

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2023

Daily Evening Newspaper



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UN chief Antonio Guterres invokes UN Charter article to appeal for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza



e-paper: www.topnewsjk.in

RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-14 Issue-335 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

BRIEFLY

Driver dies after tractor trolley overturns on him in Ganderbal village

GANDERBAL, Dec 7 (Agencies): A driver died after tractor trolley overturned and fell on him in Bonibagh village of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said. An official said the driver identified as Tawseef Ahmed son of Nisar Ahmad Lone of Bonibagh was injured after tractor trolley overturned on him. He said that soon after the incident Tawseef was immediately taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. After completing medico-legal formalities body was handed over to his family for last rites.

Day 2: Search ops to trace body of Sopore girl in Jhelum resumes

SOPORE, Dec 7 (Agencies): The authorities on Thursday launched search operation to locate the body of a teenage girl who jumped in the River Jhelum at Jamia Bridge in Sopore on Wednesday afternoon. An official said the search operation, which was halted yesterday evening due to low visibility, entered day two today. He said that police along with locals and SDRF are on job to locate the body of the girl. 16-year-old girl had jumped into the river Jhelum at Jamia bridge yesterday.

Freezing Cold intensifies as mercury continues to fall in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): Kashmir valley shivers as mercury continues to fall at most of the stations experiencing the coldest night of the season on Thursday, officials said. The Meteorological Office said Srinagar continued to

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Amit Shah to move Bills on J-K in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): As the Parliament convenes on Day 4 of the ongoing Winter Session on Thursday Union Home Minister Amit Shah will move the two bills the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passage.

The two bills were earlier passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The House saw a marathon debate over two days and passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Amit Shah to move the Bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration. Also to move that the Bill be passed," the Legislative agenda released by the Rajya Sabha read.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 26, 2023. It



amends the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act of 2004.

The Act provides for reservation in jobs and admission in professional institutions to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other socially and educationally backward classes.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The Act amended the Second Schedule of the 1950 Act to specify the total number of seats in the Jammu and Kash-

mir assembly. The proposed Bill increases the total number of assembly seats and reserves seven seats for Scheduled Castes and nine seats for Scheduled Tribes.

Meanwhile, a short-duration discussion on the "Economic Situation in the country will continue on day 4 of the Rajya Sabha.

"Further discussion on the "Economic Situation in the country" raised by Derek O' Brien on 5th December 2023," the legislative agenda read.

Earlier during a short-duration discussion on the 'Eco-

omic situation in the country' in Rajya Sabha, Congress MP and former Union finance minister P Chidambaram on Tuesday said, "If India is growing at the fastest rate in the world, then why is the impact of the growth not felt on the ground? We are a large economy, we are growing at the fastest rate in the world & we have the largest FDI coming in, but why is it not seen on the ground? I specifically want to ask why is it not seen in the inflation and unemployment numbers?"

Taking part in the debate, the BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi weighed in on India's growth rate on the state of the national economy amid the prevailing global challenges in the Rajya Sabha in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament and said that the country's robust GDP numbers reflect the "growth rate of Hindutva".

In a veiled dig at the previous Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre, Trivedi said the Indian economy was striving to go beyond 2 per cent, which was jokingly labelled as the "Hindu rate of growth".

Also, BJP MPs Anil Jain and

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Scheme to hire Agniveers will ensure youthful profile Of Armed Forces: Army Chief



PUNE, Dec 7 (Agencies): Indian Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Thursday called the 'Agnipath' scheme a "path-breaking" manpower intake methodology and asserted that it will ensure the youthful profile of the armed forces.

Under the Agnipath scheme, which was introduced in 2022, soldiers are enrolled as Agniveers by the armed

forces for four years. They can then go back to society and take up jobs in other sectors to pursue a career of their choice.

"In the human resource management domain, the introduction of the Agniveer (Agnipath) scheme has been a path-breaking manpower intake and management methodology. This will ensure the youthful profile and bring more

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DM, SSP Kulgam urge netizens to report misuse of social media

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): District Magistrate Kulgam has urged the netizens to refrain from all sorts of misuse of social media platforms.

In this regard, FAQs for general public have been issued to make them aware in sensitive situation and educate them on reporting misuse of social media u/s 144 CrPC.

1. What happens if I receive a message propagating terrorism or secessionism or threat or intimidation or communally sensitive material on my mobile/



computer (SM Platform, both open & closed) from known/unknown people?

Ans: It should be reported at an earliest, to the nearest P/S (Police Station) or P/P (Police Post) with a screenshot, mentioning

all the details.

2. What happens when I accidentally/involuntarily forward or share a message/post propagating terrorism or secessionism or threat or intimidation or communally sensitive material, from my mobile/computer,

to other numbers (contacts) or Groups?

Ans: Firstly, the messages are recalled back (like DELETE FOR ALL on WhatsApp) ASAP. If the time has elapsed, then a clarification, to each contact /group, to which it was shared, should be issued/sent, clarifying the stance and then screenshots to be saved separately.

Secondly, as a precautionary measure, it should be reported to the nearest P/S or P/P.

3. What happens when I receive a message or post, propagating

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Police inspector injured in Oct 29 terrorist attack in Srinagar succumbs

SRINAGAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): A Jammu and Kashmir Police inspector who was shot and critically injured in a terrorist attack in Srinagar in October this year passed away at AIIMS in New Delhi on Thursday, sources said. Masroor Ahmad Wani was moved to AIIMS yesterday for specialized treatment.

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NIA attaches 3 residential houses in separate places in South Kashmir

PULWAMA, Dec 7 (Agencies): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday attached three residential properties in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama and Kulgam districts as part of a probe into a terror-related case, officials said here.

The NIA sleuths installed boards and pasted notices of attachment of the two properties at Chursoo in Awanitpora area of the district, they said.

"This is to inform general public that a double storey one residential

house and one-single storey residential house under survey Nos 722,723 & 724 at village Chursoo, Awanitpora, District Pulwama which are owned jointly by Khursheed Ahmed Bhat @ Khursheed Alam Bhat @ Surya S/o Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/O Bhatpora, Chursoo, Awanitpora District Pulwama and his five brothers stands attached under the provisions of UA(P) A by the order of Hon'ble NIA Special Court," the attachment notice read.

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Revanth Reddy sworn in as Telangana CM

HYDERABAD, Dec 7 (Agencies): Congress legislature party leader Anumula Revanth Reddy took oath as the second Chief Minister of Telangana on Thursday following the party's victory in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

The swearing-in ceremony of the 56-year-old



leader was held at the sprawling LB Stadium here.

Earlier, state Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari and DGP Ravi

Gupta held a meeting with senior officials to review the arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony and also visited the venue on Wednesday. About one lakh people attended the event.

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar attended the ceremony.

India-Born media Veteran Dr Samir Shah selected as new BBC Chairman



LONDON, Dec 7 (Agencies): An India-born media executive who has worked in UK broadcasting for over 40 years, Dr Samir Shah, has been announced as the UK government's preferred candidate to

take over as the new BBC chairman.

The 71-year-old, who was honoured with a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 for services to television and heritage, will replace Richard Sharp, who had

been forced to resign after his communication with former prime minister Boris Johnson came under scrutiny.

Shah will now be quizzed by cross-party MPs of the House of

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9419143503

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

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

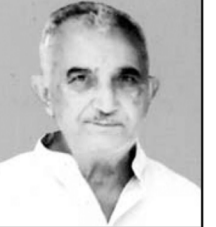
10TH DAY KRIYA

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 Bantalaab 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, Shanka 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 (Batugand 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 Phoolaa Pandita W/o Late A N Pandita - **Sister and Brother-in-law**
Grand Children : Saavni, Saphal, Bhavik
Mob No.: 7889477519, 7006942522



Sh. Hari Krishan Nazar (Retd SSP JKP)

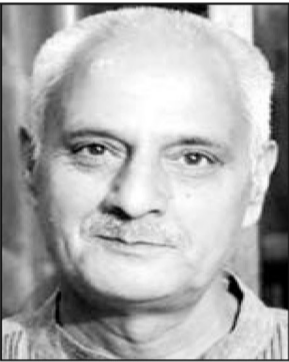
TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

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, Batar 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**
Prekhsha 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 Kriree, Ultrasoo, 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

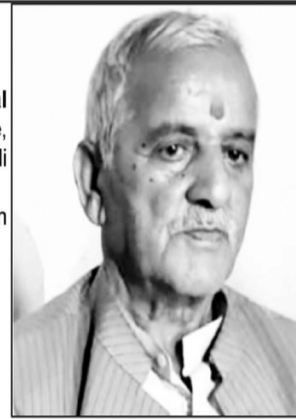
GRIEF STRICKEN

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 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/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

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



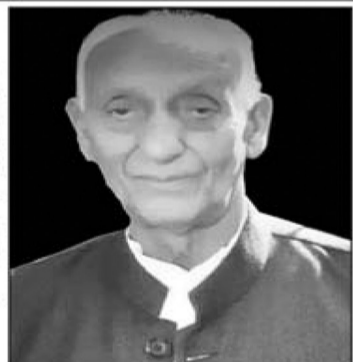
SH. RATTAN LAL VERMA

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad and untimely demise of **SH. SHIV JI PANDITA** S/o Lt. Gopal Pandita originally resident of Arigam (Budgam) presently at H.No. 353, Sector 3, Gangyal Garden Jammu on 4th December 2023 (Monday). **TENTH DAY** will be performed on 13.12.2023.

Grief Stricken:

Brother & Bhabhi
Smt. Chuni & Sh. Brij Nath Pandita
Son & Daughter-in-law
Smt Asha & Sh. P. L. Pandita
Smt. Geeta & Sh. Ramesh Pandita
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt Sarla & Sh. Ram Ji Koul
Smt. Guddi & Sh. Avtar Krishan Pandita
Smt. Sushma & Sh. Ramesh Pandita
Mob.No. 9149482517, 7006499497, 6005428465



KARAMYOGI
SH. SHIV JI PANDITA

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

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

OBITUARY/ TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Uma Shorie Raina** W/o Late Omkar Nath Raina originally resident of Abalwona Herman Shopian, at present House no.227, Sec 2, Upper Roopnagar, JDA Colony, Jammu.

THE TENTH DAY KRIYA will be held on 15-12-2023 Friday at Muthi Ghat near DSE at 9 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Ram Krishan Raina (Son)
Smt. Baby Raina & Rattan Raina (Daughter in law & Son)
Grand Daughters & Son in laws
Smt. Sony Raina & Sh. Sanju Verma
Smt. Meenu Raina & Sh. Sushil Khatri
Smt. Neha Raina & Sh. Pankaj Saproo
Smt. Ronica Raina & Sh. Binny Dass
Smt. Relica Raina & Sh. Ranjan Dubey
Miss Tanishqa (Great Grand Daughter)
Contact no: 7006836499, 990603710, 9149806648



Smt. Uma Shorie Raina

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Sheela Devi** W/o Late Sh. Mool Raj Gupta (Mandrian Wale) on 5th December 2023.

Uthala will be performed on 8th December (Friday) at Kameshwar Mandir Akhnoor from 3 PM to 4 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughters in law and Sons
Smt Sushma Gupta & Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta
Smt Swarn Kamta & Late Sh. Mohinder Kumar
Smt Anita Kumari & Sh. Virinder Kumar
Smt Sunita Kumari & Sh. Raj Kumar Gupta
Daughter and Son-in-law
Smt Chandar Prabha & Late Sh. Tilak Raj Gupta
Grand Children
Er. Prema Mahajan, Dr. Neha Mahajan, Apurav Mahajan, Shilpa Mahajan, Shreya Mahajan, Falak Mahajan, Er. Pankhuri Mahajan, Shrey Mahajan
Mobile: 9697510040, 729840084, 9596861474



Smt Sheela Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

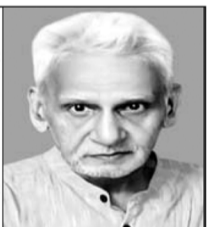
With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform that our beloved **Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta** (S/o Late Sh. Chuni Lal Gupta & Smt. Soma Devi of Akhnoor) presently residing at 27 E-Ext. Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo passed away on 30/11/2023.

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence (27 E-Ext. Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo) on 9/12/2023 from 11 am to 1 pm. **KRIYA** will be performed at our residence on 12/12/2023 from 11 am onwards.

UTHALA will be performed at our residence on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 12 noon.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Raj Karni (Wife)
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Sonika Mahajan & Manohar Gupta
Monika & Brij Mohan Suri
Dr. Sonalika & Dr. Gaurav Sharma
Brothers & Sisters-in-Law
Dr. Anun Jandial & Prem Gupta
Sanjay Gupta & Richa Gupta
Nephews & Nieces
Pranav Jandial, Ritwik Gupta,
Pragya Mahajan, Falguni Gupta
Grandchildren:
Anurudh, Anurag, Ankit, Aiyaa, Atharva
Mob.No: 9419101495, 9419211816



Sh. Surinder Kumar Gupta (1946-2023)

BARKHI

Barkhi of our beloved Lt Sh. Surjeet Singh Sambyal (Retd Headmaster, a social activist & Gen Sec of Rajput Sabha Samba) S/o Lt Smt & Sh. Darbar Singh Sambyal will be performed on 8 Dec 2023 (Friday) at 11 am at our residence Kehli Mandi Samba.

Grief Stricken :
Smt Raj Sambyal (Wife)
Smt Chanchal & Sh. Gurnandan Singh (Rt Sr. Lect.)
Mrs Anjali & Mr. Prithvi Singh (Daughter in law & Son)
(Daughters & Sons-in-law)
Mrs Anjali & Mr. Raj Singh
Mrs Geetanjali & Mr. Ravinder Singh
Mrs Jyotsana & Mr. Rajinder Singh
Mrs Neemisha & Mr. Jitender Singh
Mrs Ameena & Mr. Randhir Singh
Grand Children : Pranav, Pranshu, Garima, Chaitanya, Prachi, Adhiraj, Pratiba, Aashriya, Bhawani, Koushalendra



Lt Sh Surjeet Singh Sambyal

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SOS Int'l opposes reservation of single seat for PoJK DPs in J&K Assembly, threatens to launch agitation

Reservation of one seat a big humiliation, cruel joke with 17 lakh people of PoJK community: Chuni

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: SOS International—an organization for PoJK Displaced Persons on Thursday strongly opposed to the decision of the Union Government to reserve a seat for the displaced PoJK people, saying it has “humiliated” and “insulted” the entire community having a population of 17 lakh people.

On behalf of the entire community, the organization while making a fervent appeal to the Centre to reconsider its three major demands including reservation of eight seats in J&K legislative assembly and grant of ST status to all the people of PoJK community cautioned that it would be compelled to launch a vigorous movement before Lok Sabha polls in case its demands are not met.

On Wednesday, the Lok Sabha passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrant community including a woman and one representing the displaced persons from PoJK to the UT Legislative Assembly.

“The Lok Sabha passed the J&K Reorganization (Amendment) Bill and the PoJK DPs, who had been demanding eight seats in J&K legislative assembly since decades and strongly recommended by various Commissions and Committees over the years, have been given just one seat which is a cruel joke, a big humiliation and insult to them. The decision has rubbed salt into the wounds of PoJK people,” the SOS International Chairman Rajiv Chuni in the presence of Prof. N. N. Sharma, V. K. Datta, Amarjeet Singh, Ved Raj Bali, Bhai Ram Singh, Jorawar Singh, Daleep Chib, Jagjit Singh, Daleep Kumar, Dalbir Singh Raina, Ajit Sharma, Dharamvir Gupta, Satinder



Dev Gupta at the office of S. O. S. International in Bakshi Nagar Jammu told reporters here.

Chuni said the recommendations of different Commissions and Committees constituted by the Government of India over the years were a strong evidence for the present dispensation at the Centre wherein they (government panels) recommended eight seats for the displaced PoJK people in J&K assembly on the basis of their population in the Union Territory and outside J&K.

“In 1957, a total of 25 seats were reserved for the displaced PoJK community. One of the seats was taken away from us while the remaining 24 seats are still reserved. The Wadhwa Committee as well as Interlocutors report while considering the genuine and legitimate demand of PoJK DPs for reserving eight seats for them in J&K assembly. The K C Pant-led Interlocutor panel and later a panel composed of M M Ansari and Radha Kumar as Interlocutors also made similar recommendations. Thereafter, the European delegation while assessing the plights and sufferings of PoJK people in the camps also favoured reservation of seats for us,” Mr Chuni said.

The senior PoJK refugee

leader said, “A parliamentary standing committee headed by former vice president of India Sh. Venkaiah Naidu, in its report submitted in December 2014, also recommended allotting eight out of the 24 seats reserved for PoJK community to the displaced people from PoJK living in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure their political empowerment even if it requires amendment in J&K Constitution. Recently, the Delimitation Commission has also advocated for an adequate number of seats for PoJK refugees for their political empowerment.”

Chuni expressed dismay that the PoJK community was denied their legitimate rights in the Parliament despite that a number of recommendations were made in their favour. “What is quite surprising is that no commission or committee other than Delimitation Commission recommended two seats for Kashmiri migrant community and they (Kashmiri migrants) have been given two seats while only one seat reserved for PoJK community against the recommendations of eight seats. This is grave injustice and humiliation of the entire community having 12 lakh people living in J&K and five lakh displaced people outside the UT,” Chuni regretted.

Taking a swipe at the BJP-led government at the Centre, the S. O. S. International Chairman said, “the people displaced from Kashmir has a total population of 1.57 lakh (as per the statement of Union Home Minister in the Parliament) and they have been allotted two seats while the PoJK community of 17 lakh people have been meted out to grave injustice and humiliation when only one seat has been reserved for them. What is more unfortunate is that this seat is to be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor as per his choice. The PoJK people will be deprived of electing their own representative in the J & K Assembly.”

The senior PoJK refugee leader demanded that the Government of India should religiously and in principle fulfill the package announced for PoJK refugees before the formation of the BJP-led government at the Centre in 2014. “The package announced for PoJK DPs included Rs 25 lakh compensation for each PoJK community family, reservation in professional and technical colleges of the country for our youths and a provision of creation of 8500 jobs for the youths belonging to PoJK community. The BJP leadership in Jammu and Kashmir has never

bothered to utter a single word about this package,” Mr Chuni said.

He also voiced his concern over the denial of Scheduled Tribune (ST) status to the PoJK DPs staying in Jammu, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur & Kathua districts. “Our people (PoJK) DPs living in Rajouri and Poonch districts have been given ST status under Pahari quota but the same is being denied in Jammu district and other parts of the country. How can the government justify this disparity if a section of the community gets some benefits and others are deprived of it? An attempt has been made to create a wedge within the community,” he said.

Termining the disparity as a “cruel joke”, the refugee leader held the Union Minister in PMO and local MP from Udhampur Dr Jitendra Singh, BJP state president Ravinder Raina and BJP general secretary (organization) J&K Ashok Koul responsible for the miseries being faced by the people of PoJK community.

“We don’t blame the Central government for failing to address our genuine aspirations. The trio (Dr Jitendra Singh, Ravinder Raina and Ashok Koul) have never bothered to give a sincere and holistic feedback to the Centre. They have always favoured the rights of the Kashmiri migrant community but overlooked the PoJK refugees who have been deprived of and overlooked by successive regimes for decades,” he said.

The leader said the entire community was angry and hurt with this decision and made an appeal to the Centre to reconsider three major demands of the community including reservation of eight seats in J&K assembly, fulfillment of all components of the package announced for PoJK refugees and ST status to the entire PoJK community without any disparity.

J&K Youth Cricket Club partners with Business Buzz for Exciting Cricket Tournament

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Youth Cricket Club in collaboration with Business Buzz to host an exhilarating cricket tournament at MA Stadium Jammu, commencing from the December 10, 2023.

“This cricket extravaganza is set to bring together the region’s most promising young talents, providing them with a platform to showcase their skills and compete at a high level,” Club members said in a press conference here on Thursday.

They added that the tournament is a testament to the commitment of both organizations to foster cricketing excellence and promote sportsmanship among the youth in Jammu



and Kashmir. “With the future cricket stars as they display their prowess on the field, competing in a series of thrilling matches, they said.

The event aims to foster a sense of community spirit, bringing together cricket enthusiasts, families, and supporters to cheer for their favorite teams, they said adding that teams will

be vying for coveted prizes, recognizing outstanding performance, team spirit, and sportsmanship.

“The Jammu and Kashmir Youth Cricket Club is dedicated to nurturing young cricketing talent, providing them with opportunities to excel in the sport and contributing to the overall development of cricket in the region,” Club members asserted.

De-freeze 8 Legislative Assembly seats for Displaced Persons in J&K: Apni Party

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Apni Party has demanded de-freezing of 8 Legislative Assembly seats out of 24 freeze seats in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) - Displaced Persons.

In a joint statement to the press, Provincial President Jammu, Women Wing, Pavneet Kour and Provincial President Youth Wing, Jammu, Vipul Bali expressed grave concern over the negligence of the PoJK people who have been deprived of their representation in the Legislative Assembly.

“For decades, our population suffered after they were uprooted in 1947, 1965 and 1971 from their ancestral houses and agricultural fields. These Displaced Persons (PoJKs) were settled in the border belt of Jammu region on the Line of Control and International Border,” they said.

They said that “The DPs were not given representation by reserving their seats in the Legislative Assembly. At the time, when the country has acknowledged different tribes and provided them reservation under the Indian Constitution, it becomes important to accept the political ignorance of the

DPs and accordingly, 8 Legislative Assembly seats should be reserved for DPs in their respective constituencies across the Jammu region.”

“The nomination of one DP as legislator in the legislative assembly of J&K is not acceptable for the entire DP community. Therefore, the Govt must reconsider its decision, and grant political reservation on 8 Assembly seats in Jammu region,” they added.

They said that the DPs have faced ignorance for decades and their issues could not be resolved by the traditional political parties even after assurances and re-assurances.

“The DPs used a vote bank, but they were not granted political reservation so that they could address their own problems. The DPs are socially, economically, and politically backward even after having a vast population in the region,” they stated.

They said that the unemployment among young DPs has increased, and they are facing problems economically because of less scope of employment.

“The DPs should be provided reservation in jobs, and on the spot recruitment for the DP youths in the border belt,” they added.

SKJEVS Trust to celebrate its 11th Foundation Day on Dec 9



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The Shri Kailash Jyotish Evam Vedic Sanathan (SKJEVS) Trust is set to celebrate its 11th Foundation Day on Saturday, December 9 at 10:30 AM at the Convention Center, Canal Road, Jammu.

This was stated by President Mahant Rohit Shastri in the press conference, here on Thursday.

He said that the program

will be presided over by Govardhan Puri Peethadheeshwar Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Adhokshajananand Devteerth Ji.

The Chief Guest for the occasion will be Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, he said adding that additionally, Prof Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of

Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKAUST-J), Jammu, and Sham Lal Sharma, former Minister, Jammu and Kashmir Government, will be Guest of Honour and Special Guests, respectively.

The event is expected to be a grand celebration with participants from various states, featuring cultural programs and the felicitation of eminent personalities, he said.

The press conference was also attended by Trustees of the Trust, including R.K. Chhibber, K.K. Sharma, Ankush Sharma, Prof Sharat Chand Sharma, Ajay Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Jagdev Singh, Pramod Sharma, Naresh Raina, Vaneet, and others.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 194 of 2023-24 Dated: 04.12.2023
Due : 11.12.2023

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	AAA/TS	Ernest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	REPAIR/SERVICING OF AIR CONDITIONING (Hot & Cold) UNITS OF AUDITORIUM HALL AT GOVT. HOSPITAL, JAMMU	Principal GMC & Associate Hospital Jammu	1.25 LACS	ACCORDED	Rs 2500.00 in the shape of CDR/FDR/TO R valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 009701010002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	OEM/Authorized /Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure 'C' Electromechanical nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.jktenders.gov.in.

DIP/J-12198/23 Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-III, JPDC REHARI JAMMU
CIN No: U40300JK2013SGC003898, E-mail: edthreedistribution@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-Nit No: ED-III Jammu/64 of 2023-24 dated 04.12.2023

INVITATION:-

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division-III, JPDC Jammu, hereinafter referred to as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered Electrical Contractors having a valid license and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document for "Creation of 1x63 KVA Sub Station at Guraha Singhu including laying of required 11 KV Tap lines and LT network for dispersal of power, under Deposit contribution work of Jal Shakti (PHE) Div. Akhnour for JIM scheme, falling under the jurisdiction of Electric Sub Division Janipur on Turnkey basis.

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. Bidders are requested to visit the sites of work before participating in bidding process, so that they have clarity regarding topography of area of work.

- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	05-12-2023; 10.00 AM
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	26-12-2023; 3.00 PM.
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	05-12-2023; 10.30 AM.
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	26-12-2023; 4.00 PM.
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	27-12-2023 up to 4.30 PM.
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	28.12.2023; 2.00 PM.
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Executive Engineer Electric Division-III, JPDC Rehari, Jammu
I	Tender Value	05.57Lakh (Rs. 557005.00)
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500 (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 11000/-
L	Technical Sanction	Under Process
M	Accord of Administrative Approval	Accorded
N	Position of funds	Available

- The Bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan, treasury Challan/receipt, in favour of Executive Engineer, Electric Division-III, Jammu (Cost of Tender to be credited to Head: 0801) or Demand Draft from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original demand draft or e-Challan, treasury Challan/receipt shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft/ e-Challan treasury Challan/receipt must be uploaded along with the e-Bids & other asked documents. Bidders are requested to upload asked/required documents only. Pl. don't upload unasked documents.
- Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDC.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari Jammu. No Interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
 - Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be demanded from the successful bidder(s) after the opening of the financial e-Bids.
 - The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened electronically online on the same Web Site.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
- The JPDC reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of the JPDC will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDC office, then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the notified time and venue.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. Hard Copy of Cost of Tender Document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-III JPDC Rehari, Jammu in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical e-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as "Cost of Tender Document for e-NIT No. & date.

No: ED-III/TS/2943-46 DIP/J-4346-P/23
Dated: 04.12.2023 Executive Engineer,
Electric Division-III,
Jammu

EDITORIAL

MODERN
CULTURE

Modern culture is a coordinated form of ancient Hindu and Muslim cultures and Western culture.

Thinking about life by creating an aesthetic viewpoint and adopting it is modern culture. Growth of ego of 'self' and desire for personal happiness are the symptoms of modern culture. The aim of modern culture is to disrespect nature and the laws and regulations of the state.

Eternality and Continuity – Indian culture, which has flowed continuously since ancient times, has retained its original form by adopting the useful elements of the opposing cultures. Ridicule of one's ancient way of thinking, hatred of one's cultural environment, development of aggressive attitudes towards one's traditions are the results of brainwashing.

From sanctity to business – In the words of Shri Jaydat Pant, 'Our pilgrimage sites have now lost the meaning of sanctity and are being called centers of attraction for tourism business. Our statues, symbols of the flourishing of civilization and art, became victims of smuggling, in front of which thousands of people of our previous generation used to burn incense and bow their heads, they became the adornment of the gardens of millionaires in foreign countries and their private museums.

A price was put on our gods and goddesses and we sold them in the dark of night.

Artificiality- Beauty and love, the foundation of modern culture, made beauty visible in every sphere of life. In modern culture, the cursed man looks as green as a donkey in the monsoon season. Seeing this, the soul of poet Mahakavi Prasad screamed, 'Is it the naked statue of a woman that was distributed among men?'

Personal- Modern culture gives importance to ego and personal life. Therefore, ego has the upper hand everywhere. Students are bent on rebellion, employees are on strike and the ego-driven government is spreading terror. On the other hand, in personal life, family unity is being destroyed. The daughter-in-law feels bad about the family because her ego gets hurt in the compromise spirit of the collective family.

Development of accumulation tendency – The accumulation tendency of money and property is a part of modern culture, which hates the sacrifice of Indian culture. With the help of legal experts, do a post-mortem of the law and get the decision overturned in your favor.

Deep impact on Indian life- The impact of modern culture on Indian life values cannot be denied. Today we celebrate children's birthdays by extinguishing the candles, want to complete the most important part of marriage rituals, the puja, as soon as possible, make fun of Sapta Nadi and vows, the wedding crown has been replaced by a cap. Who observes the thirteen days of the deceased as per the classical rituals?

INDI Alliance's & psephologist's nightmare as BJP wins three states

By: YV Sharma

(Spokesperson J&K BJP)

Lo & behold, BJP has won elections in three important states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh to which elections were held recently. Even in Telangana it has done fairly well though will have to make a massive effort in taking its message of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas & Sabka Vishwas" to the people of the state.

To a discerning ear the people of Telangana too have begun to feel that there is life beyond the "hereditary parties" & the key to progress & prosperity lies in the civilisational & infrastructure development of the country. The path to progress is in staying connected to one's roots & taking pride in one's civilisation while taking strides & making best of the opportunities provided by the present political, social & economic environment provided by Sh. Narendra Modi government in the ever changing, ever improving scientific, industrial & engineering fields.

This victory has come to BJP in spite of the self-styled psephologists, political Pundits & print/electronic media who were declaring a doom for the BJP. Obviously, they were not able to gauge the mood of the people of the states where elections were held. They did not realise that their old templates & tools of psephology were no longer valid.

The reason for failure of the old templates & tools are manifold. It has something to do with the old order that is failing to see the titanic shift in the faith, belief systems & aspirations of the modern-day Indian society.

The Indians have steadily started to understand that the old templates from the day of independence, in fact much before, made the Indians believe that they belonged to a regressive civilisation & for the new nation to take a respectable place in the comity of nations they had to look for new culture & adopt new alien attributes. The political leaders pushed India into socialist system of economy thereby fettering the growth of the newly independent state. Consequently, when the GDP of the nation continued to stay below 2% for decades following independence, they conveniently called it Hindu rate of growth! This was one of the first deliberate slurs flung on a civilisation that had traded successfully & excelled in businesses with nations beyond its civilisational & cultural boundaries since times immemorial.

The leadership of the time forced secularism on a society that was liberal in its thought, behaviour & was tolerant towards new ideas. It heartily welcomed people from all across the globe. Many of the foreigners who came here settled down permanently. The resistance from the original inhabitants

came only after the outsiders started trampling on their feet & tried to show them down by exhibiting their superiority. Later attacks on India & its culture & civilisation over the years were downplayed & portrayed as if they led to some kind of "enlightenment" in Bharat.

After independence & traumatic experiences of partition of the Indian sub-continent the Bhartis were systematically pushed into a feeling of guilt as if the partition & its aftermath was their fault. The "two nation theory" was conveniently thrust on Veer Savarkar, a great patriot & nationalist, while whitewashing the role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who was its original propounder.

Fast forward to recent times. Secularism became a tool to malign Hindus who were & are naturally secular because of their civilisational belief in it. They were compelled to take recourse to legal route for building a Ram Temple at Ayodhya in spite of historical evidence & Indic civilisational faith that Shri Ram was born here & that the original temple was demolished on Babur's express orders. Shri Guru Nanak Dev jivisited this temple in 1510/11. During the court hearings, the nation became witness to the so-called liberals, secularists & the leftists challenging the existence of Shri Ram & foul mouthing him. This was a direct attack on the essence of the Indian civilisation, culture & tradition.

Secularism led Dr. Manmohan Singh to declare in 2006 that minorities must have first claim on the resources of the country.

And recently there was a full-fledged conference in Tamilnadu titled "Time to Eradicate Sanatan Dharma." The speakers in the conference & thereafter compared Sanatan Dharma to dengue, malaria & AIDS. They used all kinds of obnoxious words against Sanatan Dharma unashamedly without any condemnation from the INDI Alliance partners.

That is not all, the leftists & "seculars" are demanding a caste census so that they can divide Sanatan Dharma on caste lines & reap political benefits of a divided nation while every effort is made to consolidate other community from Guwahati to Gaza!

Added to this are foreign jaunts of Rahul Gandhi where he meets the "agents" of George Sores, the American billionaire, who has openly declared earmarking of funds for defeating Modi in 2024 elections. Rahul Gandhi has no hesitation in taunting, belittling & showing down the efforts of the Indian government led by Narendra Modi to put India on a road that will transform Bharat into a developed country by 2047 – the centenary year of the Indian republic.

That is not all. When Narendra Modi government stands up to the attempted aggression by the Chinese forces an INDI Alliance partner choose to invite them to "settle the

Kashmir problem" & the INDI Alliance "leader" meets the Chinese ambassador in a hush-hush manner.

And then they believe that India is not watching them!

Unmindful of the tactics of the "opposition parties" the government led by Narendra Modi is continuously in the process of transforming the face of India. The air, road & rail infrastructure, power infrastructure, water ways, provision of piped water to households & provision of houses to the poor & down-trodden in the centre of his scheme of things. They are not schemes & projects on paper alone, as used to be the case under earlier governments, but the scale & speed at which the projects are executed & commissioned is a new high for project execution in Bharat. It was a delight to travel over Ambala – Narnaul & Kundli – Manesar – Palwal (KMP) expressway recently. These expressways are amongst the best in the world with complete access control. These two are a few amongst the hundreds that have come up all across the country.

J&K is also reaping the benefits of an indulgent government at the centre. The Indian Institute of Technology & Indian Institute of Management near Nagrota have completely transformed the landscape & educational environment of the area. Jambu Zoo is another tourist attraction that has come up in this area though it is yet to be fully populated with animals. AIIMS is likely to be made functional very soon.

The Jammu – Srinagar National Highway & the tunnels over it are just mesmerising, though work is still in progress in some sections of the road. The Delhi – Amritsar – Katra express way, ring roads in Jammu & Srinagar & several other such road connectivity projects are going on at a very fast pace. The road from Banihal to Srinagar is a traveller's delight. So is the road from Srinagar airport to the city. Embankments of Jhelum River, Polo View, iconic Lal Chowk & several other projects have completely transformed the face of Srinagar.

By the beginning of 2024 the Delhi – Srinagar rail link is also likely to be commissioned that will add a new dimension to the tourism & travel industry.

If you travel from Kishtwar to Padder you will come across three hydroelectric projects the work on which is in progress. Once commissioned they will together add 3000 MW to the installed capacity of power generation in J&K which will be equivalent to the generation capacity developed in last 75 years. This is Modi magic.

The Ayushman Bharat card available to each & every resident of J&K has made the treatment of the sick much easier & affordable for the common man. The free rations provided to the poor of the country during covid pandemic & later extended for some more time has made it possible that no

Indian stays hungry.

But then neither Kashmir based political parties nor the INDI Alliance (or what remains of it) can see it. They can't see that offices, schools, colleges, businesses & other establishments in Kashmir are working 365 days in a year. The calendars declaring bandhs & strike call have become things of the past. There is no stone pelting & common people are generally attending to their errands gainfully & happily. During the CMship of the Kashmir politicians around 250 youth died in stone pelting. Incidents of terrorism are still there, but the Kashmiri political leaders need to be asked as to what their contribution is in minimising them. Do they speak against this ideology? No!

Even now they side with the anti-national elements who work overtime against national interest or raise slogans against India.

The unprecedented tourist flow to Kashmir is also not visible to them. They also forget that it was because of machination of the Kashmir based political parties that President's/Governor's rule had to be applied nine times in J&K since 1947 in which Jammu political parties or individuals had no role. Thus, democracy was always derailed in J&K because of the Kashmiri political leadership. They also forget that as soon as situation improved in J&K during President/Governor rule & they came to power through democratic elections the situation in the erstwhile J&K state would always deteriorate because of their mis-governance, nepotism & pandering to the extremist elements. Yes, we should have elections in the UT of J&K & BJP wants them as much as any other political party & BJP will fight elections to win them. However, with what face are the Kashmir based political parties looking for elections. As per their record, whenever voted to power, they are adept at encouraging lawlessness, terrorism & finally President/Governor rule back again.

The divisive politics of Kashmiri politicians resulted in the Amarnath agitation in 2008 in Jammu region that increased the gulf between the two regions of the erstwhile state. The shrillness of Mehbooba Mufti, when she was a coalition partner of BJP, during the unfortunate Rasana case & her abuse of Jammu people led to widen the chasm between the two regions. BJP was compelled to withdraw support to the Mehbooba government as it was felt that her political interests lay elsewhere.

Thus, while the political dispensation represented by INDI Alliance is busy in maligning the central & state BJP governments, Narendra Modi is busy making India ready for the centenary celebrations of the country in 2047 with a dream to make India a developed country. No wonder INDI Alliance & their cohorts in media & their psephologists misread the mood of the people in the states that went to elections recently.

How to improve employability while studying abroad

By: Vijay GarG

In today's increasingly globalized world, companies focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I). As per a McKinsey report, more diverse companies are likely to outpace their less diverse peers in profitability. This highlights the burgeoning demand for graduates who can seamlessly adapt and thrive in a dynamic corporate ecosystem.

Studying abroad is known to enhance multiple 21st-century job skills. From boosting intrapersonal & interpersonal skills to developing critical thinking and adaptability, students feel equipped to forge global careers. This observation is also backed by the Institute of International Education's (IIE) study titled Gaining an Employment Edge: The Impact of Study Abroad on 21st Century Skills & Career Prospects.

As an international student, it is crucial to work towards improving your employability throughout your academic journey. According to the QS Global International Student Survey 2022, Indian students (62%) worry about getting a job abroad upon completing their graduation. To navigate this challenge, it's important to learn some of the best career cushioning strategies.

Enhance Employability While Studying Abroad

How Indian banks gave away an opportunity called UPI, and its control, to PhonePe, and Google Pay How Indian banks gave away an opportunity called UPI, and its control, to PhonePe, and Google Pay Business of biryani: how

Biryani By Kilo is winning Indian palates with consistency and automation Varun Beverages outshines HUL, returns 100% in one year. Can it sustain the momentum ahead? Why top Bharat Pe executives are leaving the fintech unicorn to start their own ventures Are you buying high and selling low? Blame it on the behavioural gap Top Nifty 50 stocks analysts suggest buying this week

Internships/Co-Op Programs

Internships and co-ops (cooperative education) provide students the opportunity to gain work experience and exhibit formally acquired skills in a business setting.

Opting for internships or co-ops will help you transform into a versatile professional and learn the best practices to juggle multiple tasks. As per the National Survey of College Internships (NSCI) 2023 Report, employers comprehend the value of internship and co-op programs as effective channels to both identify and connect with potential future employees.

Leverage University's Career Resources

From helping to draft an impressive resume and sharing interview tips to networking & shadowing opportunities and special access to job search portals, university career resources can act as a benison for you. That's not all; international universities have strong industrial connections. And fairs or events organized by these career centers throughout the academic year can help you connect with the industry bellwethers.

Meaningful Networking

Around 80% of jobs are not

posted online (known as hidden jobs market). Individuals who are able to secure a job offer in this hidden market are the ones who have solidified their professional network.

As per the QS Global International Student Survey 2022, students studying abroad (64%) highlighted networking as one of the most valuable aspects of their experience. Networking can be done by attending international conferences and seminars relevant to your study area. You will not only learn new things but will get access to influential personalities in the industry. A good online profile on sites like LinkedIn can also help you draw in the best jobs. Indubitably, networking online and offline can lead to internships, job opportunities, and valuable insights into the job market.

You can also inquire with your academic department and relevant clubs & societies to see if anyone can help you with your career.

In addition, contacting university alumni can also help you find significant opportunities.

4. Develop Transferable Skills

According to the Future of Jobs Report 2023, analytical thinking, creative thinking, resilience, flexibility, agility, motivation, and empathy would be among the top sought-after skills in the job market.

As the economy continues to migrate towards having social and service skills, acquiring soft skills will be indispensable to one's professional success.

These skills can be developed by Indian students while studying abroad. This further reinforces

that aspirants with successful study abroad experience have a high chance of flourishing in a diverse corporate setting. They gain insights into and are exposed to a slew of linguistic, cultural, and nationalistic diversities.

5. Craft Compelling CV & Portfolio

Determining the type of work you want to do and how it connects to the course(s) or career(s) you want to pursue is essential. Your CV or portfolio can make or break your chances of landing an interview.

Do not miss out on creating your CV in sync with the country's acceptable format. Along with this, the most fundamental element would be updating your CV with pertinent projects completed during the training.

6. Cross-Cultural Competence

Employers highly value candidates who can navigate diverse cultural contexts. A study by the British Council and Ipsos Public Affairs (the Social Research and Corporate Reputation Specialists) found that employers believe that international experience is a valuable asset in candidates, highlighting the importance of cross-cultural competence. Moreover, knowledge of a foreign language can offer you an edge. These competencies show prospective employers your cultural awareness.

(Vijay GarG Retired
Principal Educational
columnist Malout)

Mohinder Parihar asks Apni Party cadre in Chenab Valley to gear-up political activities

Top News Report

KISHTWAR/DODA, Dec 7: Apni Party State Secretary Mohinder Singh Parihar today directed Party cadre in Chenab Valley to gear-up political activities.

A review meeting was chaired by Party's State Secretary, Mohinder Singh Parihar in presence of District President Kishtwar, Mashood Mattoo, Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani, Raman Shan and District President Youth Wing Basharat Hussain also present with other leaders.

The meeting was organized by Apni Party Doda District President, Saleem Magray at Bhalla in Doda.

In the meeting, Mohinder Singh Parihar directed both the District President as well as youth District President to gear-up the political activities in Kishtwar and Doda Districts.

He asked the Party cadre to increase their membership drive as well as the public outreach program to edu-



cate about the policy and agenda of Apni Party.

He said that the people in Kishtwar and Doda Districts are the victims of underdevelopment, poor health care and educational infrastructure.

He directed the Party cadre to highlight the developmental issues and increasing unemployment in Chenab Valley.

Earlier, dozens of people, especially youth joined the Apni Party under the leadership of Mohinder Singh Parihar. Parihar was accompa-

nied by District President Kishtwar Mashood Mattoo and Raman Shan during his visit to Doda, and Bhaderwah where they held a series of meetings with Party workers.

At Bhalla, they held an impressive workers' meeting organized by Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani where dozens of prominent political and social workers joined the Party.

Prominent among those who joined Apni Party include DPAP

Block Secretary, Bhalla, Mohd Ashraf, PRI- Santosh Kumar, PRI - Mohd

Irfan, renowned social activist, Tariq Hussain Zarger, BJP minority Morcha Treasurer, Ajaiz Ahmed Magray, Ganesh Kumar, Azhar Bashir, Bitu Kumar, Pawan Kotwal, Bushan Kumar, Mashqoor Ahmed Rishi, Ghulam Hassan Rishu, Rahid Mushtaq Zarger, Farooq Ahmed Tantary, Abdul Wahid, Rayees Ahmed, Sher Ali, Salam Din, Shazar Manzoor, Abdul Latief, Majid Azhar, Tariq Hussain and others.

Parihar welcomed the new entrants into the Party fold and hoped that their joining would

strengthen the Party.

All the new entrants were welcomed in the party fold and they expressed their full faith upon the leadership of Party President, Jenab Syed Mohd Altaf Bukhari.

Similarly, PDP and BJP workers also joined the Apni Party in Bhaderwah. During his tour to the district, Mohinder Singh Parihar along with District President Kishtwar, Mashood Mattoo, Raman Shan and Provincial Joint Secretary Adil Wani, visited the district office of Apni Party at Bhaderwah.

A meeting was organized by District President, Bhaderwah Anil Kumar where some prominent PDP and BJP workers also joined the Apni Party in front of Mohinder Singh Parihar, Basharat Hussain and others.

The prominent among those who joined JKAP include PDP workers i.e., Mohd Nawab, Mohd Ibrar, Roshana Begum, Noora Bibi; BJP workers Nitash Rana, Rajesh Kotwal and others.

AIRA International Reporter's Association felicitates SSP Doda

Top News Report



DODA, Dec 7: Chairman AIRA International Reporter's Association JK Chapter Haq Nawaz Nehru felicitates Abdul Qayoom SSP Doda. This felicitations was part of recognition for his meritorious services rendered by him. Nehru wished him all success in days to come.

Open selection trails for 1st beach games festival on Dec 10

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Pencak Silat Association of J&K is going to conduct the open selection trials for both boys and girls from the age of 16 years to 20 years prior to the participation of J&K UT teams in the 1st Mti sports beach festival 2023-24, which is scheduled to be held at Diu, DNHD&D, from 5-10 January 2024.

A player should carry a valid ID proof & age proof duly recommendations from his/her district head along with a Parent declaration and a medical and health & insurance certificate and other related documents like 2 no's of passport size photographs after receiving all the documents, the player is eligible for the selection trials. It is advised to all the affiliated District Pencak Silat Association.



No boarding, Lodging or any Transportation will be provided during the trials. Selected athletes will face the screening team of J&K Sports Council on 11th December 2023.

All the interested athletes are requested to kindly follow the procedure as per the rules and regulation laid down in this notice.

For further details, Please contact Nassir Ahmad Digoo, President on 9797194893, 962242766 or jksilat@gmail.com.

Madhav, Vansh of DPS Jammu shine in UT Level and Inter district Sports Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Madhav Oberoi (VII-B), a student of Delhi Public School Jammu brought laurels to the school and his parents by winning gold medal in UT Net Ball Championship 2023-24 organized by Net Ball Association of Jammu and Kashmir held at Indoor Stadium, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu from 1-5 December, 2023. He participated in U-16 boys category.

Vansh Bakshi of class VIII-I also secured 3rd place and cash prize of Rs. 1000 in 3rd Dr. Vankim Chander Memorial Open Chess Inter-District Tournament organized by



Abhyas Chess Academy held in Jammu on 3rd December, 2023. Total 32 players from Jammu and Kathua district participated in the event.

The esteemed Management DPS Jammu, President-RCT, Ajjatshatru Singh, Pro VC- Dr.

Ritu Singh, Director-S.S Sodhi along with Principal-DPS Jammu, Ruchi Chabra and staff congratulated Madhav, Vansh and their parents for their achievements. They also extended their best wishes to them for all their future endeavours.

Marengo CIMS Hospitals emerged as preferred center for liver transplants in Western India

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Marengo CIMS Hospital Ahmedabad performs successfully the most complex organ transplants and is recognized for its optimized clinical and survival outcomes.

The healthcare provider is one of the few hospitals to offer heart, lung, liver, kidney, and bone marrow transplants under a single roof. With a significant number of liver transplants under its belt, Marengo CIMS Hospital has emerged as a preferred destination in western India for this high-end surgery. The team of liver transplants in the hospital is led by Dr Punit Singla, Clinical Director, Liver Transplant & Surgical Gas-

troenterology, Marengo Asia Hospitals.

Assessing the factors that lead to end-stage liver diseases that result in the patients requiring transplants most of the time is alcohol consumption. Besides leading to serious health issues, alcohol consumption is a major cause of liver damage. The liver is a vital organ responsible for various functions such as detoxification, metabolism, and the production of proteins. Chronic alcohol abuse can lead to several liver conditions such as fatty liver diseases, alcoholic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis etc.

Dr. Punit Singla, Clinical Director, Liver Transplant & Surgical Gastroenterology says, "One of the major causes for end-stage liver damage

is unregulated consumption of alcohol. Fatty liver disease is an early stage of liver damage where there is a significant accumulation of fat in the liver cells. While fatty liver may be a reversible condition, alcohol abuse can lead to an irreversible stage where nothing else but a transplant remains the only option for a patient. Alcoholic hepatitis is another factor that leads to a transplant. Inflammation caused by excessive alcohol intake can lead to liver failure. There could be an occurrence of jaundice, abdominal pain, and fever that could herald the start of liver failure."

Liver damage can also be caused by factors like viral infections (hepatitis B and C), non-

alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), autoimmune hepatitis, cirrhosis, and certain genetic conditions.

Liver transplantation is a complex but effective treatment for end-stage liver disease. The success of the procedure depends on various factors, including the patient's overall health, the availability of a suitable donor, and post-transplant care. Liver transplants can offer numerous benefits to patients who suffer from end-stage liver disease for improved quality of life, increased longevity, restoration of liver functions, return to normal activities, psychosocial benefits, prevention of further complications,

and above all, an opportunity for a fresh start.

Patient survival after deceased donor liver transplant largely mirrored that of graft survival, exceeding 90%. Currently, more than 1800 liver transplants (LT) are performed in India annually. In 2020, over 30 percent of patients listed for transplants had alcohol-related liver disease, more than any other single diagnosis. Most candidates for liver transplantation have irreversible cirrhosis caused by years of heavy alcohol consumption. Other types of liver disease are on the rise, like nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, which is related to obesity, diabetes, and/or metabolic syndrome.

"NC, PDP or Cong wouldn't have dared such actions"

Attachment of properties of terror associates, drug peddlers a right onslaught: Raman

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Hailing the action taken by Jammu and Kashmir Police on terror associates and drug peddlers by attaching their properties, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri said that no previous government ever dared to initiate such an action to end the menace of terrorism and drug mafia in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP leader said that such

a stringent action was needed to end the menace of terrorism and drug peddling in Jammu and Kashmir but previous governments lacked spine. Now that the properties of these anti-national and anti-social elements have started getting attached, they will think twice before getting into any such misadventure.

Raman Suri said, the recent incident, in which 14 marlas residential land belonging to a terror associate's family in

north Kashmir's Bandipora district has been attached by the police, has sent a clear message to those into such misadventures. Prior to this, police had also seized properties of drug peddlers and dealers in other districts.

He added that several young boys and girls had fallen into the trap of drug peddlers and several were lured into terrorism but no government belonging to that of National Conference (NC), People's Democratic

Party (PDP) or Congress ever dared to initiate such a strong action against the anti-social elements, who were out there to damage our next generation.

Attachment of properties under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) is right and is aimed at preventing unlawful activities and associations in India, Raman Suri said, adding that its main objective is to deal with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of Bharat.

Kotwal meets DC Doda, submits memorandum of demands

Top News Report

BHADARWAH, Dec 7: Ajit Singh Kotwal Jammu and Kashmir state vice president "Saksham" an NGO accompanied by other functionaries and Specially abled persons today met District Development Commissioner Doda on Block Divas programme at Ghatti More Bhalra of Additional District Bhadarwah and submitted a memorandum to him regarding the grievanc-

es and demands of the Specially abled persons "Divyangjan" facing in their lives.

As per a press statement, Ajit Singh Kotwal informed DC Doda that it is quite unfortunate that in today's age of digitalisation, people still consider a disabled person as nothing more than a burden.

Being disabled is not a punishment but it is a test of us how we treat them with our kindness. "In the society, the right



of the disabled person was often suppressed while they have the right to equality and disabled persons have often failed to achieve their rights," Kotwal

observed.

Kotwal placed all the grievances and demands of the disabled persons before DC Doda seeking their resolution as early as

possible.

Acting swiftly on the ways to redress the problems of disabled persons, DC Doda brought them in to the notice of the concerned authorities on the spot. However, he assured the delegation about mitigation of the other genuine demands and further clarified that the concerned department would be asked to do the needful urgently and to remove the disparity wherever existing.

Vi, EaseMyTrip sign a partnership to extend propositions around travel & international roaming

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Vi, the leading Indian telecom operator partners with EaseMyTrip.com, one of the largest online travel tech platforms, in continuous endeavor to build more value for its users. In this partnership, EaseMyTrip will offer Vi customers exclusive deals in flights, hotels, trains, buses, and cab bookings on the Vi App.

With this partnership, Vi aims to bring more convenience and best offers for Vi users. As an introductory offer, there will be zero convenience fees on all flight bookings. Additionally, the users will soon be entitled to get offers on domestic & International hotels, holidays, buses, activities and cab bookings.

As part of the association, the users will also be able to avail exclusive benefits on travel-related services such as

activities, experiences and holiday packages on the Vi App. In future, users will have access to other value-added services like free airport pick up/drop on flight and hotel bookings at a minimum booking value.

Commenting on the launch of Travel Section on Vi App, Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vi said "At Vi, it's our continuous endeavour to bring the best for our customers, be it on the telco front or any category that consumers are engaging with. Travel is one of the high demand categories and is only growing with time, whether domestic or international. EaseMyTrip in many ways is at the forefront of this phenomenon. We are extremely excited with this partnership and hope our consumers will appreciate what this partnership will bring out for them to make their travel bookings more delightful."

Commenting on the

association, Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip, said, "Vi is one of India's leading telecom service providers and is at the forefront of developing infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies and offering world-class tech-driven experiences to customers. We share a common ground with Vi of being a digital-first brand and believe in servicing our customers with nothing but the best. Our unique association will go a long way in providing exceptional services to our and Vi customers ensuring travel bookings become easy and seamless for them through the Vi app."

Vi offers exclusive services like Vi Music, Vi Games, Vi Jobs & Education and Vi Movies & TV on the Vi App. The partnership with EaseMyTrip will add another new service Travel on the Vi App.

With Wonka lined up for release this week, here is a look at master storyteller Roald Dahl's works that have been adapted on to the screen

It's Roald Dahl's world and we are just living in it! At least that's what the last quarter of this year made us feel. First Wes Anderson pulled an ace with four shorts adapted into screenplay from the British author's short stories, and now director Paul King brings Willy Wonka's character (from Dahl's story Charlie and The Chocolate Factory) to life once more in theatres near you. We list some of the best adapted series/films of Dahl who is regarded as 'one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century'.



the 2005 film, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, it won People's Choice Award for Favourite Family Film and Favourite Motion Picture Actor and BAFTA Kids' Vote for Best Film.

In 2017, Warner Bros tried to revive the franchise with animation crossover titled Tom and Jerry: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, but it didn't create much buzz.

The Witches (2020)

This dark fantasy comedy horror film directed by Robert Zemeckis is the second adaptation of Dahl's 1983 novel The Witches. The author, who had always loved to put child protagonist against evil adults, does the same, so just like Wonka, we have Grand High Witch in The Witches. In the 1990 adaptation, The Witches, academy-award winning actress Anjelica Huston elevates the screenplay

with her performance. Whereas actress Anne Hathaway shone as Grand High Witch in the 2020's streaming edition.

The BFG (2016)

A fantasy adventure film directed by Stephen Spielberg, The BFG is the second-highest grossing adaptation of Dahl. It starred Mark Rylance as the Big Friendly Giant (BFG) and Ruby Barnhill. Adapted from the 1982 novel, The BFG, it was previously made in 1989. Not many know that Dahl had dedicated the novel to his daughter Olivia Twenty, whom he lost to Measles virus, and the orphan girl's character was called Sophie after his granddaughter's name. Also, The BFG (1989) was the only adaptation of Dahl's works released during his lifetime and received praise from the author himself. It was an animated adaptation by Brian Cosgrove.

Matilda (1996)

Dahl's wife, Felicity Dahl served as a producer for the adaptation of the former's 1988 novel by the same name. The film is directed by Danny DeVito and starred Mara Wilson as the titular character, Matilda.

Fantastic Mr Fox (2009)

Director Wes Anderson's stop-motion animated comedy film is based on 1970 children's novel by Dahl. The star cast has some big names, including George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Willem Dafoe and Owen Wilson. The film won New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Animated Film.

Netflix Ready

In September 2023, Anderson delved into the lesser-known stories of Dahl titled The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar, The Swan, Poison and The Rat Catcher. The extensive universe of animated and live-action film that Anderson created received a lot of applause. Even the cast had names like Ralph Fiennes, Benedict Cumberbatch, Dev Patel, Ben Kingsley, Rupert Friend and Richard Ayoade. Another animated film The Twits, coming to Netflix in 2025, is helmed by Phil Johnston. It is the first screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's book by the same name.

Actress Kalki Koechlin deletes X app amid Israel-Palestine conflict



Actress Kalki Koechlin deleted the X (formerly Twitter) app from her phone amid the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. Taking to Instagram,

Kalki shared a picture which she captioned, "Had to do this today. The hate and disinformation, the doom scrolling, the helplessness.

But what really crossed the line for me, what really made me draw a boundary was the denial or the justification of Palestinian children murdered in the thousands or the denial or glorification of Israeli women being raped, tortured and murdered, I have had enough. Some places that have helped me get more perspective."

However, the Dev D actress didn't delete her account from the microblogging site. She only deleted the app from her device. Soon after she shared the post, her fans took to the comments' section and shared their reactions. Actress Sayani Gupta commented, "Absolutely. There's no nuance anymore! No sense of what's just. It's all about polarisation. This or that. Choose a side and hate on the other. Also, had gotten off Twitter may be almost two years ago. Best cleanse ever."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kalki was last seen in the film Goldfish, which marked her return to the big screen.

Taylor Swift named Time Magazine's person of the year

Time Magazine named Taylor Swift its person of the year on Wednesday, a week after Spotify announced she was the most-played artist on the streaming platform.

Swift was picked from a group of nine finalists that included Barbie, King Charles III, and OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman, among others.

"While her popularity has grown across the decades, this is the year that Swift, 33, achieved a kind of nuclear fusion: shooting art and commerce together to release an energy of historic force," Time said about her selection.

Her year included the wildly popular Eras Tour and concert movie, the release of her reimagined 1989' album, and



her closely watched relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce. She's even the subject of col-

lege courses. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was Time's 2022 person of the year.

Producer-director Ektaa Kapoor wants to be a creative ally in the coming times

From being called a wannabe producer to becoming the first Indian woman to receive the International Emmy Directorate Award, it's been a whirlwind journey for producer-director Ektaa Kapoor, who considers megastar Amitabh Bachchan an inspiration when it comes to acing the 'game of relevance'. It's 30 years and counting for Kapoor in the showbiz across mediums of television, cinema and streaming. Going forward, her goal is clear — either create something she hasn't before or become a 'creative ally' of newer voices.

"When I feel low, I channelise my inner Beyonce. When I feel even lower, I channelise



my inner (Amitabh) Bachchan.' I really think he is one person who has played the game of relevance so well. To be in an industry for 50 plus years and be relevant today means so much more today to me," the producer said.

Last month, Kapoor was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for significant contribution to the world of arts and entertainment at a ceremony in New York. "It has been quite a whirlwind journey.

The Emmy was overwhelmingly a pleasant surprise. It's great to bring home for India, especially the directorate award, which is really an honour that fills my heart with gratitude,"

she added.

Kapoor is the co-founder of production house Balaji Telefilms. The banner, which later branched out to making movies (Balaji Motion Pictures) and streaming shows (ALT Balaji), will celebrate its three-decade anniversary in August 2024.

A lot has changed since she began making TV shows, says the 48-year-old producer who believes there's no homogeneity in content anymore, as there is an influx of fresh talent. "At this point, I would want the next 30 years to be either I create something which I haven't created before or ally. I want to have a creative alliance more than creating now."

Angelina Jolie says she wouldn't be an actress today, plans to leave Los Angeles

Oscar winner Angelina Jolie says she probably wouldn't pursue acting as a career if she was just starting out in the industry today.

Born to actor parents Jon Voight and Marcheline Bertrand, the 48-year-old said she "really has a social life" living in Los Angeles since every time she leaves her house, she is subjected to unwanted attention by the paparazzi, which is also one of the reasons why she eventually wants to move from Hollywood.

"I wouldn't be an actress today.

When I was starting out, it wasn't as much of an expectation to be as public, to share so much," Jolie told the Wall Street Journal Magazine.

"It's part of what happened after my divorce. I lost the ability to live and travel as freely," she said referring to the

high-profile and bitter separation from her 'Mr & Mrs Smith' co-star and former husband Brad Pitt.

In the interview, Jolie also noted that she hopes to spend more time at her home in Cambodia, from where her adoptive son Maddox (22) hails from. "I will move when I can," she added.

Jolie made her screen debut as a child alongside Voight in 1982's 'Lookin' to Get Out' and went on to carve her niche as a leading actor with films such as her Oscar-winning turn in 'Girl, Interrupted', 'Lara Croft: Tomb Raider', 'Salt', 'A Mighty Heart' and 'Maleficent'.

The actor, also known for her humanitarian efforts, admitted that she "was never very impressed" with Hollywood.

"I never bought into it



as significant or important. I grew up in quite a shallow place.

Of all the places in the world, Hollywood is not a healthy place.

So you seek authenticity," she said, adding fame post her Oscar win led to depression and at times, suicidal thoughts.

Being in the public eye for almost all her life, Jolie said the stress post her separation from Pitt in 2016 got so bad that during shooting of the Disney sequel 'Maleficent: Mistress of Evil' her voice had changed registers from when she first played the titular fairy tale villain.

"My body reacts very strongly to stress.

My blood sugar goes up and down.

I suddenly had Bell's palsy six months before my divorce," she added.

Her last screen appearance was 2021's 'Eternals'.

Gulshan Devaiah says there is need to make engaging stories for children



Actor Gulshan Devaiah is thrilled to embrace a children-friendly narrative with Little Thomas and said there is a need to make more engaging

stories for kids in Indian cinema. "My earlier films have been catering to a more mature audience. Little Thomas is a wonderful shift for

me, and I'm genuinely excited about making a film that children and their families can enjoy together," Gulshan said.

The actor added: "The English-speaking world makes a lot of films for children, but in Indian movies we don't cater much to our children. We need to make diverse and engaging stories for children." The actor emphasises the importance of exploring various genres for younger audiences, and encourages fellow filmmakers to step up and experiment with storytelling that resonates with children. The film tells a heartwarming story based around a Goan family. Directed by the National Award-winning filmmaker Kaushal Oza, Little Thomas also stars Rasika Dugal. The film marks a reunion of Rasika and Kaushal, who had previously collaborated in the short film The Miniaturist of Junagadh.

PM Modi cites poll win data to assert BJP most preferred party for governance

Speaking at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, he credits 'team spirit' for the party's big win in the recent assembly polls

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday cited poll data to assert that the BJP has become people's most preferred party for governance as its record of winning state elections while in power is much better than the Congress.

Speaking at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, he credited "team spirit" for the party's big win in the recent assembly polls, noting that besides winning in three states it has also grown in strength in Telangana and Mizoram.

Quoting Modi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters that the Congress faced assembly polls 40 times while in power for one term in those states and could win only



seven of them, having a dismal success rate of 18 per cent.

The corresponding figures for the BJP is 22 out of 39 times, a success rate of 56 per cent,

Modi noted.

Regional parties have fared better than the Congress but not the BJP as they won 18 of 36 times when in power, notching

up a success rate of 50 per cent.

It shows the BJP is the most preferred party for running the government, he said.

Earlier, Modi was given a standing ovation at the meeting following the party's stupendous win in three assembly polls.

Party MPs raised slogans lauding his leadership as senior leaders, including BJP president JP Nadda, felicitated Modi at the first meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Party in Parliament's Winter Session.

The BJP scored a thumping win over the Congress in the assembly polls to three states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

Modi's leadership has been cited as the primary reason for its big win.

India is a labour-rich country with enough institutional maturity, can get to 8 per cent growth: NITI Aayog VC

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): India has potential to grow at 8 per cent as the country is labour-rich with enough institutional maturity of a functioning democracy, NITI Aayog vice chairman Suman Bery said on Thursday.

Bery also cautioned the reality is that the north of India has not been traditionally doing as well as the south of India and this can create tensions in a federal polity.

"So 8 per cent growth or something approximating that means continuous change that needs to be politically managed," he said while addressing the Global Economic Policy Forum 2023, organised by the



Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the finance ministry.

According to Bery, the modernisation journey of India is unusual and unique.

"And if I wanted to bet on India for the next 25 years, I would point to first, the fact that we are not labour constrained in a world which is increasingly labour constrained, but much

more importantly, that we have the institutional maturity of a functioning democracy with established rules of the game for the transfer of power we have just seen magnificently in the state elections," he added.

Bery noted that economic growth in a country like India is a prerequisite for equity.

"So growth is not an end in itself, but it is a means to an end to raise living standards and to secure India's strategic and institutional economy," he said.

Bery pointed out that India is a fastest growing major economy but still the lowest per capita income country in the G20.

14 students injured as school bus overturns in South Goa

PANAJI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Fourteen students were injured, four of them seriously, after a school bus overturned in South Goa on Thursday morning, a senior police official said.

The incident took place near Balli village when the bus carrying 34 students was on its way to Cuncolim United Higher Secondary School.

The bus veered off the main road and entered a field before turning upside down, he said. The bus was sanctioned to the school as part of the 'Bal Rath' programme of the state government.



Four students were seriously injured and were shifted to the state-run district hospital in Margao town, the official said.

Their condition is stable, he said, adding that ten more students

received minor injuries.

Citing preliminary investigations, the police said that the steering wheel of the bus got locked due to some reason and it went off the road and overturned in a nearby field.

Her Wedding Cancelled Over BMW, Gold Demand, Kerala Doctor Dies By Suicide

Dr Shahana's family has alleged that Dr Ruwais' family demanded 150 gold sovereigns, 15 acres of land and a BMW car in dowry

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Dec 7 (Agencies): A 26-year-old doctor has died by suicide in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, allegedly after her boyfriend refused to marry her because her family could not fulfill dowry demands. State health minister Veena George has ordered a probe into the death of Dr Shahana, who was pursuing a postgraduate course at the surgery department of Government Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram.



The police have registered a case against the boyfriend under the abetment to suicide charge and dowry prevention laws. He has been detained, news agency has reported.

According to local media reports, Dr Sha-

hana lived with her mother and two siblings. Her father, who worked in the Gulf, died two years back. She was in a relationship with Dr EA Ruwais and the two decided to marry.

Dr Shahana's family has alleged that Dr Ruwais' family demanded 150 gold sovereigns, 15 acres of land and a BMW car in dowry. When Dr Shahana's family said they cannot meet the demand, her boyfriend's family called off the wedding, Mathrubhumi reported. This

left the young doctor very upset, and she died by suicide, local residents have alleged. A suicide note found at her apartment read, "Everyone wants money only", it is learnt.

The health minister has said the state Women and Child Development department has been asked to submit a report on the allegations of dowry demand.

The state Minority Commission is also looking into the matter. The panel's chairperson

AA Rasheed has asked the district collector, the city police commissioner and director of medical education to appear before the commission on December 14 and submit a report.

The state women's commission chairperson P Sathidevi visited Dr Shahana's home and met the family. Ms Sathidevi said strong steps must be taken if the mental agony caused due to the dowry demand pushed the young doctor to suicide.

ED files first charge sheet against Chinese smartphone maker Vivo-India, others

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate filed its first charge sheet in connection with its money-laundering probe against Chinese smartphone maker Vivo and some others, official sources said on Thursday.

The prosecution complaint has been filed before a special court here on Wednesday under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Vivo-India has

been named an accused apart from those arrested in the case, sources told agency.

The federal probe agency arrested four persons, including the MD of the Lava International mobile company Hari Om Rai, in this investigation. The others who were taken into custody were Chinese national Guangwen alias Andrew Kuang, Chartered Accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik.



The ED had then claimed in its remand papers before a local court here that the alleged activities of the four enabled Vivo-India to make wrongful gains that were detrimental to the economic sovereignty of India.

It had raided Vivo-India and its linked persons in July last year, claiming to have busted a major money-laundering racket involving Chinese nationals and multiple Indian companies.

Minor fire breaks out in one coach of Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express at Cuttack station

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 7 (Agencies): A minor fire broke out in one of the coaches of Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express at Cuttack railway station on Thursday morning, railway officials said.

The fire was doused immediately, they said. As smoke emanated

from the bottom part of the coach, passengers de-boarded the coach. No one was hurt in the incident, the officials said.

"Due to brake-binding (brake not released from the wheel), 12074 Bhubaneswar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express was detained at Cuttack railway station from 6.30

am. After releasing the brake from the wheel, the train departed from Cuttack at about 7.15 am," East Coast Railway (ECoR) said in a statement.

The cause of non-release of the brake was being investigated. There was no fire inside the coach, it said.

Live-in relationship 'dangerous disease', should be law against it: BJP MP

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): A BJP MP from Haryana on Thursday termed live-in relationships a "dangerous disease" that needs to be eradicated from society and urged the government to make a law against it.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha during 'zero hour', Dharambir Singh also said divorce rates in love marriages were high and the consent of the parents of the bride and groom should therefore be made mandatory for such alliances.

"I want to bring to the notice of the government and Parliament a very serious issue. Indian culture is known for its philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family) and brotherhood. Our social fabric is different from others in the world. The whole world is impressed by our unity in diversity," the MP from Bhiwani-Mahendragarh said.

Noting that India has a long tradition of arranged marriages,



Singh said a large section of society even to this day gives priority to marriages arranged by parents or relatives.

This has the consent of the bride and groom and arranged marriages are based on a match of several common factors such as social and individual values and likes as well as family backgrounds, he said.

"Marriage is considered a sacred relationship that continues for seven generations... Divorce rate is about 1.1 per cent in India as compared with America which has a rate of about 40 per cent. It has been observed that the rate of divorce in arranged marriages is very less. However, there is a lot of increase in divorce rate

recently and the main reason for it is love marriages," Singh said.

"Therefore, it is my suggestion that the consent of mother and father of the bride and groom be made mandatory in love marriages because in large parts of the country marriage does not happen in the same 'gotra' and due to love marriages there are a lot of conflicts in the villages. Scores of families are destroyed in these conflicts, therefore the consent of both the families is important," he said.

Singh said a "new disease" has emerged and this social evil is called "live-in relationship".

Under this, two persons, man or woman, live together without

marriage, the BJP MP said.

"Such relationships are very common in western nations but this evil is fast spreading in our society also and the consequences are horrible. Recently, the case of Shradha (Walker) and Aftab (Poonawala) had come to light in which both were in a live-in relationship," Singh said.

Such cases keep coming to the fore almost daily, he added while referring to the gruesome case in Delhi of a man allegedly killing his live-in partner and chopping her body to pieces. "Not only this is ruining our culture but also hatred and evils are spreading in the society. If this continues our culture will die and there will be no difference between us and others," he said.

"I request the minister that a law be made against live-in relationships so that this dangerous disease can be eradicated from society," Singh said.

Citizenship Act Section 6A: Supreme Court questions singling out of Assam

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre why did it single out Assam and exclude West Bengal from grant of citizenship under section 6A of the Citizenship Act when the latter shares a much larger border with Bangladesh.

Section A of the Citizenship Act relates to illegal immigrants in Assam. Observing that illegal immigration is a serious problem, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, what is the Union government doing to safeguard the border.

"Why did you single out Assam when West Bengal shares a much larger border with Bangladesh? We want to know why was West Bengal excluded from the grant of citizenship. The argument cannot be that there was agita-

tion in Assam. Why was West Bengal left alone. What is the position in West Bengal now? The bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

As the hearing commenced the Centre clarified that examination of the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, has nothing to do with any other amendments in the Citizenship Act.

Mehta told the five-judge constitution bench that the application of section 6A is limited to only a specific period of time.

"I would like to begin with some factual clarifications. Your lordships are examining a limited question of constitutional validity of Section 6A. This is confined to a very few individuals during a particular period of time. This examination has nothing to do with any other amendment to Citizenship Act," he told the bench.

Mehta told the top court that so far as the contentions as pointed out by the petitioners are concerned like influx of immigrants from foreign countries, paucity of resources that were otherwise available to them, etc, all their concerns are true.

"Person is deemed citizen if his parents or any grandparents were born in undivided India. The category is very limited-it applies in Assam, a limited geographical area. The category from which persons are permitted is only Bangladesh, a very limited area," Mehta said.

During the hearing, the CJI remarked that there were people who benefited from the grant of citizenship under Section 6A.

"What happens to those who weren't granted the benefit of citizenship but are illegal immigrants. Nothing was done about them at all. Everyone who came between 1966-1971 did not get citizenship

because for citizenship they needed to be detected. So within that larger circle, there is a smaller circle of people who came to India but never got citizenship. What happened to those people?, the CJI asked.

The hearing is currently underway. Section 6A was inserted in the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.

It says those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971 from specified territories, including Bangladesh, in accordance with the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of the northeastern state, must register themselves under section 18 for acquiring Indian citizenship.

As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971 as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

Israel battles Hamas in south Gaza City; armoured tanks bulldoze into Khan Yunis

The Israeli army said it had pierced defensive lines and carried out "targeted raids in the heart of the city", where they found and destroyed 30 tunnel shafts.

JERUSALEM, Dec 7 (Agencies): Israeli troops battled Hamas militants Thursday in the heart of southern Gaza's main city where a suspected mastermind of the October 7 attacks is believed to be hiding while pressing their offensive across the besieged territory.

Breaking through Hamas's defences of Gaza's second largest city, Israeli troops, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers rolled into Khan Yunis, forcing already displaced civilians to flee again, witnesses said.

Hamas said late Wednesday on Telegram its fighters were engaged in fierce battles against Israeli troops "on all axes of the incursion into the Gaza Strip", as it claimed they destroyed two dozen military vehicles in Khan Yunis and Beit Lahia in the north of the territory.

Earlier, the Israeli army said it had pierced defensive lines and carried out "targeted raids in the heart of the city", where they found and destroyed 30 tunnel shafts.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video statement that Israeli forces were closing in on the home of Hamas's chief in the Gaza Strip Yahya Sinwar, with a spokesman saying it is "underground" in the Khan Yunis area.

Sinwar stands accused of being one of the masterminds of the October 7 attacks on Israel that killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli authorities, and saw around 240 hostages taken.

Israel declared war on Hamas after the deadliest attack in its history, vowing to eradicate the group and bring home



all the hostages.

Sinwar has not been seen in public during the war, and Israel has named him and the leader of Hamas's armed wing, Mohammed Deif, as its top military targets.

But humanitarian organisations have warned the spread of the war into the south of the Gaza Strip will leave civilians who fled the north, much of which is now destroyed, with nowhere to go.

"We are devastated, mentally overwhelmed," said Khan Yunis resident Amal Mahdi. "We need someone to find us a solution so we can get out of this situation."

The latest toll from the Hamas government said the war has killed more than 16,000 people in Gaza, most of them women and children.

"Where to go?" Much of northern Gaza has already been reduced to rubble by fierce fighting and bombardment, displacing 1.9 million people according to UN figures.

Many civilians fled to Khan Yunis when Israel ordered them to evacuate the north of the territory earlier in the war.

They are now being pushed further south to Rafah on the border with Egypt.

"There was bombardment, destruction, leaflets dropping, threats, and phone calls to evac-

uate and leave Khan Yunis," said Khamis Al-Dalu, who told agency he was first displaced from Gaza City, and then from Khan Yunis to Rafah.

"Where to go? Where do you want us to go for God's sake? We left Khan Yunis and now we are in tents in Rafah."

And Israeli bombardments have followed them there.

A strike on a residential district in Rafah left 17 dead and dozens injured late Wednesday, the Hamas health ministry said, and an agency journalist saw the wounded, including children, being taken to a local Kuwaiti hospital.

Meanwhile, Al Jazeera television network said one of its journalists had lost 22 members of his family in a strike in the northern refugee camp of Jabalia.

The Israeli army said Wednesday it had struck about 250 targets in Gaza over the past 24 hours and that troops had found a major arms depot "in the heart of a civilian population" near a clinic and school in the north of the territory.

"The depot contained hundreds of RPG missiles and launchers of various types, dozens of anti-tank missiles," explosives and drones, it said in a statement.

Agency footage from Wednesday showed smoke trails after rocket

fire from Rafah towards Israel.

According to the Israeli military, three Israeli soldiers were killed in fighting in Gaza on Wednesday.

'Minimal' fuel increase Mass civilian casualties in the war have sparked global concern, heightened by dire shortages caused by an Israeli siege that has seen only limited supplies of food, water, fuel and medicines enter.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he expects "public order to completely break down soon due to the desperate conditions" in Gaza, with "potentially irreversible implications for Palestinians as a whole."

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on Wednesday lashed out against Guterres, saying his tenure was "a danger to world peace" after he invoked a rare UN procedure over the Gaza war.

"His request to activate Article 99 and the call for a ceasefire in Gaza constitutes support of the Hamas terrorist organization," Cohen wrote on X.

"We, too, want this war to end," Israeli government spokesman Eylon Levy told reporters, "But it can only end in a way that ensures that Hamas can never attack our people again."

On Wednesday, Israel

approved a "minimal" increase in fuel supplies to Gaza, to prevent a "humanitarian collapse and the outbreak of epidemics in the south of the Gaza Strip", according to Netanyahu's office.

New settlements approved

The war has sparked fears of a wider regional conflict, with near-daily exchanges of fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah across Israel's border with Lebanon and a surge of deadly violence in the occupied West Bank.

On Wednesday, Israel said a missile fired at the Red Sea town of Eilat "was successfully intercepted" after sirens blared in the resort.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli troops raided two refugee camps and killed three Palestinians, one aged 16, according to the Palestinian health ministry and Wafa news agency.

Palestinian authorities say more than 250 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire or settler attacks since the war began.

Israeli authorities meanwhile approved the construction of more than 1,700 new homes, a non-governmental organisation said Wednesday, a move constituting the expansion of settlements in occupied east Jerusalem.

Half the "new neighbourhood" comprising 1,738 housing units will be in the city's annexed east, the Israeli NGO Peace Now said.

"If it weren't for the war (between Israel and Hamas), there would be a lot of noise. It's a highly problematic project for the continuity of a Palestinian state between the southern West Bank and east Jerusalem," Peace Now's Hagit Ofra told agency.

Ramaswamy calls Haley a "fascist", "corrupt"; she says responding to him "not worth her time"



WASHINGTON, Dec 7 (Agencies): Calling her "fascist" and "corrupt", biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy launched a tirade against his Republican presidential rival and fellow Indian-American Nikki Haley, who refrained from a verbal duel, saying it is not worth her time to respond to him.

Ramaswamy launched the volley of charges against the former South Carolina governor and US ambassador to the UN in Arizona during the Republican Party's fourth presidential debate, which was attended by just four candidates, the other two being former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

The front-runner for the Republican Party's nomination, former President Donald Trump, skipped the debate once again and held a fundraiser in Florida instead.

Participating in the debate, Ramaswamy, 38, accused Haley of having "a corruption problem" and held up a pad of paper with "NIKKI = CORRUPT" written on it.

This resulted in a mix of boos and cheers from the audience.

He called her "a puppet" and accused her of "using identity politics" as "a form of

intellectual fraud."

"Nikki, you were bankrupt when you left the U.N. After you left the U.N., you became a military contractor," he started and recounted her journey to end with further allegation: "That math doesn't add up. It adds up to the fact that you are corrupt."

"It's not worth my time to respond to him," Haley, 51, said when asked by the moderator to respond to the allegations.

However, Ramaswamy did not give up and continued to attack Haley.

"The only person more fascist than the Biden (US President Joe Biden) regime now is Nikki Haley, who thinks the government should identify every one of those individuals with an ID," he alleged.

"That is not freedom, that is fascism, and she should come nowhere near the levers of power, let alone the White House," he said.

Ramaswamy was referring to a recent remark by Haley in which she said that social media users needed to be verified by name, "Every person on social media should be verified, by their name. That's, first of all, it's a national security threat. When you do that, all of a sudden, people have to stand by what they say," she said.

"And it gets rid of the Russian bots, the Irani-

an bots and the Chinese bots. And then you're gonna get some civility, when people know their name is next to what they say," she had said.

Haley defended her remarks on the debate stage.

"What I said was that social media companies need to show us their algorithms. I also said there are millions of bots on social media right now. They're foreign. They're Chinese. They're Iranian. I will always fight for freedom of speech for Americans. We do not need freedom of speech for Russians and Iranians and Hamas. We need social media companies to go and fight back on all of these bots that are happening," she said.

"As a mom, do I think that social media would be more civil if we went and had people's names next to that? Yes, I do think that, because I think we've got too much cyber-bullying. I think we've got child pornography and all of those things. But having said that, I never said the government should go and require anyone's names," Haley said.

Haley, whose popularity has been on the rise, was also attacked by DeSantis.

"She caves anytime the Left comes after her, anytime the media comes after her," he said.

UN chief Antonio Guterres invokes UN Charter article to appeal for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza

This is the first time that Guterres has invoked Article 99 of the Charter since he became UN Secretary-General in 2017.

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 7 (Agencies): UN chief Antonio Guterres has invoked a rarely-used article in the United Nations Charter to appeal to the Security Council for a humanitarian ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict and to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe", which he said has "potentially irreversible implications" for Palestinians and peace in the region.

Secretary-General Guterres issued a letter to the President of the Security Council for the month of December, Ambassador Jose Javier De La Gasca Lopez Dominguez, the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN, writing under Article 99 of the UN Charter.

Article 99 was last specifically mentioned in a report on December 3, 1971, by then Secretary-General U Thant on the situation in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

India had emerged victorious against Pakistan in the 1971 war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.

This is the first time that Guterres has invoked Article 99 of the Charter since he became UN Secretary-General in 2017.

Article 99 states that the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

In the letter, Guterres said that more than eight weeks of hostilities in Gaza and Israel have created appalling human suffering, physical destruction, and collective trauma across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Guterres urged members of the Security Council to press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe and appealed for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared.

"We are facing a severe risk of collapse of the humanitarian system. The situation is fast deteriorating into a catastrophe with potentially irreversible implications for Palestinians as a whole and

for peace and security in the region. Such an outcome must be avoided at all costs," Guterres said.

Underlining that the international community has a responsibility to use all its influence to prevent further escalation and end this crisis, Guterres urged members of the Security Council to press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe.

"I reiterate my appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared. This is urgent. The civilian population must be spared from greater harm," he said, voicing deep concern that "nowhere is safe in Gaza."

The UN chief noted that with a humanitarian ceasefire, the means of survival can be restored and humanitarian assistance can be delivered in a safe and timely manner across the Gaza Strip.

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for Guterres, said the UN Chief's invocation of Article 99 is a "very dramatic move" within the



constitutional context of the United Nations.

"We understand that the perception from the outside world may be a little different. But for us, it is a very powerful move on behalf of the Secretary-General. And we hope that members of the Security Council will be moved by it, and we hope the international community will be moved by it to push and put in place a humanitarian ceasefire," Dujarric said.

Responding to a question, Dujarric said Guterres is invoking "one of the few powers" that the Charter gives him.

"Constitutionally, it is 'the most powerful tool that he has.' It is a very dramatic constitutional

Guterres says.

"I think that Guterres used this language today to focus attention on his letter to the Council, which would otherwise have gotten lost in all the diplomatic noise over Gaza," Gowan said.

"The tragic reality is that the media and public have become increasingly accustomed to warnings of a humanitarian disaster in Gaza. Guterres has been consistent in sounding the alarm about threats to Palestinian civilians. This has angered Israel, but as the war has dragged on, I think his messages have lost impact, and almost become routine," Gowan said.

He noted that it is rare for the Secretaries-General to explicitly invoke Article 99 in this way and said that neither former UN Chief Kofi Annan nor his successor Ban Ki-moon ever did so.

Guterres said more than 1,200 people were brutally killed, including 33 children, and thousands were injured in the "abhorrent acts of

terror" by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on October 7, which he has "repeatedly condemned".

About 250 people were abducted, including 34 children, more than 130 of whom are still captive, he said, adding that these hostages must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Accounts of sexual violence during the attacks are appalling, he said. Guterres said that voiced concern that civilians throughout Gaza face grave danger.

Since the start of Israel's military operation, more than 15,000 people have reportedly been killed, over 40 percent of whom were children, he said.

Invocation of Article 99 of the UN Charter has been a rare occurrence in the world body's 78-year-long existence.

According to the information provided here, there have been 10 instances in the past when matters have been brought by the Secretaries-General to the Security Council on threats to international peace and

security.

But Article 99 was mentioned specifically last time in a report by U Thant on the situation in "East Pakistan".

The report said that there has been a further grave deterioration in the situation along the borders of East Pakistan and elsewhere in the sub-continent.

In view of his conviction that this situation constitutes a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security, the Secretary-General feels that he should report to the Security Council on the efforts he has made so far in regard to this problem.

"The Secretary-General has kept the President of the Security Council informed of these efforts under the broad terms of Article 99 of the United Nations Charter, which provides that The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security," it said.

JKP Mourns Heroic Loss; DGP RR Swain Vows Stronger Stand Against Terrorism After Inspector's Tragic Sacrifice

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The Director General of Police, J&K Shri R.R. Swain has condoled the heroic loss of Inspector Masroor Ahmad who succumbed to injuries at (AIIMS) New Delhi today.

In his message, the DGP has said, "as the Director General of Police, it is with profound sorrow that I extend my heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani." Today, we mourn the

loss of Police Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani, a courageous officer who valiantly served amidst the looming threat of terrorism. His sacrifice embodies the harsh reality our J&K policemen face, dedicating their lives to shield our communities from the shadows of terrorism, the DGP has stated.

The DGP has said that Inspector Wani's tragic sacrifice reminds us of the immense challenges our personnel encounter daily, even in moments of leisure. It is a grim reminder of the perils faced by our

brave personnel while safeguarding the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The sacrifices made by police personnel like Inspector Wani in Jammu and Kashmir will forever remain etched in our memories. His noble spirit and unwavering commitment to serving the community serve as a shining example to us all, the DGP has added.

In the face of this heartbreaking loss, our thoughts and prayers are with Inspector Wani's family, friends, and the entire police fraternity. We stand united in mourning this

profound loss and honoring his memory, the DGP has said.

The cowardly attack on a policeman, enjoying a moment of leisure, is a stark reminder of the vicious mindset perpetuated by terrorist networks operating at the behest of Pakistan. This tragic incident strengthens our resolve at the J&K Police to redouble our efforts in combating terrorism.

Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani's legacy of bravery and selflessness will continue to inspire us. His memory

will forever fuel our determination to dismantle the bones of terrorism in Kashmir. We reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the people of Kashmir and eradicating the menace of terrorism from our soil.

May Inspector Wani rest in peace, knowing that his sacrifice will not be in vain. His dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice will always be remembered as we forge ahead, stronger and more resolute in our fight against terrorism.

SMVDU Faculty delivers Talk at ASME Webinar on Additive Manufacturing

Top News Report

KATRA, Dec 7: Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assistant Professor, SME) delivered an invited talk on 'New Product Development & Additive Manufacturing' during a webinar hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, India Section on 22nd November 2023.

Dr. Haq spoke about fundamental concepts of New Product Development (NPD), and the



technology of Additive Manufacturing (AM).

Further, the mechanical aspects of AM parts such as tensile, compressive, and tribologi-

cal properties were also discussed.

The talk was attended by 150+ participants from across the globe. Also, the research work carried out in the area of Additive manufacturing was shared with the participants.

A detailed discussion with the participants in the question and answer session was also held. Dr. Haq thanked the ASME India section and SMVDU authorities.

KDPW of DPAP delegation calls on Chief Secretary

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDPW) of Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) J&K Leaders Sanjay Dhar President, Piaray Lal Pandita Chairman, Raj Kumar Tickoo General Secretary, Gawhar Wani Spokesperson, Renu Razdan Mahila Secretary, Naveen Gosani Youth President and Vikas Koul Secretary today called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo in his good office Chambers today at Civil Secretariat Jammu to congratulate for his good appointment as Chief Secretary of J&K UT and to highlight the genuine problems being faced by the people of J&K, in general and of Kashmiri Displaced people in particular through a detailed memorandum.

In a joint press statement issued here today, all these senior leaders apprised his goodness the problems of J&K being faced by the people of the J&K.

The leaders have raised the genuine issues of Citizens of J&K like Unemployment, relaxation of norms for over-aged youth, absorption of daily wagers, providing of entrepreneurship to youth, and special police appointments with relaxation of norms, for state and migrant youth as well, providing of suf-

ficient police personal with two exit/entry posts in Jagti Camp.

The delegation expressed gratitude for the patient listenings and the delegation felt delighted for the assurances of his kindness to get all the listed problems above.

The memorandum contained creation of police battalion for displaced unemployed low educated youth, deployment of at least fifteen police personnel for Jagti Camp, issuance of directions to Jai Shakti Department for taking over water supply scheme reluctant to take over the same since issuance of Govt. orders during 2021, providing of transit accommodation to PM Package employees, and treating their merger at par with UT Govt employees and surveying the unheeded living position of Kashmiri Hindus living in valley for their betterment and providing of fire station in Each displaced Camps especially in Jagti, besides earliest working out of resettlement and rehabilitation back in valley of the displaced Kashmiri Hindus and till then enhancement of relief assistance to Rs. 25000 per month per family.

The delegation felt immense satisfaction that the condition of displaced community will now feel much better than last thirty three years sufferings, through esteemed Chief Secretary being son of the Soil.

City Ration Dealers Association gearing up for election

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: The City Ration Dealers Association, JK UT, Jammu, is gearing up for its routine election in the wake of Parbu Dayal's untimely passing, who previously served as the association's President.

Currently, Sanjay Abrol, the General Secretary, has assumed the role of President until the completion of the impending election.

Earlier, under Sanjay Abrol's leadership, the



Association proposed Vijay Kumar Sharma as the Returning Officer (District Election Commission) during a working committee meeting.

Despite unanimous member agreement, the election initiation faced delays due to unavoidable circumstances.

Now, with full pre-

paredness, the Election Commissioner (Returning Officer) is set to commence the election process.

The outlined schedule includes the display of the electoral list, objection filing, nomination procedures, scrutiny, and withdrawal.

Members are urged to adhere to the stipulated dates and procedures to ensure a seamless and transparent election for the approximately 300 City Ration dealers in

JK UT, Jammu.

Display of Electoral List (as on 30-11-2023) begins today by 12.00 Noon while filling of objections on December 9 (up to 5.00 PM), Disposal of Objections on December 10 to 11 and Final Electoral List Display (as on 30-11-2023) on December 8 to 12 (up to 5.00 PM) while filing of Nomination, Scrutiny of Nominations and withdrawal of Nomination on December 13 (3.00 PM to 5.00 PM).

Tarun Uppal meets CS Atal Dulloo, highlights his role in COVID-19 crisis management

Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Tarun Uppal, Chairman of the Nirbhay Bharat Foundation and President of the Jammu & Kashmir Speed Ball Association (JKSBA), along with Sunny Nanda, General Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir Speed Ball Association met Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to congratulate him on his appointment as the Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Uppal highlighted that Dulloo, an AGMUT cadre IAS officer with most of his career spent in Jammu and Kashmir, was instru-



mental during the COVID-19 crisis. As the Financial Commissioner of Health & Medical Education, he played a crucial role in guiding the Union Territory through

the pandemic.

Uppal, expressing his views, mentioned that Dulloo, being a resident of J&K, has an in-depth understanding of the region's realities. With his new role as Chief Secretary, the expectations of the local populace have heightened.

Uppal expressed his confidence in Dulloo's abilities to meet these expectations. Nanda, a respected figure in the sports community, also extended his support for Dulloo, acknowledging his insight into the regional challenges and the potential for positive impact in his new position.

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah to move Bills on J-K in Rajya Sabha

Neeraj Shekhar are likely to present the 249th and 250th reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha, agenda said. The Winter Session began on December 4 and will culminate on December 22.

Scheme to hire Agniveers will ensure youthful profile Of Armed Forces: Army Chief

technologically adapted and oriented soldiers into ranks and file," said the Army chief.

Gen Pande was speaking at the convocation and scroll presentation ceremony at the College of Military Engineering in Pune. He said the scheme also ensures that the "best of the best" are retained as core manpower of the armed forces.

Gen Pande said that the integration of Agniveers into the units and subunits is the key as their assessment and retention in service is based entirely on merit.

"You all are going to be important stakeholders at the grassroots in your units. I want you to provide professional leadership and mentorship both as expected from a good sub-unit commander," he said while addressing the graduate officers.

The top defence official said that the Indian Army has embarked upon the path of transformation since last one year.

The need for the transformation has accrued four key drivers such as unprecedented trends in the geo-strategic landscape, the limitless potential of destructive technology, the changing character of war and profound changes in the socio-economic situation, he said.

"In order to address these imperatives to affect the changing design, we implemented a transformation road map a year ago. We have made good progress and good beginnings to ensure continued focus and impetus across all wide pillars of the transformation road map," he said.

DM, SSP Kulgam urge netizens to report misuse of social media

terrorism or secessionism or threat or intimidation or communally sensitive material, on my mobile/computer, but I haven't downloaded it and subsequently not reported it to the authorities? (However, it was discovered later on).

Ans: If you haven't downloaded and subsequently not forwarded/ posted any such messages then there is no criminality. However, as a responsible citizen, you must report such type of messages whenever you receive/ download or whenever you get to know about such messages, to the nearest P/S or P/P.

4. What happens if I continue to be the member of a Social Media Group, which is frequented with messages or posts, propagating terrorism or secessionism or threat or intimidation or communally sensitive material, whether or not I have clicked a link or downloaded any content?

Ans: The presumption will be against you, unless you have opted out of the group or reported the group to the police authorities. It will be presumed you agree and approve the content shared in the group as a conspirator.

Earlier DM in an order has informed that some anti-national person(s) or group(s) are resorting to misuse of social-media networking platforms on internet by way of 'preparing' or 'posting' or 'spreading' or 'propagating' or by way of 'forwarding' or 'sharing' incendiary messages and propagandas of terrorist and banned separatist outfits.

Such activities, as per the order, are being carried out with intention to glorify terrorists and their actions, Intimidate and terrorise the individuals or general public or a sections of public, exhort member(s) of public to resort to violence by inciting, encouraging and spreading disaffection/hatred, or to Propagate terrorist and secessionist ideology and false narratives, and Promoting fell of hatred, ill-will on religious grounds and is likely to disturb the public order and tranquility.

Police inspector injured in Oct 29 terrorist attack in Srinagar succumbs

however, he succumbed at the facility today.

Wani, as per police, was shot with a pistol from point blank range when he was playing cricket in Eidgah locality of downtown Srinagar on October 29.

The inspector was critically injured in the shooting following which he was rushed to SKIMS in Soura.

However, Wani was shifted from Paras Hospital Srinagar to New Delhi in an Air Ambulance on Wednesday afternoon.

NIA attaches 3 residential houses in separate places in South Kashmir

NIA attached a house and 13 marlas (one marla = 272.251 sq ft) of appurtenant land at Qaimoh in Kulgam district. The house belongs to one Fayaz Ahmed Itoo.

India-Born media Veteran Dr Samir Shah selected as new BBC Chairman

Commons Media Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee for pre-appointment scrutiny before formally taking charge.

"With a career spanning more than 40 years in TV production and journalism, Dr Shah has a wealth of experience to bring to the position of BBC Chair," UK Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer said on Wednesday, confirming the selection as per the appointment process.

"He has a clear ambition to see the BBC succeed in a rapidly changing media landscape, and I have no doubt he will provide the support and scrutiny that the BBC

needs to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future," she said.

The minister said Shah's knowledge of the British Broadcasting Corporation and his belief in its role as a national broadcaster alongside his extensive work to promote diversity in broadcasting will be invaluable in helping to ensure that the BBC reflects, represents and serves communities across the whole of the UK.

"The BBC is, without doubt, one of the greatest contributions we have made to global culture and one of our strongest calling cards on soft power," Shah said.

"If I am able to put what skills, experience, and understanding of public service broadcasting I have built up during my career to help this brilliant organisation meet the complex and diverse challenges it faces over the coming years, it would be an honour," he added.

"The BBC has a great place in British life and a unique duty to reach a wide audience right across the country and I will do all I can to ensure it fulfils this in an increasingly competitive market," Shah further said.

Born in Aurangabad, Shah came to England in 1960 and has previously been the head of current affairs and political programmes at the BBC.

The CEO and owner of Juniper, an independent television and radio production company, Shah has also served as a non-executive director of the BBC between 2007 and 2010.

Besides, the Oxford University alumnus is a race relations expert who co-authored the government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report in 2021.

More recently, he was named on a three-member panel set up by the government to independently review the unrest that took place in the city of Leicester last year, as community groups clashed in the aftermath of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

As BBC chairman, a three-day-a-week role with an annual salary of GBP 160,000, Shah will be responsible for upholding and protecting the taxpayer-funded licence fee-operated public broadcaster and ensuring it fulfils its mission to inform, educate and entertain.

"We welcome the announcement that Samir Shah has been selected as the government's preferred candidate to take up

the role of BBC chair and look forward to him joining the board once the formal process has been completed," a BBC spokesperson said.

Shah's half-brother, Mohit Bakaya, is also a BBC veteran as controller of BBC Radio 4.

Freezing Cold intensifies as mercury continues to fall in Kashmir

experience the season's coldest consecutive night on Thursday, with temperatures plummeting to -2.6°C against the -2.0°C recorded the previous night. It was -2.1°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir during this period of the season.

However, the maximum temperature was recorded at 1°C-3°C above normal in Kashmir Valley on the previous day.

After experiencing the season's coldest night, Pahalgam in south Kashmir, although it remained the coldest place in Kashmir valley, the night temperature slightly improved and was recorded at -4.9°C on Thursday against the -5.1°C recorded the previous night. It was still 1.7°C below normal for the tourist hot spot, the MeT office said.

Qazigund on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway recorded a low of -2.2°C against the -2.0°C, and Kokernag recorded a low of -1.4°C against the -0.5°C recorded the previous night.

Mercury also dips in Gulmarg and settles at -2.5°C against the -2.2°C recorded the previous night. However, it was still 1.2°C above normal for the famous ski resort of north Kashmir.

The night temperature also plunged in Kupwara and settled at -3.1°C against the -2.7°C recorded the previous night. It was 1.3°C below normal for the border district of 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.

Sensex, Nifty snap seven-day rally; Sensex falls over 200 points

BSE falls 211.11 points to 69,442.52; Nifty declines 58.95 points to 20,878.75

MUMBAI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty snapped their seven-day run in early trade on Thursday amid selling pressure from foreign institutional investors and tracking cues from Asian markets.

Analysts said, receding crude oil prices in international markets failed to boost sentiment as investors turned to book profit ahead of RBI's monetary policy decision.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 211.21 points, or 0.30 per cent, to 69,442.52. The broader index Nifty also declined 58.95 points, or 0.28 per cent to 20,878.75.

Among major Sensex constituents, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance were the laggards and traded with a loss of up to 2.03 per cent.

Meanwhile, the company that defied the broader market trend were PowerGrid, rising 1.25 per cent, followed by UltraTech



Cement (1.07 per cent), Asian Paints (0.96 per cent) and NTPC (0.76 per cent). Other gainers included Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HCL Tech. As many as 18 shares of the 30-stock Sensex were trading in red, while 24 Nifty firms saw loss in early trade.

On Wednesday, Sensex surged 357.59 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at a new record of 69,653.73. The broad-

er index Nifty also climbed 82.60 points, or 0.40 per cent, to hit its fresh peak of 20,937.70.

Foreign institutional investors sold shares worth Rs 79.88 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, in spite of favourable factors such as steady decline in US bond yields, India's GDP growth rate,

declining crude price and political stability, "there will be dips in the market triggered by profit booking at higher levels".

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to maintain the status quo on the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced on Friday.

Meanwhile, in Asian markets, Nikkei 225 was trading lower by 1.79 per cent.

European markets finished broadly higher on Wednesday. France's CAC 40 closed 1.71 per cent higher and Germany's DAX ended 0.75 per cent higher. London's FTSE 100 gained 0.21 per cent. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Wednesday, with the S&P 500 registering a loss of 0.39 per cent, while Brazilian stocks gained 0.08 per cent.

On Thursday, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.47 per cent higher to USD 74.65 a barrel.

Hyundai to increase vehicle prices from January 1

The price increase is owing to rising input cost, adverse exchange rate and increase in commodity prices, amongst other reasons



NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Automaker Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Thursday said it will hike the prices of its vehicles from next month citing rising input cost, adverse exchange rate and increase in commodity prices. The company, which sells a range of vehicles starting from Grand i10 Nios to electric SUV IONIQ5, priced between Rs 5.84 lakh

to Rs 45.95 lakh, however, did not specify the quantum of the proposed price increase to be effective from January 1, 2024.

The price increase is owing to rising input cost, adverse exchange rate and increase in commodity prices.

The company, which sells a range of vehicles starting from Grand i10 Nios to electric SUV IONIQ5, priced between Rs 5.84 lakh

to Rs 45.95 lakh, however, did not specify the quantum of the proposed price increase to be effective from January 1, 2024.

Garg, COO said the company always tries to absorb the cost escalations to the extent possible and ensure customers are not burdened.

"However, it has now become imperative to pass on some portion of the rising input cost to the market through a minor price increase," he added.

HMIL said it will continue to make consistent internal efforts to minimize future price impact to customers.

The company joins the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Honda and Audi among others which have also announced plans to increase vehicle prices in January.

Government to spend Rs 1.3L cr more in FY24

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): The government has sought parliamentary approval for increased spending of more than Rs 1.29 lakh crore in the current fiscal year.

As per the Centre's submissions to the lower House of parliament, a large part of the amount will be allocated to subsidies on fertilizers and food. The supplementary demand for grants, presented to the Lok Sabha, highlights additional spending requirements and reallocation of resources from one scheme to another.

The proposals involve a net cash outgo of Rs 58,378.21 crore, with the remaining additional spending of Rs 70,968.15 crore being financed through savings or surplus revenue. Besides, token provision of Rs 2.49 crore is being sought, one lakh for each item of expenditure, for enabling re-appropriation of savings in cases involving New

Service or New Instrument of Service.

The government plans to increase spending on the nutrient-based fertilizer subsidy scheme by Rs 13,350.81 crore (a 30% increase) and on the free food program 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' by Rs 5,500 crore (a 2.8% increase).

Additionally, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) will receive an extra Rs 14,524.29 crore, bringing the total spending on the program to Rs 77,175.51 crore. The government anticipates an overall additional expenditure of Rs 16,142.86 crore on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the current year. The rest of the amount would come from savings. The government had initially budgeted for Rs 60,000 crore for

MNREGS.

It is to be noted that the total spending earmarked for this year is lower than the amount of Rs 89,154.65 spent last year, as per the revised estimates. The government has also allocated Rs 1,280 crore for LPG subsidies and Rs 8,499.99 crore for providing LPG connections to poor households.

The net cash outgo also includes Rs 7,722 crore towards capital infusion in BSNL and Optical Fibre Control based network of Defence Services. As per the document submitted in Lok Sabha, the government would infuse an additional capital of Rs 11,850 crore in BSNL. Some of it will come from savings and surplus revenue. Another Rs 6,900 crore have been provided for investment in public sector insurers on account of award of bonus share issued by the companies.

Considering Apple's request against universal charging ports, says govt

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): India is still considering the request made by Apple not to mandate universal charging ports for its existing iPhones, said minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

The minister said the government took suggestions from all stakeholders on the issue, and it will soon come up with its decision.

"There is still consultation going on the issue of mandating universal charging ports for all smartphones in the country.

We have sought views from all stakeholders, and Apple has raised concern on it, and we said we will look into the matter," said the minister.

The American tech-giant Apple, in a meeting with Meity officials, urged officials to exempt existing iPhone models from the regulation. The company said that its local production goals might suffer due to this decision. Also, the company would not be able to meet its production targets set under the country's production-linked

incentive (PLI) scheme.

The European Union (EU) has already given device manufacturers a deadline of December 2024 to add Type-C chargers in all electronic products. In India, a committee of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has given time till June 2025 to implement the common USB Type-C wired charging standard.

As per the reports, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs sent its recommendation to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology information technol-

ogy (Meity). Now Meity will prepare a framework to implement the common USB Type-C wired charging standard. Most manufacturers, including Samsung, have agreed to comply with the rule, but Apple is yet to endorse the plan.

In FY23, India exported more than \$11.12 billion worth of mobile phones, of which Apple accounted for around \$5 billion, Samsung contributed about \$4.5 billion, with the remainder coming from Indian and Chinese brands.

Retail auto sales touch new peak in November with 28.54 lakh units

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): On the back of high demand during festive season, monthly retail auto sales hit an all-time high in November 2023 with 28.54 lakh vehicles finding buyers, surpassing the previous high of 25.69 lakh units in March 2020, as per data issued by Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

While passenger vehicle (PV) sales rose 17.19% year-on-year to cross the 3.6 lakh mark in November, overtaking sales of 3.57 lakh cars achieved in

October 2022, two-wheeler retail sales grew by 21% to hit a fresh peak of 22.47 lakh units.

"For the 2W category, the month saw a boost in auto retail, making it clock all-time high retails, buoyed by the festive excitement of Deepawali and enhanced by strong rural sentiments, thanks to thriving agricultural income. New product launches and better model supply fuelled the growth, electric vehicle sales demonstrated an encouraging upward trajectory," said FADA president

Manish Raj Singhania.

On PV sales, he said demand was fuelled by Deepawali and the launch of new and appealing models. The improved supply chains, coupled with new launches, catered to the festive demand, marking the peak point in sales, he added. Fada expects 2W sales momentum to continue but the near-term outlook doesn't look promising for the PV market. "The period following the festivities saw a noticeable slowdown, coupled with a critical challenge of slow-

moving inventory due to a mismatch in demand and supply, which is still not resolved.

This issue casts a shadow over the otherwise positive trends, highlighting the need for strategic adjustments in inventory management," said Singhania. The 2W category, as per Fada, is likely to benefit in the near-term from a liquidity boost, mainly in agricultural regions and the ongoing marriage season, with about 38 lakh marriages expected to drive sales.

World animal health body warns of swine fever vaccine risks as Vietnam readies exports

HANOI/MANILA, Dec 7 (Agencies): The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is warning that more testing of African swine fever vaccines is needed, triggered by Vietnam's plans to export doses in coming months to fight a disease that regularly ravages pig farms worldwide.

In a world first, Vietnam authorised in July two attenuated live-virus vaccines against the disease, which is not deadly to humans but is extremely infectious among pigs and has caused repeated disruptions to the global pork market, which data provider Research and Markets said was worth about \$250 billion in 2022.

WOAH says AVAC Vietnam JSC, the producer of one of the two vaccines, has not shared sufficient data with international researchers and bodies.

Gregorio Torres, head of the science department at WOAH, urged countries interested in using AVAC's vaccines to conduct their own trials before approving it.

In October, as AVAC was about to announce deals with importers of its vaccine in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Myanmar, WOAH warned of risks "from use of sub-standard vaccines".

Torres said that Vietnam's announcements led to the warning, but that it was not linked to concerns about specific vaccines.

AVAC says that its vaccine is not dangerous and that widespread use will demonstrate it.

"We have proven our product is safe and effective and we need some time to prove that to all, including those showing concern," Nguyen Van Diep, AVAC's chief operating officer, told agency.

He said the company had shared data. Nguyen Van Long, head of Vietnam's Animal Health Department, said on Wednesday data on trials had been discussed in international conferences and meetings.

Diep said that the vaccine had been safely used in farms in 17 provinces in Vietnam since its approval and that



sales were increasing. Scientists at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) discovered the AVAC vaccine, which was then developed in Vietnam because the virus is not present in the United States. The agency did not have access to Vietnam's trials data, a USDA spokesperson told agency.

"If somebody puts in the market a vaccine which is suboptimal, it will impact everybody," Torres said, noting that it is harder to assess vaccines in countries with ongoing epidemics, such as Vietnam, because pigs could be infected by the attenuated virus in the vaccine alongside the wild virus.

Countries are eager for vaccines against African swine fever (ASF), which is incurable and has a high fatality rate, resulting in heavy losses

for farms that become infected.

China has also developed several vaccines but none has gotten commercial approval.

AVAC is producing between 2.5 million and 5 million doses a month and was planning to export 5 million, pending approval from the countries where the company signed commercial deals, Diep said, noting that a green light from the Philippines might come early next year.

Trade sanctions?

Torres said the agency was discussing a new global standard for evaluating ASF vaccines, with possible approval coming in May at the WOAH general assembly. The intergovernmental organisation, based in Paris, has 183 member states.

The standard would not be compulsory, as national regulators

decide on approvals, but it could lead to trade restrictions against pork-exporting countries that vaccinate pigs with sub-standard shots.

The AVAC vaccine was trialled in the Philippines with 300,000 doses. The Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines, which is in charge of the vaccine approval, did not reply to requests for comment.

Philippines Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano told Reuters his country had not approved or purchased the vaccine yet, noting the regulator's authorisation was critical to food security, as the country faces a national emergency caused by the spread of ASF.

Regulators from India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Malaysia did not respond to requests for comment.

The second approved ASF vaccine, produced by Vietnam's Navetco Central Veterinary Medicine from a USDA platform, had shared positive trial data and is being tested in the Dominican Republic, the USDA said.

This diet can help improve heart health in just eight weeks, claims study



NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): In the ongoing debate surrounding the impact of vegan versus meat diets on overall health, a recent study inclined towards the advantages of a plant-based diet.

Researchers from Stanford University conducted an extensive study involving 22 pairs of identical twin adults to assess the impact of one twin adopting a vegan, devoid-of-animal-products diet compared to the other twin following an omnivorous diet rich in animal and

plant-based foods.

This two-month study, published in the JAMA Network Open journal, focused on evaluating the cardiovascular health of the twins, including parameters such as cholesterol levels, sugar levels, insulin levels and body weight.

The results revealed that after eight weeks of adhering to their respective diets, the twin individuals who embraced a vegan diet exhibited more significant weight loss, reduced levels of LDL ("bad" cholesterol),

and lower insulin levels, as outlined in the study's findings.

"The findings from this trial suggest that a healthy plant-based diet offers a significant protective cardiometabolic advantage compared with a healthy omnivorous diet," the study's authors wrote.

The study's findings are an extension of previous research showing that plant-based diets are better than non-plant-based diets for cardiovascular health.

What is a vegan diet? A plant-based diet, commonly known as veganism, centres around consuming plant-derived sources like vegetables, grains, nuts and fruits.

People adhering to a vegan lifestyle abstain from consuming animal-derived foods, which includes excluding dairy products and eggs from their diet.

“Statistics Will Tell You...”: Rahul Dravid’s Blunt Verdict On South Africa Challenge

Rahul Dravid is aware of the challenge that awaits the Indian team in South Africa.

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): With his contract as Team India’s head coach renewed, Rahul Dravid is ready for the tour of South Africa where the boys will be involved in cricketing contests across the three formats of the game. While the series begins with T20Is, with ODIs to follow, its the Test assignment that will arguably decide whether the tour will be a success or not. Dravid, giving his blunt assessment of the South Africa challenge, admitted that it would be a tricky tour for the Indian team.

For the unversed, the Indian team has never ogne on to win a Test series in South Africa. Rahul Dravid’s men will be looking to make history this time. Speaking exclusively on Star Sports - Follow the Blues



LIVE, Dravid spoke on what the gameplan is for the batsmen as they approach the series against South Africa.

He said: “So, it is a challenging place to bat; the statistics will

tell you that. It is one of the more difficult places to bat in, especially up here in Centurion and Johannesburg. The wickets do tend to do a bit, and they tend to get up and down as well. Every

one of the batsmen will have a game plan as to how they want to go, as long as they are clear about it and they commit to it and are practicing towards that, that’s fine. We don’t expect everyone to play in the same way.”

“We want them to be very clear about what works for them, and then be able to execute that. The boys, once they get out there, a lot of it is mental, and I guess, you know, we try and stress on the fact that if we do get going, if we get the opportunity to get set, they try to make it a match-winning contribution,” he added.

India’s tour of South Africa begins on December 10 while the Test series will commence on December 26.

Glenn Maxwell to play in IPL until he ‘can’t walk anymore’



MELBOURNE, Dec 7 (Agencies): Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell says the Indian Pre-

mier League (IPL) has been so good to him that he will play in the lucrative T20 competition until he “can’t walk anymore”.

The IPL has been the perfect platform to showcase Maxwell’s explosive batting and the 35-year-old is one of four foreign recruits Royal Challengers Bangalore have retained for next season.

After making his debut in the competition with Delhi Daredevils in 2012, Maxwell commanded the top price at the players auction the following year. “The IPL will probably be the last tournament I ever play, as I will play the IPL until I can’t walk anymore,” Maxwell said.

ICC, CWI delegates inspect T20 WC 2024 venues in USA, Caribbean

ST JOHN’S (ANTI-GUA), Dec 7 (Agencies): Delegates of International Cricket Council (ICC) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) have started a second inspection of the venues in the Caribbean and in the USA ahead of next year’s T20 World Cup.

The two-week review of the preparedness of the venues had started on November 30 and will conclude on December 15, stated a CWI release.

ICC Head of Operations, Khushiya Singh explained the areas the inspection team has been focussing over the fortnight.

“Areas that will be assessed include pitch and outfield preparations, practice facilities, players dressing rooms, broadcast and media facilities, IT and security capabilities, hotels and guest houses... areas for fan parks, and other key components that are fundamental to the successful staging



of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup,” said Singh. Once the inspections and assessments are completed, the ICC will compile its findings and communicate them to CWI alongside necessary recommendations.

In the ninth edition of the marquee event, 20 teams will be divided into four groups and 55 matches will be played from June 4 to June 30, 2024.

West Indies and the USA are the co-hosts as the latter is staging an ICC tournament for the first time.

However, Dominica, one of the designated venues for the tourna-

ment, withdrew from hosting the event. The Windsor Park Sports Stadium was earlier shortlisted for a group stage match and two Super 8 games of the showpiece.

“The implementation timelines submitted by various contractors revealed that it would not be possible to complete these works within the stipulated time frame,” the Dominica sports ministry said in a press release.

“As a result, a decision was taken not to host any of the matches in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2024,” the release added.

Not Only Hardik Pandya, Gujarat Titans Would’ve Lost Mohammed Shami Too. COO Reveals ‘Wrong’ Approach

NEW DELHI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Hardik Pandya’s high-profile transfer from former IPL champions Gujarat Titans to his old franchise Mumbai Indians grabbed everyone’s attention. Hardik Pandya had led Gujarat Titans to IPL win in 2022 and to a runners-up finish in 2023. After that a shock move to Mumbai Indians, where Hardik Pandya made a name for himself in his early days, was the biggest news after the 10 IPL franchises had released the list of players who had been retained.

It has now come to light, that not only Hardik Pandya, Gujarat Titans was about to lose another star - Mohammed Shami. In an interview to News18, the Chief Operating Officer of Gujarat Titans, Colonel Arvinder Singh revealed that a franchise had contacted their leading wicket-taker Mohammed Shami too.

In the video, Colonel Arvinder Singh said: “Every franchise has the right to go for top players. The wrong part is that if an IPL franchise directly approaches a player. The method is wrong and the GT team management is not happy with the approach. The BCCI’s rule



regarding player trade-odds, how the expression of interest came be made to BCCI and then they will inform us. Then the franchise decides. This IPL team approached our coaching staff which is wrong. If they wanted the transfer, they could have talked to us upfront. We got to know about the approach later on.”

Earlier, GT Team Director Vikram Solanki acknowledged Pandya’s contribution to the team’s success in then last two seasons.

“As the first captain of Gujarat Titans, Hardik Pandya has helped the franchise deliver two fantastic seasons that resulted

in winning one IPL championship and one appearance in the final,” Solanki was quoted as saying in a statement.

“He has now expressed a desire to return to his original team Mumbai Indians. We respect his decision and wish him all the very best in his future endeavours,” the former England batter further added.

Solanki, who has closely worked with Gill, vouched for his maturity.

“Shubman Gill has shown growth in stature and standing over the last two years at the highest level of the game. We’ve seen him mature not only as a batter but also as a leader

in cricket,” Solanki opined.

“His maturity and skill is evident in his on-field performance and we are extremely excited to embark on a new journey with a young leader like Shubman at the helm,” the head of GT think-tank said.

Once Hardik Pandya Pandya’s exit was sure, 24-year-old opener Shubman Gill was an obvious captaincy choice, having got the coveted ‘orange cap’ in the last season with 890 runs, second to only Virat Kohli’s all-time record of 973. “I am delighted and proud to assume the captaincy of Gujarat Titans and thank the franchise for their trust in me to lead such a fine team. We have had two exceptional seasons and I keenly look forward to leading the team with our exciting brand of cricket,” Gill said in a statement.

Pandya, on his part, took to ‘X’, formerly twitter to express his emotions.

“This brings back so many wonderful memories. Mumbai. Wankhede. Paltan. Feels good to be back,” Pandya commented on ‘X’ on a video depicting his entire journey for Mumbai Indians.

Despite missing trials, Sameer Rizvi may set IPL auction on fire

CHENNAI, Dec 7 (Agencies): Sameer Rizvi impressed all and sundry with his power-packed performances during the inaugural Uttar Pradesh T20 League in August-September this year. Kanpur Superstars, the team he was leading, might not have qualified for the knock-outs but his show with the willow — he scored 455 runs from nine innings including two centuries (the second of which was the fastest of the tournament) — was enough for scouts from various IPL teams to invite the right-hand batter from Meerut for the trials before the mini-auction.

As luck would have it, Sameer, who turned 20 on Wednesday, had to miss those trials as he was asked to lead the Uttar Pradesh team in the Men’s U-23 State A (ODI) Trophy. Incidentally, he was playing for the senior state team in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in Mohali and scored 42 not out against Punjab in the losing cause when the UP Cricket Association asked him to join the U-23 squad playing its matches in Chandigarh. The next day, he scored 91 off 65 in the U-23 tournament against Rajasthan but the innings, which was laced with four 4 and 9 sixes, once again went in vain.

However, that turned out to be the last blip in UP’s campaign as Sameer scored two consecutive centuries to help the team

in the pre-quarterfinals. After the team won those knock-out matches, he again hammered a 50-ball 84 as UP defeated Uttarakhand in the final to lift the title.

“He got calls for trials with almost all franchises after his good show during the UP T20 League but he had to skip them as he was given the command of the U-23 state team,” Tankeeb Akhtar, Sameer’s coach and maternal uncle, told this daily from Meerut. Despite missing the trials, the coach is hopeful that he will be picked up by one of the IPL teams in the auction scheduled on December 19. “He has registered in the uncapped players’ category and I am sure he will get the buyer,” added Tankeeb, who is the sole reason why Sameer started playing cricket at the age of 6. “I shifted from my village to Meerut so that I could pursue cricket in 2004. I stayed with my sister Rukhsana Khatoun.

There I realised I was too late to play cricket professionally so I switched to coaching. It was at Gandhi Bagh Cricket Academy where Sameer started playing cricket in 2009. Earlier his father and my brother-in-law Haseen Rizvi used to get angry as Sameer was not focussing on his studies but once he started playing for Uttar Pradesh everything got sorted,” recalled the coach.



Sameer made his Ranji Trophy debut in January 2020 when he was only 16 but the stint ended with only two matches. He then made a comeback to the state team, this time in the 50-over format, the next year and since then he has been an integral part of both the one-day and T20 squads.

In his young journey, Sameer had his share of heartbreaks as he missed the U-19 World Cup but that couldn’t deter him from seeking excellence on the field. “We have been nurturing this dream to see him play in the IPL for the past couple of years but this year he has performed quite well be it the UP League or BCCI tournaments. I must thank Sanspareils Greenlands (SG) owner Paras Anand for sponsoring him since he was 10. We all will be proud if he plays in the IPL and eventually goes on to represent the country.”

There is a reason why Tankeeb and others knowing Sameer are confident of him

getting picked in the IPL auction. In the UP T20 League, Sameer was third in the list of leading scorers. He was joint-first with Karan Sharma for hitting the most sixes in the tournament (35). He joined the UP U-23 squad late but topped the list there as well slamming 37 sixes from seven matches. He scored 454 runs in six innings at the tournament with an average of 75.67 and a strike rate of 156.55 including two centuries.

“Playing with experienced campaigner Bhuvneshwar Kumar and T20 sensations — Rinku Singh and Nitish Rana — only helped him grow as a cricketer. All of them suggested he play his natural game and score runs in bulk. This experience will count a lot in the future.” Come December 19, Sameer may turn out to be the hottest property as far as uncapped players are concerned and it would be the moment to cherish for Tankeeb, who is living his dream through his nephew.

Numbers that matter UP T20 League 3rd leading scorer with 455 runs from 9 innings. Joint most sixes (35) in the tournament. Fastest century (47 balls) in the league.

Men’s U-23 State A Trophy Led UP to title by scoring 454 runs from 7 matches. Most sixes (37) in the tournament.

Rafael Nadal, Naomi Osaka return as Australian Open announce entry list for 2024 edition



CANBERRA, Dec 7 (Agencies): Rafael Nadal and Naomi Osaka are set to make their returns to Grand Slams after being named in the entry list for the upcoming edition of the Australian Open.

Both Nadal and Osaka will be making their comebacks in the Brisbane International that will take place before the tournament at Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal made his way into the Australian Open on the basis of Protected Ranking along with Croatia’s Marin Cilic, Canada’s Denis Shapovalov and Milos Raonic, USA’s Reilly

Opelka and Czech Republic’s Jiri Vesely.

Osaka, on the other hand, was picked on Special Ranking along with USA’s Jennifer Brady, Amanda Anisimova, Shelby Rogers and Caty McNally, Germany’s Angelique Kerber and Australia’s Ajla Tomljanovic.

Nadal hasn’t played any form of tennis since crashing out of the Australian Open second round earlier this year. He also backed out of French Open 2023 due to which he fell out of the top 100 in the rankings for the first time in 20 years.

Osaka, on the other

hand, will make her return after becoming a mother earlier this year in July. The 26-year-old has been out of professional tennis since the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis back in September 2022.

Kerber, who became a mother with partner Franco Bianco, back in February, is also making her comeback. She last played in the 2022 Wimbledon, where she crashed out in the Round of 32.

The women’s draw for the Australian Open 2024 has 99 direct entries while the men’s draw has 97. Iga Swiatek and Novak Djokovic are the top seeds.

Aryna Sabalenka, the defending champion, who defeated Elena Rybakina in the final last year, is the second seed in the women’s draw.

The Australian Open 2024 is scheduled to take place from January 14 to January 28.

Gram Sabha resolution for diversification of Forest Land a must: Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU / NEW DELHI, Dec 7: Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu answering a question by MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana on Forest Rights Act stated that Land and its management falls under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of States as provided under the Constitution of India [Seventh Schedule - List ii (State List) - Entry No. (18)] 'The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (In short FRA) seeks to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. The Minister said as per FRA

and rules made there under State Governments / UT Administrations are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Act. Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for certain facilities managed by the Government, as specified in that Section, which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, - i. the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in the said sub-section is less than one hectare in each case; and ii. the clearance of such developmental projects

shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.

However, the details regarding cases of land diversification is not centrally maintained in this Ministry. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry dated 18th May 2009 in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forest with regard to seeking prior approval for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under Section 3(2) of FRA, the user agency (a department of the Central or State Government or District Panchayat making a request for diversion of forest land for development project) is required to submit resolution adopted by the Gram Sabha to Range Forest Officer (RFO), who in three months time will record his views and submit to District Forest Officer (DFO) and DFO in turn, will have to communicate his deci-

sion in four weeks from the date of receipt of proposal from RFO, Minister replied.

MP Rajya Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana had sought details regarding the comprehensive update on the number of cases of land diversification processed under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 across India, specifying the progress made in each state; the details of copies of the pilot projects initiated under the FRA for land diversification, along with documented success stories, to offer insight into the effectiveness of these initiatives; and whether there is any predetermined time schedule for obtaining a clearance from the relevant agencies for land diversification projects under the FRA, if so, the details on established timelines and any measures taken to ensure timely approvals?

Dr Shreyansh Jain, Yoga Commissioner calls on CS Atal Dulloo



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Vichar Kranti Manch International President Dr Shreyansh Jain (State Yoga Commissioner) calls upon recently appointed Chief Secretary J&K UT, Atal Dulloo here today, accompanied by Abhinandan Jain, Financial Advisor VKMI. DR Jain congratulated on becoming the highest Administrative

head as Chief Secretary. Jain composed his life sketch in poetry, which was presented to Dulloo. He is IAS of 1989 batch and first from Kashmiri Pandit Smaj after Vijay Bakaya. He has remained Add Chief Secretary & JK Financial Commissioner and was Home Secretary in Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India.

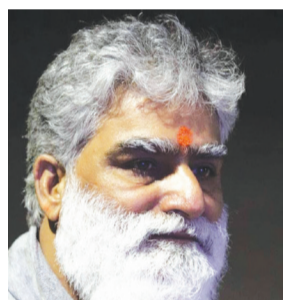
President explained CS about working of

VKMI, how it is working to inculcate & promote Moral, Ethical & Spiritual values in the society by organizing different awareness programmes in civil society and in schools. Also holding yoga camps to impart trainings about life style, dietary Habits & disease free life by adopting yoga way of life and Naturopathy.

Dr Jain is also State Chairman Indian Yoga Association & Kaivlya Dhama Lonavla Pune and Ex Guest yoga faculty in Jammu University & Central University.

Abhinandan Jain was introduced to Dulloo, as Senior 10KM Marathon qualifier, at the age of 70 years, organized by J&K police Deptt & was felicitated by the then DGP Dilbag Singh at Gulshan Ground Jammu.

Yogi appeals for political reservation of Assembly seats for KPs



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: Prominent Kashmiri Pandit leader M.K Yogi has appealed Prime Minister and Home Minister of India to reserve 4 Assembly Seats for Kashmiri Migrant in Valley to give them political empowerment. In a statement issued today, M.K. Yogi has strongly pleaded for reserving 4 Assembly constituencies for Displaced Kashmiri Migrants rather than nomination of Kashmiri Migrants in the legislature which would not provide justice to this helpless displaced community as for last many years nomination process has not ben-

efitted the community at large.

He further said that by reserving assembly seats and constituencies will not only allow Kashmiri Pandits to exercise their voting rights but also will avail them the opportunity to elect their true representatives who will honestly and dedicatedly project their cause and address their burning issues through a proper system

Yogi further appealed Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to address the genuine problems being faced by the community living in exile on priority basis and also constitute an Apex Committee of Kashmiri Pandits comprising of honest, dedicated with social aptitude representatives from camps and non camps by way of elections so that they can unitedly project the problems of migrants with the concerned authorities for early resolution.

District President of BJP hails Govt's decision to reserve two assembly seats for Kashmiri migrant community



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: District President of BJP Kashmir Displaced District, Chand Ji Bhat expressed pleasure and appreciation of the Displaced Community of Kashmiri Hindus for the government's decision to reserve two seats in the assembly of Jammu and Kashmir for the Kashmiri migrant community.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Chand Ji Bhat highlighted the historical and futuristic significance of this move, emphasizing the end

of manipulated marginalization and exclusion of religious minorities in Kashmir.

He also mentioned the empowerment of the community politically and the restoration of its political legacy in the Kashmir Valley.

He brought attention to the past manipulation of delimitation of territorial constituencies, which resulted in the minority community losing political representation.

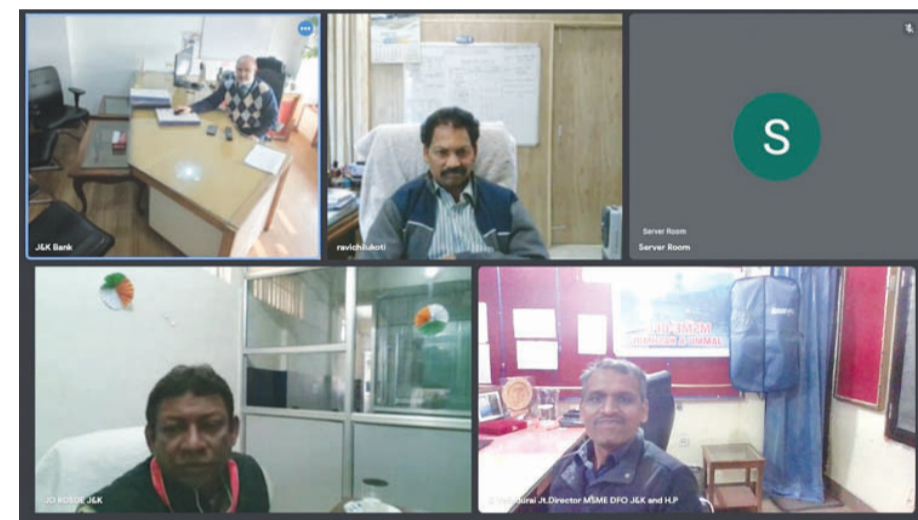
"The passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill, which reserves seats for the Kashmiri migrant com-

munity and displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), is acknowledged as a positive step ending discrimination," he added.

The Displaced Community expressed gratitude to the Narendra Modi-led BJP government and specifically Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs.

He expressed hope that this significant step will lead to the political empowerment and reintegration of the displaced community with the Kashmir milieu, paving the way for dignified, secure, and meaningful rehabilitation.

J&K Screening Committee of PM Vishwakarma holds meet



Top News Report

JAMMU, Dec 7: PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched for the benefit of traditional artisans and crafts people who are referred as Vishwakarmas and are engaged in occupations like Black Smith, Clove Gold smith, Potters, Carpenters, Sculptors etc. The scheme was launched by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh, for J&K UT on 17th September, 2023 at Jammu University.

The scheme has an initial outlay of 13 thousand crores. The objective of the scheme is to recognize the contribution made by these artisans towards the growth of the country and its economy.

The scheme benefits are recognizing by issuing artisans Identity Card, Skill Training for using modern tools in manufacturing traditional products for the selected 18 different trades alongwith stipend of Rs. 500/- per day during the training period for compensating

the wages lost, tool kit incentive of Rs. 15,000.

The scheme also provide collateral free loans from 50 thousand to one lakh in first trench which may be repaid in 18 installments after repayment the artisans are eligible for advance training on the trades alongwith 2 lakhs collateral free loan. The scheme offers incentive for digital transactions @ Rs. 1/- per transaction for maximum hundred transactions in a month.

The applications of the scheme are received through online in www.pmvishwakarma.gov.in, the scheme proposes three tier verification of the beneficiaries which are by Gram Pradhan in level 1, Committee headed by District Magistrate in level 2 and committee headed by field office of union Ministry of MSME (MSME DFO, Jammu) in the level 3.

The J&K Screening Committee of PM Vishwakarma held its 2nd meeting on Thursday to clear the applications received from tier 2 verifications to accord approval for registrations of beneficiaries under PM Vishwakarma.

The committee approved 550 applications and returned 65 applications for review. Detailed deliberations were held regarding the training to be offered to the artisans and decided to conduct the trainings in regional places preferably at district headquarters and Tehsils if sufficient number of artisans are available at the locations. Arrangements for boarding and lodging to the out stationed artisans are also being discussed and finalized.

In the meeting it was also decided to derive maximum benefits to cover all the artisans of the UT J&K and members have consented to deliver their maximum cooperation on the matter.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by G Velladurai, IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO, Jammu, J&K

The following prominent members participated in the meeting Ravi Chilukoti, ISDS, Regional Director/HoD, MSDE, Valluru Babu, ISDS, Joint Director, MSDE, Jammu and Shri Syed Rais Maqbool, General Manager, UTLBC/Lead Bank Department, J&K Bank.

NSS units GDC Udhampur conclude 'winter charity week'

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, Dec 7: In the continuation of the league of programs in Azaadi ka Amrit Kaal during the year of G20 presidency of India, the NSS Units of the College under the Patronship of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta and supervision of NSS POs Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh had started a 'Winter Charity Week'.

As winters have approached and the chill is increasing, the NSS Units geared up to organize the Charity Program under the theme 'Kill the Chill'.

During the entire campaign the NSS Volunteers of the college collected warm clothes, blankets, shoes, socks etc for the Poor victims of the Saddal-Panjar (Pancheri) landslide, which occurred in 2015.

Approximately 40 families having 185 members have been accommodated in the 'Community Hall' of the Sui, a village adopted by the NSS Units of the College.

The event of Kill the Chill- Think Gandhian way- Do Charity was inaugurated on 2nd December 2023 by Worthy Principal Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta along with NSS POs Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh by starting the collection of warm clothes donated by the volunteers, students of the college and further



followed by the staff members.

The clothes and other items of use were collected for four days after which they were distributed amongst the needy victims of the Saddal landslide today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Patron Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta apprised all that the Aim of the event was to provide some relief to the Poor migrants of Pancheri landslide in which the victims of Saddal area residing in Sui village could bear with the approaching chill of December and January. He further added that this is also a campaign to inculcate habit of helping the poor and needy amongst the youth of our college in particular and country in general.

He was of the view that these activities have lessons for life and inculcate a felling of helping and serving nation especially by the

Youth.

Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Prof. Gurpreet Kour, Baljeet Singh and Rishika Sharma also presented their views with relation to adopting volunteerism and sense of charity as one of the important part of life.

Early in the morning today the Principal of the College, along with Dr. Pankaj Sharma, some other staff members flagged off the contingent of the NSS Pos and the NSS volunteers with the articles of the charity to the village Sui in the college bus.

Almost 60 volunteers and two Pos, Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Prof. Sanjeet Singh in presence of the Sarpanch of Sui Village Veena Kumari visited the village where approximately 150 victims including male, female and children welcomed the volunteers and POs with open eyes and empty hands,

but with a hope that they will get some relief from winters.

On reaching the place the volunteers segregated clothes according to need, gender and age. They displayed them on the counters, where all the victims visited and gathered clothes and blankets as per their need and choice. The contentment on the faces of victims after getting clothes was heart touching. It gave further boost to the volunteers to do such noble tasks in future also.

Both the POs talked to the victims and assured them that they would try to help the victims at their maximum in future also.

The residents were very happy and content to receive the articles from the NSS Units, enabling them to really kill the chill.

The Sarpanch Veena Kumari thanked and applauded the selfless efforts of the NSS Units and Pos of the College.

Mehbooba meets families of Shimla road accident victims in Waltangoo Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM Dec 7: Former Chief Minister and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti visited Waltangoo in Qazigund to extend her heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic accident at Shimla.

She was accompanied by PDP senior leader Mohd Sartaj Madni, Zonal President Devsar Zafarullah Wani, DDC Member Kund Sheikh Gulzar Ahmad

and others.

She appealed to the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, to provide necessary assistance to the injured individuals admitted in IG Hospital.

Mufti also urged the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, hoping for financial support for the affected families, who have tragically lost their sole breadwinners.