

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

No caste certificates for Saini community, High Court tells admin

SRINAGAR, Dec 1 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has issued an interim order, instructing government authorities to halt the issuance of caste certificates to the Saini community until the government conclusively determines their social status as a socially weak and underprivileged class.

This directive follows a petition by Saini community members opposing their classification as a 'weak and underprivileged class' and expressing their disinterest in availing reservation benefits.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, presiding over the case emphasised that no certificates should be granted to Saini community members until the government makes a final decision on their social status. Existing certificates are also temporarily suspended pending this determination.

"Till the final decision is taken by the government in this regard, no certificate is issued in favour of any member of Saini community and the certificates already issued shall not be given effect thereto, till the status of the Saini Community as socially weak and underprivileged class (social caste) is finally determined by the government," the Court directed.

In the petition, filed by Saini community members led by Suksham Singh, the challenge pertained to the government's declaration of their social status as weak and underprivileged, as outlined in an order dated October 19, 2022, amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005.

The petitioner's counsel argued that the government's order was imposed against the wishes of the Saini community, an upper-caste group uninterested in reservation benefits. He highlighted widespread protests and discontent within the Saini community regarding their inclusion among the socially weak and underprivileged.

Responding, the counsel for the respondents stated that the

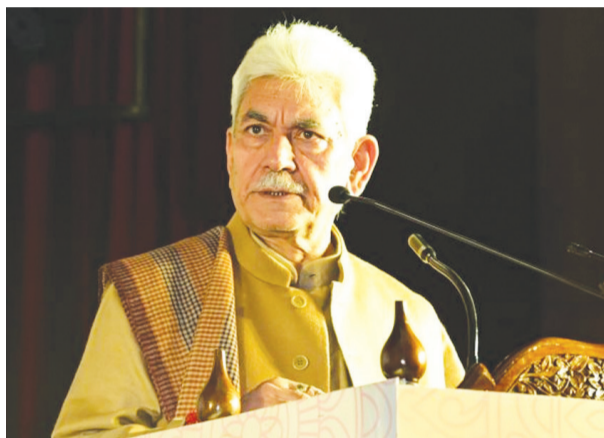
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Ready to hold assembly polls in J&K whenever Election Commission of India wants: LG Sinha

JAMMU, Dec 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said his administration is ready to hold assembly polls in the Union Territory whenever the Election Commission of India directs it to do so.

Taking a swipe at certain political leaders for spreading misinformation about elections, LG Sinha said he would leave Jammu and Kashmir only after successfully conducting the assembly polls.

"Whatever information has been sought by the ECI from J&K about arrangements, have been submitted to them. I want to tell from this platform that whenever



the ECI tells us, the J&K administration is ready to hold elections," Sinha said while addressing a conference, 'Samvaad'.

Referring to the democratic processes in J&K, LG Sinha highlighted that the right to conduct assembly polls lies exclusively with the

Election Commission of India. He also criticized political leaders for allegedly misleading the public.

"My task was to ensure that writ of the nation is established in Jammu and Kashmir and that has been established. That was (my) work and

I have performed it," he said.

"All top commanders of terrorist organisations have been eliminated. Those who are still alive will soon be eliminated. There is no place for terrorism here," he said.

He said that there is good coordination between the army, CRPF and police. "Attempts are being made by our neighbour to foment trouble here and some incidents took place. There was martyrdom of some jawans. We will avenge those killings", he added.

On Kashmiri Pandits, he acknowledged the government's efforts in providing jobs and homes for 3,000 people

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Senior IAS Officer Atal Dulloo takes over as new Chief Secretary of J&K



JAMMU, Dec 1 (Agencies): Senior IAS officer Atal Dulloo on Friday took over as the new Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, and received a rousing reception from hundreds of civil secretariat employees here.

Dulloo succeeded Arun Kumar Mehta who retired at the end of

November.

According to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dulloo, a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory Cadre, was appointed as the Chief Secretary on Wednesday.

On November 20, the

Central Government repatriated Dulloo to his UT cadre after his brief tenure as the secretary of the Department of Border Management under the Home Ministry.

Large number of employees led by top IAS officers received Dulloo at the civil

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Woman among 3 drug peddlers arrested in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, Dec 1 (Agencies): Three drug peddlers including a woman were arrested and contraband substances were recovered from their possession in Jammu Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, police said.

A team from Sheeri Police Station Sheeri at a checkpoint in at Kitchama near the Service Station intercepted two men and a woman coming towards Kitchama on a scooter.

During the search, 776 grams of contraband "Heroin" like substance were recovered from their possession.

The trio were identified as Riyaz Ahmad Ganie and Shokeen Ahmad Ganie - both residents of Batangi Boniyar - and Saleema Begum, who resides at Mother Sheeri. They have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Sheeri where they remain in custody.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered. Investigation was on, police added.

The lawkeepers have also urged people to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112 if they witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere. "People are requested to cooperate with the police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law", an officer said.

Suresh Raina urges youth to register as voters

JAMMU, Dec 1 (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina on Friday urged the youth to register as voters for the upcoming elections in the country during a visit to the Nirvachan Bhawan here.

Raina is currently participating in the Legends League Cricket matches taking place in Jammu. The fourth and final match in Jammu will feature Bhiwarra Kings against Raina's team, Urbanisers Hyderabad on Friday.

"I urge all youth to participate in elections. They should register for voting first and then cast their votes. The



last date for registration is December 9," Raina told reporters.

"You can choose the future leaders and advocate for rights. As a cricketer, I understand the impact a captain can have on the country. Your role as a voter is crucial," he added.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has mandated a special summary revision of photo electoral rolls in all parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, with January 1, 2024, as the qualifying date.

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Snowfall in Sonamarg; Night temperature rises at several places



SRINAGAR, Dec 1 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir's Sonamarg tourist resort recorded light snowfall for the second day on Friday while the Meteorological Department forecast significant improvement in weather across the Union Territory, officials said.

The three-week dry spell in Kashmir ended on Thursday with snowfall in the higher reaches of the Valley and rains in the plains.

While snowfall was

recorded in Gulmarg in north Kashmir, Sonamarg in central Kashmir, and other areas in the middle and higher reaches on Thursday, light snowfall continued in Sonamarg, in Ganderbal district, on Friday morning as well, the officials said. The Met Office said several places experienced partly to generally cloudy weather with light snow over Sonamarg and adjoining areas.

However, it said, there would be a significant

improvement in the weather towards the afternoon over most places and the weather is likely to remain dry ahead.

From December 2 to 7, the weather would remain partly cloudy, while from December 8 to 10, it would be partly to generally cloudy, the officials said.

There would be a fall in the minimum temperature by three to five degrees, they said.

The night temperature rose significantly at several places in the Valley with Gulmarg being the only weather station where the mercury settled below the freezing point on Thursday night.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was 4.5 degrees Celsius

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RBI says Rs 2,000 notes totalling Rs 9,760 Cr still with public

MUMBAI, Dec 1 (Agencies): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said nearly 97.26 per cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes have been returned to the banking system, and only about Rs 9,760 crore worth of the notes are still with the public.

On May 19, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation.

"The total value of Rs 2,000 bank notes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023 when the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 bank notes was announced, has declined to Rs 9,760 crore as at the close of business on November 30, 2023," the RBI said in a statement.

Thus, 97.26 per cent



of the high-value currency in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned to the banking system, it added.

"The Rs 2,000 bank notes continue to be legal tender," the RBI added.

People can deposit and/or exchange Rs 2,000 bank notes at the 19 RBI offices across the country. People can also send Rs 2,000 bank notes through India Post from any post office, to any of the RBI Issue

Offices for credit to their bank accounts in India.

Public and entities holding such notes were initially asked to either exchange or deposit them in bank accounts by September 30. The deadline was later extended to October 7. Both deposit and exchange services at bank branches were discontinued on October 7.

Starting October 8, individuals have been provided with the choice of either exchanging the

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EDITORIAL

IMPORTANCE
OF SMART CITY

Smart city means an advanced city, a city where there is a solution to all your problems. In such a city, you get good internet facility, through which you can not only entertain but also do various types of business. Smart city is a city where all the people get employment and different types of business opportunities. The amount of poverty in this type of city is very less. With the help of internet, everything can easily reach your home. Besides, advanced electricity arrangements are made and adequate quantity of food items are arranged for all the people of the city.

In simple language you can say that when farming is done on a very good scale in a city and various types of advanced technologies are used for farming. Also, if the internet facility is so good that you can avail all the facilities sitting at home, then we can call that kind of city a smart city.

The importance of a smart city is very high because the amount of unemployment in this city is negligible. Everyone is educated and good arrangements have been made for education. Also, such a level of technology is being used where people are not facing any kind of problem and their lifestyle is becoming easier day by day.

Smart city is an idea that can only be accomplished by the government. A common man can contribute to this by using the internet as much as possible, starting a cottage industry to remove unemployment and trying to make as many products as possible at home and providing employment to as many people as possible through his business.

In a smart city, it is the responsibility of the government to improve the infrastructure of the city, provide all the facilities at a very high standard to schools, hospitals and different public places. In many places, efforts have also been made to shift facilities like police online. Due to such changes, a lot of positive changes can be seen in the cities due to which we can call them smart cities.

To create a smart city, the government has to play a very important role and along with the infrastructure, other simple things that people use in their daily life should also be properly developed at a high level through good technology.

The way progress is happening very fast in India and the Indian government is very conscious about the changes taking place in the country and wants good smart cities to be built in India, then looking at this we can guess that it will have a lot of potential. There is a golden future and India will very soon be successful in its campaign to build smart cities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the campaign to build smart cities in India in the year 2015. Till now, cities like Delhi and Varanasi have been developed to some extent, but there are still cities in India on which work is yet to be done.

Understanding the importance of smart cities, the government is developing the country in such a way that all the problems of the cities can be eliminated and we can get solutions to all our problems sitting at our homes so that the lifestyle can become easier so that we can live in India.

The Silkyara lesson: Can we unite to fight crises?

By: Indranil Banerjee

When the rescuers tunnelling into the blocked Himalayan tunnel at Silkyara in Uttarakhand's Uttarakashi region broke through to the 41 trapped workers on Tuesday evening, the predictable nationwide elation and relief that followed was bolstered by the realisation that the country could still get its act together on occasion and not always flounder in confusion and incompetence as it has so often done during moments of crises in the past.

For the millions of citizens fixated on the rescue drama played out on television news channels moment by moment for 17 seemingly unending days, the rescue was a gratifying national event. It was also an example of the power of the collective will, and proof of the efficacy of a single-minded, concerted approach to problem-solving.

While most praise deservedly went to the 24 "rat hole miners" and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel responsible for the final breakthrough, no less noteworthy was the involvement of a plethora of other agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which was overseeing the entire operation, the Army, the Indian Air Force, the State Disaster Response Force, ONGC, various experts and an Australian rescue consultant. The most remarkable aspect of this collective effort was the absence of crossed wires, purposes or intent. They were all unified by the single objective of rescuing the trapped tunnel workers, no matter what it took. In the end, this approach worked brilliantly.

There are lessons to be learnt from the success of this rescue mission, those that will fortify us against and help tackle future disasters. These lessons could also serve as a guide

in confronting the major national challenges crippling our democracy such as poverty, malnutrition, social conflicts, insurgencies and so on.

The foremost in the list is the need for single-mindedness of purpose. Too often crisis managers fail when the endgame is not clearly identified. At Silkyara, it was simple: the safe extrication of all trapped workers. In other situations, the aim might not be so clear-cut, and it might require a good leader to articulate the problem and knit all available resources towards solving it. The success of legendary world leaders such as Josef Stalin, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II is testimony to the importance of focused resolve. Each of them clearly identified the enemy, articulated a goal and rallied their countrymen towards the fulfilling of that overwhelming objective.

In contrast, the American leadership during the 1960s failed to identify what exactly the US was fighting for in Vietnam, why Communism in a backward Asian country was a threat to American citizens and why young Americans should die fighting a war they did not understand. The result was widespread confusion within the United States, a divided polity and a veritable youth revolt. Predictably, the war was lost even though military objectives were being met.

While an enlightened leadership inspired by single-mindedness of purpose is a necessary condition for success, it is not sufficient. The effective leader also needs to combine resources, skills and the collective will. This was much in evidence at the Silkyara operation as it is in every successful response to a crisis.

During the Second World War, the leaders of Britain, United States and the Soviet Union could mobilise their entire populations to con-

tribute to the war effort: young men went to the frontlines, while others manned factories producing war material, women came forth to work at the assembly lines and even children learnt to cope with those hard times. Every effort was geared towards feeding and maintaining the war machine against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

In India, the genius of Mahatma Gandhi succeeded in mobilising the collective will of Indians against their colonial masters. He converted a faltering middle class Independence movement into an enormous, all-encompassing revolt that carried with it the middle class, the workers as well as peasants from the remotest parts of the country. This collective proved unstoppable.

Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1971 achieved a similar feat by uniting the country against Pakistan's depredations in its eastern wing. The country rallied behind her call to liberate Bangladesh despite severe hardships, limited resources and the threat from a powerful superpower. Six years later, the country once again united, this time against her and the repressive state of political "Emergency" she had imposed on the nation.

Most failed states in recent history have one thing in common: the failure to establish a common unifying national vision. Thus, countries such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Haiti, Pakistan, Myanmar, South Sudan and others remain at perpetual boiling point with frequent outbreaks of extreme violence and attendant mass distress. The failure to maintain collective resolve is the first step towards calamity.

The other impediments to success include dissipation of purpose, a failure to stay the course and callousness or laaparvahi, as it is known in Hindustani. The latter is

perhaps this country's worst enemy after corruption. Disasters, both natural and man-made, continue to recur with depressing regularity with no solution in sight. This endless catalogue includes the annual winter haze over North India, the regular floods in many parts of the country that submerge fields and the fortunes of countless people, the indifference to corruption, development projects that drag on for years, and much more. There is sadly no will or single-mindedness to confront such endemic challenges.

The existence of too many aims is another recipe for disaster, the best examples of which come from military history. Hitler's war was doomed the moment he took on the Soviet Union in the East as well as the Allied forces in the West. In India, one fundamental problem is the multiplicity of tasks taken on by governments and the leadership. In this milieu, there is a tendency of prematurely ticking off achievements even when they are half-completed. One such example is the well-intentioned but flagging Swachh Bharat Abhiyan against civic filth.

The country today stands divided, fractious, plagued by conflicting ideas and objectives. Millions of people remain in poverty while many more are doomed to a half existence marked by malnutrition and backwardness. The country's environment is degrading at an alarming rate as an ever-growing population sucks out every natural resource in the race to survive and prosper. Caste, ethnic, communal and economic fault lines have cleaved communities. These constitute a crisis no less pressing the one which we managed to successfully confront at Silkyara. Will the country come together to rescue all those trapped in our darkness?

Benefits of studying Journalism and Mass Communication

By: Vijay GarG

Do you aspire to fearlessly bombard ministers with questions that will make them squirm or spring into action in a terror-hit situation or a cyclone-ravaged place? This is the world of media & which is both exciting and challenging. And with technology transforming the way we consume media whether by sifting through the morning newspaper or watching the evening television news or on the smartphone, on Twitter, or other social apps the field of journalism and mass communication has opened a plethora of career opportunities.

A degree in Journalism and Mass Communication will help you fulfil your ambitious dreams. It will not just enhance your chances of getting a ticket to the newsroom but also be useful in other fields, such as communications, marketing, education, and entertainment.

What is Journalism and Mass Communication?

Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information. Basically, writing about recent developments. Mass communication is the study of spreading information to a large audience through various means of communication.

We all are connected through a web of different means of communication. Whether its the latest news around the world or news on cricket scores, we get to know about them. This is all because of mass media and technology. Mass communication is nothing but dispersing information to a huge number of people, i.e., the whole country or the world.

If mass communication is the activity of dispersing news, journalism is concerned with the collection and dissemination of news through print media as well as electronic media. This involves various areas of work like reporting, writing, editing, photographing, broadcasting, or cable casting news items. Journalism includes

investigating, analyzing, and reporting local as well as world events, trends, current affairs, and so on.

In recent years, the field of mass media and communication has evolved into a partially interactive concept that touches almost every aspect of human life. And, with the sheer proliferation of media into our lives through newspapers, television, and the internet the field of mass communication is gaining popularity like never.

Why should you pursue a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication?

A degree in Journalism and Mass Communication brings an opportunity to work under/with creative, well-educated people who inspire you to do well. The scope of mass media as a field is increasing and there is never a dearth of job opportunities. One gets the taste of name, fame & money and also travel while working.

Scope and career prospects of Journalism and Mass Communication

Theres an ever-increasing scope for aspirants in the field of Journalism and Mass Communication, considering the growing popularity of mass communication mediums. Its scope in India is wide, if you can do well in your field, you can work with some of the best publishing houses, production houses, news channels, radio channels, or PR firms of the country.

Career options in Journalism and Communication:

1. Television

The post-pandemic era created a rising demand for creative producers and directors in the entertainment sector. For those of you who have a knack to entertain people through films, this is the correct profile for you. You can get into the media world and explore multiple profiles including television and film directors and producers. Professionals with this degree can also fit the profiles of scriptwriters, video editors, 3D designers, graphics, and animation creators among others.

2. Journalist

The most common career choice after a degree in J&MC is that of a journalist. It provides aspirants with all the

required skills and knowledge related to Journalism, aiding them to deliver the true story to the public effectively.

3. Digital Marketing Expert

A degree in J&MC equips students with skills that are required for a flourishing career in Digital Marketing. In today's technology-driven world, you get to experiment with diverse career avenues in specialized areas, including SEO, SEM, Content Writing, Graphic Designing, Email Marketing, Social Media Marketing, Inbound Marketing, and Web Analytics.

4. Radio jockey (RJ)

Radio Jockey is an emerging field, budding with a multitude of career opportunities. With a J&MC degree, you acquire various skills and learn diverse aspects of communication and a knack for storytelling, creativity, Thinking-Out-of-the-Box, and much more.

5. Social Media Executive

As an executive in social media, you work and spread ideas, as today's generation spends most of its time on social media. As a social media director, you are responsible for creative endeavours from ads to events to charities and the sharing of video throughout.

6. Content Creator/ Developer

Diverse digital channels employ media, organizations, businesses, and agencies to create content. You might become a journalist, you could be an artist or a sportswriter and you might write about events. You can also compose branded material belonging to the business sphere.

7. Public Relations Professional

A degree in J&MC equips you with excellent communication, negotiation, interpersonal, and management skills that are best suited for job roles related to Public Relations.

Public Relations Professional

Leading organizations around the world are constantly in search of talented individuals who can effectively represent their brand and build a strong network and connections in the market. With the growing awareness in organizations regarding their brand image, the demand for PR profession-

als has grown exponentially!

8. Publicity/Advertising Industry
Students have been taught about advertisement and its use right from the time of their bachelors degree. Publicity is about selling your product via a concept. Here, imagination is essential. In India, there are numerous organizations that need fresh ideas from creative artists and planners.

9. Event Manager

Event Management firms are growing day by day. A Mass Communication Graduate can work for an Event Management Company as an Event Manager or set up his own firm handling events. It's a high-paying industry and is growing day by day.

10. Broadcasting and Production

A degree in Mass Communication can also get you into the production line. There is a larger scope of jobs in various sectors like Film making/TV Producer/Editor/Camera Person/Screenwriter/Art Director.

Top companies that hire journalism and mass communication graduates

There is an unpredictable growth in Mass Communications that covers both the Media and Journalism streams. Due to the advancement in technology and with the increase of broadcasting channels like television sets, radio stations, social media, news channels, had brought a targeted audience together and opened immense opportunities and options to the aspirants who are good in public speaking, writing, and reporting. A degree in Journalism and Mass Communications opens many opportunities for people who want to make their career in Journalism, Advertisement, communications, Radio, Television, and many more. Both the streams have their utmost importance and opportunities in the real world.

**(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout
Punjab)**

07th Bn SSB Jammu organized Mobile Repairing Technician Course at ITI Gandoh

Top News Report

DODA, Dec 1: 07 Battalion SSB Jammu has organized and inaugurated a 20 days Mobile Repairing Technician Course, under the Civic action Programme in the premises of ITI Gandoh in District Doda.

In this training 25 educated unemployed youths will get benefited from the district of Doda for the aforesaid course by the best efforts of 07 bn SSB Jammu.

The programme was



inaugurated by Apoorv Mishra, Assistant Commandant 07 Bn SSB Jammu in the presence of Sh. Anoop Sharma, Principal of ITI Gandoh Bhallessa, Punjab Singh trainer, 10 SSB personnel, 25 training participants and all other dignitaries including media.

In beginning, Apoorv Mishra Assistant Commandant 07 Bn SSB welcomed and thanked all. He has assured that more such programmes will be organized by 07 Bn SSB in near future in the area of its responsibilities.

Local respectable personnel, Anoop Sharma, Principle of ITI Gandoh bhallessa thanked to Apoorv Mishra Assistant Commandant 07 Bn SSB for his kind hearted efforts and promised to extend full support to

the unit in future also.

A total of 25 youth will participate in this training where they will be given basic training in mobile repairing. The training is being organized with the aim of skill development and self-dependent among the local youths.

We strive to facilitate vocational training to the unemployed youth from low income communities so that they can access opportunities for growth and wellbeing for self-family and the community.

Director Agriculture inaugurates campaign van to commence 6th celebration of Crop Insurance Week

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: The Director Agriculture Jammu, Ram Savak accompanied by the Joint Director of Extension and Input, representatives from Reliance General Insurance and IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Companies, as well as agricultural staff, inaugurated a campaign van to commence the 6th

celebration of Crop Insurance Week from December 1 to 7, 2023.

This initiative aims to raise awareness among farmers in the Jammu division through workshops, bank visits, and CSC centers. Throughout the campaign, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials will be distributed to maximize coverage during the Rabi season 2023-24.



Health Deptt Kishtwar organizes insightful World AIDS Day event at JNV School

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, Dec 1: In commemoration of World AIDS Day, the Health Department in Kishtwar organized an informative event at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) School Shalimar Kishtwar.

The initiative, held under the guidance and supervision of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar, Dr. Mohd Yaqoob Mir, saw active participation from healthcare professionals and students alike.

The event, which aimed at spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS, was overseen by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kishtwar, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas. Various



students delivered insightful speeches, shedding light on the importance of understanding and combating the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS in society.

Dr. Nazir Hussain, a Medical Officer in Kishtwar, contributed to the event by delivering a comprehensive awareness speech. Dr. Nazir Hussain emphasized the need for continued education and understanding of HIV/AIDS

to eradicate stigma and foster a supportive environment for those affected.

"World AIDS Day serves as a crucial reminder that our collective efforts are essential in addressing the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS. Education and awareness are powerful tools in the fight against this global health concern," stated Dr. Nazir Hussain during his address.

GDC Chhatroo observes World AIDS Day 2023

Top News Report

CHHATROO, Dec 1: The Red Ribbon Club GDC Chhatroo hosted an impactful event on World AIDS Day centered around the theme "Let communities lead."

Renowned expert Dr. Ather Hussain addressed students and participants, shedding light on the pivotal role communities play in tackling the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 30 students, showcasing a collective commitment to understanding and addressing the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Ather Hussain, known for his expertise in the field, emphasized the importance of com-



munity-led initiatives in creating awareness, dispelling myths, and promoting a supportive environment for those affected.

"We must empower communities to take charge in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Their involvement is crucial in shaping effective strategies, reducing stigma, and fostering an inclusive environment for those living with the virus," said Dr. Ather Hussain during his key-

note address.

The World AIDS Day event at Govt Degree College Chhatroo served as a platform for open dialogue, education, and advocacy, fostering a sense of responsibility among the attendees. Through collaborative efforts and community-led initiatives, the college aims to contribute to the global effort to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Programme was organized under the

guidance and overall supervision of Dr. Ved Kumar, Principal of the College.

In this regard a slogan writing and poster making competition is also organized in the college in which students participated with full zeal and zest.

The slogan writing was judged by Dr. Jaivardhan Manhas and Prof. Chander Parkash whereas poster making competition was judged by Dr. Gazenfur Ali and

Dr. Jaswant Singh. Saniya Tabassum, Aroofa Anjum and Heena Kousar secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively in poster making competition whereas Waseem Ahmed, Mujeeba Malik and Arshad Naik secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position in slogan writing competition.

Dr. Ved kumar principal of the college also spoke about the causes and various preventive measures of AIDS and he appreciated the efforts of red ribbon club of college for taking this initiative.

The Faculty members who were present during the occasion are Dr. Gaznafar, Dr. Jaivardhan Manhas, Dr. Inam and Mudassir Bhat.

SSP Mohan Lal releases poster of film "Kupratha"

Top News Report

AKHNOOR, Dec 1: Dowry system is a serious social evil in the Indian society which has destroyed the lives of countless girls till date. Awareness against this social evil is being continuously spread through various mediums.

With the aim of creating awareness against social evils like dowry system and casteism, Jammu's local actress and model Khwaisha Gupta's short film "Kupratha" is going to be released on 6th December.

The poster of this film was released today by SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat (SO to ADGP Railways Jammu Kashmir).

On this occasion, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat congratulated the



entire team of the film for making such a film to create awareness against dowry system and other social evils.

He said that to prevent this,

laws are being made by the government from time to time as per the need. Despite this, there is a need to spread more awareness about it in the soci-

ety because without the cooperation of the society, it is not possible to stop this evil practice.

He said that today most of the cases of harassment of women in the society are happening due to dowry system. He appealed to everyone to watch this film and learn from it.

He said that this is a very good initiative by the local artists of Jammu and there is a need that films should be made on such subjects from time to time.

This film has been produced by Shivdeep Gupta and Priya Gupta while it has been directed by Aditya Bhanu. The film is written by Vasid Khan and starred many actors from Jammu and Kashmir including Khwaisha Gupta, Rahul Attri, Munish Manni.

Awareness programme on honey bee farming held

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: As an outreach activity under lab to land initiative Department of Zoology, University of Jammu organized one day awareness programme on Honey Bee farming in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Govt. of India at village Gowar, panchayat Sarwal, Tehsil Pargwal, Jammu.

The objective was to spread aware-

ness among farmers of border area about scope and benefits of bee farming.

The programme was executed by coordination between Yashpal Singh, Deputy Director, KVIC, Govt. of India, H.S. Ghurdaura, executive bee keeper, Dr. Ripudaman Parihar, Assistant Professor, Zoology, University of Jammu along Bopinder Singh, Sarpanch, Parduman Singh, Panch Sarwal Panchayat.

More than 60 farmers including females were given the knowledge and they enthusiastically accepted the option of honey bee farming for self employment.

They were also informed about various subsidy schemes of government to take up this as a start up.

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu signs a MoU with IGNC A

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) for its regional centre in Jammu and Kashmir at its office located at Old Janpath, New Delhi.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) was signed by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNC A.

Present on the occasion were Dr. Priyanka Mishra, Director, Admin IGNC A, Shruti Awasthi Regional Director, Regional Centre, Jammu and Kashmir and senior officials of IGNC A.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, expressed enthusiasm



about the partnership, saying, "This collaboration with IGNC A marks the beginning of a five-year artistic journey. We are committed to promoting research in art and Indian ethos, creating a unique intersection between academia and cultural exploration."

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNC A, stated that, "IGNC A is thrilled to join hands with IIM Jammu. Our collabora-

tion is geared towards fostering a deep understanding of Indian art and culture, providing a platform for scholarly research and exploration."

The partnership between IIM Jammu and IGNC A is set to create a vibrant platform for the exchange of ideas, research, and artistic endeavors over the next five years. The collaboration aims to promote a deeper

understanding and appreciation of India's rich cultural heritage within academic and research circles.

During the event, IGNC A also inked a significant MoU with AIIMS Jammu, further amplifying collaborative efforts in the region.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu, participated in the occasion remotely, marking the commencement of an innovative collaboration.

This collaboration marks a significant step towards interdisciplinary engagement and underscores the commitment of both institutions involved to contribute meaningfully to both academic and societal realms.

As the partnerships unfold, they are expected to open new avenues for research, creativity, and community development.

"PM hailed for keeping his promise"

Raman Suri commends Union Govt's historic decision to extend PMGKAY

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri lauded the Union Cabinet's decision to allocate 5 Kg of free foodgrains per month to approximately 80 crore impoverished citizens for an additional five years.

This monumental decision, costing the government Rs 11.8 lakh crore, aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to fortify food security in terms of accessibility, affordability, and availability.

Raman Suri emphasized the BJP government's sensitivity to people's concerns, highlighting Modi's dedication to ensure uniformity across states.

Starting from 1st January, 2024, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the poor will receive free foodgrains for the next five years.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude, Suri acknowledged Prime Minis-



ter Narendra Modi for the "monumental" decision that extends free ration facilities to 80 crore beneficiary families nationwide.

In this historic announcement, Modi reassured the nation of his government's unwavering commitment of prioritizing the welfare of the impoverished, fulfilling this promise through the PMGKAY.

Raman Suri underscored the significance of this extended initiative, particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir which faced

the dual challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and terrorism.

The provision of free ration serves as a beacon of hope and sustenance for affected communities, according to Suri.

Quoting PM Modi, Suri highlighted the compassionate vision behind the PMGKAY, stating, "During COVID-19, the biggest concern of the poor was what they would feed their children. Then, I decided that I would not let any poor sleep hungry." Raman Suri commended Modi as a visionary statesman who genuinely cares for his people and the country.

Acknowledging the "tireless efforts" of the government, Raman recognized that this extended initiative will positively impact millions, ensuring that no one goes to bed hungry.

The PMGKAY has remained a crucial lifeline, providing essential food grains under the public distribution system, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The closing month of the year is set to delight binge-watchers. Here's a quick check on content that is on way...

The year is about to end and with it the anticipation for the release of some of the most important titles in December, both on OTT and in cinemas, is growing. So, here's the list of content that was sure worth the year-long wait!

Cinema scope

Wonka (December 8)

The musical fantasy film stars international crush Timothée Chalamet, a French-American actor. He will play the titular character of Willy Wonka. It is inspired from a fictional character by the same name from Roald Dahl's 1964 children's novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Two films have been made earlier, but for the first time a prequel exploring the origin of Wonka is being made by Warner Bros. Pictures.

Dunki (December 22)

Director Raj Kumar Hirani will be back along with SRK for this film about a group of friends who hatch a plan to illegally migrate to another country for better living standards, but then struggle to

return home. SRK will be seen playing the role of Hardy, opposite Taapsee Pannu as Manu. It will also feature Vicky Kaushal.

Salaar: Part 1 — Ceasefire (December 22)

The Telugu action thriller is helmed by KGF director Prashanth Neel. The trailer is scheduled to release today. It stars Prabhas in the titular role, along with actors Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, Jagapathi Babu and Tinnu Anand.

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (December 21)

This one is the sequel to the 2018 film, *Aquaman*, based on DC Comics' character by the same name. The first part was the highest-grossing film from DC Extended Universe (DCEU) and after a long wait, the second part is set for a release. In the second instalment, Jason Momoa and Amber Heard will reprise their roles, as director James Wan takes the story further.

Binge-worthy on OTT

Berlin (December 29)

From the creator of much-loved Spanish series *Money*



Heist — which generated a worldwide craze for Dali mask (based on Spanish artist, Salvador Dalí) and the song, *Bella Ciao* (Italy's liberation anthem) — comes the spin-off series titled *Berlin*. It explores the character of Berlin, played by Pedro Alonso, as he brings together a gang of master thieves in Paris to plan one of his most ambitious robberies ever. It is created by Álex Pina (*Money Heist* creator) and Esther Martínez Lobato.

Percy Jackson & The Olympian (December 20)

This American fantasy television series is created by Rick Riordan and Jonathan E. Steinberg, and is based on the book by the same name. Walker Scobee plays the titular character. While the development of the series began in 2022, it will finally be available to binge on Disney+Hotstar ahead of Christmas week.

Crown Season 6 Part 2 (December 14)

This Netflix historical drama continues to grab eyeballs. Based on the reign of Eliza-

beth II, the first part of season six was dropped around November 16 and now the remaining six episodes will be out on December 14. Being the final season of the series, many followers of the show wouldn't want to miss it!

The Archies (December 7)

It is director Zoya Akhtar's second OTT project after successful Prime Video series, *Made in Heaven*.

The announcement for this Netflix film was made last year. It will launch new faces into the industry, including star kids, Suhana Khan, Khushi Kapoor and Agastya Nanda.

Rebel Moon: Part One — A Child of Fire (December 22)

The two-part film series by Zack Snyder stars Sofia Boutella, Charlie Hunnam, Michiel Huisman, Djimon Hounsou, Doona Bae, Ray Fisher, Cleopatra Coleman and Anthony Hopkins. It follows the journey of Kora (Sofia), as she searches for fighters to take back her motherland. The second part will be out in April next year.

'I react to situations the way Kala would': Pranjali Singh Parihar



Pranjali Singh Parihar, who plays the role of Kala in the show *Dalchini*, says that she loves the feedback she has received for the role.

"I'm overwhelmed with the response, each and every character is well explained and beautifully portrayed by our actors. There are times

when I respond to people or situations the same way my character would do and then I have to remind myself that Pranjali and Kala are different!" she says. She adds, "The content is improving and people are trying to bring something new to the table every time.

My character is evolving and is getting stronger."

Talking about working with producers Ravie Dubey and Sargun Mehta, she says, "It feels like working with a family. They have created a homelike environment and the efficiency of the team is commendable."

Talking about shooting for the show, she says, "I learn a number of things on a daily basis. I get to perform different *rasaa* (Navrasas) in my character. I'm grateful and thankful to the team for choosing me for playing Kala. It is a layered character and I get to perform and learn both at the same time."

Talking about what it takes to give a good performance, she says, "I think being in sync with the team, story and director is important. I love working with Ameet sir, Satish sir and Sanjay sir (our directors). They get the best out of me. My co-actors inspire me. I try to stay on set as much as I can because seeing them perform helps me learn a lot of things."

Rashmi Gupta talks about her tattoos



Saathiya 2 actress Rashmi Gupta has two tattoos on her waist and they are quite close to her heart. The two tattoos are karma and scorpio. Sharing some details on them, she says, "I decided to get a karma tattoo because I strongly believe in the concept of karma, where one's actions always have consequences. It represents my trust in the idea that negative actions eventually lead to unfortunate outcomes. I chose to get a Scorpio tattoo because I am a November born. While I recognise that astrology and numerology are subjective beliefs, I personally resonate with the traits commonly associated with Scorpio. I see myself as straightforward and sharp, and these qualities hold personal significance for me."

Although Rashmi is not a big fan of tattoos, she opted for these two for specific reasons. She adds, "Despite my general dislike for tattoos, these specific ones carry a deep and meaningful connection to my identity."

Actress Julia Roberts says Leave The World Behind was a challenging project for her

Hollywood actress Julia Roberts says her new film *Leave The World Behind* is a multilayered disaster thriller that allowed her to play someone very different from herself. Executive produced by former US President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, the movie is written and directed by Mr Robot creator Sam Esmail and based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Rumaan Alam.

It sees Roberts' character Amanda, her husband and two children head on an impromptu holiday in a small Long Island town. Their getaway is interrupted when a man and his daughter, played by Mahershala Ali and Myha'la Herrold, turn up on their doorstep claiming to be the owners of the upmarket residence and requesting to stay the night. As tension builds between the two families, strange events start occurring around them and they find themselves under the same roof trying



to make sense of the chaos outside. "There's always about 17-and-a-half things going on at one time in every scene for each person. It was just all the layers of the people and the circumstances," Roberts said at the film's premiere in London on Wednesday. The Hollywood star

cherished the challenge of playing cynical advertising director Amanda. "Just the idea of playing someone who's sort of intrinsically suspicious and a little prickly, which is not my nature, but to still make her human and approachable and likeable, was interesting."

The Railway Men ranks #3 on Netflix's Global Non-English TV list

As *The Railway Men* continues to weave a delicate tapestry of emotions transcending borders, it has managed to reach countless admirers across the globe. Released on November 18, the series now in its second week, and ranks #3 on Netflix's Global Non-English TV list and is trending across 36 countries.

Set against the backdrop of the world's worst industrial disaster, the Bhopal gas tragedy, *The Railway Men*, is the first series from the partnership between Netflix and YRF Entertainment encapsulating a thrilling tale of heroism, hope and humanity!

"Crafting *The Railway Men* was an emotional journey that aimed to bring to light the untold stories of courage and resilience," says debutant director Shiv



Rawail. "It was encouraging to have YRF

backing my project and giving me an opportunity

to tell this story. And, I am extremely thrilled to have partnered with Netflix that enabled the story of *The Railway Men* to reach diverse audiences worldwide. The response from viewers around the world has been overwhelming, and it's incredibly humbling to see the series trending in 36 countries. It speaks to the universality of the heroism and courage portrayed in the series, and the entire team is thrilled to witness the impact that the series has managed to have worldwide."

In gaining widespread recognition from audiences across the globe, *The Railway Men*, from script to screen, has gone on to receive an emotional ovation for its earnest portrayal of human tenacity amidst tragedy.

Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan and Pathaan shine on IMDb's list of top 10 theatrical releases of 2023

The list of most popular movies (theatrical and streaming) and web-series was unveiled by IMDb. The list of top 10 Indian movies released theatrically was dominated by Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, as two of his releases, after a hiatus of four years, found top spots in the list.

While *Jawan* clinched the first spot, *Pathaan* comfortably landed in the second spot followed by Karan Johar's first directorial in seven years *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

Atlee, the director of *Jawan*, said, "Jawan is a captivating, emotional, action-entertainer that intricately portrays the profound emotional odyssey of a man who is determined to rectify



societal injustices. This film holds a significant place in our hearts. Love from the audience worldwide is overwhelming."

Reacting to the news,

KJo expressed: "The team and I are overwhelmed with the love and warmth we have received for *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*. To be on the top 10 list

of IMDb is a massive validation of the film's reception. I am grateful and even more energised as a filmmaker."

Thalapathy Vijay-starrer *Leo* grabbed the fourth spot on the list of most popular theatrical movies.

With regards to the most popular streaming films, anthology *Lust Stories 2* topped the list, followed by the Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer *Jaane Jaan* and Sidharth Malhotra-starrer *Mission Majnu*. Farzi became the most popular Indian streaming series of 2023 in the Top 10 Most Popular Indian Web Series of 2023. *Guns & Gulaabs* landed on the second spot, followed by *The Night Manager*.

Rising ambitions on climate action must see matching progress on climate finance: PM Modi

The PM is in Dubai to attending World Climate Action Summit

NEW DELHI / DUBAI, Dec 1 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for ensuring requisite climate financing and technological transfer to developing countries, asserting that it must be recognised that they have not contributed in creating the climate problem but are still willing to be a part of the solution.

In Dubai to attend the COP28 meeting, Modi told the UAE-based Aletihad in an interview that he has always maintained that climate change is a collective challenge that demands a unified global response.

Rising ambitions on climate action must see matching progress on climate finance, he asserted.

India, he said, is optimistic that the meeting will inject fresh momentum into effective climate action.

He expressed hope that COP28 would bring fresh impetus to effective climate action and international cooperation in advancing the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

"India and the UAE stand as partners in shaping a greener and more prosperous future, and we remain steadfast in our joint efforts to influence the global discourse on climate action," he said.

Speaking on the Indo-UAE ties, he said their partnership in climate action is going from strength to strength, driven by a futuristic vision.

India and the UAE enjoy robust and enduring relations and can join forces in establishing a common grid to enhance energy security, leveraging each other's strengths in the energy sector and providing support to the International Solar Alliance's Global Solar Facility, Modi told the newspaper.



"India and the UAE stand as partners in shaping a greener and more prosperous future, and we remain steadfast in our joint efforts to influence the global discourse on climate action," he said.

It is his sixth visit to the UAE since becoming prime minister in 2014. As countries that share a vision of promoting sustainability and renewable energy, India and the UAE have emerged as leaders in global renewable energy efforts, he said, commending the UAE's unwavering commitment to climate action within the renewable energy sector.

On climate finance, often a sticking point during climate talks, Modi said he has always maintained that it is a collective challenge that demands a unified global response.

"It is essential to recognise that developing countries have not contributed in the creation of the problem. Yet developing countries are willing to be a part of the solution," the prime minister said.

"But, they cannot contribute without access to the financing and technology needed... I have, therefore, advocated

strongly for global cooperation for ensuring requisite climate financing and technology transfer," he said, stressing the importance of ensuring that climate financing flows to the developing world in a practical and assured manner.

He added, "I believe climate action must be based on equity, climate justice, shared obligations and shared capacities. By adhering to these principles, we can forge a path toward a sustainable future that leaves no one behind."

As nations pursue climate action it must be ensured that development priorities of the Global South are not compromised, he asserted.

"I am happy that during the recent New Delhi G20 Summit, this aspect has been properly addressed, including through a recognition of the need to rapidly and substantially scale up investment and climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars globally from all sources," he said.

The implementation of commitments of developed countries to provide technological and financial support to developing countries needs to be at

the forefront of the agenda at COP28, he stressed, adding that rising ambitions on climate action must see matching progress on climate finance.

"At COP28, we hope to have credible progress on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance," he said.

On collaboration between the two countries, he said their cooperation spans the entire energy spectrum, with a strong focus on sustainability.

"Our enduring relationship is founded on multiple pillars, and the dynamism of our ties is expressed by our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi said.

The two nations have been actively collaborating on addressing the pressing global challenge of climate change, he said.

Delving into the "futuristic vision" driving India's partnership with the UAE in the climate domain, he said the two countries have had robust cooperation in the area of renewables since 2014, and during his visit to the UAE in July this year they resolved to take forward their cooperation in green hydrogen, solar energy and grid connectivity.

"You would also remember that last year, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and I had unveiled a framework for advancing our strategic partnership for the coming decade, which emphasised climate action and renewables," Modi noted, appreciating the country's investment in this sector in India.

"In my view, there is no doubt that in the years to come, this partnership will play a pivotal role in crafting global solutions to the challenges we currently face in this sphere," he said.

Govt making efforts to bring back convicted ex-Navy men from Qatar: Navy Chief Hari Kumar



NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (Agencies): Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Friday said the government is putting all-out efforts to bring back eight former naval personnel from Qatar, who were handed death sentence by a Qatari court.

"We are working closely to ensure that their interests are looked after," Admiral Kumar said at a media briefing.

"The government of India is putting all-out efforts to ensure they are brought back," he

said. The Indian nationals were on October 26 given death sentence by Qatar's Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case.

An appeal has already been filed against the death sentence and a higher court in Qatar has already admitted the plea.

The appeal has been filed by the legal team of the detained Indian

nationals. The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year reportedly in an alleged case of espionage.

Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public.

In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) last month said that it is attaching "high importance" to this case and is exploring all legal options.

The charges were filed against the eight Indian navy veterans on March 25 and they were tried under Qatari law.

All of the former Navy officers had "unblemished stints" of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and had held important positions, including that of instructors in the force, former military officials had said.

CBSE not to award any division, distinction in Class 10, 12 board exams: Official

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (Agencies): The Central Board of Secondary Education will not award any division or distinction in class 10 and 12 board exams, a senior official said on Friday.

"No overall division, distinction or aggregate of marks shall be awarded. Also, if a candidate has offered more

than five subjects, the decision to determine the best five subjects may be taken by the admitting institution or employer," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

Bhardwaj said the Board does not calculate, declare or inform the percentage of marks.

"If the percentage of marks is required for higher education or in employment, the calculation if any, may be done by the admitting institution or employer," he said.

Earlier, the CBSE also did away with the practice of issuing merit lists to avoid unhealthy competition.

8 killed as vehicle hits stationary truck in Odisha's Keonjhar

KEONJHAR, Dec 1 (Agencies): At least eight people, including three women and a child, were killed and several others injured when their vehicle hit a stationary truck in Odisha's Keonjhar district early on Friday, police said.

The accident took place on National Highway 20 near Balijodi village in Ghatagon area when the occupants of the vehicle were going to visit a temple.

While seven people died on the spot, another succumbed at a hospital.

Five of the injured people were under-

going treatment at Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, while three others were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as their condition deteriorated.

A total of 20 people from Pudamari village in Ganjam district were on their way to have a darshan of Goddess Tririni, police said. It is suspected that the driver dozed off leading to the accident that took place barely 3 km away from the temple. The police have started an investigation.

Masked men loot over Rs 18 crore from PSU bank in Manipur's Ukhrul

IMPHAL, Dec 1 (Agencies): Some masked and armed dacoits looted Rs 18.80 crore in cash from a branch of a public sector bank in Manipur's Ukhrul district, officials said on Friday.

This Punjab National Bank branch is the currency chest -- a place where the Reserve Bank of India stocks cash meant for banks and ATMs -- for Ukhrul district. The robbers carrying sophisticated weapons reached the bank in Ukhrul town, around 80 km from the state capital Imphal, overpowered the security personnel and looted the

amount from the vault after threatening the staff on Thursday evening.

The miscreants, some of whom were in camouflage uniform, locked up the employees and the security personnel inside the washroom of the bank, officials said.

One of the senior staff was made to open the vault at gunpoint, following which the robbers looted the money.

A complaint has been lodged at Ukhrul police station. The police started examining CCTV footage to identify the culprits.

15 private schools in Bengaluru receive bomb threat; students, staff evacuated

BENGALURU, Dec 1 (Agencies): At least 15 private schools in Bengaluru on Friday morning received an email with a bomb threat on its premises, triggering panic among the staff and parents, police said.

The school authorities immediately alerted police, which reached the institutions concerned with the bomb disposal squads and anti-sabotage check teams, they said.

The students and staff were immediately evacuated from the school premises, police said, adding no suspicious objects have been found yet.

As soon as parents got to know about the incident, they rushed to schools in panic to get their children back home safely.

"The email claimed that explosives had been planted on school premises. We received a call from the command centre and immediately rushed our teams to schools which are located in different parts of the city. All students and staff have been safely evacuated from the

school premises and a thorough search operation is being carried out," a senior police officer said.

So far, nothing suspicious has been found and prima facie looks like it's a hoax message. Parents need not panic, our teams are on the ground, he said.

Last year also, some miscreants sent such emails claiming about a bomb threat to schools in Bengaluru, which later turned out to be a hoax message, police said.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar visited one of the schools which received the bomb threat. He took information from the school and the police about the situation.

"I was a bit dismayed after seeing the news on TV, as some schools I know and the one near my house were also mentioned. So I went out to check. The police have shown me the mail. Prima facie, it appears to be fake (hoax). I spoke to the police... But we should be cau-

tious. Parents are a bit worried, no need to worry. Police are looking into it," he said.

Shivakumar appealed to parents not to worry and said their children would be safe.

"Some mischief mongers might have done this, in 24 hours we will nab them. Cyber crime police are active, they are doing their job... We should also be cautious and should not neglect," he added.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said the message had come from email id kharijites@beeble.com. The email says bombs have been placed in about 15 schools in Bengaluru and threatened to kill children and staff.

"We are seriously verifying it and its source. I have spoken to the Commissioner and officials and have given the necessary instructions and verification on whether it's true or hoax and measures to be taken accordingly.

"We will verify as to who is behind it and there is involve-

ment of any terrorist organisation, and take measures accordingly. For now, it cannot be said who is behind it. The message in the email asks people to convert and other things, it will be verified," he told reporters here.

The Home Minister recalled that last year too, a similar threat had come. It was a hoax. This also may be a hoax, but we won't take it lightly. Even if there is one per cent (doubt), we will take it seriously and take measures like sensitising the intelligence and informing central agencies, which the department has to do.

Stating that he is in regular touch with officials and, if necessary, will hold a meeting with senior officials, Parameshwara appealed to parents and the public not to worry.

"First we will focus on checking and clearing in 15 schools, and will look into other schools later with jurisdiction police station officials visiting them," he added.

Assam Government suspends 15 ACS, APS officers in Assam Public Service Commission 'cash for job' scam

Nearly 70 persons, including over 50 civil and police officials, have been arrested so far in the scam

GUWAHATI, Dec 1 (Agencies): The Assam Government has suspended 15 state civil service and police service officers for their alleged involvement in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) 'cash for job' scam, official sources said on Friday.

Out of the 15 officers placed under suspension through orders issued on Thursday, 11 are from the Assam Police Service (APS)

and the rest from the Assam Civil Service (ACS).

Of these, two APS officers had been arrested in the case last week, while summons to appear before a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the state police which is probing the case have been issued to several others, the sources said.

The suspension notifications issued by the Personnel department said these officers were beneficiaries of the

"anomalies and malpractices carried out by the APSC and they got appointment by 'enhancement' of their originally scored marks in the final tabulation sheet based on which the final results were declared.

It said the recommendation of the APSC for recruitment of these officers was "illegal" and the process through which they obtained their jobs "amount to gross misconduct, corruption and

moral turpitude".

As they are under investigation for criminal offence, allowing them to continue in their present post "may not be in the interest of public service and may cause embarrassment to the government", it said.

In view of it, the officers have been placed under suspension with immediate effect, the notification said.

The evidence-based on which the now-suspended officers are

facing investigation was reported in the one-man Justice (Retd) BK Sarma commission.

It had unearthed "anomalies and malpractices resorted to for the selection of candidates in exchange of money and other extraneous consideration by the APSC headed by the then chairman Shri Rakesh Kumar Paul while conducting the Combined Competitive Examination, 2013/2014", the notification

added.

The APSC was embroiled in the 'cash for job' scam, which came to light in 2016, and nearly 70 persons, including Paul and over 50 civil and police services officials, have been arrested so far.

Paul was arrested by Dibrugarh police in November 2016 and released on bail in March this year.

The Chief Minister had directed the Director-General of Police (DGP)

to constitute a SIT in September this year to further investigate the scam.

The SIT, headed by additional DGP (CID) Munna Prasad Gupta, is conducting the probe now and has been directed to submit its report within six months to the Gauhati High Court in a sealed envelope.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) had said last month that the state

government has already initiated departmental proceedings against 34 tainted officials of the 2013 batch whose names were mentioned in the Justice (Retd) B K Sarma Committee report.

Similarly, action has been initiated against those candidates of the 2014 batch who were allegedly selected by unfair means with their marks changed during the tabulation process.

Israel-Hamas conflict: Israel resumes Gaza assault after 7-day truce expires

PM Netanyahu says Hamas did not release all women hostages as agreed, launched rockets at Israel

GAZA, Dec 1 (Agencies): Israel resumed combat operations against Hamas in Gaza on Friday after accusing the Palestinian militant group of firing rockets at Israel and reneging on a deal to free all women held as hostages, violating their temporary truce agreement.

The seven-day pause, which began on November 24 and was extended twice, had allowed for the exchange of dozens of hostages held in Gaza for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and facilitated the entry of humanitarian aid into the shattered coastal strip.

In the hour before the truce was set to end at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), Israel said it intercepted a rocket fired from Gaza.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas or claim of responsibility for the launch.

"With the resumption of fighting we emphasise: The Israeli government is committed to achieving the goals of the war - to free our hostages, to eliminate Hamas, and to ensure that Gaza will never pose a threat to the residents of Israel," the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

Hamas was also defiant. "What Israel did not achieve during the fifty days before the truce, it will not achieve by continuing its aggression after the truce," Ezzat El Rashq, a member of the Hamas political bureau, said on the group's website.

Palestinian media and Gaza's interior ministry reported Israeli air and artillery strikes across the enclave after the truce expired, including in Rafah, near the border with Egypt.

In Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, a Reuters witness said he could hear heavy shelling and see smoke rising in the east of the town. People were fleeing the area to camps



in the west of Khan Younis for cover, he added.

Al-Jazeera reported a number of people had been killed and injured by Israeli raids and shelling.

The Israel military confirmed its jets were striking Hamas targets in Gaza.

Images on social media showed large plumes of dark smoke rising over the densely built-up Jabalia camp in Gaza.

Israel has sworn to annihilate Hamas, which rules Gaza, in response to the Oct. 7 rampage by the militant group, when Israel says gunmen killed 1,200 people and took 240 hostages.

Israel retaliated with intense bombardment and a ground invasion. Palestinian health authorities deemed reliable by the United Nations say more than 15,000 Gazans have been confirmed killed.

HOSTAGES HEAD HOME

Qatar and Egypt had been making intensive efforts to extend the truce following the exchange on Thursday of the latest batch of eight hostages and 30 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel had previously set the release of 10 hostages a day as the minimum it would accept to pause its ground assault and bombardment.

Thursday's releases brought the totals freed during the truce

to 105 hostages and 240 Palestinian prisoners.

Among those released were six women aged 21 to 40 including one Mexican-Israeli dual national and 21-year-old Mia Schem, who holds both French and Israeli citizenship.

Photos released by the Israeli prime minister's office showed Schem, who was captured by Hamas along with others at an outdoor music festival in southern Israel on Oct. 7, embracing her mother and brother after they were reunited at Hatzetim military base in Israel.

The other two newly released hostages were a brother and sister, Belal and Aisha al-Ziadna, aged 18 and 17 respectively, according to the Israeli prime minister's office. They are Bedouin Arab citizens of Israel and among four members of their family taken hostage while they were milking cows on a farm.

One of Qatar's lead negotiators, career diplomat Abdullah Al Sulaiti, who helped broker the truce through marathon shuttle negotiations, acknowledged in a recent Reuters interview the uncertain odds of keeping the guns silent.

"At the beginning I thought achieving an agreement would be the most difficult step," he said in an article that detailed the behind-the-scenes efforts

for the first time. "I've discovered that sustaining the agreement itself is equally challenging."

ISRAEL AGREES TO PROTECT CIVILIANS, BLINKEN SAYS The truce had allowed some humanitarian aid into Gaza after much of the coastal territory of 2.3 million people was reduced to wasteland in the Israeli assault.

More fuel and 56 trucks of humanitarian supplies entered Gaza on Thursday, Israel's defence ministry and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said.

But deliveries of food, water, medical supplies and fuel remain far below what is needed, aid workers say.

At an emergency meeting in Amman, Jordan's King Abdullah on Thursday urged U.N. officials and international groups to pressure Israel to allow more aid into the beleaguered enclave, according to delegates.

When the ceasefire first came into effect a week ago, Israel was preparing to turn the focus of its operation to southern Gaza after its seven-week assault to the north.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in Israel during his third visit to the Middle East since the war began, did not comment on the resumption of fighting as he headed for Dubai.

On Thursday, Blinken said he told Netanyahu Israel cannot repeat in south Gaza the massive civilian casualties and displacement of residents it inflicted in the north.

"We discussed the details of Israel's ongoing planning and I underscored the imperative for the United States that the massive loss of civilian life and displacement of the scale that we saw in northern Gaza not be repeated in the south," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv, adding the Israeli government had agreed.

'Absolutely inhumane and unconscionable': Indian student beaten, forced into labour for months in US

WASHINGTON, Dec 1 (Agencies): Authorities in the US have rescued a 20-year-old Indian student, who was held captive for months without access to a bathroom, viciously beaten, and forced to work at three homes by his cousin and two other men in an incident described as "absolutely inhumane and unconscionable."

The victim, whose name was not disclosed, spent months trapped in three homes in the US state of Missouri.

Police descended upon a home on a rural highway in St Charles County. They later arrested Venkatesh R Sattaru, Sravan Varma Penumetcha and Nikhil Verma Penmatsa, and charged them with offences including human trafficking, kidnapping and assault.

Police were dispatched to investigate the home after a concerned citizen became aware of his situation and called 911.

The victim is safe and being treated at a hospital for multiple bone fractures, as well as lacerations and injuries covering his entire body, said prosecutor Joe McCulloch.

Over seven months, the men locked the student in a basement and forced him to sleep on an unfinished floor without access to a bathroom, charges say.

He scavenged for scraps in nearby restaurant dumpsters and was beaten with electrical wire, PVC pipe, metal rods, wooden boards, sticks and a water supply hose for a washing machine, St Louis Post-Dispatch, a major regional newspaper, reported.

"It's absolutely inhumane and unconscionable that one human being could treat another human being like this," said McCulloch at a news conference.

The three defendants are accused of confining and abusing the victim at three different homes owned by Sattaru in Defiance, Dardenne Prairie and O'Fallon, starting in April 2023, according to St Charles County's official website.

Sattaru was identified by investigators as the ringleader and lives in the O'Fallon home with his wife and children.

The main suspect in the case, Sattaru, 35, is additionally charged with human trafficking for the purpose of slavery and contributing to human trafficking through misuse of documentation.

Penumetcha and Penmatsa live in the home where the student was rescued.

Authorities said the student had come to the US from India last year with hopes of studying at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. Instead,

he was taken to Sattaru's homes beginning in April and was forced to begin chores around 4:30 am, work a full day for Sattaru's IT company and then complete a list of evening tasks.

The student told police he regularly got three hours of sleep on a concrete floor in a locked basement where Sattaru monitored him with a surveillance camera, according to court documents.

If the 20-year-old didn't complete the tasks properly, he was severely beaten. Charges say he was forced to strip down naked and was hit all over his body. He was kicked, stomped and lashed, charges say, and his injuries included previous fractures and breaks that did not heal properly.

No one answered the door at Sattaru's home on Thursday afternoon. None of the three men had attorneys listed in court documents.

"They beat him with their fists, they stomped on him, they beat him with electrical wiring, with PVC pipes," McCulloch said. "They forced him to sleep in an unfinished basement, they starved him, and limited his access to the public and to restrooms."

McCulloch commended that citizen for making the rescue possible.

"If you see something, say something. We would much rather check it out and find nothing than have an incident like this that's been going on for nearly a year," McCulloch said.

Because the three suspects are wealthy and have political connections in India, McCulloch said they are being held at the St. Charles County Jail without bond.

Neighbours in O'Fallon were shaken by the arrests on Thursday.

Many said they'd had pleasant interactions with the family, waving as they passed on the street or playing with children in the cul-de-sac.

"It's shocking, for sure," said Chirag Shah, who lives down the street from Sattaru's home.

And in Defiance, an unincorporated community of less than 100 people known for its wineries, gift shops and position along the Katy Trail, neighbours watched as police flocked to the home beginning Wednesday morning, the paper reported.

Police were told at first by a man in the home that they couldn't come inside, but the 20-year-old eventually came running from the basement. He was trembling uncontrollably, heavily scarred and suffering from bruising and swelling all over his body, charges say.

"Take It Very Seriously": US After Indian Charged In Alleged Murder Plot

WASHINGTON, Dec 1 (Agencies): The White House National Security Council spokesperson, John Kirby, stressed on Friday that the US continues to improve its strategic partnership with India. On the other side, he added that the US "takes this very seriously," referring to the indictment by the US Department of Justice against an Indian in an alleged foiled assassination plot.

While speaking at a press briefing, Kirby said, "India remains a strategic partner, and we are going to continue to work to improve and strengthen that strategic partnership with India." Referring to the US Justice Department indictment of an Indian national in an alleged foiled assassination plot in the US, Kirby added, "At the same time, we take this very seriously. These allegations and this investigation, we take very seriously."

He further said that we are glad to see that India is also taking it seriously by announcing their "own efforts to investigate this."

"We have been clear that we want to see anybody that's responsible for these alleged crimes to be held properly accountable..." Kirby stressed.

The US Department of Justice unsealed an indictment against an Indian national for his



alleged involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate a US-based leader of the Sikh Separatist Movement and a citizen in New York.

The US Justice Department has claimed that an Indian government employee (named CC-1), who was not identified in the indictment filed in a federal court in Manhattan, recruited an Indian national named Nikhil Gupta to hire a hitman to allegedly carry out the assassination of the Sikh Separatist, which was foiled by US authorities.

The US Justice Department claimed that Gupta, an associate of CC-1, and has described his involvement in international narcotics and weapons trafficking in his communications with CC-1. The indictment claims CC-1 directed the assassination plot from India.

Moreover, in a news briefing the MEA on Thursday said that a

case filed against an individual in a US court and allegedly linking him to an Indian official is a "matter of concern" and is contrary to government policy.

"We cannot share any further information on such security matters. As regards the case against an individual that has been filed in a US court allegedly linking him to an Indian official, this is a matter of concern. We have said and let me reiterate that this is contrary to government policy," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"The nexus between organised crime, trafficking and gun running and extremists at an international level is a serious issue for law enforcement agencies and organisations to consider and it is precisely for that reason that a high-level committee has been constituted and we will obviously be guided by its results," he added.

Japan 'concerned' as US continues to fly Ospreys despite grounding request

TOKYO, Dec 1 (Agencies): Japan is concerned that the U.S. military is continuing to fly Osprey aircraft despite its request to ground them until their safety is confirmed after an accident this week, Japan's top government spokesperson said on Friday.

Japan, a key U.S. ally, had sought the suspension of all non-emergency V-22 Osprey flights over its territory after one fell into the sea on Wednesday in western Japan. Japan's Coast Guard has said one

person was found and confirmed dead, and the search for the remaining seven aboard continues.

The Pentagon said on Thursday that it was still flying Ospreys for now, and that it was not aware of any official request for their grounding.

Asked about that statement, Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, said Tokyo had "officially" made the request.

"We are concerned that despite our repeated requests, and in



the absence of sufficient explanation (from the U.S. military), the Osprey continues to fly," he told a news conference.

The Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF), which also operates Ospreys, has said it would suspend flights of the transport aircraft.

The deployment of the hybrid aircraft in Japan has been controversial, with critics of the U.S. military presence in the southwest islands saying it is prone to accidents.

Japan hosts the biggest overseas concentration of U.S. military power, with the country home to the only forward-deployed American carrier strike group, its Asian airlift hub, fighter squadrons and a U.S. Marine Corps expeditionary force.

Kim Jong Un orders military readiness in North Korea against any 'provocation'

SEOUL, Dec 1 (Agencies): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for his military to be ready to respond to any "provocation" by the enemy, state media said on Friday, after Pyongyang vowed to deploy stronger armed forces and new weapons along its border with the South.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have increased since the North last month launched a spy satellite, prompting Seoul to suspend a key clause in a 2018 inter-Korean military accord and Pyongyang in turn to declare it was no longer bound by the pact.

Visiting North Korea's air force command on Thursday for the branch's airman day, Kim rolled out guidelines to improve the military's combat posture and increase "its capabilities to fight a war to the full," news agency KCNA reported.

"He set forth operational and



tactical policies ... to counter any military provocation and threat of the enemy immediately and powerfully," KCNA said.

That stop was followed by a visit to a fighter wing, where pilots staged a demonstration flight, it said.

Photographs released by state media showed Kim and his daughter dressed in long leather jackets, watching the show.

Kim praised the air force for being "fully prepared to perfectly

carry out their air combat missions under any unfavourable situation," KCNA said.

The United States and its allies have strongly condemned the North's first spy satellite launch as a violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. But Pyongyang has said it would launch more satellites, calling it an exercise of a right to self-defence.

On Thursday, the United States targeted North Korea

with fresh sanctions over the satellite launch, designating foreign-based agents it accused of facilitating sanctions evasion. South Korea also announced sanctions on 11 North Koreans.

Reflecting the rising strain, South Korea has suspended tours of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, a Seoul official said.

Local media reported that

North Korean soldiers at the Joint Security Area (JSA) inside the DMZ had started carrying firearms again after the North withdrew from the inter-Korean military deal.

The DMZ tours restarted last week; they had been halted after a US soldier's unauthorised crossing into North Korea while on a tour in July. Private Travis King was later handed back by the North and returned to the United States, where he faces charges.

Breaking the Silence: Let Communities lead in fight against AIDS



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 1: Udhampur Campus, Garnai Lotta, University of Jammu organized an awareness rally to mark the World AIDS day with the theme "Let the community lead". The rally started from the Udhampur campus and marched towards the crowded Street of the village Garnai Lotta.

The student of B.Com, M.A. Economics and M.Com of Udhampur campus participated in the rally. The rally passed through the local street of Garnai Lotta and reached the Govt. Middle school where the PG students of Udhampur campus spread the awareness.

Then the students of the campus and Govt. middle school Garnai Lotta, marched towards the Govt. High

school Garnai Ladhya. Later, in the Govt. High school, Mr. Surfiyaz Ali, MS Mehak Gupta, Mr. Bikram Singh, MS Sumiya, MS Janvi, Mr. Karanveer, MS Tani students of Udhampur Campus, University of Jammu, addressed the gathering in the school about the Awareness on AIDS remains paramount in our global pursuit to combat the HIV epidemic. As a critical public health issue, understanding and disseminating information about AIDS is fundamental to prevention, destigmatization, and support for those affected. Heightened awareness facilitates early detection through testing, encourages responsible behavior, and fosters empathy towards individuals living with HIV/AIDS. By promoting

accurate knowledge and dispelling misconceptions, we pave the way for a more informed and compassionate society, ultimately contributing to the goal of eradicating the stigma surrounding AIDS and working towards a world free from new HIV infections.

Later, in his virtual address to the gathering Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector Udhampur campus, University of Jammu emphasized on the relevance of awareness among the locals.

He said, "World AIDS day provides an opportunity for schools to contribute to the global effort in combating HIV/AIDS. By fostering awareness, understanding, and empathy, schools play a vital role in creating a future generation that is knowledgeable, compassionate, and actively engaged in promoting public health."

Dr. Shilpa Gupta, Coordinated the event and Nikhil Khajuria hosted the event in the presence of all the faculty members of Udhampur Campus and the faculty members of Govt. High school Garnai Ladhya.

GDC Darhal organizes Extension Lecture cum poster making competition on World AIDS Day

Top News Report

DARHAL, Dec 1: The Red Ribbon club and NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College Darhal organized an extension lecture cum poster making competition on the theme "Let communities lead" to mark world AIDS Day here today.

Professor Mussaraf Hussain Shah, Principal Govt Degree College Darhal was chief guest whereas Dr Mohd Shakeel was a resource person on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, Prof Shah underlined the need of greater awareness to eradicate this from roots by active response of communities youth and students especially NSS volunteers pay vital role towards its prevention, he added.

In his comprehensive talk Dr Shakeel briefed the audience about the history, biology, epidemiology and prevention by community involve-

ment. The program was followed by an intra-college poster making competition in which Hibza Tabassum of semester-1st bagged 1st whereas Kashish Fatima semester-1st and Umer Khalil semester-3rd stood 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Dr. Ghulam Abas Head Department of Persian and Dr. Mohd Saleem Wani, Head Department of English served as judges for this competition.

Earlier, Dr Mohd Akhlaq convener Red ribbon club and NSS Programme officer introduced the audience about the program and also conducted proceeding of the program.

Dr Mohd Riaz, Department of Persian presented the formal vote of thanks.

A large number of students and staff members participated in the program. Prominent among others were Dr. Ahsan Ul-Rehman Rizvi, Zahid and Dr. Mehwish Bukhari.

Deputation from Ward No 71 in Sidhra calls on Altaf Bukhari



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: A deputation of Sidhra residents called on Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari here at Party Office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

The Apni Party Provincial President Jammu S. Manjit Singh was also present on the occasion. The deputation was led by Apni Party Youth Wing General Secretary and Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya.

The residents of ward number 71 in Sidhra apprised about the difficulties they were facing at their area because of

poor development and road infrastructure.

They said that they had raised the issue with the concerned authorities regarding poor basic amenities, improper supply of clean drinking water, unscheduled power cuts, poor road connectivity, and the concerns regarding lanes, and drains.

They also expressed concern that they are not provided benefits of the Govt schemes in their area and most of the people remain away from the benefits that are being offered by the Govt through their schemes.

This is happening

because the concerned Govt Department shows lack of interest in educating people about such schemes that would benefit the local population, they added.

After hearing them patiently, Altaf Bukhari assured them 71 that their concerns would be highlighted before the concerned authorities, and the Apni Party would continue to support them.

Prominent among those in the deputation include Shakti Devi, Sushma Shakti, Shoukat Ali, Noor Mohammed, Maneesh, Tufail, Raiz, Sushma Rai and others.

SBI conducts awareness programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: State Bank of India (SBI) conducted Awareness Programme at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, Central University, Jakh, Jammu under the initiative of SBI Chief General Manager, Chandigarh Circle Vinod Jaiswal on directions of LG of J&K Manoj Sinha.

Team SBI represented by Regional Manager

Sanjeev Mahajan, Faculty from SBLC Jammu, Branch Manager Central University under the Module Leadership of DGM Ravindra Kumar Gupta, in the presence Registrar CUJ Yashwant Singh guided the students of CUJ regarding the various Career opportunities available in State Bank of India, recruitment process, and selection proce-

dures thereupon. Students present in the session were very happy on the initiative of SBI and interacted and raised various queries which were duly responded too.

Sanjeev Mahajan thanked University administration for giving opportunity to SBI for downline interaction with aspirational candidates for SBI jobs.

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Disability Initiatives, University of Jammu in collaboration with the Office of Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU is organizing a two day workshop for student volunteers, 'Peer support for students with disabilities'.

The inaugural function of the workshop was held today, where Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU was the chief guest and Sandhya Dhar, Disability Rights Activist was the Guest of Honor.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Rahul Gupta mentioned that the University is making earnest efforts to make the campus disabled friendly.

He exhorted upon the student participants to develop empathy for those with disabilities, and volunteer to become scribes, amanuensis and readers for these students. He mentioned that the peer is an extremely important group for help-



ing students with disabilities in their academic pursuits. He further mentioned that SWOT analysis should be conducted to understand the challenges of this group of students.

Sandhya Dhar shared the lived experience of being a person with disability. She narrated the challenges encountered in her life journey as a child, youth, student and an adult. She emphasized on the need of creating sensitive and accessible environment in all possible public spaces. She hoped that the students after the workshop will go back as messengers of inclusivity in their own colleges and institutions.

Earlier, Prof. Sarika

Manhas, Coordinator Disability Initiatives, JU in her welcome address mentioned that the UGC Accessibility Guidelines, 2022 also emphasize on training peers as buddies and creating an equitable environment in all higher education institutions. She further stated that the youth have a major responsibility of bringing sustainable social change where those with and without disability are treated as equal.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, Programme Coordinator, NSS, JU, while elaborating on the objectives of the workshop, stressed on the role of NSS volunteers for building an inclusive environment for the persons with disabili-

ties in the society. She further highlighted on the relevance of the motto of NSS, 'Not me but you' in the present scenario and urged the volunteers to carry forward this motto not just during their student life but rather should imbibe it as a lifelong principle.

The formal vote of thanks was accorded by Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Faculty DD & OE, JU.

The inaugural session was followed by three technical sessions, with Sukanya Bhan (Sign Language Interpreter) talking about 'Disability etiquettes' and Swati Basotra (Motivational speaker and life coach) focusing on 'Developing empathy towards those

with disability'.

Prominent among others who attended the inaugural were Prof. Namrata Sharma (Convener JU CASH and LMS), Dr. Monika Bhardwaj (The Law School), Dr. Nisha Kapoor (School of Biotechnology), Dr. Ritu Mahajan (School of Biotechnology), Prof. Ramni Gupta (Deptt. of Physics), Dr. N. Suresh Rao (Deptt. of Computer Science), and Ajay (Assistant Registrar).

More than 70 NSS volunteers from different affiliated Govt and B.Ed colleges of Nowshera, Rajouri, Billawar, Bishnah, Sidhra, Marh, Mendhar, Akhnoor, Ghagwal and other parts of Jammu division are participating in this workshop.

Team of research scholars of Department of Home Science and Sociology - Vinish Malik, Meghna Sharma, Vishawdeepika, Vineet Kour, Kehkashan, Neha Uttam and Manu Saini helped in the smooth conduct of the workshop.

Dimple asks PM to announce assembly, parliament elections in J&K in Parliament session

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to announce in the Parliament session on December 4 that assembly elections in J&K should be held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections.

Addressing a press conference here, Dimple supported the statement made by Lieutenant Governor

(LG) Manoj Sinha that the J&K administration is prepared for assembly elections.

Dimple demanded the restoration of the J&K Dogra State and the implementation of the stand-still agreement and conditions outlined in the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh with India during the accession.

He demanded a clear stand on Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC), protection of land and jobs,



and the unification of J&K, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and

Baltistan in the J&K state.

Dimple mentioned an ongoing high-level meeting between RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) in Jammu, suggesting that they should announce and demand joint assembly and parliament elections in J&K.

Dimple claimed that the verdict on petitions filed regarding the abrogation of Article 370 and J&K statehood will be announced shortly, on or before

December 15. He alleged that the BJP is attempting to divide J&K further with Article 371.

Dimple outrightly rejected the idea of further dividing Jammu and Kashmir into separate Kashmir and Jammu states.

He emphasized that neither a separate Kashmir nor a separate Jammu state is acceptable, and Article 371 is also rejected.

Dimple outlined plans after the installation of a popular government, including the

reversal of anti-Jammu Kashmir laws imposed by the BJP. He also expresses the intention to convert and cancel all domiciles into state subject PRC and remove people from other states who entered J&K.

Dimple raises concerns about the whereabouts of the conditions outlined in the stand-still agreement and the Instrument of Accession during the accession of J&K, Ladakh, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan with India.

FROM PAGE 1

Ready to hold assembly polls in J&K whenever Election Commission of India wants: LG Sinha

but expressed the need for additional measures for their resettlement.

Senior IAS Officer Atal Dulloo takes over as new Chief Secretary of J&K

secretariat this morning and presented bouquets to him. He was then led to his office chamber.

Dulloo, a B.Tech graduate from Jammu and Kashmir, is a recipient of the state award for meritorious public service on Republic Day in 2013 and a silver medal for successfully conducting assembly elections in the erstwhile state in 1996.

Before his central deputation, Dulloo served as the financial commissioner of the Agriculture Production Department in J&K and additional chief secretary of the Finance Department. He is credited with the formulation of the prestigious Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and he played crucial role in expanding the medical infrastructure during the coronavirus pandemic as the financial commissioner of the Health Department.

He holds the distinction of being the first person from Jammu and Kashmir to occupy the top slot in the UT's bureaucracy since 2017, following B R Sharma's tenure from 2015-17.

Known for his cordial style of functioning, Dulloo also has experience in roles such as a sub-Divisional Magistrate in Ladakh and deputy commissioner in at least three districts in J&K.

The term of panchayats is also ending early next year but elections to these rural local bodies are likely to be delayed.

Suresh Raina urges youth to register as voters

According to the notification, individuals aged 18 or above on January 1, 2024, can enrol in the electoral rolls by submitting 'Form No. 6' for new elector registration by December 9. Raina expressed his affection for Jammu and Kashmir, stating that he carries every bit of it in his heart and mind. Flanked by Relief Commissioner K K Sidha, Raina received a warm welcome at Nirvachan Bhawan and interacted with Pandurang K Pole, Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir.

RBI says Rs 2,000 notes totalling Rs 9,760 Cr still with public

currency or having the equivalent sum credited to their bank accounts at the 19

offices of the RBI. Meanwhile, queues are being witnessed during the working hours at the RBI offices for exchange/deposit of Rs 2,000 notes. The 19 RBI offices depositing/exchanging the bank notes are in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram. The Rs 2,000 bank notes were introduced in November 2016 following demonetisation of the then prevailing Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 bank notes.

Snowfall in Sonamarg; Night temperature rises at several places

while Qazigund recorded a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of 0.5 degrees Cel-

sius while the mercury in Gulmarg settled at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

No caste certificates for Saini community, High Court tells admin

order, incorporating the Saini community into the weak and underprivileged category, is currently not in effect and has been suspended. The High Court consequently disposed of the case, allowing the petitioner the liberty to approach the Court again if any adverse decisions are made by the competent authority concerning the Saini community's status. The Court also explicitly prohibited the issuance of caste certificates to individuals belonging to the Saini community. Advocate Sheikh Najeeb represented the petitioners, while Senior Additional Advocate General (AAG) Ramesh Arora appeared on behalf of the respondents.

Lt Governor attends 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran

Urges PRIs to reach out to maximum number of families to generate awareness about Govt's schemes

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' at Panchayat Dhok Waziran, Nagrota, on Friday.

The Lt Governor congratulated the PRI representatives and people for their enthusiastic participation. He urged them to reach out to maximum number of families, generate awareness about Government schemes and encourage enrolment of potential beneficiaries.

He emphasised the need to replicate the best practices of Panchayat Dhok Waziran to develop model villages in a holistic way for better livelihoods options, improved quality of life and action-oriented Jan-Bhagidari for a happy, prosperous and peaceful Panchayat.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed towards 100% saturation of government schemes and reaching out to the unreached. It provides a significant opportunity to rural and urban areas to ensure common man and vulnerable section is



empowered," the Lt Governor said.

He urged the people to actively participate in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', avail the on-spot services being provided and disseminate the information about schemes.

Individual success stories must reach out to every nook and corner of UT to highlight the transformation brought about by the government's flagship schemes in their lives, he said.

"Through integrated action and involvement of every individual we can turn the villages into viable, sustainable

economic centres and create opportunities for youth, women, farmers and vulnerable section to accomplish the vision of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor highlighted the efforts of the J&K Government to ensure benefits of welfare measures reach the poor and weaker sections of society.

UT administration is providing 5 Marla land to poor landless beneficiary under PMAY (G). This will raise the living standards of poor, vulnerable landless families, remove the existing societal imbalances

and lead to their economic and social prosperity, he said.

Raman Wazir, Sarpanch Panchayat Dhok Waziran and beneficiaries from the Panchayat also shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to the administration for extension of benefits under various government schemes.

The Lt Governor visited the stalls put up by different departments, witnessed the demonstration of drone, and handed over the certificates of registration to the members of newly created Farmer Producers Organizations.

'Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat' pledge was also administered on the occasion.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman District Development Council Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Revenue; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range, senior officers, PRI members and people in large number were present.

Open J&K Sport Climbing Competition on Dec 9

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: To promote the game of Sport-Climbing in nooks and corners of J&K with an objective to win the National Championship next year, Tawi Trekkers J&K, the premier adventure organisation of J&K in collaboration with Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantala, Jammu, shall organize a mega Open J&K Sport Climbing competition at Tenzing Norgay Sport Climbing Wall in the school campus on 9th December, 2023.

Since it is part of club's efforts to tap hidden talent in the budding climbers, only fresh climbers, both boys and girls, up to the age of 17 years (born in 2006 and after) are eligible to compete in this competition. However, the national as well as zonal medalists are not eligible for participation in the competition.

The club has planned to depute the winners of this competi-



tion for participation in the forthcoming Sport Climbing competitions being organized by Indian Mountaineering Foundation North Zone Committee, New Delhi and other adventure organisations at different venues in the north zone.

The competition shall be organized under the overall supervision of General Secretary of the club Shawetika Khajuria who is an International Judge of the game. Whereas Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary of Jammu District Sport Climbing Association shall be the Organizing Secretary of the Competition, Shilpa Charak, an international sport climber and trained Belayer, Manik Slatia and Shashi Kant

Sharma, both trained Belayers & mountaineers & Sapna Ranjan shall be the Route Setters cum belayers of the competition. Other technical officials shall be Abhimanyu Sherpa, a former all India Champion, Sakshi Magotra, a U T level judge of the game, Sunil Chakharia & Sourav Deep Singh, both mountaineers. Sumit Khajuria, Vice President of Mountaineering Association of J&K and Rakesh Goswami, President of Jammu District Mountaineering Association shall be the observers from Mountaineering Association of J&K.

For further details clubs/institutions/climbers interested to participate in the competition may contact the General Secretary of the Club Shawetika Khajuria on Mob. 7006099855 or the Organizing Secretary Sonam Sidharth on Mob. No.6006250685 Last date for submission of entries is 6th December, 2023.

Breaking taboos, empowering lives to transform J&K: J&K Bank



Top News Report

REASI, Dec 1: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF) announced a significant milestone in their joint initiative with J&K Bank, "Mission R-SAP (Remove Shyness Apply Pads)."

This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project by J&K Bank which is implemented by LFO-BHF aims to provide access to menstrual hygiene by distributing 5,00,000 sanitary napkins and conducting 100 awareness seminars, benefiting 50,000 people across all 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir and remove the taboo

regarding menstruation from the society.

The 5th district to successfully complete this mission is Reasi where more than 25,000 sanitary napkins were distributed, complemented by six impactful awareness lectures targeted more than 2500 people.

The resource persons for these seminars were Babita and Stuti.

These activities were carried out in government as well as private schools located in peripheral areas, namely Govt. Model Hr. Sec. School, Banganaga, Katra; Govt. Girls High School, Banganga, Katra; Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Pathal; Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Reasi; Gurukul

Public Hr. Sec. School; Govt. Hr. Sec. Aghar Jitto Katra.

"We are thrilled with the progress of 'Mission R-SAP' and the positive impact it's having on women's health and hygiene and currently we are looking forward to others districts and our team is simultaneously working on it," said Vishal, COO & Founder of LFO-BHF.

LFO-BHF extended their gratitude to the Director School Education Jammu, CEO Reasi, Principals of all the schools of Reasi and also thanked J&K Bank for organising this activity with their CSR fund said Abhishek Raina and Sachin Jandial.

Vomedh organizes documentary release and Bhajan Sandhya to pay tribute to Asha Saraf

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: A documentary depicting the life and contributions of the late Asha Saraf, wife of Wing Commander Ashok Kumar Saraf, was released today at Abhinav Theatre amidst a galaxy of intellectuals, artists, and prominent personalities of the society at a tribute-paying function organized by Vomedh.

The documentary, produced by the Asha Saraf-Ashok Kumar Saraf Charitable Trust, is written by Bindya Raina Tickoo and directed by Rohit Bhat.

A Bhajan Sandhya was also organized on the occasion, where Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKACL), was the Chief Guest, while Bharat Bhushan Bhat, President of Zeshtha Devi Prabandhak Committee, Prof A N Sadhu, Prominent Social Activist MK Yogi, CA Rohit Dhar, Bal Krishan Sanyasi and Ramesh Hangloo were the Guests of



Honour. The dignitaries were welcomed with bouquets by Rohit Bhat, Senior Journalist, and artist King C Bharati and Suman Bhat of Vomedh.

The documentary depicts the life and social service of Asha Saraf and Wing Commander (Rtd) Ashok Saraf, besides their close bonding as husband and wife who initiated social work after their retirement. It is now being taken forward by Ashok Saraf after the sudden death of his wife Asha Saraf due to Cancer through the Mrs Asha Saraf-Ashok Kumar Saraf Charitable Trust.

The function started with Deep Prajvalan and was followed by melodi-

ous Bhajans and songs by renowned singers of the state, Rajesh Khar, Nirmala & Pallavi Koul, Rishab Dorje, and Dr. Deepali Watal. Later the documentary on Asha Saraf made by Vomedh was released.

Speaking on the occasion, Bharat Singh Manhas, while appreciating the efforts of Vomedh for bringing to light such extraordinary personalities, said that after watching the documentary, he was moved by the fact that social activists like Ashok Saraf were contributing to society, pledging all their property and wealth for the upliftment of society and the welfare of cancer patients. He added that the bond

of love between the couple was heartwarming.

Rakesh Roshan Bhat, renowned playwright, and patron of Vomedh, in a message for the occasion, said that Vomedh was committed to preserving the rich art, culture, and social activism of dedicated people through theatre, documentaries, and other activities so that the future generation gets inspired and takes the work further.

Rohit Bhat, in his brief speech, said that the documentary was Vomedh's tribute to the Asha Saraf-Ashok Kumar Saraf Charitable Trust for its exemplary social work and announced that

Vomedh would soon start workshops in different schools to involve young minds in theatre. He added that theatre builds the personality of people, and hence every student must involve himself/herself to lead a confident life.

Prominent personalities who were present in the jam-packed hall included Wing Commander (Rtd) Ashok Saraf, SNA awardee Krishan Langoo, Kusum Dhar, Anita Chandpuri, Santosh Shah Nandan, RK Bhat, Prof Virender Rawal, Shushil Watal, etc.

The show was compered by renowned anchor Bindiya Raina Tickoo.

SAIC Motor, JSW Group announce strategic joint venture to accelerate growth with focus on green mobility

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with annual revenues of around US\$ 110 billion and a presence in over 100 countries, and the JSW Group, one of India's leading global business conglomerates with US\$ 23 billion in revenues across diversified businesses, have entered into a strategic Joint Venture.

The Shareholder Agreement and Share Purchase & Share Subscription agreement were signed by the President of SAIC Wang Xiaohu and JSW Group's Parth Jindal at MG UK Headquarters in London with the objective of accelerating the transformation and growth of MG Motor in India. SAIC Motor and JSW Group will create strategic synergies by bringing together resources in the field of automobiles and new technology. The joint venture will also undertake multiple new initiatives including augmenting local sourcing, improving charging infrastructure, expansion of production capacity, and introducing a broader range

of vehicles with a focus on green mobility.

According to the agreement signed, JSW Group will hold 35% in the Indian JV operations. SAIC will continue supporting the joint venture with advanced technology and products to deliver extraordinary mobility solutions with an unwavering focus on the Indian consumer.

According to Wang Xiaohu, President of SAIC Motor, "The automobile business is a global industry, and like in any other similar industry, access and collaboration are crucial for its healthy growth. SAIC has always adhered to the 'win-win cooperation' approach while steadily improving our core capabilities and expanding our scale of production and sales. In the growing Indian automotive market.

According to JSW Group's Parth Jindal, "Our strategic collaboration with SAIC Motor aims to grow & transform the MG Motor operations in India with a focus on green mobility solutions. The joint venture paves the way for bringing world-class technology-

enabled futuristic suite of automobile products including the new generation of intelligent connected NEVs and ICE vehicles. The JV's focus on broader localisation initiatives will yield financially accretive synergies through economies of scale while providing the highest level of customer service to the Indian consumer.

The joint venture will optimize SAIC Motor's vast automotive experience and technical expertise to demonstrate brand MG's spiritual cores - globalization, digitalization, rejuvenation, and young attitude. It will also leverage the large presence of JSW Group across B2B and B2C sectors of the Indian economy to augment local sourcing and establish a robust supply chain. Together, SAIC and JSW Group will work towards creating a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem in India by bolstering the development of NEVs and ICEs with Carbon Neutrality, Sustainability and Green Mobility at the centre of its shared vision. Both JV partners are committed to continue staying

BJP is not holding assembly elections in J&K due to fear of defeat: Dilip Kumar

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: BDC Chairman Miran Sahib and senior Congress leader Daleep Kumar have said that assembly elections are being conducted in all the states of the country, Lok Sabha elections will also be held in the country in the coming 6 months, but the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is such that neither the Sarpanches And elections for councilors and neither for the assembly are being conducted.

He said that LG rule has been going on in Jammu and Kashmir for almost 5 years. Every time

claims are made by the government that after the abolition of Article 370, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has become peaceful, but despite this the government is not showing any interest in holding assembly elections.

The reason is clear, BJP knows that its land in Jammu and Kashmir has been exhausted. If assembly elections are held here today, even the deposits of their leaders will be confiscated and Congress will emerge as the largest party.

Due to this fear, BJP does not want to hold assembly elections here. BJP campaigned in the entire country in the name of abro-

gation of Article 370. Now if it gets a crushing defeat in the elections here, then BJP will be disgraced in the entire country.

The government has stopped the elections here for its own benefit but the common man is having to bear the brunt of it. Due to lack of elected government and representatives, people have been left at the mercy of bureaucracy. Their work is not getting done. People are upset and have made up their mind to oust this government from power.

All the problems of the people can end only with Congress coming to power.

Mahant Rohit calls on Chairman of Master Card India Rajnish

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sanathan Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri met Chairman of Mastercard India Rajnish Kumar.

It's worth mention-



ing that Rajnish Kumar has also served as the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Shastri discussed the present scenario of Devvani Sanskrit language in Jammu and Kashmir.

India vs Australia, 4th T20I: Shreyas Iyer back, India look to seal series in Raipur's T20I debut

RAIPUR, Dec 1 (Agencies): A Glenn Maxwell special denied India a series-clinching victory a couple of nights ago in Guwahati as even 222 proved not enough for the hosts. India will have another opportunity to seal the series without playing a decider as they face Australia at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, which will be making its debut in T20Is.

The venue in Raipur hosted its first international match earlier this year - an ODI between India and New Zealand. The Black-Caps were bundled out for 108 in the said ODI with Mohammed Shami and Hardik Pandya picking up 5 wickets between them. There was a tinge of grass during that ODI which will unlikely be there when India and Australia meet tonight.

The series has seen India scoring over 200 three times and the trend of a high-scoring game is likely to continue on Friday. India's batters were practicing range-hitting at the venue on Thursday, hinting that the pitch in Raipur might be another better.

India have a big boost as



Shreyas Iyer returns to the T20I format for the first time since 2022. The Kolkata Knight Riders captain, who was in sensational form with over 500 runs in his maiden World Cup campaign, was rested for the first three ODIs and he returns as vice-captain.

Shreyas Iyer needed time to get into the groove during the late evening nets session in Raipur but expect the star batter to get going straightaway. Yes, he is returning as the vice-captain, but there will be competition for spots in the middle order. Iyer might have to replace the highly talented Tilak Varma on Friday.

With dew expected to play a part, both teams will be looking to chase a total, as we have seen so far in the series.

India might think of also bringing back Deepak Chahar, who was added to the T20I side ahead of the 3rd T20I. Mukesh Kumar, who was away for his marriage and missed the 3rd T20I, was seen training in Raipur and he might also slot straight back in. Prasidh Krishna, who gave away 68 runs in his 4-over quota in the 3rd T20I, might make way along with Arshdeep Singh.

MAXWELL WILL BE MISSED
On the other hand, Australia would be without Glenn Max-

well, Marcus Stoinis and Josh Inglis as the trio headed home following Steve Smith and Adam Zampa, after the 3rd T20I.

Maxwell's presence in the middle-order will be missed, but Australia brought in enough reinforcements in a bid to give youngsters opportunities in the high-pressure series. Ben Dwarshuis, Chris Green, Ben McDermott and Josh Philippe, who were brought in, will be in the mix as Travis Head is the lone World Cup winner who is now part of their squad. Expect Green to get his maiden T20I cap as Australia fights to stay alive in the series.

IND vs AUS, 4th T20I Predicted XI

India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan (wk), Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shreyas Iyer, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Deepak Chahar, Mukesh Kumar.

Australia: Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Matthew Short, Ben McDermott, Tim David, Matthew Wade (c & wk), Chris Green, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jason Behrendorff, Tanveer Sangha.

Yuzvendra Chahal reacts after making ODI comeback for South Africa tour: Here we go again



NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (Agencies): Yuzvendra Chahal, the renowned leg-spinner, has once again made headlines with his much-anticipated return to India's One-Day International (ODI) squad. After a period of absence from major tournaments, including the Asia Cup and the World Cup, Chahal's inclusion in the team for the upcoming series against South Africa has sparked excitement amongst cricket enthusiasts.

Chahal's journey back into the national team has been marked by resilience and hard work. Despite being overlooked for the T20I series against Australia and missing out on selection for the ICC World Cup 2023, he continued to showcase his skills in domestic cricket. His remarkable six-wicket haul in the Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Uttarakhand was a testament to his undiminished prowess and served as a reminder of his capabilities to the national selectors.

The spinner's response to his ODI

squad inclusion was succinct yet powerful. Taking to social media, Chahal expressed his readiness to represent India once more with a simple but evocative message: "Here we go AGAIN!" This four-word post on Instagram not only went viral amongst his followers but also encapsulated the spinner's eagerness and determination to make the most of this opportunity.

Chahal's comeback is particularly significant as it comes ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024, signalling his intent to remain in contention for future selections. His experience, with 72 ODI matches and 121 wickets to his name, will be invaluable to the Indian team as they face the Proteas under KL Rahul's captaincy.

The three-match ODI series, scheduled from December 17 to 21, will see India play in Johannesburg, Gqeberha, and Paarl. Fans are eager to witness Chahal's return to international cricket, where he will join forces with fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav, forming the formidable spin duo once known as 'KulCha'. Chahal's social media post reflects not just a personal triumph but also the collective anticipation of cricket fans who are keen to see him weave his magic on the pitch once again. As Team India prepares for the South African challenge, Chahal's presence is a boost to the squad's morale and a beacon of hope for a successful tour.

Uganda skipper Brian Masaba ecstatic on historic T20 World Cup qualification: Culmination of sweat, blood, tears

WINDHOEK (NAMIBIA), Dec 1 (Agencies): Skipper Brian Masaba was over the moon after Uganda qualified for the T20 World Cup 2024 to be held next year in the West Indies and the United States of America (USA).

After Namibia made their way through to the mega event earlier, Uganda joined them as the second team, leaving behind Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Uganda officially qualified after beating Rwanda by nine wickets on Thursday in Match No.20 of the T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifier.

"We're still trying to process all the emotions. It's been a long process, a long journey. This is the culmination of a lot of sweat, blood and tears. As a team it was a very, very special moment for us," Masaba was quoted as saying to BBC World Service's Sportsworld.

Masaba said that the win against Zimbabwe was crucial in Uganda finishing in the top two. Uganda won the match by five wickets at the United Cricket Club Ground in Windhoek.

Riazat Ali Shah became the Player of the Match after he played a quick-fire knock of 42 off 28 balls with the help of



five fours and one six.

The 32-year-old Masaba said that Uganda qualifying for the T20 World Cup was one of their 'wildest dreams' come true.

"Once we beat Zimbabwe, we knew our fate was in our own hands and the boys stood up. This is a big boy, the World Cup! And to be on this platform is something that only happened in our wildest dreams and for us to finally get there is a dream come true for a lot of the guys," he added.

Hockey: 'Our aim is to win a gold medal in Paris', says goalkeeper Pathak

CHENNAI, Dec 1 (Agencies): The winner of the 13th Hockey India senior men's national championship was decided after a penalty shootout that lasted almost 30 minutes after the regulation time of the final between Punjab and Haryana ended in 2-2.

Krishan Pathak, goalkeeper of India and Punjab made a difference by saving four attempts as Punjab won the title against defending champions Haryana. He interacted with the media after the presentation ceremony at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium. Excerpts:

On the penalty shootout
I wanted to keep it simple. Honestly, I was not expecting it to go to the shootout the way our quarterfinal and semifinal went. I think that is why I was mentally a



little behind when I had to prepare for it immediately. I was trying to remain calm throughout the shootout and remind myself of the basics of the shootout. After a long match and humidity, my body was not completely reacting the way I wanted it to be, but I am glad we got over the line.

Normally, I just go through my breathing routines and try to keep myself calm. If you think a lot, you get distracted. I just wanted to set

myself first. It took me some time to get that momentum going.

On playing for Punjab
When we were told that we would play nationals for our state teams, all of us were happy that we got this opportunity. The availability of international players, especially for Punjab made it even more special. Some of the players unfortunately couldn't play for Punjab because of injuries, but most of our team is made up of internationals.

We got this opportunity after a long time, so we just wanted to enjoy it. So when we were coming to Chennai, we wanted to win the trophy and take home the gold medal.

On his reflections on the nationals

Even when we got a break from the national camp, I was participating in the domestic competitions. Winning in those tournaments also helps you boost your confidence, so the nationals were impor-

tant that way for us. And if you look at the whole tournament, we played really well and that is something we can take a lot of confidence from. And every player who played in this tournament, no matter what team they played for, will get that boost going into the national camp.

On Paris 2024 Goal
It's getting close, isn't it? When our new coach (Craig Fulton) came in, he gave us the target to win the gold medal in the Asian Games and win the quota. And when we are going to Paris, we are going with the aim to better the result from Tokyo Olympic 2020. We will go through the Five Nations tournament and FIH Pro League before the Olympics, which will give us the chance to work on our weaknesses, but the aim is to win a gold medal in Paris.

Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane make way for young stars as India ring change of guard for South Africa Tests

NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (Agencies): For the first time in over a decade, India will field a side without Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane - their middle-order marshals in red-ball cricket since 2010-- as the selectors have shut the door on the old batting guard for the South Africa Tests.

The air hung heavy with the inevitability of it all, a feeling that whispered through the corridors of cricketing fate. The two 35-year-old veterans, who played a combined 188 Tests and scored over 12000 valuable runs for India in the past 13 years, were given their due chances, but a dry spell of runs forced the selectors to look towards the young blood.

Shreyas Iyer, who has been out of action due to a back injury, is making a comeback after stealing the show in the middle-order during the World Cup 2023 and is expected to fill the void left by Rahane at the number 5 position in the batting order. The selectors' backing of young

talents like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Yashasvi Jaiswal alongside Iyer indicates a strategic move towards nurturing the next generation of cricketers.

PUJARA: NO RETURN FOR TEST GREAT

After his unbeaten 102 in Chittagong, the numbers spoke a somber tale: a mere 211 runs in 10 outings, with just one score crossing the 50-mark. Even on his familiar home ground against Australia, where he historically thrived, Pujara stumbled - an unusual occurrence. His inability to make a mark in the crucial World Test Championship at the Oval marked the beginning of the end. The whispers grew louder, hinting that his time was borrowed and fleeting.

Initially left out of the young squad bound for West Indies, many anticipated Pujara's return for the pivotal South Africa series, hoping he'd be instrumental in India's quest for an elusive series win. However, fate had a different script in store.



Despite his commendable performances for Sussex in the county cricket circuit, the selectors overlooked him. His lacklustre showings in the Irani Cup and Vijay Hazare Trophy perhaps hammered the final nail in the coffin of his aspirations. It wasn't for lack of effort or determination, Pujara's resilience, his unyielding spirit to recapture his prowess at scoring daddy-hundreds, remained unwavering but form deserted him when he needed it the most.

RAHANE'S COMEBACK TALE ENDS

On the contrary, Ajinkya Rahane was the toast of the cricket world after his stellar run for CSK in the Indian Premier League

(IPL) 2023 season. And he appeared to rejuvenate his career following his omission from the Test series against Australia and Bangladesh. He showcased a counterattacking innings of 89 in the WTC final, propelled by a robust domestic season where he amassed 634 runs at an average of 57.

However, his underwhelming performance, managing only 11 runs across two innings on placid pitches in the Caribbean, signaled the conclusion of his international journey as well. His entry into the WTC final was as a replacement for his Mumbai counterpart, Shreyas Iyer. Now, with Iyer making an impressive comeback, it was

inevitable that he would displace Rahane. Thus, Rahane's innings at the Oval represented a momentary spark from one of India's stalwarts in the middle-order over the past decade.

This transition phase in Indian Test cricket comes after Rahane's comeback, which saw him being part of the squad during the 2023 World Test Championship Final and serving as vice-captain in the series against the West Indies in July 2023. His exclusion, along with Pujara's, marks the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter for Indian cricket as it seeks to build a team capable of succeeding across all conditions and formats.

India Test Squad for South Africa Tour
Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan (wk), KL Rahul (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Mohd. Shami, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Prasidh Krishna.

Dominica pulls out of hosting ICC T20 World Cup 2024 matches



NEW DELHI, Dec 1 (Agencies): Dominica will be unable to meet the deadline for completing stadium development and the government stated that it will withdraw from hosting their assigned T20 World Cup matches next year. Dominica was one of seven Caribbean countries considered to host the T20 World Cup, and Windsor Park was chosen to host one group match and two Super Eight games. Dominica were recommended as one of the hosts for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which

will be held in the West Indies and the United States in June 2024.

"Several tangible actions were taken both at the Windsor Park Sports Stadium and at the Benjamin's Park including the commencement of upgrading and enhancement of the practice and match venues, various assessments and the creation of additional pitches where necessary," a statement from the Dominica government's read.

"However, the implementation timelines submitted by the various

contractors revealed that it would not be possible to complete these works within the stipulated timeframe before the commencement of the tournament. As a result, a decision was taken not to host any of the matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 as it would not be prudent for the Government of Dominica to commit to hosting these games.

"In light of Dominica's sterling reputation in hosting international cricket, this decision is considered to be in the best interest of all. The Government of Dominica thanks Cricket West Indies (CWI) for its partnership over the years and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future. The Government of Dominica extends best wishes to the organisers for a successful tournament in June 2024." The ICC is yet to respond to the development.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu inks MoU with AHAsolar Technologies Ltd. & iGrowGreen Academy

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: In a significant step towards fostering collaboration between academia and industry, Government Polytechnic College, Bikram Chowk Jammu, on Friday signed a transformative tri-party Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AHAsolar Technologies Ltd., a prominent Gujarat-based company, and iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd. This groundbreaking agreement, sets the stage for a dynamic partnership aimed at narrowing the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in academic settings and the practical skills demanded by the evolving industries.

The MoU was signed between Er. Arun Bangotra Principal, Government



Polytechnic Jammu and Pulkit Dhirga Director AHAsolar Technologies Ltd. Gujarat and Sh. Ajit Bahadur Director iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd. Gujarat represented by Kshitiz Vishnoi, AGM- Techno-Commercial iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd and AHAsolar Technologies Ltd., Shivane Gupta and Rishabh Singh from AHAsolar Technologies Ltd. Er. Arun Bangotra, Principal of Government Polytechnic College, Jammu,

said that this partnership is a significant stride towards ensuring our students to be equipped with the latest skills and knowledge demanded by the industries. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration that benefits both our students and the industry partners. Pulkit Dhirga Director AHAsolar Technologies Ltd. Gujarat represented by Kshitiz Vishnoi, AGM- Techno-Commercial from AHAsolar Technologies Ltd.,

shared his optimism that bridging the gap between academia and industry, we can collectively contribute to the growth and development of the workforce. This collaboration aligns with our commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the next generation of professionals. AHAsolar Technologies Ltd., and iGrowGreen Academy Pvt. Ltd will train the students and faculty by organizing the hands

on training workshops on latest technologies and shall also conduct various programmes in the institute to promote the start-ups and entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K and will provide the placement to the final year and passout students.

The MoU signifies a collective effort to create a symbiotic relationship between education and industry, laying the foundation for a brighter and more aligned future.

Other present on the occasion were Manjeet Singh HOD Electrical Engg., Inderjeet Singh W/ shop Supdt., Sukhdeep Singh HOD Civil Engg., Raj Kumar HOD Mechanical Engg., Himanshu Bakshi, Devika Bhardwaj, Itika Sharma, Vicky Sharma, Ritesh Gupta faculty and student of this institution.

Aryans Red Ribbon Club observes World's AIDS Day

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: With the aim to encourage everyone to eliminate the disparities and inequities that create barriers to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing, prevention, and access to HIV care, Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh organised a seminar on World's AIDS Day on this year's theme "Let Communities Lead". Aryans B.Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM students participated in quiz, debate, poster presentation.

While interacting with the students, Mrs. Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Aryans Institute of Nursing said that Acquired Immuno deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is one of the deadliest pandemics in history. India has



about 2.47 Million people living with HIV and approx 66000 new cases recorded last year. Today, there are laws protecting those living with HIV, there have been scientific improvements in HIV therapy, and we know a lot more about the disease.

On the occasion Principal made the students to take the oath for their participation

in raising the awareness about AIDS in society. It is to be mentioned that World AIDS Day is observed on December 1st every year around the world. It is celebrated to show support for the people who are infected with HIV and to give tribute to AIDS patients. In 1988, World AIDS Day was established as the first international health day.

Provide facilities in district hospitals to reduce burden on GMC, SMGS hospitals: Dr. Preeti

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Social activist Dr Preeti Bhagat has said that due to shortage of staff and lack of facilities in the district and sub-district hospitals of Jammu division, the entire burden of patients is falling on GMC Hospital and SMGS Hospital.

Due to the government's negligence and lack of will power, the hospitals built in the districts have become referral hospitals.

At present the situation is that GMC Hospital is burdened with patients from 10 districts of Jammu division.

Due to lack of treatment in district hospitals, everyone is forced to come to GMC. Same is the situation



with SMGS Hospital. This hospital is also burdened by about 10 districts only.

Here, two women are kept on each bed in the ward. Both these big hospitals are treating a large population as per their resources.

Doctors and other paramedical staff treat people diligently, but if the government fulfills the shortage of doctors in district hospitals and provides all types of health facilities, then the burden on these two hospitals will reduce and people here will get health facilities. Facilities will be available in good manner.

If the government truly wants to improve health facilities, then it will have to provide all the necessary facilities from district hospitals to PHCs, CHCs, and dispensaries. If people get better health facilities near their homes or in their district, then people will not be forced to go to big hospitals.

Assembly elections must to calm down tempers in both regions: Manjit Singh

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 1: Apni Party Provincial President Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today said that restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir is must to calm down tempers in both Regions.

As per the press release, the Apni Party leaders and workers participated in a monthly meeting here at Vijaypur under the leadership of S. Manjit Singh to discuss current political situation in Jammu and Kashmir that has impacted normal life, given rise to multiple issues and affected developmental process of the erstwhile State.

In his speech, Manjit Singh, the Former Minister, said that he was surprised to note that the Election Commission of India has not been able to declare Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir and on the other hand, they are successfully conducting polls in every state of the country.

"If the Election Commission can hold meetings in Jammu as well as in Kashmir regarding poll preparation for Parliamentary elections, what is stopping them from holding elections for J&K's assembly," he said, while raising concern over the situation that has landed the people in deep trouble.

"There is a feeling of discontent among the people as the authorities have completely failed to work as per the wishes of the people. The issues concerning development and employment have grown whereas the resources and business have been grabbed by the outsiders," he said.

He further stated that the locals feel that the outsiders will take over the employment and resources from them and that would further aggravate the situation because the authorities are favouring the outsiders in contracts and increased involvement of the mafia system in the different types of works allotted by the authorities including mining etc.

In this situation, he said that it was imperative to hold assembly elections, but the Election Commission of India is taking no decision and delaying the process of restoration of democratic system without explaining the reason.

"The people must be allowed to have their own elected Govt that would be able to work for them and satisfy their needs which cannot be fulfilled by the present form of Govt," he added.

It was resolved in the meeting that the Apni Party would continue its fight against the injustice with



the people of Jammu and Kashmir and no stone will be left unturned to resolve the issues of the people.

"If need arises, we will hit the roads to highlight the demands of the people," stated Manjit Singh, while

asking the Party cadre to increase their ground activities and hold interaction with the people to ensure redressal of their issues.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include District President, Samba, Raman Thappa, J&K ST Wing President, Saleem Alam, District Vice President, Ram Lal Sharma, District Vice President, Dutt Sharma, SC Wing State General Secretary, Sarpanch, Joginder Lal, Provincial President Jammu SC Wing, Adv Lovely

Mangol, District President Legal Cell Samba, Adv Sahil Bharti, Block President, Samba, Harjit Singh, Block President Vijaypur, Capt Mohan Lal Sharma, Vice President Bari Brahma, Babu Ram Bhagat, Block President Parmandal, retired DFO Mansoor Hussain, Block President, Ramgarh, Choudhary Bachan, District President Women Wing Samba, Priyanka, District President Youth, Mangat Ram, Bhagat Sain Dass, and others.

IYA Yoga J&K team felicitated in Int'l Yoga Summit 23



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 1: Indian Yoga Association (IYA) organized three days International Yoga Summit 2023, in the premises of Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya Haridwar.

A team of 10 Yoga Sadhaks & State Office bearers of Indian Yoga Association, headed by Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Chairman attended the International Conference.

The conference was addressed by Shri Shri Ravi Shankar Ji, National Chairman IYA & Founder of Art of living and Dr Parmav Pandya Hon'ble

Chancellor Dev Sanskriti Vidyalaya on line, to the participants 400 from 20 States of India & about 100 Scholars of DSVV, Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan, Director Moksha ayatan (Uttarakhand), Pujya Chidananda Saraswati from Parmarth Niketan from IYA Governing Body graced the Seminar. Besides the dignitaries from National Executive Body including Maa Hansa, Director ICER & IYA National President, Subodh Tiwari National IYA Secy General & CEO Kaivlyadhama Pune, Dr Ananda Balyogi, National Secretary IYA & Director Pondichery Ashram, Dr Chinmay Pandey Pro Vice Chancellor DSVV, Dharmi Dharan, National Vice Rez IYA, Dr K C Jain, Director Adhyatam Sadhna Kender Delhi, Trustee Anuvart Organisation & IYA Treasurer, Dr S P Misra, CEO- PRCD IYA, Dr GameShank Rao, Director Academic & Accreditation IYA Committee, and Dr Ishwar Bhardwaj, Ist IYA Life Member with their presence decorated the Seminar.

Different Speakers & Yoga Scholars from all length and breadth of India, including

Dr Shreyansh Kumar Jain, J&K State Chairman IYA, in his address, explained Yoga as way of life & how we can incorporate Yoga in our life slowly & make in an integral part of our life, how to attain peaceful State in everyday life & would be able to take decisions without getting clouded by our emotions. To think & act with complete attention, focus and awareness. Stress has become and acceptable way of life today, which is surely not at all good for our physical & Mental health. Yoga seeks to replace this stress with calmness and peace.

It was also explained in detail how we can stop the accumulation of toxins in the body, which leads to all physical & mental ailments.

Dr Subodh tiwari National Secretary General aware about how yoga opens up the blockages at our mind, body, breath & emotional level.

Maa Hansa Ji, National President, in her lecture explained how the yogic way of life ensures that every situation is not viewed as stress and the body is not always in the flight or fight mode. Yoga paves the way for the rejuvenation, rest and growth of our body.

Dr Ananda Balyogi, IYA National Secretary from Pondichery Ashram explained the yoga at the physical level, yoga asans seeks to remove blockages & rigidity and build strength over a period of time. Asans seek to create new body patterns which enables the body to operate at its potential best by removing all impurities.

Swami Chidananda Saraswati from Parmarth Niketan, described in details about the yoga at the breath level, Pranayama seeks to extend

our breath, so that Prana or the life force s not dissipated and slowly converges inside our body leading to high level of positive, clear state of Mind. Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan, described the basic foundation of our daily life are the principles of Yama & Niyama, which enable us to live harmoniously with others and our ownselves.

Dharnidharan, National Vice President IYA, Explaining about Meditation, that over a period of time the deeper practice of Meditation brings in complete clarity, calmness and enables one to step back from momentary pleasures and seek a deeper truth which would bring in the lasting joy & bliss.

Dr Chinmay Pandey Pro Vice Chancellor DSVV, while felicitating the J&K yoga team including Dr S K Jain, Ashok Gupta & Sudha Chandher Sharma, Jt Secretaries, with Esteemed Members Kuldip Kaushal, Abhinandan Jain, Er Ashok Gupta (State Settler Gaytri Pariwar), Dr HR Sharma, Madhu, Sunita, Darshan, explained how yogic practices recharge the body and mind with cosmic energy & facilitate: Attainment of perfect equilibrium and harmony, promotes self healing, its detox body and mindstrength, increases self awareness, increase concentration, decrease stress, anxiety, depression & tension in the physical body by activating the parasympathetic nervous system.

All other speakers stressed upon the benefits of yoga, as it helps in all round fitness, benefits in weight management, one of the best solutions for stress relief, helps for inner peace, improves immunity, improves relationship, improves Energy & gives better flexibility and posture.

Members from Japan, Thailand & US also participated, who applauded the Mega event.

IYA which is an apex body of yoga and authority in field of yoga, appeals to everyone to live yogic life by getting in contact with IYA, so that all should remain healthy.

STOP...!

MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA AND STAY HEALTHY

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

In case of positive result get free treatment from the nearest Health Institution

PROGRAMME OFFICER,
NATIONAL VECTOR BORNE DISEASES CONTROL PROGRAMME [NVBDCP] J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU