

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Residential land of terror associate attached in Bandipora: Police

SRINAGAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): Bandipora Police on Wednesday attached a residential land measuring 14 Marla of a terror associate under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

According to a police spokesperson, the property belonged to Irfan Ahmad Bhat, a terror associate linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"Bandipora Police has attached 14 Marla of residential land at Ashtengoo Bandipora in case FIR No. 43/2022. The land had been identified as proceeds of terrorism and was attached under the UAPA. The land belongs to the family of a terror associate of LeT, Irfan Ahmad Bhat. His brother had also exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2000," Bandipora Police in a tweet said.

Land identified as proceeds of terrorism attached in Bandipora: Police

SRINAGAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): Land belonging to the family of a terror associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir was on Wednesday attached under the anti-terror law UAPA, police said.

The action was taken after the land was identified as proceeds of crime.

"Bandipora Police has attached 14 marla of residential land at Ashtengoo Bandipora in case FIR No.43/2022. The land had been identified as proceeds of terrorism and was attached under the UAPA," Bandipora Police said in a post on X.

The police said the land belongs to the family of a terror associate of LeT, Irfan Ahmad Bhat.

His brother had exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2000, the police added.

Unidentified male body found in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): Body of an unidentified man was found near Suliman complex in Dalgate area of Srinagar on Wednesday morning, officials said.

An official told that the body was spotted by

Two J&K Bills brought to give justice to those deprived of rights for last 70 years: Amit Shah



NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2023 will give justice to those who were

deprived of their rights for the last 70 years.

Speaking on two Bills in the Lok Sabha, Shah said, "The Bill that I have brought here pertains to bringing justice to and providing rights to those against whom injustice was done, who were insulted and those who

were ignored."

He said that in any society, those who are deprived should be brought forward and that is the basic sense of the Constitution of India.

"But they have to be brought forward in a way that doesn't reduce their respect. There is a huge difference between giving rights and giving rights respectfully. So, instead of a weak and deprived category, renaming it to Other Backward Class (OBC) is important," the Minister said.

Shah had moved the Bill on Tuesday in the Lok Sabha.

Police file FIR over bomb hoax call to Jammu school

JAMMU, Dec 6 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday conducted a massive sanitization operation inside a private school here after the institute received a bomb threat via a phone call, officials said.

No suspicious object was found on the school premises at Residency Road in the heart of the city and the purported threat turned out to be a hoax, the officials said. "The Jammu Police acted swiftly on bomb threat by an unidentified caller to a private school. "Police conducted



extensive searches and sanitised the area. The threat turned out to be a hoax and an FIR has been registered," a police official said.

The officials said a police contingent along with bomb disposal squad and dog

squad moved inside the sprawling school complex immediately after its management informed the police station concerned about the phone call threatening a possible bomb attack.

A thorough

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Bus overturns in Rajouri; one dead, 22 injured

RAJOURI/JAMMU, Dec 6 (Agencies): A bus overturned in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday leaving one passenger dead and 22 others, injured, officials said.

The accident took place near Radha Soami Ashram in Thandikassi village along the Rajouri-Jammu national highway.

The bus was on its way to Rajouri from Manjarkote and hit two cars

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DGP extends greetings to Homeguards & Civil Defence on 61st Raising Day

SRINAGAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain Wednesday extended greetings to the officers, staff and members of the Homeguards & Civil Defence on the occasion of its 61st Raising Day.

In his message, the DGP said, "Dear officers, Staff and Members of the Homeguards & Civil Defence, as we celebrate the 61st Raising Day of the Homeguards & Civil Defence, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one of you. Over the years, your



dedicated force has exemplified unwavering commitment, resilience, and a strong sense of duty towards the safety and security of our communities."

DGP said: "In the

face of evolving challenges, your vigilance and preparedness have been crucial and both the organizations have emerged as key players in safeguarding

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Article 370 abrogation harmed bond between J&K, rest of Country: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the BJP government has harmed the bond between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country with the abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament, Abdullah said the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh were not happy with the decision to revoke special status of the erstwhile state.

"There is no doubt that they did it and they have hurt sentiments of people while doing it. The promises to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 were not made by a person but by the country.

"The bond was not between a person in Delhi and JK, it was a link between a country with this state. If they think that harming this



bond deserves congratulating, then let them congratulate each other. The truth is that people in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are not happy with the steps taken on August 5, 2019," Abdullah told reporters in Pulwama, 31 km from here. He said people will show their unhappiness with the decisions when assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This was proved in Kargil (LAHDC polls). It was proved in DDC (District Development Council) polls and we will prove it in the assembly elections also..." he added.

Abdullah said the delay

in holding assembly elections in the Union territory was taking Jammu and Kashmir on the path to destruction. "Towards destruction. People are being deprived of their right to vote since 2014. It is a strange kind of fixed match. When you ask the government, they will tell you that the Election Commission has to decide. When you ask the Election Commission, they say they will have to take a decision after consulting the government," he added.

Responding to a debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and

Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill in Parliament on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that the Narendra Modi government has ensured that the country has only one flag and one Constitution.

On a DMK leader's "gaumutra" comment that triggered a row, Abdullah said he should not have said those words which has hurt sentiments of the people.

"You don't believe in their religion but there are crores of people who believe in it. Why make fun of them? Will our brothers and sisters from Tamil Nadu be happy if someone amongst us said something like that. We should respect religious beliefs of others and we should not say anything that will hurt anyone's religious feelings," he said. On the defeat of Congress in the recent assembly polls, Abdullah said the opposition bloc INDIA

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Army microlight flying expedition enthral audiences at Airforce Station

JAMMU, Dec 6 (Agencies): The Indian Army microlight flying expedition 'NATEX K2K 2023-24' conducted an action-packed aero show for young and large audiences including school children at the Air Force Station Jammu, which is also celebrating its Diamond Jubilee.

"NATEX K2K 2023-24" commenced their challenging expedition journey from the Army Adventure Nodal Centre (Microlight and PHG), Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (MP), their home base on November 20, a release said.

The expedition team reached Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir)



on December 1, where a 'Flag Off' by the Army Commander was conducted as part of a 'curtain raiser event'.

This expedition has been organised under the aegis of the Army Adventure Wing to commemorate the silver jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas and the centenary of the

Bombay Sappers War Memorial in honour of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in service of the nation, as also to spread the spirit of adventure in the youth of the Nation.

The motto of expedition is 'Parvat Se Sagar Tiranga'. The team is

proudly hoisting the national flag along with the Indian Army flag and other banners, high above in the skies from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, spreading the spirit of adventure, courage, camaraderie and teamwork.

The pilots of the Army Adventure Expedition, Col Mankanwal Jeet Chawla, Lt Col Aby TM, Lt Col Jitender Siwach and Hav A Saravanan with their young copilots, carried out precision manoeuvres including formation flying, and display of flags and banners and some adrenaline-rushing low-flying to the amazement of the crowd.

They will now

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9419143503

OBITUARY/10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Pyari Raina (Sheela)** W/o Late Sh Bansi Lal Raina on 29-11-2023 at 3 AM.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 7-12-2023 at Delhi.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Shri C L Raina -**Brother-in-law**

Daughter & Son-in-law

Smt Renu Saraf & Sunil Saraf

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh Ramesh Raina & Smt Kavita Raina

Sh Rakesh Raina & Smt Sanjogita Raina

Grand Children: Mainaki Saraf, Maanika Saraf

Tannshitha Raina & Lavitra Raina

Mob. 9540951816, 9818758740, 09906078144 & 9873661705



Smt Pyari Raina (Sheela)

10TH DAY KRIYA/OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH PUSHKAR NATH BHAT** S/O LATE PRASAD RAM BHAT ORIGINALLY RESIDENT OF SHEIKHPORA SHANGUS KUTHAAR ANANTNAG KASHMIR A/P LANE NO. 23 BLOCK NO. 142 FLAT NO. 24 JAGTI MIGRANT CAMP NAGROTA JAMMU ON 29-11-2023 (WEDNESDAY)

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 08-12-2023 (FRIDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT NEAR DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AT 8.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN :

MANI BHAT - (WIFE)

RUPA WATI (PYARI)- BHABHI

SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

SH SANTOSH BHAT & SMT USHA BHAT

SH VIJAY KUMAR BHAT & SMT LOPA BHAT

SH SURAJ BHAT & SMT SIMRAN BHAT

SANJAY & SHANU

DAUGHTERS : PRANA GANJOO, DOLLY AND JYOTI



SH PUSHKAR NATH BHAT

MOB NOS :
8527055477, 8447648272,
9622317980

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita (Boba Ji)** Son of Late Sh. Jia Lal Pandita R/o Sirroo Dangerpora Pattan Baramulla A/P H.No. 84 Lane 3 Adarsh Nagar Bantala Jammu on 30-11-2023.

10th Day Kriya shall be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 9-12-2023 at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Jai Kishori Pandita- **Bhabhi**

Smt. Veena Ji Pandita- **Wife**

Smt. Tosha Pandita W/o Sh. Ramesh Pandita - **Bhabhi/Brother**

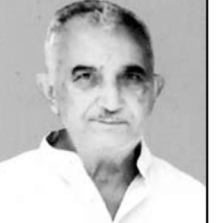
Sons & Daughters-in-law

Smt. Sunita Pandita W/o Sh. Rakesh Pandita

Smt. Suneeta Pandita W/o Dr. Sanjay Pandita

Smt. Sohali Pandita W/o Sh. Sandeep Pandita

Grand Children : Aditya, Shivansh and Saisha



Sh. Chaman Lal Pandita (Boba Ji)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP)** S/o Late Sh. Raghu Nath Nazar on 5/12/23 (Tuesday) originally resident of Sallar, Anantnag Kashmir presently residing at H.No 71, Sector-2, Sharika Vihar, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be held on 13/12/23 (Wednesday) at Muthi Ghat near (Directorate of School Education) At 9:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Vijay Nazar D/o Late Sh. Niranjan Nath Raina

(Batagund Krindi Gham, Bijbehara) - **Wife**

Son & Daughter-in-Law

Sunny Nazar & Priyanka Nazar

Rohit Nazar & Rohi Nazar

Dr Sanju Nazar

Brother & Sister-in-Law : Sh. Bushan Lal Nazar & Smt Krishna Nazar

Smt Kishni Bhat W/o Late J L Bhat - **Sister and Brother-in-law**

Smt Ratni Bhat W/o Sh. C L Bhat - **Sister and Brother-in-law**

Smt Phoolo Pandita W/o Late A N Pandita - **Sister and Brother-in-law**

Grand Children : Saanvi, Saphal, Bhavik

Mob No.: 7889477519, 7006942522



Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP)

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mr Aman Dogra** S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o H. No 122 Gali No 5, Ward no 31 Talab Tillo Gole colony Jammu.

10th Day on 4th Dec 2023 Monday at 11.00 AM at our residence.

Kriya on 7th Dec 2023 Thursday at our residence

Uthala on 8th Dec 2023 from 3 PM to 4 PM

(Friday) at Agarwal Dharmshalla Viveka Anand Chowk Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Ramesh Kumar (Father)

Smt Chanchla (Mother)

Sister & Jija Ji

Sh. Arjun & Smt Minakshi

MOBILE NO: 8716863372, 9622391423



MR AMAN DOGRA

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father, **Sh Autar Krishen Revo** S/o Sh. Jagan Nath Revo, R/o 101 GF, Ashoka Enclave Part 3, Sector 35, Faridabad and original Resident of 7, Batyar Alikadal, Srinagar Kashmir, who left for heavenly abode in the early hours of 30th November, 2023.

10TH DAY will be performed on 8th December (Friday), 9.30 AM, at Palla Ghat Near Kanishka Towers, Palla Chowk, Bye Pass Road, Faridabad. Nearest Metro Station, Sarai Faridabad.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Ashutosh & Reeta Revo - **Son & Daughter in law**

Anjini & Sanjay Razdan - **Daughter & Son in law**

Abhilash & Purvi Wakhariya Revo - **Grandson & Granddaughter in law**

Prekshsha Razdan - **Granddaughter**

Dheemahi Revo - **Great Grand Daughter**

Contact Details: 9811206917, 9711276965, 9412902936



SH AUTAR KRISHEN REVO

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that **Sri Mohan Lal Sharma** Son in law of Sri Late Nand Lal Sharma R/o Krilee, Ultrassoo, Anantnag at present H.No. 116 Sec-3 (Ration Wali Gali near Jagadamba Palace) Durganagar, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on Friday 08.12.2023 - 8:30am

Muthi Ghat near Education Office Muthi

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt Sona Devi (Wife)

Son & Daughter-in-law

Sri Omkar Nath Sharma & Smt Lalitha Sharma

Sri Dwarka Nath Sharma (Bablu Je) & Smt Dazy Sharma

Sri Sanjay Kumar Sharma & Smt Anju Sharma

Daughter & Son in Law

Smt Usha Khar & Sri Ashok Kumar Khar

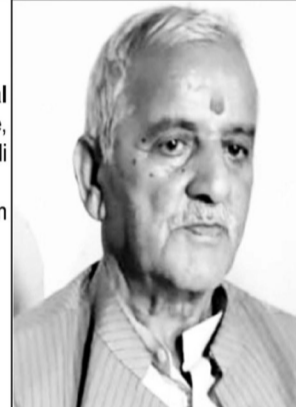
Smt Renu Sharma & Sri Sanjay Kumar Sharma (LIC)

Grand Children :

Anil , Rimi, Eshu, Rahul, Neshu, Nitin, Vicky, Koshi, Medha Siri, Saanavi,

Divyanshi, Mudhar, Dikshit

Cont No. 9596848511, 9419155398, 9419184966



Sri Mohan Lal Sharma

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Shri Kishen Jee Koul** S/o Late Sh. Prem Nath Koul, Original R/O - Kralyar, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir, presently at B3/804, RPS Savana, Sector 88, Faridabad, Haryana on December 2, 2023.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on December 11, 2023 (Monday) at 8:30 AM at Gang Nahar, Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Suman Koul (Wife)

(Brother & Sister-in-Law)

Sh. Ramesh & Lalita Koul

Sh. Suresh Raina **(Brother-in-Law)**

Sons & Daughters-in-law:

Ajay & Parul Koul

Amit & Keerti Koul

Pankaj & Shreya Koul

Daughter & Son-in-law:

Smt. Priyanka & Vinod Bhat

In-laws:

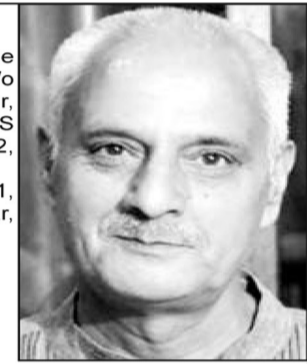
Sh. Parveen & Priya Raina

Sh. Naresh & Nisha Misri

Sh. Vijay & Meena Peer

Grand Children: Amyra, Rayhan, Moulik, Sia

Mobile No: 9810052025 / 7021488089 / 9910906685



Shri Kishen Jee Koul

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Raj Dulari Gupta** W/o Sh. Madan Lal Gupta, H.No. 432, Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal Chowk, Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on Wednesday 6th Dec, 2023 from 11.30 pm to 12.30 pm at our residence, H.No. 432, Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal Chowk, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on Saturday 9th Dec, 2023 at 12.00 Noon at our residence, H.No. 432, Laxmi Nagar, Sarwal Chowk, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sh. Madan Lal Gupta- **Husband**

Daughter & Son-in-Law

Mrs. Shweta Anand & Mr. Sanjeev Anand

Sunny Gupta- **Son**

Sister-in-Laws & Brothers

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Gopal Krishen Bucha

Smt. Neelam & Sh. Vijay Kumar

Smt. Anju & Sh. Rakesh Kumar

Akash Gupta, Rishav Gupta, Shivam Gupta, Rhivam Gupta- **Nephew**

Rupali Gupta- **Niece**

Akanshika Anand & Aklavya Anand- **Grand Daughter & Son**

Gupta Family & Bucha Family

(M) 9906091105, 9419191105, 7006688332



Smt. Raj Dulari Gupta

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Dwarka Nath Sharma (Ret. Relief Dy. Commissioner)** S/o Lt. Pt. Bihari Lal Sharma (Rarian) on 27th Nov, 2023.

Tenth Day will be performed on 06/12/23 (Wednesday) at 11 AM.

KRIYA will be performed on 07/12/23 (Thursday) at 12.30 PM at our residence 94/2 Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Son's & Daughter-in-Law

Neeraj (Happy) & Kanchan Sharma

Dheeraj (Keemti) & Paramveer Sharma.

Daughter's & Son-in-Law

Reva & Krishan Dutt Sharma (Rahul Property)

Reeta & Jai Kumar Sharma (Ret. Tehsildar)

Brother & Bhabhi

Sh. Bishan Dass & Neelma Sharma (Rarian)

Sister's & Brother-in-Law

Ratna & Lt. Sh. C.R.Goswami

Krishna Devi & Lt. Sh. Sita Ram

Canara Glass House Channi, Jammu

M.No 946937323, 9419193078



Sh. Dwarka Nath Sharma (Ret. Relief Dy. Commissioner)

TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

It is unfortunate to inform you the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Sh. Rattan Lal Verma** who left for his heavenly abode on 3rd of December.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence Gurha Brahmana Akhnoor on 12th December (Tuesday) at 10 AM.

Rasam Pagri /Uthala shall be performed at our residence on 15th December at 1 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Sudesh Kumari - **Wife**

Sons and Daughter-in-laws

Dr Rakesh Verma & Dr Sonia Verma

Sikander Verma & Radha Verma

Parveen Verma & Rashi Verma

Daughter and Son-in-law

Baby Verma and Sandeep Mahotra



SH. RATTAN LAL VERMA

TENTH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

IT IS UNFORTUNATE TO INFORM YOU THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. RATTAN LAL VERMA** WHO LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ADOBE ON 3RD OF DECEMBER .

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE GURHA BRAHMANA AKHNOOR ON 12TH DECEMBER (TUESDAY) AT 10 AM

RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA SHALL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 15TH DECEMBER AT 1 PM

GRIEF STRICKEN

SUDESHP KUMARI -**WIFE**

SONS AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAWS

DR RAKESH VERMA DR SONIA VERMA

SIKANDER VERMA RADHA VERMA

PARVEEN VERMA RASHI VERMA

DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

BABY VERMA AND SANDEEP MAHOTRA



SH. RATTAN LAL VERMA

10TH DAY/RASAM PAGRI/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that our beloved **Shri Ashok Gupta (Ex-Chief Editor) Academy of Art and Culture** S/O Late Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta resident of House Number 217 Janipur colony, Jammu left for heavenly abode on 28/11/ 2023.

Gatherings to honour a well lived life

Dasvi/Dasah will take place on 07.12.23 (Thursday) at 11:00 am at Shiv Shakti Mandir, Near Govt.Quarters Janipur.

Rasam Pagri/Uthala- 11.12.23 (Monday) at 03-04:00 pm at Shiv Shakti Mandir, Near Govt.Quarters Janipur.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:

Smt. Mangla Devi -**Wife**

Son and Daughter-in-law

Dr. Abhishek Gupta & Dr. Chetna Mahajan

Daughter and Son-in-law

Dr. Loveleen Gupta and Sh. Ankush Gupta

Mob: 9829722027



Shri Ashok Gupta

CHOUBARS

Four years passed since you left for eternal journey. The void you left behind will remain forever.

Choubarsi of our beloved Late Smt. Santosh Gupta W/o Late Sh. Bodh Raj Gupta will be performed at Shree Gita Mandir, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on Thursday, 7th December, 2023.

DEEPLY MISSED & REMEMBERED BY

(**Son & Daughter-in-law**)

Mr. Rohit Mahajan & Mrs. Indu Mahajan

Aaryaman Mahajan (**Grand Son**)

Prisha Mahajan (**Grand Daughter**)

JKNPP holds protest outside ECI in Delhi

Assembly elections denied in J&K at the behest of BJP: Harsh Dev

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 6: Strongly condemning the denial of democratically elected govt to J&K and dilly dally over Assembly Elections in the erstwhile state for the last five years, a strong contingent of JKNPP activists led by Harsh Dev Singh, former minister and state president Panthers Party held a massive protest demonstration outside Nirvachan Sadan, the office of election commission of India in New Delhi. The protestors raised slogans of "Jamhooriyat ke katil hai hai", "Murderers of democracy in J&K hai hai", "BJP sarkar hai hai", "Election commission J&K mein chunav karvao, chunav karvao" etc.



which were due in the incarcerated UT for the last five years.

He said that Assembly Elections were being deliberately avoided in J&K in view of BJP having lost its ground due to simmering discontent amongst the local masses against its anti people policies. The BJP therefore did not want elections and was using constitutional bodies to subvert its political interests, said Singh.

Emphasising the need for the early elections to J&K Legislative Assem-

bly in J&K, Mr. Singh said that any delay in this regard would not only amount to subversion of democracy but also violate the orders of the Supreme Court.

"The people could not be deprived of their democratic rights in the state only for the political inexpedencies of the ruling party at the centre by taking to frivolous excuses", said Mr. Singh.

He said that a full time elected govt was a must to deal with the armed insurgency in the erstwhile state besides

coping with the multiple issues confronting the UT.

The militancy which had erupted in early 90s in J&K had gradually subsided after the formation of an elected govt in the State in 1996. It had almost died down during successive popular govts but unfortunately got revived during the centre's proxy rule.

Any delay therefore in handing over power to the sons of soil through free and fair elections could prove counterproductive and further complicate the already

volatile situation in the UT said Harsh.

Pointing towards the growing tensions in various parts of the UT and the failure of administration to come up to the peoples' expectations, Singh said that bureaucratic rule was no answer to the prevalent crisis. The LG administration had lost connect with the masses. The unemployed, semi-employed and contractuals were on the roads with none to even take note of their sufferings and grievances.

The people inhabiting the rural areas were suffering badly for basic amenities with no access whatsoever to the corridors of power. With hardly any forum to ventilate their grievances, the people were suffering badly in the absence of a popular govt thereby resulting in growing alienation amongst the masses.

Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion included GP Singh, Raj Kapoor, Sudesh Dogra, Vidhi Lal, Praveen Sharma and Tulsi Prasad besides others.

Maa Bawe Wali Records team felicitates Singer Harsh Sikander

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Maa Bawe Wali Records Team MD Sahil Mahajan felicitated Singers Harsh Sikander (Runner up Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs S9) For his efforts in the field of Singing.



Sahil Mahajan presented Mata ki Chundi and a Kali Mata photo to Harsh Sikander. Ashok Gupta (Sewa Sansthan Jagran Committee President), Sourab Bali (Business man) and Rocky Rajat were also present on the occasion.

Sahil Mahajan lauded the role of Singer Harsh

Sikander in the field of singing said our organization will always strive for the welfare of singer. While underlying the efforts of International Singer in the objectives

Singer, he specially mentioned the efforts of Harsh Sikander in creating awareness among the people and doing good work for the cause of singer.

Yuva Rajput Sabha protests against Sukhdev Gogamedi's murder



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Even after the gun shot on Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena National Chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi declared Dead on 5th of December in Jaipur Rajasthan, Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) strongly protest after the murder of Sukhdev.

This protest was held under the presidency of Vikram Singh Vicky along with their Core committee members and Stakeholders at Near Maharaja Hari

Singh Statue Situated at Bikram Chowk Bridge Jammu.

While protecting Team YRS showed their anger against the criminals and raise the slogans of "We want Justice " and they said this type of criminal activities are totally against Law and Order of India.

Vikram Singh strongly condemned and questioning the administration that why these types of criminals activities are held in India and Judiciary had taken some strong

action against this type of criminal who plays with the lives of people and destroyed the peaceful climate of our country.

Former president Surinder Singh Gilli, Rajveer Singh and Rajan Singh Happy also condemned the murder of Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi and said that Rajput Community always believes in brotherhood and peace and Rajput Community always serve our Nation.

Team YRS members along with hundreds of people who are present in today's protest appeal the Central administration to take strong action against these types of anti national activities and Team YRS and every citizen of India believes that Judiciary and Administration took strong action against these types of criminals.

General Body Meeting of Senior Citizens Chowadi culminated



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Annual General Body Meeting of Senior Citizens Support Services Club, Chowadi was held at its premises. It was chaired by Dr. Kasturi Lal, Chairman of the Club who welcomed all its members and requested the General Secretary to conduct its proceedings.

Maj Gen SK Sharma, General Secretary of the Club started with the details of the activities performed during the last one year. He mentioned that since its inception in Dec 2022, it has conducted over 10 major activities and taken up the societal issues for their redressal.

He said, that to promote Dogri language in this region, the club organized many Dogri events like a Dogri Kavi Ghoshtthi, Dogri play, an interactive session with

the prominent personalities in Dogri literature etc. They also went to Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor, J&K and presented him with the proposal to make Dogri language compulsory in the primary classes of all the schools in Jammu region

Maj Gen SK Sharma also gave a call to the Dogra community, through TV Channels JK News 24x7 and Gulistan, to speak Dogri in their houses and with the children and ask their children to opt for Dogri language as an optional subject.

Next activity was the creation of awareness in the society for the senior citizens. A rally by school students was organized for them and a seminar was conducted wherein professors from various universities participated.

Club conducted a func-

tion on World Yoga Day along with the students of Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (Autonomous). Club also organized an exclusive function to appreciate senior citizens role for their extraordinary social commitment for social cause.

Then club charted out a plan for the next year with first activity on 14 January to celebrate Lohri in its traditional manner.

In between, SK Jain, NK Khajuria, Anju Bansal, Lt. Col Dharam Vir Sharma, Abhinandan Jain and Vijay gave their performances.

In the end, a play by Rajneesh K. Gupta and Smt. Santosh Sangra mesmerized the audience. The theme of the play Ek Dhoo Safed Si elaborated on the condition of parents whose children settle abroad and do not care for their parents.

Dr. Vijay Sharma, in charge Media provided all the support. Dr. Shafiq Bano, Secretary Club captured the complete event in her camera with hi-Q images.

The meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks by Sh. HC Vaid, Finance Secretary.

Mahant Rohit Shastri meets Div Com Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Evam Vedic Sansthan Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri met Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar at Jammu and discussed issues pertaining to promotion, propagation and preservation of Sanskrit language in J&K, besides the welfare of Sanskrit students and scholars.

Mahant Rohit said that Sanskrit carries with it the concept of Akhand Bharat and the thread ensuring the unity in diversity that underpins the unique

Indian civilization and culture and said that his trust is committed to preservation and promotion of the glorious legacy of Ancient Indian wisdom and knowledge system as enshrined in the Sanskrit Language and literature.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar appreciated the work being done by the Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust. On occasion shastri presented annual Patrika Kartavya Marg. On occasion trust trustee Jagdev Singh Chib were also present.

PUCA welcomes APH 2024-27 by AICTE New Delhi

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) welcomed the reforms announced in approval process handbook (APH) 2024- 27 released today by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura near Chandigarh said that the reforms made & the initiative taken by AICTE to give a new direction to the technical education of the country is praiseworthy.

Kataria further said that various steps taken by AICTE including additional seats to technical colleges

without NAAC/NBA; relaxation in land requirements & approval of new colleges on the basis of covered area, allowing working people to pursue M.Tech through evening or weekends classes & relaxing regular classes etc. are remarkable.

Advocate Amit Sharma, Senior Vice President PUCA said that AICTE's relaxation for regular 9 to 4 classes will be helpful for those government employees of our Punjab who are Diploma holders but were aspiring to complete engineering degree for their promotion. Till now they were not able and eligible to upgrade their education while continuing their job.

Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre 2023-24 begins at GCW Parade

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: The 'Certificate Course in Sanskrit Language' promise to provide a unique opportunity for individuals to engage with the rich heritage of Sanskrit.

Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre 2023-24 began at Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu in collaboration with the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, proudly inaugurated its Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre for the academic year 2023-24 in a ceremony marked by esteemed guests and a commitment to preserving the ancient language.

The inaugural program, held at the GCW, Parade Ground, Jammu campus, witnessed the participation of prominent dignitaries including Dr Shreedhar Mishra, Director of CSU, Ranbir Campus, Jammu, Dr. S.P. Sarswat, Principal of GCW, Parade, Jammu, Dr Madan Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor of Edu-



cation Department, CSU, Ranbir Campus, Jammu, Biswarup Bej and Dr Surinder Kumar, Lecturer of Sanskrit Department, GCW, Parade. The event was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Mamta Sharma, HoD, Sanskrit and Biswarup Bej, a dedicated Sanskrit Instructor at GCW, Parade.

One distinct course was unveiled during the inauguration, catering to a diverse audience that includes stu-

dents, staff, faculty, and their family members.

The 'Certificate Course in Sanskrit Language' promise to provide a unique opportunity for individuals to engage with the rich heritage of Sanskrit.

The program's schedule encompassed a variety of enlightening and spiritual activities, including Vedic Chanting, the invocation of light with sacred mantras, a soulful Welcome

Song, and an informative introduction by Dr. Mamta Sharma.

Dr. S.P. Sarswat presented his views on Sanskrit language to boost the enthusiasm of the students.

Dr Shreedhar Mishra, Director of CSU, Ranbir Campus encouraged the students about Sanskrit language.

Dr Madan Kumar Jha presented his views that how useful is Sanskrit in today's time.

As a symbol of support for the learners, the distinguished guests distributed essential course materials and books to the eager students. GCW, Parade, Jammu's Sanskrit Education Centre represents a commendable effort to promote the study of Sanskrit and its profound cultural significance.

The centre aspires to create a platform for individuals to connect with this ancient language and explore its timeless wisdom. Dr. Mamta Sharma welcomed all the guests and Dr. Surinder Kumar thanked all the guests.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. 35 of 2023-2024/ Dated 02-12-2023

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of sitting area farmers adjoining canteen at Krishna Bhawan Talab Tillo	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	24.28	600	2% of Advertis Cost	60 Days	12-12-2023 (12.00Pm)	"A,B & C" Class

Position of AAA : Accorded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-12-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-12-2023 to 11-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-12-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-12-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-12-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No :- EE/R&B/BN/2587-2606
Dated :- 02-12-2023

DIP/J-12148/23
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar Jammu

EDITORIAL

CHECK
DRUG ABUSE

Actually, the whole world is baffled by the problem of alcohol consumption. In our India too, this problem is proving to be a headache causing problem and making life complicated. Only the one who is affected by it can understand its severity. However, from the events happening every day, we get complete information about its evils and its side effects. Actually, this evil has come to our country due to the influence of western civilization.

Just a few years ago, its ill effects and ill effects were being heard somewhere, but today, like Surma, its bad effects are being shown fearlessly. It would not be an exaggeration or an inappropriate statement to say that this has become the first link of today's civilization.

Today almost every teenage mind considers it a privilege to breathe under its shadow. The most strange thing is that it is not only the rich and wealthy people who consume drugs, but even the poor and people with normal income are adopting it at the risk of their lives.

The most strange thing in the series of strange facts is that today it is not only men who consume drugs, but women too, like men, are consuming it without any hesitation.

What are the intoxicants? Information about this subject is also necessary. Intoxicants are mainly known as 'Drugs'. Many types of intoxicants are named under these drugs. Among these, the names of opium, morphine, heroin, smack, ganja, cannabis, hashish, alcohol, etc. are special.

Why is drug abuse continuously increasing or why is it consumed when its consequences are not only terrible but also life-threatening? There are not one but many main reasons for drug abuse. There are some reasons which seem real and natural, such as - being troubled and helpless due to constant sorrow, depression, pain and confusion, people consume drugs for peace of mind. There are also some reasons which seem unnatural and inconsistent, such as imitating someone out of a hobby and getting addicted to it.

Whatever be the reasons behind alcohol consumption, it is not possible to achieve any kind of welfare or peace or stability of mind. By consuming it, one cannot get relief from poverty, despair, stress, unemployment, inferiority complex, frustration, deprivation, depression, fear, anxiety, grief etc. after some time. There can be no other benefit from this, rather these thorns of life will become dry and hard and will start piercing rapidly. One of the main reasons for the consumption of intoxicating liquor or substances is the inequality in the society. Everyone is not equal in the society, somewhere there is richness and somewhere there is poverty and somewhere there is literacy and somewhere there is illiteracy. On the other hand, the rich and prosperous classes exploit the lowly and destitute people in a new way. They force poor and destitute, indebted people to consume drugs by putting them in the circle of stress and unrest. Thus, this is a wonderful reason for alcohol consumption.

Social awareness on a large scale is necessary to stop the vicious trend of drug abuse. This personal contact can be implemented with greater success through various types of advertisements including All India Radio, Doordarshan and newspapers. Along with this, the evil trend of drug abuse can also be prevented through poetry seminars, dramas, conferences and awareness camps.

2024 Game On; But Cong, Opp. Need to Act Smarter

By: Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay

There is a general perception that after the BJP's startling performance in the three Hindi heartland states, especially its turnaround in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, all roadblocks that appeared in its path to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls have been cleared.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forceful, and at times laden-with-warnings for opponents, victory speech to party cadre at its headquarters on Sunday night is being cited as proof of its confidence and is being believed at face value. His assertion that this "hat-trick" of victory paves the way for a similar trophy, or a sequence of three consecutive Lok Sabha victories, is being accepted as gospel. This BJP leadership's newfound confidence, being predictably projected now, is in sharp contrast to the web of self-doubts that it had appeared entrapped in over recent months.

The downturn in the party's political fortunes was triggered in January by the Hindenburg report alleging irregularities by the Adani group of companies and the links of its promoter, Gautam Adani, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The anxiety within the BJP leadership became more pronounced since March, first, when 14 parties unsuccessfully filed a petition in the Supreme Court, accusing the investigating agencies of unfairly targeting them by conducting raids. Thereafter, the Opposition parties initiated the process of arriving at a formula for seat adjustments in 400-odd seats.

Despite exulting in the wake of his party's performance in the three states, Mr Modi continued to denigrate the INDIA alliance by referring to them once again as "ghamandias", a slur he used in the immediate aftermath of the

group's nomenclature. Obviously, the threat potential of the alliance remains even though these victories have greatly elevated the enthusiasm of the BJP's cadre. While fissures surfaced immediately after the verdict in the alliance, it is expected that these cracks will be papered over in the coming days and work would begin on one-on-one contests against the BJP.

To understand if this round of victories will enable the BJP to go beyond its tally of 303 Lok Sabha seats that it won in 2019, or reach close to that mark, it is important to revisit the tally and analyse it. It is necessary to examine where these seats came from and if there is any scope of enhancing the final tally.

The region-wise tally of the BJP in 2019 was as follows: North 146, Central 37, West 51, East and Northeast 40, and South 29. The verdict highlights the belt along which the BJP's politics prospered the most -- North, Central and West India; and the regions where it trailed -- East and South India. The BJP, even after this election, continues to be the dominant party only in its area of strength and remains laggard in the other areas.

Among the seats in the north and central regions, the BJP won in 61 Lok Sabha seats in the three states where the Assembly polls' verdict was declared on December 3.

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh account for a total of 65 seats and the Congress won a paltry three seats in 2019, while a regional party not aligned with either won one seat in Rajasthan. The BJP secured 58 per cent votes in 2019 in MP and more than 60 per cent in Rajasthan. While the BJP has now touched almost 49

per cent in the MP Assembly polls, it remained short of 42 per cent of the popular vote in Rajasthan.

Realistically, the BJP cannot

win all the four seats that were not in its kitty in 2019, and in the best-case scenario it may win two or three additional seats. Effectively that means the BJP is unlikely to add to its previous tally in these states.

Among other states, the BJP either secured the maximum possible, like in Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, or had the lion's share -- Uttar Pradesh (62 out of 80), Jharkhand (11 out of 14).

Only two states in India can be considered as those where the BJP is electorally a dominant party -- meaning where it has become essential for all-encompassing Opposition unity to defeat it for over a decade: Gujarat and now Madhya Pradesh.

Even a state like Uttar Pradesh cannot be affixed the same label as the party has electorally hegemonised the state only since 2014, or for four elections: two parliamentary and two Assembly polls. In 2019, the Opposition parties performed better than in 2014, and at the moment the die is not settled in favour of the BJP -- developments among Opposition parties will be keenly watched.

The BJP faces a humongous challenge in the 2024 parliamentary polls. This is in the form of the absence of an overarching nationwide political narrative at this stage. The four reasons behind the BJP's victory in this round -- the Modi factor, Hindutva, welfare and party machinery -- may not work universally across states. With a grand idea, like the one triggered by the Pulwama terror attack, not yet in sight, the big question looming over the BJP is whether it will be to retain seats it won in East and South India in 2019. The BJP even faces a tricky situation in western India, comprising Maharashtra, Gujarat and a few Union territories.

While the party remains unchallenged in Gujarat, there

is uncertainty over its showing in Maharashtra, where it won 23 Lok Sabha seats in 2019, because the NDA has been shuffled. A similar situation prevails in Bihar, clubbed together with other northern states.

The BJP's biggest challenge will be in retaining the present tally of 69 seats from the South, East and Northeast. The BJP won 25 seats in Karnataka, and there are questions over the party repeating its showing after the Congress' Assembly poll sweep. Also, the BJP's pronounced Hindi tilt is manifest in open advocacy of the language over others in the names of the criminal law bills due for passage in the Winter Session.

The BJP's problem is simple: if it maximises votes and seats in North and Central India, it stands to alienate or even scare voters elsewhere because of its chauvinistic approach. In this scenario, the biggest challenge before the Opposition parties is to reach an understanding and field one candidate in the maximum possible constituencies to elevate the level of the Index of Opposition Unity.

It is evident that despite the head-start the BJP has regained, the game is still on. But to make the 2024 LS poll into an aggregate of polls, the Opposition parties, most importantly the Congress, have to muster greater astuteness than what the latter displayed in this round.

(Author and journalist Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay's latest book is *The Demolition and the Verdict: Ayodhya and the Project to Reconfigure India*. His other books include *The RSS: Icons of the Indian Right and Narendra Modi: The Man, The Times*. He tweets at @NilanjanUdwin)

Marriages should take place in the country's courtyard only



By: Vijay Garg

In recent years, whether common or special, the trend of destination wedding has increased in Indian families. Most of these weddings are organized at famous places in other countries. This matter related to marriage ceremonies seems to be just a matter of personal interest and convenience in choosing the venue of the ceremony, but it is affecting every aspect of our lives. Even the econom-

ic-social conditions of the country are not untouched by its impact. This is the reason why Prime Minister Modi asked the people to become the people of India in the soil of India. Advice has been given regarding celebrating marriages among the people and keeping the country's money in the country so that the local economy can benefit. The expenses incurred on wedding ceremonies support the livelihood of many people doing small and big jobs. This is the reason why the business class of the country has also agreed to this. About 38 lakh marriages will take place in India in the next few days. Rs 4.74 lakh crore will be spent on wedding ceremonies organized across the country. This financial flow is very helpful for the economy and Indian business. In the country it is going to give impetus to the

market of goods and services. In any wedding, almost 80 percent of the expenditure is on goods and services. There has always been a tradition of organizing weddings with pomp and show in India. In organizing a wedding, about 50 percent is spent on venue rent and food arrangements, 15 percent on decorations, five percent on entertainment and three percent on the grooming of family and relatives. 10 percent of the amount is spent on other services. It is not difficult to understand how important this season of wedding ceremonies is for the country's economy. There is strength. In the Indian environment, marriage comes as a lifesaver not only for the economy but also for family relations. Wedding ceremonies also promote social interaction. Whereas even our own people are not able to easily

attend the weddings held in distant countries. For the family too, the celebration of nourishing mutual relationships creates a new struggle of preparations instead of bonding. There are many legal problems involved in organizing an event in a foreign country. Such situations increase expenses as well as problems. Whereas marriages taking place in the country are family-owned. Creates an environment of ease and social harmony. Events are organized to preserve customs and traditions. In such a situation, it would be pleasant in every way if the wedding ceremony takes place among loved ones in the courtyard of one's own country.

(Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab)

Students from far-flung schools of Doda visits Cyber-Physical Systems Lab at Bhandarwah Campus

Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, Dec 6: Students from various schools embarked on an educational journey to the Bhandarwah Campus of the University of Jammu (JU).

The visit was organized to provide students with a unique opportunity to explore the cutting-edge facilities available at the Cyber Physical Systems Lab.

The highlight of the visit was the immersive experience at the Cyber Physical Systems Lab, where the faculty of the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (IT) enlightened the students about the lab's advanced infrastructure. The lab is dedicated to Cyber Physical Systems and is sanctioned by iHUB DivyaSampark, a collaborative initiative



of IIT Roorkee and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

During the visit, students were introduced to the various components of the lab, including Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies, Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks, and Robotic drones. This exposure aimed to broaden their

understanding of these cutting-edge technologies and their applications in the real world.

Rector of Bhandarwah Campus, Prof. Rahul Gupta, expressed his optimism about the visit, stating, "We hope that the students who visited the campus will undoubtedly benefit from the exposure to the state-of-the-art facilities and knowledge shared by our esteemed faculty."

Dr. Jatinder Manhas, Head of the Department of Computer Science and IT, extended a warm welcome to the visiting students. In his message, he emphasized the importance of such interactions in fostering a passion for technology and innovation among the youth. "We are thankful to Manish Anand CEO

iHUB DivyaSampark and Prateek Sharma Senior program manager for this initiative," he added.

Dr Manhas further said the collaborative efforts between JU's Bhandarwah Campus and iHUB DivyaSampark continue to play a crucial role in shaping the future of technology enthusiasts. Such initiatives aim to inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators, fostering a culture of curiosity and exploration," he added.

Present on the occasion include Dr Abid Sarwar, Bablu Sharma, Dr. Ajay Lakhotra, Dr Neeraj Kumar, Wasim Akram, Shalu Kotwal, Abrar Ali Sheikh, Priya Rani, Yaseer Ali and Parvesh Singh who played an instrumental role in ensuring that the students gained valuable insights during their visit.

HDFC Bank's Parivartan empowers women-led households for sustainable livelihoods

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: HDFC Bank, through its CSR brand Parivartan, has launched a transformative initiative aiming to uplift women-led households across multiple states in rural India.

The project aims at states including Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Assam, Tripura, and Meghalaya. The Bank has collaborated with The/Nudge for the initiative.

The program's primary objective is to provide skill training and livelihood enhancement opportunities to women-led households, fostering sustainable income generation. Through this initiative, the aim is to empower these households to secure a minimum annual income of Rs. 10,000 per household, thereby

driving economic independence and stability in rural communities.

"The initiative, named the 'The 'End Ultra Poverty Program', is a testament to HDFC Bank's commitment to empowering women-led households by providing them with the necessary tools and resources to become financially self-sufficient. We believe that economic empowerment of women is pivotal in driving inclusive growth and fostering sustainable development in our communities," said Nusrat Pathan, Head of CSR at HDFC Bank.

In the initial phase, the project targets increasing incomes for over 14,000 women-led households in the specified states within the first year. The initiative is set to run from April 1, 2023, to March

31, 2027.

This transformative intervention utilises the Graduation Approach, a meticulously structured program designed to empower women, build their agency, and enhance their resilience within a specified timeframe. By improving food security, income levels, asset ownership, and facilitating access to credit and social protection, the program aims to create lasting positive impacts for these women-led households.

The HDFC Bank Parivartan's partnership with The/Nudge signifies a concerted effort to address economic disparities and empower marginalised communities, particularly women, to chart a path toward sustainable livelihoods and financial well-being.

Bhandara organized at Bhairav Temple on Kaal Bhairav Asthami

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: A mass Bhandara was organized at ancient Bhairav Temple, Chowk Chabutra, here today on the occasion of Kaal Bhairav Asthami.

The Bhandara was organized under the supervision of Pandit Rumlil Sharma. Thousands of devotees from all walks of life participated in the Bhandara and sought the blessings of the Almighty.

On the occasion, the temple was beautifully decorated with flowers and lights while the surroundings of the temple were covered under laser lights.

The whole market was also decorated with lights. Businessmen and traders of the area



also decorated their shops and participated in the Bhandara.

A number of stalls were arranged during Bhandara. A special stall for children was also erected where the children enjoyed their favourite chocolates, juices, toffees, jellies and balloons.

Pt Rumlil Sharma told the devotees that every

year a week-long celebration in the form of Prabhat Pheris followed by a mass Bhandara is organized to pay obeisance to Kaal Bhairav.

He also told the devotees that Kaal Bhairav is the Rudra form of Bhagwan Shiva who holds great spiritual and religious importance in all prayers held in India.

SWD with Health Deptt hold substance abuse awareness at Thathri

Top News Report

BHANDARWAH, Dec 6: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Doda in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare organized a training program under the guidance of Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Doda.

The focal point of this initiative was the "Nasha Mukh Bharat" Programme, with the training held at EPS School Thathri in District Doda.

The training session aimed to educate and empower various stakeholders, including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Teachers, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Accredited Social Health Activists



(ASHAs).

The focus was on the National Centre for Disease Control (NCORD) under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Programme. Participants, including village-level committee members were sensitized to conduct a house-to-house survey addressing substance use and related prod-

ucts.

Those present at the training program included I/c BMO Thathri Dr. Shakeel, Subash Kotwal (TSWO), Master Trainer Ankush Nagra J&K Police, Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Faheem (D&FLO) and officials from the police and social welfare department.

The collaboration showcased a collective commitment to combatting substance abuse through informed community involvement and awareness.

This initiative, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, signifies a proactive approach to addressing the chal-

lenges of substance abuse at the grassroots level.

The engagement of various stakeholders reflects a holistic strategy to create a Nasha Mukh Bharat (Drug-Free India) by fostering community awareness and active participation.

The program was conducted in the overall guidance of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda Tariq Qazi and under the supervision of Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Bhandarwah/Thathri Subash Chander Kotwal.

Refreshment was also distributed among the participants on this occasion by Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Int'l conference on 'Inter-disciplinary Probabilities in Music' commences at GLDM GDC Hiranagar

Top News Report

HIRANAGAR, Dec 6: A two-day International conference titled Inter-disciplinary Probabilities in Music commenced at Giridhari Lal Dogra Govt. Degree College Hiranagar with great zeal and zest.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Pandit Vidhyadhar Vyas a renowned musician with performance, academics and administrative qualities, former Vice Chancellor Bhatkhande Institute of Music, Lucknow.

Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Kathua was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The keynote speaker on the occasion was Dr. Pankaj Mala Sharma, former chairperson Department of Music Punjab University Chandigarh.

After the ceremonial lighting of the lamp the Principal GLDM GDC Hiranagar Dr. Pragya Khanna presented formal welcome address.

The Principal held that Music is the very essence of life and the new age of inter-disciplinary studies has made it pertinent to explore the conver-



gence and probabilities amongst different disciplines.

The conference, she said, is one step in the direction and she felt that the outcome of the conference will definitely contribute to new pathways of convergence.

The conference was also adorned by Prof. Lawanya Kiriti, a Hindustani Classical Vocalist from Dharbhanga, Bihar.

The keynote Speaker Prof. Pankaj Mala Sharma very elegantly elaborated upon all the dimensions of music and congratulated the organisers for a thought-provoking conference.

Chief Guest of the occasion Pandit Vidhyadhar Vyas in his address emphasised upon the need to have cross-discipline understanding and called

upon students to have an in-depth understanding of the subject.

Through the inter-disciplinary probabilities in music an attempt to harmonise cultures by bridging the borders through music is being made.

In a world marked by differences music serves common ground where shared experiences and emotions could be traced.

Seema Anil Sehgal, Prof. Renu Sehgal, Prof. Seema Sharma, Dr. Jasmeet Kaur and Dr. Sumit Madaan the faculty of Music from different parts of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir were felicitated before the beginning of second session.

The second session of the conference was chaired by Prof. Pankaj Mala Sharma, and the speaker for the session was Madhubanti

Sharma from Germany.

The speaker of the session again emphasised on the need to have a cross-discipline dialogue so that the artificial boundaries between people and subjects could be minimised.

The proceedings of the conference were handled by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Arun Kumar and Prof. Shapila Shameem.

The first day of the conference was successfully concluded under the guidance and support of Dr. Pragya Khanna and Conventorship of Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Head Department of Music.

The Conference was also attended by Principals of the adjoining Colleges, participants from different regions, faculty and students of GLDM GDC Hiranagar.

Jammu based entrepreneur alleges kidnapping, urges Police to take action, provides security cover

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Tarun, a Jammu based entrepreneur, has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Police department to initiate an immediate enquiry into his alleged kidnapping of him on the intervening night of November 29, 2023.

Addressing media persons today, Tarun narrated the harrowing experience he underwent. He stated that he was returning from a marriage function on November 29 when he stopped near a Jeep showroom in the Chhaani area of Jammu. There, he had



a verbal altercation with an individual identified as Jimmy. Suddenly, four goons of Jimmy appeared and started assaulting him. They forcibly took him to their office in Birpur by kidnapping him and also snatched his mobile phones.

"In Birpur, these individuals

consumed drugs and subjected him to further physical abuse. The next day, he managed to escape from their clutches and filed a complaint at the Channi Police Station," Tarun said, adding that it seems that these persons are drug peddlers. Despite registering a

case, the police have failed to provide Tarun with a copy of the FIR or take any action against the accused. He has also been receiving threatening calls, causing him to fear for his life.

Tarun has appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir Police department to investigate the matter thoroughly, arrest the perpetrators, and provide him with security cover.

He emphasized his role as an entrepreneur and stressed the responsibility of the police to protect him from such unscrupulous elements.

Senior PDP leader visits Waltengoo Kund, meets families of accident victims



Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 6: Senior PDP Leader Mohammad Sartaj Madni

along with DDC Member Kund Sheikh Gulzar Ahmad on Wednesday visited Waltengoo Kund and met the families of six labour-

ers who lost their lives in Shimla road accident.

He extended sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the deceased and speedy recovery to the injured.

In order to show solidarity, Madni also attended the cremation of the deceased.

He urged the administration to provide adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and free of cost medical treatment to the injured persons.

The build up to the film *The Archies* has been massive, as three star kids are set for an acting debut. With the movie scheduled for a release this week, we check out what the hoopla is all about

It wouldn't be wrong to say that Netflix film *The Archies* is the most-hyped project of 2023, especially considering seven fresh faces are to be introduced, including three star kids! From the big announcement of the cast, what roles they would be playing to the teaser launch, song reveals to every other thing in between, this film continued to be in the headlines. Ever since its announcement by director Zoya Akhtar, the audience can't wait to see what she has in store with this Indian adaptation of Archie comics.

Star-kid factor
The film marks the acting debut of Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda, Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan and producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor. Agastya, Suhana and Khushi play Archie, Veronica and Betty, respectively — the three prominent characters in Archie comics. Except for Mihir Ahuja (Jughead), who has earlier acted in various series and films, other actors, including Vedang Raina (Reggie), Yuvraj Menda (Dilton) and Dot (Ethel), are also making their acting debut with this film, which explores themes like friendship, freedom love and heartbreak.

Dynamic duo
For the film, directors Zoya



Akhtar and Reema Kagti have come together with their co-founded production company Tiger Baby. They have earlier produced the film *Gully Boy*, and web series *Made in Heaven* and *Dahaad*. Just like co-writers of *The Archies*, they have been co-writers of successful ventures like *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, *Talaash: The Answer Lies Within* and *Dil Dhadakne Do*. In other

words, together their success rate has been phenomenal with only one film, *Talaash*, tanking at the box-office.

Brilliant idea
Not many makers in the Indian film industry have delivered a successful teen-musical-comedy, but Zoya's idea of the adaptation was a risk worth taking. While the film's shooting was completed in December last

year, it took almost a year to ship it off to the Netflix audience. But that's how Zoya Akhtar likes to work, making sure there are no loose ends on her part. After all, her OTT hit *Made in Heaven* did not get a second season for three years and when it did, it was liked as well as criticised, but nevertheless made news.

Marketing genius
From taking the cast to the billboard to all these stars making an appearance at important Bollywood events and premieres or partying together, the producers have made sure that the buzz surrounding the film did not die down. The musical drama getting a live billboard on one of India's busiest roads, Mumbai's Western Express Highway, was a good marketing move too. The billboard also had a countdown timer that tracked the number of days before the film would be launched on Netflix.

Experimental mode
Even if this coming-of-age musical doesn't make the cut in the Netflix hits of the year, it sure will amount to a good viewership considering the director's ability to experiment with each project. And in times when 'word of memes' spreads faster than word of mouth, many would be viewing to criticise if not praise it!

In Chandigarh, artist Nilima Sheikh goes down memory lane and shares notes from her creative journey



When renowned contemporary artist Nilima Sheikh came calling to the city over the weekend, it was like going back in time to the Kasauli Art Centre, where Vivan Sundaram hosted artists from all over world. They indulged in a range of creative pursuits, including workshops, seminars, symposia on films and experiments in theatre-making.

The septuagenarian was in Chandigarh for a talk organised by the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi and Sher-Gil Sundaram Arts Foundation. It also marked the closing event of 'Kasauli

Art Centre 1976-1991', an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, prints and archival documents at the Museum of Fine Arts, Panjab University. Sheikh, known for merging traditional art with modernist ideas, talked about how back in the 70s and 80s, Vivan's home, Ivy Lodge, served as a space for not just artists but their families, including children, who became a part of the creative milieu. The talk, anchored by Latika Gupta, explored many facets — Sheikh's inspiration, process and continuous work. Trained at MS Univer-

sity, Baroda, Sheikh has taken inspiration from historical art, craft traditions and literature. She has also illustrated children's books, including *Saare Muusam Ache*, and *Blue and Other Stories*. Her series *When Champa Grew Up* (1984-85) was her reaction to dowry deaths in Gujarat. *Salam Chechi* (2020), which is an ongoing series, pays a tribute to Malayali nurses. "Anyone who has had the experience of looking after the elderly, like I had the good fortune to look after my parents, realises the value of nurses."

Sheikh's works, reflective of the times, are steeped in tradition. Her series *Each Night Put Kashmir In Your Dreams* was also a part of the invigorating conversation.

The evening saw two other prominent personalities — thespian Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry and multimedia artist Ranbir Kaleka — reminiscence their experiences at the Kasauli Art Centre. And goes without saying, city's much loved art historian BN Goswamy was deeply missed.

Kubbra Sait on playing the role of a police officer in *Shehar Lakhot*

Prime Video recently released the Hindi Original series *Shehar Lakhot*, which has been receiving widespread acclaim, praise, and love for its gripping narrative and nuanced performances by the ensemble cast. Actress Kubbra Sait portrays the role of a police officer SI Pallavi Raj for the first time in her career in the noir crime drama.

Sharing the excitement of playing the role of a cop for the very first time, Kubbra says, "As an actor, I thrive more when surrounded by exceptional individuals who inspire and challenge me to grow both personally and professionally. Pulling off a police uniform for my role in *Shehar Lakhot* was an exciting opportunity. Wearing the cop uniform commanded respect and instilled a sense of responsibility. In this story, the uniform symbolizes the challenges faced by our real-life heroes, reminding us of our flawed yet ever-evolving system."

Talking about the



director, she adds, "Navdeep's patience and support allowed us to truly shine as actors. With the crafting of a

well-written script, I was able to delve into my memory and invoke the precise emotions needed."

Have no fear in saying 'I'm on medication': Karan Johar on his battle with anxiety

Filmmaker Karan Johar says it is important for public figures to discuss their experiences and struggles with mental health issues to empower others to recognise and address such concerns.

Johar, who opened up about his anxiety attack recently, said he decided to openly talk about the issue in one of the episodes of his chat show 'Koffee with Karan 8' that featured celebrity guests Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh. In the past, Padukone has spoken about her struggle with depression.

The filmmaker said he has been taking medication for anxiety after consulting a professional.

"What happens to me or anybody else, it can happen to anybody. It doesn't mean you need a trigger, sometimes it is a result of many things, sometimes there's a trigger. When I spoke about my anxiety, it was to share a part of life that exists. That exists today as well, while I speak



"I've no fear in saying that 'I'm on medication'," Johar said during a press conference for his show 'Koffee with Karan'.

During his chat with Padukone and Singh, Johar spoke about going through an anxiety attack at the launch of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in April this year.

The filmmaker said most of the moments in the show are unscripted and opening up about

his anxiety was something that he felt he needed to share.

"I feel a lot of us, as public figures, go through things, and if you touch on those topics, you are empowering many others to speak about it. I feel I've been, in 2016, in a phase where I discovered I was going through anxiety. You get better and it does come back sometimes, it came back again in the beginning of this year. What you do is you address it,

and the first thing is you acknowledge it," Johar said.

He also credited Padukone, who has become the face of mental health awareness in India, for her Live Love Laugh Foundation which helps people suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental disorders.

The filmmaker said he is better now and advised people going through similar mental health issues to seek therapy.

"There are professionals who can guide you where sometimes your loved ones can't, not because they are not capable or don't want to, sometimes they are not in that educated zone to tell you what to do. For that, the only thing I tell people is acknowledge it first, acknowledge it to yourself and make sure your family members are aware, and then take the step that you have to."

In the same episode, Deepika and Ranveer shared a wedding video of their dreamy ceremony that took place in

2018 in Italy.

Johar stated that the Bollywood star couple made the decision to share their intimate moment with their fans and followers through his chat show.

"The beauty, romance, intensity and emotion of that video comes from both of them, from their hearts and souls. It was their idea to share that with us. I was very touched and very grateful to Ranveer and Deepika for sharing a very private part of their life with me and the entire world.

"Those four minutes are one of the most precious four minutes of 'Koffee with Karan' in its entirety, spanning in seasons. It takes a very large and generous heart to share the way they did because it was many years after their marriage. It could have very easily not been shared. I've never asked for it, I got it."

'Koffee with Karan' streams on Disney+ Hotstar.

Hollywood star Kate Winslet talks about her friendship with Leonardo DiCaprio

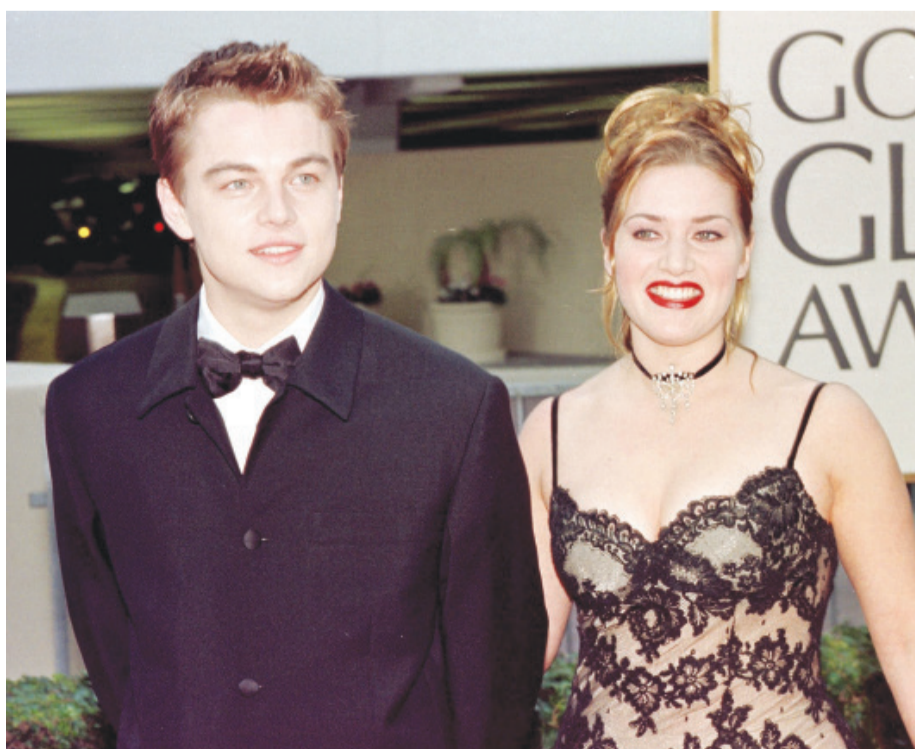
Actress Kate Winslet says her Titanic co-star Leonardo DiCaprio and she 'clicked immediately' when they met on the sets of the blockbuster movie.

The Oscar-winning actors played doomed lovers, Jack and Rose, in James Cameron's romance drama that went on to become one of the most successful movies in 1997.

In a behind-the-scenes feature from the film's upcoming 4K Ultra HD DVD release, Winslet, 48, also reflected on her bond with DiCaprio.

"Once I started working with Leo, we were able to kind of find our own rhythm," she said.

"And it's amazing to kind of look back and think about it all over



again. He was this kind of

mess of long, skinny, uncoordinated limbs,

and he was just very free with himself, and

he had this effervescent energy that was really magnetic. And I remember thinking, 'Oh, this is gonna be fun. We're definitely gonna get along.' And we just really did," she added.

Calling DiCaprio, 49, a 'ferociously intelligent man', Winslet said he was fascinated with the period.

The actress, who like DiCaprio has gone on to establish a successful Hollywood career, said they still take out time to speak to each other. "You know, if you think about it, in the world that we live in now to have friendships that bind you, and that shared history, it's really something," she said.

My debut novel explores transformation of rebellious girl into a superhero, says Huma Qureshi



Actress Huma Qureshi has come out with her debut fantasy novel *ZEB: An Accidental*

Superhero, which she says explores the transformation of a rebellious girl into a superhero.

Huma said: "I've always been fascinated by the idea of unconventional heroes and the complex, messy lives they lead. My debut novel explores the transformation of a willful, rebellious girl into a superhero, a journey that's both empowering and full of unexpected twists."

The book was published by HarperCollins. She added, "I've been able to delve into uncharted territory, creating a character and a story that challenges norms and celebrates the strength within us all. It's been a thrilling ride, and I can't wait for readers to join me on this adventure."

Cyclone Michaung aftermath: Parts of Chennai still inundated, relief work expedited

Holiday in schools and colleges in Chennai on December 7

CHENNAI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Residents grappled with stagnant water and power disruption in parts of the city and its suburbs on Wednesday, two days after Cyclone Michaung wreaked havoc in the metropolis and neighbouring districts, even as civic agency personnel stepped up relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The government said power was kept suspended in some areas as a "preventive measure" since the power cables were under water, while asserting all efforts were being taken to restore normalcy.

Another day's holiday was declared for schools and colleges in Chennai on December 7.

The cyclone-triggered heavy rain had led to inundation in localities, including Velachery and Tambaram. On Wednesday too, people were seen leaving their homes in the areas surrounded with water to safer zones, carrying their children and wading through the stagnant water. They called for help, including pressing more boats to ferry people to higher ground. Chief Minister M K Stalin visited some of the affected areas and distributed food and essential commodities to people put up at a relief centre in the city. He inspected activities undertaken by the city civic body to drain water.

He also wrote to the Centre seeking an interim flood relief of Rs 5,060 crore to tide over the situation.

Many users on social media site 'X' shared videos of resi-



dential localities still being surrounded by stagnant water, claiming many residents were stuck inside.

The hashtag #Velachery was trending on the microblogging site.

A user lamented that her relatives were stuck in their home for the last three days without power, drinking water and milk.

There were complaints of delay in supply of milk in many affected parts including Velachery and Tambaram and residents alleged it was being sold for extra price.

Power supply had not resumed in parts of the city including Kilpauk and Kattupakkam.

The state government said relief activities were on in full swing and that people in many of the affected areas were being rescued through inflatable boats even during midnight.

Senior officials of the Greater Chennai Corporation were overseeing the rescue and relief activities, the civic agency said.

The Greater Chennai Police also announced helpline numbers for citizens to contact them

for rescue and relief activities.

An update from the city police on Wednesday said six rain-related deaths were reported while many persons in need were rescued by the cops in different parts of the city. Among the rescued were aged persons and a number of pregnant women, and a woman and her newborn, an official release said.

Further, 11 subways in the metro remained closed for vehicular movement due to water-logging.

There were no disruptions in operations at the airport while the Southern Railway announced cancelling a number of services and diversion of many others.

However, it announced resumption of the suburban services on the Chennai Egmore-Chengalpet and Chennai Beach-Arakkonam routes with frequency of 30 and 45 minutes, respectively. Services on the Tiruvottiyur-Sullurpeta line will be operated in a hourly frequency, it said in an update.

State Chief Secretary Shiv

Das Meena told reporters that water was draining in many parts of the city.

Where water has cleared, cleaning of roads was being done, while supply of drinking water was also being ensured.

A number of personnel, including those from NDRF and SDRF were involved in relief and rehabilitation activities, he told reporters here.

"Food packets, bread and milk are being supplied in waterlogged areas while boats have been deployed in severely affected areas in Perumbakkam and Varadarajapuram, with senior officials monitoring the relief efforts," he said.

A total of 400 boats have been pressed into service in different areas.

On power supply yet to be restored in some areas, the official said it was done as a "preventive step" to avert any untoward incident.

"We are ready to provide power but there should be no loss of life, nobody should be affected, there should be no accident. Wherever the power cables are under water, as a preventive stop, there is delay in (resuming)power supply," he said.

Only 95 of the 1,812 power feeders in the city are yet to be switched on. The situation will be better as water recedes, the top official added.

Meanwhile, Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, Mano Thangaraj warned of strong action against those selling milk over and above the retail price.

Bihar records highest number of road accident deaths near religious places: NCRB report

PATNA, Dec 6 (Agencies): Bihar recorded the maximum number of road accidents near religious places in the country last year in which 2,995 people were killed, according to the latest report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The state also registered a 13.1 per cent rise in overall road accidents in 2022 over the previous year, according to 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2022' released by the NCRB.

"A total of 2,258 people (1,791 males and 467 females) died in road accidents near religious places in rural areas across the state in 2022. This is highest in the country, followed by Uttar Pradesh (686), Jharkhand (525), Tamil Nadu (506), Madhya Pradesh (340), and Maharashtra (321)," it said.

As far as road accidents near religious places in urban areas, the report said, "A total 737 people (536 males and 201 females) died in different districts across the state in 2022. This is again highest in the country followed by Uttar Pradesh (487), Madhya Pradesh (308), Maharashtra (284), and Telangana (278)".

Overall 8,898 people died and 7,068

sustained injuries in the 10,801 road accidents reported across the state in 2022, compared to 9,553 accidents in 2021. The state ranked 13th in road accident cases while it was 15th the previous year.

According to the report in Bihar, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, road accidents caused more deaths than injuries.

"Over-speed caused 56 per cent of the total accidents, killing 4,868 people, while 34.7 per cent of cases were the result of dangerous and careless driving. Drunken driving killed 43 people in different parts of the state", the report said.

Sale and consumption of alcohol have been banned in Bihar since April 2016.

Out of a total of 8,898 fatalities, maximum deaths were reported on highways, including 3,926 on national highways and 2,032 on state highways, the report said. With an aim to bring down the number of accidents on the national highways, Bihar has already initiated the process of establishing a dedicated 'highway patrol force' that will be deployed along national highways in the state.

Doctor kills wife, 2 kids before dying by suicide in UP

RAE BARELI, Dec 6 (Agencies): A doctor posted at a Railway hospital here allegedly killed his wife and two children before dying by suicide, police said on Wednesday.

Arun Kumar Singh (45), hailing from Mirzapur, was an eye specialist at the Modern Rail Coach Factory Hospital since 2017. He lived with his wife Archana (40), son Aarav (4), and daughter Ariba (12) in a house located inside the hospital complex.

The incident came to light on Tuesday night when the doctor's colleagues informed police after no one from the

family answered phone calls. The police personnel broke open the door and found the bodies.

It appears that Singh injected his children with a drug to make them unconscious before killing them, Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi said, adding that the minors died of head injuries while Singh was found hanging.

Preliminary probe suggests that the doctor was suffering from depression, police said.

According to the people living in the neighbourhood, the family was last seen two days ago on Sunday.

4-year-old girl dies during treatment after rescue from borewell in MP's Rajgarh district

RAJGARH (MP), Dec 6 (Agencies): A four-year-old girl who fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district on Tuesday died in a hospital in Bhopal, a few hours after her rescue early on Wednesday, a senior official said.

The child, identified as Mahi, was rescued alive around 2.45 am and was rushed to the Civil Hospital at Pachore, but her condition deteriorated en route, the official said.

The girl was then taken to the state-run Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal, about 70 km away, where she died during treatment around 6 am, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Kiran Wadia said.

The body will be handed over to the child's relatives after autopsy, she said.



Mahi fell into an open borewell in a field on Tuesday evening and was rescued by a team of experts who dug a parallel pit to a depth of about 25 feet.

She was stuck at 22 feet, and after connecting the two pits, she was rescued by the experts and rushed to the hospital, Rajgarh Superintendent of Police Dharma Maraj Meena said.

The incident took place at Pipliya Rasoda village under Boda police station limits, he said.

Personnel from the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) had reached the spot and arrangements were made to provide oxygen inside the borewell shaft, he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had directed officials to send teams of SDERF, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to the site and asked the district administration to help in the rescue operation.

Karni Sena chief's killing: Hunt on for two accused, protests in parts of Rajasthan

Gangster Rohit Godara linked to Lawrence Bishnoi gang has taken responsibility for the killing

JAIPUR, Dec 6 (Agencies): The Rajasthan Police on Wednesday carried out searches to nab the two accused behind the killing of Rajput leader and national president of Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi.

Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju Geroje Joseph said that the two accused, who shot dead Gogamedi as well as Naveen Singh Shekhawat, who accompanied them to the Rajput leader's residence on Tuesday, have been identified and searches are on to trace them.

"One of the accused is from Haryana and the other from Rajasthan," he said.

Joseph said the two accused secured access to Gogamedi's house through Shekhawat.

It is a matter of investigation whether Shekhawat, who used to run a cloth shop, was aware of the intentions of the two accused, he said.



Gogamedi was shot dead in the living room of his house here on Tuesday.

The killing triggered protests by members of the Rajput community who have called for a Jaipur bandh.

Khatipura road in Jaipur was blocked, while community members in large numbers were sitting outside the Metro Mass hospital in Mansarovar area in Jaipur where the body is kept.

Similar protests took place in Jodhpur and Udaipur also.

However, the protest was peaceful and there was no violence.

Slamming the state police for the killing, Mahipal Singh Makrana, national president of the Shri Rajput Karni Sena, demanded the removal of the state DG for "failing" to provide security to Gogamedi.

"There was an intelligence input about the murder of Sukhdev Gogamedi from Punjab Police but the Rajasthan Police did not provide him security. This

is a clear failure of the police. The DG should be moved and action against negligent police officials should be taken," he told agency.

Makrana said there is huge resentment in the Rajput community and they will be forced to hold protests across the country if the accused were not caught.

He said not only the Rajput community, but the 'Sarv Samaj' (all communities) is agitated over the incident.

Gangster Rohit Godara linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has taken responsibility for the murder on a social media post, a police official said.

Gogamedi's supporters have demanded a compensation of Rs 11 crore for the family of the slain leader.

"The incident makes it clear that there is 'Jungle Raj' (law of jungle) in Rajasthan. The accused should be killed in an encounter," one of the supporters said.

Anurag Thakur questions 'silence' of Congress over DMK MP's controversial remarks

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): A day after DMK MP DNV Senthilkumar's controversial remark on the Hindi heartland states, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Wednesday questioned the Congress, saying, "Why are you silent when your allies are criticising Hindus, Hindi language, Sanatan Dharma and attacking Indian culture?"

Thakur said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had started these attacks on north Indians after he lost the election from Amethi in 2019.

"The INDIA alliance has no policy. Some corrupt people have

got together just to save themselves and to divide the country. Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi have blessed this thought of demeaning Indian culture, insulting the Hindu religion and attacking Sanatan Dharma and Hindi language," the minister said.

"The Congress and its allies are trying to divide the country. The silence of the Congress shows its thinking."

"Have Rahul and Sonia blessed these leaders who attack the culture of India?" Thakur asked.

After the recent loss in these states, the opposition is now abusing and challenging the Indian culture and this is part of



a planned system, said Thakur.

"We will not allow their attempt to show the Hindu religion, Hindi and Sanatan Dharma in a poor light," Thakur said.

He said, "Their arrogance has not come down even after the loss. The person chosen as the Telangana CM

once suggested that the DNA of people of Telangana was better than the DNA of people of Bihar."

Thakur said, "The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister repeatedly abuses Hindi language and Hindu community."

"The Congress and its allies are regularly hurting the country's sentiments," he said.

Only AAP can give free education guarantee: Arvind Kejriwal

Says other parties are talking about providing free electricity, but free education is still not on their list

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said other parties have stolen AAP's agenda and are talking about providing free electricity and giving guarantees but free education is still not on their list.

Kejriwal was speaking at an event at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) office here to pay tributes to Baba Saheb Ambedkar on his death anniversary.

The Chief Minister said Ambedkar went to study at Columbia University in the US in 1913 and always laid emphasis on education.



"Had he been alive for 10-15 years more, he would have improved all government schools in the country. No party has paid any attention to education," Kejriwal said.

"These parties stole

our entire agenda. They are now giving all the guarantees and giving free electricity but they are not guaranteeing free education. Only AAP can give a guarantee of education," he asserted.

The AAP has done a lot in the field of education, he said and asserted that people in the country have been deliberately kept uneducated in the last 75 years.

"If AAP can give good education in five years, why couldn't people get educated in 75 years," he added.

The AAP national convener also alleged that hurdles were being created to snatch power from them.

"We are born for service of all. We are here to fight for the country and will never compromise with our principles," he said.

Joe Biden 'not sure' he'd be running if Donald Trump were not in 2024 race

The Democrat turned 81 years old last month and is already the eldest Oval Office occupant in history

WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS/WASHINGTON, Dec 6 (Agencies): President Joe Biden said that he may have skipped mounting a 2024 re-election bid if he were not facing Donald Trump because the Republican poses a unique threat to the United States.

"If Trump wasn't running, I'm not sure I'd be running," Biden said at a fundraising event for his 2024 campaign outside of Boston. "We cannot let him win."

Biden's striking self-assessment comes as even staunch Democratic voters express con-



cerns about the President's age. The Democrat turned 81 last month and is already the eldest Oval Office occupant in history.

"Somebody gave him a talking point they thought would sound good," Trump, who was president from 2017 to 2021, said at a Fox News town hall.

Biden, seeking a second four-year term in next year's election, later told reporters at the White House that he would not drop out of the race.

"No, not now," Biden said when asked if he would consider stepping aside if Trump, 77, stopped seeking his own second term. "Look, he is running, and I have to run." Asked if he would have run were Trump not in the race, Biden said, "I expect so."

Indian-American National Security Expert Running For US Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec 6 (Agencies): Krystle Kaul, an Indian-origin foreign policy and national security expert with roots in Kashmir, has announced that she will run for the US House of Representatives from a Congressional district in Virginia with a focus on core issues like public safety, education and healthcare.

Kaul, if elected in 2024, would be only the second Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives after Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

Pramila Jayapal's sister Susheela Jayapal has also thrown her hat in the race to the Congress from the third Congressional District of Oregon.

Both Kaul and Susheela Jayapal, from the Democratic Party, will have to win the party's primary next year to bag the party's nomination for the November 2024 general elections.

Fluent in eight languages, including Hindi, Punjabi, Dari, Urdu and Arabic, Kaul, the first Kashmiri-origin person to ever run for Congress, said her decision to run for the 10th Congressional District of Virginia came after Democratic Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton who has represented the constituency since 2019 announced her decision

not to seek re-election.

Kaul has spent her professional life in the national security establishment from the Pentagon to think tanks and the defence industry.

She said education, healthcare and public safety are the "three core issues" she would focus on in her campaign.

The 10th Congressional District of Virginia encompasses parts of Virginia that have one of the highest concentrations of Indian Americans and South Asians in the state, like Loudoun County, Fairfax County and Prince Williams County.

Elaborating on her promises to the electorate, she said: "The first foremost being is education...The second one is improving our healthcare system here.

"We have a lot of small business owners and just making healthcare more affordable and more accessible. So from prescription drugs to seeing specialists, that is something that is a concern. And the third is public safety, making sure we have safe neighbourhoods, safe schools, safe communities," Kaul, who is in her late thirties, told PTI in a recent interview.

Kaul said when it comes to national security, she would take a very strong stance on counter-terrorism.

As a child, at her home in Long Island, where she grew up, she very often heard stories about the conflict in Kashmir from her father.

"...that was when my father was sharing accounts of the tension in Kashmir. I was very interested in learning more about Kashmir. I made it a point to focus my studies on understanding the conflict there..." she said.

"I had a desire to eventually run for Congress. But obviously, it's a path. It's a journey to get there. So I first devoted my studies, my first three degrees, to understanding diplomacy, negotiation, political science, and all the theory that you need to understand..." she said.

"So, I have fallen in the footsteps of (Congresswoman) Abigail Spanberger (a former CIA officer). There are about nine democrats who have entered Congress with prior service in the Department of Defence... several of whom I know personally as well," she said.

Kaul, who has travelled to more than 70 countries, was born and raised in Long Island, New York.

Her father, who is from Sufapora in Kashmir, came to the US at the age of 26. Her mother, a Punjabi from Delhi, migrated at the age of seven.



"My father has worked in the insurance business and my mother has done work in real estate," she said.

After Long Island in New York, Kaul spent a few years in Wayne, New Jersey where she attended Vidyapith as a kid and she studied Sanskrit Vedic heritage, Hindi, mythology, the religion.

She shifted to Washington DC when she was 17 for a college education.

She graduated with a B A from American University, MAs from Brown University and Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), and has a PhD in Political Science in progress at Brown University.

A national leader in the defence and intelligence community, she served as a Director (GS-15) of the Defence Threat Reduction Agency at the Department of Defence,

the Director of Strategic Communications of the US Air Force and NATO for General Dynamics Information Technology, and as an Intelligence Political-Military Expert at US Central Command.

"The majority of my career has been with the Department of Defence. I worked for a number of large defence contractors and consulting firms, including Deloitte, General Dynamics, Lidos, and Booz Allen Hamilton," she said.

The announcement that she is running for Congress has created a buzz in the Indian-American community. "Very positive. I have a great deal of support from several organisations that back Indian-American candidates, that back South Asian American candidates across the country," she said, describing it as an outpouring of support.

Four Rohingya killed in Bangladesh refugee camp shootout

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 6 (Agencies): Four Rohingya refugees were killed during a gunfight between two insurgent groups in Bangladesh, police said Wednesday, in the latest sign of deteriorating security in the country's overcrowded relief camps.

Bangladesh is home to around a million members of the stateless and mainly Muslim minority, most of whom fled a 2017 military crackdown in Myanmar that is now subject to a UN genocide probe.

The dozens of squalid refugee camps housing the Rohingya have emerged as a battleground between rival armed groups who have used the settlements as staging posts for drug trafficking and human smuggling.

Local police chief Shamim Hossain told agency that an hour-long shootout took place between the

Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) on Tuesday night.

"Four Rohingya refugees were killed and two Rohingya were seriously injured," he added.

Neither group gave immediate comment on the clash.

The RSO has been challenging the larger and more established ARSA for control of the camps since the start of the year, coinciding with a crackdown on ARSA by Bangladeshi security forces.

Violence has long been a fact of life for those living in the refugee settlements.

Police say more than 60 Rohingya refugees have been killed in Bangladeshi camp clashes this year, including women and children.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said Sunday it was "alarmed by the continuing deterioration

of security conditions in the camps".

Malnutrition is also widespread, with the UN food agency saying a funding shortfall this year had forced it to cut rations by a third.

Those Rohingya remaining in Myanmar face severe persecution by authorities who deny them citizenship and access to healthcare.

The desperate situation both there and in the Bangladeshi camps has prompted thousands of Rohingya to embark upon dangerous and often deadly sea trips to Southeast Asian countries to escape.

More than 1,000 landed in Indonesia's westernmost province last month, the biggest wave of Rohingya since 2015.

Nearly 350 Rohingya died or went missing last year while attempting hazardous sea crossings, the UNHCR has estimated.

Scientists say November is 6th straight month to set heat record; 2023 set to be hottest year



DUBAI, Dec 6 (Agencies): For the sixth month in a row, the earth set a new monthly record for heat, and also added the hottest autumn to the litany of record-breaking heat this year, the European climate agency calculated.

And with only one month left, 2023 is on the way to smashing the record for the hottest year.

November was nearly a third of a degree Celsius (0.57 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the

previous hottest November, the European Space Agency's Copernicus Climate Change Service announced on Wednesday.

November was 1.75 degrees Celsius (3.15 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, tying with October and behind September, for the hottest above average for any month, the scientists said.

"The last half year has truly been shocking," said Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Bur-

gess. "Scientists are running out of adjectives to describe this."

November averaged 14.22 degrees Celsius (57.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which is 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the average in the last 30 years. Two days during the month were 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, something that hadn't happened before, according to Burgess.

So far, this year is 1.46 degrees Celsius (2.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times, about a seventh of a degree warmer than the previous warmest year of 2016, Copernicus scientists calculated. That's very close to the international threshold the world set for climate change.

One In 5 Children In Rich Countries Lives In Poverty: UNICEF Report

UNITED NATIONS, (UNITED STATES) Dec 6 (Agencies): Sixty-nine million children -- or more than one in five -- live in poverty in the world's 40 richest countries UNICEF said in a report released Wednesday, blasting Britain and France for their particularly bad standings.

That's despite a drop in child poverty rates in the periods from 2012 to 2014 and 2019 to 2021, by around 8 percent in the 40 European Union and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) wealthy countries assessed.

"This is equivalent to around 6 million children out of a total child population of 291 million," said UNICEF Innocenti, the United Nations agency's research arm. But at the end of 2021 there were still more than 69 million kids in poverty in those countries.

"For most children

this means that they may grow up without enough nutritious food, clothes, school supplies or a warm place to call home," said Bo Viktor Nylund of UNICEF Innocenti, highlighting the impact of such struggles on young people's physical and mental health.

The UNICEF figure is based on relative poverty, which is around 60 percent of the national median income, often used in developed countries to establish their own poverty levels.

The report called for action to ensure children's well-being and for political will among the countries surveyed, stressing that a country's wealth did not automatically lift its children out of poverty.

Since 2012, the biggest setbacks have been seen in some of the richest countries.

Britain saw a 19.6 percent jump in child poverty -- or half a million extra children, and

France's rate went up 10.4 percent.

In the United States, the number of poor children has fallen by 6.7 percent, but more than one child in four still lives in relative poverty.

And the poverty rate in 2019-2021 was twice as high as in Denmark, a country with a similar per-capita income.

Underlining the link between child poverty and economic inequality, the report also highlights the greater risk of poverty for children from single-parent families and minority backgrounds.

In the United States, 30 percent of African American children and 29 percent of Native American children live below the national poverty line, compared with only one-in-10 non-Hispanic white children.

In the EU, a child with parents of non-EU nationality is 2.4 times more likely to live in poverty.

Search For Last Missing Hiker In Indonesia Volcano Intensifies

AGAM, Dec 6 (Agencies): Indonesian rescuers were searching on Wednesday for the final hiker who went missing after a volcano eruption that left 22 other people dead, but hopes were fading three days after the disaster.

Mount Marapi on the island of Sumatra spewed an ash tower 3,000 metres (9,800 feet) -- taller than the volcano itself -- into the sky on Sunday as 75 people hiked in the area.

Hundreds of rescuers have worked for days to find the missing hikers, who have been carried down the mountain in bodybags in an arduous search effort hampered by further eruptions and bad weather that forced workers to intermittently take shelter.

"There were many rumours and unclear reports. Let us make it clear, we still don't know the whereabouts of this one victim," Abdul Malik, head of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency, told reporters.

It came after Suharyono, West Sumatra police chief who goes by one name, told reporters late on Tuesday that the last hiker was feared dead, which has not been confirmed by the rescue



officials on the ground.

"23 people are suspected to have died. We all prayed they all could be rescued but there was nothing we could do, God and nature had made a decision," he said.

On Wednesday morning the volcano, which means "Mountain of Fire", was still billowing a column of smoke into the sky, an agency journalist said.

"Some jumped" Fifty-two people were rescued since the eruption and some of the survivors have described their panic after it started.

"I was zig-zagging, going down around 30 to 40 metres

to a trekking post, Ridho, 22, told agency from a bed in a nearby hospital.

"The eruption sounded loud, I took a look behind and then immediately ran away as everyone did. Some jumped and fell. I took cover behind the rocks, there were no trees there."

Suharyono said Tuesday evening that two of the 75 hikers were police officers, one who survived and the other one he suspected had died.

"They both just wanted to see the volcano, they were off duty," he said.

"One of them survived and had a broken arm, he is being

treated by doctors. For the other one, we suspected he died. Let's wait for confirmation."

The head of Indonesia's volcanology agency, Hendra Gunawan, said Marapi has been at the second level of a four-tier alert system since 2011, and a three-kilometre exclusion zone had been imposed around its crater.

He appeared to blame hikers after the eruption for going too close to the crater, saying the agency recommended no activity in that area.

The official number of hikers given by officials was sourced to an online registration system but officials warned there could have been more on illegal routes.

"Maybe there were hikers who were not registered, and sometimes illegal hikers did not want to pay, they just climbed," said Suharyono.

Indonesia experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide.

Marapi is the most active volcano on Sumatra island and one of the archipelago's nearly 130 active volcanoes.

NC pays floral tributes to Dr B.R Ambedkar on his 67th death anniversary

Restore democratic rights of people of J&K: Rattan Lal

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: J&K National Conference on Wednesday paid floral tributes to the architect of Constitution and Bharat Ratna, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, on his 67th death anniversary during a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

In this connection, a programme was organised by Vijay Lochan, Chairman JKNC SC Cell in which Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu was the Chief Guest. The Provincial President along with senior party leaders profusely garlanded the portrait of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal described the architect of the Constitution of India as a great visionary, saying the legendary leader worked tirelessly to foster egalitarian society and shed caste discrimination across the country. He said that the people will always remember Baba Saheb for giving the country best constitution of the world.

Gupta said that Dr Ambedkar was a great reformer who dedicated his entire life for the welfare of weaker sections and his contribution in that regard was excep-



tional. "There is greater need for collectively working for welfare of weaker sections of the society so that social inequality could be minimized," he maintained.

The senior NC leader asked the government to restore the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir are being denied their rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. He asserted that the Government at the Centre has miserably failed to protect the constitution of the country. He said that BJP Government at the Centre has divided the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territory making mockery of the Constitution.

The senior NC leader emphasized that the Central Government would not have kept the erstwhile historic state under the spell of

long undemocratic rule of outsourced bureaucracy. He urged the government at the Centre to restore democracy in Jammu and Kashmir by holding Assembly polls without any further delay. He appealed to the party workers that there is dire need to save Constitution and also to save the democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary JKNC appealed to the party cadre to make people aware about the achievements of National Conference and work for strengthening the base of the Party. He said that only National Conference can fulfil the aspirations of people of J&K and ensure equitable development of the state.

Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zone President Udhampur Reasi, in his address, said that

Dr Ambedkar has constituted a constitution of the country with an aim to provide equal rights to the people of the country. But unfortunately the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being made to suffer in absence of a representative government for no fault of theirs, he said, asserting that the government has virtually broken the spine of common people due to its anti-people policies the results of which are easily visible to everyone.

Throwing light on various facets of the life and struggle of Dr. B.R Ambedkar, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell said his unflinching commitment towards social justice brought about a revolutionary transformation in Indian social order and helped in carving a society based on equality, justice and opportunities for all.

The best tribute to

Baba Saheb would be to work for carving out a society where opportunities of progress are available to all irrespective of caste, creed, and colour, he added

Babu Jagjeevan Lal, former Minister and District President Reasi said the best tribute to the great leader would be an imbibe spirit of oneness which alone can lead the nation towards peace, progress and prosperity.

He described Dr. Ambedkar him as Messiah of millions who shaped the destiny of millions of people across the country.

Among those who were present include Qazi Jalal Ud Din Ex-MLA, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat Ex-MLA, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries, Mohinder Singh Sr. Vice President Central Zone, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Zafarullah Rather District President Doda, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Som Raj Taroch, Sandeep Singh, Deepak Attri Adv, Ram Lal, Satpal, Joginder Lal, Jagga Ram, Master Baldev, Mangat Ram, Lal Chand, Sham Lal, Babu Ram, Ashwani Kumar, Rattan Lal, Arun Singh, Kousar Malik, Bodh Raj and others.

Accused impersonating as Army Major Charge-Sheeted for Rs. 5 Lakh fraud with youth for jobs in MES

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Economic Offences Wing-Crime Branch Jammu produced 313 page charge-sheet against accused Deepak Kumar, son of Parshotam Lal, resident of Village Nathel Chak, Sanji Morh, Tehsil Hiranagar, District Kathua in case FIR No. 53/2023 under Section 419, 420 IPC P/S EOW, Crime Branch, Jammu in the Court of law for judicial determination for his involvement in luring the complainant by impersonating as Army Major to arrange a job in MES for the victim against monetary considerations of Rs 5 Lakh with the ulterior motive of cheating.

The accused is a habitual cheat involved in multiple cases of cheating and fraud.

CB official said a written complaint was



lodged by the Complainant - Darshan Kumar, son of Hans Raj, resident of Mansar Tehsil and District Samba, alleging therein that the accused Deepak Kumar, son of Parshotam Lal came into contact of his wife in the month of July 2021 at Dev Sthan, village Nud Tehsil and District Samba and thereafter visited the house of the complainant, impersonating himself as Major in Indian Army and allured the complainant for arranging job in favour of his brother in law in lieu of monetary consideration of Rs. 5 Lakh

as there were vacancies in MES.

He also asked him to arrange all necessary documents for the purpose and ultimately duped him of his hard earned money.

On receipt of the complaint a Preliminary Verification was conducted and the allegations levelled were prima facie established leading to the registration of formal case FIR under the relevant sections of law for in-depth probe.

During the course of investigation all material evidence in the form of documentary record was collected from concerned quarters besides statements of complainant/ witnesses were recorded and allegation proved against the accused, CB official said adding that accused is involved in two more cases for commission of crime of similar nature.

Pall of gloom descends on native village of six Kulgam residents who died in road accident in Shimla

Top News Report

KULGAM, Dec 6: A pall of gloom descended at Waltenngoo nard Kund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday when dead bodies of 6 Labourers, who were killed in a road accident in Shimla

reached their native village.

An official told that six labourers had died and six sustained critical injuries when their vehicle fell into a gorge near Sunni in Shimla district on Monday morning.

As the pyres were lit, the grief-stricken family

members of the victims could not control their emotions and were seen wailing inconsolably for their near and dear ones.

Prior to that, senior district and police officials visited the village to take stock of the situation.

Psychology Deptt JU joins global community in commemorating International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: The Department of Psychology, University of Jammu joins the global community in commemorating International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 6th, December 2023. This day is celebrated every year on 3rd December. The students of the Department of Psychology took the initiative to promote awareness and mobilize support for the rights, dignity, and well-being of people with disabilities.

This year's theme, "United in action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for, with, and by persons with disabilities," underscores our commitment to empower and initiate actions to advocate for inclusivity. The Psychology Club of the Department of Psychology recognizes the importance of fostering a world that values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for everyone.

The event began with a warm welcome, addressed by Sanampreet Kaur and N. Sourav Singh. The students showed great enthusiasm to increase awareness and introduced the mind shift for the person with a disability among the



participants.

The PowerPoint presentations by Ananya Verma and Avantika, on numerous evoked psychological insight. They discussed various psychological disabilities accompanied by major physical, intellectual as well as learning disabilities.

Following the presentations, a video demonstration was conducted to broaden the horizons. In the end, the discussion was carried out. The students, scholars, and the faculty of the department discussed how the awareness could be further generated and people could be sensitized. The discussion closed with students feeling motivated to carry out the work in the field actively. Many new ideas were brought forward.

Later, in her address to the participants, the Head of the Department of Psychology, Prof. Satnam

Kour, acquainted the gathering with future-directed aspiring thoughts. She highlighted the importance of emotional disability as an important trajectory under the umbrella of disabilities. Further, she emphasized the significance of being 'empathetic' and not sympathetic to a 'specially-abled person'. She exhorted on the role of psychology in promoting wellness in specially-abled people. She said "Tum Besaharaho to Kisi ka Sahara Bano" resonating by putting oneself in others' shoes. Prof. Satnam appreciated the efforts of the students. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. N. Sourav Singh.

As we celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let us collectively work towards creating a society that embraces and empowers individuals of all abilities. Together, we can build a more inclusive and accessible world.

All the students and scholars of the department attended the event among the faculty members Dr. Sarita Sood, Dr. Karuna Gupta, Dr. Dharvinder Singh, Dr. Lovely Sabarwal, and Dr. Mridula Bali were also present.

Media's role crucial in highlighting Govt schemes: Rohiin Chandan

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Media Department is an important asset including Social Media, Print Media, and Information Technology, and plays a vital role in directly connecting with the general public. This was stated by BJP District Secretary and Prabhari Yuva Morcha Jammu South Rohiin Chandan.

He said that the BJP "Media Department" is a guiding force and has become a powerful device of democracy and also known as the fourth pillar of democracy and it can be used as a "weapon" for good governance under the remarkable leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

Rohiin Chandan spotlighted the target becomes easier to achieve with a positive attitude through the medium of the Media



Department will have a vital role in the upcoming parliamentary polls in 2024.

Rohiin Chandan highlighted that media, social media, and IT (Information technology) can also play a significant role in putting forward public awareness about PM Modi's nine successful years of public welfare works and schemes.

He also stressed the need to be more alert regarding the propaganda by the opposition.

Rohiin further emphasized the need for working in an organized manner like one unit. He said that the Modi-

led government is committed and devoted to the development of all segments of society.

Rohiin indicated that in the modern world of technology in upcoming futuristic endeavors "WhatsApp channels" are also a good communication weapon to directly in touch with people in future elections will not be conventional and we need to upgrade and move with the times.

The use of media, social media, modern technology, and the like will play an important role. He added that social media and IT cells play an important role in every election.

Apart from the electoral battle on the ground, the party also fights another contest on social media. He said that the BJP party has a different strategy for every state.

Rohiin enlightened the BJP has trained its social media workers on how to instantly

make an impact on the grassroots level through the medium of social media. He said through the medium of smart-phones we can connect and communicate with millions of people within minutes just by pressing our fingers on our smart-phones and sharing the development activities done by Modi Sarkaar in the victorious nine years of governance.

Rohiin counted that only the BJP has a system to ensure that its message reaches the bottom. He assured the BJP party has established itself in all sections of society through media on all platforms and is also ensuring that the development works of the government reach the people.

He said media is more effective for tasks like raising public awareness of the government's public welfare schemes, making people aware of issues, and spreading constructive ideas.

FROM PAGE 1

Police file FIR over bomb hoax call to Jammu school

sanitizing operation under the supervision of an SP-rank officer was carried out but nothing suspicious was found, the officials said, adding the students were not disturbed and continued attending their classes.

They said police have started an investigation to trace the origin of the caller to bring him to book.

Bus overturns in Rajouri; one dead, 22 injured

before overturning, they said. The injured were rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital Rajouri.

DGP extends greetings to Homeguards & Civil Defence on 61st Raising Day

civilian lives and property in times of emergency, natural calamities and disastrous. The Homeguards & Civil Defence play a pivotal role in the field of public awareness and community capacity building. Your selfless service is a testament to the spirit of public duty and has supplemented and complemented the efforts of the different wings of J&K Police."

He added let us take this moment to reflect on our achievements, learn from our experience, and renew our commitment to excellence. Together, let us continue to stand as a beacon of protection, ensuring the well-being of our fellow citizens.

"I commend to each member of the Homeguards & Civil Defence for your

Article 370 abrogation harmed bond between J&K, rest of Country: Omar Abdullah

dedication and hard work. May we continue to serve with honour and uphold the values that define our noble profession," DGP added.

did not contest these elections. "The results we saw, perhaps even if the INDIA alliance had contested together, there would not have been much of a difference in Chhattisgarh and MP. It is likely that the results in Rajasthan would have been different then. In such a situation, a meeting has now been called on December 16 to see how the INDIA alliance will be prepared afresh for the parliamentary polls. "We will sit and discuss, we will hear from the Congress and see whether they feel they committed a mistake," he added.

Freezing cold in Kashmir as Srinagar records season's coldest night -2.0°C

the ski resort of Gulmarg, recorded at -2.2°C today against the -2.3°C recorded the previous night, and it was still 1.1°C above normal for the valley of meadows in north Kashmir.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded a low of 2.0°C against -1.6°C, and Kokernag had a low of -0.5°C against 0.2°C recorded the previous night. The mercury dipped in Kupwara and settled at -2.7°C against the -1.7°C recorded the previous night, and it was -1.3°C below normal for the frontier north Kashmir district.

MeT forecast of dry weather to continue till December 10 and generally cloudy on December 11 in Jammu and Kashmir. The night temperature is likely to see further fall during this week, the MeT office said.

Army microlight flying

expedition enthral audiences at Airforce Station

continue their expedition as per plan to go to the southernmost waypoint at Kanyakumari before overflying the fabled Ram Setu and continuing along the western coast to reach Pune and complete the expedition at BEG and Centre. While at Pune the expedition will also add to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

Unidentified male body found in Srinagar

some locals, who then informed the police. He said that upon receiving the information, a team of police reached the spot and took the body into custody. The official added that the body has been sent for post-mortem and will be handed over to legal heirs after identification.

Equity market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty hit all-time highs

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumps 303.25 points, or 0.44 per cent, to a new record high of 69,599.39 in the morning trade

MUMBAI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Equity market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty extended their rally for the seventh consecutive session and hit new peaks on Wednesday amid sustained buying from foreign institutional investors and easing crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 303.25 points, or 0.44 per cent, to a new record high of 69,599.39 in the morning trade. The broader index Nifty also climbed 100.05 points, or 0.48 per cent to hit its fresh lifetime high of 20,955.15.

Analysts attributed the unabated inflow of foreign funds to declining US bond yields.



They said domestic investors remained bullish on robust macroeconomic data and expectations of longer political stability

in the country. Also, investors are expecting the Reserve Bank to maintain the status quo on the interest

rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced on Friday, they added.

Among major Sensex movers, ITC rose the most by 1.7 per cent, Wipro by 1.43 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 1.36 per cent and Nestle India by 1.27 per cent.

Other gainers included HCL Tech, Asian Paints and Reliance.

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement and Tata Steel traded with a loss of up to 0.82 per cent.

Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth Rs 5,223.51 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Air India rejigs 250 aircraft Airbus order



MUMBAI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Tata Group-owned Air India, which placed a 250 aircraft order with Airbus earlier this year, has rejigged the order, which will now have more number of A321neo aircraft, according to sources.

As part of the 250 aircraft order with Airbus, the airline was to acquire 210 narrow body A320 family planes, comprising 140 A320neo and 70 A321neo and remaining 40 wide body A350s, consisting of six A350-900 and 34 A350-1000s.

Air India has tweaked the order with Airbus and will now acquire 140 A321neo and 70 A320neo, while the

order for 40 A350s has also been rejigged, the source said.

As against the earlier order of six A350-900 and 34 A350-1000s, Air India has changed it to 20 A350-900s and 20 A350-1000s, the source added.

In response to a agency query, Air India spokesperson said, "We regularly review our orderbook based on business requirements and opportunities, and exercise contractual flexibilities as appropriate".

When reached out for comments, Airbus said, "It is up to our customers to disclose their strategy."

Tata Group took control of loss-making Air India in January 2022.

Earlier this year, Air India placed orders for 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing at USD 70 billion (based on published list prices).

Its Boeing aircraft order for 220 aircraft comprises 190 Boeing 737MAX narrow-body planes, 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners and 10 Boeing 777X.

Microsoft creates 'Deep Search' feature for Bing powered by GPT-4

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Microsoft has created a "Deep Search" feature for its Bing search engine powered by OpenAI's GPT-4 that will give users more relevant and comprehensive answers to complex search queries.

Deep Search is not a replacement for Bing's existing web search, but an enhancement that offers the option for a deeper and richer exploration of the web.

"Deep Search builds on Bing's existing web index and ranking system and enhances them with GPT-4. GPT-4 is a state-of-the-art generative AI LLM (Large Language Model) that can create natural language text from any input," said Microsoft.

In the case of "Deep Search", GPT-4 takes the search query and expands it into a more

comprehensive description of what an ideal set of results should include.

"Deep Search" leverages GPT-4 to find all the possible intents and computes a comprehensive description for queries.

"Regular searches on Bing already consider millions of web pages for each search and Deep Search does ten times that to find results that are more informative and specific than the ones that rank higher in normal search," the company informed.

Once "Deep Search" has gathered a wide collection of web pages to review, it then ranks them according to how well they match the comprehensive description.

The feature uses a variety of signals to determine the relevance and quality of each

result, considering factors like how well the topic matches, whether it's at the appropriate level of detail, how credible and trustworthy the source is, how fresh and popular it is, and so on.

"By doing this, Deep Search can present a curated list of results and answers that are more likely to answer your question, satisfy your curiosity, or solve your problem," according to Microsoft.

"Deep Search can take up to 30 seconds to complete. This might seem like a long time compared to a normal search, but it can be worth the wait for more specific or comprehensive answers," the company added.

GPT-4 is already used in many places on Bing, including Copilot, Image Creator from Designer, and in regular web result ranking.

Centre to mandate e-invoice for B2C transactions in 2-3 years

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): The government is likely to make it mandatory for businesses to issue electronic or e-invoice for B2C transactions in the next 2-3 years, an official said on Wednesday.

Currently, businesses with a turnover of Rs 5 crore and above are required to generate e-invoices for their Business-to-business (B2B) sales and purchases.

The government is planning to extend the e-invoice requirement to B2C transactions as well.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) member GST Shashank Priya said GST systems have to be upscaled and the work is on bringing B2C (business to consumer) transac-



tions under e-invoicing.

"We are looking at the requirement of e-invoice for B2C. GSTN capacities need to be upscaled. Systems will have to be put in place. We have to see which are the sectors we can start first. It is a work in progress but we hope in years to come we will be able

to take this forward," he said at an Assocham event.

Priya further said businesses with turnover between Rs 5-10 crore are not fully issuing e-invoices and CBIC officers have been nudging non-compliant businesses.

"Its (business with Rs 5 crore turnover issuing e-invoice) implementation is still quite tardy. We have issued instructions. We are trying to nudge taxpayers that it has certain advantages like ease of doing business. GSTR -1, e-way bills will get populated," Priya said at the National Conference on GST.

The government has been making e-invoices mandatory for businesses in a staggered manner.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for business-to-business (B2B) transactions was made mandatory for companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore from October 1, 2020, which was then extended to those with a turnover of over Rs 100 crore effective January 1, 2021.

From April 1, 2021, companies with turnover of over Rs 50 crore were generating B2B e-invoices, and the threshold was brought down to Rs 20 crore beginning April 1, 2022.

From October 1, 2022, the threshold was lowered to Rs 10 crore.

From August 1, 2023, the requirement was extended to businesses with Rs 5 crore turnover.

Gautam Adani's net worth soars \$12 billion in a day as company stocks rally

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Billionaire Gautam Adani's wealth has surged over \$12 billion in a day as shares of Adani Group companies continued their spectacular rally on the stock markets for the third consecutive session.

On Wednesday, Gautam Adani's net worth was up \$12.3 billion on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index and now stands at \$82.5 billion. Within a few days, Adani has jumped 7 spots on the list of the world's richest individuals to 15th position, just a couple of places below India's richest person, Mukesh Ambani.

If shares of Adani

Group continue this momentum for one or two trading sessions, Gautam Adani is likely to overtake the Reliance Industries Limited chairman, who has a net worth of \$91.4 billion and is 13th on the list of the world's richest people.

It may be noted that Adani Group's market capitalisation crossed Rs 14 lakh crore in early trade and was seen inching closer to Rs 15 lakh crore in early trade. However, shares of some listed companies of the firm have retreated after hitting their day's high due to profit booking.

At around 12:50 pm, flagship company Adani



Enterprises' shares were down over 1.5 per cent, while Adani Ports was up 1.25 per cent. Earlier in the day, Adani Ports had gained nearly 7 per cent.

Adani Green Energy fell marginally but was trading over 15 per cent higher. Adani Total Gas was up over 17 per cent after hitting a 52-week high in early trade. Adani Transmission,

Adani Power and Adani Wilmar were up early 10 per cent, 6 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

Amongst other Adani Group companies, NDTV was up over 9 per cent, while ACC was down over 2.71 per cent and Ambuja Cements fell 1 per cent.

While not all Adani Group stocks have been able to maintain strong

momentum today, the past two trading sessions have significantly bumped up the valuation of the listed companies.

Shares of all 10 Adani Group's listed companies registered strong gains on Monday as part of a broader stock market rally, triggered by the Bharatiya Janata Party's decisive electoral victories in three states.

The rally in Adani Group shares peaked on Tuesday after reports claimed that the US has termed short-seller Hindenburg Research's allegations of fraud against the conglomerate as irrelevant.

Experimental implants raise hopes of recovery from severe brain injuries

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): In a groundbreaking study, researchers have successfully restored cognitive function in individuals with enduring impairments resulting from traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) using deep-brain-stimulation devices.

This innovative technique specifically targets the central lateral nucleus in the thalamus, reactivating neural pathways associated with attention and arousal.

Participants in the study, who had suffered moderate to severe brain injuries, exhibited remarkable improvements in mental processing speed, concentration and daily life activities.

The experimental deep-brain-stimulation device, developed by Stanford Medicine researchers and collaborators from various institutions, marks the first promising treatment for persistent impairments caused by moderate to severe TBIs.

The clinical trial results, published in Nature Medicine, showcase the potential breakthrough.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, road crashes contribute to 50-80 per cent of all head injuries in India, while the rest is contributed by falls (10-25 per cent), violence (20 per cent) and sports.

TBIs leave people struggling with difficulties in focus, memory and decision-making.

One participant, Gina Arata, experienced a traumatic brain injury in 2001, severely impacting her ability to focus and engage in daily activities. She underwent a surgical implantation of the deep-brain-stimulation device.

Following this, she demonstrated immediate improvements. She experienced enhanced memory, better focus and improved emotional regulation.

Existing treatments for these patients are limited, making this pioneering technique a potential game-changer.

The study, led by Jaimie Henderson, MD, a professor of neurosurgery,



focuses on reactivating neural pathways that remain largely intact but are down-regulated following traumatic brain injuries.

The central lateral nucleus in the thalamus, a crucial hub for regulating aspects of consciousness, is specifically targeted through precise electrical stimulation.

The trial involved five participants with enduring cognitive impairments, aged 22 to 60, who had sustained injuries three to 18 years earlier.

The challenge lay in accurately placing the stimulation device in the unique area for each participant, considering individual brain shapes and modifications resulting from injuries.

After a titration phase to optimise stimulation, participants experienced a 32% average improvement in mental processing speed, surpassing the researchers' initial goal of 10%.

The positive outcomes observed in daily life activities further emphasise the potential transformative impact of this therapy.

"It's important to target the area precisely. If you're even a few millimetres off target, you're outside the effective zone. This is a pioneering moment. Our goal now is to try to take the systematic steps to make this a therapy. This is enough of a signal for us to make every effort," Henderson said.

Starting to menstruate before age 13 linked with diabetes, stroke risk: BMJ Study

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Starting to menstruate before turning 13 years old is linked to a heightened risk of developing type 2 diabetes in mid-life, a US research published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Nutrition Prevention & Health has found.

Further, having periods early in life, especially before 10 years of age, is also associated with an increased risk of getting a stroke before 65 years of age in those having diabetes, researchers found after analysing data of more than 17,000 women aged between 20 and 65 years.

The researchers from Tulane University and Brigham and Women's Hospital in the US said that being an observational study, they couldn't establish the causes behind these associations.

"Earlier age at first menstrual cycle may be one of early life indicators of the cardiometabolic disease trajectory in women,"



they suggested in their study.

The women included in the study came from the nationally representative cross-sectional National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1999-2018. The women had specified the age at which they had had their first menstrual cycle.

Of the women studied, about 10 per cent, or 1,773, reported a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Further, 11.5 per cent of these, or 203, reported some type of cardiovascular disease, the researchers found.

They quantified the increased risk of type 2 diabetes due to

beginning to menstruate early in life as 32 per cent (periods at age 10 years or before) through 14 per cent (age 11 years) to 29 per cent (age 12 years).

They also found that menstruating before turning 10 years was linked with a more than doubling in stroke risk among women below the age of 65 years with diabetes. Specifically, they calculated the risk to be 81 per cent among those having their first period at the age of 11 years, 32 per cent at 12 years, and 15 per cent at 14 years.

"One potential pathway explanation may be that (such) women are exposed to oestrogen for longer periods of time, and early (menstruation) has been associated with higher oestrogen levels," the researchers explained.

They also said weight could be another important factor influencing the results, as when they adjusted the data for weight, the observed associations between age at first menstrual cycle and

stroke complications weakened slightly, albeit remaining significant.

The researchers said that these findings supported the possibility that age of getting the first period may be incorporated into early-life strategies for preventing diabetes and progression of diabetes complications.

"These findings add another dimension to the potentially less well understood determinants of cardiometabolic risk, particularly in women who have been relatively underrepresented in this area of research," said Sumantra Ray, Executive Director of the NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition & Health, which co-owns BMJ Nutrition Prevention & Health.

"And they provide a clear steer on the need to design interventional studies looking at the prevention of cardiometabolic disease in ethnically diverse groups of women who start menstruating at a young age," he said.

“His Captaincy Is Bold”: Brendon McCullum Praises India Skipper Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Former New Zealand skipper and current England Test coach Brendon McCullum lauded senior Indian stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for their performances in the ICC Cricket World Cup and expressed excitement about duelling against these two heavyweights during England's tour of India next year. McCullum was in Bengaluru for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) Innovation Lab's Leader's Meet: India which was held last week and addressed a convergence of global sporting stakeholders. "Yeah. I like his captaincy (Rohit Sharma's captaincy). I think his captaincy is bold. He takes risks and he takes the game on. And when you add the talent base of India to these kinds of tactics, then he can achieve very good things. He has been a great leader for not just India but for Mumbai Indians over the years as well," said McCullum to ANI about Rohit's captaincy.

Speaking about Virat, McCullum said that Virat was always billed as a future superstar since his early days as a cricketer and he has lived up to that hype and dealt with the hopes and dreams of over a billion people over the years.

"Well, obviously Virat, I know him pretty well from my time at RCB and also playing against him. So look, he was always touted as a future superstar and he has lived up to, he has dealt with the hopes and the dreams of over a billion people and he has been able to perform on the



big stage. He deserves every accolade that he gets," said McCullum.

McCullum is excited for the tour to India as England's Test coach, saying that it would be an amazing challenge for his side against a team that is unmatched in their home territory.

"Looking forward to duelling with both those two (Rohit and Virat) and all the other guys come the Indian tour in January, February, March. It is going to be a tour which will be very tough, but a tour that we are really looking forward to. The opportunity to take on the best team in their own conditions in the world and see where we are at as a side," said McCullum.

The five-match Test series between India and England will kickstart on January 25 next year with the first Test in Hyderabad. The fifth and final Test will be held in Dharamshala and series will conclude

on March 11.

Speaking about whether England's attacking style of cricket, also known as 'Bazball' among the cricket fraternity, will be sustainable in India's mostly spin-friendly conditions, McCullum said that one does not need to think too much as the team is playing this way as they love cricket and are trying to be as good at it as possible.

"I do not know (about the attacking game being sustainable). I do not think we need to think too deeply about it in the end. I think we are playing the game because we love cricket and you want to try and be as good at cricket as much you possibly can. And during the time that you are in the chair (as a coach), you want to make sure you enjoy it. You should not wait till the end of your career to have enjoyed it," said McCullum.

The coach said that the team is lucky to have had some immedi-

ate success in Test cricket with him and skipper Ben Stokes at the helm and some players have unlocked their potential over the last 18 months or so.

"So we are very lucky that we have had some immediate success in the time that we have been there playing this style of Cricket, which gives guys the greatest amount of satisfaction. I do not think it is a ceiling for us, but we will find out in the next little while. But whatever happens, I think we have seen some guys sort of unlock their potential in the last 18 months or so. And that is what the job is as a leader, is to get the most out of people who you are in charge of and done that for a fair few," he added.

About the Leaders Meet summit, McCullum said that it was fabulous to rub shoulders with various top leaders in sports.

"That has been good. I has been really cool, actually. I have been invited here to come and share some of my stories around leadership, but the opportunity to rub shoulders with other leaders and have some, I guess, shared experiences is great. What you are after as a leader, you always going to grow and evolve, and this week has been fabulous," said McCullum.

The event was an intersection between sports and business, that aims to generate insights, ideas, methodologies, and products in order to shape the future of sports.

“Reached Hospital On Time, Else It Could...”: Deepak Chahar On Father's Medical Emergency



NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): India pacer Deepak Chahar missed the 5th and final T20I against Australia despite only returning to action in the 4th T20I of the same series. India's interim skipper Suryakumar Yadav revealed a 'medical emergency' to be the reason behind Chahar's 11th-hour pull out from the series. Though Chahar has been named for India's T20I assignment against South Africa, it isn't yet known whether he will be able to join his teammates in the Rainbow Nation. Opening up on the situation, Chahar revealed that his father has been admitted to

the hospital but he isn't in a position to leave him and fly to South Africa yet.

"We got him to the hospital on time. Else, it could have been dangerous. His condition is better at the moment. People were asking, why I didn't play the final T20I against Australia. For me, my father is very important. He made me the player I am. I cannot leave him in this condition and couldn't go anywhere," Chahar told Sports Tak when asked about his absence from the 5th T20I.

"That's why I am staying with my father and once he is out of danger,

I will start my journey to South Africa. I have talked to Rahul (Dravid) sir and the selectors. Right now, my father's condition is better," the seamer revealed.

With Chahar's participation unclear, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) hasn't yet named his replacement for the T20I series against the Proteas. Chahar has been a fine performer for India whenever he has been called upon but has struggled with injuries on many occasions.

He would be keen to get a consistent run in the team and feature in next year's T20 World Cup squad.

India's T20 squad vs South Africa: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Suryakumar Yadav (C), Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (VC), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, and Deepak Chahar.

Brian Lara calls Shubman Gill the 'most talented batter in this generation', backs him to win 'many ICC tournaments'

NEW DELHI, Dec 6 (Agencies): Legendary West Indies batter Brian Lara has heaped praise on India opener Shubman Gill, calling him the most talented batter in this generation. Gill is part of the Indian squad which is all set to travel to South Africa for a month-long tour.

Gill is part of India's T20I and Test squads for the tour of South Africa. The right-handed batter has been rested from the ODI series despite being the number 1 ranked ODI batter in the world.

Speaking to news agency, Lara said Gill can break his record for the highest individual score in Test cricket. Gill has scored 966 runs in 18 Test matches for India, at an average of 32.20 while hitting two centuries.

"Shubman Gill can break both my records. Gill is the most talented batter in this new generation. He will rule cricket in the coming years. I believe he will go on to break many big records. He (Gill) can do it (break my records). If Gill plays County cricket then he can break my 501". In Test cricket, he can surely go past 400," said Lara.

The 54-year-old backed Gill to win many ICC tournaments in the future, while stressing that he will score big runs for his nation. Gill has scored 2271



runs in 44 ODIs, averaging 61.38 while striking at 103.46. As far as T20Is are concerned, Gill has scored 304 runs in 11 matches, at an average of 30.40 and a strike rate of 146.86.

"Shubman will score big, mark my words. Gill didn't score a century (in the World Cup) but look at the knocks he has already played. He has centuries in all formats, has smashed a double hundred in ODIs and has also played many match-winning in the IPL. I'm sure he will win many ICC tournaments in the future," Lara added.

India will face South Africa in the first match of the three-game T20I series on Sunday, December 10 at the Kingsmead Stadium in Durban.

I was an idiot: England's Harry Brook regrets IPL 2023 comments, deletes social media apps from phone

LONDON, Dec 6 (Agencies): England's young batting star Harry Brook said he is staying off social media apps on his phone to make sure he stays away from negativity and focuses on getting better as a cricketer. Brook took the world by storm when he broke into the international scene last year, finding incredible early success in the Test format. Brook, as expected, triggered a bidding war in the Indian Premier League auction before SunRisers Hyderabad bought him for Rs 13.25 crore.

Harry Brook hit a century in each of the 3 Tests on his maiden tour of Pakistan before carrying forward that form to a tour of New Zealand. The 24-year-old, however, was not able to find instant success in the Indian Premier League. Questions were asked if Brook was affected by the pressure of the huge price tag. However, the England star hit a 55-ball hundred for SunRisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens to announce his arrival in the IPL, but form eluded him soon after. Brook finished his season with 190 runs at a paltry average of



21.

Harry Brook conceded after hitting the IPL hundred that he was putting pressure on him by constantly checking social media for reactions to his performances. Brook said that there were a few who were calling him 'rubbish' at the start of the IPL and that he was able to "shut them up" with his IPL hundred. Brook faced flak for his comments on social media and the trolls targeted him during his lean patch after the hundred in the IPL.

"I was an idiot and I said that stupid thing in an interview which I regret a little bit," Brook, who

hit a fifty in the first ODI against the West Indies in Antigua on December 3 said, as quoted by the BBC.

"In India, you end up sitting in your hotel room, not much to do so I find myself just scrolling Instagram or Twitter or whatever and come across stuff you just don't want to see. I thought it was the right idea to get off it. I've obviously still got Instagram and Twitter but thankfully I've got someone running it for me," he added.

'IT HAS HELPED MY MENTAL HEALTH'

Brook had a decent Ashes 2023 outing but he was not able

to live up to expectations at the ODI World Cup in India where England floundered. Brook scored 169 runs in 6 matches with a lone fifty after bagging a late call-up to the side.

Eventually, Brook was released by the SunRisers last month as they freed up Rs 13.25 crore ahead of the mini-auction, scheduled for December 19. Brook has once again made himself available for the auction.

Brook said he needed the mini break after the World Cup campaign in India and explained that he has let his agents handle social media for him.

"I've been off social media for a while now, anything I stumble across, I delete it from the phone. I haven't really seen any negativity, I think that's helped my game, helped my mental health and everything to be off social media and seeing all the negativity that brings," he added.

Brook has a busy next few months as he will be off to India after the ongoing white-ball series in the West Indies. England will play 5 Tests in India in January-March before the IPL 2024 season.

PM XI vs Pakistan, Day 1: Captain Shan Masood hits century to lead from the front in tour game in Canberra

CANBERRA, Dec 6 (Agencies): Newly-appointed Test captain Shan Masood led Pakistan from the front in their tour game against the Australian Prime Minister's XI with a well-paced century on Day 1, December 6 at the Manuka Oval in Canberra. Shan Masood brought up his century in 169 balls as Pakistan went past 200 in the final session of the opening day of the 4-day match.

It was the 25th first-class hundred for the 34-year-old Shan Masood, who has begun his stint as the captain of Pakistan on a high. Shan was named as Pakistan's Test captain after Babar Azam quit the role following the Cricket World Cup 2023 debacle in India.

Shan Masood held the Pakistan top-order together after the visitors lost Imam-ul-Haq for 9 in the opening hour of the day's play. Young South Australian pacer Jordan Buckingham got the ball to move both ways on a bright morning in Canberra and produced an inside edge of Imam who fell for 9.

Shan Masood walked in at No. 3 and looked in complete control. He stitched a handy partnership with in-form Abdullah Shafique, who was out for 38 in the 25th over. Shafique was undone by the extra bounce from a delivery from Mark Steketee as he was out, caught at short cover.

Shan Masood joined hands with former captain Babar Azam and



the two batters looked solid in the middle while keeping the scorecard moving at a brisk pace. Babar brought out his trademark cover drive against off-spinner Todd Murphy and also played a delightful straight drive

before he threw his wicket away by poking at a delivery from Buckingham that was going down the leg-side.

Masood thought kept his composure and brought up his hundred as Pakistan came

up with a solid show of batting display on the opening day of the all-important tour match.

Shan Masood stitched partnerships with Saud Shakeel and former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed in the final session. Sarfaraz was picked ahead of Mohammad Rizwan for the wicketkeeper's role in the tour game, although captain Shan hinted that both of them might play in the Test series, starting December 14.

Shan had spoken about the importance of playing fearless and positive brand of cricket to keep pace with the changing landscape of the longest format of the game. And the captain led from the front, walking the talk on Wednesday in Canberra.

1st T20I: Ind vs Eng: India aim to banish home blues

MUMBAI, Dec 6 (Agencies): India will look to draw confidence from recent performances and improve their disappointing bilateral record against England when the two teams face off in a three-match women's T20I series, starting here today.

Harmanpreet Kaur-led India have had a successful year in the shortest format so far, winning the gold medal in the Asian Games, an away series against Bangladesh by 2-1 and also making it to the final of the triangular series in South Africa, with West Indies as the third side.

On the other hand, world No. 2 England will look to overcome the disappointment of

losing 1-2 to Sri Lanka at home.

World No. 4 India have a poor record at home in T20Is as well as against England in general and the hosts will hope to come up with something special.

India have only two wins in nine matches against England at home, with their most recent victory coming more than five years ago in March 2018 when they won by eight wickets.

In fact, India's overall record against England is also concerning given they only have seven wins to show from 27 matches.

Additionally, India's last win at home in T20Is came more than two years ago in

March 2021 when they defeated South Africa in Lucknow by nine wickets. Since then, India have lost four and tied one game while playing at home. The series also presents India an opportunity to improve their disappointing overall home record as they only have 19 wins from 50 T20Is at home with 30 losses and one tied game.

Both India and England were the semifinalists of the last T20 World Cup held in South Africa earlier this year.

With the next showpiece event slated for September-October 2024, this series presents an opportunity to fine-tune their preparations for the edition in Bangladesh.

Apni Party pays tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Din

Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 6: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, Manjit Singh on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Din.

As per a press release, the Former Minister accompanied by prominent people and leaders of the Party offered floral tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar on his death anniversary.

In his address, Manjit Singh remembered the remarkable contribution of the architect of Indian Constitution, and his work for the upliftment of the neglected class of society.

He remembered his fight for equality and constitutional guarantee to the marginalized



section of the society for their social, educational, economic and political upliftment.

He said that his struggle has provided an opportunity to the underprivileged people to get equal rights in the society.

However, the Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe people

are still getting discriminated against one way or the other, he said citing underdevelopment in their localities and exploitation of Dalits.

He demanded that the Baba Sahab's teachings were against any kind of discrimination, but the Govt must take strict action

by adopting legal proceedings against the authorities failing to develop the colonies like other colonies in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also remembered that his fight against untouchability and reservation for the marginalized section of society has empowered the people who were unable to pursue their education from the school to the university level.

"The students who had caliber were able to make their mark by acquiring constitutional positions and bringing further positive changes in the lives of the underprivileged classes," he added.

He however advocated that more such steps need to be taken by the authorities to keep the society united and equal as per the wishes of Baba Sahab.

CCTNS Course concludes at PTTI Vijaypur



Top News Report

VIJAYPUR, Dec 6: A three-day Role Based Training Programme on "Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)", concluded on Wednesday at Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur.

19 officers/officials of

J&K Police from various units participated in the training programme.

The objective of this course was to create a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing by adopting evaluation of IT-enabled-state-of-the-art

tracking system around 'Investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

On the occasion, a valedictory function was organized which was graced by Dhushyant Sharma, SSP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur who handed over participation certificates to the trainees.

Among others, Khushwant Singh DySP (Admn) PTTI Vijaypur, Insp. Ram Lal (CLI), Insp. Vikram Choudhary (Guest Lecturer) Insp. (T) Sheebaz Ahmed (Course Coordinator) were present during valedictory function.

University of Jammu starts its innovative 'Waste to Wealth' Initiative



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: Department of Environmental Sciences and Green Campus Task Force (GCTF-JU), University of Jammu under its 'Waste to Wealth' initiative organized a one-day extension programme on upcycling of sticks and twigs lying as waste in the lawns and gardens of the university.

The students and volunteers from the Department were divided into groups and were made to collect the sticks and twigs from the University

campus. They showcased their creativity and talent by forming alphabets out of sticks and twigs under the supervision of Vikas Khajuria, Waste Sculpture Artist.

These alphabets were then used to write the name of the Department on the outside fence of the Department.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head of the department said that since the

University campus has been declared a green campus, all these initiatives at the University level will contribute towards improving environmental sustainability under the Mission LIFE initiative of the government.

"The active participation of the students makes them environmentally conscious as it helps them to understand the importance of conservation, recycling, and upcycling in our daily lives", Dr. Deepika Slathia, the teacher in charge of the event said.

She added that similar concepts using other types of waste materials shall be replicated in other departments of the University.

Among others who participated in the event included Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Meenakshi Khajuria, Dr. Ravinder and Dr. Ranjan Sharma.

Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates conference on Agriculture Development

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 6: Ram Savak, Director Agriculture, Jammu along with Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Sanjeev Rai Gupta Jammu on Wednesday inaugurated two-day Conference on Agriculture Development at Office Complex of Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua.

Speaking on occasion Ram Savak Director Agriculture, Jammu said Department of Agriculture is organizing various such events to mobilize, encourage, motivate the farming community and aspiring young entrepreneurs in the field of Agriculture and allied sector.

He said farming community should take full advantage of technical support from Department of Agriculture and



allied sector to enhance their income thereby uplifting their livelihood.

Raghuandan Singh, Vice Chairman, DDC Kathua requested farmers to avail all the benefits from the department and reap the blooming harvest. He also praised Agriculture department

Kathua for its efforts in development of Agriculture in Kathua district.

Sanjeev Rai Gupta deliberated upon various schemes implemented by the department. He said Mushroom cultivation, Apiculture development shall be taken up as enterprise to enhance

the income.

He also said Holistic agriculture development Program implemented by the LG has helped in availing online benefits of various schemes and components such as farm mechanization, mushroom cultivation, apiculture development, Exotic vegetable cultivation, alternate agriculture development, Niche crops development, rain-fed area development and generating irrigation sources in the agriculture field.

He also stressed upon development of organic farming in the District.

About 150 farmers from Kathua district participated in the conference and availed the benefit from the technical expertise in development of Agriculture sector shared

by Dr. Vishal Mahajan, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Dr. Anamika Jamwal, Sr. Scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua/

Other present on the first day of the conference were Murari Lal, District Agriculture Officers (Ext.) Kathua, Ashok Sarmal, Area Development Officer (Veg) Kathua, Ashwani Sharma, Mushroom Development Officer, Kathua, Anil Kumar Assistant Soil Chemist, STL Kathua, Raj Singh and Rajesh Mankotia, Subject Matter Specialists (District Level) Kathua, Parshotam Gupta, SDAO Kathua, Parmod Kumar, AEO Kathua, Sr. Devinder Singh, AEO and JAEOS, AEAs from the department.

Punjabi Deptt of GDC Kathua organise national seminar on "Relevance of Guru Nanak Bani in Modern Age"

Top News Report

KATHUA, Dec 6: The Department of Punjabi at Government Degree College, Kathua, on Wednesday organized a National Seminar on the theme "The Relevance of Guru Nanak Bani in Modern Age."

The seminar aimed to delve into the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak and its applicability in the contemporary world.

The event featured distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, Retired Special Secretary of J&K Academy of Arts Culture & Language, who delivered an enlightening address on various facets of Gurubani.

Dr. Arvinder emphasized the significance of Guru Nanak's teachings, particularly highlighting the importance of preaching the concept of a common creator for all humanity.

During his insightful presentation, Dr. Arvinder shed light on the key aspects of Gurubani that resonate with the modern age.

He underlined the universal message of oneness, stressing that Guru Nanak's teachings transcend the barriers of time and remain a guiding light for fostering



unity and understanding among people of diverse backgrounds.

The organizing secretary of the seminar, Dr. Kamaldeep Singh, Head of the Department of Punjabi, expressed his gratitude to all participants and highlighted the need for such scholarly discussions to promote cultural and spiritual understanding in today's globalized world.

The seminar witnessed the esteemed presence of Principal Prof. Seema Mir as Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof. Seema Mir stressed on the importance and Relevance of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Teaching in Modern times.

Prof. RK Pandita, Head of the Department of Zoology, presented formal welcome address and commended the efforts of the Department of Punjabi in organizing this intellectually enriching seminar and acknowledged the

importance of fostering an environment where the wisdom of Guru Nanak can be discussed and understood.

Prof Shub Kumar Head Department of Sanskrit presented formal vote of thanks

The event brought together faculty members Prof. Jagdish

Kumar, Head Department of Chemistry, Dr. Shamsheer Singh, Dr. Rachna Devi, Dr. Amrik Singh, Dr. Pinkey, Dr. Charandeep Kour, Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Prof. Kourab Singh, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Dr. J.S Soodan, Prof. Gurpreet Kour and students, and enthusiasts, providing a platform for meaningful dialogue on the timeless relevance of Guru Nanak Bani.

It was a testament to the commitment of the Department of Punjabi at Government Degree College, Kathua, in promoting cultural understanding and spiritual enlightenment.

SMVDU students visit Baglihar Hydropower Project



Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 6: Students from the School of Civil Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) embarked on a visit to the Baglihar Hydropower Project.

The trip aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the various facets of hydropower generation, with a particular focus on the dam's energy dissipation structure.

ture.

The students were immersed in a day-long exploration of the 900MW capacity hydropower project.

The visit commenced with a detailed discussion of the construction and operation peculiarities of the dam, shedding light on the critical elements that contribute to its functionality.

It is pertinent to mention that students gained a profound understanding of the project's significance, not only in terms of energy generation but also in its strategic implications.

Notably, the entire project, excluding the dam, is situated underground, adding a unique dimension to the students' learning experience.

The educational tour extended beyond the boundaries of hydropower, offering students insights into tunneling and soil stabilization techniques.

This comprehensive

exposure broadened the students' knowledge base, equipping them with practical skills that extend beyond traditional classroom learning.

The Baglihar Hydropower Project visit proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for the SMVDU Civil Engineering students, offering them a holistic perspective on hydropower generation, dam construction, and associated underground infrastructure.

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AAP expresses anguish over destroying of Constitution, Constitutional Institutions in country

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 6: The Various AAP Party enthusiasts & Sr. workers held a meeting in its Party office in Puni Chak, Block Marh, District Jammu and expressed great shock and anguish over the growing attacks and destroying of Constitution and Constitutional Institutions in the country which is harmful for the unity and integrity of the country as a result federal structure of the constitution is also in danger.

The meeting was attended by the AAP office bearers from District Poonch and Rajouri besides District Jammu who included



of Ram Singh Chauhan, Nirmal Mahana, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Dr. Rajinder Thapa, S.Mehar Singh, Agya Kour, Amrik Singh Sasan, Adv. Sandeep Sharma, Er. Prithpal Singh, Moulana Mushtaq, Rajesh Pangotra, Karanjeet Atri, Asif Gill, Darshan

Lal, Omprakash Sharma, Hardev Singh Bhat, Mangal Singh, R.K. Lalotra, Robin Singh, Chhote Lal, Sunita Kumari, Tarseem Lal, Bachan Lal and others.

The meeting was organized by Amrik Singh, President ward No.32, Adv. Dalvinder Kumar, Sr. AAP

leader, Adv. Arvind Bandral, President Legal Cell, Adv. Zahid Bhatti, Gen. Secretary Legal Cell and Ramesh Lal Bhagat, Vice President Jammu Rural.

Various speakers deplored that judgments of Apex Court of India with regard to the selection

panel of Election Commission of India as also that of powers to the elected government of Delhi are being openly thwarted by means of brute majority in the Parliament through bills moved in both the houses.

This means, will of the people is being brutally marred and remote control governance is introduced in Delhi which is great disgrace to the people and danger to democracy and democratic system, the AAP leaders said.

The meeting further lays stress for awareness among the masses about the policies and programmes of AAP being implemented in Delhi &

Punjab and that the BJP once called Delhi Model as bunch of REWARIAS, is now itself talking of various policies of freebies like "Kissan Nidhi, Ladli Behna, Rs.450 per LPG cylinder, free Ration @ 5kg per family to 80 crores etc are the open instances as to how the poor people are being befooled and exploited timely for political gains at the time of elections.

They further laid stress to aware the masses about the false promises made to the people in 2014 which never saw the light of the day and that the debt over the nation has swelled to three times high during last nine years.