 votes and Sham Lal Langar got 241 votes. Two votes were found canceled. Thus, Abhimanyu Gupta was declared victorious for the post of General Secretary by 15 votes. On other posts of the Federation, Dheeraj Mahajan for the post of Senior Vice President, Vishal Gupta for the post of Jr. Vice President, Rahul Gupta for the post of Secretary and Nitish Gupta for the post of Treasurer had already been declared winner unopposed.

The Election process was presided over by the Election President Rajesh Bhagotra along with Atul Khanna, Krishan P Gupta, Sudesh Gupta and Sunil Kumar Gupta for the term 2024-26.

Kariwan's Winter Wonderland: Lolab Festival Unites Culture, Tourism, and Community

Top News Report

KUPWARA, Jan 12: The serene valley of Kariwan in Lolab, Kupwara, came alive as the much-anticipated Lolab Winter Festival concluded successfully today. Drawing thousands of visitors and locals, the event showcased the breathtaking beauty and vibrant cultural heritage of Lolab Valley over an action-packed weekend.

The festival, aimed at celebrating the winter season and promoting the region's tourism potential, featured an array of captivating activities. Highlights included traditional music performances, snow volleyball championships, skiing demonstrations, Kashmiri Rowf and Gojri songs, Punjabi folk tunes, local handicraft exhibitions, guided nature walks, and a diverse range of culinary offerings.

The event was graced

by several dignitaries, including Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan; DDC Chairman Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Pandipuri; Vice Chairman DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; SSP Kupwara, Ghulam Jeelani; DDC Sogam, Nasir Lone, along with district and sectoral officers, senior police and army officials, and a large gathering of local residents and employees.

A standout attraction was the craft market featuring skilled artisans from the region, providing visitors a glimpse of Lolab's rich craftsmanship. Visitors also had the opportunity to explore the valley's stunning landscapes through guided tours, further enhancing the festival's appeal.

Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, emphasized the

festival's role in promoting Lolab Valley as a key tourist destination. She expressed her gratitude to all stakeholders, including local administration, public representatives, police, the army, and the general public, for their collective efforts in making the event a resounding success.

Local leaders and dignitaries praised the seamless collaboration of the district administration and various departments in organizing the festival. They lauded the event's ability to highlight the cultural and natural wealth of the region while fostering community spirit and tourism development.

The Lolab Winter Festival has firmly established itself as a hallmark event, drawing attention to the scenic charm and cultural richness of the valley, and leaving visitors with unforgettable memories.

Natrang's winter Theatre workshop for children culminates Today

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: Natrang's most sought after Winter Theatre Workshop for children culminated here today with a vibrant performance of Habib Tanveer's 'Parampara' at the auditorium of the Government College for Women Parade, Jammu which collaborated this rare showcasing. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant and was assisted by Kanan Kaur Mohd. Yaseen coordi-

nated the workshop. Earlier welcoming the gathering the Director of Natrang Padamshree Balwant Thakur dwelt in detail about Natrang's unique initiative of popularizing theatre amongst children. Terming theatre as one of the most effective, tried and tested medium of personality exploration and development, Balwant Thakur cited many examples of magical changes which he witnessed amongst children during his last Thirty-six years of work



with Children. Majority of Natrang products are now either top actors in the Tinsel Town or holding prominent positions in professional spheres, civil services and cor

porate world. "Theatre should not be seen as an art of making faces but it's amazing power has the unlimited potential to transform personalities" Balwant Thakur

added. The play 'Parampara' opens with two children lamenting their lack of followers on social media. Desperate for attention, they beg the audience to follow them and enthusiastically perform a reel dance. Encouraged by another child boasting 5 lakh followers, they attempt to replicate the trend by dancing to a new song. However, their energetic display is interrupted

by Nati, who questions their awareness of their own culture and literature. Nati urges them to look beyond these social media trends and explore the rich heritage of Indian culture and history. Inspired by this, the children resolve to stage a play on India's history. The play "Parampara" presents a vibrant retelling of Indian history through a series of key events and characters. It begins with a humorous debate between the narrators and actresses about the play's theme, ultimately settling on the name "Viraasat." The story unfolds with the arrival of Aryans and the symbolic union of Bharat Mata and Arya, followed by pivotal episodes like Lord Ram's exile, Arjun's moral dilemma

in the Mahabharata, and Emperor Ashoka's transformation after the Kalinga War. As the narrative progresses, it touches upon India's rich cultural heritage, from Bharata Muni's "Natyashastra" to Kalidasa's literature. However, the play also delves into the complexities of Indian history, portraying the arrival of the British, the struggles for independence led by Mahatma Gandhi and the painful partition that led to the creation of Pakistan. Through the allegory of children representing future generations, the play emphasises unity and the shared heritage of India and Pakistan. It concludes with a call for harmony, with Bharat Mata and Arya vowing

to stand by both nations. "Parampara" is a compelling blend of history, culture and a message of peace. Those who acted in the play included Aarna Gaur, Adira Gupta, Advik Sharma, Amayra Mahajan, Anvi Sharma, Araiya Shan, Daiwik Shan, Deeher Gupta, Deshna Jain, Dhanak Chandan, Dwijesh Dutta, Jayaditya Singh, Kamakhya Bali, Kavish Sharma, Kavya Jandial, Mehak Chib, Mrigasya Shan, Nandita Mahajan, Nyra Gandotra, Priyal Gupta, Ruhaan Chandan, Saanchi Dutta, Sianet Magotra, Supria Gorka, Tapas Shikhar Midtada, Vaibhav Mahajan and Daivansh Singh Rakwal. The music of the play was scored by Kartik Kumar and the show was ably conducted by Sumeet Sharma.

FROM PAGE 3

J&K shivers as cold wave intensifies, Dry weather fore-

cast for next 24 hours

Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to provide 24X7 electric

power supply to the consumers. Pilgrages, transmission losses and even low cost of electricity charged by consumers are cited as reasons for the wide gap between the requirement and supply of electricity by the authorities.

Union Budget 2025: High hopes as dark clouds loom over economy

Amid fears of an economic slowdown, here's what key sectors are demanding from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2025.

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the Union Budget on February 1. While a slowdown in the ongoing financial year was anticipated, the steep downward revision in GDP growth for FY25 has surprised many.

Concerns over economic growth have intensified, with India's GDP projected to slow sharply to 6.4% in FY25, according to the government's first advance estimates. This marks a significant drop from the 8.2% growth recorded in FY24 and represents the slowest expansion in four years.

INDIA INC SEEKS MAJOR REFORMS

The corporate sector is pinning its hopes on the upcoming budget. Amit Modi, director of County Group, highlighted the real estate industry's pressing needs.

"One of the most long-standing demands is granting industry status to enable easier access to low-cost financing, which directly benefits consumers. Additionally, implementing single-window clearance is crucial for timely project completion and cost efficiency," Modi said.

He further added, "Reintroducing GST input credits for residential real estate will stabilise costs. We also expect the home loan interest exemption to be increased to Rs 8 lakh annually to support first-time buyers, while Section 80C should either exclusively cover housing loan principal deductions or have its limit raised to Rs 5 lakh."



REAL ESTATE AWAITS RELIEF

The real estate sector, grappling with challenges, anticipates significant measures to aid the middle class and the industry. Sachin Gawri, founder and CEO of RISE Infraventures, addressed the sector's expectations.

"Real estate reflects India's economic progress, yet significant untapped potential remains. Budget 2025 should address high input costs by extending input tax credits and reducing GST on materials," Gawri said.

He suggested revising the affordable housing definition to Rs 80 lakh, reintroducing a 100% tax holiday for such projects, and creating new land banks to boost supply.

"Combining home loan principal and interest deductions with a Rs 5 lakh cap would ease homeownership. Additionally, reducing the long-term capital gains holding period to

two years, raising Section 54EC exemptions to Rs 1 crore, and expanding REIT benefits will spur investments," he added.

STARTUPS SEEK SUPPORT

The startup ecosystem, a critical driver of job creation, faces hurdles that need immediate attention. Sumit Singh, CEO and co-founder of DashLoc, outlined the sector's expectations from the budget.

"As the Union Budget 2025 approaches, it is crucial for the government to focus on bolstering the startup ecosystem by reducing regulatory complexities, which often hinder growth," Singh said.

He proposed establishing dedicated IT software parks to provide essential infrastructure and foster innovation. "Simplifying access to loans through banks and government-backed schemes will ensure startups can secure funding more efficiently, enabling them to scale and contribute significantly to the economy," Singh added.

HEALTHCARE DEMANDS INCREASED FOCUS

Although the world has largely overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, HMPV infections have raised fresh alarms. The healthcare sector is calling for increased investments and policies to address systemic gaps.

Dr Pravin Gupta, principal director and chief of neurology at Fortis Hospital, stressed the need for a roadmap. "We expect a clear plan to increase public healthcare spending. Strategic investments coupled with supportive policies can bridge the rural-urban divide and ensure access to critical care, especially in underserved regions," he said.

Dr Ashish Chaudhari, managing director at Aakash Healthcare, echoed similar sentiments. "Reinstating the 150% deduction under Section 35AD of the Income Tax Act for new healthcare projects and providing tax holidays for a minimum of 15 years for new projects, alongside a 10-year tax relief for existing facilities, are key demands," Chaudhari said.

"These measures will ease the financial burden on healthcare providers and ensure cost savings are passed on to patients, making healthcare more affordable," he added.

With stakeholders across sectors voicing their concerns and expectations, the Union Budget 2025 holds the promise of addressing critical issues and driving India's economic recovery.

Airtel leads in call quality, Jio in download speeds in Delhi: TRAI



NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Reliance Jio (RJIL), India's leading telecom service provider, reported the lowest call quality and a higher percentage of unsuccessful call attempts in Delhi compared to its competitors, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which released a report based on an its Independent Drive Tests (IDT) conducted in four cities, Reliance Jio has a lower call setup success rate of 94.00%, indicating that a higher percentage of call attempts fail.

In comparison, both Airtel and Vodafone Idea have a call setup success rate of 99.25%, reflecting their highly reliable call connection processes.

When it comes to call drops, which refer to calls that are disconnected before completion, Reliance Jio performed poorly along with Vodafone Idea. On

the other hand, Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest telecom provider, outperformed the others in this regard. While Airtel reported an exceptionally low call drop rate of 0.12%, both RJIL and VIL had a slightly higher rate of 0.23%, still indicating relatively low call drop rates overall.

Reliance Jio also struggled with call silence or call mute issues, where a call is successfully connected but no audio is heard. According to TRAI, Jio had the highest mute rate at 3.01%, indicating that a significant percentage of its calls experience silence after being established.

In comparison, Airtel reported the lowest mute rate at just 0.55%, highlighting its superior call audio performance. Vodafone Idea (VIL) had a mute rate of 2.34%, meaning while it faced fewer issues than Jio, it still encountered notable audio problems during calls.

TRAI's Independent Drive Tests (IDT) were conducted in New Delhi (Delhi LSA), Jaipur (Rajasthan LSA), Ahmednagar (Maharashtra LSA), and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh LSA)—during September-October 2024. The tests assessed the performance of voice and data services across the networks of all telecom service providers operating in these regions.

In terms of call establishment time, which measures how long it takes to connect a call after initiation, Reliance Jio excelled among the private telecom operators in Delhi. Jio takes just 0.73 seconds to establish a call, while Airtel and Vodafone Idea take 0.82 seconds and 1.55 seconds, respectively. This highlights Jio's faster call connection speed compared to its competitors.

In terms of data download performance, Reliance Jio leads, followed by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea in Delhi. However, when it comes to data upload speeds, Airtel is considered the fastest among the three, with Reliance Jio coming in second, followed by Vodafone Idea.



CALIFORNIA, Jan 12 (Agencies): An international research team has discovered a new type of skeletal tissue that offers great potential for advancing regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

An international research team led by the University of California, Irvine has discovered a new type of skeletal tissue that offers great potential for advancing regenerative medicine and tissue engineering. Most cartilage relies on an external extracellular matrix for strength, but 'lipocartilage', which is found in the ears, nose and throat of mammals, is uniquely packed with fat-filled cells called 'lipochondrocytes'.

It provides super-stable internal support which enables the strength of tissue. It makes to remain soft



and springy -- similar to bubbled packaging material.

The study, published in the journal Science, describes how lipocartilage cells create and maintain their own lipid reservoirs while remaining constant in size. Unlike ordinary adipocyte fat cells, lipochondrocytes never shrink or expand in response to food availability.

"Lipocartilage's resil-

ience and stability provide a compliant, elastic quality that's perfect for flexible body parts such as earlobes or the tip of the nose, opening exciting possibilities in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, particularly for facial defects or injuries," said corresponding author Maksim Plikus, UC Irvine professor of developmental and cell biology.

"Currently, cartilage reconstruction often requires harvesting tissue from the patient's rib -- a painful and invasive procedure. In the future, patient-specific lipo chondrocytes could be derived from stem cells, purified and used to manufacture living cartilage tailored to individual needs. With the help of 3D printing, these engineered tissues could be shaped to fit precisely, offering new solutions for treating birth defects, trauma and various cartilage diseases."

Dr. Franz Leydig first recognized lipochondrocytes in 1854, when he noted the presence of fat droplets in the cartilage of rat ears, a finding that was largely forgotten until now.

Now with modern biochemical tools and advanced imaging methods, UC Irvine

researchers comprehensively characterised lipo cartilage's molecular biology, metabolism and structural role in skeletal tissues.

In their research, they also uncovered the genetic process that suppresses the activity of enzymes that break down fats and reduce the absorption of new fat molecules.

When stripped of its lipids, the lipocartilage becomes stiff and brittle, highlighting the importance of its fat-filled cells in maintaining the tissue's combination of durability and flexibility.

In addition, the team noted that in some mammals, such as bats, lipo chondrocytes assemble into intricate shapes, like parallel ridges in their oversized ears, which may enhance hearing acuity by modulating sound waves.

NEW DELHI, Jan 12 (Agencies): Women who receive a lung transplant are more likely than men to live for five years post-transplant, according to new research.

However, women are less likely to receive a lung transplant and spend an average of six weeks longer on the waiting list, according to a study published in ERJ Open Research.

The researchers encourage changes in regulation and clinical guidelines to address this inequality.

"It is important to understand that people on the waiting list for a

transplant have a very poor quality of life, sometimes they are not well enough to leave their house, and have a high risk of death," said lead researcher Dr Adrien Tissot from Nantes University Hospital, France.

Lung transplantation is the only treatment for people with end-stage respiratory failure and patients on the waiting list have a high risk of death.

A transplant can restore normal lung function, giving patients an improved life expectancy and higher quality of life.



study included 1,710 participants -- 802 women and 908 men -- who were being cared for at one of France's 12 transplantation centres between 2009 and 2018.

Patients were followed-up for around six years after transplanta-

tion. The main underlying diseases affecting patients were chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis and interstitial lung disease.

Dr Tissot's research found that women wait 115 days for a lung transplant on average

versus 73 days for men. Notably, after transplantation, survival was higher for women than men with 70 per cent of female recipients still alive five years after transplantation, compared to 61 per cent of male recipients.

The researchers also found that most women received a donor lung that was matched by sex and height.

According to researchers, clinicians, patients and policy makers must acknowledge this gender difference as it's essential for appropriate action to be taken.

BCCI cracks whip, sends blunt message to Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma in meeting

India's next big Test assignment is a five-match series against England in June.

MUMBAI, Jan 12 (Agencies): India's disastrous tour of Australia was reviewed by the BCCI in an over two-hour long meeting with under-fire skipper Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir on Sunday but the Board decided against any knee-jerk response to the debacle that was largely blamed on the poor form of senior players. The meeting was held at a five-star facility in Mumbai and BCCI President Roger Binny and secretary elect Devajit Saikia were in attendance along with Rohit and Gambhir.

"There was a detailed discussion on the Border Gavaskar Trophy performance and what all went wrong and the course correction required. But do not expect a hurried decision from the new dispensation of BCCI," a source privy to developments in the Board told agency on conditions of anonymity.

India surrendered the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade following the 1-3 loss to Australia. The team was also knocked out of the World Test Championship final in June this year due to the



defeat in the five-match series.

It is understood that with an important ODI tournament like the Champions Trophy scheduled in another six weeks' time, any immediate reaction would have a negative impact on the team as well as the support staff.

Rohit, who drew considerable flak for his underwhelming batting performance in Australia, is also the national ODI captain.

The team will get a break only after the Champions Trophy, which concludes on March 9, and the players will then be seen in the colours of their respective IPL franchises after

that. India's next big Test assignment is a five-match series against England in June.

Speculation is swirling that the 37-year-old Rohit will not be selected for that series. Virat Kohli's future is also under the scanner although it is believed that he is in a slightly better position as of now.

While Rohit managed just 31 runs in Australia, prompting him to drop himself from the fifth and final Test, Kohli managed a hundred in the opening game in Perth.

With more than five months go for the next Test series,

many in the BCCI believe that there is no need to take a decision right away.

However, how Rohit and Kohli perform in the Champions Trophy will be a major factor in deciding which direction their careers take in the coming few months.

That the Indian Test set-up is in turmoil during a difficult transition was evident from the abrupt manner in which senior off-spinner R Ashwin retired mid-series after not being played for the majority of the games he was there.

No cherry-picking assignments

It is also learned that players won't be allowed to pick and choose bilateral assignments based on their whims and fancies.

They will have to provide valid medical reasons for skipping any games.

The Board has already directed the stars to turn up for domestic engagements with Gambhir stating it firmly that all those who are committed to red-ball cricket must show up for Ranji Trophy matches.

Proteas have copped unfair criticism, won't write them off for WTC final: AB de Villiers



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 12 (Agencies): AB de Villiers feels the criticism that has come South Africa's way has been unwarranted and they have rather done well to reach the WTC final despite experiencing "so many changes" in the last three to five years.

South Africa have qualified for the WTC final for the first time and will face favourites Australia at Lord's in June.

The Proteas did draw a two-match series against India at home but didn't play the other leading Test sides like Australia and England. Their board was severely criticised for sending a team full of rookies to New Zealand as the senior players had to be made available for the SA20 back home.

"The Proteas in the last few years have taken a little bit of unfair criticism, in my opinion. You've got to keep in mind all the changes that has happened in the last three to five years," de Villiers told the media on the sidelines of SA20 third season.

"A lot of experienced players retiring, a lot of coaching staff moving on. There's been a lot of changes, a lot of young faces, fresh faces coming in. Two new coaches, Shukri Conrad doing the Test team, Rob Walter with the white ball cricket.

"There's a lot of new things, and still they qualified for the T20 World Cup final, (and) that in the WTC final. It is actually incredible and I feel they deserve a lot

more credit for achieving this," he said.

De Villiers said the current Proteas side will need more time and travelling experience to attain the consistency which Graeme Smith's team enjoyed in the past.

"It's going to take a little bit of time in saying that to find that consistency that we've had maybe between 2008 to 2015, where we were consistently around one of the top teams in the world, and they will get there, it takes time," he said.

"All teams have to go through those phases to find the experienced players again, to find the right mix of players. I was there in 2005, 2006 and 2007 where we were all over the place... very difficult, very inconsistent.

"It was very difficult to find our groove, and then in 2008 we started clicking. But we had to go through those hard times first," he said.

De Villiers said while there's no doubt Australia are favourites for the WTC final, he would not write South Africa off.

"Proteas have done exceptionally well, it shows you they're playing a positive brand of cricket, they're going for results, I love that about them," he said.

"With Temba Bavuma as captain taking a lot of criticism over the years, look at where he's now, taking the team to the WTC final over and above incredible cricketers nations like India, New Zealand (and) England."

De Villiers said he would back Proteas to

come good for their attitude on and off the field.

"They're up against Australia, at Lord's, (on) a moving wicket, against one of the best bowling attacks in the world, and a batting line-up that bats deep. But I will never write my team off.

"They're a bunch of fighters, and Temba Bavuma mentioned this in the press conference. He said, 'I will take this team to war, because I know they're going to fight for each other.'"

De Villiers said South Africa should back the youngsters to the hilt.

"The most important thing is to stick with the team they've got now. With the 13, 14 (or) 15 players and build around that. That's what I had when I grew up. Graeme Smith backed me," he said.

"I wasn't always consistent in the first few years, and he stuck with me and then finally, the team reaped the rewards from me becoming more consistent.

"There are quite a few other examples like that. Hashim Amla, Dale Steyn. The list goes on. (They) could easily have dropped those players because they were inconsistent early on," he added.

"Everyone is childishly excited about SA20"

De Villiers said everyone is "childishly excited" about SA20's third edition which has made a flying start.

"This tournament is all about the youngsters in my opinion. I love the fact that there's a platform for them to get exposure, to get great experience, (and) to play alongside some of the best players in the world," he said.

"I'm in the fortunate position to be a commentator here. I get to spend a lot of time on the field before the start of the play. I speak to almost all the players, the coaches and everyone is childishly excited about this tournament," he added.

New Zealand names young pacers O'Rourke, Smith and Sears for the Champions Trophy

WELLINGTON, Jan 12 (Agencies): Fast bowlers Lockie Ferguson and Ben Sears were recalled to New Zealand's 15-man squad on Sunday for the Champions Trophy next month in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Ferguson is no longer contracted to New Zealand Cricket and missed the home series against Sri Lanka which finished on Sunday, while playing in Australia's Big Bash League.

Sears was a traveling reserve for last year's Twenty20 World Cup but missed New Zealand's test series in India in November and the first half of the domestic season with a knee injury. He returned from injury on Thursday in a T20 match for Wellington province.

Sears, Will O'Rourke and Nathan Smith have been named to play at their first ICC tournament but Jacob Duffy, who was outstanding in the T20 and one-day international series against Sri Lanka, has been named as a traveling reserve.

"ICC tournaments represent the pinnacle of our game and it's a huge honor to be picked to represent your country at them," coach Gary Stead said.

"I'd especially like to acknowledge Ben, Nathan and Will, who will be attending their first senior ICC events and I know they're really excited to do so." The pace attack is led by the experienced Matt Henry and Ferguson, who has played in two T20 and two ODI World Cups.

The experience of the squad is also bolstered by captain Mitchell Santner, wicketkeeper-batter Tom Latham and former captain Kane Williamson, who played in the last Champions Trophy in 2017. Williamson also played in the 2013 edition.

Santner will be leading New Zealand to a major tournament for the first time. He offers a spin bowling option along with Michael Bracewell, Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra.

The batting lineup is a strong one with Devon Conway, Will Young, Ravindra, Mark Chapman, Daryl Mitchell and Williamson providing depth and experience. "Although the Champions Trophy hasn't been played for a few years,



the team is well aware of the history of the tournament and the fact New Zealand were the first winners of the tournament in 2000 when it was known as the ICC KnockOut Trophy," Stead said.

"We're currently blessed with a lot of quality players and that certainly made for some challenging selection discussions. Ultimately, we've gone with the squad that will

offer us the best options to perform well in the expected conditions in Pakistan and the UAE." New Zealand will prepare for the tournament with a warmup tri-series against Pakistan and South Africa in Karachi and Lahore and a warmup match against Afghanistan in Karachi.

The Champions Trophy is contested by the top-eight ranked men's ODI teams in world cricket.

No Shakib Al Hasan as Bangladesh announce 15-member Champions Trophy squad

DHAKA, Jan 12 (Agencies): Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced its 15-member squad for the much-anticipated ICC Champions Trophy, captained by Najmul Hossain Shanto. The team boasts seasoned players like Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, and Mustafizur Rahman, along with promising young talents. However, the absence of two key names—veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and experienced batter Litton Das—has sparked widespread discussion.

While Shakib's exclusion was somewhat anticipated due to ongoing issues with his bowling action, Litton's omission comes as a surprise given his reputation as a reliable top-order batsman. Despite a challenging year, the selectors' decision signals a shift towards investing in younger talents and building a more dynamic squad for the global tournament.

Bangladesh Champions Trophy squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, MD Mahmudullah, Jaker Ali Anik (WK), Mehdy Hasan Miraz, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nasim Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana.

Shakib Al Hasan's Expected Absence Shakib's exclusion comes amid ongoing issues surrounding his bowling action. The 37-year-old, who recently failed a second reassessment of his bowling mechanics, remains barred from bowling in domestic and international matches. The independent assessment conducted at Loughborough University

in December 2024 deemed his left-arm spin illegal under ICC regulations. Despite a subsequent test at the Sri Ramachandra Centre for Sports Science in Chennai, his status remained unchanged, further justifying the selectors' decision to omit him from the squad.

Shakib, widely regarded as one of Bangladesh's greatest cricketers, boasts an illustrious career with 7,570 runs and 317 wickets in ODIs. However, he has been absent from the national setup since opting out of his farewell Test against South Africa, citing safety concerns amidst political unrest in Dhaka.

Not-so-surprising exclusion of Litton Das

Unlike Shakib's predictable absence, Litton Das' exclusion comes as a shock. The 29-year-old has endured a woeful run of form in 2024, amassing just six runs across five ODIs at an average of 1.20. Despite his experience, selectors have chosen to invest in younger talents like Soumya Sarkar, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, and Tawhid Hridoy to strengthen the batting lineup.

New Generation of Stars As Bangladesh eyes a competitive run in the Champions Trophy, the responsibility now falls on emerging players to step up. Soumya Sarkar's aggressive batting, coupled with the bowling prowess of youngsters Nahid Rana and Tanzim Hasan, will be key to Bangladesh's success.

The squad reflects Bangladesh's focus on a blend of experience and youth, as they navigate through a transitional phase while aiming to make their mark in the global tournament.

"Would like to play Olympics...": Steve Smith following record-equalling BBL century

SYDNEY, Jan 12 (Agencies): Australian batting icon Steve Smith has no plans of retiring anytime soon, with the veteran setting his sights on representing the nation in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in the shortest format of the game.

Smith made a memorable return to T20 cricket and the Big Bash League, hitting his third Big Bash League century for Sydney Sixers against Perth Scorchers at his home ground, Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG). Smith tonked 100 runs in 21 innings at an average of 59.37, with three centuries and six fifties. This includes a title-winning run with Washington Freedom in the Major League Cricket (MLC) 2024, where he scored 336 runs in nine matches at an average of 56.00 and a strike rate of 148.67, with three half-centuries and a best score of 88.

In a statement to FOX Sports, Smith said, "I would like to play in the Olympics; I reckon that would be cool." He added, "We will see



of 23.50 and a strike rate of over 121, with just one fifty to his name.

However, in all T20 matches since 2023, Smith has scored 950 runs in 21 innings at an average of 59.37, with three centuries and six fifties. This includes a title-winning run with Washington Freedom in the Major League Cricket (MLC) 2024, where he scored 336 runs in nine matches at an average of 56.00 and a strike rate of 148.67, with three half-centuries and a best score of 88.

In a statement to FOX Sports, Smith said, "I would like to play in the Olympics; I reckon that would be cool." He added, "We will see

plans with the selectors. He is content to play two more games for Sydney Sixers before the tour to Sri Lanka at the end of the month, where he aims to score one more run to reach the 10,000 Test run mark.

"I have not really spoken about it (a recall). I am not really that fussed. I do what I do, enjoy coming back here playing for the Sixers and helping the team have success. I love the boys in that changeroom, it is a good group, I have been involved for a long time," he said.

Smith further added, "I could have played the other night maybe in Melbourne, but I needed a bit of down time after a pretty hectic five Test matches. I am glad I did not, I tried to freshen up a bit for tonight and fortunately, I was able to help the boys win."

"I find the more I play back-to-back games you get in sync with the game."

"Today for instance I do not think I played my first 10 balls really well, I was

probably going a bit too hard for how the wicket was playing."

"I had a bit of luck early, and then from there found some rhythm. But if I am playing T20s regularly I probably come out with a slightly different mindset at the start, give myself a bit more time and just play better cricket shots than a bit of the rogue stuff. I think that would come if I was playing consistently.

"I think it is just the gears and going up and down in the gears throughout the innings. And just playing the percentages. Today we had a short boundary, and I was saying whenever I am on the short boundary side I am going to try and target it."

"And then if they go wide, which they tended to, I was looking for gaps on the off-side I could hit to. And then the other end was just play good smart cricket, targeted straight. I was hitting straight down the ground well off the spinners. Just intelligent batting," he concluded.

Aryans delegation meets Punjab Governor

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 13: A delegation of Aryans Group of Colleges met Governor Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria under the leadership of Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA); Punjab Unaided Technical Institutions Association (PUTIA) & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh.

An event was organized where the Punjab Raj Bhavan, under the chairmanship of Punjab Governor and UT Chandigarh Administrator Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria, hosted a dialogue on drug awareness with educationists of Punjab in association with the Joshi Foundation, Khanna Foundation, Grewal Foundation, and Sampla Foundation.

During the event, academicians from about 50 universities, schools and other higher education institutes expressed their views and pledged



full support to effectively address the issue of drug abuse in Punjab. "The educationist also briefed the Governor about the various awareness activities being conducted on their campuses, which have resulted in a reduction in drug abuse among the youth."

In his address, Punjab Governor Kataria highlighted the evil of the drug menace, emphasizing that it is not just a regional problem but a national crisis, particularly alarming in Punjab.

He stated, "This war against drugs can only be won through the joint efforts of all sections of society, including the government, social organizations, educational institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Enforcing laws is important, but it alone cannot solve the problem. Spreading awareness across all sections of society is equally crucial."

Dr. Anshu Kataria thanked Governor Punjab & acknowledged the remarkable

step taken for the youth welfare. He assured the Governor that around 400 technical institutions where around 8-9 lakhs students are pursuing higher education will support this campaign and will work day and night to spread awareness in each district of Punjab. Kataria assured that from various schools and colleges the students will participate and will the colleges will come forward to combat drug abuse.

Later Governor encouraged all stakeholders to

remain resolute despite challenges, expressing confidence that persistent efforts would yield results. He also called for a compassionate and comprehensive approach, focusing on awareness, education, and community engagement.

Renowned educationists from Chandigarh University, Gharuan; Chitkara University, Rajpura; Lovely Professional University, Phagwara; Bahra University, Kharar; Dash Bhagat University, Mandi Gobindgarh; Chandigarh Group of Colleges, Jhanjheri; SVIET, Banur; Amritsar Group of Colleges, Amritsar; Baba Farid College, Bathinda; Nursing Association, Indo Global Colleges Chandigarh; Bhai Ghnaiya Ekta Nursing College, Moga etc. were also present. The session was also addressed by Vineet Joshi, Avinash Rai Khanna, Vijay Sampla, Harjeet Singh Grewal etc.

Shabnum Jan extends birthday wishes to Priyanka Gandhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: On this special occasion, Shabnum Jan, Mahila Congress District President of Shopian, extended her heartfelt birthday wishes to Priyanka Gandhi Ji, celebrating not only the day but also her remarkable journey and contributions to the nation.

"Happy Birthday, Priyanka Ji! Your unwavering dedication to empowering women and advocating for justice truly inspires us all. May this year bring you as much joy and strength as you give to others," said Shabnum, expressing the admiration and gratitude

felt by many who regard Priyanka Ji as a symbol of hope and resilience.

Shabnum further highlighted Priyanka Gandhi Ji's leadership, stating, "Your leadership reminds us that every woman has the power to make a difference. We look up to you for guidance and motivation. On your birthday, we celebrate not just you, but the incredible impact you have on countless lives."

As a leader herself, Shabnum Jan emphasized the importance of solidarity among women leaders and the need to uplift one another. "It's about lifting each other up and creating a future

where every woman feels empowered to chase her dreams. Priyanka Ji embodies that spirit, and we're grateful for her influence," she remarked.

Encouraging reflection on Priyanka Gandhi Ji's values of strength, courage, and compassion, Shabnum urged everyone to honor her legacy by committing to these ideals. "Let's honor her today by committing ourselves to the same ideals that she champions. Here's to another year of inspiring change!"

The occasion served as a moment to celebrate Priyanka Gandhi Ji's enduring influence and the hope she continues to inspire in countless lives.

Grand ESM rally to be held on Dec 14 in Leh under Fire and Fury Corps

Top News Report

LEH, Jan 12: In an initiative to honour the sacrifices and services of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) and Veer Naris (war widows), Fire and Fury Corps is set to organise a grand Ex-Servicemen Rally and Pension Adalat on 14 January 2025 at Rinchen Auditorium, Leh.

This event aims to bring together veterans, their families and the serving personnel of Indian Army in a celebration of camaraderie and gratitude. The rally will provide an opportunity for ESM and Veer Naris to reconnect with their former comrades while also enable Indian Army to reinforce its commitment to their welfare. The primary objective

of the event includes addressing grievances, spreading awareness about welfare schemes and ensuring a holistic approach to the well-being of veterans and their families. Dedicated stalls manned by officials from Army and Veteran Welfare Organisations will address pension related issues, documentation concerns and other administrative challenges faced by the veteran community. A medical camp is being set up to provide health check-ups, specialist consultations and medicine distribution. The rally will symbolize the unwavering bond between Indian Army and veterans, reflecting the Army's motto: "Once a soldier, always a soldier." By fostering

camaraderie, addressing grievances and celebrating their contributions, the event aims to inspire a continued spirit of service among the veteran community.

The upcoming Ex-Servicemen Rally at Leh under the aegis of the Fire and Fury Corps is set to be a landmark event, exemplifying the Army's deep respect and gratitude for its veterans and their families. It will underscore the nation's commitment to ensure the well-being of those who dedicated their lives to its defence. This rally is not just an event; it is a celebration of sacrifice, a reaffirmation of commitment and a heartfelt gesture to honour the indomitable spirit of India's defenders.

IIM Jammu concludes second module of Life Insurance Professional Program for PNB MetLife India Insurance

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu), under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, concluded the Second Module of the Life Insurance Professional Program (Management Development Programme) for PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited. The valedictory ceremony, held on 12th January 2024 at the Kautilya Block of IIM Jammu's permanent campus in Jagti, marked the culmination of a transformative journey designed to enhance managerial expertise among life insurance professionals.

The event was graced by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Dr. Baljeet Singh, Program Director, IIM Jammu; Rajesh Verma, Senior Regional Head, Jammu and Kashmir, PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd.; Amit Sharma, Regional Training Manager, PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd. and



other officials of both the organizations.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized the value of industry engagement on campus and highlighted the valedictory as a starting point for transformative journeys. He encouraged participants to reflect on key takeaways, implement insights for organizational growth, and reconstruct their professional paths. He also thanked the program directors and faculty for co-creating a rich learning experience.

Rajesh Verma, Senior Regional Head, Jammu and Kashmir, PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd., emphasized the importance of implementing the learnings gained. He acknowledged the achievement of the 32 handpicked participants who stood out among many and expressed gratitude to

everyone for their good performances. He also appreciated the efforts of the core team driving the BRV initiative forward.

Dr. Baljeet Singh, Program Director, IIM Jammu, provided an overview of the program and presented the program report, emphasizing the importance of convergence and fostering relationships.

Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, highlighted that the program met expectations and emphasized the importance of building lasting relationships.

The program, facilitated by IIM Jammu's esteemed faculty, focused on developing core skills in entrepreneurship, finance, strategy, design thinking, innovation, and communication. Partici-

pants shared their experiences, highlighting the practical knowledge and strategic insights gained.

The ceremony concluded with certificate distribution, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Program Director and Chairperson, Executive Educa-

tion and Consultancy, IIM Jammu. The event underscored IIM Jammu's commitment to delivering industry-relevant learning experiences and shaping future leaders. The program was meticulously coordinated by the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C) team at IIM Jammu.

Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society starts 3-day long Lohri-cum-Makarsankranti fest

Top News Report

JAMMU, Jan 12: The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society (RBRWS) joyously kicked off the first day of the much-anticipated 3-day Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival. The festive spirits were high as the community gathered to celebrate with fervor and enthusiasm.

The event commenced with a vibrant rally featuring traditional dhol and bhangra performances that electrified the atmosphere. The nimantrana pheri, a procession inviting blessings, added a touch of cultural authenticity to the celebrations. The female residents showcased their devotion through soulful bhajan and satsang sessions, filling the air with a serene and spiritual aura.

In his opening address, RBRWS President Deepak Sharma remarked, "This festival is a testament to our unity and cultural heritage. It brings immense joy to see our community come together to celebrate and uphold our traditions."

Vice President Sameer Bhasin added, "The Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival is not just about celebrations; it's about fostering bonds and creating lasting memories. We are proud to continue this legacy."


General Secretary Sanjeev Kumar Gupta echoed similar sentiments, "The participation and enthusiasm shown by our residents are truly heartwarming. This event is a reflection of our collective spirit and camaraderie."

The festivities con-

cluded on a sweet note with the distribution of parsad and sweets, symbolizing the sharing of joy and prosperity.

The event was graced by the presence of advisors and executive members of the RBRWS, including Sanjeev Grover, Madan Gopal Tony, Gurdeep Singh, Dheeraj Arora, and others, who expressed their delight and support for the festival.

The Rajinder Bazar Residents' Welfare Society extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants and volunteers who contributed to making the first day of the Lohri cum Makar Sankranti festival a grand success. The celebrations continue with more events and activities lined up for the next two days.



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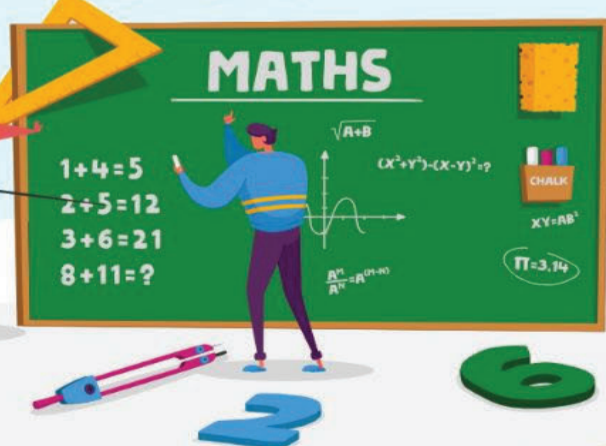
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$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = \frac{1}{s}$$

$$V = s^3$$

$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$

$$1+4=5$$

$$2+5=12$$

$$3+6=21$$

$$8+11=?$$